

# DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

January 2007

A Prosperous New Year!

## SKELBO CASTLE



Malcolm Bangor-Jones gave a very informative talk at the best attended meeting for ages on 14 December. His subject was the history of Skelbo Estate, how it was run and what part the Manor House played after the Castle had been abandoned.

An earnest discussion followed. It was agreed that the property is in dire need of attention. Historic Scotland would like to cooperate with the Society, but nothing can be done without the permission of the landowner. Although a number of leads as the whereabouts of the Baron Of Skelbo, a Russian citizen, have been followed up, he is still elusive. There was a consensus that the Society should wait until contact has been made with the Baron before committing itself to paying for any preparatory work. The Secretary was given a number of proposed lines of enquiry. In the meantime anyone reading this who has any knowledge of Mikhail de Bruar's whereabouts, please contact Robin Ashby.

## EVENTS

### A TASTE OF BURNS

Please reserve Thursday January 18th at the Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

The first part of the entertainment will consist of a programme arranged by Mary Gall and friends and any others who wish to entertain us.

The second part, for which there is a charge of £5, will be haggis, neeps and tatties and a wee dram after the traditional Address. There'll be a chance for good crack afterwards with the bar open



### FAREWELL ROYAL GOLF HOTEL

For several seasons we have been able to enjoy the Royal Golf as the venue for our talks and Burns' events. Our thanks to the owners and staff who have made our visits so enjoyable. But the hotel has been sold and closed for refurbishment. So we have asked RDGC to help which they are happy to do in January. But they in their turn are closing during February for refurbishment. We are welcome back in March on condition that their work is complete. Please check Historylinks website or posters around town for correct venues for talks nearer the time.

### ANNUAL LUNCH

The Committee welcomes suggestions where to hold the spring lunch now that the Royal Golf is no longer available.

### FREE ENTRY TO HISTORYLINKS

For all paid up members

## COMING EVENTS

2007

January 18

*Our traditional Taste of Burns*

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

February 15

Ian Paterson

*"Local Wildlife"*

West Church Hall

March 15

Allan Kilpatrick

*"Archaeology of War"*

? Royal Dornoch Golf Club ?

April

*Annual Lunch*

Date and venue to be announced

**The Committee 2006-7 are:** Chairman: Ken Bromage Vice-Chairman: John Barnes

Secretary & Treasurer: Robin Ashby

Membership Secretary: Ullabritt Ashby

Ordinary members are: Jean Birkett, George Munro, Rena Oman & Ian Ross-Harper

**Contact details:** Robin Ashby, Secretary DHS, 01862 821328, [kommevalla@supanet.com](mailto:kommevalla@supanet.com) ,

Postal address: Kommevalla, Edderton, IV19 1LQ

# AGM 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006

The meeting was very well attended and, after the business of the day was finished, everyone enjoyed a cavalcade of pictures and memories to celebrate the 25 years the Society has been in existence. Refreshments were also enjoyed.

The co-chairpersons gave reports on the activities of the Dornoch Heritage Society. Both looked back on a successful year. Peter Wild then reported on the activities of Historylinks.

George Munro was welcomed back onto the committee and Ullabritt Ashby was re-elected.

Honorary membership was conferred on **Mr and Mrs G Larrad** in recognition of their many years' support of the Society's events.

## FUND-RAISING

The autumn Coffee Morning was held on 11 November in the West Church Hall. It being Armistice Day, the occasion was observed with piping and the traditional two minutes' silence. The event raised over £480. A big thank-you to everyone who attended the event and everyone who helped at it.



### OPENING HOURS

10 am to 4pm

WINTER SEASON                      Weds and Thurs

(01862) 811275

Email address: [historylinks@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:historylinks@dsl.pipex.com)

Website: [www.historylinks.org.uk](http://www.historylinks.org.uk)

### VISITORS etc.

2006 saw the highest number of people to visit the museum since we opened. A new display case has arrived and is currently being fitted out. It will be used for temporary exhibitions using items from our collection.

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Cap badge from the  
5th Seaforth Highlanders  
1920 - 25



Button from the  
uniform of the  
Sutherland Constabulary



Is this a picture of workers at Skibo? Can anyone help identify the occasion and people?

The full picture is in the museum.

### Funding for 2 new youth projects

A joint project with Allsorts After School Club has been awarded funds from Highland 2007 for storytelling, music and art workshops, dressing up and performances in the summer holidays. This will leave us with dressing up kits in several themes.

We are also providing four multipurpose educational resource boxes to be used in local schools and the museum. Each 'Dornoch Detective' box will be on a specific historical theme and contain replicas and genuine items, activity worksheets and teacher notes.

### Oral History Group

Several members have learnt how to use the recording equipment, but more people are needed to act as interviewers and interviewees. Contact Historylinks for meeting times.

### Railway Film

The new film about the Dornoch Light Railway is well into its editing stage and should premiere during the Spring.

The director, Brian Anderson, led his cast (Jimmy Melville & Lord Strathnaver) and crew (Peter Wild & Robin Ashby) a merry dance through rain and shine in September to shoot the live action. Only the second off-camera narrator (George Munro) stayed dry.

More than half the script was shot on location - the streets of Dornoch with traffic continually interrupting, all the accessible spots along the dismantled track and Dunrobin (both Castle and station). Lines fluffed. Cut! Too much wind. Cut! Rain. Cut! Not enough light! Cut! - But it is all in the can now.

The film will be sold as part of a DVD packet.