

# NEWSLETTER

As we head into the new year, we'd like to thank everyone for their continued support and involvement in the Trust. From a brilliant turnout at our recent EGM to the many community projects ticking along, it's been a positive and encouraging start to the year on Stronsay

## ☀️ Welcome! ☀️

### Welcoming Our Newly Elected Trustees

Following a fantastic turnout at the EGM on 28 January, we're delighted to welcome our newly elected Trustees to the Stronsay Development Trust Board.

Congratulations to Molly May Allan, Viv Erdman, Craig Stout, Mick McQuaid and Louise McQuaid on their election. It's great to see such strong community involvement, and we look forward to the experience, ideas and energy they will bring to the Trust.

After the meeting, Trustees appointed office bearers. Molly May Allan has been elected as Chair, with Kevin Kent continuing in his previous role as Vice Chair. Andrew Fraser remains Treasurer, and Louise McQuaid has stepped into the role of Company Secretary.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, voted, or supported the process – your engagement helps keep the Trust active, representative, and moving forward for the benefit of Stronsay.

If you'd like to get in touch with the Board,  
you can contact us via

[office@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:office@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com)

or directly at:

[Molly@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:Molly@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com)

[Kevin@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:Kevin@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com)

[Louise@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:Louise@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com)

We're pleased to share that the Stronsay Development Trust website is now live:



### StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com

All of our historic documents have now been transferred from our Padlet page, making it easier than ever to find Trust information, governance documents, and key updates in one place.

From now on, we'll be keeping both the website and our Facebook page updated regularly with news, project updates, opportunities, and community information so you can stay in the loop with what's happening.

Have a look around and keep checking back as we continue to add more content.

If you spot any issues, or there's something you'd like to see added to the website, please get in touch at

[Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com).

### Stronsay Men's Shed – Everyone Welcome!

One of our sub-groups, the Stronsay Men's Shed, would like to share a big thank you to Ross. Thanks to his support, the group is currently benefiting from funding raised through Porch donations and sales, which is helping to keep the Shed active, welcoming, and well resourced.

This is a friendly reminder that all Stronsay men are very welcome to pop along — whether you're hands-on, just curious, or just fancy a blether.

Saturdays 10:30am – 12 noon at the Mission Hall

There's always something going on at the Shed, including:



Woodworking & DIY  
Repairs & upcycling  
Craft projects  
Tinkering & fixing  
Learning new skills  
Starting your own project  
Watching and chatting  
Tea, coffee & good conversation



You can join in, observe, or start something of your own — there's no pressure and no expectations. The kettle is always on.



### Comments & Feedback

Our Padlet page will remain visible for reference, but it will no longer be monitored or updated now that our new website is live.

If you would like to share feedback anonymously about the Trust's work, there is a post box inside Unit 1 where letters can be left.

Otherwise, please feel free to contact one of the Trust office bearers directly.

# Projects & Development



## British Science Week “Waste to Warmth to Growth”

SDT has been awarded a small grant by British Science Week to deliver a project called “Waste to Warmth to Growth”.

**Taking place 6th - 8th March,**  
pop the date in your diaries!

The project shows how waste cardboard becomes fuel, ash becomes compost, and compost supports growing - a full circular economy story, right here on Stronsay.

We will share news of all the activities we will be holding for all residents shortly.



## Cellnex – Technology Support Workshops 'Tea and Tech'

Thanks to Cellnex funding, we'll be running technology advice sessions to help people with everyday digital needs. We are just waiting on the funds to be sent through to purchase the technology to support these sessions.

These workshops will be supported by community transport, making them accessible to as many people as possible.



## Youth Club

We've received confirmation from Orkney Islands Council that applications were received during the last recruitment round. This is great news and we hope to hear further from OIC in due course.



## Sewing & Mending Workshops

We're planning sewing and mending workshops funded through the OIC Circular Economy Crisis Grant. These sessions will focus on repair, reuse, and practical skills, with SDT staff working alongside the Men's Shed to deliver hands-on, friendly workshops for the community. We are looking to commence these mid February.

## ♥Community♥ Defibrillators

### THANK YOU!

Viv has kindly been volunteering to regularly check and report in relation to our Island SDT registered Defibrillator since outset. She has now handed this over to staff.

**We take this opportunity to thank Viv for all her work carrying out these regular checks and records online for our community.**

Regular checks will now be shared between staff, with records updated on the national Heartbeat system, helping ensure defibs are always ready when needed.



## SOAP Outdoor Activities

SDT continues to support SOAP outdoor activities, which have been well attended so far. Sadly we had to cancel the last one because of weather and ferry cancellations.

**The next dates will be 14-15th February,  
14th - 15th March, 28-29th March.**

Pop the dates in your diaries and keep an eye out for our booking posters.



## North Isles Wellbeing – Exploring a New Project

While Stronsay doesn't currently have a dedicated Wellbeing project, we're exploring whether a joint North Isles approach could work. This could lead to a long-term wellbeing project, potentially funded through the National Lottery, bringing coordinated support across several islands. This is at an exploratory stage.



## HiTrans – Active Travel & Cycling (Grant Awarded)

Great news - SDT has secured a small grant fund from HiTrans to support local cycling and active travel. A full back-office system will be purchased using the HiTrans grant, making it easier to run and sustain cycling opportunities on the island for our community members and visitors utilising our EV bike.



## Island Mobility & Climate Action

SDT is finalising the Island Mobility Transport Report for submission to CES ECOP. We're also continuing work on our Climate Action reporting, expanding this to include farming and fish farm activity, helping ensure island realities are reflected in climate planning.

## ♥£1,500 Grant Boost for Community Health Support♥

We are delighted to share that a £1,500 grant has been awarded by Orkney Heart Support Group to support Geramont Surgery in purchasing equipment that will directly benefit our community

The funding will enable the Surgery to invest in items that enhance local health provision and support the wellbeing of residents on Stronsay. Dr Wassim is currently working on developing a list of equipment to be purchased, ensuring that the funding is used where it will have the greatest impact for patients.

We are extremely grateful to the team at Orkney Heart Support Group for their generosity and continued commitment to improving health outcomes across Orkney's communities. Their support highlights the importance of partnership working in sustaining vital local services in our island communities.

We look forward to sharing updates once the items have been purchased and are in use

**For more details on individual projects contact [Shani@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Shani@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com), [Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com) or call the office on 01857 616410**



# Recycling & Transport

We are pleased to announce we have added an extra shift to our community bus run and will now operate between 9:00 and 12:00 on Monday along with our Tuesday and Thursday service.

Please book all journeys up to 30 minutes in advance.

To book the community bus, contact  
Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com, 07398 627742

Journeys are charged at £2 per journey

**£1 for concessionary fares**

(please show the driver your card)

Travel passes are available through the Community Grants Scheme for the Islands young folk up to and including 22 years old.

For more details see our community grants scheme page.

## Community Bus News



**9**

Passengers  
Carried



**16**

Journeys  
Made



This month we have carried passengers to various destinations including the shops; doctors; ferry and airport.

**Monday**

**09:00 to 12:00**



Book for general errands like the shops; doctors etc.

**Tuesday**

**08:00 to 18:30**



Book for ferry pickup/collection; airport runs and everything in between.

**Thursday**

**08:00 to 18:30**



Book for ferry pickup/collection; airport runs and everything in between.



**To book the bus: Call or Text (texting preferred) 07398 627742**

## RECYCLING NEWS

Stronsay Development Trust – Community Update



**229 kWh**  
Electricity Used



**674 Logs**  
Produced



**21 Boxes & 9 Sacks**  
Sold (£184 Sales)



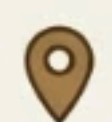
### INFORMATION & CONTACT



**Email:** neil@stronsaydevelopmenttrust.com



**Phone:** 01857 616410 or 07398 627742



**Visit:** Pop by the Recycling Centre for information or to drop off your cardboard.



### WORKING HOURS

**Monday:** 9:00 – 14:30\*

**Tuesday:** 9:00 – 18:00\*

**Thursday:** 9:00 – 18:00\*

\*Times may vary due to community bus commitments.



# Community Grants

**In December, the Stronsay Development Trust awarded a grant to help support the Heritage committee with the Santa Float Event**

*From the Heritage Committee - "The Stronsay Heritage Society wants to thank all who helped with our recent Santa Float fundraiser. Over £450 toward the Heritage Centre Project was raised in just a few hours, thanks to your generosity. Thank you to the hotel staff for all the yummy food, and a big thank you to the Stronsay Development Trust for funding the buffet. You all helped make the evening a fun community event"*



**Since the start of the Scheme in the summer of 2025,**

**£17,825.05**

**has been granted to the community from the Stronsay Development Trust Grant scheme**

The Community Grants Scheme is designed to support the local community,

its aim is to empower individuals, groups, and organisations to carry out projects that benefit the island's development, sustainability, and well-being

**Grants Awarded for the current financial year - September 2025-August 2026**

**Place Plan initiatives £9,958.91**

**Education & Training £486.20**

**Entertainment £2,983.74**

**Young persons Travel £0.00**

**We're pleased to share that the Young Persons Travel Grant has been extended to offer a free bus pass for the young folk of Stronsay up to and including the age of 22.**

If your child attends Stronsay School, then application forms will be available there and help will be given to fill these in. For anyone outside of the School and under 23 years of age, please send your details to either [Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com) or [Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com) and we will issue you with your Island travel card.

**With the half term holidays coming up, this is a great opportunity for our young people to get out and about, visit friends, enjoy time together or head off for lunch and a catch-up using the free service.**

**We hope this helps make travel easier, more affordable, and encourages young people to stay connected and social**

**What a grand couple of nights at the community hall for the Hansel & Gretel Stronsay Panto!**

*Oh yes it was! 🥰*

The Stronsay Development Trust were proud to award grants to the Stronsay Drama Committee over the course of the year to assist with hall costs for rehearsals along with money towards a new spot lamp and Ice-cream machine 🍦

**A massive thanks to cast and crew for a wonderful weekend!**



**For more details, visit the community Grants page on [StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](http://StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com) website where you will find QR codes and links to the application forms and more details on each of the available grants. Alternatively, contact [Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com) for further details or to make an appointment at the office to discuss your application.**

All applications will be treated in confidence - details of grants awarded will only be advertised with the recipients' permission





**Stronsay  
Development  
Trust**

# Membership

## Why Join

- Shape community decisions
- Have your say on projects
- Help unlock funding

## Members

We have over 30% of the eligible population already signed up as members.

## Associate

Don't live here permanently but have an interest in how the Island is shaped?

No Problem, become an associate member

## Your Voice, Your Community, Your Trust.

Did you know ..  
the more people who join our Development Trust, the stronger our case is when applying for funding?  
Funders want to see that our community is united and represented.

### Associate Member



## How to Join

Ready to apply? Joining is free and easy!

Find the application form using one of the options below:

Scan the QR code

Email: [Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

Contact the office on 01857 616410

### Full Membership



### Opening Hours (from January 2026)

**Office:** Monday 9:00-11:30

**Recycling:** Access is available during office hours.

**Transport:** Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
(See advert above for details)

### Address

Stronsay Development Trust  
Unit 1 Woods Yard  
Stronsay  
KW17 2AR

### Office:

01857 616410,  
07904 578120

**Transport, Recycling  
& Bike Hire:**

07398 627742

### Email

**Development:** [Shani@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Shani@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Finance:** [Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Community Grants:** [Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Vicki@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Transport:** [Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Recycling:** [Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Bike Hire:** [Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Neil@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**General:** [Office@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Office@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

**Chair:** [Molly@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:Molly@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

# Stay Up to Date with the Stronsay Development Trust!

The Stronsay Development Trust monthly newsletters can be found on our Stronsay Development Trust web site - [StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](http://StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)

For more information, please contact the office on 01857616410, 07904 578120  
or email [office@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com](mailto:office@StronsayDevelopmentTrust.com)