

The winter programme of 2011-12 is now behind us, though the decidedly wintery weather of late seems to wish to contradict this fact. If you have not visited the Museum since Christmas then you will not have seen the continued facelift being given to the interior of the building. The History Gallery has now been repainted and there are new fittings in the toilet. The appeal by the Museum Trustees for donations towards the cost of the work done has so far raised approximately £2500, a sum which will help with many of the projects underway to improve the building. Without the support of the Society the Museum would be unable to function, and people are frequently astounded at the level of volunteer support that the Society provides. Once the decision had been made to use only volunteers to cover the winter opening times, there was even a complaint, albeit muted, that there were no days left unmanned for someone to offer their services! Being able to staff the Museum with volunteers from the Society throughout the winter and for two days each week in the summer means that the cost of keeping the Museum functioning is not rising as steeply as it might, given the escalating fuel bills. There is much that could still be done to improve our energy efficiency with sufficient capital so please remember the Museum when deciding what charities to support, whether now, or when writing your will.

On Saturday 21st April the Museum hosted the book launch for a new publication "Historic Trees and Woods of Bute" by Peter Quelch. This beautifully illustrated book is now available from the shop in the Museum.

Tramway Trail: a new trail booklet covering the Tramway Walk will be published shortly. To mark this event the DBLPS and BNHS will be organising a launch and walk of the trail on Saturday 19th May meeting at 10.30am at the Submariners Memorial in Port Bannatyne.

Spring 2013 should see the next volume of the Society's Transactions being published. If you expect to have an article for the next volume please inform Angus Hannah (Chairperson) or any other member of the publications committee. Articles should be with the publications committee this autumn.

There are still vacant slots in the summer rota that need volunteers. If you call into the Museum the rota is in the office for signing and you can also see the efforts of the decorating crew and the spruced up exhibits (*remember as a BNHS member you get free entry to the Museum as well as use of the Library facilities by arrangement*).

The Bird Group is now a firmly established component of the Society and their summer programme appears later in the newsletter. The fruits of the Bird Survey should be visible this summer with the publication of the book on the Birds of Bute. It is hoped to have a book launch for the bird book later this year.

A new temporary exhibit on the history of the Bute Jazz Festival has been put together by Jean McMillan and her team. This will be on show in the Library during the Jazz Festival (Thursday 3rd May – Monday 7th May inclusive). We still need a few volunteers to staff the exhibit so if you can cover a half day duty please call Dawn on 504429 to volunteer.

## Summer activities:

Wherever possible further details will be available in the Museum

**Thursday 3rd May – Monday 7th May:** Bute Jazz Festival Exhibition. In the Museum Library.

**Saturday 19th May:** Book launch of Tramway trail 10.30am at Submariners Memorial, Port Bannatyne.

**Saturday 2nd June:** Shoreline walk in search of Marsh Fritillary butterflies: meet 2pm at layby near Mecknock. Led by Glyn Collis. (504429).

**Saturday 16th June:** Annual joint BNHS/Scottish Wildlife Trust (Glasgow) Nature Ramble: meet 11.15 at Kilchattan Bay Pier for circular route round the south end of Bute. Further information from Glyn Collis (504429)

**Sunday 17th June:** Botany Walk meet 2pm: location to be arranged: led by Angus Hannah (503879)

**Saturday 23rd June:** Moth morning: 8.30am at Shalunt Quarry (park in lay by north of quarry and walk down please for safety reasons) Overnight moth trap to be opened, moths identified then released. National Moth Night starts a full week of activities for National Insect Week. Other events will be taking place from 23rd June through to the 1st July. Full details of all activities will be posted up in the Museum in early June. More details from Glyn Collis (Tel: 504429)

**Saturday 14th July** Two Geology walks led by Julian Hill: (further details from the Museum or Glyn Collis 504429))

11am - 1pm shore walk Stravannan Bay to Dunstrone

2pm - 4pm shore walk Kerrytonia to Bruchag

**Saturday 18th August** Botany day: Angus Hannah is organising a field meeting for the BSBI on identification of dune species and arable weeds. This is a training meeting for those who wish to gain practical experience in the use of identification keys in the field. Further information from Angus Hannah (503879)

## BUTE BIRD GROUP – SUMMER OUTINGS 2012

*(Please contact individual Trip Organisers for details)*

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** – Trip to Ailsa Craig. *Organiser: Iona Gray.* (50167)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June** – Farne Islands. *Organiser: Doug Menzies.* 505732 or 07818 093893

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August** – Pelagic – Firth of Clyde up to the Cloch. Meeting at Rothesay Harbour at 10.00. *Organiser: Doug Menzies.* 505732 or 07818 093893

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September** – Bute – Lochs & Bays – Looking for Migrant Birds. Meeting at Guildford Square at 10.00. *Organiser: Ron Forrester.* 505352