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West Highland Museum



Report 2018

westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

The West Highland Museum

CAMERON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM

PRESIDENT

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel

DIRECTORS

Vice-President – Mrs F. Maclean of Ardgour

Chair – Mr J.C. Hutchison

Mrs B. Bruce, Ms C. Gooch, Mrs J. Wright, Councillor A. Baxter (*nominated by the Highland Council*), Mrs M. Young (*nominated by the Lochaber Local History Society*)

The Directors are elected from the membership of the West Highland Museum Trust with the exception of the nominees.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Convenor: Mr R. Sidgwick

Mr A. Kirk, Mrs J. Wright, Miss C. Barker

COLLECTIONS AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Convenor: Mrs B. Bruce

Mr R. Cameron, Mr. I.P. MacDonald, Mr I. Skinner, Mrs M. Shearer, Mrs M. Young, Mrs V. Martin, Miss C. Barker

MANAGER: Miss C. Barker

CURATOR: Miss F. Marwick (*to March 2018*) Mrs V. Martin (*from April 2018*)

CO-ORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS: Mrs S. McLachlan

Objects – The West Highland Museum was founded in 1922 for the education of the general public and to collect and preserve objects and records connected by use, manufacture or association with the West Highlands.

Governing documents – The West Highland Museum was constituted as a Society in 1927. The last Deed of Trust was dated September 2011. The West Highland Museum Trading Company Limited was incorporated on 17th December 2014.

Company Number: SC493572. The West Highland Museum Trust was constituted on 15th November 2017.

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 47954 **Scottish Company Number No:** 581556

Bankers – Bank of Scotland, 62 High Street, Fort William
Royal Bank of Scotland, 6 High Street, Fort William
Clydesdale Bank, 58 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AH

Independent Examiners – R A Clement Associates

Front cover: The Bronze Model T Ford unveiled in Cameron Square, May 2018

Photograph Courtesy of the Fort William Ford Model T Project

Annual Report 2018 – from Chair

This year has seen a significant change for the Museum with the transfer of assets and operations to the West Highland Museum Trust. Once the board is satisfied that all liabilities have been met, the old trust, the West Highland Museum, will be wound up, in conjunction with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

We continue to raise awareness of the Museum in the West Highland community and our visibility on social media is increasing, with reviews on a par with the National Museum of Scotland.

Again we have improved performance with a 2% increase in visitors, an 8% increase in donations and an 11% increase in the turnover of the gift and book shop. The financial support that we have received from Highlife Highland has continued to decline, though for 2018/19 is expected to remain static at £6,274. The value of our investments has decreased by nearly £5,000, reflecting the market.

A major activity during 2018 was the acquisition of number 40 High Street, currently tenanted by PDSA. The purchase was supported by the Scottish Land Fund through a grant of £348,200, for which we are very grateful. The main purpose of the acquisition was to give proper access on to the High Street, so we were very disappointed to have our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund turned down in June. While we reconsider our expansion plans we have the assurance of regular income from this property.

A period of consolidation followed the appointment of Vanessa Martin as Curator, which has led into a long-term loan of Jacobite objects from the Drambuie Collection, courtesy of William Grant & Sons, further enhancing our internationally-known Jacobite collection.

We continue to benefit from the sage advice offered by the Collections and Learning Committee and the Audit Committee, convened respectively by Betty Bruce and Richard Sidgwick. We are sorry that Betty Bruce will stand down this year but record our thanks and appreciation for her many years of service to the Museum. Similarly, we were sorry to learn that Martine Young, the History Society's nominee to the Board, will be leaving the area. We thank her for her service and wish her well.

We are delighted that Donald Cameron of Lochiel and Fiona Maclean of Ardgour have continued as President and Vice-President respectively.

The Museum has a steady cohort of around 40 volunteers and we thank each for the time and commitment they give to us. Not all our volunteers are front of house at reception. There is plenty of backstage work to be done too, and there is

no doubt that the Museum would not be the welcoming and interesting place it is without these dedicated and enthusiastic people.

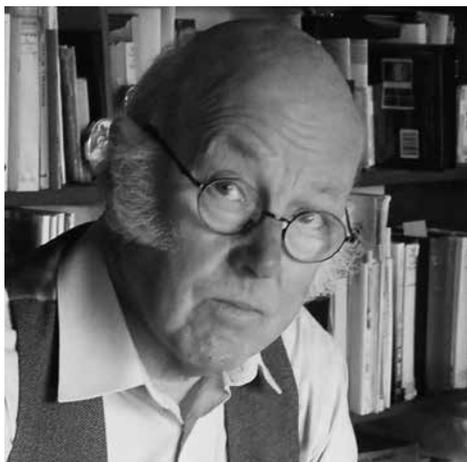
Our small team of paid staff continues to do a terrific job. Colleen, Sonja and Vanessa comprise the vibrant and enterprising heart of the Museum. It is they who, amongst many other things, ensure that our accreditation with Museum Galleries Scotland is maintained and our VisitScotland 4 Star rating is preserved.

Future financial certainty is important to us so we are encouraging benefactors of whatever size to gift a sum for one year, and then pledge a further 50% of that sum annually for 4 years. This, coupled with Gift Aid could make a significant difference, if enough members embrace the idea. Members might also consider purchasing gift membership or putting in place a legacy, perhaps as a percentage of their estate. We thank all donors most sincerely.

While most of our members have been involved with the Museum for some time, we still need more members for two reasons. One is financial but the second is equally important; the members set the strategic direction of the Museum and it is from the membership that future board members will be drawn.

After almost seven years as Chair I stand down at the May 2019 AGM. I have enjoyed the experience and thank our staff, former trustees and the current board for their support over the period.

John C. Hutchison
Chair, West Highland Museum Trust
April 2019



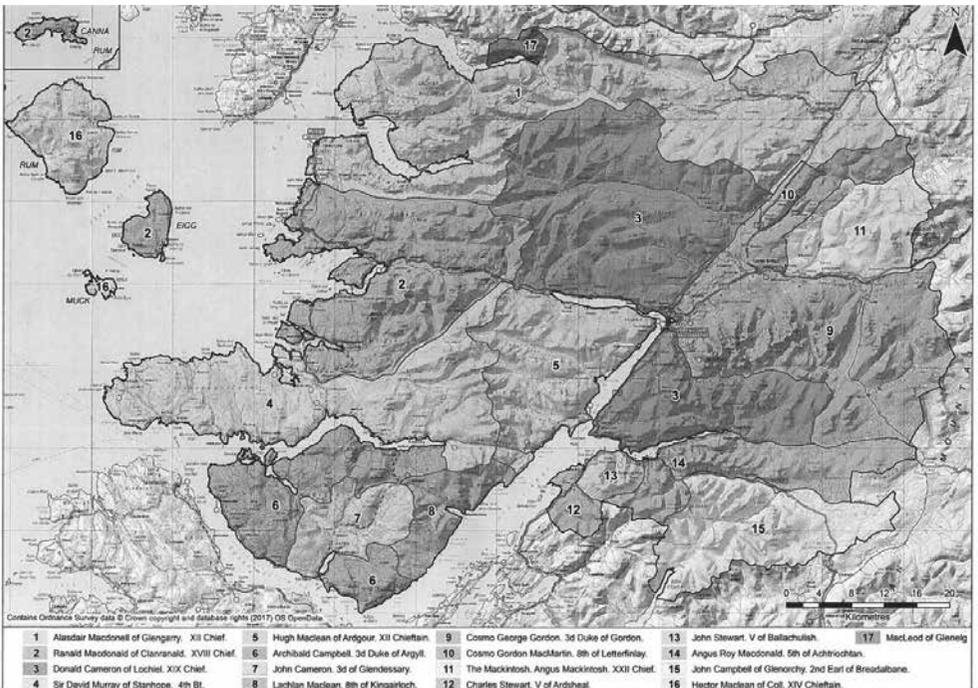
Land in Lochaber

Since the days when hunter gatherer man settled to a pastoral existence, ownership or occupation of land has been the key to wealth, status or survival. The ability to grow crops and breed livestock has been central both to subsistence and the purchasing power to buy commodities not available from the land.

More than sufficient food to meet the basic needs of an average family can be grown on 3 to 5 acres of good land; 20 or more times that area of less fertile land may be required for the same purpose, which is one of the many reasons why, historically, land in the Highlands is owned or occupied as large areas. Even in the crofting

communities, the typical Lochaber croft of 3 acres of inbye and a few acres of outrun are generally underpinned by common grazing rights over large areas of hill.

The area covered by Lochaber as we know it today extended to about one and a quarter million acres and in 1745 it was owned by 17 people. The rural population, particularly those on the West Coast, subsisted on a diet which today would be considered unthinkable and what few young people realise is that this state of affairs persisted well into the period after the First World War. Market forces, political will and taxation have changed this to one where the greater part of the area has



The ownership of land in Lochaber in 1746

been subdivided into about 60 different estates, all much smaller than the holdings of 1746, and crofting is no longer a means of subsistence, rather a way of life which only makes a modest contribution to the family budget unless the land is sold for development.

Most estates are now run as businesses and their viability is very much related to size and location. For example, good management of a deer forest is dependent on a measure of control over an extensive area – perhaps co-operatively - which can support a balanced population throughout the year. The opportunity to benefit from natural resources such as minerals - stone quarrying or sand - and more recently, micro hydro-power, rely on relative freedom to operate over an extended area rather than within tightly controlled boundaries

Successful hill sheep enterprises – a vanishing form of land use – rely on access to extensive areas which provide year-round grazing and shelter, along with the skills of a man and his dogs both of which are a dwindling resource in Lochaber. Recreation of all types is at its most attractive when the boundaries are invisible. So, it can be argued that in the Highlands all of these forms of land use need wide boundaries to work effectively.

These and many other factors combine to contradict the notion that ‘small is beautiful.’ In the Highlands, the scale and nature of the land and sea-scapes and the practicalities of every day rural life dictate the need for a large canvas on which to operate.

Richard Sidgwick

Richard’s book, “Clanship to Capitalism” is on sale in the Museum’s book shop.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the West Highland Museum gives access to special and temporary exhibitions, lectures and other museum activities. It also allows use of the reference library by appointment. In addition members will receive the museum’s literature including a newsletter.

Categories and subscription rates:

Member.....	£15.00 per annum
Associate Member.....	£7.50 per annum
Adopt-A-Showcase.....	£30.00 per annum

Subscription renewal is due annually on 1st May and the AGM is held on the last Thursday in May unless otherwise advised.

The Drambuie Collection

Legend says Prince Charles Edward Stuart was aided by the chief of the Clan MacKinnon of Skye when he was a fugitive after Culloden. In thanks for his help, the Prince gifted his secret liqueur recipe. This tippie would become the Drambuie liqueur. Its recipe is a closely guarded secret to this day.

The Drambuie company acquired objects over the years that reflect the rich artistic culture and history of Scotland. The collection focuses particularly on the Jacobites. William Grant and Son are the current owners of this prestigious collection. Their curator, Andy Fairgreave, recognised the West Highland Museum's world-renowned status as a Jacobite museum and approached us in 2017, to offer us a long-term loan of part of their collection.

In July 2018, the Curator, Vanessa Martin and the Museum Manager, Colleen Barker, travelled to Cumbernauld to view the Drambuie collection and select some of the rare and fascinating objects they saw, for display at the West Highland Museum. Here is a selection of their ten favourite objects.

With the aid of the Government Indemnity Scheme, the collection will be on display as part of the Jacobite exhibition from February 2019 – January 2022.

The Chastleton Manor Decanter

A finely engraved rare mid-18th century decanter with a sixteen-point compass, rose, buds, oak leaf and the motto "*fiat*" (*may it come to pass*). The compass

is presumed to relate to the compass guiding the cause and helping the 'King over the water'. The rose represents King James VII and the buds the princes. The oak leaf is an ancient Stuart badge and symbol of Stuart Restoration.

The decanter was considered to be from the Cavalier Club, one of the oldest established Jacobite Societies, founded in 1657.

Chastleton Manor itself seems to have been the centre of Jacobite activities throughout the 18th century. Owner, Henry Jones, planted Scots fir trees in the grounds. These were rumoured to be navigation markers for fleeing Jacobites.

Firing Glass

A rare early Jacobite glass circa 1730. The thickness of the foot was so the glass could be rapped on the table after a toast had been drunk. The sound would resemble musket fire. It is engraved with a stricken oak and the motto "*Revirescit*" (*it revives*).

Section of the Mast of a Boat

Prince Charles Edward's escape from the Scottish mainland via Skye to a waiting ship and his eventual return to France is very well known. It is recounted in song, poems and legends rather than physical relics. This section of wood is a fascinating survival. It is purported to be part of the mast of the boat that took the Prince from Skye to Loch Nevis on 4th July 1746.

Enamelled Portrait Glass

This exceptional glass is amongst the rarest in the Jacobite series of glassware.

It is one of only two or three which feature a five-colour enamel portrait of Prince Charles.

The provenance of this glass has been attributed to the collection of Thomas Erskine, latterly 9th Earl of Kellie. This is known from the transactions of the Steuart Club of Edinburgh, a Jacobite club which met between 1757 – 1787 on Prince Charles' birthday.

18th Century Snuff Box

This snuff box was originally a 'hidden portrait' example which had a domed cover to hide the portrait of Prince Charles. These were favourites of Jacobite society post 1745.

A Jacobite host could give his friends a pinch of snuff, and choose, depending on the company, whether or not to unveil the hidden nature of the portrait.

Finger/Rinsing Bowl

Mid-18th century Jacobite engraved finger / rinsing bowls are extremely rare. This example was possibly used in a Jacobite Society rather than a home to toast 'the King over the water'.

The Hanoverian's made some toasts illegal and even delayed the provision of finger bowls at official functions to prevent Jacobites from secretly honouring the Stuarts.

Glass Tankard

One of only a small number of tankards

ever recorded. It is likely to be one of the rarest forms of Jacobite glass. It is engraved with a bee, to signify loyalty; a moth, to signify return of the soul; and a Jacobite rose flanked by open and closed buds, to represent King James VII and his sons.

Ale Glass

A beautiful mid-18th century trumpet bowl glass that is engraved with a classic Jacobite rose head and buds. It includes the motto "Redeat" (*may he return*).

Miniature Portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart

An 18th century portrait by James Ferguson, made in Edinburgh in 1745. The features in this portrait are unique and the Prince is wearing a tartan coat. The portrait is very rare in that it can be attributed to a Scottish artist working in Edinburgh at the time Prince Charles was present in the city.

Miniature Portrait of Princess Maria Sobieska

An 18th century miniature of the wife of James Francis Edward Stuart and the mother of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. This exquisite portrait is attributed to the circle of Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich (called Dietricy). The gilded label on the frame reads "Princess Maria Sobieska wife of The Pretender Jacobus, by Dietricy".

The Drambuie Collection

Images courtesy of William Grant & Sons and Colin Fraser

Glass Tankard



Firing Glass



Ale Glass



*Finger / Rinsing
Bowl*



The Chastleton Manor Decanter



The Drambuie Collection

*18th Century
Snuff Box*



*Section of the
Mast of a Boat*



*Portrait of Prince Charles
Edward Stuart*



*Portrait of Princess
Maria Sobieska*

*Enamelled
Portrait Glass*



Gifts, Loans and Purchases



Prayer book titled "Manual of a Christian" purportedly presented by Prince Charles Edward Stuart on the

field of Culloden to Captain James MacDonell of Glengarry. The gift also included a memorandum from Donald Canon Carmichael (1833 – 1902) describing the provenance of the prayer book. *Donated by Iain Gordon Carmichael.*



Shoulder belt plate for the Moidart Volunteers. A rare example, as little evidence remains of the existence of this company that were raised during the early stages of the Napoleonic Wars. The Moidart Company were incorporated into a battalion of Inverness-

Shire Volunteers. *Purchased from Treasure Trove.*

Highland Council gifted a number of objects when they moved to their new offices at Charles Kennedy House. These included the original **Hiroshima peace plaque** that once stood in the Parade, along with related items, such as a framed certificate of **Bert Bissell's 100th ascent of Ben Nevis**. Plans for the survey of the garden at Invernevis. Gifts relating to Fort William's connection with **Thunder Bay** (formerly Fort William), Canada. Other gifts included an **Austin Seven Club plaque** and **glass bowl** associated with George Simpson's ascent of Ben Nevis in an Austin Seven in 1928. *Donated by Highland Council.*



Sole of a child's leather shoe found by the river bank below the old village of Ulgary Glenmoidart.

It is hand stitched and perhaps 200 years old. *Donated by Alex and Mary Gillespie.*

Musket shot found behind the shoreline of Loch

Shiel at Glenfinnan. Identified as an 18th century .54 shot from a Spanish sporting gun. It is possibly linked to the Battle of Glenshiel, or could simply have been used for hunting. *Donated by John Robertson.*



Cobbler's last found on the Kingairloch estate in one of the derelict sheds by the donor. *Donated by William Davidson.*

Photograph album relating to the Hodgson family and their family home at The Welcombe in Harpenden. The album includes photographs of the family as well as internal and external images of the house. The album is undated and was deposited at the Museum anonymously, along with photographs of the house taken in 2018. *Anonymous donation.*



Charles I copper coin from 1629. Found by the donor many years ago on the Mamore mountains. *Donated by Alex Gillespie.*

Model T Ford memorabilia including a photograph album;

dealer's supply plate; books; ASC car badge and Ben Nevis challenge plate. On loan to the Model T exhibition. *On loan from Iain Blyth.*

Embroidered postcards from the First World War. A collection of postcards written by John McCallum to his wife Mary from France between 1916- 1919. On loan along with family photographs for a temporary exhibition. *On loan from Catriona Bruce.*



Additions to Library and Archive

Blackwell, Alice; Goldberg, Martin and Hunter, Fraser **Scotland's Early Silver. Transforming Roman Pay-offs to Pictish Treasures**, NMS Enterprises Ltd: 2017. *Purchased.*

The Archaeology of Dun Deardail. An Iron Age Hillfort in Glen Nevis, Forestry Commission: 2018. *Donated by Nevis Landscape Partnership.*

Bowie, Karin (Ed.) **Addresses Against Incorporating Union 1706 – 1707**, Scottish History Society, Boydell Press: 2018. *Purchased.*

Kirby, Jared (Ed.) **The Expert Swords-man's Companion: Or, The True Art of Self-defence with an account of the Author's Life**, by Donald MacBane, Createspace: 2017. *Purchased.*

Mercer, Jon and Strachan, Ian **The Wildlife of Lochaber**, Lochaber Natural History Society: 2018. *Donated by Jon Mercer.*

Tuckett, Neil and Seddon, Flora The Bronze Ford: **In 100 years They Will Talk About Us and the Model T Will Still be Here**, Publisher unknown: 2018. *Donated by Chris Robinson.*

Harvie, Christopher **Scotland and Nationalism**, Routledge: 2004. *Donated by Joanne Godfrey*

Whatley, Christopher **Bought and Sold for English Gold**, Tuckwell Press: 2001. *Donated by Joanne Godfrey*

Wormald, Jenny **Mary Queen of Scots: Politics, Passion and a Kingdom Lost**, Tauris Parke: 2001. *Donated by Joanne Godfrey*

Herman, Arthur **The Scottish Enlightenment: The Scot's Invention of the Modern World**, Harper Collins: 2003. *Donated by Joanne Godfrey.*

Fort William Community Council **Fort William Memories, A Pictorial Record**, Publisher unknown: 1987-1992. *Donated by Sonja McLachlan.*

Roberts, Alasdair **The People and Gentry of Morar**, Mallaig Heritage Centre: 2017. *Donated by Alasdair Roberts.*

Fraser, Murdo **The Rivals: Montrose and Argyll and the Struggle for Scotland**, Birlinn: 2015. *Donated by John Bruce.*

Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, volume LXVIII, 2015-17, Graphic Impressions: 2018. *Purchased.*

MacDonald, Fergie **The Moidart Sniper: John (Ton) MacDonald**, For the Right Reasons: 2018. *Purchased.*

Fort William: Scenes and Cuttings from Old Postcards and Guide Books, the Granite House: 2018. *Donated by Alistair Ness.*

MacDonald, Donald **A Local Guide to the Glen Nevis Area**, Breagha Designs: 1977. *Donated by Keith Kendall.*

Duffy, Christopher **Fighting for the Throne. The Jacobite '45 Reconsidered**, Helion & Company Ltd: 2015. *Purchased.*

Sidgwick, Richard **Clanship to Capitalism. A History of the Estates of Lochaber from 1745**, Short Run Press Ltd: 2018. *Donated by Richard Sidgwick.*

Witcher, Helene **Madame Scotia, Madam Scrap. The Story of Heloise Russell-Fergusson 1896 – 1970**, The Islands Book Trust: 2017. *Purchased.*

Air Defence of Great Britain Instructions, Observer Posts 1938, Air Council: 1938. *Donated by Scott Ferrie.*

The death of the following member is noted with regret

Joss Gosling (Fort William)

West Highland Museum Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)
For the period ended 31 December 2018

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Period ended 31/12/18
	Notes	funds £	funds £	funds £	Total £
Income from:					
Donations, Grants & Legacies	2	72,140	361,136	-	433,276
Fundraising activities	3	705	-	-	705
Investment income	4	22,804	-	-	22,804
Sundry income	5	10,240	-	-	10,240
Total income		<u>105,889</u>	<u>361,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>467,025</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6, 7, 8	79,618	22,271	59,620	161,509
Total expenditure		<u>79,618</u>	<u>22,271</u>	<u>59,620</u>	<u>161,509</u>
Net income/(expenditure)					
for the year before gains and losses		26,271	338,865	(59,620)	305,516
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	(5,457)	-	-	(5,457)
Transfers between funds		(10,730)	9,616	1,114	-
Net movement in funds		10,084	348,481	(58,506)	300,059
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds transferred from West Highland Museum		411,804	12,376	58,506	482,686
Total funds carried forward		<u>421,888</u>	<u>360,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>782,745</u>

West Highland Museum Trust
(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2018

SC581556

	Notes	31/12/18	
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13		202,807
Heritage assets	14		1,710
Investments	15		396,065
			<u>600,582</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	33,183	
Cash at bank and in hand		157,435	
		<u>190,618</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(8,455)	
		<u>182,163</u>	
Net current assets			<u>182,163</u>
Net assets			<u>782,745</u>
Funds	18		
Restricted income funds	20		360,857
Unrestricted income funds	19		421,888
			<u>782,745</u>
Total funds			<u><u>782,745</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 25th April 2019 and signed on their behalf by John C Hutchison, Chair

**WEST HIGHLAND MUSEUM TRADING COMPANY
LIMITED**

INCOME STATEMENT

For The Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
TURNOVER		47,498	42,750
Cost of sales		<u>23,534</u>	<u>18,386</u>
GROSS SURPLUS		23,964	24,364
Administrative expenses		<u>23,649</u>	<u>23,403</u>
		315	961
Other operating income		<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS		315	1,011
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>315</u>	<u>1,011</u>
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		-	-
Tax on surplus		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

whm

West Highland Museum

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www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

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 TWITTER (@WestHighMuseum)



The Bronze Model T Ford, unveiled in Cameron Square in May 2018

