

Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 15th October 2017 at the Pomona Inn, Finstown
Starting at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Mark Newton
Davie Reid
Xandra Shearer
Rachel Boak – Minute Secretary

Rachel Boak reported that there are 18 new members since the last meeting in August (four from Orkney, two from Scotland, seven from elsewhere in the UK and five from overseas – Canada, USA and Italy). Three new members joined at the Hall of Clestrain open afternoons on 30th September and 1st October. There are 265 members overall.

Rachel will be working on the next newsletter during November. This time it will be mostly made up of contributions from members. There will be reports on the birthday weekend's events and the visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 24th October.

Andrew and Neil attended the UHI Archaeology Institute conference, *Our Islands, Our Past*, on Sunday 17th September and there was general interest in the JRS stall and one new membership. Dr Astrid Ogilvie gave a paper titled, 'The Spotted Sun: John Rae, Vilhjálmur Stefansson and the Friendly Arctic', a summary of which will appear in the next newsletter.

The John Rae birthday weekend from 29th September to 1st October was felt to have been an overall success, with a large audience at Dr Claire Warrior's lecture in Stromness on Friday 29th and a good turnout at the open afternoons at the Hall of Clestrain on Saturday 30th and Sunday 1st. However, it was agreed that there was a lot on that weekend, so we were competing with other events for an audience. A summary of the weekend's events is on the JRS website:

<http://www.johnraesociety.com/activity/2017-birthday-report>

An events working group meeting will be held soon to plan events for next year.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will follow the AGM on Sunday 12th November at 7.30pm at the Pomona Inn. All are welcome.