

Summary of minutes of the Board Meeting of the John Rae Society
Sunday 30th October 2016 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

Colin Bullen
Denise Bullen
Alan Clouston
Tom Hunter
Mark Newton
Xandra Shearer
John Welburn
Rachel Boak – Minute Secretary

Now that the Hall of Clestrain has been purchased by the Society there was much discussion of immediate next steps. Some members of the Hall committee went to Clestrain with Tom Hunter and compiled a list of immediate repairs to make the building safe for external access. It was proposed that a feasibility study should be commissioned as soon as possible and that detailed thought is given to which funding streams are available to us. The Clestrain committee will take these discussions forward at its November meeting and at a practical workshop led by Tom Hunter in January 2017 when we will consider issues surrounding the future of the Hall as a building and as a potential visitor attraction.

It was reported that John Rae's birthday party on 30th September at the Royal Hotel in Stromness was a great success, with a lovely atmosphere and fantastic music provided by Fiona Driver. A gathering at the Hall for a photo-shoot on Saturday 22nd October attracted a good number of people. Photos appeared alongside an article in *The Orcadian* on Thursday 27th October. The Society will be taking part in various Christmas bazaars over the next few weeks.

The Treasurer reported that the ten percent deposit for the Hall and the legal fees have now been paid by the Society. Tickets are currently being sold for the Christmas lottery and there have been a number of recent donations from individuals who have been officially thanked.

There are eleven new members since the last meeting in August. We are now able to break-down numbers of members into geographical areas and will continue to monitor this so that we can push for more Orcadian and Canadian members following the purchase of the Hall. Alongside the John Rae box, which is available to schools in Orkney, it was suggested that the Society might consider a junior membership rate in the future.

Those present at the meeting felt that the Society should continue to have sub-committees to work on specific areas of activity. It was proposed that the Hall of Clestrain, Events and Finance sub-committees be maintained and re-named 'working groups' to sound less intimidating and to encourage more people to join. The appointment of an Administrative and Membership Secretary was again discussed and will be finalised at the next Board meeting. For now, Rachel Boak has taken over from Anna Gudge as Minute Secretary.

The next Board meeting will take place in January 2017.

President: **Andrew J Appleby** Chairman: **Norman Shearer** Honorary Secretary: **Anna Elmy**
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