

# Dunfermline - A Story to Weave

## New Museum & Gallery

Issue 2 - November 2012



## Ding, Ding - Round 2!

We sent the second round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Edinburgh office on 15th October. The application form and its 31 supporting documents cover every aspect of the project from archaeology to risk register, from architectural plans to project management structures. The project team was very pleased that it was submitted complete with planning permission and listed building consent. There has been an enormous and sustained effort from staff and many members of the public to get the project to this stage. And now we await the meeting of the HLF Board on 29th January 2013 in London at which the decision will be made whether to grant nearly 2.8 million needed to make the new museum for Dunfermline a reality.

Above, Provost Jim Leishman and Councillor Mike Rumney look at the architectural model which was on display in Dunfermline Carnegie Library during the summer. The model is now in London at the Royal Institute of British Architects as part of a show celebrating 21 years of Richard Murphy's architectural practice.

[www.fifedirect.org.uk/futureheritage](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/futureheritage)

## Library Users asked what they think

As the wait for the result begins, it has been revealed that Dunfermline Carnegie Library users are behind the new plans. A survey of 408 people showed 74% are very much in favour of the project with 5% against and the rest neutral.

Suggestions for improving the library service include improved toilet facilities and wi-fi throughout and we're glad to say that the new building will achieve both of these.



Dunfermline Carnegie Library Knitting & Reading group was just one of a number of groups consulted about the new museum.

## The Collections

Earlier this year a number of specialists took a good look at the museum and library special collections. We knew that we had some gems and one turned out to be particularly precious. The George Reid collection of manuscripts and early printed books has been confirmed as internationally important by Dr Andrew Grout, Research Fellow who is researching the history of the book.



First aid for books!



Some of the books which have been too long displayed in an open position are now being gently closed by a specialist book conservator. Individually tailored book boxes will be commissioned to protect each volume and a different approach taken to display in future.



## Curator's Corner

Lesley Botten, Museum Display Design & Activities Curator, will reveal some of her project highlights in this regular slot.

Some of my favourite moments have been bringing members of the Hogg family together to see their relative's First World War hero's medals.

I also took the opportunity, while on holiday in the area, to visit his grave at Dantzig Alley Cemetery on the Somme in France.



Grave of Alexander Malcolm McNeill, Gordon Highlander and the Hogg family

# What will be in the Museum?

## Royal Connections

### HM The Queen and Dunfermline

Dunfermline's royal connections, which will feature strongly in the new museum, go back a long way but also come right up to date. Her Majesty the Queen has visited the city several times but she has personal connections too. As a young princess she and her sister Margaret wove a small piece of cloth on a miniature loom which their grandmother, Queen Mary, had seen demonstrated on a Dunfermline company's exhibition stand. Was it a coincidence that silk thread was sent to Winterthur's in Dunfermline to be woven into the satin from which the Queen's wedding dress was made?

Two workers at Winterthur's factory were chosen to go to the royal wedding. Barbara Unwin and Isa Erskine had special matching outfits made for the occasion and had the time of their lives in London. Barbara, who wove the fabric, said "I didn't know what I was weaving or why but I knew something was special because they hung bits of fabric on the oily bits of my loom and gave me a basin of water and a towel and told me to keep my hands really clean."



Queen Elizabeth II at Dunfermline Abbey 1958



Barbara Unwin at her loom

To learn more about HM The Queen's connections to Dunfermline visit the display in the Local History Department, Dunfermline Carnegie Library, from 14 January 2013. Please get in touch with Lesley if you have any royal stories of your own.



Coronation Plaque

Each newsletter will focus on one of the new museum's six display themes. The next issue will feature Transport.

# FREE EVENT Saturday 16th February 2013

## Digging for Victory at Pittencrieff Park

The Glen Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline  
Drop in between 11.00am and 3.00pm



If you remember Dunfermline during the Second World War, join us for a nostalgic look back with the Fife Home Guard, storytelling, music of the era and most importantly YOU! A couple of wartime vehicles will be parked outside the Glen Pavilion whilst inside there will be lots of chat and refreshments. We want you to bring your memories, stories and your "stuff" including documents and photos from the time especially any snaps of Pittencrieff Park and the area around it.



For more information contact Lesley Scott, Major Parks Officer (08451 555 555 extension 493317) or Lesley Botten at Dunfermline Carnegie Library (08451 555 555 extension 492276)

## 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 [libraries.museums@fife.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.museums@fife.gov.uk) or pick up a mailing list request form at a Dunfermline library or go to:

**[www.fifedirect.org.uk/futureheritage](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/futureheritage)**

You are also welcome to contact any of the following people involved in the project:

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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.



LOTTERY FUNDED

