

**SWI** - The speaker for Dornoch SWI's November meeting was Lisa Dickenson who came along to give members a hands-on demonstration in making Kimekomi decorations.

The word Kimekomi comes from Japan and means "to tuck". Members used pieces of material which they tucked into the grooves made in a polystyrene foam ball which they had marked out in segments and this was then decorated with ribbons.

Everyone had a wonderful, fun evening and produced lots of lovely Christmas baubles which will be on show in Dornoch Cathedral from December 5-9.

Lisa was thanked by Maureen Mackay for sharing her knowledge and members were all delighted with their creations.

Competition results: Flower of the Month - Gold - Brenda McNeil, Mora Douglas; Silver - Christina Gill; Red - Stella Pettit, Jeanette Bremner, Anne Chambers.

Favourite Christmas decoration: 1 Annabella Murray, 2 Mary Gall, 3 Maureen Mackay.

**Heritage Society** - More than 50 people attended the council chambers to hear Anne Coombs and Joanna Hambly speak about the Embo Fishing Fleet at the November meeting of the Dornoch Heritage Society.

Joanna gave the first part of the talk, based on a survey carried out by Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion in February 2013 on the Loch Fleet Zulus, comprising boats abandoned by the Embo fishermen.

All of the boats at Loch Fleet were Zulu boats, designed in 1878-1879 by William Campbell of Lossiemouth and named in honour of the Zulu warriors. There were 30,000 Zulu boats in the north-east of Scotland, but now only four remain.

The east coast fishing industry in the 19th century employed thousands of people. Embo was part of the Helmsdale district and in 1882 Embo had 24 first class boats, employing 80 fishermen and boys.

However, by the early 20th century, there was a decline in the fishing industry, which was then concentrated in a few large centres.

There was no evidence of burning found on the timbers of the boats. The boats are now being identified from fishing registers held in Wick.

Anne, from the North of Scotland Archaeological Society, gave the second part of the talk and explained she is trying to identify the people who were connected to the boats from the Embo boat register at Wick.

An interesting selection of photographs was shown, including the boat remains at Loch Fleet.

The next event is the popular Films and Festive Fun evening on Thursday, December 17, at 7.30pm in Dornoch Social Club. With a selection of films, including life on St Kilda, there will also be a Victorian magic lantern show followed by other amusements and mince pies.