

## Sanday Heritage Group

### Minutes of the meeting held at 1.30 p.m. on 3rd March 2016, at the Heritage Centre

**Present:** Myra Stockton (Chairman); Sylvia Thorne (Secretary); Roderick Thorne (Treasurer); Tony Lee; Heather Collinson; Jim Towrie; Rona Towrie; Liz Brown; Steve Ray; Ruth Peace (Custodian)

**The minutes of the meeting held on 3.2.2016** were approved, proposed by Liz Brown, seconded by Rona Towrie.

#### Matters arising from the minutes:

**a. Interpretation Board for The Croft:** After a request from Rod, it was agreed that the Panel should include the photograph of the Scott family, although it was taken at Stumpo, in preference to the one agreed last time of the two children in the road nearby. Jo Hambly had sent the 'almost-complete' mock-up of the Burnt Mound panel, and it was agreed that the Croft panel's format would be similar – with close-ups from inside the Croft below the main picture. Logos for both to include SDT logo and the words Sanday Development Trust Heritage Group. (Rod to contact Jo Hambly ASAP to finalise the firm to be engaged – preferably Art Machine, Kirkwall)

**b. Fire Inspection:** Ruth had drawn up an 'Emergency Plan', but had been advised not to purchase a Fire Extinguisher because this could not be operated without further certification (Ruth to remind Raymond Brown – Sanday Fire Brigade - to agree mutually suitable time and date for formal Fire inspection visit. Sylvia to give Ruth a list of HC key-holders)

**c. Disabled Access:** Brian Clouston (Orkney Care & Repair) was, it was thought, visiting next day. (Tony was expecting him at his home – and would remind him of his promise to visit H. Centre)

**e. Leaking Windows:** R. Clouston had visited and attended to the road-front-facing windows, and the gable-end windows of Shop and Office. Still outstanding were the Office over-the-sink window, and a cracked pane in the attic. Steve was thanked for his work in ensuring that Clouston's fulfilled their responsibilities (All will be pleased when the work is completed)

**j. Forward Plan:** Ruth was continuing her work assembling the documents required for the beginning of the process of application for Accreditation as a Museum. She had liaised with SDT P&G Officer Imogen and had the required copies of SDT accounts. Several documents had already been forwarded. (Ruth to continue the process)

**k. Culture Fund application:** Rod reported that he was assembling invoices, receipts etc associated with the claim for the 2015/16 award of £1,200. He reminded the group that the *Battle of Jutland* Award (£950) would be used for the special leaflet about the B-98 and U-70, and to help finance the refreshments to be made available for June 4<sup>th</sup>. His application for £1,600 in the 2016/17 application had resulted in an award of £1,000: this would be used for interior Foamex boards and for audio-units at *The Croft*.

**I. Appiehouse Stone:** The OIC has not yet met to decide whether to accept the recommendation of Gail Drinkell (Orkney Museum), which is that the stone should be housed at our H. Centre. Nor does the group know – yet – whether, if the decision is in our favour, we will be expected to pay for some/all of the associated costs – display case/enclosure, interpretation board etc. (As before, we await developments, but, as pointed out by Rona and Tony, it is likely that some kind of plinth and glass screen/case will be more suitable than 'roping off' an area, because our display space is always so limited. Also, Ruth feels that a case is likely to be more suitable for the approval of the Accreditation process.

#### Agenda Items

- 1. H. Group information on SDT website:** Rod reported that he had met Imogen a couple of days ago. She had explained that there had been problems with updating the website, but that Andy Binnie-Douglas had volunteered to undertake necessary updates; she was hopeful that updated photographs, as well as text, would soon be visible to website visitors. She also agreed to ask

Andy to show those who'd like to know, how to get access to the relevant pages to update them ourselves.

2. **Advert for Insider Guide:** Rod had forwarded text and photographs, as requested by Imogen, to Emma Webb (Ranger) for the new advertisement. (It was agreed that Emma should be invited to the next meeting; and Rona suggested that we should all think about how to enlarge membership of the Heritage Group. This would be discussed at the next meeting)
3. **Letter to Clare Gee re B-98 gun:** Rod read out the relevant paragraph from his letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> February, requesting that when the gun is returned from Portsmouth, it should 'come home' to Sanday after being taken to Lyness in 1989. She has not yet replied. (Rod to remind Clare Gee)
4. **Request from School for Stronsay pupils to visit on afternoon of March 7<sup>th</sup>:** this was agreed. (Rona will open and light fire at The Croft; Sylvia will open H. Centre and make the replica Whalebone plaque available for handling)
5. **BBC 'Exploring Scotland's Islands:** Rod said that a researcher from this programme had contacted him (and Emma), and had particularly asked about possible filming of harvesting Spoots. Jim confirmed that there was little point in a visit on 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> May if the Spoot tide was on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. (Rod would emphasize the date when he made contact again, and would ask Cliff Sinclair, Willie Allan if they would agree to be the presenter's guides)
6. **Quotation for Engine shed repairs:** It was agreed that we should accept Kevin Skea's quotation for materials and labour for this work (Sylvia to contact Kevin with the go-ahead: **also N.B. reminder that we're all meeting to clear the Sheds on Saturday 5th from 0930**)
7. **Battle of Jutland commemorations June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>:** Rod outlined a suggested plan for these three days, beginning with a 'low-key' visit on Thursday 2nd by Germany's Consul-General (in Edinburgh) Jens-Peter Voss with his wife. It was hoped that members of the group would be available to meet them, and possibly others, on that day. (No-one agreed to supervise refreshments at H. Centre for this visit - times to be arranged nearer the date). The group approved the plan, and – importantly – the following matters were highlighted:
  - a. OIC will replace the Lopness Picnic site sign before the beginning of June (Rod to monitor)
  - b. School 'Rich task' pupils will do a special 'Bag the Bruck' in the area towards the end of May (Rod to liaise with Head Teacher)
  - c. Rona noted that the sea had deposited a large number of stones by the Picnic Bench bays (Rod to look at area, then contact Rosemary Newton to ask whether DofE pupils might take responsibility for clearing and monitoring the area in the lead-up to June 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - d. Myra pointed out that James and Sara Scobie owned that part of the beach, and that courtesy required that they should be asked for permission to 'clear a path' from the carpark 'pull-in' to the beach to enable easier access on June 4th. (Rod to contact James & Sara)
  - e. Members will organise refreshments (eg tea and biscuits) on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, between the showing of two 1-hour documentaries (The Dreadnoughts of Scapa Flow and The U-boat War) which would start perhaps, at 7 p.m., with an interval 8.00-8.30p.m., and finish approximately 9.45 p.m. (Rona , etc)
  - f. Rona and Heather took on the task of co-ordinating the preparation of refreshments/lunch on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, to follow Angus Konstam's presentation and to precede the shorter presentation by Heinrich Schuur, and the exchange of gifts. Food preparation would be on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup>. (Rona and Heather). The island band Belkie Allsorts
  - g. Gift for Heinrich Schuur: painting of the wreck of the B-98 in Lopness Bay (Sylvia to enquire of Bill McArthur). Gift from Heinrich Schuur – a copy of the painting/print of the B-98 Bridge and personnel: (Rod to request that he send this copy in advance, so that we may have it framed and ready for him to present on June 4<sup>th</sup>)

- h. Invitations: it was agreed that specific invitations should be sent to the Lord Lieutenant, Alastair Carmichael MP, Liam McArthur MSP, North Isles' Councillors Stephen Hagan, Stephen Clackson, Graham Sinclair, Council Convener Stephen Heddle. Tony will liaise with British Legion' in Kirkwall for members to be invited. These specific RSVP invitations should be issued as soon as possible, in order to try to gauge how many folk to expect on June 4<sup>th</sup>. **(Please let Rod know ASAP if you think of anyone else to whom a specific invitation should be sent)**. In addition, invitations would be sent to the Sea Cadets, and a general invitation to all OIC Councillors. All invitations, whether specific or general, would make it clear that no costs could be met by the Group, and that all events were free, but that there would be donations boxes at the various events.
  - i. The leaflet 'Sanday and the strange stories of the B-98 and the U-boat' is planned to be published in May. **(Rod & Myra, and designer Anne Bignall, are working on this)**
  - j. Publicity: Tony recommended that a 'programme insert' should be included in leaflets distributed before the June 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> events. A poster was suggested, and an illustrated feature for The Orcadian. It was further suggested that both Loganair and Orkney Ferries should be alerted to the planned Friday night/Saturday events. **(Rod to attend to these – and to contact Radio Orkney)**
  - k. Display area: it was agreed that the IOSKnitters display would be dismantled, and the B-98/U-70 exhibition would be in that corner. However, the arrangements for HC display would be reviewed at the next formal meeting.
- 8. Laser-scanning of the B-98:** A proposal from Dan Lee (Orkney College Archaeology Unit) had been received today. Members were enthusiastic about the proposal, which they understood to be scheduled for later in the summer, after the June 4<sup>th</sup> commemoration. **(Sylvia to reply to Dan)**
- 9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1.30 p.m. at the Heritage Centre.**