

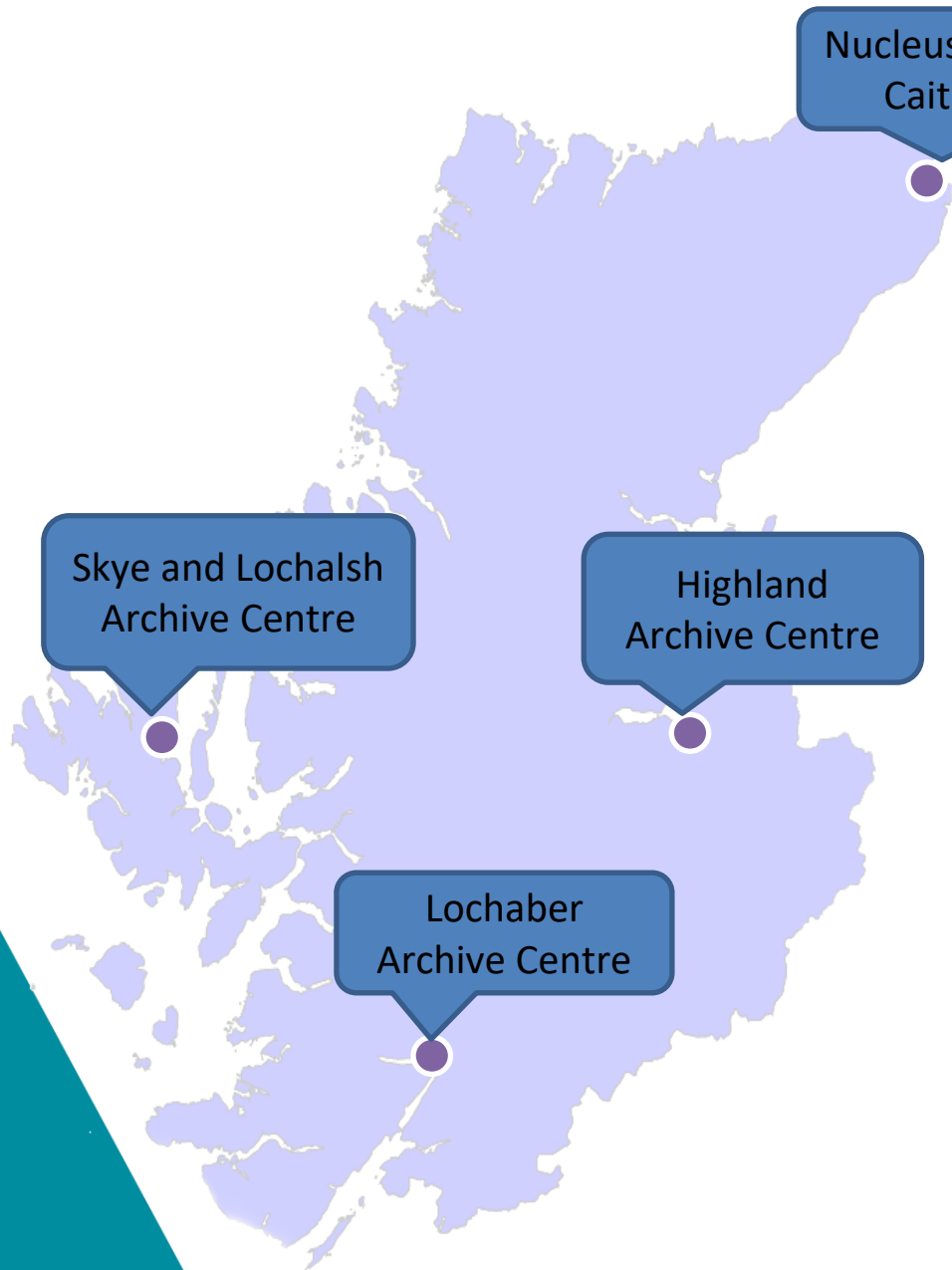
MAKING LIFE BETTER



“A good use of my time”

Taking archives into prison

Lorna Steele-McGinn
Community Engagement Officer,
Highland Archive Service



Nucleus: The Nuclear and
Caithness Archives

Skye and Lochalsh
Archive Centre

Highland
Archive Centre

Lochaber
Archive Centre

- Preserve, conserve and make accessible archive collections for the whole of the Highlands
- Provide access to documentary resources covering over 700 years of Highland history
- Dedicated Family History Centre with one-to-one consultation service for family history (Inverness)
- Specialist conservation studio for repairing documents
- Programme of events, open days and exhibitions throughout the year
- Manage and develop the Am Baile digital archive

2022-23 Customer Engagements YTD : 1,533,562

2022-23 Visits in Person YTD : 9,082

Who are our audiences?



- More a question of who isn't!
- The residents of the Highlands
- School pupils
- Local businesses and organisations
- Academics/students
- Professional and amateur genealogists
- Tourists
- Solicitors and estate agents
- Local community groups/WRIs, social clubs, etc
- Tour Guides
- Authors/playwrights/artists/TV companies/musicians
- The Highland Council
- Historians
- Etc., etc., etc.....

How do we identify our users/potential users?



- Monitoring and tracking usage (in-person and online)
- Conducting surveys
- PSQG (Public Services Quality Group)
- THC/HLH business plans
- Community Planning Partnerships
- Through gaps in collections
- All these, and other factors, considered in our access and engagement policies –
- <https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/policies/>



How do we actively reach our audiences?

- Social media – Facebook/Twitter/Instagram
- Newsletters and blogs
- Classes
- School & School's Out activities
- Regular newspaper articles
- Participation in local events – Ness Book Fest, Science Festivals, Vintage Car Rallies, Highland Games, Highland Pride, etc.
- Training events and webinars for individuals and community groups
- Wide range of events (i.e. Doors Open Days, tours, talks, reminiscence sessions in care homes, meetings with mental health support groups)
- Partnerships & collaborations – i.e. UHI, House of Memories, Spirit of the Highlands, NHS Highland, Canal College, SCA, SPS



BROADSHEET
Magazine of the Scottish Council on Archives
scottisharchives.org.uk
Winter 2018

Working with
Fife College



and the
Scottish Prison Service



in
HMP Inverness





HMP Inverness

- Serves the courts of the Highlands, Islands and Moray
- Was built in 1902 (new prison under construction)
- Has a design capacity of 103 but averages around 117
- Holds prisoners from the local court system but also long sentence prisoners from other prisons (no category prisons in Scotland)
- Has Skills & Learning services provided by Fife College (who have the contract for all Scottish prisons)

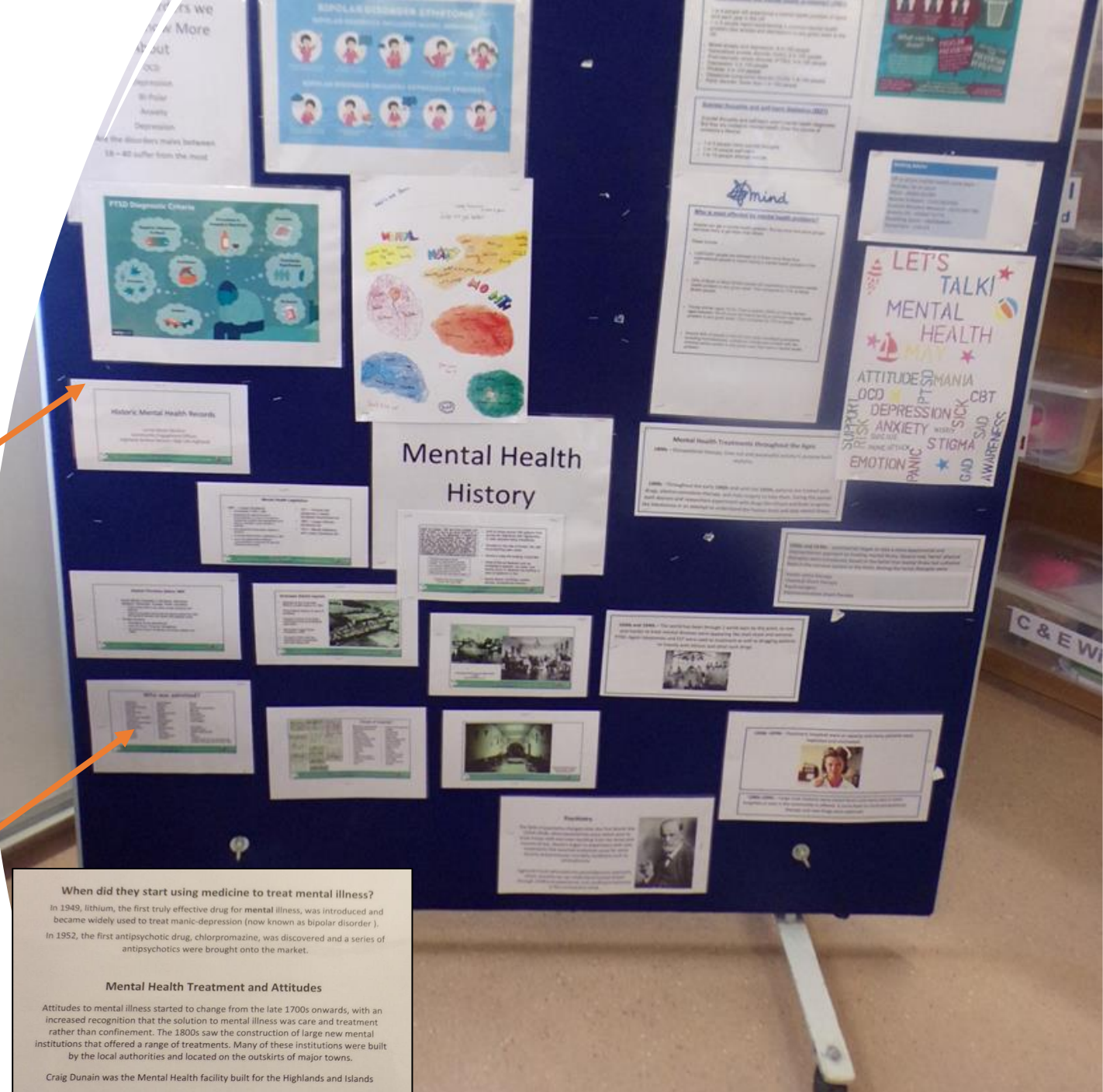


What does this collaboration involve from the archive's perspective?

- Supporting Fife College's remit for offender learning by using unique, local, archival content to enrich topic learning
- Creating and leading back-to-back sessions of around 1½ hours each with different prison populations:
 - Protection
 - Convicted
 - Remand
 - Enhanced
- Each comprises a presentation on a particular subject with space for thoughts and discussion built in

What does this collaboration involve from the archive's perspective?

- Prior to the archive workshop the Learning & Skills team within the prison will have introduced the subject and done work around it
- After the archive has brought a local historic perspective the Learning & Skills team continue to develop and unpack the subject with learners



When did they start using medicine to treat mental illness?
In 1949, lithium, the first truly effective drug for mental illness, was introduced and became widely used to treat manic-depression (now known as bipolar disorder). In 1952, the first antipsychotic drug, chlorpromazine, was discovered and a series of antipsychotics were brought onto the market.

Mental Health Treatment and Attitudes
Attitudes to mental illness started to change from the late 1700s onwards, with an increased recognition that the solution to mental illness was care and treatment rather than confinement. The 1800s saw the construction of large new mental institutions that offered a range of treatments. Many of these institutions were built by the local authorities and located on the outskirts of major towns.
Craig Dunain was the Mental Health facility built for the Highlands and Islands


What subjects?

- **Nov 2018** – WWI in the archives
- **Aug 2019** – “Everything is as black as possible”:
WWII in the archives
- **Apr 2022** – Crime and punishment records
- **Oct 2022** – The Highland Connection to
Caribbean Slave-ownership
- **Mar 2023** – Historic Mental Health Records
- Some tied into larger national/international events i.e.
WWI centenary commemorations and Black History
Month and others were requested by prison learners




Historic Mental Health
Records

Lorna Steele-McGinn
Community Engagement Officer,
Highland Archive Service, High Life Highland




Adult Learning | Archives | Arts | Leisure Facilities | Libraries | Museums | Music | Sport & Outdoor | Youth Work




Crime &
Punishment
Records

Lorna Steele-McGinn
Community
Engagement Officer



OS Inverness Town series Sheet XII.1.10.1868

Adult Learning | Archives | Arts | Leisure Facilities | Libraries | Museums | Music | Sport & Outdoor | Youth Work



“Everything is as black as
possible”
Highland Archive Service WWII archives

Lorna Steele
Community Engagement Officer

Adult Learning | Archives | Arts | Leisure Facilities | Libraries | Museums | Music | Sport & Outdoor | Youth Work



Our 2018 WWI collaboration featured in ARC magazine (ALES special)



Community engagement in the Highlands with HMP Inverness First World War workshop

In 2018, the final year of the First World War centenary commemorations, land archive staff used their collections to explore the theme of conflict and to mark the anniversary through a wide range of activities.

Highland is a charity formed in 2011 by Highland Council to develop and promote arts in culture, learning, sport, leisure, health and wellbeing across nine services throughout the Highlands. The Highland Archive Service sits under Highland Council's organisation.

The workshop was held at the Highland Archive Service in Inverness, from 1200s to the present day. The collections include family and estate papers and local government records, and lend a variety of engagement possibilities.

Nar workshop

World War centenary events came to a close in November 2018. I held a workshop with HMP Inverness to discuss aspects of the First World War. Attendance at the workshop (attending a maximum of 12 prisons) was high, and the prison is fully subscribed with a waiting list. The prison is run by the Scottish Prison Service and serves the courts of the Highlands and Islands. It covers a large and diverse catchment area including both urban and rural populations, and an average of 117 male prisoners, both remanded and sentenced, as well as those awaiting transfer. The prison offers education, learning and skills services in the prison and is supported by Fife College. The workshop was part of a week-long First World War project, led by Fife College.

Prisoners studied the causes and impact of the war, using photographs and artefacts to gain an understanding of what life was like for those involved, culminating in the creation of an art display which was hosted by the Inverness branch of the British Legion on Armistice Day. An element of the workshop was a presentation about the Great War from a Highland perspective.

Participants used documents from the collections to examine life on the home front, and the experiences of some of the many Highlanders who served, prompting discussion and reflection amongst the group.

The restrictions on accessing online resources, and the limitations about what could be taken into the building, required us to give the prison staff a disc version of the presentation. We had to forego usual laptop bag with books and information, and the ability to search our catalogues immediately to answer questions.

County and Burgh of Inverness

INVASION

Instructions for the Guidance of the Civil Population.

In order to facilitate the Operations of His Majesty's Forces and to hinder those of the Enemy, the following instructions shall be followed by the Civil Population, the Military Authorities having declared that a State of Emergency has arisen in the District.

1. All Motor, Bicycle, Horse, Mule, Donkey, Carts, Carriages and other Vehicles, Harness, Tools, Lumber and Supplies, shall be immediately moved to prescribed places, or as far as is practicable from the area of military operations. If these objects cannot be immediately moved, they must be destroyed or rendered useless.

2. Live Stock in the area shall be driven off through Field Gates, and where necessary, may have to pass by the destruction of Fences. **THEY SHALL NOT BE DRIVEN ALONG PUBLIC ROADS.**

Where it is impossible to remove Live Stock, except along the High Roads, the Stock shall be slaughtered, and where the removal can be immediately effected beyond the reach of the invading Force, they shall be rendered **UNFIT FOR KILLING PURPOSES**. Animals should be singly shot and left in the field; if the carcasses are too hot and the entrails are not removed, the flesh becomes poisonous and is able to do harm or pain. But in any case the animal should be shot, not killed, so that the blood may be left to fester.

For the purpose of this rule any animal or object of value is one which is worth more than the cost of its removal. If the animal or object is not removed, it shall be destroyed or rendered useless. A gun being a well used rifle will be a valuable addition to the war effort, and several machine guns may be useful.

3. All other Fuel Engines and Engines shall be removed or destroyed, unless the Police or the Military Authorities shall otherwise direct, but **COOK STOVES SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED.**

- **2019** – As part of their WWII project prison learners created a life-size paper mâché soldier decoupage with copy archives which went on tour

Some of us attended a presentation from Lorna Steele from the High Life Highland Archive Centre to learn what the local area was like during the war. We learnt about the Archive Centre's 10-year anniversary and decided we would donate our soldier to the event.

I think that it is important for us all to keep our brains engaged and learn new skills and developing how you work with others can benefit us in the work place. It is also a really good feeling be able to give back to the community.

This project tested my problem-solving skills and I improved my cooperative working skills. I gained a SQA Working With Others qualification at SCQF level 5. I also feel more confident to take the lead on group projects, to delegate jobs and to offer advice and encouragement to others.



- **2022** – Fife College completed evaluation and feedback forms with those who attended the crime and punishment talk.

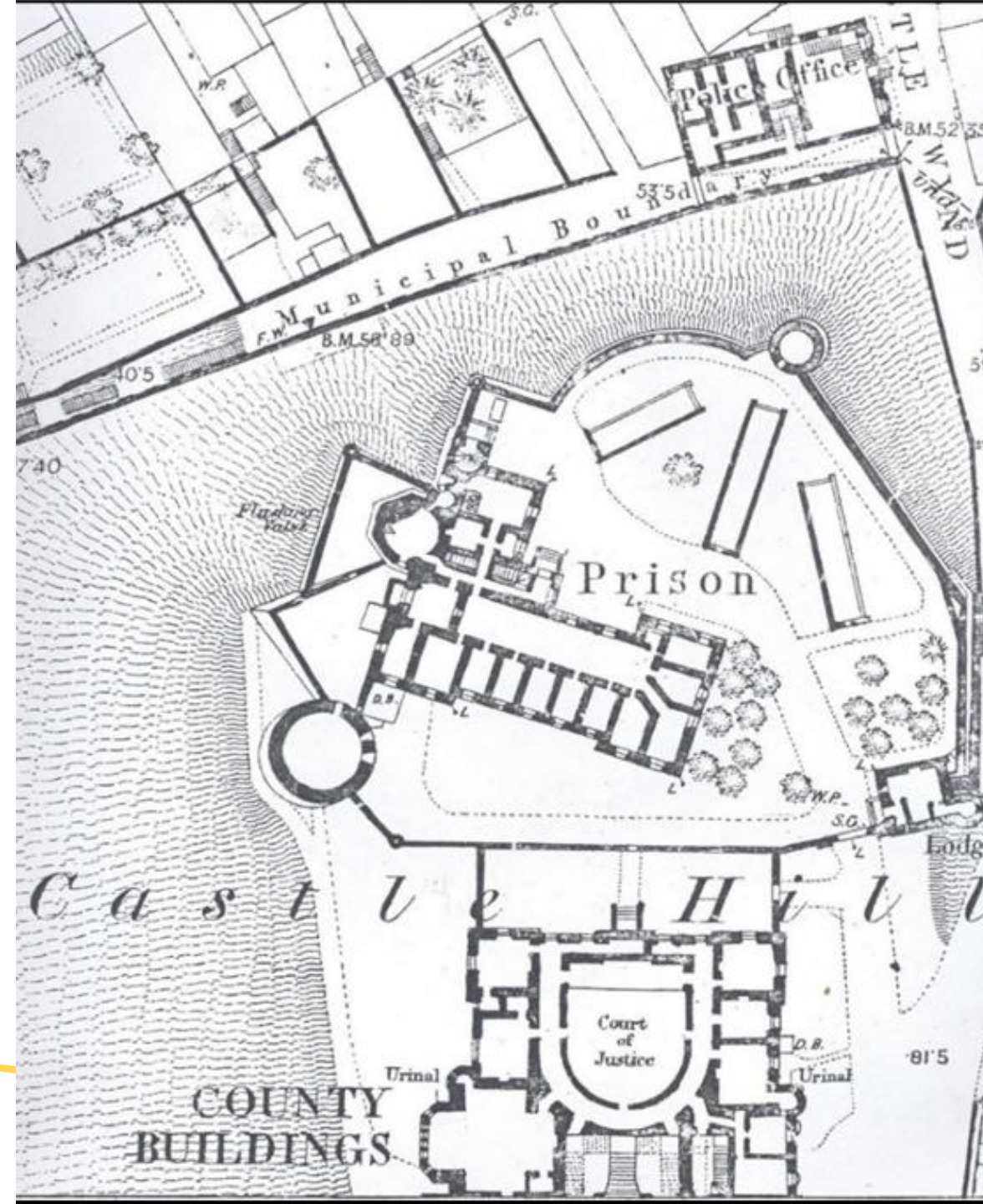
Off the back of this presentation we have had 8 learners sign up to go on to do the course work for their National 3 History: Crime and Punishment qualification.

It was a good use of my time. I felt I learnt something.

We would like more talks like this in the future.

It's so interesting learning about the history of the local area.

The only negative thing was that it was too short, it would be good to spend a whole morning on this type of thing.



Inventory and Valuation of Airy Castle Estate, in the Parish of St. Thomas in the East, and Island of Jamaica. Property of George Grant Esquire, deceased, taken this 1st day of December 1819. —

Names	Age	Condition	Occupation	Value
William Lumsden	64	Elderly	Head Driver	£60.
William Stewart	50	Able	2 ^d ditto	180
George Furley	54	Weakly	H ^d Boiler	100
Babel M. Callan	58	ditto	H ^d Distiller	70
Richard Dick	39	Able	H ^d Carpenter	115
William Gohagan	42	ditto	H ^d Cooper	115
Donald Harris	38	ditto	ditto	100
David Smith	34	ditto	Carpenter	100
George Grant	54	Ulcered leg	ditto	50
George West	29	Able	H ^d Muleman	175
George Grant	55	Weakly	H ^d Watchman	50
Alexander Gordon	35	Able	Field	175
Robert Gordon	35	ditto	ditto	175
David Young	44	ditto	ditto	120
Donald Grant	34	ditto	ditto	175
Thomas Moodie	54	Weakly	Watchman	40
Harry Murray	45	Able	Field	115
Sandy Robertson	40	Ulcered foot	Cattlemans	65
John Davidson	44	Able	Fisher	90

- **2022** – Feedback on the archive talk for Black History Month

Some things were shocking, it was interesting finding out how involved Highlanders were in the slave trade

I enjoyed the way things were explained and liked the debates that came out of the talk

I had attended one of Lorna's talks before, so really wanted to attend another one

Off the back of this presentation we have had 4 learners engage in a newsletter writing task to gain SQA Communications qualifications and 4 learners who have gone on to achieve Communications: Listening SCQF Level 3.

Lorna delivered a presentation as part of our Mental Health focus in May 2023.

The presentation was interactive and pitched so well for our students. Our learners are not always the most focused and can be hard to engage, but this was incredibly well received.

Students then went on to look into mental health disorders, created posters and a display.

Having Lorna into the prison is a joy. Our students enjoy it immensely, learn so much and develop new interests.

CBT PANIC
OCD SUICIDE SICK
SUPPORT MENTAL
STIGMA PTSD
SAD HEALTH MANIA
WORRY ATTACK EMOTION
RISK GAD ANXIETY
AWARENESS
DEPRESSION

Outcomes

- HAS contributing to Fife College/SPS aim of supporting learners to reach their education goals
- Meeting HLH/THC aim of supporting positive health and wellbeing



H.M.P. INVERNESS

- **Learning** - Archive sessions play a part in learners working towards qualifications
- **Creativity** – The Learning & Skills team at HMP Inverness have a particular expertise in creativity and HAS have been able to provide content to support this
- **Empathy** - Feedback from learners shows an enhanced and meaningful understanding of subjects under discussion, increasing their empathy for those in varied situations

I enjoyed seeing actual records and letters from history

It has helped me see the bigger picture when it comes to the slave trade in Scotland

Outcomes

- **Advocacy** – We have diversified the voices who could advocate for the value of archives should that become necessary and shown that value to our stakeholders
- **Interest** – Several of the subjects have been at learners' request – i.e. mental health with a focus on the overlap between the custodial and the healthcare systems
- **Empowerment** – In every session the learners have brought their own knowledge and life experiences to the table, sharing their own expertise and, as a result, greatly enhancing the discussions

WWI –
looking
round for last
time before
leaving

WWII –
Comparisons
to serving in
Afghanistan

Mental
Health –
Experiences
of Carstairs

Slavery –
experiencing
or witnessing
racism

Crime &
Punishment –
What would
you do for a
reduction in
sentence?





Considerations and challenges when 'taking archives' into prison

- Security process and ID requirements
- Inability to take anything in
- Sending slides in advance on disc
- Strict restrictions on taking photos
- Awareness of tech restrictions and limitations (i.e. internet)
- The time the projector went down!

- Not all learners will be local
- Potential focus challenges
- Knowing how to pitch for the audience

Rewards of 'taking archives' into prison

- Potentially making a genuine difference
- Changing the way you look at your collections - everyone's reaction to archives is based on their own life experience and it is incredibly valuable to hold conversations with a variety of audiences to increase insight into, and empathy with, the collections
- Learning from other people's knowledge and experience
- Increasing my own ability to communicate with different audiences. Some of the skills I've learnt in the prison I've used in rowdy schools!
- The relationships built with the Fife College Learning & Skills team over the past 6 years

I want to learn more about the slave trade now

I wish history was like this when I was in school



**MAKING
LIFE
BETTER**

Thank you Mòran taining

www.highlifehighland.com



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