

## **Scottish Centre for Geopoetics**

affiliated to the International Institute of Geopoetics founded by  
Kenneth White in 1989

### **Annual General Meeting at the Hawes Inn, South Queensferry Saturday 3 February 2007 at 2pm Director's Report, 2005-2006**

We have produced four Newsletters since our last AGM in December 2005 and most of these are on the International Institute of Geopoetics website L'Archipel. The article on Caerlaverock by Bill Eddie, like a previous one on Falkland by Tess Darwin, showed how our field visits could generate valuable work and hopefully will encourage more members to contribute to the Newsletter.

Our Alba Editions book *Grounding a World. Essays on the work of Kenneth White* has sold slowly but steadily, mostly through book ordering companies, and has covered its costs. Our *Geopoetics: place, culture, world* booklet by Kenneth White has sold out and is being reprinted. Thanks to the work of Julie Johnstone, the special issue of *island* magazine of creative responses to our 2005 Islands Weekend was very attractive and successful.

Unfortunately, our second weekend geopoetics course at the University of Edinburgh and the one day course at the University of Glasgow were cancelled due to lack of numbers. It is very important that the one day geopoetics course at Edinburgh University on 3 March goes ahead so that future courses will be offered there.

We held less meetings over the last year but I and other members contributed to the Changin' Scotland weekend in Ullapool in March and I spoke at the Nairn Book and Arts Festival in June. My ill-health in the autumn curtailed activities then somewhat but we have an attractive monthly programme of events up to June 2007 and should consider ideas for further ones in the autumn. Our internet discussion group has been sporadic but our new website when ready could facilitate more interaction between members. Graham Urquhart has been writing to members to renew their subscriptions and it may be worth asking them to complete and return direct debit forms.

*On the Atlantic Edge* by Kenneth White is the first of the Highliner Series published by Sandstone Press and Tony McManus's book *The Radical Field* should be out in the late spring. Kenneth White has

been appointed as a visiting professor at the embryo University of the Highlands and Islands and his poetry reading in Gatehouse of Fleet and lecture at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August were well received.

I visited the permanent exhibition of Kenneth White's itinerary and work in L'Abbaye de Bonport in Normandy in May which should further strengthen the work of the International Institute of Geopoetics, as could our resource/research base in the Luig Community Trust Centre if it goes ahead next year. A further international geopoetics conference will be held in Quebec in Canada from 12-15 April and follows the launch of a German geopoetics centre late last year. Regular discussion meetings are also taking place in Sweden.

Norman Bissell