

**Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 12th November 2017 at the Pomona Inn, Finstown
Following the AGM**

Present:

Andrew Appleby – President
Norman Shearer – Chairman
Anna Elmy – Hon. Secretary

Sigrid Appleby
Jim Chalmers
Hilda Firth
Sandy Firth
Neil Kermode
Davie Reid
Xandra Shearer

Norman reported on HRH, The Duke of Gloucester's visit to the Hall of Clestrain on 24th October. We have received an official thank you letter from the Duke which will be kept with JRS archive material.

We now have JRS business cards which were circulated so that everyone present could see them. They show general contact details for the Society, but individual Trustees can write their own details on the back when they give them to people.

We have been awarded £1000 from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We have 12 months to spend it and will discuss ideas at the next events meeting.

We discussed widening the reach of the JRS by contacting other groups/organisations with similar interests, including the Scottish Arctic Club and Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Web addresses for suggested groups have been added to the links page on the JRS website.

An application to the National Lottery Awards for All has been submitted for a grant to pay for a temporary visitor centre at the Hall of Clestrain from the New Year. This would enable us to hold open days more often, to give visitors a more comfortable space in which to learn about the project, and a place where we could offer refreshments and JRS merchandise more easily than the temporary set-up we have used for open days in 2017.

An events working group meeting will be held soon to plan events for next year, while the Hall of Clestrain working group will meet to discuss next steps for funding applications for the project.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Sunday 28th January 2018 at 7.30pm at the Pomona Inn.