

Curator's Report 25 August 2021

Building and Grounds

The ventilation ducts to the library, artefact store and activity room have been altered so that the air inlet is much smaller. It is hoped that this will allow us to better regulate the temperature in these rooms. We will only be able to test this once the weather deteriorates.

Alex Gray has informed me that, from today full fibre service is officially available at the Museum. That would let you stream high definition live video from the Museum. Would also provide a more stable base for VoIP phone system. I will investigate and provide a costing for the next board meeting.

Thanks to Willie for strimming the Outdoor Museum. It made a big difference. It is great to have the labels in place and the area completed.

I have not heard back from Nicky Ellakirk about parking at the ATC.

Collections

Rachael Thomas has volunteered to give me a demonstration of Axiell Collections in anticipation of upgrading our collections system.

We have had a number of donations including archival and library material, the sign from the Fish Box Bar and a couple of taxidermy items.

I have been undertaking some interventive conservation work on larger items outdoors while the weather has been good. I have also managed to make a start on cataloguing archive material and this job will continue through the winter.

I am working on a rewrite of our Collections Development Policy and will bring a paper to the next board meeting for discussion on our future collecting policies.

I am working on a funding application for the conservation of the Finlay Mackinnon album.

Interpretation and Displays

A replacement interpretation panel for the Outdoor Museum (fishing) will be delivered in early September.

Additional track lighting was ordered and has been added to the display areas. I have not yet found a resolution to the failed lighting strip in the display area and think it will be easier to deal

with this using a local electrician when we are closed in the winter.

The text for the interpretation panel at Chapel of Sand has been finalised. Anne MacLennan and Jean Ross are working through the Schedule Monument Consent process and Highland Council have been contacted, as landowner, for permission. We are waiting for a response.

The Interpretation Team met on 13 August and minutes have been circulated to the board.

Education and Training

I have graduated and received my certificate for BA Gaelic Scotland (Dùthchas nan Gàidheal) with distinction.

I continue to attend the Museums Heritage Highland organised Heritage Cafes on behalf of the Museum.

Events and Outreach

Mark Macleod will report on the events and activities programme. A full list of events is on our website.

We ran the first ever 'blended delivery' event where we had an audience in the building but were also broadcasting to an audience on YouTube. This was very successful, thanks to Mark's technical expertise in setting up all the equipment.

I have had some feedback from members that they are not willing to pay extra to attend events. I suggest that the events team bring a paper to the board later in the year which explores the various charging options, including a tiered membership system that accounts for those who can and cannot visit the Museum in person and has an option to include events.

Projects

The Explore section of the website continues to expand. The next addition will be a page on the history of our Pictish stone.

I am still waiting to hear from Highland Council about the William Ross memorial panel.

Karen Buchanan (Curator)