

Reorganisation of the Trust

The Trust has undergone a major reorganization. Now that the information centre is closed permanently, and with the advent of the RSPB managing Dunnet Head and the good work being done by the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council, it was felt that some of the Trust's original aims were no longer relevant. We invited the RSPB and supporters of the Trust to a meeting to discuss what would happen to the considerable Trust assets as it seemed at first that the Trust would be wound up. However, following further discussions with interested parties, it became apparent that the Trust is well supported by a wider community than the Brough residents, and we have been able to move forward with new projects. The Trust will receive even further promotion as we have become members of the Orkney Tourism Group, and we are delighted to be working with them on "Hands across the Firth" projects. The reorganisation is in the process of being approved by the Office of Scottish Charities Regulators (OSCR). We have added the following aims to our constitution:



The Trust will receive even further promotion as we have become members of the Orkney Tourism Group, and we are delighted to be working with them on "Hands across the Firth" projects. The reorganisation is in the process of being approved by the Office of Scottish Charities Regulators (OSCR). We have added the following aims to our constitution:

- To promote animal welfare. Provision for animal welfare is desirable as the original aims of the Trust were to promote Dunnet Head (including wildlife) only and there are now wider aims. Some of the purposes of the charity can no longer be given effect, ie the information centre is closed.
- To promote the advancement of environmental protection or improvement and sustainable development. Provision for researching sustainable development, in particular renewable energy, in conjunction with educational establishments with reference to, but not solely, at Dunnet Head.
- To promote the arts, heritage, culture and science.
- To encourage public participation in sport. Linking with the outdoor activities and health elements of the Trust, this is a natural extension of the aims. This also relates to animal welfare by encouraging sport.

The new board members were appointed at a meeting in Aberdeen, and we are glad to be able to attract people of such calibre as a financial administrator within an oil company, a livery yard owner and keen horsewoman, and a wildlife enthusiast and environmentalist. Together with the continuing Trustees and the development of projects for the wider communities of Aberdeenshire, our area of operations has been widened considerably. This allows us to have a higher profile and become involved with a greater range of projects.

A note from the new Board members:

“We are pleased to become Trustees of the Dunnet Head Educational Trust, a very dynamic organization currently focused within the far north of Scotland. It is our aim to develop the Trust’s activities in Aberdeenshire; concentrating on animal welfare, establishing wildlife habitats, wildlife rehabilitation, the environment and access. We look forward to a long and successful association with the Trust!!

Pete, Jane and Ann”

Projects

The first project was to move the information shelter to the corner by the Brough bus stop and this has immediately shown benefit by increased donations. The actual work was very kindly organised and carried out by Mervyn Sinclair and his team. The box on the information shelter is stocked regularly with bus timetables and maps, walking route cards, information about local attractions and other information of interest. The noticeboard is used for a range of information from community notices to notices about commercial interests. Community groups are welcome to use the noticeboard free of charge, but commercial organizations are requested to make a donation towards its running costs. The back of the board has been adorned with an information board showing “Walking” and “Fishing” – thanks to Harpers of Thurso for their sponsorship of the word “Fishing” – they sell fishing permits for the Dunnet Head lochs. The word on the street is that the facility is well used by visitors looking for information about the area now that the centre is closed.

Some other current Trust projects are:

- New web site providing information about all previous and current Trust projects
- The organisation of the Caithness & Sutherland walking festival which will be launched in October.
- Creation of a DVD with information about Dunnet Head – to be made for sale with the booklet about the Head, and will include a library of photos and video clips.
- Horse rehabilitation centre through our links with RDA, British Horse Society, World Horse Welfare, Veteran Horse Society etc.
- Peatlands project – continue working with SNH and RSPB on the Peatlands Forum
- New brochure about Dunnet Head and the Trust’s activities
- Core path plans – ongoing communications with the Highland Council and commence dialogue with Aberdeenshire Council.
- Supporting the Mod 2010 and Blas festivals.
- Input to the Scottish Marine Bill and proposed extension of the North Caithness Cliffs consultations. Two of the Trustees attended the meeting of the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council on 10th September. It was a very lively meeting, and the general consensus was “what is the purpose of the extensions”.
- The Trust has joined the Rumster Outdoor Group and can assist with publicity through joint community projects and development of the centre. We have already submitted our proposals for its usage, and will be attending a further meeting on 17th September.
- Developing a wildlife pond in Aberdeenshire
- Raising money by having a horse show in Aberdeenshire in May 2009.

Caithness & Sutherland Walking Festival

The programme for the festival is in hand, and will be part of Homecoming 2009. We plan walks with a wide appeal, and for all abilities. As ever, we will continue to enhance the festival with input from over 20 community and public bodies. Businesses are, as ever, happy to donate to this continuing successful event. The event will take place from 2-9 May. A really big thank you to the Forestry Commission, RSPB, Highland Council Ranger Service, Caithness Field Club, Step it up Highland, John o Groats Promotional Group representative and the Halkirk Community for agreeing to lead walks, and to the Moray Firth Partnership, Forestry Commission, RSPB, Sutherland Walking Group and Orkney Tourism Group for their letters of support for the event.

Publications

A guide to Dunnet Head is available on our web site at <http://www.iberacal.com> under "Publications" – cost £4.50. The publication includes the plans of the WWII installations at Dunnet Head and Burifa Hill. If you would like a copy of the guide, or any of the other publications listed below, please send SAE to Windhaven, Brough, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8YE. Cheques should be made payable to the Dunnet Head Educational Trust. Alternatively you can download them from the site.

Coastal walk - Thurso to John o Groats.

A scenic walk in the far north of Scotland. A series of walks along the coast. Cost: £1.50.

Corners of Caithness - Dunnet

Corners of Caithness - Dunnet" ISBN No. 10 Digit 0-9552502-0X, 13 Digit 78-0-9552502-0-0. A compilation of material kindly contributed by SNH, Aberdeen University, Caithness Field Club, > Michael Draper (House of the Northern Gate), Ian Brown (Historical Radar Archive), Headland Archaeology. Illustrations by Martin Doman and Albert Meigle, photography by Alan Moar, Brian Sparks and Tina Irving. Compiled by Caledonian Iberian ConeXions S.L. www.iberacal.com. Cost £4.50

Dunnet Head

A 5 hour walk around Scotland's most northerly point. Suitable for walkers, and, perhaps, very fit cyclists! Definitely not suitable for horses. Archaeology, geology and wildlife interests. Suitable for walkers and cyclists but not horses. Difficult. Cost: 50p.

Dwarwick Harbour and Chapel Geo

A cliff top walk from an historical harbour to an archeological site - superb views. Suitable for walkers and cyclists (if you are fit!) but not for horses. 2 hours. Moderate. Cost: 50p

Ham to Skarfskerry

A beautiful coastal walk with views to Orkney. Visit Ham harbour. Archaeology. 2 hours. Easy. Not suitable for horses. Cost: 50p.

Dunnet Forest

A walk around the most northerly community forest. Great place to get out of the wind. Combine this with a walk along Dunnet beach for the perfect day out. 1 hour. Easy. Suitable for walkers, horses and cyclists. Cost: 50p.

Brough to Ham

History and wildlife at Brough with the slipway and resident seal colony. Enjoy a superb walk along the cliff tops.

Moderate. Some parts difficult. About 1.5 hours. Not suitable for horses. Very difficult in places due to coastal erosion and fencing close to the edge of the cliff. Cost: 50p.

Burifa Hill

A step back in time to WWII - take a walk to Burifa Hill and Dunnet Head and a tour of the old communications stations. 2 hours. Detailed information in Corners of Caithness - Dunnet. Maps and site plans held in the Dunnet Head Information Point. Suitable for walkers, cyclists and horses. Easy. Cost: 50p.

See more walks in Caithness on www.walkingworld.com.

Scottish Rugby Club Film Unit – Mallinsons, an independent film unit, came to Windhaven during August to film spectacular shots. They spent the whole morning kicking a ball off Brae Head behind Windhaven. Footage will be shown at Murrayfield over the next couple of years.

Wild Camping

There have again been incidents of visitors being moved on from camping at Brough Bay. We have taken advice from the Highland Council Access Officer and received a leaflet published by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland outlining the laws which supplement the Scottish Access Code. Copies of the code are available from SNH in Golspie and from the information box on the information shelter, or by speaking to Mervyn Sinclair at Heatherlea.

Thank you....

To those people who attended the meetings of the Trust to decide on its future. It was rather disappointing that no one from the local community wanted to take on the responsibilities of Trustees, but thanks to a few enthusiastic people, a number of community-based projects will continue in Brough.

Thank you to those people who donated funds to the Trust. This really helps our ongoing operations. We are currently raising funds for the Caithness & Sutherland Walking Festival and to enable us to support Homecoming 2009 events.

I would like to support the Dunnet Head Educational Trust and enclose a cheque for £.....

Name:.....

Date:

(Please print)

Address:

Send to: Dunnet Head Educational Trust, Monlettie Croft, Street of Monteach, Methlick, Aberdeen, AB41 7JS

