

# **STRONSAY LIMPET**

**FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**ISSUE 67 JANUARY 2011**

*Published on the last Thursday of the month*



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## **CHANGE TO SURGERY TIMES**

I have had to change my day to visit Eday while the ferry refit timetable is operating. Until 12 March I will be away each Monday and in Stronsay on Thursday.

I apologise for the lack of notice and any inconvenience caused.

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

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## **BOXING DAY DIPPERS**

The "Boxing Day dippers" would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported them and gave so generously to CLIC Sargent, children's cancer charity, the total sum raised was £285.00 - well worth it! Watch this space for information on next year's event!

Sheena

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## **A LETTER FROM SCOTTISH WATER**

31 December 2010

Sir,

Through the pages of the *Limpet* I would like to pass on my appreciation to the residents of Stronsay who were patient while problems with their water supply were resolved in the run up to Christmas.

A combination of power failure and a fault with our standby generator led to some customers losing supplies for several hours.

Around the county and indeed across Scotland Scottish Water has been working flat out to maintain our service in the face of extreme weather conditions. Thank you once again to those affected for their understanding.

If anyone experiences any disruption in the future please do not hesitate to contact us. Our 24 hour Customer Helpline is 0845 601 8855 and our website is

[www.scottishwater.co.uk](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Alan Taylor (Team Leader, Orkney, Scottish Water)

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The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on Thu 24 Feb. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by Sat 19 Feb. Contact details on back page

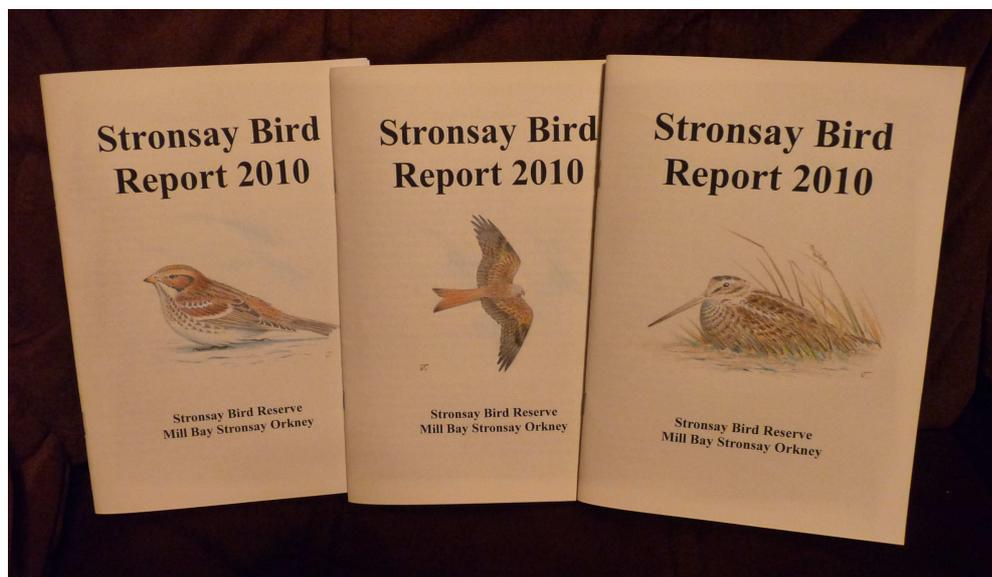
# **BIRD REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011**

By John Holloway

There were several sightings of Goldfinches around the turn of the year, including eight in the drive at Lower Millfield where they were watched feeding on Burdock seed in the familiar (large) 'sticky-bud' seed-heads. Other sightings of this beautiful, colourful species were seen along the road between Mt Pleasant and the Bu - again on Burdock.

With generally settled, calm weather in the first three weeks of 2011, there have been no real surprises, but in mid-January Dennis and Wendy Proudman came across a small party of Lapland Buntings feeding along the shoreline near the Black Craig in Mill Bay (See left-hand illustration in photo of Bird Report covers below). The huge finch flock has been present in the Northbank/Dale area throughout the mid-Winter period - attracting regular visits from hunting Hen Harriers and Merlins! A lone Wood Pigeon has been in the same area for some considerable time. The most significant sighting of the period however was a new species for our old friend Joyce Maples, well-known to many people on the island and whose 'interesting journey' from Bath to Stronsay featured in last month's *Limpet*. Joyce (now 90) - a birdwatcher for over 75 years - has visited Stronsay over 25 times in late Autumn/Winter since 1989 but in spite of much searching and dozens of 'near-misses' had never seen a Woodcock - until one was discovered one on The Reserve on 24th December. The bird was present in the area for several days and gave Joyce the most amazing views - motionless, feeding, and in flight - the perfect Christmas Present (see photo below). There were a handful of Woodcock sightings elsewhere during the cold spell around this time.

We are now in the middle of printing this year's Stronsay Bird Report and I am wading my way through the covers, which are all personalised with an original coloured sketch of a species recorded here during the year. (See photo below - Joyce Maple's personalised copy on the right!). Please contact us as soon as possible if anyone other than our usual subscribers would like a copy.



(Concluded on next page)



*The Woodcock in the field at Castle. Christmas 2010 - a very unusual sight on the ground of this elusive species.*

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**FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY 2011**  
**STRONSAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**6pm until 8pm**

**S**up  
**O**ur  
**S**oup

**S**ample  
**O**ur  
**S**andwiches

The R.N.L.I is holding a Nationwide **SOS** day on Friday 28th January, 2011, which will be repeated annually, the object of which is to raise as much money as possible through activities with an **SOS** theme.

The Stronsay Branch has decided that this year, they will serve up soup and sandwiches in the Community Centre at £3 per head for adults, and £2 for children.

Please come along and dine with us to support this worthwhile cause. This will save Mum having to make the evening meal. There will also be raffles and quizzes, tombola etc, and raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds go towards training and equipping the brave men and women who man our lifeboats.

*W. Miller, Secretary*

## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ART PROJECT UPDATE**

On 15<sup>th</sup> January, Ian Cooper kindly spent some time to speak to the young folk taking part in the art project about farming in Stronsay at the present time.

He raised many issues in his conversation with us – the many changes in farming technology over recent times, crop management, rearing and selling of animals, government restrictions, land distribution and the profound effect all these changes have had on the way of life on the population of the island.

By giving us a comparison with the past, Ian gave us a very clear picture indeed of how all of these aspects of modern farming affect farmers, and Stronsay as a whole. He spoke of how modern machinery reduced the need for manpower in many tasks, such as combine harvesters instead of the now old fashioned binders which makes the harvest so much faster, and much less need for manual labour. He also spoke of the many crofts that existed at one time, and how farms have become fewer and larger in tandem with these changes in technology.

Ian spoke of the increase in cattle numbers, and the direct link to the decrease in human population on Stronsay. In his father's time, there were 35 cattle at Midgarth, and three men working. A cow was worth £8.00, a man's wage for 6 months. In the present time, Ian has 75 cattle, and only one man working on the farm. A cow is now worth £800, which would pay a worker's wage for 2 weeks. The contrast is crystal clear!

In also spoke of how government restrictions and rules place almost a stranglehold on farmers trying to make a living in the present day – the institution of ear tags and passports for cattle and sheep, and the mountain of paperwork to be ploughed through. He held up as an example 3 A4 size books – these, he said, were needed to fill out just one form. This was not an issue in his father's day!

There were many aspects of farming in that Ian spoke to us about. The thread running strong throughout was the strength and sense of community – everyone had to work, no exceptions; and they were happy to do so. He also spoke of those aspects of farming which are eternal – cultivation, seeding and harvest; lambing, calving and market, to name but a few.

Poignantly, Ian ended his talk with us by asking the young folk: 'Do you think that these changes made life better for the folk of Stronsay?' He reminded us that there were whole communities around each farm, and that the plentitude of workers were not just of themselves, but their families as well.

The response from all young folk and adults present was, 'No'.

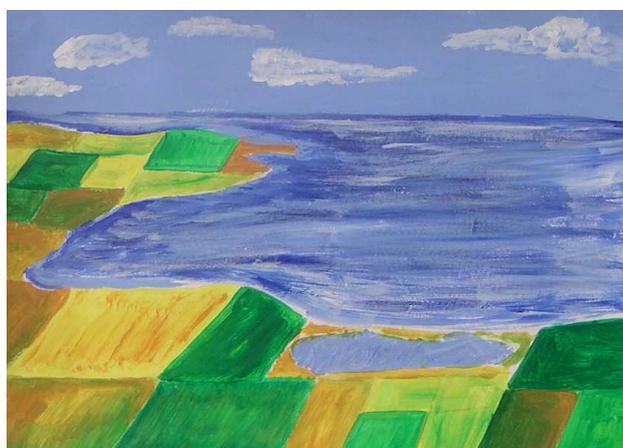
Thank you very much indeed, Ian; not only for a very informative and interesting session, but all the work you put into collating all those photographs and other visual material to match what was spoken about.

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The response by the young folk to this session was excellent – by means of a short quiz afterwards, they showed admirably how much they had remembered what Ian spoke about. The artwork produced immediately afterwards was truly inspired, and it was very difficult indeed to pick out only two samples of their work for folk to see. Jenny.



*Megan*



*Samantha*



# **STRONSAY SWRI**

By Christine Richings

The Stronsay SWRI hold meetings once a month from September until May at 7.30pm in the carpet room at the Hall, posters are put up in local shops and in the post office giving the agenda of the monthly meeting. Please feel free to come along, new members are always welcome. The SWRI is for ladies and girls age 11 and over.

Here is a brief history of how the Stronsay group came about and a few memories of which there will be many. The Hall as we know it once belonged to the Territorials. It was a drill hall, a main hall with three small rooms at the back, the middle room having a big gun on wheels that was wheeled out across the hall through the big doors at the front. The Hall was brought by Capt Sutherland when the territorials no longer needed it then sold to Mr Watt who wanted it for a store as he had a shop in the Village. When he no longer wanted it he offered it for sale and decided it would be nice for a group to buy and use it. Fundraising was organized and the S.W.R.I. bought the Hall.

The SWRI started in 1924, Mrs Sutherland being a member also Arnadyne Chalmers and Robina (Ruby) Chalmers. There were many members in the early days - 40 or so. Members walked, went on bicycles or by pony and trap to meetings. Lighting was by oil lamp and the ladies toilet was a small shed outside just big enough to get in. At one meeting members listened to the cats whisker (crystal radio). Before the 2nd world war dances were held for Hogmanay with ladies in evening dress and men wearing dancing pumps. Once a year a trip to Kirkwall was organized. Members catered for Island weddings. Many households will have a copy of the Stronsay SWRI cook books sold for funds. In the 1950's toilets were put in the hall and the kitchen was made better as the main School needed to be refurbished and classes were moved to the Hall whilst this was carried out. The Hall was gifted to the Island by the SWRI, the President and vice President of the SWRI being two of six Hall trustees to date.

Thank you to Jim Cooper for information and photographs and also to Elizabeth Stevenson. The two photographs are one taken in 1935 and one taken of the Scottish S.W.R.I president visiting Meg Cooper on Stronsay.



## **EDINBURGH VISIT**

By Storm & Diane

All schools in Orkney that are currently taking part in Crofting Connections, were invited to attend Holyrood to present their School's achievements. The schools that are taking part in Crofting Connections are: Stronsay, Sanday, Papa Westray, Westray, North Ronaldsay, Shapinsay, Eday and Dounby. As there was only funding for two pupils and one member of staff to attend from each school, Mrs Robertson interviewed nineteen pupils from Stronsay School who wanted to go, then made a decision about who was going. She chose us, Diane and Storm. After a lot of hard work in our three categories: knitting, weaving and traditional food, we had an end product to take down to Edinburgh.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, we travelled on the boat to Kirkwall, where we met pupils from Westray, Shapinsay, North Ronaldsay, Papa Westray and Sanday. We all travelled in a large group on the boat to Shapinsay and both of us had the opportunity to talk to Radio Orkney about what we wanted to achieve on this trip. When we arrived back in Kirkwall, we drove to the airport with a quick stop by Tesco. After an hour flight, we arrived in Edinburgh, we all caught a Double Decker bus to the Youth Hostel. For both of us, it was our first time on a double Decker bus, so we were pretty excited! At the Youth Hostel we had a really tasty tea and then unpacked. That night, during suppertime, we discussed what we were doing the next day.

On Wednesday morning, our Orkney group walked to the Scottish Parliament for a tour. The Scottish Parliament building was huge and the man who designed it had to make the building with Scottish materials and items that represented Scotland. Such as glass leaves on the roof and little shapes that represented highland cows. The whole group met Liam McArthur who is Orkney's MSP and Jamie McGrigor who is the Highlands MSP, to ask those questions about Parliament. We all really enjoyed this visit!

Everyone walked up the Royal Mile to see Edinburgh Castle. On the way back down, we both visited a shop and bought a jumper each. After that, the whole group literally ran to Dynamic Earth because otherwise we would have been late. Dynamic Earth was brilliant. Everyone learned loads of facts about the Earth and went back in time in an elevator that showed the past. There was a 3D movie, it was great.

Before the Crofting Connections presentation, everyone changed into smart clothes, then caught a taxi to the Scottish Parliament. There, everyone went through security. Mrs Robertson and ourselves went to find a cello that was borrowed for Diane to play. We both did a mini presentation about how we got involved in Crofting Connections. Also two pupils from Shapinsay did a mini presentation about some Saddleback pigs, which was rather amusing. Diane then played 'Flower of the Quern' on her cello. She really enjoyed playing and thought it was a great experience. Afterwards there was a mini buffet and we were congratulated on speaking and the cello playing by guests and MSPs! It was a great evening and we both felt it was a really worthwhile experience.

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On Thursday, to catch the plane back to Kirkwall, everyone rose really early. The teachers hired a bus for everyone to go to Edinburgh airport. After we checked in, we found out that the plane was delayed for an hour, so everyone either waited with the teachers or did a little bit of shopping! Of course we both picked shopping! The flight was an hour long and as soon as we arrived back in Kirkwall, we caught a taxi to Papdale school, where everyone was interviewed by a reporter from The Orcadian. Mrs Robertson and ourselves then walked from Papdale to the pier and went home on the boat.

We both really enjoyed our trip to Edinburgh and feel that we were really lucky to have been chosen. We met lots of very important people who treated us with great respect and encouraged us to work hard in the future.

## STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE



New Timetable of supervised sessions 2011  
Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jan – Sun 27<sup>th</sup> March

	<b>am</b>	<b>pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	10-11.30	4.00-5.30
<b>Tuesday</b>	Buddy	7.00-8.30
<b>Wednesday</b>	10-11.30	4.00-5.30
<b>Thursday</b>	Buddy	7.00-8.30
<b>Friday</b>	10-11.30	4.00-5.30
<b>Saturday</b>	10.30-12.00	Closed
<b>Sunday</b>	10.30-12.00	Closed

Under the ‘Buddy’ system members may use the gym with another gym member who is over 18 and has pre-paid. ‘Buddy’ system operates from 8am weekdays in term time irrespective of supervised sessions.

A code is needed to access the gym.

- 12 & 13 year olds have to be with an adult member at a supervised session.
- 14 & 15 year old members must attend supervised sessions.
- 16 & 17 year olds must be with an inducted member who is over 18 or at a time when a fitness advisor is on duty.

New inductions by appointment only, telephone 616449

# OLIVER REVIEW

By Ocean & Leah

On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November Stronsay Junior High School held their 'Oliver' show. A lot of hard work was put in by all the pupils and staff, but it was well worth it as many would agree the production was a great team achievement. Although 'Oliver' is quite a dark and dramatic play the musical aspect brings the story to life. With a few quick quips that had the audience laughing and some emotional songs that had them almost in tears it was a brilliant night out for all the family.

Bruce Fletcher provided the music for the show, when he started playing 'food glorious food' the audience went quiet. The orphans marched in all looking solemn and dressed in raggedy clothes. When they lined up on stage they began to sing a great rendition of the song. The audience were thrown straight into the plot as Oliver, Storm Miller, got up and asked Mr Bumble, Alison Fraser, the famous line 'please sir, may I have some more'. They then sang 'Oliver' with great enthusiasm.

The narrators, Leah Shearer and Jamie Williams, explained that Oliver had been sent to work at the undertakers but had soon run away to London. Oliver then sang a very emotional solo called 'where is love' which tells the story of how he wishes he had a mother.

In the next scene we are introduced to Dodger, Megan Hannant. Dodger manages to convince Oliver that they can become great friends and he should come stay with him at Fagin's with the aid of one of the most well known songs in the play 'consider yourself'. The Curtains open on to Fagin's den where a gang of thieves sit. Fagin, Keith Holland, pretends to welcome Oliver, but really it's all a clever ruse to lure him into their life of crime. 'Pick a pocket' was sung with menace as it is all about the greedy life they lead. Nancy, Tilly Martin, and Bet, Natalie Rose, enter the den and Nancy declares that Dodger is the only gentleman among them. So Dodger and Oliver begins to sing 'I'd do anything' to prove themselves to Nancy but really it's just a bit of fun.

The whole production then took a turn to a darker atmosphere, when Oliver got caught on a job with Dodger he is taken to court. Word spreads quickly and his capture is the talk of the local tavern.

This scene is buzzing with speech and action as the curtains open. Nancy sings 'oom pah pah' to entertain the drunks amongst whom are Fagin and Bill Sykes, Ocean Miller. As the applause dies down Dodger rushes in, in a panic. He explains to Fagin that Oliver was taken away in a coach by Mr Brownlow, James Macleod. Fagin threatens Bill by saying if Oliver speaks they will all be in trouble with the Bow-street runners. Together they force Nancy to help kidnap Oliver. This scene ends dramatically as Bill hits Nancy and everyone exits the pub. Nancy sings 'As long as he need me' a very emotional song that Tilly's amazing voice captured perfectly.

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This scene takes us away from the main story and into Mr Brownlow's home where he is visited by Dr Grimwig, Matthew Boler. Mr Brownlow has decided to take mercy on poor Oliver and has become strangely attached to him however Dr Grimwig does not trust him. To prove himself Oliver goes out on an errand to deliver books and money. Oliver is wandering past when suddenly Nancy rushed onto stage claiming that he is her brother so she has an excuse to take him away with her. Bill then appears from the corner and drags Oliver back to Fagin's den with Nancy and Bet in tow.

In the den the boys welcome Oliver back but an argument between Nancy, Fagin and Bill soon starts. Bill is worried that Oliver has blabbed, Nancy wants to take him back to live with Mr Brownlow and Fagin wants to have the money Oliver was carrying. As always with Bill this resolves in violence and the audience are shocked to see him threaten Nancy.

Nancy goes to visit Mr Brownlow who is astonished to find her in a state of panic and even more so to find out the girl in his house helped kidnap Oliver. Nancy takes pity on him and agrees to take Oliver to the bridge and hand him over.

Nancy and Oliver head out in the cover of night but little do they know that lurking in the shadows is Bill. Nancy begs him to let Oliver go but Bill has no mercy and strikes her until she is dead. The police enter and Bet sprints on giving a blood curdling scream as she sees the corpse of Nancy. Bill makes a run for it but the bow-street runners shoot him dead. This was a very dramatic scene but luckily there was something light-hearted to finish the play off. Every single character walked back on stage and lined up to sing the final song 'be back soon' which had the audience cheering as they all took a bow.

Over the two nights everyone gave the performances their all and enjoyed their foray into the dramatic arts. Stronsay School is very lucky to have so many talented youngsters who are prepared to take part in productions like this. Many of the audience praised the efforts and a few even came along on both nights to see the production.





## **ENERGY EVENING**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

7pm in the New Hall

Supper and refreshments

Raffle with 2 free thermal image energy efficiency home visits as prizes

Jill Spence (Energy Advice Scotland, Kirkwall) and Colin Risbridger (Energy Advice Scotland, Westray) will be here in Stronsay to talk to us and answer questions on home renewables, thermal images, energy efficiency, and grant schemes. They are hoping to carry out a number of home visits while they are here too. If you are interested in home renewables and would like a visit to your home please call the Home Energy free-phone helpline on 0800 512012 and log your details to request a home renewables visit with Colin. You can also phone Simone on 616281.

### **CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER**

Simone's number is now 616281 and no longer 616303

*(thank you BT!)*

### **LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE**

#### **Dates on Food Labels**

Food labels can be very confusing with all their different terms but the important ones to look out for are **“use by”** and **“best before”**.

**Best before – dates tend to be about quality rather than safety.** They appear on foods that last longer such as frozen, dried or tinned food. It should be safe to eat the food after this date, but the food may begin to lose its flavour and texture and no longer be at its best.

Eggs are the exception and the advice is do not eat them, especially in mousse or mayonnaise which uses raw egg, after the best before date as they can contain food poisoning bacteria which could start to multiply after this date.

**Use by – is the key date in terms of food safety.** These dates are used on foods that go off quickly such as smoked fish, meat products and ready-prepared salads. Again, the advice is don't use food or drink after the end of the “use by” date.

Remember these dates can only be relied on if the food is stored according to instructions on the label, such as ‘store in a cool dry place’ or ‘keep in the fridge once opened’. If a food can be frozen its life can be extended beyond the “use by date”, but follow instructions on the label, such as ‘freeze on day of purchase’ or ‘defrost thoroughly before use and use within 24 hours’.

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## **LOVE DAIRY HATE WASTE - £93 million of dairy waste is thrown away by Scottish households every year.**

**Tips** – Before you shop check your fridge to see what is left from last week's shop, are there certain things you don't need to buy this week? Try rotating the food in your fridge, so that any food at the back that needs used up first is brought to the front. When you shop remember to look at the use by dates to make sure you are able to use them in time.

### **Recipe** – Apple Meringue Pots by Fiona Bird

Makes 6 small pots or 1 large.

#### Ingredients

- Small lemon
- 500g cooking apples
- 50g soft brown sugar (to taste)
- 100ml water
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 3 egg whites
- 75g caster sugar
- Oil for greasing

#### Method

- Put oven on 180C/160C Fan/Gas mark 4
- Cut lemon in half and squeeze juice from half
- Peel and core the apples. Chop each one into even sized small pieces. Put chopped apple in a pan and pour lemon juice over apple.
- Add the brown sugar, water and cinnamon and cook over a low heat until the apples break down. Remove from heat and put apples in a bowl.
- Put the egg whites in a clean bowl and whisk until they form peaks. Fold in the caster sugar and then the cooled apple.
- Lightly oil 6 ovenproof ramekin dishes (or one larger dish) and fill with the apple meringue. Bake in oven for 20-23 minutes until the meringue is golden.
- Serve warm with cream or yoghurt mmm.....

For more hints and tips for leftovers visit [www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk](http://www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk)

**It would be great to hear your hints, tips or recipe ideas to reduce food waste by sending them into The Limpet.**

All above information reproduced from Love Food Hate Waste, Zero Waste Scotland



## **SEVERE HAIL STORM HITS STRONSAY**

The morning of 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1818, began clear and warm in Stronsay with light southerly winds.

About mid-day, the wind went marginally westward and increased slightly.

Between 12 and 1pm thunder and lightning started and went on for about an hour and a half.

A very dense jet-black cloud rose from the sea about five or six miles south of the island and approached steadily in a direct line towards the centre of the island.

As it approached, it grew larger and the sky grew darker, with vivid flashes of lightning and tremendous peals of thunder. One flash of lightning was much brighter than the rest and it appeared that the cloud was cleft asunder so that you could see the Orkney mainland through the gap, and it appeared to strike the surface of the Stronsay Firth like a solid body smashing into the sea.

Richard Caithness, who owned and farmed Hunday, was working in the kelp when he saw the ominous cloud approaching his house and farm buildings. The wind increased dramatically, the sea became very rough, and darkness like that of night, threatened to come on.

He immediately set off for home and just as he reached his house, the cloud overtook him. By this time the thunder and lightning were instantaneous, and he described the noise of the thunder as “like the firing of guns in Stronsay caves”.

Very large hailstones began to fall and one, the size of a goose egg, crashed through the glass of one of his windows and struck the floor violently. In two or three minutes, the wind increased almost to hurricane force, and instead of hailstones, pieces of ice of all shapes and sizes came crashing down, breaking all the glass in his south facing windows. Cabbage plants in his garden were cut to pieces and strewn around the place. Looking towards the sea, he could see the lumps of ice striking the water, making it appear as if it was boiling, and lightning in the form of balls or masses of fire was striking the sea with such ferocity, that the sea was “dashed up as high as the masts of ships”

Within ten minutes it was all over. The wind dropped, the hail stopped, and the sky began to clear.

Richard and his family ventured out and found the fields in a state of complete desolation, with rough ice up to nine inches deep. In the farm court, which was surrounded by buildings, hailstones and lumps of ice had accumulated to a depth of eighteen inches. He measured some of the larger lumps of ice, and found them to be about six inches in circumference, and between four and eight ounces in weight.

He tried to make his way out to his horses and cattle which were tethered in nearby fields, but was unable to do so as the jagged pieces of ice cut his legs up to his knees, and so had to wait until the ice melted.

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He could hear “horrific cries”, very different from the usual bellowing of the cattle, and when he eventually managed to get to them, he found that they had all broken their tethers and the cattle and horses had formed themselves into a herd. They were in an extremely frightened state, still trembling, and were all more or less cut and bleeding. Some of the horses lay flat on the ground with their heads stretched out, and some of the weaker ones never recovered.

The milking cows were “struck yield” and indeed would not allow anyone to attempt to milk them any more.

Some distance from his house, Richard saw a flock of tame geese which had been grazing on a field, and when he reached them, he found that sixty of them were dead, and the few that were still alive were so badly injured that they died soon afterwards. He described their injuries as some having their bills split, the brains of some were knocked out, some had an eye struck out and hanging on a nerve, and others had broken wings and legs.

The weather being warm, the ice soon disappeared and the fields of Hunday which less than an hour before had been covered with corn just beginning to come into ear, and described as “superior in luxuriance to what had been seen in Orkney for many years”, appeared to have been ploughed black. The hailstones had been driven into the ground to a depth of between three and four inches, completely devastating the crops of corn.

As the ice melted away, great numbers of small birds, particularly skylarks, starlings, corn buntings and chacks or klute-ears were found dead, and were collected in heaps by servant boys employed by Richard Caithness.

On the shore near the point of Torness, large numbers of rock pigeons, hooded crows, tysties or guillemots, stock ducks or mallards, which had been killed at sea, were washed up and left by the receding tide. Many wounded gulls and terns were seen floating on the sea and trying to fly, but were unable to take off due to their injuries.

Although Richard found some parts of the ground much discoloured and scorched, he was of the opinion that it was the ice and not the lightning that had killed the birds and the animals. The Reverend William Taylor from the Manse, did however find a smell of sulphur in the atmosphere which was so strong that he had to hurry indoors for a drink of water to remove the disagreeable sensation in his throat.

Although the thunder and lightning which preceded the fall of hailstones gave warning to people at work in the fields or at the kelp shore to take shelter, one boy, Peter Stevenson, suffered from exposure. He was working on the beach when the hail began to fall, and ran for the shelter of a projecting crag. However, before he could reach the shelter, he received a severe blow on the back of the neck which stupefied him, and six months later had still not fully recovered from the shock.

Four men in a boat fishing some distance from land were exposed to part of the shower and had their hands severely cut and bruised by the hailstones.

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George Foulis, who was the tenant farmer in Holland Farm, was also severely affected by the storm, with his crops and animals being equally involved in the devastation. But apart from several cotters, whose patches of corn and potatoes were completely destroyed, Holland and Hunday were the only two farms severely affected.

Reverend Taylor's manse and meeting house had all the glass and astragals in the south facing windows smashed by the hail, and he agreed with Richard Caithness that the cloud, which was about a mile and a half wide and five to six miles long, came in from the south-south-west and travelled in a north-north-easterly direction across Holland Bay, hitting Holland Farm but avoiding Cleat. It then carried on over the Manse and out across Sanday Sound, hitting Start Point, and also the south-east point of North Ronaldsay, by which time it was almost spent.

The accuracy of these observations was confirmed by people who had been employed the whole day in digging turf in the peat moss near Rousam Head, which at that time supplied the island with fuel. They had watched the thick black cloud shooting past the high rocks of Rousam Head, had seen the lightning and heard the thunder, but had been completely unaffected by the hail storm. They were amazed at the devastation which they saw on their journey back home at the end of the day.

Men fishing off the Moul Head in Deerness which was directly in the line but seven or eight miles to the south-south-west, had seen the cloud heading for Stronsay but had not been affected by the storm, as apparently the accumulation of atmospheric electricity came to a crisis about four miles from Stronsay. I wonder if they put it down to global warming!

Bill Miller, Glenmanna, Stronsay.

## **THE *LIMPET* IS AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

All editions of the *Limpet* from May 2009 onwards are now available online at [www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk](http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk).

Please note that editions prior to January 2011 were designed purely for printing on-to paper and are quite large files, if you are a dial-up internet user this may cause a problem. Editions from Jan 2011 onwards will be smaller files. The online version of the *Limpet* is a PDF document therefore you will need to have [Adobe Reader](#) or [Foxit Reader](#) installed on your computer, this software is free and is available as a download from the internet; full details are on the website. In the online version of the *Limpet* all the internet hyperlinks are active and “clickable”, if you find a link that does not work please contact the *Limpet* (details on the back page).

If you are a Stronsay resident and are happy to use the downloaded version instead of the printed version (you can always print your own copy from the downloaded version) please tell the place - Post Office, Olivebank or Ebenezer - from which you usually collect your *Limpet* so that they can cross you off the distribution list. It would be nice to be able to reduce the *Limpet* print run of over 200 copies each month.

Postal subscribers will continue to receive their printed copy of the *Limpet* via Royal Mail.

## **ORKNEY - WEBSITES, WEBCAMS AND BLOGS**

For some reason Loganair's website at [www.loganair.co.uk](http://www.loganair.co.uk) does not mention their flights between the Northern Isles and the links to their timetables for these flights are hidden away right at the bottom of [www.loganair.co.uk/reservations](http://www.loganair.co.uk/reservations).

Aircraft can be seen arriving at and departing from Kirkwall airport on the webcams at [www.visitororkney.com/webcams.asp](http://www.visitororkney.com/webcams.asp), this site also has a webcam outside Judith Glue's shop pointing towards Albert Street in Kirkwall. You can also see the actual times of Loganair arrivals/departures at Kirkwall airport by visiting the HIAL webpage [www.hial.co.uk/kirkwall-airport/](http://www.hial.co.uk/kirkwall-airport/).

The Kirkwall Hotel has a webcam which points out over the harbour, you can watch the island ferries arrive & depart if you go to [www.kirkwallhotel.com/webcam](http://www.kirkwallhotel.com/webcam).

Tim Barthorpe's house in Stromness has webcams which look out towards Scapa Flow, they can be selected from Tim's webpage [www.barthorpe.me.uk](http://www.barthorpe.me.uk).

Here are some more Orkney-related websites:

- The Orcadian newspaper [www.orcadian.co.uk](http://www.orcadian.co.uk)
- Orkney ferries [www.orkneyferries.co.uk](http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk)
- Northlink ferries [www.northlinkferries.co.uk](http://www.northlinkferries.co.uk)
- Pentland ferries [www.pentlandferries.co.uk](http://www.pentlandferries.co.uk)
- Orkney Islands Council [www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk)
- Kirkwall library website [www.orkneylibrary.org.uk](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk)
- Kirkwall library online book catalogue <http://212.219.208.10/TalisPrism>
- Sigurd Tourie's very comprehensive Orkney heritage site [www.orkneyjar.com](http://www.orkneyjar.com)
- Moncur Memorial Church [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stromsaykirk](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stromsaykirk)

There are several blogs from Orkney:

- A blog from Stromsay <http://claremont.islandblogging.co.uk>
- A blog from Graemsay [www.graemsay.org.uk](http://www.graemsay.org.uk)
- Another blog from Graemsay <http://sianthom.blogspot.com>
- A blog from Westray <http://the-edge-of-nowhere.blogspot.com>
- A blog from Stromness <http://stromnessdragon.islandblogging.co.uk>
- Another blog from Stromness <http://stromnesssenior.islandblogging.co.uk>
- A blog from Shapinsay <http://barebraes.islandblogging.co.uk>

# REVEREND SKENE'S CALENDAR

This was compiled by Reverend Skene in 1924 and I hope to put one in the Limpet each month. I intend to compile an up to date one for 2012 in which I hope you will all participate. More details about that next month.

Bill Miller, Glenmanna, Stronsay

## 1924

# January

## 1924

### Tuesday — January 1st.

*"Let no man let go the faith that God willeth to do a great deed through him."* — A saying of Luther's.

Rev. Professor D.S. Cairns, D.D.  
Principal of Aberdeen U.F. College and  
Moderator of the Assembly,

### Wednesday — January 2nd.

*"A guid New Year to aye an' a,  
An' many may ye see;  
An' during a' the year to come  
O happy may ye be."*

James Tulloch. Cooper Ha', Eday.

### Thursday — January 3rd.

*"Chill airs and wintry winds! My ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year —  
I listen, and it cheers me long."*

R. Horne Swanson. Geramont House,  
Sanday.

### Friday — January 4th.

*"Success is naught, endeavour's all."*

Mrs A.G. Campbell. Portsoy — Browning

### Saturday — January 5th.

*"Always treat an insult like mud from a passing  
vehicle — never brush it off until it is dry."*

Anonymous.

### Sunday — January 6th.

*"One day at a time, whatever its length,  
And there's a bit of scripture to say  
That according to each shall be our strength."*

J. Miller. Lower Leaquoy, Stronsay.

### Monday — January 7th.

*"Life is but a day at most,  
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;  
Hope not sunshine every hour;  
Fear not, clouds will always lower."*

J. T.

### Tuesday — January 8th.

*"Leave not for to-morrow  
The work of to-day  
For time like an arrow  
Is speeding away."*

Joseph Bewes. Coweshouse, Stronsay.

### Wednesday — January 9th.

*"What you would put into the nation put into its  
schools." — Proverb quoted by Dr Laws of Livingstonia,  
Central Africa, and acted on in his mission work of 48 years.*

### Thursday — January 10th.

#### RAISING CHURCH FUNDS

*"There is but one Divine way to 'raise money'  
for the Lord's work and worship, that is for the Lord's own  
people to give willingly as He has prospered them. When these  
give whole-heartedly, seeking first the establishment of  
His kingdom and righteousness. He will supply their needs that  
they in turn may supply the needs of His cause."*

An Old Collector

### Friday — January 11th.

*"A Pilot steers the ship by which we sail"*

— John Calvin

Rev. R.A. Lendrum, D.D. St Margaret's Manse, Fairlie.

### Saturday — January 12th.

*"I dare do all that may become a man:  
Who dares do more, is none."*

A. Learmonth. Glasgow.

### Sunday — January 13th.

*"I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,  
No son of human race;  
But such as I conduct and guide,  
Shall see my Father's face."*

Thomas Scott. Huip, Stronsay.

### Monday — January 14th.

*"To be truly kind is to do and say  
the kindest thing in the kindest way"*

Benevolenta. Kildinguie

### Tuesday — January 15th.

*"Love all, trust a few,  
Always paddle your own canoe."*

E.B. Stephen. Buckie

### Wednesday — January 16th.

*"Some people seem to find it easier to mind their  
neighbour's business than their own."*

Anonymous.

### Thursday — January 17th.

*"In Derbyshire when Wesley knocked, a girl ran to the door and  
said 'God bless you, Mr Wesley.' 'Young woman,' he answered,  
'your blessing would be of more value if your face and apron  
were cleaner.'"*

Ecclesiasticus. Ayrshire.

### Friday — January 18th.

*"Our sad decay in church and state  
Surpasses my describing,  
The 'heads' cam' o'er us for more 'doe,'  
And we hae done with thriving."*

Peter Chalmers. Eastbank, Stronsay.

### Saturday — January 19th.

*"Prayer and Pains, through faith in Jesus Christ, will do  
anything." — John Eliote.*

Rev. Walter Forrest. West U.F. Manse, Sanday.

### Sunday — January 20th.

*"O may we stand before the Lamb,  
When earth and seas are fled,  
And hear the Judge pronounce our name,  
With blessings on our head."*

Caleb Dickson. Yearnsetter, Stronsay.

### Monday — January 21st.

*"An idler is a watch that wants both hands —  
as useless if it goes as if it stands."*

Margaret Ann Irvine. Lower Dishes, Stronsay.

### Tuesday — January 22nd.

*"You will never be sorry for doing your best, thinking before  
speaking, standing by your principles, asking pardon when  
error, being faithful to a friend, and generous to an enemy"*

Saga Vera. Orkney

### Wednesday — January 23rd.

*"The more haste the less speed;  
Haste trips up its own heels."*

Anonymous.

### Thursday — January 24th.

*"Tend well the first, the last will crown its day,  
Choose well each step, then pleasant is life's way,  
Speak love's pure thought, nor deem love's labour lost,  
Life's garnered grain brings joy more than its cost."*

Rev. John Nivison. U.F. Manse, Eday.

### Friday — January 25th.

*"In Me ye may have Peace,  
My Peace I give to you,  
Rest, troubled soul, rest in the Lord,  
His love will bear thee through."*

Georgina Smith. Airy, Stronsay.

### Saturday — January 26th.

*"For Death had illumined the land of sleep,  
And his lifeless body lay  
A worn-out fether, that the soul,  
Had broken and thrown away."*

Mrs C.S. Clyne. Comley Bank, Stronsay.

### Sunday — January 27th.

*"Many Christian people get into a deal of trouble through  
being honest to their convictions."*

— Quotation from the late C.H. Spurgeon.

### Monday — January 28th.

*"The devil tempts even a busy man, but the idle man tempts  
the devil."*

— Turkish Proverb

### Tuesday — January 29th.

*"He who receives a favour should remember it and he who  
gives one should forget it."*

Jame W. Reid. Village, Stronsay

### Wednesday — January 30th.

*"By the street of 'By-and-By,'  
One arrives at the house of 'Never.'"*

Anonymous

### Thursday — January 31st.

*"Keep a brave spirit and never despair,  
Hope brings you happiness through the keen air,  
Good is victorious, God everywhere."*

Mrs R.E. Heddle. 67 Albert Street, Kirkwall

# **OLD SOLDIER!**

By Ellie from Newfield

Oh yes, he was a grand old man.  
A lovable rogue, as they say!  
An unwritten book or a legend,  
Sunshine on a rainy day.  
A hard-working out-doors man  
Farming each day as it came.  
Rugged, tough and weathered  
But a gentle soul all the same.  
Days gone by he'd been a soldier.  
He'd fought in that bloody war  
And lived to tell the tale, as they say.  
Then he came home, to fight some more.  
A man who had suffer hard-ships,  
Losing loved ones close to his heart.  
But he kept a sense of humour,  
A man of good men, set apart.  
Of course I count myself lucky  
That we laughed our way to the end.  
My life would have had less colour  
So I'm honoured that he called me 'friend'.  
Old soldiers never die, I hear,  
And of course that will be quite true  
As he's still around, I would say,  
In his boots and overalls of blue.  
But it's not the sight or the sound of him  
That tells me he's still here.  
It's the rising, bubbling laughter  
As memories of him re-appear.

©Helene Harrison

# DAFT HOMEMADE POETRY BY BILL EMBLETON

(Number 33)

## LEARNING TO PLAY CHESS

I'm sick of dropping clangers every time I play at chess.  
Every time I make a move, I get into a mess.  
I never seem to get a plan of battle in my head  
I may as well start playing darts instead

Clangers, clangers, all night long.  
Constant clangers, I play all wrong.  
I'm dropping clangers every day,  
I think I'll throw the chess away

If I go and move a Pawn, he takes it with a Knight  
By the time I make four moves, I know I'm in the \*\*\*\*\*.  
I'm almost scared to shift a piece, I'm just a nervous wreck  
And I'm sick of that damned grinning oaf, always shouting "Check!"

Clangers, clangers, once again.  
My constant clangers cause me pain.  
You've dropped a clanger, I hear him shout,  
I think I'd better just drop out

You know, it isn't funny to be losing every day  
Yet I must grin and bear it, if I want to learn to play.  
If only I could absorb the moves to give the guy a fright  
Then he too would have to go and practice every night.

Clangers clangers, what a shame.  
Constant clangers every game.  
I've had enough of being a fool  
So now I'll try my luck at pool.

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **INSTANT PHOTOS**

Passport, visa, travel pass, driving licence,  
gun licence, etc.

Personalised birthday, Christmas & get well  
cards with your own special message or  
photograph.

Business/Invitation cards.

You name it! Tell me what you want & I'll  
supply it.

*Call Bill Miller on 616420*

### **STRONSAY ARTWORKS**

Original paintings of Stronsay Landscape;  
Limited edition prints, greetings cards and  
postcards which are available for sale at lo-  
cal shops, Post Office, Hotel, B&B's and  
the Fishmart. Commissions taken.

*Phone Jenny on 616475*

### **STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP**

Sale items

Fiction paperbacks – all at £4.50

Rowan Purelife DK usually £4.95 now  
£3.50

Rowan Felted Tweed Aran usually £5.25  
now £3.50

A few Rowan Colourscape Chunky £9.25  
now £5.50

Pattern books reduced by £2

Special offer 500g cones of 4 ply acrylic  
yarn @ £2.50

Shop open Wed, Thurs, Friday and Sat  
12.00 till 17.30

616434

[www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk](http://www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk)



### **“NEIL'S ON WHEELS”**

All mechanical work undertaken, welding specialist,  
MOT prep work, home start, towing service, no call out fee.

MOBILE: 07723 304 260      HOME: 01857 616454

### **Business adverts**

Up to 25 words - £1.50. 25 word advert with photo - £3. 25 to 50 words - £3 and so on.

### **Private adverts (for sale, wanted, birthday greetings etc)**

Up to 25 words - £1.00. 25 word advert with photo - £1.50. 25 to 50 words - £1.50 and so on.

Adverts for the next (February) edition of the *Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 19 February

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

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS***

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### **SINGING CLASS**

New 10 week session started on Monday 17th January 2011

7pm—9pm in the Community Centre

No need to be able to read music, all you need is enthusiasm!

Contact Brian Crowe on 616464 for further details.

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### **STRONSAY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

The Stronsay Telephone Directory has recently been up-dated and copies can be purchased from the school, Olivebank, the Post Office or Ebenezer at a cost of £1.50.

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### **HORTICULTURE TRAINING COURSE**

**11-12 March in the Community Hall**

**Getting ready for the new growing season**

Norman Stephen (Scottish Agricultural College ) and Audrey Litterick (Audrey Litterick Consulting) will be back in Stronsay on Saturday 12th March with a new course to help you prepare for a new season. Topics to be covered include propagation (with a hands-on workshop), pests and diseases and crop nutrition. The course will start with an evening session on Friday 11th March, with opportunities to ask questions about your own gardens, soils and cropping plans. The rest of the course will run on Saturday morning and early afternoon, with a workshop session on propagation and classroom sessions on pests and diseases and crop nutrition.

This course is free thanks to funding from the Climate Challenge Fund. Full schedule will be advertised in March *Limpet*

**Booking is Essential!** To book please contact Marion on 616354 or email

[powerdown.stronsay@gmail.com](mailto:powerdown.stronsay@gmail.com)

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### **NEW PLOT AT COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE!**

A new plot has been created in the Greenhouse ready for the new planting season. Anyone interested in taking it on please contact Marion on 616354 or email

[powerdown.stronsay@gmail.com](mailto:powerdown.stronsay@gmail.com)

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### **WHY NOT WRITE TO THE LIMPET?**

The *Limpet* is always on the lookout for new contributors. Have you a Stronsay-related story to tell? Why not put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and send in your story; please include your own contact details when you write.

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

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

Items for the next (February) edition of the *Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 19 February

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

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)***

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### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Next visits:

**MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY**

**MONDAY 14 MARCH**

Council Houses: 9.00am-11.00am

Stronsay School: 11.30am-2.00pm

Stronsay Kirk: 2.30pm-4.30pm

Stronsay School: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or [general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk)

Kirkwall library website - <http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk>

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### **FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB**

Ages 10 or over only

Friday night 8pm until 10pm

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

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### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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

Special event coming up? Why not hire the disco equipment with rotating glitter globe and pulsating coloured lights for only £5 plus room and hydro charge? A DJ from the Hall list must be used.

Also available for hire: badminton, table tennis and snooker all at £2 per hour plus hydro. All equipment provided.

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

For details and booking contact Colin on 616446.

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## ***USEFUL INFORMATION***

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### **POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30—12
Tuesday	Closed
Thursday	8:30—12 and 1—3
Saturday	9—12

Post collection times . . . . . 07:30, Monday to Saturday  
Replacement bin bags. . . . . Telephone OIC (Technical Services) on 01856 873535  
Sunday service at the Kirk . . . . . 11 am  
Our Lady's chapel, pier head . . . . Daily Masses at 7:30 am and every Sunday at 9 am  
Next Special Collection . . . . . Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February

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Doctor . . . . .	616321	Castle Bird Reserve . . . .	616363
Nurses . . . . .	616480	Balfour hospital . . . . .	01856 888000
Medical emergency . . . .	01856 888000	Hydro . . . . .	0800 300 999
Registrar . . . . .	616239	Kirkwall Library . . . . .	01856 873166
Hall bookings . . . . .	616446	Kirkwall Police . . . . .	01856 872241
Post Office . . . . .	616217	Vets:	
Companions . . . . .	616261	Flett & Carmichael . . .	01856 872859
Kirk . . . . .	616311	Northvet . . . . .	01856 873403
Stronsay Hotel . . . . .	616213	Dentists:	
Fish Mart Hostel . . . . .	616263	Great Western Rd . . . .	01856 879683
Olivebank . . . . .	616255	King Street . . . . .	01856 875348
Ebenezer stores . . . . .	616339		

### **HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET**

Send an email to [ricardian@btinternet.com](mailto:ricardian@btinternet.com), phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 or write to *The Limpet*, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR

The *Limpet* is published on the last Thursday of the month. Items for inclusion in the *Limpet* must be submitted by the Saturday before the last Thursday in the month. The cut-off date for the next (February 2011) edition is Saturday 19 February.

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### **SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LIMPET**

Why not send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present?

12 editions for £10.00 including P&P

Please make cheques—UK banks only—payable to “Stronsay Development Trust”  
(UK only. Non-UK subscriptions, please ask for a quote)

Contact Bruce, details above

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The Stronsay Development Trust, a Scottish Charity SC038888

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

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Orkney Community Planning Partnership