

Information for Participants

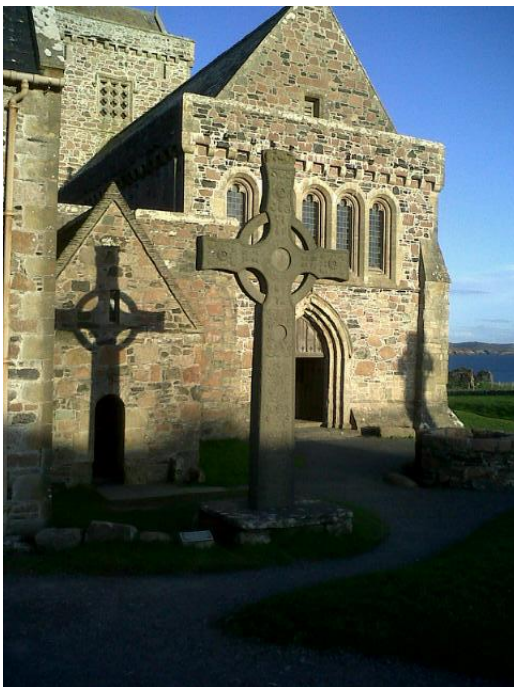
The purpose of this document is to introduce our research project, which has been funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and give you the information you need to decide whether or not to get involved.

Concrete and non-concrete: an ethnographic study of the contemporary value of historic replicas

We are Sally Foster, a lecturer in Heritage and Conservation, and Siân Jones, Professor in Environmental History and Heritage. We are conducting research that aims to advance recent debates about the relationship between original historic monuments and replicas, as well as inform the use of replicas at heritage sites. Nearing its 50th anniversary, our study centres on the St John's Cross erected in front of Iona Abbey in 1970, arguably the most iconic of Iona's monuments.

What does this involve?

Our research will focus on people's perceptions of Iona's medieval heritage, including the Abbey, the crosses and the St John's Cross replica. We are particularly interested in what these mean to people and what kinds of value they attach to them.



The St John's Cross replica

To gain a knowledge and understanding of this we would like to talk to local residents, members of the Iona Community and other faith groups, visitors, heritage professionals and others. What role does the Abbey and its crosses play in your life? Do you remember the production and erection of the St John's Cross replica? It does not matter whether you have a detailed knowledge or a passing impression, long-term Iona connections or more recent associations, secular or religious interests. We are interested in talking to a wide variety of people to capture a range of different perspectives.

Some conversations will be very informal and we may make a note in our field notebooks. Other conversations will take the form of recorded interviews, which we will have transcribed for later study. We will also undertake 'participant observation'. This involves spending time in a place and observing daily activities. So, you may see us around the Abbey and in its Museum observing what is going on, participating in activities, listening to site tours, and so on.

Dr Stuart Jeffrey of the School of Simulation and Visualisation at Glasgow School of Art will also

join us for a couple of days to lead a 3D community digital workshop and produce a 3D model of the St John's Cross replica.

How will it involve you?

We are looking for volunteers to participate in the project through interviews and/or the 3D digital workshop. Interviews with local residents are likely to last about an hour, but could be shorter or longer, depending on how much you have to say. We will also conduct shorter interviews with visitors, such as tourists and visiting Iona Community members. The interviews are very informal and take the form of a semi-structured conversation.

We are also looking for volunteers to get involved in making a 3D digital model of the St John's Cross replica. This requires no prior expertise, but a commitment over the weekend of 17–18 June. Further details can be obtained from our 3D workshop flyer, or on request.

It is entirely up to you whether or not you wish to participate in this study. If we ask to interview you, we will first tell you more about the project and what the interview will involve. Then you can decide whether you want to take part. If you wish to volunteer for the digital workshop we will also provide more information.

What will we do with the information we have gathered?

The 3D digital model of the St John's Cross replica will be freely available online. The original high-resolution data will become part of the project archive, and will be offered to the communities who participate in its creation. When we have finished our research, we will write a number of academic papers. Before that, we will return to Iona to present a talk about our findings to the local community, as well as

present our results to heritage professionals and other interested parties at a seminar in Edinburgh. We want to hear what you think and build on this. We also aim to publish a summary of the results in popular magazines, to bring it to wider and hopefully international audiences.

The interviews and other data that we collect will be an important source of information that researchers and students may want to use. So, with the permission of the participants, interview transcripts will be archived. The transcripts will be anonymous and fictitious names will be used in place of real ones in publications.

We will take some photographs of visitors at the Abbey, and participants in our 3D digital project. These will be used to illustrate how people engage with the monuments. We will not use any images where people are readily identifiable, or named, without their prior written permission.

Finally:

Sadly we will not be able to talk to everyone. Sally is staying on Iona from 12–24 June and 24–31 July 2017, Siân from 12–21 June.

Please get in touch with Sally if you would like to find out more about the project, or get involved.



Dr Sally Foster



Professor Siân Jones