

Heritage lottery grant for fishy tales at Historylinks Museum

HISTORYLINKS Museum in Dornoch say they are delighted to announce that they have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

This will be for their Stories, Stones and Bones project.

The museum has been allocated £6800 to work with the community on a new project, Fish Tales and other Stories, retelling the rich fishing and related heritage of the local area.

The project will involve many local community groups and will concentrate on gathering local stories that can be transformed

into a story labyrinth to be exhibited at the museum for local people and visitors to enjoy.

This project is part of Scotland's "Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology".

Historylinks is a five star accredited museum in the centre of Dornoch, featuring the sometimes turbulent history of the area from Picts and Vikings to some Clan feuds and witchcraft.

Other exhibitions in the museum include the history of the Dornoch Light Railway and a reconstruction of the golf professional's

workshop at Royal Dornoch as it was in 1927.

Historylinks will work with groups of people to collect oral history about the local fishing industry and highlight the impact it has made on both Dornoch and Embo.

The stories that are collected will be recorded, transcribed and also turned into works of art that will be permanently displayed on rocks forming a labyrinth.

It is an opportunity for staff and volunteers to be creative whilst learning new skills through workshops and hands on

experience. Once constructed, people will be able to follow the stories as they walk around the maze.

A colour booklet detailing the process and including the stories will also be available.

Says a spokeswoman: "It's a great way to share our heritage with local people and visitors alike."

Commenting on the award, curator Lynne Mahoney said: "It's great that we have been awarded this grant and we can't wait to get started.

"We love where we live and know there's

so much more to discover about our past.

"We are all really excited about telling other people about our findings and sharing our heritage and history with them."

Lucy Casot, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, said: "Fish Tales and other Stories is a fine example of HLF's Stories, Stones and Bones programme

"Thanks to National Lottery players, they make it possible for local people to choose what is important to them, what they want to save, and how they want to spread the word throughout their community."