



**ORKNEY FERRIES**

**SUMMER TIMETABLE BEGINS ON SUNDAY 5 MAY**

See page 2 or <https://tinyurl.com/y268fhje>

**PEEDIE LIBRARY TUESDAY - 7 MAY**

Peedie Library in the church hall on Tuesday 7 May from 3pm to 4:30pm. We have a great many books on a wide range of subjects. We also have a DVD section. Tea, coffee, juice & biscuits available - sometimes even cake! Even if you're not a reader why not call in for a cuppa & a chat.

If you need a lift please ask Viv Erdman (Ebenezer Stores) and we will arrange it.

**ORKNEY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - 15 MAY**

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau will be on Stronsay 15th May between 1pm and 4:30pm. To make an appointment to see one of their advisers at the Community Centre - Carpet Room or to arrange a home visit please telephone 01856 875266 by Thursday 9th May at the latest.

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting of the Diabetes Support Group will be held in the carpet room at the Community Centre on Wednesday 22nd May from 3pm-4.30pm.

**STRONSAY DIARY**

To find out what's happening on Stronsay why not visit the Stronsay Diary:

<http://visitstronsay.com/events>

To add your event to the Diary just give details of the event - what, when & where - to the Limpet editor. Please provide your own contact details

**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*.

The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on **Thu 30 May**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 26 May**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kirkwall dep	0840A		0720B	0700B	0700B		0700B
Eday arr	0955		↓	↓	↓		0815
Eday dep	1005A		↓	↓	↓		0830B
Stronsay arr	1040		0855	0840	0840		0905
Stronsay dep	↓	0815A	0910B	0855B	0855B	0730B	0920B
Eday arr	↓	0850	↓	0930	0930	0805	↓
Eday dep	↓	0905A	↓	0945B	0945B	0820B	↓
Kirkwall arr	↓	1020	1050	1100	1100	0935	1100
Kirkwall dep	↓	1010		1040			
Stronsay arr	↓	1150		1220			
Stronsay dep	1740A	1200		1230			
Eday arr	1815	↓		↓			
Eday dep	1825A	↓		↓			
Kirkwall arr	1940	1335		1405			
Kirkwall dep	1950A	1600	1620	1600	1600	1600	1600A
Eday arr	↓	1715	↓	1715	1715	1715	↓
Eday dep	↓	1730	↓	1730	1730	1730	↓
Stronsay arr	2130	1805	1800	1805	1805	1805	1740
Stronsay dep		1815	1810	1815		1815	1750A
Eday arr		↓	↓	↓		↓	1825
Eday dep		↓	↓	↓		↓	1835A
Kirkwall arr		1955	1945	1955		1955	1955

**A** - Vehicles must be booked before 1400hrs on Saturday.

**B** - Vehicles must be booked before 1600hrs the day before sailing.

All other vehicle bookings must be made at least one hour before the departure from Kirkwall.

**No Show Charges** – All cancellations must be made not less than 24 hours before the intended date of travel or full charges may apply.

Vehicles **must** be available for boarding twenty minutes and passengers ten minutes before departure times.

RO-RO Timetable 05 May – 30 September 2019 inclusive, excluding the following dates for special excursions, posters are on display advertising regattas and events: 15 June, 27 July, 02 & 03 August and 10 August 2019.

For full fares please enquire at Ferry Services Offices.



## **LOOKING FOR BLOGGERS for Our Visit Stronsay Website**

**Stuff you could blog about April May – bagging bruck, Skail House Falconry event, walk at the Vat of Kirbister, Spring Craft Fair.....**

Visit Stronsay Group would like to invite Stronsay residents of all ages to join in telling stories about our island by sending us something you've written & photographed for our island blog.

Wondering what to blog about? Here are just a few suggestions to get you started - stories about moving to the island, working here, school trips, clubs, nature watching, sporting events, hobbies, secret gardens, special events or anything that you like or enjoy about life on the island.

If you've not yet had a look, check out The Whiteman Family Story <http://visitstronsay.com/blog/>

It's a great blog but looks a bit lonely on its own, so we could really do with some different stuff to make that page really interesting. That's where you come in. There must be lots of stories to share, so will you have a think about it and better still, will you do it?

If you've got an idea but not sure about it or got something you'd like to send just email Simone at [info@visitstronsay.com](mailto:info@visitstronsay.com) or phone for a chat about it tel: 616 281.

Visit Stronsay Group  
(Simone Kirk, Dianne Riley, Shirley Whiteman, Ian Cooper, Bruce Fletcher)



## **FUN 5Z NETBALL**

The Northlink P6/7 Primary league came to a conclusion on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March at the Picky Centre. Stronsay Limpets (Lewis, Melvin, Sam, Dorothy and Millie) played extremely well over all four games, resulting in a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the league overall. Well done to you all! Thank you very much to SOS who funded the travel and fees over the season – it is much appreciated and would not be possible without this help.



## **BIRD REPORT FOR APRIL 2019**

There has been a huge and sudden transformation in the numbers of over-wintering bird species in 2018 –2019, the biggest rise in numbers occurring between January and March. This rise has been most noticeable at the Matpow and Meikle Water lochs where the numbers and range of species has hit a twenty year high. Similar increases have been noted at the Bu Loch, where an all-time record number of Shelduck – 20 – were seen regularly, and at the Blan Loch, where record numbers of the very rare nesting species in the UK – Pintail – have also been seen ‘pairing up’ (see photo).....and in spite of the major works going on in the area, Coots have returned to their former nesting grounds in the Waterworks Pond at the Ayres of the Mires. Curlew can once again be heard all across the island, the males ‘bubbling’ their song in order to announce their presence, and there have been several flocks of migrant Golden Plover stopping off to feed on their journey North. The wintering Whooper Swans have regained a foot-hold on the island – nothing like the pre-Greylag numbers when 120 or so over-wintered – and a party of 20 or so which spent much of late winter in the Eastbank area, were occasionally joined by the odd (local) Mute Swan or two. As I write it seems that the Whoopers have left the island and should now be settling down to nest in Iceland.

Many smaller species are also showing a distinct sudden rise in numbers – particularly the Skylark and Twite – clearly due to the absence of geese in their former breeding grounds and whilst there has been no evidence that the geese show aggression towards these smaller species, their presence and density in numbers is enough. Before 1990 there were no breeding Greylag on the island and only rarely did birds of the species - probably storm-driven – make land-fall during their Autumn migration from Iceland to the Scottish mainland. This sudden change in status of so many formerly common species has transformed the islands avifauna. The Stronsay farmland is once again becoming a vibrant ecosystem after many years in the ‘doldrums’.

Moving on to the ‘unusual’ species/sightings which have been recorded in the last couple of months, there has been a ‘typical’ unpredictable mixture: A Dabchick was seen at the Matpow Loch on 24th February; a party of 100 or so Fieldfares arrived at Samsonslane on 26th (see photo), and there was a massive – and quite unprecedented - flock of 500 or so Skylarks feeding in a ‘freshly’ slurry-sprayed field along the Holland Road on 3rd March.(We were of course looking for Swans at the time!).

The rarest bird of the year so far was seen by Jim Rendall in his garden at Clayquoy on 5th and 6th March - a beautiful Arctic Redpoll of the ‘Greenland’ race. The bird was typically erratic and in spite of much searching we could not relocate it. Jim had noted the pure white rump – the key identification feature of the species.

There was another surprise after dark on the 11th March at nearby Linksquoy, when Sue and I spotted a Woodcock from the car as we turned into the drive. It stood motionless for some considerable time (see photo).

*(continued on next page)*

Early April brought a few interesting species to the island, including a Grey Wagtail seen by Anthony near Gesty Dishes on 8th, and a Slavonian Grebe on the sea off The Reserve on the 10th. The first Sandwich Terns were recorded mid-month when there were still dozens of the over-wintering Robins present around the homes and gardens. A nice surprise on 17th was a beautiful male Brambling found feeding among the chickens by Colin at The Hill.

One or two Swallows were reported mid-month and 10 Sand Martins were feeding above the Matpow Loch on 19th. Don Peace saw a Wood Pigeon (quite uncommon on Stronsay) at Lower Samsons on 20th and later that day there was another surprise sighting in the area when a Goldfinch flew in to feed on the roadside dandelions as I waited for Sue in the car outside Olivebank. It was unintentionally flushed away by a passing motorist and could not be re-found. Although a regular nesting species, a party of 26 Eiders between the piers close behind the Bank was a real surprise the same day – what appeared to be eleven ‘pairs’ and 4 juvenile males.

Many Chiffchaffs have arrived in the last week or so and now is the time to expect the unexpected – a ‘vector’ of warm air seems to do the trick!

Thanks for all the calls. John Holloway



*‘A very welcome sight – Pintail on the Blan Loch in late Winter’*



*‘Part of the Fieldfare flock on the hydro wires at Samsonslane’*

*(continued on next page)*



*The Woodcock caught in the car headlights in the Linksquoy drive'*



*'Seen regularly throughout the winter, Merlins often use round bales as a look-out 'post'*



*'One of the many Chiffchaffs which arrived in early-mid April, this one was photographed in the garden at Park Cottage'*

# LOCAL ARTIST HITS THE HEADLINES

Clare Potts and her teddy bears have featured in a national craft magazine

MEET THE ARTIST

## Clare's wild about creating bears from local fleece

Clare Fowler-Potts uses fleece from native Orkney Island sheep to create her wonderful miniature bears and finds inspiration in her Scottish surroundings for their names too



BY CARRIE BROOKS

The beautiful Orkney Islands stand off the north-east coast of Scotland and attract hundreds of visitors each year who go to admire the stunning rugged scenery, to watch the seabirds that thrive there, do some fishing in the lochs or simply just to get away from it all.

One of the Orkney Islands, Stronsay, is home to teddy bear artist Clare



Fowler-Potts, once known as Thistle Bears. "It is very beautiful and more often than not very windy too! I live here with Anthony my husband of a ridiculous number of years, our extremely good natured dog Charlie, two Polish bantams called Artur and Sophie who are eccentric and most intellectual, due to their fondness for Radio 3, and also four guinea pigs who appeared in our garden one day and took up permanent residence."

The abundant wildlife that surrounds Clare's Orkney home is constant inspiration for her work. "I started making bears about 15 years ago, inspired by a pattern I found in TBT - of course!"

Bear making is just one of the crafts Clare has mastered and after several years she began to focus more on her painting which captures the animals and scenery that she is lucky to live alongside. She is now a full time artist but her love of bears continues though

she makes them more as a hobby these days. "Although my painting dominates my life I always find time for bears; creating these wee characters is so absorbing and I have the chance to let my imagination run free!"

Clare tends to keep her bears quite small, about 10cm (4in) or smaller and the limbs

are jointed using upholstery thread. "I like to needlefelt my bears at the moment and use the wool from North Ronaldsay sheep - a prehistoric breed that live on seaweed. I buy my rovings (the lengths of fleece) from the Island's mill. When I started making bears all those years ago, I made them from upholstery fabric, still using Xtra strong upholstery thread, and they were in varying sizes. They are very different now, although occasionally I do make a small fellow (about 15cm) very similar to my old style!"

These wee fellows are always a true Scot, fully regaled in a kilt, Tam O'Shanter and sporrans! The name corresponds to the tartan Clare has used, e.g. 'Royal Stuart'. "My favorite of these was called James Stuart, dressed in a Dress Stuart tartan. He still lives with us in fact. He was the first one to wear felt shoes and I thought he looked such a dandy fellow I couldn't part with him

and so he joined my hug of bears."

When it comes to names for her needle-felted bears, which are generally white or gray in color, Clare again draws on inspiration from the Orkney Islands and their Scottish heritage. "The names are inspired by Scottish place names, such as Findo Gask, Hermiston Gait, Dory Bristle and Arabella and are also based around Orcadian words: 'Peedie Faerie' (little fairy), 'Heather Lintie' (twite) and 'Tammie Norrie' (puffin). Funnily enough, I always seem to know the name of the bear before I have finished making and dressing them - I am almost 100% sure they tell me!"

Clare hasn't always lived on Stronsay - the Orkney Islands were once her favorite holiday destination and now she has made them her home. "My best ever holiday experience though was sitting in a hide on the Finnish-Russian border, brown bear watching. Although I must have taken a thousand photos, it is the sounds I remember: the snoring and scratching, belching and breaking wind - the whole thing was magical!"

Clare sells her bears through some local shops and via her own website. "I fully intend to make more bears and keep painting wildlife, improving my skills and to bring to reality all the things my imagination is creating."

With the vast coastline surrounding the islands that are now her home, the sky really is the limit.

MEET THE ARTIST



THE BEAR FACTS:

Clare Fowler-Potts  
email: [thejazzbear@btinternet.com](mailto:thejazzbear@btinternet.com)  
sales: [www.orkak.co.uk](http://www.orkak.co.uk)  
sales: [www.OrkneyBrewery.co.uk](http://www.OrkneyBrewery.co.uk)

## **STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE**

### ***Reporting on the exploits of your councillor in Orkney and beyond***

An attainment report came before the Education, Leisure & Housing Committee (ELH) preceded by an education attainment seminar. A recent ranking in the national press of Scotland's state-funded schools (based on the Scottish Government's figures) has placed Kirkwall Grammar School 231 out of 339, with 28% of its school-leavers achieving 5 Highers or more. (Stromness Academy was placed 79, with 44% of its leavers achieving 5 Highers or more.) For comparison, the extreme ends of the scale are occupied by Jordanhill School, Glasgow with 83% and Northfield Academy, Aberdeen with 7% respectively of their leavers achieving 5 Highers or more. However, the editorial in the *TES Scotland* of the 5<sup>th</sup> April questions the value of league tables based solely on raw examination data, "which can obscure deficiencies and remarkable stories of success." As the only North Isles councillor on ELH, I would welcome parents' comments on the quality and standard of education they feel their children receive at KGS or at any of our North Isles schools.

Notably, the same report on child poverty in Orkney came up at both the aforementioned Education, Leisure & Housing Committee meeting and the meeting of the Orkney Health & Care Committee (OHAC). The highest level of child poverty in Orkney is to be found in the North Isles ward at 28%! The next highest is Stromness & the South Isles at 19%, while in other areas of Orkney the levels are in single figures. Clearly, there must be a significant isles factor involved here, and I suggested at the OHAC meeting that the Child Poverty Working Group we are setting up consider tailoring its own analytical evidence-gathering framework to suit Orkney's situation, rather than relying solely on the guidance handed down by the Scottish Government. In the presenting of the report, the question was asked: "Are people in poverty respected in Orkney?" The sad fact is, from conversations I have had with members of the public, it appears that the answer is "No"! There is a shocking lack of sympathy for families suffering financial hardship, and I implore our communities to become much more empathetic. With the setting up of this working group, I hope a start on this is now being made at OIC.

The Monitoring & Audit Committee meeting was a short one at which we approved the internal audit strategy for 2019-20. Included in this strategy is a review of the methodology that was employed in the recent programme of burial ground safety inspections and subsequent actions. Also, the audit will review the arrangements with Firefy Energi and the process followed for the awarding and payment of grants under HEEPS ABS (Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland – Area Based Scheme).

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Other meetings I have attended this month include a Local Government Boundary Commission review, and, outwith Orkney, a special meeting of the UHI Foundation at the UHI Executive Office in Inverness.



**Dr Clackson at the University of the Highlands & Islands Executive Office**

It was supposed to happen on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, then the 12<sup>th</sup> April, and now we are in a “Schrödinger’s Brexit” in which the cat box could be opened anytime between now and Hallowe’en—or not. For the event of a “no deal” Brexit, the UK Government has formulated a contingency plan it is calling “Operation Yellowhammer”. Why “Yellowhammer”? Is it to prepare us for a ration of “a little bit of bread and no cheese”?

Happy Easter!

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson  
West Manse, Sanday

[stephen.clackson@council.orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@council.orkney.gov.uk)



You can download “Letter from School Place” from [lfsp.pbworks.com](http://lfsp.pbworks.com)

*These 'Nature Notes' featuring Stronsay were contained in a series of three articles by 'W.G.' published in the 'Orkadian' in December 1966. Part 1 is shown below and I hope to put forward parts 2 and 3 for publication in future editions of the 'Limpet'.*

*Ian Cooper*

## **Nature Notes**

### **The Island of Stronsay - Part I**

Stronsay is green, attractive, fertile: rightly and proudly called by its inhabitants “The Garden of the North Isles”, though others of its sister Islands might proffer substantial claims in their own favour. It exhales prosperity: its people have a friendly contented look: its farms are among the largest, richest and most progressive in Orkney. Not without significance, the first Mutual Improvement Society in Orkney came into operation in Stronsay nearly 200 years ago.

If the barrier of time could be broken down to permit an exploration of Orkney’s baffling past, Stronsay is the island I believe I would choose, since it is in many ways ideally suited to such research. This applies not only to the recent past, of which Hugh Marwick has said “For centuries past, one hesitates to say how many, Stronsay has been under continuous foreign influence, far more than any other island in Orkney.” As far back as 1619, the Privy Council records show that the Dutch and all foreigners were obliged to pay the Tenths and Assizes of all herring and white fish caught in Orkney and Shetland waters and that the 20 or 30 Dutch sail frequenting Stronsay at that time paid every year, on an average about £800 Scots.

This is only a glimpse, the snapshot of a moment in a history, written and unwritten, that fades into the obscurity of thousands of years. Stronsay is a place where the redolence of the past is strong, so that as one looks out from the road along its central ridge above St. Catherine's Bay, over the green square stone-dyked fields towards the bays and channels, the wider seas, the scattered surrounding Islands and the distant hazy vista of mainland hills, one’s mind travels back - to the days not so long ago when herring drifters crowded at the piers and the now silent village of Whitehall bustled with noisy activity: back through the last century or two when hundreds of fishing smacks dotted the sea at the approaches to Papa Sound, and made a forest of masts around the slipways: while gradually on the land stone dykes, square green fields, stately steadings and farmhouses shrink and dwindle into low, thatched dwellings, and the enclosed fields change into a chequered, open, irregular, untidy pattern of runrig, the green giving way to wider stretches of brown: back to Norse days when long boats with billowing sails or banked oars speed swiftly on grim errand through familiar firth and sea lanes: till in the dark backward and abysm of prehistoric days towering brochs and green tumuli stud the seaboard, with poor irregular patches of primitive scattered tillage fringing the island’s shaggy coat of rush and heather.

Who can see the green earth anymore as she was by the sources of Time:  
Who imagines her fields as they lay in the sunshine, unworn by the plough?  
Who thinks as they thought, the tribes who then roamed  
on her breast, her vigorous, primitive sons?

*(continued on next page)*

The layers of history in Stronsay, as in certain other parts of our Islands, lie rich and deep. It's remoteness from violent changes and upheaval, together with a natural basis of prosperity, give that sort of continuity which makes the mysterious, inscrutable mystery of the past a four-dimensional aspect of the present.

Stronsay is a rich potential field for the archaeologist. There are many prehistoric remains, mostly unexcavated and in some cases ploughed over. These include at least half a dozen broch sites and over a score of non-broch mounds, as well as a number of chapel sites of the Celtic pre-Norse period, including at least two on the islet of Papa Stronsay, one dedicated to St. Bride, the site of which was still remembered within recent times, closely adjacent to the farmhouse on the south east side. Of the other, dedicated to St. Nicholas, we read in the old statistical account (1798) that at that period it was "almost entire 12 years ago, the dimensions within the walls being 15 feet by 12 feet, the quire 7 feet by 9 feet, covered with a complete stone arch. The Church", adds the account, "has been lately demolished by a tenant in order that he might build a new barn with the stones of it." *Sic transient saeculorum vestigia!*

### **Mysterious grave**

Among other remains on Papa Stronsay, the Old Statistical Account refers to a peculiar prehistoric grave. "On rising ground called the Earl's Knowe" we read "there are old ruins and graves. One of those graves, evidently defined by two stones, one at the head and the other at the foot, is eight and a half feet long, This grave was dug up to about the depth of six feet in July 1792: the stones at the head and foot, which appeared about a foot above the surface, reached to the bottom of the grave, Many human bones of an ordinary size were found, and moreover, fragments of a human skull and lower jaw, which were perfectly sound, and fragments of thigh bones: these were all of an enormous size and afforded a convincing proof that the body buried there had required a grave of the above dimensions."

Tudor, in his "Orkney and Shetland" (1883) questions whether the bones found in this grave were the remains of Rognvald Brusii's son (Earl Rognvald I) who was murdered there in 1046, since he is described in the Saga as "a man of large stature and great strength"

At the southeast corner of Stronsay on the south west side of Lamb Ness, near a large broch-site, there is a peculiar structure called the Danes Pier. In P.O.A.S. Vol V, Hugh Marwick refers to it as follows: "Of all the prehistoric remains in Orkney, none seem so utterly mysterious as what appears to be a type of pier consisting of a ridge of stones running out somewhat obliquely from the coastline, and then curving round seawards in an easterly direction. The total length is difficult to determine exactly, partly because the outer end is under water, and partly because its shape there becomes very indeterminate but, roughly speaking, it is over a quarter of a mile long. The width increases the further out it goes. Thus, while at a distance of 20 yards out the breadth is approximately 63 feet, at a distance of 150 yards it attains a breadth of about 100 feet. The average height appears to be something between 6 and 8 feet." H Marwick adds that similar structures are said to be visible in Papa Westray, and at Rerwick Head in Tankerness, and perhaps also at Pool in Sanday.

*(continued on next page)*

Whether these structures are of human agency, or are merely a natural freak caused by unusual tidal movements, is open to doubt. The stones are of varying sizes and seem to be lying more or less anyhow, for the most part not large, without any definite sign of masonry.

Dr Marwick says “This pier presents many astonishing features. In the first place, it seems the maddest sort of pier ever devised, seeing that the so-called ‘harbour’ that it forms is made to lie right open to the south east and the open ocean. Equally amazing is the fact that the stones have not been washed off and scattered on the adjacent beach which is almost bare. Lastly, its close proximity to the Lamb Head broch can be hardly overlooked.”

### **Prehistoric canoe**

How widely is it known in Orkney that in April 1887 a prehistoric canoe was found in the Loch of Leashun, in the southeast part of Stronsay, and how many Orcadian has had the opportunity of seeing it? I find from enquiry of Mr MacGillivray, County Librarian, that this canoe is at present in Kirkwall, in a collection of archaeological finds waiting to be exhibited when a suitable Museum, planned for Tankerness House, is made ready. We are glad that such a museum is being planned, since there is a pressing need, in our county, for an archaeological museum for such exhibits, (as also for a folk museum), in order to make exhibits accessible to our modern age and to prevent articles of interest from being exported out of the county, as has too readily been the practice in the past.

Dr Marwick, in the Volume referred to above, give details of this find:- “In April 1887 a primitive canoe was dug out of the mud in the bottom of the Loch of Leashun close to the beach south of Holland. The length was 13 feet 9 inches, width 2 feet 5 inches and the depth of the surviving remains about 7 inches. This small craft has been shaped and hollowed out of the trunk of a tree and its sides are practically straight except at the ends. There, rounding off occurred so as to give a sort of spoon shaped bow and stern. Ranged in a line along the bottom of the canoe are 7 holes, each about half an inch in diameter, apparently for plugs to hold on a keel. A definite indication of its age was to be observed in the clear marks of iron nails which had been used in patching weak spots.”

### **Well of Kildinguie**

Finally, not far from Whitehall Village on the shore of Mill Bay, there is a curiosity of nature which in former times won some renown, since we are told that because of its high repute as a spa, patients came all the way from Norway and Denmark to bathe in it and drink its heating water which (to judge from their description in the Old Statistical Account), were potent in action - “clear as crystal not unpleasant full of fixed air as may be easily discovered by any who drink some glasses of it: for they will soon find themselves affected in the same way as if they had drank some fine brisk bottled small beer.”

*(concluded on next page)*

I searched in vain on a recent visit for this well and learnt that recently the site had been practically destroyed, which I thought a great pity. Readers may remember an account in "The Orcadian" a year or two ago of a patient who came all the way from Germany to seek its restorative powers. Tudor (1883) gives this description of the well - "There are 3 springs of Chaleybeate water of varying strength, currently in high repute as a spa. Spring tides flow into the well but, if cleared of brackish water, it fills again in a few minutes. On the south side of the well is a stone seat, said to have originally had arms on it and in front is an indentation of the rock, supposed to have been made by the feet of the priest who sat there offering the water to pilgrims. A similar seat is said to have been on the north side of the stream, which was destroyed by the masons when building the farmhouse of Hunton. On the bank above stood a chapel, the grass-grown foundation of which can still be traced. So great was the fame of the well that the virtue of its waters were celebrated in a proverb which says - "The waters of the Well of Kildinguie and the dulse of Geo Odin will cure all things except the Black Death."

## **THE SUMMER ON WHEELS**

By Ellie from Newfield

Oh how we wanted them  
Those speedy roller-skates.  
With a definite NO from mother  
Who said our bones would surely break.  
So we watched our pals speed by  
With envy wrung from within  
And then, at last, to our great joy  
Mother eventually gave in.  
We sat on the steps, my brother and I,  
Lacing our exciting skates  
And even as we stood up one  
We were counting each other's scrapes  
Like "Bambi on ice" we tottered  
Spindly legs splitting out.  
"Practice" said my brother  
Knowing what it's all about.  
Of course, he was the bravest  
For I wobbled in my fright  
While he would whistle on by  
And I to the gate held on tight.  
Bumps and bruises by the dozen  
Has a child favouring fun and games  
For skate we did for many a day  
In sunshine, hail and rain.  
It was the summer of happy tumbles  
And our scars we bore with pride.  
But most of our skating "war wounds"  
From mother we would hide.  
And whilst he went on to excel  
With acrobats no less  
I discovered the skipping rope  
And pleased mother by swapping shorts for a dress

©*Helene Harrison*

## ***FOR SALE, WANTED, THANKS & GENERAL NOTICES***

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the Stronsay Development Trust very much for the Education Grant which has enabled Millie to attend Orkney Athletics Club in Kirkwall regularly over the year.

Mairi Dennison



‘Christ’s Resurrection’  
by *Andrea Mantegna (1457-59)*

**‘Easter Greetings’**  
from the community  
at Our Lady’s Chapel, Stronsay.

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For sale, wanted, thanks & general notices are free  
The cut-off date for notices 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***

### **REDHOUSE PLANTS MARKET GARDEN**



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RANGER

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## LOCAL BUSINESSES

handmade  with love

# Airy Fairy

- ★ Handmade Quilts, cushions & clothes ★
- ★ Beautiful, bespoke & personalised gifts ★
  - ★ Handmade especially for you ★
- ★ Makower fabrics in stock £10 per metre ★
- ★ Studio visits welcome by appointment ★



Hazel Shearer, Airy, Stronsay, Orkney, KW172AG • Phone 01857 616231  
hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com • [www.airyfairyonline.co.uk](http://www.airyfairyonline.co.uk)

## The Wyrð Weaver

Handcrafted Textiles and Primitive Folk Art



Come and visit Eunice's studio at...  
Newbigging, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AN

Open Daily  
Phone - 01857 616230

Find and buy on Facebook @orkneywyrdweaver  
Email - thewyrdweaver@btinternet.com



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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **MAURICE A. WILLIAMSON** **YOUR LOCAL ONE STOP SHOP** **Grocer/Butcher/Fuel/Hardware Supplies**

Olivebank, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AF  
Tel:01857 616255      Email: m.williamson1@btconnect.com  
Find us on Facebook at Maurice A. Williamson

**PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1967**

**Serving all your butcher needs;**

**All cuts of beef;** Silverside, topside, mince, rump, minute steak, stewing steak, fillet etc.

**Pork/pork products;** Loin, gammon, home-cured bacon, luxury medallions

**Chicken;** Whole, portions, breasts, kiev, cooked chicken strips

**Our very own premium quality sausages;** including a wide variety of flavours – Pork /beef /pork, cheese & chive/pork & red onion/pork & black pudding/ beef, onion & mustard etc.

**Home-made;** White puddings, black puddings, our very own Olivebank grill, sandwich fillings, ready-made meal options

**....AND SO MUCH MORE!**



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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**



**We are a brand new local company, we decided to take the plunge after many years of working for others, to set up our own business. Craig has many years experience in general building work, labouring, ground work ect. I am a time served joiner. We have all our own equipment so no need for the extra cost of hiring from elsewhere.**

**We can do all types of ground work, pipe laying, guttering and roofing. Replacement windows and doors, finishings, concrete and general work. All types of work considered, no job too small, all work finished to a high standard. Full public liability insurance, safe, reliable and trustworthy.**

**Reasonable prices.**

**Contact Craig or Christine for more information.**

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## LOCAL BUSINESSES



*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*

**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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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

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Computer, tablet or phone misbehaving or running slowly?

Want to learn how to use social media, word processing, spreadsheets, change the privacy settings on your computer, tablet, phone or social media accounts or anything else computer related?

Need help protecting your family from the dangers online or setting up home or business accounting sheets on paper or computer?



Thinking of buying a computer, tablet, phone or printer but don't know which one?

Have a printer or other device that needs connecting to your computer?

Want to extend your home network coverage?



I can do one off lessons or a series of lessons for individuals or groups starting with the basics right up to more complex lessons such as photo editing or spreadsheets, including lessons for people who have never used a computer or tablet.



£6 an hour.



Give me a call on 317 or email [duncandavis79@gmail.com](mailto:duncandavis79@gmail.com)

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **JOHN DUNNE GARDEN SERVICES**

- \* General Garden Maintenance
- \* Window Cleaning and Guttering Services

- \* Reasonable rates
- \* Quick and professional

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Tel: 616276

### **The Old Manse Bed and Breakfast Logie Easter, Kildary IV18 0NZ**



Dating back to the 1780s set in a large woodland garden just off the A9 and six miles from Invergordon, the Old  
Ensuite Double and twin rooms

**Telephone : 01862 842357**

**Website : [www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk](http://www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk)**

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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **STRONSAY HOTEL**

Phone 01857 616213

Open Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun 5pm to 9pm

### **TAKE AWAY MENU**

Homemade lasagne + chips . . . . .	£5.95
Homemade chicken curry + rice or chips . .	£5.95
Homemade chicken & bacon pie + chips . .	£6.50
Breaded haddock + chips. . . . .	£5.50
Battered haddock +chips . . . . .	£6.50
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
Half cheesy chips = minus 20p	
Cheesy chips = add 80p	
Half chips = minus 60p	
Half rice = minus 60p	

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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**

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

**& Commissioning**

Tel 01857 616339  
ebenezer@stronsay.org

**Anthony Potts**  
Foot Health Professional

**Qualified Foot Health Professional**  
MCFHP MAFHP

*About Me*  
I qualified as a foot health professional (FHP) in 2017 studying at the SMAE Institute in Maidenhead. I am a Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals.

*Treatments offered*  
Nail cutting and filing  
Callus (hard skin) removed  
Corns treated  
Nail conditions treated  
Verrucas treated  
General assessment and advice on foot health  
Home visits  
Please telephone for an appointment

Tel: 07570531618  
antpottsguitar@btinternet.com  
Gesty Dishes, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AJ

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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**



The home of traditionally hand-crafted Orkney soaps, solid shampoo bars and balms.  
Hand-spun yarns, woven throws, wall-hangings and more.

Member of Stronsay Craft Trail: Orkney Star Island Soap & Textiles, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney.

Open all year round. Visitors welcome by arrangement.   

Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281. Email: [info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk)

Web: [www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk).



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## **BELLIE M DESIGNS**

Tieve Studios, Berryhill Road, St Ola, Orkney KW15 1SF.

Online shop [www.belliemdesigns.com](http://www.belliemdesigns.com)

Orders also taken via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or phone 07736838489 with email invoices that can be easily paid by card or PayPal.

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

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper    Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

### **STRONSAY FISH MART HOSTEL & CAFÉ**

Stronsay Community Council regrets to announce that the Stronsay Fish Mart Café will close for business on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and will remain closed until further notice.

The en-suite Hostel will, however, remain open. All bookings will be honoured and can be made by contacting Evelyn or Richard tel: 01857 616311 or 01857 616401 or email: [fishmartstronsay@gmail.com](mailto:fishmartstronsay@gmail.com)

8 April 2019

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# ***Stronsay Spring Craft Fair*** **“In Celebration of Nature”** ***Orkney Nature Festival***



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Stronsay Community Hall  
13.00 – 16.00  
Refreshments & bakes



Organised by Stronsay Community Association

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

### **SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY** **STRONSAY SPRING CRAFT FAIR** **WITH ORKNEY NATURE FESTIVAL 2019**

Following last year's success we're very pleased that Ian McNab (RSPB Scotland) is returning with volunteers to do a guided Nature Walk with our very own Stronsay Ranger Charlie Richings to the Vat of Kirbister in the morning. (More details nearer the time.)

This will be followed by the Spring Craft Fair in the afternoon with RSPB table and stone painting, local produce, hand-made crafts, refreshments & delicious home bakes from the 'Community Hall Cafe' and a raffle.

**Important - Craft Fair Bookings.** Could all local producers and crafters make sure they have booked their tables before **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May deadline** please.

Contact Simone on FB, tel: 616281, email: [info@visitstronsay.com](mailto:info@visitstronsay.com)



### **STRONSAY STITCHERS & SPINNERS**

#### **April – Stitchers**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall, 7pm-9.30pm, £2/person, refreshments available

#### **May – Spinners**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Church Hall, 11am-2pm, £2/person, refreshments, BYO lunch

#### **May – Stitchers**

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall, 7pm-9.30pm, £2/person, refreshments available

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Chair: Ian Cooper    Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

### **STRONSAY FISH MART EN-SUITE HOSTEL**

Are you looking for somewhere warm and comfortable to stay when visiting Stronsay?

If you are on holiday, working on Stronsay, visiting family or just inquisitive, then Stronsay Fish Mart offers high quality en-suite accommodation that may be the place for you!

The accommodation is situated at the end of the ferry pier and opposite is a public bar and almost opposite is a general store and post office for all your basic food items and souvenirs.

At just £20 per night per adult and £10 per night for 16 year olds and under, up to 10 guests in four separate high quality en-suite bedrooms, including a family room that can sleep 4, in addition to a cot, provided on request, can be accommodated.

The shared rest room is spacious and offers open plan facilities to include a well-equipped modern kitchen, dining area and comfortable seating, laundry facilities and free wi-fi access and television.

To book your bed tel: Evelyn or Richard on 01857 616311 or 01857 616401 or email [fishmartstronsay@gmail.com](mailto:fishmartstronsay@gmail.com)

Go on – come over to Stronsay, Orkney's Island of Bays.

For more information visit [www.visitstronsay.com](http://www.visitstronsay.com)

8 April 2019

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# SOS

## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

The SOS Committee would like to focus our fundraising this year for a new reading scheme for the pupils attending Stronsay Junior High School called  
**‘PROJECT X’**

**Project X is a modern, whole-school reading and writing programme specially developed to motivate all children especially boys and address the gender gap in literacy.**

**Highly motivating books and interactive digital resources that inspire today’s children  
Research-based programmes, written by experts, designed to help every child succeed**

We would like to thank those who have already contributed to this fundraising, including those donating to the Front Porch Fund at Ebenezer Stores.

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

Stronsay Recycling Centre



Opening Hours  
**Monday to Friday 9am-12pm**

We are now accepting your **Cardboard & Glass**  
during opening hours and  
Out of hours drop off also available on site.

**The Waste Team need your help! Please flat pack your boxes and remove as much of the tape as possible.  
Glass deposits should be empty (preferable rinsed out) and wherever possible label free.**

**Cardboard Briquettes and Crushed Glass is now available from the Recycling Centre please ask staff for details.**

**Further information will be available from the waste team at the recycling centre during opening times, on the Facebook page and promotional material available soon.**



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### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

## **STRONSAY FISH MART HOSTEL & CAFÉ**

The opportunity has arisen for a flexible, helpful and welcoming person to run the Stronsay Fish Mart Hostel and Café.

The Fish Mart re-opened in July 2015 following a total refurbishment and now offers en-suite hostel accommodation, café and public toilet and shower facilities.

If interested, Stronsay Community Council would be happy to discuss the operational arrangements that could have flexibility to accommodate you.

For further information or enquiries please contact Ian Cooper, t: 01857 616322 or e: [ian.cooper56@gmail.com](mailto:ian.cooper56@gmail.com)

8 April 2019

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## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Why not hire the Stronsay Community hall? We have a kitchen and fully licensed bar, with two large halls and a small meeting room; perfect for weddings, parties, games, meetings and much more!

- Disco equipment
- Table tennis
- Badminton
- Air hockey
- Pool Table

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

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

For more information & bookings contact:

Pam Shearer Tel: 616397 Email: [pamshearer@hotmail.com](mailto:pamshearer@hotmail.com)

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hallcommittee>



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

### **STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE**

#### **Monday**

7-7.40 public session  
7.40-8.20 adult lane (16+)

#### **Thursday**

7-7.40 private hire (pre-booked)  
7.40-8.20 private hire

#### **Saturday**

2-2.40 private hire (pre-booked)  
2.40-3.20 public session  
3.20-4pm private hire

Swim club lessons weekly

To enquire about private hires, phone Elsie 616238

To enquire about swim club, phone Sarah 616406 or Andy 616277

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### **POOL CHARGES**

#### **Public Sessions**

Adults £3  
Children £1.50

#### **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

#### **Adults (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**

## **KIRK CORNER**

Locum minister—Scott Daily  
Manse telephone 616286

As I write this my family and I are on holiday “down south”. In the past I always looked forward to taking a holiday, often I could not wait to get away, to travel somewhere new. I can honestly say that in the (almost) year that we have been here I have had less of a desire to “get away” than ever before. As we travelled, I was struck with how much I missed the island and the community there. This was especially true when our vehicle suddenly broke down and in order to attend an important appointment in Edinburgh to register our daughter’s birth, we had to ride an extremely over crowded train. As we, a family of 7, squeezed ourselves into the doorway of an already full train with no seats available and several more stops to make (with even more people getting on) I began to reflect again on what community means and why Stronsay is so special.

Community is more than just being in the same physical area as other people, it felt like there were as many people on that train as there is on Stronsay, but I while I was (very) close to people physically on the train, I certainly did not feel a sense of community with them in the same way. A true community spirit comes with familiarity and comfort, knowing and accepting people, trusting and relying on them, in short it is like how a family should be. We might not all agree on some things, but we (hopefully) know how to disagree without starting a feud, and we look out for one another.

This sense of community is then reflected in the events, gatherings, and groups on the island. Just like our successful tug-o-war team, we pull together well. It is my hope that the kirk, while first and foremost being a place to worship and grow in knowledge of God, reflects the community of Stronsay. A gathering of the many unique “characters” that make up the island all coming together like a family. I believe a church should reflect the community, as we come and bring our unique gifts and abilities to work together to glorify our God, under His leadership. Recently I read an article that talked about how the Moncur Memorial kirk building both reflected the overall European church building style of the time but also reflected the “Orkney style of building”. The goal of the church is to know and love God, worship Him, and lovingly encourage one another in following Him; that never changes. But how we do these things can and should take on a “local flavor”. So why not come along and add your unique spice to our kirk community?

Blessings  
Rev. Scott Daily

Sunday services start at 11am unless otherwise stated.

For details of services see the kirk’s website:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stronsaykirk/index.asp?pageid=595575>

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

### **PEEDIE LIBRARY IN THE CHURCH HALL**

We have a great many books on a wide range of subjects. We also have a DVD section. Tea, coffee, juice & biscuits available - sometimes even cake!

Even if you're not a reader why not call in for a cuppa & a chat. If you need a lift please ask Viv Erdman (Ebenezer Stores) and we will arrange it. See you there!

The Peedie Library will be open between 3pm and 4:30 pm on these dates in 2019:

- May 7th
- June 4th
- July 2nd
- August 13th
- September 3rd
- October 8th
- November 5th
- December 3rd

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## **KIRKWALL MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO STRONSAY**

**Date of mobile library van's next visit to Stronsay in 2019**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Winter**

- Council Houses 8.45 - 9.45
- School 10 - 12
- Kirk 12.30 - 3
- Fish mart 3.15 - 4.45

### **Summer/Refit**

- Council Houses 9 - 10
- School 10.15 - 12
- Kirk 12.30 - 3
- Fish mart 3.15 - 5.30

For full details visit the library's website

<http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk>

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

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

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 or Julie - 616335

Gym during supervised sessions - 616449

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## **JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES**

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

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

### **STRONSAY MEDICAL PRACTICE**

**In an emergency phone 01856 888000**

#### **Surgeries by appointment only**

Phone 616321 to book an appointment

Monday 9:30—10:30, 15:30—16:30

Tuesday 9:30—10:30, 14:30—15:30

Wednesday 9:30—10:30, from 14:00

Thursday—no surgery

Friday 9:30—10:30, 15:30—16:30

#### **Ordering repeat prescriptions**

Phone 616321

Please note the changed email address [orkney.stronsay@nhs.net](mailto:orkney.stronsay@nhs.net)

Website [www.orkadespractice.co.uk](http://www.orkadespractice.co.uk)

Please will patients order prescriptions at least 8-10 days before they are needed. This will reduce frustration when items have not been delivered from the mainland.

#### **Collecting prescriptions**

Please will patients collect their ordered prescription 10:30-11:30am or 2-4pm Monday, Wednesday or Friday. This avoids the busiest time when the prescription boxes are being unpacked.

**In an emergency phone 01856 888000**

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### **DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting of the Diabetes Support Group will be held in the carpet room at the Community Centre on Wednesday 22nd May from 3pm-4.30pm.

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