

## COUNCIL FOR SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER SCHOOL 2002

by Geoff Waters

The 2002 school was based in Tobermory on Mull from 9-13<sup>th</sup> May and marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first summer school. To mark the occasion, the summer school was extended by one day and an anniversary dinner featured in the programme. Registration took place on Thursday evening at the Aros Hall, with bookstalls to browse and refreshments provided by Mull Historical Society; nearby, the Mull Museum remained open all evening for the occasion. Three local hotels and many guesthouses were used to accommodate the party.

It was raining as about 60 of us boarded coaches for the first of three days of field visits; however the rain had stopped by the time that we arrived at the first site – the linear settings of standing stones at Dervaig, and the sun shone almost continuously for the next three days. A variety of prehistoric sites were visited, all situated in spectacular and dramatic landscapes, including the cairns and standing stones at Ardnacross, the stone circle at Lochbuie (a rare Argyll example), Dun nan Gall broch and Dun Aisgain galleried dun. Kilninian Church and Pennygown Chapel were visited to see a range of Medieval and later graveslabs, and the itinerary also included Moy and Duart castles.

More than four hours were spent on Iona on Sunday, with a tour of the Abbey, the Nunnery and St Ronan's Church, as well as visits to lesser known sites such as the vallum, the boat nausts at Port na Frainge, and to see Torr an Aba (Hill of the Abbot) - reputedly the site of Columba's writing hut. In full sun under a deep blue sky, the view across the 'White Strand of the Monks' to the Ross of Mull was truly memorable.

Unfortunately the rain returned on Monday morning for the optional walking tour of Tobermory guided by Jean Whittaker and Olive Brown, who talked about the rise and fall of Tobermory as a planned British Fisheries Society town, and visited the Church and the well after which Tobermory is named.

We were privileged to have Anna and Graham Ritchie as principal guides and speakers for this summer school. Both have supported previous schools and their contributions were a major factor in the success of this special anniversary event. They gave a joint introductory lecture about Mull and Iona in the Aros Hall on Friday evening, and after our visit to Duart Castle on Saturday, Colin Martin spoke enthusiastically in Craignure Village Hall about his excavation of the wreck of the 'Swan' off Duart Point. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner was held at the Western Isles Hotel on Sunday; the guest speaker was Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart Castle who told us what it was like to live in an ancient monument. Another special guest was Edwina Proudfoot, the President of CBA Scotland when CSA was established, who thanked Sir Lachlan and then spoke

on the development and history of the summer school. Alan Saville, President of CSA, thanked everyone who had helped to make this anniversary event a success, and presented gifts from CSA to Anna and Graham Ritchie, Alison Reid and Geoff Waters for their contributions to the 2002 Summer School.

The 2003 Summer School will be based in Lybster, Caithness from 15-19th May. Due to the longer journey times, the summer school will be extended by one day, and registration will take place during the evening of the 15th (Thursday) with a full programme of field excursions and lectures from Friday to Sunday. The school will finish at mid-day on Monday.

(Text taken from Geoff Waters' article in the CSA Annual Report, 2002. Geoff was Director of the Summer School)