



# • DORNOCH • HERITAGE • SOCIETY

**AUGUST 2013**

**COMBINED AGM'S  
THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 7.30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS (CARNEGIE BUILDING)**

The **Spring Coffee Morning** was moderately successful and the money we raised will be used to bolster the Historylinks contingency fund against further cuts and to support other Historylinks projects like the Policeman's Diary which is being printed now and hopefully will be launched at the AGM. Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning and the next one is on November 16th so do remember to take any bric-a-brac along to the museum at any time it is open or speak to Peter.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
<b>Time to pay your membership subscription for the year 2013-14.</b>	
<b>If you wish to vote at the AGM or be eligible for office you must pay by 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<p>If our records show that you have already paid cash or by cheque or that you have a standing order, we have attached your membership card(s) for 2013-14 with this newsletter. You do <u>not</u> have to do anything more for the moment. You are registered as a member of Dornoch Heritage SCIO and eligible to vote at the AGM on September 26. You can also enjoy the free benefits of being a member.</p>	<p>If there is no membership card attached, our records show that you need to pay your subscription to remain a registered member. 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 September 26, we must have your subscription not later than September 15.</p>

**NEWSLETTERS** The cost of posting two newsletters a year is now 20% of the subscription and in order to avoid subscription increase we are asking members in the local area who prefer not to print or are without email to call in and collect one at Historylinks or the Dornoch Post Office. Membership cards can only be collected at the Museum or lecture evenings.

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES



Being able to contact as many members as possible by e-mail allows the Society to be more efficient and to lessen its costs. So that the membership list can be updated, please mail [femmacdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:femmacdonald@btinternet.com)



**FORT GEORGE** was the destination of this year's summer trip and what a great success it was too. With ten members turning up on a dry sunny day it was a pleasure to walk around when it was relatively quiet with kindred souls. Mid morning coffee and cake was followed by a 'NAAFI' lunch.

It is all too easy to not visit the treasures on our doorstep.

# Annual haggis bash – George triumphs again!



The DHS approach to celebrating Burns' birthday is based on informality rather than sticking rigidly to the standard Burns' Night format. The atmosphere of the Social Club is very well suited to this approach and this January's full house enjoyed yet another relaxed and well-crafted programme arranged by genial host George Munro. For George himself the lead up to the event was anything but relaxed. A combination of accident and unbreakable prior commitment robbed him of two of the usual mainstays of the gathering and left him looking for last minute replacements. Fortunately, Janette Bremner and Judi Sutherland saved the day by coming forward to give sterling performances. Another of George's finds, the Proncy Players, Julie Rutherford and Trish Andrew on Fiddle and Emma Rutherford on Box, reassured us old fogies that the future of traditional music is in exceptionally talented hands. Other kenspeckle participants included Graham Park, Ronnie Bruce and Jimmy Melville. The food served up by new chef, Andrew Cameron, was so good that it was hard to tell that Raymond Bremner was no longer in charge of the kitchen. All in all, yet another triumph for our resident impresario.



## BYE BYE, ROBIN AND ULLABRITT

It was with great regret we said goodbye to Robin and Ullabritt who moved back to Sweden in June. They had both been very loyal and active members of the Heritage Society. Robin had served for around 12 years and throughout this time had taken an active role including being Treasurer, Secretary, Programme Secretary and Board Member of the DHSCIO. Whilst in these posts he produced the twice-yearly Society Newsletter and was involved in various Museum projects.

Behind every good man is a good woman! Ullabritt always provided great support to Robin in his Society roles and projects. In September 2003 she agreed to election to become a committee member and, for six years, she served as a most efficient Membership Secretary until she stood down from the Committee in September 2009.

We wish them both well in their new life.

## OPENING TIMES

The museum is currently open 10am to 4pm daily until 29 September, then Mondays to Fridays until 26 October. Thereafter in November and March on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In December to February, by appointment. It is best to check before visiting.

01862 811275

## READ OUR BLOG...

historylinksdornoch  
The history and archaeology of Dornoch and district

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**Suffragettes!**  
Posted on April 10, 2013

Our guest blogger this week is Sue Higgins, curator of Historylinks Museum in Dornoch.

University of the Highlands and Islands  
Dornoch Campus

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Changes for Historylinks.

Sue Higgins

The start of 2013 saw the Museum embarking on several changes and challenges. Peter Wild, Curator for many years, retired at the end of January and I was appointed to the role. My family and I relocated from Southampton to Dornoch in 2005 after I had worked as an archaeologist for 20 years. I was lucky enough to be appointed to the seasonal job of Receptionist for that summer and have been here ever since!

We have had a busy first half of the year with lots of exciting changes. One of the last actions that Peter instigated as Curator was an application to Museums Galleries Scotland for a grant to erect solar panels on the Museum's south facing roof. We were successful in that application and have already seen a great saving in the Museum's electrical outgoings. Electricity is one of our biggest expenditures and we had estimated a saving of 62% for the first year which we should easily achieve – the lovely sunny weather has been a real boost.

We have also been successful in two further applications to Museums Galleries Scotland. Firstly we have acquired three digital photo frames, two of which are already in use. One in the children's room, which has a cartoon of the story of the Gizzen Briggs playing and another, by the Viking display area, allowing us not only to show images which would otherwise be hidden away in the stores but, thanks to Peter's wizardry with the Apple Mac, have a voice over courtesy of Bridget Mackenzie's fascinating talk about the Vikings to the Heritage Society. The third photo frame is planned for our new WWI display next year.

Secondly we have been able to purchase a larger TV to show the railway/Proud Sutherland DVD's, something that has been recommended in two previous VisitScotland inspections, and a cash register for the ever expanding shop. This will make it easier for our Receptionist volunteers to deal with the over 200 items we currently sell. It is hoped that all these new acquisitions will further enhance the enjoyment of visitors to the museum and will help in our continual aim for improvements to maintain our prestigious VisitScotland 5 star award.

We have seen a number of new faces here in the Museum. Our new Front of House Receptionist is Vhairi Mackay, a local lady, who has just finished her degree in International Tourism and Hospitality. Vhairi has been a great asset to us with her professionalism and cheerful disposition.

We are also really happy to welcome two new members to our wonderful team of Reception volunteers, many of whom have been involved with the Museum for many a year. Joining Jean Birkett, Ursula Dawson, Helen Fairgrieve, Marion Madge, Christine Murray and William Sutherland are Isobel Bruce and Elizabeth Oakes. I hope that they have all enjoyed their 'stint' at Reception as much as I have enjoyed having them here.

Historylinks has embraced the technological age, as seen on the previous page, by starting our own Facebook page, thanks to Administrator Tony, and a joint Blog with the UHI administered by Dr Elizabeth Ritchie.

We have also joined an online donation site called Easyfundraising, please see following link <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/historylinks>, which allows supporters to donate a variable amount to their chosen charity whenever they shop online. So far we have raised over £40 which will be used to help in outreach projects.

Whilst 2013 has proved to be a challenging year again, we are working hard to improve our links with the local community with joint projects such as with Allsorts After School Club and Grannie's Heilan' Hame amongst others. All of which increases the relevancy and profile of our excellent Museum.

2013 has seen the retirement as Treasurer of Peter Fairgrieve. Peter has held this post ever since the Museum opened 13 years ago, so is definitely due a rest! We are all very grateful for his huge commitment to the job and particularly the cheerful way in which he dealt with the problems that frequently ensue with such an undertaking.

Tony Rundle has kindly taken over this important role.

With so much still to happen this year (keep an eye on Facebook for updates) —here's to an equally busy and productive second half to 2013!



## EVENTS 2013-14

<b>September 19</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>David Worthington</i> 'Some new directions for Research Into the History of Sport in the Highlands'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>September 26</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>AGM - Dornoch Heritage SCIO</b> <b>including AGMs of both sub-committees:</b> <b>Dornoch Heritage Society and Historylinks</b>	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>October 17</b>	Thu 7 30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>Tony Rundle</i> 'The Windows of Dornoch Cathedral'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>November 16</b>	Sat 10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	West Church Hall
<b>November 21</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>Hamish Johnston</i> 'Indian Regiments in Sutherland'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>December 19</b>	Thu 7.00 pm	<b>End of year Heritage Bash:</b> New unseen films from Historylinks, mysteries, a chance for the audience to reminisce and seasonal refreshments.	West Church Hall
<b>2014</b>			
<b>January 23</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Burns Celebration DHS style</b> Our traditional entertainment with a full meal.	Social Club
<b>February 20</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>Pete Higgins</i> 'Ancient Monuments: A Users Guide'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>March 20</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>Mike Hook</i> 'World War One'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>April 17</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk:</b> <i>Graeme Muckhart</i> 'Edderton Old Church'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>May 17</b>	Sat 10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	West Church Hall
<b>Summer</b>		Evening Visit to Edderton Old Church – probably in May. Summer Excursion – June or July. To be decided.	
<b>With reservation for possible changes</b> <i>Please supply your email address for updates</i> <i>or keep an eye on the Northern Times and flyers in Dornoch.</i>			

**All meetings are open to the public, although there may be a small charge for non-members.**

**Membership is still only £5 a year and gives unlimited free entry to Historylinks and free admission to the winter lecture series. There are also a number of events and newsletters.**