

Dornoch to host monthly markets

THE Dornoch and District Community Association (DADCA) is organising monthly markets to take place on the town's Cathedral Green during the summer months.

They will be held on the first Wednesday of each month – 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August and 3rd September from 9.30am–1pm.

Working with the East Sutherland Producers' Association, which ran the farmers' market in Dornoch, DADCA is hoping that a community market

will attract visitors to the town and will offer producers, growers and makers an opportunity to sell their goods.

"There are few other regular markets north of Inverness at the moment, and we may find that people will come from all over the Highlands both to sell and to buy," said DADCA chair Jerry Bishop. "We have enough stands now to build the momentum needed for a cheerful, interesting street market.

"We hope that both residents and

visitors will come and enjoy the atmosphere, and find something they like."

Stallholders will include the regular members of the farmers' market, (whose former High Street location became unworkable because of high costs and "red tape"), and garden-fresh produce, free range eggs, delicious home baking, confectionery, preserves and plants will be for sale alongside hand-crafted knitwear, jewellery, cosmetics and other locally produced goods.

Food stalls will provide takeaway snacks and other stands will offer gift ideas, interior design items and many more unusual items.

Continued Jerry: "Dornoch has a lively, bustling atmosphere during the summer months, with the Square packed with tour buses and accommodation in the town at almost 100 per cent occupancy. It is hoped that the market will keep people in Dornoch at least for the day, and will boost footfall to local attractions, cafés and shops."

Local B&B owners are pleased with the new market. "It gives us something to recommend to our guests," said one.

Following on from the success of the Fibre Fest last month, shop owners are also said to be supportive.

The markets are part of an exciting line-up of events happening in Dornoch over the summer, some of which will boost the fundraising effort for DADCA's new community centre.

The Rotary Classic Car Tour will set off from the Square on 17th May. The Dornoch Gallery will return, open for the first two weeks of June, showcasing local artistic talent. The Dornoch Book Fair will take place from 27th to 29th June and Festival Week will liven up the town from 4th to 9th August. The regular cinema screenings and the car boot sales will continue as usual.

Details of these events will be advertised in the *Northern Times*. For further information about the community market, please see www.dadca.org.uk or phone 07544 743 697.