

Curator's Report

August – September 2024

New Acquisitions

We have acquired a window from Barabel's house (previously the old museum).

Grants

Overseas donors have confirmed that they submitted the necessary paperwork and a check for \$54,000 to CAF to establish the Velma & Hugh Lectures. I have reached out to CAF for an update, as we have not yet received any confirmation.

The position for MGS Events and Outreach Coordinator is now advertised on multiple job boards, with applications closing on October 3rd. Interviews are scheduled for the week beginning October 21st. [Link to job posting.](#)

The proposal for a Fundraising Officer has been deferred to next year to focus on securing £18,000 for the "Whatever the Weather" programme. We are awaiting a response from a potential donor, whose contribution will address our current £2,000 funding gap, enable us to offer winter lunches from November to March, and provide match funding for the 2025/26 programme.

I have fed in to the MGS interim report for the GDO funding.

Accreditation

PB and CA facilitated the virtual Accreditation visit with MGS, focusing on our SPECTRUM/collections management standards and documentation. The visit included a screen-shared session and a subsequent site walk-round. Our application has been forwarded to ACE with a recommendation for full Accreditation, with only two minor comments. Accreditation is valid for five years after which we will need to submit a Return to demonstrate continued compliance.

Gaelic Conversation Group

Two successful Gaelic conversation sessions were held. Both sessions were well received, with approximately 15 attendees. Bria visited the museum on August 22-23 and, along with Anna, explored our collections and Gaelic archives, scanning materials for future session use.

Asbestos Management Plan

In compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations, the museum is legally required to manage asbestos. This involves:

- Assessing the presence, quantity, location, and condition of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).
- Presuming materials contain asbestos unless proven otherwise.
- Maintaining an up-to-date register of ACMs or presumed ACMs.
- Assessing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres.
- Developing, implementing, and reviewing an Asbestos Management Plan annually or as needed.
- Monitoring the condition of ACMs.
- Providing information on ACMs to anyone who may work on or disturb them, including emergency services.

I have drafted an ACM register for all objects in the Artefact Store suspected of containing asbestos and included this in an Asbestos Management Plan, ([accessible here](#)). All presumed ACMs have been labelled, and gas masks have been temporarily sealed with polythene due to their high-risk condition. I recommend commissioning an Asbestos Management Survey to confirm the presence of asbestos and suggest risk management measures. Board approval is requested for the Management Plan and associated costs, approximately £1,000 (hoping this can be reduced to £800). See Entec quote.

Environmental Monitoring

- Proisorb has been installed.
- We are awaiting custom Tyvek bags from NMS for the Poolewe Hoard case.
- No concerns regarding Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Events

- The Mini Museum Family events for 2024 have concluded.
- A Fireside Storytelling event was held; however, the storyteller's performance was substandard, and they will not be engaged for future sessions.
- CA has prepared a Product Update presentation for the Visit Scotland pitch.

Projects

- The Image License Agreement for 3D scanning for the Inverness Castle experience has been sent. Scanning is scheduled for October 10th at Ullapool Museum. CA will transport the objects to Ullapool on October 7th and retrieve them on October 21st.
- A sample of Gaelic audio records has been transcribed, but the quality is poor due to the program's inability to accurately process archival audio files.