

**MINUTES of 2nd Meeting of Taskforce 275 held in the James Park Bistro at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, Prestonpans EH32 9BE on February 20th 2020**

Present: Gordon Prestoungrange [in Chair], Arran Johnston, Sharon Beck [p/t], Avril Wills, Martha Bryce, Caroline Tait [p/t], Jan Wallace [p/t], Peter Mackenzie [p/t], Sylvia Burgess [e].

**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 as tabled with NLHF and to which that organisation is contributing 49% and which has delineated its ‘6 Approved Purposes’ progress towards which will necessarily be described via formal reporting. 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/ Staff Resources for the Project**

2.1Public notices seeking expressions of interest for Sessional Staffing have appeared across social

media and national press. Job Specifications are available in English and Gaelic as appended.

Explications from those interested have been invited by the deadline of March 6th for

consideration and contract offers by the Trustees on March 12th for commencement as may be

feasible from April 1st 2020.

2.2 Arran Johnston and Sharon Beck, as temporary self-employed contractors until March 31st 2020

have been euphonically carrying forward the activities demanding urgent attention that cannot

await the arrangements from April 1st 2020.

2.3 The Project’s hypothecated budget for ‘new’ staffing resources is £70,000 occasioning

£2917 per month over 24 months. Discussions with potential applicants have indicated that

this is a daunting project and these funds per se would not be sufficient for full-time

employment of appropriate calibre.

2.4 Those with whom discussions have been held have been authorised to table alternative

And potentially effective proposals for contract working for such discrete elements as may be

with overall control and leadership exercised through the Taskforce.

2.5 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.

**3: PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECT 275 SCHEDULES @ 20/02.2020**

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

particular year. Despite making use of temporary contract resources, Arran Johnston and

Sharon Beck, excellent progress has been achieved. The current audit is as below:

* 1. **Invitation to 10/ 17 year olds to create new cultural contributions:**
* Details are online @ htps://visionforvictory1745.org/learning-schools/ together with

the Gaelic translation by Beathag Mhoireasdan

* ELC and EducationScotland are both collaborating in broadscale announcements to

schools and particular Gaelic contact made with Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Gillespie High School Edinburgh and Dr Mark Jardine of Bankton House

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

including links with Gaelic tuition; a partnership application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF resources is also being considered in shared discussions with Newbattle Abbey College.

* Full information is now ready to be released to schools nationwide at end February

and 10/17 year olds invited to work to a deadline of December 20th 2020.

* The outcomes are promised ‘publication’ together with online space and

opportunities for pop-up presentations and exhibition

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 and support for the planned Living History Centre

* Sharon Beck has accepted responsibility for ensuring the College Partnership

proceeds effectively with quarterly review meetings – initially in the IT field. Possible initiatives for the Gaelic language and Built Environment have already been advanced at meetings at the Milton Road Campus by Gordon Prestoungrange with Kay Penman and Scott Warden respectively.

* 1. **Slighe gu Buaidh – Path to Victory**
* Beathag Mhoiresdan’s translation services are being speedily provided once again

and will be used throughout including bilingual interpretation at exhibitions

* Former bilingual Founding Trustee Peter MacKenzie has agreed to participate in

Several initiatives including a Gaelic Battle Walk, Literary Evening and pop-up activities during the John Gray Centre exhibition; it is still to be hoped that Ronald Black can be traced and that Gaelic speakers in the Alan Breck Regiment will also contribute.

* The Application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for funding support, presenting the Trust’s steps as a logical extension of the existing signages and interpretation, has been successful in the sum of £3,000. Plans are advancing for a small language learning initiative developed in partnership with ELC, Newbattle College and Edinburgh College following discussions with Paolo Vestri and Ann Robertson at ELC. ELC has not yet received formal approval of its 1st Gaelic Language Plan and is in discussion at the Bord with Louise Maclean, Languages Plans Officer. There is a deadline of April 16th 2020 for applications and a key emerging contact at Edinburgh College in Neil MacGregor with Peter Mackenzie also proposing to introduce a number of Gaelic language supporters.
* An early exploratory session is now planned for the coming weeks to identify what is realistically achievable over the 12 month period.

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

* That a site meeting with Iain Slater, Hargreaves Blindwells MD, on January 30th 2020

Had to ensured the First Refusal commitment by Hargreaves on the NW Corner until December 2023 and will enable Gareth Bryn-Jones to proceed with visuals for inclusion in the Fund Raising Campaign. The draft update of the original MoU is waited from Iain Slater

* That an online site for the Fund Raising and a flyer leaflet must be prepared at the

earliest opportunity totally revising the leaflet for the earlier location at Prestongrange Museum

* Pam Judson’s report on the Trustees’ Funding Workshop in January is awaited.
  1. **Publicity and PR:**
* That Martha Bryce has commenced her role as PR and Publicity Consultant to Project

275 and will table her proposals in that role with an initial budget of £4,000. She has already commenced press releases for the exhibition of the Mount Felix Tapestry at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg.

3.7 **Prestonpans Tapestry 10th Anniversary Tour:**

* The anchor for the Prestonpans Tapestry in 2020 is now confirmed at Inverurie for

three months from April 1st [attached] aligned to their celebration of the second Jacobite Victory that year on 23rd December.

* 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.
* 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.

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; an opportunity for a Clan gathering will be included and the ‘2009 Homecoming’ Clan Panels will be updated in English and Gaelic, and ‘donated’ Clan Banners requested.

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

September 19th [attached] 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 officiate and Barbara will be on display. Gaelic battle cries and shouts will be rehearsed with War Game tables, digital developments highlighted and books/ merchandise on sale. A Clan Gathering howsoever will ideally 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 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 and 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

4. **Next Steps:**

* The Taskforce will hold its 3rd Meeting in Prestonpans during the period March 10/12th as the schedule can be arranged.