



Young Curators Club members brought to life tales of a band of Iron Age warriors.



Chris Murray was at Historylinks in person to open the new exhibition about his life.

## Museum exhibition features adventurous life of winchman

CROWDS gathered at Historylinks Museum, Dornoch, last Saturday to watch Chris Murray officially open a new summer exhibition dedicated to his life as a Royal Navy clearance diver and coastguard winchman.

Chris, originally from Dornoch and now retired, undertook more than 500 rescues during his time as a winchman with the coastguard's Stornoway based Sikorsky search and rescue helicopter.

He was awarded the Queens

Gallantry Medal in 2004 for his part in the rescue of nine crew of the fishing vessel Hansa in March 2000.

The fishing boat sank 205 nautical miles from Benbecula, at the very limit of the helicopter's range. With little time and fuel running low, the fishermen were rescued from their life raft. On landing, the helicopter had only five minutes of fuel left in the tank.

Chris and fellow crew members were presented with their medals

by Queen Elizabeth II in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

The exhibition is open from April to October and features footage of rescues from FV Hansa and MV Elektron.

Then on April 4 members of Historylinks Young Curators Club (YCC), along with storyteller Jenny Neesham, brought to life the tales of Fionn Mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCoul) and his band of Iron Age warriors, the Fianne.

The event took place in the newly acquired Dornoch Community Woods.

Dornoch Trust chairman, Patrick Murray, said: "It's excellent to see the woodland being used for such a good cause."

Twinkling lights and open fires added to the atmosphere, as the audience listened to how the Fianne was the greatest band of warriors in all Ireland

and Scotland.

YCC members Isla Swanson, MJ Currie, Lexi Mackay, Mollie Lewis and Millie McCue played the Fianne and all was stage managed by Jess Lewis. The event was part of a storytelling project that the YCC have been working on with Trish Matthews and Jenny Neesham.

Jenny's book 'Things told about the Fianne' is on sale at Historylinks Museum.

## Chance to have a say

PEOPLE in Sutherland and elsewhere in the Highlands are being given the opportunity to shape future development in their area.

Highland Council has published a

newsletter outlining how and when people can get involved in shaping future development.

The document provides updates on the council's four current local

development plans, and introduces the new single Highland Local Development Plan. It also describes how community groups might go about preparing

a Local Place Plan.

To view the newsletter and to take part in the survey, visit [www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplansnewsletter](http://www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplansnewsletter)