

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

40, Craigie Crescent,

Kirkwall.

February, 1970.

Dear Member,

After the successful meeting in Stromness, membership has increased to over a hundred. This letter is to keep you informed of the Committee's work and to outline the meetings planned for 1970.

The Committee now meets regularly every two months. The most important business considered recently has concerned Papdale House, The Strynd and the Buttquoy Park development.

Unfortunately the future of Papdale House is still in doubt. The Society's appeal produced its share of the £10000 needed to finance the original renovation scheme, and a tender from a builder was received to do the work for about that figure. However, some of the parties concerned desired the drawing up of bills of quantity and changes in the scheme designed to make the restoration more meticulously thorough. Delay has in itself allowed costs to rise. Therefore it is likely that tenders for the revised scheme will be higher.

Mrs. Grimond used a bequest from her mother, the late Baroness Asquith, to buy the old house in the Strynd that adjoins Mr. Harrison's workshop. The Committee were impressed both by the generosity of the gift and by the responsibility they incurred. The Historic Buildings Council will be approached for a grant to restore this ancient building for some useful purpose. Ideas on possible uses will be welcomed by the Committee, whose own suggestions include making a headquarters for the Society, using a room for talks in the tourist season, making a flat for a caretaker or artist, and creating a club room for students.

The Committee objected to the height of the four storey block proposed for the Buttquoy Park Scheme in Kirkwall. No concessions were obtained except that Mr. D.M. Wood, the County Clerk and Secretary of the Planning Committee, promised that they were "endeavouring to evolve a system whereby the public can in future have earlier warning of any development involving public work in their area."

The next meeting of the Society will be a Show of Orkney Slides given by Mr. Ian Heddle in the Kirkwall Arts Theatre at 8 p.m. on Friday, 3rd of April. On Saturday the 2nd of May, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. there will be a Coach Excursion to visit some Orkney Mills. Bookings will be made after the April meeting or by letter to the Secretary by the end of April. Members wishing to travel in their own cars will be welcome. In August, Mr. Evan MacGillivray will conduct a Coach Excursion to visit some old Orkney Crofts. A Folk Concert is planned for the autumn. We hope that you can attend some of these meetings.

Yours sincerely,

"R.P. Fereday.

(Secretary).