

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

August 2008

OWNER FOUND!



For many years the Society has tried to locate the absentee owner of Skelbo Castle to find a way to preserve the building. Now the Baron of Skelbo himself has approached the Society through his lawyer. He wishes to visit his property in the fairly near future and discuss what work needs to be done.

Coincidentally Historic Scotland had already decided to commission a conservation survey of the site. They are delighted that a communication channel with the owner has now been opened up. Let's hope the ambitions of the Baron and the demands of Historic Scotland can be reconciled and a valuable heritage site can be preserved.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 23 September at 7.30 pm
Royal Dornoch Golf Club

John Barnes will resign at the AGM to become the Chairman of the Trust. Rena Oman is not seeking re-election, while Jean Birkett is. So we will have four vacancies on the committee and new members are welcome.

The Committee will nominate the following officers:
George Munro (Chair), Rick Bramley (Vice Ch.), Robin

Ashby (Sec) Gerard Fitzpatrick (Treasurer and Members Sec.). Ullabritt Ashby and Steve Dallman continue as ordinary members.

The Committee will also ask the AGM to change the constitution to remove the office of Librarian as this function is now carried out by the staff of Historylinks.

A proposal to move talks to another evening than Thursdays from Sept 2009 will also be put to the AGM.

The meeting will finish with a short talk by Sander MacDonald about the Norwegian Army in Dornoch.

UHI Courses

Apart from the BA (Hons) Scottish History degree, UHI will run separate modules September to December 2008 on: *The Scottish Highlands, 1850-2005; The Economic and Social transformation of Scotland, 1870-2000; Themes in Modern British History, 1815-1939; The Atlantic World 1492-1800: The Old World Meets the New.* More information from North Highland College, Dornoch.

FUND-RAISING

We held a very successful Spring Coffee Morning and had a stall at the Sutherland County Show. We raised a lot of funds. These we have used to sponsor Historylinks' image library website and to finance the publication of the book on the Evelix valley settlements.

MEMBERSHIP

Paid-up members of the Society may attend lectures free of charge. Free admission to Historylinks is also included in membership. Non-members are required to pay for both activities. Please have your membership-card with you when attending lectures.

NB Those members who have already signed a Standing Order for membership fees will receive their membership card for 2008/2009 with this newsletter. All other members will find a renewal reminder enclosed if they have not already paid by other means.



HISTORYLINKS

Latest news can always be found on our website: www.historylinks.org.uk.

OPENING TIMES

The museum is currently open 10am to 4pm daily until September 28, then Mondays to Fridays until 31 October. Thereafter it will be open two days a week, usually Wednesdays and Thursdays, but it is best to check before visiting (01862 811275).

ONLINE IMAGE LIBRARY

More than 4000 images from our collections can be accessed at www.historylinksarchive.org.uk.

SHOW SCOTLAND

The event on May 3 proved a success for young and old alike. The children's event resulted in a feedback message board which is now giving a lot of fun.

The evening event for adults took the form of an intense treasure hunt in Historylinks Museum. To the accompaniment of music from Blaze and liquid refreshments it was a most enjoyable evening with Catriona Wood being the winner of tickets to Eden Court. It is an event sure to be repeated.



Blaze in full swing

HIGHLAND ARCHAEOLOGY FORTNIGHT

(Sep 27 - Oct 13)

Sat. 11 October from Historylinks 10.15 am
'Settlements of the Evelix Valley'.

A drive and walking exploration of settlements in the Evelix Valley with the option to continue in the afternoon. Wear stout walking shoes or boots. Bring packed lunch if staying to the afternoon. Leaders: Alastair Jupp & Graham Park. Free.

BOOK ON EVELIX SETTLEMENTS

Graham Park has now completed his book about the archaeology of the Evelix Valley and we hope to have it printed by the year end. It is based on the amazing work done by Jimmy Bell and Struan Robertson.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

In July Historylinks organised a 'Stained Glass windows' workshop for the summer holidays and the results formed the basis of a small exhibition in the Cathedral.



As you probably read in the P & J we took part in the Dornoch Festival week events by repeating our Mock Archaeology event.



EXTENSION TO THE MUSEUM

With the success of these events it is increasingly obvious that we could do with a bit more space to run them in. With this in mind and the desire to have a space for temporary exhibitions, the Trust is now actively pursuing the idea of an extension to the rear of Historylinks.

ANCESTRAL HISTORY COURSE

The North Highland College has developed an online Ancestral History Course. You do it at your own pace and it is free. However you do need to register. There will be a demonstration and taster session between the 10th and 15th November. If anybody is interested get in touch with Peter at Historylinks or with Garry Ogg at the college.

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

EVENTS 2008-9

September 23	Tue 7.30 pm	AGM - talk about the Norwegian Army in Dornoch by Sander Macdonald	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
October 11	Sat 10.15 am	Highland Archaeology Fortnight (Sep 27 - Oct 13) <i>'Settlements of the Evelix Valley'</i> A drive and walking exploration of settlements in the Evelix Valley with the option to continue in the afternoon. Wear stout walking shoes or boots. Bring packed lunch if staying to the afternoon. Free. Leaders: Alastair Jupp & Graham Park.	Historylinks
October 16	Thu 7.30 pm	Talk: <i>Cllr Jim McGillivray</i> "Embo na Gort" - trans: "Hungry Embo"	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
November 8	Sat 10.30 am	Coffee Morning	West Church Hall
November 20	Thu 7.30 pm	Talk: <i>Manish Basu</i> "Life and times of JED Bethune of Calcutta"	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
December 18	Thu 7.30 pm	Talk: <i>Cllr David Alston</i> "Slaves and Highlanders"	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
HOME COMING YEAR 2009			
Sometime during the autumn Jacquie Aitken will hold an introductory talk about a project to do with WW1 and WW2 (see overleaf for more information)			
January 22	Thu 7.30 pm	Burns á la DHS Our traditional entertainment, but with a full meal.	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
February 19	Thu 7.30 pm	Talk: <i>Jacquie Aitken</i> "The Inverbroray Salt and Coal Works (1529-1777)"	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
March 19	Thu 7.30 pm	Talk: <i>Dr David Worthington UHI</i> "Scottish migration to Poland"	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
April 16	Thu 7.30 pm	Launch of book about the settlements of the Evelix valley. Presentation by the editor, <i>Graham Park</i>	Royal Dornoch Golf Club
May 9	Sat 10.30 am	Coffee Morning	West Church Hall
May		A members' excursion Details to be decided later	

With reservation for possible changes



WARTIME MEMORIES

The project focuses on wartime memories and in particular learning more about the people who are named on the war memorial. As I was doing my initial research I noted that there was very little in the museum about WW1 & WWII and the image library consisted mostly of photos of unnamed soldiers from WW1.

I realised that there was scope to find out more about how life changed in the Parish of Dornoch during the wars, e.g. the men and women who enlisted into the forces, the airbase outside Dornoch, home defence etc. It is important that Historylinks records wartime memories from those who were involved and their descendants. This information will form part of a new audio exhibition in the Historylinks Museum and will be archived and preserved for future generations.

An introductory talk in the autumn months will outline the aims of the project which will be closely followed by a programme of community workshops where participants can learn about how to research a wide range of wartime and local records.

Historylinks Museum would be delighted to hear from anyone who has photographs of those who participated in WW1 and WW2 or the area around Dornoch during the wars.

Jacquie Aitken

