

We have now completed yet another winter of successful talks, as usual the topics were very wide ranging. Like many organisations on Bute we are faced with the worry of a small but steady decline in membership, so, if you know someone who may be interested in the things we do please encourage them to come along and see what we offer. Visitors are welcome at our evening meetings, and though we do not charge visitors we do encourage them to join.

With summer opening hours now upon us we do need volunteers to help with running the Museum. Eugene, our custodian, does not work on Sunday or Monday so we need members to staff the Museum on these days as well as covering days when Eugene is taking holiday entitlement. If you are able to help please sign up on the volunteer rota sheets, these can be found in the office at the Museum. It would be wonderful to see some of our newer members have a go at this, especially as it is not an onerous task. If you are unsure what is involved talk to either Eugene(505067) or Dawn (504429) for more information. With the new organisation now settling down well we are keen to ensure that it remains a lively and economically viable outfit. The volunteer hours put in to opening the Museum, undertaking research, running meetings and more mean that we can still offer a lot to both our members and the wider community. Please, be prepared to put something back into the organisation which I hope you appreciate as much as I do.

Book launch

Angus Hannah's book, the Flora of Bute is hot off the press and we will be holding a launch for the book at 11.30 am on Saturday 27th April in the Museum Library. Please come along to support Angus – tea, coffee and cake will be on offer.

New Meteorological Officer and Volunteers for Weather Readings**Meteorological Officer**

After 14 years in the role of Meteorological Officer, Viv Shelley has indicated that she will be resigning at the end of 2019. So we are looking for a volunteer who is prepared to be inducted into the role over this year. The specific duties of the Met Officer are to collate all the daily readings and submit to the Met Office on a monthly basis via the internet, and to give a report on the previous years' weather to BMNHS members at the AGM in March. The format of that report is not prescribed!

Volunteers for Weather Readings

Currently the guys at Bute Produce take the daily weather readings from Monday to Friday and Viv and several other volunteers cover Saturdays and Sundays. The readings take 10/15 mins to do at 09.00 during the winter and at 10.00 during BST. We would like to recruit more volunteers so that the task can be shared more widely – the more volunteers the less anyone has to do! We would never envisage the task restricting anyone's personal plans and it should always be possible to delegate to another volunteer 'at the drop of a hat' if necessary.

If you are able to help as a weather reader or as prospective Met Officer, please contact Viv by phone/text on 07860 184821 or email her at cvshelley2@gmail.com

Summer activities 2019

Ron Forrester has put together an ambitious programme of activities for the summer months. The listing includes both archaeological and natural history events. In addition the Bird Group will be undertaking their regular summertime meetings. If you wish to bring a friend along that is fine, however members have priority for places on a trip.

A summer outdoor programme has been organised for members, which we hope will appeal to you. We have flower walks, a bat evening, archaeological studies, moth mornings and a walk at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. There are in fact eighteen different events planned, so there is plenty to keep you occupied if you so wish and hopefully there is something for all tastes (see attached programme).

I am personally looking forward to attending most of our planned activities, so I hope to see you on at least one occasion at our various events.

Best wishes

Ron

Summer Events -2019

Saturday 27th April **Archaeology:** A morning walk at Scalpsie to look at a Bronze Age barrow, Iron Age hill fort, lime kilns, deserted settlement sites and discuss the possibility of Viking settlements. Meet at Scalpsie Bay car park (Grid Ref. NS060587) at 10.00. Leader Sue Hothersall (503835).

Saturday 18th May **Wild Flowers:** A morning walk up the Lime Kiln path at Kilchattan Bay to look for wild flowers. Meet at the jetty (Grid Ref. NS103550) at 10.00. Leader Roger Connard (500390).

Saturday 6th July **Wild Flowers:** A morning walk along the Tramway track to Etrick Bay to look for wild flowers. Meet at St Colmac's cemetery car park by Greenwood's Crossing at 10.00. Leader Roger Connard (500390).

Tuesday 9th July **visit to Bat roost:** Meet Bute Museum 21.00. We will then car share and drive to view an active bat roost. Leader Billy Shields (504931).

Thursday 1st August **Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park:** At the winter talk by Mike Holcome, Senior Ranger at the Park, members indicated their enthusiasm for an organised visit to the Park. Mike has kindly agreed to accompany us on a circular walk from Cornalees Bridge, along the Greenock Cut Trail. It is approximately 7 miles long, but mainly on good paths, so easy going.

Meet for 10.00 ferry from Rothesay. Take packed-lunch and waterproof clothing. Contact leader in advance re car sharing. Leader Pat O'Sullivan (501999).

Wednesday 21st August **Moth morning:** At Rhoda House, Hydro Road, Port Bannatyne (courtesy of Pat & Janet O'Sullivan) at 10.00 when overnight traps will be opened – Leader Ron Forrester (505352).

Thursday 29th August **Wild Flowers:** A morning walk from Kerrycroy to Scoulag, mainly looking for 'plants of the shoreline'. Meet at Kerrycroy at 10.00. Wear wellies or other waterproof footwear. Bus option Port Bannatyne 09.30, Rothesay 09.45. Leader Angus Hannah (503879).

Saturday 31st August Archaeology: A morning walk to St Ninian's Point to look at the early Christian chapel, prehistoric standing stones, a fish curing station and two wells. Meet at Ballianlay Hall Car Park at 10.00. Leader Sue Hothersall (503835).

Moth mornings at Mount Stuart

The plan is for moth traps, that have been put in place the previous evening, to be opened and for the moths to be identified, counted and once everyone has had a chance to enjoy the wonderful variety, they will be released. Meeting place and timing may vary. Anyone wishing to attend one or more of these events should contact either Ron Forrester (505352) or Dougie Menzies (505732) in advance for full details. A series of regular moth mornings have been arranged at Mount Stuart:-

Wed 24th April	Wed 3rd July	Wed 4th September
Wed 15th May	Wed 24th July	Wed 25th September
Wed 12th June	Wed 14th August	Wed 16 th October

Bute Bird Group Summer 2019 Field Trips

Wed 8th-Sat 11th May Colonsay, Tobaroran House/Colonsay Hotel

Leader Ron Forrester (505352)

Sat 8th June Balnakailly Wood

Meet Guildford Square 08.00 Leader Dougie Menzies (505732)

Wed 17th July Bute's Night Birds: looking for Nightjar and owls

Meet Guildford Square 21.00 Leader Billy Shields (504931)

Sat 10th August Tay Reed Beds and Loch Leven

Meet Rothesay Harbour for 08.00 ferry Leader Ray Eddie (500636)

Tue 3rd September Pelagic using Big Blue

Leader Viv Shelley (503475)

For all outings (including those on Bute) please contact the leader in advance so that transport etc. can be organised.