

DRAFT

Museum Annual Report

2019/20



moray
council



Snapshot of History mirrors

6,716
direct visitors

Visitor figures to the Museum and Local Information Point including indirect users totalled 6,716 this year (April – December inclusive). Facebook and website hits and enquiries totalled 57,459 to the end of December 2019.

9 years
running

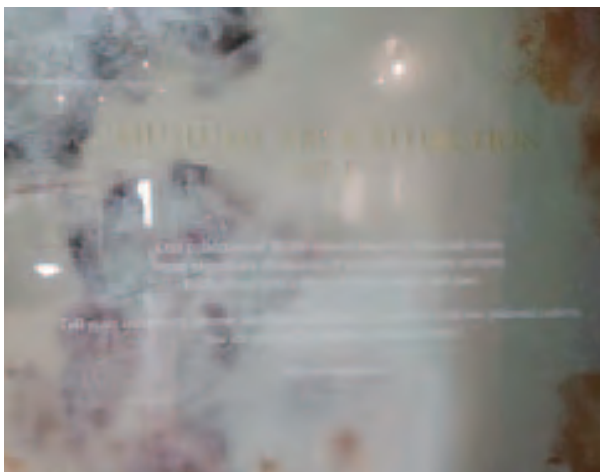


Community partnerships have been created and strengthened as the Museum has worked with local, national and international institutions including Glasgow School of Art, The National Museums of Scotland and Deccan University, Pune, India. Full Accreditation with Museums Galleries Scotland was retained. The Museum also retained 5 star Visitor Attraction status with VisitScotland for the tenth year.

57,459
internet hits



Snapshot of History



Our exhibition for 2019 was entitled 'Snapshot of History' - Reflecting on 163 years of The Falconer Museum.

Museums are a reflection of society and history. What we choose to collect, care for, research, interpret and exhibit develops over the generations, as society's ideas and ideals change. This cultural continuum is manifest in the objects that have been donated, loaned, bought, conserved and enjoyed by generations of Moray folk. Starting with the bequest of The Falconer brothers Alexander and Hugh, for a 'Public museum in Forres for objects of art and science, inclusive of a library and lecture room' and domino-ing on until the present day.

The exhibition features an interactive mirror, with visitors adding selected Museum objects to their own interactive display and being encouraged to take a 'snapshot', with a 'Polaroid mint' camera. This put the visitor firmly in the reflection/exhibition and the sticky backed photograph could either be taken as a memento, or left to enhance the exhibition. This project was kindly funded by The Friends of the Falconer Museum.

Glasgow School of Art

In February 2019, 4 innovation students became the first to study a newly created short course at GSA, entitled 'Future Heritage'. Four students worked with Museums staff, volunteers and visitors to create a vision for the future Museum. A new installation was built in the summer time and the exhibition, postcards and printed tote bags proved very popular.

Later in the year one of the students Lina Wills, completed another exhibition for her degree show.

'Call Girls' examined the gender bias in Artificial Intelligence and the history of women's traditional 'helpful' roles.

Work experience

We hosted two, 5th year Forres Academy students for a week of work experience.



Family drop-ins

Our usual holiday family drop-ins were very popular with hundreds of families coming along to our free, crafty sessions every Wednesday of the school holidays and will be a big miss for the community while the Museum is closed.



Schools & Outreach

As usual we hosted several school visits to the Museum and store and our loan boxes were booked out constantly. Teachers and pupils alike enjoy the opportunity for hands on exploration of such a valuable resource.

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Research

Professor Vijay Sathe of Deccan College Postgraduate & Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra, India travelled to Forres to spend 3 weeks at the Falconer store to research Hugh Falconer's fossils letters. He also gave an illustrated talk in the Museum on the science of fossils in India from foundations laid by Hugh Falconer, Father of Indian Palaeontology.

Emma Kitchen, history graduate student at the University of Chicago also visited Forres to work on her doctoral thesis, which deals in part with Falconer's mammal fossil finds in India. Many of Falconer's specimens and documents are held at the Natural History Museum but Emma also explored the Falconer fossils and letters held at the Museum store.

Friends Winter Talks

The Friends continued to host a programme of popular talks in 2019/20 while the museum was closed. The talks included:

- Scottish Royal Burghs with Friends Chair, Dr J Barrett
- Beyond the Falconers: India and Scotland in the 19th century with speakers Roger Jeffery, University of Edinburgh, Professor of Sociology of South Asia and Friederike Voigt, National Museums Scotland, Principal Curator World Cultures at National Museums Scotland
- Metalwork and metalworking in Late Bronze Age Scotland with Dr Matthew Knight. Curator of Prehistory responsible for the Scottish Chalcolithic and Bronze Age collections.
- Haydn's Scottish songs - a sound archive project by Glasgow University



Professor Vijay Sathe

Winding Down

With the planned closure of the Museums Service at the end of March 2020, work has been ongoing to ensure the safety of the collection whilst the Museums Service is closed. The Altyre Old red Sandstone fossil fish have been returned to NMS, Edinburgh and specialist conservators are offering advice on care of the collection. A maintenance plan is in place and delicate objects have been stored.

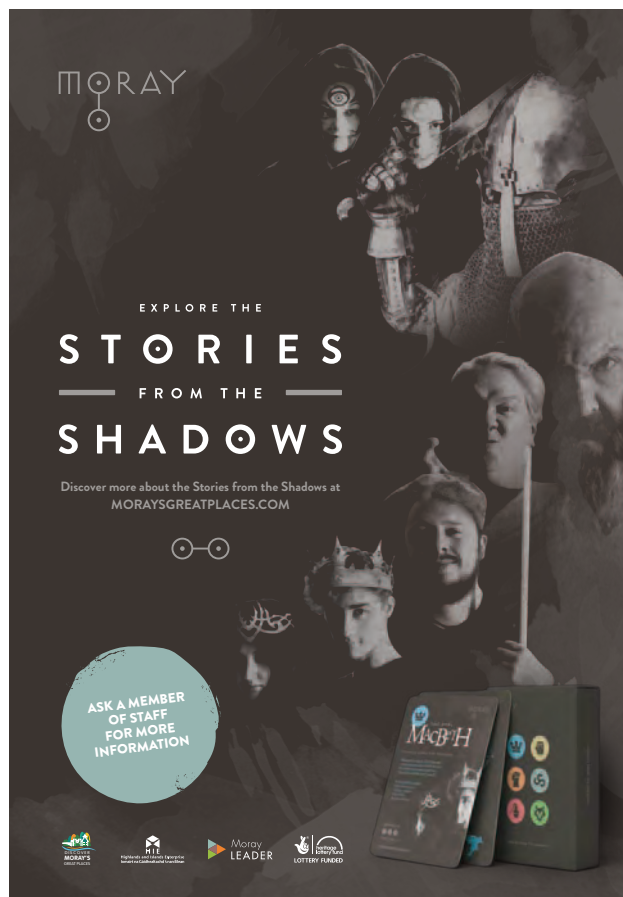


DISCOVER MORAY'S GREAT PLACES

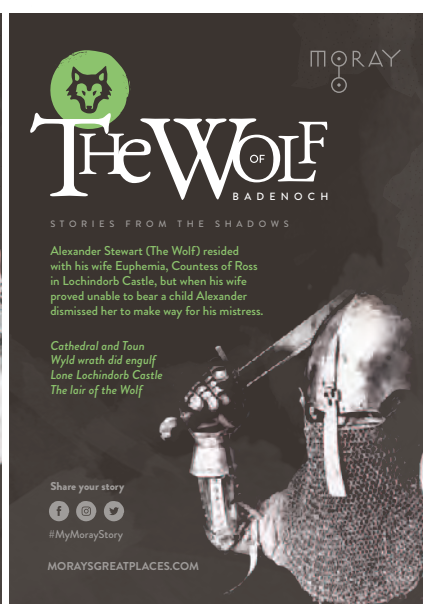
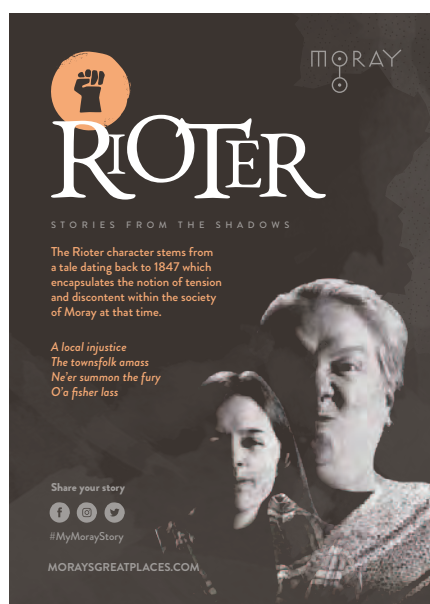
Discover Moray's Great Places, a partnership project led by Moray Council on behalf of the Moray Economic Partnership, will be complete by the end of March 2020. The project findings will inform future development of the Heritage and Culture sector in Moray.

Bright White Ltd created **Interpretation, Action & Audience Development Plans** which are available for all to download from the dedicated project website www.moraysgreatplaces.com. As part of the co-creation process, there were a total of **14,179 community interactions** with the project, both online and in person at creative community activity sessions. Information gathered influenced and contributed to development of the Interpretation, Action and Audience Development Plans.

14,179 community interactions



Heritage Deck Cards, part of the business support packages



Business Support Packages were produced to aid tourism sector businesses in sharing Moray's heritage with visitors and **Tour Guide Training** was delivered.

We attended the Moray Speyside Tourism Conference and distributed packs to tourism businesses.

A programme of **Demonstration Projects & Events** was delivered by Findhorn Bay Arts to inspire the heritage sector to use creative ways of engagement and interpretation.



Buke of Moray at Logie Steading

Heritage & Culture Symposium held at Moray College UHI



85 people attended the Heritage & Culture Symposium event which included presentations from highly experienced artists about their successful projects, the process to connect people to heritage through creativity, and opportunities to explore ideas for heritage based installations & activities. Moray College UHI curated an exhibition of work inspired by the characters and 6 Creative Workshops for Young People and their Families, 3 Tales and Tunes for a Winters Eve and Digital Animation Workshop were delivered as part of the programme.

Culture Radar, a UK consultancy specialising in strategy, change and development for the culture and creative sectors worked with Discover Moray's Great Places to explore new approaches to income generation and options for new sustainable operating models. They have prepared a comprehensive report and detailed Route Map which identifies the first step - creating a Heritage Forum to lead development. It is intended that the Route Map should be delivered between 2020 and 2022, achieving change and preparing the sector for establishing a new operating model.

In tandem, their summary report for the Falconer Museum recommends that Moray Council pursues talks with Museums Galleries Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to discuss funding to explore feasibility for a sustainable future for the Falconer assets and support for a managed transfer process. It is noted that dialogue needs to be maintained with the new Heritage Forum during feasibility and transition planning for the Falconer Museum.



FALCONER MUSEUM

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