



NHS SCOTLAND—CORONAVIRUS

NHS Scotland website for information on coronavirus is

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

If in doubt phone the surgery on 616321

FOOD BANK REFERRALS

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau

If you are facing financial difficulty and struggling to afford food, please get in touch with us so that we can make a food bank referral for you. These are extraordinary times which nobody was prepared for so please don't feel embarrassed at asking for help, there are so many others in the same situation. To request a referral you can email the following address:

bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk

Our service is free and confidential.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

"There will be no Royal Bank visits until further notice.

Also we have set up 2 dedicated tel numbers

0800 051 4177 for anybody in isolation

0800 046 6734 for all NHS staff

Both lines are open 8-8

I hope you are all keeping well, and it won't be too long before I am back.

Lois"

TOILET AND WASHING FACILITY FOR KEY WORKERS

Due to the current situation and all public toilets being closed (understandably) we would like to offer the use of the bathroom at Cleat Cottage (house empty) to any KEY WORKERS who have to come to Stronsay-oil deliveries, BT, etc. Soap and paper towels available. Please pass the word around.

Sheena Cooper

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 10:30am & before 9pm, 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 25 June**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 21 June**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

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

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.

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS **CORONAVIRUS RISK REDUCTION**

From today Monday 16th March until further notice:

- No more paper requests to be handed in.
- Please phone 616321 or email 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 Rosalind Fisher





COVID 19 RESPONSE PROGRAMMES UPDATE

A big thank you to all those that have contributed to the Trusts response programmes thus far. We were pleased to be able to give first responders two new radios this week to enable each responder and nurse to have access to a radio, as well as PPE and additional sanitiser being delivered to those in need.

The Scottish Government is working towards lifting restrictions in a number of areas but it is still going to take some time for things to begin to get back to our new normal and we hope that these programmes will help during this transition.

Fuel Vouchers

A one off £50 grant per household

Essential Groceries

£10 per person per week over a 12-week period

Fresh Fruit & Veg

A weekly fresh fruit & Veg box delivered over a 12-week period.

Sanitiser

Spray bottles of sanitiser have been delivered with the next round of bottles and additional refills being delivered in the coming weeks. Please get in touch if you are in need of a refill or a spray bottle.

Wellbeing

Do you need someone to talk to? Do you have prescriptions that need to be collected? Do you have dogs that need to be walked? Are you unsure of where to access aid, or how to fill in the required forms? Give us a call and we can arrange a volunteer to help.

Applications have been coming in but we still have a number of fuel vouchers and grocery vouchers available. Please get in touch if you need an application form delivered or require any assistance at this time.

Employment/Work experience

We have an opportunity for short term paid employment covering a 12-week period, ideally suited as a work experience opportunity for the 16-18-year olds, if interested please contact Anna on the details below

The first round of deliveries and programmes will commence this week and we ask that any additional applications be submitted by Monday 1st June 2020

For information or assistance please contact :
Sarah Powers Richings, Wellbeing Coordinator
sdtwellbeing@gmail.com or tel: 01857 616495

Anna Bliss-Davis, Stronsay
Community Development Officer
cdostronsay@gmail.com or tel: 01857 616410

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------|--|
| SDT use only | | | |
| Date received | | Priority | |
| Reference Number | | Allocated | |



COVID 19 RESPONSE PROGRAMME APPLICATION FORM

Name of applicant

Address

Preferred method of contact (please provide details)

Email..... Phone

We currently only have a limited number of grants available and will therefore need to prioritise these applications in order for us to reach the most vulnerable and in need in our community. Please indicate all of the following that apply to your household.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 70 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have a child or children under 8 years old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Underlying health condition (received a shielding letter from NHS) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduced income due to COVID 19 and receiving no additional assistance |

Please indicate which programme or programmes you are applying for below; we will then get in touch with you to confirm details.

- Essential Groceries
£10 per week over 12 weeks for essential groceries
- Meal Deliveries
3 Meals a week over 12 weeks (meals will be delivered chilled with relevant heating instructions)
- Veg Box Scheme
Fruit and veg box delivered weekly over 16 weeks

Declaration:

I confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I understand submitting this application is not a guarantee of inclusion on any of the programmes.

I also Confirm that I am a permanent resident of Stronsay.

Signed by applicant Date.....

By completing this form and submitting it to the Stronsay Development Trust (SDT) you are consenting for this form and the data within to be processed and stored by SDT in order for SDT to fulfil its functions as a community development trust. If providing contact details, you are also then consenting to receive communications from SDT regards the Fuel Poverty scheme and associated functions. Under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 you can request to see any data held on you at any time, simply get in touch with SDT at sdtoperations@btconnect.com or at the registered address.



| | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------|--|
| SDT use only | | | |
| Fuel Provider | | | |
| Date received | | Priority | |
| Reference Number | | Allocated | |

STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUEL POVERTY GRANT APPLICATION

One grant per household, Subject availability and qualifying criteria, £50 will be paid directly to the applicant's domestic fuel provider of choice. This grant can be used for Oil, Electric, bottled gas or solid fuel.

Name of applicant

Address.....

Please choose one of the following and provide relevant details

- Electric provider.....
 account/reference number.....
 Please indicate if you have a prepayment key card.

To enable us to process the application/payment efficiently we ask that where possible a recent energy bill or statement be included with this application.

- Oil Provider
- Account/reference number.....
- Ebenezer Stores for Solid fuel
- Olivebank for Solid fuel or bottled gas

We currently only have 50 fuel grants available and will therefore need to prioritise these applications in order for us to reach the most vulnerable and in need in our community. Please indicate all of the following that apply to your household.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 70 years of age | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fuel poverty (I would be required to spend more than 10% of my income) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Underlying health condition (receive a yearly letter from NHS) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Declaration:

I confirm that to the best of my knowledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I understand submitting this application is not a guarantee a fuel grant payment will be issued.

I also Confirm that I am a permanent resident of Stronsay.

Signed by applicant Date.....

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

By Dan Whiteman

Week 1

23.3.2020

Today is the first day of the Schools being shut, already we have made up a routine this is how the days should go,

8:00 At this time I should wake up and get dressed I'm allowed to do things like playing games at this time,

8:30 At this time if I'm not already awake I will be woken up; Now I need to make breakfast so I'm not hungry while working, after breakfast I have to take my inhalers and brush my teeth, after doing all that I'm allowed carry on doing whatever I was doing.

9:00 At this time if I have already been set work, I will start that, for each piece of work I shall set a timer for an hour and start on the piece of work that I choose. If I have not already been set work, then I'll have to find something to do

10:00 At this time my timer will go off and that will tell me that I have finished that piece of work and that I can have a break for 15 minutes.

10:15 Now that I have finished my break, I shall choose another piece of work to work on for another hour.

11:00 – 12:00

At this period the teachers should set me work to do.

11:30

At this time, I would have finished that piece of work and I can have another 15-minute break.

11:45

Now I should start a piece of work that I have been set.

12:00

Now I have finished that piece of work and I have another 15-minute break where we might have lunch.

12:15

Start another piece of work that I have been set.

1:30 Now I have finished that piece of work and I have another break for 15 minutes

1:45 Now the day is finished, and I'm allowed to do whatever I like.

I think it's going to be interesting working from home.

Week 2

30.03.2020

It's the second week of the Schools shut because of the Coronavirus.

So far last Wednesday Prince Charles caught the Coronavirus and last Friday Boris Johnson also caught the Coronavirus.

Now the UK has 19,522 confirmed cases whereas last week the UK only had 7,209 confirmed cases.

(Continued on next page)

The government says that we need to do a thing called Social Distancing which is where you don't meet anyone unless you need to. You are only supposed to go out, once a week for exercise and to get food or medication, that means if you are outside but not doing any of those things you can be fined by the police.

So far there isn't any confirmed cases in Orkney but that doesn't mean there isn't any cases, the reason there isn't any confirmed cases is that they haven't tested anyone yet.

Week 3

07.04.2020

It's the third week of the Schools being shut because of the Coronavirus.

Now in Orkney there is four confirmed cases, and, in the UK, there is now 51,608 confirmed cases.

Yesterday on the news it said that Boris Johnson has been moved into Intensive Care because his Coronavirus symptoms got worse that means someone must step in and in this case the person is Dominic Raab.

Also, at the weekend Catherine Calderwood one of the people who was on the TV giving us the Coronavirus updates, got caught doing what she was telling us not to do. She was caught traveling to her second home with her family. I was surprised by this how you could have such a great job and have recorded all those Coronavirus updates to then decide that it's a good idea to go to your second house, I have no idea how anyone could be so stupid to do that. After that on Monday she resigned.

Week 4

It's the fourth week of the schools being shut because of the Coronavirus.

Now in Orkney there is five confirmed cases and one death, and in the UK, there is 84,279 confirmed cases.

Yesterday on the news I found out that Boris Johnson is recovering from the Coronavirus although he is still not well enough to work so Dominic Raab remains in charge.

Also, the Government is to decide whether they should continue the lockdown or not, I think they should because then they might as well of not put the country into lockdown at all.

Because of the lockdown the air quality in the UK has drastically improved because people are not driving cars, most planes have stopped flying etc.

At home we have decided that every day we go for a walk to get exercise and sometimes the cat comes with us.

Week 5

It is week five of the Schools being shut because of the Coronavirus.

So far in Orkney there has been one death and there are still five cases and, in the UK there are 120,067 cases. There is also 51 cases in Shetland.

In the news it says that plasma treatment is going to be trialled.

The way this would work would be:

Someone catches the Coronavirus, but they recover, because they recovered, they now have the antibodies for Coronavirus, and they can be found in the liquid portion of the blood called Plasma.

(Continued on next page)

Now someone else catches the Coronavirus but they are not coping so well, so the doctors can take some of the plasma from the other person and put it in the person who is not coping so well which should increase the chance of recovery.

In the United States there has been people demanding the end of the lockdown even though there is clearly signs that it is too early to reopen.

Protests in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Washington began on Sunday following earlier protests in 6 other states.

Donald Trump signals his support to the protesters.

I think it is very stupid and selfish if they were to end the lockdown because there will be a spike in confirmed cases and more people will die from Coronavirus.

In brighter news there has been a Kangaroo spotted hopping through the empty streets of Adelaide in Australia

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-52350091/australia-coronavirus-lockdown-kangaroo-hops-through-empty-adelaide-streets>.

Week 6

It is week six of the Schools being shut because of the Coronavirus so far in Orkney there are 7 confirmed cases and 1 death, and in the UK, there are 152,840 confirmed cases.

On the TV there has been lots of news about PPE which stands for Personal Protective Equipment.

The reason there has been lots of news about PPE is because in Hospitals there is not enough PPE for Doctors and Nurses to treat Coronavirus Patients without potentially catching the Coronavirus themselves.

The reason there is not enough PPE is because our PPE is manufactured in China and at a normal time the UK would put in an order for PPE and they would make it and send it to us, but at the moment the UK are trying to put orders in but most of them are being declined because China needs them and the factories are in China so they prioritise China, but if we still had a manufacturing industry in the UK we wouldn't have to go and ask China to make PPE we would be able to make it here in the UK and then we would have plenty of PPE and it wouldn't have to be shipped over here!

Week 7

It is week 7 of the schools being shut because of the Coronavirus and so far in Orkney there are 7 confirmed cases and 1 death in the UK there are 186,599 confirmed cases.

Yesterday on the news I heard about a person called David Icke having his Facebook and YouTube channel banned.

Here is a little information on him.

David Icke is a conspiracy theorist who used to be a footballer.

He has been responsible for theories like the one where there are supposedly a race of shape shifting reptiles that live on the planet and that they manipulate global events to keep humans in constant fear.

(Continued on next page)

One of the ones that I have heard of is one about 5g, where he claimed that 5g was a super weapon which was designed to change your behaviour and make you do things like murdering someone.

Recently he has been saying that 5g helps Coronavirus because it lowers your immune system.

Theories like this have been making people go and post videos of them burning down these 5g masts. But I bet after they have finished burning them down, they will happily walk back to their ultrafast Wi-Fi filled houses that run on nearly the same frequencies as 5g.

I do not know how anyone could be so heartless to spread theories like that because that has been making people's jobs harder like people who work for a communications company or people who actually know how the Coronavirus works.

CAN YOU HELP?

I've been looking into the history of the Agricultural Society in Stronsay and in particular the ploughing and 'singling' matches held here on Stronsay. Ingram Shearer has kindly let me see most of the Minutes Books of the Society but he didn't have the one covering the period 1962 to 1969. I'm hoping someone may still have it or know of its whereabouts and would be willing to let me have a look at it. I'm also interested in the Young Farmers' Club which ran for a time in the 50s and early 60s and wonder if anyone has any records of this I would be able to have a look at, or any information and stories about the Club? I'm sure there must be some of you who would have been members! Finally, I would love to see any photos of the Agricultural Society or Young Farmers' Club activities, particularly of ploughing or 'singling' matches but anything else would also be of great interest.

I hope to record as much of this as I can before it is lost and any information or stories you may have, however little, would be greatly appreciated!

Ian Cooper, Steenysheed. Phone 01857 616322 or email ian.cooper56@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Millions must have missed traditional birthdays, with friends and family attending by video. There are many in our challenging times who are suffering, others offering help and support. Crisis stuns some, in others creativity and initiative grow. There are many who are thinking about what life is really all about and how business and a new normal return.

My companion in the lock-down has been Pussy Willow—he will be 16 in June - and he needs caring for. By naming him rather than calling him just a cat we give identity. He no longer catches rabbits, mice or birds but prefers to sleep, cuddle and eat now and then. Many have pets and I hope they bring more solace than difficulty in constrained spaces. They can often help human mental well-being.

Leo Martini-Brown

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

The transformation back to the wealth of bird species breeding here in former years has continued. The most obvious nesting species which have benefitted from the changes - which have all been seen in far higher numbers than in any of the last 10 or 15 years - includes Arctic Terns, Arctic Skuas, Curlew, Snipe and Skylarks. One of the few species which have not suffered due to the Greylag Goose invasion are again singing and building their nests in the island gardens where most of them spend the summer months – the Linnet (local name ‘Rose Lintie’ or Lintock). Nearly all nest in the Fuchsia bushes, the brightly coloured male with his red breast usually using one of the higher branches as a song-post.

As for Spring migration this year – a ‘damp squib’ sums it up so far. The fine weather in late April seemed to promise much in the way of migrant species moving further north, but May has been an almost total wash-out, with winds mainly from the North and West when Easterlies would be more helpful!

But bird-watching is like that – there is no even playing-field – and there are almost always at least one or two surprises on every trip out – or better still (as per during the present lock-down situation) when glancing out of the kitchen window! There are many birdwatchers who keep such a list, and it is amazing the number and assortment of species which can turn up in the garden here in Orkney. Anthony and Clare at Gesty Dishes keep a ‘garden list’ and in just three years in residence, their own list includes species which to most bird-watchers in the UK would be mind-blowing: Two-barred Crossbill, Hawfinch, Yellow-browed Warbler and Icterine Warbler among the foliage, and Water Rail creeping about beneath the bushes around one of their small garden ponds. There will be plenty more to come!

The most noticeable recent sightings as regards migrants have been a male Hawfinch and a male Siskin in the Castle garden (see photos) and a few Chiffchaffs – all in gardens, and there have been a few Wheatears along the roads and tracks all of which were the ‘big’ birds heading for Greenland (see photo). The only flycatcher so far was a Pied at Holin Cottage on 2nd May and a real surprise on the Reserve on 8th was a Cuckoo which did not stay long – and did not call! On this date there were good numbers of waders at the Bu Loch – probably all heading north but stopping off for a preen and rest – including several Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, and 35 Knot – all in summer plumage. Several divers were seen around the coastline – mainly Great Northern and one or two Red-throated.

On the 25th May the Matpow was almost back to its ‘former glory’ with Mute Swans nesting on the island among the mixed colony of Black-headed Gulls and Arctic Terns, and several species of duck were present: Mallard, Wigeon, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Gadwall - and not a Greylag Goose in sight! Cold weather always causes hirundines to feed over the island lochs and on that day there were over 40 at Matpow – an even mixture of Sand Martins and Swallows. Many of the former were probably birds from the colonies in Mill Bay where several nesting holes have been excavated in the sandy cliff-face this year – a big increase on previous years.

(continued on next page)

Sedge Warblers (the only species of warbler that breeds on Stronsay*) have been present in the traditional spots - the Gesty Dishes/Lower Dishes area; the Springwell area, and the area around Lower Millfield and Castle.

*The only other species of warbler known to have bred here on Stronsay were the Icterine Warblers which successfully reared young in the garden at Lower Millfield in 2002 - the first fully documented record for the UK!

One other species that is becoming more common again is the Twite (locally known as the 'Heather Lintie' or Lintock) – most of which breed in the Rothiesholm area, so one seen by Sue along the track into Mill Bay on 22nd May was an unusual sighting. Let's hope it is one more positive sign!

Don't forget that 'window list'! John



'Male Hawfinch in the Castle garden, late April.'



'Yes – that bill can draw blood if handled!'

(Continued on next page)



'Male Siskin – typically on a feeder – in the Castle garden.'



'One of the Wheatears heading for Greenland in the Reserve drive.'



*'A familiar sight – perfectly posed with cocked tail – the tiny Wren.
The most widespread species in the UK'*

STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

Informing you of what your councillor is doing during the pandemic period

See the OIC website at <https://www.orkney.gov.uk> for the latest Council news and up-to-date information on the Covid-19 situation as it pertains to Orkney, as well as referring to *The Orcadian* and listening to *BBC Radio Orkney*.

See also the Scottish Government's guidance at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance>

Image removed



for copyright reasons

We councillors are continuing to work from home and “virtually” attend regular briefing meetings via “Microsoft Teams” (see photograph below), which works remarkably well considering the Internet connectivity issues we have in the Isles. Matters, which in normal times are presented to the various service committees (e.g. Development & Infrastructure, a.k.a. D&I), are now being dealt with by means of Special General meetings via “Microsoft Teams”. At the Special General meeting convened on the 16th April, I supported the amendment calling for the “Orkney Harbours Masterplan Phase 1” to be referred back for proper scrutiny by all councillors rather than going through on the approval of merely the 6 members of the Harbour Authority Sub-Committee. Regrettably, the Chairman of D&I refused to take it back and our amendment failed by 14 votes to 5.

The (virtual) Special General Meeting of the 6th May commenced with a tribute to the late Councillor Dr Kevin Woodbridge, followed by a minute's silence. At this meeting, we approved our own Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Loan Scheme—a discretionary loan scheme offering secured loans of between £50,000 and £100,000 to assist local businesses experiencing cash-flow difficulties as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. (It is intended to supplement the national schemes.) This is part of our £5 million Coronavirus Response Fund, £3 million of which we have taken from our Strategic Reserve Fund.

Various funds are available to businesses and various benefits are available to families and individuals, e.g. free school meals (which are now paid directly). More information on what there is and how to apply for it can be found on the OIC website, and you can also telephone 01856-873535. A further four £5 vouchers are going to be issued to each resident of the Isles to spend in island shops. OIC has enlisted community councils throughout the county in the setting-up of local “Resilience Groups”. At the national level, we are busy engaging with our governments, principally through the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA). A current issue of grave concern is HIAL pressing ahead with its plans to centralise its air traffic control systems and operate them remotely from Inverness. This sheer madness is receiving the support of the Scottish Government despite the lack of any islands impact assessment, which is in blatant breach of the *Islands (Scotland) Act 2018*.

On the other hand, I agree with the Scottish Government’s cautious approach to easing “lockdown” (details downloadable at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis>), but I will not approve of Orkney being used as a “guinea pig” for relaxing restrictions before we have an effective medical means to combat the virus. The Clacksons have had to self-isolate three times now: first following the return of a family member from Glasgow just as “lockdown” kicked in, then after I’d had a hospital appointment in Kirkwall, and again following a medical emergency necessitating an SAS helicopter airlift. In Germany, the public has the benefit of regular podcasts by their leading coronavirus expert, Prof Dr med Christian Drosten, in which he provides the latest scientific Covid-19 information directly (and not filtered and distorted through journalists and politicians). If you understand German and wish to follow them, go to <https://www.ndr.de/nachrichten/info/Corona-Podcast-Alle-Folgen-in-der-Uebersicht,podcastcoronavirus134.html>.

I have been assured that all medical staff entering Orkney are now routinely tested and will be quarantined if they register positive. If anyone has any contradictory information regarding this, please get in touch with me (in confidence). The same goes if you have any concerns about personal protection equipment (or lack thereof).

At a meeting of the Highlands & Islands Science Skills Academy Leadership Board (conducted via “Skype”), I asked for STEM “lockdown modules” to be considered, to present science experiments to children utilising objects and materials they can find at home. I gave the example of electrostatics demonstrations I’ve performed using balloons, a plastic pipe and aluminium foil.

I was delighted to be able to help facilitate the “Eday lockdown treat”—free-of-charge fish & chips delivered to the door, courtesy of the Eday Partnership and Eday Community Association. Meanwhile, Sanday Development Trust & Sanday Community Council have kindly sent each household on Sanday a 50ml bottle of antibacterial hand sanitiser (thank you).

Suggested long reads for a long “lockdown”: “The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire” by Edward Gibbon (which I have but have not yet read), Winston Churchill’s “A History of the English-Speaking Peoples” (which I have and have read), and, more topically, the complete diary of Samuel Pepys (which I was unable to procure before “lockdown”). I am currently reading my way through the “44 Scotland Street” novels by Alexander McCall Smith. When I was down in Edinburgh for a meeting back in December 2017 (see that month’s issue of my *Letter*), I went to Scotland Street, and I can report that there is, in fact, no No.44 or above (nor is there a 39, 41 or 43, nor any even number greater than 28).

Stay safe, sound and sane,



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



“Letter from School Place” is downloadable from lfs.pbworks.com

Councillor Clackson's Covid-19 Councillor Quiz

Supplement to "Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place" Issue 88

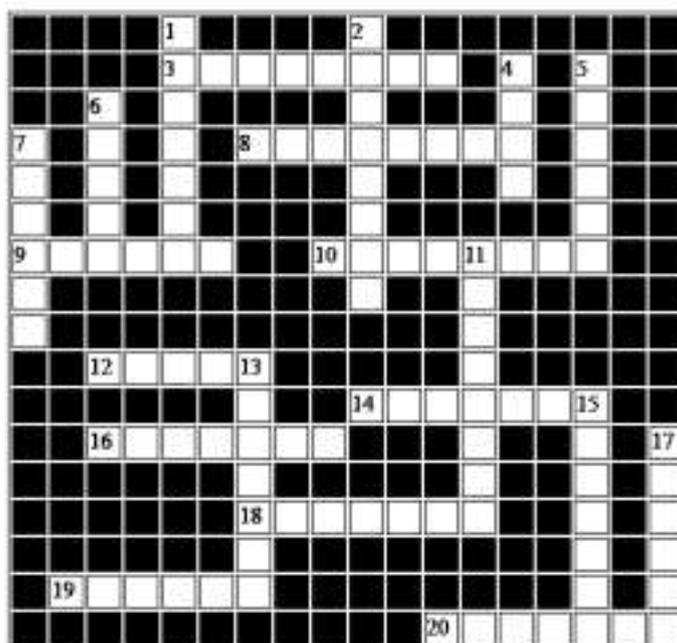
Here are two puzzles to amuse, occupy and entertain you during "lockdown" (no prizes, just satisfaction).

First, find the names of all of the OIC councillors in this word search (the late Cllr Kevin Woodbridge is included):

```

G M R E Q U L D S E K L U O F A R A B R A B H L
K A Y Q B B S N Q Z D L E S L I E M A N S O N N
C G E A F D J O H N R I C H A R D S G X X E O O
O N K S A N D Y C O W I E L D D E H N E V E T S
L U N C V N O T H C I R C B O R C B M V Y G S W
L S A X A L Y L J O H N R O S S S C O T T N N A
U T S N K T G U G N I K L E A H C A R X W L H D
T H E R E R A E H S A D N E W G T Y Z O B S O D
N O V P K N O R M A N C R A I G I E L L U F J I
A M E S E I R A N O I T C A E R U C C C A T Y V
C S T Q L U H M K E V I N W O O D B R I D G E A
N O S K C A L C N E H P E T S I N I U V H P V D
U N I B R E V E R D W E R D N A C L V U K G R D
D X E G U B Q T C L Z K N A K C O T S S E M A J
H N Y M M Y E N R E I T N E W O A R V F X Z H H
    
```

And then have a stab at this councillor crossword (sumames only):



Across

- 3. Been a Brummie bookie in his time
- 8. 2006 album by the Italian mobsters "Agua Calientes"
- 9. Let your kilt meet his dog at your peril!
- 10. The skald of School Place
- 12. Cross Eric Morecambe with Father Noel Furlong
- 14. Bob Marley and Eric Clapton would have shot this one
- 16. Orkney Flag designer
- 18. Brings Nashville to Orkney
- 19. Policeman turned preacher man
- 20. Records music in his Attic

Down

- 1. Past Ba' winner
- 2. Our man at the Orkney Auction Mart
- 4. Monarch, but of the other gender
- 5. Denies being one, but remove one letter and he becomes one
- 6. By fit, far and fan, ye shall know your Doric man
- 7. Loom component
- 11. Aquatic snail with patelliform shell and strong, muscular foot
- 13. Unlikely to be judging poultry this year
- 15. Orkney oatcake brand
- 17. Moody and *****

Good luck!

Records of a bygone age “We plough the fields and scatter....” Part 2

In the middle of the 19th Century, much of Stronsay was still hill land, heather and rough pasture and it was the power of the horse and a version of this new all-iron plough that played its part in transforming the landscape into what we see today, with nearly all the island being turned into arable land or improved grassland. Around the end of the 19th century a part of Clestrain, at the shore near Linnabrake, was still rough pasture which was first ‘broken out of hill’ by John Gorie of Clestrain and that field still goes by the name of ‘John’s Land’. The story is also told of the farmer at New Holland in Holm who set off to plough a large section of hill land. He turned over his first furrow, a full mile in length, and when he lifted his plough at the end, the furrow rolled back to where it had been for its entire length! I can imagine a few choice words may have been said.



A horse ploughing match in progress

Then in 1876, the first ploughing match was held in Stronsay, this being only contested by competitors from the farms of Holland and Housebay – eight from Housebay and five from Holland. In the report of the match it is stated that “it is hoped to have a match on a more extensive scale next year.” Accordingly, in 1877, with the formation of an Agricultural Society having taken place, the

match of that year was of a much wider scope with twenty-eight competitors taking part when money prizes were to be had and the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society’s ploughing medal to be awarded. This medal was competed for by what were classed as ‘Ordinary’ ploughmen, with the winner of the medal then moving up to compete in the ‘Champions’ section for a cup in following years. Strict criteria were set down as to the width and depth of ploughing and the amount of ‘back’ to be shown and rules were strictly enforced! Regular events then took place until the 1890s when a break occurred. Matches restarted in 1924 with a reformed Agricultural Society, continuing until the late 1930s. By the time of the match in 1924, the place of the old longboard plough, which could be 6’ long from the tip of the share to the back of the mouldboard, was being challenged and overtaken by a newcomer - the ‘Dux’ plough which had a much shorter and sharper turned mould board which produced a much more broken and open furrow which was far easier to break down into a tilth in spring time and, its supporters said, led to the production of much heavier crops. Farmers and ploughmen were much divided in their opinion of this new plough and, as the two types of ploughing produced were completely different, the ploughing matches from 1924 on had separate classes for longboard and Dux ploughs.

With the introduction of the first tractors to Stronsay in the 1920s and then Harry Ferguson's revolutionary new three-point hydraulic lift for tractors in the 1930s, the days of the horse were numbered and the last recorded horse ploughing match appears to have been held in 1938, with the cup for the best ploughed rig being awarded to James Chalmers of Clestrain and the RHAS medal to S. Shearer of Whitehall.

As the years passed, new styles of ploughs appeared and, with the advent of shear pins and trip-leg ploughs, the potential damage that could be caused by hitting a rock was reduced and consequently ploughing speeds could be increased. The invention of the reversible plough was also something of a landmark in the progress of ploughing as land no longer needed to be ploughed round and round in rigs. With one set of 'right hand' mouldboards and one set of 'left hand' boards on the same plough, it was possible to start at one side of a field and work across to the other side, meaning more efficient ploughing and a flatter surface, with no 'feerings' and 'finishes' to contend with. In the last 100 years or so we have moved from the horseman with his team ploughing an acre a day to the point in 2005 where a 500-horsepower tractor complete with a 20-furrow reversible plough set a new ploughing world record, with 44.5 acres being ploughed in one hour and an unbelievable 793.6 acres of ground being turned over in 24 hours. That is the equivalent in size to about 530 football pitches!



The newer style of plough leaves a much more broken furrow

Ploughs now take a wider and deeper furrow, generally with a shorter and more sharply turned mouldboard which produces an even but very broken finish which can be easily be broken down into a fine seedbed. In lighter soil, it can be almost impossible to see the individual furrows, a result which would undoubtedly make the ploughmen of old turn in their graves! Sometime in the 1950s ploughing matches, now using tractors, started up on the island once more but now under the auspices of a newly formed Young Farmers Club. This was quite a social occasion and some of the competitors would decorate their tractors and ploughs and even turn up in fancy dress!

I believe the last of these was the match for 1963, which was actually held at Huip in December 1962. The 'Orcadian' of the time reports that:

"The Young Farmers' Club held their annual Ploughing Match at Huip on 14th December, when 16 valiant ploughmen took the field under extremely bad conditions.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Champions – 1st Robert Work, Holland

2nd – James Shearer, Crowanna

3rd James Cooper, Cleat

Ordinary and RHAS medal – 1st Hugh Stevenson, Bu

2nd Leslie Miller, Briarlea

3rd E Henning, Odiness

Thanks were expressed to the judges, Messrs Norman and Alastair Muir from Sanday who did a good job under the most trying circumstances."

Some more information on the '16 valiant ploughmen' and 'the most trying circumstances' encountered was supplied

by Raymond Dennison, who was working at Airy at the time. He recounted that he had set off from Airy, heading for Huip in a real downpour. He was on a tractor without a cab, as was common in those days, and, although clad in a full suit of oilskins, the oilskins then weren't all that great and he was wet before he got half way there. He ploughed away, with the rain never letting up all day, and commented

"I've never seen rain like

it in me life - the water was running down the fur to meet us as we came back up the field. I got home soaked to the skin and chilled to the bone and never even went to the prize giving and dance that night I was so cold."

This was to be the last ploughing match to be held in Stronsay, the end of more than a century where ploughmen were happy to come along and test their skills beside their fellow men, and the end of an era for Stronsay.

As always, I would be delighted to hear of any more stories or see any photos of ploughing matches or anything else Stronsay related.

Ian Cooper ian.cooper56@gmail.com

May 2020



Jimmy Stout of Linksness, complete with fancy dress, competing in a ploughing match at Housebay in the 1950s. The tractor he was using was a David Brown Cropmaster.

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

“BRING IT ON”

By Ellie Harrison

Mother Nature, what have you done?
You're such a Jekyll and Hyde,
Soft as the spring time sunshine,
Pure as a blushing bride.
Yet, in one moment of time
You turn the world upside-down
Whilst you hold us in your power
We are aware you wear the crown.
Two faces you bring to life
As the lambs frolic in their being
And young birds still fledge
In the woodland I'm seeing.
Mysterious in your ways,
Relentless in your pursuit,
You follow all expectations
Then change to a different route.
For even as women will change their mind
In an instant, or so I'm told,
Madam, you have the edge on that
In being so very bold.
For in these changing times
When nothing stays the same
Normal is turn on its head
And you now up the game.
Be gentle is all we ask,
For we so rely on you
As we take one step at a time
In a life so now askew.
Reliant on one another
We now realise their worth,
For isn't new life all around us?
And so hope is about to birth.

©Helene Harrison

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

OPEN DAY AT GLENMANNA

On Sunday 31st May (been checking the weather and the best day and making sure it's on a Sunday so everyone is free to come) Paul and I would like to do a care and share day in memory of dear Dad Ray and 2020 lockdown. at 12 mid day for groceries, home bakes, a meal, pet food or anything you can spare and share please leave with us on the day at our arranging extended driveway up to 10AM or earlier is fine just let us know. At 12 midday you are all welcome even if you have nothing to share please come and help yourselves to things you need. Cooler boxes and ice blocks available, hand gel and gloves will be supplied and we ask you all to follow social distancing! We can't be there due to shielding but only a msn or 380 call away. Any suggestions welcome and anything left over we will give to trust for their over 65 boxes.

Jean Whitcher

THANK YOU!

"Thank you" hardly seems adequate, but thank you so much for making our two years in Stronsay absolutely great! We really appreciated being so warmly welcomed into the community, the church family, the boys enjoying school, the community events we have been to, how people volunteer and give in many ways, individuals who have helped us with various needs that came up or simply blessed us with their friendship and being part of our lives. If we don't have any other changes, we plan to leave Friday (29/5) to fly out of Kirkwall to start our journey back to the U.S. We don't know what is next for us, but I'm sure we'll keep in touch via the Stronsay Facebook page. And hopefully we will be back someday to visit.

Many thanks and blessings to all of you!!

Karen & Scott Daily, Liam, Colin, Declan, Ewan, Mackenzie

WANTED

Hi there, I just wondered if rental property with land is available on the island at all? Looking for a place on the islands for myself my five year old daughter and our animals. We are looking at properties to buy too but should we be able to rent that would speed up our progress. I work from home so can live anywhere but a rural place with plenty of space and some land around it is what we are looking for. I am registered with agents but there seems very little available.

Many thanks.

Anna Holland (annacholland@icloud.com, Scottish Borders)

Items on this page are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES



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

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

Local business adverts are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

REDHOUSE PLANTS MARKET GARDEN

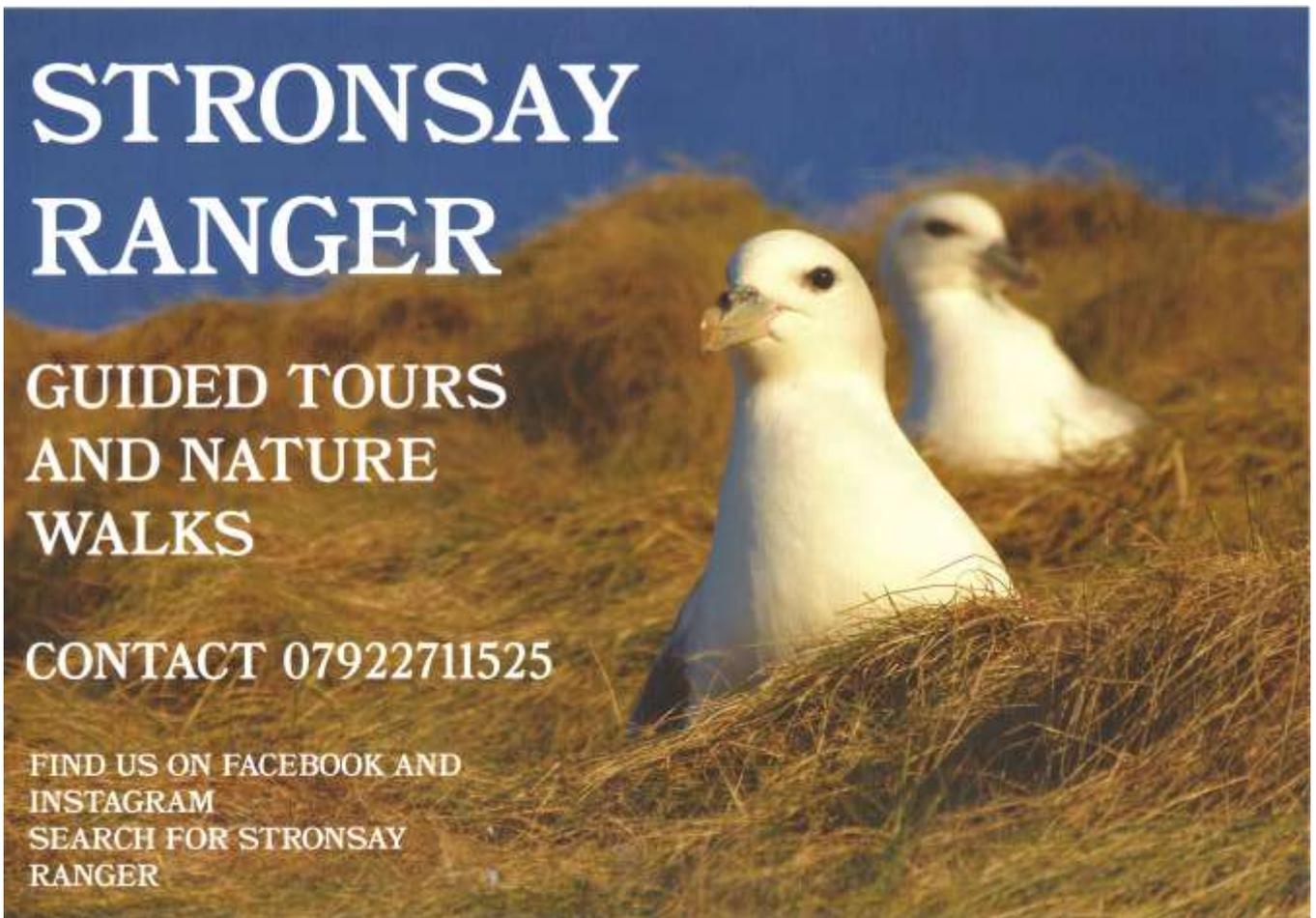


Seasonal vegetables available daily. Bedding, perennial and vegetable plants.

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

Local business adverts are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

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

The Wyrð Weaver

Handcrafted Textiles and Primitive Folk Art



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

Open Daily
Phone - 01857 616230

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



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

LOCAL BUSINESSES



*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**

**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



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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

STRONSAY HOTEL

Phone 01857 616213, email cjdbuk@gmail.com

STRONSAY HOTEL AND THE VIRUS

In these challenging times we have changed the hours that we are open. We will still provide a Takeaway service and we can deliver if required. Ordering can be done via phone or email.

- Mon, Bar closed
- Tues, Bar closed
- Wed, Bar closed
- 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 | |

Local business adverts are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

“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

Local business adverts are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES



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

Web: 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

Local business adverts are free!

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

CHURCH PLANT SALE 24th MAY

Lots of plant raised by Viv. Steady sales but numbers down on last year. Social distancing observed

(Photographs courtesy of Roger Neville-Smith)



Announcements by charities, local groups, clubs and organisations are FREE!
The cutoff date for items to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page
Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

KIRK CORNER

As I thought about what to write for what could be my last Limpet article, I was a peedie bit overwhelmed. I did not ken what I was going to write. So, I thought I will just keep it simple and sincere. Starting first with a massive thank you to everyone we have met on the island, honestly it has been absolutely amazing how wonderful, kind, friendly, and giving you all have been! It seems like an understatement to say you have made us feel at home here. I can not imagine a better place to live! We will take with us many fond memories of life, love, and laughter (or at least “Chuckles”) from our time here. My only regrets are that I did not get to know you all even better and that two years was far too short a time to really live here. There are just so many to thank, from those who worked to bring us here, those who spent so much time and effort fixing up the manse so wonderfully, those who over our time here have given items or time to help us (which covers about everyone on the island at some point I imagine), to the great school staff, the shops, the doctors, those who came to the Peedie Library, and on and on. In short thank you all.

You can not come to a place like Stronsay and not care about it. And since I was privileged at least for a short time to serve as the locum minister here I feel that I much “preach” one last message. Once again, I was overwhelmed with what to write, but again opted for the simple. There is probably no better-known verse from Scripture than John 3:16, and I can think of no better message to end with. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Of all the things I could wish and pray for you about this is the best, that you would understand that God loves you, every one of you, and that you can have hope in Him. This love is transforming; it is not that we get our life in order and then come, it is that God transforms our lives by His love and grace. In all sincerity the people of Stronsay have become like family to me, and if you have to leave family then you want the best for them. The best is being part of God’s loving family, for no one can look after you better than God.

Truly may the Lord bless you and keep you, now and always.

Scott Daily (locum minister)

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

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

The cutoff date for items to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page

Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES etc

| | |
|---|--|
| Monday to Saturday | 8:30am—5:00pm |
| Sunday | Closed |
| Post collection times | 07:30, Monday to Saturday |
| Bank day | No bank until further notice. See article on page 1 |
| 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 https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5 |
| Our Lady's Chapel, pier head | No services. See article in this edition of the Limpet |
| Next Special Collections | ? |
| Weekly rubbish collection | 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 contact@the-sons.org)</i> |

HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](#)

Send an email to 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



A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland
Company Number SC271553
A Scottish Charity, Charity Number SC038888
Registered Office: Unit 1 Woods Yard, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR