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2022 EARLY SUMMER
UPDATE



2022 Early Summer Newsletter

From holding brainstorming sessions for the upcoming BIA memorial to arranging school talks, online seminars and in person presentations - we have had a busy start to 2022!

Read on to find out what else the team have been involved in during the past few months!

Scotland's First BIA Memorial – Update



In January, we held several focus groups to narrow down ideas for the memorial design. The first was with the Colourful Heritage core team (including members of the board and younger volunteers) to brainstorm ideas of what they would and would not like to see in the memorial

[Army in 2018](#) to remember Force K6, which we have annually continued to do so.



We are also proud to have continued to highlight the story of Force K6 and [Isobel Harling's story](#) (who tended to the 9 Kingussie cemetery graves for over 70 years) to over 4000 school pupils and the wider community. The memorial is due to be unveiled in late September 2022. We look forward to cooperating and advising during the design consultation process. Click [here](#) to read the related article.



Colourful Heritage are proud to be featured in an episode of “Gaisgich sna Glinn” on BBC Alba – which aired last year in December 2021. This episode dives deep into how the Highlands made the ideal military training ground during World War II for Force K6 – mainly Muslim soldiers from the Royal Indian Army Service Corps who came to Scotland for further mountain warfare training.



Visit to Edinburgh Castle

On Tuesday 19th April the Colourful Heritage Team and (Retd) Major Gen Bob Bruce (right) were invited by the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Major General Alistair Bruce (left) to update him on our plans for the BIA memorial and for a tour of Scotland's National War Memorial which is located within the grounds of the Castle. We look forward to working with him and his team in the future.



MACFEST 2022 □

The Colourful Heritage team along with Chief Guest Duncan Dornan – Head of Glasgow Museums kickstarted the first panel of [MACFEST](#) on Sat 5th Feb 2022 to share the story of the contribution of Scotland's Muslims and Force K6 and it's Scottish connection.

The presentation was split into 2 parts:

- Part 1: The Contribution of Scotland's Muslims (Featuring Duncan Dornan)

Pedlars outside Tanda & Ashrif warehouse, Gorbals



23 Nicholson Street, Gorbals - 1953
Credit - Bashir Maan Archive

COLOURFUL
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CHECK OUT THE REST OF OUR EVENTS LINKED BELOW

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- Part 2: The British Indo Pak Army & Scotland's Connection with Force K6



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Schools Talks □

CH arranged a virtual talk by military historian – Mr. Jahan Mahmood - for 120 S1 pupils at Woodfarm High School on the topic of 'Our shared histories and the Muslims that saved the Jews'. This gave the pupils a look at history from a different



lens after they covered the Holocaust as one of their school topics. The teacher and pupils gave great feedback on what they learned:

"Many thanks to Colourful Heritage and to Jahan Mahmood for once again delivering such an engaging talk on the role of Muslims during the World Wars. Our pupils, many of whom are from a South Asian background, now have a greater understanding of the vital role that people with whom they share a common heritage played during these conflicts. The learning experience of all our pupils has undoubtedly been enriched by this opportunity."

– Principal Teacher of Social Studies

"I never knew that Muslims played such a large role in the war effort and that they had helped save the lives of Jewish people on such a scale."

– S1 Pupil Woodfarm HS

Polar Preet Visit ❄️

The CH team and volunteer Rupa Mooker were invited to the purple-lit Edinburgh Castle on International Women's Day (Tues 8th March) to attend 'An audience with Polar Preet' .

We heard Captain Harpreet Chandi share her experience about her recent solo expedition to cross the Antarctica in the South Pole. She became the first woman of colour to have ever done this solo challenge and the 3rd fastest women to complete in record breaking time of in 40 days, 7 hours and 3 minutes. Find out more about [Polar Preet here!](#).



Grennell College Visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery □

Colourful Heritage were approached by Prof. Kapila Suchi from Iowa (USA) to give a talk about Scotland's South Asian and Muslim history to a group of 17 students along with Prof. Xavier Escandell, all from Grennell College, Iowa, USA as part of their exchange visit to UK.



The students continue to study 'South Asia and the Caribbean in the UK'. An in person PowerPoint presentation was given in April by Project Officer Saqib Razzaq within Kelvingrove Museum (KG) where the students were also given a walking tour of KG by Dr Anthony Lewis, Curator of Scottish History discussing 'Slavery and the Empire'.

'Lay of the Land' Podcast □



In Dec 2021, CH featured along with Boots & Beards of ['The Lay of the Land - Episode 5'](#) of the podcast by Callum McLean to talk to us about how to engage more young people into looking after the landscape of Scotland in the future. [Find out what we had to say \(hear at approx. 38 mins\)](#).

Impact of Colourful Heritage Work □

1. We recently released [a video edit of Mr. Asif Bakhsh who use to live in Fort William](#) with his family during the late 60's and early 70s. A week later, this helped reunite him with his long lost Kingston College friends Peter and Pim after nearly 50 years! We love a happy ending.

2. In the Scottish Curriculum - The Scottish Government's (SG) [Race Equality and Anti Racism in Education Programme \(REAREP\)](#) is underway. Earlier this year we were contacted by SG's Curriculum Reform Group to inform us that the Colourful Heritage website and our digital resources (particularly the [Digital Schools resource pack](#)) featured amongst the top resources in their list for race equality and anti-racism in education.

3. In Scottish Parliament - In the Scottish Parliament Members' debate about ['Scottish History in Schools'](#) (held on 18/01/22), Colourful Heritage was given a special mention by MSP's Stephanie Callaghan and Kaukab Stewart.

Thank You for the Continued Support □

The Colourful Heritage team would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year!

If you have missed any of our previous newsletters then catch-up on the [News](#) section of our website.

Stay safe, enjoy the summer and keep an eye out for our next newsletter! Thank you.



Colourful Heritage



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