

LORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Comunn Eachdraidh Lathurna

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

Dear LAHS Members

The Winter Programme is now complete and the final venue has been booked. The events are listed inside, but if you misplace this Newsletter, you can always turn to the website at <http://www.spanglefish.com/LAHS> where all the events are listed. Please be aware that the meetings will take place in four different places and that the AGM starts at 7.00 pm. The additional lecture to be given by Professor Donald Meek is on a Thursday, not our usual Friday.

There is a further additional lecture, not listed with the others since it is part of the Homecoming celebrations, which is certain to be of great interest to many Members. This too will be given by another favourite recent speaker to our Society, Professor James Hunter. He will talk about the Clearances on Tuesday 13 October at 6.00 pm in Glencruitten Church. It will be interesting to compare what he has to say on this topic with the point of view presented by Lucille Campey in August, at the Emigration Seminar on Lismore.

Joan Kemp, recently co-opted, has kindly agreed to be Membership Secretary. At the time of writing the Committee has some hope that a potential Chairperson is about to step forward, but we are still looking for a new Secretary. Failure to fill these two posts may result in the Society having to be put on a care and maintenance footing until a resolution can be found. Be assured that this is the last thing we want to have to do. My thanks to the Committee for their support during the year.

The Society held two outings in June. On Sunday the 14th Mr. Charles Struthers treated twelve members to an informative tour of Ardmaddy Castle and grounds. Mr. Struthers showed us through the Georgian house and into the original castle's barrel vaulted basements. Our host showed us the silver coins he had found close by as a boy, and informed us about the likelihood of a Hanoverian barrack and writings on a window pane by a Jacobite held under house arrest at Ardmaddy. (Organiser: Martin Petrie)

The following Saturday, Catherine Gillies led a group of ten members through the wealth of MacDougall artefacts held at Dunollie House, each of which reflected a piece of history. The sheer amount and diversity of the displays coupled with Catherine's enthusiasm made it a most enjoyable visit. (Organiser: Michael Turner)

Twelve members took the ferry from Oban to Lismore on Tuesday the 11th of August for the Emigration Seminar held as part of the island's Homecoming Week. Due to the poor weather conditions, members had plenty of time to see the Heritage Museum. Later, at the Village Hall, Lucille Campey's lecture on the opportunities and push/pull aspects of emigration to Upper Canada was well received. After some

hospitality, further presentations and discussions continued and the afternoon was rounded off by an impromptu emigration song. (Organiser: Michael Turner)

Thursday the 27th of August saw the Society being represented as usual in the Heritage tent at the Oban Games. Ann Houston, May Petrie, Georgina Dalton and Martin Petrie successfully manned the stand with the first outing of the new display boards. Magazine sales were steady and a new Kilninver/Kilmelford Parish history publication, written locally, was also promoted. (Organiser: Martin Petrie)

Winter Lecture Programme 2009 / 2010

Friday 9th October 2009 at 7.30 pm

'Careless Talk Costs Lives: Memories of Wartime Journeys to Mull'
Jo Currie, Edinburgh

Venue: The Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

Jo Currie, author of 'Mull the Island and its People', has always felt that she gained special insights about Mull people from long holidays spent there from the age of one. Having a curiously sharp gift of observation and recall, she would like to share some rather unusual mental notes made during her childhood, about the journey and the destination.

Thursday 22nd October 2009 at 7.30 pm

***'Lifeline Services or MacBrayne Drain? Caledonian MacBrayne and
the Reshaping of Hebridean Society'***
Professor Donald Meek, Tiree

Venue: Studio Theatre, Corran Halls

Professor Donald Meek is a long time participant observer of the ships of David MacBrayne and, more recently, Caledonian MacBrayne. He will offer a comprehensive and entertaining overview of the MacBrayne empire, the personalities behind it, and the way it has transformed communication to and from the islands of Scotland, and the islands themselves in the process. This is an additional talk, being part of a series for Highland Homecoming Festival called 10 Things That Changed the Highlands. LAHS is acting as host on the night. Admission free to all

Friday 6th November 2009 at 7.00pm

AGM followed by buffet supper and slide show

**Robert McCulloch & Charles Drummond, Oban Photographic
Society**

Venue: Main Hall, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

This year Robert and Charles will show some of the recent additions to their magnificent collection of historic slides, together with images taken South of Oban, e.g. of Easdale

Friday 13th November 2009 at 7.30 pm
‘Excavations at Balure Dun and recent work on other sites in mid Argyll’

Roddy Regan, Kilmartin

Venue: The Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

Roddy Regan is an experienced excavator and has worked for several years in mid Argyll and at sites in, for example, Turkey

Friday 11th December 2009 at 7.30 pm
‘Dunollie and Dalriada: the History and Archaeology behind four Kings and a Castle in the Dark Ages’

Catherine Gilles, Oban and St Andrews

Venue: The Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

Friday 15th January 2010 at 7.30 pm
‘The Problem with Landscape Archaeology: examples from Greece and Scotland’

Dr Allan Hall, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow

Venue: The Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

Landscape archaeology requires regional survey with the aim of understanding past human activities in an area. The main problem for this interdisciplinary topic is the recognition of diverse potential human activities in landscapes that may well have changed over time. The impact of prehistoric and historic natural earth resource exploitation on the local scenery of Melos, Greece and several areas in Scotland will be illustrated.

Friday 12th February 2010 at 7.30 pm
‘Folklore and Place Names of mid Lorn’

John MacFarlane, Taynuilt

Venue: The Undercroft, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road

This talk will cover selected placenames of an area bounded by Pass of Brander, the Glen Lonan hills, the river Lusragan in Connel and the South coast of Loch Etive and will link them to the folklore and sayings connected with the landscape.

Friday 12th March 2010 at 7.30 pm
'Non Angli sed Anglicani: the Centenary of St John's Cathedral, Oban'
The Very Rev. Norman MacCallum and the Rev. Ian
Walter, St John's Cathedral, Oban
Venue: St John's Scottish Episcopal Cathedral, George Street, Oban

St John's Scottish Episcopal Cathedral in George Street celebrates its centenary in 2010. The Society has been kindly invited to visit the Cathedral and hear about the history of the Episcopal Church, both locally and in Scotland as a whole.

Times and venues:

Please note that the AGM will begin at 7.00 pm, half an hour earlier than the other meetings which are all due to start at 7.30 pm. and that four different venues are involved.

Minutes of the LAHS AGM 7 Nov 2008

Committee Members Present: Alistair James, Fiona MacDougall, Julian Overnell, Martin Petrie, Michael Turner. **Apologies:** Duncan Campbell, Margaret Gravell, Margaret Kay, Denise Overnell.

Twenty one other members and friends were present: Nevin Blackwood, Joy Blakeney, Jill Bowis, Tim Bowis, Iain Brown, Bill Grant, Steven Greener, Varinia Greener, Christine Hodge, Charles Hunter, Joan Kemp, Peter Kemp, A. MacDonald, John MacPherson, David Marshall, Valerie Marshall, May Petrie, Janet Turner, Ian Walter, May Walter, Marie Wright. **Apologies had been received from:** Alison Blackwood, Georgina Dalton, Tom and Ann Houston, Margot MacDonald, Val Marner.

The meeting was chaired by the Hon. Secretary, Michael Turner, while Julian Overnell took the minutes. It commenced at 19:00h.

- 1) **The minutes of the 2007 AGM** had been circulated and were taken as read. There were no comments and no matters arising.
- 2) Secretary announced that the "**Awards For All**" bid for the sum of £1,477 had been successful and that the video projector and laptop computer had already been bought, and purchase of display boards was in hand.
- 3) **Secretary's Report:** Michael Turner reviewed the year's activities, including the lecture programme and the field outings. He said that membership now stood at approx. 100. A copy of the full report is available on request.
- 4) **Magazine Editor's Report:** Julian Overnell, said that the majority of the articles in the 2008 edition of 'Historic Argyll' were from the invited speakers, but

that there had been an important input of articles from LAHS members, and he encouraged members to write articles for the 2009 edition.

5) Treasurer's Report: Secretary read the treasurer's report, Duncan Campbell being absent, including Duncan's recommendation to retain the membership subscriptions at £8 for individuals and £12 for couples. There were no comments and the report was accepted.

6) Election of office bearers and committee members:

There were no nominations for the vacant position of Chairman.

The following, who were all eligible to be re-elected, and who had indicated their willingness to continue for the next year, were accepted *nem con*:

Duncan Campbell (Treasurer)
Denise Overnell
Julian Overnell (Magazine Editor)
Michael Turner (Secretary).

Michael stated that he would be standing down at the next AGM, having completed three years in the post.

The following had decided to stand down this year:

Margaret Gravell
Alistair James (Programme Convenor) said that he wished to take a break from his duties for one year
Fiona Macdougall (Membership Secretary)

The following members were re-elected to the Committee:

Martin Petrie (Librarian) was eligible for re-election and this was proposed by Jill Bowis; seconded by Julian Overnell.
Kenneth Carmichael (Newsletter Editor) was also so eligible and his re-election was proposed by Alistair James; seconded by Michael Turner.

There were no nominations for any of the vacant positions which comprised: Chairman, Programme Convenor and Membership Secretary. Michael Turner said that the Society could continue for the forthcoming year, but after that unless the posts of Chairman and Secretary could be filled, the outlook for the continuation of the society was bleak.

7) Future activities: Secretary invited members to produce a field guide/inventory of sites of archaeological interest in Lorn. This would involve discussions with local landowners and the finished booklet could include sketches and photographs, information on places to park and suggested routes. The work could be divided amongst members, but at least 6 would be needed to make such a project viable. Those interested should contact Michael.

8) **AOCB:** Jill Bowis invited members to participate in the Local Origins and Resources Network (LORN), which she and Tim Bowis host on a regular basis at Kintallen Farm. There was opportunity to excavate a probable mill site near the farm buildings.

9) **Date of next AGM:** This was set for 6th Nov 2009.

The AGM ended at approx 19:45

The AGM was followed by a buffet supper and a very interesting slide show, presented by Robert MacCulloch and Charles Drummond, of old photographs of the environs of Oban, particularly Kilmore, Taynuilt and Bonawe.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society will be held at 7.00 pm on Friday 6th November 2009 in the Main Hall, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban

This is the time for members to take part in decisions, which affect the future of the Society. Food and refreshments in the form of a Buffet Supper will be available and this will be followed by a slide show given by Robert McCulloch and Charles Drummond (see Winter Programme for details). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the AGM held on 7th November 2008
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Secretary's report on the year's activities
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Editor's report
- 7 Election of Office Bearers and Committee members
- 8 Any other business
- 9 Date of next AGM

Present Committee

LAHS Office Bearers and Committee Members

President: Margaret Kay
Margaret was unanimously elected Life President at the 2007 AGM

Chairperson: 'Vacant'
Please put your names forward to the Secretary before the AGM on 7th November

Secretary: Michael Turner

Michael has completed three years in post and wishes to stand down.
Please put your names forward to the Secretary before the AGM on 7th
November

Treasurer: Duncan Campbell (eligible for re-election)

Current Committee Members (year elected or co-opted)

Kenneth Carmichael (2008): Editor of 'Autumn Newsletter', (eligible for re-election)
Joan Kemp (co-opted 2009): (eligible for election)
Denise Overnell (2007): (eligible for re-election)
Julian Overnell (2007): Editor of 'Historic Argyll', (eligible for re-election)
Martin Petrie (2008): LAHS Librarian and LAHS Organiser for the
Oban Games, (eligible for re-election)

**Accounts for Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society:
Income and Expenditure for the year ended August 31st 2009**

Income 2008/2009

Subscriptions	634.00	(754.00)
Door Collection	42.00	(24.00)
Bank Interest	2.86*	(56.27)
Magazine Sales	290.35	(352.65)
Donations	4.00	(7.50)
Miscellaneous	61.00	(95.00)
'Awards for All' Grant	1477.00	(0.00)
Total	2511.21	(1289.42)

Expenditure 2008/2009

Subscriptions	84.00	(77.00)
Meetings	182.00	(200.69)
Magazine Printing	328.17	(303.52)
Expenses	245.24	(143.17)
Room Hire	181.00	(232.00)
Insurance	155.72	(144.95)
'Awards for All' Expenditure	1438.00	(0.00)
Total	2614.13	(1101.33)

You will see that for the year 2008/2009 the Society has, so far, a deficit of £102.92. However, the bank interest from our deposit account (*) has still to be added to our income: so our losses for this season will not be too great. The grant of £1477.00 from 'Awards for All' was for a digital projector, laptop and display boards. The income under the heading Miscellaneous comes from the sale of books donated to the Society which are surplus to the library's requirements. The Society still has a balance of about £2500 in its bank accounts