

# Aglooka Advisor

Spring 2019

Issue No. 8

The  
John Rae  
Society



**Aglooka Advisor**

**Spring 2019**

**Issue No.8**

President's Report	page 4
Eric Marwick: an obituary	page 6
Polar Exploration: article by John Ramwell	page 7
Dr John Rae Commemorated on an Unusual Scale: links to an article by Rognvald Boyd on the JRS website	page 8
Two Art Exhibitions: article by Sigrid Appleby	page 9
RICS honours John Rae: report by Fiona Gould	page 10
Hall of Clestrain: archaeological report by Dan Lee	page 10
Memories of Two Canadians: article by Anne Clark	page 11
An Unexpected Guest: newspaper report from 1858 submitted by Fiona Sutherland	page 12
Take the Torch: book review	page 13
Arctic Return Expedition: update by David Reid	page 14
Poster Competition: results	page 15
Notices	page 16

*Photo on front cover by John Welburn, ABIPP, showing roof patches, new guttering and heavy-duty plastic covering on windows.*

### **Patrons**

Dr Peter St John, The Earl of Orkney

Ken McGoogan, Author

Ray Mears, Author & TV Presenter

Bill Spence, Lord Lieutenant of Orkney

Sir Michael Palin

Magnus Linklater CBE

### **Board of Trustees**

(in alphabetical order by surname)

Andrew Appleby — Jim Chalmers — Anna Elmy — Neil Kermod — Fiona Lettice

Mark Newton — Norman Shearer

### **Committee**

President — Andrew Appleby

Chairman — Norman Shearer

Honorary Secretary — Anna Elmy

Honorary Treasurer — Fiona Lettice

Webmaster and Social Media — Mark Newton

Membership Secretary — Fiona Gould

Administrative Secretary — Julie Cassidy

### **Registered Office**

The John Rae Society

7 Church Road

Stromness

Orkney KW16 3BA

Tel: 01856 851414

e-mail: [info@johnraesociety.com](mailto:info@johnraesociety.com)

Newsletter Editor — Fiona Gould

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Board of Trustees of the John Rae Society.

## President's Report 2018

Last year's donation of £40,000 brought our Hall of Clestrain purchase fund to within reach of the desired sum. We paid £15,000 to Ivan and Jean Craigie as a further token of intent, leaving £56,100 owing.

Our May John Rae Festival brought in further funding. Ken McGoogan was our guest speaker, and his visit was highly important. Our improving profile was raised considerably.

Ken's involvement with **Arctic Return** is very significant. This four-man expedition, led by David Reid, will trace the route of John Rae's expedition when he found the terrible evidence of the fate of the Franklin expedition. He also discovered the true North West Passage where new ice signified a route that would melt later in the summer.

Team member, Andrew Appleby, is delighted to let you know that the expedition is now very nearly funded.

Because of close correspondence with David of Arctic Return, it was made possible for **Adventure Canada** Cruises to visit The Hall of Clestrain. Their experience of the visit and ours was splendid. With Ken, David, Andrew Bresnahan and myself available as team representatives, the passengers had an excellent experience. JRS members and trustees worked hard to make the five coach parties welcome and comfortable with refreshments and merchandise. Paddy Casey supplied the portable toilets again.

We organized auction items on board the cruise liner and Adventure Canada conducted two Charity evenings on our behalf. Combined

with a matching donation from Adventure Canada itself, we were in receipt of £3,500 from them towards the purchase of The Hall of Clestrain. They also became our first corporate member.

Arrangements are being made for future Adventure Canada visits.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September, we showed the film 'Passage' to members of The Caledonian Club. This was compered by Tom Muir and was a huge success. Neil Kermodé was present and his support was most welcome.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September I gave a short presentation at a conference on Naval Exploration at The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. I spoke of our activities and our aims/ambitions for The Hall of Clestrain.

During all these activities, two American visitors who were on another cruise wished to arrange a visit round The Hall of Clestrain. Member, John Welburn showed them round. The outcome was that Mr. William Miller pledged the sum of £9,500, the amount then required to secure the Hall of Clestrain.

Our **September Festival** was the most fundamentally important of all. Firstly we had a successful open day at The Hall of Clestrain in almost Arctic conditions. Then there was a superb reception at The Pier Arts Centre for Dr. **Barbara Rae RA's exhibition** of North West Passage paintings. This was a most enjoyable event, bringing many folk together in recognition of her work and of John Rae's.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September, John Rae's birthday, the service in St.

Magnus Cathedral was pertinent to John Rae and being present was a most rewarding experience. I had the honour of reading extracts from a letter written by his wife, Kate Rae, thanking the Kirkwall folk for their help and support during her husband's funeral.

After this service, the Maureen Findlay Dancers performed 'The John Rae Reel' to perfection.

At John Rae's graveside, Harvey Johnston again performed a rendition of his poetic ode to John Rae. Ian Ritchie proffered the traditional libation of Highland Park whisky. The sun shone brilliantly on John Rae's resting place, making the floral arrangements radiate good will.

In the evening Orkney Distillery provided the venue for our **John Rae Birthday Lottery and Auction** event. The new Fanfare to John Rae was performed by composer John Jones. Speeches opening the event were applauded: Evelyn Rendall read out Kate Rae's poignant letter in full. The Wrigley Sisters played their *Air to John Rae* and a selection of other compositions. The Auction commenced with keen interest from the assembled crowd. The JR Birthday Draw was completed with all due ceremony and drama. Then came the main event of the evening — the presentation of the cheque for the balance of the Hall of Clestrain to Ivan and Jean Craigie of £56,100. A huge cheer erupted as The Hall changed ownership to The John Rae Society.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, our first **archaeology day** happened at The Hall of Clestrain, headed by Dan Lee of ORCA. The results were astounding! Undiscovered cobbled pathways were located in the walled

garden. A stone bowl was found in Low Dykes, along with the doo cot and a possible sub rectangular building of some antiquity. A section close to the burn showed probable Bronze Age occupation deposits.

Everybody got thoroughly soaked but a thoroughly good time was had by all!

\*\*\*

Regrettably, last May we all learned of the sudden passing of Xandra Shearer. Our sympathies remain still with Norman. She and Norman were both founding members of The John Rae Society and Trustees. Xandra's quick wit and wisdom will forever be missed.

Now we own The Hall of Clestrain, I would like to thank all those who have helped us selflessly on our path to this : Margaret Walters, Denise Bullen, Anna Gudge, Sigrid Appleby, Duncan MacNeish and Paddy Casey certainly come to mind.

Our Webmaster, Mark Newton has coped magnificently with all the updates, and hits on our site have rocketed and donations increased.

Rachel Boak, who became our Administrative Secretary, amongst many other posts, has passed her duties on. We have a new Minutes Secretary in Anne Lea; Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Fiona Gould; and Administrative Secretary, Julie Cassidy.

Rachel's constant hard work and effort has contributed greatly to the status of The John Rae Society, and for that she must be truly thanked.

**Andrew Appleby**

## Eric Marwick 1946-2018



I was on my way to a special evening at Stromness Museum when I first noticed Eric's work. It was displayed in the Museum window and it stopped me dead!

I was 'raised' in a pottery where hand-painted white clay figures were individually made. His work brought all that experience back to me. The sheer detail, clay body, colours, skill and firing temperature told me I was going to meet an expert.

The exhibition was about Stromness traveller and explorer, John Renton. The humour wrought from clay was enormously evident. Minute, almost hidden, detail revealed the mastery and intellect of the sculptor, Eric Marwick. *'The Escape'* depicting a naked John Renton standing in the jaws of a great white whale is exceptional. John is there, confident, relaxed and just watching for opportunity.

We come to another of Eric's passions — John Rae, the 'lost'

explorer. We all know now how the amazing Dr. John Rae was painted out of history. He brought the devastating news home to The Admiralty of the fate of John Franklin's Arctic Expedition, confidentially reporting cannibalism amongst his men, as a last resort against starvation. John Rae was subsequently vilified! Along with the Inuit nation, who gave John Rae the irrefutable evidence. His and their reputations were thus crushed.

Eric created a brilliant sculpture of Dr. John Rae and Sir John Franklin playing chess, entitled *'A Wrong and Right Move'* ; a distinctly Arctic theme runs through the chess pieces. Rae in his Inuit-made clothing and Franklin dressed more formally, the couple make a splendid composition. Of course John Rae and John Franklin knew each other personally: Lady Franklin presented Dr. Rae with a specially engraved sporting gun. It may well actually be true that these two eminent men did play chess together at some time?



*A Wrong and a Right Move*

Here, as president of The John Rae Society, I want to thank Eric. He sold this piece, along with another, and donated the proceeds of £2,000 to The John Rae Society. This was specifically to go towards the protection of The Hall of Clestrain, John Rae's family home. We have

now purchased this building and it is being made wind and watertight as I write.

Very sadly, Eric became seriously ill last year. He died shortly after as a result. Many mourn his lost talents, but his work will be his monument. In particular the small things: a series of spoons depicting diverse characters; one of Ned Spence, an amazing Orcadian boatman and ghillie. I knew him well and Eric caught this man's special wit and posture perfectly — another memorial of Eric's passion for wild brown trout fishing and a true man of the loch.

In recognition of Eric's generous contribution to JRS we have given his wife, Sally, an honorary life membership.

## **Andrew Appleby**

### **Polar Exploration**

I have long held an interest in the early days of Polar exploration. Known as the 'Heroic Age,' it is generally considered to begin as the First World started and end when Sir Ernest Shackleton died in 1922, out in South Georgia.

I shall start with the first half of the 19th century in the Arctic regions when parts of the Northwest Passage were explored separately on a number of expeditions, including those led by John Ross, William Edward Parry, James Clark Ross; and overland expeditions led by John Franklin, George Back, Peter Warren Dease, Thomas Simpson, and John Rae.

Sir Robert McClure was credited with the discovery of the Northwest

Passage by sea in 1851 when he looked across McClure Strait from Banks Island and viewed Melville Island. However, the strait was blocked by young ice at this point in the season, and not navigable to ships. The only usable route, linking the entrances of Lancaster Sound and Dolphin and Union Strait, was first used by John Rae in 1851. Rae used a pragmatic approach of travelling by land on foot and dog sled.

The Northwest Passage was not completely conquered by sea until 1906, when the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen completed a three-year voyage in the converted 47-ton herring boat Gjøa. His route was not commercially practical; in addition to the time taken, some of the waterways were extremely shallow. But he did it.

Knud Rasmussen (1879—1933) led several Arctic expeditions. He grew up in Greenland and was the first Greenlander of Inuit and European descent to cross the Northwest Passage via dog sled.

There are many common denominators to the challenges facing both Arctic and Antarctic explorers and there are also many differences. Many are obvious enough, such as the domination of ice free land, polar bears, human inhabitants and the proximity of civilisation in the form of the Hudson Bay Company in the Arctic. Whereas in the Southern Hemisphere, the Antarctic is famous for Emperor Penguins, and is an extensive area of inhospitable ice. Another major difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic is that in the Arctic, the North Pole is located in the middle of the ocean, whereas in the Antarctic, the South Pole is



located on a continent completely covered by millions of cubic metres of ice.

Linking both Polar Areas together is the hard fact that dangerous oceans, atrocious weather conditions and totally inadequate means have fettered explorers attempting to travel through these perils by sight, boat, and on foot until fairly recent times. This has meant they have suffered greatly and often died in the process.

The stories of Polar Exploration in both hemispheres over the last couple of centuries have been remarkable in their accounts of bravery, stupidity, fortitude, selfishness, selflessness and improvisation, as well as the gain of huge amounts of geographical and scientific understanding and knowledge.

I am proud of my library of books on Polar Exploration. Though I have yet to read many of them, I have found them to be a collection of adventure stories of a profound nature that have kept me well occupied whilst providing much inspiration. Consequently I feel able to make comparisons between various explorers and their different environments.

One of my 'role models' has been Sir Ernest Shackleton and, as is the case with other heroes, I find that he has his flaws. This makes him human.

BUT the one traveller, the one explorer, whom I have not found reason to doubt is Dr John Rae.

**John Ramwell** FRGS, MRIN

## Dr John Rae Commemorated on an Unusual Scale

Rognvald Boyd, a Scottish geologist with Orcadian connections and a member of the Society (who has lived and worked in Norway for over 40 years) has sent us an article showing how John Rae is distinguished in geological records. As he points out at the beginning of his article, 'men ... are commemorated in many ways in addition to their gravestones and traditional monuments of various kinds'. The map below shows an area designated the 'Rae Craton' extending from Lake Athabasca northwards across Baffin Island, from where it is shown, in other publications, as extending beneath the ice on Greenland.



Figure 2: Simplified geology of part of the Canadian Shield (based on Pehrsson et al., 2013)

The article also gives insight into the mineral resources of the area as well as its geological history. From the 19th century it was recognised that there were sizeable metal deposits and mining is an important industry there to this day.

We have placed this article, which includes three other maps, on the John Rae Society website and strongly recommend that you read it



## Two Art Exhibitions

In September 2018 the Pier Arts Centre showed a series paintings and prints by the celebrated Scottish artist Barbara Rae (CBE, RA, RSA and other honours). They were a selection from the original exhibition 'North West Passage' at the RSA Edinburgh held during and after the Festival. It was said that the Exhibition looked better in the much smaller setting of the Pier. Anyway, it was a stunning show of her Arctic paintings and prints. These were the result of her three expeditions to the Northern Territories and Greenland. She made preparatory studies on board, which were on display at the exhibition, before she settled down to create large paintings on paper in her studio. Barbara's personality shines through her work. She's bold and not afraid of introducing excitement and strong colours, sometimes showing the drama of nature. Her themes were icebergs, floating ice on dark water, glaciers, sunrises, isolated huts and birds and animals.

Following the Pier Arts Centre another selection from the original exhibition travelled to Canada House, London and is later to be shown in Toronto, Canada.

Barbara emphasised that without the story of John Rae she would not have undertaken these voyages. They became her inspiration to this magnificent exhibition.



*Light at Jacobshavn*

The RA brought out a book based on the North West Passage Exhibition with excellent colour plates which is much more than a catalogue, with an introduction by Professor Duncan MacMillan.

During the summer months Barbara's friend and printing colleague, the architect Ian Ritchie, who met her on the second of the Arctic expeditions, showed a series of ciclee prints at the Stromness Library. He is an extraordinary person, multi-talented, and print-making is just one of his many joys. He's also an RA and shows regularly at the Academy. He had selected a smallish number for this exhibition of Standing Stones from Orkney and arctic atmospheric sea and snow scenes. His colours vary from soft greys and pinks, black, orange, yellow and magenta. They appear as semi-abstract impressions —very pleasing to the eye.

**Sigrid Appleby**  
**RICS Honours John Rae**

In September last year the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors recognised John Rae's achievements by appointing him posthumously as an honorary chartered surveyor.

It was an excellent event, supported generously by Highland Park, who supplied ample amber liquid for the evening reception.

The President of RICS made a fine speech and presented the award to the President of the John Rae society, Andrew Appleby, on behalf of Orkney and the JRS. Tom Muir spoke magnificently of John Rae's character and history. Harvey Johnston, representing Orkney Islands Council, did a brilliant recital of his extraordinary poetic piece he rendered at the Statue unveiling. He was accorded a standing ovation!

RICS arranged an exhibition in Parliament Square as part of their 150th birthday celebrations. This included exhibits relating to John Rae. For this the JRS assisted in sourcing Inuit artefacts and Orkney bone spoons from Stromness Museum and items lent by Andrew Appleby.

The photograph in the next column shows HM Queen Elizabeth, patron of RICS, examining the case containing these items on her visit on November 20th.

## **Fiona Gould**



*Photo by Christopher Andreou*

## **Hall of Clestrain: walkover survey**

A team from the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) and 9 participants undertook a walkover survey around the Hall of Clestrain on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The aims were to record sites that relate specifically to the house, and sites from other periods, in order to put the house into a wider context. Archaeological walkover surveys are used to record earthworks and structures in the landscape using basic techniques: a written, sketch-drawn and photographic record, along with recording the location of sites with hand-held GPS. Participants were trained in basic techniques of field recognition and recording.

The survey covered the walled garden, the area around the house and the trackway to the road, recording sites from all periods. The site of a nearby prehistoric standing stone and hut circle were also visited. In total, 17 sites were recorded. Within the walled garden, landscape garden features were recorded: a mound, pathways, pond and old trees. The garden wall itself is very

high with decorative recesses. Just to the north, outside the garden, a large earthwork with a knocking stone could relate to an earlier phase of farm buildings. Along the trackway to the east, a World War II search light emplacement was recorded. The walled garden would have been in use during the time of John Rae's childhood. The range of sites recorded during the survey demonstrate the rich history of the Hall of Clestrain area.

Future work could record some of the walkover sites in more detail and conduct geophysical survey to further characterise the garden, potential former farm buildings and prehistoric sites.

Participants commented:

*'For me, the most interesting part of the course was seeing the approach taken to initially survey the land. It really gets you thinking more about what could be under your feet and begin to think outside the box more.'*

*'Very clear explanation with follow-up and support on the ground'*

*'I did not really know what to expect before arriving and was unsure whether or not I would be of any use, but it was fantastic.'*

*'Really useful to learn more about GPS and methods of landscape recording'*

*'A really useful day. Many thanks for arranging it.'*

*'I look forward to participating in future events and learning more!'*

### **Dan Lee**

ORCA Lifelong Learning & Outreach  
Archaeologist

### **Memories of Two Canadians, Dr John Rae Supporters**

In 2008, I was left a small legacy and spent it on a dream I have had since childhood — to visit the Canadian Arctic and follow the Northwest Passage. As a schoolgirl I had been taught in history that Sir John Franklin had discovered the Northwest Passage but I discovered on my Arctic journey that Dr John Rae was in fact the hero. On this Arctic journey, I came to share a cabin with someone I had never met before but we became firm friends and we both were greatly interested in John Rae and decided we would find out much more about him. Frances Jean from Fort McMurray in Canada and myself, Anne Clark, also a Canadian but living in the UK, decided we would start from the beginning and go to Orkney to search out the facts.



*Frances Jean beside his memorial*

In 2015 we made the journey. We were treated royally by the John Rae Society and they took us to see the Hall of Clestrain. David Reid who took us around gave us so much background into Rae's childhood. He made the visit memorable. We visited all the sites, museums, burial and memorial sites we could and found Rae became alive to us. It

was interesting that when we went in to a café or spoke to locals who wanted to know where we were from and why we were visiting, when we told them we were researching John Rae, we immediately were given such a warm welcome and given so much information. He is a true son of Orkney. We both came home and became life time members of the society. Although we both live a long way from Orkney, we have both followed the society's activities with great interest. We were both planning to return to Orkney and to see the restoration of the Hall of Clestrain but sadly my dear friend, Frances, has recently passed away so we will not be able to visit together but I still hope before too long to return.

### **Anne Clark**



*Anne Clark at the Hall of Clestrain in 2015*

### **An Unexpected Guest: Dr John Rae in Lochaber**

In the autumn of 1856 a curious report made the pages of many British newspapers, it recounted the

tale of Dr Rae attending a dinner in Lochaber: <sup>1</sup>

Dr Rae had been a guest of Edward "Bear" Ellice MP at his Highland home, Glenquoich Lodge, Lochaber. A fur trader, merchant and Whig politician who had held cabinet posts between 1830 and 1834, Ellice had a special interest in Canada due to his large landholdings there and at one time he had unsuccessfully tried to buy out the Hudson's Bay Company. He had bought the Glen Quoich Estate from the MacDonnell Clan in 1838 and built his lodge by the loch, furnishing it sparsely compared to the fashion of the time.

Dr Rae left the estate to travel to an appointment at Castle Menzies, near Aberfeldy. En route he stayed in an hotel which is not named in the report but was most likely in Fort William, as it was the venue of the Lochaber Agricultural Society's dinner. On his arrival Dr Rae, who was assumed to be a tourist, asked if he might join the gathering and was immediately invited to take a seat. By all accounts "*he made himself particularly agreeable*" and his health was drunk with a toast to the 'Stranger'. Dr Rae then rose to give thanks to the party and made a quite unexpected speech:

*"In the course of my life I have seen some rough days and many pleasant ones. I have lived ten months in a snowhouse without once warming myself at a fire; I have had my mocasins (sic) cut off my legs by a hatchet; I have had to kill my own food with my own gun, and I have been reduced to the necessity of living on bones; but these things are easily forgotten when I meet such a pleasant party as is now around me. As I am an entire stranger to you all*



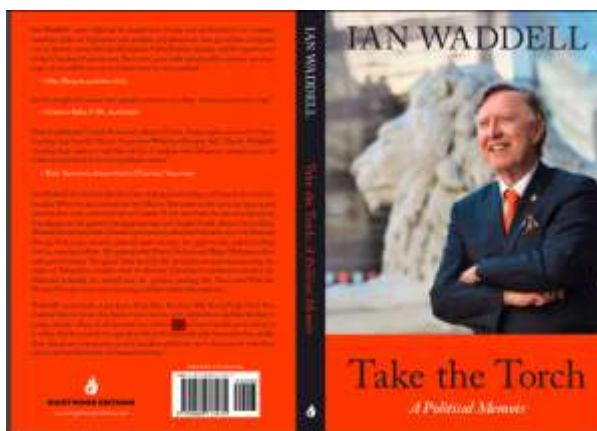
*and as I have received so much kindness from you, it is but fair that you should know who I am; my name is Rae, and you may have it associated with the Franklin Expedition."*

The astonished members took to their feet and gave Dr Rae a very enthusiastic reception; the cheering lasted many minutes. No one had expected that the mysterious, amenable, tourist was none other than John Rae the famous Arctic explorer. Dr Rae went on to show the group some artefacts which were connected to Sir John Franklin's expedition and had helped indicate its probable fate. These included a piece of gold, two silver watches, a small anchor, several coins and a spoon with a crest on it.

This was surely one dinner of the Lochaber Agricultural Society which was remembered and talked about for many years thereafter.

## **Fiona A Sutherland**

<sup>1</sup> The Berwick Journal. Saturday, October 25, 1856.



## **Take the Torch**

*Take the Torch* is the political memoir of Ian Waddell, published in

Canada last November (but not available in the UK until March this year). Reviews describe it as 'compelling'.

Ian, a fervent admirer of John Rae and a member of the Society, was born in Glasgow but emigrated as a child to Canada, where he studied Law. As a young storefront lawyer he defended Indigenous people who were disadvantaged by the existing legal system and helped to bring about a change in the law. He then assisted in the Mackenzie Pipeline Inquiry, which involved two years travelling among Indigenous people, to assess the social, environmental and economic impact of a proposed gas line that would run through the Yukon and the Mackenzie River Valley of the North-West Territories. (it was not installed.)

Subsequently he had a role in the writing of Section 35 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which recognises and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. This led to an expansion of Indigenous rights in a multitude of ways: Ian himself credits the 'steadfastness of the Aboriginal people, not only their leaders in offices throughout Canada but also the drums that I heard in all those villages and fish camps'. John Rae would have applauded these sentiments!

He gave up law for a political career, serving in the House of Commons for 14 years and in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for 5 years. He never lost interest in protecting Indigenous people, involving them in the planning process for Vancouver's bid to host the Winter Olympics (which succeeded against Quebec and Calgary).

As well as being a lawyer and politician, Ian has been a writer and teacher. Currently he is employed as a film producer and as a consultant in environmental and aboriginal affairs.

I have not been able to read the book but believe it should be interesting.

## **Fiona Gould**

### **Arctic Return Expedition**

Update February 2019

*"Many small streams come together to form one great river"*  
Norwegian expression

With less than two months to go, the process of fine tuning and working on details really comes into play. In almost daily conversations and communications with suppliers, gear companies, journalists, sponsors, related individuals such as sewers and fabricators, airlines, shipping and logistics companies, map designers, communities, food companies, hotels and, perhaps most importantly, team members, the main reason why we are doing this project is never far from mind. The final restoration of the Hall of Clestrain, while down the road, is an amazingly strong motivator.

While David Reid was away working in Antarctica for a month (with limited means of communications) the remaining team members, Garry Tutte, Richard Smith and Frank Wolf, really picked things up and maintained an amazing momentum and energy. The team has really come together over the course of (many, many) emails and phone calls. Having to be 'fitted in' to daily life of kids, families, jobs etc. the

other job of getting physically and mentally fit has to be done. While the physical training — pulling tires, skiing, lifting weights, walking around the grocery store with a 100 lb backpack on etc. has a huge part to play, the mental training too can never be underestimated. This can take many forms: studying topo maps, weather charts, processing and understanding the difficulties and dangers that lie ahead.

Fundraising effort continue unabated as we approach not only the expedition but work now starts on compiling, designing and planning the forthcoming Arctic Return book and film. Special mention should be made here of our three main sponsors; RICS, Canada Goose and Adventure Canada. Three very different, but equally amazing organisations, who from the very start shared the idea, the vision, passion and commitment behind Arctic Return.

## **David Reid**





## Poster Competition

At the suggestion of David Reid, leader of the Arctic Return Expedition, the John Rae Society organized a poster competition in two Orkney schools where the pupils had been learning about John Rae. The winning poster would be converted into a flag which would then be taken on the expedition. It would be returned to the school after the expedition, together with a set of photographs.

Pupils from the school in Naujaat, North Canada were also going to be invited to submit designs.

The only specification was that the poster should include 'Arctic Return' and the name of the school. Otherwise the children were to be given free rein to use their imagination.

Jim Chalmers from the JRS Board of Trustees contacted a number of Orkney Primary schools which had been studying John Rae and eleven entries were received: eight from the Hope School and three from Stromness Primary. All were of a high standard but voting by the JRS Committee selected two winners, one from each school. (The results were a tie.)



The poster above was designed by four pupils in Stromness Primary 2, all aged 6-7 years old. They are: Zac Brazier, Maggie Bevan, Kitty Gray and Nieve Boatwright. Our thanks go to Mrs Ria Kirkpatrick, classteacher for organizing the competition.



This poster was designed by Mathilde Pesci (aged 7) and Caitlin Murray (aged 8). Our thanks go to Mrs Lesley Macleod, classteacher, for arranging the competition.

David Reid was delighted with the posters and said they were exactly what he had been looking for.

The posters have now been made into flags and will be travelling with Arctic Return to Naujaat at the end of this month.

## Fiona Gould

### STOP PRESS

The expedition will be arriving in Naujaat on Monday, March 25th.

## John Rae Society Membership Update

Type of Membership	Number
Annual	55
Standing Order	93
Life	159
Total	307

Members by Area	
Orkney	91
Scotland	89
UK Other	89
Overseas	38

## Diary of Events 2019

### Sat. 23rd March

Open Day at the Hall of Clestrain  
11 a.m. to 4.p.m.

See the wind and watertight works we have undertaken and discuss our future plans. Refreshments and John Rae merchandise will be available.

### Sun.24th March

Exhibitions at Stromness Town Hall  
4 p.m. to 9 p.m. including:

- a model of the Hall of Clestrain
- photography
- Inuit bone and John Rae related items.

Talks in the evening explaining the progress of the John Rae Society and our plans for the Hall of Clestrain followed by discussions and a Question and Answer session. Refreshments and John Rae merchandise will be available.

### Fri. 3rd May to Sun. May 5th John Rae Festival

An exhibition of Inuit and Arctic artefacts, maps and sketches in the

John Rae Room at Stromness Library. Open Days at the Hall of Clestrain. Volunteers needed!

### Sat. 6th September (evening)

Orphir Community Centre.  
A foraged feast inspired by John Rae and our Neolithic forebears by Sam Britten and Andrew Appleby with presentations on foraging. This is a Science Festival event with JRS involvement and Scottish Foraging Fortnight.

### Sun. 8th September

Orphir Community Centre.  
Afternoon. Exciting Presentations on John Rae and the Arctic.

### End of September

John Rae's birthday celebrations.  
Details to be announced.

### THANK YOU

We are grateful for all donations to the Hall of Clestrain fund and would especially like to thank

**Bill Miller of Houston, Texas**  
and

**Pat Garwasiuk of Edmonton, Canada**

for their very generous donations.

And also **Highland Park Distillery** for their donations of whisky and glasses to the RICS exhibition.

### Members' Requests

John Bramwell would appreciate comments on his article 'Polar Exploration' which appears in this issue.

Neil Ferguson would be interested to know if any other JRS members might be going on the Hurtigruten Arctic cruise in August this year.

Reply to:

[membership@johnraesociety.com](mailto:membership@johnraesociety.com)