

Heritage Society - Around 60 people attended the council chambers to hear Essie Stewart, the well known storyteller, speak at the March meeting of the Dornoch Heritage Society.

This followed on from February's meeting when the film *The Summer Walkers* was shown.

Essie gave a fascinating account of her childhood, growing up in Sutherland in a travelling family. She entertained the audience with various tales of life on the road, describing a vanished way of life, setting off each year at Easter, to spend the summer months earning a living from tinsmithing, farm labouring and pearl fishing, which was needed to sustain the family throughout the winter.

This annual departure resulted in her education being disrupted. Essie ended her talk with a story, "The Three Pieces of Advice" which had been translated from Gaelic.

Arthur Dutch from Clashmore, a retired tinsmith, displayed an interesting collection of items, including a selection of tools, horn spoons, various tin utensils and clothes pegs.

The next talk will be held on Thursday 16th April, at 7.30pm at the council chambers when Peter Wild will be talking about Robert Hamilton Bruce and how he came to Dornoch to house his art collection in what became The Royal Golf Hotel.

Sally Wild will be talking about cloutie or rag rugs in the Highlands, past and present.

SWRI - Jeani Hunter from Linside, Invershin, was introduced to the members and she gave a lovely presentation and talk on her travels on the Trans-Siberian Express in October 2012.

She took members from Moscow to Vladivostok, usually a seven-day journey, but they spent three weeks taking in lots of places on their travels, travelling through seven time zones and some very cold weather.

Isabella Wright gave a very warm vote of thanks on behalf of members to Jeani for her interesting talk. Hostesses Fiona Macdonald and Annabella Murray were thanked for a lovely tea.