

je craic

the Royal British Legion, Creich and Kincardine Branch.

Brora

Mission - The recent Brora Free Church Women for Mission's meeting opened with praise and a prayer.

Guest speaker was Dr Colin MacPherson, who was brought up in Dornoch and attended Golspie High School.

Dr MacPherson gave an illustrated talk on his work with the Emmaus Road Trust, which he co-founded in 1997, and the Langham Partnership.

The trust provides biblical resource materials to a number of countries while the Langham Partnership works to raise the standards of biblical preaching and teaching globally.

Whist - Winners at the recent whist drive held in Brora Golf Club were: Ladies - 1 Ann Brown, 2 Ann Taylor, consolation Dorothy Patterson. Gents - 1 Brenda Matheson, 2 Margaret Davidson, consolation Meg Sutherland.

Cardmaster was Sheina Bruce and the prizes were presented by Dorothy Patterson.

The next whist is on Monday 2nd March at 2pm. All welcome.

Results of the whist drive held in Brora Bowling and Tennis Club last week were: Ladies - 1 Dorothy Patterson, 2 Joan Daniais, consolation June Smith.

Gents - 1 Mary Anderson, 2 Brenda Matheson, consolation Elizabeth Payne. Whists will be held every Wednesday in the Bowling Club at 7pm, with teas and raffles. All welcome.

Dornoch

Heritage Society - The February meeting of the Dornoch Heritage Society showed the film "The Summer Walkers" made in 1977.

Not often seen, it showed the pearl-fishers, tinkers, hawkers and horse-dealers of the north west Highlands. The travellers were not gypsies but indigenous, Gaelic-speaking nomads with a particular moral code. The film presents a unique and

contemporary portrait of their culture, showing their lifestyle and crafts.

Since the 1950s, modern life - such as mass-production, good roads, the motor car, the welfare state - have forced rapid changes on the travelling community. Tinsmithing is a dead art, horsedealing a thing of the past, hawking now done by catalogue, supermarket and internet.

But many older travellers were brought up on the road and still remember in detail the traditional, archetypal lifestyle of Scotland's travelling clans.

One of these is Essie Stewart. She is a storyteller with a strong grounding in Gaelic and traveller traditions.

She tells legends, Celtic stories and epics, humorous tales and anecdotes which have been handed down to her from her grandfather.

Born into a Sutherland travelling family and featured in the film, she has been a guest speaker and storyteller at the School of Scottish Studies. She has appeared at Celtic Connections, the Scottish International Storytelling Festival and the Barbican in London.

On March 19th she will be speaking in Dornoch at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers. All welcome.

SWRI - The meeting of Dornoch SWRI this month was held at the home of the president, Maureen Mackay.

Mary Gall, one of the members, entertained everyone with her "Diary of an Edwardian Teenager". She told members about the Loder family who came to Cambusmore Lodge for their summer holiday in the early 1900s, reaching the Mound station in their own private carriage.

Their daughter, Brenda, kept a diary from the age of 10 and Mary read out some intriguing passages from it, accompanied by photos, telling what the family got up to on their holidays, the friends they had calling and places they visited in the area.

Brenda and her family had a great love for the area and spent many happy holidays at Cambusmore.

Mary was a delight to listen to and was thanked by Maureen for her wonderful talk. Kath Munro and Linda Thomas provided a delicious afternoon tea.