MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES IN ACTION
MARCH 2021
In March 2020, we shared the Delivery Plan for the National Strategy for Scotland’s Museums and Galleries 2020-2022.

A year on, despite the enormous challenges of 2020 and 2021, Scottish museums have worked extremely hard to deliver against the Strategy’s six aims.

This publication highlights just some of the many achievements of Scotland’s museums and galleries over the last year, clearly outlining the value and impact of Scotland’s museums and galleries on our communities, at a time when it was most needed.

While we recognise that there will still be challenges ahead, we look forward to better times and the opportunity to further highlight the positive place museums and galleries across Scotland have in peoples’ lives.

Museums Galleries Scotland illustrates and champions the sector’s brilliant work by proactively sharing examples and case studies with our many stakeholders. We are always on the lookout for more so if you are a museum with a story to tell, get in touch:

Inform@museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk
Museums and Heritage Highland
Highland Threads

‘Highland Threads’ was conceived at a Highland Heritage Café, a regular online meet-up during COVID-19 for members of Museums and Heritage Highland to share ideas and discuss issues they are facing as a sector. Discussions around the impact of COVID-19, led to plans by 14 museums and galleries for a joint online exhibition focusing on costumes through the ages, where each museum would focus on a costume from their collection. The collective vision for the project was to use collections to support museums in these difficult times: driving new and existing audiences to the museums whether they are open or closed; help museums find new ways of creating income streams; and, increase access and engagement with collections. By employing innovative digital technologies and working with sector professionals, ‘Highland Threads’ reflects the quality of museums and diverse collections that can be found across the Highlands. Launching 1 April 2021, the exhibition can be found at www.highlandthreads.co.uk


Museums and Heritage Highland is a network organisation supporting museums to innovate for a sustainable future. It is supported by High Life Highland, and the Highland Threads project was funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Emergency Grant programme.

OTHER EXAMPLES:
Shetland Amenity Trust and Orkney Islands Council
New Connections Across the Northern Isles Project
Aim 2:
Strengthen the connections between museums and galleries, people and places to inspire greater participation, learning and wellbeing

2A Collaborate with communities and across sectors to create progressive thriving places

2B Understand audiences to create accessible engagement programmes

2C Advocate the social and economic impact of our sector on Scotland’s communities

The McManus: Dundee’s Art Gallery & Museum ‘Reconnect’

The McManus has embarked on ‘Reconnect’, a six-month remote learning and engagement project to help combat isolation heightened by the current COVID-19 pandemic. ‘Reconnect’ will enable The McManus to continue to provide cultural engagements, resources and experiences for community groups with long-term health conditions, and family groups. This will enhance positive cultural participation and ensure that isolated and shielding participants can still benefit from the rich experiences the museum has to offer. An integrated team of museum educators, curators, cultural partners and freelance artists has been brought together to support those most in need. Participant groups involved are from Alzheimer Scotland, Home-Start Dundee and Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust. All project activities are designed to spark imagination and support shared remote learning experiences, utilising the museum’s new temporary exhibitions.

The project has been made possible thanks to Art Fund support and additional funding from Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust.

OTHER EXAMPLES:
University of Edinburgh Museums Services
Prescribe Culture

PHOTO CREDIT: David P Scott

IMAGE: Photographer’s desk
The Scottish Crannog Centre began their pilot apprenticeship scheme in August 2020, when they were joined by five full time apprentices working towards their accredited Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ), as well as gaining knowledge and work experience for future employment. The apprentices collectively engaged with all 6,500 visitors to the Crannog during the Autumn. They have taken on board a huge amount in terms of work, ethics, delivery and confidence in their ability to do the job set in front of them. They have also given back to the Crannog, as the new ideas and young voices have enlivened the museum interpretation and strengthened the roles of the museum within both the local and Crannog community. Visitors have regularly fed back that a highlight of their visit was being engaged and inspired by this group of young people. It has also highlighted new strengths in the existing staff members, and they are currently training to become verified SVQ assessors with the aim to make the museum an SQA centre. This will support the museum to increase employability in the local area by providing apprenticeship assessments both at the Scottish Crannog Centre and in other businesses.

The apprenticeship scheme was made possible thanks to partners, Breadalbane Academy, and the following funders: Museums Galleries Scotland, The Gannochy Trust, SSE Renewables, Perth & Kinross Council.

**OTHER EXAMPLES:**
Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum
Creative and Digital Foundation Apprenticeship
Scottish Fisheries Museum
Sea Change

As part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, the Scottish Fisheries Museum sought to look to the future to explore what the seas, and the fishing industry that depends on them, will be like in 2070. They assembled a steering group of experts from fisheries and science to capture the latest thinking on fisheries conservation, research and practice. The resulting exhibition, “Sea Change: How do we safeguard the future of our seas?” opened on 24 January 2020. The exhibition had three main themes: The changing sea – effects of climate change on the marine environment; Future fishing technology – developments in boat and gear design; People and the sea – who uses the sea, what for, and who decides. These are large and difficult concepts for people to comprehend, so they used a variety of methods to engage their interest. One approach was gaming, which led them to commission an interactive game where visitors balance competing factors to design the perfect fishing boat of the future.

www.scottishmuseum.org/sea-change

This project has been made possible thanks to project funders The Buckland Foundation and all of the other supporters of Sea Change.

OTHER EXAMPLES:
Gairloch Museum
A new museum for Gairloch

Aim 4:
Forge a sustainable future for sector organisations and encourage a culture of enterprise

4A Take responsibility for environmental sustainability – both in our actions and as places for developing understanding and debate

4B Develop financial sustainability through sound business planning and exploring new ways of working

4C Advocate the cultural, economic and social value of museums locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

IMAGE: Fishing Game
PHOTO CREDIT: Reclaimer Games
Shetland Museum and Archives
‘Fair Game’ exhibition

Shetland Museum and Archives launched a major new online exhibition in January 2020 called ‘Fair Game’ as their part in the ‘Between Islands’ project, a project originated by An Lanntair, the arts centre in the Western Isles of Scotland. The project, which has been running since 2014 highlights the historical cultural links between the islands of Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides, while exploring and celebrating similarities and differences across the three island groups. Each museum has approached the project theme creatively and used it to produce their own online exhibition inspired by each other’s history and collections.

Alex MacDonald, co-ordinator of the Between Islands Project said: “What has been achieved by the museum teams under such difficult circumstances last year is exceptional. Placing these displays online also opens them up to a wider audience, and in keeping with the spirit of the project, is an illustration of what we can achieve when working together between islands.”

The overall project is complemented by a new publication called ‘Between Islands’ which features articles by participant organisations, including organisers of the islands’ online exhibitions. [www.shetland.betweenislands.com](http://www.shetland.betweenislands.com)

This project was made possible thanks to the An Lanntair art centre, which secured funding from the E.U. LEADER regional cooperation scheme. The six-year project celebrated island arts and culture – music, literature, and physical heritage.

OTHER EXAMPLES:
University of Edinburgh Museums Service
Museums Dementia Socials
Aim 6:
Develop a global perspective using Scotland’s collections and culture

6A Celebrate the international diversity of our collections with communities locally, nationally and internationally, promoting dialogue and partnerships

6B Work with partners to maximise tourism opportunities and advocate our impact on tourism

6C Share experience and expertise to build capacity for international working and engagement

David Livingstone Trust
2021 Scotland Malawi Partnership Digital Youth Festival

The David Livingstone Birthplace (DLB) took part in the Malawi Partnership Digital Youth Festival 15-19 March 2021. A week of engaging online events and activity, it was designed by young people, to inspire and support other young people across Scotland and Malawi to engage in their historic partnership. Focusing on key themes of climate change, and race and equality, the week provoked, challenged and inspired. The David Livingstone Birthplace provided resources for professional development for educators and youth leaders, in partnership with WOSDEC Global Learning Centre. Learning Officer, Rosa Cato, introduced David Livingstone and the DLB, while Diana Ellis, Global Education adviser with WOSDEC, introduced Global Citizenship Education and how their Learning Resource links Livingstone’s story with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its adaptability to digital home-learning needs. The learning team also participated in the Race and Equality discussion panel, where they focussed on tackling the multi-layered Livingstone narratives and how they relate to issues of race and equality today.

This project has been possible thanks to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, and National Lottery Heritage Fund - the main funder.
FRONT COVER IMAGES

1. Pilot apprenticeship scheme
   The Scottish Crannog Centre
2. ‘Fair Game’ Exhibition
   Photo credit: Shetland Museum and Archives
3. 2021 Scotland Malawi Partnership Digital Youth Festival
   David Livingstone Trust
   Illustration credit: Chanté Timothy
4. Reconnect Project
   The McManus, Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum
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5. Sea Change exhibition - Fishing Game image
   Scottish Fisheries Museum
   Photo credit: Reclaimer Games
6. Gairloch Pattern Socks
   Highland Threads Exhibition
   Photo credit: Jim Dunn

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