

Acting Curator's Report
For Board meeting 24/08/23

Collections

I am expecting to hear from Axiell around the 8th September to start our data migration.

Work is ongoing to organise the archival and photographic backlog so it is less overwhelming for a new curator coming in.

We've had several groups of school related photographs, artefacts and archival materials donated, including from Kinlochewe Primary School and Gairloch High School.

I continue to work with Sarah to include museum objects within Whatever the Weather Wednesdays, and will provide relevant objects for Maths Week.

Our long term collections volunteers, Fran and Anne, have returned to continue making covers and padded hangers for the textile collections. Sofie Bannister is also continuing her help with photographs and archival material.

We have been loaned a small metal and purple stone seal which belonged to Dixon, which has handed to his valet. It makes sense for this to be on display within the Dixon case, but this would need NMS permission. Would the Board like me to make contact and see if this can be done over winter?

I have identified a group of paintings to be deaccessioned, and ran this past Neil for confirmation. They are taking up a lot of space and have little local relevance.

Projects

Work continues on the Smartify videos and I have been liaising with Leon, the video editor. Many thanks to Jack for taking the videos we couldn't shoot with Leon on the day.

I spent two very interesting days with Anna MacQuarrie, our Gaelic Development Officer. Although much of what was discussed is larger and longer term than my contract here, she advised on a few things I can do now to increase Gaelic visibility. This includes adding Roy Wentworth's original Gaelic descriptions of museum objects and photos to Axiell Collections Online when we have it set up.

Other

I have undertaken a key audit, and everything is where it should be.

The Museum was invited to the University of Stirling in July to present our Year of Stories project, and subsequent Ceilidh House success, with members of the Sporting Heritage Network. Discussions were had with the Football and Shinty Memories projects, which may link to Sarah's work.

Rachael Thomas (acting curator)