



• DORNOCH • HERITAGE • SOCIETY

AUGUST 2011

THE NEW ORGANISATION

In our last newsletter we notified members that the current organisation of Dornoch Heritage Society needed to be restructured. The Committee and the Historylinks Trust agreed to submit an application to form an SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Within the framework of this SCIO there will be a sub-committee that will take on the duties of the current Society and another sub-committee will run Historylinks Museum.

The application has been submitted and we are waiting to hear from the Regulator (OSCR) whether our proposed constitution meets the legislated requirements in general and what amendments, if any, the Regulator requires before approval.

A PDF version of the proposed constitution can be studied by going to the Historylinks website (<http://www.historylinks.org.uk>) and the tab What's New. We hope some members will examine the document and communicate any comments they have to the charity trustees in spe. The proposed constitution can then be tweaked before being presented for adoption at the AGM. For a hard copy: contact Robin Ashby on 821 328.

CHARITY TRUSTEES IN SPE

George Munro and Robin Ashby signed the application to the Regulator on behalf of Dornoch Heritage Society, while John Barnes and Tony Rundle signed for Historylinks Trust. Collectively they will form the Board of the new organisation until it holds its first AGM in the autumn of 2012.

AGM 2011

After the Chairman and the Treasurer have made their reports, the only business will be to wind up the current Dornoch Heritage Society and Historylinks Trust according to their constitutions. Thereafter the new SCIO's constitution will be adopted. The SCIO will automatically take over the membership and the assets of the old organisation. The election of the members to serve on the two sub-committees, a maximum of 8 on each, will also take place.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 7.30 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS (CARNEGIE BUILDING)

COFFEE MORNING

We held a very successful Spring Coffee Morning and had a stall at the Sutherland County Show. The money we raised will be used mainly to bolster a contingency fund for when the grant-funding of Historylinks is cut. The extent of the expected cuts is not yet known. The money will also be used to support other Historylinks projects. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

MEMBERSHIP

Time to pay your membership subscription for the year 2011-12.

If our records show that you have already paid cash or by cheque or that you have a standing order, we are sending you your membership card(s) for 2011-12 with this newsletter. You do not have to do anything more for the moment. You are registered as a member of Dornoch Heritage Society and eligible to vote at the AGM on October 20. You can also enjoy the free benefits of being a member.

You will be automatically registered as a member of the new Dornoch Heritage SCIO when it is formed.

If there is no membership card enclosed, our records show that you need to pay your subscription to remain a registered member. There is also a sub renewal form enclosed. Please renew your membership as soon as is convenient. In order to guarantee that you are a current registered member and therefore eligible to vote at the AGM on October 20, we must have your subscription not later than October 1.

Preferably you should pay your sub before the end of September.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an e-mail address you wish DHS to use and have not yet informed the Society, please confirm this in a message so that the membership list can be updated. Write to rick.bramley7@bopenworld.com. Being able to contact as many members as possible allows the Society to be more efficient and to lessen its costs.



BYE BYE, CLIFF & JEAN

It is with great regret we will be soon saying goodbye to Cliff and Jean Reddin who have decided to make their permanent home in Morecombe again. Goodness knows how we are going to replace Cliff's energy and organisational skills. We wish the Reddins good luck in their new endeavour and hope they will return to see us often.



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 October 1st, then Mondays to Fridays until 28 October. Thereafter it will be open until the end of March two days a week, usually Wednesdays and Thursdays, but it is best to check before visiting (01862 811275).

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The end of a Viking penannular (incomplete round) bracelet found at Pitgrudy. Although used as a bracelet it was primarily a form of currency- so called 'ring-money' or wearable money.

This is a classic piece of hacksilver ie chopped up for smaller values. There is a flat on the underside showing the force of the cut.

Hacksilver, or Hack-silver, is fragments of cut and bent silver items treated as bullion, either for ease of carrying before melting down for re-use, or simply used as currency by weight. It was common among the Norsemen or Vikings, as a result of both their raiding and trade. The modern Russian currency the "ruble" is derived from the Russian verb рубить, rubit, i.e., to chop, from the practice of the Rus, described by Ahmad ibn Fadlan visiting the Volga Vikings in 922. (Wikipedia)

Four complete examples were found at Tarbat around a century ago and are now in Edinburgh.

Our piece will go on display later in the year.



HELP NEEDED!

Along with many other museums and businesses Historylinks has seen a drop in visitor numbers and those that do come are spending less. It is clear that we need to try and improve our marketing. Without spending a lot of money on advertising we would like to concentrate on targeted leaflet distribution. We have been doing this after a fashion for many years but would like to spread the load especially as Cliff is now leaving. While B & B's are a one off drop at the start of the season other hotels and attractions need to be seen on a regular basis every few weeks. As well as Dornoch the areas covered are Embo, Golspie, Brora, Tain, Lairg, Bonar and Strathpeffer.

If you feel you can help in any way, however large or small, please get in touch with Peter. In any case why not always carry a few leaflets in the car and put them where you can? All help appreciated.

"GAMES WE PLAYED AND SONGS WE SANG"

The theme of games and songs has been this year's outreach project with Dornoch Primary 5.

After the children had 'interviewed' ex-pupils about the games and songs they remembered they then looked and talked about archive films and photos. While being filmed the class then reenacted many of the old games as well as adding the ones they play and sing today. This has been edited into a 20 minute DVD.

Two further sessions got the children drawing, painting and writing the games and songs and these images have been made into books and used to develop a new play area at the rear of the museum. The project will be officially opened when the new term starts.



RECIPE BOOK

The Dornoch Heritage Society recipe book is now nearly all sold out and we are considering a new print run sometime soon. The current book was produced by Society members about 15 years ago as a fund-raising initiative for a new heritage centre.

We would like to reassess all these recipes and add some new ones to try and bring it up to date with changing tastes. If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share with others please give it to Peter or Sue at the museum. We would also like to hear from you if you feel you could help select and co-ordinate the chosen content of the new book.

NEW GUIDES



A new range of walking guides for the Heritage Trail is available in French, German, Spanish, Gaelic and English.

AGM 20 OCTOBER 7.30 PM