

Education Coaching Programme 2019

Case Study: East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Archives, Kirkintilloch

East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Archives sought SCA support in creating a community exhibition project, Campsie Collections, at the Lennoxtown Community Hub aimed at reaching new audiences in the local area.

SCA Education Development Officer Douglas Roberts worked with EDLC Archivist Janice Miller to identify appropriate records, devise a theme and activities to attract and engage meaningfully with people who might not ordinarily visit an archive or use archive records.

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

The Campsie Collections event was scheduled for 24 March 2020 as part of our Local History Month programme. Original archives were selected to take out to the community for display at this event in the Lennoxtown Community Hub, and we designed activities for children and adults.

Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. We hope to reschedule the event for a future date.



Girls Guides log book, 1936
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Lennoxmill workers outing
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What skills, expertise or other professional development have you acquired as a result of the Coaching Programme?

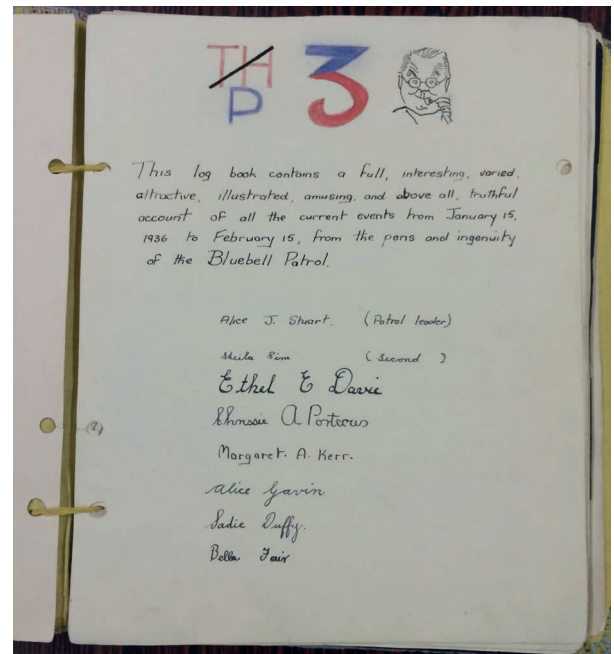
The Education Officer took me step by step through how to interpret and decode archive material for someone who was not familiar with archives. We looked in detail at a large amount of archive material related to Campsie and worked through what to draw peoples'

attention to in each item. We then made a final selection of items for display. I was able to see these archives in a new way through analysing them so closely.

I developed interpretation skills and an understanding of the need to use storytelling techniques to engage people with exhibitions.

The Education Officer helped me understand that people need an emotional connection to remember and engage with the material. You can't just display items and expect people to be interested. The challenge is to guide them to this emotional connection and make it meaningful for them.

I see now how important it is to signpost and guide people through interpreting archive material. Up to now I've often been too literal in my exhibitions and captions, and focussed on maintaining an objective use of language - as I was trained to do when cataloguing!



Girls Guides log book, 1936
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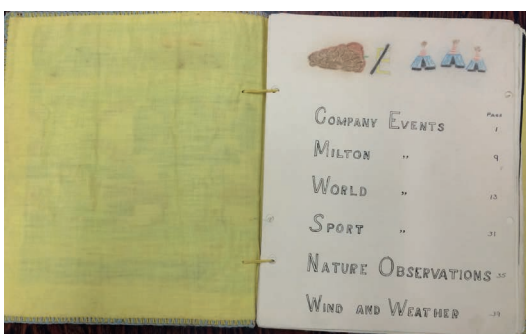
What do you feel is the wider benefit of these outcomes and skills to your archive service?

The Education Officer asked very perceptive questions about our service including why we were doing this and what we wanted to get out of it. He also encouraged me to look more closely at familiar archive material with new eyes, and drew my attention to things I hadn't considered before.

He asked insightful questions about the communities we were focussing on and through explaining and working through the answers I feel I have a better understanding of each community's unique profile.

We also looked at options for an event in Hillhead, Kirkintilloch. I have written up the research, questions and answers we discussed, plus an outline of a possible future event, which I can come back to and develop further.

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



I plan to use the interpretation techniques and exhibition storytelling skills I picked up from this experience to design more engaging archive displays and events in future.

I will also take more time to look closely at the material I am selecting, instead of relying on the brief objective catalogue descriptions as before.