

## President's Report



We are now entering the summer season. Much is happening in the Museum. The scaffolding is slowly coming down. I hope you will look up and see the huge improvements to our building. Our successors will be grateful.

We have started Sunday opening but to achieve that and other days we need more help. If you feel you can give more time please do. If you have a friend who might be interested please bring them along.

Doors Open Day is on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and we will again take part with a coffee morning in Austin's Tearooms. I have so many fond memories of tea and cakes in Austin's of Elgin, I will certainly hope to be there. Please do support it.

The Remembrance Display gets better and better. My wife, Marylyn purchased one of the ceramic poppies in memory of her Grandfather, 2/Lt John Bannatyne who died of wounds in 1917. We have his medals and history. He must have been one of the last tranche to be called up and volunteer. He was in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion HLI and I have read the war diaries about the action he was involved with. 13 Battalions from Glasgow, a huge number.

We also have a miniature montage of the new figures at Friezenburgh near Ypres. This is the largest Scottish memorial in that area and worth a visit if you are over there. I hope it will also be on display. The current plan is that the museum will open on 11<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate the end of World War 1. Please join me there following the commemorations on the Plainstones.

Meanwhile our shop works away with great support from volunteers but please always alert visitors to it. We have some fascinating material and literature.

This year our LEARNING programme is terrific. Jen Kelshaw has a huge number of schools involved and a busy programme. Supported, as ever by our volunteers. Why not ask about this rewarding work?

It has been a long warm summer and I hope you have all enjoyed it. My continued thanks to all our staff and volunteers for making visits so interesting.

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

## Learning and Outreach

Before our summer programme gets into full swing I thought it would be nice to reflect on a very busy June! We welcomed around 250 primary school children and their teachers from various Moray schools over the month; they were all very well behaved and have even been spotted on return visits playing tour guide to grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles! We covered lots of topics such as Early Humans, Castles, Medieval Life and Fossils; tailored trails and quizzes, the handling boxes and the displayed collections proved pretty thrilling for them.



*Learning to be an archaeologist*



*At the Deep Sea workshop*

The end of the month saw us pack up artefacts and take Elgin Museum out on the road, all the way to Buckie High no less. Edna and I spent a whole day in the school's library presenting some of our fantastic African artefacts - from intricate jewellery to weaponry, ladles to crowns and everything in between! Working with the school we devised a timetable to maximise the impact of our visit; over the day we welcomed Advanced Higher English students to take inspiration for their creative writing from the objects, gave a group of SEN pupils an object handling session, discussed the diverse culture in Africa prior to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade with the new Nat 4 History classes and finally we had a handful of Advanced Higher Artists again taking inspiration and having a chance to handle objects. The school were hosting ten Tanzanian students and their teachers too, so we had some unexpected expert insight into the specific history of several items!



*Edna & Tanzanian teacher*



*Jen with Buckie & Tanzania pupils*

It was a really great format in that it allowed lots of kids access to us over their allocated subject period, where we have struggled in the past to get high schools to visit the Museum itself because of these timetabling restrictions this meant instead that we could facilitate fifty plus students who wouldn't normally have visited us to benefit from our collections. While it was quite a labour-

intensive undertaking the work involved to 'take the Museum to them', it is definitely worthwhile to capture the elusive teenagers! I'll be approaching other high schools to identify other themes and subject areas that we can present to them after the summer holidays.

#### Museum Mondays Picnic (12noon to 3pm)

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> July Fingerpaint Poppies – all ages

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Aug. Design your own Banknotes – all ages

The Monday Picnic dates will be confirmed by 28<sup>th</sup> April – an email will be sent to members once they are confirmed.

#### Wednesday Activities (12noon to 2pm)

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. Under 12s Event: Money & Military – under 12s

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. 12-18s Event – Weapons from the Collection – Money & Military

Further events will be held during October school holidays – see the diary at the end of the newsletter for details. There will be more to come so do keep checking the Museum website – we will also send updates as necessary. If you have any questions regarding any events please contact Jen via [elginmuseumlearning@gmail.com](mailto:elginmuseumlearning@gmail.com)

**Jen Kelshaw**  
**Learning & Access**  
**July 2018**

#### **Museum Sunday Opening**

The Museum has been open on Sundays in July 2018 from 1pm to 4pm. The experiment has been relatively successful and so we have decided to carry on during August. After this we will evaluate the response and decide what to do next year.

There are several other museums and visitor attractions in Moray open on a Sunday afternoon, we felt that having Elgin Museum open would add another choice for tourists and local people. Feedback has been very positive from visitors. The volunteers gave up their time for the Museum on Sundays in addition to any time they would give during normal opening hours, without them the opening and welcoming visitors could not have happened.

Thank you Volunteers!

**Stewart Halkett**





## Renovation News!

You may have noticed that the scaffolding on the Museum is slowly being reduced in scale. I am delighted to report that it should all be gone within a fortnight, once the final part of the work is complete. The car park at the side of the Museum is now pay and display and the works associated with installing a parking meter proved to be the final straw for the balustrade on the side hall. It has become unsafe and must be replaced. New stone has been ordered and will be put in place next week.

Now that the upper scaffolding has gone, however, it is possible to see the new look to the higher part of the building. What had been rough sandstone has now been harled (as was the case when it was built) and the Museum now looks very much brighter. We are grateful for the generous funding from CARS scheme and from Moray LEADER that enabled the refurbishment of the exterior to take place. All we require now is another £50,000 or so to complete the remainder such as the hall.

## Museum Assistant Contribution – Behind the Scenes with the Collection

### Training

On 24<sup>th</sup> April I attended a training course at National Museums Collection Centre, Edinburgh, on photographing museum collections. You will see from the images below that NMS have a larger budget than we do and an awful lot more space in which to set up and take the frames, but the Photography Staff excelled at providing practical training at a level which we can put in to practice at Elgin Museum, and using our own camera. The main points I took away were the colour of the background to use – neutrals – greys, off white, black and NEVER red! Ways of using lighting, how best to angle the camera and setting the correct colour tone using a grey scale colour checker.



*Before and after training techniques applied (images of container in NMS collection)*

## General Enquiries

As usual we have had lots of enquiries from the public. Bill and Roger answered an enquiry from a Production Manager for Rumpus Media in London who are making a documentary about dis-used railway lines throughout the UK for Channel 5, entitled "Walking Britain's Lost Railways". One of the episodes was filmed in Scotland and they were looking for various images from the Elgin to Cairnie Junction coast railway line, which we were able to provide.

I was able to assist with an enquiry questioning the colour of the Elgin City Band uniform in order to colour a black and white photograph accordingly. I could not answer this with any certainty so pointed the gentleman to The Moray Council Heritage Centre; what I could do was provide an image of the original drum that was donated to Elgin Museum. It was useful to the gentleman, and he made some changes to the colouring. Bill was able to advise that the 1902 and 1922 photographs of the band were taken outside the Old Town Hall (1885-1939) in Moray Street before it was later destroyed by fire.





## Researchers



**Chris Stewart-Moffitt**, Post Graduate Researcher, University of Aberdeen, visited us on 18<sup>th</sup> July to scan our replica Neolithic carved stone ball to assist with his research on Neolithic carved stone balls.

**Professor Leif Isaksen**, Professor of Digital Humanities, of the University of Exeter (and Project Director, Cluny Hill Dig, Forres) visited Elgin Museum on the 29<sup>th</sup> May to inspect two bronze socketed axe heads from the Museum Collection.



*Leif photographing the LBA socketed axehead in situ. Note the 3 central lines on either side of the axe head*

ELGNM: 1868.9

A Late Bronze Age (circa 700BC) bronze socketed axe head donated in 1868 by William Ferguson (Elgin jeweller and silversmith, 1804 to 1875), having discovered it in the grounds of Spynie Castle. It is mentioned in PSAS volume XCIII page 71. It is currently on display in the rear gallery in the Status and Style Case. [Metal comes from Yorkshire).

ELGNM: 1996.47

Bronze Age (10<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century BC) bronze socketed axe head found at Brucelands, Elgin and acquired by Elgin Museum through Treasure Trove, TT43/96. Note by Grant Lock states: "It is an Alford variant of the Portree type axes which appear to have a North-Eastern Scottish concentration, especially Nairn and Morayshire, this suggests that their production was based in this area.

We await the results of Leif's research!

### **Accreditation – review of policies and existing Loans-In paperwork**

Conscious that Accreditation will be on us very soon, once again, I have made a point at looking at the loans-in paperwork for items that were loaned to the museum in the distant past and in checking current loans in are up to date. Janet began this in 2010-2014, chasing up past loans and their heirs but further work was required as some curators have been better than others at keeping written records of such agreements. I have created a Loans-In spreadsheet as a quick reference to the contents of the new Loans-In files so we can keep a good eye on when we need to renew a loan or return an artefact, and created and compiled paperwork for each Loan-In item. The Policy will need tweaking when it comes to re-submission for Accreditation.

to  
in



Left: Loaned to Elgin Museum sometime before 1978 by Scottish Malt Distillers – this c1830 distilling sample bottle from John Smith, Distiller at Cragganmore, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch, unfortunately had been returned to Diageo but Diageo kindly donated a glass Hydrometer in its place. The hydrometer can be seen in the 'Peep-hole' in the 'People and Place' exhibition in the main gallery, in the 'Scientific Outlook' case.

### **Store Reorganisation**

As part of the North Store re-organisation, volunteers have been hard at work with location and movement control of artefacts, checking the contents of re-numbered boxes in the north store, recording the new location and photographing the contents. During this process I 'encouraged' a relative of one of our existing trusty volunteers to volunteer, taking detailed photographs of artefacts in the museum collection. Because Tony is a member of Elgin Camera Club he readily took on the task and has just finished photographing the majority of the medals in the museum collection.



*Military Cross, in case, awarded to Lt. William Hossack, Royal Scots, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion - June 6th 1917, for his role at the Battle of Arras, World War I. ELGNM: 2009.7.1*

In the process of North Store reorganisation it became alarmingly clear that the current art rail system is no longer fit for purpose. I think it was built by volunteers and staff during the 1995 North Store re-organisation, but is now bursting at the seams with doubled up paintings and no room for more donations of any kind. A few volunteers spent quite some time recording the location of each painting and wrapping them in bubble wrap as the frames were getting terribly damaged with paintings being squeezed into non-existent space; which has prevented further damage, but we really want to resolve the issue.



*Current storage of art works which under-utilises the lower space but doubles up on the top row, and there are 3 or 4 paintings on the floor which we have no space for in the art rail.*

Our painting collection was examined and assessed by James Holloway of the National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, in August 2016 and as many of you will recall we have some fine watercolours in the collection including works by Turner, Constable, Varley and Grimm amongst others. We understand the importance of not exposing the paintings to light for more than 3 to 6 months at a time and not to expose them to harsh light but if the storage conditions are not fit for purpose, we are hardly fulfilling our duty as their custodians for the public good. Robert Wallen consulted a company called Rackline who have offered us a bespoke stainless steel storage system in the



available space so we will pursuing avenues of funding for this volunteer led project – if you have a spare £5,000 I would love to hear from you!

Heather Townsend  
Museum Assistant 24.07.2018

## Four Page Volunteer Pull out Section



**JUST LIKE LORD KITCHENER,  
YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS YOU TO  
ENLIST!!**

Do you have a spare half day some weeks?

Do you enjoy meeting new people?

Would you like to feel part of a friendly group?

Do you enjoy local history or would like to learn?

Elgin Museum can offer you all this and more – just contact us for details.

Email [curator@elginmuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@elginmuseum.org.uk) or

Jenny Cook, 1 High Street, Elgin IV30 1EQ or

Tel. 01343 543675

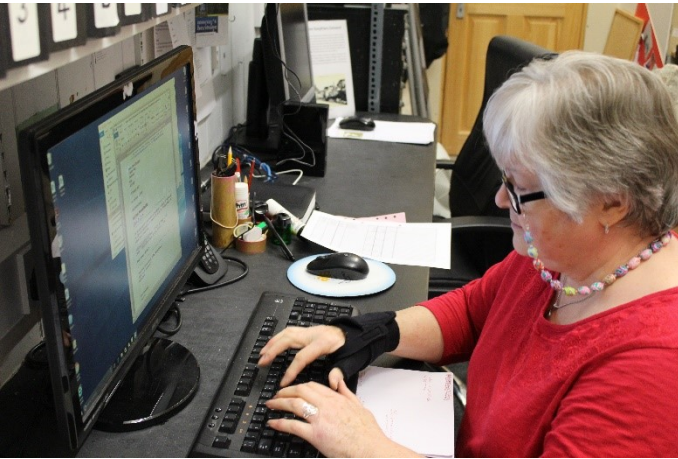
## Some recent volunteer photographs



End of season party



Stewart working on watch papers



Gayle on invoices



A first aid session



Graham with self made dinosaur



Edna and Joyce at Town market

### Volunteer and visitor comments

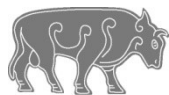
"Elgin Museum is run mainly by volunteers and relies entirely them for its successful day-to-day operation. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience. One can become involved in many different aspects of the museum, including meeting and greeting the visitors and giving them an introduction as to what is on offer inside.

On being shown the famous shrunken head, many ask why on earth people would have





If you would like to join us, send in the form below and we will be in touch



THE MORAY  
SOCIETY

ELGIN  
MUSEUM

## ELGIN MUSEUM Volunteer Application Form

Title:..... First Name:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

Home Phone:..... Mobile:.....

Email address:.....

Emergency Contact..... Phone.....

How would you like to be involved at Elgin Museum?:

Meet & greet ☐ IT/Clerical ☐ Collection Care ☐

Research ☐ Cataloguing ☐ Schools & young people ☐ Outreach ☐

Library ☐ Fundraising ☐ Other.....

Please state any experience, qualifications and skills you have acquired:

.....

.....

.....

When are you generally available?

.....

Signature of Volunteer: ..... Date: .....

If under 18, signature of parent or guardian: .....

.....

For Office Use

Interviewer: ..... Date: .....

Commencement date: .....

## Elgin geology group summer news

The geology group has had an interesting few months with our activities mainly centred on Clashach and Spynie quarries. As detailed in the previous newsletter we monitor, with SNH, Pitgaveny estate and the quarry managers permission, the excavations at the sites to see if quarrying has thrown up any interesting artefacts. Clashach is currently relatively quiet notwithstanding the fact that permission to extend the quarry was granted early this year. Reptile footprints are still to be found however with a nice trail being discovered recently, a very small reptile with claw length of a few millimetres, there are 4 prints on the small area of the accompanying photograph.



*Small reptile trackway, Clashach June 2018.*

*Dave searching at Spynie*



*Two fragments of (probably) an Aetosaur Stagonolepis Robertsoni, Spynie quarry May, June 2018*

More interesting were two finds, by Dave, in Spynie Quarry of fragments of what we think are from Stagonolepis. They were found a week apart in the same area of the quarry but repeated visits thereafter haven't revealed anything. The replies from Drs Nick Fraser and Elsa Panciroli (National Museums Scotland), Bob Davidson and Voltaire Neto (Brazilian palaeontologist specialising in Aetosaurs and recent visitor to our museum) were highly encouraging and the discovery shows that, even these days, frequent visits to the quarries can sometimes bring to light new discoveries. Both photographs show bone material and are probably from the tail of the



animal, *Stagonolepis Robertsoni* - a late Triassic (around 220 million years ago) Aetosaur, a herbivorous creature that resembled a modern day crocodile.

Members will also be aware of the huge fire between Covesea and Clashach recently. As well as avoiding homes in the area the fire very narrowly skirted past Clashach quarry and the nearby reptile footprint display area, both sites remaining undamaged.

**Dave Longstaff**

## **First World War Centenary**



During this year, visitors have been delighted by the wonderful poppy cascade, completed, in conjunction with Poppy Scotland, by Mary Shand and Jenny Cook to commemorate the centenary of the final year of the First World War. Many visitors have taken the opportunity to add their own remembrance by making their own poppy to add to the display, using the template poppies at a desk on the ground floor.

One of the final events of the year will be a special opening of the Museum on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November from 11.30am to 1.30pm, following the commemorations on Elgin Plainstones. This will give the public a last chance to see the Cascade.

Watch the press and the Museum website for further details later.

## Our fossil fishes



*Professor Orr with Janet Trythall visiting our fossil collection*

I had a very enjoyable meeting with Professor Mary Orr from St Andrew's University. Her Chair is in French, but among her many enthusiasms are Scotland's fossil fish and the historiography of their discovery and contribution to the understanding of geology and evolution. She is therefore applying for funding for a European grant for a "humanities-in-science" project. One of the aims is to bring to international attention the un-researched intercultural significance of our Recognised collection of fossil fish, with the potential of funding for a post-doctoral post in our Museum. The project is very much in line with our aspirations, and we are very pleased to support her application.

Janet Trythall

## **Data Protection**

New data protection laws come in to force next month and do affect to some extent how we handle personal data. As a summary of how this may affect you as a member, please note the following.

- One copy of mailing lists information (Moray Society and Young Marvels) will be held in a secure site and used only on password protected devices.
- We hold this information as a membership organisation and to allow us to communicate with our members about the Society and its events. We do not use this information to market to them nor do we pass it on to anyone else to do so.
- Legitimate interest between the member and the Moray Society is implied on completion of a membership form.
- The default method of contact is email, where no email address is supplied correspondence will be postal. Members will be given the opportunity to opt-out of being contacted by us whenever we email them, apart from contact about their membership.
- We will audit the data we hold on an annual basis, deleting anyone who has cancelled their membership, asked to be removed or is deceased.
- The Data Protection Officer for the Moray Society is Bill Dalgarno. Enquiries will be acknowledged within 72 hours and respond to within 28 days.

## **Moray Society Prize Draw**

The Prize Draw has now been running for sixteen years and during that time has diverted over £15,000 into the Moray Society current account. 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.

Tickets for the draw are only available to Moray Society members due to current legislation. I would like to ask any member who does not have a ticket to consider the benefits derived by the Society from those sales. There is no limit to the number of tickets available.

The price of the tickets remains unchanged and at present there are 78 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).

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

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**

## **2017 Archaeology Conference Proceedings – available now!**

The publication of the proceedings of Elgin Museum's 2017 Archaeology Conference is now available to purchase. This 145-page volume includes 9 papers from our conference speakers on 4th November 2017, including Dr Fraser Hunter and Dr Gordon Noble. The publication can be purchased online at <http://elginmuseum.org.uk/yhha2017> at a cost of £7 (plus £2 UK p&p). If you live locally to Elgin Museum, and would like to collect a copy in person please contact us by email ([curator@elginmuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@elginmuseum.org.uk)) to request a copy and arrange a collection time. If you live outside the UK and would like to order a copy, please contact us by email to customise your order.



## Exhibitions



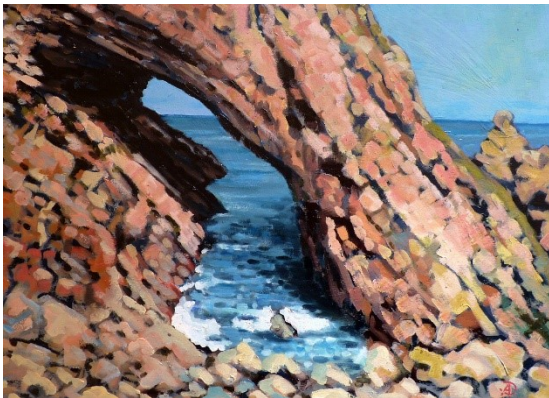
### **LOCAL QUINES Expanding Nicely!**



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

**Art Preview and Refreshments in the Museum:**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 7 pm to 9.00 pm.**



### **ANOTHER ECLECTIC COLLECTION by ANGUS DONALDSON**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Art Preview and Refreshments in the Museum**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 7 pm to 9 pm**

**Contact: Elgin Museum, 1 High Street, Elgin, IV30 1EQ Tel: 01343 543675**

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

**Entry Free. Donations welcome.**



The Moray Society & Elgin Museum invites you to join us at our now “famous” Heritage Coffee Morning at Austin’s Tearooms, South Street, Elgin to celebrate Doors Open Days 2018!

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 10 am to 12 pm - tickets will be available from Elgin Museum from mid-August 2018

We thank Moray Bridge Club for generously allowing us use of the Austin’s Tearooms building.

**DOORS**  
**OPENDAYS**  
*Get into buildings!*



*Another view of the refurbish ..... with obligatory seagulls*

## Diary

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August to Sat 15<sup>th</sup> September

“Local Quines: Expanding nicely!”

Art exhibition by a group of local retired teachers.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August: 11 am to 1 pm

Young Marvels Drop in Day

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August: 7.30 pm

“The Treasure Trove Unit: the law, the process and finds from Moray.” A talk by Emily Freeman of the Treasure Trove Unit, Edinburgh.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August: 11 am to 2.30 pm

Treasure Trove event: Identification drop in day – bring along any finds you may have, whether recent finds or old, any object – stray finds and metal detectorist finds all welcome.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October

“Another Eclectic Collection”

Angus holds his 3<sup>rd</sup> exhibition in the Museum with a mix of wildlife and seascapes.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: 10 am to 12 pm

Heritage Coffee Morning in Austin’s Tearooms for Doors Open Days 20148

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September: 1 pm to 3 pm Highland Archaeology Festival

“Coastal Archaeology Craft” a family drop-in session – art from marine debris with Jen Kelshaw

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October: 1 pm - 1.30 pm Highland Archaeology Festival

History Bites – lunchtime talk. TBA

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: 1 pm - 1.30 pm Highland Archaeology Festival

History Bites – lunchtime talk. TBA



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October: 7.30 pm

“Matthew Forster Heddle; Scottish mineralogist and mountaineer. Visitor to the Museum in 1877.”  
A talk by Hamish Johnston, descendant and author.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October: 11 am to 4 pm

Pictish Art Stones - a family drop-in activity with Jen Kelshaw

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm to 1.30 pm Highland Archaeology Festival

History Bites “John Shanks – the Drouthy Cobbler” a talk by Mary Shand

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm - 1.30 pm Highland Archaeology Festival

History Bites “Digging in to the Elgin Castle Excavations” a talk by Claire Herbert

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm - 1.30 pm

History Bites “Behind the Scenes in a Museum” Short tour with Heather Townsend

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm – 3 pm

Mini Archaeology Dig - Kids (8 to 14 y.o.) activity with Jen Kelshaw

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm - 1.30 pm

History Bites – lunchtime talk – TBA

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October: 1 pm – 3 pm

Mini Dig – Kids (8 to 14 y.o.) activity with Jen Kelshaw

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November:

Last day of 2018 Season – note special opening on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

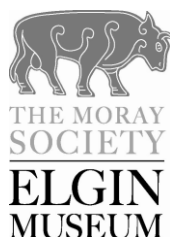
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: 7.30 pm

“Aberlour Orphanage” – a talk by Lester Borley CBE

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November: 11.30 am - 1.30 pm

Special opening for Armistice Day, following the ceremonies on the Plainstones.

For more details of events and activities, keep an eye on our website, Facebook and Twitter, as well as the “Town and Country” section under “Elgin” in The Northern Scot.



1 High Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1EQ – Tel: 01343 543 675 – Email: [curator@elginmuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@elginmuseum.org.uk)  
**ELGIN MUSEUM** – Scotland's oldest independent Museum – Established 1836

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