



Kinloch Castle Friends Association eNewsletter no 24 April 2018

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1. Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation/Community Interest Company

While we have been investigating asset transfer we have taken various advice and the options include a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Community Benefit Society as well as a Community Interest Company. There are other options too. Asset transfer is itself relatively new so there are lots of changes and improvements coming up all the time. If anyone has experience of any of these please contact the Secretary.

As has been reported in the updates, the asset transfer project group of the KCFA has been working tirelessly to complete due diligence on the enormous question as to whether asset transfer of the running of Kinloch Castle from Scottish Natural Heritage to the KCFA is viable. We have had superb and unstinting help from many professionals who have given their time freely and we have also taken advice from various bodies such as Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIENT), Highland Council, etc etc.

We appointed surveyor Hugh Garratt of Smith and Garratt to make a detailed survey of the building and while he found some problems which need addressing as soon as possible, he concluded that Kinloch Castle was an intrinsically strong building which with the correct management would last for many years. He gave as his opinion that KCFA needed to spend £7.8 million on the building to get it to our requirements. He felt that our aim of reopening the hostel before all the work was completed was achievable.

We have requested funding from SNH towards reopening the hostel and undertaking essential works to enable the hostel to be operated and the Castle income generating, while longer term funding is sought from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other sources. We understand that SNH are working with other government departments to try and put a financial package together for us. On 16th March we unanimously agreed to apply for asset transfer and our chair wrote to that effect to Mike Cantlay, Chair of SNH. He replied to us on 23rd March 2018 confirming our bid and specifying the further information SNH requires. The next meeting with SNH took place on 20th April in the SNH offices in Edinburgh by which time the basic framework of our interim business plan had been put together.

Our current priorities are to complete the interim business plan, obtain legal advice and start fundraising. SNH with the support of HIENT are helping us source a specialist to develop our proposal, and bids from appropriate firms are being requested.

In the meantime our immediate task is to finalise the interim business plan so that the Scottish government evaluation of our application for asset transfer can be started, pending the production of the polished final business plan in the summer.

2. Help please! Our project group is beavering away very hard but is increasingly aware that there is a huge amount to do. Would you be willing to join a subgroup? Or have you talents which could be put to use? Subgroups could be spearheading the Orchestrion appeal; fundraising; publicity; planning work parties; assisting in cleaning and ensuring the necessary materials are ordered; recording of the castle contents; finding contacts and future visitors to Rum (for instance we are already contacting walking groups but we need contacts in birdwatching, archaeology, art, music, etc etc). Any help you can give however small would be appreciated and you would not be left to do it on your own! We also need an accountant and any suggestions about someone who would understand the needs of our enterprise would be appreciated.

While we're on the topic of help you can give, please encourage people to join the KCFA. If you know of people who have been members in the past but have lost heart, tell them that we can save the castle. If they don't want to join, they may be willing to donate and again, whatever they can however small, would be welcome.

3. Fundraising Over £7,000 of our funds have so far been spent on a detailed survey of the castle which is a critical part of the business plan. We also need to spend a good deal this year on such things as publicity and advertising, administrative costs, travel expenses, and materials for the work parties.

Major funding for the restoration we hope we will achieve by applying to various grant making organisations such as Heritage Lottery, who are aware of our plans. But we will still need money upfront until we can get our bids accepted. Anything you can give, however small, will help. We hope to be having more work parties as there are jobs which can be undertaken by volunteers, so please consider where you can help with these. Basic

cleaning requires basic cleaning tools. You may not be able to get to Rum to help, but you may be able to donate funds for a bucket or twelve! Of course this may seem a drop in the ocean, and any amount would be much appreciated.

- We have set up fund raising page on My Donate <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/kinlochcastlefriendsassociation> (or just google MyDonate then enter 'Kinloch' and you'll find the page). You can also pay via BACS transfer to the KCFA account Sort code 05-09-44 account number 35777395, or by standing order to the same account or cheque to Mrs J Roberts, 13 Corrie Drive, Bolton BL4 8RG
- We have also had posters and leaflets printed - the leaflets include details of how to join the KCFA as well as how to donate. The majority of these have already been displayed but we are aware that there are deficiencies in the design. Is there anyone out there who is talented at creating a suitable leaflet?
- We are circulating as many interested parties as possible about our plans as we are aware that Rum used to be a popular venue for larger groups, particularly concerning geology. Since the closure of the castle hostel this has not been possible and these groups have had to find other destinations. If you know of any other groups who may be interested in coming to Rum, please let us know.
- Other ways to help: donate funds for work party costs / help with design for leaflets and posters / give a powerpoint presentation / hold a coffee morning or sponsored event / wear a polo shirt or sweat shirt to advertise the cause / seek out photos from your visits to Rum over the years to help with future displays

4. **Orchestrion Appeal**

We can now restart the Orchestrion appeal and if you prefer your donations to go into this fund, please let the treasurer know. We need someone to spearhead this appeal. Can you do that? The Musical Box Society of Great Britain and other groups are keen for the orchestrion to be restored and will also support this appeal. See the section on Press reports for the articles about the Orchestrion.

5. **March work party 2018** Asha took this photo during the March work party showing the daffodils, planted last October, which are coming through nicely but the late spring meant the full glory was yet to come. They help to make the castle less forlorn as well as brightening the island for the start of the new season. Our thanks to the indefatigable planting crew and especially to Sheila Mather for spearheading this and providing the bulbs. We hope to keep extending the bulb planting in the future.



KCFA Work Party Report 21st – 26th March 2018 By Sheila M Mather

An important work party, being the first after the request for Asset Transfer was made on 13th March 2018.

The work party comprised of Alison Stewart, Andrew Marsden, Asha Costigan, Carolyn Smith, Ewan McDonald, Iain McLachlan, Jane Pitt, Judith Moen, Sheila King, Sheila Mather and Tref Jones. A special mention to Paul Hoskins, who arrived in Mallaig, then very unfortunately, received a text from his daughter, to say that his mother was unwell.

Paul returned to Wales on the very next train. Our sincere condolences to Paul and his family on the sad loss of his mother.

Judith could only stay until Saturday and left on the same ferry which marked the arrival of Asha, Ewan and Jane. Sheila K., Tref, Judith and Ewan stayed with Fliss in the B & B, the others stayed in the bunkhouse.

After an incredibly wet journey, the group met at The Cornerstone for their evening meal, when introductions were made.

For the journey over to Rum in the morning, there was a little wind, making it slightly choppy. On board, were a group of local hospitality providers, invited to Rum by SNH and IRCT. The object of their visit was to learn more about what was available on Rum for visitors, so that they could better inform their guests. Their charter boat had been cancelled due to the weather forecast, this curtailed their time on Rum by a couple of hours.

On arrival, the group walked up to the village and en route, stopped in at the visitor centre, where they were given an informative talk by Lesley Watt of SNH and Trudi Clarke, the Ranger, outlining Ranger lead walks on the island, with particular attention to the shearwaters, otters and deer. They were also shown the old dairy which it is hoped, will reopen as a Heritage Centre this season.

The visit to the castle was cut short due to the need to have lunch before catching the ferry back to the mainland. Lunch, cooked by Kim, was provided in the bunkhouse for the visiting group, as the Hall floor was being sanded and varnished.



The work party with two couples who went on the tours with Asha and Andrew

Members of the October KCFA work party, who had planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs, were looking forward to seeing them in bloom, but the cold weather meant that only a handful, were flowering. Hopefully, they will make an attractive splash

of colour for visitors to the castle, over the next month or so.

The weather was not very kind, so the work party members began work on cleaning the Hall and removing weeds at the base of the castle. Judith did a great job of cleaning the windows, which she continued on Friday, also scrubbing the front steps, which had become slippery.



Throughout his stay, Iain took many excellent photographs, some with his drone, which show the castle from previously unattainable angles. Iain's photographs are of a very high quality and are some of the best taken of the exterior and interior of the castle in a long time. Iain has

very generously agreed to allow us to use as many of the high resolution photographs, to promote the castle, as we wish. At a later date, with his permission, we may wish to use these for merchandise.

Carolyn and Alison cooked Thursday evening's meal of chilli and apple crumble. Delicious.

Sheila K. had brought a good supply of dusters and polish, so on Friday, she, Tref and Alison set to work dusting and vacuuming the ground floor rooms. Never have the eagle and dragons been as well dusted as they were by Tref! Sheila M. and Carolyn began the inventory of the Dining Room and Hall, aided by Tref in the afternoon. Asha and Jane finished this job on Saturday, remembering to include the corridors and galleries.

For Friday evening's meal, Sheila M. cooked her pheasants, aided by Alison and Carolyn. Sheila K's and Tref's cakes made an ideal dessert.

Saturday was a much better day. Andrew took a couple on a tour of the castle. Sheila M., Alison and Carolyn carried on removing brambles, small trees and weeds from the front borders and base of the castle walls and steps. Sharp implements were required!

The others carried on with the inventory and cleaning.

Ewan and Sheila K., looked at the possible layout of the hostel rooms if the Asset Transfer goes ahead.

Asha and Jane made a delicious lemon chicken dish, which was followed by a range of desserts.

Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day. Tref and Ewan spent part of the day struggling to cover a skylight, devoid of glass, meaning that the room below was open to the elements. They succeeded.



Andrew hired a bike and cycled to Kilmory, then Harris. Carolyn climbed Barkival and another top, enjoying her outing despite being caught in a nasty shower. Alison, Iain and Sheila M. walked to Kilmory where they saw a small herd of deer and eighteen Rum Ponies. The views over to Skye were marvellous, as it was clear. The evening meal was cooked expertly by Kim at the Village Hall.

Monday morning passed extremely quickly, with another two couples being given the castle tour by Asha and Andrew. Work also carried on in the garden and castle.

A meeting was held over lunch, to ensure that everyone was up to date with all the recent developments.

Another successful and enjoyable work party, with much achieved.

All are welcome to join future work parties, when they will be made very welcome. No need to be a member but we hope that after the experience you will join!

6. KCFA AGM

Annual General Meeting 2018 The AGM in June 16th 2018 will be an excellent opportunity for members to update themselves in person as to our aims and our progress, and to give input into the plans. It will begin at 12 noon with a light lunch (small charge). Please make every effort to be there. We are aware that our members are very widespread geographically but the venue at 1 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow University is easy to find.

7. Giessbach exhibition KCFA member Thomas Krebs, who is archivist to the Grandhotel Giessbach, has put together another exhibition there for the summer. It will be displayed in the old hotel, as seen in this photograph. This was the hotel building from the time of George Bullough's grandfather Eduard Schmidlin, and his mother, Bertha. Visible to the left of this postcard from



1880 is the ivy covered chalet which was home to the Schmidlins, on the site of the present chalet which houses the archives join the basement. The building immediately in the left foreground is no longer standing. The exhibition is to contain a board about Schmidlin, the Bulloughs and Kinloch Castle. The entire exhibition is to be in German, French and English. I'm sure it will be well worth visiting as is the hotel itself.

8. 'Highland Retreats', report by Hazel Ford

On the evening of Monday 6 November I went to a talk at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London given by author, Mary Miers. She was promoting her latest book, a very lavish "coffee table" book called '*Highland Retreats: The Architecture and Interiors of Scotland's Romantic North*'. This book was all about the story of hunting lodges and holiday homes of the very rich in Scotland from the Victorian times to the present day, illustrated with some very good photos. The lady from the V&A told us in her introduction that Mary Miers had been on the panel for looking after threatened Scottish historic heritage some time during the 1990s and noughties. I knew that Kinloch was featured in the book as there was a picture of the entrance hall with the piano and tiger skin rug draped across it in the V&A magazine advertising the talk. The write up in the magazine also stated that "many myths would be dispelled" and that you'll be "appalled and delighted in equal measure!"

The talk was very good, but unfortunately (as I expected) when she got to Kinloch Castle she churned out all the old clichés about "scandalous guests and their behaviour", etc. Lady Bullough's alleged affair with Edward VII (when he was Prince of Wales) was mentioned, which was very likely true, and mention was also made of the luxurious grounds and greenhouses, etc, as well as the "menagerie" in the grounds. The pictures she showed were at least ten years old when the castle was (on the surface) in a much better condition than it is now. The rooms looked lovely and the baths had their shiny wooden cases. It is so very sad the way it is in now.

She said that "Someone should write a book about it. Well, someone has - it is called '*Eccentric Wealth*' and I thoroughly recommend it". Well, if she has quoted Alastair Scott's book, then she should know about the "myths", then!

She concluded her bit on Kinloch by saying that the castle is in a very grave condition and whilst some would love to see it pulled down to the ground, others are saying that it is a unique example of a complete house of that era and the interior contents are very valuable and should be saved for the nation (or words to that effect!).

9. Press reports

We have been keeping the press updated as to the progress of the working group, but their interpretation has been rather mixed. They do like the myths and have tended to regurgitate the 'Edward VII', 'nude painting of Monica' aspects in their articles which have

sometimes been ill timed. However we need to keep them onside as much as possible. If you have any good press contacts, please let us know and we will keep them informed.

Two rather different press reports however have been very positive. The KCFA secretary received a call from a historian who was writing an article for the **Royal Thames Yacht Club** magazine about George Bullough and his yachts. The magazine is a substantial glossy affair and the article was an in depth consideration. Clare McComb, the author, grew to like her subject and was very positive about George, his work in the Boer War etc and finished her article by advising the members about our aims. It was just too early for the news concerning the asset transfer decision to have been made but it was mentioned. As it was in two articles in the magazine of the **Musical Box Society of Great Britain**. Alison Biden, the chair, has agreed that links to the article can be given on the website plus the actual articles themselves. They are most interesting.

<http://mbsgb.org.uk/about/news/> takes you to their website with links to the articles but Alison has also sent links to the articles themselves. <http://www.mbsgb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Victorias-Orchestrion-pdf> and <http://www.mbsgb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Kinloch-Orchestrion.pdf>

10. **Website.** We have recently changed the host provider of the website to Wordpress. If you have the website in your favourites or bookmarked, you may need to update the link. The web address is still www.kinlochcastlefriends.org . We are grateful to Iain McLachlan who joined the March work party and took some fabulous photos which he has allowed us to use and which were put to immediate use for the banner of the website. Our thanks as always to Tim Brown who designs it all for us.

11. **Subscriptions** You should have already had the note from our treasurer Jackie concerning subscriptions/donations. For the first time for years we can put it to excellent use in the restoration of the castle and contents. Our very grateful thanks to you all for sticking with it so far. Now more than ever are you needed but we should be able to see a wonderful result from our hard labours.

12. KCFA have had **polo shirts and sweat shirts** designed with the castle embroidered on with Kinloch Castle Friends, Isle of Rum. The 'Friends' version is in royal blue and looks very smart. Members on our recent work party were wearing them and it is hoped they will spark interest especially away from Rum. If you wish to order for yourselves, please place your order direct with Aquarian Embroidery, to aquarian@unitelmail.co.uk stating it is for Kinloch Castle Friends Association. The polo shirts are good quality poly/cotton and of generous fit.

- **Poly/cotton polos** in Royal blue with embroidered image of Kinloch Castle, and Kinloch Castle Friends, Isle of Rum
Sizes as - XS-36", S-38, M-42, L-46, XL-48, XXL-50, 3XL-54, 4XL-58, 5XL-60

Adult sizes are very generous.

Children's sizes are in ages

3, 5, 7, 9, 11 years. They are £15.00 each. P and P £3.00 for 1 item, £4.50 for two items mainland post.

- **Sweat shirts** - sizes and embroidery as polo shirts (but n.b. a less generous a cut)

Sweatshirts are available in sizes small through to XXL , 3XL & 4XL

They are £22.00 each. P and P £3.00 for 1 item, £4.50 for two items mainland post. You can mix polo and sweat shirts in the same order.

NB These are not fundraisers in themselves but to raise awareness of the castle and the proposals.



13. Rum on fire It is unusual to see Rum on the BBC but there was a recent fire which caught hold and affected quite a large part of the island but thankfully away from all buildings and it stopped short of the trees at Kilmory. It came within a mile of the caravan on Croft 3 and the Goddards had their escape strategy ready, but thankfully the wind changed. It must have been very alarming. The view from Canna of the mountains silhouetted against the flames was dramatic but thankfully helicopters used water bombs and then the rain came. It had been unusually dry on Rum for some time.

14. Introducing Linsey Macdonald The working group have added Linsey Macdonald to our team as administrator. Linsey is now responsible to sending out the updates, newsletters, etc and we are gradually finding her more work. My health has suffered at the same time as the work load has multiplied (but not because of it!) and I'm delighted to have so much of the load off my shoulders. Thanks, Linsey!

15. Work parties The Bunkhouse is booked up for our normal October weekend. I have intimated that there will be extra work parties during the summer months but dates are still to be arranged. This is taking longer than we hoped. For many years I have organised the work parties but ill health means I will now have to take a back seat for some time. Linsey is going to take on the role of organising the work parties for us, but others of our group will be the nominated responsible person for each visit. We will let you know as soon as we have suitable dates via the regular updates but we are exploring alternatives. Work parties are not limited to members! If you want to join in, please do not hesitate to contact Linsey about coming. You'll be made most welcome. linsey@kinlochcastlefriends.org

16. Contacts Catherine Duckworth (KCFA secretary) sec@kinlochcastlefriends.org or kcfasec@gmail.com 1 Mitton Road, Whalley, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9RX Tel, 01254 823323 and 07946 736344

Jackie Roberts, (KCFA Treasurer) treas@kinlochcastlefriends.org 13 Corrie Drive, Bolton, BL4 8RG

Linsey Macdonald (Updates/work party bookings) linsey@kinlochcastlefriends.org

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