



STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

ISSUE 79 - JANUARY 2012

Published on the last Thursday of the month



FRIDAY 27th JANUARY
STRONSAY COMMUNITY CENTRE
6pm - 8pm

Sup

Sample

Our

Our

Soup

Sandwiches

The RNLI is holding a nationwide SOS day on Friday 27th January 2012. This will be repeated annually, the object being to raise as much money as possible through activities with an SOS theme.

The Stronsay branch has decided that again 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. And it will save mum from having to make the evening meal. There will also be raffles, quizzes, tombola, etc. Raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated, you really did us proud last year.

All proceeds will go towards training and equipping the brave men & women who man our lifeboats.

W Miller, Secretary

The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on Thu 23 Feb. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by Wed 15 Feb. Contact details on back page

NEWS FROM STRONSAY SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE FROM ALL AT THE SCHOOL

Christmas Concert

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Concert, it was lovely to see a packed hall and I know that everyone enjoyed the performances. Thank you also to Wilma and Arna for preparing and serving the refreshments this is an important part of our concert and much appreciated.

End of year Awards ceremony

Congratulations to the following pupils who attained Bronze and Silver Merit award certificates. Merits are awarded to the pupils in the following categories:-

- Consistent Good Performance and Effort
- Improvement in Work
- Improvement in Behaviour
- Consistent Homework Record
- Positive Approach to Subject/school
- Positive Role Model

Accordion Tuition

We are delighted to be able to offer Accordion Tuition and six pupils are now starting to learn. This is due to the retirement of the accordion instructor in Westray freeing up funding which has to be spent on accordion tuition. Congratulations to Gaynor on her appointment as instructor – another hat for her to wear! The funding is in place until the end of June in the first instance.

School Calendars

Thank you to everyone who bought a calendar, there are still some left and anyone who would like to buy one (£6.50 each) can contact the school office on 01857 616246 or e-mail admin.stronsay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk. We are happy to post out calendars if required.

S. Robertson
January 2012

STRONSAY SCHOOL CAROL CONCERT

The Stronsay School carol concert was held on Tuesday 20th December 2011. What a wonderful way to get you into the spirit of the season. Head Teacher, Susan Robertson welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; little did we know what a wonderful hour was in store. The school and audience were asked to join in singing 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'. This was then followed by 'The Stronsay Mummers' Play, it was so funny I almost split my-sides laughing. It involved a large syringe and saw, a spanner and a mallet. There was a sword-fight and lots of action. A funny twist was added by the use of local place names. An awful lot of work and practice had obviously gone into this but it certainly paid off as the performance was brilliant.

The upper primary then sang 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town', they too received great applause from the audience. Next we were honoured to hear 'Deck the Halls' accompanied by a mixed strings section. Joanne then set down her fiddle and sang a beautiful rendition of 'The Holly and the Ivy', it was a version I had never heard before, but one I have since learnt as I enjoyed it so much.

Following on from Joanne, Tilly then gave a lovely version of 'Make you feel my Love'. The Lower Primary and Nursery pupils then performed a Nativity play which bought a tear to the eye. We all stood to sing 'O Come all Ye Faithful' and a string Quintet played 'Silent Night' beautifully. The singing came to an end with 'The Twelve day of Christmas' which was sung with much vigour as the children seem to enjoy seeing parents running out of breath. After another large spate of applause we were served Tea, Coffee and 'Stronsay School shortbread' which capped off a fantastic afternoon and left us all feeling very 'Christmassy' indeed.

Well done to all who were involved with presenting such an enjoyable afternoon. I look forward to your concerts in 2012.

Yvonne Weaver

SON-SHINE CLUB NATIVITY PLAY

From November onwards the children from the club were busy learning songs and practising for their nativity play. We have done a play at Christmas every year since the club was formed.

We retell the nativity story and try and do a slightly differently angle each year. Last year it was from the donkey's point of view. The year before, that it was the sheep who had the starring roles!

This year we had two angels that had been sent down from heaven to make sure everything went smoothly. These were brilliantly portrayed by Joshua Dawson and Aimee Stout.

Multi-talented Mikey Stevenson played both Innkeeper and Shepherd, remembering not only two sets of lines but also managing to do a speedy costume change and after showing Mary and Joseph, who were played by El Williams and Joseph Smith, to the stable. He quickly transformed into a shepherd warming himself by a small fire in the cold hills of Bethlehem. along with his fellow shepherd Matthew Dawson.

Fraser Stout sang "We Three Kings" as he led the way in the search for the new born King, the other two wise men helping in the search were Aiden Stout and Mille Dennison. This was Millie's first Son-shine club play as she joined just before Easter last year after she celebrated her third birthday.

The rehearsals didn't always go according to plan, but all said and done, the children worked hard and their hard work paid off when they preformed the play in front of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They all did fantastically well, remembering their lines and the words of all the songs.

After the play we continued the evening with a Christmas party and games and Santa even had time to pop in for a visit.

The Son-shine club would like to say a big thank you to all the children for coming along week after week and to their parents for bringing them.

Anyone aged between 3 and 9 is welcome to come along and have some fun. We do a range of arts, crafts and activities. Every Wednesday after school 3.15 until 5pm.

(See photographs on next page)



LATEST BIRD NEWS

John Holloway

There had been several amazing bird sightings in 2011 - including three species new to the island, but 'Bird of the Year' was saved until 27th December when Jim Cooper saw a beautiful Gyrfalcon during his morning walk along the Cleat road. From Jim's description the bird was a pale grey 'morph' with small dark 'spots', and was quite probably one of the birds seen on Mainland Orkney several times in mid-Winter.

There has been a big influx of Iceland Gulls into northern Britain since the New Year and we have seen at least five here on Stronsay during the last few days. The birds are roughly Herring Gull (White Ma) in size but lack any distinct markings other than fawny-grey flecking over much of the plumage on 1st winter birds. Second-year birds are much whiter overall and the adults have very pale grey upperparts. In all plumages the outer-wing looks very white - particularly in flight. 1-2 Iceland Gulls are seen here most years, generally hunting for grubs etc. in the fields of short grass, or on freshly-ploughed land.

The name Iceland Gull is a misnomer as the birds originate mainly from Greenland and Arctic Canada - but do not breed in Iceland! Glaucous Gulls (which do breed in Iceland) are very similar to Iceland Gull in all plumages but are generally noticeably bigger (Great Black-backed Gull size) and 'uglier', with a 'fierce' expression and a longer, heavier bill. (see photos - all taken on Stronsay)



Adult Iceland Gull, Jan. 2012

(continued on next page)



1st Winter Iceland Gull, Jan. 2012



*Adult Glaucous Gull (rt.), Spring 2008
note large size and heavy bill. (Herring Gull to right)*

Small parties of Fieldfares and a few Redwings were still present in mid-Winter and these were boosted by a considerable influx of thrushes at the start of the fine, calm weather on 14th January. At least 500 Fieldfares were seen after this date and there was an interesting flock of 6 Song Thrushes near Holin Cottage on 16th. Single Greenfinch, Siskin, and 2 Chaffinches have been seen and a Dunnock which arrived in the Castle garden may have been the bird which had been over-wintering at Helmsley where a big area of the preferred habitat of this species was sadly destroyed in the mid-Winter storms.

Several Long-tailed Ducks are wintering in Mill Bay, the majority being males in their striking winter-plumage. This is one of the few species which has a more striking winter-plumage than that of the breeding-season and the long, black, needle-like tail can be seen well through binoculars although can be difficult to see at long range.

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Monday	10.30—12.00	4.00—5.30
Tuesday	Buddy	4.00—5.30
Wednesday	10.30—12.00	4.00—5.30
Thursday	Buddy	6.30—8.00
Friday	10.30—12.00	4.00—5.30
Saturday	Closed	2.00—3.30
Sunday	Closed	Closed

WINDMILL ATTACKED!

John M Mitchell

Cervantes, novelist and man of many parts, once worked as a commissary for the Spanish Armada. Based in Seville he requisitioned corn, wine and oil. However, he wrongfully requisitioned wheat from the cathedral chapter, was twice excommunicated and finally imprisoned.

This experience may have left him with a dislike of windmills because in his novel "Don Quixote" this befuddled knight comes across thirty or forty windmills. Believing them to be giants with long arms, armed with a lance and mounted on his somewhat decrepit horse he charged at one, aiming at the sail. Unfortunately for him the wind caught the sail just as he struck, broke the lance and the impact threw Don and horse to the ground.

Now, fast forward to the present day and our Don could be in a 4x4 armed with a thermal lance, chainsaw, an AK47 and possibly a rocket launcher. Maybe, who knows?

SOS

(SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL)

Coming soon!

Variety Concert

Saturday 3rd March 2012

ALL WELCOME

DETAILS IN NEXT MONTHS LIMPET

STRONSAY'S BOXING DAY DIPPERS

On Boxing Day 2011 the Ayre of Myres was the venue for Stronsay's Boxing Day Dip. 24 brave souls had been sponsored to take a dip in the freezing cold water. Quite a few folk turned up to watch and to make sure that there no slackers. Sponsorship money collected for CLIC Sargent reached the magnificent total of £1,754.



SINGER EMILY BOURN'S STRONSAY ALBUM LAUNCH AND HER BROTHER HENRY'S 18TH BIRTHDAY FANCY DRESS PARTY

Bill Embleton

At 8:30pm on Saturday 17th December 2011 a packed hall at the Community Center welcomed on stage some of the finest musical talent on the Island. The evening commenced with a lively rendition of tunes, to great applause, played superbly by a group of the Stronsay Silver Darlings, an added guitarist Owen Tierney and harpist Dr Rosalind Neville-Smith.

Then followed the eagerly awaited, fine voice of young Emily Bourn to launch her recent CD album, singing a variety of songs, some of which she had written herself, ably accompanied by guitarist Jack Kirkpatrick. Emily, just fourteen years old, dressed as an angel for her brother Henry's fancy dress birthday party which was to follow, sang beautifully, to much appreciation from the audience.

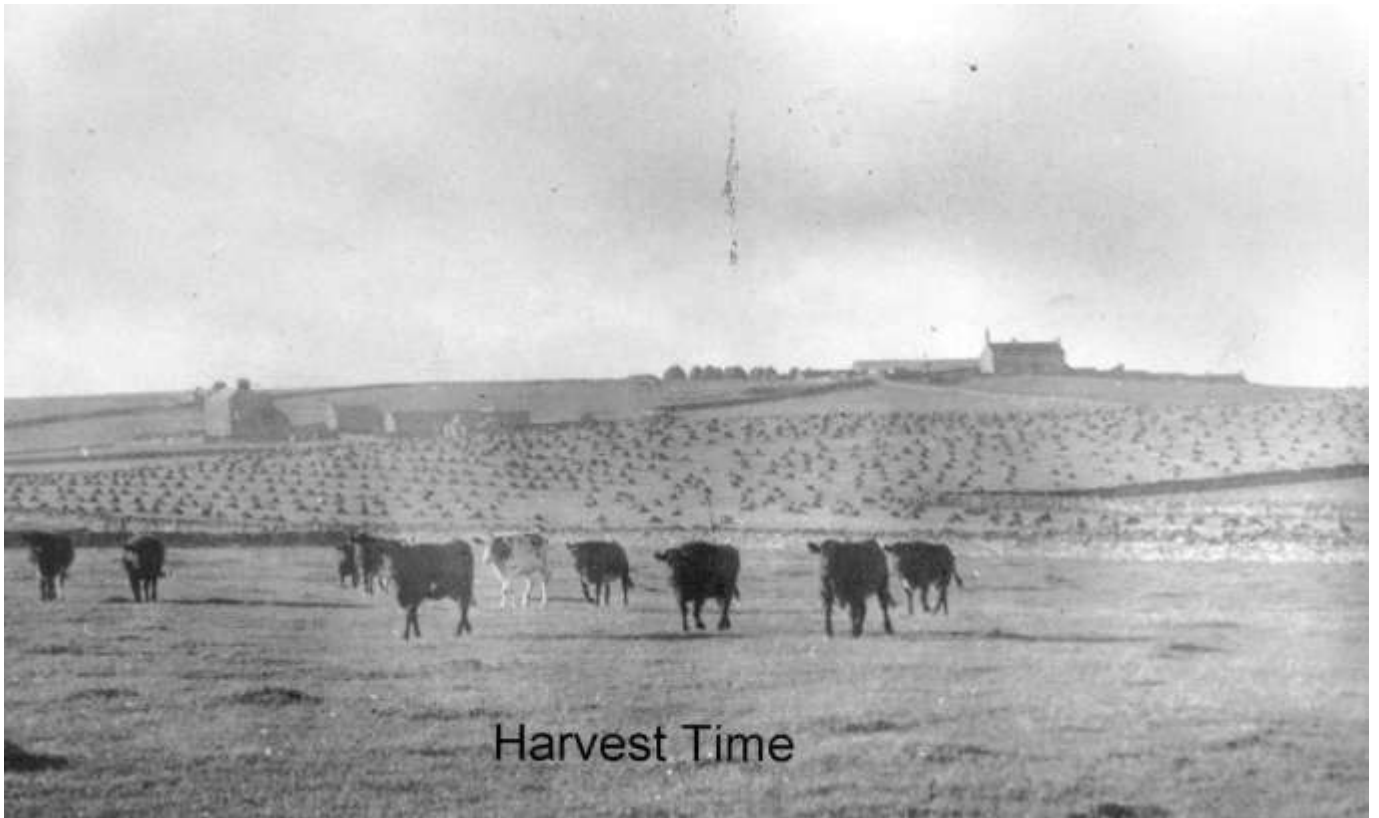
Emily first came to prominence at the tender age of ten, when she sang at a fund raising concert for Stronsay's Moncur Memorial Church in 2007. Showing no fear at such a young age to sing in front of a packed audience, it was obvious that she was keen to entertain as a singer and would aspire to progress further. This she has done without doubt these past four years and time is on her side to reach greater heights.

The evening continued with more music and Henry's fancy dress party in full swing, some sporting very imaginative costumes. With supper provided, a great night was had by all.



(Emily's CD 'Fate' is available for purchase at Stronsay Arts & Crafts, at Grooves and at Amazon on the net, retailing at £12.99)

STRONSAY SCENES THEN AND NOW



The Manse & Whitehall area circa 1930



The Manse & Whitehall area 2012 (*photo by Bill Miller*)

(continued on next page)



Clestrain Farm circa 1930



Clestrain Farm 2005 (*photo by Bill Miller*)

A MESSAGE FROM STEPHEN CLACKSON ABOUT POSTAL VOTING AND THE O.I.C. ELECTION

2012 marks not only the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens, the centenary of Scott's tragic expedition to the South Pole, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, it is also the year in which the local government elections will be taking place—when we get the chance to elect the OIC councillors we believe will do the best for us. I am intending to stand again at this election for the North Isles ward, and hope, with your support, to become one of those councillors.

For this and all future elections, postal-only balloting has been introduced for the outer isles. This means there will NOT be a polling station on Stronsay anymore. Unless you are willing to travel to the Mainland to vote in person, you will need to complete and return the "Application to vote by post" which was sent in December to all outer isles voters. If you have mislaid the form, another may be obtained from the Electoral Registration Office in Kirkwall (tel. 01856-876222).

Because postal votes have to be sent in before the actual polling day (3rd May 2012), at this year's election the outer isles candidates will have less official canvassing time available than in the past. For this reason, I am making an early start by canvassing as a prospective candidate until the statement of nominations is published in late March

Some of you may remember me canvassing in Stronsay at the 2007 election (on Thursday 26th April, to be precise) with my 4 year old daughter. I live on your neighbouring island of Sanday. We share a plane with you four days a week and we also have to put up with the appalling ferry refit arrangements suffered only by the eastern North Isles. If you have not met me in person, you may know me through my correspondence in the Orcadian or my "Dr. Clackson Digresses ..." articles published in Living Orkney last year.

How well do you feel that Stronsay's interests have been represented at School Place in the last four and a half years? Have all the North Isles councillors been in touch with the needs of the Stronsay community and its problems? Have they been listening to the concerns of Stronsay folk, and, more to the point, have they been acting on them?

I would welcome hearing your views on any shortcomings in councillor representation for Stronsay since the last election, and what you would expect of your ideal OIC councillor. So, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

In the meantime, do not forget to get your postal voting application sent off, so that you will be able to cast your vote from the comfort of your own home.

STEPHEN CLACKSON
(Prospective OIC candidate)
West Manse, Sanday
clackson4northisles@gmail.com



SNOWDROPS!

By Ellie from Newfield

Delicate, I would say
When describing you.
And as you're nodding your head
I suppose that you would too.
Brave is a very apt word
For it suits you very well.
Growing in such innocence
Whilst casting that botanical spell.
Mother nature fashioned you white
But it seems a shame to me
That on those snowy winter's days
You're so difficult to see.
Crimson would suit you better
For the fire that burns within.
Being of such a delicate nature
You take cruel winter on the chin.
Mother Nature has her reasons
And it doesn't do to argue.
But if she couldn't go with red,
Well, maybe, perhaps, blue.
And of course she has her moments,
Mother Nature I mean.
But why dress you up in camouflage
So you're hardly to be seen.
Bright yellow would be great,
I'm sure the primrose wouldn't mind.
As I feel you're missing out
When our eyes are "snow blind".
Or wouldn't it be nice
If you sported the colour of cherries?
The birds would then take heart
Whilst feasting on those berries.
Or how about deep purple?
You'd look so good in that.
Spread across the garden
Like a ruby-rich snowcap.
But then there's dusky pink.
I'm sure you'd wear it well.
Or a rainbow of these colours?
(continued on next page)

For what suits you, who can tell.
But then you wouldn't be
That delightful little queen.
So maybe that is why
Mother nature added the green!

©Helene Harrison

GREETINGS, PRIVATE SALES & WANTS

THANKYOU!

Many thanks for all the cards and tips that I received over the Christmas period.

I'll split the tips with Lewis.

Keith Butcher

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 Wednesday 15 February

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES



“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

ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP



Real soap made by hand in Stronsay. Flavours include bere and tangle, also bars featuring the Stronsay Beast. We may be able to help with Wedding Favours or special occasions so please contact us to discuss your requirements. Available at Olive Bank, Stronsay Arts & Crafts and online.

Tel: 616281

Email: info@orkneystarilandsoap.co.uk

Web: www.orkneystarilandsoap.co.uk

STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

Winter opening days are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 12.00
Cards, Candles, Books, Crafts, Stronsay handmade soap and much more.

Tel: Julia 616434

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)

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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



COMPUTER SERVICES

Advice, Internet connection issues, Web-
site design, Hosting, I.T. Training and
much, much more.

Contact Neil @ Schoolbrae, 616317

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)

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

SANTA'S FLOAT

The Stronsay Games club would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped make the Santa Float such a success on Sunday 11th of December 2011. We raised £125, thank you all!

STRONSAY GAMES CLUB

The Stronsay Games Club would like to thank everyone who supported us at our 'Toastie and Hot Chocolate Night'. The grand total raised was £120. Thank you all.

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

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit:

MONDAY 30 JANUARY 2012

Council Houses: 9.00am-11.00am

Stronsay School: 11.30am-2.00pm

Stronsay Kirk: 2.30pm-4.30pm

Stronsay School: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Mobile library schedule http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2_timetable.htm

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk

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

Kirkwall library online book catalogue - <http://212.219.208.10/TalisPrism>

Check new library opening times

www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours

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

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.

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

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USEFUL INFORMATION

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	3 February 2012

Doctor	616321	Castle Bird Reserve	616363
Nurses	616480	Balfour hospital	01856 888000
Medical emergency	01856 888000	Hydro	0800 300 999
Registrar	616239	All water enquiries	0845 601 8855
Hall bookings	616446	Kirkwall Library	01856 873166
Post Office	616278	Kirkwall Police	01856 872241
Companions	616261	Vets:	
Kirk	616311	Flett & Carmichael	01856 872859
Stronsay Hotel	616213	Northvet	01856 873403
Fish Mart Hostel	616339	Dentists:	
Olivebank	616255	Great Western Rd	01856 879683
Ebenezer stores	616339	King Street	01856 875348
		Earls Palace	01856 872958

Golgotha Monastery: phone 616210, email contact@the-sons.org

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

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

The cut-off date for the next (January) edition is Wednesday 15 February

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE LIMPET*

You can send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present?

12 editions for £15.00 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

The Stronsay Development Trust, a Scottish Charity SC038888

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

Supported in its activities by HIE Orkney, Orkney Islands Council, and Orkney Community Planning Partnership