



STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
ISSUE 40 OCTOBER



BELATED THANK YOU TO Mr MALCOLM GREEN



As many readers of the Limpet have commented on the superb quality of the photographs and printing, we thought that we would use this month's front page to explain events that led to us getting such a high quality printer. Last year the Limpet calendar was printed and distributed in time to be given as Christmas gifts, its main aim was to raise funds for a new printer. This brought a cheque from Norwich in Norfolk from a Mr Malcolm Green. "Who is that? I hear you ask. Why does someone 600 miles away take an interest in Stronsay? .

If we turn the clock back to 1850, when a branch of the Dennison family lived at 9 Whitehall. One of the daughters was named 'Jessie Maxwell Dennison'. Her father ran the last of the sailing packets around the islands moving goods and people from place to place, but this was all to end with the coming of the very first steam boat, which was no longer dependant on unreliable winds!

A frequent traveler in the Dennison boat was the islands auctioneer, one Malcolm Green (Malcolm's grandfather). At times, he would bring his son, Alexander with him, and soon romance blossomed between Alexander and Jessie. The Dennison family had to move to Leith, Alexander followed. He married his lady-love (Jessie) in Toxteth, bound they hoped for Australia. This was abandoned when they started a family of three boys and four girls! Their eldest boy, James (Malcolm's Father), married 32 years later in 1914. He was in the Royal Garrison Artillery, serving in the Somme, sadly he was gassed in the last month of the Great War, but survived and lived until 1941. His son Malcolm Green (our benefactor) was born in 1923. Jessie told her grandson about Stronsay and this fired an interest, a desire to do something useful! His 1st contact was made through an Orkney phone book, This he used to contact all of the Stronsay 'Dennisons' listed. He was contacted by Elsie Dennison, this inspired Malcolm to visit Stronsay and meet up with long lost family. He learned of Stronsay's fund raising efforts for the swimming pool. A keen oil-painter, he produced a painting of 'The Vat of Kirbuster' with no less than 500 limited copies for sale. This raised a lot of money for the fund and helped enable the pool to open in Dec 1994, which Malcolm attended. He now tries to visit every year and organises a family meal at the Stronsay Hotel. Malcolm donated £500 to the Limpet Printer fund, which enabled us to buy a far superior printer. Many thanks go to Mr Malcolm Green for his support. Mr Green will receive a free lifelong subscription to the Limpet.

School News

It has been a busy term at Stronsay Junior High School. Our new pupils in nursery bring the roll up to 68.

In August the Pupil Council carried out a survey to find the pupils preferred choice of colour for the notice boards. As part of their vocational experiences; some S4 pupils have been very busy painting.



We had our annual visit from the Highland Football Youth Development program and all pupils in P4 and above had a day's coaching.

In September all the primary pupils enjoyed meeting Anne the Eday ranger. She showed them all the new OCEAN Nature Detective booklets and some of the many plants and minibeasts that can be found in the wild area at the back of the school.



Also in September our S2 pupils made their way to Hoy for an Outdoor Education experience with the S2 pupils from Sanday. The weather was exceptionally kind and an enjoyable time spent raft building, hill walking and canoeing.



On the 7th October the P3 and P4 pupils made a special trip into Kirkwall to take part in rehearsals for the opera 'Way out West'. In November we will join with Sanday and Glaitness pupils for a one time only performance in Kirkwall. Stronsay are the Cavalry and have been practicing the songs for weeks; our favourite song is 'We are the boys in blue'.



The internal building works postponed from the summer will take place during the October break and carry on into the winter term. This should provide the school with updated and larger Home Economics, Art and Music facilities.

At the end of this term Dr Bob Tateson retires after 15 years of service to the school and as lifeguard of the pool. We all wish him well in his meteorological studies.



STRONSAY FOOTPRINTS TRIP TO HOWAR NORTH RONALDSAY

On Sunday 7th September eight members of Stronsay Footprints took the ferry to North Ronaldsay, the crossing over was unfortunately very rough and a few of us looked a little green when we disembarked. Upon our arrival we were met by our hosts, Dr's June and Gerry Morris who own the farm known as Howar. A short walk from the pier took us to North Ronaldsay's Bird Observatory. Once in the observatory some made the most of the opportunity for refreshments at the bar.

Dr June Morris then presented her talk and slide show on the Ancient Breeds of Sheep at Howar - their pre-historic origins and movements. She explained some of the recent evidence of movements of both human and sheep populations from the Near East across Russia and Scandinavia and detailed the importance of DNA analysis in tracing these origins, discussing the connection between the origins of the Orcadian human population and the islands' native sheep. We were shown slides of the primitive sheep kept at Howar which include three of the Northern Short Tailed Group: the North Ronaldsay, the Soay and the Icelandic in addition to a breed related to this group which is considered to be the smallest in the world - the Ouessant.

Dr Gerry Morris then talked about the couples work on their farm with a pictorial presentation of the buildings, animals and wildlife as well as the archaeological finds and excavation reports on the Broch of Burrian which is situated on a promontory on the coast of their land. Following the talk we were driven to Howar and enjoyed tea, coffee and biscuits, whilst being shown some of the archaeological finds from the broch. We then walked out into their grounds and Dr Gerry Morris showed us the 'Old Smithy' a wonderfully restored building with working bellows, horse harnesses and delightfully cobbled floor. We proceeded across the fields taking the opportunity to see their collection of sheep. In one field they keep more than twenty rams from all four breeds in amazing harmony! We looked through the gate of the boundary wall where the native North Ronaldsay sheep were eating seaweed on the shore. Further round the coastal edge of the land we saw the Cormorants and the seal rookery before viewing the Broch of Burrian.

First excavated in the 1870's by Dr William Traill the broch seems to have had two phases of occupation with a possible third later Celtic ecclesiastical presence. The exterior 15 ft thick wall enclosed a 32 ft diameter courtyard with its entrance in the SE. During the second phase the broch was converted with divisions into a sort of wheelhouse. Although much eroded there is still a considerable amount of stone work remaining. As is frequently typical of brochs there is a well (or underground chamber) in the centre, though now filled with rubble we wondered whether this might hold similar secrets to the one at Mine Howe. Further excavations and a geophysical survey were undertaken in 2005 where more archaeological finds were rescued from the spoil heap from William Traill's excavations. Among the many finds from the excavations were Iron Age combs, spindle whorls and weaving combs, bone pins, decorated pottery and a number of carved and decorated stones. The most famous of these is known as the cross slab which is taken as evidence of the existence of a Celtic Christian community, for instance a monastery or hermitage. The cross on this stone is accompanied by Ogham inscriptions, the cross is now a common design in Orcadian Jewellery.

After a final look at the birds and seals we made our way back to the farm buildings and the short drive to the pier for the ferry home to Stronsay. The ferry journey back was not quite so rough as the one going over and we all agreed the trip had been well worth it.

We would like to thank Dr's June and Gerry Morris for such an interesting and informative presentation and the hospitality extended to us at the farm. They informed us that June was due to fly down to England the next day for a meeting with HRH Prince Charles at Highgrove where she is to receive an award for her scientific research and work with rare breed sheep.

Eunice Boum Chairman, Stronsay Footprints

Stronsay Footprints is a voluntary group for residents of Stronsay who are interested in archaeology, wildlife, environment and the natural and social history of the highlands and islands, we organise walks and visits within the islands and topical talks and activities. Membership is open to adults and juniors over the age of 12. For further information contact Eunice on 616230 or Jennifer on 616311.



Footprints Group at Broch of Burrian, Howar N.Ronaldsay

RABBITS TO THE RESCUE

There was once an old man who lived on a hill every week he would walk five miles into the village to get his grocery. On his way back up the hill he would sit down under a big Oak tree where he would often doze and wake to see rabbits playing in the meadow he would watch them for a while chasing each other round and round jumping into the air and showing their fluffy white tails. He enjoyed this entertainment so much he would always leave a nice juicy carrot for them. One day the old man felt unwell and had to take a rest on the way down the hill as well as on the way back he just did not seem to have the energy for the long walk each week to the village he said out loud I wish it were not so far to carry my shopping. On the way home he rested as usual half way back up the hill under the tree and fell into a deep sleep when he awoke he could not see his shopping anywhere he looked all about round and round the tree but there was no sign of his shopping anywhere no footprints nothing he took his cap off scratched his head in amazement and walked on up the hill. He felt very sad he would have very little to eat for he knew he could not make the trip to the village again so soon. When he got to his home he was surprised to see there on his doorstep his bags of shopping. The next week when he walked to the village he asked who had carried his bags home for he wanted to thank them it seemed that no one knew how his shopping had got there. From then on each week he would rest under the oak tree watch the rabbits and would fall asleep before he knew it each time when he woke he would find his shopping bags were gone. He must remember to take a carrot out of the bag before he fell asleep he thought.

He was cooking his dinner and thought I must make sure I buy more carrots next week for I never seem to have enough. He thought he would pretend to be asleep and would know who was helping him I will thank them for I would have to move into the village if it were not for this kind person. The next week he went to bed extra early to get a good sleep before his trip to the village and on his way back he Settled down as usual to watch the rabbits they were very entertaining he almost forgot to keep awake but he wanted to see who was helping him he pulled his hat down over his eyes but could just see his shopping bags after a while he was very surprised to see four huge rabbits come hopping over they took two carrots out of the bag and put them on the grass then between them they pulled the bags carefully up the hill six baby rabbits followed along and carried off the carrots across the meadow and into their burrow. He smiled to himself no one would believe me if I told them who is carrying my shopping up the hill. He always made sure that he brought the best carrots and asked if he could have the ones that had the tops still on. He was told how expensive they were as they were organic but he didn't mind for he knew just who they were for.

By Christine Richings.



Join the Celebration:

Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service

Sunday, 26th October, 11 a.m., in the Church

All are very welcome

Donations of produce or homebaking (to be distributed to the "over-Eighties" in the island) are much Appreciated: the church hall will be opened 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, 25th October.

NANA'S SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

Forgotten Sounds

This is just a few lists of sounds we used to hear, so I will start with some of the older one's: When we heard the herring drifters blowing as they came from the East Coast of Scotland into Stronsay harbour we knew that was the start of the herring fishing so that was a good sound.

Then next was the horse-drawn lorries with their noisy iron wheels and the clip clop of the horses hooves, those lorries loaded with barrels were an impressive sight and when the barrels were full of the salted herring it must have been a hard pull for the one horse in the shafts. To pass the 'Smithy' you could hear the sound of the hammer on the anvil as it was such a busy place with so many horses getting new shoes or nails put in their old ones, a blacksmiths job was really very hard. The swish of milk going into the buckets was another good sound while you sat on a *creepie* milking the cows and then doing, the plop of the butter once it gathered was very satisfying, the buttermilk being used to bake the bannocks. As we passed the Stronsay Mill when it was working we could hear the water splashing over the big wheel which then turned all the clacking machinery, so plenty of noise there.

I liked to go in to see the oatmeal and beremeal coming out of the chutes so it really was a busy time for the miller and his assistant. Then in harvest time there were the horse drawn binders cutting down the grain and the crackle of the dry sheaves as you set up the stooks. The sound of a threshing mill with all the belts and pulleys going that was really noisy but also good to see the oats coming out all clean from the chutes. A mournful sound was the Copinsay foghorn and we also heard the Papa Stronsay gun all helping to warn ships of the dangers of thick fog, no radar then.

Next I come to sounds around the house. The roarer burner on the primus stove certainly wakened you up in the morning but it was good at boiling the kettle for your morning cup. I was pleased when we got a silent burner! Then when we got the tilley lamp it had a gentle hissing sound and it also sent out a good heat and was more economical than the oil burning wick lamps. There was the whirr of the treadle sewing machine and the song of the spinning wheel and I am sure no older person will ever forget the screech of a slate pencil on the slate. Lastly there was the postman's whistle as we always went out to them to get our post, very exiting at Christmas when we got all the parcels!

Nana Peace

QUIZ

1. What is the name of President George W. Bush's wife?
2. Reg Dwight is the real name of which singer?
3. How is the rap artist Marshall Mathers better known?
4. Which scientist is associated with the equation $E=mc^2$?
5. Which country did Adolf Hitler rule during the Second World War ?
6. Which town in Nevada is famous for its casinos?
7. In which decade did man first land on the moon?
8. Name the daughter of Elvis Presley who married Michael Jackson?
9. Who directed the films ET and Jurassic Park?
- 10 Who is third in line to the English throne ?

ANSWERS BELOW

- 8 Lisa Marie 9. Steven Spielberg 10. Prince Harry
1. Laura 2. Elton John 3. Eminem 4. Albert Einstein 5. Germany 6. Las Vegas 7. In the 1960's

LIBRARY

NEXT VISIT Tuesday 21ST October
 Village 9.15 - 11am
 School 11.30 - 2pm & 6.30- 8pm
 Gorries 2.30 - 4.30pm

Message from Sue

As most of you will know I have retired from the Post Office.

I should like to thank everyone for the support you have given me over the years. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Lisa success as your new Post Mistress
 S.Fairbrother

NEW POST OFFICE HOURS

Post Office will now close at 12pm instead of 1.00 and Monday and Thursday 12.00 - 1.00pm for lunch

**Dental Emergencies****Change of phone number**

From Tuesday 7 October 2008 after 1800 hours and at weekends (and Public Holidays) please phone NHS24

08454 242424

Dental assistance for emergencies is available 0845-1800(6pm) weekdays on

01856888280

This line is operational during the peak period of 0845 to 1045, after which the phone is diverted to one of our clinics

Daft homemade poetry**No 3**

by Bill Embleton

The Companions

At Companions on a Monday
 We are as happy as can be
 When playing hands of euchre
 Pass me, pass me, pass me

Other games are played as well
 We often have a dabble
 At dominoes and games of draughts
 And even games of Scrabble

Then the buns and biscuits come
 And lovely cups of tea
 For a while is stopped the plaintive cry
 Pass me, pass me, pass me

You are issued with a ticket
 To win a lovely prize
 A three piece suite, a fridge, a car
 'Of course I'm telling lies'

Finally there is 'Bingo'
 One line, then two, then three
 But when it comes to shouting 'house'
 Pass me, pass me, pass me

WANTED

Have you any King George VI coins 1937 to 1952, shoved away and not required. I collect his Great Britain and Empire coinage by date, so I still have many gaps. Will buy ones or many.
 Tel: Bill 616359

Stronsay Community Council

Clerk: Pat Wilcox Shamrock Lea Stronsay

Tel: 616353

Need to dispose of a scrap vehicle? Here's what to do:

- 1 Request the relevant form from the Community Council Clerk
2. Complete the form and pass it with your payment to haulier when vehicle is collected from you.
3. Your payment will be refunded to you by OIC on their receipt of relevant signed paperwork from the haulier. cost of a single journey for car Stronsay/ Kirkwall (currently £15.05)

GROUPS, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

**AVAILABLE FROM
LOCAL SHOPS AT THE END
OF OCTOBER -
STRONSAY'S SILVER
DARLINGS CALENDAR
£5 EACH**

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB
FRIDAY NIGHT 8.00 TILL 10.00
ENTRANCE £1
COME ALONG FOR A FUN FILLED NIGHT,
AIR HOCKEY TABLE,
POOL TABLE, PLAY STATION 2,
NINTENDO WII & SING STAR,
SNOOKER, JUICE, CRISPS AND SWEETS
AVAILABLE

COMPANIONS
EVERY MONDAY FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT Jean 616307

**SWIMMING
POOL
NEEDS YOU!**
POOL OPEN
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
7.00 - 7.40 PUBLIC/ PRIVATE HIRE
7.40 - 8.20 PUBLIC
8.20 - 9.00 ADULT
PRIVATE HIRE AVAILABLE AT
OTHER TIMES SUBJECT TO
AVAILABILITY OF LIFEGUARDS
FOR MORE INFO TEL: ELSIE 616331



**SWIM CLUB NOW STARTED
PLEASE ATTEND
GALA COMING SOON**

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

New reduced rate £5 per hour for room up to £15 max plus £5 for DISCO equipment. A DJ from the Hall list must be used.

Now available to hire.

Badminton £2 per hour + hydro
Table tennis £2 per hour + Hydro
Snooker £2 per hour + Hydro

All equipment provided

Adult supervision (over 18) must be present

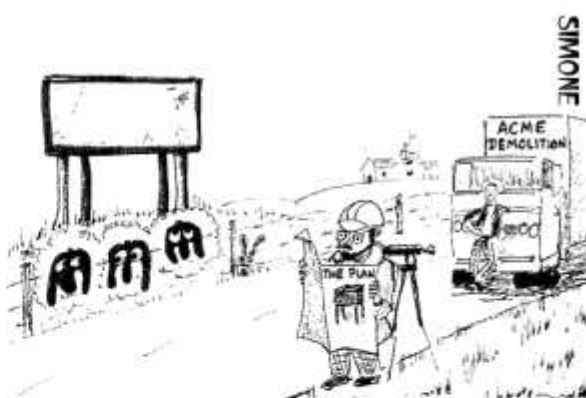
During hire. Any damage must be paid for to book. Please note that any groups or individuals hiring the Hall require their own Public Liability

Please claim your lost property from the Hall as if unclaimed it will be sent to charity

STRONSAY SINGERS

Meet at the Hall every
Monday 7.30
For more information tel: 616464

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"WHEN THY GET RID OF THIS
FAMOUS, HISTORIC LANDMARK
HOW ARE FOLK GOING TO KNOW
THIS IS STRONSAY?"

PETE THE PONY STARTS A HAPPY NEW YEAR

by LINDA SPENDLEY

Minutes later, they screeched into the stable yard. It was quiet. No smoke or flames. They made their way to the house, and banged on the door, which was opened by a smoke-stained Mr. Jones.

"What are you doing back so soon?" he asked.

"The phone," began Lynn. "We heard the smoke detector."

"Oh!" said Mr. Jones. "That was you. I knocked the phone over and forgot about it. You'd better come in. It's a mess, I'm afraid."

It certainly was! The burnt out saucepan was in the sink, with the remains of the potatoes. They looked like cinders. The top of the stove was black, where the saucepan had boiled over before it boiled dry. The wall behind the stove, and the ceiling above it was smoke-stained. Mr. Jones was in a dreadful mess. Lynn wondered where to start. She decided to put the kettle on. The mess could wait.

As they sipped their tea, Lynn said, "it's lucky for you that Holly was missing Pete. If she hadn't phoned, you'd be in a worse mess."

"I'm sure he's missing her, too," said Mr. Jones. "He wouldn't eat his treat tonight."

He turned to Holly then, and said, "if you want to go and say goodnight to him, I'll switch the lights on for you."

When Holly skipped out into the night to see Pete, Mr. Jones turned to Tom and Lynn. "I've been thinking," he said. "How would you feel about taking Pete home until the Easter holidays. I'll need him back then, but only for a couple of weeks. What do you think?"

Tom and Lynn looked at each other. It was the ideal solution, for now. One less pony for Mr. Jones to feed, and a pony for Holly to ride and look after.

"That's a wonderful idea," said Tom. "What do you think Holly will say?"

"What will I say about what?" said Holly, as she came back in the door.

"Will you tell her?" said Lynn to Mr. Jones. "Or will I?"

THE END

I AM SURE THAT ALL OUR YOUNG READERS HAVE ENJOYED PETE THE PONY. UNFORTUNATELY THIS WAS THE LAST EPISODE. WE ARE SURE THAT YOU WOULD ALL LIKE TO JOIN WITH US TO SAY A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO LINDA FOR LETTING US PRINT HER STORY EVERY MONTH.

The Old Manse

The dream takes a step closer to becoming reality.

Steve and myself are often asked how we are getting on with The Manse, which we are very pleased about. We thought we would use the Limpet as a means of telling everybody of what's happened up to now. Firstly, all of the pigeon droppings (56 years worth) were removed. It was 6 foot deep in places and only 4 foot in others. When clearing the kitchen a large beautiful range was found as was a bread oven. (see photo, this wall has now been removed) We then spent two weeks removing the window cills all 23 of them, (this was before the scaffolding was here) we then ordered 23 new cills to replace the old ones at a cost of £700. Fitting them in was at times a nightmare, but we did it. We have also lowered the angle of the lean-to which is visible from the road. We have got foundations in some rooms and hope to get them finished this week. Friday 3rd October we paid for the 23 windows to be made locally out of wood. Friday 10th October we paid RTC in Elgin for the timber frame kit which should be in Kirkwall on 20th October. That's an end to the cash flow and spending for now. So watch this space. Thanks Steve & Yvonne.



Continued from previous page PICTURES OF THE MANSE AS IT IS NOW

Wanted

Graphic designer to help with some new leaflets about Stronsay. Six leaflets will be produced covering such things as plants, shells, archaeology, birds, kelp and fishing industries - in fact all interesting aspects of the island. We have grant funding and can pay fees (within reason!) for good graphic design.

We want to keep this opportunity on Stronsay before looking anywhere else, so please help if you think you can ring Julia on 616434

A man was telling his neighbour in Sun City Centre, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect" "Really" answered the neighbour. "What kind is it?" "Twelve thirty".



The shop will be closed for holidays from October 11th to October 18th and after that will re-open for Winter opening hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00 a.m. till 6.30 p.m. Or by telephone appointment
New in: Lots of local craftwork, Andrew Appleby's unique Stronsay mugs, gift ranges including Traidcraft and Christmas cards from end of October
www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk
tel 616434

Calling All Boat Owners
You are invited to come to a meeting to discuss the possibilities of getting some action on the construction of a slipway in Stronsay Harbour
In THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
at 7:30pm
On THURSDAY 30th OCTOBER
Previous plans will be on display
For more info ring Mike
616339

Stronsay Regatta
Would you be interested in helping to organise a Regatta on Stronsay over the weekend of 6/7 June 2009
Could you help with catering, planning, admin, etc
Then please come to
THE FISHMART
at 7:30pm
On TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER

" Lest We Forget "



Private William Shearer
Grave I. G. 15, Houchin British Cemetery, Houchin, France.

Name. William SHEARER.

Rank. Private No. 693261.

Regiment. 16th Battalion Canadian Infantry. (Manitoba Regiment)
Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force.

Born. 27th April, 1892, at Whitehall, Stronsay.

Killed. 21st March, 1918, in France, aged 25 years.

Parents. Alexander Shearer & Jessie Sandison.

Address. Park of Hunton, Stronsay.

William served for three years in the Gordon Highlanders (Territorials) and emigrated to Canada where he worked as a farmer. He enlisted in the Canadian Infantry at Winnipeg on 27th November, 1916, and was later sent overseas to France. He visited Stronsay on home leave shortly before he was killed. His older brother Peter was killed in action three days later. William is buried in Grave I. G. 15, Houchin British Cemetery, on the outskirts of Houchin, France

He was an uncle to the late Willie Cooper of Freehall, and the late David & Jacky Cooper of Sandybank.

Bill Miller.

" Lest We Forget "



Name.	Peter SHEARER.
Rank.	Private No. 14962.
Regiment.	1st Battalion Scots Guards.
Born.	1st September, 1889, Whitehall, Stronsay.
Killed.	23rd March, 1918, in France, aged 28 years.
Parents.	Alexander Shearer & Jessie Sandison.
Address.	Park of Hunton, Stronsay.

Prior to the war, Peter was a farm servant at the Bay, Stronsay. Peter served in France and Flanders, and was partially blinded. After spending some time in hospital, he made a recovery and was sent back to the front line and was killed in action at Arras, France, three days after his brother William. He is remembered with honour on Bay 1, of the Arras Memorial. He was an uncle to the late Willie Cooper of Freehall, and the late David & Jacky Cooper of Sandybank.

Bill Miller.



" Death Pennies "
sent to parents of
Peter & William Shearer



AVE ATQUE VALE by Dr George McKay

For the past eleven years his future had seemed assured. Now he was desolate -confused, depressed, angry and bitter. Eleven years ago - almost to the day - he had left school against his parents advice to follow the family tradition of fishing. For the first year everything had been great - learning a new job, earning good money, freedom from the restrictions of childhood. After the first year the doubts had started - was this what he really wanted after all? Pride, however, would never have allowed him to even contemplate that perhaps he might have made a mistake. The next six months or so were miserable - mood swings, depression - all well hidden but nevertheless real. However, as abruptly as the dark period descended, it suddenly lifted. He was a fully fledged member of a close knit team, able to handle fish as efficiently as any in the crew, work long hours, splice ropes, mend and repair damaged gear. He could stand his watch at the wheel on the journey to the more distant fishing grounds, marveling at the still beauty of the summer dawn, he could work on deck in bad weather with a sense of awe and fear at the untamed power of the sea. Most satisfying of all, he was accepted as an integral part of a close knit team - all that he had ever wanted. There is little doubt that time then seemed to stand still as they followed the fish shoals in a seemingly changeless pattern. Viewed from three or four decades on it seemed to have passed in a flash "Or like a snowflake on the river An instant here then gone forever".

Several times it is true he had thought about leaving the industry and going back to further education. Such a course would be difficult however now that he was married with a family. On top of this the lure of the hunter, generations in the making, tied him firmly to the sea.

Change, when it came, came abruptly, with no warning. His father, the skipper, had decided that he wanted a shore based job for the last ten years of his working life, a job where he could start at a reasonable hour in the morning and finish by five o'clock and still have time to spend without dropping wearily into bed ready for another early morning start. His father succeeded in finding a suitable job as assistant harbour master and he started to make plans to take over the boat with his friend and shipmate. At the very last minute his friend backed out. Never in his life had he felt such a sense of disappointment and betrayal. However it supplied the required momentum for change. The last day at sea in their own boat was one of gloom and unrelieved misery. The catch landed, the ropes ashore to tie up, the engine stopped for the last time, then home with a heavy heart. He told his wife of his decision - no discussion, no argument. As usual she took it all in her stride - the Rubicon had been crossed.

Down to the harbour the next day for the final pay packet then across to Banff on the bus to sign on as unemployed. In answer to the enquiries as to what sort of employment he was looking for he dropped the bombshell that he intended to return to full time education. Obviously this was not encompassed in the list of recognisable employments and caused some consternation leading to an interview with one of the senior staff. Although they could tell him little or nothing about how to go about this at least they were supportive. Back then to the harbour where he met one of the skippers working from the West coast. Tell me", he said "is it true what I have just heard?"

"If you mean that I have joined the ranks of the unemployed then it certainly is" came the reply. "Great", came the response "I need a man. Can you start Sunday night?" "Nothing would suit me better." His period on the unemployed register had lasted all of two hours. All too soon Sunday evening arrived. He was picked up from home by Bill, his new skipper. The other three crew members were already in the car and they set out on their two hundred mile journey to the north west tip of Scotland. Their journey took them through the rich farmlands of Banffshire, Moray, Nairn and east Inverness shire. Through the relatively busy town centre of Inverness and then, for him, on into the unknown. Along the side of the firths, long arms of the sea, flat in the dying rays of the sun. On into more hilly country, trees disappearing, farmland giving way to heather covered hills. Off the main two lane highway on to a stretch of single track road climbing sharply to the Struie hill, over the summit, and then gazing down in the dusk to the upper reaches of the Dornoch Firth - the Millionaires View. A stop at the bottom of the hill to stretch their legs and change drivers, over the miniature Sydney Harbour bridge at Bonar then on into the wilds. Single track road all the way now. In the gathering dusk, light could be seen reflecting from the long finger of Loch Shin. Gradually the dark shape of the hills started to close them in - difficult to distinguish in the fading light. On, on, on, the journey seemingly endless, on past lochs and lochans glinting grey in the darkness, till there at last a small cluster of sodium lights -journeys end. It was now close on midnight - already some of the fleet were at sea - the old Scottish tradition of not working on Sunday already dying. Down to the harbour, unload the weeks supplies from the car, transfer them to the boat and make ready to depart - all was now bustle. The mooring ropes were let go, the engine rumbled into life and they sailed down the well sheltered harbour and out into the steep sided sea loch, heading west for the open sea.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & ADVERTS

Stronsay Fish Mart Winter Opening

★ Hours ★
Cafe, Hostel & Interpretation Centre

MONDAY to WEDNESDAY CLOSED
THURSDAY 12pm - 2pm
FRIDAY 5pm - 7pm -
SATURDAY 5pm - 7pm
SUNDAY 12pm - 2pm & 5pm - 7pm

TEL 616386



Avon calling!!!!!! lots of bargains and special CHRISTMAS offers available, Order now to avoid disappointment get a book from Sheena, 616306

PAUL WILLIAMS, PLASTERER

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Best Orkney Steak with all the trimmings
Sunday Roast Dinner. (must be pre ordered)
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Teas, Coffees, Cappuccinos, Cakes & Orkney Ice cream

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Tel: 616466

THANK YOU

Sinead & Louise would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who helped to organise their 18th Birthday BBQ and made it such a success.

Thank you to everyone who came along and for all the cards and gifts we had a really good afternoon, night & morning



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE LIMPET

12 MONTHLY @ £10,00 WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE AND PACKING FOR FRIEND OR FAMILY LIVING AWAY. WHY NOT SEND A SUBSCRIPTION TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE FOR A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

IF YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION IS HAVING AN EVENT OR THERE IS ANYTHING GOING ON WHY NOT TELL US SO WE CAN TELL STRONSAY. NO EVENT IS TOO SMALL OR INSIGNIFICANT, WE ARE TRYING TO GIVE OUT LOCAL INFORMATION BUT CANNOT DO IT UNLESS **YOU TELL US. HAVE YOU GOT A STORY OR A POEM OR OLD PHOTO'S OF STRONSAY TO SHARE, DON'T BE SHY.** IF SO PLEEEASE CONTACT YVONNE, 375 OR HEATHER 453 OR EMAIL US ON hfazak@btinternet.com OR BY LETTER TO LOWER LEAQUOY.

USEFUL NUMBERS

DOCTORS	616321/308	B&B AIRY COT	616372
NURSES	616453/232	LIBRARY	01856873166
HYDRO	0800300999	COMPANIONS	616307
BALFOUR HOSPITAL	01856888000	KIRKWALL POLICE	01856872241
DENTIST KING STREET	01856875348	REGISTRAR	616239
VET - FLETT & CARMICHAEL	01856872859	FISHMART	616386
VET - NORTHVET	01856873403	HALL BOOKINGS	616446
KIRK	616311	POST OFFICE	616217
STRONSAY HOTEL	616213	STRONSAY LIMPET	616375/453
MAURICE'S	616255	DENTIST GT WESTERN RD	01856879683
EBENEZER STORES	616339		

USEFUL INFO AND DATES

**POST OFFICE TIMES - MON & THURS 9am-4pm closed 12 - 1pm for lunch
TUE, WED, FRI & SAT 9am-12pm**

RE PLACEMENT BIN BAGS TEL: 01856 873535

SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE KIRK SUNDAY 11am

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIER HEAD. - DAILY MASSES 7am SUNDAY 9am

Mr Green has sent the miniature picture of his original painting for you to use as a bookmark.

We thought this was a nice idea so, when you get your limpet if there is not one on the front please let either Yvonne or myself know and we will make sure you get one.

DON'T FOR FORGET TO HAVE A GO AT THE COLOURING COMPETITION, THE BEST WILL BE CHOSEN AT THE RNLI HALLOWE'EN PARTY ON FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER. PRIZES FOR UNDERS'S , SIX to EIGHT'S & NINE'S and OVER IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GO YOU CAN'T WIN SO COME ON GET COLOURING

NEXT ISSUE OUT NOVEMBER 19th ALL ITEMS TO BE IN BY NOVEMBER 14th

The Stronsay Development Trust, A Scottish Charity SC038888 .
<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/SDT>
 Supported in its activities by HIE Orkney, Orkney Islands Council,
 Communities Scotland, The Crofters Commission and
 Orkney Community Planning Partnership.