



## **Land and Culture Organisation 2010 Project – Fact Sheet**

### **The Church of Surp Astvatsatsin in the Village of Yeghvard in Armenia:**

The village is located in the Syunik region of Armenia, 14 km South East from the city of Kapan. Yerghvard shares a number of similarities with the villages of Aghahord in Myus Bagh or Qashuniq Gavar described in the list of settlements by the historian Stepanos Orbelyan.

Throughout its history Yeghvard was subject to a number of invasions including the 8th Century Arabs' invasion, the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Seldjoukides' invasion and the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Mongols' invasion. These resulted in the destruction of the village on a number of occasions.

Yeghvard has a three-nave church at the centre of the village. On the front stone above its southern entrance, the date of its construction is carved "1700". The Church was built with local multi-coloured, roughly-worked limestone and sandstone and joined by lime mortar. There are medieval Khatchkars and gravestones inserted in its walls.

A number of ancient gravestones are located in the Church yard on its eastern and southern sides. About 30 metres south is the grave of one of the most devoted and bravest comrade-in-arms of David Bek's army, general Toros Ishkhan, who fought for the liberation of Syunik. Finally, on the Western part of the southern square of the Church, a monument to the World War II martyrs from Yeghvard has been built.

The first LCO campaign started in 2007. The volunteers, led by specialist architect in historical monuments, Levon Vassilian, undertook the initial archaeological searches and excavations necessary to the planning of the Church renovation. Despite the state of the Church, LCO organised a number of baptisms with the assistance of the priests coming from Kapan, the main city of the Syunik region.



Since 2007, LCO has completed the most urgent works such as the reconstruction of the windows and the roof of the Church. In 2010, LCO and its volunteers will be working on the consolidation of the walls, the pillars and the vault of the Church. LCO will also begin work on the interior of the church, including the stage for the choir and the altar.





**What are the dates of the 2010 campaigns?**

- 5 July 2010 to 1 August 2010
- 2 August 2010 to 23 August 2010
- 2 August 2010 to 30 August 2010

**What kind of work will be involved?**

This year's programme involves the consolidation of the walls, the pillars and the vault of the Church. LCO will also start rebuilding the stage for the choir and the altar.

**Is there anything else I should know?**

The availabilities for this programme are limited to 12 volunteers only, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please contact the LCO team for further info on accommodation, flights and campaign fees. Please also visit our website: [www.landandculture.co.uk](http://www.landandculture.co.uk)

Where is Yeghvard?



For any other general information please see the Volunteers' Welcome Pack