



Kinloch Castle Friends Association Newsletter no 28 December 2019 SC030201

The Chair and Committee join in sending our very best wishes for 2020.

2019 has been a momentous year for the Kinloch Castle Friends as we submitted our bid for asset transfer to SNH. Although after due deliberation (which took as long as was allowed by law plus an extension of a week) the bid was refused, we are continuing in the fight to save the Castle and to find a viable and sustainable future for it. We have decided NOT to appeal the decision as this would lead to yet more delay. However we are exploring alternatives.

On Monday 9th December Ewan Macdonald, Ian Spouse and Catherine Duckworth met with Nick Halfhide and Stewart Sandison of SNH to find out what plans they had made for the future of the castle given their refusal of asset transfer. In short, no specific alternative plans have been made. They told us they are looking for a 'beneficial owner' which could be a package put together by KCFA. This would have to include proposals for the viable and sustainable future for the castle. If we cannot come up with a suitable package, then it will be opened up to the market for the same purpose. If no 'beneficial owner' is found then they will seek permission for demolition. This is quite a process as they have to apply to Highland Council for permission and as a Category A listed building they will need to show they have taken every alternative into account.

We are now looking to put together a funding package for the castle. This is likely to be a diverse package not all from one source and we ask that you consider every way in which you can assist in this which includes personal and other donations, telling people about the aim, and helping in whatever way you can. You have already done a great job. Please keep us going.



We have carefully read the various reports which were commissioned by SNH and we are taking note of them. The report by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is of particular interest as it increases the importance of the Castle - still Category A listed but to be treated as of even greater importance than previously thought. When considering the building as a whole, they now consider that the fixtures and fittings such as the fireplaces, plasterwork etc are of greater importance to the whole than hitherto considered, more important than the

contents and feel that as such they have been given less prominence than appropriate. They have also raised the issue that as the original purpose of the castle was as a shooting lodge, then the entrance to the courtyard and the courtyard itself with easy access to the gun room etc would have been the one most often seen by Sir George and his visitors and as such deserves to be treated better than currently. This fits also

with the stonework decoration of the outside doorway leading to the gun room. This is an entrance that we have rarely used but fits the suggestion by HES.

We are looking to an early meeting with HES as a matter of urgency plus a meeting with Mags McSparran of Highland and Island Enterprise (HIENT).

In summary, the priority for the Castle is to identify potential funding and funders to support its restoration and return ultimately to commercial operation, which would, of course, now provide a potential return to funders. If you know of anyone who may be interested in ownership, either partial or complete, please tell them about this opportunity, and let us know.

And now just a few reports:

1. Dundee Mountain Film Festival 28th to 30th November 2019

Kinloch Castle Friends Association, took a stand at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival again this year. The Festival was held on 28th, 29th and 30th November, in the Bonar Hall, Dundee.



Despite Asset Transfer being refused, as it has been decided to fight on, in our bid to save the Castle, the decision was made to attend the event again this year. That turned out to be the correct decision, as there was a huge amount of interest and a desire to know what would happen next to Kinloch Castle. A percentage of people had visited the stand last year and were keen to know how we intended to proceed.

The Festival is always extremely well attended. Many of the speakers and audience, are interested in visiting and staying on Rum. Many have visited in the past. At least two people, told us that they had visited Rum, over the summer, as a direct result of speaking to us

last year.

We had our range of merchandise for sale, with pens easily being the biggest seller. We also had the leaflets, cartridge recycling bags and information on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>, as well as a display of photographs, membership forms, questionnaires and collection buckets. (NB please continue to use [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and recycle printer cartridges through [recycle4charity.co.uk](https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk) the Secretary has a supply of envelopes if needed).

Sheila King and my sister Alison, helped man the stand. At the busy times all three of us, were needed. Moira again provided delicious tablet to entice people to visit the stand and to make a donation.

We were fortunate to be opposite the Little Sherpa Foundation stand. James Lamb, who set up the charity told us about how successful his charity had been, after a slot on The Adventure Show, on TV. He asked the show's director, Richard Else, to have a word with us, which he did. It is always good to meet people who can potentially increase the profile of KCFA.

Judging by the response of the public at the event, there are a lot of people wishing us well and it seems that there would be no shortage of customers, which reinforces what we claimed in the Business Plan.

We will carry on promoting and publicising KCFA, in the hope that we are eventually successful.

Sheila M. Mather



Photos show the team with the stand, also Sheila King and tv director Richard Else

2. Orchestrion

Help us to save this magnificent instrument

You may have read about our campaign to restore the Orchestrion at Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum. We can affirm that the Orchestrion appeal will go ahead whatever lies in the future for Kinloch Castle. Whilst we have opted not to appeal the decision about the asset transfer, we are seeking to create a funding package to restore the castle. We need to enlist your urgent support to raise sufficient money to cover the costs of the Orchestrion restoration which will enable SNH to allow it to be taken from the Castle before there is further damage as described below.

The Orchestrion was constructed around 1900 by Imhof and Mukle in the Black Forest and purchased by Sir George Bullough in 1906 at a cost of £200 (£100K in today's money) and is one of only a handful of working examples of this type of mechanical device. Moreover, given its size and nature it is believed to be unique.

As well as a percussion section. it has 264 organ pipes which imitate the sounds of flutes, piccolos, clarinets, trumpets, baritones and trombones.

Over the years, the instrument and its housing have been attacked by woodworm and several of the paper rolls have been damaged. A complete overhaul is urgently required. As well as attending to the wooden frame the leatherwork and bellows require replacement. A repair to the instrument requires its removal to a specialist workshop in Glasgow and the restoration work, including dismantling, transport and rebuilding, will take at least six weeks. Additionally the 30 or more music rolls need to be renovated. A fundraising target of £60,000 has been identified. An appeal for funding for the Orchestrion has been re-launched and the Kinloch Castle Friends Association pledge to restore the Orchestrion independently of its efforts to save

Kinloch castle. Further details can be found on our website

www.kinlochcastlefriends.org

Look out shortly for details of a new Crowdfunding appeal for the Orchestrion.

We urge you to give as much or as little as you can afford. All donations will be recognized with larger sums of sponsorship noted by a plaque on the instrument.

You can make a payment

* by cheque marked 'Orchestrion Appeal' made payable to '*Kinloch Castle Friends Association*' and posted to KCFA Treasurer, Jackie Roberts, Kinloch Castle Friends Association, 13 Corrie Drive, Kearsley, BOLTON BL4 8RG, email treas@kinlochcastlefriends.org

* by bank transfer to 05-09-44 00104691

*or directly to the [Virginmoneygiving Orchestrion](#) appeal page.

3. Work party March 26th to 30th 2020. A work party has been arranged to take place over the last weekend in March between the 26th and 30th. This takes advantage of the changeover between the winter and summer ferry timetables meaning that ferries are available each day allowing greater flexibility of arrival date. I have provisionally booked the whole hostel, and several people have already placed bookings with me. If you wish to join us, please let me know, contact details given below. Dependent on the future of the castle this may be a final work party gathering or it may mark the next stage in our battle.

4. KCFA AGM 13 June 2020 at 12 noon. Once again this will be an important meeting. Please make every effort to attend. It will again be held at 1 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow.

5. Contacts:

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

Hon Treasurer Mrs Jackie Roberts, 13 Corrie Drive, BOLTON, BL4 8RG. Email jr.corrie@gmail.com tel 0161 794 5096