

BASE-BUILD PROGRESSES

We have faced considerable delays in progressing the base-build work in the King's Old Building. This has resulted from exposing various pieces of the original C15th fabric as work has progressed. Historic Environment Scotland has required us to halt work in specific areas whilst the archaeology is inspected and recorded, and engineering solutions are identified to enable work-arounds. In the instance of the main services conduit, this has required three separate attempts. Before any work is undertaken, we have to go through a lengthy system to secure the Schedule Monuments Consents.



New staircase linking the First Floor with the Shop beneath

However, Taylor & Fraser, our contractors have been very resourceful by progressing works where they can. They are now anticipating that the work-rate will pick up substantially, and we should see major advances through the autumn.

In parallel with the museum redevelopment works, HES have agreed to the funding of all the life-cycle works (principally the electrical and heating services). In addition to that they are working on the roof and walls, and refurbishing all of the windows. Therefore, when we move back in, the whole building will have had a substantial face-lift.

EXHIBITION DESIGN

The exhibition design is now complete and we are in the process of going out to tender for the fit-out contractor. The appointment will be in September and work off-site should commence shortly thereafter. It is anticipated that the fit-out itself will start in January next year, after which the collection will be installed.

The final edit of the 118 storyboards is now underway. These have been subject to very careful review to ensure historical accuracy but, as important, to see that there is a depth and

variety of subject to engage our very diverse audience. Each storyboard is 'layered' – in the introductory paragraph the key element of the story is imparted, and then below – for those that want to know more – there is greater detail.



'Spirit of The Argylls' Gallery, formerly the Dining Room

Our museum team have been busy amassing literally thousands of images – both paintings and photographs – that will be used to enrich the storyboards. We have a fantastic collection which will help to tell The Argyll story to great effect. The graphic design of each will be both eye-catching and interesting.



Ground Floor vault to house 'Service to The Crown' gallery

The next major piece of work to be undertaken is the development of the audio-visual software which will really bring the Museum to life. The detailed scoping is about to start and we will be coming out to certain individuals to capture their contributions on film. To that end we have just secured over £3000 from Museums Galleries Scotland to assist with this element of the work.

CONSERVATION

For the time-being, funding has limited the amount of conservation work that is possible on the collection. However, all the major pieces of work to be incorporated into the new

Museum have been completed. The work undertaken on the textiles by Sophie Younger, including Lochnell's kilt and both the Balaklava and New Orleans Colours, is very fine indeed and will ensure that for the foreseeable future the items will be properly safeguarded.



Pop-Up Museum in the Thistle Centre, Stirling – Lesley Onslow and Alli Spark raised £310

ACTIVITY PLAN

Working closely with our mentor from the National Heritage Lottery fund, Richard Hickson and our home team have been working on the development of our Activity Plan. This encompasses a series of initiatives ranging from the employment of volunteers in the Museum, to education and outreach across our regimental area.

And the team have not been standing idle. Our Volunteers have had the opportunity to visit the construction site to see the redevelopment and understand a little more of how the new museum will operate. School visits continue and some outreach work is being undertaken.

VISITORS FROM THE NEW WORLD

It was a privilege to welcome 30 members of the St Andrews Society of Upper South Carolina to Stirling Castle on 24th July. They had the chance to learn about the history of The Argylls before having an opportunity to handle some items from the collection – the favourite being the ram's snuff mull.



Visitors from the St Andrews Society of Upper South Carolina

The Society has a strong connection with the Royal Regiment of Scotland - particularly 2 SCOTS who provide a guard of honour to their Scottish Games in May each year.

FUNDRAISING

The fundraising effort still continues. Since the last Newsletter, donations have been received from the following:

- Stirling Council
- The Mickel Fund
- The Barrack Charitable Trust
- Army Museums Ogilby Trust
- The Girdlers' Company Charitable Trust
- The Sym Charitable Trust
- Museums Galleries Scotland
- Regimental Association – raffle

In addition to that a number of other individuals have given generously.



Potential Pipers with the Argyll Mark 1 Bagpipe at the Stirling Military Show - £281 raised during the day

But we have still to achieve our goal, principally because the delays have incurred additional costs. Lesley Onslow continues to seek opportunities for support. *Please continue to help us achieve our target.* For information on how to support us, please contact Lesley at capappeal@argylls.co.uk / 01786-448041, or go to our website, www.argylls.co.uk/fundraising.

FUTURE OPERATIONS

Work is ongoing to develop our Partnership Agreement with HES. There is a range of work-strands being developed ranging from marketing, shop design and operation, visitor interface, integration into the HES Castle signage and guiding systems, and the education programme.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We want to ensure you only receive relevant communications from us. If you no longer want to receive newsletters or other correspondence, or want to change the way we contact you, just let us know. Contact us on 01786-448041 or at admin@argylls.co.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support