

Success of Young Curators

A LARGE turnout of members attended the Royal Dornoch Golf Club last week for the annual general meeting of the Dornoch Heritage SCIO, which is the body behind the successful Historylinks Museum.

Chairman Jerry Bishop gave an overview of the year and explained how the charity has moved from being grant-dependent to becoming closer to self-financing.

He also gave an update regarding the work which was ongoing to ensure that the museum continues to be one of only three in the Highlands which attains Five Star Scottish Tourist Board status.

This not only relates to the exhibited items and the way in which they are displayed, but includes the appearance of the building, its grounds and even the state of its car park.

Work is also being undertaken to ensure that all written policies and procedures are up-to-date and regularly reviewed.

Curator Lynne Mahoney told the audience about the

projects which have been going on throughout the year. A huge success has been the creation of a Young Curators Club. This is aimed at youngsters between the ages of eight and 12 and meets every Wednesday in the Dornoch Social Club.

It has been highly successful and well attended and gives the youngsters the opportunity to have hands-on involvement with local history, helping to attain the objective of Dornoch Heritage which is "keeping the Story of Dornoch alive".

Other projects reported on were the restoration of the Sherriff MacCulloch Memorial recently featured in the Northern Times and the upcoming project based on a Longhouse at Dalnamein on the Loch Bhuidhe road off the A9, more details of which will be announced soon.

Jerry Bishop was elected to continue in the role as chairman for another year along with trustees Alison Davies, Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes, Tony Rundle and Andrew Senior.

The museum committee, which effectively runs the museum, will be chaired by Alison Davies, while the heritage committee, which looks after fundraising, the winter talk series and other regular annual events, will be chaired by Peter Wild.

Historylinks Museum first opened its doors in July 1999 and at the conclusion of the AGM to celebrate the milestone of 20 years, Peter Wild showed a film which he had compiled from many hours of filming over many years.

Condensed into about 20 minutes, it began with pictures taken after the formation of the organisation back in the 1980s and went on through the annual temporary showings of the collection in the council chambers to the building and completion of the museum building.

It then covered the entire 20 years with brief glimpses of functions, trips, displays and many shots of volunteers from both today and yesterday.

It was very much appreciated by the audience.