



Issue 3

December 2013

WELCOME to the Society's third newsletter. We hope that it is informative and we continue to encourage any comments or contributions from members. Please direct any correspondence to:

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or

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Christmas Greetings from the Preses

When you receive this newsletter, your thoughts will no doubt be full of Christmas plans: presents and food; family and friends. Maybe Hogmanay and New Year are in your sights too, but for now our newspapers and TV adverts with their shiny portrayal of happy family celebrations are very much to the fore.

This newsletter invites you to remember the lives of some families in our area for whom Christmas is likely to be much less straightforward than it is for most people. Carers of all ages, but particularly children who have responsibilities towards their parents or siblings. People who have disabilities which make inde-

pendent living impossible. Those whose circumstances mean they have very little resources to fall back on when a large purchase is needed, such as a washing machine or a bed. These are only some examples of the people who have turned to the Sons of the Rock Society for help over the past year, with the support of a trusted agency working in the field.

Thank you for your support over the past year which has made it possible for the Trustees to help such people, and various organisations with cultural, historical or educational aims too. Please take a moment to look beyond the Christmas and New Year festivities,



Dr Alison Jack

and to purchase your tickets for the Auld Hansel Monday Lecture and meal, and invite your friends to come too. This will be an opportunity to hear more about the grants we have provided, and the stories of the people who have been supported.

Meanwhile, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

In this issue:

Dr Alison Jack	1
Auld Hansel 2014	1
Those we have helped	2
Funding Fair	2
Airthrey Castle	2

Auld Hansel Monday AGM and Lecture 2014

The new Forth Valley College is the venue for our Auld Hansel Monday gathering on 13th January 2014 at 7pm.

Following the AGM, Richard Oram, Professor of Environmental and Medieval History at the University of

Stirling will deliver the Annual Lecture, "**Stirling and the Four Riders: War, Famine, Disease and Death in the Age of Bannockburn**". This promises to be a fascinating contribution to events in 2014 marking the 700th anniversary of

the battle of Bannockburn. Supper and wine will be provided. Tickets are £30 and available from the Secretary. The college is easily accessible, just off junction 10 of the M9.

A Wide Range of Grants Targeting Need



**Gingerbread Café,
Polmont**



**Beechwood Park
Community Dig**

This year, the Society disbursed £6,107 in grants to individuals and groups in and around Stirling and Falkirk.

Here are just some who have benefitted.

Two young carers looking after family members have been helped; one with money towards a school trip and the other with travel expenses to and from school after a change of home circumstances. Three people supported by Council on Disability, Stirling

had help with white goods, carpets and an orthopaedic bed.

Among organisations, support has been given to the Gingerbread Café in Polmont. Being a social enterprise, it can offer long-term unemployed people and those with health problems a chance to work and gain skills that can help them find full-time work. The café is an important community hub, serving as an affordable

meeting place for people and groups. An educational Community archaeology project at Beechwood Park, Stirling benefitted from the Society. A large number of schoolchildren and local residents were involved in unearthing an historically important section of Roman road.

We hope that our growing partnerships with the Care Sector and voluntary agencies will help us to help more.

Society Profile Raised at Funding Fair

The Society attended another Funding Fair organised by Stirling Council at the Albert Halls in Stirling in October. The day was very well attended with 20 different funding bodies taking part.

Such an event lets those seeking help sit down face to face with funders and gain a finer understanding of

the opportunities and limits of grants available.

The Sons of the Rock desk was extremely busy with representatives from 15 different community groups seen in the space of 3 hours.

Not only was our presence important in raising the Society's profile, but it gave a closer insight into the impact of Welfare Reforms on indi-

viduals, families and community groups in our area.

It is hoped and anticipated that some of these conversations should result in further grant applications.

Sons of the Rock has been invited to a similar Fair early in 2014 by Falkirk Council.

*15 different
community
groups seen in
the space of 3
hours*



**Professor and Mrs
King with the Preses**

“Behind the Scenes at Airthrey Castle”

In October, members and guests gathered at Airthrey Castle. It was a rare opportunity to see around a building that has seen many changes throughout its lifetime, both structural and functional.

Professor David King gave a fascinating and elucidating lecture focusing on the design

and early life of the castle. His talk centred on two Roberts close to his heart, namely Haldane and Adam. The former commissioned the latter to design him a house with special consideration to the nursery being located as far from the master's room as possible! Although his design

was used, Adam was not given the lucrative role of project manager meaning none of his usual interiors exists. However guests, free to roam after the talk, thoroughly enjoyed taking in the leather friezes, wood paneling and fireplaces. Thanks to Graham's Family Dairies for their sponsorship.