

Milngavie & Bearsden Historical Society

Newsletter February 2016

Dear Members and recent visitors,

I wish you a very happy New Year and all success in 2016.

As normal, the committee has been working away behind the scenes getting the programme for the next session set up, most of which is now in place. Our plan, based on responses to a small survey completed last year, is to extend the season slightly, by adding one extra talk in April 2017 as many people expressed an interest in more talks. Our speakers this session have, I think, been excellent and their subjects of interest to a wide range of people. One of our speakers was unable to manage and I would like to thank Hamish MacDougall, our last Chair, for stepping in to give a talk on HMS Warrior. The planned talk has been postponed until the next session.

As Kilmardinny Arts Centre is closed for the whole of 2016 we have been forced to find a new venue. In January we held our first meeting in Saint Andrews Church in Milngavie which was very well attended, so much so, that I began to wonder if we would get everyone in. The meeting went off very well and we are looking forward to the remainder of the session there.

Two interesting outings for the spring are planned and I hope they will be well supported. Please come along and have a fun day out.

Finally the AGM and Member's Night will be held on April 11th 2016 and I am hoping for a good turnout. As before, a few members will give a short talk (about 10mins) about something of interest to them. At the moment we have two talks lined up but there is still one space left.

Thanks to everyone who attended the meetings. The members are the most important part of the society and I look forward to seeing you at meetings for the rest of the session.

Jim Beck Chairman

Cochno Stone

The Cochno Stone, West Dunbartonshire, Is one of the most extensive and impressive prehistoric rock-art panels in Britain. It was first documented by the Rev James Harvey of Duntocher in 1885. He published his results and concluded

“Evidently the district in which these sculpturings have been found, had been a favourite resort of these ancient rock-engravers; and it is my hope...more of these mysterious hieroglyphics may be discovered perhaps the veil that shrouds from us their meaning may be withdrawn.

It was buried by archaeologists in 1964 to protect it from vandalism associated with visitors.

In September 2015 it was revealed for the first time in 51 years for 36 hours in order to laser scan it, to allow an exact replica to be created which would be placed in the

landscape near to the original site. Photographs of the cup and ring carvings highlighted in white can be seen in Clydebank Heritage centre.

The Bearsden Shark

A special cairn and plaque were unveiled last December to mark where a 330 million year old shark fossil was found, which became world famous. The relic was found by a young boy in 1981 in the Manse burn, Grampian Way, Baljaffray, who was unaware of its significance but was interested enough to show it to a local expert.

A later excavation, by the late Scottish fossil collector Stan Wood, revealed the one metre long “Akmonistian zagereli” which became known as the Bearsden Shark.

It is on display at the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University where it has been studied in microscopic detail and compared with other shark fossils, by visiting palaeontologists from all around the world

OUTINGS

The Glasgow Necropolis Monday 18th April 2016 £7.50

This will be led by Mrs Margaret Anderson, who is a Blue Badge Guide and we will meet her at 2.00pm sharp at the gates of the Necropolis, behind the Saint Mungo Museum.

The Necropolis has the memorials, graves or mausolea of many of Glasgow’s key figures of the mid 19th Century. Many were leading members of the council but also included merchants, industrialists, shipbuilders and even a nursery rhyme writer. The masons and architects who were responsible for the monuments were also important in that period.

We will spend about an hour hearing about how the Necropolis came into being and ascending to the summit by John Knox’s statue and back by a different route, which will allow us to hear about the fascinating aspects of the place. The view from the summit is magnificent if we are lucky with the weather.

Stout footwear is strongly recommended. Early responses are advised as the outing is restricted to 20 people

At 3.15 we shall adjourn to the Cathedral House Hotel in Castle Street for afternoon tea.

Falkland Palace

Thursday 19th May 2016

This outing will have two prices - Members of the National Trust for Scotland- £12.00
Non-members of NTS - £20.00

We shall have a coffee (not included) stop at Kinross on the way to Falkland.
Falkland Palace set at the heart of the very pretty Falkland conservation village and was the country residence of the Stuart monarchs for about 200years. Part of the Palace is in ruins but the reconstructed rooms are filled with 17th century tapestries, elaborate painted ceilings and antique furniture.
You can then cross the splendid gardens to the oldest Real or Royal tennis court, in Britain which was built for King James V.
Lunch is NOT included and there is no café within the Palace but there are many cafes in the village within easy walking distance.

The Glasgow Necropolis

Monday 18th April 2016

£7.50

I /we wish to attend this outing and enclose a cheque for £

Name/s _____

Tel No _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

Please return this form and cheque to the treasurer Jim Sheldon, 25, Park Road
Milngavie G62 6PJ with a self addressed SAE

Falkland Palace

Thursday 19th May 2016

£12/20

I /we wish to attend this outing and am/are member/s of the NTS and enclose £

I /we wish to attend this outing but am/are NOT member/s of NTS and enclose £

Name/s _____

Tel No. _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Email _____

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