

STRONSAY LIMPET

Funded by the Stronsay Development Trust ISSUE 235 - January 2025



Published after 7pm on the last day of the month

TIMETABLES

Loganair - interisland timetable 27 Oct 2024 - 16 Feb 2025 Orkney Ferries - winter timetable 30 Sep 2024 to 3 May 2025 Orkney Ferries - refit timetable 5 Jan 2025 to 29 Mar 2025 Orkney Ferries - refit timetable (**passengers only**) 6 Jan 2025 to 7 Mar 2025 OIC - school holidays 2023-2027

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fishmart Café reopens	Wed 5 Feb
OIC special collection	Week commencing Mon 10 Feb
SWRI meeting	Wed 12 Feb
Stronsay small animal clinic	Thu 13 Feb
"Fish Friday" commences in Fishmart Café	Fri 21 Feb
Mobile library van visit	Mon 10 Mar
Stronsay small animal clinic	Thu 13 Mar
Orkney Ferries - refit ends (revised date)	Sat 29 Mar
Sheena & Andy's fundraiser for SCAA - tandem skydive!	Fri 18 Apr
Stronsay's Massive Weekend	Sat/Sun 17/18 Aug

FROM GERAMOUNT SURGERY - PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Dear Stronsay residents,

As you are all now probably aware, we have a few particularly problematic viruses circulating the island. Could we kindly ask that for the present time can anyone visiting the surgery, wear masks and cleanse their hands as they enter the surgery. We have provided masks and hand wash at the door for you to use.

Kindest regards,

Stronsay surgery team

Next edition of the Limpet will be published on <u>Fri 28 Feb 2025</u>, the deadline is 7pm on that date. Contact details for the Limpet are on the back page of every edition.

SHEENA & ANDY'S FUNDRAISER FOR SCAA



Fundraising for SCAA (Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance) Tandem skydive, Friday 18 April 2025

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheena-andy-rose-1

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

LOGANAIR - REFIT UPDATE

Please be advised Loganair has confirmed the extension of the refit timetable in operation to provide additional flight frequency on a Saturday for North Isles residents.

This has been extended until, and including, 29th March 2025 to accommodate the extended period now outlined by Orkney Ferries Ltd.

CMc Stronsay Island Link Officer/Clerk 28 January 2025

STRONSAY SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC ERRAID STATION HOUSE

Clinics will be held on Thursday 13 February and Thursday 13 March. The next opportunity will be in May To make an appointment please phone Northvet 01856 873403

Any dogs requiring annual boosters will need appointments on both dates. We are now using an updated Leptospirosis vaccine which provides more complete protection. The initial vaccination needs two doses four weeks apart for maximum effectiveness.

If you have a pet which needs urgent attention please feel free to contact me directly. FB messenger or phone 07595 119532

Thanks Liz Askew

TENDERS INVITED TO RENT THE FIELD AT THE KIRK

The field at the Kirk, approximately 2.68 hectares (6.6 acres) in size, is offered for rent from March to December 2025, with an option to rent for up to a further 4 years if desired. The field, which is BPS category 1 and LFASS category D, has no water supply and may be grazed by sheep only or cut for silage or hay, with any cutting to be completed by the end of August. Any fertiliser applied should be a 20-10-10 compound fertiliser or similar.

Please submit offers in writing in a sealed envelope marked Kirk Field Tender to Ian Cooper, Steenysheed or email <u>iancooper56@gmail.com</u> by 5pm on Monday 3rd February.



STRONSAY LIFEBOAT

Students and researchers should be pleased to note that one can now search the RNLI Journal "The Lifeboat" for entries for Stronsay - 590! Includes photos of boats and late Queen. Each past local volunteer should be celebrated for such service.

snipca.com/53224.

Leo Martini-Brown <u>lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk</u>

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FISH MART CAFÉ REOPENS ON WED 5 FEB

FISHMART CAFE OPENING TIMES

Breakfast served all day

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	9am - 2pm
Thursday	10am - 4pm
Friday	9am - 2:30pm / Takeaway 4:30pm - 7:30pm
Saturday	9am - 2pm
Sunday	10:30am-2:30pm



DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE HOLDING PIZZA TAKEAWAY NIGHT'S AT THE FISHMART ON FOLLOWING DATES THIS YEAR.....

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH, FRIDAY JULY 11TH & FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER

TAKEAWAYS START AT 4PM UNTIL 8PM, TO ORDER & BOOK YOUR PIZZA COLLECTION SLOT PLEASE CALL THE FISHMART ON 616401 DURING OPENING HOURS OR BY MESSENGER TO TARA.

FRESHLY BAKED & HAND STRETCHED STONE BAKED PIZZA

MEAT FEAST	£12.00
(HAM, PEPPERONI, MEATBALLS & CHEESE)	
HAWAIIAN	£11.00
(HAM, PINEAPPLE & CHEESE)	
VEGETARIAN	£11.00
(PEPPERS, ONIONS, MUSHROOMS & CHEESE)	
MARGARITA (MOZZARELLA CHEESE, CHEDDAR CHEESE)	£10.00
(MUZZARELLA CHEESE, CHEDDAR CHEESE)	13

FRIDAY CAFÉ SCHEDULE EVERY FRIDAY BEGINNING 21ST FEBRUARY NORMAL MENU: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FISH SUPPER (DINE-IN): 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM FISH SUPPER (TAKEAWAY): 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

RI

FISH

NO BOOKING OR PRE-ORDERING NEEDED FOR TAKEAWAY. JUST DROP BY, ORDER, AND COLLECT AT THE COUNTER

FISH SUPPER	
KIDS FISH SUPPER	£8.00
SCAMPI SUPPER	£9.50
BATTERED SAUSAGE SUPPER	£8.00
MUSHY PEAS/PEAS/BAKED BEANS	£1.00
TARTARE SAUCE	
CAN/CARTON DRINKS	£1.40
BOTTLED DRINKS	£1.50

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL

R100 BROADBAND EVALUATION



The Scottish Government is assessing the success of **R100**, a government funded programme which is **extending access to faster broadband across Scotland**.

To inform this, we are surveying households and organisations who:

- Are scheduled to receive faster broadband access
- Have been provided with faster broadband access and have taken up the connection
- Have been provided with faster broadband access but have not taken up the connection



To determine if your property is impacted by the programme, and complete a survey, please go to:

https://tinyurl.com/R100Evaluation or scan the QR code below:



The deadline for all responses is 3 March 2025

Please email <u>R100Evaluation@stantec</u>. <u>com</u> if you have any further questions.

Survey = <u>https://tinyurl.com/R100Evaluation</u>

Bar opening hours

WINTER HOURS- JANUARY TO APRIL

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Closed

18.30-22.30

Closed

19.00-23.30

18.00-00.30

18.00-00.30

Closed

Please see our 'Whats on' posters for information regarding social gatherings, clubs & events

Stronsay JANUARY 25

NEWS

Happy New Year from Stronsay Development Trust! Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025! As we step into the new year, we're looking forward to all the opportunities and projects ahead, working together to support and strengthen our wonderful community.

Here's to an exciting year ahead for Stronsay! 🚀

We're moving forward with the Stronsay Place Plan, and the next step is gathering your thoughts through our community survey. This is your chance to share ideas, highlight what's important to you, and help shape the future of our island.

Got something to share? Fill out the survey and make your voice heard!

- 📅 Deadline: Wednesday, 26th February
- Paper copies available just get in touch!

Beechwood is complete! All notes of interest will be sent over to Drever and Heddle, who will take charge of sending out application forms and picking the perfect tenant. Stay tuned for more details!

Upcoming Grants

After gathering feedback from the initial Place Plan event, one of the suggestions that stood out was for a small grants scheme for local residents. We're excited to share that work is already underway to make this happen!

Board Meetings

The SDT Board meets on the first Monday of each month. Our most recent approved minutes for our meeting on 2nd December 2024 are available here: https://tinyurl.com/2ntnzk3n (And our Jan meeting minutes will be up soon following our meeting on 3rd February)

Contacts

The SDT Volunteer Board are: Ian Stevenson (Chair), Kevin Kent (Vice Chair), Mike Holland, Elsie Dennison, James Seaton, Louise McQuaid & Naomi Bremner

Email contact details: CDO (Vicki):

development@stronsavdevelopmenttrust.com Wellbeing (Shani):

Recycling (Laura);

eco@stronsavdevelopmenttrust.com Steph: steph@stronsavdevelopmenttrust.com Aimee: aimee@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com Board: office@stronsavdevelopmenttrust.com Or message:

Facebook.com/StronsayDevelopmentTrust

Stronsay Development Trust

Heritage Centre

Exciting times are ahead for us! Big things are happening, and the plans for the new heritage centre and housing development are really starting to take shape. We've received the first drafts, and everything is coming together beautifully. These plans will soon be sent over to the Heritage Society for their review before we submit them for planning approval. It's a thrilling step forward, and we can't wait to see these projects unfold! The future is looking bright!

Bikes, Buses and all things Transport A big thank you to everyone who filled out and returned the transport application! Your feedback is invaluable and will help us shape the future of our community bus service. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with creating a service that meets your needs! New E-bikes are on the way! We're hoping to have them ready for residents to try out this spring. Plus, new bike stores are coming to make cycling more convenient than ever. Our electric bus has arrived in Orkney and is all set to roll in the spring - now it just needs its logo!

Togetherness and Wellbeing

What's been Happening this Month?

With funding from CLLD, we have been organising and running some great free events, and with thanks to our partnership with the Island Wellbeing Project we've been able to offer a variety of activities; from crafts and games, to companions lunches and chair exercises. It's been fantastic seeing so many of you join in, and we've got even more events lined up for next month! We hope to see you all there!

If you would like to try any of our fantastic IWP groups, have any questions about our Ready Meals, Prescription Collection or any other wellbeing matters please call or message for details.

Shani Hall, Stronsay Island Wellbeing Project Coordinator wellbeing@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com Tel: 07904 578120 or 01857 616410 or facebook.com/sdtwellbeing





Thursday 27th February 2025 7.00pm-9.00-pm, Church Hall, £2.00/person, refreshments.

We are an informal group who meet once a month to do our own stitchy things. You can bring any projects you're working on such as crochet, needlework, knitting, rug hooking etc. Everyone welcome.

STRONSAY SWRI MEETING WED 12 FEB



Stronsay SWRI will meet on Wed 12th Feb at 7:30 pm in the community centre. All ladies and girls aged 11 and over very welcome. There will be a novelty raffle (could everyone please bring a few small wrapped prizes). Competition (for members) is 4 jammy dodgers.

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Craig & Leslie for their work in all weathers, finding and fixing faults on the island's power grid.

THANK YOU

Dear Stronsay Community,

Happy New Year to you all. I wish to say thank you to the community for my card and Amazon gift card.

This was not expected at all. I miss you all and you are all in my heart. I may at some point come up to do some Bank shift once I get settled in.

All my love,

Maxine

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 Mick for all taxi work and Sinclair Haulage 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

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>

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



Stronsay at War

The Stronsay Heritage Society is planning to create a display and accompanying booklet for the Stronsay Heritage Centre to document *life in Stronsay* during the First and Second World Wars.

We are hoping that folks both in and outwith Stronsay will send us copies/scans/photographs of the following types of items:

- Written memories or diaries (of life in Stronsay or from Stronsay folk experiencing life elsewhere because of the war)
- Photos (of Stronsay or of Stronsay folk)
- Letters
- Postcards
- · Memorabilia or Souvenirs
- Ration Cards
- · Recipes or household hints
- Fashion
- Products/Labels/Advertisements from local businesses
- Invoices/Receipts
- · Certificates or Awards
- Programmes of Events, Fundraisers or Appeals
- Newspaper clippings about Stronsay

We can also borrow your originals and scan them ourselves if that's easier for you.

Naturally, if you'd like to donate any wartime-related artefacts or original photos to the Heritage Centre, we'd be very glad to receive them.

> Please contact Jennifer Graham (07973 716278) or Ian Cooper (616 322) or via email: heritagesocietystronsay@gmail.com



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STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

VILLAGE PLAY PARK

Stronsay Community Council is pleased to announce the new play equipment for the Village play park, a two bay swing with two cradle and two junior seats, and a stainless steel slide with an attached climbing frame, has arrived in Orkney.

It is being stored in Kirkwall awaiting installation, with an estimated date for construction being 10 - 14 February 2025. This is subject to delays as other works are also planned by the contractor while they are in Orkney.

Stronsay Community Council will let you know of any further updates, as and when these become available.

Colin McAlpine Stronsay Island Link Officer/Clerk 10 January 2025

ORKNEY FERRIES—REFIT TIMETABLE, MV NORDIC SEA



An additional week-day passenger service will operate between Sanday, Stronsay, Eday and Kirkwall during the annual winter refit timetable. The MV Nordic Sea will provide the additional foot passenger capacity from Monday 6 January 2025 until Friday 7 March 2025, subject to weather conditions. Additional sailings will operate from Mondays through to Fridays. The MV Nordic Sea, which can carry up to 47 passengers, fills a gap during periods of refit and adds capacity for services under increased demand during the summer months. As the relief boat, the Nordic Sea may be required to cover any breakdowns within the fleet. Service provision will therefore be subject to availability.

For further timetable information please visit www.orkneyferries.co.uk

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As from 1 January 2025, the following have been confirmed as members of Stronsay Community Council: -

Dominic BLYTH	St. Catherines, Stronsay, KW17 2AN tel: 616242 email: <u>saniman@live.co.uk</u>
Shane HOURSTON	Housebay Cottage, Stronsay, KW17 2AJ tel: 07593965600 email: <u>s.hourston@yahoo.co.uk</u>
Louise McQUAID	Bayview, Stronsay, KW17 2AR tel: 616376 email: <u>louisemcquaidcc@gmail.com</u>
James SEATON	Thorfinn, Stronsay, KW17 2AS tel: 07470111871 email: <u>safehandsno_1@hotmail.com</u>
Damian STOUT Vice Chair	Linksness, Stronsay, KW17 2AT tel: 616258 email: <u>damienstout@btinternet.com</u>
Shirley WHITEMAN Chair	St. John's Cottage, Stronsay, KW17 2AT tel: 616438 email: <u>shirleywhiteman@icloud.com</u>

The role of a Community Councillor is to ensure that they work for the best interests of the whole community and remain representative of, and accountable to, the represented community.

There is currently a vacancy for a Community Council member.

If you have a community related issue that you wish to bring to the attention of the Community Council, or you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor, please contact any of the above members, or the Clerk, tel: 616446 email: stronsaycc@gmail.com

CMc 7 January 2025

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

SCRAP CAR SCHEME

Stronsay Community Council is pleased to announce the reopening of the Scrap Car Scheme for a further five vehicles.

The scheme will be administered by the Community Council and will remain open until five vehicles have been registered for removal. The vehicle owner will be responsible for arranging for the vehicle's disposal.

The haulage cost from Stronsay to 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 tel: 616446 email: stronsaycc@gmail.com or by writing to the address below;
- Complete the Verification Form and liaise with the haulier for the vehicle's delivery to <u>Kirkwall;</u>
- The completed Verification Form 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, Tel: 616446 Email: stronsaycc@gmail.com

20 August 2024

The Digital Phone Switchover



What you need to know

What is the digital phone switchover?

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and January 2027 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. This means services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones, telecare and health devices will need to be compatible.

How will it affect me/what do I need to do?

The good news is – your landline isn't going anywhere and for most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. In fact, many customers are already making the switch when they upgrade to fibre broadband.

Your telecoms provider (for

example, Vodafone or BT) should contact you before the switchover to check in and discuss what you need to do to make sure any reliant services you may have aren't affected. However, we're encouraging everyone to know what to expect. The change may be as simple as plugging your phone into a broadband router rather than the phone socket on the wall, or you may be given a new router to do this.

Please note that your provider will move you to a digital service before January 2027. If you care for a vulnerable person, please keep an eye out for correspondence notifying of a switch over date.



If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your telecoms provider directly.



Do you or someone you know depend on their landline and/or use a telecare device connected to a phone line?

If yes, then please contact the Telecare Team at Orkney Islands Council.

Tel: 01856 873 535. Extension 2635

The Digital Phone Switchover



What you need to know

Other Devices

If you have other devices connected to your phone line that you may have purchased, such as alarm systems, you might need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible.

If you are unsure about how a device in

your home or business might be affected, it is recommended you contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will remain functional on a digital phone line.

People who use health monitoring or

telecare devices should check if the switchover will affect how they work.

Key Points To Remember

If you have any queries or have no means of making emergency calls you need to contact your communications provider.

If you have a telecare alarm please contact the telecare team at Orkney Islands Council: 01856 873 535 Extension: 2635

Check with the appropriate equipment manufacturers if you have any other devices supported by your existing telephone line (such as intruder alarms) to check it will work digitally.

Most telecare alarm providers will have upgrade plans, if your phone line has or is due to an upgraded by your communication provider let them know.

In a Power Outage

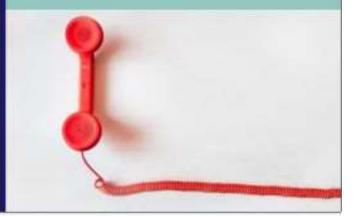
Digital landlines cannot carry an electrical power connection, so in the event of a power cut they will not work. If you have a mobile phone this can still be used, but if you've no other means of calling the emergency services your telecoms provider will offer a solution to allow calls to be made to emergency services.

You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.

Scams

There have been incidents reported of scammers contacting vulnerable users in relation to digital migration. Communication providers or telecare services will never call you to ask for money.

Contact is usually by letter and charges are only applied to normal invoices. If you are in any doubt as to the authenticity of a caller, just hang up and call your communications or telecare provider to report the incident, using a trusted phone number, such as the one on the bill.



Quit Your Way Orkney Stop Smoking Service



Quit Your Way Orkney is your free, friendly, local NHS stop smoking service.

Support from Quit Your Way Orkney includes:

- · Help to develop a personal 12-week quit plan
- · Support to develop plans to change your habits and control cravings
- Regular contact with a specialist stop smoking advisor
- Encouragement and advice on maintaining your quit
- Advice on correctly using stop smoking medications
- · Free access to a range of stop smoking medication
- · Telephone or video call appointments (using NHS Near Me)

Get started today

Have you been supported by Quit Your Way Orkney before?

Phone: 01856 888084 or 0800 0356344 (Freephone number) Email: ork.quityourway@nhs.scot Online: scan the QR code below



You can also visit your local community pharmacy or GP Practice for free stop smoking support If you have used our service before and returned to smoking we will support you again, without judgement, to quit your way.



Let's talk about smoking



Stopping smoking saves money Orkney

The savings below are based on a 20 a day smoker quitting in 2023



Get support to guit and save from Quit Your Way Orkney:

Email: ork.quityourway@nhs.scot Phone: 01856 888084 or 0800 0356344 (Freephone) Online: scan the QR code using your phone camera



You can also visit your local community pharmacy or GP Practice for free stop smoking support

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

LOGANAIR - INTER ISLAND BOARDING CARDS

Please be advised that following a recent HIAL Security Audit it has become necessary to issue boarding cards, as a way to cross reference to who is on the manifest.

A printer is being installed and once working Loganair will be issuing boarding cards at KOI only.

Stronsay Island Link Officer 12 June 2024

SAVE OUR SCREEN MACHINE!

Without urgent investment, the Screen Machine mobile cinema service will end. Please donate to our fundraising campaign to secure its future at: <u>www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-our-screen-machine</u> YouTube video <u>https://youtu.be/fpUuDlnHS-o</u> <u>Frequently asked questions</u>

SCAA - SCOTTISH CHARITY AIR AMBULANCE



Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance responds, on average, to two time-critical emergency call outs every single day. We are a national charity and receive no statutory government funding, so rely 100% on donations from the public to fuel our life-saving flights across Scotland.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN VISITS 2025

13 January, 10 March, 12 May, 30 June, 25 August, 20 October, 15 December For further information go to web page <u>https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/mobile-library</u>, send an email to library@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873166.

Wir	Council Houses	8.45	π.	9.45
	School	10	-	12
Winter	Kirk	12.45	2	3
F	Fish mart	3.15	-	4.45
Sui	Council Houses	9.25	-	10
mme	School	10.15	-	12
Summer/Refit	School Kirk	10.15 12.45	-	12 3

DONNA BLYTH EDUCATION SERVICES

Donna Blyth BA Hons, MEd, PGCE, SQH, CPT3A, CELTA Email: donnablyth@outlook.com Tel: 01857 616242 / 07852 805780

Tuition in English Language, English Literature, EAL and Literacy for learners of all abilities from age 5 - adult

£25.00 per hour for 1:1 tuition

£45.00 per hour for groups of 2 or more depending on requirements (max 4)

Tuition in clarinet performance and music theory up to grade 5

£15 per 30min lesson for 1:1 tuition

Assessment for Applications for Examination Access Arrangements

Assessments and reports for EHCP and Coordinated Support Plan applications

I am GTCS, DBS and PVG Scheme registered.

I have valid, current Safeguarding and Prevent certification

References available if required

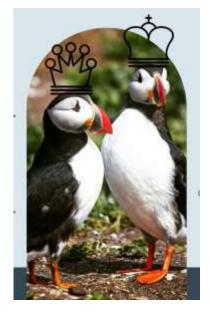
All enquiries and services provided are treated in confidence as far as possible and according to KCSIE legislation 2023

STRONSAY MEN'S SHED

The Stronsay Men's Shed have their own Facebook page up and running now, if you would like to contact them direct please do pm them.

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558772842680

STRONSAY CHESS CLUB



Meets from 12 to 2pm every Friday in the Fishmart Café Chess sets provided

Records of a Bygone Age Flag fences, ditches and dry-stone dykes Part 6

Another milestone in the history of farm and field boundaries in Stronsay was marked by the formation of the Crofters Commission and the subsequent passing of the Crofters Holdings Act in June 1886. Its main outcome was to provide security of tenure for crofters and the right to succession of tenure for their family. It also gave crofters the right to be compensated for their own improvements to the croft at the termination of a tenancy.

Although the Act stopped short of granting the automatic right to additional land for the expansion of their crofts the Commission did seem to have some sympathy to those crofters whose holdings were too small to support themselves and their families. Representatives of the Crofters Commission met in Stronsay in December 1892 where evidence was heard from both crofters and landowners as to how they would be affected by the implementation of the Act and what outcome they sought. The findings of the Commissioners were eventually finalised in 1896, with areas of land taken off the farms of Airy, Holland, Housebay and the Bu being allocated to a number of the nearby small crofts, crofts which had originally been part of the relevant estates.

Although still rented from their landlords, it was thought that this extra ground should be enough land for these crofters to earn a comfortable living and bring up their families. While there was no longer a compulsion to help out on the parent farm at busy times of the year, there was certainly still an expectation that this would happen although the crofters would now be compensated for their labour.

The land taken off Holland to extend the crofts seemed to be almost a throwback to the runrig system where, apparently in an effort to ensure that the tenants had land of equal quality, the three original large fields were divided into 15 long narrow strips with crofts being allocated fields bounded on either side by a neighbour's field. Over the years this has proved to be a very cumbersome arrangement both for cropping and grazing the fields and this method of allocation has again highlighted just how inconvenient the old runrig system was.

(continued on next page)

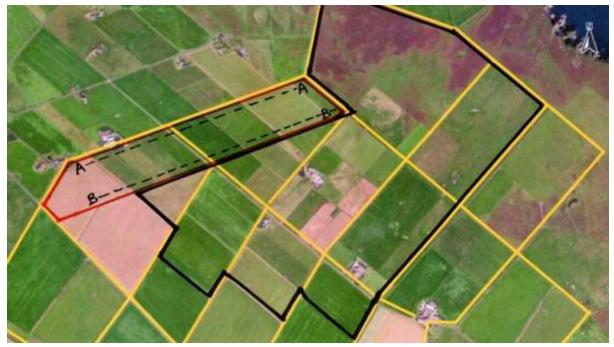


The 3 Holland fields as they were before 1896 are outlined in yellow, with the satellite image showing the fields which were allocated to the neighbouring crofts as they are today. Each of the 5 crofts which were extended in 1896 was given adjacent strips of land rather than land in one block, a less than ideal arrangement.

More changes were to come in 1912 when further land was taken from the Housebay Estate, firstly to enlarge some of the original crofts and then further land set aside to form the new crofts of Russland, Briarlea and Sunnyside. There was apparently enough land allocated for a fourth new croft but there were no takers so this land was to remain with Housebay. These original nine crofts and the three newly formed crofts were also each allocated a 1/12th share of 65 acres of common grazing on what was known as the 'Crofters' Hill', an area which still remains the only common grazing ground in Stronsay.

Looking more closely at the Housebay land allocation for a moment, before the Crofters Commission allocations of land all the crofts in that area lay outside the Housebay march dyke. This dyke marked the boundary between the Housebay Estate and the adjoining Balfour Estate, stretching for more than 3 km (2 miles) from the Crook Sand between Housebay and Holland across the island to Graverend between Housebay and Kirbuster. When the allocation of land inside this boundary was made to in 1896, more than a kilometre of this 1.5 metre high dyke was actually taken down, the stones carted to the new boundary and the dyke rebuilt there – quite a mammoth task when you consider there would have been close on $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of stone in every metre. When the next allocation of fields from within the Housebay boundary was made in 1912, the dyke remained where it was and still stands today!

(continued on next page)



The Housebay fields as they were before 1896 are outlined in yellow. The first allocation of land to enlarge some of the neighbouring crofts was made in 1896 and is outlined in red. A further, much larger, allocation of land was made in 1912 and is outlined in black, with the Crofter's Hill the large enclosure at the top of the photo. This again gave additional land to some of the existing crofts and also created the new holdings of Sunnyside, Briarlea and Russland. The original Housebay march dyke, shown as the dotted line A— A was removed and rebuilt at the line B—B.



This photo shows a small part of what was more than a kilometre of march dyke moved to a new location following the Crofters Commission allocations in 1896. (continued on next page)

All these holdings, whether enlarged or newly formed, were still leased from the Laird, with Cleat, Housebay, Dishes and Midgarth owned by the Traills, Rothiesholm owned by the Sutherlands, Airy owned by the Feas and nearly all of the rest of the island owned by Colonel William Balfour. A typical lease of the time would have been for between 14 and 19 years, with rules laid down for the acceptance of house and buildings at the commencement of the lease and regarding their condition at the end. Other stipulations included the right and liberty of the tenant to take seaweed from the shore to apply as manure to the land, 'said seaweed to be taken only when not required for the manufacture of kelp. The tenant was still expected to make kelp, the value of which was offset against the rent at a price determined by the laird, usually at a rate very much in the laird's favour. Although the lands had twice undergone a process of planking or squaring by this time, the laird still reserved the power to straighten marches and exchange ground with neighbouring proprietors or tenants. Also reserved for the laird was the right to any game, including rabbits, on the lands. The tenant was also required to manage the lands 'according to the most approved rules of modern good husbandry' and in particular to 'adopt not less than a five shift system of rotation of cropping, and never take two white crops in succession.' Where the land leased was wet some leases also stipulated the need for the tenant to 'thoroughly drain at his own expense all the wet parts of said lands, the drains to be made with the common ditching spade three feet deep and coupled with stones at the bottom and filled with stones to eighteen inches of the surface and the whole to be covered with turf' for which work the tenant would be recompensed at the rate of 2/per chain (10p per 20 metres).

By the early 1920s, with the lairds hitting hard times due to high taxes and government legislation, many of the farms and crofts were sold off at a price in the region of 15 - 20 years rent, almost invariably to the sitting tenant. With kelp rights often attached to the purchase, this helped many of the smaller farms and crofts survive the depression of the 1920s relatively unscathed.

As time passed farm produce prices fell in real terms and this, together with expectations of a better standard of living, meant that farmers needed more land and stock to remain viable, resulting in many of these smaller crofts <u>being bought by their neighbours</u> and these in turn being bought by their neighbours as we see a gradual return to ownership of land not dissimilar to that of the lairds of old. If we look back to the 1950s there would have been around 80 individual working farms and crofts in Stronsay but today that same land is owned or rented and run by only around 15 separate businesses. Sadly as these farms get ever larger, mechanisation and economies of scale means the rural population supported by farming gets ever smaller.

We also see some difference in the landscape as boundaries between small fields are removed to make larger fields and some areas of the island are no longer farmed, being left instead to go to waste while government support payments go to their owners as some strange form of compensation for their neglect.

(continued on next page)



An aerial view of the middle of the island still showing the field outlines first formed by the flag fences, ditches and dry-stone dykes put in place by our ancestors more than 150 years ago, together with the tapestry of colours and shades enriched by good farming practice.

But what of the flag fences, ditches and dry-stone dykes of the article title? A few good examples of flag fences are still to be seen but, as time passes, most are gradually seeing the flagstones broken, leaning over or fallen flat, with no new flag fence being built for at least 150 years. Many of the ditches too have silted up or been trampled in by stock although some have been cleaned out, now protected by a fence to continue ful-filling their original purpose. Many of these dry stone dykes are still maintained, often as a labour of love and through a sense of pride in seeing the toil of previous generations preserved, but this task is getting more and more difficult as the stones deteriorate and foundations subside. Many others, sadly, are simply left to the ravages of time and the attentions of straying livestock, gradually being flattened to the ground never to be rebuilt.

It must be 150 years since any length of new dyke was built in Stronsay but some good dykers are still around as can be seen by the recent work at the water tanks above the village and the wall of the new cemetery, both funded by large companies or organisations and undoubtedly well in excess of the '6d a fathom' cost of erection of many of the original dykes. We must accept that many of the flag fences, ditches and dry-stone dykes of old are now gone for ever but should still look with pleasure, pride and understanding at what is left of those features of our heritage.



The wall of the new cemetery, proving that the age-old skill of dry stone dyke building is still alive.

Ian Cooper January 2025

Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

A regular, reliable report from your councillor in uncertain times in an uncertain world.

The storm at the winter solstice brought down some of the guttering at the West Manse and dislodged a ridge tile from a hip (but on the positive side it gave us an extra day to prepare for the arrival of two of our children for the festive period). At least our house is still intact, unlike so many homes in Los Angeles. As a former airfield firefighter, I am awed by how the wildfires manage to spread so rapidly and extensively through suburban residential neighbourhoods, and how the buildings are so utterly destroyed by them. One building in the area whose fire integrity is of particular interest to me is the Getty Museum, to whom my old college regrettably sold JMW Turner's *Van Tromp, going about to please his Masters, Ships a Sea, getting a Good Wetting* for £11 million in 1993. When I was a student, you could find yourself in the college picture gallery situated next to this 1844 narrative history oil painting whilst sitting an exam or sipping cocktails at a summer ball. I hope it survives.



Nonetheless, despite the likely link between these conflagrations and global warming, the once and future United States president, the half-Hebridean Donald Trump, on his first day back in office, ordered the USA out of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Given some of his earlier statements on Panama, Canada and Greenland, will he also be eyeing up Orkney and the largest natural harbour in the northern hemisphere as part of his expansionist strategic ambitions? Or even Sanday's Plain of Fidge for another golf course? The world has some uncertain years ahead. It is high time to heed the warning attributed to the USA's third president, Thomas Jefferson: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

It has been a gentle start to 2025 at the Council—the calm before the February storm, when we'll undertake the challenging task of setting our budget in the current inclement financial climate. I've had a mixture of real and virtual meetings, including a catch-up with the convener and clerk of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

It has come to my attention that some North Isles folk are unaware they may be entitled to a Smartcard for local concessionary ferry travel. (Residents of North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray can also receive concessionary entitlement for inter-island air travel.) In order to meet the required eligibility criteria, you must: 1) be in possession of a National Entitlement Card (Saltire Card); 2) be aged 65 or over, or meet the disability criteria; 3) be a permanent resident of Eday, Egilsay, Flotta, Graemsay, Hoy, North Ronaldsay, Papa Westray, Rousay, Sanday, Shapinsay, Stronsay, Westray, or Wyre. For further information write to: Transportation Service, Marine Services & Transportation, Enterprise & Sustainable Regeneration, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall KW15 1NY; telephone: (01856) 873535; or e-mail: ferryvouchers@orkney.gov.uk.

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

Digital image courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program Photo credit: Dr Ute Clackson



SWIMMING POOL - OPENING TIMES

Charges - Adults £3, Children £1.50, Private Hires £15. To book a private hire phone Elsie on 616238.

Monday	Adult lane	6:30-7:10:00	Public session 7:10–7:50
Thursday	Private hire	6:30-7:10	Public session 7:10-7:50
Saturday	Private hire	2:00-2:40	Public session 2:40-3:20

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.

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

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.

A NOTE FROM THE LIMPET'S EDITOR

Please let me know if anything in the Limpet requires updating or deleting. To contact the Limpet send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to "Claremont, KW17 2AR".



STRONSAY ON YOUTUBE

- Bicycle tour of Stronsay in August 2022 (poor audio quality)
- <u>59° North</u>
- Links House, Stronsay: Finding the Mesolithic in Orkney
- <u>Stronsay, Orkney</u>
- <u>The mystery of the Stronsay Monster</u>
- Orkney—living and working
- <u>1930's stone crushing machine in action on Stronsay</u>
- <u>Stronsay harbour (taken from inside the harbour)</u>
- <u>Five reasons to visit Stronsay</u>

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 OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES

Our Lady's Chapel on the pier is 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

STRONSAY KIRK

Details of services at Stronsay's Kirk for the next few weeks are now available on the kirk's website <u>https://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stronsaykirk/calendar.asp?set=list</u>.

Contact Kirk Secretary: <u>elsie.dennison@live.co.uk</u>

Stronsay kirk's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553904828107651



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.

<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



happyfeetorkney@outlook.com

I am a fully qualified Foot Health Practitioner and a certified ear care provider, offering expert services with the convenience of home visits at competitive rates. For more information or to schedule an appaintment, please contact Shirley for a faat or ear care appointment via email or at 07767714634 to have the best foot and ear care.

> Happy Feet Foot and Ear Care 07767714634



Hazel Shearer, Airy, Stronsay, Orkney, KW172AG • Phone 01857 616231 hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com • www.airyfairyonline.co.uk

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

> 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 www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk

<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

Holmsgarth Crafts





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



Contact Margaret McAnally - Holmsgarth Crafts | Facebook 07432614089





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



We have now extended the days and service of the bus.

You can now book the bus between 9:00 and 3:00 Monday-Friday and we can arrange to drop/collect at the plane or ferry on request.

Call Mick 616 376 or 07508 884024

BAYVIEW TRANSPORT LTD

Winter Pupil Timetable effective from Wednesday 30th October

Winter pupil transport timetable 24-25

North End

0828	Rose Cottage	
0829	Thorfinn	
0831	Council Houses	
0833	Bankhouse	
0836	Caravan	
0841	Airport	
0846	School	
0850	Bayview	
0855	School	

Central/Rothiesholm

0835	Burrowgate (end of road)	
0845	School	
0850	Lower Leaquoy – end of road (pick up point)	
0855	School	

South End

0827	Russland	
0829	Sunnyside	
0830	Blinkbonny	
0833	East Bank	
0836	Holin	
0840	School	
0845	Odiness Junction	
0847	Vat pull- in	
0853	School	

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

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

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

<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

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Patrick McGrath Ltd



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

säfe

Call Patrick on **07933 488283** Email: patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com

Ebenezer Oil Heating







Oil boiler servicing, repair and replacement Oil tank inspection and installation

Why not let me check out your heating system, I can advise upgrades to make your heating more efficient & cheaper to run

10 year parts and labour guarantee on all new Grant Vortex boilers

All my work is covered by the OFTEC Competent Persons Scheme

Why would you use anybody else?

Tel 01857 616207 Mob 07500682867 Email ebenezer@stronsay.org

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"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



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STRONSAY HOTEL & PUB

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083375340593

Bar Opening Hours		
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	6pm - 12am	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	6pm - 12am	
Friday	5pm - 1am	
Saturday	5pm - 1am	
Sunday	6pm - 12am	
Contact StronsayHotel@Gmail.com		

From Wednesday 9 October 2024

FISHMART CAFE OPENING TIMES

Monday	CLOSED	
Tuesday	CLOSED	
Wednesday	9am - 2pm	
Thursday	10am - 4pm	
Friday	9am - 2pm	
Saturday	9am - 2pm	(Breakfast served all day)
Sunday	10:30am-2:30pm	(Breakfast served all day)

Local business adverts are free!

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Unit 1, Woods Yard Stronsay KW17 2AF Office: 01857 616410

Contact Details

	Wellbeing	Shani Hall	wellbeing@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com
-	Development	Vicki Holland	Development@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com
_	Recycling	Laura Carter	Eco@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com
-	Assistant	Steph Rome	Stephanie@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com
-	Assistant	Aimee Stout	Aimee@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com

Office Hours

May be subject to change depending on online meetings and other SDT commitments, please check our Facebook page for updates

Monday	Office 9:00-15:00	Vicki/Shani Steph/Aimee	Recycling Laura	10:00-14:00
Tuesday	(Office closed)	(Vicki/Shani available if required)	Laura	9:00-14:00
Wednesday	9:00-14:00	Vicki	Laura	9:00-14:00
Thursday	9:00-16:00	Steph/Aimee		
Friday	9:00-15:00	Aimee	Laura	9:00-14:00

SINCLAIR HAULAGE LIMITED Contact Details 🗰 🔤 🚔

General Enquiries:	info@sinclairhaulage.com	
Accounts Enquiries:	accounts@sinclairhaulage.com	
Livestock Bookings:	livestock@sinclairhaulage.com	
Phone:	01857 600 404	
Postal Address:	Sinclair Haulage Ltd New Haulage Shed How Farm SANDAY KW17 2BJ	
Office Opening Times:	Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:00	

Livestock bookings should be made by emailing <u>livestock@sinclairhaulage.com</u> or calling 01857 600404.

Please note that we <u>DO NOT</u> use Gmail email addresses (e.g. <u>sinclairhaulage@gmail.com</u>). Please only use the above email addresses.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Post Office opening hours Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 5:00pm. Sunday closed all day
Post collection times Ebenezer post box 7:30am, Monday to Saturday
Bank (RBS) Thursday 9:30am to 3pm (closed 12-1 lunch), phone 616262
OIC Special collection Week Commencing Monday 10 Feb 2025
Stronsay Island Link Office Open on request, email stronsaycc@gmail.com
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 . <u>https://tinyurl.com/orkmoblib</u>
Weekly rubbish collection Thursday, bags out by 8am.
Recycling skips nearly full? Send email to recycling@orkney.gov.uk
Forward scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
Stronsay's Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/476168409207488</u>

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

		_
Airy Fairy	616231	
Bank (Thursday only)	616262	(
Community council		(
Companions Club		•
Craftship Enterprise		•
Doctor	616321	(
Ebenezer Stores	616339	e.
Ebenezer Oil Heating	616207	(
	07500 682 867	
Fish Mart	616401	
Golgotha monastery	616210	
or co	ntact@the-sons.org]
Hall bookings		
	ter@btinternet.com]
Highland Fuels		
Island Link Officer		
Kirk secretary		
Limpet editor		
Medical emergency]
Neil's on Wheels]
Manse	616284]
Nurses	616321	
Olivebank		
OIC out of hours		
Post Office		
Red House Plants		
Registrar	616239	
Scottish Fuels	01856 873105	
SDT office	616410	

Silver Darlings 616412
Sinclair Haulage 600404
Star Island Soap 616281
Stranded seals, etc 616207/206/498
Stronsay Band
Stronsay Pub & Hotel 616407
Stronsay school
Stronsay taxi, school 616376 or
transport, mechanic 07508 884 024
diagnostics & repairs
Balfour hospital (24/7)01856 888000
Water problems (24/7) 0800 0778 778
Electricity
general enquiries 0800 048 3516
(lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)
problems (24/7) 0800 300 999
power cut $(24/7)$ 105
Police (non urgent) $(24/7)101$
Kirkwall Library 01856 873166
Dentists:
Daisybank Clinic 01856 870547
Deyanov Dental 01856 877118
Com Dental Service 01856 888258
Orkney Dental 01856 872030
Vets:
Flett & Carmichael . 01856 872859
Northvet 01856 873403

HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to "Claremont, KW17 2AR".