

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

WORLD HOST AWARD



In our Spring newsletter we reported on the WorldHost training undertaken by Museum volunteers. In early May Lord Thurso, Chair of VisitScotland, came to Historylinks and enjoyed a guided tour of the Museum by Peter Wild.

Our volunteers all received their certificates and the Museum also entered the VisitScotland **iKnow** Scheme, which means we are now an official VisitScotland Information Partner (VIP).

ANCESTRAL TOURISM

Historylinks is a member of the VisitScotland Ancestral Tourism scheme and we welcome enquiries from people doing family history.

It was wonderful to welcome Tammy Chen and her family to the Museum in July and we were delighted to be able to connect her with artefacts from her ancestor's croft house in Lednabirichen.

Tammy was able to view the Valuation Rolls for 1884 and also look at a clay pipe, a stone bottle and a Colt Navy Revolver all dating from the 1800s and found on the croft in 1984.

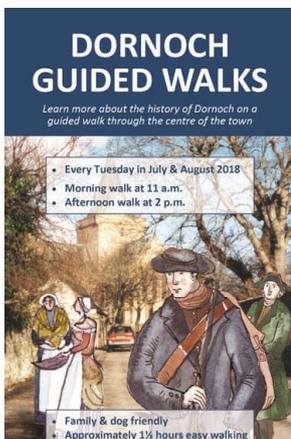
Tammy said that their visit to Historylinks was a 'highlight' in their heritage search!



BUSY, BUSY, BUSY . . .

Visitors to the Museum were up 36% to the end of July, by which time more than 3,400 people had been to see us! The new Labyrinth is proving very popular, as is the recently installed picnic bench beside it! Our Guided Walks on Tuesday afternoons will run until the end of August and our new temporary exhibition on the impact of WW1 on Dornoch will be on display until October.

All our volunteers continue to do a fantastic job welcoming people to the Museum and we would particularly like to welcome new team members **Lorna Dalton**, **Angela Godfrey**, **Frank Gerstenberg** (all front of house) and **Edward Murray John** who is going to be studying History at University and is eager to gain some experience here at the Museum.



GROUP VISITORS

Oversteps brought some residents to the Museum on 14th June and the Dornoch Cathedral Ladies Group enjoyed a guided visit during the evening. Staff from The Meadows Nursing Home have also brought small groups of visitors to see the Labyrinth and displays.

We had a great time showing 30 members of the Fort Augustus Heritage Group and 34 members of St Geraldine's High Church Friendship Group around the Museum.

It was also fantastic to have the students from Sinclair Community College, Ohio for a visit organised by North Highland College. They had a guided walk around Dornoch before visiting the Museum. Many of them are doing Nordic and Celtic studies and just loved the story of Sigurd the Viking!



LONGHOUSE PROJECT

A first-stage proposal has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for our latest community project.

Our intention is to excavate the site of a Sutherland Longhouse and surrounding area. The project is in its very early stages but the good news is that we have identified a potential site and the land owner is keen for the project to go ahead.

In partnership with UHI we hope to secure funding that will enable us to involve school groups and local volunteers in this exciting plan. We will let you know as soon as we have any more information.



HIGHLAND ARCHAEOLOGY FESTIVAL

On Sunday 7th October Historylinks volunteer Anne Coombs will be taking a guided walk through Camore Woods. Anne will explore the Bronze Age Hut circles and give a fascinating insight into the Archaeology of the area. The walk begins at 10.30am; please contact the Museum if you wish to take part.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

We have recently made some very positive links with Dornoch Academy and are excited to have their Rural Skills Students helping us during this coming winter. They are going to help with maintenance of the Museum grounds and also in the restoration of the Sheriff McCulloch Memorial at Proncy.

There are also plans to do a collaborative project with Dornoch Academy for Armistice Day to mark the 100 years since the end of the First World War - watch this space!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

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| Friday 7th September | Trip / Visit | Kirkmichael, Balblair | 11^{am} |
| Car share to Kirkmichael where we meet Dr. Jim Mackay who spoke last year about the amazing work done there. This is a free event but donations would be appreciated for this very worthwhile project. If the weather is good we will have a light lunch in some of the very good local cafés; if weather poor, one of the pubs in Cromarty! More details at: www.kirkmichael.info If you would like to go please register your interest with Peter or Lynne so they can plan for our visit. | | | |
| Thursday 11th October | AGM | Royal Dornoch Golf Club | 7.30^{pm} |
| Annual General Meeting of the Dornoch Heritage SCIO (aka Historylinks Museum). Includes reports from the Trustees, Heritage Society & Museum sub-committees, adoption of accounts and election of Trustees. | | | |
| Thursday 25th October | Talk | Royal Dornoch Golf Club | 7.30^{pm} |
| 'Bridgescapes' by Bruce Keith. A personal journey through history, celebrating Scotland's bridge building heritage. After a short interval there will be another chance to see our film made to mark 25 years since the opening of the Dornoch Bridge. | | | |
| Thursday 15th November | Talk | Royal Dornoch Golf Club | 7.30^{pm} |
| 'The First World War in 100 items. Almost!' by Katherine De Jonckheere. | | | |
| Saturday 17th November | Coffee Morning | West Church Hall | 10.00^{am} |
| Baking, preserves, sales tables & refreshments. Also Christmas gifts on sale. | | | |
| Friday 14th December | Films, Mince Pies & Festive Fun | Dornoch Social Club | 7.30^{pm} |
| New unseen films from Historylinks, mysteries and a chance for the audience to reminisce enjoying seasonal refreshments. | | | |