

The Society again participated in the annual RSPB survey of beached birds timed for the weekend of 23rd/24th February. The Bute part of the survey was coordinated by Elaine Jukes and conducted by 17 people, out in all weathers, who between them covered 39 km of shore. Only two beached birds were discovered, which is a much lower toll than last year's 45 Razorbills plus 32 birds in eight other species.

Jean McMillan and the archive group have been busy entering details of the library's collection of school photographs held in the library on to the database. It has been discovered that after the 1930s we have very few class photos for any of the local schools. If any members of the BNHS who went to school here have class photos would they be willing to either donate them or let us borrow and copy them so that we can build up our collection. If you can help, please contact Jean through the Museum.

On Saturday 5th April, Neil Gregory returned to Bute for a repeat of last year's very successful moth trapping weekend. Alas, the weather was unseasonably cold and we caught precisely zero moths in three traps. We will have another moth trapping session on Saturday June 7th, which is National Moth trapping night. Ask at the Museum for details nearer the date, or contact Glyn Collis.

Following on from last May's Historic Rural Settlement Research Group conference, members of the society have been busy adding to our understanding of sites on the island. In January & February several members of the society were involved in an attempt to further unravel the nature of the stone circle at Blackpark. A limited excavation was undertaken and detailed drawings and photographs produced. The density of the tree roots limits the use of geophysical techniques, so old fashioned hand clearing of debris was resorted to. Five recumbent red sandstone stones were located, it was established that they were not part of the bedrock.

Help required

There are still several slots on the rota for door duty at the Museum during the forthcoming months. If you are able to contribute a duty your help would be greatly appreciated. A list is in the office at the museum where volunteers can sign up

Forthcoming events

A joint field meeting with the Glasgow Natural History Society will be held on Bute during the weekend of 26-27th April. Meet at the Museum at 11.00am on Saturday morning.

This summer there will again be a chance to learn about identifying wild flowers in the field. Walks will be led by Angus Hannah so if you wish to join the walks contact Angus for more details.

A talk and walk on Bats will take place on the evening of Tuesday 26th August, leader Charlie Howe of the Clyde Bat Group. This has been arranged by Billy Shields. It will probably start at Mount Stuart but this and the time will be confirmed nearer to the date. Look out for information in the museum at the beginning of August.

It is anticipated there will be another of Julian Hill's popular geology walks in September. A Fungus Foray will take place on Sunday 12th October, leader Alan Silverside. This meeting is made possible by our good relations with the Glasgow Natural History Society and we hope some of their members will join us.

Details of meetings are available on the Society's website at <http://bnhsoc.googlepages.com/> and a list will also be available at the museum. There is a reminder of this web address on the pink syllabus card.

Email news

Several members have elected to receive this newsletter by email instead of by letter. If you would like to try this, send an email to bnhs@butemuseum.org. Should you also like to receive the syllabus by email with the autumn newsletter please indicate this. There is no problem with sending both paper and electronic copies, simply indicate that this is what you would like in the email.