

SHTP January Blog- Hannah Fraser

The first month of my traineeship at the Scottish Fisheries Museum went by so fast, and I have experienced so much in these past few weeks. In the first week I assisted with the set-up of a new exhibition, helping to pick out objects from the collections to go on display.



I also had a training session with a member of the team to learn the process of digitisation and putting images onto the photography collections database.



I then worked in the Empire building, which is used by the Scottish Fisheries Museum as extra space to work on current boat projects. I also worked with the boatyard team to assist with the restoration project on *Shirley II*, a motor yawl built in St Monans. I assisted with painting and helping to create a stand to support the keel of the boat as it has begun to distort.



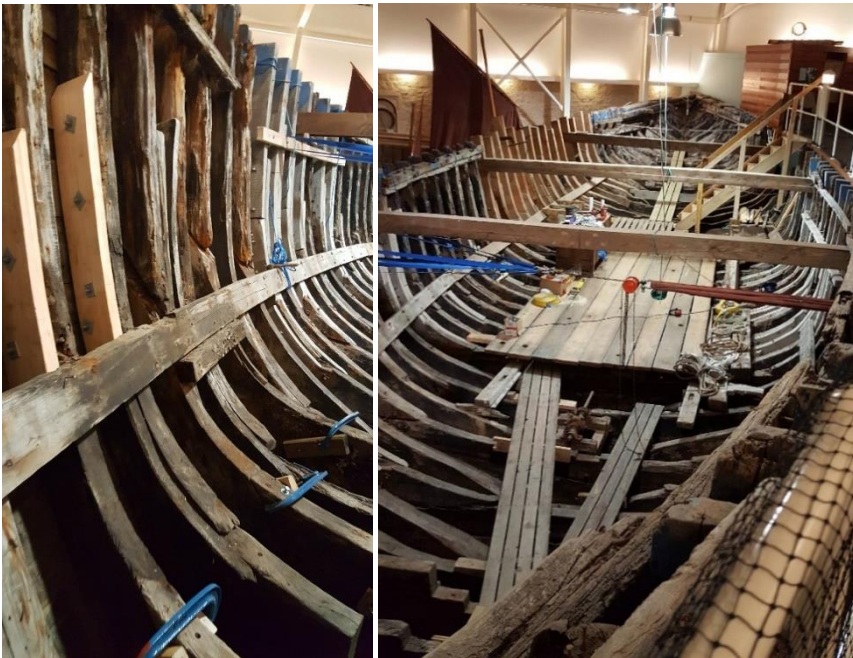
I also began work on the lending collection; this particular collection is available to lend out for instances such as classroom handling sessions. I began with ensuring that all the objects were inventoried and that they were accessioned on the system properly. This project is a great opportunity for me as, once completed, I can successfully say that I have completed my own collections project.

Along with this, I helped with the taking down of another exhibition, taking objects out of display cases and taking down display boards. I then was introduced to the modes catalogue and had another training session with a member of staff to go through the database. I was shown how to

search for specific objects within the collection and how to edit on modes. I also helped with collections that are going into the Sea Change exhibition. I did more work on the modes catalogue by searching each object's accession number and writing down the information for each object.

Going in to the second week at the Scottish Fisheries Museum I did more work with the collections side of the Museum. I was shown through object entry forms for new collections that come into the Museum and how to input the information on to the modes catalogue. I also assisted with packaging paintings that were on loan and being sent back, along with a painting that had to go back to the stores.

I also had the opportunity to go to the Fife Museums Forum meeting. The forum meeting brings together museums across Fife to share new ideas, training and knowledge. It was a great experience as I had the chance to meet different professionals in museums across Fife. From this meeting I hope to contact a few of the museums to arrange visits.



I then did some conservation work on *Research*, which is on display in the Zulu Gallery. I sprayed the boat with boron salt to protect against pests such as woodworm, along with helping to repair the frames of the boat.

Overall, I am really enjoying the boatyard work and feel I am constantly learning new skills and valuable practical knowledge.

Along with all of this, I had the chance to visit the farm where some of the Museum boats are stored, and the timbers that are used in repair work.



The boatyard received a large delivery of more timbers and metal framework, which I helped to unload.

It was a good opportunity to see the scale of timbers that are stored for ongoing repair work for the boat collection.

I also got involved with a volunteer group that come into the Museum every week to help with the accessioning of new objects

into the collection. This was a really good opportunity for me to gain experience working with volunteers and learning how to add new objects to the collection.



Overall, I feel that my first month at the Scottish Fisheries Museum has been a vital and engaging experience. The team at the Museum have been so helpful in giving me their time; whether to give me training or specific career advice within this field.



I look forward to learning, gaining new skills and experiencing everything that the Museum has to offer.