

## **Sanday Heritage Group**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at 1.30 p.m. on 13th April 2016, at the Heritage Centre**

**Present:** Myra Stockton (Chairman); Sylvia Thorne (Secretary); Roderick Thorne (Treasurer); Jim Towrie; Rona Towrie; Ruth Peace (Custodian); Emma Webb (Rsngr), Imogen Sawyer (SDT Projects and Grants Officer)

**Apologies:** Tony Lee, Heather Collinson, Steve Ray, Liz Brown

**Minutes of 3rd March 2016** were ratified; proposed by Rona and seconded by Jim.

#### **Matters arising:**

**Disabled access:** Handrail has been attached as suggested by Orkney Care and Repair. Wheelchair access has very recently been proved adequate. White paint for step edges still to be applied when paint is available. **Ruth**

**BBC 'Exploring Scotland's Islands'** Film crew will be on the island in early May and will include footage of Holms of Ire and, perhaps, collecting spoots. **Emma**

**Stronsay School's visit, 7th March;** 4 adults and 20+ children made a worthwhile visit. The children were very appreciative. The Croft was opened for them, Rona lit the fires. In the Heritage Centre they examined the Viking artefacts, made rubbings of the replica Scar Plaque and asked many questions.

**Terms of Reference;** (*Item brought to top of agenda as Imogen had other time commitments.*) The Sanday Development Trust (SDT) have accepted the terms of reference that were drawn up by Imogen (see minutes 27.05.2015). 3rd Bullet point re '*Propose projects for approval by the board of directors*' was clarified to mean major projects that might necessitate new sites and not projects within the existing Heritage Group's remit.

**Custodian's Report:** Windows have been tight since the last work by Clouston's. Beading now needs to be painted again.

The Heritage Centre was open during the Easter weekend including the bank holiday Monday, but there were few visitors compared with the opening the following weekend.

The Torpedo shell from the U-70 has been delivered (on loan) from the Fossil Centre.

Neolithic mace heads have been donated/loaned by Martin Newton.

Ruth commented that Treasure Trove requirements must be addressed.

Museum Accreditation: Ruth has submitted all the signed documents for consideration by the Accreditation panel, and is awaiting their further advice.

**Financial Report:** Heritage Centre financial report does not include custodian's wages which is from SDT funds. Income for the last financial year exceeded outgoings by approx £200, so that the budget for that year was satisfyingly accurate. Imogen will use this to make up the budget for the present year.

Electricity costs: Liz has meter readings on which she calculates that no more than £1000 will be spent on electricity this year.

Expenditure for 2016/17 of £3000 will include the costs of interpretation panel and stone plinth, audio-unit(s), leaflet and June 4<sup>th</sup> costs (see later). Income forecast includes donations, 2 sets of OIC Culture Fund awards, SCC grant, SCAPE refund for one panel and plinth, and Art Machine credit, and so income should match expenditure for the year 2016/7.

Makkin and Yakkin (Spinning Group) will continue through the summer with average weekly donation of £7.

**Budget:** Imogen explained that £500 she has included in the budget for this year is from SDT unrestricted funds, and is extra to any income raised by the Heritage Group and intended for any spending solely related to running the group (not the centre) – eg. Tea and coffee for meetings and work

breaks, training (including travel and subsistence) for volunteers that is unrelated to running the centre, etc.

**Displays;** The Group will meet on 30th May to change displays, it will be decided then on the exact positioning of the new exhibition to commemorate Sanday's connections to the Battle of Jutland.

Ruth asked for the trophy cabinet to be lifted higher or moved as it does not show trophies to their best at present. It was agreed to move the model yacht to give more room for forthcoming displays.

There was concern from some members that many visitors found the Sanday Knitters display popular and queried any decision to remove it after only one season.

Emma and Rod will work together to refresh the Cabinet of Curiosities and the drawers below. Emma will take on the responsibility for the Natural History alcove from Rod.

Three light bulbs on the main frame need replacing. **Ruth will ask Steve to do this.**

### **Planning of the weekend of 2nd-4th June; Battle of Jutland commemorations:**

#### ***Programme of events attached to these minutes.***

Rod asked could members be around to welcome the German High Commissioner and wife who are visiting Sanday through the day on Thursday, 2nd June? This is not part of an official visit.

**Rod will produce one poster detailing all events**

**Fri 3rd June;** Emma will be available during the afternoon to take visitors to the B-98 although nothing has been organised yet.

Film Evening; 7.30pm in Community Room; Huw is willing to manage the technical aspects and lend equipment including the big screen. Tea and biscuits will be provided. Entry free, donations welcome.

**Sat 4th June;** Dignitaries and visitors arrive on boat 9.15am. Some will return on evening boat. Numbers for transport from boat will not be known until they arrive. Rod and Myra will liaise with Sanday bus, school bus and Afternoon club bus organisers for their availability. Members and supporters may be required to help with transport, especially between event locations through the day.

### **Extending the membership of the Heritage Group**

It was agreed that we need to extend our group membership to maintain a dynamic approach to the management and activities of the group. It was agreed that an appeal should be placed in the Sanday Sound, but it was likely that this would not be sufficient and individuals would need to be approached.

**It was agreed that we would all seek out new members.**

### **Shed refurbishment**

Jim reported that the shed is now watertight thanks to Kevin's work, and Jim has used spare existing shelving to make a work top and some shelves in the bigger of the two sheds. Jim will add more shelves when more shelf brackets are bought. Kevin has added new locks to the doors which work best if the key is inserted upside down and then turned anticlockwise. The doors and jambs etc need painting, Jim volunteered to use the same water-based green paint from the Croft on them. There is one external crack line missed from Kevin's work. **Jim to do the painting. Sylvia will ask Kevin to mastic and cement the crack.**

### **Audio units for the Croft**

Fifex (the company who built the media booth in the Heritage Centre) will make these audio units in time for the 2017 season, once we have decided on exact specification and have provided the recordings. Two options:

1) One unit that can be heard from both rooms

2) One unit in each room; this would be decided after sound trials. Both options would be powered by re-chargeable batteries, activated by the motion of visitors entering the Croft/room. The units could carry several recordings which visitors could select; recordings can be added to the unit as they are made. We would need to decide on length of recordings and their content. It was agreed that Andrew Thompson would be the best person to make recordings. **Sylvia will contact Andrew. Sylvia to continue the contact with Ken Boyd at Fifex**

### **Display-standard photographs for this year; costing agreements.**

Rod reported that Sutherlands the Chemist could produce 12xA4 photos at approx. £6 each. The group agreed this costing. **Rod to have these photos produced.**

**Annual competition for school;** Rod proposed that the Heritage Group consider instigating a competition for Sanday School pupils on the lines of the Fereday Competition which is run at KGS and Stromness Academy, in which individual pupils carry out Sanday Heritage-related projects annually, with prizes awarded for Secondary and Primary pupils whose projects are of a high calibre. It was decided to discuss this more at a later date.

**Bill Cainan and the Zulu Wars;** Bill has offered a talk on this, his favourite subject, which has been passed to the British Legion for consideration. He is visiting in May.

**AOB:**

**Sanday Sound whole page,** eye catching notice to be placed in Sanday Sound to cover: Forthcoming events; Opening hours; Appeal for volunteers to man the centre through the season; Invitation to interested people to join the Heritage Group. It was suggested that notices appealing for volunteers are not sufficient and personal contact with likely interested folk is more productive. **Sylvia**

**Manning the Heritage Centre:** So far Myra has offered to do Thursday mornings, Andrew Thompson Tues afternoons; Rona and Jim some Sundays, but not all. Spinners will need to be invited to do Saturday mornings again. **Ruth**

Fire Alarm test and Emergency Plan; Ruth has prepared the plan and will carry out a fire alarm test. **Ruth**

**Bag the Bruck;** Emma requested that the Heritage Group register with her should we be collecting bruck within the scheme. Ruth will do this by email. Bags available from Heilsa Fjold from tomorrow, 14.04.16. **Ruth**

**Croft garden;** Will the Gardening Club be working in here again this year? **Sylvia**

**LEADER funders visit:** Rod met a LEADER rep. and suggested the possibility of Heritage Outstations at the Weighbridge, and at disused telephone boxes etc

**Hearsie Hut;** Myra now owns this building, the SCC will return the hearse. Myra has given Ean Peace, Sanday Experience Guide, a key so that visits to the Hearsie Hut can be included in the Wednesday Sanday Experience tours.

**Ruth's contract with SDT;** Despite a query the group agreed that there was an understanding that Ruth is employed by SDT for the forthcoming year, however this will be clarified with Imogen. **Ruth**

**Date of next meeting:**

23rd May. Business meeting 7pm Heritage Centre

30th May, Display action day 10am onwards Heritage Centre.

*NB: Battle of Jutland commemoration Programme of events is attached below.*

**Battle of Jutland Commemoration Day: Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> on Sanday**

**3 venues: Heritage Centre, Community School, and later at the Lopness site of the stranded B-98**

from 0900... **Heritage Centre** (featuring a special display explaining Sanday's connections with two German vessels, the B-98 torpedoboat-destroyer and the U-70 U-boat, both of which were involved in the Battle of Jutland).

1200...**Community School:** A lunchtime talk/presentation by Angus Konstam, whose new book *Jutland 1916* will be published in May.

1300...Buffet lunch

1330...Music by the *Belkie Allsorts*

1345...Short talk about the naval career of Lt-Commander Heinrich Schuur, commander of the Flo-tilla of which the B-98 was lead boat – by his grandson, retired Rear Admiral Heinrich Schuur.

1400...Exchange of gifts between Heinrich Schuur and Sanday Heritage Group

*Sanday and the strange stories of the B-98 and U-70*

this new leaflet will be added to the range of Development Trust leaflets, and will be available

1415...Short presentation by Mark Littlewood & Sandra Henry (UHI/Orkney College) outlining their proposal to make a 3-D survey of the B-98 at Lopness

*(the timings of the various events at the Community School are approximate, but will end in plenty of time for everyone to travel to the Lopness Picnic site; there may be time to call in at the Heritage Centre on the way)*

1600...**Lopness Picnic Site:** Unveiling of new Interpretation panel at the Lopness Picnic site, followed by a close-up inspection of the B-98 at Lopness (gumboots strongly recommended)

*(there will, again, be time for people attending this event to go back to the Heritage Centre en route for the evening ferry, but those with cars should leave Lopness to head for the ferry terminal by 1730 at the latest)*

**There will be no charge at any of these events, but there will be an opportunity to make donations to Sanday Heritage Group. Volunteer Group members are responsible for the displays and exhibitions in the Centre, and the Croft, and for the upkeep and administration of both. There is no admission charge for visiting The Heritage Centre, The Croft, or the replica Burnt Mound.**

**N.B. Visitors/residents on mainland Orkney are able to travel to Sanday for the day, by ferry:**

**Depart Kirkwall 0740 Arrive Sanday 0905**

**Depart Sanday 1815 Arrive Kirkwall 1940**

**It is advisable to bring a car for the day; book early by contacting Orkney Ferries 01856-872044**

**Foot passengers should make arrangements for travel from Sanday ferry terminal (contact the Sanday Bus co-ordinators on 01857-600438 or 07513-084777)**