

## Education Coaching Programme 2019

### Case Study: Argyll Estates Archive, Inveraray

**Argyll Estates** Archivist Alison Diamond applied for SCA assistance in researching and developing a major funding bid for a records-based multi-arts project on the Island of Tìree titled Tìr Ìseal nan Òrain.

Alison had previously collaborated in a highly successful Archives Roadshow on Tìree in May 2019, as part of the Written In The Landscape project, including exhibitions, talks and workshops, and a dramatic performance by local school children. Of particular interest was the Turnbull Map of Tìree, a lavishly illustrated hand-drawn 18th century map of the island by James Turnbull. Enthusiastic community feedback asked for more.



Members of the Tìree community pore over the Turnbull Map (ref AP R038) during the Archives Roadshow in May 2019

Douglas and Alison liaised with community groups, artists, An Iodhlann heritage centre and the local school to build a project plan and funding bid using the Turnbull Map as a starting point, and to identify archive records that told stories of the island's history, geography and mythology.

### What has been the material outcome of the Coaching Programme input for your service?



Survey plans by George Langlands for the division of crofts (ref AP PV 19) on display at An Iodhlann, the local community heritage centre on Tìree

The Coaching Programme has been essential in assisting in the research and development of a project plan for Tìr Ìseal nan Òrain, working with Tìree artists, school, community and the archivists at An Iodhlann, Tìree and the Argyll Papers, Inveraray Castle to deliver a creative project inspired by archives, initially planned for delivery in the summer of 2020. By the end of the Education Officer's four days involvement, we had devised a sufficiently detailed project proposal, defined relationships with artists and community, and a detailed budget so that I was in a position to apply for funding to enable this project to go ahead in summer 2020.

Using the plan and budget, I applied for funding

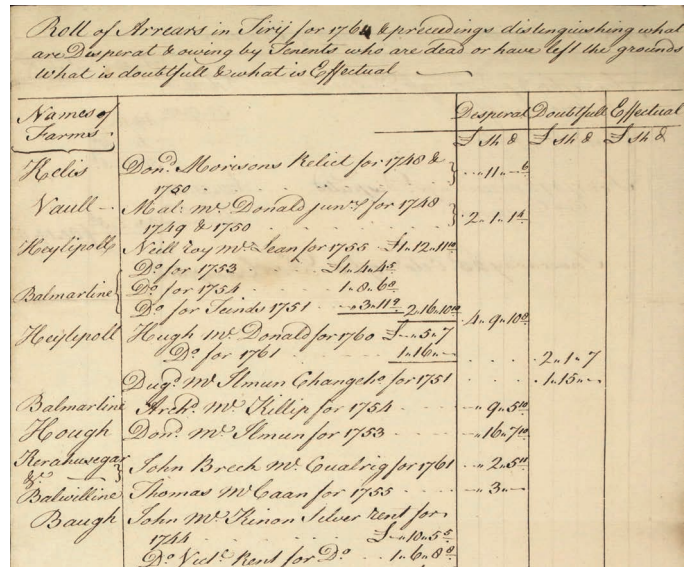
from Historic Environment Scotland, Bord na Gàidhlig, Argyll and Bute Communities Fund, The Tìree Windfall Fund, Clan Campbell Education Foundation, the Friends of the Argyll Papers and Creative Scotland. All applications were successful except that to Creative Scotland where the project was recommended for funding but ultimately unsuccessful as it could not go ahead during lockdown.

The success of my funding applications is due in large part to the excellent planning and project development made with the assistance of the Coaching Programme.

**What skills, expertise or other professional development have you acquired as a result of the Coaching Programme?**

Through the Coaching Programme I have seen the Education Officer use his skills and expertise in identifying and drawing together the different aspirations of the partner groups to ensure we devised a project plan that is feasible and deliverable for all concerned. In particular, he shared his theatrical expertise and knowledge to find areas of collaboration between archival content and local performers.

As well as watching the Education Officer at work, I particularly benefitted from the time given to discussion with the different individuals and groups, where we talked about how the archival holdings and the creative interests of the artists could be brought together, where the artists and children might come together in the creative process and methods of payment used in the creative industries.



Roll of arrears due by tenants on Tìree in 1764 (ref. AP PFV65/32)



Island of Tìree, Scotland

**What do you feel is the wider benefit of these outcomes and skills to your archive service?**

There have been two main benefits to my archives service.

1. To date, users of my archive service have been mostly academic researchers and genealogists. I intend to use the skills and knowledge developed through the Coaching Programme to promote and develop a more creative use of the archive, through formal projects and less formally, using skills already possessed by volunteers with the archives. Through the Coaching Programme I have

While I have a deep knowledge of the archival collections that will underpin the project and reasonable 'people' skills, I learned a lot about the creative artists, how they think about the creative process, what appeals to them, and payment systems. This knowledge assisted with my funding applications and will benefit me in devising future projects.

developed a level of confidence with which I feel I can approach artists and creative practitioners and from which may develop work with new audiences, particularly schools and communities.

2. The development of the project plan and budget which has been so successful with funders has boosted my confidence in applying for funding. This has massive implications for a small archive service where anything other than day-to-day management requires external financial support.



Turnbull Map (ref AP R038) detail

### **How do you plan to use the materials and skills gained from the Coaching Programme?**

Tìr Ìseal nan Òrain is currently on hold due to coronavirus restrictions, however all funding bodies other than Argyll & Bute Council (as yet unconfirmed) have indicated their willingness to make the same funding available for delivery of the project in summer 2021. Creative Scotland has invited a re-application when the coronavirus crisis has passed. My current plan is to complete the funding package and deliver this project in 2021. What I have learned in regard to working with creative artists and the creative potential of the archive materials will be essential for the successful delivery of this project.

Beyond 2021, I will be looking to use the archive to build creative work with volunteers, engaging with new audiences in communities and schools in Argyll. I will also continue to use the project development skills learned in seeking funding for a range of projects, from conservation to creative use of the archives.

Outside of my current role, the increased confidence in developing project plan and budget and funding applications, the vision for new and exciting ways of using historic and archive material, and the confidence to work with creative artists will be of benefit to many other areas of my life, both personal and professional.