

# SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER



## WORLD HOST AWARD

In January our Curator, Lynne Mahoney, and 9 museum front of house volunteers attended a WorldHost training course. They spent the day at RDGC and came away with a certificate in the principles of customer service. As a consequence of this, the museum now holds WorldHost recognition for excellent customer service.

## TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The museum has undergone a big transformation over the winter.

Peter has been working on new exhibitions including a display of silver spoons, some of which came from the Sutherland Arms Hotel. We also have a new temporary exhibition and many new display panels,

Volunteers spent two days reorganising the store room to create more space and make it more user-friendly. Outside the woodwork has been painted, the sign board re-vamped and installation of the Dornoch gas lampposts has been completed with a coat of blue and gold paint.



## RADIO STARS

Historylinks Trustee and DHS Committee Member Brian Munro listens to BBC Radio Scotland's 'Out of Doors' on a Saturday morning. He contacted the show to let them know what Dornoch has to offer and on 14<sup>th</sup> March we had a visit from Mark Stephen who co-hosts 'Out of Doors'.

Brian and Lynne spent a very interesting morning walking around Dornoch with Mark and discussing the town's history. The show aired a couple of weeks later and people have visited the museum on the strength of hearing about us on the radio, despite Lynne mislaying the Dornoch Imp!

## FUND RAISING FUN

On 11<sup>th</sup> March museum volunteers provided the refreshments for the Dornoch Fibre Fest.

Many thanks to all who provided baking for the day and thanks too to those who served the soup, filled rolls, cakes, tea and coffee to all the visitors. It was a very good and fun filled day and the bonus was that we raised over £170 for the work of the Museum!



## OFF TO A FLYING START

At the end of March the museum held an open evening to welcome local businesses and accommodation providers into the collection. It was a chance for them to see what Historylinks has to offer and encourage them to tell their customers to pay us a visit. This promotional work seems to have paid dividends as we welcomed a record 628 people to the Museum in April (up 58% year on year)!

# FISHY TALES PROJECT COMPLETED

Our story maze in the museum garden was officially opened on 20th April, marking the end of the project.

The opening event was a huge success with around 100 people attending to watch Christina MacKay cut the red ribbon. Martin Treacher treated us to some sea shanties and museum volunteers provided refreshments. The doors to the museum were open wide with free admission to visitors.

Many thanks to all those who joined us to make it a special afternoon and don't forget to pop by and have a look at the maze in the garden and visit the Fishy Tales temporary exhibition on inside the museum.



## MUSEUM FRIENDS REUNITED



It was wonderful to welcome Ian Westacott and Raymond Arnold to the museum in April.

Some years ago two prints of their work were gifted to Historylinks where their 'double printing' technique is used to great effect. Agreeing on a subject, their two separate drawings are printed directly on top of each other to give a lively and free image.

Ian, who lives in Dornoch, and Raymond are both Australian and printmakers of international reputation. Most years they meet up either in Europe or Australia to work on joint projects.

## DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWS

The winter series of talks has had a stimulating season with subjects ranging from Highland Hospitals to quirks of Brora, the Kirkmichael Project to interpretation of the Embo Marriage stone.

In December our annual end of year film evening was another nostalgic trip down memory lane with a wide selection of films, the main one being a remarkable insight into the lives of Christina Mackay and her sister Bella from Embo who joined their mother, Mary Anne, at the fishing between 1949 and 1952. With a treasure chest of pictures, a packed audience was particularly spell bound with the story of going out on a boat at night-time and seeing a huge haul being taken in with the moonlight shining off the wet herring - the 'silver darlings'.

January saw our now traditional 'Taste of Burns' where despite the snow still dusting down on hard frozen ground, over 60 people turned out celebrate.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>West Church Hall</b>	<b>10am</b>
Coffee, tea & refreshments with sales tables. Baking, Preserves, Plants & Bric-a-brac, Crafts & Hidden finds.			
<b>£2 entry</b>			

<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Medieval life in Dornoch talk</b>	<b>Royal Dornoch Golf Club</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Stuart Campbell, head of Treasure Trove at the National Museum of Scotland, will be giving a talk 'Everyday life in medieval Dornoch; medieval & later finds from Easter Ross'.			
This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from somebody who probably knows better than anyone the wealth of finds that have come from this area. <b>FREE and all welcome.</b>			

<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Finds Day</b>	<b>Historylinks Museum</b>	<b>11am – 3pm</b>
<b>A FREE drop in session with Stuart Campbell, head of Treasure Trove at the National Museum of Scotland.</b>			
"Chance discoveries of artefacts by members of the public have the potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of Scotland's past. If you have found an object(s) whilst farming, gardening, or through hobbies such as metal detecting, bring it along to the Unit staff who will be delighted to discuss your finds and answer any questions you may have about the Treasure Trove system".			