



Kinloch Castle Friends Association Newsletter no 30 November 2020 SC030201

2020, the Year of Covid-19, has not been easy in so many ways. We hope you have kept safe and well but are aware that for many there have been illness and sadness.

We send our very best wishes to all our members for Christmas 2020 and hopes for a healthy and happy 2021.

1. AGM 13 June 2020

The AGM took place as advertised on the 13 June 2020. Holding it by Zoom was extremely successful and my thanks to all who took part. The next AGM will be held on Saturday 12th June 2021.

2. Treasurer

Our wonderful Treasurer Jackie Roberts has sadly had to pull out from the role following her recent illness. I'm delighted to say that she is recovering well although her recovery is slower than she would like. **We really do need some competent person to step forward as soon as possible.** All is in tip top condition, all up to date and immaculately laid out. Please could anyone who feels able to take this on get in touch with either me or Ewan – contact details at the end of this newsletter.

3. March Work Party 2021

At this time, we have no idea if we will be able to hold a work party in March. The bunkhouse has been closed most of 2020, as has the island to most visitors and to keep accommodation on Rum Covid safe is difficult under the current regulations and of course our group would come from multiple households. We will keep you informed if we hear from Rum that we can start booking.

4. Heritage Trust Network

KCFA have recently joined this organisation which seeks to help similar groups to ours by putting us all into contact and sharing help. Various professional bodies also give some excellent free support. The Conference took place recently digitally and proved extremely helpful with useful advice

and support. We will use this as much as possible to forward our plans. It was helpful to find that not all has stopped during 2020 and also that while it has led to difficulties, it has also led to groups taking up the challenge and finding improvements. One spin off from Covid is that both our main team and our fundraising group can easily meet online which is a saving in time and for the KCFA, money.

4. Fund raising

For some time, Jackie and I have taken this on between us but I'm delighted to say that having put out a plea, three wonderful people have stepped up to help on this. It was one thing getting together enough money to fund the necessary building surveying, legal and running expenses but quite another to look to raising enough to cover the repairs and upgrading needed of the castle to get it ready to run the business. We are extremely grateful for Dawn Hartley, Mhairi Ferrier and Mairi Robertson Carrey who are joining our team and are already hard at work seeking potential grants etc.

What can you do?

Please write letters of support for our project. These from as many of you as possible will be valued. We need them by early December but if you get later than that please keep on sending them in. The letters/emails/messages will be sent on to HES in the first instance (see below) but will be used in other bids so please send them to me Catherine Duckworth and I will arrange to forward them on.

Obviously also showing support by contributing financially is another way too – you have already been amazingly generous and we are extremely grateful. If you know people who may wish to invest in what we believe will be a sound and viable business proposition, please speak to them.

5. The project

As we progress the project evolves and we have found that a major element required is to make the entire building wind and watertight and to give it a 20+ year life. It also possibly entails taking over the former farm steading/byre buildings which NatureScot have no further use for and which the Rum Community do not want to take on.



Hugh Garratt has looked again at the costs and to do this basic work will cost in the region of **£2 millions**. This will include accommodation for the workmen, making the farm steading buildings wind and watertight and secure to enable them to be used for storage for the castle contents while the work is being done, and effectively stabilizing the entire castle for a life of over 20 years. We are currently applying to Historic Environment Scotland with a bid for up to

£500,000 but we need to find the rest. To create a viable and sustainable business in the rear part of the castle will be a further £3 millions plus variables. If you can contribute in any way to this, we are starting a major fundraising bid. We are so nearly there with our project plans. We have also just been told of the opportunity to apply to the Coastal Communities Fund and are doing that. The Architectural Heritage Fund also offers support and assistance. We have already had a grant towards our legal costs and can go on to bid for other grants and a possible loan.

6. Potential investors

As we go forward to restore this important building and return it to productive use, we are revising the business plan for the castle and developing our original commercial plans into something much more agile than that which was proposed had it been transferred to community ownership. While our charitable purpose has not changed, ie that of restoring the castle and its contents for the benefit of the public and education, we are even more convinced that the local island economy which has declined under state ownership, can only be improved if the castle is restored and used to support the rural retreat and nature tourism market as well as educational and family groups.

We have taken legal advice about future commercial models and believe that there is the potential for any private donors to have an investment return once the castle is operational.

Obviously, the impact of COVID-19 cannot be ignored, but now there are several vaccines coming into use shortly the worst should pass within the next two years and meanwhile we are happy discuss our ideas with any potential investor, large or small, and at the same time we actively progress this restoration and development project.

We are now looking for potential investors in the commercial side of our plans.

Please contact any member of the team for more details.

7. Subscriptions

These were due in July. As before, £12.00 for individual, £22.00 for family subscriptions. In the short term please send any cheques to me, Catherine Duckworth until we can get a new treasurer post sorted. My address is given at the end of this newsletter. Please take out a standing order if possible. Bank details: sort code 05-09-44 and account number 35777395. Please pay as soon as you can. We have for years kept the amount the same as for so long we had plenty in the pot with little use being made of it. The situation has now changed radically. At the AGM we agreed to up the cost of the subscriptions slightly as below. Please note that this is from July 2021 but if you choose to upgrade your subscription sooner we would be delighted!

1. Subscriptions – Proposed Increase from 2021

The Treasurer proposed increasing subscriptions for the 2021/22 financial year as follows:

- ❖ Individual membership to be raised from £12 to £15
- ❖ Family membership to be raised from £22 to £25.

This proposal was approved by Sheila King and seconded by Alan Rodger.

We have put the money to good use - we hope you agree with that. We remain convinced that the Castle can be rescued and put to a viable and sustainable use but wish that this could be achieved as soon as possible. Please support us in any way possible. Our dedicated team is a small one and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us or to take part in just one area. We need YOUR help!

8. Easyfundraising

Many of us will have had to resort to using the internet for buying Christmas presents this year. Have you registered with Easyfundraising yet? Please do – the links are as below.

Please support Kinloch Castle Friends Association on #easyfundraising, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 4,300 retailers. In the lead up to Christmas, it's the easiest time of the year to support them! It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! Plus, once you have raised your first £5, easyfundraising will match it! Sign up now: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kinlochcastlefa/?invite=VAW&utm_source=refmailshare

9. New houses on Rum

Isle of Rum Community Trust in collaboration with Mowi (the fish farm firm) have built four new eco homes. The advertising of these generated a huge amount of interest from all over the world as people wanted to get away from the cities. After a monumental task in sorting through nearly 400 applications, according to the BBC Landward programme of 19th December 2020 and other newspaper articles four families are moving to Rum in December.

10. Scottish Natural Heritage name change

SNH have now changed their name to NatureScot. For some time they have been using the new email addresses - please note this if you have old addresses stored they should now all end @nature.scot

11. Contacts

Hon Secretary Mrs Catherine Duckworth, 1 Mitton Road, Whalley, Clitheroe, BB7 9RX email kcfasec@gmail.com tel 01254 823323 or 07946 736344

Professor Ewan Macdonald OBE, email ewan.macdonald@glasgow.ac.uk
mobile: 07771 776256