

Dunfermline - A Story to Weave

New Museum & Gallery

Issue 8 - January 2015

ON AT DUNFERMLINE CARNEGIE LIBRARY & GALLERIES

We have a new name - **Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries**. Speaking after the Committee Meeting on Wednesday 7th January the Chair of the City of Dunfermline Area Committee, Cllr Helen Law said "Members of the committee have known for some time that the name would be decided by them and have spoken to local residents and stakeholders to get their views. It's only right that we keep and celebrate the rich Carnegie history and capture the sense of the range of cultural services on offer in the new centre. Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries allows us to do just that."

Breaking Ground

Partners gathered on 1st December to mark the announcement that construction company BAM are about to start building. Fife Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust are all delighted that in two years' time their funding will lead to the opening of an integrated library, museum and temporary galleries within the Heritage Quarter.

Speaking at the get-together, the Chair of the City of Dunfermline Area Committee, Cllr Helen Law said she was very pleased that construction work could now start. She said: "This is a hugely ambitious and exciting project for Dunfermline. Local people have been aware of and interested in the plans for quite some time and I'm sure they'll be pleased at this important milestone being met. This will be an impressive new focal point to the Heritage Quarter which will become an important contributor towards the economic health of Dunfermline's town centre."



Councillor Helen Law with Douglas Keillor, BAM'S Regional Director for Scotland (centre) and Ken Hutton, Project Manager.

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Volunteer Friendly Award



It's official! Our project is volunteer friendly. During the 30th anniversary of Volunteers Week in June we received a Volunteer Friendly Award which recognised our dedication to giving fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities to a diverse range of people. The people of Dunfermline and beyond continue to amaze us by giving their time, skills and enthusiasm to the project for free (if you don't count the tea and biscuits).



Volunteers celebrate Volunteers Week

Dean of Guild Court Plans Project Completed!

Our team of 15 volunteers had no idea when they took on the Dean of Guild Court Plans Project last autumn that the task was going to be quite so big! Twelve thousand and seventy two hours later they have checked the condition of over 12,500 plans of Dunfermline's buildings and created a database containing all the information available on those plans. The great news is that this data is already live on Fife Council Archives searchable database.

Fife Cultural Trust Board Member, David Caldwell joined us to thank the volunteers for their hard work. That could have been the end of the story. But these dedicated volunteers insisted on coming back for more. They've just started on The Master of Works Registers project – another task of epic proportions. The information from these two projects will provide a fascinating and comprehensive insight into the changing face of Dunfermline's buildings from the 1850s to the 1970s.



Bert McEwan, Volunteer



Master of Works Registers



David Caldwell, Fife Cultural Trust Director

What will be in the Museum?

Dunfermline's Leisure Pursuits

Spanning the last two centuries, this display represents many clubs and societies in Dunfermline, as well as peoples' individual hobbies, pastimes, games and sports.

This lovely Victorian 'skirt lifter' (pictured right) kept your skirt out of the puddles when out walking. You clipped your skirt to your petticoat and tied the clip to your belt.

Our public appeal for objects which take you on a journey right up to the turn of the 21st Century has brought in amongst many interesting things, a set of Star Wars miniature figures and this colourful Fisher Price car garage from the 1970s. They'll join the 1950s Dansette record player, My Lady Catherine radio set and lots more on display.



Pictured left: Going for a walk?; Top right: from Dunfermline Bridge Club; Bottom right: from Dunfermline Car Club



Pictured from left: Star Wars figures; Fisher Price garage; "My Lady Catherine" radio

Meet the Volunteer: Scott Hynd

Scott is a 5th year student at Dunfermline High School who first visited the Museum Team with his Dad, Davie, last summer. Both Scott and Davie are scooter enthusiasts who have volunteered to undertake the restoration of the 1960s Vespa scooter that fellow volunteer, Douglas Groom, is donating for display.

Scott is working towards achieving his Saltire Award through volunteering, which will be good for his CV. "I volunteered as I thought I could find out more about the history of Dunfermline, and also so that I could improve my chances of getting a job in the future". "As a volunteer I have been researching information on some of the old cameras and radios that are part of the museum collection and looking into the history of the music that has been played in Dunfermline." As part of his research, Scott met up with local 1960s band, The Red Hawks. "I enjoyed meeting the Red Hawks the most and hearing all their stories about the Kinema Ballroom".



Scott Hynd with the Redhawks

World War One

100 Years On - War in The Glen

We marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War in the first week of August with War in The Glen at Pittencrieff House Museum and on MAC, Fife's unique travelling museum.

Emmie Jordan, Museum Supervisor, and her staff helped to run various free activities for children including making poppies, trench periscopes, racing World War 1 aeroplanes and storytelling, all of which was greatly enjoyed by the 1200 children who attended the Museum in the Glen.

At the same time MAC offered Moving Stories - Fife's Great War exhibition, which shows World War One through the eyes of Fife soldiers and their families. We challenge you to remain dry-eyed when you watch the film Sea Front inspired by letters and diaries from Fife's archives. The poignant animated film was specially commissioned from award-winning artist Claire Lamond.



MAC at Pittencrieff House Museum

War in the Glen

Three WW1-themed days of **FREE** family activities at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline

3rd - 5th August



Researching our First World War Collection



L-R Christine Mitchell, Kerry Gray, Pamela Macleod and intern Catriona Davidson

This summer, five volunteers embarked upon a research project to discover the hidden histories behind some of our World War One objects, led by intern Catriona Davidson. Sometimes all they had was a name or if lucky a service number. The volunteers have been trained in family history research and have discovered a great deal of new information.

Pamela has researched David Williamson, discovering that he fought in France with the 8th (Service) Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and was killed in action on 23rd April, 1917. Surprisingly he was born in Pennsylvania, USA. In a sad twist to the story, David and his brother Thomas died just 3 days apart.



Postcard from soldier David Williamson to his sister Kate, Townhill, October 1915

Queen Anne High School Pupils Research Local WW1 Soldier's Story

Gemma Inglis, Connor Clark and Jake Graham all responded to the Museum Team's call for local researchers so we set them a task that they could share at school as part of their Wider Experiences curriculum. In 1989 a Dunfermline resident donated medals and paperwork belonging to Private Charles Orr, who served in the Machine Gun Corps and was a Prisoner of War in 1918.

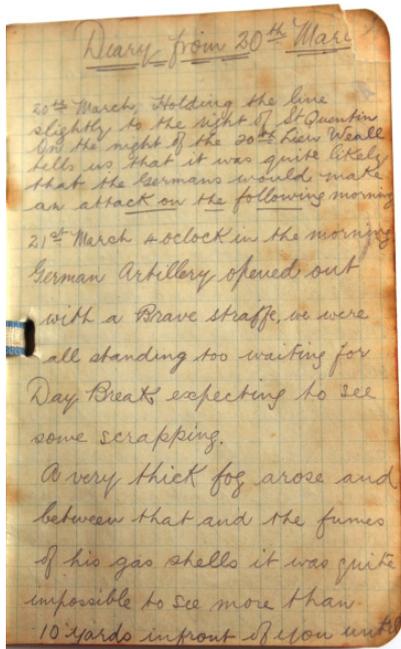
Jake and Connor are transcribing Charles' diary detailing the various POW camps he was held in. Gemma's creating a biography of Charles Orr by

researching his military records and family tree. Future tasks include making a map of Charles' movements during his time as a POW, finding recordings of the song lyrics that he had scribbled in his notebook and, perhaps most exciting, searching for Charles' living relatives who might be able to tell us more about him.

These three young volunteers are all studying history at school, and their passion for the subject is clear from their enthusiasm for the project.



L-R Connor, Jake, Catriona & Gemma



Page from Charles Orr's diary

Pittencrieff Primary School Delve into their School's Past

The 2013/14 Primary 7 class at Pittencrieff Primary School worked with our volunteer, Mark Seaborne, to transcribe the pages of their old School Log Books starting with the years 1914-18. The children have found out some fascinating facts about their school including that soldiers were billeted in the school which meant pupils had to walk back and forth to Limekilns Primary for some of their lessons.

Even though these P7s have moved on to high school, teacher Ross Gibson has handed the task on to his new class, who will continue to work on transcribing the log book. To present their results the pupils have been enjoying lessons in how to create HTML Web Pages with Mark, who is a technical whizz as well as a keen historian and archaeologist.

We hope to undertake a similar project with other local primary schools in 2015 – it will be interesting to find out how other local schools were affected by the Great War.



Top: Mark Seaborne, Volunteer

Bottom: P7 Pittencrieff Primary School Researchers

The Big Draw

Festival a Big Draw with Dunfermline's Young People!

The Campaign for Drawing ran the Big Draw festival during October with 300,000 people taking part in 28 countries. Pittencrieff House Museum joined in over the October holiday with over 600 children taking part. Many received a free comic from local business Little Shop of Heroes and all went away with a Big Draw certificate.

The DMAG team and local graphic illustrator, Tom Crielly, visited over 1000 school children at Townhill, Carnock, Crossford, St. Leonard's, McLean and Pitcorthie Primary Schools. We told the children all about the new museum and they drew pictures to show what makes Dunfermline a special place to live.

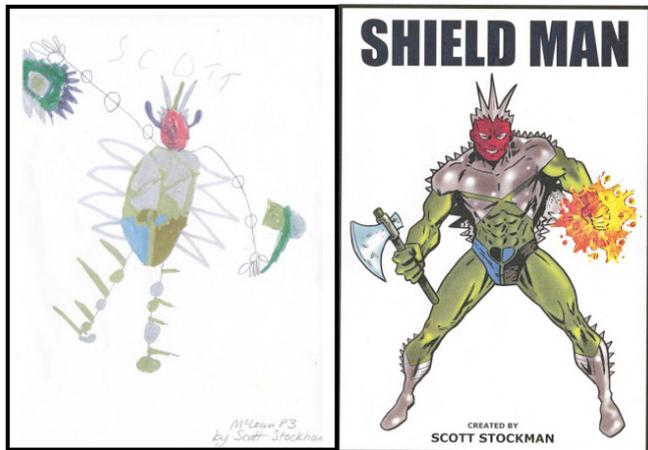
In each school, one lucky class had a superheroes workshop with Tom who taught them how to draw the human figure so that they could design their own superhero. Tom turned the best ideas into fully realised graphics and we presented the artists with framed posters for them to keep.

We've made a lovely display in St. Margaret's House with some of the drawings and will be posting collages of all the entries on Facebook.



Top: St Leonards Primary School's Big Draw

Bottom: Carnock Primary School at the Big Draw



Maclean Primary School pupil Scott Stockman had his original design for Shield Man worked up by artist Tom Crielly.



Some entries from Townhill Primary School

Temporary Homes for Dunfermline Carnegie Library

Whilst the main library is closed 4 temporary sites are open for customers. The bright and cheerful lending library in the Maygate offers a free request service and 2 free public access PCs. More computers are available in the City Chambers and at the Music Institute next to the Carnegie Hall in East Port. Our Local History service is based on the ground floor of St Margaret's House beside the Carnegie Library.

Information about opening hours is available from all the above (tel 01383 602365) or by checking our web site www.onfife.com.

Skills for the Future

Catriona Davidson our Volunteers Co-ordinator Intern has finished her year long internship with us on a high. She gave a great speech at a celebration event in Edinburgh where she told of how much she had learned, how much she'd gained in confidence and her certainty that she wants to continue working in the heritage sector with volunteers.

The Interns Programme is a partnership supported by Heritage Lottery's Skills for the Future Fund and Museums Galleries Scotland, and participating host museums across Scotland. The programme supports 20 paid one year internships which provide a high quality work-based skills development opportunity for new entrants to the sector workforce.

They are hoping to repeat the success of the 2011/12 cohort of interns 100% of who went into employment or further study within six months of the end of the programme.



MGS Interns celebrating their success



Library at the Maygate

We hope you'll continue to enjoy using our services at the temporary locations or any of the other libraries in the Dunfermline area. We look forward to seeing you.

Speaking Of...Oral History

Twelve dedicated and trained volunteers are carrying out interviews on five specific topics: Industry; Conflicts; Recreation; Transport and Home Life.

The new museum display will feature kitchens from the 1920's, 1960's and the 1990's. So we are appealing especially for people to get in touch to tell us their memories of their first home in Dunfermline. We'd like to hear how you decorated it, what equipment and appliances you had and about your favourite family pastimes.

Volunteer Catherine Brown is running a project with the Pitreavie Guide Unit. Guides are interviewing one of the local Trefoil Guild groups about their experiences of Guiding in Dunfermline from the 1940s to the present day. You will soon be able to access some of our recordings online. Watch this space!



The volunteers at training provided by Strathclyde Oral History Centre

Team News

Katy Firth joined the team at the end of July. She's already slotted in well as Research & Activities Assistant alongside Lesley McNaughton and Lesley Botten.

Katy has wide experience of working with volunteers both as a countryside ranger for Holyrood Park and during a recent heritage project in Shettleston connected to The Commonwealth Games. Trained as an archaeologist she spends some of her time under water playing hockey. Katy says, "I'm really looking forward to getting even more people from the local community contributing to the project. I've always had an interest in studying the past, but it's so much more rewarding to do so with others who might not have had the experience before."



Katy Firth

Get involved ... Find out more

For the next 3 years there will be lots of ways that you can help make the new Dunfermline Museum into something to be proud of. More information will be issued in quarterly newsletters which you can download from the website or receive by post if you send in a request to join a newsletter mailing list. Send an email to admin.fct@onfife.com or ask in one of our Dunfermline libraries.

You are also welcome to contact:

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Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Fife Council with The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, **Royal Dunfermline – A Story to Weave** will develop a new and accessible museum and art gallery in the heart of Dunfermline's heritage quarter, adjacent to and integrating with the world's first Carnegie Library.

