

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

February 2003

AGM 12TH SEPTEMBER 2002

Reports on the activities of the Dornoch Heritage Society and the Historylinks Trust were given by their respective chairpersons. Both looked back on a successful year.

John Muir and George Munro resigned from the Committee and were thanked for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Society. Jimmy Melville was elected onto the Committee.

The office-bearers for 2002-3 are:

Co-chairpersons: *Helen Fairgrieve and Sylvia Park*

Secretary: *Robin Ashby*

Membership Secretary: *Margaret Wight*

Treasurer: *Robbie Banks*

Other members are: *Ken Bromage, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper*

Ian Ross-Harper continues as Librarian.

It was agreed that paid-up members would no longer pay for lectures and to change the financial year to that of the Historylinks Trust namely 1 April to 31 March.

FUND-RAISING

PAST

Fund-raising activities culminated on 16 November when two events were held. There was the usual successful Coffee Morning in the West church hall which raised £447.

In the evening Historylinks was filled with members and invited representatives of Dornoch business for an informal presentation of Historylinks activities and exchange of views on heritage matters.

The highlight of the event was the drawing of the winners in the Summer Draw performed by MSP Jamie Stone. The first prize went to Lesley Bell of the bookshop. The other winners were evenly distributed around the whole of the UK which showed the wide appeal of the lottery.

The draw made a profit of £268. The committee has decided not to repeat the lottery in 2003 but is considering running it again in 2004.

The presence of the Society at the County Show generated great interest and encouraged a fair number of new members to join.

FUTURE

The traditional Spring Coffee Morning will be held on 3 May in the West Church Hall. The Society will also be present at the Wemyss Fair and the County Show.

Quiz walks will be arranged during the height of the tourist season (July and the first two weeks of August) on every Sunday afternoon when Historylinks will be open.

Tiles can still be ordered through Sylvia Park for mounting in Historylinks.

A special summer lecture about genealogy is also under consideration.

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND PLANNING

At the request of members the Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 14 November to hear members views on the planning application for 10 Carnaig St in Littleton. It was agreed to oppose the application as it would fundamentally change the area which is of heritage significance.

The Society presented its views to the Planning Committee. The application was subsequently turned down.

It is not the policy of the Society to consider every

planning application within Dornoch, but it will be active when it perceives that damage could be done to the town's built heritage.

It is monitoring the proposals for the filling-station site but as yet no formal application has been made. The Highland Council has promised full public consultation should an application be made. The Society will act in accordance with members' views after such a consultation.

ONGOING PROJECTS

RAILWAY FILM

We now have a sound archive of reminiscences about the railway provided through recordings made with our members. This led to video-recordings being made at the Strathspey Steam Railway including one of the drivers on the line. This material will be reduced to a video archive of about two hours in total.

By the time this newsletter is issued all the railway related material in Historylinks should have been videoed.

Based on this recorded material a new manuscript for a film for visitors will be written and necessary new footage will be shot. There may also be a separate compilation for more local consumption.

HERITAGE TRAIL

The last bit of funding for this project costing more than £30,000 has been applied for. It is hoped that the project will be complete by the height of the summer.

The main emphasis is on a trail round Dornoch with new interpretative signage and portable audio guides in several languages that visitors can listen to as they walk round the trail. There will also be educational packs for schools.

The proposed signage will be displayed in the Carnegie Library for comment 2 - 10 March and can be discussed with the designers on 10 March at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

ANNUAL DINNER

Please reserve Friday 28 March for the Society's annual dinner to mark the end of the lecture season and the start of the museum activities.

It will be held in the Burghfield Hotel at 7 pm for 7.30 and tickets cost £15.

This year we are trying a new system to avoid the logistical problems of printed tickets. To reserve your places please *ring* 810377 (Helen) or 821339 (Sylvia)

and talk to them directly or leave a message on their answerphones. You can also *e-mail* fairgrieve@rearquhar.fsnet.co.uk or grahampark@supanet.com . Your reservation is binding unless you contact Sylvia or Helen and cancel.

Payment is to be made on arrival at the dinner. Please reserve your tickets by 21 March. Raffle prizes welcome.



Historylinks will open on Good Friday to Easter Monday from 10 am to 4 pm except on Easter Day when it will open at 2 pm.

Thereafter it will be open on Sunday afternoons and all day Monday and Tuesday until 25 May.

The museum will be fully open from Monday 26 May from 10 am to 4 pm.

As usual we are looking for volunteers to welcome our visitors. So if you can offer a morning (10 am to 1 pm) or an afternoon (1 to 4 pm) on this pleasant task, please contact us by returning the enclosed coupon.

COMING EVENTS

2003	
February 20	Bridget MacKenzie "Vikings in Sutherland"
March 20	Jan Breckenridge "Knockan Cliff Geological Trail"
March 28	Annual Dinner - Burghfield Hotel 7 pm for 7.30
May 3	Coffee Morning
November 15	Coffee Morning

LIBRARY

It one of the intentions of Historylinks to build up a library of books dealing with local heritage.

If you have any that wish to donate they will be gratefully received.

You may also suggest to the Librarian (Ian) titles that you think should be purchased for the modest budget that he has.