



## Foreword—Provost of Argyll and Bute, Councillor Len Scoullar



One hundred years ago, when war broke out in 1914, the people of Argyll and Bute were steadfast and determined in their response—whether it was sending husbands, fathers and sons to serve the country on those dark and distant battlefields, ensuring the vital agricultural and other domestic contributions continued, or responding to tragedies which brought the war to Argyll’s very shores.

During the four-year centenary period, our people have been equally determined to ensure that Argyll and Bute remembers— not only for this special time of commemoration but in the future, too.

Enclosed in this booklet you will find just some examples and stories of how Argyll and Bute remembers—from key annual events across the area to school projects, and much more besides.

Our commemorations have been public, private, collective, individual—but at the heart of each has been the determination to ensure that Argyll and Bute pays tribute to the sacrifices made a century ago, and that the legacy of our forefathers remains strong and true to this day.

## Introduction—HM Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart



It has been an honour and a privilege to chair the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group since its inception in 2013, created with the aim of co-ordinating World War 1 commemoration activities across Argyll and Bute during the four-year centenary period.

Over this four-year period, the group has worked in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and a myriad of local people and groups.

The commemoration activities in which the group has been involved have included very personal family tributes—such as the four Victoria Cross commemorative paving stone ceremonies, where family members gathered to reflect on the bravery of their forefathers. They have been educational—look at the exhibitions outlining Argyll’s contributions to the war effort, and the projects carried out in our schools. And we have also contributed to the national commemorative effort, most recently in May 2018 with an international act of remembrance on Islay.

Partnership has been key to all of this, as you will read throughout this booklet. My sincere thanks go to all involved in ensuring that Argyll and Bute Remembers.

As the four-year centenary period for the First World War grew close, it was clear that co-ordinating commemoration activities across Argyll and Bute would need a partnership approach – thus the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group was established in 2013.

Chaired by the Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, the group brought together councillors from all four corners of Argyll and Bute, alongside community representatives, members of the Royal British Legion, regimental contacts, and officers from a range of council services including museums and libraries. It was a perfect mix of local knowledge, wisdom, experience, commitment and, most of all, enthusiasm and dedication to the task at hand.

The group quickly identified key themes and workstreams, and organised small, focused sub-groups tasked with progressing projects. They had at their fingertips – and made very good use of - an excellent set of local and national contacts and were quick to establish positive working relationships with the key partners involved in the national commemorative programme.

A trawl through the minutes of the Steering Group and its sub-groups, particularly in those early days, reveals an astonishing attention to detail – such was every member’s personal commitment to ensuring a very fitting and appropriate four-year period of remembrance which would ensure a lasting and sustainable legacy.

The depth and breadth – and sheer scale – of the research that group members carried out in those early days is quite staggering. While this booklet does not rewrite history or retell the story of Argyll and Bute’s war, the task faced by group members in those first months of work was largely of that nature and extent.

### **The World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group Membership at**

**November 2018**

#### **Patrick Stewart**

Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute

**Maurice Corry MSP** former Argyll and Bute Council Armed Forces Champion

**Cllr Barbara Morgan** Argyll and Bute Council Armed Forces Champion

#### **Cllr Bobby Good**

Area Chair, Bute and Cowal

**Cllr Donald MacMillan** Vice Chair, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

#### **Cllr Elaine Robertson**

Area Chair, Oban Lorn and the Isles

#### **Cllr Andrew Vennard**

Oban, Lorn and the Isles

#### **Ann Galliard**

#### **Michael Hawke**

#### **Jenni Minto**

#### **Charles Struthers**

**Eleanor MacKay** Information and Local Studies Librarian, Live Argyll

**Elizabeth Rafferty** Culture and Heritage Support, Live Argyll

Take for example the work done to put stories behind the names listed on war memorials; research into survivors' histories as well as those who gave their lives in battle; working with military historians to pick through the events of war and identify where Argyll and Bute and its people played a key role. Add to that the organisation of several significant events – including some with a Royal presence, and all the protocol and procedure which accompanies it – no mean feat at all.



*Argyll and Bute's war memorials featured heavily in the group's early research—including this impressive example in Helensburgh.*

Despite a number of changes in the group's membership over the piece – as a result of elections, retirements or relocations – its focus and purpose remained steadfast, defined at all times by its hard work and commitment.

In the pages to follow, you will read in more detail and colour about the work of the group; of the signature events for each of the four years of the centenary period, of the imaginative exhibitions and displays which travelled across and around the area to ensure everyone remembered; of the contribution made by Argyll and Bute to national commemorative initiatives such as the Victoria Cross Paving Stones programme, Scotland's War roadshows, the Lighted Windows tribute and so much more. Behind every event or exhibition sat a very significant amount of research, investigation, attention to detail, sheer hard work and, most of all, dedication and commitment – the same kind of spirit which formed the backbone of Argyll and Bute's war effort 100 years ago.

Many people have played a part in everything that has happened across Argyll and Bute during this four-year centenary period, far too many to list individually. But one sure fact is that the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group, in its endeavours, worked through every detail, often with considerable imagination and flair, to ensure that Argyll and Bute remembered, and will remember for many years to come.

*[The country] mourns for her dead across the sea.*

## 2014—Argyll and Bute Remembers: Parade and Drum Head Service, Oban

Communities across Argyll and Bute marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

Special commemorative services took place across the area. The Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, and the Provost, Councillor Len Scoullar, represented the council at Scotland's national service in Glasgow Cathedral – an occasion the Provost described as 'incredibly moving, filled with both sadness and pride in the bravery of the young men who gave their lives'.

Following the national service, specially commissioned poppies were distributed to representatives to be placed at war memorials in local communities.



*The national commemoration service in Glasgow Cathedral, August 2014, attended by the Lord-Lieutenant, Patrick Stewart and Provost Len Scoullar on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council*

Argyll also took part in the national 'Lights Out' programme, where lights would be turned out at key buildings and landmarks to mark the moment that, 100 years ago, Britain had entered the dark times of conflict. A 'Lights Out' ceremony and torch-lit vigil took place in Dunoon at the Queen's Hall and Argyll Gardens; special services were held in Luing, Helensburgh and Lochgilphead.

At the council's headquarters at Kilmory, Lochgilphead was shrouded in darkness save for one single lamp in a window, lit between 10pm and 11pm in common with thousands of others across the country, offering a collective focus for reflection.



*Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,*

Meanwhile, as well as getting started on carrying out the significant volume of research and investigation to inform the whole four-year centenary commemorative programme, the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group still had to organise the signature remembrance event for 2014 – the first of the programme and undoubtedly, therefore, significantly challenging. After some deliberation and a couple of changes in direction, the 2014 event was agreed – a commemorative parade in Oban, incorporating a drum head service.

### What is a drum head service and why was it important?

*As soldiers prepared to go into battle, it is understandable that they would wish to seek divine guidance, support and strength for the very difficult challenges that lay ahead. However, out in the field, it was not always easy or indeed possible to attend or even find a church to take some time to seek that spiritual solace. Thus, the drum head service was created – a means for military personnel to access a religious service while out in the field.*

*The padre would use the regimental drums, stacked in layers, as a temporary altar from which he could conduct that formal, familiar and comforting service for the troops before they went into battle.*

*The first recorded use of the drum head service was in the 1700s and it very soon became a firm military tradition afterwards. It remains as a means of remembrance to this day.*



As you would expect of a military parade, the Oban event was planned in great detail, with a significant number of people and organisations from all over the area who were involved. Very much a partnership event, it took place in glorious sunshine on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014.



*Oban Conflicts Memorial*

People lined the streets of Oban as representatives from the Armed Forces, and Royal British Legion branches joined Sea and Army cadets, Air Training Corps, local youth groups, veterans and volunteers from all over Argyll and Bute. With local pipers and drummers, they marched right through the streets of Oban – watched also by the crews of passing boats anchored in Oban Bay – behind the colours of the Legion and past the Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute who, flanked by senior officers of the military detachments present, took the salute.

*Fallen in the cause of the free.*

The parade continued to the town's Corran Halls where, in contrast to the pomp and pipes of their journey through the streets, its members assembled in silence around the drum head.

Hundreds watched as the Legion colours were laid with ceremony and reverence over the drum head, before the centuries-old service commenced.



*The Legion colours grace the drum head as a Royal Navy band member plays The Last Post and veterans dip their standards in respect for their predecessors who made such sacrifices a century ago.*

### **The Last Post**

In wartime, the calling of the Last Post signified that inspections were done and the camp was secure for the night. In battle, it was also a signal that fighting was over—a sign of safety and rest. It is now most familiarly used during acts of remembrance. The original words are lost, but are believed to be:

*Come home! Come home! The last post is sounding for you to hear. All good soldiers know very well there is nothing to fear while they do what is right, and forget all the worries they have met through the year. A soldier cannot always be great, but he can be a gentleman, and a right good pal to his comrades. So listen to this—Deal fair by all, and you'll never be amiss. Be brave! Be just! Be honest and true men!*

The service concluded with the always-poignant but proud tones of The Last Post, and the reading of the familiar Remembrance lines, 'They shall grow not old...' – from the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon, written and published almost 100 years previously to the day on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

The World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group met on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – pausing but briefly to reflect on a memorable and well-delivered event. There remained much to do, focusing now on arrangements for the next significant annual event one year hence in Campbeltown.

## 2015—Argyll and Bute Remembers: Battle of Loos Commemoration, Campbeltown

Throughout 2015 the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group assisted in co-ordinating Argyll and Bute's involvement in the Scotland's War project – including roadshows in communities across the area, where local people were encouraged to bring along their own family First World War stories and memorabilia.

The main 2015 event took place in September that year, with a particular focus on marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Loos where, one hundred years ago on 25th September 1915, British troops struggled over the top and faced the German lines in the first engagement of the battle.

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ARMY FORM W. 2021.

RETURN of WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS and MEN  
of the 9th Battalion, Royal Highlanders KILLED in Action  
(LIST OF CASES)  
or who have DIED whilst on Service Abroad in the WAR of 1914 to

REG. NO.	RANK	NAME IN FULL (SURNAME FIRST)	AGE*	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH†	CAUSE OF DEATH
14012	Pvt.	F. Leland, Allan	21	Scotland	26. 9. 1918	France at Belgium	Died of Wounds
14079	Sgt.	Spatt, Peter	24	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	Killed in Action
14254	Sgt.	F. Hendrick, Harry	28	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	ditto
14341	Platoon	Leckie, James	26	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	ditto
15395	Sgt.	F. Cum, William J.	25	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	ditto
17749	Pvt.	Abercromby, John D.	22	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	ditto
19998	Pvt.	Jacobsen, Thomas	21	ditto	26. 10. 1918	ditto	Died of Wounds
40720	Pvt.	Walker, Robert	22	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	Killed in Action
4662	Pvt.	McDonald, Robert	33	ditto	25. 9. 1918	ditto	ditto

*Extract from list of regimental losses at Loos*

This battle, fought among an area of French coalmines and mining villages, saw extremely high numbers of British casualties – many thousands from Scotland, and half of the 72 battalions engaged being Scottish. Not a corner of Scotland was left untouched by loss.

Campbeltown commemorated the bravery of those who fought valiantly at Loos, and the terrible losses, with a weekend of events from 23rd to 27th September 2015, planned and presented by a sub-committee of local people led by Alastair Cousin, retired veterinary surgeon.

This included a very well attended exhibition outlining the full story of Loos and the contribution made by soldiers from Argyll and Bute, talks with historians from the Scotland's War Project and displays of local collections of artefacts and remembrance projects created by local schoolchildren, community and youth groups. The signature event was a Beating Retreat service at Campbeltown's New Quay Head on Wednesday 23rd September 2015. On a cold, clear evening, the first class performances of both Campbeltown Brass and Kintyre Schools Pipe Band made for a reflective and poignant remembrance of a major wartime tragedy.

### **The significance of the Beating Retreat**

This military ceremony dates back to the 16th century and was originally used to recall patrolling units back to their castle, fortress or camp. The beating of drums and parading of post guards signalled that the camp gates were to be closed and flags lowered at the end of the day.

Traditionally it involved the firing of a single round from the evening gun at sunset.

An order from the army of James VI of Scotland and II of England in June 1690 had his drums beating an order for his troops to retreat. A later example, from William III in 1694, read:

'The Drum Major and Drummers of the Regiment which gives a Captain of the Main Guard are to beat the Retreat through the large street, or as may be ordered. They are to be answered by all the drummers of the guards, and by four Drummers of each Regiment in their respective Quarters'.

Today Beating Retreat is one of the armed forces' most magnificent ceremonial activities—including the major events in Horse Guards Parade, London where the salute is taken by HM The Queen.

*Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.*



## 2016—Argyll and Bute Remembers: Battle of Jutland Commemoration, Helensburgh

2016 was the mid-point of the centenary period, and this year it was the turn of Helensburgh to host Argyll and Bute's main commemorative event. Fittingly for the town which plays home to HM Naval Base Clyde, this event marked the First World War's only full-scale clash of battleships—the Battle of Jutland. Hundreds gathered for a fine military spectacle in glorious sunshine on Saturday 14th May 2016.

This latest commemoration was a wonderful example of the partnership working, skills, knowledge and experience now very finely honed by the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group who, for this particular event, were liaising also with the Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, Rear Admiral Michael Gregory OBE.

He was joined by Patrick Stewart, Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Provost Len Scoullar, and the then Commander of HM Naval Base Clyde, Mark Gayfer, to take the salute for the event parade when it reached Colquhoun Square—and what a parade it was.



*The parade in Colquhoun Square*



*Rear Admiral Michael Gregory*

Military veterans joined young cadets and serving sailors and soldiers for a very fitting public acknowledgement of the sacrifice made by many thousands of sailors 100 years ago.

HMS Neptune Volunteer Band led a sizeable cotillion on parade through the town and under the watchful gaze of two Lord-Lieutenants, a Provost and a Base Commander—a daunting prospect but one that all involved carried off with utter military precision and considerable aplomb.

Behind the band were a marching platoon from HM Naval Base Clyde, the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards, and D Company, 51 Highland, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

They were closely followed by proud veterans from across the country, representing Royal British Legion Scotland, the Submarine Association, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Association, the Royal Navy Association and the Royal Marines Association. Bringing some local flavour were the Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band, who were joined by local Sea and Army Cadets, Scouts, Guides and Brownies. When the parade reached Colquhoun Square, the Rev. Neil Allison and RN Chaplain Rev Mark Dalton, assisted by local schoolchildren, conducted a drum head service—a solemn contrast to the pomp of the parade.

*There is music in the midst of desolation*



Coupled with the parade, a two-day exhibition curated by Eleanor McKay of the council's Library Services (later Live Argyll Libraries) was mounted in the town's Victoria Halls. This gave an extensive explanation of the Battle of Jutland and other naval connections with the First World War. This included the ship's bell of HMS Valiant, a Queen Elizabeth class battleship, which served in the Battle of Jutland.

### **Battle of Jutland—key facts**

The Battle of Jutland, as noted above, was one of World War 1's major naval battles, taking place in the North Sea near the Danish Jutland peninsula from 31st May to 1st June 1916. The British Grand Fleet clashed heavily with the Imperial German Navy's High Seas Fleet, resulting in 9,823 sailors from both sides being killed in battle at sea.

The battle was a very significant one in the overall context. Both sides claimed they had won the Battle of Jutland—Britain lost more ships but did retain command of the sea when Germany retreated to its harbours. It informed policy on both sides—after Jutland, the Germans focused on submarine warfare and this ultimately played a part in the United States of America declaring war on Germany and providing support to the Allies.

*And a glory that shines upon our tears*

## 2017—Argyll and Bute Remembers: Cowal—A Call to Arms events

Under the auspices of the WW1 Commemoration Steering Group, a local team arranged a week-long exhibition recording the county's contribution to the war effort. Led by Ann Galliard (local historian) and Eleanor McKay, *Cowal - A Call to Arms* was supported by a large number of enthusiastic volunteers and also incorporated a two-day conference focusing on WWI topics, culminating in a military parade and service.

The event focused on the local contribution made during the war, helping people to discover the impact of the war on the Cowal community and to reflect on what could be learned from 'the war to end all wars'. The organisers encouraged a wide participation of members of the community who contributed local stories, photographs and records of people and events.

The exhibition comprised information and artefacts pertaining to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Argyll and Bute Mountain Batteries, Women at War, the contribution of the Duchess of Argyll, Princess Louise, the Duke of Argyll and the Campbell family, individuals who served in the forces and as volunteers, Local Heroes, the Bedford Training Camp, War Memorials and the Home Front.

While military matters were strongly featured, the event also addressed the changes to everyday life of the population during 1914-1918, such as women's suffrage. An afternoon lecture related the story of an army unit of Canadian First Nation men who developed a special relationship with Scotland, providing funding for veteran housing.

Films and artwork also featured. The local cinema showed WWI themed films, such as *War Horse*, with the majority of local schools and organisations attending. An evening showing of a remastered 1923 film, *A Couple of Down and Outs*, told the moving story of the 'original' war horse. Artwork was contributed by schools and the local art club.



*Right—Participants in the suffragette section.*

*Below—some of the local schoolchildren who took part.*



A two day conference, with speakers of national renown, was well attended. The event was officially opened by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, former Defence Secretary of the UK and Secretary General of NATO, who congratulated the children from the nine local schools who participated in the event and he commented on their appreciation of the message concerning the wider impact of war.

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,*



*The war impact was highlighted through film, music and drama.*

A 'concert party' provided musical entertainment and a specially commissioned play - *Home Fires Broken Sons* - was performed for delegates and the public.

Cowal's commemoration concluded with a military parade through Dunoon, comprising a contingent from 207 (City of Glasgow) Battery, 105th Regiment Royal Artillery, the successors of the Argyll and Bute Mounting Batteries, alongside cadets and veterans. The week's events were very much a community effort and the result of the hard work and commitment of many groups and individual volunteers.



A record 1,382 visitors came to look at the exhibition which featured as part of the week-long *Cowal—A Call To Arms* programme. As well as art works, there were numerous artefacts relating to regiments with local links as well as stories and memories from local people who played a part in Cowal's war effort.



*Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.*

## 2018—Argyll and Bute Remembers: Islay—SS *Tuscania* and HMS *Otranto*

Argyll and Bute's 2018 signature event had a particular significance—it would also be one of the key national commemorative events and would require partnership working right across the globe. At its heart was the story of how one remote Argyll and Bute island community responded to international tragedies on its own shores. Over the course of 2018 the residents of Islay, young and old, would mirror the compassion shown by their forebears when they responded to the sinking of SS *Tuscania* and HMS *Otranto* in 1918.



### SS *Tuscania*—5th February 1918

*An Islay piper plays at the Mull of Oa with HMS Montrose, FGS Lubeck and USS Ross in the background*

Carrying over 2000 US Army personnel to join the battlefields in Europe, SS *Tuscania* was on its way from New Jersey to Liverpool when it was torpedoed by German submarine UB-77, sinking between Islay and Northern Ireland on 5 February 1918. More than 210 British crew and American soldiers on board the *Tuscania* perished, many washing up on Islay's shores.

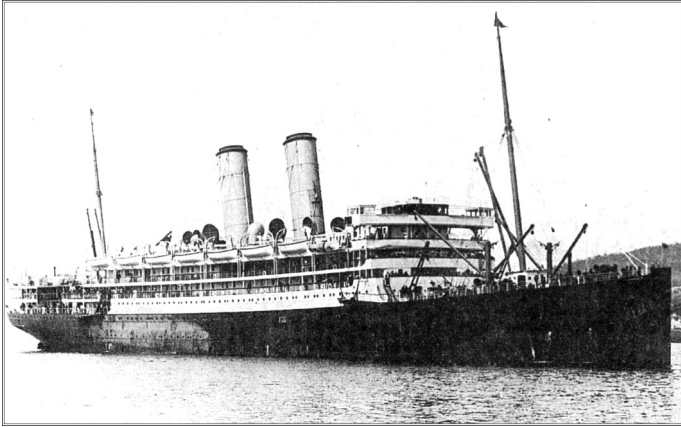
A Stars and Stripes U.S. flag was produced overnight on the island of Islay so that the American soldiers who died after the sinking of the SS *Tuscania* could be buried with honour under their own flag. It was made by four women and one man – Jessie McLellan, Mary Cunningham, Catherine McGregor, Mary Armour, and John McDougall – who worked through the night, completing it around 2.00am just ahead of the first American funeral held on Islay



Following the funerals the flag was sent to President Woodrow Wilson and is now in the collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. The flag was returned to Islay, on loan to the Museum of Islay Life, ahead of the WW100 Scotland National Day of Remembrance held on Islay on May 4—a poignant reminder of compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.

*They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,*

## HMS Otranto—6th October 2018



Tragedy was to strike Islay again 8 months later when, during high winds and heavy seas, the HMS *Otranto* collided with another vessel in her convoy, a few miles off the rocky coast of Islay.

The impact punched a huge hole in the *Otranto*, from below the waterline up to the boat deck. The resulting flooding and loss of power resulted in the ship drifting towards the cliffs of Islay where it

Despite the daring rescue of almost 600 people by the British destroyer HMS *Mounsey*, around 489 remained on board. About three hours after the collision, a large wave dropped the *Otranto* onto "Old Women's Reef". Such was the ferocity of the storm the ship quickly broke in half and tragically only 21 men made it to shore.

### Commemorations

One hundred years on from those events the people of Islay once again rose to the challenge in an inspirational way by supporting an ambitious programme of local events.



### WW100 Islay—3rd and 4th May 2018



The memorial events started with a service at sea on 3rd May when Lord Robertson of Port Ellen laid a wreath over the wreck of SS *Tuscania*.

Early on the morning of 4th May, the Lord-Lieutenant, representatives from the Royal and US Navies, the British Legion and the local community, assembled at the American Monument on the OA for a short service of commemoration and rededication.

At midday a service was held at the Port Ellen War Memorial, attended by HRH the Princess Royal and her husband Sir Tim Laurence, Vice Chair of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, US Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Secretary David Mundell, Lord Provost of Argyll and Bute, Len Scoullar and Professor Norman Drummond.

*They fell with their faces to the foe.*



HRH the Princess Royal and her husband Sir Tim Laurence undertook a number of tributes as part of the event which was also attended by a wide range of senior representatives from the UK, the USA, France and Germany as well as members of a wide range of communities across Islay and descendants of those people involved in the tragedy at the time. In addition to the memorial services these tributes included visits to the Commonwealth and other war graves and the planting of new woods undertaken in conjunction with the Woodlands Trust at Bruichladdich and Dunlossit. They also met with descendants of survivors, those lost in the tragedies, and the islanders who had provided such selfless service to both the drowned and the saved.



The events on 4th May commemorated the sacrifice and bravery of the American Troops, British Crews of the SS *Tuscania* and HMS *Otranto* and the Islay people involved in the response to the sinkings. Remembrance of Islay's wider losses in WW1 was also integral to the event as remembrance and commemoration is but one element and it was considered equally important to reflect on the events 100 years ago to consider what might be learned from these events.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:*



At the service, schoolchildren from Bowmore, Keills, Port Charlotte and Port Ellen Primary Schools and Islay High School, paraded through Port Ellen, led by the Islay Pipe Band, with flags representing the 41 States who lost men in the sinkings of the *Tuscania* and *Otranto*. Organised by Islay Quilters, the flags were sewn by them, the community, school children, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. Included in the parade were also five figurines from an art installation on display in Ramsay Hall. Islay Visual Arts' concept saw schoolchildren make 1,000 figurines representing those lost in the troop ships' sinkings and the local Islay and Jura men who lost their lives in World War One.

In the afternoon the Royal Marine Band of Flag Officer Scotland beat the retreat on Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen.

## Testimonials

### **Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen:**

*A peaceful, rural community rose to the immense challenge of the tragedies. From the compassion of those with so little themselves...and unable to bury their own fallen, the islanders tenderly laid the Americans to rest.*

### **Scottish Secretary David Mundell:**

*We all have a duty to tell the stories of those who lived and fought in WW1, to keep the memories of them and their sacrifice alive. I am very honoured to be able to pay tribute to Islay, its people and its history.*

### **Provost Len Scoullar:**

*It is a privilege to see islanders, descendants of those involved in the events of 1918, and visitors, all coming together to pay tribute today, one hundred years on.*

### **US Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson:**

*It is humbling to come to Islay to honour those who lost their lives in the service of our nation. The American people will always remember their great sacrifice, just as we will always remember the solidarity of the people of Islay who stood beside us in that time of tragedy.*

### **Professor Norman Drummond, WW100:**

*This has been a very fitting tribute to those caught up in the tragedies of 100 years ago. It has been an honour to welcome an international audience to this very special commemorative event.*

### **Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs:**

*The way the islands coped with these tragedies was truly remarkable, and the legacy it leaves is reflected in the international representation today. I am confident that this is a story which will continue to be told long after this centenary.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*



## The Victoria Cross Paving Stones Programme



Part of the UK Government's national WW1 Centenary Commemoration Campaign was the Victoria Cross Paving Stones programme—an initiative which would see commemorative paving stones laid at places of significance for the 628 British servicemen who received the highest military honour for courage while in contact with the enemy.

Argyll and Bute is home to four First World War Victoria Cross recipients. The World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group and officers from across Argyll and Bute Council services worked with families and local communities to identify appropriate locations, specifications and timings for laying these very special permanent commemorative stones. Below you can find out more about these brave Argyll men, the actions which led to their VC award, and the ceremonies which took place a hundred years later to mark their heroism.

### Lieutenant John Reginald Noble Graham VC

John Reginald Noble Graham was born in Calcutta, India on 17th September 1892. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Fred Graham. His parents resided at Darleith in Cardross.

He served in the 9th Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during World War I. On 22nd April 1917 at Istabulat, Mesopotamia, Lieutenant Graham was in command of a machine gun section which came under heavy enemy fire causing many casualties amongst his men.

Despite being wounded himself, he carried the ammunition to enable the one remaining gun he was operating to provide accurate fire on the enemy. This gun was then damaged and he was wounded. He brought a Lewis gun into action with excellent effect until all the ammunition had been expended. He was wounded again and forced to retire from the battlefield.

He died in Edinburgh on 6th December 1980. His VC is held at the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum at Stirling.



### Commemoration—25th April 2017

On 25th April 2017, the Lord-Lieutenant for Dunbartonshire, Rear Admiral Michael Gregory OBE, unveiled the commemorative stone for Lt Graham VC at Cardross War Memorial.

A number of Lt Graham's family, including his son, grandson and great-grandson, a serving officer in the Argylls, were in attendance, along with regimental representatives.



George Henry T. Paton.

### **Acting Captain George Henry Tatham Paton VC MC**

George Henry Tatham Paton was born in Innellan on 3rd October 1895.

He was commissioned into the army on 1st October 1914 and was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 17th (Territorial) Battalion of the London Regiment, also known as the Poplar and Stepney Rifles.

In early 1916 he was transferred to the 4th Battalion of the Grenadier Guards which dealt with cutting through barricades and obstructions in the trenches and used hand grenades and rifle grenades as weapons.

On 1st December 1917 at Gonnellieu in France, Acting Captain Paton found his unit's left flank exposed when another unit had been driven back by the enemy. He readjusted the line trench by trench whilst under enemy fire and he made contact with No. 3 Company who were without officers at this point in the battle. He rescued several wounded men and after four counter attacks by the enemy, was mortally wounded.

He is buried in Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery, France and his Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously. He was also a recipient of the Military Cross. His parents went to Buckingham Palace on 2nd March 1918 to be presented with his VC.

George's name appears on both the Dunoon War Memorial and the memorial at Innellan, as well as other locations in the UK.

#### **Commemoration—1st December 2017**

On Friday 1st December 2017, a moving ceremony took place at Innellan to commemorate the centenary, to the day, of the brave actions of George Paton which led to the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross.

The photograph opposite shows, from the back and facing Innellan War Memorial, Lord-Lieutenant Patrick Stewart, Provost Len Scoullar, the Very Rev Andrew Swift DL and Lord Strange, representing the regiment. From the right, facing the commemorative paving stone, are members of Captain Paton's family, who travelled from across the UK and the USA to lay a wreath in his memory.



## Acting Captain David Lowe MacIntyre VC

David Lowe MacIntyre was born at Portnahaven, Isle of Islay on 18th June 1895.

He served as a Lieutenant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the First World War. Whilst serving in France at Henin and Croisilles-les-Fontaine, and under constant enemy heavy shelling, he remained calm and inspired confidence in all ranks. He organised a party of men to deal with extra strong barricades and move the line forward. Whilst under command of the firing line, he supervised the making of gaps in the barricades and he single-handedly rushed enemy soldiers, putting them and their guns out of action.

He survived the war and died in Edinburgh on 31st July 1967. His medals are held at the National War Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



### Commemoration—26th August 2018



*Left, the Provost of Argyll and Bute addresses those gathered on Islay; right, David Lowe MacIntyre's commemorative paving stone overlooking picturesque Portnahaven.*

On 24 August 2018, David Lowe MacIntyre's family, Islay residents and representatives from the Council, including the Provost and the Army and Veterans' Associations attended at Portnahaven to commemorate the award of the Victoria Cross to Lt MacIntyre.

The Lord-Lieutenant spoke of Lt MacIntyre's courageous actions near Arras during two days of attacks on the massive fortifications of the Hindenburg Line. Lt Col Mark Haber USAF (Ret'd), married to Lt MacIntyre's granddaughter, read the citation for the VC while his grandson, David Campbell, read a resume of his grandfather's life.

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;*



### Acting Captain George de Cardonnel Elmsall Findlay VC MC

George de Cardonnel Elmsall Findlay was born on 20th August 1889 at Leabank in Cardross. He was the fourth child of Major Robert Elmsall Findlay and Mrs Jane Cecilia Louise Findlay. He was brought up at his parent's home, Boturich Castle, near Balloch.

He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in January 1910. All four of the Findlay's sons served in the First World War.

In June 1917 he was a Captain in the 409th (Lowland) Field Company, Royal Engineers, Territorial Force.

His actions at the Battle of Passchendaele saw him awarded the Military Cross and bar for gallantry. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in action. On 4th November 1918 Acting Major Findlay was leading bridging parties during the forcing of the Sambre-Oise Canal Lock near Catillon in France. The advance came under heavy fire and was halted due to the large number of casualties. Despite this he was able to gather together a few men and repair the bridges whilst under constant fire. He was wounded but continued with the task until he was able to use the crossing again, being the first man across.

He remained serving in the Army until he retired in 1938. In 1941 he was elected to represent the Cardross and Craighendran Ward within Dunbartonshire County Council. He served for 23 years in this capacity. In 1957 he was appointed a Depute Lieutenant of the County. He also served as President of the Helensburgh branch of the British Legion for a number of years.

George Findlay VC died on 26th June 1967 and he is buried at Kilmaronock Churchyard near Gartocharn.

### Commemoration—4th November 2018

Members of the Findlay family came to Helensburgh from all over the country on Sunday 4th November. They gathered at George Findlay's former home, Drumfork House, joined by the Lord-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, the Provost of Argyll and Bute, representatives from the Royal Engineers and local residents, to witness the unveiling of Argyll and Bute's fourth and final VC commemorative paving stone (see right). The current owners of Drumfork House had given their permission for the stone to be laid at the gateway.

With wreaths laid by the family and Royal Engineers, a lone bugler and prayers, there was solemnity in the sunshine - an opportunity to reflect not only on George Findlay's bravery but also on those who did not return.



*They sit no more at familiar tables of home;*

## **Keeping memories alive: centenary commemorative exhibitions and roadshows**

Live Argyll Library Service (formerly Argyll and Bute Council's Library Service) is a partner in the Scotland's War Project. Over the four-year centenary period it has worked with local groups and historians and the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group to produce a series of informative touring exhibitions and roadshows right across the Argyll and Bute area. Wherever possible these have featured local stories, links and artefacts, and have played a key part in ensuring Argyll and Bute remembers.

### **Healing Hands on the Home Front: the work of local auxiliary hospitals in the First World War**



This exhibition featured many images from a photograph album of staff and patients from Hermitage House in Helensburgh, images and information about the hospital at Mount Stuart on Bute documented by the Marchioness of Bute, and photographs and documents from Letters Lodge in Strachur. The exhibition toured local libraries and was incorporated in the events in Campbeltown, Helensburgh and Dunoon.



### **Bedford, Battalions and Brave Battles: the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and their training camp at Bedford prior to going to war**

The territorial forces of the Highland regiments descended on the town of Bedford for training before they left for the Front – at the height of the recruitment campaign, as many as 22,000 men were billeted there. The exhibition drew heavily on research by Bedford historian, Richard Galley, describing life – military and social - at the training camp, with a feature on Private Hugh McArthur of Islay and Private Charles Doig of Cardross.



*They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;*

## Air Ace of Argyll: airships in World War 1 and the story of Major J G Struthers



In the centenary year of the forming of the RAF, we have taken a look at the First World War as seen from the skies, through the earlier work of the Royal Naval Air Service. Airships played a vital role in reconnaissance, protecting naval forces and submarine hunting (and attacking). In particular, this exhibition focuses on the merits and bravery of a local hero, Major James Gardner Struthers, who is credited with completing more flying hours than any other airship pilot and was awarded the DSC with two bars.

The exhibition comprised photographs, papers and documents as well as original artefacts belonging to Major Struthers, kindly loaned by his son, Charles Struthers, who is a member of the WW1 Commemoration Steering Group.



### Battle of Loos Commemoration , Campbeltown, September 2015

### Battle of Jutland Remembrance Parade, Helensburgh, June 2016

Earlier in this booklet you will have read about the major events in both 2015 and 2016 in Campbeltown and Helensburgh respectively. Each was accompanied by a local exhibition, facilitated by the Library Service, which incorporated numerous displays alongside local interest exhibits and stories, and which were extremely well supported and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.



*They sleep beyond [the country's] foam.*

## Commemoration in our schools: how Argyll and Bute's young people are remembering

Schools across Argyll and Bute, over the four year centenary period, took part in and carried out a number of commemoration activities, both inside and outside the classroom. In the pages to follow you can read about a selection of school activities across the area.

### Arrochar Primary School

Arrochar Primary School worked with members of the community, including the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group to produce a World War 1 commemoration booklet. The booklet introduced what school was like for the children growing up in Arrochar during WW1 and introduced each of the 16 local men who perished in WW1.

The primary school also worked with a local potter, to design and produce 23 clay poppies which were dried and coloured. These were then included on to an iron wreath. The 23 poppies were arranged on the wreath as this was the total number of local men who lost their life in World War 1 and World War 2 - 16 perished in WW1 and seven in WW2.



### Hermitage Academy

Hermitage Academy undertook a wide range of activities to commemorate the centenary period of WW1.

The school has taken two excursions to visit the WW1 Battlefields in Belgium and France with the most recent visit taking place in June 2018. Pupil responded that these excursions had a very deep and meaningful impact on them.

The Academy also undertook several trips to visit the Pollok Park to visit the WW1 'Digging In' experience. This was very well received and gave pupils the opportunity to experience a reconstructed WW1 trench first-hand.

Finally, to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the end of WW1 an interdisciplinary project is in development in late 2018 that will both raise awareness of this event and develop knowledge and understanding amongst junior school pupils of WW1. This will incorporate experiences and outcomes from 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> level including literacy, numeracy and social subjects. Junior school pupils will also lead remembrance assemblies within the school to further mark this occasion.

*But where our desires are and our hopes profound,*



### Rothesay Academy

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, 40 students from Rothesay Academy embarked on a weeklong visit to Ypres, the Somme and surrounding areas to commemorate the 100 year centenary of the First World War.

Prior to the trip students had worked with members of the local community to find connections between soldiers from Bute and the places we were about to visit. The pupils found pictures of the fallen soldiers which they took with them to lay at their final resting place alongside a poppy marker.

Whilst on the trip the students visited Passchendaele museum. Here they were able to see one of the footballs that McCraes battalion (Hearts Football team) kicked across the battlefield at the Somme. They also got to smell the types of gas used during the war as well as experience trenches and dug outs. Tyne Cot was the first of many visits to war cemeteries. Among the thousands of graves there pupils were able to find some men from Bute who had fought on or near the site, here they laid their photograph so that others could see the individual not just a name.

Pupils also visited the shooting post at Poperinghe, Sanctuary Wood, the dressing station and the exhibition in the Cloth Hall, Ypres which told many individuals stories and showed how war affected everyone. They also travelled to the Somme battle field, visiting Vimy Ridge and the trenches before locating the site where the Scots fought. Students laid a wreath to remember all of those who had fallen during this major offensive.

They also had the opportunity to participate in the Menin Gate Ceremony, which takes place every night at 8pm. Three pupils from the group laid a wreath on behalf of the students of Rothesay Joint Campus and the whole community.

Students who took part in the trip now have a better understanding of the part played by the local community. The lessons learned from this trip will be shared during the Remembrance service in November 2018.





## Oban High School



Oban High school pupils have participated in a number of events commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

Paramount in these have been long standing and very popular Battlefields trips. Many pupils have benefited from such trips especially over the centenary where pupils have witnessed extended ceremonies at the Menin gate. Now a regular feature of the tour of the Somme area is a visit to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' memorial at Beaumont Hamel.

Visits to these men's graves allows pupils to make connections with their home town and villages and to reflect on the sacrifice made by so many at the time. During one such visit a local lady asked us to place a ceramic poppy, from the Tower of London memorial "Blood Swept Lands", on a grave in memory of her great uncle who fought and died at the Somme.

Described as 'sobering', 'very emotional' and 'very special' part of the pupils visit involved visiting the graves and memorials to the relatives of Oban High School pupils. This has had a huge impact on the pupils directly involved and indeed the others on the trip.



In recent years pupils from the Oban High School Pipe band have been in attendance. On each occasion these pupils played at special places, the Highland 51st Memorial at Newfoundland Park, and when we have had our own remembrance ceremony on the last evening - powerful and emotional moments that pupils will never forget.

Pupils who participated in the trip are given the opportunity to lead the whole school remembrance service in November when they can share a deeply personal response to their visit with other pupils. Following on from this pupils also use their experience to engage with the local community when they visit local elderly groups and friendship groups to talk about their experiences which are always well received.

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*To the innermost heart of their own land they are known*

## Islay and Jura schools

School pupils on Islay and Jura learnt about the heroic and inspiring actions of islanders during World War 1.

Leading up to the 100th anniversary pupils from every primary school on Islay and Jura, as well as Islay High School, worked on a joint project as part of the 'WW100 Islay' commemorations.

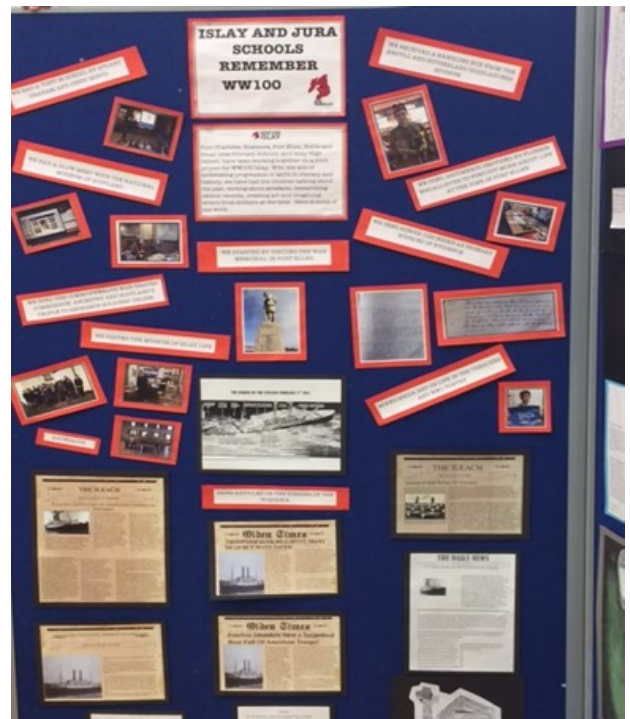
They have been talking about the past, writing about artefacts, researching census records, creating art and poetry and even taking themselves back in time by imagining and writing letters from soldiers at the time.



Visits to the Islay Museum and war memorials also helped the children to better understand the tragic impact of the war and the heroic actions of local people, all with the aim of educating and allowing them to reflect on the events and understand the reconciliation that has taken place since.

Jo Clark, a teacher at Port Ellen Primary School, said: "The children at all of the schools have worked very hard on this project, carrying out research and then using that information and their imaginations to create wonderful works of art.

"We have been very fortunate to work with the local museum and the National Museum of Scotland on this project, and have also had excellent help from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlander's Museum. Jenni Minto and Stuart Graham from the Museum of Islay Life visited our school and gave a brilliant presentation on the sinking of the *Otranto* and *Tuscania*, which was invaluable for the pupils."



The children's artworks (see one example at the top of this page) were used as part of the International Service of Remembrance for the SS *Tuscania* and the HMS *Otranto*.

On the day, pupils from all of the schools marched in the parade carrying the flags of the US states, some of which they helped make for the Islay Quilters.

## Tiree High School

In 2014 first, second and third year Tiree High School pupils undertook a project focusing on World War 1 and its impact on the Island, the lessons learnt were then fed into the remembrance service of that year.

Throughout the Tiree High School Curriculum pupils have been exposed to the stories of World War 1. For example in History pupils learned about why the War broke out to the Treaty of Versailles. In English pupils have read 'Stay where you are and then leave' by John Boyne, focussing on bravery and cowardice, war work and shell shock and have studied the poem, 'In Flanders Field'. In Art, the S3 made posters depicting imagery from WW1 to display at remembrance services.

In Gaelic, S3 considered what they have learnt from studying WW1 including reflecting on such questions as what kind of people are we 100 years on? Would I have gone to war? What would the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in WWI think of the society they died for today?

In September 2018 a lunch time film club was started, where pupils were given the opportunity to view My Boy Jack, Private Peaceful and War Horse. The following month First and Second year pupils visited Edinburgh Castle, the War Museum and the War Memorial.

Commemoration activity at Tiree High School will continue beyond 2018. In 2019 the majority of the school will visit the battlefields in France including the Somme.

## Easdale Primary School

Helen Glennie, Ron Hetherington and Colonel Tim Sinclair visited Easdale Primary School to deliver a presentation on Remembrance and showed the pupils a display.

The pupils were told about some of the people who were from Seil, Easdale and Luing who died in World War 1 and the story behind why they wore poppies.

On 11th November each year pupils hold a Remembrance service. Local members of the British Legion join the pupils as well as some parents. Visitors to the school are encouraged to view the display and children learn and talk about those lost in the war.



## Lochgilphead High School

First and Second year students at Lochgilphead High School researched various WW1 related topics.

These included WW1 Innovations, Children and The Arts and Sport, in preparation for the Remembrance 100 Assembly which was held on Friday 9th November.



A fourth year student, Alan Cameron, led a project to bury a time capsule as part of his National 5 Personal Development Award (PDA). The items placed within the time capsule were selected to mark the centenary for future generations in Lochgilphead. Alan worked with pupils in other year groups to identify a selection of items which may be of interest to people in the future. He included some of the project work that S1 pupils have been doing on the First World War.



The time capsule will contain newspapers, photos, examples of popular toys, cinema tickets, coins, a school tie and timetable, and a fidget spinner!

It will be buried in Blarbuie Woods, Lochgilphead and will be opened in 2068.

Lochgilphead High School also welcomed visitors from Malawi who spoke to first year students on Malawi's participation in WW1.

## 'We will remember them': the legacy of Argyll and Bute's centenary commemorations

Over the four-year World War 1 centenary period, Argyll and Bute Council, with and through the World War 1 Commemoration Steering Group and actively engaging with young and old alike in local communities, has supported various individuals and organisations to deliver an inspirational and ambitious programme of commemoration events and acts of remembrance. A key element of this has been ensuring that the benefits outlast the events themselves and provide a lasting legacy for Argyll and Bute's communities.

### Islay

The Islay event created a palpable sense of pride and sense of place exhibited by the islanders in reflecting on their past and building on this through new partnerships for the future which ultimately will be an ongoing tribute. Some of the other activities included:

- WW100 Trail is being developed. The trail will identify and mark significant WW1 sites across Islay with discreet WW100 Islay plaques supported by a website and printed brochure. Incorporated into this is a collaboration with the RSPB to improve the interpretation panels around the American Monument and will also tell personal stories from both American servicemen and Islay people.
- All war memorials cleaned and lettering redone.



WW100 trail markers

- Events organised by the local WW100 Islay Group, linked to the Tuscania and Otranto commemorations were the focus of two BBC documentaries and national TV coverage.
- The American Monument is now scheduled by Historic Environment Scotland.
- Historical and cultural links with the return of the original American flag made by islanders in 1918 and the modern recreation produced by Islay Quilters in 2018.
- Community garden project and ongoing involvement with a range of island charities.
- Two WW100 woodlands are being planted at Bruichladdich and Storakaig, Dunlossit—12,000 trees, four for each island resident.

*As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,*

## Victoria Cross Paving Stone Programme



The laying of four Victoria Cross Paving Stones in Cardross, Helensburgh, Innellan and Portnahaven has enabled residents to gain a greater understanding of how Argyll and Bute fitted into the First World War story. The paving stones will remind residents and future residents of the local heroes within our communities and will serve as a focus point for future commemorative events

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## The work of the Live Argyll Library Service (formerly Argyll and Bute Library Service)

Over the course of 18 months a series of World War I Roadshows took place in libraries throughout Argyll and Bute. These events comprised an evening talk by Yvonne McEwen, WWI historian and researcher, focusing on the Scotland's War website and a Saturday morning drop in session for people to bring WWI documents, photographs and artefacts.

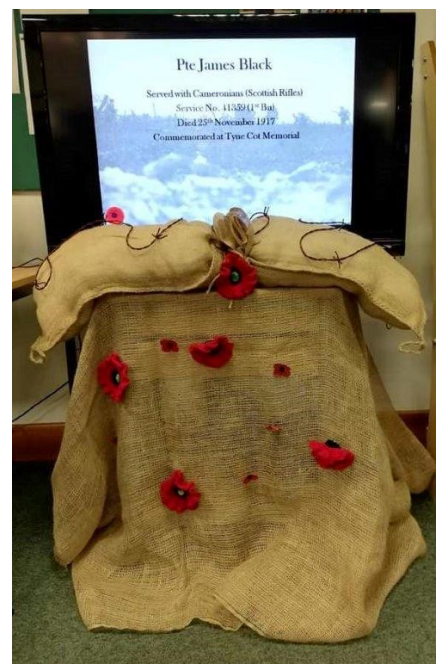
The drop-in sessions were along the lines of an antiques roadshow where Yvonne gave advice and information on the items submitted. All items were photographed or scanned with owners' permission and the images will be used for future events, as well as being archived as part of the local collection. Some have already been incorporated in exhibitions.



The service is a partner in the Scotland's War project, which is run as an independent charitable trust. Information about local participation in WW1 has been uploaded to the website under topical headings on pages specific to Argyll and Bute and these will continue to be populated over the coming years.

Many local societies and communities have done work on their local war memorials and produced booklets giving details about the servicemen and women whose names appear on the memorials. Work is ongoing to identify these publications and obtain copies to be held in the Library Service's Local Collection.

A complete list of all the memorials in Argyll and Bute has been compiled and work is continuing to research the memorials not completed by local groups. Some of this work has been undertaken by volunteers and the remaining memorials are being researched and recorded by library staff.



*To the end, to the end, they remain.*

## Cowal: A Call to Arms



Alongside the numerous positive relationships which blossomed before, during and after *A Call to Arms*, the messages and stories from the programme enthused a new generation of people to carry out their own WW1 research.

The organisers remain delighted in the marked upsurge in interest in carrying out investigations encouraged by the programme of events. More people are finding out about their own families or people with local links who were involved in the war.

They are developing proposals to make this research publicly available, to complement the research carried out for the event itself.

The Cowal commemorative parade, like the one in Oban in 2014, was captured on film, opening up access to other people unable to attend and, crucially, preserving it for future generations



## Remembrance 2018

Across the United Kingdom, Remembrance Sunday is marked by ceremonies at local war memorials in most cities, towns and villages. Wreaths of remembrance poppies are laid on the memorials and two minutes' silence is held at 11am. The silence represents the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, when the guns of Europe fell silent.

On 11th November 2018 the villages and towns of Argyll and Bute fell silent to mark 100 years since the signing of the Armistice.

### Rothesay, Isle of Bute



The Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant Patrick Stewart joined residents of Bute who gathered together at the War Memorial on Victoria Street, Rothesay, laying wreaths of remembrance poppies.

Several Rothesay organisations also agreed to participate in Poppy Scotland's "Light up red" campaign. This saw local buildings and landmarks throughout the Isle of Bute illuminated in red as a as a sombre mark or remembrance and respect to the First World War generation who served, sacrificed, and changed our world forever.

A total of 16 venues on the Isle of Bute agreed to take part including Rothesay Castle and Mount Stuart House.



### Dunoon Community Council



Dunoon Community Council participated in Battle's Over, an international commemoration marking 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.

At 6.55pm a bugler played The Last Post with a beacon lit at 7pm on top of Castle Hill to the lament of a lone piper. The lit beacon was chosen to signify the light of peace that emerged from the darkness of four years of war.



## Colintraive and Glendaruel Community Council



In advance of Remembrance Sunday Colintraive and Glendaruel Community Council worked with pupils from Kilmodan Primary School to paint and varnish poppies on pebbles.

During the evening a beacon was lit on the shore and the school children read out the roll of honour as they built a small cairn in front of the beacon. The cairn would later be moved and the stones placed around the memorial at Colintraive Church.

Due to the heavy rain the piper played “Flowers of the Forest” in the village hall whilst a two minute silence was observed.

The ColGlen chorus led some community singing of popular World War 1 songs (see above) and a film “When will the War be by?” was also shown.



## Strachur Community Council



Strachur Community Council hosted an afternoon commemorative event in Strachur Memorial Hall, at which a new commemorative plaque was unveiled. This plaque, which celebrates the centenary of the armistice, was commissioned by the Community Council and made by Eric Large, Dunoon (shown left with piper Jamie Campbell). It will be installed in a permanent location that has still to be decided.

## Ardrishaig Community Council



In gratitude to all those who sacrificed their lives in conflicts in both World Wars and others, Ardrishaig Community Council paid tribute to those who died from Ardrishaig by erecting a silhouette of a 6ft soldier standing guard at the side of the War Memorial.

## Connel Community Council

Connel Community Council hosted a lunch for over one hundred people in the Village Hall to commemorate the huge sacrifices made by men and women, and animals, during the First World War.

Following lunch a programme of events was held, which included poetry and a letter from the trenches, which spoke of the terrible hardship men faced; being read to the assembled audience.



***These are only some of the ways that communities across Argyll and Bute marked the First World War Centenary and Remembrance Day in 2018.***

***Thank you to those who provided information and photographs for inclusion here.***

## Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute Armistice Bonfire—Kintyre

As Armistice Day 2018 drew to a conclusion following Remembrance services and national bell-ringing, a nationwide chain of bonfires was lit, one for each UK Lieutenancy. The bonfire for Argyll and Bute which was constructed by RDS Forestry of Tarbert and Stirling, with material donated by AM Transport of Campbeltown and CS Wind Towers of Machrihanish, was lit at the ordained time of 7pm. The photograph, courtesy of the Campbeltown Courier, shows the Lord-Lieutenant and his wife Mary Anne silhouetted by the huge bonfire which it was hoped would be seen also in Ayrshire, Wigtownshire, and Co Antrim.



## Strengthening links—Cowal and Bedfordshire



To reinforce the link established between Bedford and Argyll and Bute at the 2017 Cowal exhibition, the Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, travelled to Bedford for a commemoration event on Sunday 4th November. There, he joined the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs Helen Nellis, at a ceremony in the town. This was well attended, drawing representatives from the civic community, the Armed Forces, the Scots Society and other organisations.

After a short service, the Lord-Lieutenants unveiled a memorial plaque and planted a Scots Pine in memory of the fallen Scotsmen who lay in rest around them, and also who passed through on their way to battle in France. 22,000 young men from the Highlands and Islands came through Bedford during 1914 and 1915, for training on their way to the front. The people of Bedford took the young Scots to their hearts, with many lasting relationships and more memories being created.

Sadly some of the young men never left Bedford and are buried close to the location of the memorial plaque, their graves tended to this day.

The visit grew out of the inspiring and revelatory address given during *Cowal—A Call to Arms* in 2017 by Richard Galley, entitled 'Bedford's Highlanders 1914 to 1915'. Richard played a part in the 2018 ceremony as Pipe Major of the Bedford Pipe Band.

*For the Fallen, Laurence Binyon*

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
[The country] mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond [the country's] foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.



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**Thank you especially to all who were involved in any way in ensuring that Argyll and Bute Remembered  
World War 1 Centenary Commemorations 2014 to 2018**

**And to those who gave their all one hundred years ago**

***We will remember them***

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