

The evenings are drawing in and there is a distinctly autumnal feel about the weather on Bute. As we head towards the winter programme of speakers and reflect back on a busy summer it is time for the newsletter to bring everyone far and wide up to date on the Society and Museum activities.

The summer of 2012 was as busy as ever for the Museum and the Society. The start of May saw an exhibition to celebrate 25 years of the Bute Jazz Festival. Jean McMillan, as always worked tirelessly to produce a stunning display which proved very popular with both locals and visitors. May also saw the launch of the new 'Tramway Trail', this has proved to be a popular new publication.

**Transactions:** The next planned publication of the BNHS Transactions will be in the spring of 2013 so if there is an article or paper you wish to write for publication now is the time to get busy. The deadline for submission of articles is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Publications Committee would prefer to receive items in electronic form, they can be emailed to Angus Hannah (butesedge@yahoo.co.uk) or left at the Museum marked for Angus' attention.

**Museum opening times:** The Museum will be going to the winter opening times from the start of October. Last winter the Trustees looked at both the costs of being open as well as how many visitors came to the Museum on a day by day basis. As a result of this some important changes to the opening pattern for this winter have been made. The Museum will be open from 1.30pm until 3.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, staffing will be by volunteers and the Museum will be closed to the public throughout both December and January. For those willing to help out by covering a day or two on the duty rota a blank rota will be in the office at the Museum by the time you receive this newsletter, as well as being touted around on the first evening of the winter speaker programme. If you do sign up to help out please make a note on your calendar or in your diary as it is not good to find that the Museum has been closed because someone forgot to turn up.

**Do you want to learn about making films?** There is an opportunity for two people from BNHS to take part in two workshops to learn skills related to making films. The Museum Trustees are keen to see these places taken up as there will be a wonderful opportunity to upload short films about the history, archaeology and natural history of Bute on the new website (see below). The workshops are on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am until 1.00pm. If you are interested please phone Dawn on 504429 as places will go to whoever gets in touch first! The project has been supported by the Year of Creative Scotland and Archaeology Scotland which means all equipment and resources for the training are provided free of charge to participants.

**Website:** A new website that will combine the Society, Bird Group and Museum will be coming into existence this autumn. The address will remain the same ([www.butemuseum.org](http://www.butemuseum.org)) but will allow far more scope for information relating to our activities to be displayed. Components that can be included are photographic displays and short films.

**Winter meetings:** Shortly before this newsletter and syllabus card were stuffed into envelopes the first speaker on the BNHS winter programme had to cancel. At the time of writing Glyn Collis, our Programme Secretary has not yet managed to fill the spot, so apologies for the gap, but there will be a talk! The Bird Group continue to meet monthly for a field meeting as well as running a programme of monthly indoor meetings. A reminder that membership of the group is part of your BNHS membership. Details of the indoor programme are included on the syllabus card.

## Bird Group Outdoor Meetings

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – ‘100 mile twitch’ – Autumn migrants on the mainland.

Meet 7.45am for 8.00am ferry. Leader: Doug Menzies. Please let Doug know if you are definitely attending so that we can work out car-sharing plan in advance: ronandedith@btinternet.com

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, Walk: St Ninian's to Ettrick Bay.

Meet 10.00am at Guildford Square where car-sharing will be organised. (NOTE: Terrain is a bit boggy and rocky in places). Leader: Bill Stein. Please let Bill know if you are definitely attending: bill1717@btinternet.com

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**, WWT Reserve at Caerlaverock and RSPB Reserve at Merse Head.

One night, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, at Nith Hotel, Glencaple (Book direct with Hotel at 01387 770213). Meet 7.45am for the 8.00am ferry. Leader Ron Forrester. Please let Ron know if you are definitely attending so that we can work out car-sharing plan in advance - ronandedith@btinternet.com

**Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Bird Race on Bute

Meet 10.00am at Guildford Square where car-sharing will be organised. Leader: Doug Menzies. Please let Doug know if you are definitely attending - doug.44@virgin.net

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February**, RSPB Reserve at Lochwinnoch

Leader Doug Menzies. Meet at 8.30am for 8.45am ferry. Please let Doug know if you are definitely attending so that we can work out car-sharing plan in advance - doug.44@virgin.net

**Saturday 23 March**, Round the 4 Bute Bird Hides.

Meeting 10.00 at Guildford Square where car-sharing will be organised. Leader Viv Shelley. Please let Viv know if you are definitely attending - cvshelley@aol.com

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**, Gigha Day Trip

Meeting at 8.00 a.m. at Guildford Square. Leader Ron Forrester. Please let Ron know if you are definitely attending so that we can work out car-sharing plan in advance - ronandedith@btinternet.com

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, Isle of Mull

Three nights, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, at Salen Hotel, Mull (Please advise Billy Shields if you wish to book – he has made a block booking). Rendezvous at Guildford Square at 9.00am. Leader, Billy Shields. Please let Billy know if you are definitely attending so that we can work out car-sharing plan in advance - billy@mountstuart.com