

HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM is opening its summer season with a unique exhibition which traces the many changes which have taken place in the town's layout, from the late 18th century to the present day.

The earliest of the exhibition's displays is a map of Lonemore and Dornoch, drawn up by David Aitken in 1784. Rescued from a skip in the 1970s by Dornoch man Charlie MacKay and donated to Historylinks Museum in 2002, this large map over 6ft wide was

hand painted on silk, backed by linen.

Local geolologist and historian Graham Park (on the right of the picture, holding the map with Curator Peter Wild) has used this map, together with a more sophisticated 1826 Estate map and subsequent Ordnance Survey sources, to produce a number of computer-generated displays which compare the streets and buildings of Dornoch at various points in time across more than two centuries.

The location of the Female School, the removal of the buildings in the Square, and the coming of Littletown and Bishopfield are just a few of the fascinating insights.

The Changing Face of Dornoch exhibition has several months to run, and is part of the Five Starrated museum's wide-ranging content.

The museum is open from 10am to 4pm (May – Monday to Friday, and June to September daily)