Message from the Project Lead

Welcome to the first Heritage Futures newsletter. We expect to send out news on how the project is progressing every 6 months or so.

You will see that in the spirit of comparing heritage practices from different domains, we will be presenting news from each of the thematic strands that make up the Heritage Futures programme: Diversity, Profusion, Transformation and Uncertainty. We’ll also highlight activities, events and commentaries, and introduce you to team members.

The articles included in this newsletter and linked to our website provide just a snapshot of our team’s work. You can find a general summary of our aims and objectives on our website here, along with other updates of recent research and activities, so do take a look.

Rodney Harrison
Diversity at the Seed Vault in Norway

Sefryn Penrose uncovers a world of white when she lands in Svalbard. But once there, she gets a glimpse of the local development of the neighbouring town, and uncovers the two treaties that situate the geopolitical importance of the Vault. Read more about Sefryn's account here.
The Profusion theme held a workshop hosted by the New School House Gallery in York to gather museum professionals, theme partners, and academics who research and write about the accumulation of stuff. Jennie Morgan reports on the workshop and includes video recordings of meaningful objects. Read more

Transformation with CITiZAN at Orford Ness

Nadia Bartolini reports on a community archaeology training event led by the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITiZAN) in July 2016. There, she filmed volunteers hard at work and obtained their views on Orford Ness' heritage. Find out more
Uncertainty and Space Futures

The Uncertainty theme explores how different present practices position themselves in relation to the radical uncertainty of deep futures. One set of such practices is messages sent to space. Sarah May reports on the #GoodbyePhilae social media feed that led to the final day of the Rosetta mission. Read more

On The Ethics of Dust

Jennie Morgan visited Westminster Hall to see Jorge Otero-Pailos’ work. For her, The Ethics of Dust offered an interplay between permanence-impermanence, absence-presence, and the solid-fragile. Read more

Liberating Horses

This summer, Caitlin DeSilvey took part in an event promoted as 'Libertação de Cavalos' in Cidadelhe, a village in northeastern Portugal, that brought together a local community with ecosystem restoration through the Rewilding Europe initiative. Read more

Creative Integration

Heritage Futures creative fellow Antony Lyons recently met with partners at Wheal Martyn Museum in the China Clay mining area in Cornwall, UK. There is special interest in the museum’s Clay Dry and Mica Dry buildings which were used for processing clay and its by-products.
Over the next two years, Antony hopes to develop creative installation works in these spaces, reflecting the joint interests of the museum and the Heritage Futures programme.

Publications

Some of our early thoughts about the Heritage Futures research programme have already appeared in print, such as these recent contributions:


Further publications are available here.
Nuclear Waste Disposal and Heritage

Our first programme-wide Knowledge-Exchange Workshop was wonderfully hosted by one of our project partners, SKB, the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company. We will provide a more in-depth review of our time there in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, we prepared this summary.

Spotlight On... Kyle Lee-Crossett

Every newsletter, we will feature a member of the Heritage Futures team. We start with Kyle Lee-Crossett who is a PhD student at UCL’s Institute of Archaeology. We asked him what he did this summer...

This summer, I designed and taught a course for GCSE-age students to explore the rhetoric and politics of interpreting objects in archaeology, museum exhibits, and contemporary life. For my PhD, I have been creating a database of the many hundreds of public archives and artefact collections in London. When I complete it this autumn, I should be able to provide some interesting results about how archives...
and collections present themselves on the web: what do they describe as their purpose? Do they mention ideas about diversity, or the future?