

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

HESLINGTON, YORK

TELEPHONE 59861

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
AND RELATED LITERATURE

11 April 1968

Dear

I am now able to give you a little more information about the Orkney visit.

The site is at the farm of Newark on the Mainland of Orkney, about 12 miles from Kirkwall (OS 1" 7th series 575042). All that is visible at the moment are the foundations of one end of a chapel, with bones underneath, exposed by the winter tides. It is popularly alleged to be medieval - we hope so!

One convenient route to Orkney is via Aberdeen and the Aberdeen-Kirkwall ferry. This ferry sails on Tuesdays only. We should have to make the crossing on Tuesday, 30 July, sailing at 5 pm, arriving in Kirkwall before breakfast on Wednesday. The date of return is not yet fixed, but it would probably be on Friday, 23 August, if we wish to return by the ferry and Aberdeen. Alternative routes are being considered, and these can be discussed next term.

The school in Deerness has been placed at our disposal at very small cost; so there will be dormitory accommodation, rough-and-ready cooking and washing facilities, and a dining-cum-common room available. You will need to bring a camp-bed, sleeping bag, and eating utensils, but it will not, after all, be essential to bring a tent. We shall do our own cooking, but supplies can be obtained from Kirkwall - there will be at least two cars and a Land Rover to transport persons and goods.

Apart from digging, we shall visit as many places of historic interest in Orkney and the islands as possible. The Rotary Club of Kirkwall plans to give a party for the archaeological expedition from Oslo (whose dig the BBC are televising), to which we are to be invited. Celebrations of the Quincentenary of the Pledging of Orkney to Scotland by King Christian I of Denmark and Norway will be taking place at this time, including the Quincentenary Conference in Kirkwall from 18-24 August, during which lectures will be given by British and Scandinavian scholars.

I am encouraged by the Administrative officer concerned to believe that there is very little likelihood of the LEAs refusing to pay grants for this visit. You will very shortly receive a letter from Heslington Hall instructing you on the procedure for applying to your LEA. It is most important that you act on this without delay. The

following figures should be quoted as the estimated cost of the visit:

Travel: £15
Maintenance (including accommodation): standard rate
of £1 per day = £23
Total: £38

Some Authorities will pay the estimated cost in advance, and adjust afterwards; others pay retrospectively, though in the case of hardship some will give an advance. If you have any queries or problems please write to me at York as soon as possible.

More precise details will be ready next term, when we shall have an early meeting to consolidate arrangements.

Best wishes,

Yours,

Sid Bradley

Meeting at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, 18 June, to discuss arrangements for the Orkney expedition.

Agenda

- 1 Travelling arrangements:
 - (a) Train to Aberdeen (7 hrs.)
Ferry to Kirkwall (11 hrs.) 5 pm on Tuesday,
30 July
Cost: £15 10s. Od. return (excluding berth,
11/-s. single, and meals);
 - (b) Landrover to Thurso (2 days)
Ferry to Stromness (2½ hrs.) 1.30 pm on Tuesday,
30 July
Cost: £5 10s. Od. single (including b. and b.);
 - (c) Train to Thurso (17½ hrs. and 2 changes)
Ferry as (b)
Cost: £16 5s. Od. return.

York accommodation.

- 2 Catering:
 - (a) pots, pans, cooking utensils;
 - (b) caterer.
- 3 Equipment:
 - (a) 4/5 fine sieves, 6 spades, buckets;
 - (b) li-lo or camp beds, sleeping bags,
plate, cup, k.f.s.,
diamond-shaped pointing trowel.
- 4 Grants and vacation addresses.
- 5 Finance: communal expenses:
 - (a) cooker;
 - (b) internal transport.