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## **MESSAGE FROM STRONSAY SURGERY STAFF.**

As we all move towards the 'new normal' all clinical staff will continue to wear PPE when seeing patients, both in the surgery and on home visits. This will include plastic aprons, gloves and masks.

It would be appreciated if patients attending the surgery would wear face masks wherever possible.

Thank you,  
Stronsay Surgery.

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## **NHS SCOTLAND—CORONAVIRUS**

NHS Scotland website for information on coronavirus is

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

If in doubt phone the surgery on 616321

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## **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](mailto:bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk)

Our service is free and confidential.

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## **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

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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 27 August**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 23 August**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

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## **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.

### **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS** **CORONAVIRUS RISK REDUCTION**

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 Rosalind Fisher

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## **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

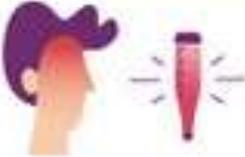
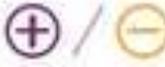
Both lines are open 8-8

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

Lois"

# TEST & PROTECT: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Following these steps is vital to tackle coronavirus in Scotland

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p><b>RECOGNISE SYMPTOMS</b></p> <p>A new persistent cough, fever, or loss or change in sense of taste or smell means you should immediately begin household isolation.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p><b>REQUEST A TEST RIGHT AWAY</b></p> <p>It is important to get a test as soon as possible. Visit <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/conditions/coronavirus-test-and-protect">NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect</a> or call 0800 028 2816 if you cannot get online.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>ISOLATE</b></p> <p>Isolate for 7 days from symptom start date, longer if fever continues and 48 hours after fever ends. Others you live with should isolate for 14 days.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>GET TESTED</b></p> <p>When isolating, you should only leave home to get tested. There are various ways of having this done.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>  <p><b>GET RESULTS</b></p> <p>They should be with you within 48 hours.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>  <p><b>PROVIDE DETAILS</b></p> <p>If you have coronavirus, NHS contact tracers will contact you to confidentially ask who you have had contact with recently. If you don't have the virus, you and your household can stop isolating.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>  <p><b>NHS INFORMS CONTACTS</b></p> <p>If you have coronavirus, the NHS will contact the people you have had close contact with. Your name will not be shared unless you give permission. All data will be held safely and securely.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>  <p><b>CLOSE CONTACTS ISOLATE</b></p> <p>They will be asked to isolate for 14 days from the last time they had contact with you.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>  <p><b>HOUSEHOLD OF CLOSE CONTACT</b></p> <p>If the close contact has no symptoms, others in their household don't need to isolate. If the close contact develops symptoms, they should follow this guide starting from step 1.</p>

If you do not have community or family support and need essential help, call the National Assistance Helpline on 0800 111 4000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or via textphone on 0800 111 4114. The helpline is for those who cannot leave their home or get the help they need elsewhere.

For current health advice and more information about the Test & Protect service visit [NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://www.nhs.uk/infocentre/conditions/coronavirus-test-and-protect)





Well it has been a very different few months for us all and the Trust has been busy in the background with a number of successful COVID response projects including meal deliveries, veg bags, grocery vouchers, fuel vouchers, providing Sanitiser and PPE where needed as well as a host of other things to support those most vulnerable and effected by the pandemic.

In addition, we have also been working on our normal projects and looking at the Development Plan due to be launched this year, with heritage, housing, environment and recreation projects all well on the way.

As many of you may have seen the Development Trust was successful in an application to the Scottish Land Fund for the funds to purchase an existing property in order to renovate and provide an affordable and efficient house for rent as part of the initial phases of the Trusts housing project. We will keep you updated as this project evolves.

We are also pleased to welcome a new member to the team after a successful recruitment round for a Dementia Friendly Stronsay Project Coordinator and hope we can all support Teri with this project as it progresses.

*Hello Everyone*

*I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Dementia Friendly Stronsay project coordinator. My name is Teri Shearer and I live at Clestrain with my family. I moved to Stronsay in 2016 following numerous family holidays to Stronsay to see my grandparents and family, I love living in Stronsay and I am extremely excited and grateful to have been given this opportunity.*

*My responsibilities are to work collaboratively with the dementia friendly Stronsay steering group, individuals currently living with dementia as well as preparing for future diagnosis and their families and unpaid carers. I will also be working with volunteers to help raise awareness of dementia within our local community and pursue activities and education leading to Stronsay becoming a dementia friendly community. As part of this role I will be undertaking training in dementia awareness and care.*

*Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or support in regards to dementia. Please also note that all discussions will be held in confidence and I am happy to help anyone in need.*

*Best wishes Teri Shearer*

*Tel: 616460 Email: [dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com)*

*(continued on next page)*

We are fortunate that we experience low numbers of people living with dementia however we hope to raise awareness and offer support for everyone, whether they personally or someone within the family or community is currently living with it as well as prepare for the future and offer a safe and inviting location for those living with Dementia to visit.

As always if you would like to discuss any of the current projects or have any ideas for the future or would like to volunteer time to help then please get in touch.

Call the office on 01857 616410 or email any of the following

- Development [cdostronsay@gmail.com](mailto:cdostronsay@gmail.com)
- Wellbeing [sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com)
- Dementia [dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com)
- Admin/operations [sdtadmin@btconnect.com](mailto:sdtadmin@btconnect.com) [sdtoperations@btconnect.com](mailto:sdtoperations@btconnect.com)

Best wishes from the Stronsay Development Trust Team

## **STRONSAY WATER LEAKS**

Despite the recent wet weather there has been an increase in water consumption and the suspicion is there may be a mains/trough water leak somewhere on the island.

We would be grateful if our customers would report any known leaks to the Scottish Water Customer Helpline by telephoning freephone 0800 0778 778 or the Stronsay Water Treatment Works 616342, where a message can be left.

Thank you for your vigilance and help.

Colin McAlpine, Relief Water Operative

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## **EBENEZER STORES—NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**

The new email address for Ebenezer Stores is [stronsaystores@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaystores@gmail.com)

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## **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

# CROSSROADS ORKNEY

and



We would like to help ease the loneliness and difficulty of lockdown for Dementia sufferers and their carers at home. We have a variety of puzzles, crafts and activities which we can post or deliver. All free of charge. If you know someone who could benefit from this or wish more information please call Crossroads 870500 or Lorna Reid 781329

# THE PEEDIE LARDER BOX PROJECT



**STARTING JUNE 2020**

**FUNDING PROVIDED BY EAT WELL AGE WELL AND THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND**

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**



## OVER AGE 65?

If you or someone in your household is over age 65, you are eligible to participate in the Peedie Larder Box Project.

## OUR LOCAL GROWERS:

Stronsay Markets, Redhouse Plants, and Raymond's Veg

This project is designed to support the nutrition of older adults, by providing fresh and locally grown fruit and vegetables. The project will run from approximately mid-June through September, providing fresh fruit and vegetables weekly.

While the Covid-19 pandemic continues, those participating will

receive a Newsletter with nutrition information, tips and recipes. We will feature our local growers and let you know what fruit and veg you can look forward to. If restrictions are lifted, at the end of the project we will all celebrate with a group meal at the Community Hall.

**CONTACT:** Sarah Powers Richings, Stronsay Community Wellbeing Coordinator  
sdtwellbeing@gmail.com, 01857 616495





The North Isles Landscape Partnership and Stronsay Heritage Group would like your help to create a record of nature and wildlife in Stronsay during this slightly unusual summer of 2020.

We're making a scrapbook.

We can't get together as we usually would, instead we're asking if you can complete a page for the book at home over the summer. The pages are A3 size and can be picked up from the heritage centre from the week beginning 27 July.

You can do your page in any way that you choose. You might have a particular interest in birds or mammals, plants or shells. You might want to highlight a favourite spot in Stronsay and the wildlife you see there, or you might want to record what you see in your garden over the summer. How you do it is completely up to you – you might choose photographs, facts, figures, illustrations, art, craft, poetry or prose. You can include pressed flowers or feathers, but just remember it needs to be 2 dimensional for the scrapbook. There's a couple of example pages below to help you start thinking about what you could do. We'd like you to include your name and the name of your house on your page. There's also an example of what the front cover of the scrapbook might look like.

You've got till the end of August, and you can drop your page back to the heritage centre when it's done. The main thing is have fun.

If you have any queries or you can't get to the heritage centre to pick up your page please get in touch with Ian Cooper, 616 322.



## AN UPDATE ON OUR STRONSAY GPs

As you know, it is some time since the recruitment process for GPs for Stronsay began. The ongoing process had to be put on hold for a time due to COVID19 and lockdown restrictions but NHS Orkney has confirmed that interviews have now taken place and two new 13 week permanent contract GPs have been appointed. They are Dr Alison Lievesley who currently works in Orkney and Dr Mandy Fry who has extensive experience working in remote and rural locations, including the Falkland Islands. They are due to start in September and will be visiting the island soon as part of the induction process, which couldn't happen earlier due to the restrictions in place. Rosalind will be continuing as before with a permanent 6 month contract and our two new GPs will be covering three months each, working as a team of three to cover Stronsay's needs throughout the year.

As you may be aware, due to exceptional circumstances with staff sickness across Orkney we recently had no GP cover on the island for a few days. I believe that, given these circumstances, we must accept that this has been adequately covered in the short term by a Nurse Practitioner, receiving additional GP support from Dr Meiwald in Westray. NHS Orkney has again given an assurance that there are no plans to deviate from the Stronsay model plan of having permanent GPs on the island, a commitment backed up by this recent appointment of the two new GPs, so this must give us some reassurance once again. I think this recruitment is great news for the island and look forward to us learning a little more about our new GPs, meeting them and welcoming them to the island in due course.

Mandy is currently on leave but Alison has provided a few details about herself:

*"I moved to Orkney 3 years ago for the scenery, the archaeology, the sea, and the draw of remote medicine. Away from Orkney among other things, I help train village medics from Burma and have spent time in the Greek refugee camps, and I'm sure the two sides to my work will complement each other.*

*Random facts: I speak Cantonese (5 years working with heroin addicts in Hong Kong and China does that for you!) and I like extra long socks. I'm a keen swimmer, and I'm looking forward to checking out the Stronsay bays (and maybe coaxing a few people to join me in the water!)*

*See you soon,*

*Alison"*

Readers of 'The Orcadian' may have seen that Alison recently left Orkney for the first time since February by rather unconventional means – swimming across the Pentland Firth from Burwick to Duncansby Head in a little under three and a half hours! This, she said, was the fulfilment of a long-held ambition of hers - well done Alison. I would suspect she will probably be more likely to make use of Orkney Ferries for her travel to and from Stronsay though.

Dr Roger, our recently retired GP, seems these last few months to have been firmly entrenched in his polytunnels indulging in his passion for gardening, only emerging on occasion to take a few photos or to deliver some fresh fruit and vegetables to his customers.

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our best wishes to all the above GPs – past, present and future.

Ian Cooper

## LATEST BIRD SIGHTINGS

What a difference a couple of years make! The island bird-life is almost back to it's best. There have been noticeable increases in all the breeding 'waders and ducks', and Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtails have all returned in good numbers. The big question now is: 'Where have they been for the last decade or so?' – or perhaps 'Where have they come from?' They cannot possibly all be the same birds that 'vacated the premises' when the Greylag Geese took over!

There have been a few interesting sightings as usual in mid-summer this year, including a Short-eared Owl, first seen at Ward Hill on 2nd July. What was almost certainly the same bird posed perfectly on a fence-post as I passed by in the car after receiving a phone-call from Dave Miller. (see photos). There is no evidence of breeding this year although the species has bred on Stronsay in the past, but there has been confirmed breeding of a few pairs of Reed Buntings and Sedge Warblers around the lochs etc., and good numbers of Sand Martins in the sandy cliff-face in Mill Bay. Over 20 of the latter have been seen perched on the wires above the Mill Stream – alongside similar numbers of the local Swallows.

One species which bred in good numbers until the late 70's – the Corncrake – has been heard on several occasions this summer at a few sites, but there is no evidence of successful breeding.

Some wading birds are now heading back south after breeding in the Arctic regions, and several have stopped off to feed on their journey south: 75 Dunlin and a Greenshank on the Bu Loch, and a dozen or so Black-tailed Godwit at Matpow – where the tern colony has been successful this year although some of a large (30 or so) party of Greylag Geese were seen on the island among the young terns on 25th July (today) - just as the young terns are on the verge of fledging. Fingers crossed!

One to look out for in Whitehall Village: There have been several recent sightings of what is almost certainly an albino House Sparrow in Whitehall Village, It has been seen by Debbie in the Hotel to the west; Jean at Glenmanna to the east, and several sightings in between! Check bird-tables and sparrow flocks!

Re last month's Limpet: A few very interesting sightings at 2-3 sites on Shetland Mainland in early June (around 6th) were of a Great White Egret – surely the same bird as that seen on the beach in Whitehall Village by Raymond Dennison on 3rd June. (Raymond watched the bird fly off high and northwards over Papa Stronsay).

*(Photographs on next page)*



*'The Short-eared Owl on the Mill Brae on 2nd July. Compare with the Long-eared Owl in the garden at Slap some years ago (below). The species are difficult to separate unless seen well and either is possible here at any time of year although Short-eared is by far the most frequent during Summer'*



*'Long-eared Owl in the garden at Slap a few years ago. Generally 'greyer' than Short- More likely to be seen outside the breeding season, but feeds almost exclusively at night. There was a regular day-time Winter roost of 8 or 10 of the species among the trees in the Samsonslane garden one Winter in the late 80s and another smaller group were present at Breck for some time in the early 90's'*

## STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE (CURRENTLY WEST MANSE)

*Reporting on what your councillor is doing virtually and really as we emerge from "lockdown"*

Information in this "Letter" can rapidly go out of date, so please check OIC's website at <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/> for the latest Council news and Covid-19 information as it pertains to Orkney. See also *The Orcadian* and listen to *BBC Radio Orkney*. For ferry information see <http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk/> or ring 01856-872044. For inter-island flights see <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/T/internal-air-services.htm> or ring 01856-872494 / 873457.

NHS Orkney has information at <https://www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information>

For Covid-19 testing telephone 01856-888221. For OIC's Homelessness Service ring 01856-873535 or 07921-582962.

The Scottish Government's guidance is located at <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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for copyright reasons

With the start of the Council Recess, the number of online meetings has diminished. The novelty of convening by computer was certainly wearing thin. I think they call it "digital burnout". I'll be glad when we can hold meetings again in person. By far the best online meeting "platform" I have been using is "Microsoft Teams", followed at some distance by "Zoom", then the somewhat unsatisfactory "Skype for Business", with the worst being "Webex". Their respective quality may, of course, have a lot to do with the speed of our Internet connection. A tip for your mental health is to take a weekly break from the global gossip and what the World Health Organisation refers to as an "infodemic" and enjoy a digital detox day. Mine is Sunday.

With the recess imminent, lots of OIC meetings were packed into a short space of time, some of them lasting all day! The final Special General Meeting before the recess did not finish until after half-past-seven in the evening!

At a Special General Meeting called to consider business support funding, we agreed that "the Council should make available an additional grant for Orkney businesses who qualified for support from any of the Scottish Government funded Coronavirus Grant schemes administered by the Council or the Council's Coronavirus Business Support Grant scheme, equal to an additional 10% of sums paid or due to each business." Thanks to my amendment (won 12 votes to 6), Orkney businesses that do not qualify for this funding will be able to apply, if eligible, for "a support payment, up to a maximum sum of £500, redeemable against evidence of expenditure on protective screens or other public safety equipment purchased since 23 March 2020 in respect of individual properties, with multiple property owners qualifying for multiple payments."

*(continued on next page)*

A Council Members and NHS Orkney question session was held with Chief Executive Designate, Iain Stewart (who has since declined to take up the position, which is now occupied by Shetland's Michael Dickson). Dr Roelf Dijkhuizen's open letter of resignation (see *The Orcadian*, 18<sup>th</sup> June) provided a valuable reality check that I hope has made people sit up and think. As I will repeat until the cows come home: Managers (and politicians) must take notice of the people who actually do the job!

At the Orkney Ferries' board meeting, I was delighted to be proposed for the chair, but then disappointed (not only for me, but for the North Isles Ward) to be defeated by the Rev David Dawson (councillor for Kirkwall East). You can contact the new chairman of Orkney Ferries Ltd by phone on 07867150697 or by e-mail at david.dawson@orkney.gov.uk. The ferries are now sailing more frequently, but all journeys, even for foot passengers, have to be booked in advance, and, in accordance with Scottish Government regulations, it is mandatory to wear face coverings on board the vessels (exceptions apply).

Loganair has informed me that, owing to reduced staff at their inter-isles desk, if you have trouble getting through by telephone, you can e-mail them at orkneyres@loganair.co.uk, and someone will get back to you.

As well as the frequent OIC briefing meetings, other online meetings I have attended this month include: a seminar on early learning & childcare; a meeting of the Orkney College Management Council (by Skype); Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay and Sanday community council meetings, and a meeting of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

The Scottish Government is distributing funding generated from the Scottish Crown Estate marine assets to local authorities based on their share of coastline. I am calling for Orkney's share of over £700k to be distributed among our council wards in the same way. As the North Isles Ward has 48% of Orkney's coastline, this would entitle us to £371,363.24 of this funding.

The Prime Minister came to Orkney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and announced a UK Government contribution of £50 million towards the "Islands Deal" (to be matched by the Scottish Government). Time will tell how much of this money will actually find its way to Orkney. (The PM is no relation of the current OIC Convenor, but he did attend the same school as the late Jo Grimond MP.)

In normal times at the West Manse at this time of year we would have been preparing poultry for exhibiting at the Sanday Show. Here is a photograph of two peedie Embden goslings at the beginning of July. They have a lot of growing to do, as Embdens can reach 3'3" tall and weigh up to 34 lbs!

Keep well 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 [ifsp.pbworks.com](http://ifsp.pbworks.com)



## Councillor Clackson's Covid-19 Council Coat-of-Arms to Colour in

Supplement to "Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place" Issue 90

Here are the armorial bearings of Orkney Islands Council for you to colour in:



Drawn by Dunstan Clackson, undergraduate at The Glasgow School of Art.

To help you get the colours right, below is the blazon (the legal description) of the Council's arms. With one exception, the colours are specified in Norman-French; they start with a capital letter and (as in modern French) are placed after the noun. Don't forget to write in the motto.

**Parted per pale Azure and Gules: in the dexter a dragon galley Or, sails furled Argent, and in the sinister a lion rampant imperially crowned Or, armed and langued Azure, holding in its forepaws a battle axe erect in pale\* Gold.**

**Above the Shield is placed a Coronet appropriate to a statutory Islands Area, *videlicet*:- a circlet richly chased Or, from which are issuant four dolphins two and two respectant naiant embowed Or (two visible); and on a compartment below the Shield, with this Motto "Boreas Domus Mare Amicus", are set for Supporters, dexter, a udaller habited of the fifteenth century, and sinister, a unicorn Argent, armed, maned and unguled Or, and gorged with a collar Gules, from which is pendant an oval badge Azure, fimbriated Or, charged with a saltire Argent.**

\* The term "in pale" refers here to the orientation of the axe, not to the saturation of its colour.

Have fun!

### **The solutions to last month's quiz:**

A Eynhallow, B Gairsay, C Papa Stronsay, D Rousay, E Auskerry, F North Ronaldsay, G Shapinsay, H Eday, I Wyre, J Stronsay, K Westray, L Sanday, M Papa Westray, N Egilsay.

## RECORDS OF A BYGONE AGE

### **The loss of the steam drifter Dewdrop**

As the 19<sup>th</sup> century neared its end, steam was rapidly and relentlessly taking over from sail. These new steam powered ships were much less influenced by the vagaries of wind and tide but navigation was still fraught with difficulty, particularly where high seas were coupled with conditions of poor visibility. This is the tale of the difficulties encountered by one such ship, the steam drifter Dewdrop, and the tragedy that befell some of her crew.

Of wooden construction and built in Anstruther, Fife in 1883, the Dewdrop was originally 71' long but in 1890 was lengthened to 85' with a beam of 20' and a draft of 7½', fitted with a 2 cylinder steam engine delivering 32 horsepower and capable of propelling her at up to 9 knots. Among the first of this new breed of drifters to be brought into use, she was very much a typical steam drifter of the time, carrying a crew of 8 or 9 and being equipped with a steam winch enabling her to work bigger and heavier nets. Although first registered in Dundee, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century she had been bought by John Lewis & Son of Point Law in Aberdeen where she was then registered for fishing with the number A11.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 1889, while making her way to Stronsay in a strong south westerly gale, the Dewdrop and her crew of eight men were driven ashore on the Swarf, a long, broad shoal of rocks near Linga Holm and the entrance to St Catherine's Bay on the west side of Stronsay. That evening, it was reported that the vessel was flying signals of distress but, due to weather and sea conditions, no rescue could be attempted. The following day, with the wind easing and seas moderating, the ship's Master James Mutch, took the ship's lifeboat and four of her crew and went ashore on Stronsay to telegraph a report of the ship's stranding to the owners and to seek assistance in getting her off. While they were away, the wind again increased until it became a terrific storm, this time from the west. With the sea now breaking right over the stranded vessel, she was hammering on the rocks and was beginning to break up. With no hope of rescue reaching them, the three remaining crew constructed a makeshift raft – reputedly utilising the ship's wheelhouse – and, around 5 o'clock that afternoon, cast themselves adrift to the mercy of the elements. One crewman was washed off the raft soon after leaving the ship and a second before they reached the coast of Stronsay but the third, although cold and exhausted, safely reached land where he was taken to a nearby farmhouse and was well looked after. Soon after the remaining crew had abandoned the Dewdrop, wind and sea carried the ship right over the top of the skerry, where she sank in deep water about 600 yards inside the skerry with only the tops of her mast showing. Sadly, the bodies of the two men who had been swept away were later recovered from the Stronsay shore.

All six surviving crew members were then taken to the Stronsay Hotel where they stayed until they could make their way to Kirkwall en route for home.

On Sunday morning, there was a lull in the storm during which Lloyd's agent Captain George Robertson, who had been brought up on Stronsay and knew the waters well, proceeded to the area in the steamer 'Fawn' but discovered that nothing could be seen but the tops of the masts and the ship was therefore declared a total loss.

*(continued on next page)*

Very soon after, on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1899, at an auction sale in the Temperance Hotel in Kirkwall, the Dewdrop was offered for sale by the underwriters and was bought by a Mr Taylor of Grangemouth for £5. The ship's boat was sold at the same auction, with it realising £4. With the ship's boat realising only £1 less than the ship itself, it would seem that the purchase of the wreck was, at best, fairly speculative.

It appears that there must have been some hope of salvaging the Dewdrop as it was reported that, in May the following year, the steamer 'Fawn' from Kirkwall with divers aboard came to Stronsay to work on the wreck of the Dewdrop and also on the passenger and cargo steamship St Rognvald, which had run aground and been wrecked on Burgh Head on the east side of Stronsay the previous month. Sadly, while engaged on a dive to survey the Dewdrop to see if a steel hawser could be passed under her, 50 year old Kirkwall man John Flett failed to respond to signals from the dive boat and, on being pulled back aboard, was found to be dead. The salvage attempt was abandoned and a Fatal Accident inquiry later that year recorded a cause of accidental death, with a possible unidentified problem with the airline thought to be a contributing factor in his death.

Captain Robertson, who was a founding member and chief instigator in the formation of the Orkney Steam Navigation Company in 1868 and was indeed still manager of the Company, had an uncanny aptitude for turning a profit from salvage operations and he and the Fawn made another salvage attempt in August that year but, due to deteriorating weather conditions at the time, it too had to be abandoned

The following year, around the beginning of August 1901 and with the Dewdrop now having been at the bottom of the sea for well-nigh two years, yet another attempt was made to salvage her, this time with more success, as she was raised and floated in to shallow water near Linga Holm awaiting a tow to Kirkwall. The services of the Grangemouth steam tug 'Tyne' had been engaged for this salvage operation but this too was beset by problems as on the morning of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August while manoeuvring in shallow water she struck bottom, was holed and she too sank! The Fawn was once again called from Kirkwall to assist and fortunately it was possible at low water to pump out the tug and effect temporary repairs which enabled her to make Kirkwall under her own power where more permanent repairs were carried out.

The Dewdrop was finally towed into Kirkwall Harbour on 30<sup>th</sup> August and was found not to be as badly damaged as was originally thought. The following week, a contract to repair the engines and mechanical gear was secured by Mr William Leslie of Kirkwall and repairs to the hull by carpenter Mr George Marcus, also of Kirkwall. These repairs were quickly and efficiently carried out and the Dewdrop, now seaworthy once more, was sold once again, this time to Samuel Reid jnr. of Kirkwall.

With the apparent loss of the Dewdrop, her Aberdeen registry was cancelled on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1899 but in 1903, now under the ownership of Mr Reid, she was again registered for fishing, this time at Wick under the new name of Acacia and the registration number WK561.

In 1917 she was again sold, this time to a fisherman in Lowetoft where she was re-registered as LT984 and fished successfully until her fishing registry was closed in 1920. She was subsequently sold to a Mr Henry Mathieson of Southampton and converted to a cargo ship, a fate that befell so many of her kind as fishing became a less profitable business.

*(continued on next page)*

In January 1921, while en route from Cherbourg to Cowes with a load of granite she encountered heavy weather which strained her timbers badly and, to prevent her sinking, she had to be run ashore on mud flats at Hurst Castle on the approach to Cowes Harbour. Most of her cargo was salvaged by barge but a few days later on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1921 she was, for the second time, declared by Lloyd's to be a total wreck. There the story should end but, four days later, it was reported that she had once again been successfully refloated and, reports say, was 'towed off to the east' but this, I fear, was to be the final voyage of a valiant old ship.

Ian Cooper  
July 2020

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## **A POEM ABOUT CORONAVIRUS**

By Nanna Peace at Airy Cottage

*(Nanna Peace was 100 on Saturday 25th July 2020)*

Stronsay is a lovely isle on that you all agree,  
The fields are green, the sands are white  
And mostly we all feel alright.  
But sad to say a bug it came,  
Coronavirus is its name.

They tell us now "stay at home", "stay safe";  
So, from the window we just wave.  
Our two shops now they get no rest  
For they are doing their very best  
To see that we are being fed  
With all our food and all our bread.  
Our school is closed and it is sad,  
A shame it is for girl and lad.  
Our medical team are very bright,  
They tend us all through day or night  
And Jim, he tells us not worry  
As he will come with his big lorry.  
And Roger with his fork and spade  
A fruitful garden he has made.  
We still see our good friends each day  
So hope it stays the same always.  
So look ahead to the silver lining  
As through the clouds it still is shining.

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

**HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!**

Happy 100th birthday to Nanna Peace  
With love from all her family



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Items on this page are free!

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

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

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### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the Stronsay Community Greenhouse for the beautiful bouquet.  
Kate Work

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### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Ebenezer Stores, Olivebank & the Hotel for their truly excellent service during the coronavirus lockdown. Thanks also to Jim & to Murdo for ensuring that the delivery of goods continues uninterrupted.

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### **FOR SALE**

#### **POLYCRUB DISCOUNT - SPECIAL OFFER**

I understand several people have expressed an interest in owning a polycrub. Now is your chance to own one at a discounted price. I have been able to negotiate a discount on bulk orders for polycrubs delivered to Stronsay. The offer is for a limited period, the closing date being 31 July 2020.

Polycrubs come in a range of sizes, from 4m x 4m to 4m x 12m. For exact details please visit [info@polycrub.co.uk](mailto:info@polycrub.co.uk)

If you would like to order a discounted polycrub, or see one in use and discuss the joys of owning one, please contact Colin McAlpine on 616446. Paul Williams is experienced and available to discuss terms and help in putting up a polycrub. You will not be alone. Join the many who have benefitted from owning a polycrub, built to withstand the toughest of weather conditions. You won't regret it!

Colin McAlpine  
20 July 2020

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### **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](mailto:annacholland@icloud.com), Scottish Borders)

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## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### FISHMART CAFÉ REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

John and I are happy to announce that the Fishmart cafe will be opening up again with the addition of our new breakfast menu on Wednesday 29th July.

Gift vouchers of £10, £20 & £50 and hot drink loyalty cards buy 9 hot drinks and get the 10th free will also be available.

New opening hours, Monday to Friday 7-10am & 12-5pm

For all details please see below or visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stronsaycafehostel>

or website

<https://stronsaycafehostel.weebly.com>.

Tara Brown

*Please note that customers ordering takeaway are required to wear a face covering when collecting. Sit in customers do not need to wear face coverings as distancing measures are in place with table service only. Further safety information and guidelines for customers will be on the tables.*



**FISHMART**  
EAT IN or TAKE AWAY Monday-Friday 7am-10am & 12pm-5pm, Closed weekends

Breakfast Menu 7-10am		Lunch Menu 12-5pm	
Bacon baguette	£2.50	Jumbo Sausage Rolls	£2.00
Sausage baguette	£2.50	Steak pastry slice	£2.00
Egg Baguette	£2.00	Cheese & onion pastry slice	£2.00
Extra filling	£1.00	Pasty	£2.50
Hash brown (x2)	£1.00	Portion of chips	£1.50
Breakfast wrap	£3.80	Toasted paninis, choice of 2 fillings	£4.50
(Sausage, scrambled egg & bacon)		Cheese, onion, ham, tomato, brie, cranberry sauce, tuna	
Drinks served all day		Jacket potatoes, with choice of single filling	
Tea - Various flavours available	£1.00	(Tuesdays & Thursdays only)	£4.50
Filter coffee	£2.00	Extra filling	£1.00
Hot chocolate	£2.00	Coronation chicken, cheese, beans, tuna mayo, mince, coleslaw	
Delux Hot Chocolate	£2.50	Variety of cakes and treats served daily	
Can drinks	£1.00	£1.50-2.50	

(Bring your own reusable mug, coffee only £1.80, also loyalty cards available, every 10<sup>th</sup> coffee free)

**For Takeaways please call 01857 616401**

Following government guidelines, we are happy to announce that we are able to re-open the Fishmart Cafe with the following changes to operation:

- All Takeaways are to be pre ordered by telephone at least 20 minutes prior to collection, Jacket potatoes however need to be ordered the day before.
- A one-way system will be in place, with front porch being the entrance and the side door off building the exit, please use hand sanitiser provided on entry.
- Payments can be made by cash but if you prefer bank transfers are available (please ask for details when ordering food).

Local business adverts 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.**

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## **BELLIE M DESIGNS**

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

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

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

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## ***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 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	

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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **“NEIL’S ON WHEELS”**



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

MOBILE: 07723 304 260

HOME: 01857 616454

### **Ebenezer Oil Heating Services**

Oftec trained engineer



**Oil Tank Installation**



**Boiler Servicing**

Oil boiler servicing,  
repair and replacement



**Boiler Installation**

**& Commissioning**

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

Tel 01857 616339  
ebenezer@stronsay.org

**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**

## **KIRK CORNER**

Dear Stronsay Friends,

You may have heard in the news that Churches have permission to hold "communal prayer, congregational services and contemplation with physical distancing and limited numbers" from 15th July. However, on the 13th July the Kirk Session have taken the hard decision to not open our church building for worship until Phase 4. We have decided that because we believe that restrictions currently in place (no singing allowed, social distancing rules requiring everyone to be 2 m apart, no Sunday Club etc.) would not be conducive to furthering fellowship among us and the experience, as it stands just now, would be very different and possibly quite unsatisfactory. Also, bear in mind that many of our congregation are elderly and/or vulnerable and we want to protect them as best we can.

We hope you can still join us in worship online every Sunday. You can access our services in either one of the four ways:

- Through Moncur Memorial Church Stronsay Facebook page where our joint services (between Stronsay, Kirkwall East and Shapinsay) are published every Sunday
- Through the YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/y5seb2rp>.
- By dialling 01856 404667 from your phone and listening to the audio recording of the service. You will be charged as you would normally be for a phone call to Kirkwall (and that of course depends on your contract).
- By getting a script of the service by e-mail (do contact me if you would like that).

We also have Zoom coffee afternoons between the three congregations. Currently they take place on Tuesdays at 3 pm but we are considering other days and times. If you would like to catch up with others in this way, please let me know and I will give you the link to the meetings.

If you have any questions or comments or simply fancy a chat, please don't hesitate to phone me on 01856 874789 or e-mail me at [jmeason@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:jmeason@churchofscotland.org.uk).

With every blessing to you and yours,  
Rev Julia Meason

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

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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> . . . . .	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 <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



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