

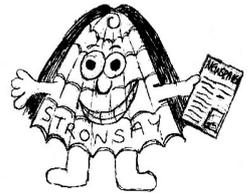


# **STRONSAY LIMPET**

**FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**ISSUE 136 - October 2016**

*Published on the last Thursday of the month*



## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **RNLI - STRONSAY BRANCH**

**Saturday 29 October** RNLI Disco for the youngsters, in the Stronsay Hotel's ghostly grotto. Fancy dress and a raffle in aid of RNLI

**Monday 31st October** - Halloween party (see poster on page 26)

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Saturday 5th November** – Bonfire Night (see poster on page 27)

**Saturday 26th November** – Christmas Craft Fair (See poster on page 28)

**Saturday 10th December** – Christmas Tree Lighting

**Saturday 31st December** – Hogmanay Dance

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## **STRONSAY LIMPET - EMAIL LIST**

This email list is used to disseminate information that is relevant to residents of Stronsay and is aimed at folk who do not have and do not want a Facebook account. In order to receive these emails you must first "sign up" by going to the following webpage <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk/MailList.html> and then follow the instructions on that page.

You will soon receive an email asking for confirmation. You **MUST** reply to this email to complete the process. If you have not received the email within an hour or so then please check your "spam" or "junk" email folders. There are a few folk who have signed up but have failed to respond to the confirmatory email. If that's you then just sign up again.

You can use the same web page if you wish to unsubscribe from the email list.

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The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on **Thu 24 November**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 20 November**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

## **TWO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS UNITS** **FOR LEASE**

The office and business units at the site of the old Lobster Ponds are well on their way to completion and it is the Trust's intention that Units 1 and 2, Wood's Yard will be available for lease by the end of the year. The Trust would like to hear from anyone with an existing business, or wishing to start a business, who might consider renting one of the units. Details as follows:

- There are two individual units of approximately 40m<sup>2</sup> which offer flexible accommodation to suit a variety of uses. There is designated parking for two cars per unit.
- Each unit has an individually metered electricity supply and provision for water and BT.
- Rent: Will be determined by individual circumstances.
- Rates: The tenant will be responsible for their share of the rates, which will be assessed.
- VAT: The rent will be subject to VAT at the standard rate.
- Entry: January 2017

To discuss, please contact Carole (250) or Julie (335)

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Company Number SC271553  
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Registered Office: Unit 1 Woods Yard, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR

## **COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE**

Tenders are sought by Stronsay Development Trust and the Greenhouse Group for:

- Removing existing posts and netting and clearing the ground at the rear of the Community Greenhouse
- Re-seeding the cleared ground
- Clearing the pathway of weeds and putting down a weed barrier and new chippings
- Clearing the ground around the fruit trees, fertilising and pruning them.

For further information and to view the site, please get in touch with:  
Marion Miller, 616354 or [macleod.marion@gmail.com](mailto:macleod.marion@gmail.com)

**North Isles Landscape Partnership**  
**LANDSCAPE AND COASTAL CHARACTER STUDY - MEETING**

A lot has been happening with regard to the various studies required as part of round 2 NILPS submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Alister Brown, Development Officer – North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme – explains: “We recently procured Craignish Design for our Landscape and Seascape Character Study of the North Isles. This study will provide an up to date record of the North Isles landscape and seascape, outlining recommendations in response to the threats and opportunities posed to their distinctive characteristics. The completed project will enable informed decisions to be made towards ensuring heritage is better managed and in better condition.”

David Graham – Craignish Design – explains: “We are undertaking a Local Landscape and Coastal Character Assessment (LLCA) of the North Isles on behalf of OIC as part of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Project.”

“The Landscape and Seascape Study will provide an up to date record of the North Isles landscape and seascape, outlining recommendations in response to the threats and opportunities posed in Isles distinct characteristics. It will also provide an up to date understanding of how the landscape is perceived and experienced by people (e.g. what local people value about their landscape). This study will help identify projects to be included in the delivery phase of NILPS.”

“We are keen to engage with residents in the islands in the LLCA process. What would be useful is to learn the following from the local communities:

“What makes this landscape special? What are its special qualities and special places?”

“What, in the future may change those special qualities?”

“What could be done to protect / enhance those special qualities?”

**No date for the meeting has been set at time of going to press, but we are expecting it will take place in November and will be a drop-in day-time and/or an evening event.**

**Please keep a watch out on shop notice boards and notifications via social media.**

For more information: <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/D/north-isles-landscape-partnership-scheme.htm>

The development phase of NILPS is being supported by the following organisations:



## RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

September ended with huge numbers of Pink-footed Geese flying over, dozens of Wheatears along the roadsides, and an exhausted juvenile Gannet was found stranded at the Matpow Loch after the 75mph winds on 29th (see photo). In spite of this storm there were still 30 Swallows at Airy at the end of the month.

Calm overnight conditions prevailed on 1st-2nd October and 11 Yellow-browed Warblers arrived on the island along with a Barred Warbler and a Garden Warbler (see photos). A real surprise seen with the local Starlings at Holin Cottage on 3rd was a juvenile Rosy Starling which proved very elusive and difficult to photograph! (see photo). It was seen again on 9th and may still be on the island. A Red-backed Shrike (see photo) near the South School on 4th was another surprise followed by another big 'fall' of migrants on 6th – mainly Goldcrests, Blackcaps and Redwings. 20 Brambling were seen at Dale the same day.

With a distinct – and very welcome - shortage of Greylag Geese well into the Autumn there has been a very welcome increase in the number of waders present: Golden Plover and Curlew in particular in the fields of short grass, and Duck: particularly Wigeon and Teal on the freshwater lochs, with smaller numbers on the sea close inshore.

There were a good number of sightings of Red Admiral butterflies around 8th-12th September coinciding with a further increase in the number of Goldcrests. An indication of the mild conditions was the discovery of a very late Pied Flycatcher on 10th (see photo) when 3 Greenfinches were also seen. SE winds did it again overnight on 12th-13th and at first light on 13th Kath and Norman each saw a different Woodcock at Dale whilst another was seen here in the Castle garden. David reported seeing a Stonechat at Osen the same morning.

By mid-October Robins were just about everywhere – and many householders reported that the birds were much tamer than our usual wintering Robins. More SE winds on 15th-16th brought further waves of migrants including at least 15 Mealy Redpolls (see photo) – feeding on roadside weeds but very elusive! 2 Common Scoter were seen on the Matpow Loch, but the most exciting discoveries were Waxwings – 2 at the North School, and a single briefly later in the day at Holin Cottage.

Another wave of migrants arrived on the island on 17th – hundreds of Redwings and smaller numbers of Fieldfares, and two unusual buntings were discovered – a Lapland Bunting in the Odiness Road and a much rarer Little Bunting (see photo) near Mt Pleasant. An adult male Hen Harrier (pale grey upper-wings with black tips, and white body) flew right past Joyce Maples at Park Cottage on 18th.

On 19th many of the island gardens held several migrant species. Our own held two each of: Brambling, Greenfinch, Blackcap, Goldcrest and Robin, and singles of Redwing, Dunnock and Chiffchaff.

By 21st many birds had departed, and even more had gone next day – but with more easterlies forecast during the next 2-3 days (24th-25th Oct.) we could be in for yet more interesting species here on Stronsay.

Thanks again for all the calls.

John Holloway

*(see photographs on next pages)*



*'The stranded Gannet at Matpow'*



*'Barred Warbler at Linksquoy'*



*'Garden Warbler at Linksquoy'*

*(continued on next page)*



*'Rosy Starling – the mainly yellow bill just visible in this rather distant shot'*



*'Red-backed Shrike near the South School – posing perfectly for the camera!'*



*'Mealy Redpoll - one of 15 or so seen in October.'*

*(continued on next page)*



*‘Little Bunting - an island rarity, the first recorded here for over ten years.’*

With Waxwings being reported throughout Orkney and Shetland at present it is well worth looking out for this spectacular species – Starling size, noticeable crest on head, loud trilling call - and probably feeding on berries. (See photo below)



*‘However - they are very partial to apples – and are exceptionally tame!’*



### **Occasional Work Opportunity**

An opening has presented itself for a minutes secretary for the SDT. Ideally this would provide occasional work for a self-employed person. Duties would include minute-taking at Board and General Meetings and maintenance of accurate records. Successful applicant would have basic computer skills and be able to work flexible hours. Application deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Please contact: Simone: 01857 616281.



### **Age Concern - Here2Help – please help us get this up & running**

If you are an older person who is quite independent, but could do with a spot of help with certain things, Here2Help could be just what you're looking for.

If you enjoy working with people in their homes and would like to earn a bit of money while doing a rewarding job, then working for Age Concern in the Here2 Help service in Stronsay could be just the thing for you.

It only takes one or two customers and one or two workers to get this service started on Stronsay, so please, help us get this up and running. Shapinsay and Rousay have been operating their Here2Help successfully for over a year. We all might need a bit of help one day and wouldn't it be nice to know that it's on our doorstep and just a phone call away.

For more information you can call Age Concern on 01856 872438 or Simone on 616 281.

**“What is Here2Help?** It's a service run by Age Concern offering help with cleaning the house, shopping, preparing meals, stocking your freezer with home cooked meals, change bedding, laundry & ironing - whatever you need help with – just ask and we'll do our best to help. Note: Here2Help does not provide personal care (help with bathing, toileting, dressing.)

**“How much will it cost?** Here2Help costs £15 per hour, but the Stronsay Development Trust will pay 50% towards the cost of the service. Here2Help asks that you book a minimum of 1 hour but that can be daily, weekly, fortnightly or even once a month.

**“How do I pay?** Age Concern will send you a bill at the end of each month which you can pay by direct bank payment. Stronsay Development Trust can help you to set this up if you like.

**“What does the charge include?** The hourly rate covers the worker's wage, mileage, holiday cover, training and all tax and insurance costs. “

Source: Age Concern Orkney Here2Help leaflet.

## **BAYVIEW 2016**

When we came to look at Bayview in the spring and had our first lunch in the Fish Mart we couldn't help but be impressed by the displays and photographs that told the story of the herring fishing and the huge effect it had on Stronsay. Indeed we were about to look over a house built on the strength of that industry. Well we bought a matter that soon became common knowledge, as we made our first ferry trip, the purser knew exactly who we were, passengers introduced themselves and gave their best wishes.

As we drove round the island, on 'peedie' journeys of discovery or just heading to the beach to walk the dogs, I became increasingly aware of the rich heritage of farming on the island. Not just the careful husbandry of the land and the livestock but also the fine farm buildings; barns, steadings, workers cottages and croft houses. Even those that had fallen into disrepair and ruin, as a vernacular buildings historian the story they tell and their exposed stonework are a fascination. I find myself wanting to photograph and survey them.

What surprised me was the apparent lack of writing on Stronsay's agricultural past, so I set about 'doing a little research'.

Reading the Orkneyinga Saga, there were several references to Stronsay but almost always coupled with farming. Rental records for 1595 in St Nicholas parish show three substantial farms, Clet (now Cleat), Housbie (now Housebay) and Holland all in the hands of Earl Patrick Stewart. The area, six square miles, was described as Class 3 (the highest category), and was the largest area of land at this category in the Northern Isles.

Looking at the census records from 1841 to 1911, over 10,000 entries, Stronsay had 30 to 40% of its population (around 1200) in employment. Of these 50 to 60 folk were fishermen, but 200 to 300 worked on the land. Farming was clearly of considerable importance to Stronsay.

Now the reason for me writing this article. I would like to write that book, but I can't do it without your help. I am asking you to share, any photographs, documents and stories that could help me to understand the way the land has been worked on Stronsay over the past years, decades - even centuries.

Gathering facts is relatively easy, they are generally out there somewhere but getting to know what life was like on Stronsay is a little more complicated; it is held in people's memories and their willingness to share them, plus I'm a newcomer. I am glad to say communities have trusted me in the past and some interesting and rewarding work has been the result.

I have portable equipment to scan, photograph and record so your precious memories need never leave your home, if you would like to help in any way please contact me at Bayview, on 616308, or email [davehutchinson@btinternet.com](mailto:davehutchinson@btinternet.com).

I will be taking a stand at the winter craft fayre, to share my research so far, I will be delighted to see you there.

Dave Hutchinson, Bayview, Whitehall Village

*(Ed: Dave chaired the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Group for five years before he and his family moved to the Islands. If you or your friends have any knowledge of old buildings on Stronsay then I am sure that Dave would love to hear from you)*

## STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

Have you tried out OIC's budget simulator yet? Find out more at <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/balance-oics-budget.htm>

I first mentioned the budget simulator in my June "Letter". Since then OIC officials have been busy customising it. Interestingly, the simulator allows you, for example, to suggest stopping **all funding** to our life-line Orkney Ferries and the inter-island air service, but not reducing the salaries of the aforementioned OIC officials nor sacking the Finance Department. Nevertheless, the simulator does give an indication of the difficult decisions faced by us councillors in setting the annual council budget, which is predicted to be even tighter this year.

I sat on the shortleeting and interview panel for appointing a new acting headteacher for Eday and North Ronaldsay primaries. The post was offered to Steve Miller, well known to staff and pupils at both of those schools.

Stephen Fraser, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's Station Manager for Orkney, kindly saw me about recruitment of firefighters in the Isles. He shall be coming out to Sanday's community council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

I paid a visit to Peter Rickard, Interim Manager of THAW Orkney (Tackling Household Affordable Warmth), a new charitable organisation with the aim of eradicating fuel poverty in Orkney. I was impressed by their joined-up approach. If you need a helping hand to achieve a cosy home, it is well worth checking out their website: <http://www.thaworkney.co.uk>

As a member of the Orkney College Management Council, I attended this year's graduation ceremony at St. Magnus' Cathedral. While waiting for the procession to start, I noticed with horror evidence of last year's reception on the front of my red & gold doctoral gown, in the form of smears of blue icing sugar. Fortunately, the food colouring in it wasn't indelible. This year, another memorable reception was laid on by the students of the College's Hospitality Department, but this time I've made sure no reminders have remained for next year's graduation!

I accepted an invitation to meet with consultants from SKS Scotland, commissioned by the Sanday Development Trust to carry out a feasibility study and draw up a business plan for the regeneration of Kettletoft, a project supported by the North Isles Landscape Partnership. Many Sanday folk will have memories of the "Idea of North" study conducted by the Mackintosh School of Architecture in 2006. I am confident that this time the consultation is firmly grounded in realism.

Other meetings I have attended this month include those of the: Policy & Resources Committee, Monitoring & Audit Committee, General Meeting of the full Council, Stronsay Community Council, and the Leadership Board of the Highlands & Islands Science Skills Academy. I have also engaged in a strategic planning workshop of the Orkney College Management Council, and been to seminars on serious organised crime and on the use of intelligence information in licensing.

Several schools in the North Isles still have unacceptably high speed limits on the roads passing by them. I have been informed that the Council's road team have commenced a survey of existing 40 mph speed limits across Orkney.

*(continued on next page)*

At last the "extra" wheelie bins at the Hatston depot are going to be put to good use. Each household in the Isles (with the exception of those in Shapinsay and Westray, which already have them for their alternate weekly collections) is going to be provided with two bins for their household refuse. This is a long time coming. This is a long time coming.

At last the “extra” wheelie bins at the Hatston depot are going to be put to good use. Each household in the Isles (with the exception of those in Shapinsay and Westray, which already have them for their alternate weekly collections) is going to be provided with two bins for storing recyclable items and bagged-up refuse. This means your rubbish can be kept outside in a vermin-proof container during the week and wheeled to the roadside on collection day. (The collection frequency will continue as at present.) In addition, the recycling points will be increased in capacity.

I have been asked how long one should expect to have wait for a response to a query made to a Council department. OIC has corporate standards for this which state that an acknowledgement should be received within 5 working days and a substantive reply within 25 working days. (I, personally, try to do much better than this.)

The next local authority elections will be held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. I intend to have a mini-manifesto in place by then, on which I will stand, and which (if I am re-elected) I will use as a basis to form an alliance with other like-minded councillors, so that it is backed with sufficient support to become implemented. In the next few issues of this “Letter” I shall be sharing my thoughts on various areas of council activity and what I am thinking of putting into my manifesto, and I would welcome feedback from the public. I shall start this month with education (so pupils, parents, teachers, prepare to get in touch ...):

**Education:** Much of the Council’s education policy is directed by Scottish Government legislation. (Alarmingly, under SNP education reform proposals, local authorities may lose any role in education at all!) Nonetheless, there is still some scope for local variation and innovation. For example, I support our “Orkney Offer”, which capitalises on the almost-unique situation that our local further education college is council-run. This enables pupils in S4, S5 & S6 to blend academic education and vocational training to suit their needs and abilities. I firmly believe that schools must teach skills for life, and two specific skills I want taught in Orkney schools are: 1) Touch typing — In a world where the keyboard is taking over from the pen, this indispensable skill should be introduced in primary. 2) Driving — One of the most essential qualifications one needs as an adult is a driving licence, and in the senior secondary years we should, at least, be preparing students for the theory test.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, I shall be flying to Papay for a meeting of their community council, and I’ll also be going along to Sanday’s community council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson  
West Manse, Sanday  
[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)



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## **FUNERAL OF STEVEN HOJBJERG**

Son of Pauline Hojbjerg who lived at Hescombe, Stronsay until about 15 years ago

*(Information received by Brenda Maxwell, Hillcrest, Stronsay)*

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Steven Harling*  
*Hojbjerg*  
*1st August 1954 - 10th September 2016*

*Grimsby Crematorium Chapel*  
*Monday 26th September 2016*  
*1.00pm*

*Service conducted by*  
*Mike Tombs*

*Music played at*  
*Today's Service*

*Love Again*  
*sung by*  
*John Denver*

*Abide with Me*  
*sung by*  
*Katherine Jenkins*

*My Way*  
*sung by*  
*Frank Sinatra*

*Miss Me - But Let Me Go*

*When I come to the end of the road*  
*And the sun has set for me,*  
*I want no rites in a gloom filled room,*  
*Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little - but not too long*  
*And not with your head bowed low,*  
*Remember the love that we once shared,*  
*Miss me - but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we must all take*  
*And each must go alone,*  
*It's all a part of the Master's plan,*  
*A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely, and sick of heart*  
*Go to the friends we know,*  
*And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,*  
*Miss me - but let me go.*

*The family would like to thank*  
*you for taking the time*  
*to share in Steve's service today*  
*and also for the many messages of*  
*support which they have received.*



*They invite you to join them*  
*after the service at*  
*The Carr Lane Club*  
*for light refreshments*  
*and to share fond memories.*



*Donations in memory may be made to*  
*Aberdeen Royal Infirmary*  
*c/o Sentiments Independent Funeral Home*  
*17 Chantry Lane, Grimsby, DN31 2LP*

**Sentiments Independent Funeral Home**  
17 Chantry Lane, Grimsby, DN31 2LP  
Tel: 01472 506350  
www.sentiments-grimsby.co.uk

**STRONSAY LIMPET—CAPTION COMPETITION**  
**PHOTOGRAPH FOR LAST MONTH’S COMPETITION**



The winner this month was Mike Burger with  
“The Optimist - or - Panning for gold in Stronsay”

Other entries were

- *When I was little we had our bath in front of the fire*
- *The new washing facilities at the Fishmart seem to be proving tricky for some of the visitors.*
- *Did he shout ‘Help’ or ‘Kelp’?*

Now try your hand at the this month’s photograph on the next page.

# **STRONSAY LIMPET—CAPTION COMPETITION**

## **PHOTOGRAPH FOR THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION**

Use your ingenuity & imagination to decide what these very suspicious-looking characters are up to. Answers to the editor ([editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk)) please by 7pm on Sunday 20 November



## “WHAT IS IT?” COMPETITION

Sheila Burger wrote “It’s the bulla (ear drum) of a whale”. As Sheila’s was the only entry (and she had the correct answer) she is the winner! See the next page for a full description of the object, supplied by Elizabeth Charwat MSc MCLIP who also supplied the photographs.



## **THE “WHAT IS IT?” COMPETITION FROM SEPTEMBER 2016**

Here is the definitive answer to last month’s “What is it?” competition, printed with kind permission of Elaine Charwat MSc, MCLIP, Deputy Librarian & Linnaeus Link Administrator, The Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BF, UK .

### **FINDING A GIANT EAR BONE ON THE ISLAND OF STRONSAY (ORKNEY)**

Stronsay’s exposed position in the North-East of Orkney and its flat “all arms and legs” shape make it a prime location for catching out the more spectacular and mysterious creatures living in the North Atlantic and the North Sea. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the small island is famous for a major cryptozoological puzzle. In 1808, after a storm, Stronsay’s own close relative of the Loch Ness Monster was found washed ashore near Rothiesholm Bay. Dubbed the “Stronsay Beast”, it has stubbornly resisted identification so far. Various parts of the creature have indeed survived and are awaiting DNA analysis.

When my husband and I visited Stronsay this September, we spent a few happy hours walking around Rothiesholm Bay. Failing to spot anything more monstrous than a dead and very bloated grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), we heard about the remnants of a stranded whale near Lambness and went to see them. Parts of the spine with its impressive vertebrates and discs were still draped over rocks. As we walked along the beach at low tide we stumbled over countless pieces of narrow triangular baleen plates roughly the length of my arm, which looked almost like they were peeled from the trunk of a palm tree with their frazzled fibre-like bristles running along the translucent horn-like main shape. We also found a part of the beak-shaped skull, arched rib-bones, and single spine discs the size of Frisbees. When lifted from the water, these were heavy with water like soaked yellow sponges. Then Lukas walked towards me holding a solid, curved white object. “What do you think this is”, he said. He handed it to me, and it lay in my hand extraordinarily heavy for its size. It was of a hard, porcelain-like substance and shaped vaguely like a conch. “Ear”, I said, without thinking. It just seemed to have been made for amplifying sound, just like a conch would. This initial gut-feeling seemed rather fanciful at first – could this really be a whale’s ear? – but it turned out to be just that.

A quick look at the anatomy of whales confirmed that it was the bulla, which encloses the delicate inner ear bones. Identifying the species of whale was not difficult thanks to the excellent Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme database and map [<http://www.strandings.org/cgi-bin/map.pl>]. Our whale was a juvenile female fin whale, stranded on the 6th of January 2016. This fascinating find prompted me to try and learn more about how whales hear – sound being so crucial to their lives and their anatomy being so different from land mammals. Our bulla and inner ear, for instance, is located in our skulls, whereas with whales it is located inside their jaws. The density and stiffness of the whales’ bulla is, apart from dental enamel, the greatest of any vertebrate skeletal tissues, and has evolved to deliver the best possible sound transmission without distortion.

*(continued on next page)*

The question of how whales hear is still being debated. Baleen whales like fin whale have a different “ear” anatomy again from toothed whales (toothed whales have ligaments which separate the ear bones from the rest of the skull, probably making it harder for sound conducted by the skull to be heard). Recent research using a fin whale skull, computed tomography and a simulation model suggests that there are two mechanisms which allow the whale to hear. Firstly, the bone-conduction mechanism, which is hearing by sound conducted from the movement of the skull to the ear bones. Secondly, the pressure mechanism, which is sound interacting directly with the ear bones of the whale after moving through water and the head tissue. In line with its anatomy, the bone conduction mechanism seems to be the main mechanism for fin whales. In summary, “fin whales communicate using low-frequency vocalizations [...]. Low-frequency sounds tend to scatter and therefore do not have the ability to apply much direct pressure on ear bones. Therefore the sound’s contact with the skull would account for the majority of how they hear these low-frequency sounds and the ‘pressure mechanism’ would be less impactful.”

Whale song is quite an earful – and it goes hand in hand with a giant ear bone, a uniquely adapted anatomy to make the most of it. Mysterious body parts found on remote islands may not always belong to sea monsters, but “prosaic” truths often hold far profounder and more fascinating mysteries. Holding in your hand the heavy bone which has sounded with the haunting song of a fin whale is humbling, and much superior, I think, to a sea monster. What they have in common, on the other hand, is that science still has to find answers to the many questions raised by both.

Elaine Charwat, September 2016

## **HOLD THE ONIONS**

By Ellie from Newfield

“Build it and they will come”,  
That’s a well0known phrase.  
And so it goes with most things  
In many different ways  
“Grow it and they will come”,  
How true this has been.

The copse now swells with its occupants  
Wome who are never to be seen.

By courtesy of Mother Nature  
And helped by these willings hands  
For wasn’#t each new tree  
Grown by popular demand.

A nursery of harching bird life  
Safe within its shelter,  
A haven for all manner of crawlies  
For whom life is one helter-skelter,  
Millions of tiny life=-forms  
In a cycle of natural “al fresco”.

A fast-food chain in motion,  
The menu varied and ready to go.  
A twentyfour hour service,  
A fresh catch of the day.

As long as you’re the fortunate,  
“The one that got away”.

So now I think it evolved  
Into a living slaughter house  
And the owl would agree  
Were he not bulging with that mouse.

©*Helene Harrison*

# ***SALES, WANTS, GREETINGS, THANKS***

## **WORK WANTED**

Anything considered! Please contact James Hannant (age 21) on 616454



**Local sales, wants, etc are free!**

The cutoff date for adverts to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page  
Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **Storehouse B&B Christmas Celebrations**

#### **Starters**

Deep fried Russell's cheese served with salad, home-made mini bannocks with cranberry sauce.

Salmon and prawn roulade served with dill sauce and salad.

Creamy carrot and parsnip soup served with star croutons.

#### **Main course**

Traditional turkey dinner served with seasonal vegetables, roast and boiled tatties, stuffing, pigs in blankets & gravy.

Rolled, stuffed loin of pork served with seasonal vegetables, roast & boiled tatties, pigs in blankets, gravy & apple sauce.

Roast beef marinated in red wine, served with seasonal vegetables, roast and boiled tatties and pigs in blankets.

Vegetarian option: Chestnut and roasted vegetable pie.

#### **Sweets**

Meringue duo, berries & Cream and chocolate & nuts.

Cloutie dumpling served with marmalade ice-cream/cream.

Black forest roulade served with cream.

Cheese board with crackers, selected fruit and chutneys.

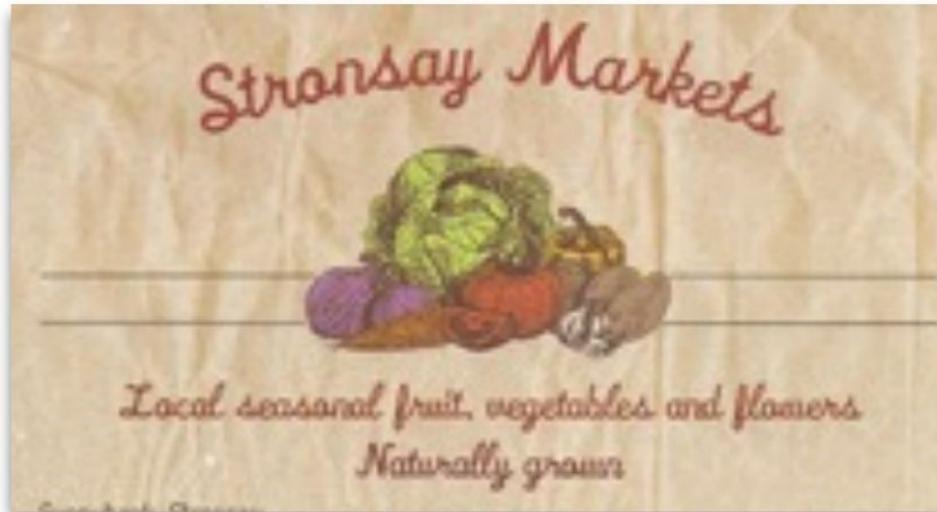
Relax after your three course meal in front of a cosy fire enjoying a complimentary, Tea, Coffee, mulled wine/dram and a freshly made mince pie (party bags for children) and share in the Christmas atmosphere that Storehouse B&B provides. Three courses, Adult £20 Children £10. Bookings only, from 1<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December. (only 12pm-4pm on 24<sup>th</sup>)



Local business adverts are free!  
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## LOCAL BUSINESSES

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*New business, a mini market garden, set up in late 2015 at  
Sunnybank, Stronsay*

*Currently supplying mixed salad leaves, some winter vegetables and  
bedding plants. There will be more as the season progresses.*

*I will supply a list each week with availability*

*Please look at my Face book page "Stronsay Markets" or  
send me an email "[stronsaymarkets@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaymarkets@gmail.com) and I will put you  
on my mailing list*

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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **STRONSAY HOTEL—TAKEAWAY MENU**

Phone 01857 616213

[New website \(Sep 2016\)](#)

Six days a week (Tuesday- Sunday)

Homemade lasagne + chips	£5.95
Homemade sausagemeat pie + chips	£5.95
Homemade chicken curry + rice or chips	£5.95
Homemade chicken masala curry + rice or chips	£6.50
Homemade chicken & veg pie + chips	£6.50
Breaded haddock + chips	£5.50
Breaded wholetail scampi + chips	£6.50
2 sausages + chips	£3.00
2 fish fingers + chips	£2.80
“Stronsay Beast Burger” + fries	£4.50
“Stronsay Cheese Beast Burger” + fries	£5.00
Portion of chips	£1.30
Half portion of chips	£0.80
Portion of cheesy chips	£2.10
Half portion of cheesy chips	£1.10
Portion of onion rings	£1.20

5pm to 9pm

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

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### **STRONSAY ARTWORKS**

Original paintings of Stronsay Landscape; Limited edition prints, greetings cards and postcards which are available for sale at local shops, Post Office, Hotel, B&B's and the Fishmart. Commissions taken.

Phone 01856 874723

<http://www.jennystoneart.com>

Email [jenny@jennystoneart.com](mailto:jenny@jennystoneart.com)

**PATRICK  
McGRATH  
LTD**

 **PLUMBING  
& HEATING**

**Gas Safe Registered Engineer  
Plumber**

Services include:

- Installation, servicing, maintenance of all domestic gas appliances
- Landlords gas safety checks
- Bathroom fitting
- Bathroom supply
- General heatings
- All other types of domestic, commercial, industrial plumbing works
- Isles work welcome

Call Patrick on **07933 488283**  
Email: [patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com](mailto:patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com)



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### **DRIVING TUITION**

Patient and friendly learner driver tuition with Richard. Including Pass Plus for passed drivers. To book lessons call 616268 or 07789104861. Or message my Facebook page 'Drive 2 Stay Alive'. Lesson times are very flexible to suit you, and lessons start and finish at your chosen address.

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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **“NEIL’S ON WHEELS”**



- All mechanical work undertaken.
- Tyres
- ECU/ABS/airbag diagnostic testing
- Welding specialist
- MOT prep work
- Home start
- Towing service

MOBILE: 07723 304 260

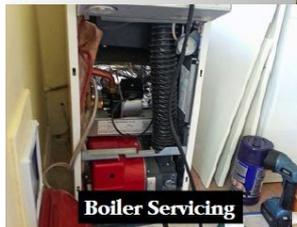
HOME: 01857 616454

### **Ebenezer Oil Heating Services**

Oftec trained engineer



**Oil Tank Installation**



**Boiler Servicing**

Oil boiler servicing,  
repair and replacement



**Boiler Installation  
& Commissioning**

A serviced boiler  
is an efficient boiler  
and will save you money

**Tel 01857 616339**  
**ebenezer@stronsay.org**

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP**

[www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk)



Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AG, UK

Tel: +44 01857 616281

Email: [info@orkneystarsoap.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneystarsoap.co.uk)

Web: <https://www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/orkney.star.island.soap/>

Two new festive soaps launching at the Stronsay Winter Craft Fair on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> November. “Aurora” – celebrating the merry dancers with a lovely Lemongrass, Sandalwood & Frankincense fragrance. “White Magic” – with the deeply sensuous, warming fragrance of Patchouli, Sandalwood & Amber

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**RNLIT**

**Stronsay-branch**

**Fancy-dress**

**Halloween**

**Marty**

**peedie-lanterns**

**Quizzes**

**Raffle**

**Games**

**Monday-31st-October**

**6.30pm**

**Stronsay-Community-**

**Centre**



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**GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS**

**STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**



**Bonfire Night!**



**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**7PM**

**AT THE HALL**

**GUY COMPETITION**

**SUPPER – CLAPSHOT, MINCE**

**AND HAGGIS**

**BAR OPEN – RAFFLE**

**ADULT:£6      CHILDREN:£3**

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

#### **Stronsay Winter Craft Fair**



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**Stronsay Community Hall, 1pm - 4pm**

- **Hand-crafted jewellery, children's clothes, home decor, cards, woodwork, knits, soaps and so much more**
- **Be sure to come and have a look at the "Researching Stronsay History" display**
- **Raffle, prizes**
- **Refreshments & home bakes**



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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***



### **STRONSAY STITCHERS**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October - from 7pm-9.30pm, Church Hall**



### **STRONSAY SPINNERS**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Church Hall, from 11am to 3pm. Lunch: please bring your own. Refreshments will be available. £2.00/person helps cover Hall costs.

Learn the basics or get back to spinning in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. All levels very welcome, from beginners to more experienced. Bring your own wheel, equipment & something to spin if possible. If not, we have a spare wheel, a few drop spindles & plenty of fleece. If you'd just like to come for a "taster" that would be great.

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **CYCLE ORKNEY**

One of Cycle Orkney's mechanics came out to Stronsay on Sunday 16 October and was kept fairly busy repairing and doing maintenance on peoples' bikes. It was good to see such a good turnout of cyclists and their vehicles and on behalf of the community we would like to thank Stronsay School for providing the venue and to Cycle Orkney for this very useful, free, island-wide service that they provide.



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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **CYCLE FRIENDLY – STRONSAY PEDAL POWER**

After a successful funding application for a community & visitors bicycles for loan project, spearheaded by Viv Erdman, a stack of new bicycles arrived in Stronsay last Friday. On Sunday folks came to the Hall to inspect them and try them out. Despite one or two wobbles from those of us who haven't ridden for ages, it was great fun. Then at 3pm a bunch of intrepid cyclists set out from the Hall to ride the Queen's Drive. Well done all you guys!

Simone.

PS I'm sure Viv will be posting more info about the bikes when she gets back from her holiday.



*Coming up from Mill Bay*



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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

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### **STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE** **supervised sessions**

**Changes to supervised session times.**

**From Monday 11th April 2016**

All Supervised Sessions will run from 4.30 pm to 6.30.pm

MONDAY	4:30—6:30
TUESDAY	Buddy system
WEDNESDAY	4:30—6:30
THURSDAY	4:30—6:30
FRIDAY	4:30—6:30
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	Buddy system by request

The gym can be accessed throughout the day if you have a 'buddy' to go with.

A code is required, please speak to one of the team if you have any questions

Inductions by appointment only

Andy - 616277, Julie - 616335 or Tracey - 616350

Gym during supervised sessions - 616449

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### **STRONSAY DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**

.The next meeting of the Stronsay Diabetes Support Group will be on Tuesday 1st December in the Community Hall (carpet room) at the usual time of 3pm.

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### **FIBROMYALGIA**

Do you suffer from fibromyalgia? There is a local Facebook group just for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/463333273823206>.

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper      Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

### **STRONSAY SLAUGHTERHOUSE** **INVITATION TO QUOTE**

Stronsay Community Council invites quotes from experienced persons to carry out a total refurbishment of the Stronsay slaughterhouse.

The slaughterhouse is in need of a complete refurbishment, to include repair to existing fixtures and fittings, alterations requiring the removal and blocking up of two unused doors, the application of rubberised paint to all internal walls and ceilings and other identified work, the details of which are available on request.

The closing date for sealed quotes, addressed to the Island Link Officer and marked 'Slaughterhouse Refurbishment' is **5pm on FRIDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2016.**

Accompanied site inspections are invited and to arrange an appointment please contact the Island Link Officer.

Colin McAlpine,  
Island Link Officer,  
The Hill,  
Stronsay,  
KW17 2AT

Tel: 616446 at any reasonable time or  
616475 between 10am and noon on a Tuesday, Thursday or  
Saturday.

23 October 2016

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

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### **STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL**

### **WE HAVE THE BLUE DOOR 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017!**

Stronsay Swimming Pool have 'The Blue Door' in Kirkwall from 23<sup>rd</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017. We will be storing any donations at the Manse and will be available one Saturday in each month to accept any items excluding electrical items.

The dates and times when we will be at the Manse are as follows:

- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10am - midday
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 10am - midday
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 10am - midday
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10am - midday
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 10am - midday

Could you please make sure that all donations are bagged or boxed securely.

Thank you,

Stronsay Swimming Pool Committee.

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### **IS YOUR CLUB OR ORGANISATION PLANNING AN EVENT ON STRONSAY?**

Why not advertise it in the *Limpet*? **It's free!** 100 copies of the *Limpet* are printed and distributed across the island every month and the *Limpet* is also freely available online. To advertise simply get in touch with the *Limpet*'s editor (contact details are on the back page of every *Limpet*) and provide the following information:

- what your event is,
- who or what organisation is running it,
- what charity or organisation it is supporting,
- whereabouts it's being held and, finally,
- the date & time at which it's being held.

If you have missed the deadline for the regular *Limpet* then the *Limpet*'s editor can spread your information via:

- the *Limpet*'s email list,
- the *Limpet*'s Facebook page and
- the *Limpet*'s website.

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# ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

## **STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE**

*Updated July 2016*

### **Monday**

Public session 6.30-7.10

Adult lane 7.10-7.50

### **Thursday**

7-7.40 Private Hire (pre-booked)

7.40-8.20 Private Hire (available for booking)

### **Saturday**

Private hire 2-2.40

Public session 2.40-3.20

### **Swim club**

Wednesday Beginners and developers 3.30-4.10

Thursday A and B squad 3.30-4.30

To enquire about Private Hires, phone Elsie on 616238.

To enquire about Swim Club, phone Sarah on 616406 or Andy 616277

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## **POOL CHARGES**

### **Public Sessions**

Adults (16 and over) £2.40

Children £1.20

### **Private Hires**

40 minute session - £15

60 minute session - £20

### **Swim Club**

Children will be offered 10 week blocks which can be paid up front (non-refundable)

40 minute sessions - £16 block booking; £2 per session

60 minute sessions - £20 block booking; £2.50 per session

### **Men only and Women only Sessions (16 and over)**

Block booking of 10 sessions over a 12 week period (non-refundable)

£24 block booking

£3 per session

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Chairman: Mark Boler, Vice Chairman: Garry Dennison, Secretary: Wilma Holland

### **STRONSAY GAMES CLUB** **VOLUNTEER LEADER/ORGANISER**

Stronsay Games Club is looking for an enthusiastic, volunteer leader to run the long-established Games Club for young people aged between 10 and 18 years who have met every Friday evening between 8 and 10pm during school term times, used a wide range of games and equipment and participated in occasional youth-centred events in Kirkwall. Unfortunately with no one to take the lead, the Games Club has not met for several months.

You will not be alone. A pool of adult volunteers is available to assist and support you. You will need to be a PVG Member, enjoy working with young people, be organised and have a good sense of humour.

If you are interested in taking on this lead role, or require more information, please contact the Association's Secretary.

Go on, be positive and do something to help the youth of our island.

Wilma Holland  
Secretary  
Stronsay Community Association  
Tel: 616 345

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## **KIRK NEWS**

With the new sound equipment in the Church it is now possible to record the services. If you are unable to get along to church each Sunday and would like to get a copy of the service week by week please give Elsie a phone on 616238. Services at 11am unless otherwise stated. A crèche is available for children aged 9 and under

It's the kirk's Harvest Festival on Sunday 30 October and David Bowen is preaching. Please bring any items (fruit, vegetables, tins, etc) for the display to the church hall on the afternoon of Saturday 29 October.

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Final visit for 2016!

**MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2016**

Council Houses 8:45-9:45

School 10 - 12

Kirk 12.30 - 3

Fish mart 3.15 - 5:30

Mobile library schedule [http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/assets/Isles\\_Mobile\\_2016.pdf](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/assets/Isles_Mobile_2016.pdf)

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or [general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk)

Kirkwall library website - <http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk>

Kirkwall library online book catalogue - <http://212.219.208.10/TalisPrism>

Library opening times

[www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours)

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### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Rooms for hire from only £2 per hour plus hydro charge.

Special event coming up? Why not hire the disco equipment with rotating glitter globe and pulsating coloured lights for only £5 plus room and hydro charge? A DJ from the Hall list must be used.

Also available for hire: badminton, table tennis and pool all at £3 per hour plus hydro. All equipment provided.

Adult supervision (over 18) must be present during hire.

For details and booking contact Colin on 616446.

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## ***USEFUL INFORMATION***

### **POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES, etc**

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri . . . . .	08:30—12:00
Sat . . . . .	09:00—12:00
Sun . . . . .	Closed
Post collection times . . . . .	07:30, Monday to Saturday
Bank day . . . . .	Tuesday
Replacement bin bags.. . . . .	Contact Island Link Officer in the Fishmart
Sunday service at the Kirk . . .	11 am (see <a href="http://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5">http://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5</a> )
Our Lady's chapel, pier head	Mass 11.30am (weekdays), 10.30am (Sundays & Holidays)
Next Special Collection . . . . .	9 December 2016 and 27 February 2017
Rubbish collection . . . . .	Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

Doctor . . . . .	616321
Nurses . . . . .	616480
Medical emergency . . . . .	01856 888000
Stronsay registrar . . . . .	616239
Hall bookings . . . . .	616446
Post Office . . . . .	616278
Companions . . . . .	616261
Kirk . . . . .	616311
Stronsay Hotel . . . . .	616213
Olivebank . . . . .	616255
Ebenezer stores . . . . .	616339
Neil's on Wheels . . . . .	616454
Taxi . . . . .	616335
Airy Fairy . . . . .	616231
Castle Bird Reserve . . . . .	616363
Craftship Enterprise . . . . .	616249
Star Island Soap . . . . .	616281
Driving tuition . . . . .	616268

Balfour hospital . . . . .	01856 888000
Electricity problems . . . . .	0800 300 999
Water problems . . . . .	0845 601 8855
Highland Fuels . . . . .	0800 224 224
Kirkwall Library . . . . .	01856 873166
Kirkwall Police . . . . .	101

#### Vets:

Flett & Carmichael . . . . .	01856 872859
Northvet . . . . .	01856 873403

#### Dentists:

Great Western Rd . . . . .	01856 879683
King Street . . . . .	01856 875348
Earls Palace . . . . .	01856 872958
Golgotha monastery. . . . .	616210

Email [contact@the-sons.org](mailto:contact@the-sons.org)

**EMERGENCY! - POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE or COASTGUARD—dial 999**

### **JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES**

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

### **HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET***

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk) (preferred method); phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10am & before 8pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE LIMPET***

You can send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present?

12 editions for £20.00 including P&P

Please make cheques—UK banks only—payable to “Stronsay Development Trust”.

UK only. Non-UK subscriptions, please ask for a quote. Contact Bruce, details above

