



## Autumn Newsletter 2014

### Secretary's Report

This has been a busy year, but not quite as busy as last year – perhaps we were all exhausted with the effort of arranging an outstanding programme for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!

We have had an extremely interesting series of lectures this session. Nick Maclean-Bristol started the year with a talk on the Maclean's of Coll; John Purser and Meg Bateman gave a memorable audio-visual presentation 'Window to the West' – a celebration of Gaelic history & culture in St John's Cathedral; David McClay of the National Library gave us an absorbing account of the life of David Livingstone, whilst Neil Horne regaled us with insights on St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe. Tony Pollard gave a fascinating lecture on the battlefields of WW1, and Ewan Campbell (also of Glasgow University) gave a riveting talk on the archaeology of St Columba's Monastery on Iona – sadly this co-incided with dreadful weather, so a number of people were unable to get to the lecture. Local speakers, John Macfarlane and Catherine Gilles, enlightened us on Christian sites around Muckairn, and prayerbook massacres at Gylen Castle on Kerrera.

It is great that we can attract such excellent speakers to the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society. We always offer speakers a meal and overnight accommodation, which travellers from afar often find useful. If any Society members would be interested in offering hospitality to visiting speakers, please let me know. It is usually a very pleasant task!

We have more intellectual delights in store this year, starting in October with a visit from archaeologist Martin Carruthers who works for UHI and is doing research from Orkney. As usual, our AGM will be on the first Friday in November – this year November 7<sup>th</sup>; then on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, Prof Clive Bonsall of Edinburgh University will come and give the talk we missed when he had to cancel due to breaking his leg in a skiing accident a couple of years ago. I'm sure that the talk will be worth the wait! On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Elaine McChesney, whom many of us know from her work at Dunollie, will come and talk on her research into Union Poor Houses of Argyll. January's talk will be given by Roddy Campbell, and in February, Dr Annie Tindley of Dundee University will come and speak to us; she has been researching the Argyll estate papers and comes highly recommended. In March, the John Macfarlane is going to give an illustrated talk on some of the stories behind the names on the Taynuilt war memorial. Finally, in April, we are hoping to confirm a talk on cattle rustling and the Falkirk trysts.

For Summer outings, we are planning a visit to Castle Stalker. If there are other places or excavations members would like to visit, please let us know – it is not easy for your committee to second-guess what members really want!

At the end of this newsletter, there is a membership form for the new season – please fill this in and bring it to the first meeting in October or post it to the membership secretary, Alan Watt, (details on the form). Membership represents superb value at £10 per year, £15 for couples – just over a £1 per meeting (instead of £3 at the door) PLUS a fascinating journal.



## Treasurer's Report

LAHS Interim Treasurer's Report. August 2014.  
As at August 2014 for the 2013/14 year;

Income.		Meeting expenses	£156.36
Subscriptions	£455	Magazine	£405.75
Non-member fees	£172	Insurance, other	£193.10
Magazine sales	£283	TOTAL Expenses =	£907.65
Donations etc.	£ 43.72		
TOTAL INCOME =	£953.72	Surplus =	£ 46.07
Expenses.		Total in Bank =	£2,275.23
Speaker expenses	£152.44		

## Visit to Kilmartin and Carnasserie Castles on 17<sup>th</sup> May

This visit was lead by Diarmid Campbell, who gave us a fascinating insight into the interwoven histories of Kilmartin and Carnasserie castles. Kilmartin Castle, currently on sale, is an amazingly quirky building – narrow staircases, baths in tiny alcoves and stags heads decorating the walls. Carnasserie Castle is altogether more solid and dignified. Both were once the residence of John Carswell, who is well-known as the person who translated John Knox' prayer book into Gaelic – the first ever Gaelic publication. Further information on Carnasserie Castle. Can be found at [http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertyresults/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL\\_056](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertyresults/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL_056)



Diarmid Campbell talking to the LAHS group at Kilmartin Castle



The main sitting room, Kilmartin castle



All mod cons – a bathroom in Kilmartin Castle

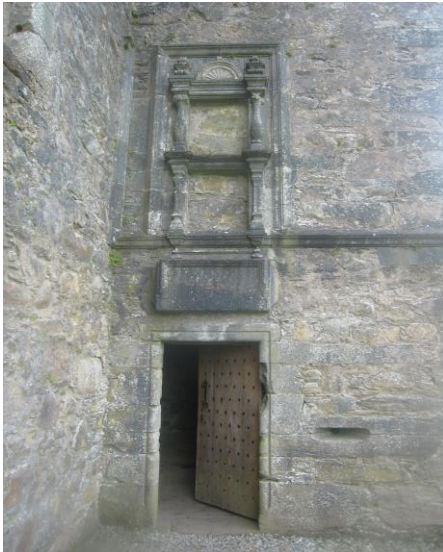


The stunning location of Carnasserie Castle



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Detail from inside Carnasserie Castle



Some folk headed for the top...

### **Autumn lecture programme 2014 - 2015**

We have been able to organise some excellent speakers for this season's meetings, so please note the dates in your diaries and tell your friends.

***All meetings take place at 7:30 pm in St Columba's Church Hall, Corran Esplanade, Oban, unless otherwise intimated.***

**Fri 17th October** – *Martin Carruthers (UHI, Orkney – Archaeology). 'Underworlds and Upper-worlds of the Scottish Iron Age'*

**Fri 7th November** AGM. *Your chance to have your say about the Society (at 7:30 in the Roman Catholic Church hall) - followed by another selection of Bob McCulloch and Charlie Drummond's wonderful slides of Old Oban.*

**Fri 21st November** – *Prof Clive Bonsall on The 'Obanian problem' revisited: coastal adaptation in the Mesolithic of western Scotland.*

**Fri 13th December** - *Elaine McChesney on 'The Union Poor House - Oliver Twist, Oban and beyond'*

**Fri 16th January 2014** – *Ken McTaggart on the MacPhedrons of benderloch & Loch Awer= (arrowmakers and ferry operators)*

**Fri 20th February** - *Dr Annie Tindley, Dundee University, on "They sow the wind, they reap the whirlwind!" Estates and their management in the nineteenth century Scottish Highlands and Islands'*

**Fri 20th March** – *John Macfarlane "The Soldiers' Story TAYNUILT WAR MEMORIAL" A selection with pictures from a collection of biographies of those who died ?*

**Fri 17th April** – *Dr Emsley Nimmo on 'St Moluag'*



Summer Programme 2015 – to be announced

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER, 2013 AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH HALL, OBAN AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Chairman for the meeting: Alison Blackwood  
Secretary: Joan Kemp  
Membership Secretary: Alan Watt

There were 22 members of the Society, 3 honorary members and 2 visitors present at the AGM

1. Apologies were received from: Steven Thomas  
Joy Blakeney Adrian Tully  
Trevor Polley Anne Tully  
Nina Robertson Willie Taylor

2. Welcome by the Stand-in Chairman  
Alison Blackwood welcomed members to the AGM

### 3. Minutes of the AGM 2012

The Stand-in Chairman noted that these had been circulated. The following omission was noted and appended to the 2012 Minutes under 'Treasurer's Report' It was agreed that subs be increased to £10 for a single membership, £15 for a couple living at the same address and £2.50 for meetings.

The Minutes were proposed by Diarmid Campbell and seconded by Denise Overnell

4. Matters Arising  
There were none.

### 5. Reports.

#### Chairman's Report

In the absence of a chairman, there was no Chairman's report

#### Secretary's Report

This has been a busy year with a series of extremely interesting lectures. Amongst other fascinating topics, we have heard about Easedale slate; Mesolithic Excavations on Coll, Mull & Islay; the artist, Christian Cameron and Highland medical reforms.

The lecture series for next year is complete and we have some more excellent speakers lined **up, starting in** October with Major Nick Maclean-Bristol, founder of the Project Trust and expert on the history of Coll. Then in



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November, the renowned musicologist, John Purser, and poet, Meg Bateman, are giving us their audio-visual presentation 'Window on the West' – which will take place in St John's Episcopal Cathedral as it is expected to be a very popular evening. Neil Horne's December talk on St Conan's Kirk is not to be missed, and we have more outstanding talks coming up in the new year.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Income over the year: Subs	£368
Visitors	£70.50
Magazine	£199
50th Anniversary	£360
Total=	£997.50

#### Expenses:

Room & meetings	£236.82
Speaker & other	£132.15
Insurance, website, etc.	£260.01
Magazine	£392.48
50th Anniversary	£373.11
Total =	£1394.57

(Loss) = (£397.07)

The Savings Account was discontinued by the Bank and total of £1905.44 was transferred into the cheque a/c.

Bank balance at 30 Sept 2013 = £2252.85

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We continue to operate at a loss and use some of our reserve.

Magazines go to members as part of the subscription. Minimum print run mean spare magazines are produced at minimal cost. Sales are of this surplus and so help offset the printing cost.

The 50th Anniversary event almost covered its expense.

Subscription price was increased at last AGM for the 2013-14 year.

Any donations will be gratefully received!

Trevor Polley LAHS Treasurer 2012-13.



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There was some discussion about the implications of the downturn in finances. Peter Kemp pointed out that magazine sales, membership subscriptions and visitor numbers were all well down this year. He quoted the following figures: subs down by 12%, visitors down by 44% and magazine down by 52%. The acting chairperson asked him for suggestions. Peter said it needed to be addressed in committee. Nevin Blackwood suggested that there had been additional expenses due to celebrating 50 years of the Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society. It was agreed that the committee should look carefully at the financial situation of the society and work out a strategy for the future..

Report Proposed by Peter Kemp and seconded by Michael Turner

#### 5. Magazine Editor's report

In Adrian's absence, Julian Overnell gave a brief report. He thanked contributors, particularly Alison Blackwood, Martin Petrie, Alastair and Zoe Fleming and Charles Hunter from the Society. He felt that costs were being kept down as far as possible. Magazine sales were down this year, despite committee members arranging for the magazine to be sale at a large number of local outlets and at the Argyllshire gathering..

#### 6. Election of Officebearers and Committee

Julian Overnell chaired the committee elections

The following members of the committee had agreed to stand for a further year:

Chairman –

Secretary: Joan Kemp.

Treasurer: Trevor Polley.

Magazine Editor: Adrian Tully.

Committee Member: Alison Blackwood.

Committee Member: Alan Watt:

Catherine Gilles was proposed by Joan Kemp, seconded by Julian Overnell

Diarmid Campbell was proposed by Alison Blackwood, seconded by Joan Kemp

#### 7. AOCB

Presentations of a plant and wine were made to Denise and Julian Overnell as a small 'thank you' for their wonderful service in providing refreshments for LAHS meetings. Julian said that they were prepared to do this for one more year. A presentation to Martin Petrie for all his work for the society over many years was deferred as Martin was not present.

#### 8. Date of next year's AGM

Friday, 7th November, 2014.



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**Membership form 2014-2015**

I wish to become a member of / renew my subscription to the Society for the year 2014-2015 and am enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to LAHS. (£10 individual; £15 couple)

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Post code.....

Tel no.....

E-mail address.....

Amount      £.....      date.....

*Please send to the membership secretary:*

Alan Watt, Ardtalla, 6 Brochroy Croft, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1JQ  
 Tel: 01866 822120, Email alanwatt\_uk@yahoo.co.uk

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*For society use as a receipt*

Received from:

Name.....

Amount.....      Date.....



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Signed.....