

It will soon be time for the winter programme to start and the syllabus card (green this year) is in your envelope. We now have the combined Museum, Society and Bird Group website up and running so if you mislay your syllabus card you can always find a list of meetings under the relevant section on the website. There are also photographs of recent activities in the Museum and newsworthy items so the website is well worth a visit. Should you be involved in a BNHS or Museum activity let us know about it so we can include something on the website. For those of you who use facebook you can support us by 'liking' us on our site. The more presence we can create on the internet the better our chances of attracting more visitors and the more viable an organisation we become, so encourage friends and family to like us too!

If you have not yet collected your copy of the Transactions please arrange to do so as soon as possible. The Birds of Bute book has been flying off the shelves and it looks like it will be sold out before the end of the year. It will not be realistic to undertake a reprint so if you wish to purchase a copy for someone, say as a Christmas present you need to purchase sooner rather than later, as when they are gone they are gone.

Please note that at the AGM in March it was agreed to increase the annual membership fee to £20. If you pay by standing order and have not changed the amount this needs to be done. If you prefer to pay by cheque, or cash this can be done at an evening meeting or by leaving the remittance, with a note of your name and placed in an envelope, at the Museum.

At the beginning of October the Museum will revert to winter opening hours and use volunteers to staff the front desk. A blank rota sheet will be in the Museum by the time you receive this newsletter. We will need volunteers to staff the Museum from 1.30pm until 3.30pm each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday during October, November, February and March. Thank you in advance to those who volunteer.

### **Special Film night**

Once more, thanks to the enthusiasm and expertise of George McKenzie we are hosting a fundraising evening with proceeds shared between the Museum and the RNLI. This time, to mark the anniversary of the Dam Busters Raid the theme is "The Bouncing Bomb, the Local Connection", and the evening is that of Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets, priced £10, will be available at the scheduled evening meetings or from the desk in the Museum and include the customary refreshments of a glass of wine (or a soft drink should you prefer), a brief talk on the local connection and a showing of the film "The Dam Busters".

### **Friends of Bute Museum**

Many BNHS members have also become Friends of the Museum after receiving a letter from the Trustees last month. The Trustees are incredibly grateful for this support. The current recession has hit every area of life, and running the Museum is certainly not immune. Offers of help, donations and legacies are all gratefully received as the cost of heating escalates but visitor numbers stay similar year on year. There will be a newsletter for Friends early in the new year. You can always pick up a form or download one from the website if you have a family member, friend or neighbour who may be persuaded to join.

### **Archaeology news**

The BNHS archaeology survey group are reconvening this autumn to commence the next phase of the rural settlement project begun by Dorothy Marshall in the early 1970's.

Having identified and detailed most of the abandoned and ruinous pre modern farmstead sites on the island, the group are turning their attention to recording the upstanding farm buildings across the island. Many of these are late 18<sup>th</sup> century in date (occasionally with earlier elements) and mark an important shift

in the island's rural economy during the 'Improvement' period. For many reasons, the recording of the buildings now is of national as well as a local importance.

The group aim to record through photo and written record and undertake documentary research on the farms themselves. The intention is that the work will be engaging but not too strenuous to allow as many members as possible to participate.

A meeting led by Paul Duffy and Isabell McArthur is scheduled in the Museum on Tuesday 1st October at 1pm for those who are interested in learning more.

### **Bird Group**

The indoor meetings of the Bird Group are, as usual, printed on the syllabus card. In addition to the Bird Group's winter programme of expert speakers, a variety of field trips is also planned- on Bute and further afield. The latter include Fife Ness (October), Scone Palace and RSPB Loch Leven (December), Largo Bay on the Forth Estuary (February), Gigha (April), Tay Reed Beds near Perth (May) and Leighton Moss, Lancashire (June). Full details are available either on the Bute Bird Group section of the Bute Museum website or from Bill Stein the Bute Bird Group Secretary (01700504307 or 07764584303).

Field Trip Programme (for period covered by this newsletter).

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2013:** Migrant search - Lochs and Bays of Bute.

Meet Guildford Square at 10.00. Bill Stein will lead.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2013:** Fife Ness.

Please advise a committee member if you intend to come on this trip as we will car share to keep costs down.

Meet at Rothesay Harbour at 07.40.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013:** Islay – Geese and more.

There are still places available on this popular trip. At present accommodation costs are around £70 total for the 3 nights and this will decrease if more members attend.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013:** Scone Palace, Perthshire and Loch Leven RSPB reserve.

Meet at Rothesay Harbour at 07.40.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014:** Bute Bird Race.

Meet 10.00 am at Guilford Square Estimating Lunch at Victoria Hotel 1.00 or 1.30.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2014:** Largo Bay on the Forth Estuary.

Please advise a committee member if you intend to come on this trip as we will car share to keep costs down.

Meet at Rothesay Harbour at 07.40.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2014:** Walk from St Ninian's to Ettrick Bay.

Meet 10.00 am at Guilford Square

Estimating Lunch at Ettrick Bay 2.00 pm.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2014:** Gigha: more information to follow