



On the 16th June 1904 a graphic description of the new hotel which was to open at the end of the month appeared in the local newspaper, The Northern Times.

"The Hotel will consist of 65 bedrooms, a large coffee room capable of seating 150 persons, lounge, ladies writing room, smoking room, billiard room, lavatories, golfers' corner, hairdressing room, drawing room, several private sitting rooms and ample kitchen and staff quarters. The hotel will be lit by a 16 horse power generator engine supplied by Hornsby of Granton. All bedrooms will look either East, South or West and the hotel will be provided with a large produce garden, croquet lawns, tennis court and bowling green".

By 1926 the hotel brochure read as follows:-

"The hotel is equipped with a modern garage and ample accommodation for visitors' chauffeurs and servants. The hotel car (Rolls Royce) can be hired, and quotations will be given on application.

Bathing – the hotel has a number of dressing boxes on the beach and these are at the disposal of visitors at any time.

Dancing – The hotel band plays nightly in the Ballroom and on Friday nights Galas are held. There is a charge of 12/6 to non-residents on Gala nights. Small carnivals and competitions are arranged throughout the summer".

During its' hey day, The Dornoch Hotel had many distinguished guests including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and The Queen Mother

Tariff 1926 –	Single Bedroom from	08/-	Breakfast	4/
	Double Bedroom from	16/-	Lunch	4/6
	Suites from	55/-	Dinner	7/-

Dornoch stands at the mouth of the Dornoch Firth and is thought to be the home of the early Celtic Church. The church was first recorded in 1140 during the reign of David I.

Dornoch may be remembered affectionately by its visitors for peace and tranquillity, but its past has been far from uneventful. Prolonged and bloody disputed, political intrigue and family vendettas characterise much of Dornoch's history, from Viking raids in the 9th century, to a Jacobite orgy of looting and burning the day before Culloden in 1746

Dornoch and the rich fertile lands around it have always been seen as a prize worth fighting for. The MacKay's of Strathnaver, The Sutherlands of Duffus, The Earls of Caithness and the Murray's of Dornoch all played their part in Dornoch's Turbulent History.

The seat of the Diocese of Caithness was moved to Dornoch in 1224 by St Gilbert of Moray, the last Scot to be canonised before the Reformation. The Cathedral was built prior to St Gilbert's death in 1245. It was destroyed by a Mackay clan feud in 1570 and was later restored by Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland between 1835-1837. Dornoch was also the site where the last Scots witch was burned in a barrel of oil in 1722.

In the garden of a cottage in Dornoch stands a stone with the date 1722. It commemorates the last burning of a witch in Scotland. Janet Horne's daughter had been born with a slight birth defect, and although she had grown into a healthy adult, this made Janet an easy target. She was accused of turning her daughter into a pony, riding her through town and having her shod by the devil. Stumbling over the Gaelic of the Lord's Prayer at her trial was seen as proof of her guilt, and she was burnt in a barrel of oil. Although the stone bears the date 1722, some accounts give the date of the trial and the burning as 1727.

The first sod of the Dornoch Light Railway was cut on 15 May 1900. The railway opened for traffic on Monday 2 June 1902. The coming of the railway to the Highlands opened up the area to visitors from the south and the 7½ miles of the Light Railway meant that Dornoch was linked to the main Inverness to Thurso line. The Dornoch Light Railway remained open until 1960. This was due to the norm now being that car ownership was on the up which meant that rail travel declined. Dornoch's Light Railway was deemed unprofitable and in July 1960 it's much loved but now less travelled "Coffee pot" engine steamed to the mound for the last time.

Although the railway is no longer in use, the station and platform can still be seen and the line now provides a safe track for walkers to the former fishing village of Embo

The Highlands & Islands

The Highlands comprise dramatic mountain ranges of sandstone and granite, which rise to their greatest height at Ben Nevis, which at 4406 feet (1343m) is Britain's highest mountain. Although this region accounts for more than half the total area of Scotland, which equates to one sixth the landmass of the United Kingdom - an area the size of Belgium. The population of around 280,000 and the industrial infrastructure are spread across the large mainland area and numerous islands.

Of Scotland's 790 islands, 130 or so are inhabited. The major groups include the Inner & Outer Hebrides off the west coast, the Orkneys and the Shetland isles which lie to the northwest of the mainland.

Inverness – Highland Capital

Inverness was granted its City status in 2000, making it Scotland's second newest City (behind Stirling) it is the prosperous hub of the Highlands, with an enviable location on the banks of the River Ness at the head of the Great Glen, the compact City Centre is crowned by a pink crenellated castle and lavishly decorated with flowers. Inverness has plenty of shops, places to eat and drink, peaceful areas close to the centre for relaxing. There are also many attractions around the City such as Culloden battlefield and Loch Ness

Scotland

Scotland's population based on the results of the 2001 Census was 5,062,011 of which 2,432,494 were Male and 2,629,517 were Female.

Glasgow is the largest City with a population of approximately 619,000 while the Capital, Edinburgh has around 448,000. Inverness has a population of approximately 95,000 and Dornoch has a population of approximately 2,600 – 3,200

Pictures:

Top - Internal view of Staircase & Reception, Approx 1950

Bottom - External view of Hotel, Approx 1970

