

Curator's Report 4th August 2020

Building and Grounds

I have requested an update from Simpsons and LDN about the ventilation and heating issues in the library and activity room.

Administration

Most administrative activities recently undertaken have been a function of the task force for reopening the museum and include the creation of a reopening action plan and check list, the creation of signs and new leaflets, updating the website and ensuring all marketing channels have been informed about revised opening hours and booking systems. The film on our website which provides information about visiting the museum has been viewed by almost 450 people since it was published.

We have dealt with a number of archive enquiries remotely.

Collections

Most of the large objects from the old museum have now been removed and decanted to the new building. I am liaising with Simpsons of Beauy about moving the others for us. There are two objects which need to be kept indoors. These cannot be accommodated in the new building and I recommend the purchase of a small storage container to be placed in grounds and used for large objects.

We have made a large archival acquisition which needs to be processed. A number of items have been added to the Handling and Display collection.

The library still needs to be audited and documentation updated on Adlib. There is also a need to appraise the library collection to remove duplicates. In particular, we have a lot of Gaelic bibles, some of which it would be advisable to dispose of.

Interpretation and Displays

There has been no meeting of the Interpretation Team since 28th Feb and this is not currently a priority. However, actions have been completed resulting from the last meeting, such as new labels installed. It is regrettable that the museum design company we employed for our new displays (Campbell & Co. of Edinburgh) has been dissolved as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

We are working with Museums Heritage Highlands on a joint, virtual costume exhibition and on the Highland Objects podcasts.

With John English's permission, I have put clips from the Ootox Productions film onto Vimeo. They have been viewed more than 100 times each within a week.

Education and Training

I successfully completed a module in Nationalism and National Identity as part of the BA Gaelic Scotland with a grade of 86%. I have two more classes to complete before I have the final qualification.

I have attended numerous virtual training events during lockdown including an eHive workshop, Pictish Trail webinars and webinars on reopening museums/visitor attractions.

Funding

I am working on an application to the Art Fund Respond and Reimagine grant stream which would fund a post for a part time Events, Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Miscellaneous

I have been asked to assist Applecross Heritage Centre as their Accreditation Mentor.

Karen Buchanan (Curator)