

## CURATOR'S REPORT

The museum exhibit moved smoothly and successfully into the new season. We have had several interesting visitors, but often they ask questions at the desk with answers that take some finding but all express their appreciation. Two ladies came asking if we had the cradle donated by Mrs MacFadyen of Gribun. Iain Campbell was on the desk and between us we managed to satisfy their request to see it, where they took photographs. The cradle had a number only and to confirm that it was the correct item we had to search the very early records of acquisitions, a photocopy of our record was sent and a thank you letter received from the two ladies.

We are still trying to create a new exhibition of items found on Mull but currently owned by other museums, but this plan is not moving forward very quickly or very smoothly. The quest to "wrench" the pectoral crucifix from the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre at Nitshill on loan is still with their artefacts manager. And as yet there is no news from Alison Sheridan or Sharon Webb re the NMS artefacts. I feel that if we can't get a sufficiently interesting collection on loan, we should buy some bespoke replicas. However, a loan may be arranged with the West Highland Museum in Fort William for their small collection of Armada relics. The spindle whorl which I took to Kelvingrove for assessment by Treasure Trove is I know not where!

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

Current work in the Library continues in up-dating the catalogue cards to match the revised stack and shelf numbers, making it easier to find a book or pamphlet. The previous card and shelf references for any book remain in place until each book is re-referenced, so that all library items can be found at any time in the process.

Requests for information have been received from Toronto regarding Captain Alexander MacLean, and the source book *The MacLeans of Boreray*. Mull Genealogy, through Ian Phillips, traced and provided information, and warm thanks have been received.

A gift of books has been received from Elizabeth MacDonald in Nova Scotia in gratitude for archival information provided by Jean Whittaker.

A Register of new books entering the Library is being prepared so that it matches and become part of the Accession Register used in the Museum.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - due in April each year

Annual Subscription £5 single, £10 family  
5-year membership £25, 5-year family £50  
Payable at desk in Museum or to Membership Secretary  
Mull Museum, Columba Buildings, Tobermory,  
Isle of Mull, PA75 6NY

email [membership@mullmuseum.org.uk](mailto:membership@mullmuseum.org.uk)  
or pay with PayPal on the website [www.mullmuseum.org.uk](http://www.mullmuseum.org.uk)

## OFFICE-BEARERS 2010-11

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## MULL MUSEUM AWARDED FULL ACCREDITATION



Accredited  
Museum

We have earned this new logo by becoming an Accredited Museum. It is a great achievement and demonstrates that our museum has met nationally agreed standards on how to care for and document collections, and how to govern and manage the museum and the provision of information and services to users. The MLA's Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums and to meet the requirements of the scheme, museums must demonstrate that they achieve these clearly defined standards. There are currently over 1800 museums (from the largest to the smallest) participating in the Scheme, demonstrating their commitment to managing collections effectively for the enjoyment of all communities. None of this could have been achieved without the dedication of our team of volunteers. A remarkable museum is right on your doorstep. Come and visit us! Soon!

## EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING 2011

Although in the big wide world of museums, there seems to be an attitude of division between professionals and volunteers (and not just because volunteers don't get paid), the Mull Museum couldn't function without our volunteers who man the desk, document the collection, answer enquiries, work on the exhibits.....and put out the bins. Volunteering comes at all levels!

But we have another volunteer who has helped us from afar. Karen Turner emailed us with an offer of \$1500 which she had been awarded for her work on the Ancestry World Archives Project. Ancestry.com said "*Karen has been a consistent and dedicated participant since Jan 2009. In the winter of 2010 we had a World Record Challenge and Karen was one of our top five contributors, she herself contributing over 104,000 records in two months. The top five contributors of this challenge each chose a genealogical/historical society, library, archive or museum to receive a donation from Ancestry.com. Karen chose the Mull Museum to receive these funds as a way of saying thank you for the dedication of your volunteers and efforts to preserve history and helping people learn more of their heritage. Karen hopes these funds will help the Museum in your efforts to preserve the stories of those on the Isle of Mull.*"

Volunteering does indeed happen in all sorts of ways. We are most grateful to Karen for this generous donation, which is being put towards the first phase of the Baliscate Chapel Project.

## BALISCATE - WE NEED YOUR MEMORIES

Mull Museum are now applying for grants to take the archaeological work at the Baliscate Chapel site further. Once work begins, probably in 2012, there will be opportunities for volunteers to work at the site, under supervision. But meantime we need the help of everyone in finding out more about the site. Why is there so little written about it? Why does it not feature on early maps? We would like anyone whose forebears lived on Mull to try to remember - did your grandparents ever mention "an old church up on the hill" or say "no one goes up there now because...."? We hope some of the answers might be in your family's memories and stories. *Please help.*

