

The Museum Trustees are in the process of applying for the updated version of Museum accreditation. Maintaining this status is important as without it we would not be able to keep important archaeological finds that fall within the rules of treasure trove. In this process, as with many of the other forms we have to complete, we are asked about volunteers who keep the Museum and Society working. The estimate tends to come in as 'over 50'. The list of people being recognised for their contribution to the Beached Bird Survey below typifies the effort that so many people put into the Society and the Museum. Nonetheless now is not the time to be complacent! Volunteers are still needed for the summer opening period. If you haven't signed up yet please drop by and add your name to the list in the Museum office. Glyn Collis is also looking to recruit new volunteers to the flower rota. If you feel you would be willing to help by finding the wild flowers for the display in the Natural History Gallery this would be a great help. Assistance is available if you feel unsure of your identifications and it is a great way to learn!

Subscriptions: The AGM in March approved an increase in the subscription to £18. We are aware that many members forget to pay if they do not attend the first two meetings in October. We are therefore encouraging members to set up a standing order, to that end a form is enclosed with this newsletter. All you need to do is complete the form and hand it into your bank, please also drop a line into the Museum for Lorna Morss so she knows you have set up the Standing Order.

RSPB Beached Birds Survey. I would like to thank all my Beached Bird Surveyors, i.e. Lyn Bulloch, Glyn Collis, Angus Hannah, Ian Hopkins, Margaret Lamb, Helen MacLeod, Isabell McArthur, Molly Munro, Charles & Sheila Murray, Nancy Noddings, Norma Ritchie, Jack Robertson, Billy Shields, Sue Smith and Maria van Oostende, for their hard work. Often in very inclement weather they go out and survey all around this island of ours. So thank you very much for all your sterling work, I do appreciate it. If anyone else fancies a fun afternoon or morning strolling along one of our lovely beaches please contact me, Elaine Jukes on 500445 or via the Museum.

Notes on BNHS Survey Group activities: The Society was represented at the Scotland's Rural Past Conference which was held in Fort William in November. The Scotland's Rural Past project is now in its final 18 months and we are working towards completing our part in this excellent project.

Under the auspices of the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme Paul Duffy, the Deputy Manager Archaeology, held two days of instruction at Kilmichael Chapel. Several members of the BNHS Survey group were in attendance.

Also, as part of the DBLPS, the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists has been asked to complete a Shoreline Survey on Bute. Their initial investigations have taken place in the Scalpsie area of the island and on most occasions members of our Survey group have also taken part

Finally, if any members of the BNHS are interested in becoming part of the Survey Group please contact Murette Grewar on 01700 831 668 or Isabell McArthur on 01700 831 643.

SSNS Conference: A number of members of the BNHS attended the excellent conference held in the Pavilion by the Scottish Society for Northern Studies. A comprehensive series of lectures ranged from Scandinavian folklore to place-names of Bute and a number of the lecturers were earmarked as future speakers for the Society. The BNHS played an important part in the conference. A reception was held in the Museum to welcome delegates to the island, Angus Hannah gave two very informative lectures, members were on hand during field visits to provide information and the Museum was opened early on Sunday to allow delegates to visit again before they left the island. John Baldwin, the event organiser, was delighted with the success of the conference and paid tribute to the amount of work put in by the BNHS.

A History of the World: Museum curator Anne Speirs has listed a number of objects from the history and archaeology collection on the BBC 'A History of the World' website 'www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld'. This has resulted in a number of interesting enquiries from members of the public, other museums and a BBC radio producer who plans to feature one of the objects in a future programme.

Bird Club: The formation of the Bute Bird Club under the aegis of the BNHS has struck a chord with many people. The Club has already set up a series of meetings and activities. All BNHS members are welcome to attend. More information from the Bird Club Committee (Ron Forrester, Ann Foster, William Boyd)

Wee Cumbrae trip: Twelve BNHS members ventured across to Wee Cumbrae in March. The lack of bracken growth made it possible to locate St Vey's Chapel and other sites rather more easily than in the 2009 trip, though the earliness of the trip resulted in limited opportunities for those interested in flora and fauna.

Lichens: in March, several members of the society attended a field meeting on Lichens and their identification, focusing on woodlands in the Lenihuline area. Expert guidance on these familiar but enigmatic organisms was provided by Andy Acton and Peter Quelch.

Summer activities:

Friday 14th May & Saturday 15th May: The Museum is taking part in a nationwide event 'Museums at Night'. The Museum will be open to the public on both Friday evening and Saturday evening from 6.30pm. This event coincides with National Moth Weekend, which this year is including bats, (bats being the main predators on moths). There will be a bat walk from the Museum and the usual moth trapping sessions on the Friday night - Saturday morning and Saturday night – Sunday morning. Further information will be posted in the Museum – or call Glyn on 504429.

Wild Flower walks: Angus Hannah will lead two wild flower walks.

Saturday 22nd May 2.30pm meet at the Kilmory/Mecknoch lay-by

Saturday 17th July 2.30pm meet at the viewpoint car park at Ardsalpsie

Saturday 12th June: For the third year running Scottish Wildlife Trust members in the Glasgow & Clydeside group will be coming to Bute to join BNHS members in a walk round the south end of the island. Details will be posted in the Museum, or call Glyn on 504429

Bird Club activities

Fri 23rd April: Owl Watch: meet Guildford Square 8.30 pm – leader Dougie Menzies (depending upon weather) return to Ghillies Bar by 11 pm

Sat 22nd May: Dawn Chorus meet Guildford Square 6.30 am – leader Ian Hopkins

Sun 13th June: Cowal, Argyll (Loch Riddon / Otter Ferry / Kilfinan Bay) meet Guildford Square 8.30 am – leader Tom Callan (pub lunch at Otter Ferry) (Tom, who is the editor of the Argyll Bird Report will meet us at Colintrave)

Sun 18th July: South End Walk (4 miles along the West Island Way) meet St Blanes Hotel Car Park, Kilchattan Bay 10 am – leader William Boyd

Sun 15th August: Boat trip (courtesy of Johnie McInairnie) meet Rothesay Pier 10 am – leader Dougie Menzies (approx £10 pp for fuel)

Sat 11th September: Baron's Haugh RSPB Reserve (near Motherwell) meet Rothesay Pier for 8 am ferry (share cars/costs) – leader Dougie Menzies

Geology talk and walk: The annual Geology talk and walk is expected to take place in **September**. Details will be available nearer the time in the Museum, or call Glyn on 504429.