



Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society

Comunn Eachdraidh Lathurna

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006

Dear Members,

I am afraid that I have to tell you that I must step down as Chairman of the Society because of other and more pressing demands on my time, which were not present when I volunteered nearly two years ago.

I am particularly sorry to be deserting my post because the Society is in something of a crisis arising from a failure to find replacements for the office bearers who have left in the last two years. The remaining small Committee has worked very hard to keep the Society going, but is unlikely to continue to function, let alone bring about change, improvement and expansion to meet the challenges of understanding and conserving our history in a rapidly changing environment without new officers.

At the very least, the Society needs a new Secretary (a post which could ideally be shared by two people), a Librarian, a Chairperson, an Editor for the annual magazine and two additional committee members.

At the last AGM office bearer posts remained unfilled. I would urge you to come to the AGM this year and to offer your time and skills to the Committee. I set out to the AGM last year some indications of what I considered to be the desirable objectives of a local history society today, and it is interesting to see groups of people along the West Coast achieving an active role in education, research and publications despite their basis in small populations. Much could be achieved here in Oban, and I hope that this year will be a turning point.

Robert Walker
Chairman.

Summer Outings

April: Investigation of the substantial remains of the deserted settlement at Kilmory Orb, followed by a short walk to the old mill and lade at Coillie Bharr, then a visit to the nearby excavation at Barnluasgan Dun, directed by Roddy Regan, Glasgow University.

Alison Blackwood

May: Trail around the north end of Kerrera covering several interesting archaeological sites.

Anne Houston

June: Walk around the sites of the Oban caves and the oral history of the developments that replaced them, by celebrated local author **Charles Hunter**.

July: Powerful Connections: the Iron Age and the Early Medieval on Lismore.
Cait McCullagh

August: LAHS stand, Argyllshire Gathering
Martin Petrie

Visit to St Conan's Kirk and Kilchurn Castle, Lochawe on 5th September.

A very small group visited these two important buildings which both have strong connections to the Clan Campbell. The church is a bewilderingly rich display of the hand of an amateur architect who has collected motifs and has to use them - all. It is, in effect, a family shrine.

The Castle, one of the later Campbell strongholds, was much altered and extended at the end of the medieval age, and was garrisoned in later troubles. It was almost certainly on an island before the level of the loch was reduced in the last century.

The castle is a maintained ruin funded by central government. On the visit it was apparent that the church is a complex and expensive building to maintain. As with all major buildings maintained by small numbers of individuals the threat of ruin exists if funding cannot be found to sustain good repair. Given the great interest in the church, it is to be hoped that similar state funding will be made available to the local people.

Argyllshire Heritage Tent

Thanks to Martin for running a successful event at the Argyllshire Gathering.

Treasurers Report

Income 2005/2006

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| Subscriptions | 547.00 | (656.00) |
| Door Collection | 33.00 | (102.00) |
| Bank Interest | 39.79 | (55.48) |
| Magazine Sales | 143.30 | (170.50) |
| Donations | 67.00 | (10.00) |
| Miscellaneous | 170.00 | (145.00) |
| Total | 1000.09 | (1139.34) |

Expenditure 2005/2006

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| Subscriptions | 95.00 | (93.00) |
| Meetings | 210.00 | (198.00) |
| Magazine Printing | 235.63 | (244.10) |
| Expenses | 187.25 | (257.36) |
| Room Hire | 158.00 | (144.00) |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | (0.00) |
| Total | 885.88 | (936.46) |

Although there has been a fall in income to the Society this year, we have, at least, once again recorded a surplus. The drop in income is mainly down to the fall in the number of membership subscriptions and fewer visitors attending meetings. While it should be noted that there was a life subscription included in last year's total, it would be hoped that more people could be encouraged to join the Society and that members could invite some friends and acquaintances to the meetings. We should note the sum that has been donated to the Society, for which we should especially thank Charles Collings and Archie MacDougall. The miscellaneous income is the members contribution to the food and entertainment at the A.G.M. There is a balance in the Society's Savings Account of £1781.93; and a balance in the Treasurer's Account of £706.50, although there are still some expenses to be deducted from this.

Duncan Campbell
Treasurer

Subscriptions

These are due at the beginning of October for the year 2006/2007 and cover a programme of winter lectures, summer outings, our magazine "Historic Argyll" that comes out in May and the Autumn Newsletter. Please ensure that I receive your payments on or before the AGM on the 3rd of November as I will no longer be on the committee from that date. Thanks. Ann Houston, Assistant Treasurer.

Present rates are:-

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|--|-------|
| Individual member | £8.00 |
| Additional member same address (no extra magazine) | £4.00 |
| Junior or full time student (with magazine) | £4.00 |
| Friend of the Society (Magazine and Newsletter only) | £4.00 |

Life membership up to 65 years, a multiple of 15 times annual subscription
Life membership over 65 years, a multiple of 10 times annual subscription

Visitors £2.00

Winter Lecture Programme 2006/7

All meetings will be held in The Undercroft, The Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban at 7.30 pm. Non-members are most welcome. Non-members entrance £2.00

Friday 27th October 2006

"Conservation of local historic buildings"

Martin Haddlington

Friday 17th November 2006

"Footsore and Penitent: on Pilgrimage in Medieval Scotland"

Peter Yeoman

Friday 8th December 2006

"The McCaig Family"

Murdo MacDonald

Friday 26th January 2007

"Whisky and resistance: the archaeology of illicit whisky distilling"

Michael Given

Friday 23rd February 2007

"Bones, Pots and People: excavation and analysis of Bronze Age burials in West Scotland"

Gavin MacGregor

Friday 23rd March 2007

TBA

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The **AGM** of the **Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society** will be held at **7pm** on **Friday 3rd November 2006** at **St Moluag's Diocesan Centre, Croft Road, Oban**. This is the time for members to take part in decisions, which affect the future of the Society.

Agenda

- 1 Members Present
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on 4th November 2005
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Chairperson's report on the years activities
- 6 Secretary's report
- 7 Treasurers report
- 8 Editors report
- 9 Election of Office Bearers
- 10 Any other business
- 11 Date of next AGM

Present Committee

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| President: | Margaret Kay |
| Chairperson: | Robert Walker |
| Secretary | Alistair James |
| Treasurer: | Duncan Campbell |
| Assistant Treasurer | Anne Houston |
| Committee: | Kenny Carmichael Autumn Newsletter |
| | Moira Copeland Librarian |
| | Alison Blackwood Liaison Officer |
| | Martin Petrie |

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible

New members welcome

My thanks to all those members who contributed towards this newsletter

Kenny Carmichael

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4th November 2005 at St. Moluag's Diocesan Centre, Oban.

1. Present: Margaret Kaye, President; Robert Walker, Chairman; Alison Blackwood, Secretary/Programme; Duncan Campbell, Treasurer; Ann Houston, Assistant Treasurer; Moira Copeland, Librarian; Clare Marren, Assistant Secretary and Field Outings Convenor, Kenny Carmichael, Newsletter Editor; Martin Petrie and 22 members and guests. Apologies: Peter McLeod and Robin Harvey.

2. Minutes of AGM of 5th November 2004 had been published in the newsletter and were accepted as a true record. Proposed Martin Petrie and seconded by Kenny Carmichael.

3. Chairman's Report: The Chairman introduced himself and gave an account of his hopes for the future of the Society and the ways it could be moved forward. He gave thanks to Robin Harvey and Clare Marren and to Alison Blackwood for her outstanding service to the Society over the last seven years. A gift from the Society was presented to Alison. The full report is available on requests.

4. Secretary's Report: Thanks were given to the members of the committee for their hard work in making a successful year. Emphasis was given to two issues; the need to get material for the magazine early and the possibilities of fieldwork and practical experience. The full report is available on requests.

5. Treasurer's Report: Copies of the summary accounts were given out and explained. The income of the Society had modestly exceeded its expenditure so that there was no need to increase the subscription. The report was proposed for approval by Michael Turner and there was no dissent. The full report is available on requests.

6. Editor's Report: Robin Harvey was not present, but there was common consent that the Chairman should write to thank him for his work.

7. Election of Office Bearers: The following were elected:

Chairman: Robert Walker (proposed/seconded, Kenny Carmichael/Alison Blackwood).

Treasurer: Duncan Campbell (proposed/seconded, Ann Houston/Martin Petrie).

The following were re-elected en bloc: Ann Houston, Assistant Treasurer; Moira Copeland, Librarian; Kenny Carmichael, Newsletter Editor; Martin Petrie (proposed/seconded Michael Kidd and Robert Walker).

Alison Blackwood was also elected to serve as Liaison Officer.

The posts of Secretary, Magazine Editor, Assistant Secretary and Field Outings Convenor were not filled.

8. Any Other Business: It was agreed that the Committee consider the provision of refreshments at winter meetings.

9. Next Annual General Meeting on 3rd November 2006