

Board Report Dec 2024

AEG Gallery

An expression of Interest form was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £5Million. We are still waiting to hear if this has been successful. If it is successful we a development grant will be applied for. This grant will hopefully allow us to appoint a part-time project officer and fundraiser as well as the necessary professional advisers: Architect, quantity Surveyors etc.

Presentations

The Director has been asked to speak at the MGS Conference in February. The topic is about our successful strategy of events leading to increased income and visitors. As well as greater awareness of the Museum in the local community.

Boat Building

The BBS team managed to sell three small dinghies at the craft fair and generate over £1k in sales. They have completed the piece for RSS Discovery and Started work on the Viking Festival Longboat. They have some commercial work to undertake and are runneong a course in conjunction with the Education team in January.

They are also recruiting trainees and volunteers to support the build of the Longboat

Irvine and Denny

November will see a considerable increase in visitors and retail sales as the Craft Fair was on the 29th, and 30th of Nov as well as 1st Dec. Over 5k visitors mean it was our most successful winter event. We also worked with NAC to have a parade and light switch on at the museum NAC intimated that 400 people to part in the parade.

We are still awaiting the Conservation Architects report on the Mian door at Irvine after which and application to HES will be made for the repair.

Dumbarton Visitor Gateway Partnership continues to develop its way finding proposals and will present final plans to the council for approval in the New Year.

Irvine Town Board

Ther has been little movement on the Town Board and not site of a draft short-term strategy. A copy of a similar strategy for Arbroath has a clear set out aim on heritage and visitor economy and we hope something similar will be include in Irvine's Strategy.

Scottish Government

At a catch-up meeting with our sponsors at Scot Gov the Director was informed that we will be receiving and uplift on our revenue grant of £33k for 25/26 financial year. This is again a

Board Report Dec 2024

single year agreement and we hope that in the future a 3-year funding settlement will allow greater financial security.

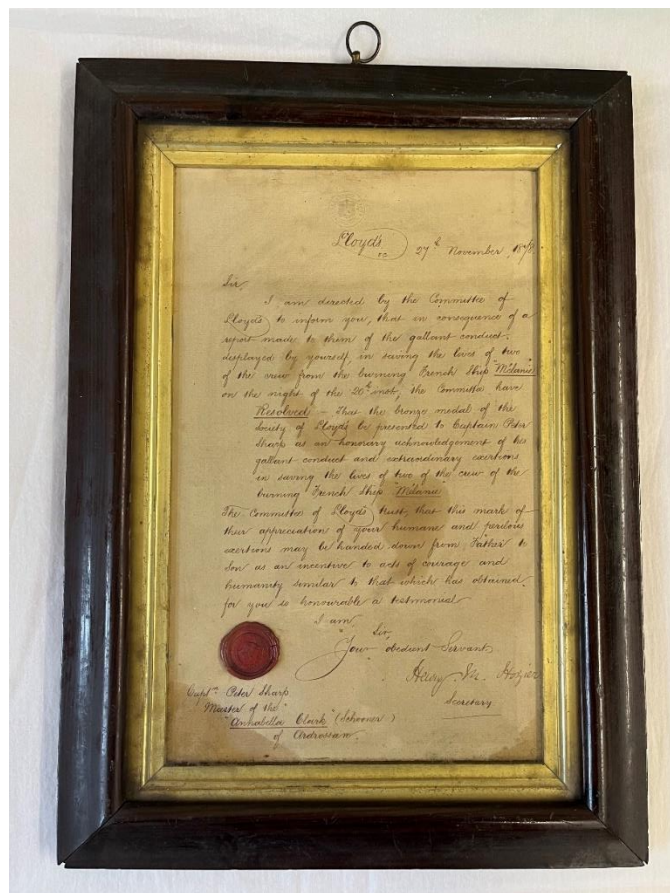
The culture department also intimated that an agreement has been reached for emergency funding to the National Mining Museum Scotland. This came with some conditions one of which is the set up of Stakeholders group and SG would like the Director to be part of that group.

It is hoped that Angus Robertson Cabinet Secretary will visit the Museum in the New Year.

Collections

There has been several noteworthy donations to the museum in November and December to round out a busy year for the collection.

- Lloyd's Life Saving at Sea Certificate awarded to Captain Peter Sharp in 1878. Peter Sharp was the captain of the *Annabella Clark* when on the 20th of November 1878 the French vessel *Melanie*, with a cargo of 500-600 barrels of petroleum, caught fire on the River Adour, at Boucan near Bayonne, France. Peter Sharp and mate John McIntosh rowed a boat through the flames, picked up the seamen who had jumped overboard, and came to the aid of the *Melanie's* first mate who had stayed aboard to help his son, who was trapped under debris. This certificate enhances an existing part of the collection as in 2017 a descendent of Captain Peter Sharp donated the bronze medal that was awarded to the captain for the same rescue.



Board Report Dec 2024

- *DEPV Talisman* Ships Model – This model was scratch built by Ray McMahon; the award-winning model maker responsible for the Harbourside Diorama “Memories of Yesteryear” currently on permanent display in the Linthouse building. *Talisman* was the world's first diesel electric paddle vessel, built by A. & J. Inglis in 1935 for the London and Northeastern Railway.
- Model of *RMS Lusitania* with wood and glass case, built by the donors Uncle.
- The museum has been tentatively offered the Denny built stabilisers from *MV Hebridean Princess*. The offer originally came from the engineers of the vessel, but we have now been informed that the conversation will need to be had with Hebridean Island Cruises. These talks are in very early stages and no decision has been made yet on the feasibility of adding these to the collection.
- An object from the SMM Art collection is now on loan to the Royal Scottish Academy for their retrospective on the works of artist Benno Schotz. The sculpture on loan was previously titled ‘Figure of a Ship Welder’ however after some research alongside RSA it was discovered that this was a misnomer placed on the sculpture by the auctioneers when it was sold to the museum. The piece is in fact titled ‘The Iron Knight’. Below is an image of the sculpture in the exhibition.



- Seven Ailsa-built ship models previously on display in the Walker Hall in Troon – Board Chair and Senior Curator met with representatives of South Ayrshire Council to discuss a loan agreement for these important ship models. An agreement was reached, and they will be moved either in December or January to the Linthouse building where they will be on display for visitors. This agreement is supported by the Troon Community Council who are happy that the models will be somewhere on display rather than in storage even though they will have to leave Troon. The models

Board Report Dec 2024

are – *MV Doric Ferry, Azteca Class Ships (Two models), HMS Loch Tarbert, Pantaloon* (Rozelle House Collections), *Itupuca, Itapura*

- In total, including the work done to address the backlog in the collection, there have been 118 accessions to the collection this year. This is up from 33 accessions in the year previously. The Assistant Curator has been instrumental in making incredible progress on the object backlog and ensuring that the recognised collection continues to be world class.

Volunteering/ Training

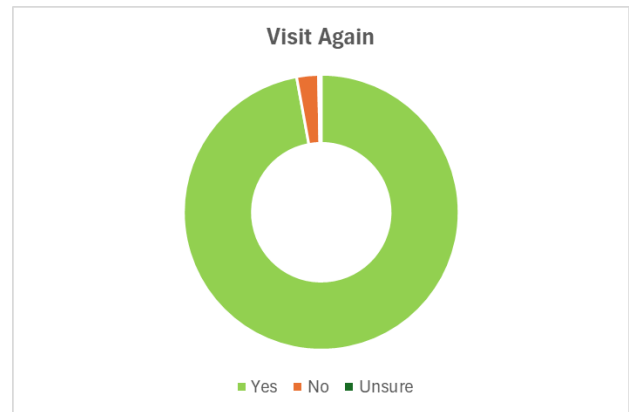
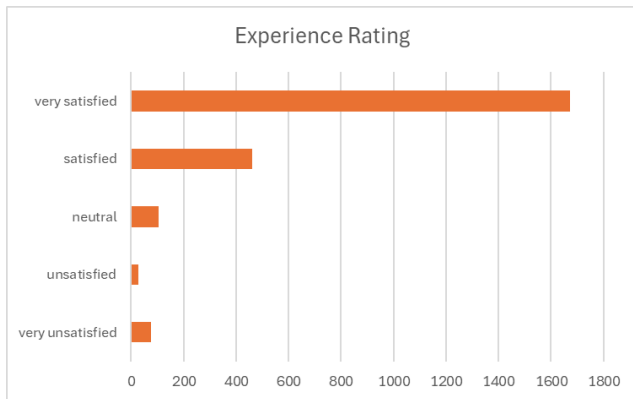
- Senior Curator and Learning & Access Manager have now completed the “Developing Your Leadership” course with Social Enterprise Scotland. Topics covered included ‘Managing Yourself’, ‘Managing Others’ and ‘Managing Your Organisation’.
- Senior Curator also attended a seminar held by the Folklore Museums Network on the importance of folklore and intangible cultural heritage in museums.
- The museum has another new volunteer, Stuart Murphy, who will be joining the collections volunteers and is helping Mike with his current project of organising the photographic collection and digitising the images that have been missed over the years.
- The Engineering volunteers are back to work on *Kyles* and have been given a list of priorities from the Senior Curator on areas of the vessel that need some attention. The first of these will be removing the oily water from the bilges in an environmentally conscious way and temporarily fixing the wheelhouse doors before they are replaced fully sometime in the future.
- We will be celebrating the effort of the volunteers on Tuesday 17th of December with a Christmas Lunch held in the education room. All volunteers have been invited and food/ drink and music will be provided for by the museum.

Exhibitions and Events

Shipyards Social- exhibition evaluation

The feedback on this exhibition was excellent and is evidenced below.

Board Report Dec 2024

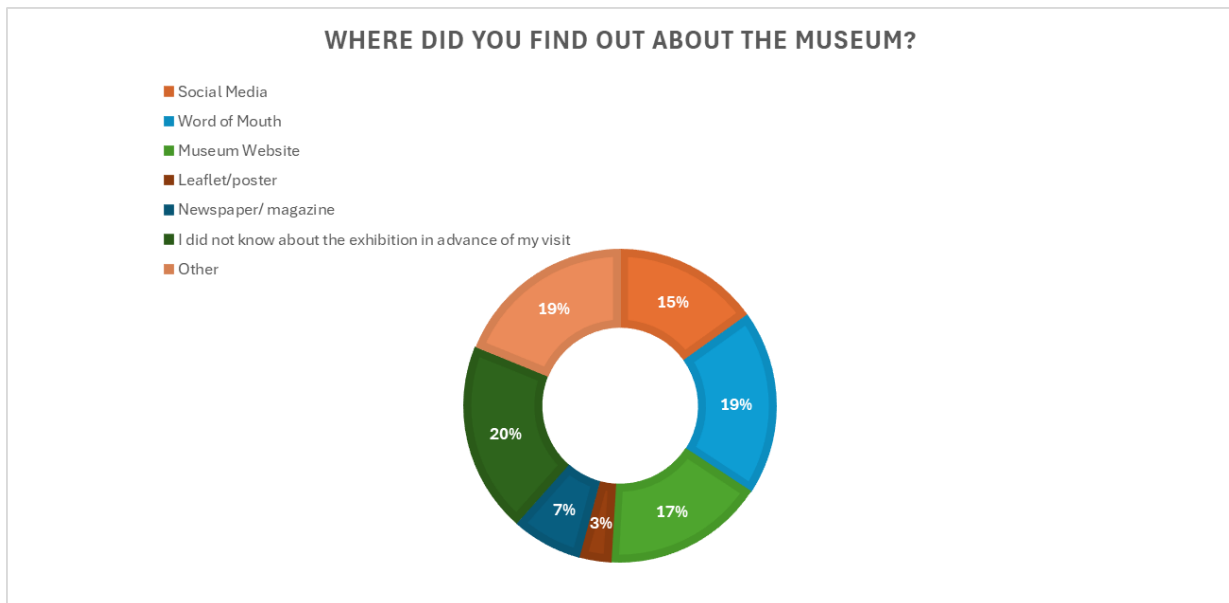


What other exhibitions would you like to see at the Museum?

Social History, Science/ Engineering / Industrial, Art/ Photography,

Experimental (the stranger the better)

"Traditional crafts (e.g. woodworking, sewing, hobbies)", "Contemporary Subjects (e.g. environmental, world cultures)", Science/ Engineering / Industrial



Current exhibition

Gaffer exhibition- Irvine, Linthouse,

We have already received a lot of positive feedback on this exhibition highlighting an interest in the art and history of Scottish vessels.

Board Report Dec 2024

Cultural Significance

- Features one of the few surviving Loch Fyne Skiffs
- Highlights the maritime heritage of Scotland's West Coast
- Connects historical boatbuilding with contemporary artistic expression

Dream destination Exhibition- Dumbarton 1st September 2024- 6th January 2025



This captivating exhibition explores the vibrant history of leisure travel along Scotland's iconic River Clyde during the early 20th century. Through a rich collection of artworks, vintage posters, and historical photographs, visitors journey back to an era when daytrips and 'staycations' to coastal towns like Rothesay, Dunoon, and Largs became a beloved part of Scottish culture.

Coming Exhibitions

Dumbarton 18th January- 12th April 2025

'Pride In the Seas'- Faces of Scotland's Fishing Industry

This compelling photographic exhibition brings to life the heart and soul of Scotland's fishing industry through the lens of acclaimed photographer Ian Georgeson. Commissioned by the



Board Report Dec 2024

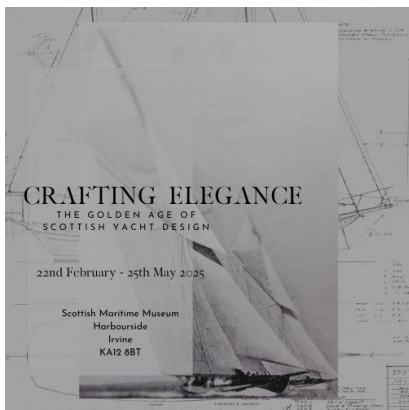
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), the exhibition showcases 12 individuals who embody the resilience and dedication of Scotland's maritime workforce.

Exhibition Highlights

- Intimate portraits spanning from Berwickshire to Shetland
- Diverse roles represented: vessel owners, skippers, deckhands, scientists, and analysts
- Personal stories of challenges, pride, and commitment to sustainable fishing

Originally premiered at the Scottish Parliament and featured at the Scottish Skipper Expo, this interactive exhibition now invites the public to engage with and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about Scotland's fishing heritage and future.

Irvine 22nd February- 25th May 2025



"Crafting Elegance: The Golden Age of Scottish Yacht Design."

"Crafting Elegance" takes visitors on a special journey through Scotland's maritime history, celebrating three famous naval architects: G.L. Watson, William Fife, and Alfred Mylne. These designers changed yacht building from a simple craft into a precise science while keeping its artistic spirit alive. During the Victorian and Edwardian eras, when Britain was a maritime powerhouse, these visionaries created boats that were not only well-engineered but also

beautiful. Their clients included royal families, wealthy industrialists, and passionate sailors, all looking for yachts that combined top performance with stunning design. The exhibition will also look at how these architects or racing and luxury. As a result, Scotland became the centre of yacht design excellence, attracting clients from all over the world.

Workshops/ experiences



Glassblowing experience- Festive Flameworking Workshop

Create Your Own Glass Christmas Decorations

After the strong turnout for our summer sessions, the Festive Flameworking Workshop quickly filled to capacity following its announcement, demonstrating a continued public interest in this unique educational opportunity. The program's momentum continues to grow, with significant interest for post-New Year sessions. We are currently maintaining waiting lists for both

individual participants and group bookings. The glassblowing workshop program supports the museum in several key areas:

- Revenue Generation: The workshops create a steady income stream.

Board Report Dec 2024

- Community Engagement: The hands-on nature of the program fosters meaningful connections between the museum and local communities.
- Brand Enhancement: This unique offering helps distinguish our museum and attract new visitors.
- Educational Impact: Participants gain practical experience in historical craft techniques.



Fused Glass Workshops

The museum's Fused Glass Workshop series, run by artist Eilidh McKenzie, has also been successful. Participants have given great feedback about the experience and the professional guidance they received in the first workshop.

This highlights the success of the variety of workshops that have been introduced with additional revenue and awareness.

New Workshop Series:

We will be adding some new workshops in the coming months.

Creative Collage with Angela Ortenzi-MacColl



Known for her distinctive decoupage-style artworks that blend traditional techniques with contemporary flair, Ortenzi-MacColl brings her expertise in creating decorative, light-hearted pieces to our educational programming. These workshops will offer participants hands-on experience in collage and *découpage* techniques, adding another exciting dimension to our diverse artistic offerings.

Glass Painting Workshops with Karen Shakespeare



As a specialist in glass painting techniques, Shakespeare will offer these new workshops during the February break, providing both children and adults with the opportunity to explore this unique artistic medium.



Board Report Dec 2024

Building on the success of our existing artist-led sessions, these workshops will enhance our growing program and strengthen the museum's position as a hub for artistic education and creative engagement in the community. Join us in this creative journey with Karen Shakespeare!

Events

World Ocean Day 2025 event, scheduled for June 7th-8th, 2025

Event Highlights

New Exhibition: "Beneath the Waves" Explore the history of diving and its contributions to marine conservation, underwater archaeology, and biodiversity, as well as the impact of community-led initiatives.

Expert Talks: Engage with presentations from marine scientists, local experts, and community leaders focused on coastal waters and marine conservation.

Interactive Workshops: Participate in engaging activities centred around marine life, sustainable practices, and community involvement in marine protection.

Beach Cleaning Initiative: Join us for hands-on community action dedicated to marine conservation.

Family-Friendly Activities: Enjoy a fun, educational experience suitable for all ages.

Ten marine conservation organizations, charities, artists, illustrators, authors, scientists, and musicians will participate in the museum's summer event, WOD25. This unique event aims to bring together communities to promote ecology, recycling, sustainability, and a deep respect for nature.

Songs of the Seven Seas - Sea shanty Concert scheduled 21st and 22nd June 2025

The Scottish Maritime Museum will host Scotland's international sea shanty concert, featuring talented performers who bring these traditional songs to life.

Communities

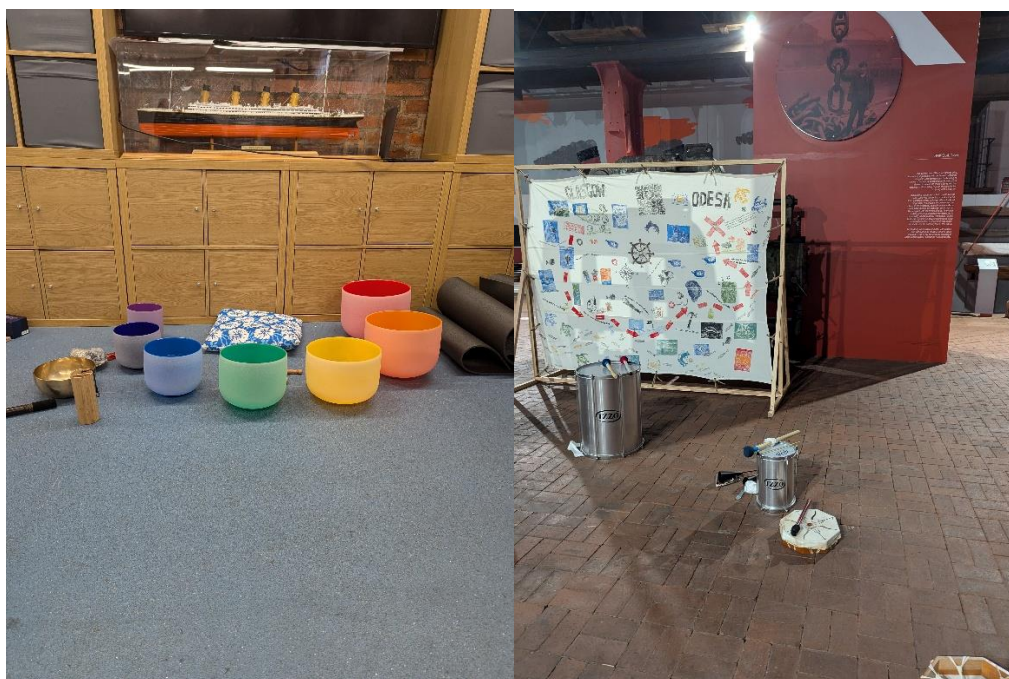
New Scot's

- The Ukrainian New Scot's exhibition, "The Secret of Success" is now deinstalled. Currently putting out feelers via the council and elsewhere to see if there is anywhere else that would like to display the information boards and artwork. Conversations are ongoing with

Board Report Dec 2024

the Museum of Ukrainian Craft and Culture Scotland about doing an online showcase of the exhibition.

- Feedback on the exhibition has been positive from both the creators' and visitors' points of view.
- A case study of the exhibition creation process has been produced, which documents the successes, learnings and feedback received, hopefully as guidance for co-produced exhibitions going forward.
- We hosted a wellbeing workshop on the 29th of October using themes from the exhibition. It was well attended and there were requests for more similar activities. Many of the participants hadn't been in the Museum before despite having lived locally for years.



Participants enjoyed a sound bath and a drum circle during the wellbeing workshop.

- Some of the Ukrainian artists involved in the creation of the exhibition have been keen to remain involved with the Museum. They have come back to use up the rest of their printing supplies and have made some prints and cards that they sold at the Museum's Christmas market on the 30th of November, raising £96. The money raised will be donated to support local volunteers who provide necessary items to orphanages in Ukraine.
- We have remained in touch with the North Ayrshire Ukrainian community and several families attended the Festive Umbrella making workshop for the light parade on the 29th of November.

Denny Experimental Tank

- A Community Ideas session was held at Denny on the 4th of December. It was attended by 5 members of the local community who are involved with the Skylark IX project.
- Amy Dobson, Community Engagement Officer at Skylark IX has been helping with organising the community involvement.

Board Report Dec 2024

- They participants enjoyed learning more about the Denny Tank and getting to see the Denny Arkivz. Thanks to James for coming along and walking them through some of the more interesting pages.
- There were some good conversations about a community contribution to the Denny Social exhibition. They would like to recreate a memory wall, but with stories they go and gather from local residents about Denny's shipyard. They also want to be creative and create some glass or acrylic panels that depict some of the social themes from the shipyard or even from the Arkivz. There was also the suggestion to host a community event where there is a chance to recreate a dinner menu that is included in the Arkivz.
- The plan is to start creation sessions early in the new year. Work is ongoing to find a suitable participatory artist to support the glass panel creations.

SKYLARK IX Scottish Maritime Museum

DENNY SOCIAL

Are you interested in helping create a community exhibition exploring the social history of Denny's Shipyard?

Do you want to join in with creative activities?

Join us for a FREE introduction to "Denny Social" at the **Denny Ship Model Experimental Tank**
Castle St., Dumbarton G82 1QS

4th of December
11am - 2pm
lunch provided

email: communities@scotmaritime.org.uk
or speak to the Skylark IX team to book your place

Supported by funding from **Museums Galleries Scotland**
Supporting Scotland's Museums

World Ocean Day

- In support of the bigger World Ocean Day plans, we are working with the Irvine Senior's Forum and Irvine Youth Legacy Centre to create an intergenerational exhibition on the theme of Ocean Conservation/ a Call to Action for the Climate. This co-produced exhibition will be opened on World Ocean Day weekend and will be accompanied by community activities over the weekend and through the summer programme. Actual activities still to be decided through conversations with the community.
- The idea for an intergenerational project came from previous conversations with the Senior's Forum, who are keen to be involved with activities at the Museum.
- Icebreaker/Introduction sessions will be starting end January with exhibition creation to be completed by end of May.

Board Report Dec 2024

- A partnership agreement is being finalised so that all involved understand their roles in the project.

Other

- The book club is having its last session on the 11th of December. We are running out of Maritime themed options on North Ayrshire library's book club list, so it is likely that the book club won't continue in the new year.
- The next HWB committee meeting is on the 15th of January to discuss progress and ongoing plans.
- Next MGS progress report is due on the 1st of January, but it will be submitted before the Christmas break. An interim claim of £19,688 has been made to the project fund, which has been paid to the Museum.

Learning and Access

- **Formal Learning Programme – 24/25**

Since the last Board Report, there have been three learning visits to our Irvine site and four primary school visits to our Dumbarton site. The workshops chosen were *Investigating Titanic* and our new *Ocean Taskforce*, with 226 children and 41 adults participating.

We are delighted that Edina Trust has responded to our application based on last year's activity and granted us a further £9100 to provide travel subsidies to Early Years and Primary Schools visiting our Irvine site.

Claire had a meeting with Tim Dreyer (NAC, STEM and Learning for Sustainability Officer) to discuss collaborating for our World Oceans Day activities in June 2025. A joint workshop will be offered to P4-7s in North Ayrshire over a week in June. The costs of this will be included in our upcoming grant submission to MGS in January, travel subsidy will be offered via existing Edina subsidy.

The team was joined by S6 pupil Fern Vernon for work experience to support her university application to study History with a view to working in Museums. Her placement was facilitated by the whole Museum team with time spent in Curatorial, Exhibitions and Events, Communities and Learning.

Claire has a meeting scheduled with the RAiSE (Raising Aspirations in Science Education) officer for East Ayrshire in early December to promote the learning programme and travel subsidy, with the intention of increasing our visits from outwith North Ayrshire/Glasgow/Dumbarton areas.

Board Report Dec 2024

- **Little Sea Monsters/Little Guppies**

Our Under 5 sessions continue to be sold out at both sites. Activities have included light up umbrella making, hedgehogs and their habitats, Christmas ornaments and floating and sinking activities. New resources have been purchased to assist with STEM learning. Their Christmas party is scheduled for 19th December with a special visitor attending!



GEM/CHWA project

Six sensory bags have been developed, created, and delivered by Kayleigh Anderson (Barnardo's Learning Disabilities and Autism Services) and they will be road tested by families in January. Our new block of creative sessions begins in January, facilitated by Ellie Swanston on the theme of 'Journey' or 'Movement' as suggested by previous participants. It is hoped that the sessions will culminate in an exhibition over Easter 2025 in Irvine. The development of self-led creative activities for family workers visiting with young adults and creative sessions continue as we collect and test resources.

Fifteen young people and 3 Barnardo's workers joined us for an evening of glassblowing demonstrations and glass painting as well as pizza! The young people left feeling "great," "amazed and happy" and "absolutely amazing."

Claire and Jen took part in a session with evaluator Sian as part of the overall feedback of the project.

Board Report Dec 2024

- **Family Activities**

Make and Takes were provided to visitors over the Halloween weekend.

Claire and Jen facilitated 'Light up Umbrella workshops' to support the Light parade during the Christmas Market. Fifty children and forty adults took part in the workshops which were advertised via Ukrainian Community Networks, Barnardo's, Redburn community centre and social media channels.

Our sold-out Family Fun with Numbers sessions begin this month, supported by Multiply funding. More sessions will run in January and February of next year.

Claire and Elliot facilitated ceramic Christmas decorations workshop as part of the Christmas Market, sixty-five people joined these sessions.

- **Warhammer Club**

The Warhammer club is still on the rise with four new regular members, this brings us to twenty-five people coming to the club when all are present.

The club is still a standout to people with ASN needs with half of the young people having ASN, the club gives them a safe space to spend time with family and to socialise with other people with a shared interest.

In the future Elliot plans to guide the club to be more community run while still being based in the museum, so the group takes more ownership of the club's direction and allows them access to small community funding pots.

In the New Year Elliot plans to do another painting challenge in the club as this has previously been a big drive for new members.

- **Malin Exhibition**

The Museum celebrated 125 years of Heavy Lift History with Malin Group with a pop-up exhibition from 11th of November until 26th of November in the Linthouse. The exhibition showcased the history of Malin Abram as well as a wider development within the maritime industry and Glasgow Region. Claire and Helenor (Director of Marketing and Business Development) have discussed future partnership working to support the Learning programme.



Board Report Dec 2024

- **Developing My Leadership**

Claire completed the *Developing My Leadership* course delivered by Social Enterprise Academy through MGS. She will submit an essay and action plan to complete her SEA Award in Leadership (level 9) credit rated by Glasgow Caledonian University.