

arts and lifestyle

Mapping stories on unique canvas

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A UNIQUE "storymap" of Dornoch was unveiled at a ceremony in the town's Oversteps Eventide Home last Thursday.

The colourful canvas map, measuring 1m by 2m, consists of digital images inspired by legends and personal memories, which have been superimposed on an idealised map of Dornoch.

Oversteps was chosen as the venue for its launch because several of the home's residents contributed stories, reminiscences and art work for the map.

The Dornoch map is one of six produced as part of the Highland

Storymaps Project. Other north communities involved are Gairloch, Strathpeffer, Inverness, Grantown-on-Spey and Newtonmore.

The project is linked with Needed on a Journey, a roving exhibition which explores what those who left the area took with them — not just physical objects but stories and song.

Both initiatives are taking place as part of My Heart's in the Highlands, a programme of special events to celebrate the heritage of the Highlands and Moray.

Strathpeffer based freelance storyteller and musician Bob Pegg and artist John Hodkinson, a retired senior graphics lecturer, worked with the various communities to produce the maps.

Sue Higgins of Dornoch museum, Historylinks, was also involved in the town map.

Workshops were held in April at Oversteps at which participants were invited to contribute stories, reminiscences, songs, photographs and documents.

These were recorded by Mr Pegg with Mr Hodkinson producing the digital images which were then printed on to canvas by Highland Print Studio.

Oversteps residents Betty Grant (101), Cathy Grant (88), Brora Butterworth (83) and Ralph Phipson (89) were enthusiastic participants. They were presented with certificates marking their contribution at Friday's launch ceremony.

Images on the Dornoch map portray St Gilbert defeating the dragon, the legend of Gizzzen Briggs and the witch's stone, located in a town garden and commemorating the death of Janet Horne, the last person to be executed for witchcraft in the British isles.

After hanging for a week at Oversteps, the Dornoch storymap will go on display at Historylinks in conjunction with the Needed on a Journey exhibition which is showing at the museum until Monday, 29th September.

It is hoped to display all six town maps together on St. Andrew's Day at Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre on 30th November.

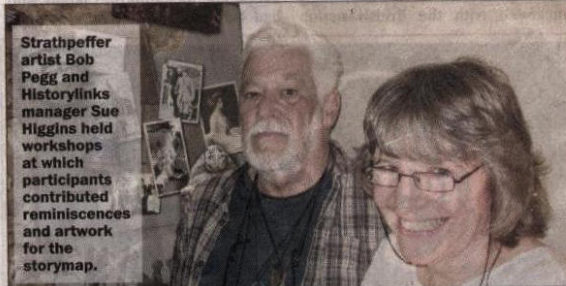
A certificate of participation was presented to Brora Butterworth (83) at Thursday's storymap unveiling ceremony.



Ralph Phipson (89) shows off the certificate he received for taking part in the storymap project.



Oversteps resident Cathy Grant (88) was one of the contributors to the storymap.



Strathpeffer artist Bob Pegg and Historylinks manager Sue Higgins held workshops at which participants contributed reminiscences and artwork for the storymap.

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The Dornoch storymap has been hanging at Oversteps Eventide home but will soon be on display at the town's museum, Historylinks.