



CVs of key players

Board of Trustees:

Doug Maclean – Chair – qualified in Physics and started his career in the Scientific Civil Service. Former head of IT for the Prison Service, Director of IT for Highland Regional Council, independent business consultant and now chair of Groam House Museum, Chair of Rosemarkie and Fortrose Trust, Convener of Inverness and Black Isle U3A, Treasurer of Museums and Heritage Highland.

Barbara Cohen – brings experience of education, manufacturing, publishing and running a management consultancy business. Her involvement with Groam House and lifelong interest in early history and archaeology has led to an increased love of the museum, its Pictish stones and its friendly volunteers. She has served as Company Secretary, Chairman of the Board and advisor for the George Bain Collection

Paul Pritchard – Treasurer – retired accountant, formerly Finance Director for major in major insurance and merchant banking companies. He was also a local parish councillor and treasurer/trustee of several local amenity charities.

Sylvia MacDonald – a career mainly in research and lecturing, primarily at the University of Glasgow and latterly at Anniesland College. Her specialist area was Business Development whilst also lecturing in most business subjects from finance to personnel. Sylvia has an International Master of Business Administration from Glasgow University and was Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Management running a busy agenda for manager development. She is a member of four local history societies.

Lynne Macckenzie – studied art and design then achieved an MA Hons in History of Art from the University of Aberdeen. She has worked as a curator, exhibition producer and marketer for some of Scotland's leading arts and heritage organisations such as Glasgow Museums, Society of Scottish Artists, Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts and the Estate of George Wyllie. Lynne works freelance in arts and heritage and designs websites while developing her own artistic practice.

Richard Hotchkiss – has degrees in economics from Stirling University and the LSE; he worked on development projects in Botswana for two years before returning to the UK to pursue a 30-year career as an Investment Manager for the Co-operative Insurance Society in Manchester. He then moved to Guernsey where he worked as a company director for investment companies until 2019. His love of museums led to a 25-year involvement with Saddleworth Museum in the Pennines, which he helped develop into a fully accredited museum with a curator and education service.

Curatorial advice:

Jill Harden – has been a museum and heritage professional for several decades, and has volunteered with GHM for the past 5 years, having done so previously in the late 1990s.

She brings curatorial expertise that is shared across the organisation, in relation to the Pictish and Local History collections: their interpretation, cataloguing and storage, as well as training and facilitating local volunteers in collections management and research for exhibitions and outreach.

Jo Clements – is a museum professional who has worked for GHM as the George Bain Curator for the last 6 years and brings great knowledge and expertise to this nationally Recognised Collection. She has worked on various externally-funded George Bain projects which have publicised the collection both locally and much more widely. During this period she has also worked on archiving, documenting, interpreting and outreach, as well as facilitating volunteers, at Timespan, Ullapool and other independent Highland museums and galleries.

Helen Avenell - over 20 years' heritage experience and was previously Curator of Scottish History for Glasgow Museums. Since moving to the Highlands in 2004 Helen has developed a wide-ranging freelance creative practice working with small, community and volunteer-led museums. She also works for MHH (Museums & Heritage Highland), an independent membership organization supporting the development and sustainability of the heritage sector in the Highlands.

Other professional advisers

Douglas Murray, Architect – Local architect specialising in eco-friendly and

Carla Wlaker, surveyor

Recent projects

Development of Groam House property – this has been a slow-burning project to explore the potential to take on ownership of Groam House and to develop it to provide better, year-round access to the Rosemarkie Stone; designs have been commissioned from museum professionals and exploratory submissions offered to The Highland Council. Currently transfer of the property is being negotiated.

Refurbishment of heating, lighting of Groam House – a relatively minor project this year, to take advantage of funding made available to improve long term sustainability post-Covid. Plans were prepared for the replacement of the museum's heating systems, exhibition lighting, climate control and insulation, and were fully managed in-house to completion.

MGS/Creative Scotland project to celebrate the work of George Bain – a major project awarded in 2020, providing some £70k for work to develop a new website devoted to promoting modern forms of Celtic Art, and to organise and host dance and animation workshops celebrating the work of George Bain and Celtic art. Satisfactorily managed to completion in-house.