



DATE	EVENT
23 March	<del>Stronsay RNLI AGM</del> <i>Cancelled</i>
23-29 March	<del>Stronsay Wellbeing Week</del> <i>Postponed</i>
26 March	<del>Stitchers</del> <i>Cancelled</i>
29 March	British Summer Time begins (at 2am)
30 March	Pop-up library in SDT office
8 April	<del>Diabetes support group meeting</del> <i>Cancelled</i>
3 May	Orkney Ferries summer timetable starts
16 May	<del>Craft Fair</del> <i>Cancelled</i>
20 May	Dementia support—training
21 May	<del>Folk festival</del> <i>Cancelled</i>
5 September	Euchre night
3 October	Craft Fair
7 November	Bonfire night
28 November	Craft Fair
5 December	Tree lighting

## **NHS SCOTLAND—CORONAVIRUS**

NHS Scotland website for information on coronavirus is

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

If in doubt phone the surgery on 616321

## **BRITISH SUMMER TIME**

BST starts at 1am on Sunday 29 March 2020.

Don't forget to put your clocks & watches FORWARDS by 1 hour.

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## **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 10:30am & before 9pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*.

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

# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Thank goodness there is none in Orkney.

*It is already here and also several cases on the isles including Stronsay*

But I've heard there are no confirmed cases

*The policy currently is to only swab ill patients in hospital but not in the community. The best estimate is based on patients with symptoms*

It is only a trivial illness, not as bad as seasonal flu

*Some people will have the infection with no symptoms, some mild, some severe and some will die. The elderly are much more likely to have a serious illness.*

I can't see the problem because I had my flu jab this year

*Unfortunately, there is no protection from the flu jab: Coronavirus is a totally different virus with no vaccine currently*

There is no point in social distancing if you have no symptoms: you can not pass on the virus

*But there are many symptomless virus spreaders, assume you could be one and can occur up to 14 days before you might develop symptoms*

I am young and fit so this really is no big deal

*Some otherwise fit people have become critically ill. Spread in the community is going to reach vulnerable groups who could easily be your friend or family member*

Bloody hell, I had not realised it was this bad. What do I do about it?

- ***Don't panic! Please listen to the advice from the government - they want to keep us safe and stop the country melting down.***
- ***Continue to look out for your neighbours and others that are advised to stay home.***
- ***Wash your hands frequently - the virus can survive on smooth surfaces, like door handles, for up to 72 hours.***
- ***Avoid unnecessary contact with other people. The virus can only spread through humans.***
- ***Catch your cough and sneeze in a tissue and dispose of it responsibly.***

If you suspect you have Covid-19, self-isolate for 7 days

If you are a close contact of a suspect, self-isolate for 14 days. If you get unwell during that time, the self-isolation requirement is just 7 days from the onset of symptoms

If you are worried about what to do, phone the surgery on 616321. We will advise what is best, considering the best advice from the government.

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

Dr Rosalind Fisher



# **CORONAVIRUS**

## **WASH YOUR HANDS MORE OFTEN FOR 20 SECONDS**

**Use soap and water or a  
hand sanitiser when you:**

Get home or into work

Blow your nose, sneeze or cough

Eat or handle food



For more information and the Government's  
Action Plan go to **[nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)**

## **ORCADES PRACTICE—STRONSAY BRANCH**

In an emergency phone 01856 888000

### **Coronavirus update**

**Surgery arrangements have changed during this time.**

Please phone as usual if you require an appointment on 616321  
or email [orkney.stronsay@nhs.net](mailto:orkney.stronsay@nhs.net)

All appointment requests are being triaged by Admin through the GP who will then contact you and give you an appointment if you need a face to face consultation. These arrangements will continue for the foreseeable future.

*Ordering repeat prescriptions:*

*Please see info about this on the next page*

## **ORCADES PRACTICE – STRONSAY BRANCH**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**COVID - 19 Coronavirus**

Please do not enter the surgery if you have a cold, cough or temperature.

Phone the surgery for advice.

Thank you

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

Dr Rosalind Fisher

# **Orcades Practice – Stronsay Branch**

## **Repeat Prescriptions**

### **Coronavirus risk reduction**

**From today Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March until  
further notice**

- **No more paper requests to be handed in**
- **Please phone 616321 or email [orkney.stronsay@nhs.net](mailto:orkney.stronsay@nhs.net) to order**
- **Check one week later to see if they have arrived**
- **Time slots will be given for collection**

**Thank you**

**Dr Roger Neville-Smith**

**Dr Rosalind Fisher**

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## Ebenezer Stores revised Coronavirus Policy

With the constantly changing situation regarding the Covid 19 outbreak we have been in discussion concerning the future trading at the Lower Shop.

Until we are told otherwise, we plan to open the shop as normal and the Post Office is a 'front line' service. We are very aware of the need to prevent the spread of infection therefore there will obviously be a number of precautions put into place which we would ask **ALL** customers to observe for the benefit of everyone.

**In the front porch** we have a supply of hand wipes and gloves, **please** use these and make sure you wear the gloves in the shop. We are trying to purchase a hand sanitizer dispenser to fix in the porch.

**When in the shop**, please wear the gloves and handle the goods on the shelf as little as possible, preferably only to make a purchase. As much as possible observe social distancing, if there are a lot of people in at one time please wait until some have left before you enter. Don't be offended if we ask you not to enter for a few minutes.

**When you leave** please dispose of the gloves in the bin provided, we will empty it regularly.

**Don't forget** we do have hand washing facilities if you require them - please ask. We will carry on with taking telephone orders for either collection or delivery, so please do not come to the shop if you feel unwell or are vulnerable.

We will of course be cleaning counter tops, door handles etc on a regular basis and hope to remain open until instructed otherwise by medical or government officials.

**Together we will beat this!**

## MAURICE A WILLIAMSON (OLIVEBANK)

\*CORONA VIRUS UPDATE SUNDAY 22 MARCH\*

The shop will shut with immediate effect. We will NOT be open until we have discussed a plan going ahead for delivery/pick up options. Sorry for any inconvenience but we do NOT want to take any risks in the current situation.

We will update everyone hopefully by tomorrow (*Monday 23 March*).

We are all currently under self isolation as a precaution having been involved with the community through the shop. We feel that this is for the safety of everyone in the community.

Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time

## **STRONSAY SWRI**

In view of the current situation and the fact some of our members come into the more vulnerable categories, we have taken the decision to cancel all SWRI meetings in Stronsay until September. We will then review the situation. Sorry for any disappointment caused. We hope everyone stays safe

## **BOOKWORMS—CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

In view of the advice given by the First Minister this evening (Mon 16 March) and the fact that Stronsay Hotel is closed, Bookworms is cancelled until further notice. Please keep reading and we will look forward to sharing books, views and chit chat when we next meet.

## **STRONSAY WELLBEING WEEK POSTPONED**

I am terribly sorry to have to make this decision, but after some thought, research and discussion with others within the development trust, I have decided to postpone the Stronsay Wellbeing Week. It is hopefully an overly cautious move, but we just can't be sure at this point and I would rather be preventative than have to be reactive. I look forward to rescheduling these events in the future.

Sarah Richings

## **DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**

In light of the current situation, I have made the decision to cancel group meetings until further notice. I'm happy for anyone to contact me with any diabetes related concerns / issues, or anything else I can help you with (phone 438).

Hopefully we can meet up again before too long.

Thanks, Shirley.

## **STRONSAY STITCHERS & STRONSAY SPINNERS**

Alas, no more meetings until further notice

## **SPRING CRAFT FAIR**

It is with deep regret we have come to the decision to cancel the Stronsay Spring Craft Fair in May.

## **STRONSAY RANGER**

Due to the continued risks with the spread of Coronavirus we will be halting tours for at least the next six weeks. This will be reviewed if anything changes. We will keep folk updated. Just a quick message to all regarding the Easter egg case hunt. Due to the ongoing situation we will need to cancel for this year. We hope to be able to run this again next year but have decided with everyone's health in mind to limit groups meeting this is best. Thank you

## **OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIERHEAD—NO PUBLIC MASSES**

In accordance with the directives of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland, because of the COVID-19 virus, there will be no public Masses in Stronsay or in Scotland until further notice. The chapel will remain open for private prayer.

Holy Communion may be received and Confessions may be heard either by the priest visiting your home or by your coming to the Our Lady's Chapel. Please telephone 616210 to make arrangements.

With best wishes to all Limpet readers,  
Father Michael Mary  
Papa Stronsay

## **STRONSAY KIRK—SERVICES CANCELLED**

Following instructions received from the Orkney Presbytery there will be no services or meetings at Moncur Memorial Church, Stronsay until further notice.

Several kirks have been streaming their services online and have an online archive of previous services which you may find useful. There is a list of these kirks on the Church of Scotland website at <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/services-online>. Radio Orkney plan to put on a short service, led by a minister, at 3pm each Sunday.

Anglican and Episcopalian online services and archives are also freely available at <http://www.anglicansonline.org/resources/webcasts.html>

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper      Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

## **BAG THE BRUCK**

This year's Bag The Bruck which was due to take place in Orkney from April 18 - 26 has been postponed due to the ongoing COVID – 19 crisis. It is hoped the event can take place later in the year.

Applications for Community Council Bag The Bruck sponsorship are no longer being accepted.

Apologies for any inconvenience this postponement and withdrawal of sponsorship may cause.

Colin McAlpine  
Stronsay Island Link Officer  
20 March 2020

## **STRONSAY FISHMART**

After much consideration John and I have decided to close down the cafe completely until further notice.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support you have shown us since our opening. We look forward to seeing you all again when this difficult time has passed. Meanwhile take care and look after yourselves



## Heritage Grants

Do you have an idea for a small project that relates to the cultural, built or natural heritage of your island?

Community groups can apply for grants of between  
£200 and £2,000

<https://www.nilps.co.uk/small-grants/heritage-grants>

## Student Research Grants

Are you a student carrying out research that focuses on the cultural, built or natural heritage of the North Isles of Orkney?

Apply for up to £500 towards travel, research materials or equipment.

<https://www.nilps.co.uk/small-grants/student-research-grant>

For more information contact the NILPS team:  
48 Albert Street, Kirkwall  
T: 01856 879076  
E: [nilps@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:nilps@orkney.gov.uk) W: [www.nilps.co.uk](http://www.nilps.co.uk)



## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY LED WELLBEING**

For many of us the coming months are going to be an unbelievably challenging time. We are in the midst of an unprecedented world health crisis, and although Stronsay seems so far away at times, we cannot be complacent and think that this may never reach our shores. As of Saturday, March 21st there were no recorded cases of Covid-19 in Orkney. However, the science is showing that it is, almost certainly, only a matter of time. Practicing social distancing, good respiratory hygiene, and washing our hands will help slow the spread of Covid-19. This is an evolving situation and keeping up to date with the latest guidelines is very important. A trusted news source, and dare I say it, the Prime Minister's daily press conference is a great way to do this.

During this time, it is important to remember to take care of ourselves as well as others. For ourselves, it is important to keep focusing on mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Go for walks, runs or bike rides (respecting social distancing guidelines) on the good days. If the weather is less than ideal try one of the numerous online exercise programs available, either purchased or through social media. I will be highlighting a few of the free resources available over the coming days. If you do not have internet, put on the radio and have a dance party every day, or be in touch and I am sure we can find a print out of exercises for you. Exercise isn't just good for your physical wellbeing; it plays a huge role on your mental health as well. Other ways you can look after your mental health is through crafts, journaling, spending time with family, or spending time alone. It is going to be a stressful time, especially if family members get sick. Don't be afraid to take time for yourself, to be mad, or scared, or just sad. Those are all normal feelings in a situation like this. Don't be afraid to reach out to family members, friends, neighbours or a professional if you need someone to talk to about your concerns. Don't hesitate to disconnect from social media or the news if you need a break. Spirituality is different for all of us. This may be a time of prayer, meditation, practicing gratitude, staring at the night sky or nothing at all. Whatever it looks like to you, practice it. Do what feels good and what uplifts you. If you feel the need to help, there are opportunities for that too.

Being kind is the best thing we can do right now. Be kind to yourself, be kind to others. Look after each other but from a safe distance. Below I have included some recommendations from [readyscotland.org](https://www.readyscotland.org) on helping in your community.

Only help if you are well. If you or someone in your household has shown symptoms of the coronavirus (a new and continuous cough or a high temperature) and you are still in the 'stay at home' phase, do not attempt to help your neighbours. Follow advice on [nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/inform/scot/coronavirus).

If you are in a vulnerable group at increased risk from coronavirus infection, think carefully about the support activities you can safely take part in. Guidance for those at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus can be found here.

There are many ways that we can help others in a safe way, including from our own home. For example, by checking on older neighbours by phone or via social media. If you don't have a neighbour's phone number, why not pop a note through the door with your contact information and what you are happy to help with.

*(Continued on next page)*

Alternatively, if you feel comfortable doing so, you could give them a knock on the door to offer your help now or in future, and provide your phone number. It's safe to be on the doorstep when you do this, as long as you stay 3 steps away from the person you are helping. Do not go into their house or share a car with them.

Even just connecting with your 4 closest neighbours will help; if we all do this then everyone will be supported.

Self-isolation can be a really lonely time. However, Government advice is available to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We can help each other by staying in touch – whether neighbours or friends and family who live further away.

If the health of anyone you are in touch with or supporting is a cause for concern, encourage them to call their GP practice or NHS24 on 111 if the GP is closed.

Similarly, if they cannot cope with their symptoms at home, their condition gets worse or their symptoms do not get better after 7 days, please call NHS24 on 111.

Call 999 immediately if you believe someone's life is at risk.

More information can be found at: <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/helping-in-your-community/>

A massive "Thank You" to everyone who has already volunteered to help out by running errands, making phone calls, and other small jobs. This community is amazing!

I can officially announce that if anyone who is self-isolating needs something, our team of volunteers are ready to help. We can help with basic non-contact needs.

Things we can help with:

- friendly phone calls
- collecting and dropping off shopping
- picking up prescriptions
- posting letters
- dog walking

Volunteers will be practicing social distancing and will not enter homes. No money will be exchanged. Volunteers will be unable to offer health advice. If you feel you need help or questions answered, please use the helpline list in this edition of the Limpet.

This is a remarkable community, and we will come out of this stronger than ever.

Stay well,

Sarah Powers Richings

01857 616 495

[sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com)

Follow [Stronsay Community Led Wellbeing](#) on Facebook for further updates, information and more.

## **JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES**

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

## RETIREMENT

It is a strange feeling, as I write this, to know that by the time you are reading it I will be retired from my job as General Practitioner on Stronsay. It is 10 years ago that I came for interview and the weather was unseasonably mild. Rosalind, the kids and myself were treated with a great welcome and although it was only a short weekend, it was fantastic to meet so many people, the surgery, the doctor's residence, the school etc. On Sunday we sailed to Eday, skippered by John Stevenson: the weather was so mild we sat out on the open deck. The nurse was lovely, welcoming us again and giving us a delicious buffet. So, by the time we had our official interview and offered the post we had no doubt we would take it.

A few months passed as I worked my notice at the busy English practice where I had been for 30 years. I came up first with the chickens creating some amusement at service station car parks, boarding them out with Colin while I went to have the obligatory and boring induction.

Although the numbers of patients I was looking after was much smaller, the first couple of weeks were very difficult, on my own with systems that were totally new to me. Thanks to Katrina, I settled into the groove and together we started getting systems organised. After a year of locums, it was good to get some consistency. Rosalind and the kids joined me over the next few months followed by all our unsorted belongings. The removal was crazy with too much stuff to fit in the house. The piano had to be brought right round the house over the grass on a make shift track of old doors and planks.

We were desperate to have our own place and eventually bought Sunnybank. Like most old houses on the island it was crying out for insulation. This was sorted with some radical solutions which took nearly two years to complete. The house now is as snug as a bug!

The garden is well sheltered which has been a delight for me. One by one polytunnels have been constructed and the past couple of years I have been supplying vegetables and soft fruit to some residents.

Meanwhile the surgery became part of a group of islands called Orcades. We meet up every week for a video conference for discussions about our work and general support. The senior management rests with NHS Orkney based in Balfour but all islands are used to being resilient and developing solutions for most problems.

I am now a proper pensioner, being 68 years old. All my colleagues of a similar age have long-since hung up their stethoscopes but the last 10 years have been good for me. Rosalind has shared the job and both of us recognise that the patients have been appreciative of our work and allowed us to integrate into island life.

I am asked about my plans and some folk think I will be bored but I cannot see that happening any time soon. Vegetable production will keep me busy this year. I am training to be a lifeguard and have a few other ventures which will be tried over the next years.

I have loved working with the little team on Stronsay. Several nurses have come and gone but Katrina (admin) has held the ship on a steady course through good times and bad. Rosalind will continue to work here and we wait for appointments of 2 regular GPs to work a shift system similar to Sandy, Westray and Hoy. I am staying on Stronsay which is now my home: thank you for sharing it with me.

Roger Neville-Smith, 19 March 2020



*BEFORE*



*AFTER*

# STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

## *Reporting on the trials and tribulations of your islands' councillor*

COVID-19 (coronavirus) has come to dominate everything in the course of this month. I won't repeat here the advice on handwashing and social distancing, etc, OIC is complying with the Scottish Government/NHS guidance on dealing with this dynamic situation and managing the risks (see <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/coronavirus.htm>). NHS guidance can be found at: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19> or obtained by telephoning 0800-028-2816. Orkney Ferries have routines in place and request that if you are showing any of the symptoms or signs that you may be infected, please do **not** enter their offices or board their vessels. If you have no choice but to travel, please seek NHS guidance and contact the Shore Street office on 01856-872044 to make the necessary arrangements to protect ferry staff and other travellers. See <http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk/news.php?newsID=36>.

Now on to more commonplace Council matters, such as the OIC budget:

There is a fundamental principle of local government that councillors are elected to make decisions on behalf of the population they serve. At both the Special Policy & Resources Committee meeting to set our council budget and at the subsequent General Meeting to ratify it, I lodged an amendment to qualify the proposed **minimum** of 3% increase in our council charges with a **maximum** above which officials would be required to come back to councillors for approval. (Remember the 11% increase in garage rents? and the 1000% increase in scaffolding permits!) Astoundingly, both times it was defeated, on the second occasion the intricacies of “raising the price of an apple” trumping this fundamental principle of local government. (An excerpt from my reasoned appeal and the non-sequitur “apple counter-argument” were broadcast on *BBC Radio Orkney* on the 5th March.) I thank and respect the few councillors who supported my amendment, for they understand this principle and are willing to accept the responsibility it confers—“*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he to-day that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother*”. Back on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, experienced councillor Alistair Gordon and Bill Stout (founders of the Orkney Manifesto Group) wrote in *The Orcadian*: “As things stand, the role of councillors is to review proposals produced by the officials and to agree or reject them. This arrangement effectively casts the officials as the ‘government’ and the councillors as the ‘opposition’.” Eight years later, there’s rarely even much opposition, although a few of us do try, and we occasionally succeed when  $|the\ few| > n/2$ , where  $n$  is the total number of councillors present and voting. Orkney’s councillors are still far from performing the rôle of Orkney’s “government” as they should be.

On a like-for-like basis (Eilean Siar pays nothing for its ferry services), the revenue funding for each man, woman and child in Orkney that the Scottish Government is providing to OIC for this financial year is £357 less than it is providing for each Shetlander and £673 less than it is giving for each person in the Western Isles. This lack of adequate Scottish Government funding means we have had to put up council tax again.

*(continued on next page)*

However, if you need a second dwelling in order to work on the Mainland (or other Orkney island) because daily commuting is not possible, don't forget to apply for the discount I succeeded in bringing in last year (see the February 2019 issue of *Letter from School Place*). We had a meeting with Liam McArthur MSP to talk about the Scottish budget, and particularly our concerns to get the money to help keep our lifeline ferry service running for another year. But we got no help from the LibDems, nor from the Greens who in the end supported the SNP minority government to set its budget. No political party seems to want to support Orkney. Argyll and Bute Council has received full funding from the Scottish Government for running its ferry service, including the cost of a new ferry. Orkney, on the other hand, is being given £5,323,000, which is short of what we need simply to keep the service operating at the current level and with the current ferries. This means we are forced to increase our fares by 3%, which, considering we already have the highest fares and the most decrepit fleet in Scotland, is a complete anathema to me. Before devolution in 1999, Orkney received significant financial support for its inter-island ferries at least twice from the United Kingdom Government: in the early 1960s and in 1987. Tragically for the survival of Orkney's island communities, ferry funding is now a devolved matter.

To counter the claim that OIC doesn't spend its reserves, I think it is illuminating to list here some of the services which are having to rely on funding from those reserves to keep them going. These include: enhanced social care services, voluntary services, community care grants, St Magnus cathedral, library service, museums, culture fund, grounds maintenance, parks & play areas, music provision, swimming pools, Pickaquoy Centre, healthy living centres, outdoor education service, public conveniences, and economic development grants. £6,300,000 has been allocated from the reserves for 2020/21.

Other meetings I have attended this month include: a briefing on children's services, a members' political session, a workshop on the National Planning Framework, a meeting with the rural planner to see what can be done about a new transformer blocking a track in Sanday, a meeting of the Empowering Communities Steering Group, and a meeting of the Orkney Ferries Board. I travelled to Thurso for the AGM and a public meeting of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. The following day I went to Nucleus in Wick to meet Gordon Reid, the nuclear archivist. Nucleus is a purpose-built facility housing the archives of the UK civil nuclear industry. The fact it is located in Wick demonstrates that governments can be encouraged to base a national facility on the periphery of the country, something worth Orkney noting. To avoid the risk of encountering the coronavirus, these will be the last Council-related meetings I'll be attending outwith Orkney for the time being.

Following the latest Council advice, I shall be restricting my movements until further notice to shuttling between Sanday and School Place or the Ferry Office for as long as there are face-to-face meetings to attend and I am still uninfected. I shall not be attending community council meetings, parent council meetings or other events taking place in the Isles.

Stay healthy if you can, and keep calm and carry on!



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson, West Manse, Sanday [stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)  
You can download "Letter from School Place" from [lfsp.pbworks.com](http://lfsp.pbworks.com)

## Auskerry Round Up

From approximately the late 1920's until 1945 the farms of Stolland, Kibbister, and Housebay along with the island of Auskerry belonged to Henry Maxwell. As there was a huge flock of sheep in Auskerry mainly of a North Ronaldshay breed (Norleys) they called them. It was a big undertaking in the summer time when they all had to be clipped, dipped and sorted out for selling. so every available man had to be ready for that day.

On the chosen day the two boats, Nowlan and Mayflower were loaded with wire netting stobs, nails etc. as a pen had to be erected to catch the elusive sheep and with everyone on board, including two women to do the catering they were ready to leave.

The Port, Housebay. As this would be in the early morning and good weather the scull across would have been quick and once they landed at the Pier in Auskerry it would be the start of a busy day. While some of the men started to put

Written by Nana Peace, Ainy Cottage

up the fence the others were away around the island to round up the sheep who by this time were getting very excited with all the unusual work going on around them. When they got about 200 in the pen the clipping began and went on until 12 noon when all stopped for a good lunch prepared by the two women.

The late Eddie Peace always told an amusing story about his first attempt at clipping in Auckerry. He had picked a ram and got him turned over ready to start and was doing fine until he came too close to the ram's head, when suddenly the ram turned and got away leaving half his ear behind, much to Eddie's shame and dismay. After that he was sent to help pack fleeces but said he managed better at the next clipping (No wonder the ram was in a hurry). In the afternoon all the sheep were dipped in the tank which was alongside the dyke at the lighthouse. then there was the sorting out of the ones to be taken back to Stronsay.

for selling so it was in all a really busy day and everyone would be glad to get back to (The Poo) again and home.

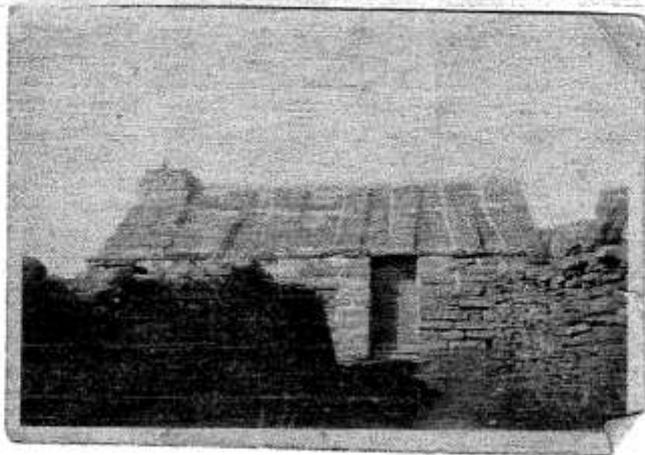
This was an yearly event and went on for many years after 1945, which was the year that Housebay, Holland and Kirbuster changed owners.

Holland to William Work  
Kirbuster to Peter Stevenson

Housebay to James Chalmers who had Ausherry, and still kept on a flock of sheep which would have been a larger breed.

The enclosed photo is of the (Auld House) in Ausherry which was occupied by a shepherd in spring at the lambing time, or sometimes ones burning kelp or cutting peats.

Note the peats at the dyke. Date of photo. (approx. 1930)



## RECORDS OF A BYGONE AGE THE LOSS OF THE DUNDEE WHALER SS ACTIVE

The SS Active was a wooden whaler built in Peterhead in 1852. At 117 feet long and with a beam of 28 feet, this three-masted ship was built to be capable of sailing through broken ice, to act as an ice breaker and also to withstand the pressures of being trapped and frozen in the ice fields as happened many whalers of that time. Her timbers were clad with good Scottish oak up to 5 inches thick and then much of this overlaid with greenheart up to 3 inches thick. With some additional cross bracing and reinforcement in the more vulnerable bow area, parts of her bow and sides were said to be up to 3 feet thick.

She sailed off on her maiden voyage from Peterhead on March 1, 1853 bound for the Greenland Sea, calling in along Lerwick on the way, where she picked up some additional crew. In a report at the time, she was described as “the smartest ship in the fleet”, a richly deserved honour. In 1871 she underwent a major refit during which she was converted to steam screw propulsion and fitted with a 48 horsepower steam engine to help power her through the Arctic ice.

In the late 1800s and early years of the 1900s, whaling was big business in Scotland with a number of whalers mainly from Dundee making two trips a year to the Arctic whaling grounds. They would leave their home port in early March, heading about 900 miles due north of Orkney to the Greenland Sea near the island of Jan Mayen, with their last port of call likely to be Stromness or Lerwick where they would often sign up local men as crew. Their main prey in this area was actually seals which were valuable for their skin, blubber (which was boiled to make ‘seal oil’) and bones and, with seals being relatively easy prey large quantities were captured. The whalers would return to port around the end of May and, after eight or ten days discharging their cargo and loading up with supplies, would head off to the Davis Strait between Greenland and Canada to hunt both whales and seals, returning home once more around the middle of November.



**Thomas Robertson, Captain of the Active on her Antarctic voyage.**



**The Active leaving Dundee Docks bound for the Greenland Sea**

As whales got scarcer in these areas, in 1892/93 an expedition consisting of the Active, under the command of Captain Thomas Robertson, and three other steam-powered whalers set off to the Weddell Sea in Antarctica to try their luck. During the course of this journey, Captain Robertson identified a previously undiscovered island off Graham Land which he named Dundee Island and, in some quarters, Captain Robertson is also credited on

*(continued on next page)*



**The Active under sail in the ice in the Greenland**

this voyage with being the first man to set foot on mainland Antarctica. Their whale hunting wasn't too successful that season as the blue whales common in that area were too powerful to be caught with the equipment they had at the time but they returned home with a few smaller whales and a great number of seals, calling in past Stromness to coal up before going on to Dundee. She had much more success in northern waters, returning from the Hudson's Bay and the Davis Strait in late October 1896 with a cargo including 2 tons of whalebone valued at £2,200 per ton and 60 tons of oil valued at

£18 per ton. By 1909, the whales were less plentiful but, while she had caught only one small whale, she returned with 480 walrus, 105 bears, 247 seals and even a live tame bear which had been purchased from the local Inuit tribe. 1912 was a more successful season for the Active as she returned from the Davis Strait with 6 whales, said to be one of the last great catches of the whaling years, and in 1914 she made her last whaling voyage to the 'Nor'west, only discovering when she met the United States vessel Pelican at Hudson's Bay on 4 October that Britain was at war

Dundee was the last active whaling port in Scotland but, with the advent of larger, more powerful steam whalers capable of catching larger whales, the old whalers were put to other uses or were laid up and, by the time of the Great War, nearly all of these whalers had been sold off. After a very successful career as a whaler where it was said "No ship afloat has taken more whales from the Arctic region than the Active", she was destined for a new role. With the outbreak of war, she and her sister ship, the Dundee whaler 'Morning', were both commandeered by the Admiralty for "special duties" and placed under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company. They both underwent a refit during which their tanks for storing blubber and whale oil were removed and, while this greatly increased their cargo capacity, it also affected their stability and the strength of their hulls. Loaded with a mixed cargo including munitions and a large amount of candle wax, it is reported that many of the crew felt the Active was overloaded and unsafe for a winter passage and refused to sail on her. They were subsequently sent to trial and jailed for 90 days and another crew, under the command of Shetlander Captain William Leask, took over. She left Leith on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1915, berthing at her home port of Dundee for a few days before leaving on the 21<sup>st</sup> bound around the North Cape of Norway for the Russian port of Archangel, a round trip which would have been well in excess of 4,000 miles. Not long after leaving Dundee, a gale sprang up from the south-east which soon strengthened to winds of hurricane force, accompanied by blinding snow. While somewhere east of Orkney on the 24<sup>th</sup> of that month, the Active communicated with the Lyness based converted ferry HMS Duke of Albany and this was to be the last that was to be seen or heard from her.

*(continued on next page)*

The mountainous seas and the hurricane force winds evidently proved too much for her weakened hull and she began leaking badly. The crew must have battled long and hard to keep her afloat, manning the pumps as long as they were able, but it was to be of no avail and they eventually had to accept that she was foundering. The First Mate James Jamieson, who was also a Shetlander, penned a last message, which was also to serve as his will, to his family saying:

*“Dear Family, this will be my last letter to you. We are sinking to the North and East of Lerwick. God bless you all as he has given me strength to die, my soul is resting on the finished work of Jesus. A navy boat passed us and we told him we were sinking. I have been under the boat all night trying to get the water out . . . filled . . . (blanks illegible). The water is at my knees on the cabin floor. Don’t mourn for me, meet me in heaven, Mother, Father, Agnes, Andrew, Ann, Margaret, Coventry. Again God bless you all. I leave everything among you. Ta ta. James S. Jamieson.”*



*Large slabs of candlewax like these were part of the Active’s cargo and they continued to be washed ashore for many years.*

The paper was thrust into a bottle which was thrown over the side before the Active and her crew went under on Christmas Day 1915 and this letter, like the bodies of many of the men, was to be washed up on an Orkney beach. The first intimation anyone had of this disaster was when the bottle containing this message was tossed up on the Stronsay shore to be found and read by one of the local men and the contents passed on to the authorities. Soon after, lifeboats, wreckage and the bodies of some of the 20-strong crew began to come ashore, with five bodies being found

on Stronsay, two on Rousay (one of which was James Jamieson who was later buried in the Glebe Kirkyard in Rousay) and others on Deerness, Shapinsay and other parts of Orkney. Mr Jamieson’s estimation of the vessel being north-east of Lerwick was incorrect and it had always been surmised locally and generally accepted that, judging by where this bottle, the bodies and the wreckage came ashore, the Active must have foundered somewhere close to Odiness Bay on Stronsay. Part of her cargo was large slabs of candle wax about 30mm thick contained in jute sacks and a number of those were washed up on Stronsay and also some of the other North Isles at the time. Pieces of these slabs were to continue be washed up around Stronsay’s east coast for many years after. I can remember as a young lad finding pieces still coming ashore in the 1960s and 70s, more than fifty years after the Active was lost, a final sad reminder of the tragic end of a proud old ship and her crew.

*If anyone has any more information about the ‘Active’ I would be delighted to hear of it, either by giving me a phone on 01857 616322 or emailing [ian.cooper56@gmail.com](mailto:ian.cooper56@gmail.com)*

*Ian Cooper*

*March 2020*

# **PERFECT!**

By Ellie Harrison

The day was just so perfect  
Like a mirror was the sea.  
Just for the angels to look upon  
Though they have no vanity.  
Swallows ascend into a clear blue sky,  
Mother Nature is now at her best.  
Summer at last we said with a sigh,  
Its beauty at its best.  
She's such a lot to do  
There's not a moment to waste  
As she sprinkles around the morning dew  
Still perfect in her haste.  
The woods ring out in birdsong  
As fledglings try out their wings  
And ewes with watchful eyes  
On the lambs they birthed in spring.  
The world is so at its best,  
Good feeling is in the air,  
Sunshine spreading warmth  
She's so willing to share.  
The garden's ablaze in colour softened by the sun.  
A perfect day to give thanks, everyone.  
Away go woolly jumpers,  
Warm coats and fluffy hats.  
Now its picnics on the beach  
And barbecues - perhaps?

It's ©Helene Harrison

## **FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc**

### **THANK YOU**

Chris & Debbie would like to thank the quizmaster and all those who took part in the quiz on Sat 7 March, a good night was had by all. Stockbrokers' Woes won with 87 points and Donna's Big Rump came second with 86 and a half. Mary-Anne and Co won the St Catherine's Knob for coming last. We raised £226 for the Stronsay Heritage fund. Thank you to all who donated raffle prizes.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to Ebenezer Stores, the Fish Mart Café, Olivebank and the Stronsay Hotel for their efforts to provide the island with a service despite the problems thrown up by covid-19. Thanks also to the island's medical staff for their invaluable advice and help in the island's efforts to keep the virus at bay.

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Items on this page are free!

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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.**

## **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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## ***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



**STRONSAY  
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 ★
- ★ 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 @orkneywyrðweaver  
Email - thewyrðweaver@btinternet.com



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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**

### **STRONSAY HOTEL**

Phone 01857 616213, email [cjdbuk@gmail.com](mailto:cjdbuk@gmail.com)

### **STRONSAY HOTEL AND THE VIRUS**

In these challenging times we are going to change the hours that we are open. These times will start on Wednesday 18 March. We will still provide a Takeaway service and we can deliver if required. Ordering can be done via phone or internet.

- Mon, Bar closed Takeaway available from 5pm to 7pm
- Tues, Bar closed Takeaway available from 5pm.to 7pm
- Wed, Bar closed Takeaway available from 5pm.to 7pm
- Thurs, Bar closed Takeaway available from 5pm.to 7pm
- Fri, Bar closed, Takeaway available from 5pm to 7pm
- Sat, Bar closed Takeaway available 5pm to 7pm
- Sun, Bar closed Takeaway available 5pm to 7pm

We know this is very drastic but it is a drastic time, hopefully it will not last too long.

### **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**



Orkney Star  
Island Soap & Textiles

Producer of the unique range of Orkney Bere hand-made Soaps

Hand-spun Yarns made from Orkney's famous seaweed-eating sheep

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).



### **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)**

Local business adverts are free!

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

### **STRONSAY SCHOOL SPORT RELIEF**

During February and March 2020 our school took part in Sport Relief. This year the primary and secondary pupils did a sponsored swim and the daily mile challenge.

The sponsored swim took place at the Stronsay swimming pool on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Both the upper primary and the secondary pupils contributed. The total amount of money raised was an amazing £165, kindly donated from family and friends of the pupils.

The daily mile challenge was held on the netball court at the back of the school and was from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. Primary attempt the daily mile each day either in the mornings or after lunch, but this week was a little bit more special as we counted our laps and secondaries joined us for a few of the days. The average amount of individual laps each day was around 18 laps which is 1 mile. The primary total came to 1706 laps which is almost 95 miles!! Most primary pupils also kept track of how active they were in and out of school on a chart.

The nursery also took part over the week by having an egg and spoon race, an obstacle course, musical statues and hide and seek. The nurseries raised £42 and Hannah Johnston won half of this.

Also in the staff guessing competition £20 was raised and Mr King won half of that. We would like to say thank you to everyone involved and thank you for reading this.

By Millie Dennison and Liam Daily  
of Stronsay School



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

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

## **GRASS CUTTING TENDERS 2020**

**Stronsay Community Council hereby invites tenders for the following contracts. Details and application forms are available from the Island Link Officer and must be returned in a sealed envelope marked "Grass Cutting " by noon on Wednesday 1st April 2020:**

- Maintenance of Bay Burial Ground
- Maintenance of Village Burial Ground
- Grass cutting at St John's Viewpoint
- Grass cutting of Picnic Site at Ayre of the Myers
- Grass cutting of Village Area – Royal Bank to ~~Strynie~~
- Grass cutting at Stronsay War Memorial
- Grass cutting of area behind numbers 7 & 8 Council Houses
- Grass cutting of grassed area at Wardhill

**Please note that as there are separate contracts for each of the above listed areas it is possible to tender for them individually.**

Colin McAlpine,  
Island Link Officer,  
Stronsay Community Council,  
The Hill,  
Stronsay,  
KW17 2AT.  
Tel: 616446

10 March 2020

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# Raising the Issue of Malnutrition

In Scotland, 103,000 older people over the age of 65 are estimated to be at risk of, or suffering from malnutrition.

Eat Well Age Well provides training to support those working, caring or volunteering with older people on how to raise the issue of malnutrition.



## Training Includes:

- Information on common signs and symptoms of malnutrition
- How to support individuals using Food First advice.
- How to use tools such as armbands to identify at risk individuals
- Gain awareness in promoting good nutrition and hydration in older adults.

10.30am - 1.30pm

## Training Date

**ORKNEY - Thurs 7th May**  
**Orkney Library & Archive**  
**44 Junction Road,**  
**Kirkwall KW15 1AG**

**Book your place at:**

**[www.eatwellagewell.org.uk](http://www.eatwellagewell.org.uk)**

Please be advised minimum numbers are needed for this training to take place



# Do you support a person with dementia?

Free education for family carers and volunteers.

The education for family carers and volunteers training programme has been created to support family carers and volunteers who support people with a diagnosis of dementia. It covers aspects of dementia care that many people find difficult. You will receive practical, up to date advice and information to support you.

**FREE  
TRAINING!**

**Craftship Enterprise, Stronsay**  
**20th May 2020, 11am - 3pm**

Contact Stephanie at Age Scotland on 01856 872438 or  
[stephanie.stanger@agescotlandorkney.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.stanger@agescotlandorkney.org.uk) to book your place.



**This training has kindly been funded by The Robertson Trust and private funders.**

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

## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper    Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

### **Dr. Roger Neville-Smith's Retirement**

Stronsay Community Council wish to inform residents of the pending retirement of Dr Roger Neville-Smith, effective from 31 March 2020. We would like to thank him for his many years of loyal and dedicated service and wish him a happy retirement.

Dr Rosalind Fisher will continue to work part time and NHS Orkney will be advertising shortly to begin the recruitment process to fill the remainder.

Stronsay Island Link Officer  
3 December 2019

## **LOGANAIR TIMETABLES**

Loganair's website no longer has downloadable timetables, this timetable was kindly supplied by the Kirkwall staff of Loganair.

Loganair timetable summer 2020 (2 March 2020 - 20 October 2020)  
<http://stronsaylimpet.co.uk/LoganairSummer2020Timetable.pdf>.

## **LIBRARY VISIT**

Currently Orkney Library and Archive is scheduled to come to Stronsay on Monday March 30th for a drop in at the Stronsay Development Trust as the bus is still out of service.

If you are #socialdistancing but would like to check out some books you still can! First, contact the library and reserve the books you would like no later than Friday March 27th. 01856 873166 or [general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk)

Second, let me (Sarah) know and I will arrange delivery to your doorstep. 01857 616495 or [sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com)

If you are able the library has great online resources, including ebooks, audio books, music and talking newspapers. <http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/onlineresources.htm>.

Happy Reading!  
Sarah Richings

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## **Volunteer Befriender – Stronsay**

The Adult Befriending Service are looking for a one to one volunteer befriender in Stronsay

Do you have an hour a week to spare to visit an older person?

You could make a real difference in someone's life!

- Sit and chat
- Play a game
- Go out on a trip
- Go to a cafe

**Training will be given.**

If you are interested in becoming a befriender in Stronsay please contact the Adult Befriending Service on 01856872897 and ask to speak to Alison, Kasia or Lynn

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# **GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS**

## **KIRK CORNER**

It is finally starting to sink in that in just a few short weeks our family is scheduled to leave Stronsay, assuming that is still possible at that point. We certainly wish we did not have to, but our visas are coming to an end. To say that we will miss the island and its people is an understatement. Stronsay has truly become our home, and I will always be proud to have been, at least temporarily, a Limpet.

As this is a time of such earthly uncertainty, where it seems daily more and more things are being cancelled or postponed. And as this is probably my last article written from Stronsay. I feel obliged, as the Apostle Paul often did, to offer up a prayer for this place I have come to love.

Our great Father and wonderful Lord, I know with certainty that you care for this peedie island as you care for all the world. I pray that you, the Sovereign One, put your hand on this place and keep out this virus and bless the health of all on it and all we love and care for wherever they may live. We especially lift those who are most vulnerable or at risk, may they be protected from infection. I pray you bless the economy of the island, may all restrictions soon be lifted, may the tourist come in, the cattle and crops sell well, bless the crafts and all other businesses, may Stronsay indeed flourish! I pray your blessing on the children of this island, it has been a blessing to get to know some of them and my sons have not lacked for friends, may they continue to grow into healthy and intelligent young people, and may they know you and be guided by you, doing what is right and good. Lord I lift up your church on this island, I truly believe some of its best days are ahead of it, I feel like David who helped prepare the materials for the temple but did not see its finished glory. Forgive me where I failed, build up your house into a place of love and growth. When services start again, may they be full, as people again come together in fellowship, sharing love and joy and praising your name together. May every blessing be upon the isle of Stronsay and people who have come to love it.

It was my hope to at least preach a few more weeks at the Kirk, I am especially disappointed that it would seem we will not have an Easter service this year. Still all things are in God's hands, and it is better that people remain healthy and able to meet again later, and I am certainly grateful for the time I was allowed to have to serve. And please, if there is anyway I can serve you or anyone you know in anyway while we are still here just give me a ring and I will gladly do whatever I can. Let me end with the words of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 13:11,14) "Finally, brothers (and sisters) goodbye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace be with you. May the grace of Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.

Scott Daily, your locum minister. (Manse telephone 616286)

*No services in the kirk until further notice. Kirk website <https://tinyurl.com/y2ctm7o5>*

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## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

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

Monday to Saturday . . . . .	8:30am—5:00pm
Sunday . . . . .	Closed
Post collection times . . . . .	07:30, Monday to Saturday
<a href="#">Bank day</a> . . . . .	Tuesday 09:00-15:00 (closed 12-1 for lunch)
Island Link Officer. . . . .	Fishmart office 10 to 12 on Tue, Thu & Sat. Phone 616475
SDT Office . . . . .	Wood's Yard 10am - 11am Mon-Fri. Phone 616410
Sunday service at the Kirk . . .	No services. See <a href="https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5">https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5</a>
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	No services. See article in this edition of the Limpet
<a href="#">Next Special Collections</a> . . . .	?
<a href="#">Weekly rubbish collection</a> . . . .	Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

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

Airy Fairy . . . . .	616231	SDT office . . . . .	616410
Castle Bird Reserve . . . .	616363	Stronsay Band . . . . .	616335
Craftship Enterprise . . . .	616249	Stronsay Hotel . . . . .	616213
Doctor . . . . .	616321	Taxi . . . . .	616335
Ebenezer stores . . . . .	616339	Stranded seals, etc . . . . .	616339/206/498
Electrician (Dave) . . . . .	616230	Balfour hospital (24/7) . . .	01856 888000
	<i>or</i> 07917 191 797	Electricity	
Fish Mart . . . . .	616401	general enquiries	0800 048 3516
Hairdresser . . . . .	616337	<i>lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm</i>	
Hall bookings . . . . .	616420	problems (24/7) . . .	0800 300 999
	<i>or</i> 07570 531 618	power cut (24/7) . . .	105
Island Link Officer . . . . .	616475	Water problems (24/7) . .	0800 0778 778
Medical emergency . . . .	616321	Highland Fuels . . . . .	0800 224 224
Neil's on Wheels . . . . .	616454	Kirkwall Library . . . . .	01856 873166
Manse . . . . .	616286	Kirkwall Police (24/7) . . .	101
Nurses . . . . .	616480	Vets:	
Olivebank . . . . .	616255	Flett & Carmichael .	01856 872859
OIC out of hours . . . . .	01856 873535	Northvet . . . . .	01856 873403
Post Office . . . . .	616499	Dentists:	
Red House Plants . . . . .	616377	Orkney Dental . . . .	01856 872030
Registrar . . . . .	616239	King Street . . . . .	01856 888258
School . . . . .	616246	Deyanov Dental . . .	01856 877118
Silver Darlings . . . . .	616412	Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210
Star Island Soap . . . . .	616281		<i>(Email <a href="mailto:contact@the-sons.org">contact@the-sons.org</a>)</i>

### **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 10:30am & before 9pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page

