



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Peedie Library	Wed 30 Mar
Stronsay Stitchers	Thu 31 Mar
Screen Machine visit	Sat 2 Apr to Mon 4 Apr
Songs & stories for Easter	Wed 13 Apr
Bag the Bruck	Sat 16 Apr to Sun 24 Apr
Scottish Flood Forum visit	Mon 25 Apr to Fri 29 Apr
Library van visit	Mon 25 Apr, 20 Jun, 15 Aug, 10 Oct, 28 Nov
Spring Craft Fair	Sat 14 May
Special collection	Mon 16 May, 25 Jul
Christmas Craft Fair	Sat 3 Dec

ROGER'S FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY 25 MARCH

The fundraiser at the Fishmart on Friday 25 March combined with the kirk's Ukraine collection raised a total of £2,231 which will be donated to the [Disaster Emergency Committee](#) where HM Government will match the donation. A great big "Thank You" to everyone involved in achieving this wonderful result.

GP & COMMUNITY NURSE ROSTER

The latest available roster for the Doctor and the Community Nurse can now be found on the Stronsay Limpet's website at <https://stronsaylimpet.co.uk/RosterGPandNurse.html>

SCOTLAND'S CENSUS 2022

Census Day has passed but there's still time to fill in your #ScotlandsCensus2022 @Scotscensus2022! Help is available online at census.gov.scot, or via the free helpline 0800 030 8308. Text body

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

No Royal Bank of Scotland visits until further notice. There are 2 telephone numbers:
0800 051 4177 for anybody in isolation and 0800 046 6734 for all NHS staff
Both lines are open 8-8

The next edition of the [Limpet](#) will be published on **Thu 28 Apr 2022**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 24 Apr 2022**, contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

SHEILA BURGER

Sheila – a great friend and neighbour. ‘Neighbour’ – at over two miles range’ you might ask. ‘Yes, ‘neighbour’. But that was over 50 years ago and not on Stronsay!

Shortly after Sue Fairbrother took over as Postmistress in Whitehall Village she told me that the couple who had moved into Helmsley – next door to the Post Office – would like to meet my wife Sue and I, as they were keen bird-watchers. I called in that evening and immediately experienced that ‘I’ve seen you before’ feeling while shaking hands with Mike. I was absolutely certain I had seen him somewhere - but where and when? I was ‘stumped’.

On my next visit to Helmsley it all fell into place: I discovered that Mike and Sheila had lived in my ‘home town’ of Gillingham in the early seventies – in a wonderful converted Thames/Medway Barge at Sharpe’s Green - just 300 or so yards from where Sue and I were living at the time - No.2 Fry’s Cottages (see photo). From our bedroom window we could see the mainmast of their ‘home’, peering up above the fruit orchard between us and the River Medway and just close enough to be called ‘neighbours’?

It did not take long for the ‘penny to drop’. I had seen Mike passing Fry’s Cottages on a few occasions, and we had exchanged the occasional nod and wave as he passed by.

Since moving to Stronsay, Mike and Sheila became good friends, and have contributed greatly to our ‘Stronsay Bird Report.’ Their love of gardening soon began to pay dividends and since their arrival, several uncommon species have been recorded at Helmsley, including Tree Creeper, Firecrest and Hawfinch – and perhaps best of all, the Blue Tit, which commuted between Helmsley and our own house ‘Castle’ throughout mid-winter of 2017-18. Sheila would always alert us to anything ‘unusual’.

A lovely lady, always cheerful and smiling. Sheila will be sadly missed by ourselves and our visitors.

John & Sue Holloway and family. ‘Castle’.



*Lower Twydall Lane, Gillingham. Looking north towards the river Medway.
Fry’s Cottages to the left.*

(another photograph on next page)



*Start of the Medway Barge Race in the seventies
Sheila and Mike entered several times – we will have seen them sailing by*

VAN AVAILABLE FOR CHARITY WORK

The Pomona Prefect logo peedie red van is available for charity work on the island if anyone needs a man and a van and wants to help the island reach the target. Saturdays service and cost for this is suggested as £10 per hour min donation for half hour units. All to the Stronsay Defib fund. No live animals, persons transported or dirty, sloppy stuff carried. Limited load and not a taxi service. This is a temporary thing to raise money and not a challenge to any services on the island. Call Don and Julie for all taxi work and Jim Holland for freight!

Also, if anyone needs their car karcher jet washed and vaccuming and then can do at Ellerslie as you pass for a donation to same Defib Fund. Cost is £10 per basic body wash and wheels rinsed and boot/inside vacced. Limited to cars. No monster trucks, panel vans, lorries or camper vans sorry.

This charity service will be hopefully available until there are enough defib machines in position with the people trained to cover us all 24/7. Availability is limited to Saturdays.

Any questions and to book give me a call.

Nicandro J. Porcelli, Ellerslie. Telephone or text to - 07732 276046

“DISTANCE AWARE” SCHEME

The Distance Aware scheme is designed to help those worried about mixing with others as we adapt to living with COVID-19. Find out how to get a Distance Aware badge or lanyard to show others you need more space:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-distance-aware-scheme>

ORCADES PRACTICE—STRONSAY BRANCH

In an emergency phone 01856 888000

LATEST NEWS

The doctors’ morning surgery has returned to being by appointment, while the afternoon will still be open for ‘on the day’ calls for urgent needs. Both will initially be phone calls, with an invitation to attend the surgery if an examination is needed. In an emergency you will of course be fitted in straight away.

If you require an appointment please phone 616321 as usual or email ORK.stronsay@nhs.scot. When you book your appointment Katrina will give you a time for your initial call; the doctor will call as close to that time as possible, and hopefully within about 30 minutes. This will hopefully make your day easier to plan. Please help us by bringing just one problem, so that we can help you by sticking as close as possible to time.

If you are travelling abroad and need evidence of your vaccination status, you can now use the link below to obtain it. Please be patient as records are updated, and please don't request your record if you don't need it! Thank you

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19status>.

REQUESTING REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

- No more paper requests to be handed in.
- Please phone 616321 or email ORK.stronsay@nhs.scot to order.
- Check one week later to see if they have arrived.
- Time slots will be given for collection.

UP-TO-DATE CONTACT DETAILS

Please can we ask you to contact the surgery (phone 616321 or email ORK.stronsay@nhs.scot) if you have any changes to make to the information we hold. It really helps us if we have your up to date information should we need to contact you.

For example

- *Name*
- *Address*
- *Telephone number (landline)*
- *Mobile number*
- *Email address*

Thank you, Dr Alison Lievesley, Dr Rosalind Fisher and Dr Johnathan Cobb .

COVID VACCINATIONS

We are nearing the end of vaccinating our over 18's population. If you have previously declined but would now like to have the vaccine, or have been giving the matter further consideration and decided you would now like to be vaccinated, can you please contact the surgery to let us know, so we can order vaccines in as appropriate. We are trying to achieve a high percentage of vaccinated residents so we can have a good level of immunity within our island community.

Stronsay Surgery

STRONSAY SURGERY—USE OF 616321

This is a reminder that the surgery telephone number is only manned Monday to Friday between the hours of 9-12 and 1.30-4.30pm. Between 12.00 and 1.30pm, when Katrina is at lunch, there is an answerphone service and calls won't be put through to Balfour so please avoid phoning at lunchtime. If it is an urgent matter, please dial 01856 888000 and ask them to page the Stronsay GP (or nurse if more appropriate). Outside these hours the calls are automatically transferred through to Balfour Hospital switchboard.

Could we kindly ask that if you need to speak with the Stronsay nurse, you call the surgery number on 01857 616321. Katrina will put you into the nurse telephone slot to be called when they are free. The nurse's new phone is such that we are unable to stop the message being left by the person from being overheard.

Thank you,
Stronsay Surgery

IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN D

From Geramount Surgery

You may know that vitamin D is important in supporting bone and muscle health. A small amount can be absorbed from our diet, but most of it comes from sunlight. Not so much in Scotland though – although 15-20 minutes of sunlight daily (equivalent of both arms from a t-shirt sleeve down) is enough to top up your stores, we only get the right 'type' of sunlight from April to September, mostly from 11am-3pm.

The Chief Medical Officer in Scotland advises that we should all consider taking a daily 10 microgram (400 units) vitamin D supplement, especially during the winter months (beginning of October to end of March inclusive): these can be bought over the counter in the chemist or a supermarket, or online - some places have 3 for 2 offers. Please do use them! (and don't forget to use sunblock once you've had your 20 minutes - sadly we can still burn even this far north!)

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

Last week a huge fund-raising effort took place on Stronsay. The Kirk, individual donations, the Pamper Hamper at Olivebank and the Block-Buster at the Fishmart together have made £2,231 so far.

This huge sum is far and away higher than my optimistic prediction. A massive thank you to crafters, helpers, raffle prize donors as well as Tara and John who cooked Ukrainian dishes and made the day such a pleasure. But none of this would have worked without the incredible generosity of everyone on Stronsay and further afield.

I will get the money away to the Disaster Emergency Committee so that all the great work to help those caught up in the disaster in Ukraine can continue.

Roger Neville-Smith, Sunnybank, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AF



WISHING WELL AT CLEAT

Any money from the wishing well at Cleat will go to the Ukrainian relief fund.
Come up, meet the fairies, throw in some money & make a wish!





Natural Wellbeing Project

For any of you that haven't heard yet, I have taken on a new role with Stronsay Development Trust to take forward the North Isles Natural Wellbeing Project. The primary goal of the project is to develop community initiatives utilising the geography of remote, rural areas to improve the mental wellbeing of their population.

As my husband supportively said, "that's a lot of words. But what are you *actually* doing? What is your job because none of that means anything to me?" Which means that's probably what most of you are also asking!

So, we're looking at how to improve community wellbeing by using nature, whether that's being outside or bringing the outdoors inside or using the geography. It's integrating the NHS five pillars of mental wellbeing:

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Learn new skills
- Give to others
- Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)

There will be a period of research and information gathering so look out for community events where you can contribute thoughts and ideas or ask questions, as well as online surveys and updates on the project.

This a collaborative project with Island Development Trusts, Island Wellbeing Project and partners to then develop programmes and activities. My work method on community projects and mental health in previous job roles is actually getting out and talking to people, listening to feedback and getting a feel for the different needs of the community. This isn't my personal project, it's for everyone so I want to hear your views and input.

I will be working flexibly and making links with partnerships across the North Isles but feel free to contact me. If my Wi-Fi manages to hold up, I am hoping to get updates out via vlogs on social media so you can actually see me working rather than the occasional Facebook update.

(continued on next page)

My background is in education, specifically Additional Support Needs support in mainstream school, emotional literacy support providing emotional and social support to children and most recently qualified as a Lego Therapy Practitioner. I am a qualified Trauma Risk Management Practitioner, working with Royal Marines and Royal Navy Veterans dealing with an array of life challenges and mental health issues, managing the risk factors and signposting to support services. Linked to this I completed Mental Health First Aid Training. I am also a qualified in holistic herbalism and crystal healing and am a member of the International Association of Therapists (don't worry, I won't be expecting you to join me under the full moon cleansing crystals and chanting).

I have a passion in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing across different sectors and hate being stuck indoors so I do have a genuine interest in making the most of this project for Stronsay.

Next event is at the Community Hall (New Hall) on Friday 1st April 7:30pm. The Community Association will also have the bar open at the same time.

Louise McQuaid

WhatsApp	07749215591 (please note this is a work number not personal)
Fb	@naturalwellbeingstronsay
Twitter	@LouiseMc_sdt
Website	http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/sdt
Email	sdtprojectofficer@gmail.com



Blether at the Bar

North Isles Natural Wellbeing Project

Friday 1st April

7:30pm Community Hall

A chance to find out about this new project, using nature around us to improve wellbeing and what it means for Stronsay.

Why and how does nature improve wellbeing? How can we use our environment meaningfully and with purpose? Can we bring nature indoors to improve accessibility and connect with others? Do you want to learn new skills?

Everyone welcome

Bar open

Contact Louise

Whatsapp (work) 07749215591

sdtprojectofficer@gmail.com



STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Ian Cooper Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

SCREEN MACHINE **A VISIT TO STRONSAY**

Plans are being made to bring the Screen Machine to Stronsay.

Regional Screen Scotland works to enable more people in more places to share great screen experiences. They do this by providing nationwide programmes of support and development, and operating the Screen Machine mobile cinema in the Highlands and Islands. Screen Machine is an 80-seat state-of-the-art mobile cinema, now in its 21st year of service.

It is anticipated the Screen Machine will arrive on Saturday 2 April and depart on Tuesday 5 April 2022, allowing approximately five screenings across the 2nd to 4th April.

Details of the films to be screened are not yet known but will be announced in due course.

Get the popcorn ready and be prepared to be entertained.

Colin McAlpine
Stronsay Island Link Officer
9 February 2022

ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE LIMPET

The editor is always pleased to receive articles for publication in the Limpet, the format isn't all that important, they can even be hand-written. However, if you are considering submitting an article for publication, please ensure that it has some relevance to Stronsay in particular or to Orkney in general.

WANTED

The Screen Machine is making a much welcome return visit to Stronsay.

VOLUNTEER USHERS are required to support the Screen Machine during its visit and at the moment the schedule looks like this:

Saturday 2 April - 2.30pm (tbc), 5.30 & 8.30pm

Sunday 3 April - 2.30pm, 5.30 & 8.30pm

Monday 4 April - 2.30pm (tbc), 5.30 & 8.30pm

One usher per screening is required. Here's what ushering involves -

- Be present at the Screen Machine 30 minutes before the start of each screening.
- Ensure that all audience members entering the cinema have a valid ticket and meet the appropriate age requirements for that screening unless instructed otherwise by the driver/operator/projectionist Operator
- Be present in the auditorium for the entire duration of all film screenings.
- Ensure that audience members behave in a responsible manner and do not disturb other cinemagoers. Any persistent misbehaviour or dangerous/unlawful activity, any incidents of actual assault, any incidents involving smoke/fire, any incidents of mechanical or structural failure must be reported to the Operator immediately.
- Ensure that all cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and pipes are extinguished prior to entry.
- Ensure that alcoholic beverages are not consumed in the auditorium.
- Sit in an area close to the main entry/exit to assist patrons with the door and to ensure its closure after opening.
- Remain in the auditorium until all patrons have left at the end of the screening.
- Assist the Operator to bag litter after each screening.
- Follow emergency procedures as directed by the Operator, typically directing the audience to both emergency exits during any emergency situation/evacuation. However, the Operator will take all final decisions in the event of an emergency.
- Follow Health and Safety guidance

If you are interested in this rare opportunity, please contact Colin McAlpine for further details, t: 616446 e: stronsaycc@gmail.com

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

Signs of Spring right across the island, the most amazing ‘sighting’ so far being the record numbers of Shelduck on the Bu Loch – peaking at 70 plus, on 26th March. 10 would have been a very high number just a few years ago.

A few Whooper Swans are lingering – 5 on the Blan Loch in late March – and Curlew have regained their former nesting areas around the pastureland, the males giving away their presence with the aerial ‘bubbling’ song, and ‘parachuting’ display into the short grass.

Both Iceland and Glaucous Gull were seen in early March (see photo of latter) and 3 or 4 Pied Wagtails arrived on cue in mid-month, Birds of prey have been seen less frequently, the majority having left for their breeding territories elsewhere.

A Slavonian Grebe was seen by David Askew in Lower Whitehall on 15th and there were a few migrating Redwings and Fieldfares mid-month. Dave and Carwyn saw a Chiffchaff in the garden at Coweshouse – also on 15th – when there was a large flock of well over 100 Golden Plover in the nearby fields below Fingeo. Meadow Pipits and Skylarks were both taking up territory in the latter half of the month.

What appeared to be a totally unsuitable, hanging, propriety ‘bird-feeder’ was hung on the branches outside the kitchen window here at Castle towards the end of the month and in quick succession over the next few days we saw male Siskin, male Greenfinch, and then male Goldfinch tucking into the seeds. All very uncommon species here (none breed on Stronsay). An interesting sighting, as the local sparrows could not seem to fathom out how to reach the seeds in the clear plastic tube. It seemed likely that the birds which quickly found the ‘way in’ had encountered that type of feeder before – perhaps somewhere else in the UK.

Thanks for all the calls. John & Sue.

PS The House Sparrows are still ‘stumped’ by the ‘feeder’ (but plenty of seed on the ground).



2nd year Glaucous Gull by the Blan Lock – a favourite bathing area for ‘big gull’ species.

Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

Experienced – Established – Effective – Engaged – Enthusiastic

See my new on-line presence at clackson.info

As if the world's woes weren't bad enough already with the Covid-19 Pandemic (cases in Scotland soaring, and Orkney's the worst!), Vladimir Putin decides to launch another global crisis with his invasion of Ukraine. After OIC lobbying, in the nick of time, on 28th February, the UK Government denied access to UK ports for Russian vessels, so the Sovcomflot tanker *NS Champion*, due to dock at Flotta on 1st March, had to turn back. At our last General Meeting of this Council, we agreed to support Ukrainian refugees with resettlement to Orkney. We also agreed to allow the Cathedral to be lit in the Ukrainian colours (Azure and Or) for three nights, but I urged that we must make it clear to Russians resident in Orkney, that this is not an expression being made against them, as they are no more responsible than any of us for what the Russian leader is doing.

On the subject of leaders, at the same General Meeting, my notice of motion to reduce the initial term of the Council Leader from 5 years to 2 (with eligibility for re-election) was defeated 14 votes to 5 (with the current Council Leader abstaining). I believe this was a very unwise decision, as I think it is risky to choose a Leader to serve for such an extended period, particularly when new councillors, elected for the first time, are unlikely to be very familiar with the candidates standing for the position and will find it hard to judge their potential. My seconder, Cllr Steve Sankey, made some very pertinent comments about accountability and said that "a 'rain-check' at 2 years on the Leader, as all other senior councillors have to go through, is essential." Like me, Steve advocates that all councillors should be subject to a "skills audit" so that we all know where the skills and experience lie before we are called upon to select from among us the senior councillors at the Statutory General Meeting following the election. My other supporters were Cllr Tierney, Cllr Scott and former Convenor Cllr Dr Heddle.

At a Special Policy & Resources Committee meeting, we set this year's budget and council tax levels. By drawing £8,727,900 from our Strategic Reserve Fund, we were able to keep the rise in council tax to a below-inflation 3%. Moreover, the Scottish Government will be giving households living in Band A to Band D properties a £150 council tax rebate, so that should help keep the increase affordable for most people. Furthermore, if you need a second dwelling in order to work on the Mainland (or other Orkney island) because daily commuting is not possible, don't forget to apply for the discount I succeeded in getting brought in from April 2019 (see the February 2019 issue of my Letter from School Place).

At the normal Policy & Resources Committee meeting, when our Corporate Risk Register was discussed, I brought up once again the difficulty we would face in the North Isles should a cruise liner get into trouble here and have to be evacuated. This is not a hypothetical risk; such an event happened on 26th May 1861, when *Johannes*, a ship carrying emigrants from Bremerhaven to Baltimore, ran aground between Newark and Tresness, temporarily swelling Sanday's population by 143, at a time when Sanday's population was four times what it is today. How would the current population of around 500 folk cope with housing a cruise liner's passengers and crew numbering over 4000? And what about North Ronaldsay?

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Other meetings I have attended this month include: confidential meetings of members and the Chief Executive; various seminars; behind-the-scenes meetings on our island swimming pools; a meeting of the Orkney College Management Council; an Orkney Health & Care briefing session; and a meeting of the Board Orkney Ferries Ltd.

I attended (by “Teams”) the meeting of the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council, but since the “Notice of Election” was published on 14th March, marking the start of the “Pre-election Period” (or “Purdah”), we are not permitted to attend community council meetings in the capacity of councillors, therefore I regret I have not been able to attend others.

I was delighted to be invited to say something at the Sanday Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) ceremony in appreciation of Rosemary and Martyn Newton (stalwarts of the Sanday Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Group for approaching 30 years) and to add to the tributes and video messages from former Award recipients, from Helen Anderson (Director of DofE Scotland), Liam McArthur MSP, and Walter Gorman (OIC Community Learning and Development Officer). Rosemary gave out the Bronze Awards to the latest batch of young people to achieve them. It is said “it takes a village to raise a child”, and I made the observation that on Sanday it takes an island to do a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, for not only do the young people give up their time to do it, but Rosemary has, over the years, tenaciously recruited adult mentors from our community, who deserve our appreciation too. The demanding role of running the DofE Group has been taken over by Helen Porter, Lorna McPhail and Ruth Hansard. Doing a DofE Award has such a positive impact on the lives of the young people doing it, that I would encourage communities on other islands to follow Sanday’s example and to set-up their own open award groups.

Keep well and carry on,



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson,
West Manse, Sanday



stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

You can download *Letter from School Place* from lfsp.pbworks.com and now also from clackson.info

Records of a Bygone Age The wreck of the 'Comely Bank'

While attempting to enter Papa Sound during a period of prolonged south easterly gales in February 1923, the Yarmouth registered steam drifter Comely Bank struck a reef on the north east side of Papa Stronsay and broke her propeller. She then drifted on to another shoal in that same area, named the Ebenezer Reef (or Ebenezer Skerry), and went hard aground in a very dangerous situation. The sounding of the ship's steam whistle and the burning of flares very quickly attracted the attention of the Papa Stronsay residents to her situation and a plea for help was relayed to Stronsay. With no lifeboat on Stronsay at the time, the Stromness lifeboat was called to the scene but was subsequently recalled and tasked to another emergency when off St Mary's in Holm. Meanwhile the drifter Glen Albyn, which had been moored at Stronsay pier, got up steam and headed out to try to offer assistance. During a brief lull in the storm she was able to approach within hailing distance of the Comely Bank but could do nothing to help as heavy seas were breaking all over and around the stricken vessel. The Glen Albyn returned to Stronsay where the skipper reported that the crew's lives were in danger and they were requiring immediate rescue by any means possible. This quickly led to several local boats and drifters heading out to wait on the lee side of Papa Stronsay with ropes and lifebelts hoping for a break in the weather. A large rowing boat was also landed on Papa Stronsay and a team of local volunteers pulled and carried this boat right across the island to the nearest point of land to the stricken vessel from where they hoped to be able to carry out a rescue.



This is a painting of the 'Willow Bank', of similar build to the Comely Bank and of a similar era. Many of the boats built in the Geddes shipyard in Portgordon for the William Geddes company of Aberdeen carried the 'Bank' name.

On the arrival of the rescue party, a buoy with a line attached was set adrift from the Comely Bank to try to establish direct contact with the rescuers but, due to tidal conditions and heavy breakers, failed to reach shore. At low water, local man David Miller, at great risk to his own safety, made a tremendous effort to struggle through the breaking waves and managed to retrieve the buoy and line from the Comely Bank, thus establishing a link with the vessel.

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An attempt was then made to launch the boat which had been taken across Papa Stronsay but this was twice capsized while trying to leave the shore, leaving no alternative but to abandon the attempt for a time. As conditions moderated slightly, the whole crew were successfully rescued although it isn't quite clear how this was carried out. A newspaper report at the time indicated that the crew may have been rescued by means of rocket apparatus but that would appear unlikely and it would seem probable that they were eventually got off by small boat.

The crew, all from the Moray fishing village of Portknockie, were taken to the farm house on Papa Stronsay and cared for there by Mr and Mrs Scott, the tenants of the island at that time, until they could make their way across to Stronsay and onward to their homes in Portknockie..

A report at the time gave high praise to those who had risked their lives to carry out this rescue and called for public recognition of their gallantry. The report also called on the local Lifeboat Committee to take steps to ensure that a lifeboat should be again placed on call at the Stronsay Station. It seems that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at that time was indeed willing to place a boat on station if a crew could be guaranteed but it was to be over thirty years before this was to materialise.

These events all took place on 8th February 1923 and the Comely Bank was declared a total wreck at the time but it appears that wind and tide carried her to a more favourable and less exposed position on the Papa Stronsay shore. With a spell of reasonably good weather in the following weeks, she sustained little more damage and a team from P. W. Stanger of the Ness Boat Building Yard in Stromness were able, with some difficulty, to carry out a salvage operation which enabled her to be refloated. After then being towed into Whitehall harbour, her propeller was replaced and running repairs made to her hull. Then, on 19th March that same year, she made the journey to Stromness under her own steam, to be put on the slip there for repair, following which she successfully resumed her vocation as a fishing boat.



A great number of steam drifters were requisitioned by the Admiralty to be engaged with handling the boom nets designed to stop enemy submarines entering the harbour.

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Thanks to Google and some kind gentlemen on the ‘Yarmouth and Lowestoft Steam Drifters’ Facebook page, I discovered some more information about the eventful life of the Comely Bank which may be of interest. 90’ long and of wooden construction, she was built in 1914 by William Geddes of Portgordon for Geddes and Company of Aberdeen and was originally registered in Aberdeen as the A31. She was launched in June 1914 and then, after only a few months engaged in fishing, she was requisitioned by the Admiralty, fitted with a six pounder gun and put into use as a submarine net vessel (could this have been in Scapa Flow?) throughout WW1. When she was decommissioned in 1919, she was bought by Bloomfields Ltd, who owned a small fleet of boats fishing out of Yarmouth, was registered as YH202 and returned to the trade for which she was built.

With the onset of WW2 and the airborne threat to the country from Hitler’s forces, in December 1939 the Comely Bank was again requisitioned by the Admiralty, this time to act as a Barrage Balloon ship based at Sheerness on the Thames Estuary. The RAF made several short promotional films at the time, some of which featured the Comely Bank in this role, some footage of which can be found by following the link shown below:

<https://film.iwmcollections.org.uk/record/759>

The Comely Bank returned to fishing after the end of the war but the era of the steam drifters was drawing to a close and she was eventually sent to the breaker’s yard in 1949.

Ian Cooper
March 2022

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the back page of every edition of the Limpet there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

The Stronsay Strawplaiters

by Fiona Grahame

Throughout the first half of the 19th Century, the strawplaiting industry employed thousands of women in Orkney. The making of straw plait into bonnets was introduced into Orkney at the start of the 19th century. In ‘The New History of Orkney’, William P.L. Thomson, states that it was established in 1804 by a London bonnet maker by the name of Larking: “ and he was soon followed by Glasgow and Greenock firms operating through local agents.”

An illustration from 1838 of fashionable straw bonnets.



The plaited straw was sewn into bonnets and from there the products went to the manufacturers in Stromness and Kirkwall. The bonnets were then shipped southward to Liverpool and Manchester. Both the plaiting of the straw and the making of the bonnets was skilled work and Orkney could supply low paid workers for the industry.

The Stronsay census for 1841 and 1851 records 17 and 11 women, respectively, engaged in the industry. All of the women are plaiting straw with the exception of Mary Chalmers, Dirdal, Lady Kirk, who is sewing the plaited straw into bonnets.

Mary Chalmers was born in 1816, her father, Peter, was an agricultural labourer and fisherman. Those were the most common occupations for men in Stronsay in this period. Fishing was an extremely dangerous occupation. Mary married Peter Peace, a fisherman in 1842. By the 1861 census, Mary is a widow, living with her daughter, Peterina, who is the school mistress at the New School. Mary is earning an income by sewing shirts

For the women who plaited the straw, many struggled to earn a living when the industry in Orkney collapsed in the second half of the century. Long hanks of plaited straw could be imported cheaply into England from China and placed on machines. There was no need now for the skills of the women. Many were able to find some employment as domestic servants, agricultural labourers and as knitters of stockings.

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Most of the women were either single or widows. Sisters Mary and Barbara Elphinstone who lived at Bombasty, Lady Kirk, were paupers. The Rev John Simpson records in the 1845 Statistical Account for the island:

“They receive from 1s. to 15s. during the year . The only fund for relief of the poor is that which is procured by weekly collections in the parish churches on Sabbath, with the exception of a donation of £2. 2s. per annum from Mr Balfour of Trenaby for the poor of Stronsay.”

Strawplaiter Margaret Sinclair of Midgarth, St Peters had married a carpenter. She was widowed in May 1841 when James died at the age of 29. Margaret lived till 1890 but had to rely on living for a few years with her daughter, Jemima, married to farmer, John Gorie. She is buried in St Peters graveyard.

Barbara Scott who lived with her brother, Robert, and mother at Wardhill, St Peters, was to remain single. Robert is a carpenter, a trade at which he excelled. Barbara is recorded in every census until her death in 1891 as single. There is, however, an inscription on a gravestone in Bay Cemetery which says the following:

“In memory of JAMES WATERS, Boston, Mass. USA who died 26-11-1912 aged 72 years, his mother BARBARA SCOTT, Wardhill who died 4-5-1891 aged 74 years, his grandmother MARY SHEARER who died 22-2-1854, MARGARET MEIL SCOTT who died 14-8-1935 aged 65, JOHN WILSON SCOTT, Wardhill who died 16-2-1939 aged 70 years.

The 1851 census records James Walters, age 9, living with the family at Wardhill. Is this the same James remembered on the inscription ‘Waters’ or ‘Walters’?

The only surviving example of this once booming industry in Orkney is in a glass case on the ground floor of Stromness Museum. It was made by Mrs J Rendall, wife of one of the Stromness manufacturers and the skill of the work was rewarded with a medal from the Great Exhibition held at Crystal Palace in 1851.



(concluded on next page)

I have been researching the history of the straw bonnet making industry in Orkney for a year. There are very few records. I suggest this is because, although this was an important manufacture for the islands, it was women's work. The skill of the women workers in plaiting and sewing was of the highest quality but when the industry became mechanised and centralised in the south of England, it collapsed almost overnight in Orkney. If any of the readers of the Stronsay Limpet can help add to the information I have collected please email me Fiona Grahame: fionamgrahame@gmail.com If anyone would like a list of all those women in Stronsay that I have collected data on please contact me. It is a fascinating untold story of women's work.

UK POSTAL RATES

Increase 4 April 2022– First Class – up from 85p to 95p!!

Second Class – Up from 66p to 68p

Taken together this is about 7 – 8% which is the inflation projection to the end of 2020. This is far more than any state pension increase and above benefit rises.

HEATING COSTS

Westray Development Trust is making available £250 per householder application towards the massive increase in heating costs. Stronsay DT used to make annual grants between £50 - £150 when there was less curtailment of electricity from the wind turbine. I suggest that the advisory groups be invited here to discuss the options now open to tenants and private owners to sustain their heating, health and wealth!

CENSUS

You have until 1st May to complete the 2022 Census. In Scotland this was delayed for a year but they are normally taken every 10 years. The census data is held private for 100 years, so the early records are available from 1801 – 1921. Family historians usually start with 1841. The 1881 data is available free online - due to massive voluntary commitment organized by the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons). I have 24CDs which contain the whole UK data indexed which the Mormons produced in 1999. The other dates you can access through approved suppliers. I note that the 2022 Census did not ask for the exact place of birth – only a country – this is of little use to future family researchers.

LMB

lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk



EXPERIENCED

I have been involved in Orkney local politics for nearly 19 years. Nine years as a community councillor and almost a decade representing the North Isles Ward at Orkney Islands Council. I have served on a diversity of OIC committees, including: Policy & Resources; Education, Leisure & Housing (for a period as vice-chair); Orkney Health & Care; and Monitoring & Audit. I have also sat on the Licensing Board; the Board of Orkney Ferries; and the Orkney College Management Council. I have represented Orkney Islands Council at the University of the Highlands & Islands Foundation; the Dounreay Stakeholder Group; the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances; and the Highlands & Islands Science Skills Academy.

ESTABLISHED

After 10 years as an Orkney Islands councillor, I know the ropes, I know the procedures, I am well-practised in scrutinising, questioning, challenging, tabling amendments, and lodging notices of motion. I've established good working relationships with council officers. In external organisations I've represented OIC on, I have gained the respect of my counterparts for sticking up for Orkney and forged many enduring and useful contacts.

EFFECTIVE

I tirelessly promoted the priorities I listed in my 2017 manifesto, contributing to the outcome that OIC is now heading towards generating more of its own income, we have cheaper ferry fares, island airfield facilities are being upgraded, "empowering communities" has been rolled out to more communities, and "isles-proofing" is now a standard requirement of OIC equality impact assessments on matters concerning the isles.

ENGAGED



Cllr Clackson meets parents demonstrating outside the Council Offices in support of his motion to reverse the budget cut

- Three significant achievements off my own bat:
- Reversing a council budget cut of £65,000 affecting additional support for learning;
 - Obtaining a council tax discount of 50% on second dwellings if needed by islanders in order to be able to work on the Mainland and unable to commute daily;
 - Enshrining into OIC policy that 20mph zones will be installed around all 'isles' schools by the end of 2023.

ENTHUSIASTIC

If these are attributes you value in your councillor,

RE-ELECT STEPHEN CLACKSON

for the North Isles Ward



CLACKSON Stephen
West Manse, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BN
Independent

Promoted by Dr Stephen Clackson, West Manse, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BN



ENGAGED

I engage with the communities I serve. I attend community council meetings, parent council meetings, and AGMs of island development trusts. I've supported and participated in many community events in the isles, and given speeches at some of them. Before the Pandemic struck (and OIC's meetings and other meetings became "virtual"), I was a regular traveller on the ferries, which gave me further opportunities to engage with ward constituents. I have even held impromptu surgeries over breakfast at my B&B accommodation in Kirkwall. And, since first elected, I have consistently kept the folk of the North Isles Ward informed of what I am doing on their behalf through my monthly **Letter from School Place**, which last year passed its hundredth issue!

ENTHUSIASTIC

As an island resident myself, I want our island communities to thrive, and I work hard to promote their needs at OIC. I enjoy helping resolve the problems of ward constituents in their interactions with Orkney Islands Council, and I find this one of the most rewarding parts of being a councillor. I am standing again, because I am keen to continue the work I've started, and eager to carry on fighting for the wellbeing of the folk of the North Isles.

MY PRIORITIES

Finance: This underlies everything Orkney Islands Council is able to do. The future of central government funding of local authorities looks bleak. If we are even to maintain our current level of services, OIC is going to have to develop enterprises to generate much more of its own income. I will continue to support using our reserves to establish such enterprises, especially appropriate green projects, but at the same time I will fight to ensure we do not “industrialise” our landscape and undermine the very things that make Orkney special.



Orkney desperately needs new ferries

Transport: The publication of the *Outer North Isles Outline Business Case, Phase 2 – Final Report*, commissioned by OIC, unequivocally demonstrates that, according to the Scottish Government’s own *Routes & Services Methodology*, we are under-provisioned. I will continue supporting OIC’s demand for new ferries funded by the Scottish Government, but, if necessary, I am willing for OIC to draw from its own reserves to help facilitate this. I will be pushing for proper integration of all of Orkney’s public transport services, and I shall be encouraging the use of eco-friendly vehicles and vessels.

Health and housing: OIC needs to be more isles-focused in its approach to both these areas, two areas where there is scope for synergy in the provision of care to our most vulnerable community members. Also, housing needs surveys have to be better tailored to island aspirations.

Education: I shall strive to safeguard our North Isles schools and ensure excellent education is provided. I’d like to explore ways to make KGS events easier for isles’ parents to attend. I will push to make Orkney College courses at all levels more accessible to isles’ residents.

Isles’ recreational facilities: The deterioration of our island swimming pools is deplorable. Having already started tackling this problem, I’ll be working hard to get our pools properly refurbished. The folk of the North Isles deserve their recreational facilities, from playgrounds to healthy living centres, to be of a high standard.

Employment: We all know that, for the long-term sustainability of our communities, there needs to be sufficient sustainable employment in the isles. OIC is the largest employer in Orkney, and now that the Pandemic has highlighted the practicality of working remotely from home, I shall be pressing harder for OIC to “decentralise” clerical posts away from the Council Offices and out into the isles.

Digital connectivity: For better or worse, we are all becoming ever more digitally dependant. So many of our aspirations (see the paragraph on Employment, above) depend on good digital connectivity. I shall be playing my part at OIC to get the Scottish Government to honour the commitment it made in its R100 programme (Reaching 100%) to provide access to superfast broadband of at least 30 megabits per second to every home and business in Scotland—and that should include Orkney!

Fuel poverty: It is a supreme irony that, while Orkney is a net exporter of green energy to the rest of the UK, we pay the most per kWh for our electricity. I support OIC’s lobbying of the UK Government to end the legacy power distribution charges that consumers in Orkney are saddled with. Indeed, I would advocate a low-cost “Orkney Tariff”, to make Orkney-generated renewable energy affordable for everyone living here.



Dr Stephen Clackson is the third councillor to reside at Sanday’s West Manse. His councillor predecessors were (1890-1899) the Reverend Matthew Armour, “True friend of the crofters”, and (1964-1978) Mrs Christine Muir, “Champion of the North Isles”. These are formidable forbears he constantly strives to live up to!

I PROMISE TO CONTINUE ...

to stay in touch with the issues, concerns, and aspirations of the folk of the North Isles Ward, through my attendance at community council meetings, parent council meetings, community events, being available for a chat when on the ferry and on your island, and dealing with the casework of individual ward constituents and community groups—not to mention that I actually live in the North Isles;

to report back to ward constituents via my monthly **Letter from School Place** (now also available to view and download at clackson.info) and to invite your comments on what I am doing on your behalf;

to stick up for the North Isles at Orkney Islands Council—all of them: Aukerry, Eday, Egilsay, Gairsay, North Ronaldsay, Papa Stronsay, Papa Westray, Rousay, Sanday, Shapinsay, Stronsay, Westray and Wyre;

to defend Orkney’s interests in the wider world, in particular in its engagement with regional bodies (such as the University of the Highlands & Islands), the Scottish Government, and the United Kingdom Government.

If this is what you want your councillor to be doing for you,

VOTE 1 for STEPHEN CLACKSON



CLACKSON Stephen
West Manse, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BN
Independent

Campaign website: clackson.info
Campaign e-mail: clackson4northisles@gmail.com

YOUR VOICE, YOUR ISLES.

SEBASTIAN HADFIELD- HYDE
FOR COUNCILLOR

"I am not here with big plans to change Orkney. I want to help develop what Orkney already has to offer"

Having set up many companies across a spectrum of industries and been a director of numerous others, both in the UK and Southeast Asia, I have a proven track record in development of commerce. I have recently founded Kimbland Distillery on Sanday, with the aim of creating jobs and adding another quality product to Orkney's long heritage of quality products. From 2010- 2018 I was based in Singapore, Malaysia, and Shanghai. I have a very hands-on approach and I'm willing to fill any role that is required, no matter how big or small the task maybe. I am tenacious and I try to support the real issues.



Current Issues to be addressed:

1. The need for a new abattoir (be it mobile or static).

Orkney has a global reputation for excellence in all of its produce, however, Orkney meat has suffered drastically since the council's closure of the abattoir back in 2018. Now the majority of livestock is sold live, or the few who do send to slaughter have to send to the Shetlands, Dingwall or Aberdeen. Yes I am aware that there were reasons for it's closure, although at the time we were promised a solution was being looked into..... 4 years on and still no concrete solution!

2. The Reopening of the Bowling Alley (currently used by the council for storage!).

It is a disgrace that a facility as beneficial to the islands as a bowling alley should be left to gather dust since 2007, there are many excuses for its closure but I am yet to find any legitimate reason for an entertainment complex to be left and used as storage by the council. I would push for the building to be put up for lease for the use it was built for.

3. Encouraging younger generations to come back to the North Isles.

A major issue with all of the North Isles is the age demographic, once children have left school or been to university it is very hard to encourage them to return or even attract younger incomers to settle, I would propose that the council pay more attention, guidance, and funding to young budding entrepreneurs and encourage more female dominated industries to the North Isles.

4. Tourism

Tourism is an issue that effects the whole of Orkney. Cruiseliners mostly benefit Kirwall, for the remainder of tourists getting to Orkney is not easy on both time or money. Our airport at Kirkwall is key, HIAL and LoganAir should be persuaded to increase it's direct flight destinations. There should also be a regular inter-island ferry linking all of the North Isles together without the need to go to Mainland just to go back out to a neighbouring island. With the influx of people moving to the islands a new feasible study should be carried out to see if it would be financially viable.

5. Addressing the multiple issues with the North Islands ferries

North Ronaldsay, Sanday, Stronsay and Eday. I hear you!

6. Energy Prices

For nearly a decade Orkney has produced over 100% of its energy requirements, yet we are still paying astronomical prices for electricity. The council should be pressuring energy companies, with energy production in Orkney, to reduce the cost of electricity to Orkney households.

Promoted by Oliver Tobias-Gibbins on behalf of Sebastian Hadfield-Hyde both of Kimbland Distillery, Lettan, Sanday, Orkney

Vote **Melissa Thomson** for the North Isles

I have been thinking long and hard about standing as Councillor for the North Isles. I have spoken to so many folks across the isles who have all been encouraging me to stand as they think I would be good at it and the kind of person that they want to represent them in Schoolplace.

I have spent days trying to write a great long essay about what I have achieved and what promises I would make to fix everything in the Council, but I am going to be honest and say that I am struggling as it doesn't feel right. I am not the kind of person who brags about how good they are and what they have accomplished. That is just not me. I am certainly not shy, I am a practical person, have been known to be blunt and ask the awkward questions, tend to say it as I see it and certainly not frightened to stand up and fight for what is right.

I probably should take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Melissa Thomson, I am in my mid 40's. I live on Eday, wife to Hamish, mum to Robbie (21) and Jack (15). We farm at Heathercow and have the creel boat 'Osprey'. I went to the Grammar School, stayed in the hostel, and came back to Eday and really got stuck into island life. I work with the development trust, am part time postie and am one of the island first responders.

I am aware that all of the islands have unique strengths and challenges and any Councillor elected to represent us needs to realise that it is critical that all of the islands are fairly represented. It is also not fair that some islands get played off against others. It needs to be fair and equal for all.

I am realistic about what a single Councillor can achieve within the Council chamber which is why it is vital that the three elected North Isles Councillors work well together, as they certainly have their work cut out reminding the other 18 Elected Councillors that Orkney does not stop at the end of Tingwall and Kirkwall piers. Councillors need to be approachable and if elected I would be that and represent each and every one of the islands and do my absolute best to listen to folk's opinions and take their ideas forward.

I have spoken to other candidates across Orkney about canvassing and knocking on everyone's doors. I personally think there is still too much covid rattling through the isles and I have decided that I will not be 'chappin' on doors, although I am hoping to get round all of the Isles if anyone does want a face-to-face meeting, please give me a shout. I am also available if anyone would prefer to speak on the phone.

I have put some of my thoughts on the following page but there are so many subjects such as education, finance, healthcare, housing, broadband & mobile connectivity, decentralising OIC jobs to the isles, rising fuel costs coupled with fuel poverty, infrastructure, and not forgetting the lifeline transport services that I would like to discuss and get your thoughts on so please get in touch.

Yours,

Melissa



Contact details:-

Melissa Thomson, Cott, Eday, Orkney, KW172AB

01857 622322

Mel.for.North.Isles@gmail.com

Promoted by Melissa-Louise Thomson, Cott, Eday, Orkney, KW172AB

There are exciting times ahead with all the developments that we hear about, but we must not forget to support what we have here right now. We urgently need to support our farmers and crofters. With farm costs such as fertiliser and fuel costs going through the roof, the loss of the local abattoir and the big push to eat plant-based foods produced on the other side of the world, the farming section certainly has a challenging time ahead. How are our young folk ever going to get a start on the farming ladder? One question that I am needing to get answered is why is Orkney Islands Council not insisting that Orkney produce is used in all its establishments? Surely supporting local should be a priority? Fish farming is creating a lot of jobs but the piers in the isles that are so vital for servicing the various sites are in such poor state. This is also affecting the local fishing fleet. Some isles would like to see marina facilities installed.

Healthcare is such a huge issue with many Islands not being able to look after their elderly leaving no choice but move to the Mainland for care. There is something so wrong about that and it is heart-breaking that people cannot stay where they want to. Also, relying on volunteers to provide ambulance cover is not sustainable.

One of my passions is community development and I have been involved in this for many years. I am involved with the development trust here on Eday and meet fortnightly with representatives from the development trusts from all of the isles in the North Isles ward. I hear the struggles that each of the Islands are having and yes, some of the issues are laying at the council's door which maybe if elected I could help with? I must also mention the incredible successes that the island development trusts have achieved. The trusts boards are made up from elected members of the community and between them are employing quite a lot of people across the isles. The trusts have access to outside funding, all extensively consulted with their residents, they have development plans and, in all honesty, probably know their islands better than the council does. I am very glad to see that the council has now noticed this and are starting to acknowledge and financially support just what the trusts can do in the isles. I certainly welcome the budget that the Council has recently agreed to help the trusts with increasing the housing stock in the isles.

I also think the work of the community councils goes unnoticed. They work away in the background but are achieving so much. They, like the development trusts are also elected from the local residents. They are there to represent your views and ensure that the council are aware of them. I see the role of an Elected Councillor is to support and take forward the ideas from each community.

Transport & Infrastructure. I do remember the times of the Orcadia and the Islander going round the isles and how the arrival of the ro-ro to some of the islands changed them. Everything then had to go through Kirkwall and I believe that some of the interaction between the isles was lost. I, along with many of you have been involved in the countless meetings and consultations about better transport for the isles. Yes, it is desperately needed, and I know that the Council are working hard to get the funding secured for the replacement ferries, improvements to the piers and the third plane but I think as islanders we should be given a timeline as to when we can expect to see things happening. I have a good understanding of the transport needs of the inner and outer islands and one size certainly does not fit all.

Education is so important, and I know that all of the Isles schools struggle at some point, whether it be recruitment, budget cuts, working with old buildings or problems with recreational facilities.

Our island resilience has certainly been tested this last couple of years and it has been incredible to hear of some of the initiatives that appeared to help get us through. It did show just how precarious things can be. Our lifeline services from the hauliers, our local shops, our emergency services etc, all need support.

Please consider voting Mellissa Thomson

Promoted by Mellissa-Louise Thomson, Cott, Eday, Orkney, KW172AB

EASTER JOY

The ancient greyness shifted
Suddenly and thinned
Like mist upon the moors
Before a wind.
An old, old prophet lifted
A shining face and said :
“He will be coming soon.
The Son of God is dead;
He died this afternoon.”

A murmurous excitement
Stirred all souls.
They wondered if they dreamed -
Save one old man who seemed
Not even to have heard.
And Moses standing,
Hushed them all to ask
If any had a welcome song prepared.
If not, would David take the task?

And if they cared
Could not the three young children
Sing the Benedicite,
The canticle of praise they made
When God kept them from perishing
In the fiery blaze?
A breath of spring surprised them,
Stilling Moses' words.

No one could speak, remembering
The first fresh flowers,
The little singing birds.
Still others thought of fields new ploughed,
Or apple trees all blossom-boughed.
Or some, the way a dried bed fills with water,
Laughing down green hills.

The fisherfolk dreamed of the foam
On bright blue seas.
The one old man who had not stirred
Remembered home.
And there He was
Splendid as the morning sun and fair
As only God is fair.

And they, confused with joy,
Knelt to adore
Seeing that he wore
Five crimson stars
He never had before.
No canticle at all was sung.
None toned a psalm, or raised a greeting song.

A silent man alone
Of all that throng
Found tongue - not any other.
Close to His heart
When the embrace was done,
Old Joseph said, “How is Your Mother,
How is Your Mother, Son?”

Sister Mary Ada

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for the good wishes, and a huge 'thank you' to the Stronsay Fire Brigade crew for the presentation. The axe is beautiful, and the badges with the different names of the brigades I've served under is the icing on the cake! It's certainly something I will treasure. Thanks to the crew and their partners too for such a great 'do' and a send off to remember.

Ian Cooper

THANK YOU

Shirley wishes to thanks everyone who sent cards & good wishes on the occasion of her 60th birthday & her retirement. The thoughts were very much appreciated.

Thank you.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who took part in Olivebank's "Pamper Hamper" which raised £212 for the [DEC Ukraine appeal](#). The winner was Dianne Elliot, daughter of Carol Stevenson. Although Dianne lives in Kirkwall the hamper won't be leaving Stronsay as Dianne plans spend Easter on Stronsay and will collect the hamper in person.

THANK YOU

Stronsay 1st responders would like to say a huge thank you to Cooke Aquaculture for their donation of £1000 towards the cost of repairing the aerial at the community centre. This enables our radios to work, so that we can be contacted at any time. We are really grateful.

We need to raise some more so the front porch money is going to the 1st responders until the bill is covered.

Thanks for everyone's support.

Andy and Viv

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

CHIROPODIST?

I am looking into getting a chiropodist out to Stronsay. Could you let me know if you would be interested by phoning me on 616 375.

Thanks. Yvonne

THANK YOU

The editor of the Limpet sends thanks to everyone who sent congratulatory messages on the occasion of the Limpet's 200th edition.

HELLO TO STRONSAY!

I'm looking for the possibility to either buy a traditional stone built bungalow - with or without outbuildings

OR

To rent somewhere to live until a property becomes available. I'm not too picky a caravan, small house, room (with access to kitchen and bathroom) or may even consider a boot! Hey joke, unfortunately wouldn't fit into a boot! Maybe long or short term, would be grateful if someone on the great island of Stronsay could please possibly help!

Look forward to hearing from anyone, who may have any of the above - (or may know someone who might).

Contact Paul on mobile 07802 426992 or email pauwat1@gmail.com.

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)

WANTED

Shorefront piece of land/barn/small house, must be secluded. For Ross-shire crofting couple looking to relocate. We need 2+ acres as we have livestock but would be very happy with just a field that we would look to get planning permission on. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Cash waiting.

Please contact Malcolm and June Purvis on 01445 731681 or email purvis193@gmail.com

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FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

BUILDING PLOTS FOR SALE

2 Building plots, Whitehall Village, Stronsay, Orkney
£35K each. Planning in principle for 2/3 bed bungalow plus 2 parking spaces. Electricity and water supplies are on site.

The plots are behind the village street making a secluded location but within easy walking distance of the shop, ferry, cafe and hotel.

The tried and tested practice on the Orkney isles for building is to buy a house kit and either have it erected by the supplier or our island contractor Castlehill Construction (who can also do the ground works)

For information about Stronsay, our lifestyle, its good school and other facilities please visit www.visitstronsay.com

For further information about the sites please contact

- Sharon at Orkney Property Centre, Kirkwall on 01856 877866 or
- Dianne & Paul on 07785111126 or
- email drileymoore@hotmail.com

Planning ref: 18/038/PIP on Orkney Islands Council planning web site



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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

BUILDING WORK

Building work carried out by time-served tradesman

No job too small!

Please note changed telephone number

Phone Paul Williams on 616222 or email williams778@btinternet.com

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to *The Limpet*, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the back page of every edition of the *Limpet* there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

Local business adverts are free!

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Marion Miller Jewellery

Unique Jewellery inspired by the sea and shore.
Designed and handmade on the island of Stronsay, Orkney

www.marionmillerjewellery.com

Tel 07919550943 E-mail marionmillerjewellery@gmail.com



Local business adverts are free!
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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Traditionally hand-crafted in Stronsay—soaps, solid shampoo bars, conditioner bars and balms. Hand-spun and hand-dyed yarns from Orkney fleeces, woven throws, wall-hangings and more.

Orkney Star Island Soap, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AG.

Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281

Email: info@orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk

Web: <http://www.orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orkney.star.island.soap>

**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!

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

Roger at Stronsay Photographic

Available for:

Portraits - groups and individuals

ID photographs - printing on site

Tuition

Special commissions

Cozy studio with professional lighting

Home visits



Contact via Stronsay Photographic Facebook page and Facebook or tel 616228

Special offers also on Stronsay Facebook page

Roger at Stronsay Markets



Local seasonal soft fruit and vegetables

Grown naturally without artificial fertilisers, pesticides or weed killer

Cropped same day (usually)

Check out Facebook "Stronsay Markets"

Contact me on stonsaymarkets@gmail.com and I can add you to the regular list of available produce

See Stronsay Markets on YouTube https://youtu.be/8e6sz_Z2eQU

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

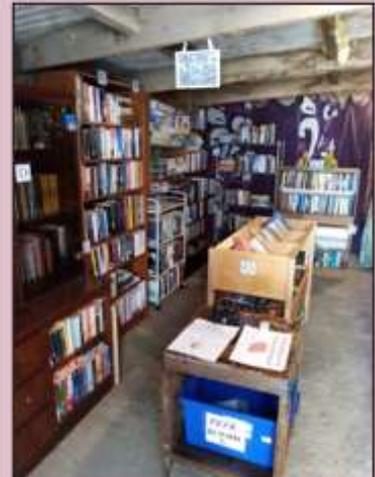
The Book Nook

Orcadia, Stronsay

It's a library! Borrow a book!
It's a book exchange! Swap a book!
It's a shop! Buy a book with a donation!



Over
1000



fiction books!

Opening Hours

Thursday to Tuesday 9am to 4pm

Wednesday 12 noon to 4pm

Open other times on request

Vicki 07873 982648

facebook.com/TheBookNookatStronsay



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the back page of every edition of the *Limpet* there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

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

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

Holmsgarth Crafts



Book Pillows, Table Runners

Napkins, Face Masks,

Scrunchies,

Tote Bags,

Pencil Cases and More

Made To Order



Contact Margaret McAnally - [Holmsgarth Crafts](#) | [Facebook](#)

Local business adverts are free!
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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

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



Local business adverts are free!
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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

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

Tel 01862 842357

Email oldmanse.kildary@btinternet.com

Web www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk

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.

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to *The Limpet*, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page

Local business adverts are free!
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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

January 2022

Property Level Flood Protection

Offer of Free Property Flood Protection Assessment

Dear Resident

Following on from the success of the Scottish Flood Forum property flood protection events in September 2021 there will be an opportunity for you to have your home or business assessed for Property Level Flood Protection. (PLP).

The purpose of such an assessment is to consider the property's resilience to flooding and to suggest measures that could reduce the risk of internal flooding. This free service is an opportunity to ask advice from independent experts on how residents might best protect themselves and their properties from the effects of flooding. Individual reports will be provided on property level protection measures appropriate to buildings. Once the report is complete you can liaise directly with the SFF for follow up advice on suitable products to purchase for your property.

Whilst the audit and report produced afterwards are at no cost to the property owner. Any recommended actions or suggested flood protection products would not be funded by the Council or the Scottish Flood Forum.

The use of property flood protection products works best when it goes hand in hand with a community led response and flood plan. If you or your neighbours are interested in developing a community flood plan the SFF can provide support to assist this process.

The SFF will be visiting Orkney on **Monday 25th - Friday 29th April 2022** with limited spaces available we need more local people to register an interest in a property flood protection assessment. If you have already registered your interest, there is no need to respond to this letter. To register your interest in a free property flood protection assessment please contact us using the details below.

Scottish Flood Forum

07895 883170

admin@scottishfloodforum.org

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SCOTTISH FLOOD FORUM & ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL



Property- Level Flood Protection

Monday 25th-
Friday 29th April 2022

After the success of SFF events in September 2021 we are planning to conduct Property Level Protection assessments across the Islands in 2022.

This will provide an opportunity for residents to gain impartial advice and a detailed report of flood resistance measures for their property.



IF YOU WISH TO SIGN UP
FOR A FREE
ASSESSMENT PLEASE
CONTACT THE SFF USING
DETAILS BELOW:

admin@scottishfloodforum.org

07895 883170

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

A colorful poster for an Easter event. The title 'Songs and stories for Easter' is written in a playful, multi-colored font. Below the title, it says 'An hour of play, stories and songs for under 5s and a chance to chat for grown-ups.' The event details are 'Please join us in the church hall on Wednesday 13th April at 2pm.' and 'ALL WELCOME'. At the bottom, it says 'Any questions contact 616284. We will have a few activities for older siblings too.' The poster is decorated with yellow flowers, green leaves, and several colorful Easter eggs. There are also musical notes and a cartoon book character on the bottom left and right respectively.

See the source image

Songs and stories for Easter

An hour of play, stories and songs for under 5s and a chance to chat for grown-ups.

Please join us in the church hall on
Wednesday 13th April at 2pm.

ALL WELCOME

Any questions contact 616284. We will have a few activities for older siblings too.

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

COMMUNITY ARTIST REQUIRED

We are seeking an enthusiastic community artist/s to lead projects in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre inspired by maritime heritage for of the Seas of the North Isles project, part of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme. The art project is currently expected to run from May until September and will involve community engagement in the development of a final piece to be installed in each pier waiting room.

You can apply for individual islands or all three. Any medium will be considered but each final piece **MUST** be suitable for display on a wall in an unmanned setting and inspired by the theme of maritime heritage. The closing date for proposals is the 11th of April 2022 at 17:00. For more information and a project brief, please contact Natalia Bain from Wessex Archaeology at nilps.sea@wessexarch.co.uk or call 0330 313 3568

Community Artist Required



The closing date for proposals is the 11th of April 2022 at 17:00. For more information and a project brief, please contact Natalia Bain from Wessex Archaeology at nilps.sea@wessexarch.co.uk or call 0330 313 3568



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Ian Cooper Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

GRASS CUTTING TENDERS 2022

Stronsay Community Council hereby invites tenders for the following contracts. Details and application forms are available from the Island Link Officer and must be returned in a sealed envelope marked "Grass Cutting" by noon on Friday 1st April 2022:

- Maintenance of Bay Kirkyard
- Maintenance of Leaquoy Kirkyard
- Grass cutting at St John's Viewpoint
- Grass cutting of Picnic Site at Ayre of the Myers
- Grass cutting of Village Area – Royal Bank to Strynie
- Grass cutting at Stronsay War Memorial
- Grass cutting of area behind numbers 7 & 8 Whitehall
- Grass cutting of grassed area at Wardhill
- Grass triangular area adjoining 2 Whitehall
- Grass rectangular area within numbers 7 to 14 Whitehall

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

Colin McAlpine, Island Link Officer,
Stronsay Community Council,
The Hill,
Stronsay,
KW17 2AT.
tel: 616446 email: stronsaycc@gmail.com
4 March 2022

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

BAG THE BRUCK **(Beach Cleaning Event)**

SATURDAY, 16 APRIL – SUNDAY, 24 APRIL 2022

This year's event is scheduled to take place throughout Orkney during the above dates.

All groups/individuals will be provided with bags, gloves and health and safety information before the clean-up week and are asked to contact bagthebruck@gmail.com if they wish to help in this year's event.

Community Council sponsorship is available and any groups/individuals wishing to apply for sponsorship must notify the Island Link Officer in writing by noon on **MONDAY 4 APRIL 2022**. This date has been extended to give extra time for sponsorship applications to be received.

If more information is required then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Colin McAlpine,
Stronsay Island Link Officer,
The Hill,
Stronsay,
KW17 2AT

24 March 2022

PEEDIE LIBRARY - WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH

We will open on Wednesday 30th March from 2:30pm to 4pm in the church hall. There are hundreds of books to choose from, both fiction and non-fiction, and you can borrow as many as you like.

Also table-top games, giant dominos, Jenga and Connect 4 to play while you enjoy a biscuit with a cup of tea or coffee.

See you there!

The Peedie Librarian:

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



FLOCK HEALTH CLUB

A HEALTHY FLOCK IS A PRODUCTIVE FLOCK

GREAT VALUE!
Annual membership: £180 (or £15/month)

THE AIMS OF THE HEALTH CLUB ARE:

- To provide advice to members regarding their flock health.
- To gather data to benchmark the flock and identify problem areas.
- To increase flock productivity by planning preventative treatments through the year to reduce losses.
- To create a community of like-minded sheep farmers, for mutual advice and support.



For more information:

- phone 01856 873403
- email info@northvet.co.uk
- speak to our vets

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- 2 x vet visits per year - health plan visit & pre-lambing visit
- Free participation to members' only events
- Discount on Faecal Egg Counts (10%)
- Discount on fees (10%)
- Flock-tailored parasite control plan



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

FISHMART CAFE WINTER OPENING TIMES

(October-March)

Monday	CLOSED	
(Breakfast only served from 7am - 10am on weekdays)		
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday	7am - 2pm	
Thursday	7am - 2pm	
Friday	7am - 2pm	
Saturday	9am - 2pm	(Breakfast served all day)
Sunday	11am-2:30pm	(Breakfast served all day)

FISHMART CAFE SUMMER OPENING TIMES

(April-September)

Monday	CLOSED	
(Breakfast only served from 7am - 10am on weekdays)		
Tuesday	7am - 4pm	
Wednesday	7am - 4pm	
Thursday	7am - 4pm	
Friday	7am - 4pm	
Saturday	9am - 3pm	(Breakfast served all day)
Sunday	11am-2:30pm	(Breakfast served all day)

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY STITCHERS



An informal group which meets monthly to do our own stichy projects.

Thursday 31st March

7.00pm-9.30pm, Church Hall, £2/person.

Please bring own refreshments.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN VISITS IN 2022

25 April, 20 June, 15 August, 10 October, 28 November

For further information go to web page <https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/mobile-library>,
email library@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873166.

Winter	Council Houses	8.45	-	9.45
	School	10	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	4.45
Summer/Refit	Council Houses	9.25	-	10
	School	10.15	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	5.30

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Tuesdays 9:15 -11:00

@ The Community Hall

All pre-school children welcome

£1 per child, 50p per adult

Snack and drink for children

Tea and coffee for adults

Drop in at any time or stay for the full session

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

After the recent changes to the Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance Orkney Islands Council have reviewed the procedures for the Healthy Living Centre. The following procedures now apply:

- 5 people can use the gym at any one time.
- The previous buddy system has still to be reinstated as the gym needs to be fully cleaned after each use.
- The opening hours are as follows:
 - Monday 18.00 - 18.45
 - Tuesday 18.00 - 18.45
 - Wednesday 11.00 - 11.45 and 17.30 - 18.15
 - Thursday 17.30 - 18.15
 - Friday 11.00 - 11.45 and 17.30 - 18.15
 - Saturday 10.00 - 10.45
- Booking need to be made 24 hours in advance either through the council website or by emailing stronsay.hlc@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk.
- Memberships can still be purchased or patrons can pay as they go.

There may be a little flexibility around opening times but these need to fit around the availability of Andy and Bill. Any further updates will be communicated through the Limpet and the Stronsay FaceBook page.

Thank you for all your support.
Bill Hodgson

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

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



For more information & bookings contact Anne-Maree Carter (Tel: 616263 or Email: annemaree.carter@btinternet.com)

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

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

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

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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



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

SWIMMING POOL NOW OPEN

Good news! The swimming pool reopened on Saturday 26th March.

Monday	Public session 6:30-7:10	Adult lane 7:10– 7:50
Thursday	Private hire 6:30-7:10	Public session 7:10-7:50
Saturday	Private hire 2-2:40	Public session 2:40-3:20

Charges - Adults £3, Children £1.50, Private Hires £15.

Note - pool will not be open 2nd April.

Maximum 12 in the pool.

To book a private hire phone Elsie on 616238.

LIFEGUARDS WANTED!

Stronsay swimming pool is looking for enthusiastic, reliable and conscientious people to become part of the pool team.

We will train you using the national standard RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and in return all we ask is you help us keep our small pool open and sustainable.

The ability to swim and a degree of fitness is required before you start your journey into 'lifeguard life'.

Interested parties should contact Andy Rose: email andyrose85@btinternet.com, phone 01857 616277 or mobile 07769 689 310

OVERSEERS WANTED

Looking for reliable overseers for the swimming pool reopening please! Previous volunteers welcome. Involves taking payment, handing out bands, helping with evacuation procedures etc. Contact Mairi Dennison via Facebook messenger or tel 616331.

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

HANDY EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Ebenezer Stores stronsaystores@gmail.com

Olivebank m.williamson1@btconnect.com

Stronsay Hotel cjdbuk@gmail.com

Fishmart café fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com (re-opens 3rd Feb 2022)

For telephone numbers see the back page of this edition.

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIERHEAD **NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES**

Our Lady's Chapel on the pier is now open for public Masses with the permission of the Bishop of Aberdeen.

Mass times are as follows:-

- Sunday & holidays: 11am
- Tuesday: 8.00am
- All other days: 11.20am

GOLGOTHA MONASTERY, PAPA STRONSAY **DAILY STREAMING BROADCAST**

There is a daily streaming broadcast from Golgotha Monastery, Papa Stronsay.

<http://www.papastronsay.com/live>

The broadcast runs from 4pm – 7pm (the times shown are approximate):

- 4pm Short talk by one of the priests.
- 4:30pm Recitation of the Rosary.
- 5pm Mass.
- 6pm Further prayers and office of the day.

STRONSAY KIRK

Weekly service at 11am.

Minister—Rev David Locke, phone 616284.

Stronsay kirk's website:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stronsaykirk>

Stronsay kirk's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553904828107651>

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Sunday 27th March 2022
The Manse, Stronsay KW17 2AF **KIRK CORNER**
DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk
01857 616284



Hello again everyone. As I write its Mother's day and also the day we lost an hour through clocks changing. No obvious link between the two until we maybe remember our mothers telling us off for wasting time!

Stronsay didn't waste its time last week: the latest estimate of our island fundraising for the Ukraine Disasters Emergency Committee was over £2200; a wonderful testimony to what a small island can do when a few folk act together and use their time for the sake of others - well done organisers and us all. But so much more will be needed from us and people around the world ; we need to keep going in openness to the needs of others and do what ever we can.



Not easy I know. For me, church services can both inspire and challenge us to keep going. In church today we remembered not only the love we know through our mothers but also the real love of God we see in Jesus. In our communion service today we remembered the Last Supper Jesus shared with followers knowing He was going to die so that others might live. We thought of all that lay behind

what Jesus did, especially the Passover events when God rescued people from slavery and helped them journey forwards. And we thought of how Jesus said He is the bread of life; the one offering anyone what we really need ; encouraging friendship, spiritual support, and guidance that challenges us to keep going for the sake of others.

The bible describes God's love as like a mother's: "*as a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you, says the Lord our God.*" Yet at times people may wonder how can God allow such horrendous slaughter of innocent lives as we see today?? Well, it seems that God is not a magician who does everything with a snap of his fingers but a God of love who encourages and helps people to do what is necessary, and that takes time sadly. It means God does not usually bring instant answers to people's evil, but is nonetheless at work, as He has been in other horrendous situations over the centuries, nurturing and nudging people to open up in goodness, to overcome evil. For example, we remembered today how Jesus fed the hungry crowds in the ways God had previously helped and fed escapees from horrendous slavery, partly by getting people to share what they had.

(Continued on next page)

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

God works through people in our weakness! The King's Speech was a film about King George, who had a very bad speech impediment, but he worked tirelessly to overcome it and it was his speech that inspired our country in the early stages of World War 2. In his broadcast message he quoted " I came to the gate of the year, and looking out into the darkness, and said to the man who stood there" Give me a light that I may go safely out"; and he said" stretch forth your hand into the hand of God- that will be better unto you than any light". That message seems to be valid today and one of the ways I know Ukraine values our help is through us continuing to pray for and with them.

Amidst despair, there can be hope- that is a key message of Easter which will soon be upon us. Jesus died but his Spirit lives on to inspire around our struggling world. Our church aims to distribute Easter cards around Stronsay outlining not only the amazing Easter hope, but also a range of events and services we have planned, to which everyone is welcome especially on Easter Sunday. Amidst life's troubles there is hope when people open up to God's help working through people sharing together for the good of those in need. Have a blessed Easter.

David Rev David I W Locke. *MA M.Sc., BD*

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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
Special collection.	16 May 2022 and 25 July 2022
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 . . .	Weekly service at 11am
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	Mass: Sun & holidays 11am, Tue 8am, other days 11.20am
Weekly rubbish collection	Tuesday (bags out by 8am but not on the night before!)
Recycling skips nearly full? . .	Send email to at recycling@orkney.gov.uk

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

Airy Fairy	616231	Silver Darlings	616412
Castle Bird Reserve	616363	Star Island Soap	616281
Companions Club	616352	SDT office	616410
Craftship Enterprise	616249	Stronsay Band	616335
Doctor	616321	Stronsay Hotel	616213
Ebenezer Stores	616339	Taxi	616335
Ebenezer Oil Heating . . .	616207	Stranded seals, etc	616207/206/498
	<i>or</i> 07500 682 867	Balfour hospital (24/7) . .	01856 888000
Fish Mart	616401	Electricity	
Hairdresser	616337	general enquiries	0800 048 3516
Hall bookings	616263 or	<i>lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm</i>	
Email: annemaree.carter@btinternet.com		problems (24/7) . . .	0800 300 999
Highland Fuels	01856 873766	power cut (24/7) . . .	105
Island Link Officer	616475	Water problems (24/7) . .	0800 0778 778
Kirk secretary	616238	Highland Fuels	01856 873766
Limpet editor	616297	Kirkwall Library	01856 873166
Medical emergency	616321	Kirkwall Police (24/7) . .	101
Neil's on Wheels	07723 304 260	Vets:	
Manse	616284	Flett & Carmichael .	01856 872859
Nurses	616480	Northvet	01856 873403
Olivebank	616255	Dentists:	
OIC out of hours	01856 873535	Orkney Dental	01856 872030
Post Office	616499	King Street	01856 888258
Red House Plants	616377	Deyanov Dental . . .	01856 877118
Registrar	616239	Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210 or
School	616246	email: contact@the-sons.org	
Scottish Fuels	01856 873105		

HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](#)

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page