

Curator's Report 5th December 2023

Curator Work Programme (winter)

- Familiarisation with collections / displays
- Curatorial priorities: Archive backlog; Axiell object records for public database; Gaelic development; collections care programmes; volunteer training in Salvage and collections handling
- Events programme development: Gaelic events and Seachdain na Gàidhlig; winter talks; Easter workshops; summer exhibitions related workshops
- Funding Applications: WWW, MGS events coordinator, Gaelic activity, outdoor museum
- Admin and museum development: Accreditation submission; exhibition planning; enquiries; working groups participation; risk management

Collections Development

Magaidh Wentworth brought in a collection of photographs from Roy's possessions which he intended for the museum. We are crowd-sourcing information on the subjects on social media and will accession the photographs.

New items that are considered include objects related to Reverend David Macdonald from Kinlochewe, including items related to his angling life, photographs and commonplace book. His memorial plaque is in our collection.

Further images from the Peddie collection of photographs showing the construction of Rubh Re lighthouse were sent by the Lighthouse Museum with permission to use them with their standard credit lines. Two Peddie images are already in use with our lighthouse display.

Two Lochs Radio have given permission to the museum to use their Ceol is Criomagan recordings (around 100 programmes, one hour each). The Radio will retain copyrights and should be informed of intended use for programmes. An external hard drive required for transfer of files.

Professional Development and Training

Dementia Awareness 27th November

Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd grant information session 6th December

Projects

Axiell user testing is completed and we are now waiting for Axiell to do a final data download including all object images. The public database can be accessed here: <https://ais.axiellcollections.cloud/GAIRLOCH/> Note that Axiell only took a selection of images to start with so not all records will have images attached (the finalised version will have images).

Gaelic development – see Anna’s report.

Gaelic signage – discussions with David Campbell, David Fingland and Roy around Gaelic signage addition for the front of the museum (see Gaelic signage document).

Funding

We submitted an application to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for 2024/5. The award decision is due mid-December. The project will continue work with our target group, but also aims to work more closely with Strathburn care home residents.

It is my recommendation that Sarah Wright should continue in post.

Her salary will be covered by this fund with match funding which we are sourcing at present.

Tobar an Dualchais submitted an application to the Seachdain na Gàidhlig to host an event at GM which promotes the fieldwork recordings made in the Gairloch area.

Other funding being explored:

- Match funding for Whatever the Weather Wednesdays
- Celtman and BnG Community Grants (2-year funding) for Gaelic conversation group and Gaelic events
- Celtman and North Highland Initiative for external signage
- Funding for outdoor museum development

We worked with museum partners to submit the BnG interim report for the Gaelic Development funding.

Collections Risk Management

We are working on the Emergency and Salvage Plan for Accreditation. I have set up a group of Salvage volunteers who will assist with salvage of collections in the event of an incident (currently 4 volunteers, 4 more to be approached). Salvage training for volunteers to be arranged as part of winter school.

Review of Archive, Collections Store, Galleries and Exhibition-install risk assessments.

Events

Delivered Christmas Craft card-making workshop with 9 attendees, subsidised by Whatever the Weather budget and preparing to deliver family-friendly wrapping paper printing workshop on 16 December. £10 charge for workshop; lino-tools available for future workshops.

Tray sign, size 2506mm x 450mm - with aperture cut lettering (similar to existing sign) and returns (depth) of around 55mm.

Tray powder coated black

Cost: £670.00 + VAT

Cut vinyl for internal signage

Cost: £40.00 + VAT

(this would go on the black cupboard behind reception)

Estimated delivery cost

Cost: £140.00 + VAT

TOTAL: £850

