

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

17 Palace Road,
KIRKWALL.

February, 1971.

Dear Member,

This letter is to keep you informed of the Committee's work and to outline the meetings planned for 1971.

After three years agreement has at last been reached about the renovation of Papdale House. Handsomely restored and put to good use, it will be a valuable asset to Kirkwall and the best possible memorial of Malcolm and Samuel Laing's achievements.

The Strynd House, the property of the Heritage Society, presents fewer problems than Papdale House. Mr. Gerrard, an architect who has experience of restorative work in Shetland, conferred with the Committee and is now drawing up plans. It seems likely that the Historic Buildings Council will help when asked for a grant and that the house, with its interesting architectural features preserved, will make an excellent headquarters for the Heritage Society. For the time being, the habitable rooms are in use as the studios of local artists.

Mr. Towrie, the Secretary of the Council of Social Service, asked us to suggest possible projects for the hundred and fifty volunteer youth workers coming next summer. We put forward a scheme for cleaning, bird-proofing and providing access to the Longhope Martello Towers.

Members will have noticed Mr. Ian MacInnes' article in the Orcadian about the proposed buildings for the site south of the Lifeboat Station in Dundas Street, Stromness.

Representations have been made about the increasing problem of rubbish and litter. We feel that there is far more need to clear the countryside of unsightly objects than to provide permanent picnic furniture (as recently proposed in the County Council).

We continue to provide speakers and slides to local organisations. Further gifts of photographs and slides would always be welcome. There is an urgent need to record old buildings before they are altered or destroyed.

The Tourist Board approached us about the lectures and excursions for an "Antiquities Week". We hope to participate if they want such a week organised for 1972.

Most members will be aware of the numerous excursions of the Orkney Field Club. There will be one of particular interest for the members of the Heritage Society on the 28th of February when the Field Club are visiting Rendall to see the croft of Mossetter, the Ting Mound, the Doo Cot and several broch sites. The organisers are Mrs. S. Flint, (Kirkwall 3007) and Mr. E. Balfour (Winstown 275).

On Saturday the 29th of May Mr. Ernest Marwick and Mr. Evan MacGillivray will be conducting a tour of old Orkney crofts for the Heritage Society. Details will be advertised in the Orcadian in May.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Stenness Hotel at 8.30 p.m. on Friday the 4th of June. In the preceding hour members are cordially invited by Mr. and Mrs. Robertson to call at Torniston Mill and inspect the renovation work and alterations.

Yours faithfully,

R.P. FEREDAY.

(Hon. Secretary)