



DHS - a New Phoenix

Ten years ago Dornoch Heritage Society split into two sections following the completion of Historylinks Museum. A trust was set up to run the museum and Dornoch Heritage Society has the right to appoint five of the trustees. Highland Council has appointed another trustee and the trustees themselves can appoint others without consulting the Society. In other words the Trust functions more or less independently of the Society.

Dornoch Heritage Society took on the role of 'friends of the Trust'. It raises funds to supply extra items that the Trust has difficulty financing from its own assets. It also provides social events for members and public lectures etc.

However both the Society and the Trust are part of a single charity and share the same charity number. OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) has tightened up its inspection of charities and requires each charity to submit an annual report and a set of examined accounts. Up to now the Society has complied while the Trust has submitted its books instead to Highland Council in accordance with an arrangement made 10 years ago. A re-organisation is obviously required.

Also it has been realised that, as a single charity, Dornoch Heritage Society members are not protected from personal liability should either the Society or the Trust fall into debt.

Fortunately one of the last acts of the former Scottish Government was to implement the introduction of SCIOs (Scottish Charitable Incorporation Organisations). A SCIO costs almost nothing to set up and the incorporation would remove the personal liability of all members of both the Society and the Trust. It would also report to OSCR with a joint financial report using our single charity number.

So the Historylinks Trustees and the Committee are proposing that the present structure of Dornoch Heritage Society be dismantled and then re-constructed as follows:

- A SCIO is formed called Dornoch Heritage SCIO.
- All paid-up members of the present Dornoch Heritage Society automatically become members of the new Dornoch Heritage SCIO.
- A Board of up to 6 members is selected to act as Charity Trustees and see that the required reports and accounts are presented to OSCR.
- Two sub-committees of 4 to 8 elected members are set up with at least one Charity Trustee in each.
- One will function similarly to the present Dornoch Heritage Society and use the same name.
- The other will have the same responsibilities as the present Trust and be called Historylinks Museum.
- Both sub-committees will report to the AGM of Dornoch Heritage SCIO
- All members of the sub-committees will resign at the AGM but will be eligible for re-election.

What differences will you as a member of the present Dornoch Heritage Society notice?

Firstly, that you will be asked to approve the new organisation at the next AGM (probably in October) after you have had a chance to examine all the proposals in detail.

Then, um, not much really. On the surface things'll be more or less the same. You will still be referred to as a member of Dornoch Heritage Society (although officially a member of Dornoch Heritage SCIO) and pay your subscription to DHS. You may find the way your subscription is collected changes a little, but not before 2012. And that's about it.

What is the provisional timetable?

Current situation: representatives from the Society (George Munro and Robin Ashby) and the Trust (John Barnes and Tony Rundle) have more or less completed the drafting of a SCIO constitution after receiving expert advice.

July: application to form a SCIO is submitted and should be determined before the DHS AGM.

August: a new newsletter to all members with details of the proposed re-organisation and an invitation to examine the details of the proposal and to comment on them. Members will also be asked to make sure that they pay their subscription for 2011/2012 so that they can be entered onto the list of members eligible to vote on the re-organisation.

September: probably a talk instead of the AGM (normally held in September)

October: AGM to approve the formation of Dornoch Heritage SCIO.

Burns 2011

For the first time the Society organised its own Burns celebration. On 20 January we took over the Social Club and brought in chef Raymond Bremner to provide the traditional fare of leek and tattie soup; haggis, neeps and tatties; and trifle. Drinks were on the bring-your-own basis. Cliff Reddin (right in his maitre d' uniform) organised the seating, decorations and serving with willing volunteers. Judi Sutherland put together the entertainment programme with some very talented youngsters as well as some old faithfuls. Hugh Steele addressed the haggis (left with chef Raymond). As the number of drams left in the bottles diminished, the enjoyment increased.

At the end, the general opinion was that the night was a success and should be repeated. Anyone who was there and wants to suggest any improvements, please get in touch with someone on the Committee.





DORNOCH LIVES

This summer Historylinks Museum presents a new exhibition featuring six noteworthy people who have lived in Dornoch.

Robert Hamilton Bruce: the successful Glasgow businessman who built The Grange as a home to house his art collection. It later became the Royal Golf Hotel.

Murdo Macpherson was awarded the Military Medal for bravery during the First World War.

Kathleen Lyon was a Gilchrist from Ospisdale who became a skilled photographer and painter.

Simon Bain came to be a man of many parts in Dornoch.

Margaret Davidson was a teacher for over 40 years.

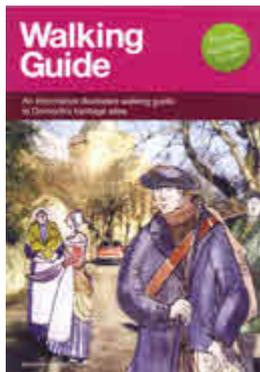
Andrew Mackenzie was with Bomber Command in the Second World War.



Edwin Bain holding the bell that his father Simon Bain used to ring around the town when carrying out his duties as a town crier

New publication available in:

- English
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Spanish



Award

Historylinks received recognition from Highland Council for its efforts to engage school children in a variety of activities like the collection of objects and creative interpretation shown left.



Open 10 am to 4 pm

May to September open 7 days a week

FREE ADMISSION FOR MEMBERS

Cromarty - 17th June

This year the DHS summer excursion will be to Cromarty on Friday 17th June. We will make our own way there; by land or sea (the ferry will be running). Highland Councillor David Alston will meet us at 11 am and take us on a guided walk of the town taking in the newly re-opened East Church which featured on the BBC programme *Restoration*.

After the guiding we will explore the town using our own itineraries depending on what we have already seen of Cromarty; Hugh Miller's Cottage, Cromarty Courthouse, The Old Orchard, dolphin spotting or walk the network of paths. The town has a choice of eateries for all needs.

Please **reply** to me by **8th June** if you wish to take part and I will send you details of the different activities and places to see together with details of the ferry and hosteleries on 10th June.

Those of you receiving the electronic version of this newsletter have received a form to fill in and return. Others should ring me at (01862) 821328.

Robin Ashby

