

## Curator's Report June 2024

### New Acquisitions

The items of Reverend David Macdonald were kindly collected by Allan and are awaiting accessioning.

A significant donation of World War One memorabilia was made to the museum. The items were presented to John MacLennan of Kinlochewe (great uncle of the donor) in recognition of his exceptional bravery in World War One.

The collection of memorabilia comprises:

- an Estate Yellow Gold Commemorative Medal dated 1916, inscribed 'Friends of Kinlochewe District'
- a monogrammed Rolled Gold Pocket Watch
- an Estate Rose Gold Fob Chain of fifteen links
- a monogrammed Silver Vesta Case, attached to a Silver Curb Link Chain.

A line should be added to our insurance to cover the valuation of the objects. 2024 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW1 and we should explore how the items can be included in our permanent exhibition.

Old Inn watercolour: comparing this to the Mackinnon sketches, it is unlikely this work can be attributed to him. Awaiting owner to be in touch to collect or offer for donation.

Donation received of Duncan Mackenzie's Mod Gold Medal along with newspaper cuttings relating to the Mod.

The 1921 census will now be added to our records following Executive Group approval of the required expenditure.

### Loans

The loan with the Arctic Convoy Museum was renewed for three years (naval officer uniform).

### Care and Conservation

RH slightly outwith upper set-points throughout. I have turned on the dehumidifier in the collections store to address.

IPM – no concerns.

### Projects

Development of Smartify audio tour of the museum with input from one of the marketing volunteers (Lydia) and proofing from Pauline, Dorothy and Jim. The tour will explore our local relationship with the sea as source of food, trade and transport throughout history to the present day. The tour will provide added value to the visitor experience and we hope that visitors will leave more Tripadvisor reviews as a result.

Inverness Castle Exhibition – I confirmed the object selection for the 3D scanning (wool basket, Gairloch pattern and shell skimmer). All objects are suitable for 3D scanning and an Image License Agreement will be drawn up.

Gaelic course convener: We have re-advertised for a remote post and Anna has sent a message out to her list of contacts. We have one suitable candidate who will be contacted for further information / CV by the end of the week.

Royal Scottish Academy: Allan and I met with the RSA to discuss opportunities for collaboration for our anniversaries, as well as possibilities of contemporary artist- and loans-based exhibitions. The RSA welcomed the partnership and were supportive of our enquiries. A follow-up meeting will be arranged for August to progress plans.

Connection with Edinburgh University research: I made contact with a research team which is developing a system for transcription and subtitling of Gaelic audio records. The team has agreed to provide transcripts for our Gaelic oral history collection. Anna will hand-correct a selection of files and provide a short report on accuracy to assist with the ongoing research. This will be significant for the museum for recording and improved access to the Gaelic collection.

## **Funding**

I have drafted a letter to our 'Friends and Supporters' asking for continued support for the museum. This has gone out to our members, subscribers and lapsed members. So far, we received one offer of volunteering for the Front Desk from Sadie Page and a visit from Gordon (Badachro Distillery) to enquire whether the distillery could support us by sponsoring our display on illicit distilling – to be discussed and decided at board meeting.

The MGS funding application was completed by Pauline and myself, with around 155 hours of staff/volunteer time invested. Decision publicised end of June.

Due to lack of capacity, I did not pursue the Early Years Learning application.

We are in the process of making arrangements to receive a donation of \$50,000 from a California-based donor. This is to establish a fund from which annual interest will provide a speaker fee and cover travel costs for our Winter Talks programme.

## **Enquiries**

I facilitated two research sessions for the Kay Matheson archive and two sessions for our textile collection.

## **CPD**

I joined the community archaeology dig at Torridon and made connections with the NTS archaeologists (both will speak at our AGM).

I completed First Aid training on 20 May.

I visited Nevis Hulme's croft to look at the remaining crofting structures and Estate maps.

I visited Alison Dunlop's studio and discussed plans for her exhibition in 2027 at GM.

## **Other**

Due to change of named license holder, Police Scotland have done a site visit and background check for our gun license. We're awaiting final approval.