

Curator's Report February 2024

One week's holiday spent skiing in Norway at the beginning of February.

Documentation

Documentation work ongoing. Item-level inventory completed for two out of six boxes of backlog material. Board approval will be sought for disposal of any items in line with Accreditation and SPECTRUM standards.

Loans

The Russian Arctic Convoy Museum renewed their loan with us.

Professional Development and Training

I attended three Visit Scotland Tourism webinar sessions which introduced the concept of experiential tourism experiences and creation of products for Online Travel Agents / Travel Trade that could be run in the shoulder season.

Based on this, I put together a Product Book which proposes three packaged experiences that we could offer to the Travel Trade. Visit Scotland have provided feedback on content and pricing and I will develop further to get to a stage where we can pilot the concept.

Care & Conservation

I have been in touch with NMS regarding the environmental conditions for their loans. NMS fed back that they are not concerned about the lower temperatures seeing as the relative humidity is stable, but will continue keeping an eye on the RH in the cases.

I have identified replacement loggers which I will buy this week.

Projects

Axiell final data download is complete and I have sent image files for our object records which, when uploaded, will complete the database migration.

Gaelic development – see Anna's report.

Both the Gaelic Workshop and Tobar an Dualchais talk as part of Seachdain na Gàidhlig were very well attended. The talk was featured by [BBC Alba](#).

Eilidh and I drafted a JD for a remote Marketing Volunteer role, advertised through the Leicester Museums Job Desk. So far, we have had two promising candidates apply via email with a museums and heritage background.

Funding

Our bid for match funding to the Hugh Fraser Foundation is still pending.

We were successful with the BnG Gaelic café and conversation group application and have been awarded £7250 of the £10k we applied for.

Celtman have awarded us £900 for the Gaelic sign. I will procure once the money has been paid into our account.

We have had regretful news from BnG informing us that the Gaelic Officer scheme will not be extended, so we will not be able to apply for further funding from them for continuation of Anna's post. The museum partners will meet to discuss further and think through whether there are alternative funding bodies we could approach if we decide to continue.

We received confirmation through Maree Todd that Council funding for the museum will not be cut this year. We have had four letters of support sent to The Highland Council by local councillors and MSP.

Events

The 'Collection Connections' programme is up and running with positive feedback from attendees. Sessions include weekly reading lists sent round to the volunteers, and I identify material from the archive or store which is of interest.

Also see Events Meeting Minutes.

Exhibitions

I worked with Sadie Page and Celia Garbutt to install their exhibitions, ready for opening this Friday, 1 March.

Also see Exhibition Meeting Minutes.

Enquiries

We had two genealogy enquiries, an enquiry on crofting boundaries for Naast croft 7 and an enquiry regarding the salmon fishing coble that used to be in front of the old museum building.