

# Trustees Annual Report 2018

**The twelve months ending on March 31st 2018 represented a year of outstanding success for Dornoch Heritage SCIO and all its constituent parts.**

Leading the way was the Museum, where we saw a 43% increase in footfall, back over 5,000 visitors for the first time for a number of years. Income rose by an even greater amount, thanks in part to the successful implementation of the Gift Aid scheme and also due in part to the decision to start accepting card payments for sales and admissions. Visitor demand meant we extended our opening to seven days per week until the end of October, a decision only made possible by the efforts of our volunteers to staff reception during Lynne's absence towards the end of the season.

At the end of the season the Museum Committee decided to embark on 'Transformation 1' - an ambitious £25k project to upgrade the Museum, partly to tackle some short-comings identified during our Visit Scotland annual visit and partly to improve life for our volunteers, members and visitors.

Outside, the garden was tidied-up and the foundations laid for our new Labyrinth as part of the 'Fishy Tales' project. At the front of the museum new acquisitions in the shape of a plough and two Victorian street lights (formerly gas powered) were installed. New Museum signs were fitted and a replacement flag was purchased - all in the new corporate colours. Volunteers removed the moss from the car park and new lines were painted in time for the opening of the new season. Finally, thanks to a grant from the Dornoch Common Good Fund, replacement panels were purchased for the Dornoch Town Trail and a donation of £1,100 from the Heritage Society paid for the bases of the panels to be refurbished. The new panels were in place before Easter.

Inside the Museum, lighting was upgraded to low-energy LEDS bulbs (saving £185 per annum), all the computers were upgraded and the latest Windows operating software is now used throughout. At the same time we upgraded the database software used for our collection for the first time for over 10 years and upgraded our store room to create some much needed additional space. Finally, a new computerised point of sale system was installed which was well received by our volunteers, enough of whom attended a training course organised by DACIC for the Museum to now qualify as a World Host organisation.

The Heritage Society committee and our members continued to support the Museum financially, helping to raise funds from regular coffee mornings, the Christmas event and the ever-popular Taste of Burns Supper. Membership rose in the year by almost 15% and the attendances at the superb winter talk series (now kindly hosted in the Golf Club) were also up significantly.

Whilst a financial deficit of £11k in the year may not seem like a good performance, this is largely down to the repayment of the grant we received to install the solar panels, which means we can now benefit by £1,500 per annum from Feed in Tariff payments for the next 15 years. The rest is down to spending the Fishy Tales grant funding brought forward from last year and investment in the upgrade project.

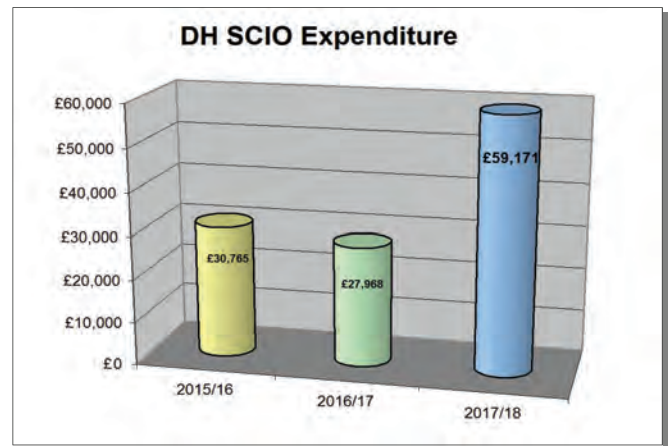
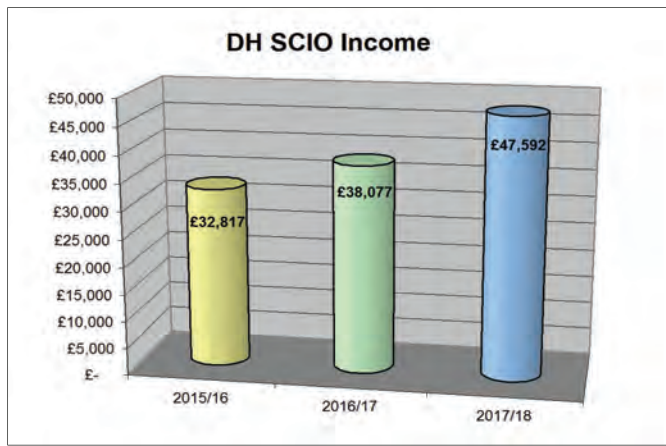
Looking forward, the Trustees continue to plan for a financially sustainable future free from revenue grants. Central to this plan is an extension to the Museum to provide us with more space to do more things to generate more revenue. In the meantime, we continue to protect our 5\* Museum status, develop local partnerships for our outreach work and we are in the early stages of securing funding for a Longhouse excavation project, for programmes to involve children in local heritage and for the refurbishment of the Sherriff McCulloch monument at Evelix.

**Many thanks for helping us to Keep the Dornoch Story Alive!**

*Jerry Bishop*

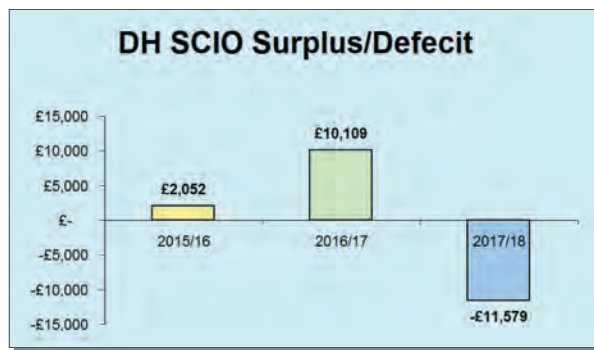
Chair - Dornoch Heritage SCIO

# Our Performance 2017/18



### INCOME 2017/18

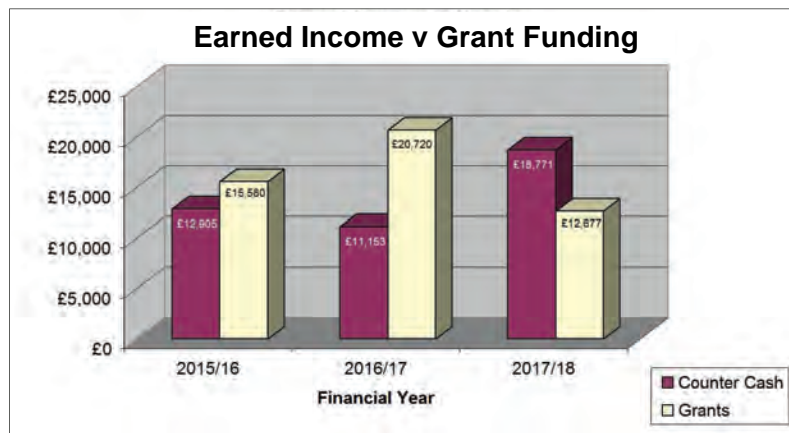
Donations	£3,149
Grants	£12,677
Fundraising	£1,435
Trading	£20,110
Feed In Tariff	£5,899
Gift Aid	£1,096
Other	£3,226
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£47,592</b>



### EXPENSES 2017/18

Fundraising	£1,000
Trading	£1,833
Charitable Activities	£37,085
Grant Repayment	15,974
Governance	£75
Purchases	£3,204
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£59,171</b>

**Earned income up 68.3%**



**Museum visitors up 43.6%**

## HISTORYLINKS

2017/18

- 1 5\* Museum
- 2 Staff Members
- 25 Volunteers
- 235 Card Payments
- 381 Gift Aid donations
- 482 New items in collection
- 5,027 Museum Visitors



## DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

2017/18

- 1 Burns Supper
- 1 Film & Fun evening
- 2 Coffee Mornings
- 3 Newsletters
- 7 Talks
- 202 Members
- £5,831 Raised for the Museum!**

# Our People 2017/18



Lynne Mahoney

HISTORYLINKS Curator



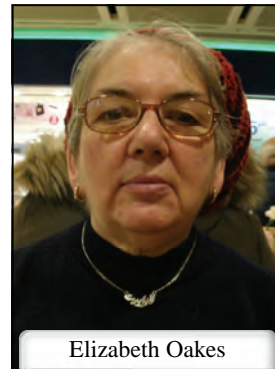
Elsa Cunningham

HISTORYLINKS Assistant



Alison Davies OBE

HISTORYLINKS Trustee



Elizabeth Oakes

HISTORYLINKS Trustee



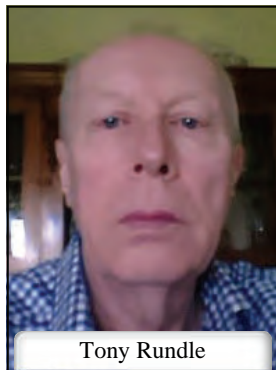
Brian Munro

HISTORYLINKS Trustee



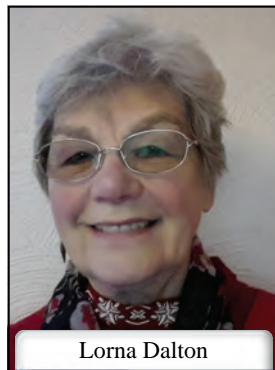
Jerry Bishop

HISTORYLINKS Trustee



Tony Rundle

HISTORYLINKS Trustee



Lorna Dalton

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Peter Wild

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



David Mahoney

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Fiona Macdonald

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Annie Macdonald

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Jane Mason

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



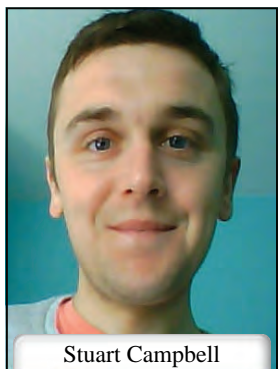
Dr Elizabeth Ritchie

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Anne Coombs

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Stuart Campbell

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Joan Bishop

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Graeme Muckart

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



John Barnes OBE

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer



Anthea Bannatyne

HISTORYLINKS Volunteer

## Our Funders

To whom we extend our grateful thanks



ROYAL DORNOCH

# Organisation Chart (at 31.3.18)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair **Jerry Bishop**  
Treasurer/Secretary **Tony Rundle**  
**Alison Davies O.B.E.**  
**Brian Munro**  
**Elizabeth Oakes**  
**Andrew Senior** (*co-opted*)

## Historylinks Museum sub-committee

Chair **Jerry Bishop**  
Secretary/Treasurer **Tony Rundle**  
**Alison Davies O.B.E.**  
**Heather Martin**  
**Jane Mason**  
**Graeme Muckart**  
**Dr. Elizabeth Ritchie**  
**Peter Wild**  
HC Representative **Cllr Jim McGillivray**

## Heritage Society sub-committee

Chair **Peter Wild**  
Minutes Secretary **Elizabeth Oakes**  
Membership Secretary **Fiona Macdonald**  
**Anthea Bannatyne**  
**Shirley Fagg**  
**Brian Munro**  
**Annie Macdonald**  
**Heather Martin**  
Honorary Treasurer **Tony Rundle**

Curator **Lynne Mahoney**  
Curatorial Advisor **Estelle Quick**

Bankers **Bank of Scotland**  
Independent Examiners **Voluntary Groups - East Sutherland**  
Solicitors **Arthur & Carmichael**

**Dornoch Heritage SCIO**

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The Meadows  
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