

Curator's Report July 2024

(two weeks of AL taken)

New Acquisitions

Six photographs of Mellon Udrigle, 1953

The 1921 census has been fully downloaded and will be transcribed in time.

Grants

The MGS application for an Events & Outreach Coordinator was successful, securing 100% of the requested funding and will enable us to employ a 0.8fte post for two years. The award announcement is embargoed until Tuesday 30th July. Efforts will now focus on the recruitment process according to our schedule. Thanks to PB for all of her help!

A further proposal for support with a Fundraising Officer post has been drafted. Feedback from several board members has been received and will be incorporated.

Overseas donation: CA in contact with donors and intermediary identified by PL to arrange transfer.

Accreditation

A virtual visit is confirmed for 21 August, which CA and PB will facilitate. The virtual site visit will review museum accreditation standards, assess documentation and collections care, verify accessibility and user engagement, and provide feedback, all through a 3-hour Microsoft Teams or Zoom meeting.

Gaelic Conversation Group

PB and CA interviewed three candidates and appointed Bria Mason after a successful interview process. CA will line manage Bria Mason. Dates, hours, and a reporting template have been established. An in-person visit is arranged for 22-23 August. The budget has been reworked to incorporate grant figures (only 80% of the total cost was awarded) and to reflect changes in remote facilitation; this has been approved by Bord na Gaidhlig.

Outreach

The Gairloch Gathering on 29 June was attended, providing a good opportunity for outreach and meeting people from Gairloch and other museums.

Exhibitions

The SSA exhibition installation went well, with a good collaboration from the SSA. It was a complex 3-day installation due to hanging requirements and various formats. The exhibition is very well-presented, receiving positive feedback and resulting in two sales. It is my recommendation to welcome future collaboration with the SSA, after we have reviewed overall sales and feedback at the end of the exhibition.

We are exploring a possible collaboration with the West of Scotland Herring Hunt (WOSHH) project, delivered through Edinburgh Napier University, Wester Ross Fisheries Trust, and Sky and Lochalsh Rivers Trust. We are investigating the possibility of a temporary display of the Gairloch School's Mearl Mural banner, created during a workshop. The project has £3k allocated for creating a display (either externally or within our natural world gallery) that includes a model of a mearl bed.

Environmental Monitoring

Relative humidity levels throughout the building are slightly high. NMS has requested the addition of ProSORB to cases to stabilize the RH. CA is following up and arranging a video call to address this.

IPM – no concerns.

Events

Radio Wester Ross is covering our summer holiday family activity offer. One activity was held with limited attendance, prompting consideration of minimum booking numbers for future events.

Projects

Smartify audio tour development currently on hold due to lack of capacity.

Inverness Castle 3D scanning: still awaiting confirmation of dates (now delayed until September) and Image License Agreement.

Transcription of Gaelic audio records: small sample of files sent across to the research team – awaiting response.