

**MINUTES of 3rd Meeting of Taskforce 275 held at the Pine Marten, Dunbar on March 10th and in the James Park Bistro at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, Prestonpans on March 12th 2020**

Present: Gordon Prestoungrange [in Chair], Herbert Coutts, Joe Goldblatt, Arran Johnston, Sharon Beck, Avril Wills [e], Martha Bryce [p/t], Peter Mackenzie [p/t], Ann Robertson [p/t], Kay Penman [p/t], Neil MacGregor [p/t], Sharon Dabell [e], Sylvia Burgess [e].

Mauve text indicates specific adjustments arising from Covid 19 epidemic

**1: Reiteration of Role & Responsibilities of the Taskforce**

* 1. The Taskforce has delegated responsibility from the Trustees to plan and execute the 2020/ 2021 Project. NLHF Contact is David Clelland, to be notified of any substantive deviations from proposals made in our Application.
  2. Formal reporting by the Taskforce to the several other funders of the Project including EventScotland Clans and Historic Figures Fund and Bòrd na Gàidhlig must be made according to the assurances given as the basis for those resources.
  3. In particular the allocation of Restricted Funds by the Trust hypothecated for a future ‘permanent home for the Prestonpans Tapestry’ must in every respect be justified by the deliberate and integrated pursuit of that ambition at all stages of the Project.

**2: Sessional Contract/ Resourcing for the Project April 1st/ December 31st 2021**

2.1Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck, as temporary sessional self-employed contractors until

March 31st 2020 have euphonically carried forward those activities demanding urgent

attention that could not await the formal arrangements scheduled from April 1st 2020 – most

especially the Mount Felix Tapestry Exhibition which, with support from NZ Society Scotland

had been a very considerable success.

2.2 That Contract Proposals from Arran Paul Johnston Heritage Services had been

received at March 6th together with Explications from their two principal staffers.

2.3 That myriad offers of discrete contracted and volunteer services had also been received [as

attached] and that Barons Courts in consultation with Wilsons Ales Limited at the

Prestoungrange Gothenburg has given agreement that hot desking by contractors will be

feasible with prior consents.

2.4 That the detail from 2.2 & 2.3 above be tabled for decision with the Trustees to enable transfer

from the temporary arrangements in place to March 31st 2020. [Subsequently formally

approved by the Trustees at their 112th Meeting 12.03.2020]

**3: PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECT 275 SCHEDULES @ 10/12.03.2020**

3.1 There is little or no scope for time slippage on the project since it is deliberately celebrating a

particular year although the susurrus accompanying the Covid 19 epidemic is already and will

undoubtedly continue to create uncertainty and possible disruptions whilst also triggering

future looking innovations. The current audit is provided below:

* 1. **Invitation to 10/ 17 year olds to create new cultural contributions:**
* Full details were released to 1200+ schools across the nation on Monday March 9th

and pleasingly by March 12th 5 had confirmed their interest with 6 classes involved. Deadline for completion is December 20th 2020 – *beyond the present imagined impact of Covid19; the timely issuance of now prepared press releases including pictures from the recent Dunfermline school visit will be decided as Covid 19 developments suggest might be optimal. The digital guidance already provided will now be deliberately enhanced so that students working from home have yet more opportunity to understand the history with which they are engaging e.g. YouTube access to Colonel Gardiner’s story; Battlefield Walkers APP, Vision for Victory and all other extant website resources.*

* Details are already online @ htps://visionforvictory1745.org/learning-schools/

together with the Gaelic translation by Beathag Mhoireasdan

* The Gaelic Press Release has been tabled by Martha Bryce with Megan NicGill-

Fhaolain, Communications Officer at Bòrd na Gàidhlig and requests for their support in reaching 10/17 year old Gaelic speakers have been lodged

* Peter MacKenzie has agreed to act as Gaelic Tutor at the Trust as may be necessary

with support if needed from Newbattle/ Edinburgh Colleges from Neil MacGregor as

well as from Beathag Mhoireasdan

* ELC and EducationScotland are both collaborating in these broadscale

announcements to schools and particular Gaelic contact made with support from Newbattle/ Edinburgh Colleges and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This will include Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Gillespie High School Edinburgh and Dr Mark Jardine’s family at Bankton House

* Ann Robertson of ELC has been designated contact point for the Education Division

and the especial challenge of working with the Trust to ensure any partnership GLAIF activities are followed through in 2021/ 2022 and beyond; she has given ELC support to the partnership’s initial plans for 2020/ 2021

* The partnership application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF resources has been fully

drafted and tabled with Paolo Vestri and Sharon Saunders, ELC Head of Communities, who has agreed to sign off for ELC by the April 16th application deadline; that draft will now be forwarded immediately by the Trust to Steven Kellow at Bòrd na Gàidhlig for comment having received support from Peter MacKenzie and Faculty at Newbattle/ Edinburgh Colleges

* The 10-17 year olds outcomes are promised ‘publication’ together with online space

and opportunities for pop-up presentations and exhibition which will constitute a key element in the Legacy of 275

3.3. **Digital Development:**

* Partnership meetings have continued at Edinburgh College with excellent initial

suggestions for wire frames/ dendrogramatic displays of website structures from students led by Faculty Ruth Porteous. They will see the enhancement and integration of the Trust’s digital presence including the specific development of Friends of the Prince, the Boutique/ Shop and support for the planned Living History Centre

* *Focussed effort will be made to facilitate home working by the IT students and faculty*

*team if closure of their campus occurs.*

* 1. **Slighe gu Buaidh – Path to Victory**
* Beathag Mhoiresdan’s translation services are being speedily provided and will be used throughout including bilingual interpretation at exhibitions; she joined the Taskforce for briefings on the total project on March 12th and is ready to share in cultural activities and suggest contacts.
* Bilingual Founding but former Trustee Peter MacKenzie has agreed to participate in

the several initiatives including a Gaelic Battle Walk, Literary Evening and pop-up

activities during the John Gray Centre exhibition; he has introduced Gordon Patterson to the Trust who is a member of the Gaelic Choir and ready to participate as required; Gaelic speakers in the Alan Breck Regiment will also contribute

* *Initiatives will be taken to establish digital links to Gaelic music and song on the*

*internet in supplementation of the planned activities.*

* After the Application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, presenting the Trust’s steps as a logical

extension of the existing signages and interpretation, was successful in the sum of £3,000,

plans have advanced for a language learning initiative in partnership with ELC, Newbattle

College and Edinburgh College following discussions with Paolo Vestri and Ann Robertson

at ELC. There is a deadline of April 16th 2020 for applications and satisfactory contact has

been established at Newbattle/ Edinburgh Colleges with Neil MacGregor.

* A Brainstorming Session was held for all Gaelic participants in Prestonpans on March

11th with good outcomes/ promises and the firm realisation that any 12 months partnership for GLAIF must be followed through in 2021/ 2022 by ELC as appropriate which Ann Robertson agreed to address.

3.5 **Blindwells NW Corner for Living History Centre:**

* That further meetings with Iain Slater, Hargreaves Blindwells MD, on March 12th indicated good progress with drafting First Refusal commitment by Hargreaves on the NW Corner which will enable Gareth Bryn-Jones to proceed with visuals for inclusion in the Fund Raising Campaign. The draft update of the original MoU is imminent from Iain Slater’s office and maps of the development provided
* That the online site for the Fund Raising and a flyer leaflet will be an adjunct of the

[www.visionforvictory1745.org](http://www.visionforvictory1745.org) website and must be prepared at the earliest opportunity totally revising the leaflet/ briefings for the earlier location at Prestongrange Museum

* Pam Judson’s report on the Trustees’ Funding Workshop in January is awaited and

her advices on next steps

* That advice had been taken from Paul Jardine of Jura Consultants on next steps with

the initial suggestion the Trust should pause any such ambitions until the outcomes of the 275th had been accumulated rather than using the myriad activities as the backdrop/ context for the ask – which advice had been noted without enthusiasm since it contradicted espoused ambitions and the realities of transitional funding; however it did have the advantage of emphasising that funding sources will be required at end 2021 to sustain the Trust’s momentum towards its institutionalisation in a Living History Centre

* That discussions will now be reopened with BarkerLangham LLP who tabled the

Prestongrange Museum HLF Application re formal applications to trusts and grant providing bodies

* 1. **Publicity and PR:**
* That Martha Bryce has continued her role as PR and Publicity Consultant to Project

275 and has tabled her proposals in that role within the initial budget of £4,000. Press releases for the exhibition of the Mount Felix Tapestry at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg were well received and the exhibition deemed a considerable opening success for 275.

* Working with Beathag Mhoiresdan press releases in Gaelic as well as English have

been prepared for the 10/17 year olds project and the support of Bòrd na Gàidhlig to maximise Gaelic schools contacts elicited

* Press releases for the ‘entire 275 programme’ will be prepared with issuance

timeously agreed as the Covid 19 provisions emerge in the coming weeks; the releases will seek to emphasise how the Trust is taking every advantage to enhance the digital inter-relativity of the programme where face to face contacts might be restricted or excluded

* 1. **Prestonpans Tapestry 10th Anniversary Tour & Mount Felix Exhibition:**
* The anchor for the Prestonpans Tapestry in 2020 at Garioch Heritage Centre in

Inverurie had been originally scheduled for three months from April 1st but the Covid 19 impacts might well suggest its postponement until later in the year when it can still be aligned with their celebration of the second Jacobite Victory at Inverurie that year on 23rd December. Any disappointed April visitors can readily be cross-referred to the Battlefield/ Tapestry APP that can be freely downloaded and the Boutique for publications/CDs.

* Inverurie has a strong track record with the Trust from its Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

exhibition. The interpretation at the local cairn is being restored by the Community Council and a battle game board has been created along with a series of local activities including a lecture programme and appearances from the Alan Breck Regiment which every effort will be made to reschedule if postponements occur.

* Proposals are still being researched for pop-up exhibitions of the Prestonpans

Tapestry as it returns south after Inverurie with a significant concluding ‘safari’ style exhibition probably beginning in Dunbar – where Sir John Cope landed in 1745 and where HMS Fox was subsequently lost in December 1745 in a storm. The 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the Prestonpans Tapestry for The Friends will also be held during these dates.

* The Mount Felix Tapestry, exemplifying the national and international legacy of

the Prestonpans Tapestry, had been an unqualified success as opening 275 Event with

high interest and attendances from Scotland’s Kiwi community and also the Trust’s own

Friends of the Tapestries.

* Following the much appreciated 44 panel Mount Felix Exhibition at the

Prestoungrange Gothenburg, consideration is now being given to the segmented exhibition of both tapestries there in the middle/later months of the year using the safari approach

3.8 **275th Anniversary Weekend – Saturday 19th/ Monday 21st** **September:**

* The Clans that Came Out with The Prince at Prestonpans will be invited to the whole

weekend of activities in line with the EventScotland Clans and Historic Figures Grant of £5,000; a specific opportunity for a Clan Gathering element is included [sponsored by VisitScotland’s Clans and Historic Figures Grant] and the ‘2009 Homecoming’ Clan Panels will be updated in English and Gaelic, and ‘donated’ Clan Banners requested.

* Focussed initiatives will be taken to create an Online Gathering of the Clans that

Came Out with The Prince, linking all websites together and telling their individual stories which will be complementary to the physical presence of updated Clan Storyboards and Banners; a mirror site for the Regiments of the British Army will also be addressed.

* Helion Books *The Jacobite Rising of 1745* Conference will take place 10/ 5 on

September 19th in The Prestoungrange Gothenburg and will include ‘Fringe’ Updates on progress with The Jacobite Trail.

* Saturday Evening 19th will occasion a Storytelling Song Drama/ Concert ideally in

Prestongrange Church, recalling in particular the role there of Carlyle and other local participants in the battle; contributions have been agreed with Coreen Scott, Edinburgh College and the Alan Brecks.

* Sunday 20th will focus on Family Day at the Town Hall for the Clans and Historic Figure

theme. The Alan Brecks will host the day with Barbara on display. Gaelic battle cries and shouts will be rehearsed with War Game tables, digital developments highlighted and books/ merchandise on sale. The Clan Gathering will set the day rolling alongside publicity for the Fund Raising Appeal and Living History Centre. Early entries from the Invitation to 10/17 year olds can also be given a platform.

* Monday 21st is indeed the Anniversary and Battlefield Walks for School Groups will be

the focus with a final rally at the Memorial Tables on the 1722 Waggonway ending with a *Thank You Reception* at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg for all who have contributed to the weekend.

3.9 **John Gray Centre Exhibition in Haddington from 3rd October:**

* The exhibition will focus on the 275 year evolution of battle interpretation and

Cultural memory including song, literature, portrait artistry from Kate Hunter, Andrew Hillhouse Collection, Janet McCrory’s Fleeing Highlander and more, artefacts including the Thorntree, ‘Prayer for Victory’ and our own embroidery, costume, Bankton Doocot video, David Niven in film and Outlander tv

* The exhibition will see a programme of pop-up events and ‘school’ days.
* The exhibition will use bilingual interpretation and is being organised in collaboration

with ELC’s Kathryn Welden.

* An audit of merchandise is being urgently undertaken and the IT initiatives with

Edinburgh College will inter alia create an improved Boutique/ Shop.

3.10 **Our 275th Anniversary’s Legacy:**

The 275th Anniversary Celebrations have been designed from the outset to add to the

Repertoire of the Trust thereby furthering enriching the Legacy already in place in 2006 and

built on since then by the Trust. Legacy building is intended as a demonstration of the

competence of the Trust to create and manage a Living History Centre to which the local

community will have good reason to return again to benefit from the diverse programmes

provided. It is also intended to demonstrate that such a Centre will offer world class services

for successive school groups and visiting tourists.

* The 10/17 year old output in English and Gaelic will be captured and published
* The 2009 Homecoming Clan Panels will be updated, bilingual and complemented

with Clan banners

* The John Gray Exhibition will have been captured and bilingual
* Volunteers and Guides will have been trained
* Strong bonds with schools and groups nationwide will have grown
* Friends of The Prince will have sustained support
* Edinburgh College will have engaged its students with our heritage
* The website and digital presence will have been updated and enhanced
* Much new interpretation will have been captured as video and accessible
* Inverurie’s resurrection will have been assisted with banners and cairn
* The Prestonpans Tapestry will have been shared wider still across the nation
* Nationwide awareness will have been heightened through media impacts and PR
* Gaelic will have heightened visibility and awareness across East Lothian in line with ELC’s Gaelic Language Plan 2019/ 2024
* Gaelic language learning initiatives will have been introduced in partnership with ELC/ Newbattle and Edinburgh Colleges
* The Mount Felix Exhibition, and its welcoming NZ supporters, will have highlighted the Prestonpans Tapestry as the cradle since 2010 of myriad community artworks nationally and internationally which the Trust will wish to exhibit as may be feasible in future years.
* *By welcoming the fillip given to online/ digital opportunities occurring because of the nation’s response to Covid 19, a greatly enhanced and accessible legacy will emerge – ahead of the originally anticipated speed of development; necessity being the mother of invention*

**4. *Next Steps:***

* ***The Taskforce will hold online/ telephone rolling meetings/ discussions towards***

***the next face to face [4th] Meeting in Prestonpans anticipated during the period May 13th/ 14th 2020 as may be arranged; and at any time on the call of members.***