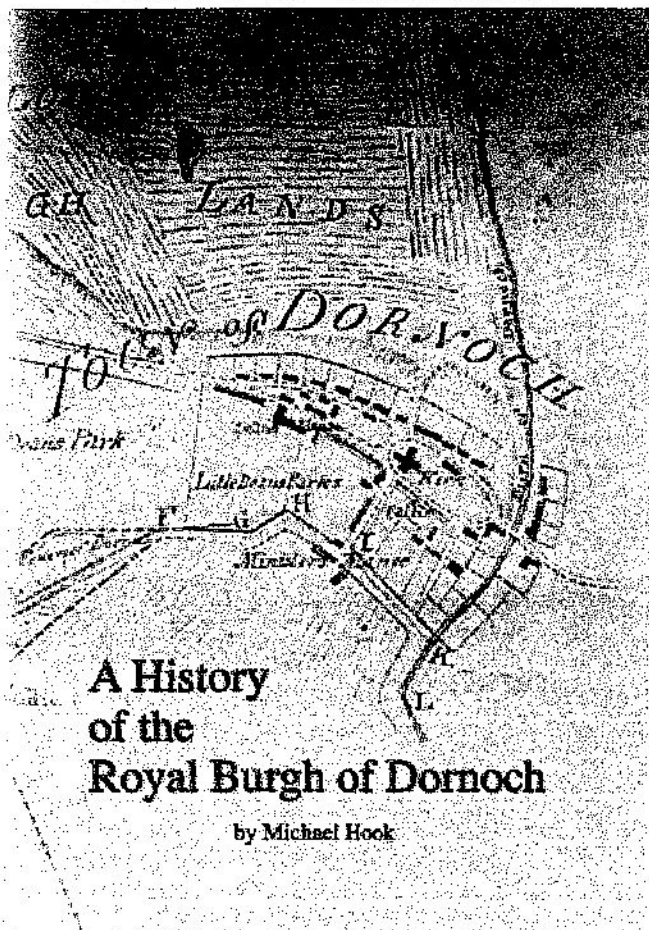


# DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

December 2005

Merry Christmas!

## 'A HISTORY OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF DORNOCH'



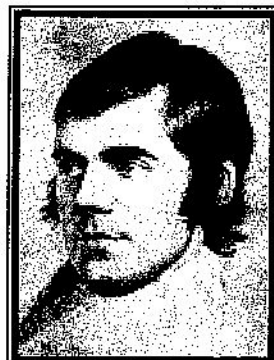
Mike Hook's long awaited book 'A History of The Royal Burgh of Dornoch' will be launched at the Royal Golf Hotel on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. All members and friends are invited. Selling normally for £11.95, signed copies will be available to members for just £10 on production of current membership card.

## EVENTS

### A TASTE OF BURNS

Please book Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Golf Hotel.

The first part of the entertainment will consist of ourselves with recitations and music in the spirit of the Immortal Bard. Bring along your favourite work to have recited if you do not wish to do so yourself.



The second part, for which there is a charge of £5.50, will be haggis, neeps and tatties and a wee dram after the traditional Address. There'll be a chance for good crack afterwards with the bar open

Ah! Some of you will have noticed the price has been raised. But, please note, that the Royal Golf has shaken off its Sassenach associations: it now sells good Scottish measures that are larger than the mean English ones.

### FREE ENTRY TO HISTORYLINKS

The museum is open during the winter months every Wednesday and Thursday. While it is always free to members, January and February are also free to non-members so why not take this opportunity to bring your friends and family along?

### BRING ALONG PHOTOS

We are always on the lookout for new photos with a Dornoch connection. So why not see what you have that can improve our collection? We are not asking to keep them but just have long enough to scan them in on our computer, so that they are available for visitors and researchers.

## COMING EVENTS

### 2005

December 15

David Hutchinson

All events at the Royal Golf Hotel at 7.30 pm

219 Rossal, Rogart - an Abandoned Croft

December 22

TV programme: Prof. Nancy Dorian and her study of East Sutherland

BBC 2 at 7.30

Gaelic with pictures of Embo from Historylinks archives. Check listings

### 2006

January 19

A Taste of Burns

February 16

Ian Mackay

125 Years of Dornoch Curling Club

March 16

John Muir

Education, Education - Education?

April

Annual Lunch

Date and venue to be announced

## FUND-RAISING

The autumn Coffee Morning held on 12 November in the West Church Hall was more high-spirited than usual, prompting speculation about what was in the refreshments. The event raised well over £400. A big thank-you to everyone who helped at the event.

## AGM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005

The co-chairpersons gave reports on the activities of the Dornoch Heritage Society. Both looked back on a successful year. Peter Wild then reported on the activities of Historylinks.

Jimmy Melville resigned as Chairman and from the Committee. He was thanked by Ken Bromage for his efforts on behalf of the Society.

The office-bearers for 2005 - 6 are:

Chairman: **Ken Bromage**

Vice-Chairman: **John Barnes**

Secretary & Treasurer: **Robin Ashby**

Membership Secretary: **Ullabritt Ashby**

Ordinary members are: **Jean Birkett, Rena Oman & Ian Ross-Harper**

Honorary membership was conferred on **Hugh Steele** in recognition of his many services to the Society.

## APOLOGY

Last August when we sent out reminders that it was time to pay the annual subscription, I carelessly updated the wrong file which read more like a threatening final warning than the gentle memory nudge it was supposed to be. I hope this did not cause too much offence. It was all my doing; Ullabritt was blameless.

Sorry! Robin Ashby



## OPENING HOURS

10 am to 4pm

WINTER SEASON Weds and Thurs

Peter Wild continues as Assistant Curator as planned. The museum was successful in obtaining funding to retain Sue Higgins on a P/T basis for a specific project during the winter.

(01862) 811275

New email address: [historylinks@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:historylinks@dsl.pipex.com)

## NEW BOOK



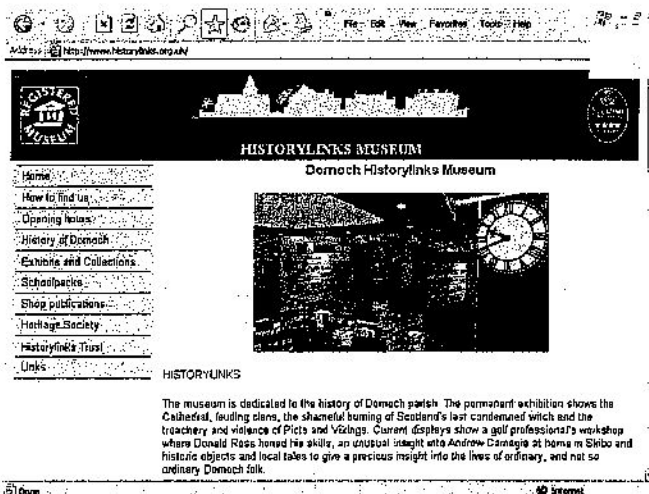
Published 2005 'The Gentleman Usher: The Life and Times of George Dempster 1732-1818' by John Evans.

George Dempster was one of the best known and popular Scotsman of his day. He served for 30 years as a Member of Parliament and was Laird of estates at Skibo, Sutherland and Dunnichen, Angus. He used his talents to bring prosperity and jobs to disadvantaged regions of his beloved Scotland. This work is an authoritative addition to the bibliography of Scottish history.

## PROJECTS

### WEBSITE

Thanks to sterling work by John Barnes the website is now online at [www.historylinks.org.uk](http://www.historylinks.org.uk).



## RECENT ACQUISITION

Historylinks has been successful in obtaining a seal matrix that belonged to a Dornoch chaplain in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The matrix would have been used to make an impression on sealing wax to ensure that a letter arrived unopened and unread. The seal also guaranteed authenticity. With a Latin inscription around the edge reading 'James, chaplain of Dornoch', the centre depicts a chalice flanked by two candles and the Hand of God descending from above. It is a rare object in that it would normally have been destroyed or defaced when the owner died. This one is in fine condition so it could well have been lost. It should be on display early in the new year.

