



Opening Lines

At Innerpeffray this is the time of year when we are putting together the programme for the year ahead. The ongoing coronavirus situation means we have decided not to reopen on 3rd March, however, we are still preparing to share the history and collection with you in a range of different ways:

- ◇ The snowdrops in the grounds are already reminding us that Spring is coming, and the heritage trail is open for those local enough to be able to use it for a breath of fresh air.
- ◇ The Innerpeffray Lecture, postponed from November will take place on 25th February online, (details below).
- ◇ We have new virtual tours of the collection coming soon on the website and forthcoming events are on page 3. Do share our events with your friends.

Best wishes *Lara*

The Innerpeffray Lecture 25th February 2021

Medical Gold- From ancient Egypt to the Nobel Prize

From earliest times man has linked the lustre of gold with the warm, life-giving light of the sun. This lecture illustrates four thousand years of the history of gold in medicine. The ancient Egyptians used it for its magic/religious properties. Mediaeval alchemists strived to produce it as a source of eternal youth. Today it is a substance used in medical instrumentation, investigation and cutting-edge therapies. This lecture illustrates how artists such as Rogier Van Der Weyden, and Gustav Klimt, as well as numerous goldsmiths and instrument makers, **have defined medicine's relationship with the most coveted of all the elements.**



The Innerpeffray Lecture for 2020/21 will be given by Dr James Grant MBE, former trustee of Innerpeffray, retired doctor and accredited lecturer for the Arts Society. Jim is passionate about medicine and art and is a booklover and collector.



The lecture will be delivered online on Thursday 25th February at 7pm, and tickets, priced £12 are available now on the website or call 01764 652819.

We hope you can join us.

Thank you to our Patrons—We are very grateful for the support of our Patrons.

Hugh Arbuthnott, Patricia Barnes, Steven Bevan, Charles Q Boyer, Martin Boyle, Arabella Connell, Cara Connell, Lisa Dickson, Jill Dye, Angus Gordon, Kenneth Graham, Anne Gray, Bill Gray, Martin Haldane, Steph Haxton, Richard Holmes, Janet Law, Edwina Lugg, Ursula Martin, Ann McIntosh, Peter Parke, Liz Pamplin, Donald Piper, Lucy Poett, Suzetta Rankin, Tony Ross, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Alistair Scouller, Liam Sims, Robert Skilleter, Joan Taylor, Norman Taylor, Kirsty Thomson, Chris Torlach, Anne Wade, John D Watson, John Wilson, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

MGS Recovery and Resilience Fund



A grant of over £36,000 from Museums Galleries Scotland has enable Innerpeffray to weather the storm of greatly reduced income and closure caused by the COVID -19 pandemic. Together with the funds raised from our Appeal, the support of Patrons and others the threat to our special collection and its unique history have been allayed for the present.

We are most grateful for all the support we have received.

Trustees and Planning

We welcomed a further four new Trustees to the Innerpeffray Mortification last month. David Cashman, Patrick Stuart Fotheringham, John Jackson and Anette Quiesser have joined the team of eleven Governors who are responsible for the running of the Library.

For the next couple of months the Trustees will be working with Jura Consultancy and fundraising consultant Sandy Richardson to develop a new Business Plan and Fundraising Strategy to ensure the sustainability of Innerpeffray for the future. I would therefore like to introduce to you Paul Jardine and Alex Riordan from Jura who are working with Sandy Richardson. During their study they will be approaching Governors, Patrons and others with an interest in the Library. Should any of you wish to raise specific issues or opportunities Paul invites them to email him in the first instance on Paul@jura-consultants.co.uk. The study is being conducted throughout February and March with reporting to the Trustees April.

An enigma shelf! Here's a little puzzle taken from our shelves. Can you read the message in the book titles? (Answer below, upside down of course!)



Good Thoughts, Anecdotes and Stories, From the East unto the West, Heroes of Science, A Few Among the Many, On the Track, Of Wisdom, A New Practise of Physic, Knowledge and Practice, On Revelation, Defiance to Death, Antidote Against..., Anatomy of Melancholy, Life's Fitful Fever

Forthcoming Events—Reading the Past

The history and joy of reading is our theme for the year and we are pleased to say that we will be hosting the return of favourite performers this year as well as showcasing the work of Walter Scott on the 250th anniversary of his birth and delving into the story of our Borrowers. Also in the planning is a celebratory event called *Reading the Past* watch this space for more details coming soon.

Thursday 18th March at 7pm— The Tractate Middoth

Nunkie Theatre will return to Innerpeffray's virtual stage to read another of MR James' tales of the supernatural. Enjoy this spirited rehearsed reading, on your own screen, in your own home.

What secrets haunt a book of Hebrew scholarship that lies unread on the shelves of a famous library? M R James's 'The Tractate Middoth' contains all the chills and tension one would expect from the master ghost storyteller, plus a rare twinkling of romance...

Tickets priced £8 are available now.



Saturday 22nd May at 2pm —Library Lives: Books, Borrowers, and Beyond

This free online event will highlight Innerpeffray's unique Borrowers' Register and the stories it can tell about the library's books and borrowers. Hear from a variety of experts about Innerpeffray's place in the amazing history of library use in Scotland, and find out how you can uncover the world behind borrower names and book titles. Organised in conjunction with the project *Books and Borrowing 1750-1830*, based at the Universities of Stirling and Glasgow (borrowing.stir.ac.uk). Free—please book your tickets on the website.

Thursday 3rd June at 6pm—Walter Scott 250 at Innerpeffray: Opening Event

We are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott with a special exhibition, sponsored by the Friends of Innerpeffray Library (FOIL), exploring one of Innerpeffray's most popular authors: what makes Scott a one of Scotland's literary legends. This opening event combines a private view of the exhibition with drinks in the Library and readings in the outdoor reading room beside the river.

Tickets £10, Patrons and FOIL Members £5

Friday 9th July at 7pm—The Merry Wives of Windsor

The Three Inch Fools take to the road with five actors, all manner of musical instruments and an inventive take on Shakespeare's raucous comedy. The Fools are dusting off their instruments and stepping back into the great outdoors, with a riotous new production of **The Merry Wives Of Windsor**. Prepare for an evening of mischief and hilarity, as The Fools present this rip-roaring Shakespearean comedy at Innerpeffray.

Bring your own picnic for this outdoor theatre summer treat. A pop-up bar will offer wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee for sale at the event. Tickets priced £16 for adults and £10 for under 18s are available now.

Details on our website www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk/whats-on/ or call 01764 652819

Walter Scott 250 at Innerpeffray—Read to Death!



We are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott in 2021 with a special exhibition, sponsored by the Friends of Innerpeffray Library (FOIL).

The exhibition will showcase the first editions from the **Scottish Collection**, Scott's influence on tourism and Scottish history and his popularity with Innerpeffray borrowers.

In the 19th century at Innerpeffray everyone borrowed **Walter Scott's novels**, so much so that our 1850 editions are, literally, read to death. Look out for the opening event with live readings in June (see above).