

Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 27th August 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

Neil Kermode
David Reid
Xandra Shearer
Rachel Boak – Minute Secretary

Rachel Boak reported that there are nine new members since the last meeting in July (one from Orkney, three from Scotland, four from elsewhere in the UK and one from overseas – Canada). We discussed whether it would be worthwhile planning a membership promotion at some point. It was suggested that a downloadable bequest form should be created and added to the website to prompt people to consider a bequest to the JRS.

We held an open afternoon at the Hall of Clestrain on Sunday 23rd July and had a tent at the Dounby Show on 10th August. Asking people to donate for tea and coffee worked well and we also sold books and merchandise. Around 80 people attended on 23rd July, Radio Orkney came along, and three new members joined. One new member joined at the Dounby Show and we made over £300 from donations and sales of lottery tickets and JRS merchandise.

We decided to cancel the Hall open afternoon on 3rd September because there aren't enough people around to run the event, and agreed to work on promoting the birthday weekend at the end of September.

Andrew summarised the programme for John Rae's birthday weekend in September:

Friday 29th September – Andrew will introduce a short folk recital by Geordie and Alison McIntyre at Stromness Town Hall. They have made a new CD to raise funds for the Hall of Clestrain. Dr Claire Warrior, Senior Exhibitions Curator at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, will then give a lecture on the current *Death in the Ice* exhibition. Books, raffle and lottery tickets will be for sale.

Saturday 30th September – We will have the usual graveside commemorations for John Rae's birthday in the kirkyard of St Magnus Cathedral and a performance of the John Rae Reel by the Maureen Findlay School of Dance on Kirk Green. On Saturday afternoon we will be at the Hall of Clestrain for an open afternoon. On Saturday evening Geordie and Alison McIntyre will sing again and we will show the film *Passage* at the Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall Grammar School. The JRS lottery will be drawn that evening.

Sunday 1st October – We will be at the Hall of Clestrain for another open afternoon.

We hope to have a stand at the UHI Archaeology Institute conference from 15th to 17th September at the Orkney Theatre. Dr Astrid Ogilvie from the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Iceland will give a paper titled, 'The Spotted Sun: John Rae, Vilhjálmur Stefansson and the Friendly Arctic,' on the 17th.

We are continuing to work on a planning application for a temporary visitor centre at the Hall of Clestrain. We are grateful to people who have offered their services or have volunteered to help with projects at the Hall.

The next Board meeting will take place in October. The AGM will be on 12th November.