



Now and Then

Spring, 2005

Welcome

Welcome to this latest edition of "Now and Then".

The past year has been most eventful – exhibitions are tending to become a little smaller and more frequent but still attract much interest. Further details of these together with news of forthcoming events are mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

Our team of volunteers is increasing and continues to carry out excellent support work both in cataloguing and researching and their efforts are much appreciated.

Although we continue to attract good attendances to the exhibitions and evening talks, new members are always welcome.

I am sure that everyone will be interested in the redevelopment of the Museum which will take place over the next two years or so following the successful application for Lottery funding.

Our Committee meets on a regular basis and my thanks are due to each and everyone for their hard work over the past year.

Ray Smith
Chairman

Auroch Horns

Last summer the Museum was fortunate to have a student, Edward Gregson, help our Secretary and Anne Bennet, the Museums Outreach and Interpretation Officer, with putting together a handling table and make a start at cataloguing the artefacts from the MacIntyre Shop in Aberlour. Whilst being shown round the Museum store the group came across what turned out to be a very important find – a pair of rare Auroch Horns. The group, with the



help from a student on work experience from Forres Academy, soon put together a display featuring the horns which have proved very popular with visitors. Auroch were prehistoric, ox-like cattle from which all current domestic ones are descended. They are believed to have died out between the ninth and tenth centuries. The horns were evaluated by the regional archaeologist, Ian Shepherd, and they will be properly carbon dated by Dr Andrew Kitchener, who looks after the natural history section of the natural history museum in Scotland.

Landfull Exhibition

The 'Landfull' exhibition ran from the 25th September to the 30th October, 2004, attracting 2,017 visitors to the Museum. The exhibition was a partnership project between Janet McEwan - Visual Artist; Moray Wastebusters; Moray Council Libraries and Museums Service, Environmental Services Team, Arts Development Team; Forres Groups Action and Earthships Moray. 'Landfull' sought to raise awareness about environmental issues and contemporary art. The heart of the installation was 'the midden' – a domestic rubbish coup discovered at the end of Janet McEwan's garden in Aberdeenshire.

Plasmon Mill Exhibition



This exhibition was a culmination of the work carried out by the 'Wet-ones' a fifth year class at Forres Academy in 2004 and attracted over 2,000 visitors.

The group, with the help of many community volunteers, had worked over the year, to reclaim the former Plasmon Mill pond into a beautiful garden space – an open area for both the community and local wildlife to enjoy.

The exhibition showed the history of the mill and the work of the students and other groups involved in completing the project.

The 'Forres', or 'King's Mill' made many products throughout its time, ranging from breakfast oats to animal feed. In 1907 the mill, under the name of the Forres Mill, was leased to the late Mr William Milne whose company manufactured flour and meal. The mill was finally demolished in 1991.



Volunteer Afternoons

Following an appeal for more volunteers to come forward in February, seven people now regularly meet in the Museum to carry out invaluable jobs to help the museum staff. At the forefront of these tasks is the cataloguing of the thousands of artefacts received from the MacIntyre Shop in Aberlour. Many of the objects have sparked great discussion and childhood reminiscences and it is hoped to have some of these objects on display before too long. Volunteers have always been the mainstay of the museum's exhibitions and the new "intake" will soon be learning how to dry mount display materials, input data to the Museum's database, recording oral history files and learning just how much work goes into erecting an exhibition.

Olympic Torch



The museum has become the new home for an exciting piece of sporting history, now that the Olympic torch, which local runner Douglas Cowie ran with during the Olympic Global Relay 2004, has been put on display. The

exhibition also features the T-shirt that Mr Cowie wore as part of his sports kit during the world-wide relay, and which bears the names of many of the runners who also took part.

A series of photographs taken by Mr Cowie, together with an audio commentary, help to illustrate the highlights of this amazing once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Nelson 200

Plans are underway to hold a ceremony to commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Trafalgar later in the year involving the Royal Navy, Moray Sea Cadets, The Moray Council, RAF Kinloss and other local groups. As part of a year of events the Friends have been successful in gaining sponsorship to allow a new viewfinder to be erected on top of Nelson Tower. A small exhibition was set up in April and this will be expanded on further in the year. We are also planning to hold a special talk on Admiral Nelson in October.

Subscriptions

The current subscriptions are:-

Concessions, OAP & Under 16	£	4.50
Individual Adult	£	7.50
Family	£	15.00
Corporate	£	25.00

Membership Applications are available at the museum or from our Secretary.

Membership

To boost our funds the Committee recommend that you use the **Gift Aid Declaration Scheme** whereby the Friends can reclaim income tax on each £1.00 donated by way of gift or subscription. Members need only sign a simple declaration form for us to benefit from the scheme.

Contacting The Friends

You can obtain more information about the Friends from:-

Our Secretary
Chris Bridgeford,
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Tel No: 01309 673626
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The Friends web site
at
www.falconermuseum.co.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund

The museum recently secured lottery funding of £353,500 is available to allow us to take the first step towards a £532,000 refurbishment programme.

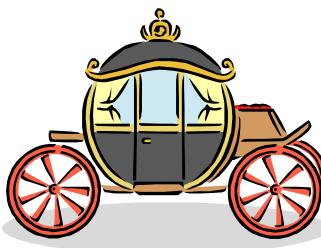
The re-development will see the biggest changes to the museum since it first opened to the public in 1873, and will include a complete re-design of the displays and interpretation material, as well as the creation of a dedicated education and lecture space whilst retaining the traditional features of the building. Friends committee members, representatives from Moray Council, Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise and the Heritage Lottery Fund have formed a development group to take the refurbishment programme forward.

The funding has also enabled the development group to think about employing a suitable candidate to fill a new position of Project Development Officer to help get on with the task.

Successful IT Grant Application

The Friends Committee were delighted to learn that their application to "Moray Access for Communities" was successful and took delivery of a Laptop and Speakers which means that the Friends now have their own equipment and will not have to use our Secretary's home Personal Computer. The Laptop has already proved invaluable and will be used to aid with the Oral History Project and to take presentations on the museum to schools and other groups. We were able to show a Powerpoint display at the recent preview evening of the Olympic Torch which attracted a lot of interest.

History of Pantomime



For our final event of 2005 before the redevelopment work on the Museum takes place, we hope to host an exhibition around the theme of A History of Pantomime which has a working title of "It's Behind You!" Some preparatory work has already commenced but a great deal of work will still need to be done to turn the museum into a home fit for the likes of Cinderella, Jack and The Beanstalk, Puss In Boots, Aladdin, Snow White and one or two Pantomime Dames. We kid you not! We hope to get help from some local Amateur Dramatic Groups but will be on the lookout for volunteers to help us with this ambitious project to see the old museum out in style.