

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

January 2004

AGM 4TH SEPTEMBER 2003

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.

Helen Fairgrieve and Margaret Wight resigned from the Committee and were thanked for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Society. Ullabritt Ashby was elected onto the Committee.

The office-bearers for 2003 - 4 are:

Co-chairpersons: *Sylvia Park and Jimmy Melville*

Secretary: *Robin Ashby*

Membership Secretary: *Ullabritt Ashby*

Treasurer: *Robbie Banks*

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

Ian Ross-Harper continues as Librarian.

Honorary membership was conferred on Rena Oman and Struan Robertson in recognition of their many years' of service to the Society. Honorary members and their spouses are not required to pay an annual subscription in perpetuity.

It was agreed unanimously to change the last sentence of Rule 4.2 of the Constitution to read "At any meeting, 4 members including the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman or the Secretary shall form a quorum."

FUND-RAISING

PAST

Fund-raising activities for 2003 culminated on 15 November. The usual successful Coffee Morning in the West Church Hall was held and raised approx. £400. A big thank-you to everyone who helped at the event. (This last statement was edited out of the NT account.)

The Society also made a welcome appearance at the St Andrew's Fair on November 28 serving hot chestnuts to drenched visitors.

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 to attract more members and publicise Historylinks.

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

A new series of summer lectures will be held following the success of 2003.

ENTERTAINMENTS AND EXCURSIONS

A TASTE OF BURNS

Please book January 22nd for an unusual meeting at the Royal Golf Hotel.

The first part of the entertainment will consist of a showing of the film 'Proud Sutherland' and selected interpretations of the work of the Immortal Bard. Bring along your favourite work to have recited if you don't wish to do so yourself.

The second part, for which there is a charge of £5, will be haggis and a wee dram after the traditional Address. More interpretations and a chance for good crack to follow with the bar open.



CASTLE LEOD

Lord Strathnaver recommended we visit Castle Leod, the seat of the Clan MacKenzie at Strathpeffer. The property is open to visitors during the summer for restricted periods of time, mainly weekends. We hope to arrange a dedicated mid-week viewing for members in May.



ONGOING PROJECTS

RAILWAY FILM

The finishing touches are being made and the film will be ready for viewing when Historylinks opens for the season.

A 'premiere' is planned for May when all those who have in some way been involved in the production will be invited to attend. Members will also be welcome, of course. Date and venue to be decided.

HERITAGE TRAIL

The project has been under way for several months. The signage phase is nearing completion and the audio work is well in hand. A start has been made on the leaflet and booklet and on the school packs for primary and secondary pupils. Most of the project should be in place by the opening of Historylinks.

ANNUAL DINNER

Please reserve Friday 26 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 - 17.

To reserve your places please *ring* 821339 (Sylvia) or 821328 (Ullabritt) and talk to them directly or leave a

message on their answerphones. You can also *e-mail* grahampark@supanet.com or uashby@supanet.com. Your reservation is binding unless you contact Sylvia or Ullabritt 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 (9 April) and will welcome visitors between 10 am and 4 pm on a Monday to Friday basis (open Easter Saturday and Sunday as well) until 22 May.

Thereafter it will be open seven days a week until 27 September when it will revert to Monday to Friday opening until closing for the season in mid-October.

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 the seasonal supervisor or any of the trustees (Peter Wild, Peter Fairgrieve, Cliff Reddin, John Gall & Graham Park)

COMING EVENTS

2004

January 22	A Taste of Burns Royal Golf Hotel approx £5 per head	May 8	Coffee Morning
February 19	Frank Roach "Railways in the Highlands"	May	Excursion to Castle Lead
March 18	Allan Lannon "The Pope Family"	September 2	AGM
March 26	Annual Dinner - Burghfield Hotel 7 pm for 7.30	November 13	Coffee Morning