**Kathleen Boal - Operations Manager - Brodie Castle.**

I have had a varied work background and a varied academic background. I started when I was 15 in historic costume, selling tickets and giving guided tours and over the years I've moved up and specialised in different things.  I came over to Scotland after I finished my degree in Museum and gallery education and I actually came over from Canada and I had about 500 bucks in my pocket and no plans. I did an interview in Inverness, I got a job and ended up working for the Highland Council at the time in their museum service and after a while there I found the opportunity of working at Culloden Battlefield and I am applied for work there but I think my the reason why I got there was because of my on the ground knowledge and my varied background, because the more experience and the different experiences that you have the more appealing you can be to an employer.

**Julie Armour - Head Housekeeper - Brodie Castle.**

I’ve always been interested in Brodie Castle and I’ve always came here as a visitor. My granny and grandad both worked here for the actual Brodie’s and were here at the time that the National Trust took over, so it's always a place that's been close to my heart and it always visited and I don't know why I never ever thought about volunteering or enquiring about jobs here before because it was always as I say, somewhere I did come and spend quite a bit of time. I seen a job advertised for a housekeeping assistant when I was not working in 2012 and I sent a CV and the rest is history, I’ve been here since.

**Kathleen Boal - Operations Manager - Brodie Castle.**

Each part of a historic site or a museum has to support the other parts, so if there's nobody else to do it or if it needs to be done and you're there to help, you have to pitch in and I think that's the key to working in this type of industry is it you have to be willing to put your hands everything and anything. It makes it exciting -  so you can be washing dishes one day if the necessary need arises or you can be building complex strategies and plans - it's about being inclusive and about being able to turn your hand to just about anything.

**Julie Armour - Head Housekeeper - Brodie Castle.**

I think when I apply for a job at the housekeeper, I didn't realise what being a housekeeper in a castle entails, so we have to learn up all about the care of the Collections; we had to learn about the Hanwell system which monitors the humidity levels in rooms, the temperature, how to properly care for items that are so old and it's been a bit of a fascinating journey really because it wasn't at all what I had expected to to be doing and I've learnt so much over the years that I've been here.

**Kathleen Boal - Operations Manager - Brodie Castle.**

I've done a lot of learning over the past couple of months I was the property manager at Culloden Battlefield visitor centre and I've moved into this operations this interim operations role and a lot of that is about scaling up; about understanding finance and budgets and understanding how it all fits together and how somebody buying a sausage roll in the cafe can actually mean that we can run education programs, arts programs or do conservation work or make sure you know the trees are healthy and that the daffodils are coming up. For me that was my biggest learning curve.

**Julie Armour - Head Housekeeper - Brodie Castle.**

A good experience for me was been involved with the opening of the Playful Garden. I think I learnt a great deal in that time, it was an amazing opportunity to be here from the very first meeting - where it was just, you know - a garden with nothing in it, to being here on the opening day when it was all razzmatazz and great!

**Kathleen Boal - Operations Manager - Brodie Castle.**

I've made a choice to stay in Highlands, and I think when you make a choice to stay in the Highlands, you're choosing to be flexible in the way that you work and I've gone from being an education specialist - which I am, to now I run a castle.

**Julie Armour - Head Housekeeper - Brodie Castle.**

When I first came here I didn't really even think much of a career journey because I just wanted a little job to get me out the house and I think that I started on a contract of like 6 or 8 hours a week and now I’m full time head housekeeper and I would say gained some ambition from from being here and got interested in lots of different activities and departments and I can kind of jump around them all and I do you think that there may be chances in the future to go on and do something else and not just stay being the head housekeeper for the rest of my life.

**Kathleen Boal - Operations Manager - Brodie Castle.**

Being willing to go with the changes, being willing to take opportunities as they arrive and being willing to adapt and find the things that you enjoy in a different way of working has been really important. So if you're flexible; if you're driven;  if you work well with others and you really enjoy teamwork then you can stay in the Highlands, and you can have a great careers here.

**Julie Armour - Head Housekeeper - Brodie Castle.**

We've got people who haven't even began a career yet and who are heading off to University and things. A couple of the young ones that were here when I first came have now gone on to have really good jobs and one of them is still working for the National Trust. When I first came here he was like a little tea room by that was quite shy and now he's still working for the trust on a responsible project. It's a good place to be and I think there is amazing opportunities for young people to start at the trust and then progress on to great things