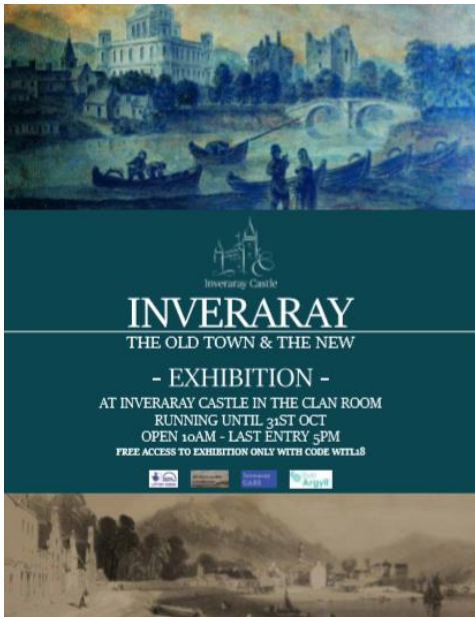




Written in the Landscape Project Update, December 2018

Apologies for radio silence for the last few months – suffice it to say that we've been beavering away on various project outcomes, including completing the Inveraray project – with exhibition and publication, cleaning the maps and plans in the Argyll Papers, planning our series of local history workshops, selected digitisation of original records for community partners and starting our plans for our archives roadshow to Tiree. More on all of these below.

Inveraray: The Old Town and the New exhibition and booklet



A team of four volunteers guided by the two project archivists, Jennifer Young and Hannah Baker, was established and the project saw the transcription of 25 rent records and 70 assorted administrative records and memorials, which formed the basis of the entire project.

Publication:

A short, illustrated publication was created featuring the work of the volunteers alongside two short essays by academic contributors. The volunteer's transcription work was also used to pull together a re-imagined map of the old town with short descriptions of the buildings and their location. A published record was thought to be the most sustainable and versatile option for the future; there being a good possibility of launching a second edition online when a suitable website is available and further bit of funding acquired.

Exhibition:

An exhibition of some of the records transcribed alongside some artefacts from Campbeltown Museum and with display boards detailing the results of the volunteers' work was displayed in Inveraray Castle from early September to the end of the Castle season. The Duke of Argyll kindly allowed free access to the Castle for those specifically wishing to visit the exhibition. The exhibition and the archive more generally, was covered by a short news piece on BBC Alba at 8pm on Thursday 27th September, 2018. Comments left in the visitor book have been positive and appreciative.

Conservation:

Without the conservation of the maps and plans it would have been impossible to digitise them, both for the integrity of the document and for quality of the digitisation.

Podcast:

A podcast on the research was created and launched in November using soundcloud, a free podcast platform. Visit https://soundcloud.com/user-18386209?utm_source=soundcloud&utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=email to listen.

Cleaning the maps and plans in the Argyll Papers

On Monday 20 August, a group of volunteers came to Inveraray for a training session led by Richard Aitken, Conservator for Highlife Highland Archives. Richard led us through the process of assessing the condition of a map or plan, cleaning it with brushes, sponges and grated eraser(!) and repackaging the cleaned plan in polyester sleeves, polyester rolls or four flap folders.



It was a very enjoyable as well as an educational day, and the volunteers have since been putting their new skills to work. The photo shows volunteers Jane, Laura and Jenny working hard – although coffee breaks and blether are encouraged! To date approximately 110 maps and plans have been cleaned and repackaged – a great start! Work will continue in the new year.

Local History workshops

We are now developing a series of Local History workshops which will be delivered in seven different locations around Argyll. We will be delivering a 2½ hour session in each venue during which we will talk about the archive collections held at LiveArgyll Archives in Lochgilphead and in the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle and how they may assist local history investigation in each area. We will bring a selection of original records with us, and we hope to make each session interactive and to enable participants to get ‘hands on’ with the records. The sessions will be free, but you will need to book in advance as places will be limited. Confirmed dates so far are:

Campbeltown Library	Thurs 17 Jan, 2.00pm to 4.30pm
Lochgilphead Community Centre	Thurs 28 Feb, 2.00pm to 4.30pm
Mull Museum	Tues 12 March (timing tbc)

We are also planning sessions in Oban, Helensburgh, Inveraray and Dunoon. If you are not in these areas but have a venue, a potential audience and would be interested in hosting a workshop, please get in touch! You can book a place by contacting: archives@inveraray-castle.com

Selective digitisation of original records for community partners



Selecting records to be digitised is also a matter of priorities (frequency of use, condition of the records etc) and this is your opportunity to make us aware of your priorities so that we can digitise records of interest to your community as part of WITL.

So far, we have digitised a fair number of records for An Iodhlann (with more to come!) and we are working through bundles of correspondence relating to the Ross of Mull, which are then being transcribed by Christine Leach at Pennyghael Past. We have also digitised a selection of records to illustrate the history of mining at Auchindrain. The photo shows Louise, US intern in the Argyll Papers, who really enjoyed getting to grips with using our scanner (known as Betsee).

If you would be interested in having digitised copies of records from either of our archives, please do get in touch as soon as possible, so we can plan to complete this work over the next six months.

Archives Roadshow to Tiree

We are planning to visit Tiree, with a selection of original records from LiveArgyll Archives and from the Argyll Papers, from 13 to 17 May 2019. We are in the early stages of planning with An Iodhlann what we will deliver in Tiree, but we hope that it will include exhibition, talk, 'hands on' sessions with the records we will be bringing and some engagement with the schools there. We include an image of William Turnbull's stunning survey of Tiree from 1768/9 to whet your appetite!



Additional training opportunity - Copyright

For those of you who were involved in the WITL training programme in archival skills, we want to share with you an additional opportunity which has arisen for Copyright training. The Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum (ABMHF) and the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) are hoping to deliver a practical workshop on dealing with copyright led by Victoria Stobo from Create, the centre for copyright research at the University of Glasgow. The date and location of the training will be confirmed once participants and their location is known. If this is something that you would be interested in learning more about or attending, please contact:

abmhforum@gmail.com.

So, having finally reached the end of a fairly long update – we would like to send you all our very best wishes for the festive season and the new year!

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