

# Royal Dunfermline - A Story to Weave New Museum & Art Gallery

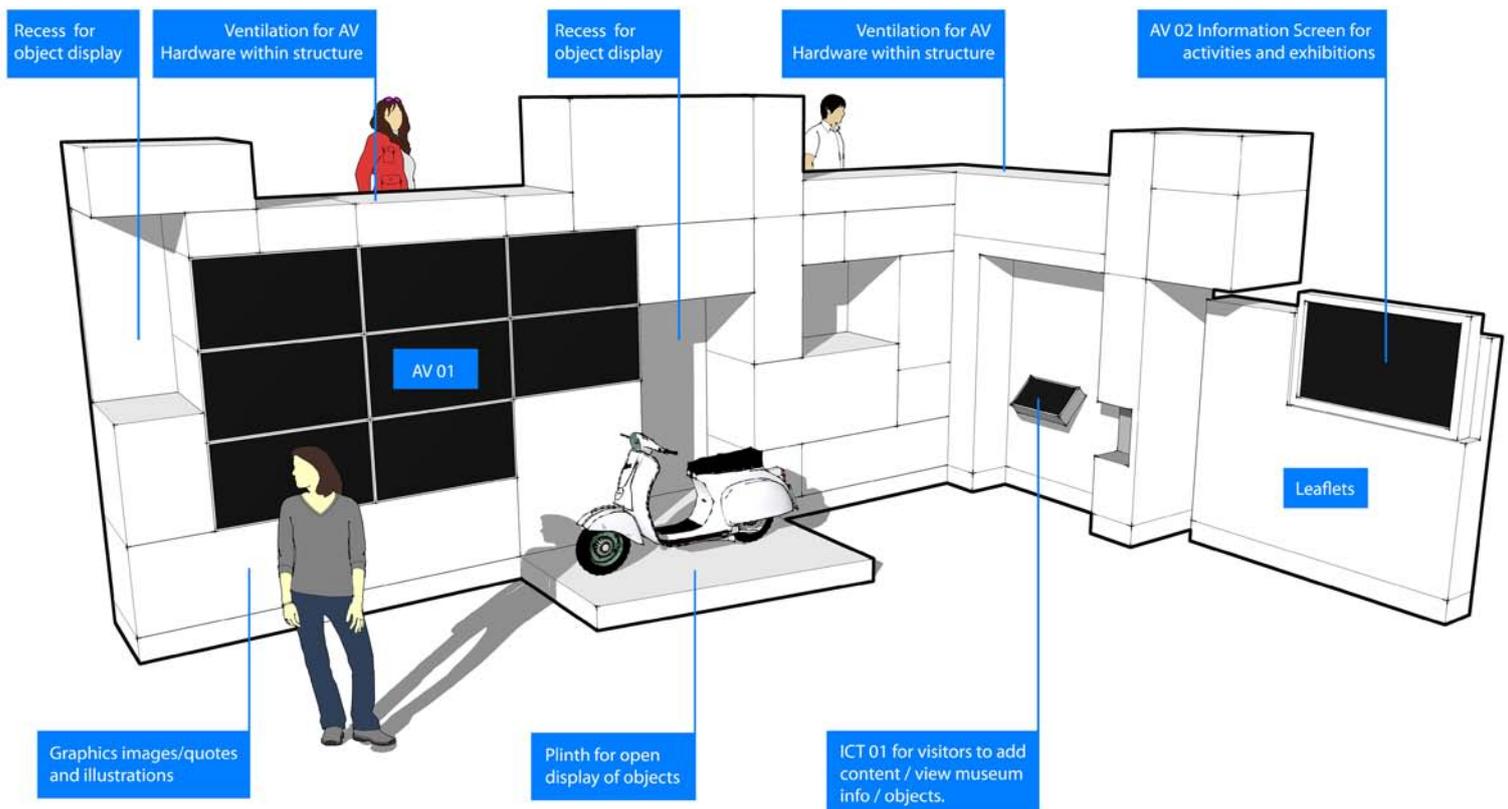
Issue 5 - Aug 2013

## Project Update

The project team has been working hard alongside the architect and museum display designers (Richard Murphy Associates of Edinburgh, and Redman Design) to put more detail into the building and display designs. Fire strategy, security, ventilation and all things electro-mechanical have to be agreed and checked as well as many other technical details. As well as focusing on the new building we're also paying attention to keeping the character of the Library building which has special status as the world's oldest Carnegie funded library.

To help guarantee good access for all future users we held a disability forum workshop where the architects showed the draft plans for the building layout to representatives from Fife Independent Disability Network, Dunfermline Elderly Forum and Fife Sensory Impairment Service. A second workshop is planned for September to look at the issues raised in more detail.

We've also spent a day with designers looking at the interactive elements of the main museum including computer touch screen games, film shows, handsets for listening to spoken stories and lots of other ways in which the displays can be brought to life for all visitors. Descriptions of all these things are being written so that we can ask specialist companies to bid for the work and eventually present their ideas for further testing.



### When's it all happening?

Car park closed from 12 August 2013

Archaeological dig starts 27 August until end September 2013

Construction work begins spring 2014



## Do you have a spare scooter?

Over 300 adults and young people voted on objects they would like to see in the gateway area of the new museum. A really popular object was a 1960s scooter. But everyone, young and old, loved the toaster, made in the 1920s and shaped like a heart.

Scooters were an extremely popular form of transport during the 1960s and 1970s and many people of Dunfermline had them. There are none in the museum collection and we want to acquire one. Lesley Botten, Display Design & Activities Curator, said, "Do you have a 1960s scooter that the new museum could have for its display? It would be perfect if we could find a scooter with Dunfermline or Fife roots but we'd be delighted to consider all offers. We'd also love to hear from people who have scooter related memories."



And here are the objects you all voted for

1. Sweetheart Toaster (1920s)
2. JVC Television (1970s)
3. Scooter (1960s)
4. Magic Lantern Camera (1880s)
5. Nintendo Games Console (1980s)
6. ATS and ARP Recruitment Posters (1940s)
7. Winterthur's Silk Factory Swift
8. Images of Road and Rail Bridges
9. A Collection of Colourful Silk Bobbins
10. Vespa Scooter with Sidecar (1960s)

**Come to Dunfermline Carnegie Library on Saturday 21st September and you'll have the chance to take part in the Scotland-wide Big Craft Give-away Day.**



### PICK UP A PIECE OF CRAFT

(between 1pm and 4pm)  
Beautiful vintage fabrics with printed and embroidered decoration, inspired by Dunfermline's famous linen designs, will be given away free to members of the public in the Library. Make sure you come early before they run out.

### DROP IN CRAFT WORKSHOP

(between 1pm and 3pm)  
Take part in the craft making session with textile artist Jeanette Sendler to create your own fabric pieces. You will get to give yours away and take another one made by someone else for yourself.

The Big  
Craft  
Give-Away

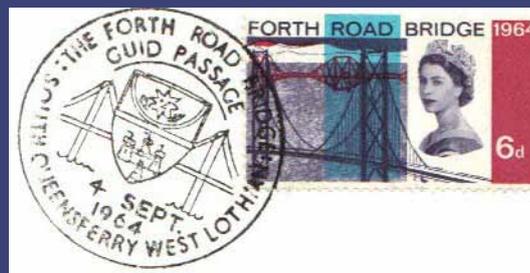
Fife  
Contemporary  
Art & Craft

[www.bigcraftgiveaway.org](http://www.bigcraftgiveaway.org)



## Curator's Corner

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



6d stamp with South Queensferry postmark

Kerr Doig answered my question posed in the last newsletter:

"Yes, I was there the day the Forth Road Bridge opened. I was under the new bridge in South Queensferry selling special 'First Day Covers' to commemorate the bridge's opening. I managed to sell over 20,000 envelopes that day."

There's a lot more to this story which we'll follow up at a later date. For now I'd like to hear what you were doing on the day the Forth Bridge opened – 4th September 1964.

# What will be in the Museum?

## DUNFERMLINE IN WARTIME

One theme will cover conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries that have affected Dunfermline people. We are looking for personal stories to represent many different experiences of war at home and abroad. Here's how two local people were involved in the Second World War.

### Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service



Isabella Williamson Greig in her ATS uniform

Isa, who went to St Leonards Primary and Queen Anne High Schools, was always good at maths and left school aged 14 with top marks in book-keeping. By the time war broke out in 1939 she was the Manageress of the Purchasing Department at the weaving company Hay & Robertson Ltd. Isa wanted to join the Wrens (Womens Royal Naval Service) but her bosses were having none of it and said they would apply for her to be exempt from war service in order to keep her at the factory. In the end she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service and served from 1942 to 1946 as a clerk in the Royal Army Pay Corps. She was part of B Company Highland Group based in Inverness. She returned to Hay & Robertson after the War and then worked for the Dunfermline Building Society until she retired.

For whatever reason, Isa never received the medals she was entitled to, but her grandson wrote to the Ministry of Defence on her behalf and here they are:



### Prisoner of War : Stalag 18a Wolfsberg, Austria

James, who was born in Oakley, served with the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946. So far his story is known only from photographs and a few other things passed down the family. One tiny photo – of James' sister Cathie – is addressed on the back: "To: Sapper J Graham 3558 Stalag XVIII A (11072/GW). The Wolfsberg stalag was for most a holding camp from which groups of prisoners were sent out on working parties. James was sent to a work camp (number 11072) at Gradnitz to work on the railway there. Eventually he brought home quite a few photographs taken in the camp. They are propaganda photographs designed to show the outside world how well the POWs were being treated.



James Graham, POW, taken at Stalag 18a

Thank you to James Boyd for bringing us photos and information about his grandparents and to his mother Margaret Nelson for allowing us to tell her parents' stories.

### The "Forgotten" Wars

We'd like to learn about people's experiences of the conflicts in Malaya (1948-1960), Northern Ireland, The Falklands and more recent wars. This research will help us put together a part of the main museum exhibition.



James (centre) at the Gradnitz work camp



Unofficial photo of the labour camp

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

# Summer of Archaeology

The volunteer list for taking part in the excavation of Dunfermline Carnegie Library's car park is now closed. Over 50 volunteers, aged from 16 to 78, will contribute to the 5 week dig run by Rathmell Archaeology. Public access to the dig will start on 28 August with free guided tours every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11.30am until the end of September. (There'll be no digging Sundays to Tuesdays.) The Library car park will be closed from 12 August.

For youngsters we're partnering with Abbot House to run Saturday children's events.



Dig volunteer Jo Hatchman

## Archaeology Abbot House

### DIG!

31 August : Dig pit in the garden at Abbot House.

### DELVE!

7 September: Skeleton Workshop

### DO!

14 September: Medieval Crafts

All these workshops are **FREE** and drop-in between 2pm and 4pm  
No need to book.

[www.facebook.com/dig-dunfermline](http://www.facebook.com/dig-dunfermline)

## 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 Fife Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and 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.



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