

Dounreay Heritage Project Quarterly Report, January – March 2015

1. A signed Memorandum of Understanding for the joint acquisition of the DFR Control Room was received from the Science Museum and National Museums of Scotland. The donation paperwork was signed by DSRL and the NDA. Transport to the Science Museum's store in Swindon is being arranged for spring/early summer.
2. DSRL provided factual comments on the draft interpretive display panels for the DMTR Control Room exhibition in Caithness Horizons, due to open on 16 May 2015.
3. The paperwork for donating a selection of PFR objects to the National Museum of Scotland was signed by DSRL and the NDA. Transport to Edinburgh is being arranged for spring/early summer. The objects are; control room electrical panels (x2) & glass entrance door, demountable sub-assembly cluster & simulant waste product sample.
4. Various objects were donated to Caithness Horizons in February 2015. They included;
 - QFE Dosimeter
 - Leather security satchel
 - Haggis magazines produced by employees in 1950s and 1960s
 - A history of the Ormlie Lodge Club by G A Henderson
 - M Edmunds retirement gift
 - Russian dinner menu for visiting scientists
 - Specially commissioned UKAEA wallpaper
 - Eagle comic dated 18 October 1957, featuring DFR Sphere
 - Framed photographs of all the Dounreay Directors
5. The 6th meeting of the Dounreay Heritage Advisory panel was held in Caithness Horizons on 12 March 2015. Two French placement students (with Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) from the Institute National du Patrimoine (Inp) also attended and gave a presentation on nuclear heritage activities in France, particularly the museum within Chinon's A1 reactor sphere (aka La Boule). Guided tours of the Wick Heritage and Caithness Horizons museums were organised on the same day.
6. The memories of three ex-employees were digitally recorded and two leavers completed Dounreay Memories forms.
7. Dounreay Castle's north wall collapsed during a storm in February 2015. Two inspectors from Historic Scotland subsequently visited the castle and their visit report is being reviewed.

8. Twelve heritage objects were collected:
 - Fast Reactor Training Centre half pint glass
 - Flagpole flags (2 Union Jacks, AEA & AEA Technology)
 - Souvenir teaspoon showing the sphere
 - AEA Constabulary charity pin badge
 - Dummy PFR mixer breeder pin
 - Dummy DFR experimental pin
 - Dummy PFR fuel pin diagrid
 - Dummy Belgian BR2 reactor fuel element end piece
 - Toy van advertising “Corecut Nuclear” company
9. A small display of heritage objects are now located in the Communications information room within the Dounreay Welcome Break restaurant.
10. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the University of the Highlands and Islands have made a joint funding application for a collaborative doctoral partnership. The title of the proposed 3 year PhD study being, “The Dounreay Nuclear Establishment and its impact on the Northern Highlands of Scotland”. The funding application was agreed in principle and should be finalised in the Spring. The intention is to advertise for applications in the Summer and start the PhD study on 1 October 2015. The successful student will probably be based in Caithness for a significant period.

James Gunn
DSRL Heritage Officer
31 March 2015