

Scottish Heritage Report - June 2023

A report to update on ROC related activities in Scotland.

24 Group - EDI

Life is presently quiet with 24 Group.

As a Member of the Arbroath Team Joe Yearly continues to support the Post and travels from Edinburgh to attend events.

25 Group AYR

Sadly 25 Group lost their Newsletter Editor earlier this year. David Ross was a well respected former ROC Officer and friend and well known by the Facebook fraternity for his brilliant posts about the antics of his tabby cat Toby.

The following were David's own words on his LinkedIn profile relating to his ROC career.

Deputy Group Commandant

Mar 1986 - Mar 1992 - 6 years 1 month
HQ No 25 Group Royal Observer Corps, Ayr

Permanent Staff Officer responsible to sparetime Group Commandant for the day to day running of a Group of the Royal Observer Corps. Acted as Senior Duty Officer responsible for all data/speech communications and operational efficiency during exercises or wartime conditions.

Cartographer

Jul 1981 - Mar 1986 - 4 years 9 months
RAF Bentley Priory
Responsible to the Senior Operations Officer at HQ Royal Observer Corps, RAF Bentley Priory for all cartographic, publications, graphics, photography, training aids and additional operational requirements of the Royal Observer Corps.

AYR/23 - Skelmorlie Post

Skelmorlie Post continues to promote the former ROC with various events. Full details can be found on their Facebook Page - Skelmorlie Secret Bunker.

28 Group - DUN

28 Group Group HQ and Sector Control - Cragiebarns - Dundee - by Gavin Saxby

With Covid restrictions fully lifted we were able to run a successful tour weekend in May. Fully booked and attended by great bunch of people. We also had a visit from Radio Scotland who were given a full tour and interviewed former Observers for a forthcoming programme.

We have been able to grow our revenue through grants from organisations such as Arnold Clarke and by registering with platforms such as GoFundMe and running successful fundraisers there and on Facebook. This enabled us to bring money in from the public to fix the damage caused to the compound fence by Storm Arwen and we also managed to get a grant from Subterranea Britannica to complete the works.

The exhibits in the sector operations room have been extended to include fallout plume plotting, radiation reading plotting and are aiming further expansion in the exhibits in the coming year. We have expanded the committee to eight people to give us a broader range of experience and to make sure that the former Royal Observer Corps members were properly represented.

Further tours will be available later in the year.

In July we will be joint running the Arbroath Post BBQ and Gavin hopes to attend his second ROCA Reunion in October.

DUN/22 Glamis Post

Glamis continues to be in good care and maintenance.

DUN/25 - Edzell Post

Edzell remains in good care and maintenance with all equipment sourced and stored off site.

Currently looking at forming an official Group with a view to occasional open days.

DUN/36 Abernyte Post

Abernyte fence was repaired by the very kind farmer (well it was his security cows who wrecked it) there are still a few stobs to replace. Kept in excellent care and maintenance with the intention of an open day later in the year when the cows have gone home - the joys of a Post on working farmland!

DUN/38 Arbroath Post

The Arbroath Post have been busy with maintenance on the site. Replacing fence posts and clearing much overgrown vegetations from the fence resulting in a large bonfire along with the usual spring maintenance tasks. We can see the sea again!

The annual Arbroath BBQ & Raffle is taking place on Saturday 08 July and a number of our regulars from the south are already booked. Looking forward to meeting up with the other Scottish Groups and those from afar again.

Registration to participate in the annual Doors Open Days Weekend in September was submitted last week. With a very large waiting list from previous years we are going to be offering 'taster' tours this year which will not be so detailed and being shorter will allow us to accommodate more visitors over the weekend than usual to try and clear the backlog.

Various openings of the hatch to visitors will take place during the summer months. With such a long cold Spring here the Summer will seem short.

29 Group - ABD

Six members have sadly come to the end of their lives this year depleting numbers in the Aberdeen Group.

Mary Bruce asks for a note of thanks to be made to Jim Mackie who continues to delve into The British Newspaper Archives and comes up with the most amazing stories of past ROC activities in Scotland which he shares with the Heritage Team and others.

I have been contacted by the Braemar History Group who now look after Braemar Post. They are interested in opening to the public and have requested a visit to Arbroath to see and hear the ins and outs of managing this. We hope to see them later this month. Braemar is in lovely condition and it will be good to have it opened up.

Cheryl Stewart
for The Royal Observer Corps Association Heritage Team