

Inspired Futures: Heritage Activity & Interpretation Planning

Suggested Reading

This booklist is geared primarily towards engaging visitors and developing interpretation in places as diverse as museums and significant landscapes. While engaging users in churches does bring its own particular challenges, you will find much that is informative and inspiring here.

Even though it has been around for a while now, **Carter J (Ed). Sense of Place, an Interpretive Planning Handbook** is an extremely useful volume that will always stand you in good stead. I still refer to it regularly and it's a **free download**.

<http://www.jamescarter.cc/good-stuff/>. **IF YOU ONLY READ ONE THING FROM THIS LIST, MAKE IT THIS ONE!** But do take the time to browse James's other papers too – he is a master at making us think more deeply about what interpretation can achieve.

Tilden F. Interpreting Our Heritage. University of North Carolina Press 1957. Tilden is the father of interpretation as we know it and, despite being nearly 60 years old, this is inspiring and thoughtful (and is still widely available). Its focus is primarily natural heritage.

The **Association for Heritage Interpretation** is a lively organisation for anyone working in interpretation or the heritage sector. Check out their website, www.ahi.org.uk. There are some on line resources but you need to be a member to access the full range, which includes conference papers and Interpretation Journal back issues. You may find the Suppliers' Directory very useful if you are considering bringing in specialist help for heritage activity and interpretation planning and/or delivery: <http://www.ahi.org.uk/www/suppliers/>.

Many members are also part of the **LinkedIn AHI** group, where there are regular discussions about interpretive matters (informative and entertaining). And it's free. <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-Heritage-Interpretation-4078892>.

For excellent advice on planning and evaluating interpretation, have a look at the Guidance Notes offered by Scottish Natural Heritage. There's a whole series of helpful guidelines which, although geared primarily towards natural heritage interpretation, are full of useful tips that are equally relevant for churches and for cultural heritage interpretation. <http://www.snh.gov.uk/policy-and-guidance/heritage-interpretation/>.

Heritage Lottery Fund offers a range of other helpful publications covering different heritage-related subjects, including some really useful guidelines on activity planning. See www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/Pages/allourpublications.aspx#.UqdLUOJDeSo for the full list.

Interpret Australia also offers a wide range of very useful on line resources: see <http://www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au/resources/case-studies>. They also have a comprehensive reading list at <http://www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au/publications/books>.

If you are interested in **engaging children and families in your church**, head straight for the endlessly entertaining and inspiring <http://kidsinmuseums.org.uk/>. Also check out a publication called 'Communication Friendly Museums', produced by Jo Graham and available as a download from www.learning-unlimited.co.uk/page4/files/Families_in_Museums.pdf. Although churches are obviously not museums, there is a host of inspiring ideas here that will help you engage younger congregation and community members.

If you want a radically different view about what it is how to celebrate and share your special place, and how to avoid a 'traditional' approach to engaging with our heritage, head for www.countertourism.net/. Controversial views, some utter tosh and a few inspired ideas!