



## DECEMBER BASH

About 60 members met up for new films from the archives, mince pies and shortbread as well as a guess-the-mystery-object quiz. One of the objects is depicted here. A kitchen utensil: what was it used for and what is its official name?  
*Answer overleaf.*



## DHSCIO

The Dornoch Heritage SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) No. 08747 held its AGM on 27 September 2012. The current membership of the two sub-committee is as follows:

**Dornoch Heritage Society:** Robin Ashby, Jean Birkett, Ursula Dawson, Fiona Macdonald, David Maclean, Jimmy Melville, George Munro. (1 vacancy)

**Historylinks Museum:** John Barnes, Peter Fairgrieve, Jim McGillivray, John Muir, Ebby Ritchie, Tony Rundle, William Sutherland.

## NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING

Our Autumn Coffee Morning was not as successful as usual but still raised £300. The same number through the door but fewer purchases. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The bric-a-brac stall really needs new content. If you wish to donate anything, please take it along to Historylinks anytime it is open. You don't need to wait until the next Coffee Morning in May. Thanks.

## MEMBERSHIP

Most members have paid their subs for 2012/13. Thank you! Those of you who haven't will find a reminder enclosed.

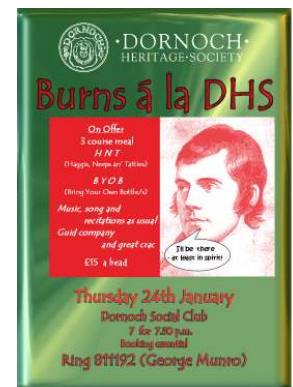
## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Thank you to those of you who have supplied Dornoch Heritage Society an email address which we could use for this mailshot. If you have received it by Royal Mail, we do not have a correct email address for you and the Society has had costs of 50p per envelope. Please email Fiona at [femmacdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:femmacdonald@btinternet.com) if you wish us to email you in future. Being able to contact as many members as possible by email allows the Society to be more efficient and to lower its costs.



## Burns à la DHS

Our special take on a Burns Supper is on Thursday  
24 January at the Social Club, 7 for 7.30. BYOB.  
Booking essential – George Munro on 01862 811192.  
£15 a head of which a fiver at least goes to support our  
museum and its work.



Latest news can always be found on our website: [www.historylinks.org.uk](http://www.historylinks.org.uk).

### OPENING TIMES

Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Sunday  
From April 1st - May 31<sup>st</sup> Mon – Fri  
From June 3<sup>rd</sup> Every day  
All times 10 am to 4pm  
Best to check before visiting (01862 811275).

### VOLUNTEERS

Apart from the usual duties of manning Historylinks Museum, we need people for maintenance, archive work and spreading brochures to accommodation providers amongst many other jobs.  
Contact Sue Higgins to offer your services – be they big or small.

## Historylinks Museum Staffing

After just short of 9 years as Curator of Historylinks Museum, Peter Wild has decided to retire with effect from 31 January 2013. However, before panic sets-in, he has already agreed to continue his close relationship with Historylinks, becoming a co-opted member of the Museum Committee. (The DHSCIO Constitution permits co-option at any time, with election as a full committee member subject to DHSCIO membership approval at an AGM).

Sue Higgins, the Museum Manager, will assume the appointment of Curator with effect from 1 February 2013. Financial constraints make it impossible to fill the vacated post of Museum Manager but, to provide essential additional cover and support, a 'Seasonal Supervisor' post has been established for the summer season from June to September and Dr Anne Johnston has been appointed to this role.

## An Appreciation

Peter Wild's association with Historylinks Museum cannot be matched. He served on the Committee of the Dornoch Heritage Society for 4 years, including one year as Chairman, during the planning and building of the museum. He then became a founding member of the overseeing Historylinks Trust and his artistic flair and clear understanding of the fundamentals of effective presentation came to the fore in the design and production of the museum infrastructure display panels, which remain a positive contribution to the museum's attractiveness to this day. No doubt Peter will readily acknowledge, in this initial design work and for many subsequent museum projects he enjoyed the encouragement and support of his wife Sally.

From 2001 to 2004 Peter was the Historylinks Trust Chairman and during this period it became evident that continued development and progression of the museum, its exhibitions and community projects, demanded the establishment of an Assistant Curator post. (A Curator post had already been established in Oct 2002, with professional curatorial consultancy provided by Estelle Quick. As part of the museum accreditation process in 2009, there was a change in roles, with Estelle becoming Curatorial Advisor and Peter assuming the title of Curator.)

It was no surprise when Peter was amongst those responding to the 2004 advertisement for the Assistant Curator position. When he was successful in gaining the appointment, in keeping with the conditions of the Historylinks Trust Deed, on 1st March 2004 he was required to stand down as a Historylinks Trustee and Chairman. However, since this time he has faithfully attended meetings of both the Dornoch Heritage Society and the Museum committees in an advisory capacity. In the wider context of his appointment, the museum has benefited from Peter's extensive involvement with the Dornoch and wider East Sutherland communities. In the 1980's he was Secretary of the Dornoch Community Association and for 10 years he was Chairman of the East Sutherland Arts Society. Within his network of contacts he has become well known as the 'Historylinks Museum man' and this has proved to be of great benefit in the acquisition of a wide range of objects for the museum collection.

The central co-ordinating and day-to-day management of the museum did not diminish Peter's enthusiasm for enhancing museum displays, producing exhibitions and publications and all manner of promotional events. Apart from being an ideas man, as a sometime blacksmith and mechanical engineer, Peter has been able to turn his hand to many repair, restoration and construction projects. Latterly his interests in film making have resulted in outreach projects with Dornoch Primary School culminating in the production of DVDs, with copies provided to participating children and subsequently on sale in the Museum shop. His enthusiasm never wanes and the projects in which he has played a principal role are too numerous to mention. The crowning glory of Peter's time as 'Historylinks man' was the VisitScotland 5 Star Museum award gained in the autumn of 2009. There can be little doubt that this accolade was mainly as a result of Peter's sustained efforts.

On behalf of the past and present members of the Historylinks Trust and successor Historylinks Museum Committee, thank you Peter for your sterling service as Curator. Whilst you are now relieved of the day job and can devote more time to travelling and extended family, we trust that you will long remain an equally devoted Museum Committee member.

## EVENTS 2013

<b>January 24</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Burns Celebration DHS style</b> Our traditional entertainment with a full meal.	Social Club
<b>February 21</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk: Kathrin Zickerman</b> 'Trade contacts with Germany'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>March 21</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk: Susan Kruse</b> 'Viking Hoards and Economies'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>April 18</b>	Thu 7.30 pm	<b>Talk cum workshop: Mike Hook</b> 'Dornoch Academy 100 Years'	Council Chambers (Carnegie Building)
<b>May 11</b>	Sat 10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	West Church Hall
<b>Summer</b>		<b>A members' excursion</b> Details to be decided later	
<b>With reservation for possible changes</b>		<b>Please supply your email address for updates</b>	
The object is a sugar-nipper, used to snip off slivers from a solid sugar-loaf before granulated sugar was introduced.			

*This is my 20<sup>th</sup> and final DHS newsletter.*

*I hope you've enjoyed reading them as much as I have compiling them. Robin Ashby*