

STRONSAY LIMPET

Funded by the S1tronsay Development Trust

ISSUE 211 - January 2023



Published on the last day of the month

NURSE LINDA SMITH RIP

Linda's funeral will be held on Wed 1 Feb. The order of service can be viewed via a link from the Stronsay Limpet website.

TIMETABLES

Loganair interisland timetable 30 Oct 2022 to 19 Feb 2023 Orkney Ferries winter timetable 26 Sep 2022 to 6 May 2023 Orkney Ferries refit timetable 8 Jan 2023 to 11 Mar 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mobile library van visit	Mon 13 Feb
OIC special collection	Mon 13 Feb
Dog & cat vaccination at Erraid	Wed 15 Feb
Loganair timetable change	Mon 20 Feb
Stronsay Stitchers	Thu 23 Feb
Stronsay Stitchers	Thu 30 Mar

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Up coming events - Dates for your diary.

Saturday 18th February - Darts and Euchre. Friday 24th March - AGM Saturday 6th May - Treasure Hunt. Saturday 13th May - Craft Fair. Saturday 17th June - North Isles Sports followed by Dance to Stronsay Band. August 19th/20th - Massive Weekend Saturday 23rd September - Bingo night Saturday 7th October - Deal or No Deal Quiz Show. Saturday 4th November - Bonfire Night. Saturday 25th November - Christmas Craft Fair. Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Tree Lighting

GP & COMMUNITY NURSE ROSTER

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

The next edition of the <u>Limpet</u> will be published on <u>Tue 28 Feb 2023</u>. Items for inclusion should be sent to <u>editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u>, the deadline is 7pm on that date. The postal address of the <u>Limpet</u> is "Stronsay Limpet, Claremont, KW17 2AR".

NAINE'S EULOGY

(David, Lynette and Kay would like to share the Eulogy written on their behalf by Raymond Peace)

Elaine Margaret Peace was born at Brigend in Stronsay on 16/04/1949. On that particular day her older sister, Emma was sent on her bike to Samson's to alert the nurse that her Mum was needing her. Unfortunately the nurse was on another call and the receptionist asked if it was urgent, but a young nonchalant Emma said that nurse could just come whenever she was available, and headed back to Brigend on her bike.

This all took a bit of time, and by the time Emma had returned, baby Elaine had entered the world with a helping hand by Aunty Ruby.

Times were hard but very happy at Brigend with Emma, Don and Naine; a change of name by this point as Don was having peedie problems with trying to pronounce Elaine, so Naine was the best option as they started sharing happy memories with each other, and this would have been the formation of a lifetime sibling relationship based on understanding, friendship, deep love and of course humour.

This might have been around the time that Naine lost her very lood voice. Emma recalls that she took her peedie sister Naine on a trip day to Sanday with her friend Jessie and her peedie sister as well. Whilst on the return on the steamer, there was a misty sea fog came down and Naine tried to compete with the ships foghorn, and by all accounts won.

That very lood voice of Naine must have been sooked out to sea that day, as it was never to be heard again.

On the 20th May 1958, The Peace family bought and moved to Samson's Lane in the middle of Stronsay where Naine had the relatively short daily journey up to the Central School. Naine enjoyed her school years and decided that she would like to stay in Stronsay and got a job at Olivebank.

She met David Harcus, and they got engaged 57 years ago, which was the start of a another lifetime of love which produced the biggest source of pride in Naine's life, Lynette, Kay, Morven, Luke, Tara, Murray and latterly Tate. We all know that Naine loved everyone equally but nothing gave her more pride than her close family.

David and Naine began their married life at Benicummel near Hoosby, later moving to Clestrain in 1979.

This is where Naine and David were in their prime and the welcome and hospitality at Clestrain was second to none. There are people from all over the world with the widest range of work commitments or attending social events that will always appreciate the Clestrain hospitality. Who can ever forget the famous BBQ's with huge attendance and various humorous antics happening with great camaraderie.

Naine's prowess with food of any kind is absolutely legendary, she was as happy feeding a table of four or a group of 30. Although Naine probably cooked and baked by the pinch or handful, her recipes often do, and will certainly continue to circulate amongst her ever admiring kitchen colleagues who look on her as the definitive go to chef/baker.

In 2006 David and Naine decided that they would leave Stronsay and retire to Lilburn in Orphir which just happens to be in the district of Clestrain which was obviously the right move for them at the right time and where the welcome and hospitality continued, albeit in a more condensed fashion.

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Whilst Naine was known and respected from near and far for her food production, she was also very affectionately loved by the people that interacted with her most, for her unfortunate sporadic word selection, when the actual words came out, but not necessarily in the proper order. The funniest thing about it, is that you knew exactly what was going through her mind when the words sometimes had a different journey from her mind to her mouth.

On one instance this was apparent when a finance delegation came to Stronsay to meet an NFU representation. At this time David held an office position and invited the delegation to Clestrain for a meal. As they walked into Clestrain they were met by Naine with the immortal words 'pleased to meet me.'

There are more stories that can be accounted to Naine that would make a glass eye weep with laughter or turn a room full of people into utter chaos, than can be mentioned here today, but some have to be said, like the time David sent her out to turn hay but she didn't realise that she had to embrace the throttle of the tractor, so did it at one speed, full speed. The hay was turned in record time but unfortunately so was the tractor at every turn.

Or the time that a phone scammer rang one day and ended up hanging up on her as she was probably being too honest.

When have you ever heard of a scammer hanging up on you?

Or when she asked the question 'How old was Uncle Pete when he was born?'

When she asked nephew Doh who has always had a beard 'Did you have a beard when you were born?'

Or when she observed 'David wore a bow tie when he was Don's bridesmaid.'

Or 'David needs his glasses noo for riding.'

And finally, when Naine was planning a go through lunch between boats for Doh and Alison, when she informed them 'I will just make soup and bulls bags.'

Naine was an unassuming force of nature in her positive approach to life. She was the most completely natural people councillor who had the gift of being able to listen and guide people to believe in themselves, and to feel better about themselves. This sometimes happened immediately, but more often in reflection. Everyone present today and far beyond would appreciate this, as it was all done without you knowing and especially by Naine, as she was just who she was.

Many children in Naine's life have sat on that knee and got the cuddle of all cuddles, and every single one respects and appreciated that into adulthood.

Naine was loving, affectionate, caring, trustworthy, loyal, and most interestingly, completely unbiased or completely biased when she felt the need, and she never got this wrong.

There are not enough positive adjectives to give justice to Naine as she was simply naturally good at life, who never had a bad word for anyone, and a person who loved everyone, including all her pets and animals , and everyone certainly loved her.

<u>Orkney's North Isles' Sports</u> Draft Proposal October 2022, revised November 2022

As you know, the first North Isles' Sports took place on Westray in 1949, and since then only the Covid epidemic has caused the cancellation, in both 2020 and 2021, of the annual event. The 75th (Diamond) anniversary of the games is scheduled to take place on Westray in 2024 (Paris Olympics Year), and the 75th occasion of the sports will be in 2025 on Sanday (the year that Orkney is due to host the 40th Anniversary Island Games).

As a keen follower of the sports since 1985, I've always been amazed at the enthusiasm of competitors and supporters, sometimes in difficult weather conditions, and at the generosity of the host island in ensuring that all competitors and visitors are well-fed on arrival, and later in the afternoon before departure.

In 1999, to mark the 50th anniversary games on Sanday, I put together a few photographs, press reports, recollections, and lists of record-holders and past champions. This was a pretty amateurish home-made desk-top publishing A4 leaflet. Since then, I've wondered about the possibility of a publication that might be rather more definitive. The 75th Sports is an appropriate time. I would hope it might include the following:

- 1. The origin of the North Isles' Sports
- 2. Extracts from local press reports on past games
- 3. Recollections/Reminiscences from islander supporters &/or competitors, helpers, organisers, judges
- 4. Lists of the winners in each year, in each athletic event (Girls, Boys, Ladies, Men). These include Team-game (Football and Netball) winning islands*, and individual athletic cup-winning all-round champions.
- 5. An illustrated section about the 'Hall of Fame' champions (those individuals who have won at least 3 consecutive times)
- 6. An illustrated section about the current record-holders in each of the Track and Field events.
- 7. An illustrated section about the Tug o' War, including the year by year champions.
- 8. Acknowledgements of the individuals & groups 'in the background' who ensure that the day runs smoothly (Ferry timetables, provision of refreshments, transport from ferry-venue, Delegates' meetings, Judges & Timekeepers, Record-keeping)

*Although Team-game winners will be listed, the bulk of the book/booklet would be concerned with athletic sports.

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Help required from participating islands (past, present and future)

- 1. Early (and some more recent) press accounts give questionable name spellings and I'm keen to check Christian names instead of initials.
- 2. Family trees of some of the outstanding competitors (e.g. Westray-Rendall, Stronsay-Miller & Dennison)
- 3. The loan of photographs, particularly action photographs, of winners especially in the early years (1949-1985). With permission, these would be copied and returned, and any used would be acknowledged.
- 4. Any recollections of competitors and followers would be valuable, again especially from the early years (1949-1985).
- 5. Recollections and reminiscences of those responsible for track preparation, catering, house-to-house collections, judging,

An earlier version of this proposal has been sent to several key people on your island, and they have been very encouraging in their replies. I shall be dependent on their continued help and advice in order to ensure that each island is properly represented in any historical record. To begin with, I hope to visit each island in late February or March 2023, with two aims:

- a. Meeting as many interested people as possible
- b. Giving an illustrated talk about the North Isles' Sports highlighting outstanding athletes from past and present, and with photographs of the most recent games (on Sanday in 2022)

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your help ahead of my visit....

- 1. My records, many of which are taken from contemporary newspaper reports, give surnames and one initial for event-winners. I hope to change those initials into Christian/given/first names, but where someone is/was more frequently known by a different name I shall try to use both. I have sent lists of your island's event-winners to <u>Mairi Dennison</u>, and if you would like a copy please contact her/me at any time.
- 2. If, between now and my visit, you would like to write down any memories, I'd be delighted to read them. I cannot guarantee that they will be used, because I've no idea how much information I shall gather. But I will ensure that your help will be acknowledged – so don't forget to write your name and the year(s) you are writing about.
- 3. Action photographs from the early sports are scarce, partly because most cameras were incapable of taking sharp pictures of runners and jumpers. But they are nevertheless very evocative so if you have any, from the very earliest games right though to the 1980's, I'd be very interested in seeing (and possibly using) them.

Roderick Thorne, Nearhouse, Sanday, KW17 2BW nearhouse@triscom.co.uk 07935610893



Welcome to another year of the project which will continue to run until August 2023. Big thanks to Little Hoose Creative for our new logo and website design.

We have some activities planned to continue our work to promote wellbeing using our remote nature, as well as engaging with the communities across the North Isles and working with a researcher to develop ideas.

Wildlife Recording Project

Stronsay Wildlife Recording project is running collaboratively with North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are aiming to record a year of nature on Stronsay and produce a booklet at the end of it with the findings. The wildlife can be marine life beneath the water or on the shore, mammals, birds, insects, flowers plants. David Askew is leading this project on the ground with some nature walks, others and moth trapping to get us started and we can take advantage of his expertise to learn about our environment. Join up to the Facebook page keep adding your photographs so they can be collated – you don't need to identify the species.

24th February, 10:00am - Otter walk and surveying with David

Meet David at Erraid Station House. Take a walk around the headland to the Ayre of Myres and learn about what to look for when surveying otters. Finish at the Fishmart Café (we are happy to shuttle people back to Erraid to collect their cars). No dogs please.

Waterproof jackets, trousers and wellies are available in all sizes to hire for free from the Development Trust. Please contact Louise to reserve <u>sdtprojectofficer@gmail.com</u>



Intergenerational Talks

We are looking for individuals or groups to talk about their experiences with nature, what did you do When you were younger? What has changed? Did it influence you? We would love to have a recording of your chat (it won't be published, only used for research purposes) and will provide you with questions. It's an ideal opportunity to connect young people with older generations and how we can learn from each other. It could even be a chat with your granny about what they did during their holidays on Stronsay or how nature has links to work through farming.

Anyone interested, please contact Louise sdtprojectofficer@gmail.com



Nature Photography Competition

Be part of our lived experience research across the North Isles.

Your images will help us

understand the nature that people both enjoy and find challenging living on the Isles. We want to learn about your engagement with nature to shape our ideas of what resources and activities the community needs to support wellbeing.

> Your photos can be from any time in the past year. They will be put to a public vote with prizes awarded across 3 age categories.

Submit your entries by email to a.harrod1@lancaster.ac.uk

Please include your name,, island, age category , photo category, and title plus a short description of your image and why you enjoy nature or why it challenges <u>you</u>



RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

A great start to the year in what has been a month of rather benign 'ordinary' weather. Several species of geese have been recorded, including a sizeable flock of Barnacles, a few Greenland White-fronted Geese and two striking Snow Geese – all welcome winter visitors.

Also in the 'winter visitor' category, a Jack Snipe was seen here in the Castle garden, and a Long-eared Owl in the drive (one of several 'night-time sightings including along the Airy Road). Other 'Birds of prey' recorded regularly have been Sparrowhawk (plundering smaller species in gardens) and Hen Harriers of both sexes (hunting low over the open meadows). A Kestrel has been seen regularly too. A few Chaffinches have overwintered in the Samson's Lane tattie-field, and small numbers of Linnets and Twite have been seen. But the most 'striking' sighting in the 'small bird' category was the (insectivorous!) Chiffchaff seen in the Castle garden on 19th and at Lower Samsons by Donald Omand next day. During this period a Water Rail (perhaps the same bird as last winter?) was helping itself to the food put out for the 'garden birds' at Cliffdale.

Long-tailed Ducks have been seen in Mill Bay most days this Winter and an occasional flock of Sanderling on the beach. Up to 5 Goldeneye have been seen on the Bu Loch, and towards the end of the month Shelduck had returned to the area -3, then 7, then 15, and finally 17 on 30th. Will we have yet another record year for the species in 2023?!!

The last interesting sighting – and a real surprise – was the flock of 7-8 Snow Buntings which flew across the road by the Ayre of the Mires on 30th. Without doubt the party which arrived in that area in October and have been seen a few times in-between.

An average number of wintering thrushes have been seen – perhaps a total of 200 of both Redwings and Fieldfares, and a similar number of Blackbirds.

Thanks for all the calls. The 2022 Stronsay Bird Report now out. Please ring if you would like a copy (£5 including original sketch cover. 616363.)



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Records of a Bygone Age Stronsay's First Lifeboat – the John Ryburn Part 3

Following her arrival in Stronsay in May 1909, the John Ryburn was anchored in the channel between Stronsay and Papa Stronsay, out below the house of Feastown in the Lower Station. A dinghy was then used to ferry the crew from a little stone-built jetty out to the adjacent lifeboat. Then, in 1911, a new concrete slip with a shed atop to house the lifeboat was built at a cost of £3050. All the gear needed for the John Ryburn and its crew was also stored in this shed, resulting in a much quicker response time than was possible with the lifeboat anchored offshore. Situated close to the Station Pier in the area known as the Lower Station at the far end of Whitehall Village, it was ideally suited for the lifeboat to head east or west as needed.

The following year a new house, Ryburn Cottage, was built in the Lower Station at a cost of £300 as accommodation for the lifeboat mechanic.



On the left is the remains of the little stone jetty used by the lifeboat crew when the John Ryburn was anchored offshore and on the right is her new slipway and shed built in 1911.

Moving on now to the men who volunteered to crew this new lifeboat, those who have been identified are: George Eunson, Jubilee Cottage; John Eunson, Jubilee Cottage; John Fiddler, Rose Cottage; John Leslie, possibly No 10 Station?; William Leslie, No 7 Station; James Logie, No 28 Station; John Miller, No 23 Station; John Muir, No 23 Station; Peter Shearer, Feastown; George Stout, No 13 Station; John Stout, No 13 Station; George Williamson, No 11 Station; John Williamson, No 26 Station and Peter Williamson, No 32 Station. Nearly all those crewmen, fishermen to trade, stayed with their families in the little cottages at the Lower Station, and most would have been descendants of the families which emigrated to Stronsay from Fair Isle in the 1850s.

Back in 1904, when agreement in principle had been reached to set up a new Station at Stronsay most of these men had volunteered as crewmen for the new boat when she arrived, with William Leslie being appointed as the first coxswain of the new lifeboat when she arrived. He was coxswain from then until 1911 when he was succeeded in the role by George Eunson. The 1904 agreement also saw the appointment of Robert Mitchell of Ocean View as Honorary Secretary, a role he held until the lifeboat was withdrawn in 1915.

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Records of a Bygone Age

During the next few years the John Ryburn was called out to assist ships in distress on 11 separate occasions. Perhaps the best known of these was when, in the early hours of 10th February 1912, she was called out to go to the assistance of the Aberdeen steam fishing boat 'Crimond', ashore on the Holms of Ire off Sanday's north coast. It was a night of poor visibility, with the wind in the south-east and a heavy sea running but the lifeboat covered the fifteen miles in just over two hours with little to guide her passage other than the waves to be seen breaking white along the Sanday shore. Before the lifeboat's arrival, five of the Crimond's nine-man crew had attempted to gain the safety of the shore in the ship's small boat but it had been swamped by the heavy seas and only one managed to scramble ashore alive. In darkness near to low water on a rocky coast the John Ryburn had no option but to lay off for a time but, with the first glimmers of daylight and a flood tide, and at some considerable danger to lifeboat and crew, the coxswain attempted a rescue. He managed to manoeuvre the John Ryburn alongside the stricken ship long enough to get the Crimond's four remaining crew safely aboard the lifeboat before carrying them back to the safety of the Stronsay harbour.



Some of the fishermen's cottages in the Lower Station in the early 1900s

This was probably the high point of the John Ryburn's time in Stronsay but there were low points too as, over the years, the engine problems encountered on her way north to her new home continued to beset her and blight her early career.

When the 1672 ton full rigged sailing ship Edenmore, bound from Hamburg to Sydney with a mixed cargo on board, was driven ashore and wrecked on Papa Stronsay in the late evening of 7th October 1909, the John Ryburn was away in Kirkwall having her engine repaired. This, remember, was little more than a week after the excitement of her naming ceremony at the same port!

The crew of the Edenmore were in grave danger and, although with no functional motor to propel her, the lifeboat was still sent for. An Aberdeen trawler, the Ben Eden, took the John Ryburn under the command of her engineer John Miller, in tow and headed for Stronsay. In the meantime, the remainder of the lifeboat crew still on Stronsay commandeered and manned a large rowing boat and, at great risk to themselves, carried out an epic rescue of the Edenmore's 25 man crew. That is a story for another day! *(continued on next page)*

In September 1913, she was again on the Stromness slip where her engine was removed in preparation for a completely new engine to be fitted the following spring. Enough ballast was placed aboard to counteract the weight of the missing engine and she returned to Stronsay under oar and sail, the only means of propulsion she was to have for several months.

It wasn't until May 1914 that she returned to the Stromness slip to be re-engined. There she was fitted with a new model 40hp Tyler's motor at a cost of £375 and, it was reported, the latest improvements for boats of her class were made. These improvements must have taken some considerable time as she apparently lay on the slip for some months until being launched in October that year for sea trials of her new engine and fittings, all of which proved eminently satisfactory. She eventually returned to station on 31^{st} October 1914.

On 16th January 1915 the John Ryburn was called out for what was probably her final mission when she was tasked to go to the assistance of the Norwegian steamer Skotfos, stranded on Seal Skerry on North Ronaldsay. She made her way there in what was described by onlookers as 'mountainous seas' only to discover on arrival that fortunately the crew had all been safely rescued by the North Ronaldsay volunteer coastguard team.

Soon after this, with the First World War in progress and the onset of conscription, many of Stronsay's able bodied men were called away to help in the war effort. It was found increasingly difficult to guarantee a crew to man the lifeboat and sadly, on 12th June 1915, the Stronsay Station was closed - supposedly a temporary measure - and the John Ryburn moved to station at Peterhead.

This temporary measure dragged on until, in 1922, the closure was reviewed by the authorities but sadly they found there were still insufficient volunteers available to guarantee a crew. It was to be a full thirty years later, in May 1952, before the Stronsay Lifeboat Station was reinstated and a lifeboat again placed on station.

With the withdrawal of the lifeboat, Ryburn Cottage was used as a store for a time before being rented out and then eventually, in 1937, it was sold. The following year, ownership of the lifeboat slip reverted back to the landowner, with the lifeboat shed being demolished and sold around 1949. A number of the heavy metal rollers on which the lifeboat ran for launch and retrieval were bought by farmers and put into use as land rollers and, although no longer used for this purpose, a few are still to be seen lying around the farms on the island.



Some of the ruins of the cottages in the Lower Station in the 1950s. They were later demolished and the stones used in the building of the new Church. (continued on next page) At first glance it appears that all that now remains to remind people of Stronsay's first lifeboat is the old concrete slipway which still stands at the far end of the Lower Station in Whitehall Village. Now well over a hundred years old, the structure is still in remarkably good condition and is easily visible to any coming in through Papa Sound by sea or visiting the Lower Station.

There are other reminders of this heritage though, not so visible to the casual observer, and what must surely be the most important of these are the black RNLI 'Records of Service' boards. These were originally kept on display in the window of the 'Lifeboat Hoose' (later renamed Cardinham House) but are now housed proudly and prominently inside the Community Centre. They provide a lasting record of the services rendered by the Lifeboats which have been based in Stronsay and served the North Isles of Orkney so diligently over the years, although only brief mention is made of the service provided by the John Ryburn.



Part of the 'Records of Service' boards displayed in the Community Centre where only a few brief lines are devoted to the six years of service of the John Ryburn.

The little stone-built jetty, on the shore not far from Ryburn Cottage, also still stands, It was used by the crew of the John Ryburn for boarding and disembarking from the small dinghy which was used to reach the lifeboat while she was anchored just offshore in this area. It continued to be used for many years afterwards by fishermen who also anchored their boats offshore but latterly has been little used

The house built for the John Ryburn's engineer also still stands and still bears the name of Ryburn Cottage.

Then of course there is the John Ryburn herself. After being withdrawn from Stronsay, the John Ryburn was stationed at Peterhead until 1921 during which time she was launched 21 times and saved an amazing 158 lives. She then moved on to Broughty Ferry where she was launched 15 times and saved 6 lives. She was withdrawn from service by the RNLI in 1934 and sold in February the following year to Mr Hughes of Rhyl in North Wales who fitted a wheelhouse and new engine, and re-named her "Bempo". *(concluded on next page)*



The John Ryburn in a rather sorry condition in 2014

No more is heard of her until, in April 2014, the Thames Ironworks Heritage Trust (it was at the Thames Ironworks Boatyard that the John Ryburn had been built more than a hundred years earlier) bought her in a sorry condition with a view to renovating her. I've been unable to find any more details about her and whether the renovation was successful but can only hope that she has been restored to something of her former glory.

If anyone has any information photos or stories about Stronsay's lifeboats or anything else Stronsay related I would be delighted to hear from you! If you can help, please email me at <u>ian.cooper56@gmail.com</u>, phone 01857 616322 or just call along Steenysheed.

Ian Cooper January 2023

DOG AND CAT VACCINE CLINICS

I shall be available to vaccinate any dogs and cats on Stronsay on Wednesday 15 February. Appointments may be booked by phoning NorthVet on 01856 873403, this is to ensure I have a sufficient stock of vaccines and can see everyone in a timely fashion.

You will find me at Erraid Station House, Lower Whitehall in the building next to the house.

I'm also happy to see any poorly pets or carry out routine prescription checks as well on this day. The next opportunity for vaccines on the island will be May.

Weather and ferries permitting I will be on Stronsay from 11/2 to 8/3. You can contact me via NorthVet or FB messenger (Elizabeth Askew) for any treatments needed during this period.

Thanks Liz

Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

The first report from your councillor in the golden jubilee year of the MV Golden Mariana

Welcome to AD 2023 ! I wonder what this year will bring us—the promise of new ferries? I am not optimistic. The only promise the Scottish Government has made Orkney is "to convene a task force to take forward preliminary discussions ... with the objective to undertake the business case analysis." As regular readers of my *Letter* will be well aware, OIC has worked for many years with consultants and the public on the *Orkney Inter-Island Transport Study*, carried out in accordance with the Scottish Government's own routes and services methodology, and the outline business case final reports were completed over a year ago. Therefore, I fail to see the need for a "task force" to spend yet more years re-doing the work that has already been done. We don't have time to waste. Meanwhile, over on the west coast (part of the Scottish Government's "Fairer Scotland"), the Scottish Government has just contracted the Cemre Marin Endustri shipyard in Turkey to build two new vessels to serve Skye for delivery in 2026 ! *The Press & Journal* asked me for my comments on the Orkney ferries "task force", and the article can be found at this Internet URL: https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlandsislands/5256235/orkney-councillor-ferry-task-force-placating-scottish-government/. I was also interviewed for television by *BBC Alba*, where I made the same point about the "task force". The programme is in Gaelic, but I spoke in English.

At least we have the Coronation to look forward to, the first in this country for 70 years (and of a king for 86 years). It is time for our schools and community organisations to start thinking about how they are going to celebrate this historic event, and what souvenirs they will distribute. As well as the ubiquitous mugs, commemorative medals make a lasting keepsake, such as those shown below, one from Sanday (Queen's Diamond Jubilee) and one from Westray (70 years of the North Isles Sports).



I am delighted that, after an extended period of closure, Westray's swimming pool re-opened on the 7th January. That gives the Westray School pupils plenty of time to train up for the next Longhope Swimming Gala and present their traditional challenge to Sanday and Stronsay. The community associations and volunteers manage the day-to-day operations of our island swimming pools (on Westray, Sanday, Stronsay, and Hoy), while OIC provides and maintains pool facilities. Despite the lack of support I received a year ago when the Covid-19 recovery money was being distributed (see *Issue 108*), I continue to push for adequate funding from the Council to refurbish our pools and bring changing facilities up to modern standards.

To the Orkney College Management Council we welcomed the new business and community representatives. Originally, three had been advertised for, but the calibre of the shortleet was so exceptional that it was decided to appoint all live of them!

Other meetings I have attended (both really and virtually) so far this year include: Ferry and Air Consultative Forums; a

finance seminar; a discussion on our ferry fares, and a follow-up meeting with Isles' community council chairs regarding NHS 24.

Happy New Year!

Clir Dr Stephen Clackson Member for the North Isles Ward Depute Convener Orkney & Shetland VJB West Manse, Sanday stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

Letter from School Place is also available on-line at clackson.info



FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

THANK YOU

Thank you for the responses received from members of the community in regard to comments regarding issues with the ferries. This is an ongoing consultation so please continue to contact either myself or any members of the community council if you have any issues / experiences, so that they can be forwarded to the working group who are collating all the responses.

Thank you, Shirley Whiteman (438).



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

Items on this page are free!

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

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

CLIFTON FREE RANGE EGGS!

EGGCITING NEWS!! ENJOY SOME CRACKING GOOD EGGS

Our happy hens are delighted to let you know that they are now producing top quality free range eggs. The eggs are available from outside the annex at Clifton for only $\pounds 1.50$ /box.

Help yourselves and just put the money in the box.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Dunera, Lower Whitehall Road, Stronsay, KW17 2AS

A detached bungalow (period 1920-60s) with garden and parking space. Comprising huge sitting room sea facing, kitchen/diner, 4 bedrooms, shower room & hall (167 sq. metres) plus 4 sq. metre porch. Habitable but needs upgrading or project development. Oil fired central heating with multi fuel stove in living room. Water, phone connected. SEPA for up to 6 residents. Council Tax C. Primary energy indicator 288 kWh. £5736 over 3 years. Energy Efficiency Band E (44) – Scottish average is Band D - 60 Environmental Band F (37) – Scottish average band D - 59

HRV is £130,000 (25 Aug 2022). Condition = 13 (1), 8 (2), 0 (3).
Interest invited. Not currently with external agent.
Viewing by advanced appointment only. Flexible entry date.
Offers invited above £125k. Finance options from seller.

Leo Martini-Brown Imartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk

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Love Parties, but hate waste?











Reduce landfill waste by hiring Peedie Party Packs range of children's reusable plates, cups & cake stands instead of buying disposable! we even have themed packages & games packs available, happy to accept hires from across Orkney including the Isles.

Peedie Party Packs
 peediepartypacks2221
 PeediePartyPacks@hotmail.com

Local business adverts are free!

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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 <u>williams778@btinernet.com</u>

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

HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET

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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.

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FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

BUILDING PLOTS FOR SALE

2 Building plots, Whitehall Village, Stronsay, Orkney

 ± 35 K 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 <u>drileymoore@hotmail.com</u>

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









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Holmsgarth Crafts





Seasonal Gifts, Memory bears, Stronsay book bags, and much more Many items can be personalised Made To Order



Contact Margaret McAnally - <u>Holmsgarth Crafts | Facebook</u> <u>07432614089</u>

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

Hotel Takeaway	
Burgers	
Olivebank hand crafted Cheese Chips Chicken Burger and chips	burger and 7.50 6.50
Chicken fillet and Chips BBQ Sauce Sweet/Sour Sauce	6.50 1.00 1.00
Chicken Nuggets and Chips	
Adult 6.00 Child 4.00	
Battered fish and Chips	8.50
Scampi and Chips	7.00
Smoked Sausage and Chips	6.00 6.00
Battered Sausage and Chips	6.50
Macaroni and Chips	and and a second
Chips / half chips Cheesy Chips	2.00/1.50 3.00/2.50
Extra cheese Onion rings	1.00
Thankyou	
Telephone 01857 616473 Fridays From 5PM-8PM	

Stronsay Hotel new telephone number 616407



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

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





Traditionally hand-crafted in Stronsay—soaps, solid shampoo bars, conditioner bars and balms. Hand-spun and hand-dyed yarns from Orkney fleeces, woven throws, wallhangings and more. Orkney Star Island Soap, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AG. Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281 Email: info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk Web: http://www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/orkney.star.island.soap



Local business adverts are free!

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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 <u>stronsaymarkets@gmail.com</u> and 1 can add you to the regular list of available produce

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

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













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

Open Daily Phone - 01857 616230

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



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- 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



The Old Manse is a listed building dating back to the 1780s set in a large woodland garden just off the A9 and commanding far reaching views of the surrounding countryside.

We are ideally located for those travelling to and from Orkney. The ferry terminals of Gills Bay (Pentland Ferries) and Scrabster (North Link Ferries) are no more that 2.5 hours drive with John O'Groats just 2 hours away.

Ensuite Double and twin rooms

Tel 01862 842357 Email <u>oldmanse.kildary@btinternet.com</u> Web <u>www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk</u>

Local business adverts are free!

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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 <u>editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u> 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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STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Stronsay Community Council invites applications for financial assistance from anyone who is permanently resident on Stronsay.

Grants are available for travel assistance and events and/or projects of benefit to the community.

If the request is for travel assistance, members can award 50% of the requested amount with a capping limit of £200 funding within twelve months.

Full details of the event and/or project will be required and will be submitted to the next Community Council meeting for consideration.

Financial requests must be with the Island Link Officer prior to the event/project taking place and the payment of any grant awarded will require submission of evidence of expenditure from the applicant.

Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be submitted on an Application For Financial Assistance form available from the Island Link Officer.

If more information, or an Application for Financial Assistance form is required, please contact the Island Link Officer, tel: 616446 email: stronsaycc@gmail.com

Colin McAlpine Stronsay Island Link Officer 19 October 2022

> If you see something in the Limpet that is inaccurate or no longer valid please drop a line to "*The Editor, Claremont KW17 2AR*" or email <u>editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u>



GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

I have been asked by a member of the community to consider restarting the diabetic support group that we had had to close during the Covid pandemic due to social distancing rules. We had been seeing very small numbers at the group and for that reason I had almost decided not to restart it, as it maybe wasn't something folk wanted. So I'm really wanting to gauge interest, & would therefore be grateful if folk could contact me and let me know if they would be interested in this. We would likely meet on a weekday (still to be decided) at 3.30pm in the community hall. Partners/spouses are also welcome to attend, and also anyone who has been 'diagnosed' with 'pre-diabetes'. It would be an informal group, with general discussions etc, and light refreshments will be served. To my knowledge we have around 20 diabetics on the island so it would be nice if we could have more than the 4 or 5 folk that used to come. I look forward to hearing from folk who are interested (home phone 438).

So far I have only received 3 expressions of interest for this. Could you please let me know before 17th February if you are interested in this. If there was enough interest I would look to try and arrange a meeting for early March, but I don't think 3 people would make a 'group'. Please either phone me at home (landline has an answer phone), email or iMessage via FB.

Thank you. Shirley Whiteman.



February 2023

Thursday 23rd February, 7.00pm-9.30-pm, Church Hall

£2/person, refreshments available

(Next one 30th March)

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

SCRAP CAR SCHEME

The Scrap Car Scheme operated by Stronsay Community Council is still open and is now available for anyone who may have a vehicle for disposal.

The scheme will be administered by the Community Council and will remain open until further notice. The vehicle owner will have two months in which to arrange disposal of the vehicle.

At present there is no gate fee for vehicle disposal, but the scrap value will be paid to Stronsay Community Council and **not** the vehicle's registered keeper.

The haulage cost from Stronsay to the scrap yard, Kirkwall, will be met by Stronsay Community Council.

If you wish to dispose of a scrap car, please: -

- Request a Verification Form from the Island Link Officer t: 616446 e: stronsaycc@gmail.com or by writing to the address below.
- Complete the Verification Form and liaise with Jim Holland (haulier) for the vehicle's delivery to the scrap yard.
- Give the completed Verification Form to Jim Holland which must be presented to the scrap yard at the time of vehicle delivery, along with all necessary documentation, (the vehicle's V5 document) to meet the DVLA and dismantler requirements.

A Verification Form will be required for <u>each separate delivery of a car</u> to the scrap yard.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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

18 October 2022

FISHMART CAFE SUMMER OPENING TIMES

(April-September)

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

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)

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN VISITS 2023

13 February, 11 April, 5 June, 31 July, 25 September, 20 November

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

	Council Houses	8.45	-	9.45
Winter	School	10	+	12
Iter	Kirk	12.45	2	3
Γ	Fish mart	3.15	-	4.45
Sur	Council Houses	9.25	-	10
nme	School	10.15	-	12
Summer/Refit	Kirk	12.45	-	3
O	Fish mart	3.15		5.30

RECYCLING GUIDE FOR OUTER ISLES

Orkney Islands Council has published a "Household refuse and recycling welcome pack" which is available online at <u>https://tinyurl.com/3bjcbacm</u>.

If you see something in the Limpet that is inaccurate or no longer valid please drop a line to "*The Editor, Claremont KW17 2AR*" or email <u>editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u>

THE ORKNEY NEWS

https://www.youtube.com/c/TheOrkneyNews https://theorkneynews.scot

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 Mary McLaughlin email thecatstail@outlook.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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/hallcommittee</u>

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT!

If you are planning to hold an event on Stronsay then why not use the free publicity available from the Limpet, the editor's contact details are on the back page of every edition of the <u>Stronsay Limpet</u>. You can advertise in the monthly editions of the Limpet and your event can be publicised via the Stronsay Limpet email list. It's always a good idea to check the <u>Visit Stronsay calendar</u> when planning an event, could avoid embarrassing clash of dates.

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CROSSROADS ORKNEY

and

Young at Heart Permories Café

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



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ISLES SPECIAL COLLECTION ROTAS



The dates for the isles special collections up to 31 March 2023 are detailed below.

If you wish to have domestic bulky items uplifted you can apply online via the Councils Website, see link <u>https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/Special-Refuse-Collections.htm</u>, if you do not have internet access then please contact Customer Services on telephone number 873535 to book. Bookings must be placed as soon as possible and up to <u>2 working days prior</u> to the week commencing collection date, any special collection bookings received after 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the week commencing collection date will not be processed and will be held over until the next available collection date.

Special collections from commercial premises can be arranged by contacting Development and Infrastructure on telephone number 873535 extension 2725.

Eday

Week Commencing: 3 October 2022, 12 December 2022 and 27 February 2023

Graemsay

Week Commencing: 17 October 2022 and 23 January 2023

Hoy and Flotta

Week Commencing: 24 October 2022 and 30 January 2023

North Ronaldsay

Week Commencing: 10 October 2022, 9 January 2023 and 20 March 2023

Papa Westray

Week Commencing: 31 October 2022, and 16 January 2023 and 27 March 2023

Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre

Week Commencing: 7 November 2022, 9 January 2023 and 13 March 2023

Sanday

Week Commencing: 21 November 2022, 5 December 2022 and 20 February 2023

Shapinsay

Week Commencing: 17 October 2022, 5 December 2022 and 30 January 2023

Stronsay

Week Commencing: 31 October 2022, 5 December 2022 and 13 February 2023

Westray

Week Commencing: 14 November 2022 and 6 February 2023

For further information on refuse and recycling services please refer to the Council's website www.orkney.gov.uk

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

SWIMMING POOL - OPENING TIMES

Charges - Adults £3, Children £1.50, Private Hires £15. 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 <u>andyrose85@btinternet.com</u>, phone 01857 616277 or mobile 07769 689 310

OVERSEERS WANTED !

Always looking for reliable overseers for the swimming pool, please! Previous volunteers welcome. Involves taking payment, handing out bands, helping with evacuation procedures etc. Contact Mairi Dennison via Facebook messenger or tel 616331. We politely request that parents/guardians whose children use the pool regularly take a turn at overseeing, in particular.

HANDY EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Ebenezer Stores <u>stronsaystores@gmail.com</u> Olivebank <u>m.williamson1@btconnect.com</u> Fishmart café <u>fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com</u>

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

<u>GOLGOTHA MONASTERY, PAPA STRONSAY</u> <u>DAILY STREAMING BROADCAST</u>

There is a daily streaming broadcast from Golgotha Monastery, Papa Stronsay. <u>http://www.papastronsay.com/live</u>

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.

<u>STRONSAY KIRK</u>

Weekly service at 11am. Minister—Rev David Locke, phone 616284. Stronsay kirk's website: <u>http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stronsaykirk</u> Stronsay kirk's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553904828107651

KIRK CORNER

Tuesday 31st January 2023 The Manse, Stronsay KW17 2AF <u>DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk</u> 01857 616284



Hello again everyone.



The first snowdrops are about. For me I have seen the shoots and buds but not yet the flowers open. But they say it's the green shoots that offer hope of better things to come, so what are the green shoots around you, which maybe you have not noticed yet, that can give you hope at this time ?

For me there are some in our church The church was successful in applying for a grant from The Household Hardship Fund that gave us $\pounds 5000$ [plus postage costs] for distributing to Stronsay residents in need of help with fuel poverty. To date we have had nearly 70 applications which might mean we can grant every household who applied around $\pounds 70$. It's maybe just a green shoot, in the eyes of some, but it could be a start to other ways to help us all get through these hard times. If anyone thinks of other ways the church can help people of our community do let us know, for that is what we want to do.

The church's Monthly **Peedie Library** in the kirk hall has been doing quite well of late with more people of all ages coming along. It's a warm place to meet or relax from 2.30-4pm on a Wednesday. Come for a browse of our books, enjoy a blether with friends or someone you don't know. Or just come and enjoy a warm hall and do your own thing! We now have wifi installed in the church so you can happily browse the net. Refreshments are provided. Newcomers and everyone is welcome. We have been exploring whether we can do it twice a month- let us know your thoughts

The church has produced **a new Welcome to Stronsay leaflet for any newcomer to the island.** It sets out some basic tips about life here, which sometimes newcomers do not quickly find out, about eg, wifi, shopping, travel, refuse & other services, leisure and where to find out what. Its a start, but as people find other things to put in it, we will be glad to expand it. Copies are available just now through the church for any newcomer to the island.

We have been **adapting** our styles of services to become more informal with a very popular time each Sunday for chatting together over refreshments. We hope our changes mean church is even more suitable for the wide range of backgrounds within our community, so please do give us a fresh look if you have not been to church for a whileor come just for coffee if you wish, at about noon. We are open to your thoughts and suggestions.

(continued on next page)

Sometimes green shoots happen amongst ground that some think is dead ground, especially as people work together to try to help things grow. We have appointed a new Church Board member, Robert Askey, to help run our buildings and finances, and on 12th February in a special church service we hope to ordain 3 new general church leaders- called Elders: Ruth Bowen, Mike Erdman and Roger Neville-Smith. No doubt like us all they are not perfect in every way, but their willingness to stand up and as volunteers help lead the church forward is encouraging.

I am now also acting Minister –" Interim Moderator" at Eday Parish church and it has been encouraging to get across there and start re-developing links with our church on Stronsay. Green shoots perhaps in working together and across islands.

Raymond Dennison has now retired as our long-serving Church Officer- the one who did so much to keep the buildings open. Gladly, Raymond is staying fully involved as a normal churchgoer, but we will have to adapt and its perhaps a green shoot opportunity for us to share tasks around, and even do things differently.

Fresh growth often involves change that at first seems hard; eg as ground is broken up to allow growth? Our regional governing body, The Presbytery of Orkney, from 1 January 2023 ceased to exist as it merged into a wider regional body, the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles stretching from Aberdeen to Shetland. In common with similar steps across Scotland, this move to larger Presbyteries means the loss of familiar old ways, but will hopefully allow supervision and support of churches to be more effective and better resourced. At the same times churches are gradually to face some rationalisation of buildings and numbers of Ministers. Hopefully we will maintain a church presence on Stronsay, with a Minister being paid to work here part-time. The outworking of all this will take time over the next couple of years, and there will be advantages and possible disadvantages- with a central administration on Mainland helping with our admin tasks, but Stronsay church perhaps having less control over its own resources and destiny. Change brings positives and negatives so we have to be alert to let the right shoots and buds grow.

It's still cold, windy, and often wild; but the days are getting longer and the sun does shine at times, so our son gets to nursery in daylight, and is able on the way to keep an eye out for green shoots and buds, and see more opportunities to play outside and in the playpark! Yes life remains hard and sometimes really hard for some of us. We are very happy to pray for anyone in our community, but through the changing times, do try and look for the green shoots and buds that may be emerging out of the hard 'dead' ground. If I or the church can help, let us know.

May the blessings of God's green shoots be with you

David (Rev David I W Locke. MA, MSc, BD)



Monday to Saturday 8:30am—5:00pm
Sunday Closed
Post collection times 7:30am, Monday to Saturday
OIC Special collection Week Commencing: 13 Feb 2023
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
Next mobile library van visit . Mon 13 Feb
Weekly rubbish collection Tuesday (bags out by 8am but <u>not</u> on the night before!)
Recycling skips nearly full? Send email to <u>recycling@orkney.gov.uk</u>
Forward scam texts to 7726
Forward scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

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

Airy Fairy 616231	Scottish Fuels 01856 873105
Castle Bird Reserve 616363	SDT office 616410
Community council 616446	Silver Darlings 616412
Companions Club 616352	Star Island Soap 616281
Craftship Enterprise 0778 511 1126	Stranded seals, etc 616207/206/498
Doctor 616321	Stronsay Band
Ebenezer Stores 616339	Stronsay Pub & Hotel 616407
Ebenezer Oil Heating 616207	Stronsay school
or 07500 682 867	Stronsay taxi 616335
Fish Mart 616401	•
Golgotha monastery 616210	Balfour hospital (24/7)01856 888000
	Water problems (24/7) 0800 0778 778
Hairdresser 616337	Electricity
Hall bookings 616263	general enquiries 0800 048 3516
or annemaree.carter@btinternet.com	(lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)
<i>or</i> annemaree.carter@btinternet.com Highland Fuels 01856 873766	
<i>or</i> annemaree.carter@btinternet.com Highland Fuels 01856 873766 Island Link Officer 616475	problems (24/7) 0800 300 999
Highland Fuels 01856 873766 Island Link Officer 616475	problems (24/7) 0800 300 999 power cut (24/7) 105
Highland Fuels 01856 873766 Island Link Officer 616475 Kirk secretary 616238	problems (24/7) 0800 300 999 power cut (24/7) 105 Police (non urgent) (24/7)101
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HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET

Send an email to <u>editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u> or write to "*The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*". The Limpet website's URL is <u>www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk</u>.