Curator's Report 8h March 2023

Collections

We continue to work through the massive backlog of archive material. Cataloguing the legacy subject boxes is the current priority, after which the backlog of accessions will be appraised.

We had a visit from Alan Gillies of Applecross Historical Society who wished to understand how our archive was organised and catalogued.

New objects include a mountain rescue jacket, a WWII officer's kit bag and a butcher's meat scale.

Interpretation and Displays

Awaiting proofs of the bards' panel at the Gairloch Beach Car Park from Highland Council.

Proofs for solar panel display have been agreed by the Interpretation Team but cannot be finalised until the work has been completed by the solar panels contractor.

The Finlay Mackinnon exhibition has been installed in the downstairs exhibition space.

The display areas have all been thoroughly cleaned and an audit of the objects on display has been carried out. Thanks to Anne, Fran and Sofie for helping with this.

I have attended two meetings with the Smartify project team at which we discussed the key themes and target groups that we would like to focus on. They were impressed at the clarity with which we were able to express the purpose of the museum and our objectives. We discussed linking the museum displays with the surrounding landscape, connecting with other businesses, delivering offsite experiences and family activities. We are now waiting for them to send information on the next stage of the project.

Professional Development and Training

I have attended the following professional development sessions since the last board meeting:

Dementia Awareness 23rd February

Textile Curator's workshop at Glasgow University 24th February

Talk on Iron Age Burial at Applecross 28th February

Projects

Axiell will no longer be supporting its Adlib software from November 2023 and we should consider switching to one of the newer, web based systems. I have submitted a paper which outlines the options and would like a decision on this and a commitment to fund the switch and the ongoing cost of maintaining our collections database.

Funding

Our application to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for 2023/4 was successful. It is my recommendation that Sarah Wright should continue in post until March 2024. Her salary will be covered by this fund with match funding from GAMS. A new, summer range of activities will be announced shortly.

Miscellaneous

We have been invited to send three people to join Art Fund's Museum of the Year celebrations in their 10th anniversary year. They will be revealing the winning museum at the award ceremony on 12 July. Would anyone like to go?

Karen Buchanan (Curator)