

Dorothy Marshall

Our Honorary Fellow, Dorothy Nairn Marshall, died in Rothesay on 3 September 1992, in her 93rd year. Many Fellows will have valued her as colleague and friend over the years: many, not Fellows of the Society, will think of her with affection and gratitude.

Dorothy was the youngest of three daughters of Dr John Nairn Marshall, himself a longstanding member of the Society and a well-known general practitioner on the Isle of Bute. Her two elder sisters left the island to pursue successful careers. Dorothy remained at home to drive her father on his rounds, and latterly to care for her parents. Only after their deaths did she feel free fully to follow her own interests, of which she had decided that archaeology should be one, and perhaps the chief: thus she became an Antiquary only in 1945. She studied at the Institute of Archaeology in London in order to obtain a professional qualification; thereafter she found herself much in demand, spending several seasons on excavations in the Middle East, at first in Cyprus and later at Jericho with Dr Kathleen Kenyon, for whom she acted as finds recorder.



This, however, was only one side of her archaeological activities. Her father had been a founder member of the Buteshire Natural History Society and of the Bute Museum. To these family interests Dorothy succeeded, pursuing them with an infectious enthusiasm which I first encountered when my wife was engaged in 1950 to reorganize the Bute Museum. Dorothy became a lifelong friend. We soon discovered that she was not only an archaeologist but also a keen naturalist, with a local knowledge which proved invaluable to our museum work.

Dorothy had a gift for involving people. For many years, in association with the Buteshire Natural History Society, she ran a Junior Naturalists' Club for the island's children. Adults were not neglected. Many a professional person retiring to the island would find his or her talents enlisted for the benefit of the Society and the museum. She opened the eyes of many such people to aspects of Bute to which they had never given thought: they became her devoted helpers in the museum, in the field and on excavations. Dorothy's inspiration and leadership were valued beyond Bute, not least by the members of the Cowal Archaeological Society. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Scottish Regional Group of the Council for British Archaeology, now reconstituted as the Council for Scottish Archaeology.

Dorothy saw to it that the *Transactions of the Buteshire Natural History Society* appeared regularly. Despite the Society's name, archaeological and historical papers were published. Dorothy contributed also to this Society's *Proceedings*. Perhaps her most important papers were 'The excavation of the chambered cairn at Glenvoidean, Isle of Bute', with Mrs Isabel Taylor, and 'Carved Stone Balls', both in the *Proceedings* for 1976-7. She also wrote the very popular *History of Bute*, which continues to sell well at the museum.

Dorothy remained active and involved to within a year of her death, though increasingly troubled by failing eyesight. To celebrate her 90th birthday, in January 1990, the Buteshire Society gave a party in the Bute Museum, at which I had the honour to be her Special Guest. The building was crammed, Dorothy was in excellent form, and it was an evening to remember. She loved people, and made friends everywhere. To anyone exploring in Bute the name Dorothy Marshall would open all doors. A vivid memory of mine concerns a grizzled farmer encountered on such an outing. 'Miss Marshall?' he smiled, 'I was one of her Junior Naturalists.' Surely this says all. I believe that she would have liked to be remembered so.

Jack G Scott