

Training and Events Special

Spring has seen the Tasglann team bouncing around like spring lambs doing many exciting things. This includes us starting to roll out our training programme to the Comainn Eachdraidh and also the hosting of two public events.

This issue of Tasglannaichean focuses on these two areas and gives more information on how you can become involved.

Cataloguing Training

Conversations with various groups, and particularly Comainn Eachdraidh, demonstrated that whilst archive training as a group is useful, it's often difficult to then relate what has been learnt to their own collections, especially when only one or two members of a historical

society may have attended the training.

We want to make the training we offer relevant and of real value so we're offering training in archival arrangement and cataloguing on an organisation by organisation basis.

In January we visited Barra and worked with one of their members to identify specific archive collections, and then spent a day working together to catalogue the records, providing training in arrangement and cataloguing as we went. So, not only did someone learn some new skills but several archive collections got catalogued in one day.

In April we visited North Tolsta Historical Society to identify the best way in delivering archive training. It was decided that we



would visit on two occasions so that those members who worked in the day could also attend. The first evening looked at cataloguing techniques and a small amount of theory, which was delivered through tasks and activities. We then looked at the collections held and discussed what the best approach to cataloguing each would be. On the

second week, we recapped some of the theory and then got stuck into the cataloguing!

In total, seven people from Tolsta were trained and four of their collections were almost completely catalogued in one evening. We'll follow this up in a few weeks with a visit to see how their catalogues have come along and offer further support.

Future Training

Whilst the Tasglann staff may be good at cataloguing, we're not trained oral history experts.

Therefore, with thanks to funding obtained from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, we will be "buying in" oral history training.

We hope to hold two **free** training sessions, with one in the Uists and another in either Lewis or Harris

where people can come along, hear and participate in training.

This will be an opportunity to cement already held skills and to find out about latest best practice. For those new to the skill, it will be an opportunity to actually have a go at recording interviews and editing them!

We hope to arrange this for autumn 2011 and will



provide further information as soon as we have it.

Get
in
touch!



We'll be contacting individual groups to look into specific requirements for training, but if you're eager to undertake training using your own collections sooner rather than later, don't hesitate to contact us!

Networking from Barra to Berneray

On 7 May the Tasglann held a successful networking event at Sgoil Lionacleit on Benbecula aimed at bringing the Comainn Eachdraidh from Barra to Berneray together to discuss their groups' activities, projects and archive collections on an informal basis.

We heard presentations from several groups on archive-related projects they had undertaken. This ranged from the impressive Cladh Hallan cemetery project website (www.hallancemeterysouthuist.co.uk) that linked information from the gravestones, burial and lair registers and obituaries through to a presentation from Berneray on their



recent activities.

Attendees were genuinely interested in finding out more about what each other had done, what was involved (and obviously, what things cost!)

We were also joined by Lewis-based colleagues. Donnie Morrison gave a brief history and tour of

the Hebridean Connections website (www.hebrideanconnections.com) set up by four Lewis-based Comainn Eachdraidh and how this is developing into the future. An invitation for other Comainn Eachdraidh to join the developing project was extended.

An Caidreachas Eachdraidh, the federation of Lewis &

Harris historical societies, explained the benefits they have experienced from regular meetings and sharing experiences, as well as the benefits that come from presenting a unified voice to funders.

This led into a quite detailed group discussion about the importance of networking and the potential to develop the Caidreachas into an islands-wide network and discussion forum.

Feedback was enormously positive, showing a desire to have similar networking and discussion events where people could share their experiences and learn from one another.

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Links Over the Atlantic



Monday 16 May saw a packed Council Chamber in Stornoway for an event celebrating Lewis' links with Detroit and Lewis Society of Detroit records held in Stornoway Library. These tell the story of Lewisian men and women who emigrated to Detroit and set up their own friendship group to retain their links to their home.

As well as there being a

chance to view the original records, noted genealogist Bill Lawson gave a presentation regarding the wider historical emigration links between Lewis and North America from the 17th century onwards. Cllr Kenny Maciver then chaired a panel session with Annie Macleay, Marilyn Macritchie, her son Alex Macritchie and Murdo Macdonald, where they

recounted their experiences, memories and feelings about their links with Detroit. There was much reminiscing and sharing of stories and the night was hugely successful and our thanks go to all that were involved.

New Display

A new display in Stornoway Library looks at the Old Shops of Stornoway. We will be co-hosting an event on 11th August with Stornoway Historical Society, watch the blog for more details!

Next issue

We will be focussing on the records of businesses and trade associations.