

Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 14th May 2017 at the Pomona Inn, Finstown
Starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Andrew Appleby – President
Norman Shearer – in the Chair
Anna Elmy – Hon. Secretary
Fiona Lettice – Hon. Treasurer

Jim Chalmers
Mark Newton
Xandra Shearer
David Reid
Rachel Boak – Minute Secretary

The Trustees thanked everyone who had been involved in making the John Rae Festival from 5th to 8th May such a success.

Treasurer, Fiona Lettice, reported that we made £4263.36 during the Festival weekend. This includes sales of raffle and lottery tickets, Jane Hamilton's book, *Finding John Rae*, other merchandise, new membership fees and donations. Donations are still coming in and the latest overall figure for the weekend, plus money that has come in since, is £6100.

Rachel Boak reported that there are 21 new members since the last meeting in March (10 from Orkney, two from Scotland, seven from elsewhere in the UK and two from overseas). Five people joined over the Festival weekend. We are really grateful to the members who volunteered to help during the Festival and who attended events.

A review of the Festival weekend is available on the JRS website:

<http://www.johnraesociety.com/blog/85-2017-festival-report>. The next newsletter will report on Festival events and should be out by mid-June.

Rachel Boak led a trail around Stromness for children on Friday 19 May as part of the 2017 Orkney Nature Festival. It was inspired by John Rae's writings about his childhood and brought in other explorers and important figures in the history of Stromness. Alison Nimmo from the RSPB helped with wildlife input and other activities en route around the town. You can find a review of this event on the Society's website.

Looking ahead, we hope to hold more open days at the Hall of Clestrain later in the summer, and events around John Rae's birthday on 30th September.

A quantity surveyor has visited the Hall of Clestrain to quote for work required to make the building wind and watertight. We are also hoping to arrange a visit from a timber specialist who can comment on how much of the timber in the building is original and how much it is possible to preserve. Following this visit we hope to commission the work immediately necessary to stabilise the Hall.

The next Board meeting will take place in July.