

Heritage Report for National Committee by Cheryl Stewart – July 2019

Dun 38 Post - Arbroath

Having produced a report in February of this year covering activities in the whole of Scotland I am going to concentrate this report on the activities at Arbroath.

22 February saw us open up for a second recce visit from Ironstar Films with a view to filming later in the year. They had an extensive shoot at Dundee HQ a few weeks later but to date we still await our day of fame!

28 February we braved an opening for the Scottish Tourist Guide Association. A commercial outfit specialising in tailor made tours for groups of people. The Group come from an area across Angus, Tayside & Perth and held their AGM in the local Signal Tower Museum before coming along to us to see what we had to offer for their clients. I had been very dubious about opening so early but our work party the week before and the day itself were not too bad. At least dry and not too windy. The party though were very cold!

With Spring being yet another most unseasonable period we did not have another event until early June. Had we known we should have seized our chance in March which was a reasonable month. Two local Army Cadet Units along - The Arbroath Royal Artillery and Black Watch. A very engaging group of Cadets looking very smart in uniform. One lad shook our hands at the end and thanked us for our time!



A month later a local group call Oot N' Aboot came along. A lovely crowd and several of them attended Dundee's Open weekend at the beginning of August.

After this only two weeks left to get ready for our annual ROCA BBQ. A mammoth work day ensued when we got through so much work but it doesn't take long for nature to cover our work.



Ready to set up for the visitors

What a beautiful place to bring up a family. We had two of our boxes occupied by great tits this year.

July 13 BBQ day started bright but soon deteriorated rapidly preventing us from putting out furniture, cloths and cushions. Instead we found ourselves putting up our big tube tent which was last used in 2008. This was soon taken over by 25 Group who found it so cosy they stayed inside even when the burning sun came out later. Our meet and greet turned into lots of folk throwing chairs and table out in any fashion. We would normally have had some structure but nobody was unduly upset! We did our best through the rain showers but at least warm and no wind. Typically John Sharpe and I did the raffle in the rain and when it was time to take parties underground the sun came out!

I had so many nice emails etc afterwards from folk saying how much they enjoyed it which makes it all worthwhile. We again had 50 attendees the same as last year and with their fantastic generosity we made £430 profit for Post funds which will cover the Insurance Liability Policies next year.



August is mostly a month of work for us. We have been fortunate to obtain a £1 K grant award from SCT (Scottish Civic Trust) who are behind the Scottish Doors Open Programme which we have participated in for the last ten years. 2019 is their 30th Anniversary of Doors Open and they offered small grants to worthy causes. I only heard about this through a sharp eyed 24 Group ROCA member Joe Yearly who comes from Edinburgh to help us at Doors Open. If I had waited until Angus Council informed us the time to get three quotes and supporting documentation submitted would have been only two weeks rather than the three thanks to Joe. Even so it was a mad rush with other things going on to meet the deadline but I did and was well rewarded when I heard a few months later that we had been granted £1 K. The monies are being spent on a tarmac apron being laid at the slope at our gates. This will stop the current hardcore being flown in the air as some drivers fail to negotiate the slope and make a large hole! Some pointing work is also going to be done on both vent shaft and entrance hatch. After many years of paint and repaint we are now going to 'go back to bare' concrete and start from scratch. Paint stripping starts 2nd week of August but I am afraid that the weather again is not being kind to us. The museum building is also going to have rust work attended to and repainted as well.

The works has to be finished by 26 August when we have The Arbroath Rotary Club visiting.

24/25 August we intend to have a smaller than usual presence at Montrose Air Station Heritage Centre Family Day. With all our equipment needing to be returned to the museum and in place for the Rotary visit we will take just a few choice pieces to display at Montrose.

07 September we will be hosting 22 Group who are visiting the area on a day trip by mini bus. They will come to us late morning and stay for a packed picnic lunch before visiting Dundee HQ in the afternoon.

The following weekend 14/15 September is Door Open and I am already receiving booking enquiries.

No let up as on 17 September we have a local trampers group coming along.

As you can see we continue to be busy with plenty of interest from the public.