

Outreach projects to continue in new year after successful events bring visitors to exhibitions



Collecting mail from home - Captain Ronald Rose, far right.

Photo by Lt Robert Money



The Historylinks Museum in Dornoch.

Future is bright for Dornoch museum

By Alison Cameron
editor@northern-times.co.uk

D'ORNOCH'S Historylinks Museum finishes its 2013 season "on a high" according to treasurer Tony Rundle.

November is usually a quiet month for visitors but this year has seen a range of outreach projects organised by the museum, including a successful "Football Memories" session at Grannies Heilan Hiame in Embo, and the visit to the museum of several groups of older residents, via Bonar Bridge's Bradbury Centre, and Oversteps and The Meadows care homes in Dornoch.

A similar trip from Helmsdale is being planned for next year.

For the first time, the museum held an open day for St Andrew's Fair. More than 600 people went along to look around, investigate Dornoch's rich local history and browse the shop, while most of the younger visitors spent time making their own wreaths or Santas.

Visitors also had the chance to admire the evocative and colourful display in the Children's Room, on the theme of war, which was created and mounted by the first-year pupils at Dornoch Academy as part of the charity "Kids in Museums" Takeover Day.

The Dornoch Heritage Society's annual Christmas event called "Films, Fun and Festive Cheer" is on 19th December at the West Church Hall from 7pm. It will be an evening of films from the museum archives, with home-made mince pies and shortbread, and includes a mystery objects quiz. All are welcome to come along and join in the celebrations.

The museum is now closed to visitors for the winter, reopening in March.

However, things will not be quiet, as a range of events and projects are planned, and staff will be busy organising two new permanent displays.

One will be exploring how man has



Nicole Foreman, Sarah Higgins and Dotty Lynch, who assembled the "Takeover Day" exhibition.

used the natural resources all around us ranging from land use in the past to estate management, hunting and fishing to show how the sea has provided for all.

The second display will be on the First World War.

The museum received a donation of the war diary of Captain Ronald Rose (son of Major Rose and Katherine Gilchrist of Ospisdale). The diary, which runs from 29th July to 16th October 1914, will be complemented by photographs taken by Lieutenant Robert Money during the same period and beyond.

These photos will be displayed on a digital photo frame, purchased with a grant

from Museums Galleries Scotland, telling the story of the 1st Battalion Cameronians as they left Scotland and went to France in 1914.

When the museum opens in March a temporary display, "Sheep Farming in Sutherland and Caithness" created by Jennifer Bruce, will be available.

More details of all the new displays and forthcoming outreach projects will be advertised next year, but curator Sue Higgins suggests that those interested keep an eye on the Historylinks Facebook page for the latest updates on the museum and the local history blog. These can be accessed from www.historylinks.org.uk



Youngsters Sarah Higgins and Savannah Burnett at the museum's open day, with helper Elizabeth Higgins.