



## **SEASONS GREETINGS**

**Greetings from all at**

**Elgin Museum**

**including**

**Mr Ingram**

## President's Message

Dear All,

Welcome to our 2024 Christmas newsletter.

I'm Dr Nick Brown and I'm delighted to be taking over from Grenville Johnston as your new President, after his long-standing stint of service. I'm a chartered town planner and architect with my own practice based in Cullen and a passionate supporter of celebrating Moray's fascinating history and heritage. Although I've been a Trustee for several years now, I'm extremely grateful for the support in settling into the new role that I've received from our Vice-President, Claire Herbert, not to mention the other Board members and the Museum's devoted management committee team.

And, looking back on 2024, what a year it's been; and indeed, looking forward, what a year 2025 could be! Highlights from this year include our 'Big LEGO Build' of Elgin Cathedral, delivered in conjunction with Historic Environment Scotland, which saw 170 people build a scale replica model in LEGO of the Lantern o' the North in just 22 hours – featuring a miniature Wolf of Badenoch, complete with flaming torch. This was a big attraction for visitors in our last quarter and the main gallery looks rather empty now without it! Our Learning & Outreach Volunteers have continued to welcome school and community groups throughout the year, sharing our wonderful collections and building great relationships. We were also successful in obtaining grants to conserve two maps in our collection: a paper geological map drawn by the Museum's first curator John Martin and an 18th century embroidered map of the world. Conservation works on both are almost complete, and we look forward to sharing more of their story with you in the new year.

None of this could be achieved without our amazingly devoted volunteers, and the generous donations received from visitors and local benefactors, which all help to maintain the Museum's status as an independent, community-run venture. Looking forward, we have a lot on the horizon. We continue to work on bringing our redevelopment project to fruition. We are currently exploring funding avenues (all donations welcomed, of course!), building partnerships, and addressing the various necessary requirements that such a monumental project entails. We hope to be able to provide more of an update on this in the new year.

Towards the end of 2025, we will be hosting another Moray Archaeology Conference, with some impressive speakers already lined up – more on this to follow!

In the meantime, I and the rest of the Board, wish you a healthy and hearty festive period.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and New Year.

*Dr Nick Brown, President, The Moray Society*

## Museum Buildings Update

"Bill has asked me to provide an update on the Big Building Project, but unfortunately we've hit a bit of a bump in the road in our conversations with potential funders which has very much put the brakes on things. We will, however, persevere, and continue to explore other funding opportunities, including philanthropic and community giving. The wet summer has had quite an impact on the rear gallery roof (my thanks to Building Volunteer David for regularly saving the day!) and No 3 High Street continues to deteriorate. Fingers crossed that the winter is a dry one!

We're still working with our architects, in conversation with Historic Environment Scotland and Moray Council, who continue to support us. We've had some great feedback from Museums Galleries Scotland and from NMS Partnerships, who've expressed how impressed they are with our project proposal.

We've also made some minor adjustments to our original plans, with the first floor of No 3 High Street now to be turned into a brand new museum store (instead of residential accommodation). Along with an expansion of the North Store and enhancements to our East & West Stores, this will "future proof" the Museum, allowing us to continue to expand the collection and to store it in a more accessible and in a more environmentally sustainable way.

Janet and I have also visited many newly re-opened /renovated museums across the UK, and beyond, taking inspiration from what has (and hasn't!) worked well, feeding this back to the design team.

All in all, our outlook remains positive that we're on the right path with the planned project. Sourcing the funds was always expected to be the biggest challenge, and so it is proving (not least having to cope with ever escalating construction costs!) - but we won't be disheartened! The benefits of delivering the project will definitely outweigh any difficulties we'll face along the way.

I would like to personally extend my thanks to all of our donors, but it would be remiss of me not take this opportunity to ask you to consider becoming a regular Museum donor. Whether through membership, regular monthly donations or one off sums, every penny helps us on our way to achieve our goal of making Elgin Museum a better, more accessible, and more sustainable museum for the whole community.

Thank you again for your continued support, and I wish you a peaceful festive period."

*Claire Herbert, Vice president, The Moray Society*

## 2024 Visitors

As planned, Elgin Museum's 2024 public season finished on Sunday 27th October. The visitor numbers this year were around 5,500, very similar to those for 2023 season but down on pre-Covid numbers. Thank you to everyone who did Meet & Greet volunteering and for ensuring that our visitors had a pleasant experience. We received many positive remarks both online and in the visitor book. Both our Seasonal Visitor Experience Stewards have now asked to volunteer with us so welcome Jo and Hannah!

## HES Elgin Cathedral LEGO Build



To celebrate 800 years since the foundation of Elgin Cathedral, the Museum collaborated with Historic Environment Scotland in a weekend of LEGO building to produce this magnificent copy of the Cathedral complete with its own Wolf of Badenoch. During the 4-day build in August a total of 170 children (and a few adults) completed a scale model of the cathedral, which was on display in the Main Gallery. The preparation that Fiona and Alistair (from HES) put into planning the operation was very impressive with scale prints of the various parts of the building available for the participants to follow. Elgin Museum seems to have benefitted hugely from the event, with publicity about the model encouraging many more visitors to come to the Museum. Figures show that we had almost as many people through the door in August as we did for June and July combined (1302 for Aug versus 1389 for Jun-Jul)!

Sadly, the model was dismantled on the last day of our season, so that the LEGO could be reused to create another of Scotland's historic building!

*Dave Longstaff, Museum Volunteer*

## Moray Farmers' Club

The Museum Monday Morning Inventory Group will remember that Jenny Duncan was cataloguing



The Moray Farmer Club items. Upon getting a full-time job Jenny had to postpone her efforts but with recent visits to the Museum has now finished cataloguing the 700+ outstanding MFC items, Thank you Jenny!

*Photo: Jenny Duncan by East Store*

## Parliamentary Reception

### **Janet attends a Scottish Parliamentary reception: Museums addressing legacies of empire and slavery, 8th October 2024**

Janet Trythall is Elgin Museum's representative on Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) Working Group on Repatriation and Restitution, which has mainly met online. The parliamentary reception was a great opportunity to network with other representatives in person, many of whom face the same challenges as us. She was greeted by our MSP Richard Lochhead – a member of the Moray Society – with enthusiasm, requesting that 'you won't slip away without seeing the chamber, will you?' and thus got a private tour of the building. Janet met the CEO of MGS, Lucy Casot, and caught up with Neil Curtis from Aberdeen University Museums; Neil is our 'go to' person for advice re the situation of our mummified young woman from Peru. Janet chatted with umpteen others who all said nice things about Elgin Museum and even got to enjoy wine and canapés.

## Elgin Museum at Elgin's Food and Drink Festival

The Museum had a stall at the Elgin BID Food and Drink Festival on the Plainstones on Saturday 17th August. The display included food, drink, and kitchen items loaned by volunteers Janet Trythall, Sheila Henderson, Dave Longstaff and Stewart Halkett. There were also copies of leaflets, recipes, colouring-in sheets and information from the Museum. Dave and Stewart set up and were then in attendance from 10 am to 3.30 pm on what was a breezy but cool, dry day. The objects on the stall generated a lot of interest from people, especially a green mincer and various cooking pans. Many noted that "my mother/grandmother had one of those" or "what is that?". Dave and Stewart were then able to tell them about the items, the Museum in general and encourage them to visit. Details of the Big Lego Build (see above) proved very popular with young and old, as did the prospect of seeing fossils, a "dinosaur" model and all the other attractions that the Museum has to offer. The day was a success with new and rekindled interest, hopefully to be reflected in follow-up visits. On that Saturday there were 80 visitors to the Museum, an excellent number, with a lot of people specifically coming in to see the Lego model of the Cathedral.



Dave Longstaff and Stewart Halkett manning the stall

## Covesea Cave 2 (Deer Cave) excavation and lecture

Professor Ian Armit and a small team from the University of York spent nearly 3 weeks last month excavating Covesea Cave 2. As part of their visit, Ian gave a very well received talk on the discoveries made in the Covesea Caves, just to the west of Sculptor's Cave, over the last few years. The ground in the Covesea Caves is much less disturbed than the well-excavated Sculptor's Cave and is thus the focus of archaeologists interested in Neolithic, Iron Age and Pictish aspects of life along the Moray coast. I'm sure that we'll learn more about their finds in the not-too-distant future.



Ian's talk at the Museum



Covesea Cave 2 (Deer Cave)

## Convenor's Report – December 2024

It's hard to believe that the 2024 season has now come and gone! After all the activity reported in the summer newsletter detailing efforts to prepare for opening, efforts are now moving in the opposite direction with temporary displays being dismantled and ideas for winter tasks being discussed.

The 2024 season was unpredictable with only 5 visitors on some days and 100+ on others. On our busiest afternoon, we had 56 people through the door within the first hour of opening... A big thank you goes to our two Seasonal Visitor Experience Stewards, Jo and Hannah, and to all the 30+ Meet & Greet team who responded to everything that was thrown at them with aplomb and good humour. Jo and Hannah have now both become volunteers so we are delighted to welcome them to the Museum in this new capacity. Stephanie, our Volunteer Co-ordinator (Mentor), has done a sterling job working with some of our new (and younger!) volunteers to ensure that they have the confidence and the skills to work as part of the team. Again, thanks are due to everyone who worked alongside these volunteers and who made them feel so welcome.

Our 2024 visitor numbers are broadly the same as last season at 5,500 but it felt that we were seeing more people from further afield this year; perhaps people are finally beginning to feel more confident in a post-pandemic world...

The Learning & Outreach team have worked with a number of schools and other organisations over the last few months and have run a range of sessions, including 'Victorians' and 'WWII', and handling sessions for students and service users from Moray College UHI and the North East Sensory Service.

The highlight of the season has been the Historic Environment Scotland led 'Big Lego Build' which saw 172 people construct a scale model of Elgin Cathedral over 4 days as part of the 800-year anniversary celebrations. Having the 2 x 1 x 0.5 m model on display in the Main Gallery brought extra visitors to the Museum, including a young French boy who refused to eat his lunch until he had seen it! Again, a big thank you to everyone who made this event possible.

Claire has provided an update on our future plans for the Museum elsewhere in the newsletter and it is difficult to know what 2025 is going to bring. We had to close the galleries on a couple of occasions during the season because of water ingress and we don't know how wet this winter will be. The safety of volunteers and other building users is always the priority but, of course, we also need to ensure that the collections continue to be properly cared for. At present, we continue to be open by appointment but we are not accepting bookings for events where cancelling them at short notice would create significant problems for the organiser or indeed for us.

David, as Buildings Volunteer, is continuing to monitor all aspects of the estate, including security and emergency response. The Documentation Subgroup, led by Stephanie, has finalised the Emergency Plan, which sets out who does what (and when) in the event of an emergency. This document, which encapsulates a huge amount of work, is shared with others, including the Fire & Rescue Service, and David has recently spent time showing the Elgin-based FRS Watch Leaders around the Museum.

The Monday Team have continued to meet over the last few months and their efforts to support the Collections Management Group with a range of tasks are also much appreciated.

Thank you to all our Volunteers, including our Trustees, who together ensure that Elgin Museum and the Moray Society continue to play an important and valued role within the wider heritage sector. *Alison Wright, Museum Convenor*

## **Archaeology - past, present, future**

### **Treasure Trove Review**

The King's and Lord's Treasurer's Remembrancer (KLTR) published their Report following the Review but no announcement yet about changes to process and more importantly to staff funding. Similarly, the 'Before the Museum' project has not come up with the much needed reforms to the process between excavation and arrival of material and archive on a museum's doorstep - material needs to be ready for display, especially for a growing number of even Accredited museums that don't have specialist curatorial staff.

### **Treasure Trove allocations**

While we very much appreciate the generous waiving by the detectorist of their Finder's fee for objects from Rothes and Kinnermony, the system needs to work more closely with the detectorists and also to decide how to manage death of a finder. It took months of untangling to sort the payments and repayments money. The allocated May objects reached us in September too late for display before the end of the season. At the August meeting we were allocated all we 'bid' for, including a small Bronze Age hoard from near Ballindalloch, which will be collected from Edinburgh in December. The next round is in December – and it turns out that from the Moray list, we have already been allocated and paid for half of the items so a cheaper round! As usual, we are very grateful to the National Fund for Acquisitions which has to date been very prompt in reimbursing 50% of Treasure Trove costs.



### **Flint**

Flint has a somewhat retiring position in current Scottish archaeology. Almost as if objects have to be metal and shiny or to have monetary value to have tales to tell. It was very exciting to have a 3 day visit from Dr Will Mills, Aberdeen University, who is working with Prof. Kate Britton's PALaEoScot project – and also with Michael Stratigos, Torben Ballin, Gordon Noble. Will's interest in our collection started from the finding in NMS of possibly pre-Mesolithic artefacts. These were donated by the Free Church Minister of Urquhart, Rev. James Morrison. As we have flints from the same donor, Will was hopeful of finding similarly early worked flint here. If nothing else, we were able to familiarise him with the names of locally known sites, geology and Scottish data sources. It is all watch this space after he became very

excited by a flint core on display. There will be updates, if not before, at our 2025 archaeology conference. Which leads to:

### **Elgin Museum Archaeology Conference, Saturday and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The venue is booked: The Alexander Graham Bell Centre, Moray College, UHI which has served us well before. The usual suspects have agreed to take part, Fraser Hunter (an overview), Ian Armit and Lindsey Büster (Covesea Caves), Gordon Noble (Picts). Also with updates, Michael Stratigos (Loch Spynie), Dan Rhodes, NTS (Cabrach). And development archaeology from Yvonne Robertson AOC, (Portgordon), ARS Ltd, (Lochinver Quarry) and Mary Peteranna, AOC (Grantown Road, Forres). On the Sunday, we hope to have field visits but nothing yet confirmed. More information in the New Year.

## **Peru update – and not strictly archaeology**

As a reminder, at the EGM of The Moray Society on 20<sup>th</sup> May, the proposal was considered for the repatriation or restitution of the Peruvian mummified young woman (ELGNM 1846.1), delegating decision making to The Moray Society Board (under guidance from the Museum's Advisory Group) on the return of her remains. This was carried by 93% of the votes received on the principle that this will be done on the basis of proper respect and that it is not an onerous financial burden on The Moray Society.

Contact had discontinued with the Peruvian Embassy in London. As it turned out our contact had returned to Peru in October 2023. We now have a new contact in London and have had one Teams meeting with them (with Neil Curtis, Aberdeen University Museums in attendance). This went well although they have yet to catch up with the story. For our next meeting we expect there will be further progress with clarification as to whether or not the people of her Aymaran culture are involved in the decision making, information required before we can convene a meeting of the Advisory Group – see our Restitution and Repatriation Policy on the Museum website.

*Janet Trythall, Archaeology Volunteer 28/11/2024*

## **Elgin Museum Geology Group report – December 2024**

Interpretation of our Recognised Collection has been enhanced by the donation of models based on fossil finds from Scaat Craig and Lossiemouth by Aberdeen-based palaeontologist, Bob Davidson. Bob loaned us his model of early tetrapod *Elginerpeton* for the 2021 exhibition *At the Water's Edge* and his model of *Saltopus* has been on display since its creation in 2015. He has also donated thirteen specimens of Upper Old Red fish remains, predominantly from Scaat Craig, near Fogwatt. The specimens include a compound tooth and fragment of exoskeletal bone, both of which are important finds and we are extremely grateful to Bob for his continued support of the museum.

Prof. David Jolley from the University of Aberdeen has confirmed that the odd 'sedimentary' feature that Dave found in the lowermost part of Spynie Quarry in 2022 is the infilled mould of a conifer root. Unfortunately, this area of the quarry has now been backfilled and the block that contained the feature broke when it was moved by the quarrymen. The context has thus been lost but the find remains significant as plant remains have not previously been recorded from the Lossiemouth Sandstone formation. The specimen is still at the university so we will investigate what should be done next...

The 2021 edition of *The Elgin Reptiles* booklet has now sold out. It is already out of date (!) so the EMGG are planning an update which will incorporate new details provided by researchers Dr Davide Foffa (National Museums Scotland) and University of Edinburgh MSci graduates Hady George and Scott Reid. We plan to add more information about the environment that the reptiles were living in, including confirmation that conifers were growing in the area, as indicated by the find above. We hope to have the book ready to print by late-Spring next year.

A team of geologists from Historic Environment Scotland, supported by the British Geological Survey, were in the area early this year looking at local building stones and trying to tie them in to their quarries of origin. Former museum-stalwart, the late Sinclair Ross, collected numerous quarry samples from sites across Moray in the 1970s and 80s and the visitors were delighted with the amount of information that these added to their own findings. Consequently, Luis Alborno-

Parra from BGS is making a return visit to scan these samples so that they can be added to the BGS' building stone database. Sinclair would have been delighted to see his efforts acknowledged in this way.

Dave and Alison recently worked with staff and pupils from the Geography Department at Charleson Academy in Inverness, following a chance encounter with a local from Hopeman and a geologist from the University of Aberdeen! The pupils were carrying out fieldwork as part of their Higher and Nat 5 studies so enjoyed hearing more about the geology and palaeontology of the local area. The teachers were also unfamiliar with these topics so appreciated the additional support that the EMGG were able to provide.

*Alison Wright, for EMGG*

### **Oonah Grigor**



We are sorry to have to advise members that Oonah Grigor, who was a very long-time volunteer in the Museum, died at home in Peebles on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Oonah (Taylor) was brought up on Linkwood Farm and was a PE teacher before returning to help run the farm and dairy. Latterly Oonah gave a lot of her time as a volunteer in the Museum, helping with the cash each Monday and acting as a “meeter and greeter”. After her husband, John died, Oonah moved to Peebles to be closer to her family.

Oonah was cremated in Peebles and a celebration of her life was held in St Columba's Church in Elgin on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, where a collection was taken with funds being given to The Moray Society. Janet Trythall and Bill Dalgarno attended the service on behalf of the

Museum and Society.

## A Great Christmas Gift Idea

As you can see from the newsletter, there are lots of activities happening for members of the Moray Society. Why not share this by giving a gift membership for Christmas? All you have to do is fill in a standing order (page 14) and send it to The Membership Secretary, Elgin Museum, 1 High St., Elgin, IV30 1EQ. Membership rates, if paid by standing order) are £25 for a single membership and £40 for a family of up to two adults and three children.

As a very special offer, we are offering membership for £15 for a single person and £25 for a family in the first year as long as a standing order for the full amount is payable from 2025.

**GIFT MEMBERSHIP** I would like to apply for membership for the undernoted. The membership secretary will send a membership pack to the recipient after Christmas and will send an acknowledgement to the subscriber. Below are my bank details. The membership is in favour of:

Name.....

Address.....

..... Post code.....

Recipients email address.....



**STANDING ORDER  
MANDATE**

To \_\_\_\_\_ Bank (Your bank)

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly

.....

1. Your account details

Account name \_\_\_\_\_ Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Account holding branch \_\_\_\_\_ Sort code \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

.....

2. Payee details

Organisation you are paying: The Moray Society

Payment reference (to be completed by Moray Society) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank of Scotland, Elgin Sort code 80-06-66

Account No 00476195

.....

3. About the payment

Date and amount of first payment Date: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 £15.00

Annually from January 2026 £25.00

(allow 3 working days for receipt)

.....

4. Confirmation

Customer signature(s)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Moray Society Prize Draw**

The Prize Draw has been running since April 2000 and has raised over £12,000 for Elgin Museum. This helps with the day to day running costs and the Society is very grateful for this income. Sales of the Draw tickets are strictly limited to Moray Society members and income from the sale of tickets is paid directly into the Moray Society Prize Draw account. All proceeds are used for the exclusive benefit of the Moray Society.

Tickets are priced at £10 each per annum and are valid for 4 draws. Draws are held quarterly with prizes of £25, £15 and £10 respectively for the first 3 numbers drawn, in sequence, at each draw. These prizes are based on an income of £1000 in tickets sold ie. 100 tickets. Many members have annual standing orders with their banks, which greatly reduces our costs. Standing orders can only be amended or cancelled by the persons concerned. Mandates for standing orders are available from the Museum, or myself, on request. Cash, or cheques made payable to the Moray Society Prize Draw, are also accepted. There is no limit imposed by the Society on the number of tickets that may be held by individual members. Please contact me at the museum for queries about the draw or for application forms.

Mary Shand (Prize Draw Organiser) Museum Tel. No. 01343 543675 Email  
curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

## **Moray Society Prize Draw Application**

Please allocate me ..... tickets in the Moray Society Prize Draw @ £10 each.

\*I enclose my payment of £ ..... \*Please forward me a standing order mandate \*Delete as appropriate

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

Email address .....

## **Latest Moray Society Prize Draw Winners**

### **September**

1. F. Wardaugh
2. J. Trythall
3. N. McLean

### **December**

1. H. Mackessack-Leitch
2. J. Trythall
3. S.A. Mitchell

## Treasure Trove Finds Day

In September, the Treasure Trove Unit, which is based in National Museum Scotland in Edinburgh, visited the Museum to evaluate and collect items from metal detectorists from this area. Below are a selection of photographs of finders and items handed in on the day.



*Roman coin found by Ali McPherson*



*Medieval/Post medieval key found by Duncan Gibson*



*Bronze object found by Jim Connell*



*Heather Townsend with Duncan Gibson*



*George Prew from Treasure Trove with Ali & Duncan*



*Another view of Jim Connell's object*

*Apologies to those receiving this twice but please find attached the latest volunteer bulletin (Thanks to Dave Longstaff) for Moray Society members to view.*

## **Elgin Museum Volunteer Bulletin December 2024**



After a busy and eventful museum open season, thank you to everyone for your hard work and support. We wish all our volunteers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

### **Recent visitors to the museum**

#### **Dr Will Mills, University of Aberdeen**



Dr Will Mills, a Research Fellow at Aberdeen University, made two visits last month to examine the museum's extensive flint collection. One specimen, on display in the lower gallery, had Will particularly intrigued and may be a Palaeolithic core, manufactured earlier than the more common 'standard' Neolithic cores and flints. Evidence for this comes from the large length of flakes produced from the core. Apparently, these are rare finds this far north in the U.K.; Will has further research to do but we await his findings on this potentially exciting specimen!

#### **Fay Vincent, University of Aberdeen**

Fay, an Aberdeen undergraduate, previously visited earlier in the summer to discuss a project re the viability of setting up a NE Scotland Geopark. After identifying ~15 potential visitor sites across NE Scotland, Fay highlighted 4 localities of particular interest including the coast to the east of Hopeman. She revisited Elgin in November to gather information for a case study to support her findings. Dave led Fay on a Hopeman field trip during Storm Bert(!) and she then met with Alison and Dave to discuss her project the following day. Sadly, this this is just an academic exercise but lays the groundwork for further developments. We wish Fay good luck with her project and await her report with interest.

#### **James Ryan, National Trust for Scotland**

James is the National Trust Outreach Officer at the Hugh Miller Cottage Museum, Cromarty. After a chance meeting with Dave in Cromarty, James visited early this month to look at our geology and palaeontology collections and to learn more about the Museum. James is very keen to explore the possibility of joint events between the two museums; this will need some discussion and planning but hopefully we can something for 2025. James is already offering a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Hugh Miller Museum for volunteers so watch this space!

## Luis Albornoz-Parra, British Geological Survey



Luis is a Building Stones specialist who visited the museum over the summer with a team from BGS and Historic Environment Scotland to view the samples of quarried stone collected by the late Sinclair Ross. This follow-up visit was to photograph and subsequently digitise the samples so that they can be added to the BGS Building Stone Database. Sinclair's collection is very well documented, making it a valuable resource for investigations into material used in buildings in the Moray

area. When conservation work is required, it is particularly important that stone with similar properties is used for the repairs. Differences in colour, for example, can detract from the architectural importance of the building, but physical properties, such as hardness, influence how the building responds to weathering which is an increasing concern as the climate changes. Luis also visited some of the lesser-known Moray quarries to better understand where stone has been quarried in the past and to augment the collection.

### School activities

We had slightly fewer school visits to the museum in November but, nevertheless, have had some enjoyable sessions. At short notice, we responded to a request for a visit from the Northeast Sensory Service and 8 children and young people subsequently came into the Museum for an object handling session. The service users have a range of physical impairments but, thanks to the response from the Learning & Outreach team, we were able to work with the group either individually or in pairs, allowing the children to work at a pace that suited them. Consequently, the visit was deemed a great success and we hope to work with NESS again in the future.

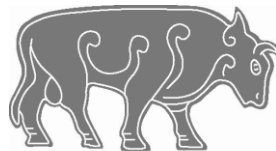


Twenty-nine P5 pupils from West End Primary visited for a Victorian-themed session; the school opened in 1875 and is planning a Victorian Day next year as part of their 150-year celebrations so we look forward to hearing more about their plans.

*Rod overseeing a group making horse 'brasses' as part of the discussion on Victorian farming practice.*

Rod and Alison visited Greenwards Primary School to talk about WWII to both P7 classes. The session focused on the fates of sailor John Dougal Mair from Buckie and John ('Jock') Fraser from New Elgin, supported by items from the Museum's collection.

**Next edition:** thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Bulletin this year so please continue to send me snippets of news [curator@elginmuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@elginmuseum.org.uk) (fao Dave)!



THE MORAY  
SOCIETY

**ELGIN  
MUSEUM**

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

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

Elgin Museum: Scotland's oldest independent Museum, opened in 1843  
The Moray Society Established 1836

The Moray Society

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*Newsletter editor: Bill Dalgarno*