

# DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

August 2003

## AGM

The Society holding its AGM on Thursday September 4 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Carnegie Building, Dornoch.

The present committee of the Society is:

Joint chairpersons: *Helen Fairgrieve & Sylvia Park*

Treasurer: *Robbie Banks*

Acting Secretary: *Robin Ashby*

Membership Secretary: *Margaret Wight*

Members: *Ken Bromage,, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper*

Regretfully Helen Fairgrieve and Margaret Wight have tendered their resignations as of the

next AGM and we thank them both full-heartedly for all they have done over the past years.

This situation leaves three vacancies on the committee and nominations for new members are welcome. Ullabritt Ashby has indicated her willingness to stand and Jimmy Melville is prepared to act as joint chair. Further nominations to Helen, Sylvia or Robin.

A proposal to amend the constitution to determine a quorum as four members of whom one must be a chairperson or the Secretary will be put to the meeting for adoption.

## EXCURSIONS

We have been invited to a tour on **Thursday 18 September** at 5.30 pm round Dunrobin Castle guided by Lord Strathnaver.

On **Saturday 25 October** there will be a trip to Knockan Crag, where we will be guided by Jan Breckenridge, who talked to us in March, and Ullapool Museum.

Contact Robin Ashby (01862 821328) for details and booking.

### Highland Archaeology Week

Historylinks is organising an event called 'Pottering in Archaeology'. The aim is to reproduce cist beakers and food vessels that have been found

in the local area but are now in the Inverness and Dunrobin museum collections.

**4th Oct** Production and decoration of pots.

**11th Oct** Pit firing

**Location:** Fearn **Tutor:** Pippa Lee

**Cost:** Approx £10 This is being subsidised by Historylinks and as such it is expected that the results will form the basis of an exhibition at Historylinks in 2004

Places are strictly limited so it is very much a case of first come first served.

**Contact** Peter Wild on 01862 810140 to book or find out more.

## FUND-RAISING

As usual, our traditional activities have both drawn attention to the Society and raised satisfactory funds. We held our Spring Coffee Morning and had a stall at both the Wemyss Fair and the Sutherland County Show.

Our summer "series" of lectures by Rod Houston

and Jimmy Henderson was highly satisfactory with a large number of visitors attending the first one. No doubt this will be repeated next summer.

Four Quiz Walks have been organised but there has been very low attendance. It is unlikely that the activity will be repeated next year.

# ONGOING PROJECTS

## RAILWAY FILM

A rough cut has now been examined by the railway sub-committee. It combines the filmed interviews with our archive material and includes some footage from "Proud Sutherland" which has now been restored and returned to the Society. Both the railway film and "Proud Sutherland" will be available to Historylinks visitors next season.

## HISTORYLINKS TRAIL

The last bit of funding for this project costing more than £30,000 has been granted. Work has begun on the first phase, the building work and signage. Also a start has been made on phase 2, the audio guide. The whole project is now expected to be complete by 31 March 2004 with school packs and audio versions in up to six languages.

## MEMBERSHIP

Paid-up members of the Society are invited to attend lectures free of charge. Free admission to Historylinks is already included in membership. Non-members will be required to pay for both activities as they are now. Please have your membership-card with you when attending lectures.

NB Those members who have already signed a Standing Order for membership fees will receive their membership card for 2003/2004 with this newsletter. All other members will find a reminder enclosed if they have not paid by other means.



The reconstruction of D G McCulloch's workshop has been retained this year as well and many other displays have been remodelled to include more illustrations. They have also been collected in a more rational way, but still leaving the central "walk through time" the way it was.

Following inspection the museum has been awarded three stars, just falling short of four-star status, which it is hoped will be attained in 2005.

The experiment of Sunday opening has been quite successful especially as it gives more local people a chance to visit.

The museum has also received a large number of photographs and memorabilia and the Trustees wish to thank all those who have donated something.

The museum will close for the season on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## COMING EVENTS

### 2003

- |                 |  |                  |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| September 4     | AGM for Dornoch Heritage Society   |                  |
| September 18    | Tour of Dunrobin Castle (details from Robin Ashby)                                 |                  |
| October 9       | John Thurso MP <i>"The Sinclairs in the North - A Family View"</i> .               |                  |
| October 11 - 19 | Highland Archaeology Week  |                  |
| October 25      | Excursion to Knockan Crag and Ullapool Museum - all day (details from Robin Ashby) |                  |
| November 13     | Sandra and David Macdonald <i>"Vikings at Dingwall"</i>                            |                  |
| November 15     | Coffee Morning   |                  |
| December 11     | Rona McLeod <i>"The Early History of Migdale Hospital"</i>                         | ROYAL GOLF HOTEL |

### 2004

- |             |  |                  |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| January 22  | A Taste of Burns                               | ROYAL GOLF HOTEL |
| February 19 | Frank Roach <i>"Railways in the Highlands"</i> |                  |
| March 18    | Allan Lannon <i>"The Pope Family"</i>          |                  |
| April       | Annual Dinner Date and venue to be announced   |                  |