

Curator's Report 27th April 2022

Building and Grounds

A mains water leak in the outdoor museum lead to a new water hatch being installed next to the steps.

An application for funding for solar panels for the roof was successful and Guy Seaman is currently working on two licenses that need to be in place before it can be installed.

Collections

The library books have now been completely re-labelled and reshelfed and any outstanding acquisitions accessioned. Some further duplicates were located within the library collection and a list made of those to be deaccessioned. Rare books have been moved to the archive store and boxed. The next step is to audit the books on the shelves and record their new locations on the system.

I am gradually appraising, cataloguing and boxing the backlog of archival materials.

We have been offered an ice crushing machine from the ice house at Laide and are working on getting this delivered to Gairloch. Other recent additions to the collection include a ship in a bottle made in Diabaig and a locally made hand spindle. We have also received a large model of a herring boat ring netter which was made by a local resident.

We have received several acquisitions to the archive which are awaiting appraisal.

Interpretation and Displays

A work around has been found for the light in the bards display. It is now working at the right brightness, but needs a small, cosmetic repair.

The broken circuit breaker for the Natural World Gallery has been replaced.

The fishing panel from the outdoor museum has been recovered and returned to us. It is a great improvement and has been installed in the outdoor museum.

I have send Daisy Cunnyngame (Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh) some interesting materials on local remedies which Dorothy assisted me in putting together. She will be working on the panels for the exhibition next month and will use this information to create a

locally relevant panel.

Thanks to Ruairidh MacIllFhinnein More (Gaelic Development Officer in Ross-shire for Commun na Gàidhlig) we now have a Gaelic language quiz that we can provide to speakers and learners so that they can learn about Gairloch's history through the Gaelic language. We celebrated World Gaelic Week in March with a week of posts about Gaelic language and culture within the context of our collections.

A new display on sustainable energy will be created as part of the solar panels project.

Education and Training

I undertook a three day Gaelic language course remotely while I was quarantining with Covid.

Projects

An application to BnG for a Gaelic Development Officer was unsuccessful in the first round but additional funding may be available so we may yet be able to appoint to this post.

The museum will be a hub for the Tapestry of the Highlands, which is being created as part of the Spirit of the Highlands project. A group of stitchers is being assembled.

Karen Buchanan (Curator)