

Exciting year ahead for award-winning museum

History

THIS year seems set to be a momentous one for Dornoch's award-winning "Historylinks" museum, which has exciting projects planned.

Some of these will mark the centenary of the First World War and Scotland's "Year of Homecoming".

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the war, an outreach project with Dornoch Primary School entitled "From Work to War" is now nearing completion. Historylinks outreach officer, Jacquie Aitken, has been very busy working with the children since last December.

The project will culminate in a film written by and starring the children, telling the stories of the local men and women who were affected by the First World War.

To promote 2014 as "The Year of Homecoming", the Highland Council and Highland and Islands Museums is running a number of events and activities. Historylinks Museum is involved in one of these.

"Needed on a Journey" is a project which focuses on the stories, memories and traditions that make

Dornoch unique. Historylinks has been working with residents at Oversteps and Bob Pegg, a local musician and storyteller, to gather all these wonderful stories and memories.

In collaboration with an illustrator, a "storymap" of Dornoch will be created, and will be displayed at Oversteps as part of a celebratory event and then, later on in the season, in the Museum.

Historylinks is also working with Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) and the Woodland Trust on an oral history project looking at the stories from local woods.

Three workshops will be held in Dornoch at the Social Club on 29th April, 6th May and 13th May between 2-4pm.

Everyone is welcome to go along with their memories or to listen to others.

The first of several temporary displays is now exhibited in the Museum. Telling the story of those shepherds who were brought from the Borders into the Highlands in the 18th and 19th century, this fascinating display by Jenny Bruce concentrates on a rarely told story from this troubled time.



Oversteps resident Margaret MacDonald (born 1923, educated at Balvraid Primary School and Dornoch Academy) participating with musician Bob Pegg in the "Needed on a Journey" project.