

## Curator's Report 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

### ***Building and Grounds***

I had a discussion with Stuart MacPherson about the ventilation and heating issues. David Lawrie has confirmed to me that they are in discussions about how to resolve the problems. He stated that Peter McIlheney is available to advise on the fit out of the café.

I have been dealing with utilities issues arising from our current and previous suppliers. The latter is hopefully now resolved. The former rumbles on.

### ***Collections***

All of the large, outdoor objects in the collection have now been moved to the new building.

All temporary numbers in the artefact collection have now been accessioned. This means that our accessions backlog has finally been concluded, a process started by Rob Scott some time ago. Whilst there are a few new acquisitions waiting to be accessioned, the artefact collection is now in great shape in terms of its conservation, storage and documentation.

By contrast, there is an enormous amount of work to be done in the library and archive. This must take priority as far as collections work goes over the next couple of years.

We have had numerous archive enquiries since reopening. Dorothy Malone has been very helpful in dealing with these and has generated donations in the region of around £500 for the museum.

### ***Interpretation and Displays***

The Interpretation Team will need to meet to discuss the forthcoming interpretation projects for the café and the outdoor museum.

Museums Heritage Highlands have received funding for the costume project. We will showcase our Gairloch pattern objects and associated materials. Hopefully there will also be an opportunity for increasing sales of knitting patterns and Gairloch pattern retail items.

Following a request from Roy, clips of the Otxoxo film are now showing in the film theatre.

## ***Education and Training***

This semester I am taking a compulsory module entitled Scotland in Film, which looks at representations of Scotland in films since 1950s.

I have attended numerous virtual training events including digitising images, using digital audio for heritage interpretation and putting events online. I am also participating in the MHH Heritage Cafes every fortnight to keep in touch with the other Highland Museums.

## ***Funding***

I am working on an application to the MGS Recovery and Resilience Fund to cover various aspects of our development and operations throughout the winter.

## ***Events***

We are currently looking into how we can reimagine our events programme in light of social distancing measures. We have not yet heard whether our Arts Fund application for a freelance worker to assist with this has been successful.

## ***Museums Passion***

We are taking part in a national museums campaign in October which will bring us great benefits in terms of our profile and audience development. I am working with Art Fund on various aspects of this, including the creation of an animated film and digital book. We have some funding for Eilidh Smith to help with events and marketing between now and the end of the campaign week, which runs from 12-17 October.

***Karen Buchanan (Curator)***