



**This photo of the single-masted Meikle Ferry was taken in 1896. The ferry had a crew of two on board and there also appears to be a man holding a line. Four ladies are on the pier about to board and appear to be holding golf clubs. Historylinks understand they are four sisters who were playing golf at Dornoch Golf Club. Ruby Grierson, the great aunt of the donor, lived at Rosemount, Tain.**

## Fascinating history of local ferries

ROYAL Dornoch Golf Club was full recently for the monthly talk arranged by the Dornoch Heritage Society, otherwise known as Historylinks Museum.

The March event saw the welcome return of Dr Jim Mackay from the Kirkmichael Trust, who gave a fascinating talk entitled a Dangerous Crossing in which he looked at the history and incidents of the various ferries of the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths

It transpires that over the years there was a dense network of ferries,

from the big commercial affairs at Cromarty and Meikle Ferry, to the small local firth and river ferries such as at Portinleik and Alness.

Once upon a time, all travel in the Highlands involved ferries, and it could at times be a dangerous mode of transport.

Jim's usual mix of stories and solid historical information once again made this an entertaining evening.

The next and final talk of the season will be by Anne Coombs looking at Tarradale on the Black Isle where recent archaeological work

has uncovered a wealth of evidence showing that it was a favoured place for settlement from the first Mesolithic hunters and gatherers more than 8000 years ago.

The talk will be in the Royal Dornoch Golf Club on April 18 at 7.30pm, and is free and open to all.

Historylinks opens for the season once more tomorrow and is open every day from 10am-4pm. There are several new exhibits including a display of items relating to police operations in Sutherland with emphasis on the Bonar Bridge area.

# How we see the sea films at Timespan

A TEN-month tour focussing on two commissioned films, entitled *Shore: How We See the Sea*, will finish at Timespan in Helmsdale next weekend.

Curated by arts and science organisation Invisible Dust, the films are from Scottish-based artists Ed Webb-Ingall and Margaret Salmon. They reflect the thoughts of those who live, work and care for the sea in Scotland, including the local and national impact of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Cladach by Margaret Salmon, is a beautiful portrait of life above and below the shoreline in Wester Ross while Ed Webb-Ingall's exploration is of communities living with the MPA designation in the Firth of Clyde.

Timespan will play host to a free three-day Shore Film Festival, from Friday April 5 to Sunday April 7, a weekend of free films, workshops and talks exploring the ways we fiercely protect and make a living from the sea's precious resources.

Ed and Margaret will present a screening of their films on Friday night and discuss their approaches to representing the challenges facing communities involved in protecting their life and livelihoods dependent on a healthy sea.

Tomorrow the artists will run a collaborative film-making workshop for all ages on how to create animation without a camera and Margaret will conduct a stills photography field trip to the Brora salt pans alongside SCAPE coastal erosion archaeologists, with a free minibus leaving from Timespan.

Films focusing on coastal environments from around the world will also screen at the festival.

Tomorrow evening, the Timespan kitchen will be taken over by Friends of Timespan who will run a special Shore Festival pop-up restaurant with a tempting £10 three course menu, showcasing Scottish products, including smoked herring and tatties and pickles.