

MOUNTAIN

BOTHIES

ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

To open up our first, and I hope not the last, Mountain Bothies Association Journal, I take this opportunity to welcome you to our Association. Whether you are a walker, cyclist or climber we have a common interest, best summed up in our Objects, which are as follows:-

OBJECTS

“To maintain simple unlocked shelters in remote mountain country for the use of hillwalkers, climbers and other genuine outdoor enthusiasts who love the wild and lonely places”.

Opportunity to help in a practical way is given in other parts of this Journal. Letters to the Editor will be a feature in the next issue, so do not hesitate in submitting your ideas, views and experiences. If anyone has a question or topic- send it in. You can be sure of stirring up some interesting views from other bothy users.

May I suggest that we adopt a design or motif that will be suitable for reproduction on our headed stationery, and later for badges in cloth, car stickers, button-hole studs, etc., if members desire. Send in your outline design to me, with colour scheme and I will include them in future Journals. From the response it will be apparent if members want a badge, and later which design is most acceptable.

At the moment of publication it gives me great pleasure to send out SIXTY New Year Greetings to all our founder members.

Ian Turton, Editor

INAUGURAL MEETING was held on Tuesday, 28th December, 1965 at the Scout Hut, and later at the Village Hall in Dalmellington, Ayrshire. In all, THIRTY-TWO persons signed the Attendance Book. Amongst the early arrivals were two young men who had driven from London, 402 miles, and four others who said they had cycled from Huddersfield by devious route, this making them five minutes late for the official start at 2p.m.

Tom Riggins S.M., acted as Chairman. Bernard Heath, Promoter, read out extracts from voluminous correspondence. Included were letters from:-

The Gatliff Trust- a small charitable body with funds invested, income used to support remote cottage property and to make donations to other organisations as decided by the Trustees.

The Kindred Spirits Fellwalking Society, who maintain there own bothy.

The Rough Stuff Fellowship- a national club of cyclists who specialise in pass-storming and remote footpath routes.

The Mountaineering Association, London.

The International Voluntary Service- letter of general approval, forms to apply for volunteers if a project meets with their approval.

Lord Elibank-Hon Adviser for Recreational Training for the Scouts in Scotland. (Lord Elibank attended the meeting in person, and has agreed to act in an advisory capacity for our Assoc.)

The Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The Forestry Commission. Letters re. Tunskeen Project.

Dick Phillips- Travel Agent and Guide, Iceland.

Miss Elizabeth Taylor- comment on Highland Estates, landowners by district, access and permission.

Keith Pennyfather-London. Keen type, sent his apologies for absence.

Bill Houston- writer and Rough Stuff cyclist.

E. Clements- Sussex, "What a smashing idea".

Many others, too numerous to mention, sent in donations, comments, and requests for information, including the "outdoor press".

At about 5.10 p.m., the meeting resumed at the Village Hall in the comfort of a fireside circle. (Did we pay for the use of the Hall Hon. Treas.?)

OFFICIALS ELECTED were as follows:-

President and Chairman- Thomas B. Riggins, 78 Park Crescent, Dalmellington, Ayrshire.

Secretary- Bernard J. Heath, 7 Jim Lane, Marsh, Huddersfield, Yorks.

Treasurer- John Harrison, 12 Howarth Lane, Lockwood, Huddersfield, Yorks.

Auditor- William N. McCallum, 7 Union Ave. Ayr.

Slide Librarian- Frank Goodwin, 146 Bradley Mills Road, Dalton, Huddersfield, Yorks.

Publicity Officers-

Scotland- Ken Andrew, 15 Station Road, Monkton, Ayrshire.

England- Ian Turton, 73 Huddersfield Road, Skelmanthorpe, Yorks. (Tel. Skelmanthorpe 3220)

DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETING

OBJECTS as printed on first Press Release were approved. (See page 1 for details)

SUBSCRIPTIONS To be five shillings per annum minimum, with any further contribution a member may wish to make to be recorded as a donation.

BOTHY LIST Such a list to be compiled and made available to members only. Members are asked to submit details of bothies known to them after the first provisional list is available.

CHARITABLE ORGANISATION That we look into the possibility of being registered as such.

BOTHY ADOPTION Groups to be formed to continue vigilance over any bothy that we may repair, e.g., as with Tunskeen and Rover Scouts, under John Petto of Ayr.

OTHER OUTDOOR ORGANISATIONS Contact to be made to their headquarters to obtain their backing. (Scottish Mountaineering Club, cited).

BOTHY CODE That a simple code of behaviour be adopted.

POWER TO CO-OPT That the officials have the power to co-opt other members on to their committee.

RATES AND BOTHIES That we look into the possibility that we may become liable to raise rates on bothies. ("Tunskeen is free of rates" – E.C.McDonald, Youth Services Organiser, County Bldgs. Ayr).

DONATIONS To be in effect for a General Fund, and not earmarked for specific purposes yet.

BANK Huddersfield and Upper Agbrigg Trustee Savings Bank, account to be continued, and any two of the three signatures (below) may sign for withdrawals. T.B.Riggans, B.J.Heath, J. Harrison.

LETTER TO EDITOR (The first to the Association)

"I was particularly interested to read of your work on the shepherd's house (oddly described as a sheiling) at Tunskeen. I have a photograph (enclosed) of it taken on 17th July, 1939 after I had eaten my sandwiches in it during a walk from the end of Loch Doon round Loch Macaterick to Craiglure. It had been finally vacated at the May term, and I remember being impressed and touched by the care with which the last occupants had left the place all clean and tidy.....a basket of dry peats was beside the hearth, and the doorstep even bore traces of the chalk marks with which in former days every good housewife used to decorate her step after washing it. I remember being grateful for Tunskeen's shelter on a rainy day and I am glad to think that through your enterprise it will serve other wanderers for, I hope, many years to come.

With all good wishes for 1966,

Yours sincerely,

James Fergusson"

1st Jan. 1966

(Sir James Fergusson: Bart.)

SURVEY WORK 1966

In the practical field there is a most urgent need for a complete survey of Bothies. This will form the basis of our final list, and will guide us into decisions as regards repair projects. All members can help. Details required are on the lines as indicated:-

Location and Name

Landowner, if known

Type-Lodge, Large House, Cottage, Shelter

Structure-Stone, Wood, Metal

General condition-Good, Delapidated, Partial Ruin

Room-Down, Upstairs, Loft

Floors-Condition and Type

Walls, Windows and Doors- Condition and Type

Facilities-Furniture, Cupboards, Housebook, First-Aid Kit

Water. Camping Ground. Road or Path approach.

Details of outbuildings

Fuel availability

Tools

Date of your visit (year)

If you intend to visit any bothies this year, please write to the Secretary, state area and actual bothies you intend to visit. This will obviate duplication of effort, as he intends to cover a goodly number this coming Easter. Earmarked for Easter trip are-

Shenavalt

Findouran

Thus it is hoped that an early start can be made in August, on a worthwhile repair project. Full details will be circulated.

One bothy renovated per year will more than justify the existence of our Association.

BOTHY CODE as suggested by Bernard Heath

You are invited to add to this or amend it. Write to Editor, marked "Bothy Code".

- 1 : Where possible obtain landowners permission to use Bothy, particularly if you wish to use it for several days as a base.
- 2 : Bear in mind the Stalking Season-usually commences back end of August and includes September.
- 3 : Always endeavour to improve the place, and leave it better than you found it.
- 4 : Burn your own and others rubbish, flatten and bury tins and glass containers (unbroken) well away from the house.
- 5 : Leave fuel and kindling wood for the next refugees from the Scottish weather.
- 6 : Start or maintain a House Book.
- 7 : Add to the food cupboard.
- 8 : Resist temptation to burn wood forming part of the structure.
- 9 : Make sure your fire is out before leaving.
- 10 : Secure the door properly. Swinging doors are a trap to animals who get in and cannot get out.
- 11 : Report on the state of the building and the date of your visit to the MBA Secy., so that details can be published for members information and note can be made of repairs that may be urgent.
