



Wide-angle view of daffodils around Map by Jennifer Sherry

MAPA SCOTLAND PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22

Note: The names of Trustees, Office Bearers, Committee Members & regular Volunteers are listed at the end of the report. Those involved with particular events & projects are shown in brackets after those items, led by the first. This is for AGM purposes and will be removed for the Oscar Return.

Summary of Activities and Projects:

This year has seen more activity despite the constraints of the pandemic. In the summer of 2021 a free-standing yardarm style flagpole was erected to display the Polish & Scottish flags (KB,JC,NR). Daffodil bulbs in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care were planted right around the Map in the autumn (TC,LB,JC,JB,DC). Further investigations into leaks in the pool were carried out leading to measures to reduce water loss at certain sinkholes (KB,JC,NR) and lagging to the feed pipe from the weir took place in the winter (KB,DP).

Concurrently Mapa Scotland Trust cooperated with ECP (the Polish Centre for Education) regarding a schoolbook about the history of the Map including Polish soldiers in Scotland during WW2 (MK). As spring approached the Trust was involved in marking out a footpath mainly in woodland and passing by the Map (JC,TC) as a tribute to General Maczek. He commanded the 1st Polish Armoured Brigade which was renowned for their key role at the end of the Battle of Normandy.

These activities culminated in a special event held in the Barony Hotel, Eddleston on 3rd April 2022 hosted jointly with the Polish Consulate (All). The English version of the book, "The Map of Memories" was launched and given to Polish & Scottish pupils in attendance (MK). The Polish Consul General in Edinburgh, Lukasz Lutostanski and Christine Grahame the local MSP, cut the tape opening the "General Maczek Path" and everyone followed the piper (KA) including the Polish Ex-Combatants and Polish Scouts to the Map. A banner was raised on the new flagpole to a bugle call (KB,TS,A,KA). They each ceremonially planted an oak tree in memory in turn of General Maczek & WW2 Allies and of Jan Tomasiak & Kazimierz Trafas, the commissioner & designer/builder respectively of the Map (DC,GC,JB,NR). Later the trees were planted properly with stakes & protection (JC,TC).

Following the horrific invasion of Ukraine and the huge number of refugees in Poland we raised the Ukrainian flag on our new flagpole. A donation was made to the DEC from monies raised at a talk on the Map in Dunbar (KB). A memorial plaque for the late Roger Kelly, former Chair who sadly died in 2020, has been obtained (DC) and hopefully will be installed for the AGM or soon after.

The Barony Hotel management has been most cooperative & supportive with many of these activities which have taken place on their land. The Trust has the lease on the area of our main concern, The Great Polish Map of Scotland.

Education & Promotion:

The above educational book about the Map is aimed at Polish & Scottish secondary pupils and was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Polish Consulate (MK). Another educational project is the production of a film for primary school children led by ECP. This involved filming at the Map last summer and this spring with pupils from the General Maczek School and Eddleston Primary plus Halcyon School helpers from Peebles (MK,KB).

The effective roundel design for way-markers along the route of the General Maczek Path were designed by a talented graphic designer (A,TS,DC). An excellent leaflet with a brief history about the General and his connection with the Barony was prepared and attractively laid out (TC,A).

The Trust provides regular information updates for Eddleston Community Council online and Peebleshire News on relevant subjects such as the daffodils at the Map for Marie Curie's Day of Reflection, 23rd March (TC,A). Mapa Scotland's website & Facebook site continues to be the main way of promoting historical & educational material (KB,TS).

Meetings, Volunteering & Maintenance:

The Board comprising of Trustees, Office Bearers & Committee Members met six times during 2021-22 by either Zoom or Teams very well organised by the Secretary (MK). This has proved to be a safe & convenient way of getting well attended meetings and making progress, along with emails for following up on details.

From time to time working parties of volunteers tidied up the Map and carried out maintenance work (All). This included the aforementioned bulb planting as well as looking after the attractive ferns in the stumpery and flower pots for instance (DP,AP,LB). Also the memorial bench to Kim Traynor has been re-oiled (JB,DP,AP). We are conscious that some areas of topography need more extensive repair due to cracks in the concrete as well as deteriorating paintwork. These will need addressing in the coming year and no doubt in the future.

Donations & Funding:

During the last year we gratefully received numerous contributions from visitors via our donation boxes at the Hotel and at the Map - over £2K in notes & coin has been counted (TC, GC). In addition donations via QR codes on the boxes & PayPal have now started coming in thanks to help from our internet expert (TS, GC).

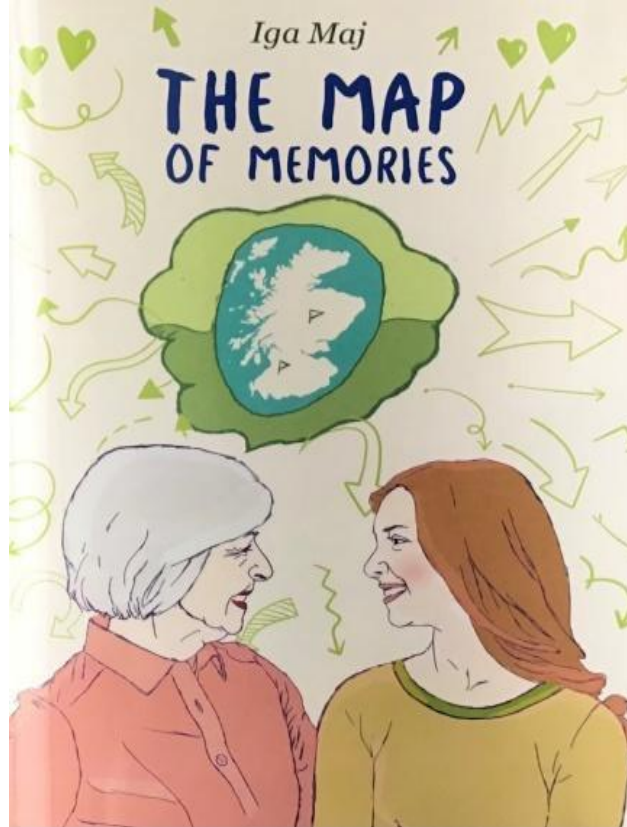
Funding for the new flagpole was received from the Polish Consulate and the Polish Ex-Combatants' Association. Financial assistance related to the book project was made by the Polish Consulate and the cost of the General Maczek Path way-markers was generously covered by the Ex-Combatants' Association (MK, GC).

Although a member kindly printed some copies of the General Maczek Path leaflet (GC), a donation will be needed for a bulk order if more copies are wanted. Regarding the oak trees, one was paid for by the Polish Consulate and the other was donated (DC), however any plaques would also require financial assistance.

We sold the gold sovereign left in the donation box in 2019 for the good sum of £300 (LB). An unusual profile of Scotland in steel plate was donated, which it's hoped to use as an advance sign for the Map once mounted on posts at an agreed location. A welder is presently being lined up.

The Mapa Scotland Team of Volunteers:

DC = David Cameron, Trustee & Chair
LB = Lyn Barr, Trustee & Vice-Chair
GC = Gordon Cameron, Treasurer
MK = Majka Kozłowska, Trustee & Secretary
NR = Nigel Rose, Membership Secretary
KB = Keith Burns, Trustee & former Project Manager
TC = Tish Chalmers, Trustee & Historian
JC = Jim Chalmers, Maintenance Coordinator
JB = Jim Barton, Committee Member
TS = Tomasz Schabowski, Internet Expert
A = Anna, Graphic Design
DP = Dave Peck, former Vice-Chair
AP = Ailsa Peck, Plants & Gardening
KA = Kevin Aitchison, Hon Piper



Creative book cover design by Lucja Stachurska to author, Iga Maj

Future:

Mapa Scotland's lease of the map with Barony Castle Hotel LLP runs until 30th June 2023. Until that time Mapa Scotland will continue with routine maintenance within the capabilities of our volunteers, our funds and future public donations. We are particularly indebted to the General Maczek School in Edinburgh and Halyrude Helpers in Peebles for providing regular help from their new generation of enthusiastic youngsters. We are also very grateful to the Polish Consulate in Edinburgh for their continuing support for our charity.

We now need more local community involvement along with other local interest groups. Without this the future of the map will be at risk again. The current committee needs new blood to prevent this unique piece of local history from ever being lost and forgotten again.

On behalf of all our volunteer force, *the Mapa Scotland Trustees: David Cameron, Lyn Barr, Tish Chalmers, Keith Burns, Majka Kozłowska.*

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