



• DORNOCH •  
HERITAGE • SOCIETY

**DH SCIO AGM**  
**DORNOCH HERITAGE & HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM**  
**THURSDAY 25 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 publication of a joint booklet on the history of Embo with Grannie's Heilan' Hame. 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 2014 –15.</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>	
In order to guarantee that you are a current registered member and therefore eligible to vote at the AGM on September 25th, we must have your subscription not later than September 15. If you have already paid cash or by cheque or you have a standing order, you are registered as a member of Dornoch Heritage SCIO and eligible to vote at the AGM on September 25th.	Membership cards can be collected at the Museum, AGM or lecture evenings. 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.

**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)

The Heritage stand at the Sutherland Agricultural show was our best ever with record sales and lots of interest. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.



The end of 2013 saw the Museum finish the season on a high note with an open day for St Andrews fair, there were crafts for the children to make up and over 60 people came along to look at the museum that day. We will definitely be repeating the event this year.

Over the winter months we replaced two of our permanent displays. One reveals the changing landscape around Dornoch and how mankind has altered our surroundings from the first farmers (Neolithic) to modern day. The second display highlights a few of those local men involved in the First World War, including Lance Sergeant Donald Mackay of Embo and Murdo Macpherson both awarded the Military Medal and Capt Ronald Rose whose war diary and other material has been donated to the Museum by his family. A new digital photo frame displays a slideshow of photos taken by Capt Rose's colleague Lt Robert Money depicting how the troops lived. Over the next four years we intend to alter this display each year to reflect a different emphasis on how the war affected our local community.



Captain Ronald Rose



Lance Sgt Donald Mackay



Military Medal awarded to Murdo Macpherson

2014 is the Year of Homecoming and over the year Historylinks has been involved in two projects, both of which are drawing to their conclusion.

Firstly 'Needed on a Journey' which focuses on the stories, memories and traditions that make Dornoch unique. Working with Heritage Society members and residents at Oversteps stories and memories have been recorded and will be put together by an illustrator to create a 'Storymap' of Dornoch. In September this 'Storymap' will be on display initially at Oversteps and then here in the Museum. To compliment the map we will have on display in our temporary display space a travelling exhibition created by Inverness Museums along with items on loan from Inverness.



Secondly 'My Heart in the Highlands' an oral history project, working with The Woodland Trust, to record stories/memories about our local woods. Peter Wild & Pat Murray have conducted two interviews and these will be incorporated into a sound and slideshow which will be premiered here in the Museum late October/early November.



Treasure Trove – thanks to local metal detectorist Peter Webber, the museum has, via treasure trove, acquired a number of very interesting local finds. This includes a rare Iron Age pin head (left) and a Roman brooch (right). The unusual Roman find gives rise to some very interesting questions about the level of contact between the Roman world and the Highlands. We are hoping to display these items some time next year.



This year's Museum outreach project with Dornoch Primary School was called **'From Work to War: Dornoch Burgh's Story'**

This intergenerational project commemorated the outbreak of WW1 and provided an opportunity for pupils to learn how it affected the lives of the people who were involved, both at home and serving with the Seaforth Highlanders.

Starting with how the war changed life in the village and the community contributions to the war effort, it involved filming at sites and locations in and around Dornoch associated with the history of WW1, e.g. shop and trade premises, war memorial, town hall, railway station, cathedral, etc. with the pupils providing the narrative.

The final film was shown to pupils, parents, teachers and other invited guests with all of the pupils having a copy of the DVD to take home.



**There are many ways you can support Historylinks and its work in the community from helping at reception, getting involved in our outreach projects or working behind the scenes either on or off the organising committees. If you would like to find out more please get in touch with Sue or any committee member**



For the last year Historylinks Museum has been signed up to an online fundraising scheme.

It is easy to take part, all you do is sign up on the easyfundraising website, nominate Historylinks as your charity and then just do your normal online shopping. A donation, linked to the amount of your shopping, is given to the Museum from the retailer—there is no extra cost to yourselves.

So far we have raised over £160 and this has enabled us to take part in several outreach projects involving local children.

Just follow the link to sign up — <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/historylinks>

### 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

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## EVENTS 2014 –15

<b>September 25</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>AGM—Dornoch Heritage SCIO</b> <b>Including AGM’s of both sub– committees:</b> <b>Dornoch Heritage Society and Historylinks</b>
<b>October 16</b>	Thu 7.30pm	Talk: <i>Mike Hook</i> <b>‘World War 1’</b>
<b>November 8</b>	Sat 10.30am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>
<b>November 20</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>Talk: Jennifer Bruce</b> Talk and evening display <b>‘Migration of Border Shepherds to Caithness &amp; Sutherland in 18th/19thC’</b> An exploration of the reasons for sheep introduction into Caithness and Sutherland, and the shepherd’s role as well as a look at the genealogy of some Border families involved and the subsequent emigration of family members to the colonies.
<b>December 18</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Films, Mince pies and festive fun</b> New unseen films from Historylinks, mysteries, a chance for the audience to reminisce and seasonal refreshments.

## 2015

<b>January 23</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>Burns Celebration DHS style</b> Our traditional entertainment with a full meal with your host David Richardson
<b>February 19</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>FILM: ‘Last of the Summer Walkers’</b> The Summer Walkers is the name the crofters of Scotland’s north-west Highlands gave the Travelling People—the itinerant tinsmiths, horse-dealers, hawkers and pearl fishers who made their living ‘on the road’. They are not gypsies but are indigenous Gaelic-speaking Scots, who, to this day, remain heirs of a vital and ancient culture. The Summer Walkers documents an archetypal and vanishing way of life
<b>March 29</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>Talk: An Evening with Essie Stewart</b> Essie Stewart is a storyteller with a strong grounding in Gaelic and Traveller traditions. She tells legends, Celtic stories and epics, humorous tales and anecdotes which have been handed down from her grandfather. Born into a Sutherland travelling family and featured in last months film she has been a guest speaker and storyteller at the School of Scottish Studies. She has appeared at Celtic Connections, the Scottish International Storytelling Festival and the Barbican in London.
<b>April 16</b>	Thu 7.30pm	<b>Talk: Anne Coombs</b> <b>‘The Embo Fishing Fleet’</b> ‘It is amazing how quickly myths and legends can grow up around events. Follow the trail of the Embo fishing fleet through archaeology and history and hopefully unravel the truth’
<b>May 9</b>	Sat 10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>

**With reservation for possible changes.**

*Please your email address for possible updates or keep an eye on The Northern Times*

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

**MEMBERSHIP STILL ONLY £5 per annum**

All meetings to be at 7.30pm ( Except Coffee Mornings – 10.30am)

The venues will be the Council Chamber (Carnegie Building) except for the Coffee Mornings, Christmas Cheer and Burns Supper which will be in the Social Club.