

Session A3: Arts, Humanities and Social Science.

Session Chair, Dr Jamie Grant

Room: 963

Presentation 1 - Highland Park: Sagas and Stills. A social history of whisky and the Highland Park Distillery in Orkney.	
Julie Cassidy, Institute for Northern Studies, Orkney College	
Abstract	Highland Park whisky Distillery (HPD) in Orkney has an origin story claiming to have started life as an illegal still by 'renowned' smuggler Magnus Eunson in 1798. But is this story true? Using archive material, this presentation will look first at the origin story and what documents we have to support this, and follow the biography of Highland Park up to its acquisition by Edrington in 1999.
Presentation 2 - 'Cumail fuachd nam beann dìom: Perceptions of textiles in Thomas Sinton's <i>The Poetry of Badenoch</i>	
Maureen Hammond, UHI Centre for History and Highlife Highland	
Abstract	<p>In 1906, Thomas Sinton published <i>The Poetry of Badenoch</i>, a collection of the last remaining fragments of poetry and song of Badenoch. Gathered from sources he describes as 'a number of aged persons who were the last representatives of a crofting community that had existed time out of mind', his work records not only traditional song favoured in Badenoch, but also authored pieces from Lachlan Mac a' Phearsain, Dòmh'Il Phàil and works from less well-known voices, such as Barbara Ni'n Eoghain and Lilian Mackintosh.</p> <p><i>The Poetry of Badenoch</i> offers a unique insight into the culture of an understudied region, and is of particular value as a means of exploring the material culture of the central Highlands, using textiles as evidence for the construction of identities during the long eighteenth century. This paper explores the aesthetics of the textiles in the poetry to discuss the cultural function these items served, not just as pleasing objects but as vehicles of personal expression, with local trends acting as markers of a distinct Badenoch identity within a broader Highland context. In addition to the poetry, this paper draws on evidence from material culture and archival sources, to illustrate the cultural and social significance of textiles in Badenoch in the long eighteenth century.</p>
Presentation 3 - Building houses without windows? Gaelic in Scotland, and an architecture of priorities	
Gòrdan Camshron (<i>Gordon Cameron</i>), Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI	
Abstract	Gaelic's vitality in Scotland is commonly portrayed as a straightforward <i>numbers game</i> . Success or failure are broadly gauged in speaker numbers, or enrolments in Gaelic-medium education or learners' classes in the school system. Approaching the

	<p>2021 Census for Scotland, this paper considers this issue, and examines how Gaelic development is embedded in our national economic, civic and cultural priorities.</p> <p>Gaelic initiatives must acknowledge metrics such as the National Capital Asset Index, the National Performance Framework, and the Scottish Economic Strategy. Building on early-stage doctoral research, I consider where Gaelic fits into a civic architecture of priorities which serves the identity politics of the minority language issue, and whether such criteria make a successful socioeconomic and demographic trajectory more likely.</p> <p>The Western Isles and Highlands retain the greatest Gaelic speaker densities although by 2021 a slight majority of speakers are likely to be spread across atomised language communities in urban Scotland; the development agency Bòrd na Gàidhlig acknowledges that all communities, whether traditional rural, metropolitan or those linked primarily by interest or technology, must be included in future developmental strategies.</p> <p>Since the 1990s, Gaelic has been positioned as an asset with the potential to generate community confidence and economic benefit, especially in the rural Highlands and Islands. This paper is based upon ongoing research examining language revitalisation models in contexts ranging from (sub-)regional to international with the goal of fashioning a new model for socioeconomic sustainability for the existing highly peripheral Gaelic speaker group in the <i>Gàidhealtachd</i>.</p>
<p>Presentation 4 - Excavations of the assembly site of Anundshög, Sweden</p>	
<p>Alex Sanmark, Institute for Northern Studies, Orkney College/Perth College UHI</p>	
<p>Abstract</p>	<p>This presentation examines the excavations carried out at the assembly site of Anundshög in Sweden. This site has a long biography, stretching from the Early Iron Age (c. AD 100) until the end of the Middle Ages (c. AD 1500). At this site, I have together with colleagues from a variety of universities and other organisations, carried out four seasons of archaeological fieldwork, revealing a range of previously unknown features. This work has enabled me to fit this site into the wider picture of Viking Age assembly sites, which were the focus of my recent book (2017). The local community and the council of the town of Västerås are highly interested in our work, as this site has largely been ignored by researchers and museums, despite its significance in the past. Since I started my work in 2008, heritage activities at Anundshög have increased manifold. There is now a small café where the results of our excavations are displayed, and the local heritage society runs guided tours throughout the summer, largely based on our work. Project participants have published the results in a number of articles, and also presented at academic conferences and workshops organised by the local community. Further knowledge exchange activities, involving 3D reconstructions, are currently being developed. All in all, it is clear that this research has generated a lot of impact to date and it also has</p>

	the potential to become one of the major impact contributors of the Institute for Northern Studies in the future.
--	---