



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Full details can be found inside this edition)

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|-----------|---|
| 30 May | Stitchers |
| 1 June | Spinners |
| 4 June | Peedie library |
| 5 June | Bookworms |
| 8 June | Launch of Musicality |
| 22 June | Visit Leonora's wildlife & bumblebee garden |
| 27 June | Stitchers |
| 20 July | Visit Leonora's wildlife & bumblebee garden |
| 31 July | Diabetes support group meeting |
| 17 August | Visit Leonora's wildlife & bumblebee garden |

WANTED!

NON-TOXIC MICE

If you've trapped them then don't dump them.
My menagerie will be very grateful for them!
Jean Witcher (Glenmanna)

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](http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk)

Send an email to 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](http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk) will be published on **Thu 27 June**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 23 June**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

LOOKING FOR BLOGGERS for Our Visit Stronsay Website

Stuff you could blog about April May – bagging bruck, Skaill 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 or phone for a chat about it tel: 616 281.

Visit Stronsay Group

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



STRONSAY SPRING CRAFT FAIR 2019 **WITH ORKNEY NATURE FESTIVAL**

On the morning of Saturday 18th May a bunch of intrepid walkers, including both visitors and locals, headed out for the Vat of Kirbister. Leading the nature walk was Ian McNab (RSPB Scotland) assisted by Megan Taylor and Stronsay Ranger Charlie Richings. Despite a degree of chilled dampness in the air, everyone appeared to have enjoyed the opportunity to view the magnificent cliff-top scenery and its accompanying wildlife.

The afternoon craft fair got off to a great start and there was no drop in numbers all afternoon with folk eager to partake in the massive plant sale, have a cuppa, sample the delicious cakes and of course check out the fab crafts and local products. There was a real buzz in the Hall and a great atmosphere. We were sorry that Rosalind (Selkie Glass, Stronsay) and Keith (Peedie Box Company, Kirkwall) were unable to attend due to unforeseen reasons and hope they'll be with us another time.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone from near and far who came and shared the day with us. Special thanks to Ian McNab (RSPB) and Megan Taylor, Charlie Richings (Stronsay Ranger), Stronsay Community Association, John Holloway (Stronsay Bird Reserve), Airy Fairy, Marion Miller Jewellery, Orkney Star Island Soap, Orkney Buffalo, Redhouse Plants, Wildlife Art by Clare Fowler-Potts, Molly Moo Cards, Sue Holloway (crafts), Aimee (crafts), Viv & Roger (Church Plants).

(see Craft Fair photographs on next page))



Craft Fair in full swing



Ian & Megan—RSPB & stone painting



Marion Miller Jewellery



Hazel (Airy Fairy) & Maggie

The North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to preserve, enhance and promote the built, cultural and natural heritage of the North Isles. Some projects will be undertaken on multiple islands, whilst others are specific to Stronsay. The following list gives a summary of some of the activities included in the scheme and the NILPS team will be working with island groups and local residents to take them forward over the next 4 years

Stronsay

Projects

Stronsay walking routes

Improvements to the walking trails, such as signage, interpretation and access will be undertaken. There will also be additional signage and information at the pier and other key locations around the island.

Traditional Skills

Opportunities to learn traditional crafts and skills through courses and workshops. Examples include dry stone dyke work, knitting and straw work but we will be looking at other possibilities too.

Oral History project

This project will build on the work already carried out in Stronsay, creating a record of the spoken word and dialect throughout the isles.

Small grants scheme

Grants of up to £2000 available for community projects that focus on the natural, cultural or built heritage of Stronsay. Please contact the NILPS team for more information.

Red Phone boxes

Stronsay has two red phone boxes. They now look rather sorry for themselves but were once an invaluable communication resource and are part of the island's social history. The boxes will be restored and remain in-situ – perhaps with an imaginative future use?

Education and Learning

Opportunities for young folk to learn more about their island's history, heritage and culture. A Youth Ranger Scheme & Storytelling workshops are examples of the activity outlined in this project.

Tombs of the Isles

This project will offer training in archaeological techniques. Tombs in Stronsay and throughout the other North Isles will be researched and feature in a 'North Isles landscapes of the dead' trail.

Industrial heritage of the Isles

The herring industry, kelp industry and farming are all notable parts of Stronsay's industrial past. This project will enable residents to learn more about these aspects of Stronsay's heritage and ways of recording this element of history.

Wildlife recording activities

Stronsay's mix of farmland and heather moorland, along with its varied coastline make it an excellent place for wildlife. This project aims to record and learn more about some of the island's special wildlife.

Habitat survey and restoration project

Habitat surveys will be undertaken at sites across the north isles. Where possible, places will be identified where work can be undertaken to restore them to support biodiversity. This project also includes a wild flower seed collection and propagation training course.

The Stronsay Heritage Centre

This project will help fund new exhibition materials and displays in the new Heritage Centre.

Seas of the Isles

The importance of seafaring to the North Isles will be explored in a multi-faceted project that will include workshops on subjects such as maritime art, shipwrecks and pre-historic seafaring.

Whitehall Village – restoration of heritage features

Some small building works will see heritage features in the village repaired and restored. Work will include repairs to the tidal toilet, the east pier and restoration of the harbour office.

**If you'd like to find out more, please visit www.nilps.co.uk
Email NILPS@orkney.gov.uk or phone 01856 879076 to speak to a member of the project team.**

The NILPS team have been in Stronsay a couple of times this year and we've met with Anna Bliss Davis from the Development Trust, Ian Cooper and Paul Riley from the Community Council, Simone Kirk from the Visit Stronsay group and Alison Fraser from the Community Association. We hope this working group can be a link between the island and the NILPS team, taking projects forward together.

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

More good news to report this month – more evidence that what were common regular nesting species 30 years ago have made a dramatic and rapid come-back, from ducks and marshland birds around the lochs, to Curlew and Skylarks in the pastureland. The Arctic/Common Tern colony on the island in the Matpow Loch has re-established itself – perhaps helped by the pair of Mute Swans which have also regained their former territory there. No need to mention the missing ‘link’ ! Twite numbers too have risen to the highest for several years, whilst the Linnets in the gardens have remained fairly static – nesting as they do, undisturbed in the Fuchsia hedges in gardens all around the island.

There were a few uncommon species recorded in the last week of April, including a Greenfinch at Gesty Dishes; a Black Redstart at Coweshouse; a Snow Bunting near the Village; and a drake Mandarin Duck briefly at Matpow on 28th – when David at Osen saw both Greenfinch and Siskin in his garden there.

Don recorded an island record number of Wood Pigeons in early May – 5 around Lower Samsons – and later reported that a pair had built a nest in one of the trees there. Sedge Warblers were recorded at 2-3 sites where they have nested in previous years, and there were several Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps – neither of which have bred on the island. Dianne saw the only House Martin of the year - so far – at Tullimentan on 7th, when there were 15 Swallows and 7 or 8 Sand Martins feeding over the Matpow Loch. Mallard, Teal, Merganser, Shoveler, and Gadwall, all appeared to have taken up residence on the loch along with the Mute Swans. (See photo of the - very non-descript – Gadwall on the island there). At the time there were regular sightings of up to 15 Shelduck on the Bu Loch – unprecedented numbers and the first Shelduck duckling was seen there in mid-May).

A few flocks of migrating waders were seen in mid-month - 15 Sanderling at Bomasty; 5 Dunlin on Matpow and a single (quite rare here) Grey Plover flew over heading northwards on 14th. A few small migrants began to arrive after this date among the bushes, including Lesser Whitethroats, Redstarts, Garden Warblers, and Spotted Flycatchers, and there were a few sightings (and calls) of what was probably the same Cuckoo in the Holin Cottage and Dale areas, but we were not prepared for what will probably turn out to be ‘bird of the year’ when we went to look around David’s garden at Osen on 18th. David had had brief views of a ‘black and white bird’ not long before we arrived and it was not long before it re-appeared – a fantastic Male Collared Flycatcher! Not only was it relatively easy to identify, it gave us the most excellent views – including perching on an upright stone right outside the kitchen window there! (See photo).

The flycatcher had gone by next day but there were two unusual sightings before lunch – 2 Lesser Redpolls feeding on Dandelion seeds by the roadside near Eastbank, and a male Hen Harrier near the Bu farm. That evening we had a last look for the flycatcher, and to our amazement, there among the resident House Sparrows in the Osen garden was a Rosefinch – a new species for Anthony Potts!

Although there were very few lost migrants on the island during this period there was another surprise in store – a lovely male Bluethroat discovered by Sue whilst scanning across the ‘crusty’ surface of the slurry lagoon at Airy on the evening of 20th. The first Spring male of the species for several years – and in the perfect habitat!

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Cold weather and NW winds set in on 23rd and the only new arrival was a Black Redstart discovered by Margaret in the greenhouse at Scoulters and soon returned to 'the wild'. A female Pied Flycatcher was found by Ant and Clare in the Gesty Dishes garden on 24th, and a party of 7 Whimbrel flew up calling from the field alongside Castle the same day – and heading off straight out to sea towards Fair Isle.

Thanks for all the calls. John Holloway.



'The pair of Gadwall on the island in the Matpow Loch – very 'non-descript' and sometimes a challenge to identify!'



'A beautiful male Snow Bunting first seen by Steve and Sharon of Ryburn whilst out for a walk at the Ayre of the Mires on 27th April'



'A party of Eiders on the beach at Bomasty in late April'

(Continued on next page)



'Snipe may be seen perched on fence-posts along the roadsides at this time of year – probably males with a female on the nest nearby'



'Barely recognisable, this drake Mandarin Duck was seen at long range on the Matpow Loch on 28th April – shortly before fog set in!'



'The male Pied Flycatcher at Airy on 2nd May. Compare with the male Collared Flycatcher below'

(Continued on next page)



'Without doubt the 'Bird of the Year' so far – a brilliant male Collared Flycatcher photographed from inside the house at Osen on 18th May'



'This - the first Bluethroat in Spring for several years - was found feeding in the Airy 'slurry lagoon' on 20th May. Perfect habitat for this insect-eater which turned out to be a 'short-stayer'

STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

Reporting on the work of your councillor in Orkney and beyond

Among all the bad news we have had recently, a possible piece of good news is that Elgar's enigma might at last have been solved. Edward Elgar wrote his fourteen *Enigma Variations* in 1898-99, of which *Variation No.9, Nimrod* is probably the most famous, although my favourites are the romantic *No.1*, the graciously nostalgic *No.8* and the melancholy *No.13*. Each *Variation* is based on the same hidden musical theme, which Elgar stated was a well-known tune. However, nobody correctly guessed it in his lifetime, and the answer went with him to his grave. Now composer Ed Newton-Rex claims to have solved the enigma, his solution being Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. What do you think?

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for copyright
reasons

Is this the solution to Elgar's enigma?

However, a bigger (as yet unsolved) enigma is Govt. Scotland's attitude towards local democracy. The Scottish Government's Planning & Environmental Appeals Division has just overturned two planning decisions made by elected OIC councillors to reject major windfarm developments with significant landscape implications at Costa and Hesta. Whatever you feel about the decisions made by the council, OIC is the democratic body elected locally, with local knowledge to deal with local matters for the benefit of our locality. It's a sad fact that devolution stopped at Holyrood, and that relentless centralisation to that assembly is reducing local government to a state of powerless make-belief.

Meanwhile, OIC has announced "Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project". Two sites for potential community wind farms are being investigated: at Quanterness in St Ola and the other on Faray (in the Eday Community Council area). The intention is for the profits to stay in Orkney, thus "enabling the Council to preserve and enhance key services that local people value and depend upon and providing a foundation for communities to drive transformational projects of their own." Such developments would also make a significant contribution to the "needs case" for a new interconnector for Orkney, with all the economic and employment benefits it is hoped a new cable could bring to the county. Public engagement events have been taking place in the areas which would potentially be most impacted.

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, we received the detailed revenue budgets for 2019/20, and it is worth noting that we will be spending £10,301,000 out of our strategic reserve fund. Another thing worth noting, this time from our "Workforce Plan", is that at the end of 2018 there were 2,701 people working for Orkney Islands Council in one capacity or another, making OIC Orkney's major employer by far. Half of OIC's work force is aged over 45, which reflects our local population demographics.
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I attended a meeting of The Council of The Society of The Friends of St Magnus Cathedral (as one of the four OIC members). With the help of The Friends, a new mason, Meredith Macbeth has now been appointed for the Cathedral. The Friends have sent a letter from St Magnus Cathedral (founded 1137) to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (founded 1160) to express sympathy for the devastating fire they suffered.

It was good to be back in Sanday for the Sanday School leavers' assembly. (My younger daughter is one of those leaving.) It was a celebration of the leavers' achievements, and they set a glowing example to all those pupils following them up through the school. The event also marked the beginning of the reign of Sanday School's new headmaster, Stewart McPhail, whom I would like to welcome. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Jonathon McCabe to the headship of Eday School.

On the May Bank Holiday, I spectated at the Longhope Swimming Gala at the Picky (the last my aforementioned daughter will be swimming at). Congratulations to Westray for coming first and for winning the Loganair Cup (despite such speedy opponents from Sanday!).

The "mid-term reshuffle" at the Special General and Policy & Resources Committee meetings saw me reappointed to the same jobs I've been doing for the past 2 years. I remain on the Policy & Resources, Education Leisure & Housing, Orkney Health & Care and Monitoring & Audit committees. I'm still OIC's rep on the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances and the Dounreay Stakeholder Group, a director of Orkney Ferries Ltd, a member of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board and of The Council of The Society of The Friends of St Magnus Cathedral; and I will continue to serve on the (renamed) Constitutional Reform Consultative Group, the (renamed) Digital Strategy Consultative Group and the Empowering Communities Steering Group. Other appointments will be made at forthcoming committee meetings.

This month, in Kirkwall, I have also attended a (normal) General Meeting, marine planning training, a session on the Islands Deal, and a members' session. I met with officials to discuss child poverty in the North Isles and explore reasons why it is so high compared to the rest of Orkney. In the Isles, I went to a meeting of the Sanday School Parent Council, a public consultation event in Sanday on the Scottish Govt's "National Islands Plan" (which wouldn't exist had it not been for the OIC-initiated "Our Islands, Our Future" initiative!), and a meeting of Stronsay Community Council. On the 30th May (flights permitting), I shall be at the meeting of North Ronaldsay Community Council.

Ward constituents have asked me about the recycling of plastics. The Council has produced a handy leaflet "Plastic Recycling—Isles" outlining the current situation from the OIC perspective. (*the leaflet is reproduced in this edition of the Limpet*) In the meantime, there is a plastics recycling initiative being trialled in Stronsay. I would appreciate the public's comments on both this trial and what it says in the Council's leaflet.

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Like some other local authorities, OIC has “declared a climate emergency”, which, as it stands, in the grand scheme of things, is just a puff of CO₂-laden hot air. In an attempt to make *our* declaration more meaningful and helpful in mitigating the immediate impacts of climate change on Orkney, I proposed we add the pledge that OIC will commit to take the necessary measures, where we can, to protect our communities from the ongoing effects of climate change.” My proposal didn’t even find a seconder!



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson
West Manse, Sanday
stephen.clackson@council.orkney.gov.uk



You can download “Letter from School Place” from lfsp.pbworks.com



Plastics Recycling – Isles

Here are a number of reasons as to why Orkney Islands Council (OIC) doesn't support the collection of communal plastic recycling skips on the outer isles at the moment. This document was put together by the Waste Team in the Council to help residents better understand this position and particularly in light of the pressure placed upon the council by residents since Blue Planet II and the general groundswell of public support on plastics generally.

Cost

It costs approximately £573 every time OIC services a skip. There are 13 non-linked isles and if the Council give to one isle they have to give to all. Then there is the cost also of processing the waste and recycling at Chinglebraes (the council's waste transfer station) and of course shipping costs south. There will also be a 'gate fee' that all private and public-sector authorities pay to an organisation who is licenced to accept waste/recyclate materials.

Markets for recyclates – particularly single use type plastic

Markets have collapsed owing to China ban; there is now nowhere to send it. 67% of UK plastic was going to China (not Orkney's) so there is insufficient infrastructure at present within the UK to accept single use plastic. This then has a knock-on effect with respect to other types of plastic, as the number of re-processors who do accept plastic are 'squeezed'/inundated with private and public-sector waste authorities wanting to send plastic to them. The market price is very low at the moment (year ending December 2018) and OIC currently gets zero rebate on plastic at present. Orkney is lucky in that it has a source segregated recycling scheme in place, which means its household bottles are cleaner, and also it isn't mixed up with other types of plastic. Therefore, to date, Orkney continues to successfully ship its collected plastic to re processors within Europe if not the UK (although note at zero rebate).

Shetland – EFW plant

The waste required to ensure the greatest operating efficiency at the Gremista Plant on Shetland is made up of 60% Shetland's residual waste sent for final treatment and 40% is Orkney's residual waste. The more waste that Orkney chooses to remove from this 40% quota, eventually this could affect the plants operating capability which results in Shetland having to import additional waste materials from say mainland Scotland. The costs of importing this waste has a knock-on effect to Orkney in that it would be highly likely Shetland would put up its gate fee they charge Orkney, resulting in increased costs to OIC (gate fees). These costs are then passed on down the supply chain ultimately to Orkney's trade waste customers, or at least in part as the Council tries to recover its costs. To note also that plastic has a very high calorific value.

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Contamination

In general, communal recycling facilities are not favoured. They can cause real headaches for local authorities. Communal recycling leads to increased contamination and contamination means higher costs in terms of separating out the contaminants, or indeed losing an entire load or skip to the general refuse because it is highly contaminated. Plastics in particular are very easy to contaminate because there are several types, and this leads to confusion as to what can and cannot be recycled. Even with good education and lots of information out there via the web, Facebook, radio, newspaper, folk still get it wrong. It's just human nature!

Outer isles are of course on communal recycling facilities. So easy to contaminate as there are so many different types of plastic (7 types at least) and through either "unintentional ignorance" or "intentional laziness". Communal facilities can be abused. In addition, communal recycling facilities are often less favoured by local authorities especially when just left out on a limb, because it is very easy for folk to put in highly dangerous materials termed hazardous materials. These can comprise (and this happened in Orkney in 2018) undetonated marine flares, calor camping gas containers etc, syringes, batteries etc.

Viridor, a private sector company, once had a large camping calor gas container turn up at its reprocessing facility in Perth. The calor gas container was inside a white goods item (tumble dryer or the like). It was not detected through its sorting line and exploded causing a fire and many staff to be hospitalised. On that occasion there were no fatalities, but it could easily have been the outcome. The knock-on effect affected the whole country because the plant had to close down temporarily and therefore one of the main UK's reprocessors to receive white goods was on shut down for a number of months. White goods piled up in their store yards, and no doubt local authorities were told to hang onto them in their yards too...

So communal facilities are not favoured because of the health and safety risk to both business and human life. The knock-on effect of hazardous materials coming into Orkney's waste transfer station would be quite catastrophic, as if that shut down, even temporarily, there are no other means by which to bale Orkney's residual waste or recycles and prepare them for shipping. The investment in an alternative even temporary would be hundreds of thousands of pounds if not millions.

We hope this provides you with a fuller understanding as to why the Council doesn't support plastic recycling separation in the general community at the moment.

LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT DISASTER **AND THE PART PLAYED BY THE STRONSAY LIFEBOAT.**

While no one will ever forget the terrible Longhope Lifeboat disaster of fifty years ago, memories grow dim, and perhaps the part played by the Stronsay lifeboat in that sad event, will be lost through time. Let me recap on the history of the Stronsay Lifeboat Station for a moment before addressing the fateful incident.

In 1909, due to several shipwrecks around Stronsay and the North Isles, a lifeboat was stationed at Stronsay, initially being anchored off Feastown, between Stronsay and Papa Stronsay. She was the John Ryburn and a house was built for the mechanic at a cost of £300, and aptly named Ryburn Cottage.

In 1910, a slipway was built to accommodate the boat and the base of this still stands to this day.

However, with the outbreak of World War One in 1914, many of Stronsay's brave men went off to war, and partly due to the fact that there were few men to form a crew, the Station closed down, the lifeboat went away, and eventually the slipway was dismantled.

In 1952, in response to an obvious need for a lifeboat in the North Isles, Stronsay once again opened her Station, and a Watson type lifeboat, named the Edward Z Dresden, was stationed in Whitehall Harbour, anchored between the two piers.

In 1956, Stronsay received a brand new 52 ft Barnett lifeboat, called the John Gellatley Hyndman, initially under the command of the late Coxwain, Tom Carter, father of Neil Carter, and later under the command of the late Coxwain, Jimmy Stout.

Over the years, these two boats carried out many life-saving rescues, and conveyed many injured and sick people to hospital, a record of which can be seen on the Lifeboat boards in the Community Centre. Unfortunately, the Station closed down again in 1972, with a lifeboat being stationed in Kirkwall.

Returning now to the fateful night of 17th March, 1969, the Liberian ship "Irene" was in trouble in the Pentland Firth, drifting powerless towards the shore at Grimness in South Ronaldsay. A severe South Easterly gale had been blowing for a whole month, and despite the mountainous seas anticipated, the brave lifeboatmen from Longhope, set out on that fateful voyage, determined to save the lives of the Irene crew. They were last heard of alive at 1930 that evening.

At 0555 on 18th March, Kirkwall Coastguard contacted Captain Edward H. Clements of Helmsley, Stronsay Lifeboat's Hon. Secretary, apprised him of the situation, and requested that the Stronsay Lifeboat be sent to search for the Longhope Lifeboat.

After consultations with the Longhope Hon. Secretary and Coxwain Jimmy Stout, it was decided that, at first daylight, they would join in the search, and that due to the horrendous seas running to the east of Stronsay, they would proceed via the west side and proceed to the area east of South Ronaldsay and to the SE of the Pentland Skerries.

At 0630 the maroons (rockets to summon the crew) were fired, and the crew rushed to the lifeboat station to assemble. They were Jimmy Stout (Coxwain), Archie Reid (Acting Second Coxwain), Mike Richards (Acting Bowman), Sidney Swanney (Mechanic), Allie Norquoy (Acting Second Mechanic), Peter Rendall (Crewman) and John Marcus (Crewman).

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At 0715 they set off around the west side through Stronsay Firth, out past Copinsay, and into the Pentland Firth. The late Jimmy Stout described the trip to me as extremely uncomfortable, being battered by mountainous waves, gale-force winds and driving rain. Archie Reid, now aged ninety and living in Kirkwall, also described the trip as extremely rough. “Jimmy Stout was on the wheel and I was facing backwards, watching for the huge following waves which could easily swamp the boat if you were not very careful. I gave Jimmy short tea-breaks every so often, but we were on our feet more or less for 14 hours, and believe me, it was not a comfortable journey “.

Archie’s wife Margaret remembers being very anxious and concerned for the Stronsay crew, especially when word came through that the Longhope Lifeboat had turned over.

Peter Rendall, now aged 77 and living in Holm, recalls the voyage as being horrendous. “One minute we would be climbing almost vertically up the back of a wave, longer than the 52-foot lifeboat, and then we would be plunging 60 feet into the trough at the other side. We all had life jackets on, but what good was a life jacket in conditions like that? I can assure you there was very little conversation. We were quietly wondering if we would ever make it back alive to Stronsay. We went west around Stronsay and out between Auskerry and Copinsay, getting the benefit of the ebb tide, but even so, the conditions were horrendous. When we got the radio message to say that the Longhope Lifeboat had been found, we were not far away from it, and actually saw the Thurso Lifeboat towing her away bottom up. A terrible sight to witness. Jimmy Stout decided that it would be safer to carry on around Orkney, rather than fight our way back against the huge waves, so we came all the way around, and back down the Westray Firth, through Warness, where we met some very heavy seas, but Jimmy’s knowledge of the area, and his expert seamanship, got us safely back to Whitehall Village, after fourteen hours of the worst seas I have ever experienced.”

Peter’s wife Muriel recalls the worrying time, knowing that the Longhope Lifeboat was lost, and wondering if the Stronsay men would make it safely home. There were no mobile phones at that time, so it was just a case of sitting at home worrying until you knew they were safe.

As Peter says, Jimmy and his crew continued with the search and when near Swona, received the devastating news over the radio, that the Longhope Lifeboat had been found bottom side up by the Thurso Lifeboat, four miles SW of Torness.

You can imagine the feeling of helplessness and loss by Jimmy and his crew, but they battled on in the hope of finding survivors, which sadly, was not to be. Continuing the search, they sailed around Hoy, Marwick Head, Kili Holm and back via Warness, to Stronsay harbour, circumnavigating most of Orkney, arriving exhausted at 2040, refuelled, and were back on their moorings at 2110, a total of fourteen hours at sea in atrocious conditions.

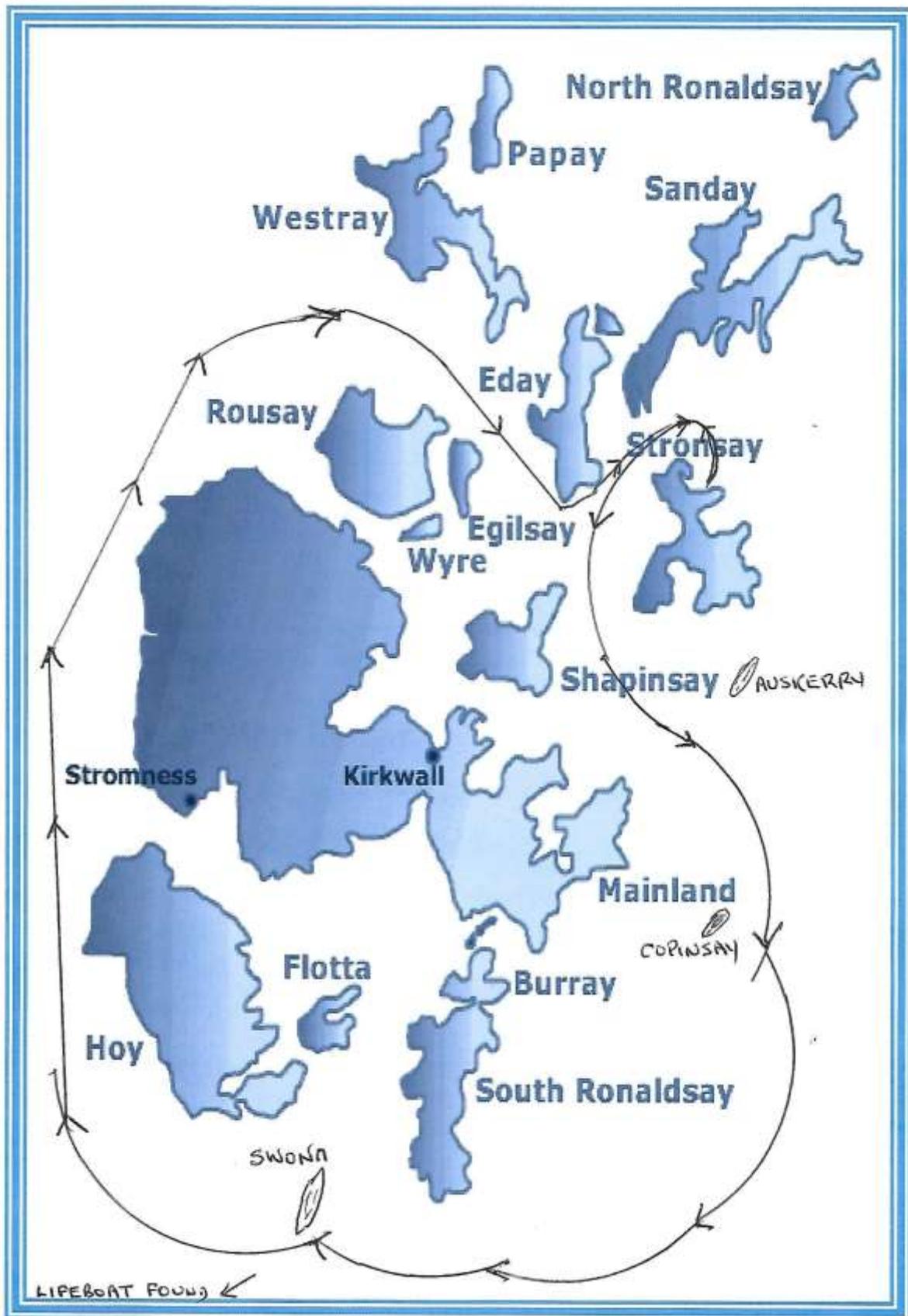
Sadly, Archie Reid and Peter Rendall are the only surviving members of the crew from that night, but never let us forget the bravery and the selflessness of the Stronsay lifeboat crews over the many years that they risked their lives in the service of others.

Please support your local lifeboats. You never know when you might need one.

Bill Miller, Kirkwall.

(Bill’s sketch of the route taken by the Stronsay lifeboat is on the next page)

SKETCH BY BILL MILLER OF ROUTE TAKEN BY THE STRONSAY LIFEBOAT IN SEARCH FOR LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 1969



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 was included in the April 'Limpet' and part 2 is shown below. I hope to put forward part 3 for publication in the next edition of the 'Limpet'.

Ian Cooper

Nature Notes

The Island of Stronsay - Part II

A glance through Hugh Marwick's scholarly "Farm Names of Orkney" shows as could be expected that Stronsay has an abundance of Norse place-names. It is therefore unexpected and surprising that the derivation of the island's name is itself more obscure than in the case of most of our islands.

The name is apparently of Norse origin. Marwick observes that the forms of the name in the Saga manuscripts vary between **Straumsey** and **Strjonsey**, the latter being certainly, in his opinion, the true form.

Marwick indicates that while the word **Strjon** is not recorded in Old Norse except in place-names, it appears to be related to the Old English word **streon** meaning "gain, profit or wealth". The descriptive connotation of this Norse name, therefore, probably bestowed by the early Norse settlers long before the men of the Saga arrived in the early 9th century, leads to the surmise of a long early period of comparative prosperity in Stronsay and to the supposition that when Stronsay folks proudly call their island "the Garden of the North Isles" they are not using a mere modern appellation but drawing on long-past tradition.

Saga period

Three vividly described incidents connected with Stronsay during Viking times are recorded in "The Orkneyinga Saga".

The first of these, involving the murder of Earl Rognvald, occurred in Papa Stronsay in 1046. The circumstances are as follows: After Rognvald Brusil's son's defeat at the hands of Earl Thorfinn in the Battle of Roeberry, the former took refuge in Norway. Being still determined to lay claim to his share of the Earldom, Rognvald came with his ships to Shetland in late winter and "set his course south to the Orkneys without delay". Earl Thorfinn being at that time in his house on the Mainland (probably at Birsay), Rognvald and his followers approached so stealthily in the dark that they were able to secure all the doors of the house before Thorfinn and his men were aware of their presence.

Then, in grim Norse style, Rognvald set fire to the homestead, allowing the women and bondmen to leave. But Thorfinn broke through a loft door at the back of his house and leapt out thence with his wife Ingibjorg in his arms. It was pitch-dark and moonless and he got away through the smoke unperceived. That very night, alone in a boat, he rowed over to Caithness".

Rognvald's death

Believing that Earl Thorfinn had perished in the flames, Rognvald "scoured the isles and laid them under him".

(continued on next page)

“A little before Yule” the Saga story continues, “Earl Rognvald went with a large following to Papa Stronsay for malt to be brewed for Yule.” At that time, before a roasting fire, Rognvald made a slip of the tongue that led him to believe that kinsman Thorfinn was still alive, and that he had a short time to live. His premonition was true. “At that moment they learned that the farmstead (on the probable site of the present farmhouse) was surrounded by men. Earl Thorfinn had arrived.

“He and his men immediately set fire to the dwelling-house and piled a heap of fuel against the doors. Earl Thorfinn gave permission for all but the Earl’s men to leave, and when most of the men were pulled out, a man came out into the doorway alone in linen clothes and Thorfinn then bade the men to give a hand to the deacon. But the latter put his hands on the balk of wood across the doorway and vaulted so high over the balk and the ring of men that he landed further down and disappeared in the darkness.”

Thus Rognvald, disguised and mistaken for a Celtic priest, escaped from the building.

“They then went in search of him, and split into groups. Thorkel Fosterer went along by the sea seeking him: and they heard a dog barking on the rocks on the shore. Earl Rognvald had with him his lapdog and he gave the Earl away. They killed him there and then among the rocks.”

On the map there is on the north east side of Papa Stronsay an indentation called Ronald’s Geo which is by tradition the place where Rognvald Brusil’s son was thus slain.

Burning at Stronsay

“There was a man called Olaf: he was the son of Hrolf, and lived in Gairsay: he had another estate at Duncansby in Caithness. Olaf was a very outstanding man, and in high favour with Earl Paul. Asleif was the name of his wife. She was a wise woman, of good family and strongest character. One of his sons was called Valthjof, another Sweyn, a third Gunni: They were all well brought up. Ingegerd was the name of their sister.”

“John Wing lived at Upland in Hoy. Richard, his brother, lived at Brecks in Stronsay. They were men of good standing and kinsmen of Olaf Hrolf’s son.”

The above terse paragraphs from chapter 56 of “The Orkneyinga Saga” introduces the main **dramatis personae** and their family connections, concerned in the burning of Thorkei Flett or Flayer at his homestead at Holland in Stronsay in 1136.

Paul Hakon’s son was the ruling Earl of Orkney at that time. To his Yule feast in Orphir in 1135 he invited many men of rank, including Valthjof Olaf’s son who occupied the farmstead at Holland. “With nine others” says the Saga “Valthjof set off in a ten oared boat and they were all drowned in Stronsay Firth on Christmas Eve. And that was thought terrible news, for Valthjof was one of the most accomplished of men.”

About the same time at Duncansby in Caithness a band of Vikings attacked the house of Olaf Hrolf’s son “and burned him inside it along with six others, though his son Sweyn and Olaf’s wife Asleif, the mother of Sweyn, escaped this fate by being absent at the time.

Sweyn came to the Earl’s yule feast. We can imagine that after the loss of his brother by drowning and his father by burning he was in a black mood: in the Orphir drinking hall he quarrelled with and slew Sweyn Breastrope, as a consequence of which he fled under Paul’s disfavour.

(continued on next page)

In the spring of 1136 Earl Paul “made a tour of the North Isles to collect his rents. He held much friendly converse with the chief men and gave gifts lavishly. The earl came to Stronsay and gave to Thorkel Flett the estate that had belonged to Valthjof Olaf’s son, on condition that he should know of a truth where Sweyn was hiding.” This action of the Earl’s fomented the discord between him and Sweyn Asleifson, as a result of which, later in the same year, Sweyn boldly kidnapped the Earl in Rousay and carried him away to captivity in Scotland. Before that happened Earl Paul was much preoccupied by the threatened invasion from Norway by Rognvald Kol’s son, who landed in the North isles from Shetland in April and subdued much of the North Isles, “And at this moment” the Saga records “that incident took place there in the isles wherein the kinsmen of Sweyn Asleif’s son, John Wing from Upland in hoy, and Richard from Brecks in Stronsay, came to Thorkel Flett on the farm that had belonged to Valthjof, and burned him inside it and nine of his men with him. After that they went to find Earl Rognvald and put it to him that they meant to go over to Earl Paul with the whole of their families, unless Earl Rognvald would receive them well. The Earl did not send them away.” (The farm of Brecks, now vanished with the name, was apparently near Whitehall Village.)

Meeting at Huip Ness

Sixteen years later in 1152 Stronsay is mentioned in the Saga for the last time, Sweyn Asleifson being again the chief protagonist.

The islands were at that time ruled jointly by Rognvald and Harald Maddad’s son, but there was now a third claimant, Erlend Harald’s son. Sweyn had been persuaded to assist Erlend in his attempt and also sailed to Stronsay to meet him when he came east from Norway. The Saga account is as follows:-

“Sweyn and Anakol sailed to Stronsay and lay off Huipness several nights. At that time Thorfinn Brusi’s son dwelt in Stronsay: he had then to wife Ingegerd, Sweyn’s sister, whom Thorbjorn Clerk had divorced. While Sweyn and his men lay off Huipness, Earl Erlend sailed in there from the open sea and Anakol and Thorfinn Brusi’s son at once sailed to meet him and sought to make terms between him and Sweyn. And the Earl entered into the terms reluctantly: he said that Sweyn had always been an enemy to his own kin and had not held to his promise to give him forces to gain his realm.”

They reluctantly made a pact and, in the spirit of the times, decided to go without delay to see Earl Harald before he learned this from the others and ask him to give up the realm to him.

“They found Earl Harald aboard ship off Cairston. It was Michaelmas morning when Earl Harald and his men saw a warship approaching and they feared that it must be a hostile force. They leapt ashore and into the castle that was then there.”

The upshot of this dramatic secret conference at sea was at least decisive. “There arrived bonders who were friends of both parties and sought to bring them to terms. And Earl Erlend and Sweyn were loath to make peace. But yet negotiations went forward, so that they made a settlement whereby Earl Harald swore this oath, that Erlend should have his share of the isles, and he should never make any claim against him for that realm. These oaths were made before many witnesses from among the best men there in the Isles”

BODY FORM

By Ellie from Newfield

Yes, I can see his point of view
And that it really isn't fair
For he hasn't the body form
To hang around in the air;
And whilst those sparrows enjoying a feast
He's left looking on.
So a plan of action is needed
Before all the nuts are gone
For he's not an agile sparrow
With a body weight of fluff,
He's the macho blackbird
Built for rough and tough.
Whilst those acrobatic sparrows
Are showing off their skills
Hanging upside down
Whilst pulling nuts out of the grills.
Non-existent are table manners,
It's everyone to his own.
A free-for-all, a scrummage,
All goodwill left at home.
A fighting mode is now in place
Where there was peace before.
You've never seen such spite,
Not ever I'm certainly sure.
Look on now mister blackbird
For clumsy comes to mind,
Dainty just isn't in it.
And now I feel unkind
For your song is simply first-rate,
And you're such excellent company.
Mother Nature just didn't give you
The small bird's agility!

©*Helene Harrison*

LOCAL BUSINESSES



Craftship Cafe

**Open: Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
11.30 to 15.30 (closed Thursday and Friday)**



Serving homemade lunches, cakes and a variety of teas and coffees.

Directions: Out of the village on the main road, up the hill to the junction, turn right and our driveway is just on the left, after the hydro station

Example menu

Mains

- Cottage pie £8.50
- Macaroni cheese and salad £7.00
- Quiche and salad £7.50
- Jacket potatoes with choice of tuna, cheese and coleslaw £5.50
- Salads: tuna, cheese, egg £6.50
- Ploughman's lunch: Selection of cheeses, pickled onion, pickles, coleslaw and homemade bread £6.50
- Nachos with sour cream, Orkney cheese, salsa and jalapenos £6.00

Puddings £3.99

- Rhubarb crumble and custard
- Mandarin cheesecake
- Banoffee pie

Selection of tray bakes and scones from £1.50

Drinks

- A wide variety of tea and coffee
- Canned drinks

Bookings

- Phone: 07785 111126
- Online: message Dianne on Facebook
- Email: dianne@craftshipenterprise.co.uk

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

It would be very much appreciated if Stronsay residents would book for lunch so that waiting times can be kept to a minimum and Dianne will have a good idea of how many people to cater for.

Phone 07785 111126, email dianne@craftshipenterprise.co.uk,
or message Dianne on Facebook

Please note: the Craftship café will be closed from the 1st June to 7th June inclusive. Supplies can be purchased from either of the two shops. Viv at Ebenezer Stores in the village is happy to supply hot drinks.

Sorry for any inconvenience

Craftship Enterprise

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

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

REDHOUSE PLANTS MARKET GARDEN



Seasonal vegetables available daily. Bedding, perennial and vegetable plants.

Local honey in season according to availability.

Open 09.00-17.00 Mon-Sat.

Redhouse, Lower Whitehall, Stronsay. Tel: (01857) 616 377

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RANGER**

**GUIDED TOURS
AND NATURE
WALKS**

CONTACT 07922711525

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM
SEARCH FOR STRONSAY
RANGER

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

handmade  with love

Airy Fairy

- ★ Handmade Quilts, cushions & clothes ★
- ★ Beautiful, bespoke & personalised gifts ★
 - ★ Handmade especially for you ★
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- ★ Studio visits welcome by appointment ★



Hazel Shearer, Airy, Stronsay, Orkney, KW172AG • Phone 01857 616231
hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com • www.airyfairyonline.co.uk

The Wyrð Weaver

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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 and I will put you
on my mailing list*

**PATRICK
McGRATH
LTD**

**PLUMBING
& HEATING**

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Plumber**

Services include:

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- Bathroom fitting
- Bathroom supply
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- Isles work welcome

Call Patrick on **07933 488283**
Email: patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com



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LOCAL BUSINESSES

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- * Reasonable rates
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Tel: 616276

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Website : 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
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- MOT prep work
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HOME: 01857 616454

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Oil boiler servicing,
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A serviced boiler
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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

Web: www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk.



BELLIE M DESIGNS

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

Online shop 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

LEONORA'S WILDLIFE AND BUMBLEBEE GARDEN **HESCOMBE COTTAGE**

On the Saturdays June 22nd, July 20th, and August 17th, I am opening my garden to interested visitors from 2-5pm, weather permitting.

The bees are coming now and will be here in increasing numbers as the summer progresses. In August there will be hundreds collecting nectar and pollen. The new queens and males will also be mating at that time.

My garden is not suitable for young children to play, there just isn't any room, but children are welcome to play on the unfenced grass outside. If you have limited mobility like me you might find it useful to bring your stick.

If you would like to come please ring to book 01856 252083 (satellite phone hence odd number).



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Invitation to the launch of

MUSICALITY

Can you play a musical instrument?

Would you like to play with others?

Wind band? Orchestra? Quartet and more?

Brass? Woodwind? Strings? Percussion?

Classical? Popular? Country? Folk? Gospel and more?

Would you like to have coaching to learn or to improve?

Fancy having a go at composing or playing new compositions?

Considered playing in a performance or open mic night?

Like the idea of Performance Poetry? Recitals? Choral Speaking? Rap?

Would you like to help out behind the scenes? Event publicity? Programme design? Catering?

Are you 12 years old +?

No instruments needed at this first meeting – just bring yourselves and your ideas...

Stronsay School Music Room on Saturday 8th June at 11.00.

Like to take part but can't make the meeting?

Contact Donna (242) or Rosalind



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STRONSAY BOOKWORMS

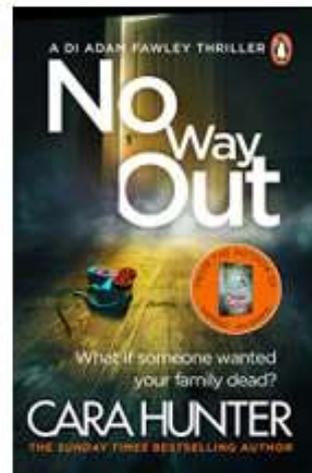


**will be meeting again on
Wednesday 5th June at 7.30pm
at Stronsay Hotel**

We will be talking about

**No Way Out by
Cara Hunter**

**and other books we
have been reading.**



**If you like books and like a natter,
please come along.**

Everybody welcome.

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Stronsay Stitchers & Spinners

Stitchers

Reminder - Thursday 30th May, 7.00pm-9.30-pm, Church Hall, £2/person, refreshments available.

Thursday 27th June, 7.00pm-9.30-pm, Church Hall, £2/person, refreshments available.

Spinners

Saturday 1st June, 11am-2pm, Church Hall, £2/person, bring your own lunch, refreshments available.

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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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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

8 April 2019

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

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



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

KIRK CORNER

Locum minister—Scott Daily. Manse telephone 616286

Change is often a frightening thing, especially when it is hard to see past what we might be losing. Though I have only been here a year I am amazed at the changes going on in the community. Some of the people I have come to know, and love have moved, and some of the businesses I come to enjoy visiting have closed or are for sale. Fortunately, the heart of Stronsay remains, just like the mighty limpet the people of island remain solid and steadfast. There is no denying we lose out when someone leaves or something closes, the contributions to our community by these individuals and businesses were immense and will always be appreciated. But the question now remains, where do we go from here?

The world is full of uncertainties, governments make decisions that could affect us all, weather can cause our plans to change suddenly, and both our health and wealth can suffer rapid change. What is the answer to all of this? Do we merely bemoan the fact that things were better back in the day, (something that is easy for all of us to do) or do we unite together to build things up again? A hammer is a useful tool if used properly, it can build up and help strengthen what is in place. It can be used to repair or construct new things. But a hammer can also be used to destroy and tear down if swung overly hard at the wrong times. I pray we build up together in wisdom.

The key to a good building is of course to first have a good foundation. Not just as a “minister”, but personally, I would state categorically that the foundation of our lives should always be Jesus Christ, there is absolutely nothing more important and key than that, and in fact if following Jesus was made the key to our community (and our lives) I can guarantee we would be blessed.

I am not very good at playing the game of chess, I imagine most people would beat me easily. But there have been times when I watch other people play that I see moves they could make that they may have overlooked. It is often the case that others can see what we fail to notice in the intensity of the moment. During the Sunday morning service at the kirk we have been looking at the book of Philippians, in a well-known passage it talks about how we are to not only look out for our own interest but also for the interest of others. That is one tough thing to do at times! It is not that we are to neglect taking care of ourselves or our families, but that we also look out for one another. This is something the community is generally good at; I pray it is something it continues to grow in. As we think and plan for the future of the island, (and I certainly hope we will) may we have an attitude of love, respect, and humility while we are discussing and working together.

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>

Announcements by charities, local groups, clubs and organisations are FREE!

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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

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

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:

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

KIRKWALL MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO STRONSAY

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

Tuesday 11th 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 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

Website 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

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Diabetes Support Group will be held in the carpet room at the Community Centre on Wednesday 31st July from 3pm-4.30pm.

JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

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