

About Houses -discovering local heritage across Europe

About Houses is a European Commission funded project with partners in Wales, France, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria and Lithuania.

The project is aimed at exploring and promoting old houses with local groups - recording traditional craft techniques, architecture, design and history. The house is a source of a diverse range of knowledge and reflects the heritage of life. It is the home of different generations and allows us to pass on the experience and knowledge of the older people to the young. The project aims to inspire both young and old to use modern technology to understand and save their heritage.

The project will supply a web platform and toolbox to enable the accurate recording and sharing of house histories. Working with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales (RCAHMW) we aim to work with local groups to record the rich histories of working class and vernacular houses.

Our first partners are two teams of local historians and archaeologists from Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales. The team at Cofio Cwmorthin Remembered have carried out detailed recording of the abandoned slate miners housing at Cwmorthin, a remote valley where people lived and worked until the 1940's. The Dolwyddelan Historical Society have a variety of interests, from the industrial archaeology of the Lledr valley to researching the history of houses and sites reaching back to the time of the Welsh Princes and beyond. Working with these teams, we will provide 3D laser scanning surveys and advice on the best, low cost options for getting the information they have recorded up on the web and shared with our colleagues across Europe.

We are looking for more partners across Wales to share their local history with groups across Europe. On the 5th April 2011, we will be holding a mini conference on the project at Plas Machynlleth, with talks from European partners, local groups and experts in recording houses histories from the RCAHMW.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Deri Jones on 0870 762 0089 or 0777 385 3237 or alternatively email info@djaweb.co.uk

Conference Agenda - 5th April 2011, Plas Machynlleth, Machynlleth.

- 9.15 - 9.30: *Introduction to Houses project and welcome*
- 9.30 – 10.15: *"Heritage and traditional architecture in Spain"*, Ramón Rubio, DOCTUM, Spain.
- 10.15 - 10.45: *"The working houses of Wales"*. The importance of recording the working people's houses. Spencer Smith, RCAHMW.
- 10.45 - 11.15: *"Community and Building History in Cwm Rheidol"*. Shelagh Hourahane, Creud
- **11.15- 11.30: Coffee**
- 11.30 -12.00: *"The houses of Cwmorthin and Dolwyddelan"*. Slate miner's housing in North Wales.
- 12.00 – 12.15: Open floor questions and discussion on heritage projects.
- **12.15-13.00: Lunch**
- 13.00 – 13.30: *"The people's collection: sharing heritage using the internet"*. RCAHMW/DJA
- 13.30 – 14.00: *"Heritage theatre: sharing stories"*. Nik Wakefield, Heritage Arts Company
- 14.00 – 14.30: *"Community mapping and story gathering projects"*. Lynn Denman, Creud
- 14.30 – 15.00: Open discussion on the requirements of heritage recording and areas of interest to amateur groups.
- **15.00: End of conference – Coffee.**