

Chair's Report for 2019-2020

2020 will be remembered as the Covid year. The Cottage did not open for the summer season, a miss for visitors and volunteers alike.

However, although most of the Society's activity is associated with the Cottage, there were other **achievements and activity**.

- 1 a newsletter in November 2019 about the Eilean Bheàrnaraigh ferry.
- 2 a stall at the December 2019 Hall Sale.
- 3 a newsletter in May 2020 featuring Sir Robert Moray, first president of the Royal Society, and his study of the tides in the Sound of Harris.
- 4 a new edition of a guide about the otters of Berneray.
- 5 publication of a new edition of the Place Names of Berneray, with maps and photographs.
- 6 a new guide to exploring the geology of Berneray.
- 7 a newsletter in November 2020 about the Wreck of the Puritan in 1920.
- 8 an increase in membership numbers.
- 9 at last there is progress about the ownership of the Nurse's Cottage which should soon be owned by the Historical Society. Alastair Cormack has been relentless in his negotiations with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Bays of Harris Estate.

Unfortunately, however, the situation regarding the Gunnery is unchanged. As it is Berneray's oldest building and of historical significance its preservation must be of concern to the Historical Society.

Committee Membership

Iris is resigning as Secretary at the AGM but will remain on the committee.

Sue Wilson is leaving the committee at the AGM. We would like to thank her for her work with Cottage displays, Hebridean Connections and as an office bearer. It has been of immense value to the Society.

There is now a vacancy for a Secretary and a Chair and we require to fill these posts immediately in order to go forward next year. One or two new committee members would be welcomed.

I would like to thank:

Ian Hoyle for printing our publications. Ian has not charged for printing the newsletters.

Chris Spears for distributing newsletters.

Cathy McDiarmid for all her backroom work with our publications.

The committee -

Vice- Chair – Peigi MacKillop

Secretary - Iris Steedman

Mary McCormick

Stuart MacIntyre

Andrew Ross

Sue Wilson

And everyone who has helped in any way.

Donald McDiarmid
Treasurer and Acting Chair

November 2020