

Funded Cultural Heritage and Training Exchange 2010 Placements focusing on the needs of rural Cumbria

Introduction

The following placements have been developed with the international partners of Grampus, over the last 6 years. They have been specifically designed to interlink with the needs of Cumbria as a remote rural region, far from the centre of Europe. Host countries share some of the same problems as Cumbria, such as outward migration of young people but also have the same opportunities for sustainable development of stunning natural and cultural resources. The CHAT Leonardo da Vinci trainer exchange provides funded exchange visits for UK trainers to visit organisations in other European countries, to exchange best practice and to establish new contacts and partnerships for future cooperation. CHAT placements are available for trainers in natural and cultural heritage management, traditional skills, crafts, archaeology and teaching. If you feel that you or your organisation would benefit from participation in a CHAT exchange, then applicants are advised to act quickly and complete an application form obtainable from Grampus Heritage via email enquiries@grampusheritage.co.uk or telephone 016973 21516.

All placements are for the duration of one week and fully funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the EU (including return flights from an designated UK airport, accommodation and 3 meals a day) and form an integral part of Grampus's work to bring good ideas to Cumbria – and export a few as well. The placements are offered under Grampus' 'Cultural Heritage and Training' (CHAT) contract within the 'Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning' programme of the European Union, the themes revolve around contemporisation of traditional skills, empowerment of young people, cultural tourism and management of the cultural landscape for rural regeneration. For all placements, exact dates will be fixed in the following weeks.

1. August 2010. Stara Planina Tourism Association, Bulgaria (8 persons).

Staying in the Stara Planina mountains in village houses and small hotels, the focus is on rurally-based skills and initiatives to diversify the rural economy, whilst retaining entrepreneurs and young people. The host is Velis Chilingerova working in conjunction with the Stara Planina Tourism Association. Visits are to Kalofer, where a local group are encouraging local and sustainable products, the Biela Ryka (White River) eco-trail and various craft centres in the mountains, including pottery, copper-smithing, wood carving and textiles (around Troyan). At the ethnographic centre at Gabrovo participants will see crafts and traditional skills but also vernacular building conservation and heritage interpretation. There will be a visit to a small museum to see the 'kuker' masking traditions, where evil spirits of winter are destroyed and banished prior to the onset of spring. The valley of the Thracian tombs will be visited to see how Bulgaria's rich culture is being developed for tourism, to draw visitors away from honey-pot sites on the Black Sea coast. As s the tombs themselves, there are many Roman remains including some well-preserved towns. A night in Sofia will be for relaxation and feedback.



2. October 2010. Akrotiri Environmental Centre, Cyprus (8 persons).

Staying in a coastal hotel, the focus is on the way in which the Akrotiri centre, which is run jointly by Cypriots & British Sovereign Base, manages the cultural and environmental assets of the Akrotiri peninsula together for sustainable development and the advancement of the villagers (rural development). A RAMSAR designated salt lake with flamingos and other resident and migrant birds is the major ecosystem but there are also sand dunes for nesting turtles, wet forest, salt marsh, brackish marsh and dry pine forest. There is also evidence of man's successive use of

the peninsula from Mesolithic to Venetian times, with associated archaeology, including recently discovered Roman and early Christian mosaics. Grampus has worked with the centre for 8 years on practical environmental management and more recently on traditional skills (basket weaving with dune grasses). We are also undertaking excavation of mosaics on the peninsula. The trip has 2 days on the Akrotiri peninsula with a series of one day trips away from Akrotiri, to the Akamas peninsula - a coastal national park, the Troodos Forest Park & visitor centre - high in the mountains, Lefkara village to see lace making and silver-smithing and the Griffon vulture project at Vretsia - also in the mountains. One-day will also be spent in Paphos visiting the Roman mosaics and the Tombs of the Kings plus the arts/sculpture centre at Lemba and the reconstruction chalaeolithic village beside it. Because of the nature of our funding, the entire cultural landscape is important and the focus on traditional skills (especially passed on to young people) is as important as environmental skills.



3. June 2010. Sylvron & partners, the west of Ireland (4 persons).

Flying to Galway, the placement begins at a Celtic-themed centre (Brigit's Garden) with a visit to a reconstructed Celtic roundhouse under the Grampus project 'Unlocking Hidden Heritage'. Leaving Galway the group travels into Connemara National Park with its extensive raised and blanket bogs. The focus of the whole placement is on culture, heritage and archaeology associated with forests and woodlands - particularly native woodlands and how culture and nature can be managed together or in tandem. Travelling into County Mayo and staying in Westport with its rich Celtic culture there are visits to the Atlantic oak forest at Brackloon to see the sympathetic management, de-coniferisation and awareness of the sites archaeology - including a souterrain of a fort in a field called 'Parkalassa' (parc a' leasa, 'the field of the fort') and charcoal pits and the Prospect House estate with its new native woodland planting in a matrix respecting an abandoned (famine-age) village and 'lasheen' - a children's graveyard in unconsecrated ground. A visit to Clare Island looks at added value to local wool and basket baking and fits in the ethos of contemporising local sustainable products. A final stay in Dublin is for a visit to the National Museum to look at Celtic treasures and for relaxation.



4. August/ September 2010. The Ipel Union, southern Slovakia.(8 persons)

The Ipel Union are managers of the cultural landscape of the Ipel River watershed. The group will visit the village wine cellars at Ipelsky and review the 'Culture 2000' Grampus-led project that mapped the 300 or so structures - some of which may be Medieval in origin - a massive consolidation and restoration project is needed. Also in the village, a community forest site and fledgling eco-centre will be visited and discussions will focus on the CHANTICA project which has developed community art as a means of bringing conflicting ethnic groups (Hungarians, Roma & Slovaks) together. Cross-border visits will be to the Ipoly Duna National Park and heritage village of Holoko (World Heritage Sites) and the fossil mammal site (all in Hungary). Traditional skills training at Salka will be reviewed and sampled and in the afternoon a visit to the Catholic Basilica at Eztergom on the Danube bend will help the group to understand the history of the region. A day will be spent in the Pioplé RAMSAR site looking at management including the Grampus/Ipel Union NELCA ('Natural Environments Local Community Actions') project supported by Leader Plus and another day will involve walking the forest trail from the RAMSAR to Čabrad castle, through beech, spruce, Turkey oak and pine woods.



5. July / August 2010 Dübener Heide Naturpark, Germany (4 persons).

The placement is based in the Naturpark (largely heath and pine forest), between Berlin and Leipzig, the date corresponds with an international wood festival, where Cumbrians will be competing (through Cumbria Woodlands / Bill Hogarth Memorial Trust) in outdoor wood carving. Other highlights include looking at Saxon heritage reconstructions made with local materials and to train young people in traditional skills (a transnational Leader Plus project with Cumbria Fells & Dales), local beer production, youth initiatives and nature conservation in the river Elbe and Mulde corridors and management of wetlands for cranes and associated eco-tourism, which includes also beaver management. A day will be spent with Wolfgang Köppe, a famous modern artist, who was a POW in Cumbria and completed his Diploma in Art at Carlisle Art College (he now teaches aspiring UK artists through the Leonardo programme). Participants will visit a farm, which has diversified into tourism but still maintains some old traditions and tasks, such as bread-making, etc. There will be cultural visits to Lutherstaat Wittenburg (birthplace of Martin Luther) and Berlin. Accommodation will be in a family-run small hotel in Pressel.



6. August 2010, Satul Verde ('Green Village'), Romania (8 persons)

Satul Verde are a family-orientated association, focusing on cultural heritage, traditional farming and craft products. Based in Transylvania, with flights to Sibiu (European Cultural Capital 2007), visits are to traditional mask-makers and icon-painters in the city and to the village museum with some 100+ reconstructed vernacular buildings – we aim to coincide with the festival of crafts there. The group then heads out into the countryside to see traditional hay-making in incredibly biodiverse meadows and local food production, including cheese production, fruit harvesting, village baking in wood-fired ovens and sheep farming. The village we visit has its own herdsman and each house its own cow and pig. On the return journey to Sibiu we can visit the medieval Saxon town of Sigisoara, which is being re-vamped to capitalise on its extraordinary architecture. In villages close to Sibiu there are visits to a Dacian fortress, diverse forests and upland meadows, as well as the icon museum and some fascinating fortified churches, which were designed to cope with tartar incursions. Throughout the placement there are opportunities to visit Orthodox churches with stunning iconostasis and frescoes.



7. 5-12th July 2010. Skálanes Nature and Heritage Centre, Seyðisfjörður, East Iceland (6 persons).

Skálanes Nature and Heritage Centre is situated in a sympathetically restored Icelandic farm house set within its own nature reserve at the mouth of Seyðisfjörður in the East fjords region of Iceland. The centre's location makes the perfect base for those who wish to learn about East Iceland and spend some time immersed in its culture and environment. The placement will begin with a hike around the reserve and a discussion about the natural environment at Skálanes/Iceland, covering basic issues and past projects as a stepping stone to develop new ideas for the future. Participants will spend a day on a boat trip at sea with the opportunity to do some fishing and learn about the geology of Iceland, local species and possibly the chance to see whales and seals. After returning ashore participants will be taught how to treat and prepare a catch for their own consumption. This will involve learning about smoking, salting and drying techniques and putting this into practice during a hands-on afternoon. This will provide participants with an insight into the traditional subsistence lives of former inhabitants, which have shaped the natural environment since settlement. A day will also be spent learning about vernacular building skills. This will involve participants using traditional building tools and material, but with a contemporary twist. The work completed on this day is not meant to be torn down, but will be incorporated into the Skálanes complex, as an attraction or a structure with a purpose such as drying racks for meat or fish, bird hide, free range chicken shelter etc. Participants will also be introduced to the 'Turn of the Century Town project', which broadly speaking is about using the history and heritage of the town as a platform for tourism. A meeting with the cultural and tourist officer of the municipality will be arranged and participants will undertake a series of visits to the Þórarinsstaðir church, the Technological Museum, the Blue Church and Hótel Aldan which uses traditional Norwegian houses for its business. The last day of the placement will be spent in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland.



8. July 2010. Kierikki Stone Age Centre, Finland (6 persons)

The main focus of the placement is the Kierikki Stone Age Centre, a reconstruction, museum and skills training centre, where Grampus, with local archaeologists, have been undertaking archaeological (training) excavations on Neolithic hut sites since 2006. Participants will go on an excursion around Kierikki and its surrounding area, incorporating a trip to a local reindeer farm. Participants will get actively involved with working at the Stone Age Village at Kierikki, learning Stone Age techniques. There will also be an organised canoe fishing trip on the Lijoki River, an excursion to the city of Oulu and a hike through Oulanka National Park.



To discuss any of these placement further please contact Martin or Charlotte at Grampus Heritage via email enquiries@grampusheritage.co.uk or telephone 016973 21516. Alternatively, to apply please contact Grampus for an application form.