

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

August 2002

AGMs

Both the Society and Historylinks Trust will be holding their AGMs on Thursday September 12 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Carnegie Building, Dornoch.

Last year the constitution of the Society was amended to incorporate the former Friends of Dornoch Heritage Society and establish the Historylinks trust, the organisation that runs our museum, while the Dornoch Heritage Society combines fund-raising with the organisation of talks and excursions as well as other social events.

The present committee of the Society is:

Joint chairpersons: *Helen Fairgrieve & Sylvia Park*

Treasurer: *Robbie Banks*

Acting Secretary: *Robin Ashby*

Membership Secretary: *Margaret Wight*

Members: *Ken Bromage,, John Muir, George Munro, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper*

Regretfully George Munro and John Muir have tendered their resignations as of the next AGM and we thank them both greatly for all they have done over the past years, George as Secretary and Treasurer, and John for producing our newsletters.

The Society however lacks a formal election procedure, something that will be discussed at our next committee meeting on September 5 with a view to putting a proposal to the AGM. Until we have a formal procedure in place nominations for new committee members are welcomed and well as declarations by current members that they wish to stand down. In either case please contact Helen, Sylvia or Robin.

EXCURSIONS

During the Spring members have taken part in two excursions. The third and final look around Skibo Castle was guided by our genial host Mr Angus McLaren.

On July 2 Forest Enterprise organised two mini-bus tours of Morangie Forest. Colin Leslie built on the talk he gave us last January and informed us of how the modern forestry is trying to recreate

suitable habitats for many endangered species by showing us several different woodland areas. The anticipated fauna kept a respectable distance of us except for a black cock.

A visit to Dunbeath and its newly revamped heritage centre is being planned for one Saturday in October but plans have yet to be finalised.

FUND-RAISING

Our more traditional activities have both drawn attention to the Society and raised satisfactory funds. We had our Spring Coffee Morning on May 4 and a stall at both the Wemyss Fair and the Sutherland County Show.

We have had three new activities. The sale of tiles and our grand summer draw have been satisfactory And there is still opportunity to contribute to both.

Four Quiz Walks have been organised but there has been low attendance. However feedback from all participants, members and visitors alike, has been very favourable. It is likely that the activity will be repeated next year benefiting from the lessons learned this first season.

BUDDY SYSTEM v. E-MAIL

Each administrative system has its advantages and disadvantages. So also the buddy system. From now on the Society will pick the most advantageous system for different distribution purposes.

Therefore we are asking members to supply us with their e-mail addresses so that the next

newsletter can be distributed electronically as well. Contact kommevalla@supanet.com (Robin Ashby).

Otherwise we plan to post two regular newsletters per year.

MEMBERSHIP

Paid-up members of the Society are invited to attend lectures free of charge. Free admission to Historylinks is already included in membership. Non-members will be required to pay for both activities as they are now.

So please have your membership-card with you when attending lectures. (And please buy more raffle tickets!)

NB Those members who have already signed a Standing Order for membership fees will receive their membership card for 2002/2003 with this newsletter. All other members will find a reminder enclosed.



Dornoch now has an officially recognised museum, an achievement that many have worked very hard for over the years. And something for every Dornochian to be proud of.

Visitors have been flocking to Historylinks in larger numbers than ever before and the current record for visitors in one day stands at 111. The comments made about our exhibits have remained at a very satisfactorily high level.

The museum has also received a large number of photographs and memorabilia and the Trustees

wish to thank all those who have donated something.

For those of you who have not visited Historylinks this summer, the main new attraction is a reconstruction of D G McCulloch's workshop showing the handcraft required as a golf professional in past times. It also serves as an excellent illustration to the lecture by Tom Tew planned for January (see below).

If you have not paid a visit to Historylinks yet this season, please do so by September 30.

COMING EVENTS

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| September 12 | AGMs for Dornoch Heritage Society and Historylinks Trust |
| October 10 | Ian Ross-Harper
"Dornoch Cathedral and some of its Characters" |
| October 12 | Highland Archaeology Week - Ann Coombs
Visit to Camore Hut-Circles - 2 pm Camore Wood car-park |
| November 14 | Reay D.G. Clarke
"The Hill of Edderton - A Former Crofting Community" |
| November 16 | Coffee Morning |
| December 12 | Adrian Baggott
"In the Steps of Wellington, Part 2" |

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| January 16 | Tom Tew
"Golf - from Hickory to Graphite" |
| February 20 | Bridget MacKenzie
"Vikings in Sutherland" |
| March 20 | Speaker to be announced |
| April 26 | Annual Dinner
Venue to be announced |