

From the President: Greetings after a disappointingly soggy summer. The weather, however, has not stopped the various summer activities, including moth-trapping and bat-walks, taking place. Thanks to Glyn & Dawn Collis and Billy Shields for their help in arranging these. The new syllabus promises to be extremely interesting and informative and, again, thanks to Glyn for arranging this. I look forward to seeing you on the 14th October when the session 2008 - 2009 begins.

Summer activities: The weekend joint meeting of 26-27 April with the Glasgow Natural History Society was very successful with walks to Balnakailly (Saturday) and Glencallum Bay (Sunday). Our visitors from Glasgow greatly appreciated being able to share our own members' knowledge of Bute's natural history.

Subsequently we were invited to join a visit to Bute (14 June) by members of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Glasgow and Clyde area. We had rather short notice of this, but it was very enjoyable. The SWT group have requested a repeat event next year.

Moth trapping on National Moth night (7-8 June) turned out to be rather more profitable than the April event with a good variety of moths caught, identified and released. Many thanks to Liz and Angus for hosting the event at Glenmore.

The bat talk and walk (26 August) went ahead despite the limited mobility of Billy Shields. We were treated to an excellent illustrated talk by Charlie Howe of the Clyde Bat Group. Later, guided by Charlie and Billy on the use of bat detectors, we were able to hear the echolocation calls of Daubenton's Bats and glimpse them as they skimmed low over the Castle moat hunting for insects.

Archaeology news: The reconstructed head of the "Queen of the Inch" arrived at the Museum in late June and has now been put on display. The head adds a remarkable "touch of life" to the display of the necklace.

Thank you to all those who volunteered for Museum door duty during the summer; without you the Museum could not open every day during the summer. Thank you also to those members who took a turn on the wild flower rota. One of the delights of being on duty in the museum is hearing the very positive comments about the museum from visitors. The flower display is enjoyed by all and commented upon by many. It is really heartening that we have so many members who give of their time and effort to ensure the museum is somewhere both islanders and visitors alike can come to and enjoy. However we always need more helpers, if you feel you can help in any way and don't currently do so, please let us know.

Forthcoming events: Regrettably, on Saturday 20th September we have a clash of events.

As part of **Scottish Archaeology Month** there will be a choice of three guided walks organised by Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme: an easy walk round Rothesay Town; a moderate walk to Kelspoken, and a more difficult walk from Scalpsie to St Ninians. All three depart from Bute Museum at 1.00pm. To register for a walk, contact Bridget Paterson.

Julian Hill's geology walk and talk (part of **Scottish Geology Month**) was also arranged for 20 September before we were aware of the Archaeology walks, and could not be re-arranged. Julian's talk "Bute's Rocky Foundations" will be at 10.30 am in the Museum, and we will re-assemble at 2.00pm for the walk. Weather permitting we will go to south-west Bute to see sills, lava flows, intrusions and maybe some nice garnets. If the weather is inclement we'll go somewhere less exposed.

A **Fungus Foray** will take place on Sunday 12 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.

Help required In early October John will be on his annual holiday and there are still a few afternoons where we need volunteers for door duty. If you can help, please phone Dawn on 504429 or call in at the Museum to offer your services. We also want to expand the "practical team" so if you would be willing to help out with some of the routine maintenance tasks please let us know.

Email You can receive the newsletter by email either instead of or in addition to the printed copy. If you would like to try this, send an email to bnhs@butemuseum.org. We can also send you an email version of the syllabus card. Some of us find that a copy saved on the computer is less likely to go astray!