



## **SEASONS GREETINGS**

### **President's Report**



After we close the Museum for the winter period I look forward to enjoying the volunteers' lunch. This is a happy occasion and it amuses and delights me to listen to these very generous people chatting away together because they seldom meet. If you do Tuesdays and someone else does Thursdays, then so be it. But the Museum keeps going thanks to you all. And we have had a busy and successful summer, as you will read in the detailed newsletter.

Once again we have achieved a year of free entry thanks to our generous supporters – they know who they are but have asked to remain anonymous. We have also established ourselves as a truly independent museum. We now have no "government funding". The Falconer Museum in Forres is fortunate and Moray Council still support them. We still support Moray Council by giving them all the help we can for the Castle to

Cathedral to Cashmere project and in providing an outreach service, visiting schools and having school visits to name but two. However, we now have to take a commercial view of such support and your Board will do that.

The next part of our plan in the Museum, as well as having volunteers refreshing our display cases for next year, is to hang the logboat from the roof so that we can see it. Sounds simple but it is not! The logboat has been stuck on the stage in the Museum Hall for over a year now and it will be great to have it back on display.

I have been heartened by our youth programme, the success of which is shown by the 134 Young Marvels now in our junior club. We began by engaging with the young, we then moved to the slightly older and next year we will try to engage with teenagers. More excitement I hope.

Elgin Museum is in good heart. It is a happy place to visit and be involved with. There is constant activity from everyone - Board, Management Committee, Volunteers and very cheerful visitors. My sincere thanks to all of you for another great year. If you read this and are a member and not involved come and see us! Come along to our "Discovery Night" in January and find out about all that is happening.

Happy Christmas and a Good New Year to you all,

**Grenville S Johnston**  
**Hon President**

## **MUSEUM ASSISTANT UPDATE**

We have had another productive year I am glad to say; a steady number of visitors, crowd pleasing events that have drawn in people of all ages, volunteers giving an excellent welcome front of house but also a lovely buzz behind the scenes.

The library group has completed the cataloguing of the books in the main office and will spend the winter progressing up to the books in the Tower.

Thanks are due to Gayle Henderson who has significantly contributed to a rise in shop sales this year, and to the front of house volunteers who have been gently but consistently encouraging shop sales and visitor donations – we cannot thrive, let alone survive, without these considerations.

We now have 80 active museum **volunteers** – 30 attended this year's volunteer 'Thank You' party. For those of you who were unable to be there for me to thank personally, I would like you all to know just how much **your hard work, dedication, flexibility and positive enthusiasm is appreciated; we would not be where we are without you!** I will shortly be sending volunteer feedback forms to all of you so you have the opportunity to comment on how you feel this year went and if there is anything you would like to see implemented for next year.



*Above: November 2016 Volunteer 'Thank You' Party*

*Top row, l to r: Sara Marsh, Joyce Mitchell, Heather Cruickshank, Gayle Henderson, Janice Mackenzie, Roger Pendergast, David Marquardt, Richard Winfield.*

*Second row, l to r: Irene Lukkarinen, Jan MacWilliam, Nan Fettes, Mary Allan, Helena Keyes.*

*Third row, l to r: Mabel Rennie, Graham Robertson, Janet Trythall, Bill Dalgarno, Sandy McAdam, Ritchie Mabon.*

*Bottom row, l to r: Mary Shand, Davie Milne, Heather Townsend, Lt. Col. Grenville Johnston*

Three of us were privileged to be able to attend this year's **Museums Association Conference** for the first time. This international conference was attended by over 1,000 delegates and proved to be inspiring, frustrating and fantastic. We should be very proud to have achieved as much as we have, serving the community and continuing to thrive in an economic environment where we have just 3 part time employees – and a budget far more restricted than any of the museums that were presenting at the conference. Until recently, we had 4 employees but Morag MacDonald has just come to the end of her Project Assistant Post – and we are still finalising funding to keep Di Hannan, Education and Outreach Worker after her present funding ends in March: if you can help, please do get in touch.

In the past few months I have been concentrating on recording all the finds that have been returned from Treasure Trove as disclaimed (on behalf of the Queen's & Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer for Scotland). This has amounted to checking and double checking more than 1,200 items and ensuring they were returned to the original finders – all keen metal detectorists. The items that Treasure Trove claimed for the nation (that

fell within our bidding area) we have David Marquardt to thank for submitting successful bids – we look forward to receiving these finds in due course. I hope that we shall be able to display some of these new items for you to enjoy next year.



Above: Some of the 2016 metal detectorist finds for identification/TT decision.

**Heather Townsend**  
**Museum Assistant**

### **Upside down**

We have just received, via Sue Beardmore, our former Recognition Funded palaeontologist, \*a paper on the Triassic reptile, *Ornithosuchus longidens*. The two authors, from Argentina, visited Elgin Museum to study our specimens which include the Type specimen, ELGM: 1978.570. This block, on display, is labelled "No 1" in red. This marking indicates it was studied by T.H.Huxley (1825-1895), the eminent English comparative anatomist, knick-named "Darwin's bulldog". I have still to study the paper carefully, but was immediately struck by the fact that Ornithosuchians are found in the Upper Triassic of Argentina ie the same rocks as our sandstones at Lossie, Findrassie and Spynie quarries. Our Ornithosuchians are the only ones known from the Northern Hemisphere. What is clear is that our specimen is displayed upside down! Was this for neatness, to display Huxley's red number one upright, a number painted on at



the time Huxley thought it was a mandible (lower jaw) - and of another local reptile, *Stagonolepis* - although in fact it is a maxilla (upper jaw). Anyway these are impressive teeth: the longest is 53.5 mm long.

Yet another job for the winter: to add to the display interpretation the new insights this research provides about our famous fossils.

Taxonomy of the archosaur *Ornithosuchus*: reassessing *Ornithosuchus woodwardi* Newton, 1894 and *Dasygnathoides longidens* (Huxley 1877) M. Belen von Baczko and Martin D. Ezcurra Earth and Environmental Science Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1-7, 2016



**Janet Trythall**  
**Vice President**

### **Education and Outreach**

December 2016

Despite the fact that we are closed for the winter we are still getting requests for visits and outreach sessions! This should taper off as the madness of Christmas arrives in December, with Nativity Plays and decorations coming to the front of every teacher's planning. It has, however, been a very busy year for Education and Outreach as well as our Family Drop-in sessions.

Our Halloween session proved very popular, with the theme this year being 'Shrunken Heads'. This year we had some additional support from 5 students from Elgin Academy, who were volunteering to support their presentation for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative award 2016. The students have picked the museum as their charity and they will be giving a presentation to the panel in December 2016.



*Just one of the shrunken heads made for the Halloween Craft session*

The Highland Archaeology Festival family activities were also well attended. We made roundhouses, Romanesque brooches – which looked like decorated cookies! – and seals (of the letter kind not, as Janet clarified on the poster, furry sea mammals.)



*Two of the many Romanesque brooches*

All of our sessions have been well attended this year - thanks to all who supported these events.

Morag, Heather and I were lucky enough to attend the annual Museums Association Conference in Glasgow this year. The conference was a two day extravaganza of all things 'museum', with workshops, careers hubs and keynote speeches to name but a few activities.

Arriving on Sunday meant that we were able to attend the opening networking drinks at Kelvin Hall. We were able to mingle with other delegates and look at the new displays that have recently been created – it's amazing what you can do with millions of pounds of funding!

Monday started early, with the first time delegates networking breakfast. This was an opportunity to meet other first time delegates, find out the best ways to get the most out of the conference and try the 'business card swapping' app – not a success when the internet kept dropping out! Then it was on to a full day of workshops, activity sessions and keynote speeches. Leslie Riddoch – commentator and PhD – hosted the keynote speeches, with the first speakers – Adele Patrick, Mark O'Neill and David Fleming – sharing their visions of the future of the museums circuit. Delegates were encouraged to 'Be Brave', consider 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' and use objects to 'Change Lives'.

From this we all separated to cover as much ground as possible – divide and conquer was the order of the day! I attended the Networking Skills and CV writing workshops – vital with short term funding being the order of the day within the museums sector and slightly disturbing to see that I was probably one of the oldest delegates there! After this I attended the 'Role of Eco and Community Museums' session, which, whilst aimed at more rural sites and locations, still had value from a small museum perspective.

The 'Museums Change Lives' session discussed how museums had the capability to affect the lives of the community they serve. The discussion suggested that museums play a vital role in creating an increased community focus, provide opportunities for health and wellbeing, inspire the creation of better spaces and places and inspire people to create new ideas. A lot of the discussion centred around the 'Museums Change Lives' global launch in 2018, but it was still possible to affect the community with education and outreach activities and community participation.

The next session 'Object Lesson or Disappearance Act' considered the ethical issues surrounding the display of controversial objects. As well as this the issue of sponsorship was considered, with the sponsorship by controversial organisations discussed. Questions discussed by delegates included 'Does the display of controversial objects take away the neutrality of museums?', 'Should museums remain neutral?' and 'What are the ethical issues surrounding neutrality?'.

Tuesday was an equally busy day, but this time we made time to visit the exhibition stands at the main hall. This was full of all sorts of museum necessities – apps, lighting, display cases – as well as various organisations that work with museums. The first keynote speech – by Oonagh Atkins, Head of Volunteering Matters – discussed how volunteering is an 'expression of active citizenship'. She also considered the barriers to volunteering. Oonagh also discussed the importance of keeping volunteers happy and providing training, support and recognition for all volunteers. She felt that clear role descriptions, reviews and training opportunities show that volunteers are valued and that their health and wellbeing are being considered.

After this it was off to the 'Digital Skills' workshop, which, whilst very interesting and informative, appeared to be aimed at those museums that have huge budgets to spend on wonderful interactive and digital displays! The next session was entitled 'How smaller museums can work internationally'. There was a short presentation from a collections manager who had received funding to visit museums in Stockholm – her museum had a collection of items that had links with this area – and then details on how funding was provided. What was a little disheartening was that this project was an Arts Council England funded project – this had come up around the conference and exhibition in general – and so was not accessible to Scottish museums.

The next session was how Bletchley Park had revamped their tour guiding with specific storytelling techniques. Working with a storytelling company, Bletchley Park were able to create a consistent approach to tour guiding – with their 42 Guides! – providing the visitor with a consistent approach to visiting the site. 'Effective Advocacy' – with our Edna participating on the panel – considered how to engage with people who could provide advocacy for the museum. It considered how museums could engage with possible stakeholders through their links with the area, provide information on activities that people might not know about and improve their social media profiles.

'Engaging with non-museum visitors' was another workshop that considered how to target those people who would not usually visit a museum or heritage site. Certain barriers were identified and the Geffrye Art Gallery discussed how they had created various advisory panels to ensure that the voice of their community was heard. Something to consider was that this museum had received large sums of funding to create these panels and they were also in the process of rebuilding their museum with additional funding.

The last session was entitled 'Museums, Health and Wellbeing'. Museums can support the increasing aging population in a number of ways via a cross-partnership approach to working. Manchester was held up as a particularly 'age-friendly' city, with heritage sites embracing the concept of being more age friendly.

All in all this was a very positive conference, with the opportunity to meet and network with other museum professionals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Education and Outreach this year.

**Di Hannan**

**Moray Archaeology Conference**

2017 is the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology in Scotland. The Museum has been successful in an application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support a series of events leading up to an important Archaeology Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017. There will be events and displays throughout the year leading up to the conference. We will invite Archaeologists, who have been working in Moray over the past few years, to contribute to site visits, lectures, events and exhibitions. The final event will bring together experts to update our understanding as a result of new work undertaken and new interpretations of the data that has been uncovered in the Moray area. Watch out in future newsletters of details of events that are planned for all sections of our community.

**Edna Cameron**

### **Moray Society Prize Draw**

The Prize Draw has now been running for fifteen years and during that time has raised over £15,000 for the Moray Society. This total includes donations submitted through the Prize Draw fund but does not take into account any further income accrued from Gift Aid generated by eligible donations.

This has been of considerable benefit to our daily running expenses and continues to be so, given the huge inflationary price rises on all our utility bills. The price of the tickets remains unchanged and at present there are 85 tickets in circulation at £10 each. These are all eligible for the 12 prizes during their lifetime (1 year/4 draws with 3 prizes each).

Even if you are not attracted by those odds, remember that you are still helping the Society by purchasing one or more tickets in the sure knowledge that the only winner can be the Society itself.

All income generated by the draw goes directly into Moray Society funds apart from the prize money paid to the lucky winners.

Please address any questions or applications to me at the Museum (or email [mabritch@keme.co.uk](mailto:mabritch@keme.co.uk), or tel 01309 673597)

#### **Moray Society Prize Draw**

Please allocate me ..... tickets in the Moray Society Prize Draw @ £10.00 each.

\*I enclose my payment of £.....

\*Please forward me a standing order mandate

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... \*please delete if inappropriate

Please address any questions or applications to me at the Museum (or tel 01309 673597).

**Ritchie Mabon**

**Prize Draw Co-ordinator**

**The Trades Archive**



During 2004, Elgin Museum received into its collection archival documents relating to the craft incorporations of Elgin. Initial accessions included records of the Squarewrights and Shoemakers. These small collections were followed by further tranches of archives including records of other trades and also of the umbrella organisation known as the Convenery of Incorporated Trades. The trades archives offer an intriguing historical record of industry and enterprise in the Royal Burgh. The documentary record gives perspective and added meaning to the several deposits of Trades artefacts – including the Weavers' strongbox (1658) and flags, emblems and regalia belonging to various trades.

The trade incorporations of Elgin originate in the early centuries of the burgh's existence. The burgh was founded (probably) by David I in the twelfth century. Elgin formed one link in a chain of new burghs – extending from Banff to Cromarty. The burghs were intended to function as centres of royal administration, commerce and Anglo-Norman culture; as a civilising influence over the independently-minded (and periodically rebellious) Men of Moray.

And the burghs prospered. Royal charters granted commercial monopolies and administrative privileges to the merchant elite in the burghs (the king's burgesses). An early privilege granted to burgh merchants was the right to organise themselves into a guild. The earliest document in Elgin's burgh archive is a charter issued by Alexander III in 1268, confirming this right – which was probably originally conferred in an earlier (now lost) charter or by oral grant and mutual understanding. The guild merchant became the basis of the town council and controlled the burgh's internal affairs as a self-perpetuating oligarchy into the eighteenth century. It is unclear whether the leading craftsmen of Elgin also formed guilds, though in other burghs craft guilds were not permitted in case they challenged the merchant monopoly on power.

The Trades of Elgin emerge as a documented estate within Elgin during the 1650s. The burgh was probably still recovering from the plundering (by the king's armies) in 1646; and both merchants and craftsman/entrepreneurs were perhaps experiencing competition from 'unfree' traders as medieval restrictive practices began to unravel. The result was a 'Great Charter' issued by Elgin Town Council, establishing trade incorporations (for Shoemakers, Glovers, Weavers, Tailors, Wrights, Hammermen). This reflected the town's industrial base in leather trades and textiles. The charter also authorised formation of an over-arching Convenery.

The new incorporations endeavoured to restrict the activities of extra-burghal craftsmen, where that undermined burghal monopolies. The incorporations also supervised apprenticeship and the admission of master craftsmen. These were usual activities for medieval guilds. The incorporations acted as benefit societies, collecting dues from working members and paying a dole to those who fell on hard times. This became their chief role during the eighteenth century as old monopolies evaporated. And increasingly the trades imitated the arcane practices of masonic and similar societies. Meanwhile the Convenery controlled large tranches of Elgin burgh arable and pasture land. In the first half of the nineteenth century (jumping rather late onto the Improvement bandwagon of town creation), the Convenery planned out the new town of New Elgin, hoping it would develop into a major industrial centre.

The Trades archive documents all of these activities. A professional archivist Dr John Barrett has begun the task of arranging and cataloguing the papers and parchments, files and tomes of this important local archive. The work will continue into the New Year and will result in a professionally-produced calendar that will give historians access to the collections. Dr Barrett is keen to recruit Moray Society volunteers to assist in this

work. So if you can spare some time – and if you have an inclination towards admin – please contact Heather at the museum. She will enrol you as an archive helper.

## **Discovery!**

### **Information evening**

## **Elgin Museum**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm**

**See behind the scenes  
Find out what really happens in the Museum  
Cheese and Wine  
Silent Auction  
.....and more.**

**Come along to this evening of information and fun and do bring along any friends who might be interested in the work of the Museum or in helping preserve the heritage of the area by joining the Moray Society. Find out more about the Society and how the Museum is working to help the community of Moray.**



**HISTORY  
HERITAGE &  
ARCHAEOLOGY**

**• 2017 •**

## **Moray Archaeology Conference**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

Full details to follow but definitely booked to speak  
is Dr Fraser Hunter of National Museums Scotland

Watch the website and the next newsletter for full details.

A Castle to Cathedral  
to Cashmere



# Christmas



Saturday 17th December 2016



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



### On the Plainstones

10am - 17:30pm

Market stalls selling a variety of foods and treats; the ideal place to pick up those extra special gifts for Christmas.

12:00 noon

Elgin Ice Festival – Winter 2016 from Saturday 17th December through to Saturday 7th January 2017.

Outdoor Ice rink - For operating dates, times, prices and tickets visit: [www.ElginIceFestival.com](http://www.ElginIceFestival.com)

12:00 noon onwards

Enjoy the sounds of traditional and modern bands presented by Lantern of the North



16:30pm

Launch of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere Animated Light Projections

### Sculpture Unveiling

13:30pm

West End High Street

The Wolf by David Annand

Approx. 13:55pm

West Plainstones

Dandy Lion by Vik Quickly

Approx. 14:15pm

Plainstones (opposite Walkers)

Elgin's Town Drummer

by Alan B Herriot

### In the St Giles Centre

11:00am – 16:00pm

Free craft sessions presented by the Falconer Museum. Join in and create your own traditional Christmas toys.



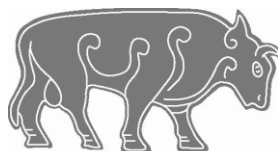
For more information go to [www.elginheritage.scot](http://www.elginheritage.scot)



A partnership initiative by The Moray Council; The City of Elgin Business Improvement District; Elgin Fund; Historic Scotland; Moray College/University Highland & Islands; Johnstons of Elgin; Elgin Benevolent Trust; Highland & Islands Enterprise; Moray Speyside Tourism; Robert Gordon University, Elgin Museum & specialist advisors/champions.

## **Diary Dates**

<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> Management Committee meeting	10.30am
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> Discovery Night – see separate ad	7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Moray Society Board Meeting	5.00pm
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> Pictish Art (Moray & Speyside) Talk by John Borland of Historic Environment Scotland	7.30pm
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b> Management Committee meeting	10.30am
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b> (2pm) and <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b> (10am) Volunteers' Pre season Opening Meetings	
<b>Fri 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> "What is Europe?" (Art & Architecture not politics!) Talk by Dr Lester Borley	7.30pm
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> Museum Opening for Season	11.00am
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b> Moray Society AGM followed by "Elgin's Hindu Gods" Talk by Dr Friederike Voigt, National Museums Scotland	6.30pm
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b> Moray Archaeology Conference Full details to follow.	



THE MORAY  
SOCIETY  

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ELGIN  
MUSEUM



**The Moray Society: Company No 106529 Charity No 017546**