

Dear Ben

With only three weeks to go now, I enclose the second Mingulay circular already dispatched to the members of the expedition, and a whole pile of other bumf. Most important perhaps is the Emergency Procedure which you must not only read but know. Any one of you could potentially be in charge of camp when a full blown emergency occurs and you must know what to do.

Could I also appeal to you to send me the address forms for your parents holiday addresses and the declaration that you have received, the safety rules. These are important firstly because we need to know who to contact if we have to arrange delivery of your coffin, and secondly the terms of the insurance of the Society demand that you return the declaration to me.

But to kites. Oak Tree Lane (that's where I am living at the moment) is festooned with bits of plastic tail streamers, ultra light kite line and various curiously shaped bits of plastic all of which I am sure can be made into kites; and hopefully will be on the expedition. For I have been gripped with kite mania and am now obsessed with flying two line stunt kites. Question: Where could possibly be better to fly kites than an uninhabited and very windy island? Answer- nowhere so go to Mingulay.

Other items of interest; Ben Buxton will be planning some kind of archaeological survey of the supposed Iron Age site at the bay and will hopefully need help and enthusiasm from you and the kids. Various other projects are in the pipeline e.g. I have obtained some Longworth mammal traps and intend doing a population survey of the [wild? Ed] mice of the Village and Vince is cooking up some sort of Botanical project

Moral: Put your thinking caps on too.

You will no doubt be interested to hear that we are to have some delightful female company on Mingulay this year, in the shape (and I -mean shape!) of Anne Stevens (Hooray) who is coming along for the first couple of weeks with her husband Pete (Booo!)

I have known Pete and Annie for some time now and although they have not been on SHS expeditions before, they have visited the Hebrides and will join in the expedition fully. Apart from them, the ALs remain as in the first news letter

Now to travel, I know about Alan Howard's, Graham Kramer's and Vince Giavarini's travel arrangements but I NEED to know what the rest of you are planning. PLEASE inform me how you are travelling and when and where you will meet the main party.

Lastly here are a few suggestions (some from the kids) about what I missed off the recommended equipment list:

MacEwans export, wire for making rabbit snares, Cress seeds to grow for cheese and cress sandwiches, fishing tackle, Homebrew kits Glenmorangie whisky, tinned butter.

Please feel free to bring along any of these things or anything else which will make this expedition to Mingulay simply the best expedition to Mingulay the SHS has ever seen.

All the best,

*Nick*