



The Heritage Society and Historylinks thank all the helpers and volunteers who have contributed in so many ways this year and wish you and all our members A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

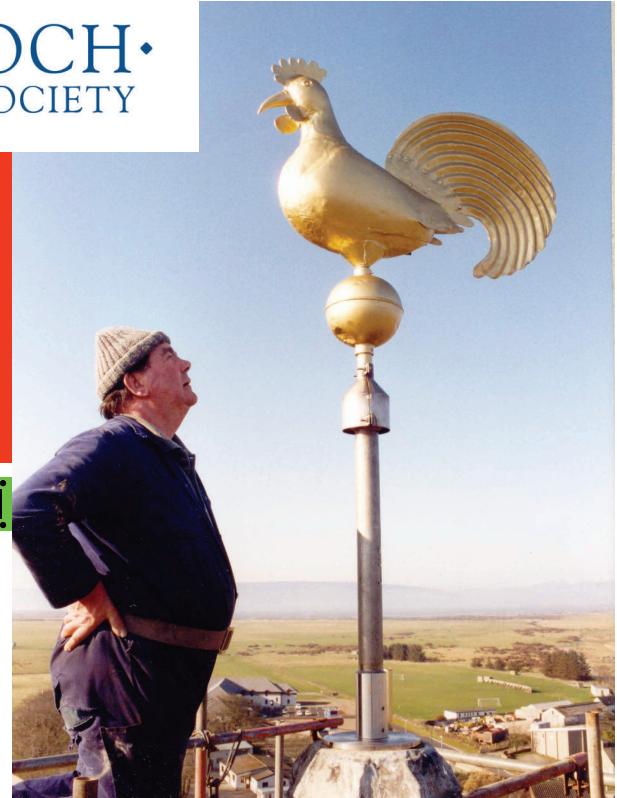


FILMS & FUN & FESTIVE CHEER

Thursday 19th December

West Church Hall 7pm

Admission £2 Members £1 All Welcome



Dornoch Cathedral
weathervane
Courtesy Sander
Macdonald

In what has become a tradition in December we are once again meeting up for an evening of films from our archives, an interlude with home made mince pies and shortbread, followed by a guess the mystery object quiz with a twist....is that a quist? Anyway we hope you can come and enjoy a relaxing evening.



Burns á la DHS

Our special take on a Burns Supper is on Thursday 23rd January at the Social Club, 7 for 7.30 BYOB

This year it is being co-ordinated by Jimmy Melville
Booking is essential so please contact Jimmy on 01862 811476 or e-mail him on jayrmelville@gmail.com or catch him at the dancing class!

The price has been maintained at just £15 a head for a three course meal and what promises to be a fun evening.

DHSCIO

The Dornoch Heritage SCIO held its AGM on September 26th.

The current membership of the two committees is as follows:

Dornoch Heritage Society: Peter Wild and David MacLean (Co-chair), Ursula Dawson (Treasurer), Fiona Macdonald (Membership Secretary), Jean Birkett (Secretary), Shirley Fagg, (1 vacancy)

Historylinks Museum: John Barnes (Chair), Tony Rundle (Treasurer), John Muir (Secretary), Peter Fairgrieve, William Sutherland, Peter Wild, Ebby Ritchie (1 vacancy)

The Autumn Coffee Morning raised around £400, so again thank you to all our helpers.

REMEMBER:

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|--|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 20th | TALK | 'Ancient Monuments: A Users Guide' | Pete Higgins |
| March 20th | TALK | 'World War One' | Mike Hook |
| April 17th | TALK | 'Edderton Old Church' | Graeme Muckhart |
| May 17th Coffee Morning - Please get in touch with Peter at any time if you are having a clear out and would like to donate any books or bric-a-brac. | | | |

Unfortunately the Museum continued with a downturn in visitor numbers and subsequently shop takings. However, we have had over 4000 visitors this year and the shop made a profit of over 40%, so given the current economic climate these figures are still encouraging. We have been in contact with the Highland Council about the lack of adequate signage to the Museum and were able to show how this is a major factor on visitor numbers. We are cautiously hopeful that things will improve.

A further positive for the Museum has been our successful bid for several items found locally by metal detecting. There are a number of very interesting objects within the collection including a rare late Iron Age pin head and a 12th century zoomorphic buckle with circling animal heads (see right). Hopefully we will be able to put these items on display sometime in the near future and this will be advertised when it occurs.



We are coming to the end of a very busy November here in the Museum with several outreach projects. A number have been instigated with our local Alzheimer's Scotland support worker, Frances Mackay. These include a Football Memories event in Embo, children from Dornoch Primary coming along to the weekly knitting bee at Oversteps (Weds 6.00-7.30 all welcome) and several visits here in the Museum from local care centres such as the Bradbury Centre, Oversteps and from Helmsdale.

On the 28th November the Museum was 'taken over' by children from the first year at Dornoch Academy. They have created and mounted their own display in the children's room based on the work they have done in several subjects on the First World War.

The Museum was open FREE for St Andrew's Fair and children were able to create their own wreath or Santa.

The Museum will close for the winter at the end of November and re-open in March. However we will be very busy organizing two new permanent displays for next season. The first will be exploring the land use in the local area touching on hunting/fishing, woodland/Estate management and how man has used the sea.

The second display will be on the First World War. Using a digital photo frame, purchased from a MGS grant, we will be showing photographs, taken by Capt Robert Money in 1914, of the 1st Battalion Cameronians as they fought and marched in France. The photos will be linked to the war diary of Capt Ronald Rose from the same period.

Photo by Capt Money, Capt Rose far right—collecting mail from home.

When the Museum opens in March we are planning a travelling display on Sheep Farming in Sutherland and Caithness by Jennifer Bruce. More details will be advertised closer to the event.

We are grateful to all of you who have signed up with the Easyfund-raising website from which we have currently raised over £100. This money will be used to support future outreach projects.

Finally don't forget to keep an eye on our Facebook page and blog which continues to have fascinating stories linked to this area. You can access them from our web page www.historylinks.org.uk.