

Curator's Report 31 January 2024

Most of my time was taken up with feeding into organisational documents: Forward Plan, risk assessments, Salvage Plan, and Collections Care and Conservation Plan.

Documentation

I am working with Sofie Bannister to tackle the Archive backlog. I set up a workflow to prepare an inventory of the backlog and take steps towards appraisal, and either acquisition/accession or disposal of material. Sofie is generously contributing a day a week for us. Board approval will be sought for disposal of any items in line with Accreditation and SPECTRUM standards.

Professional Development and Training

Gaelic Development Project in-person meeting in Inverness, 8 January 2024.

19 Dec – in-person meeting with Nicola Henderson from MHH at GM.

Attended an MHH Heritage café zoom meeting.

Projects

Axiell final data download is still pending, following staff changes in their team. I am currently prioritising Accreditation and will follow up again mid-Feb.

Gaelic development – see Anna's report. We have sent out invites to a Gaelic Workshop taking place on 22 February as part of Seachdain na Gàidhlig – hoping to see most of you there!

A mock-up of the Gaelic sign was tested in-situ and we were satisfied as to legibility and aesthetics.

Funding

We were successful in our bid to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for 2024/5, securing £11K towards the project. We have made contact with Strathburn, clearing PVG checks and discussing content of sessions. Our bid for match funding to the Hugh Fraser Foundation is still pending.

The Seachdain na Gàidhlig bid was successful. We now are working with Tobar an

Dualchais to make arrangements for the talk delivered by them at Gairloch Museum during Gaelic Week, Friday 23 February, 4-5pm. See [Events listings](#), bottom of page.

Together with our museum partners, we submitted the BnG interim report for the Gaelic Development Funding.

I submitted a further BnG bid for a Gaelic conversation group facilitator, Gaelic events programme and Gaelic community hub hosted in our café space. The requested amount is £10K (£5K awarded in 2024 and £5K in 25). The award decision is due late February/early March. A copy of the funding bid is available upon request.

I set up a [Grants Tracker](#) for grants management.

Collections Risk Management

I recruited 4 further volunteers for our Salvage team and finalised the Priority Object list for the Collections Salvage Plan, with Fran, Anne and Rachel's input. Salvage training for volunteers will be arranged for late March.

Events

I delivered a family-friendly wrapping paper printing workshop on 16 December with 23 attendees.

I set up the 'Collection Connections' programme aimed at connecting with volunteers and increasing knowledge of the collections. My email invitations were met with a very positive response from all volunteers. I am currently planning programme content.

Celia Garbutt, exhibiting with us in March, has agreed to deliver an Easter workshop, working with myself and a volunteer.

Enquiries

We had an enquiry from an artist regarding the landscapes of Rubha Mor, who is looking for oral history and place-related resources we may hold in our collections that are connected to Rubha Mor and its landscapes, folklore and stories. Artist's previous work: [From the Seahouse](#), exhibited at Rhue Art gallery.

A second enquiry concerned Scottish tree archaeology and the votive tree and wishing

well on Isle Maree.