

## Curator's Report 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### ***Building and Grounds***

Nothing to report.

### ***Collections***

I have been training Sofie Banister cataloguing skills and procedures across our collections, and she has made a start on getting the rest of the legacy archive collection onto Adlib. There are still a lot of materials to be appraised, arranged and finally catalogued, and they continue to accumulate. We are also working on getting a selection of our collection exported to Archives Hub so that the catalogue would be more widely available.

I am working on a project proposal for the MGS Museums Development Fund that would allow us to replace our Museums Documentation System and backfill my post so that I can undertake documentation work pre and post switch. The aim would also be to get the rest of the Archive collection onto the system before switching.

I have written an article on Dr John's letter to the Gairloch Crofters for Who Do You Think You Are Magazine, which will be published in January next year. While I was focussed on this object, I also submitted it as a nomination to the Twenty Treasures competition which Scottish Council on Archives are currently running. If successful it will be featured on SCA's website, promoted through social media, podcasts, and news releases. Information about the twenty items will be displayed in a small exhibition at the Scottish Parliament at SCA's 20th anniversary reception on 23 November.

### ***Interpretation and Displays***

Our Room for Stories was a popular location for the Stories festival. We would like to keep a few of the props so we can recreate it on a smaller scale for future events. A recurring theme throughout the Stories Festival was that the taigh ceilidh tradition should be nurtured and live on through the winter months at least.

I will visit the Highlanders Museum on 21<sup>st</sup> September to receive the loan for the Finlay Mackinnon Exhibition. Work on the panels will take priority now that the Stories event has finished.

The solar panels display is on hold due to the hold up with the contract and installation. We cannot develop it any further until we have technical details about the panels and their operation.

A German language guide to the museum has now been written and will soon be uploaded to the museum website. A French language guide is in progress.

I have been approached by Rowantree Consulting about the new interpretation panels to go on the Gairloch beach toilets being built by GAD. We are looking at how we can share resources on the William Ross panel proposed in the car park as well as highlight the museum to best effect.

### ***Professional Development and Training***

I have attended the following professional development sessions since the last board meeting:

17 August - National Strategy for Scotland's Museums and Galleries (MGS)

7 September - Museums Immersive Network: Got Tech?

I have successfully applied for funding from the Scottish Museums Federation and the Museums Association to allow me to attend the MA annual conference in Edinburgh in November.

### ***Projects***

The application to the MGS small projects fund (via Highland Museum of Childhood) to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the Gaelic Development Officer post was successful. The post has not yet been advertised but we are in discussion with BnG about how and when is the best time to do this. In the meantime I have had conversations with a couple of individuals who could be interested in applying.

I am still working on the compiling our list of objects for the 'Museum of the Highlands' Digital Hub.

A meeting of the ACE subgroup to organise the competition art exhibition has taken place. I have also had a meeting with Art Fund to discuss applications to their Student Opportunities Fund. The deadline for this is early in 2023.

Thanks to Duncan Mackenzie of Gairloch for granting permission to dig Roundhouse 10 as part of the Highland Archaeology Festival activities this year.

***Karen Buchanan (Curator)***