Alix Powers Jones Podcast

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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

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**SPEAKERS**

Alix Powers-Jones

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My name is Alix Powers-Jones. I am the property manager at Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum in Cromarty. And I am the museum mentor for the Highlanders Museum at Fort George near Inverness. Accreditation should only be those things which you are already doing. It's those things you're already doing in terms of health and safety, collection management, how you treat your staff, your volunteers, it's advice on looking for things which might trip you up. It's how to get the best from your museum, for your community. So enjoy it! Because actually, to be an Accredited Museum, is access to free money, free training, free advice. Who's going to turn down free money? The Accreditation, it's now gone to every five years, but it's not something that you should do, and just stick it on the shelf. It's a live document, which you need to refer to. Say you've got an emergency plan, what you would do if Heaven protect us, there was a flood, or a fire in your museum, what you would do. And it may be that, from year to hear that plan doesn't change. But perhaps you've had a new item, a large item in your collection, or a valuable item. Maybe you've had a volunteer with sight impairment, or hearing impairment who wouldn't hear the alarm, maybe you've had the same changes in the law, on the best advice what to do. You need to be referring to your documents every single year, get them out, look at them, what's changed, maybe nothing has changed. But you need to be updating them looking at them referring to them. They are a live document to protect you, your staff, your volunteers, your collection, your museum of visitors. Accreditation, how to make the perfect cake, you need to have all your ingredients laid out. Your ingredients for your Accreditation cake will include things like your forward plan, your security plan, your emergency plan, your objectives for the year, have them all ready and waiting. So that when you come to do your form online, you can add them all into the mix and make the perfect cake. I love online forms and the reason I love online forms is because not only do you not have to write it in longhand, but it leads you through the process. So whatever your answers are, the form looks and goes well. Okay, so the next question is not going to be relevant. So we won't ask, but the one after is, so it's directing you through the process. Accreditation is a process and it's a lot of information. But if you've got those ingredients ready for your accreditation cake, it should be straightforward.