

## Acting Curator's Report 14th May 2023

### *Collections*

I have made a start working through the backlog of photographs and artefacts.

There are two objects that require conservation:

The lighthouse foghorn needs to be repainted, ideally during the good weather.

The preacher's ark would benefit from a second bracket - the Highland Folk Museum may be able to craft a new bracket in their smiddy if we pay for materials, and we could use this as a chance for joint publicity.



I have attached the invoice for the new collections database Axiell Collections Cloud. I advise paying this as soon as possible as there is a backlog, and we'd like to get on their list quickly. The quote is valid until the end of May.

I've confirmed with Fran and Anne that they're welcome to come and help with collections in the future. This will include creating covers for new textile collections items.

### *Projects*

I have had a meeting with Smartify to understand the dashboard and how to upload photographs and object information. In partnership with Eilidh and Pauline we have agreed that the 'high quality content' could be a group of short videos showing local areas of interest. A list of these has been passed to local experts for their thoughts.

Karen started working with Your Scottish Archives to make our catalogue available online, with a rough completion date of July. This is a very valuable project to be working on, but would need volunteer time to complete it by the deadline.

Through our new database Axiell Collections Cloud we can begin making objects available online. We can use some from the Smartify, Museum of the Highlands, Highland Threads and FLAG projects, as well as photographs and postcards. Eilidh has suggested that we could make available around 5 objects a week, and advertise their reveal on social media. The timescale of this depends on Axiell and getting on their waiting list as soon as possible.

Through my freelance work, Historic Environment Scotland have asked for my help identifying cruck framed buildings within the area. Once there is confirmation that the Museum will be able to access and use anything produced through this, I will work with Eilidh to create an advert in the Yellow Pages and Facebook asking if there are any out there we don't know about. Hopefully the museum will get a new page for the website's Museum at Home section and a lecture for the winter series. If there are interesting findings, I'd like to write an article for the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group journal too.

### ***Miscellaneous***

I have changed the name on the museum's gun license to myself, but it remains an organisational license.

I'd like to know how our AdLib system is backed up, and together with Eilidh will ask Alex Grey for an overview of the current computer systems.

***Rachael Thomas (Acting curator)***