



Kinloch Castle Friends Association eNewsletter no 25 October 2018

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1. Asset Transfer: the continuing story

The April Newsletter talked of the huge amount of work which was being put in by our working group. Since then it appears that the body of work has increased. Unfortunately I was taken seriously ill and had to take a back seat but others filled roles extremely competently for me, but it did put extra pressure on them. Thankfully the AGM produced another member for our group, Iain McNiven who is proving to be yet another brilliant asset to the group. And he volunteered rather than had his arm twisted too! I'm pleased to say that I'm recovering nicely thanks to our wonderful NHS. Now it's been the turn of our hard working treasurer Jackie to enjoy the hospitality of the NHS and we wish her well for her recovery.

We worked hard to put together our interim business plan which has been available online for everyone to see. We understand one or two had difficulty in downloading it or finding it and it was accordingly moved to a more prominent position. We hope you have found it interesting. Since then it has been superseded by the final business plan. We appointed a firm SKS to produce this for us. Payment for this was part of the package put together by SNH etc so wasn't out of our funds. It is now a weighty document with a very helpful heritage strategy as an appendix (Appendix 5). This is in itself very useful for moving

forward. The final business plan was put to SNH and the Scottish Government on 30th August 2018. It has involved a massive amount of work not only putting together by SKS but by members of the group checking and also compiling the very detailed financial documentation and our very grateful thanks go to Ian Spouse for his mammoth work on this entailing many hours of hard graft especially right at the end when the figures were reassessed after the August work party. We couldn't have achieved what we have without the unstinting work of all members of the group but in this respect, without Ian we wouldn't have got where we have. There's now a shortened (two pages of A4) version of the business plan which you should have received by email but which is also available through the website. Those members who are not on email will receive a hard copy version of the short plan.

We now have to set up KCFA as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) which we have determined to be the best way forward at this point. Further on, we may create a Community Benefit Society (CBS) as a way both to help and involve the local community. We are aware that while they are supportive of what we are trying to achieve, they are also overstretched already and are sensibly holding back from great involvement. We will continue to inform the Rum Community as we move forward.

Our surveyor Hugh Garratt has applied for planning permission for the work that we wish to do to modify the castle to improve fire safety, washing and toilet facilities, boiler etc etc. This has involved considerable work and discussion again and again incurs a cost.

We are still hoping to be able to take over the running of the castle as soon as possible and are aiming to open for business for Easter 2019. We know this is a giant aim but, he who dares wins!

2. Fundraising

This is ongoing and on a variety of different fronts. While we have requested from SNH and the Scottish Government that they support us financially in the first year, we also need our own set up costs and to start into effect further massive fundraising for future costs. Our members are responding well to our requests and please continue in your efforts both in responding as individuals and encouraging others to help too. We have produced a handout leaflet which has been put into various tourist places along the west coast plus Sheila Mather and others are going to man a stall at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival to promote the cause. For this event we will have banners to draw people to the stall. These will be available for other events, and given sufficient notice, we can man other events, provide speakers etc. Is there somewhere near you where you can help? Please let us know if you need some leaflets and we'll get them to you.

We have an ongoing need for further funds. The Moidart Trust has generously granted £10,000, and we have received other good donations, but as the advert says, every little helps and just £5.00 a month would make a difference. Please consider adding a regular donation via MyDonate as they can also automatically collect the gift aid for us.

Please collect used printer cartridges to send for our funds to Recycle4Charity. Envelopes can be ordered easily through the website www.recycle4charity.co.uk, register as collecting for Kinloch Castle Friends Association and you will be given a supporter ID via which you can order envelopes or collection boxes. I have had great success leaving a box at our local Community hall, adding some leaflets to explain what we are doing. It's a small thing but an opportunity to raise awareness of our cause. Unfortunately Epson and Kodak cartridges cannot be recycled through this scheme.

Please talk about Kinloch Castle and our plans to everyone you know. We are regularly contacting walking groups throughout Scotland to keep them informed. We know there are

lots of other groups who may be interested in Kinloch Castle and Rum - geology, botany, ornithology, archaeology, universities, those with an interest in the orchestrion. These are all part of our potential 'community'. Please let us know of any you know so we can approach them and ask if they want to be kept informed.

The MyDonate website is an easy way for people to donate to our cause - again please suggest it to others and use it.

3. SCIO

Probably, like me, you wonder what this is. It stands for Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is a legal form unique to Scottish charities and is able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued (this is from the SCIO website). It also provides a high degree of protection against liability.

However, there are important differences between a SCIO and any other type of body with charitable status in Scotland. There is a lot of advice on the OSCR website oscr.org.uk Again we are seeking legal advice about this.

4. Community Benefit Society

Community benefit societies (BenComs) are incorporated industrial and provident societies (IPS) that conduct business for the benefit of their community. Profits are not distributed among members, or external shareholders, but returned to the community. Community bonds are another way of fundraising with the possibility of the investor getting a return in due course. And I am informed that parts of our scheme could be eligible for Social Investment Tax Relief which gives 30p in the £1.00 for appropriate donations.

5. Crowdfunding

We are setting up a crowdfunding website which gives rewards for different amounts promised. We have been lucky enough to be offered for our free use, other than purchase price, of a very colourful, quirky yet joyous drawing of the castle by Jo Sunshine.

One of the critical factors in a successful crowdfunding is to build the 'Crowd' and this is where you all come in - please talk to your friends about Rum and the castle and about what we hope to achieve. As the advert says, every little helps, but we need a lot of people to give a little, but each of you will have their own views on what is a little! We are initially looking for £10,000 from this to pay for the various set up costs of legal and accountancy charges and others.

6. Orchestrion Appeal

We have agreed that the Orchestrion Appeal would be continued as a separate issue as it would seem that we can attract interest from a different set of people with this. Andrew Marsden has agreed to take on this fundraising bid so please again offer him support. If you know of bodies which may be interested in helping to restore this valuable and very interesting instrument, please get in touch with Andrew. We have already contact with the Musical Box Society of Great Britain but other bodies could be out there who would wish to help. Andrew is on email at marsden@lumison.co.uk

7. August Work Party

This was a small group who went to look specifically at the condition of the castle, plus work out how many beds can be offered as bed and breakfast. Photos and videos were also made of the condition. For poor Ian, it meant yet further late nights as the time drew in very fast for submission of our plan and there were some changes as a result of the site inspection.

8. September Work Party

Usually we try to aim for October but no accommodation was to be had so instead we went in September instead. We have had some wonderful weather in October but I think would have been as challenged this year as we were in September. The Loch Nevis was away on refit so our ferry was the rather small Staffa Tours boat.

Sheila King, Sheila Mather, Asha Costigan, Jane Pitt, Gill Gibson, Paul Hoskins and Catherine Duckworth gathered in Mallaig and piled onto the little ferry with others. Over to Rum and we soon settled in to the Bunkhouse. Lesley called round to give us the keys to the castle. Gill and Sheila M opted for gardening duties, Sheila K (checking out Bramble Bothy at Fliss's Ivy Cottage and loving it) did some cleaning and Asha and Jane continued the recording of castle contents they had started back in March. Paul found a ladder and attacked the verandah gutters, working hard to clearing them of barrowloads of rubbish. After the long drive up, I rested up to start with.

Friday night was the gin tasting evening organised by Carolyn Hare and with proceeds for our funds. This was an enjoyable evening, very convivial and where we were also joined by Fliss, Sorcha and Trudi.

Work continued on Saturday, although midges didn't help the gardeners or the gutter cleaning. All persevered with tasks.

Sunday, I finally made it to the castle and was deeply shocked at the state, particularly the billiard room and gun room, plus the devastation to my favourite loo down the corridor opposite the Orchestrion. I spent the day recording the billiard room contents (we had been assured this was done by SNH but could see no evidence of that).

Monday was even wetter and wilder but the ferry was running even if just the Staffa Tours boat. Luggage was tossed aboard and Sheila M and I retreated to our central back position. Yes, we got soaked but were not ill unlike others. Let's just say that the journey was 'interesting'! Mallaig was reached with great joy, farewells were rushed and we parted as fast as possible but all safe.

The castle is really in a difficult state not helped by SNH's decision not to have their contractors making good any dry rot work. And the drainage work is still not done. While we were on Rum, first the electric pump then the petrol pump stopped working so that water started to flood into the basement again. The amount of rain that has come down over the past few weeks will not have helped the situation. SNH have assured us that the contract to repair the drains has been given and work should be starting soon. What a pity that all the dry weather of summer has been missed.

9. Website

We are trying to keep the website up to date with our activities as regards asset transfer but other additional information has had to take a back seat for the moment.

10. Angus Macdonald: 'Ardnish was home' Birlinn ISBN 978-1-78027-426-3 and 'We fought for Ardnish', Birlinn ISBN 978-1-78027-505-5 Both £8.99



Angus Macdonald, who has restored Roshven House and the Polish Chapel (the one you pass seemingly in the middle of nowhere above the road to Mallaig etc after Glenfinnan), and who is currently working on creating a cinema in Fort William, has also written two books about the Ardnish Peninsula and the way of life there, now gone. 'Ardnish was home' covers the period from and including WW1 while 'We fought for Ardnish' tells another amazing story of WW2, both interwoven with a very deep love for the area but equally with an awareness that it is about a time now unsustainable in that form. The books give a clear picture of what life was like there - unvarnished but much loved. Well written, evocative and well worth reading. They give an idea too of what life may have been like on Rum: the isolation, distances, but the close community spirit shining through. Angus has also given us huge support in the Kinloch Castle venture with much useful and much appreciated advice. I commend both these books.

11. News from the Rumble

The Rumble is the monthly round up of news about Rum produced by Steve Robertson the IRCT development officer. The latest edition covers the visit to Rum by MSP Ian Blackford. We were invited to attend this visit but the first date was postponed due to the bad weather and the second was at too short notice for anyone to be able to get to Rum in time. Much was discussed including the KCFA plans re the castle.

The IRCT have now plans well in hand to create more housing. Some of you may have seen publicity about the new school at Strontian which was built on behalf of the local people and leased back to the council. The same local architects who designed this are designing the housing for Rum, which bodes well for them.

HebNet is also going to be providing excellent fibre Broadband which will be essential for the development at the castle and will be the best in any of the islands. Excellent news.

The Marine Harvest fish farm, buildings etc are all coming together well and this will lead to more people living on Rum which can only be of benefit.

SNH have produced a detailed Habitat Management Plan which again could impact on the castle. We will continue to work together with SNH and the IRCT and Rum Community on all these points.

12. March 2019 work party

As we are unsure of the situation as regards the castle by next March, it was decided to organise the usual one which will be from Thursday 21st to Monday 25th March 2019. I've booked rooms at the Rum Bunkhouse provisionally. Ideally we'd like to be staying in the castle by then but it may not be suitable or ready for us. Jed at the bunkhouse knows the situation. Please contact me re the booking. Other accommodation on Rum is at Ivy Cottage with Fliss for bed and breakfast, she also has now Bramble Bothy which is a superior shepherd's hut which has shower, composting loo, wood burner etc and I'm told is very comfortable. There's another smaller shepherd's hut plus camping pods which now have heating all to be booked through Jed at the bunkhouse, and Jinty's barbecue hut which provides accommodation too and which is booked through Jinty at the shop. Please check out details for all these through the Rum website on www.isleofrum.com

13. Contacts

KCFA Secretary, and for work party bookings: Catherine Duckworth, 1 Mitton Road, Whalley, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9RX Tel 01254 823323 email, kcfasec@gmail.com

KCFA Treasurer : Jackie Roberts, 13 Corrie Drive, Kearsley, BOLTON BL4 8RG email: treas@kinlochcastlefriends.org

KCFA website : www.kinlochcastlefriends.org