Inverclyde's Great War Project – Evaluation Report McLean Museum & Art Gallery

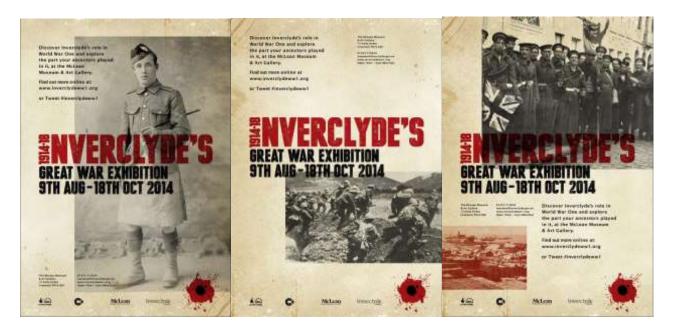
Defined outcome for People

Enabling the Inverciyde community to identify and engage fully or become aware of their own heritage especially with regard to WW1 gaining a sense of their own past and community identity. The project enables the Inverciyde community to engage fully with their WW1 heritage

Defined outcome for the Heritage – lasting Heritage resource – is all the resource gathered together, collated from a variety of resources, made available for the first time to the public on a central resource via web, dvd, book thus available as a resource for future generations in an easy, accessible format.

The story of "Inverclyde's Great War" was inspired by a few things. We wanted to show people our unique collection of WW1 posters. We also wanted to examine why there was no complete list of names of those who died, and why their names weren't permanently memorialised somewhere. We wanted to tell the story of those local Territorial units – the equivalent of the 'pals battalions' often talked about in England – who have been largely ignored despite suffering desperate losses and we wanted to show that the Great War wasn't just about those who died, but also those who fought and survived. This is what guided us and it is these stories that gave us the structure for our Heritage Lottery application. I would like to say that we have achieved these aims to a great extent. This report will hopefully show how we did this, illustrated with photographs and statistics. It will show that we engaged fully with our local community and beyond and that Inverclyde's Great War project was a success, and one which could not have been achieved without the generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Inverclyde's Great War Exhibition



<u>Aim:</u> Enabling the Inverclyde community to identify and engage fully or become aware of their own heritage especially with regard to WW1 gaining a sense of their own past and community identity. The project enables the Inverclyde community to engage fully with their WW1 heritage

Objectives: How we did it. Through public appeals, newspaper articles, social media we managed to collect stories, photographs, memorabilia and so on which were put on show in the exhibition and included in our "Inverclyde's Great War" publication. We digitised our collection of WW1 posters and were able to present it to the HLF and Scottish Government at an awareness evening aimed at Scottish politicians. The posters created a great buzz. We also partnered with the Argylls Museum at Stirling who loaned items from their collections. With two years of research we put together a database of over 6000 names, giving details of Service alongside personal information, photographs, ephemera and newspaper clippings. We also researched a variety of topics that were specific to the area of Inverclyde. These were the basis for our Exhibition topics and publication.



Fiona Hyslop MSP



Our local MSP Duncan McNeil brings in his family WW1 archives

<u>Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if:</u> visitor figures are good for our exhibition and hits on our website and social media accounts are high.

<u>Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by:</u> Visitor figures for our exhibition was 11428, a significant increase on any previous exhibition. Also, the comments were particularly gratifying and show a level of engagement with the community that was quite unique.

<u>Method: We will collect it by:</u> visitor figure counter, comments book, surveys, analytics from our website, facebook and twitter accounts



Visitors to our Exhibition





Provost Moran at Exhibition Opening





Argyll uniform on loan from Argyll & Sutherland Museum

Our exhibition ran for two and a half months, and stated had the largest attendance of any exhibition the Museum has put on. Comments on the Exhibition were as follows:

- Wonderful exhibition, great detail and a fitting tribute to all WW1 personnel.
- Wonderful exhibition. Vince and all the staff have put a lot of effort into preserving the memory of so many local people who were put to this terrible war, including my great uncle Thomas Rodger Gormley. Well Done.
- What a fantastic exhibition. So moving- a lovely tribute. Well done for the all the hard work to all involved.

- Thanks to the staff who were very helpful allowing me to have a copy of my uncle's particulars rewhere he is buried. This display is a wonderful tribute to all the brave men and women.
- Wonderful exhibition. Makes you appreciate the sacrifice of these brave soldiers. Very emotional. Congratulations to all involved in setting this up.
- Amazing to see a photograph and items belonging to my daddy's uncle William Pimm. My dad was named after this man yet we never seen him before. What an eerie resemblance. Thank you so much.
- Put together very well.
- Very interesting, will take my parents. Well done.
 - A very interesting exhibition, so well laid out. Congratulations to all involved in setting up.
- Congratulations on a very interesting and moving exhibition.
 - Very interesting and informing and so well put together.
 - Wonderful exhibition. Thank you to everyone involved.
- Astonishing just how may men from this area perished in WW1. This exhibition does them proud.
- First class presentation-so much to learn about WW1. Congratulations to all who put this together.
- Very informative. I will take some information back to my class.
- An absolutely fab exhibition, so interesting.
 - Found my great granddad's brother in the book information we didn't know. Great time.
 - Thought it was interesting and it was sad to see so many people from this area had died.
- A wonderful exhibition and marvellous tribute to all the men and women who sacrificed their lives to give us our freedom today.
 - Found my papa's brother in the book information. Thanks.
- Really glad I came to this exhibition. So interesting and informative even found my grandfather's name in the book. Grandson of Private Francis Campbell, 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry. Killed in action 8th March 1916, Mesopotamia
- A wonderful exhibition and happy to find details about my uncle William Reid Mathieson who was killed at St. Julien 24th April 1915 and is buried at Ypres Belgium. Thank you so much.
 - A superb exhibition and found my grandfather Patrick Sheed. Thank you.
- What a moving personal exhibition. Sewed an addition to the "too many names"; what a community project.
- Great exhibition. Thanks to the museum staff for giving me some additional information on my great grandfather, Andrew Bradley of Port Glasgow
 - Wonderful exhibition, moving and informative. Thank you for all the hard work gone into it.
- Well thought out and very interesting. Some of the press cuttings very difficult to read but the whole exhibition is indeed thought provoking.
- Once again you have produced a very outstanding exhibition.
- An excellent exhibition- highly informative and so well organised. The museum staff deserve great praise. I found a personal connection with one particular story and at the age of 80 learned a great deal of WW1 from my mother who was widowed in the 2nd WW and this has been brought back more vividly.
- A wonderful exhibition and so happy to find details of my uncle Thomas Glenney. Very moving. Many thanks for such a well laid out exhibition.
- An excellent exhibition. I wonder to what extent posters have been put up in and around the town. A lot of people I know don't know about the exhibition and that is a great pity. Very well done, obviously a lot of work and care.
- Beautiful exhibition. I found more details of my great uncle William Pimm.
- Peace.
- A wonderful exhibition! So much work for you- the details are great. Thank you.
- Have brought my granddaughter to see the exhibition and to see her great grandfather and his story, John Millar- Jack. It is my second visit to the exhibition and it is even more interesting and still more to see and read. Well done to everyone who has made this exhibition so magnificent. I had the great pleasure and privilege of attending the Drumhead Service and Edinburgh Castle of the 10th August- superb.
- Very interesting. New news for me. Staff most helpful.
 - Very good and interesting exhibition. Enjoyed seeing all the pics and films.
- Gone but not forgotten
- Very interesting exhibition

- Very moving to read letters and read/see men who lost their lives to bring peace and a better future for us all.
- A truly moving experience to see all these exhibits.
- Great exhibition- well done the museum.
- GBNF (Gone but not forgotten). Really sad.
- Very interesting exhibition and a big thanks should go to all who donated items and to all who put the exhibition together. It's important to remember these people who have given us our freedom. Loved the "Too many names" project.
- Excellent exhibition. So many lives lost for our freedom. Feel very emotional often seeing book of remembrance and seeing and reading my Great Uncle mentioned, Henry J Short, whom I was told was shot by a sniper. We must never be allowed to forget the great sacrifice made by all who gave their young lives. Thank you Vincent for your help and giving me more information on my great uncle.
- Why not start collection money for a memorial in Greenock with all the names of the men and women who made this supreme sacrifice. Write into the "Tele".
- Very moving tribute to 'real names'.
- God speed.
- Very good.
 - Very interesting to find out about my great granda Joseph O'Malley.
- Excellent exhibition. A good testament to those who fought and died in the great war. Thanks to the staff who must have put in many tiring hours of research. I will come again to read what I missed.
- A wonderful exhibition. Thank you so much for all your work gathering this information. You have created a truly moving tribute to our brave young men-remembered forever.
- I loved reading about all the people who fought in the war from Kilmacolm. Very moving and sad, but taught me a lot.
- I found it very interesting and great to see as I am learning about WW1 at school. It was very moving and a great thing to see.
 - Great exhibition lots to see, very well put together. Thank you.
- Craigmarloch 6th year pupils "All the pupils and staff thought the exhibition was great. They especially liked the silent movies".
- Very moving. Makes you really appreciate what the people went through at that time and how lucky we are today.
- Fantastic exhibition, wish I had found the time to visit earlier. So glad i didn't miss it. Thank you for holding the event

What we learned from putting the Exhibition together was that there is indeed a great appetite for projects based on local stories: that the memories that the community has about the Great War are still indeed there, as an undercurrent, in very many households: a collective memory that comes to the surface after 100 years and still carries the hurt and grief experienced by those that went through it and their families.

Actively encouraging people to talk about their ancestors, to find out more about them, is something that could be further explored and encouraged. The exhibition could indeed have run for longer and should be part of a future permanent display. The sense of place and belonging that common memories encourage is a gratifying one and that is the future of local museums, in establishing their relevance and need for proper funding. Quantifying this is difficult but examples such as this should be used as evidence. What we have provided, as a result of the research and the Project itself, is a significant repository of knowledge, that simply wasn't available before. There has never been a unified account of the Great War in this area and certainly no complete list of casualties and their stories.

If this exhibition hadn't taken place I doubt if any of this "difference" would have occurred. The Project was the catalyst for many people to come in to the exhibition and indeed to start looking at their family history,

and discover who had fought in the Great War. The Great War was such a huge part of life that virtually everyone alive today has some sort of connection to it.

The project was a great challenge considering the amount of staff involved i.e. one curator and occasional secretarial input. If I was doing this again there would certainly be some allowance for more manpower when it came to research and activities. I believe everything that we set out to do worked well and that we have made a significant impact in our local community. The story of the 5th Argylls, our local Territorial Battalion and their experiences at Gallipoli, is now something that I believe is much better known about.

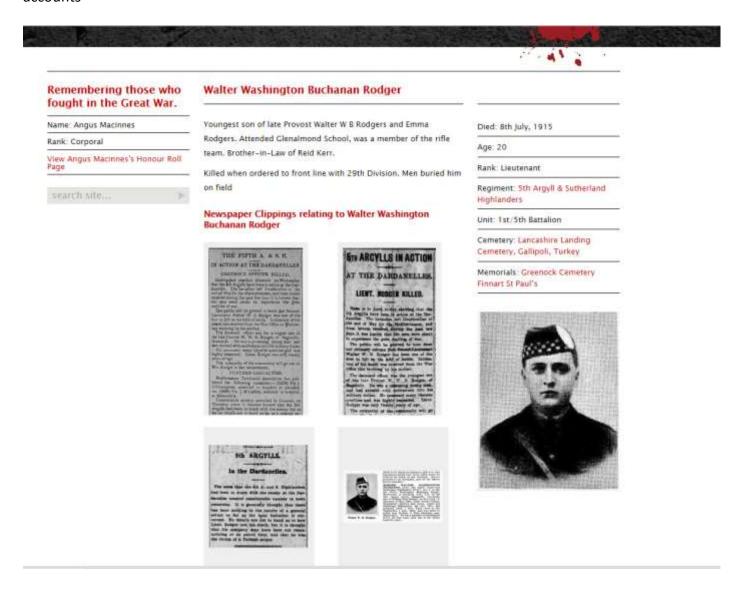
Newspaper Digitisation

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<u>Objectives: How we did it.</u> A firm digitised 5 years of local newspapers. These files were then clipped digitally and indexed by Museum staff. There are over 8000 images. These are fully searchable and will then be uploaded to our website. These clips have been used to illustrate all aspects of the war, especially through our Twitter account

<u>Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if:</u> visitor figures are good for our website and personal enquiries at the museum are high. We have been able to show descendants of local soldiers newspaper articles that they have never seen before or facts they haven't known about

<u>Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by:</u> Visitor figures for our exhibition and website. <u>Method: We will collect it by:</u> visitor figure counter, analytics from our website, facebook and twitter accounts



Too Many Names

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<u>Objectives: How we did it:</u> We commissioned Textile Artist Pat Leiper to produce a wall hanging in which the names of the Greenock War Dead, along with photos and biographical details, were displayed. The purpose of this installation was to bring attention to the fact that there is no public list of those who were killed – as there were too many names to inscribe on any monument. This has really struck chord with the public.

<u>Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if:</u> visitor figures are good for our exhibition and comments about the installation are good.

<u>Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by:</u> Visitor figure for our exhibition was 11428, a significant increase on any previous exhibition.

This was one of the most successful parts of our exhibition. It made such an impact on our visitors, and through Pat's workshops, members of the public were able to feel part of the display by being encouraged to add a stitch and write comments. So much so that the hanging is now a permanent feature in our gallery.





Visitors were encouraged to contribute to the hanging by adding stitches, buttons etc..



This activity went down really well with our school visits

Educational Resources

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Objectives: How we did it: We contacted all the schools in Inverclyde, inviting them along to our exhibition. We also went to see and give talks to schools. We told them about our work and retold stories of men from Inverclyde who had fought in the war, asking them to look into their family history and see if anyone had fought in the war. All this information is located on our website so pupils could investigate family names online. We held workshops with worksheets made by Abbie Thorne, our educational advisor. After the Exhibition we produced a book with all the information we had gathered included as well as an up to date list of the names of those who died. This book will be distributed to the local schools. We also republished the war novel 'The Path of Glory" by renowned Scottish and Greenock author George Blake, with the support of his family. Copies of this book were distributed to schools and members of the public.

<u>Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if</u>: Demand for our workshops is good. If schools and other groups engage in our exhibition.

Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by: numbers of pupils/classes. Positive comments.

Method: We will collect it by: Photographs, tweets and comments book.

These pictures are from various groups who came to our Exhibition. They took part in workshops and were given tours of the show. The groups were encouraged to write down their thoughts about the Great War on little cloth envelopes. These were then attached to Pat Leipers "Too Many Names" textile hanging. They were also encouraged to stitch a button on to a quilt, again as an act of remembrance.





























'ERCLYDE'S

This publication is the result of the research for the Mickean Museum & Art Gallery's "Great War" Centenary Exhibition which took place in 2014. It presents for the first time a complete list of those men and women with a connection to the area who lost their lives in the service

Inversible, like very other area in the country played it's full part in the Great War and this book covers the main subjects, heavily illustrated with contemporary newspaper reports and photographs. Many people loaned material for the exhibition, telling the stories of their family members, who were involved. These stories have been reproduced here with unique photographs and objects which illustrate just how great the sacrifice was for the members of

Further information on the topics and the Roll of Honour of those who fought in the war are

The author, Vincent Gillen, Greenock born, is the Social History Curator at the McLean Museum & Art Gallery, and has worked there for the last twenty years. He has proviously published books on the histories of Greenock Morton, Inverciyde Cinemas, WW2 in Inverciyde and Scott's

This project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

The McLean Museum & Art Gallery is run by Invercivel Co.



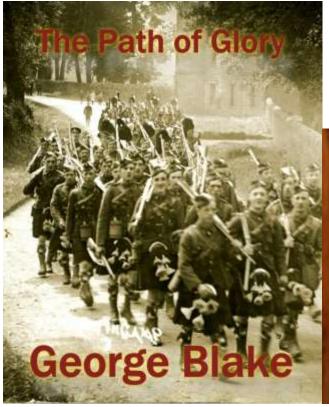








Our Exhibition Publication.





450 copies of this book were bought to distribute to the public and schools. George Blake's daughter, above, addressed our book launch.

Cemetery Walks

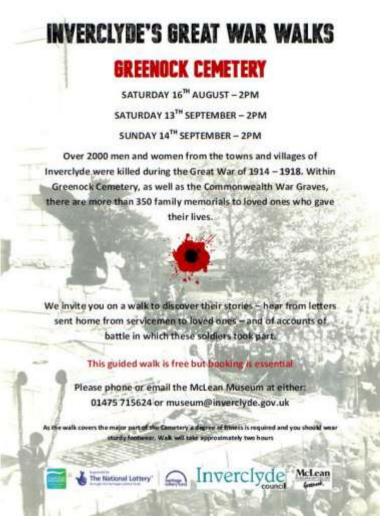
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<u>Objectives:</u> How we did it: We advertised in the newspapers and through our social media accounts. In conjunction with East End Advisory we put on three successful walks. In total over 70 people took part. The information about the individual graves and memorials was taken from research conducted by the McLean Museum and the East End Advisory Group.

<u>Measure of Success:</u> we will have succeeded if: The events are popular and we have produced a resource for further use.

<u>Evidence:</u> We can demonstrate our success by; photographs, numbers etc.... We have produced guides for the walks.









The walks were popular, despite the poor weather. The text of the walks will be put together in pdf format for download from our website.

"Fair Broke the Day"

<u>Aim:</u> Enabling the Inverclyde community to identify and engage fully or become aware of their own heritage especially with regard to WW1 gaining a sense of their own past and community identity. The project enables the Inverclyde community to engage fully with their WW1 heritage.

<u>Objectives:</u> How we did it: we engaged with volunteers, who wrote the play, acted in the play, directed the play and gave time in the production of the play. We held weekly rehearsals at the McLean Museum.

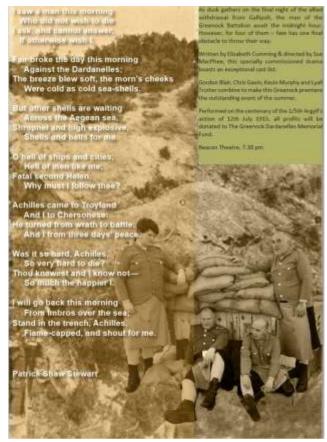
Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if: the public attend the production

Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by; tickets sold.

Method: We will collect it by:

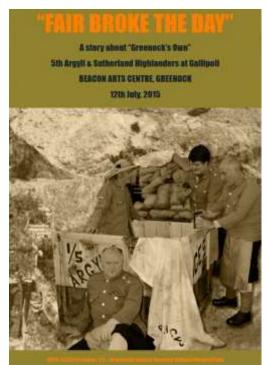
We have set up a Facebook page for the play. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fair-Broke-the-Day/479343165573041

Ultimately we were unable to use the HLF funding for the staging of this event due to administrative difficulties with the Beacon Theatre and the question of raising money for the Greenock Dardanelles Fund through ticket sales but we put a lot of work into the production of this fantastic play. The time devoted to the project by all involved showed a great sense of community spirit and people really engaged in the story that we were telling. In the end we sold over 250 tickets and raised almost £1000 for the fund. The HLF money put aside for the play will now be used to produce a dvd of the play which will be used in our educational resource.





Poster for the show(above left) and image from the rehearsals held at the McLean Museum for two months.





Above left – a poster for the play. Right – promotional photograph taken by the Evening Times

Gallipoli Weekend 11th/12th July 2015

As part of our programme of events we arranged a Gallipoli Weekend. We unveiled our Blue Plaque, gave away copies of our Inverclyde's Great War book and "The Path of Glory", attended a Memorial Service, conducted a Gallipoli Cemetery walk and the premiere of the "Fair Broke the Day" play.

It was a very memorable weekend, was well attended and created a real sense of community.



Unveiling of our Gallipoli Plaque with descendants of men who fought there.





Claire Darroch-Thomson(Great granddaughter of the Colonel of the 5th Argylls) at Memorial Service.



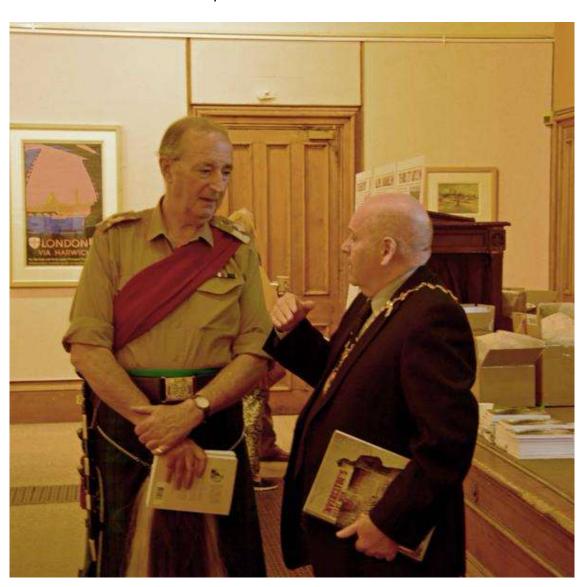
Gallipoli Memorial Sunday 12th July



Inverclyde's Great War – Book Launch



Inverclyde's Great War – Book Launch



Facebook

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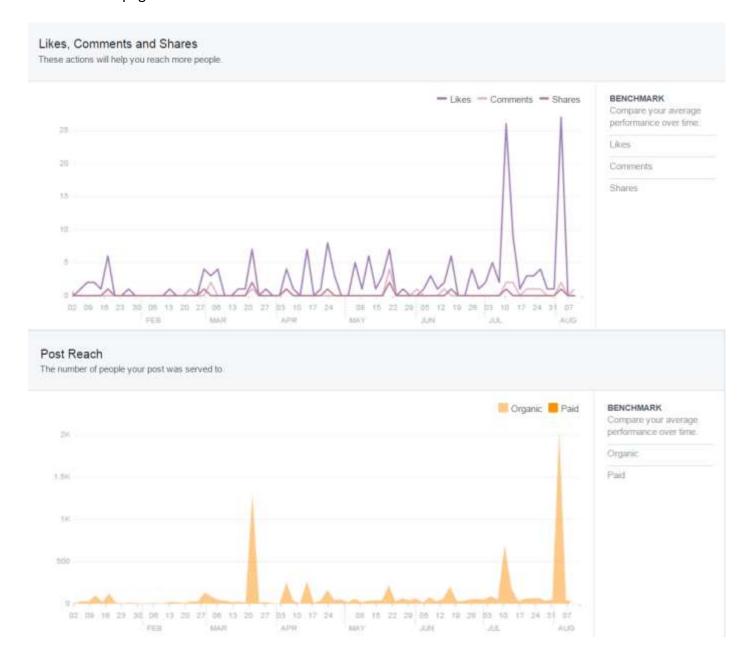
<u>Objectives:</u> How we did it. We set up a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pages/Inverclydes-Great-War/677579245604495 in order to receive our Tweets regarding our Project.

Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if: there is engagement on the site.

Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by; Facebook insights.

Method: We will collect it by: as above.

Our Facebook page has 96 likes.



Twitter

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<u>Objectives:</u> How we did it: we have been tweeting daily for some months now. We record the death dates of Inverclyde soldiers and link them to our website, where more details and images are posted. We have also been posting war diary entries for the 5th Argylls and the Anson battalion as well as other items of interest.

<u>Measure of Success</u>: we will have succeeded if: our number of followers increases and our engagement levels increase.

Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by; Twitter Analytics give us figures for engagement.

Method: We will collect it by:

As of August 10th 2015 our Twitter page has 815 followers.

Twitter Impressions

	Impressions	
August 2014	9.5k	
September 2014	12.9k	
October 2014	23.0k	
November 2014	12.4k	
December 2014	13.0k	
January 2015	12.1k	
February 2015	9.9k	
March 2015	18.5k	
April 2015	13.2k	
May 2015	21.4k	
June 2015	48.0k	
July 2015	51.2k	

www.inverclydeww1.org

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<u>Objectives:</u> How we did it. We hired a graphic designer and web designer to come up with a brand design for our logo, interpretive materials and our web site. We then populated the site with information from our database of over 6000 names of local soldiers, as well as information on a variety of WW1 related topics.

Measure of Success: we will have succeeded if: the site goes live in time, is used regularly and is functional.

Evidence: We can demonstrate our success by; the number of hits on the site

Method: We will collect it by: Google analytics

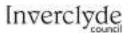
























Website Statistics for www.inverclydeww1.org - August 2014 - July 2015 via Google Analytics

	Sessions	Users	Page Views	
August 2014	1191	922	11262	
September 2014	596	346	4281	
October 2014	864	567	4614	
November 2014	775	572	5918	
December 2014	439	303	1665	
January 2015	604	449	3572	
February 2015	431	359	1521	
March 2015	842	640	2657	
April 2015	727	598	3485	
May 2015	1079	1014	1956	
June 2015	1235	1136	2440	
July 2015	1829	1579	5547	

Sep 1, 2014 - Aug 2, 2015



Language

All Sessions

Explorer

Summary

Sessions

300



	Acquisition			Behavior			Conversions		
Language	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users	Bounce Rate	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	Goal Conversion Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value
	9,507 % of Total: 100.00% (9,507)	76.48% Avg for View: 76.01% (0.62%)	7,271 % of Total: 100.62% (7,226)	68.78% Avg for View: 68.78% (0.00%)	3.98 Avg for View: 3.98 (0.00%)	00:02:37 Avg for View: 00:02:37 (0.00%)	0,00% Avg for View: 0.00% (0.00%)	0 % of Total: 0.00% (0)	\$0.00 % of Total 0.00% (\$0.00)

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Army Form B. 2505.

SHORT SERVICE. (For the Duration of the War.)

ATTESTATION OF

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	re you willing to be enlisted								- X
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Thank you for taking the time to fill in this survey. It helps us to know a little more about who is attending the Inverclyde's Great War Exhibition so that we can continue to improve what we provide. Please answer all questions.

1.	Did you come along today specifically to take part in a Inverclyde's Great War event or activity that
	you'd heard about?

Yes	
No	
Not sure	

2. What reason(s) did you have for attending this event? [tick any that apply in first column and tick the main reason in the second column]

	Any	Main
I wanted to learn more about the First World War		
I have a family connection to the First World War		
I am interested in history		
I am interested in cultural things		
I was looking for something to do		
The visit was part of an organised group or tour		
I chanced upon it		
I know one of the organisers		
My child is learning about it at school		
My students are learning about it at school/college		
Other reason please state		

2	Had	***	rrigitad	110	hafara	***	-rigit	tadar	٠,
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Yes	
No	
Not sure	

4. Which of these **did you see/hear before you attended** this event [tick any that apply in first column] and which was your **main source of information** [tick one in second column]?

	Any	Main
Leaflet/brochure/other print picked up		
Leaflet/brochure/other print posted to me		
Poster		
Advertising		
Signs and information at the venue		
Feature in a local newspaper or magazine		
Feature in a national newspaper		
Organisation website		
Feature on another website or blog		
Facebook		
Twitter		
Radio/television feature		
Someone told me about it		
Other please state		
None of these – I did not have any information before the event		

5.	Did you attend this event with other people?
	Yes
	No
	If yes, how many others?
	If yes, how many of those are under the age of 18?
6.	Before this event, how knowledgeable, if at all, would you say you were about the First World War in
	Inverclyde (1914-1918)?
	Very knowledgeable
	Fairly knowledgeable
	Not very knowledgeable
	Not at all knowledgeable
	Don't know
7.	How would you compare your knowledge of the First World War in Inverclyde having
	attended/participated in this event?
	•
	Much more knowledgeable
	More knowledgeable
	Slightly more knowledgeable
	No difference
	Don't know
8.	How likely are you to attend other First World War Centenary events?
	Very likely
	Likely
	Not sure
	Unlikely
	Not likely
9.	How likely are you to recommend attending an Inverclyde's Great War event or activity to friends and
	family:
	Very likely
	Likely
	Not sure
	Unlikely
	Not likely
10.	Are you (tick one only)
	Male
	Female
	Prefer not to say
11.	Which of the following age groups do you belong to? (Tick one only)
	16-19 50-54
	20-24 55-59
	25-29 60-64
	30-34 65-74

35-39	75 or older	
40-44	Prefer not to	
45-49	say	

12. What is your ethnic group? (Tick one only)

White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British
British	White and Black	Indian
	Caribbean	
Irish	White and Black	Pakistani
	African	
Gypsy or Irish	White and Asian	Bangladeshi
Traveller		
Other White	Other mixed/multiple	Chinese
background*	ethnic background*	
		Other Asian
		background*
Black or Black	Other	Prefer not to say
British		
African	Arab	
Caribbean	Other *	
Other Black / African		
/ Caribbean		
background*		

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Yes					
No					
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Thank you for your time. Please add any other comments here.....

In conclusion. The 'Inverclyde's Great War' Project has been the most successful project that I have been involved with in my twenty years at the McLean Museum. This has been due entirely to the opportunities to engage with the community presented by the funding from the HLF and the support of Inverclyde Council. Social Media and our website has allowed us to respond directly to our community and to tell a story which should be known about in Inverclyde as well as nationally. Funding has allowed us to present a complete list of those from Inverclyde who were killed in the Great War for the very first time. This is a significant achievement and is available to all via our website. We have been particularly pleased with our ability to bring the story of our local territorial battalions to the forefront. Being able to tell school children about the significance of the date 12th July in a local context is hopefully one which will ensure the everlasting memory of these men. Our education pack will be a significant factor in this. Also the fact that our Exhibition was our best attended shows the appetite for knowledge in our community.