

Crucial Carrick



A Heritage Lottery-funded initiative of Carrick Community Councils' Forum, managed by Ailsa Horizons, researching the history, geology, flora & fauna of Carrick.

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French computers to rebuild Scottish abbey

Ayrshire's ancient Crossraguel Abbey is to be rebuilt by the French. But before conservationists become alarmed it has to be said that it will be in computer graphics only. The exciting project which will involve Scottish archaeologists and architectural historians, will bring a team of technicians from France's prestigious Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers (ENSAM) to Ayrshire as part of the 2010 Europe-wide celebrations of the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of the abbey of Cluny in Burgundy.

The Cluniac monastic order became the most powerful in mediæval Europe. The only two houses in Scotland (and the furthest-flung from Cluny) are the abbeys of Paisley and Crossraguel, by Maybole. A programme of celebrations is planned for May, 2010 centred on Paisley as Scotland's contribution to the pan-European festivities. The man co-ordinating the events in Paisley and Maybole, James Brown is a researcher with the Heritage Lottery-funded *Crucial Carrick* project. This initiative by the Carrick Community Councils' Forum is seeking to bring the rich heritage of the Carrick region to wider public notice and raise awareness among locals of its fascinating history, diversity of landscape and variety of flora and fauna.

Mr Brown said, *"In interviewing locals for the Crucial Carrick project I realised that Crossraguel Abbey has the potential to be more widely known. The recognition of the abbey's importance by the French Federation of Cluniac Sites will greatly assist that."*

The abbey is in the care of Historic Scotland who is supporting the Cluny 2010 celebrations and they will guide the French team with their own group of specialists. However the local community must first raise 20,000 Euros as their share of the costs and that will bring in 100,000 Euros from France.

Helen McAdam, chairman of Maybole Historical Society said, *"We are very keen to see this project coming to Carrick. It will benefit tourism in the whole of Ayrshire as well as the parishes of Maybole and Kirkoswald. On completing the project the French will produce a 7-minute film of the reconstruction which will have its premier in the town of Cluny for the climax of the anniversary celebrations in September, 2010."*

She continued, *"Since becoming members of the Federation of Cluniac Sites last summer, the Society has been committed to winning this prize for Scotland. We are now applying ourselves to raising our share of the funds required."*

Stuart Lindsay of Ailsa Horizons, the local development agency, added, *"The Crucial Carrick project which we are managing on behalf of the local Community Councils has already created a lot of interest in the region. This will give us a national profile through Historic Scotland and an international one through the European network of Cluniac sites. It is a cutting-edge project using the latest computer technology. One of the outcomes of the French project is added value to the tourism aspects of the abbey. We welcome that."*

Crossraguel Abbey was founded by the Earl of Carrick in the middle of the 13th century as a daughter house of Paisley Abbey. Although small, its proximity to Robert the Bruce's Turnberry Castle and its position on the Paisley to Whithorn pilgrimage route assured it of royal patronage for hundreds of years. Its ruins represent the most complete monastic establishment in Scotland and the fine, 15th century architectural work includes one of the few roofed chapter houses in the country. It is managed as a visitor attraction by Historic Scotland.

[More information, next page >>](#)

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Further information: (Copy and paste url links to your browser)



Historic Scotland Press Office:
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Telephone: 0131 668 8685

Crossraguel Abbey - Historic Scotland: http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/places/propertyresults/propertyoverview.htm?PropID=PL_079&PropName=Crossraguel%20Abbey

Cluny2010 in Scotland: http://www.baltersan.com/events_and_visitor_attractions/crossraguel_abbey

Federation of Cluniac Sites: <http://www.sitesclunisiens.org/index.php>

ENSAM <http://www.cluny2010.info/search/label/Gunzo>

The following notice is posted on website www.cluny2010.info

Scroll down to the heading ... Gunzo s'exporte sur les sites clunisiens

Gunzo is exported to the Cluniac sites

For Cluny 2010, the experiment of virtual reconstruction of the Great Church, Cluny III, still brings out more ideas! It is within the framework of a partnership between the ENSAM of Cluny, the Gunzo project, and the Federation of Cluniac Sites that the new technologies developed in Cluny will be exported to other Cluniac sites abroad. This collaboration will be established by partnership agreements which soon will be signed. At the autumn meeting of the Federation of Cluniac Sites in Gevrey-Chambertin on October 11 last, after a call for candidates within the entire member sites of the Federation of the Cluniac Sites, it is finally Calw-Hirsau in Germany, Romainmôtier in Switzerland and Crossraguel in Scotland which were chosen to participate in these experiments.

The suggested programme, partly financed by the local government agencies of the communities concerned, includes/understands the digitalisation of the buildings in place, the virtual reconstruction of the lost elements and their presentation to the general public within the framework of a tour of the sites. Deliberately selected outwith France to show the European dimension and the inauguration of the Gunzo project, these important places of Cluniac culture will therefore benefit from the experience gained since 2004 on the site of Cluny.

Complete programming is considered thus: the computer modelling of the historic site; the creation of a database for the dissemination of information; the tourist added value of the site thanks to increased reality and its setting in the network of Cluniac sites. Of course, the expert archaeologists and historians of the sites will bring their own scientific guarantees thus validating the project.