

Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 28th January 2018 at the Pomona Inn, Finstown

Present:

Andrew Appleby – President

Norman Shearer – in the Chair

Anna Elmy – Hon. Secretary

Neil Kermode

Mark Newton

Davie Reid

Xandra Shearer

Rachel Boak – Minute Secretary

The Board was updated on the events working group meeting in November 2017. We are planning to hold a second John Rae Festival from 4th to 6th May. The draft programme is as follows:

Friday 4th May Ken McGoogan will give a public lecture at the Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall, at 7.30pm. It will be free to attend, but donations towards the Hall of Clestrain project will be welcome, and John Rae Society raffle, lottery tickets and merchandise will be for sale. Signed copies of Ken McGoogan's books will also be available.

Saturday 5th May Hall of Clestrain all-day event. We will show visitors around the Hall and explain what we have achieved already, and what we are planning for the future, with opportunities for visitors to comment. We have a rolling PowerPoint presentation about the building and the Society's plans, as well as a scale model of the Hall and various survey documents which will be available to view. There will be refreshments and a sales table with JRS raffle, lottery tickets, merchandise, and another opportunity to buy Ken McGoogan's books. Membership forms will also be available.

Sunday 6th May Hall of Clestrain all-day event following the same format as Saturday. Then there will be a showing of John Walker's 2008 documentary film *Passage* about John Rae's search for Franklin at 7.30pm in Stromness Town Hall. It will be free to attend, but donations towards the Hall of Clestrain project will be welcome, and JRS raffle, lottery tickets and merchandise will be for sale.

Other events planned for 2018 include a lecture by Tom Muir on his 2017 NW Passage trip on 2nd April, summer open days at the Hall of Clestrain, screenings of *Passage* in the outer isles, the JRS at Dounby Show, and John Rae's birthday weekend from 29th to 30th September. The 2018 lottery will be drawn during this weekend.

The Board discussed required wind and watertight repairs at the Hall of Clestrain and funding options for this and other ambitions, such as the appointment of a project manager.

We are also excited about the expedition being planned by David Reid and Ken McGoogan to retrace John Rae's steps in the Arctic. See <https://www.arcticreturn.com/>. We hope the publicity and the fundraising for this trip will also generate interest in, and funds for, the Hall of Clestrain restoration.

Rachel Boak reported that there are six new members since the last meeting in November 2017 (one from Orkney, three from Scotland, and two from overseas – both from Canada). There are 274 members overall. The 2017-2018 autumn/winter newsletter, issue 6 of the *Aglooka Advisor*, is finished and includes reports on John Rae's birthday weekend, the Duke of Gloucester's visit, and contributions from JRS members. The newsletter will be sent out to members by e-mail and post as soon as possible, as well as being on the website.

The next Board meeting will take place in April.

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