A Moment in Time



A snapshot of Stronsay

in 2016

to mark 830 years since the Domesday Book.

A Moment in Time

The Domesday Book is a manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 by order of King William the Conqueror. It was written in Latin and its main purpose was to discover what taxes were owed.

You will be relieved to know that our "Domesday Book" is nothing of the sort, and that we decided against Latin! We wanted a record of our island – a snapshot of our lives – during one year in the 21st century. Happily, the year marks 830 years since the original Domesday Book, and 30 years since some Stronsay pupils produced an entry for the BBC archive. Inevitably, there will be some events missing and for that we apologise.

The booklet will be given to every home in Stronsay and we hope that you will look back with nostalgia over the moments we shared in 2016 and keep it for future generations. We also hope that the pupils of the future will take the baton in 2046 and compare their lives with ours – their ancestors.

Thanks must go to Bruce Fletcher in his role as the editor of The Limpet – the source of much information and the glue that holds our community together.

Barbara Deavin John Smith Philip Piper Lewis Butcher



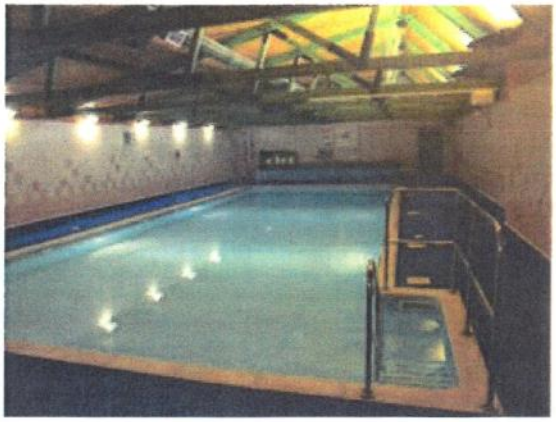
A calm day in Whitehall village



A lively day in Whitehall village.



The entrance to the school before the building work.



The school swimming pool.



This is how our school has looked for much of 2016!

Pupils of Stronsay School 2015 - 2016

Nursery

- Filip Macleod
- Star Stout
- Arya Groat

Lower Primary

- Jamie Holland
- Rowan Orr (left- March 2016)
- Sam Whiteman
- Melvin Holland
- Toni-Anne Piper
- Millie Dennison

Upper Primary

P4

- Amber Ewen (left- November 2016)
- Dan Whiteman

P5

- Matthew Dawson (left-August 2016)
- Aiden Stout
- Tony Piper

P6

- Eoan Campbell Scott Howells
- Fraser Stout

P7

- Erik Flett
- Aimee Stout
- Joshua Dawson (left - August 2016)
- Elizabeth Miller
- Mikey Stevenson

Secondary

S1

- John Smith
- Philip Piper
- Lewis Butcher

S2

- Ben Evans

S3

- Erynn Stevenson
- Charlie Williams
- Sonya Goodram

S4- Joined to KGS

- James Macleod
- Jack Holland
- Molly Shearer
- Rebecca Drever
- Thomas Fish
- Ieuan Evans

Coming to Stronsay ...



I lived in South Wales until I was four years old. We decided to move somewhere safer and a better place to grow up. We thought we would move to Scotland, to a place called Orkney. There are many islands in Orkney so we visited several of them before deciding to move to Stronsay. I am now fifteen years old. In September, it will be eleven years since we moved here.

Charlie S3

I used to live in Ashford, Kent. I was about ten years old when my Mum decided to find another job. She applied for many jobs. One of these jobs happened to be in Stronsay so the whole family went to an interview and she got the job! My Mum moved first as I was finishing my academic year at school. About six months later, the remains of my family moved up. It is now nearly two years since we moved.

Philip S1

My Dad was born on this island at Blinkbonny. My Mum moved with her family from Staffordshire to Stronsay when she was nine. Mum and Dad got together in 1995. I was born in 2003. I have always lived on the island. I would like to leave for a while but I would always come back.

John S1

When I was born, I lived in Bath until Grandma bought an old school in Rothiesholm, Stronsay. My Dad is a builder and decided to move up here and make it into a house. I was eighteen months old at the time. Dad decided that we would live at Rothiesholm School instead of selling it. I have lived in Stronsay ever since.

Lewis S1



Every year my family would come up to Scotland for a holiday. We wanted to move to Scotland but we also wanted to be near our family in Wales. After my grandad died, we started looking for a house in Scotland as we loved it. My Mum had an interview at Stronsay School in 2012. When she was given the job, we all moved to Stronsay.

Ben S2

When my Mum was a little girl, she would come to Stronsay in the summer to her grandad. Mum met Dad here when she was 16. They fell in love so Dad asked Mum to move up here when she was 18. I was born a year later in 2002. I have lived in Rothiesholm ever since.

Erynn S3



When my next door neighbour in Nottingham retired, he came to live in Orkney. My son Joseph and I used to come up to Orkney for our holidays. When Joseph left university he went to live in Australia and I thought about moving to live in Orkney. I waited for two years for the right job to come up – and I'd never heard of Stronsay when I wrote my application letter! I have lived in Stronsay for 18 months and still think it is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen.

Barbara Deavin Teacher

My Mum has lived on Stronsay all her life, and so have I. We used to live at 7 Whitehall with my stepdad and step sister and step brothers. We later moved to Orcadia and I have lived there most of my life.

Sonya S3.

My mum and dad were born in Stronsay and have lived here all of their lives. I was born at the Balfour Hospital in Kirkwall on 2nd August 2004. Nearly all of my family grew up here so I was destined to live here, too. I have lived at the South School House for all of my life.

Elizabeth S1

My mum grew up in Sanday and my dad grew up in Stronsay. When they met in Kirkwall they fell in love and decided to have me. I was born in Balfour Hospital on the 8th November 2004. I stayed in a flat in Kirkwall until I was eight months old and then my parents decided to move back to Stronsay as it was a safer place for me to grow up. I grew up on Linksness Farm. I have lived on Stronsay ever since.

Aimee Stout S1



My Mum came up to Stronsay often when she was younger because she had family here. When she was 18 she met my Dad who had lived here his entire life at The Bu farm. I was born in Aberdeen but when I was two days old we returned to Stronsay where my family lived. I have lived here for all of my 12 years at Mingro and Glanacaul.

Mikey S1



I came to Stronsay in November 2016. Before, I lived in Aberdeen with my mum. My stepdad had a few weeks at work and a few weeks at home with us. A few weeks before the end of a school term we moved up here. We had to put my dog in a cage for the first time when we were getting on the boat. When we got to Kirkwall we stayed at my aunties for one night then we went to my step dad's house in Kirkwall. The reason we came up here is because my mum's family lives here.

Jamie S1

I was born and brought up in Shetland. I met my husband, Michael, when he was in Shetland on holiday. We kept in touch by letter and phone calls until we got married and I moved to Stronsay to be a farmer's wife. I began work to work in the nursery as a classroom assistant. It was a great job to have when my children were young as I had all the school holidays with them.

Sheena Cooper SfLA

We came to Orkney on a family holiday. It was true Orkney weather for the whole fortnight but the people and the community shone through. Much to the children's disgust, we spent most of the holiday house-hunting. The job hunt was then on and my first interview was with Stronsay Junior High school. I was privileged to be offered the job and I eagerly snapped it up. The house in Wiltshire was sold and we all came to Stronsay. I vividly remember my nerves as we came across on The Varagan, the family had never visited the island, what would they think?

Sarah Evans, teacher.

I first came to Stronsay in January 2005 from California to be the minister for Stronsay and Eday parishes. I resigned from that position in 2011, and moved with my husband, Robin, to the Borders. We returned to Stronsay in 2013 to build a house and settle here. The position of school secretary became vacant in 2016, and I applied and got the job.

Jennifer Graham, school secretary.

Having a tiny baby changes your life! In 2009, my husband and I were looking for a better life for ourselves and our baby daughter. While on maternity leave, we went on a tour of Scotland and finally decided that Orkney was the place for us. We then both started applying for jobs, whoever got a job first was when we could move! Eventually, I managed to get a job as a teacher of Home Economics travelling to Stronsay, Sanday and Westray so we all moved to Orkney in August 2010 and here we are, still, seven years on!

Cate Evans, teacher.

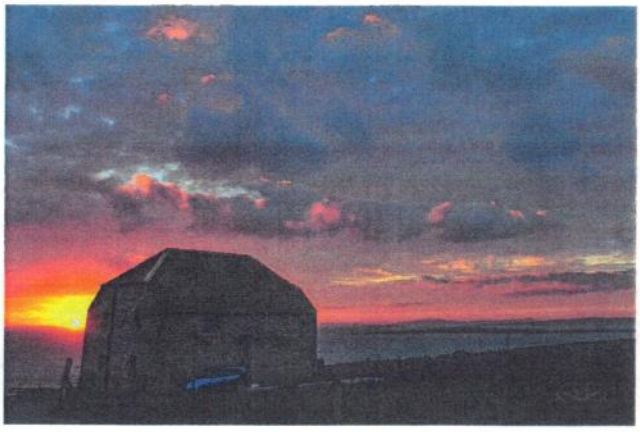




Lightning over the doctors' surgery taken from the school.



The ferry arriving at the pier in Stronsay



A beautiful evening sky over the Craftship Enterprise

A brief survey amongst the staff and pupils at Stronsay Junior High School revealed that we are an island of pet-lovers.

Between us we have

17 dogs

22 cats

6 goldfish

5 birds

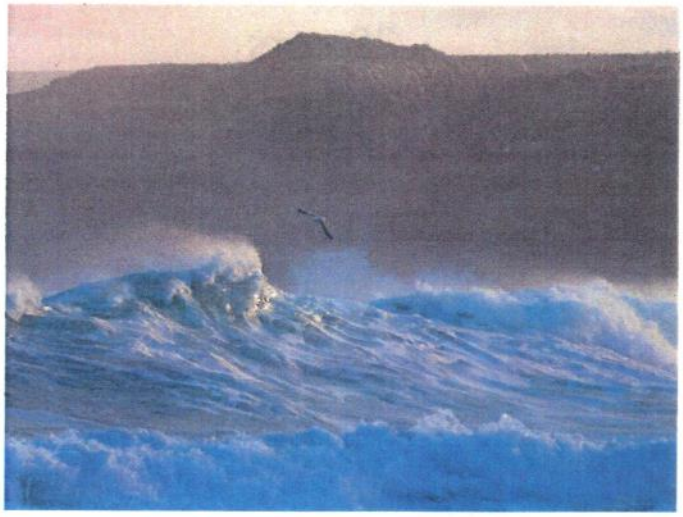
3 horses



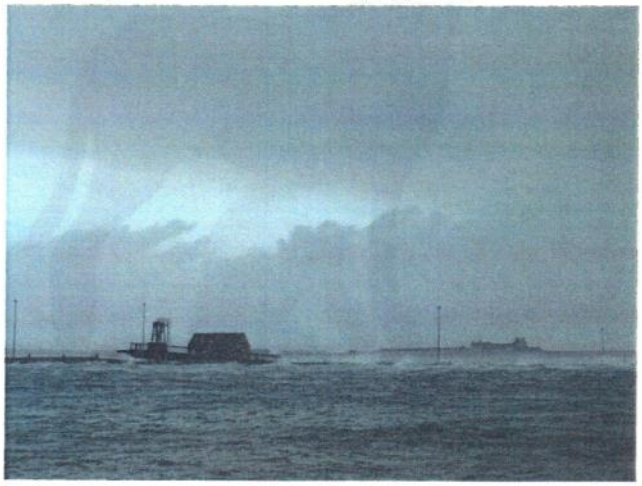
We're never sure what the weather will bring. This is 2016 so far.



January 31st 2016 taken by James Macleod (S4).

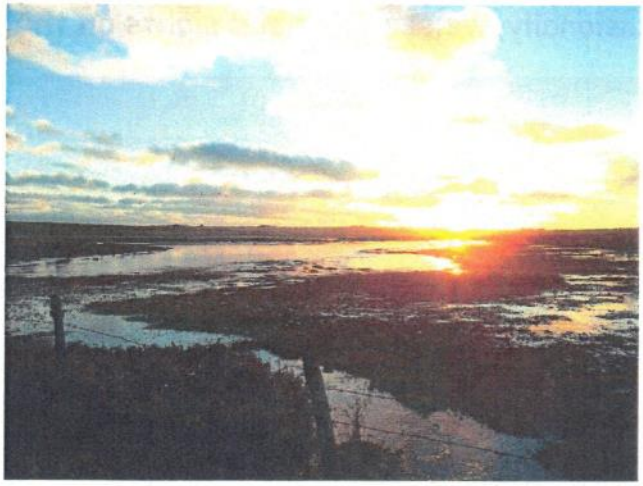


A stormy sea in February by James Macleod

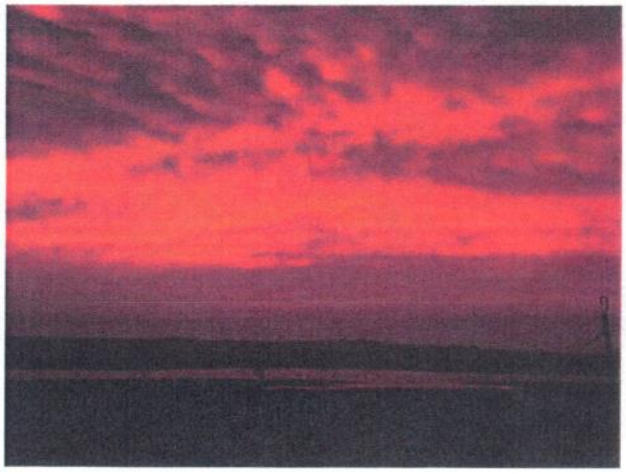


Even the pier disappeared on January 29th 2016.

This photo was taken by Roger Neville-Smith.







The fields might be flooded, and some are frozen over, but we do have some beautiful sunsets.

These photos were taken by Vicky Holland.

Occasionally, we see some sad sights on the shore.



Marion Miller took this photo of Filip Miller and a skate at Housebay.



A dead young fin whale was washed ashore at Housebay in early 2016. Shirley Whiteman took this photograph.



We have a lot of rain but a lot of rainbows. This time the pot of gold is buried at South School where Elizabeth Miller (P7) lives. The photograph was taken by Alex Maclean on February 8th 2016.



The snow doesn't often settle on Stronsay as it is too windy.

Erynn Stevenson (S3) took this photograph at the back of the play park in February 2016.

2016 saw us welcome...

Ruaridh John Seaton on 5th August

to Jim and Catherine Seaton.

Louise Stevenson and Jamie Marwick

were married on 23rd July.

In memorium...

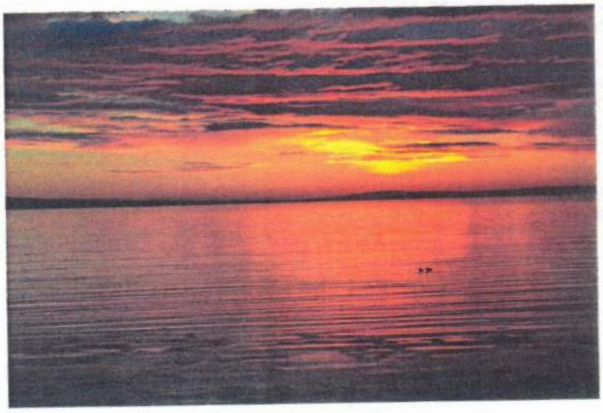
Brenda Martin on 23rd February

Richard Cotterill on 28th June

Julia Crocker on 14th November

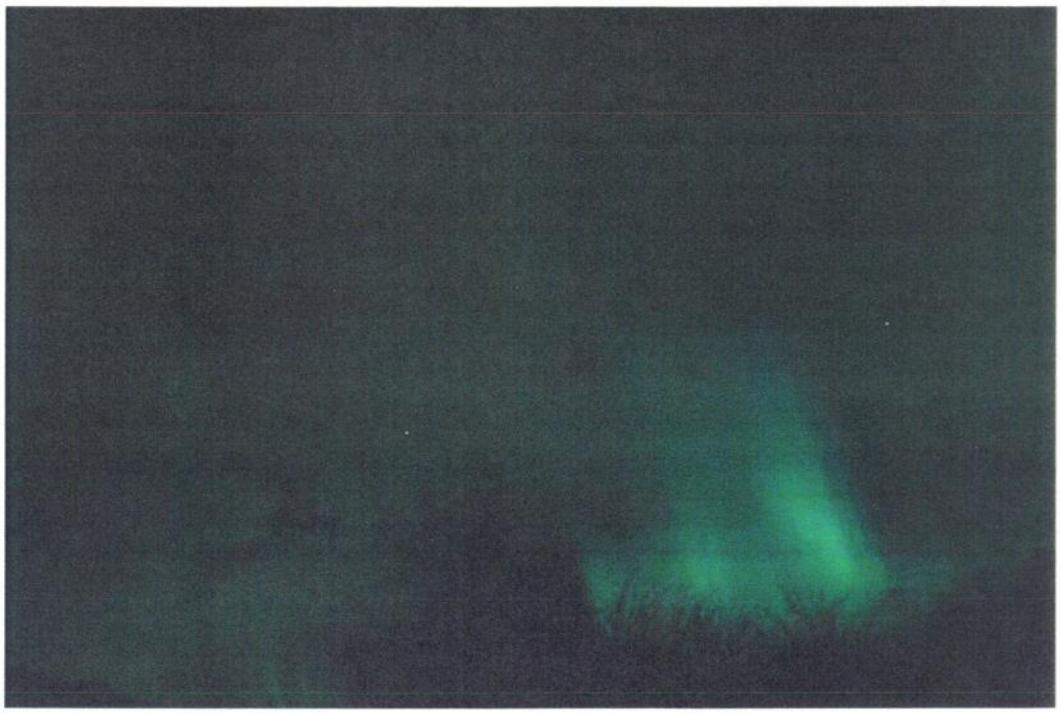
Mary Holland on 17th November

James Work on 26th November





The wind turbine at Rothiesholm



Sometimes we can see the Northern Lights at night.

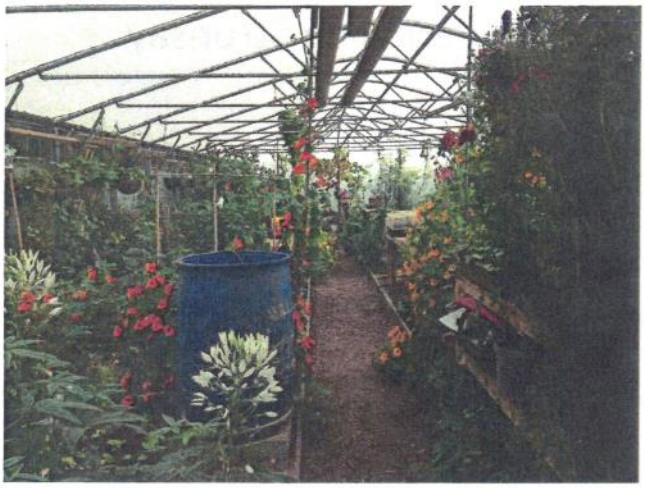
This photograph was taken by Roger Neville-Smith

on Sunday March 6th 2016

Services available to the people of Stronsay

- **Fire brigade**
- **Ambulance**
- **Air ambulance**
- **Postal service**
- **Parcel and catalogue deliveries**
- **Builders**
- **Mechanics**
- **Fixers of washing machines**
- **Plasterer**
- **Plumber**
- **Taxi service**
- **Electrician**
- **Scottish water**
- **School and nursery.**
- **Health centre**
- **Healthy living centre**
- **Two shops**
- **Craftship Enterprise**
- **Public house**
- **Haulage**
- **The fish Mart**
- **Airport**
- **Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic churches**
- **Gardeners**
- **Ferry service**
- **Pet sitters**
- **Bed and breakfast accommodation.**
- **The community centre**
- **The Limpet**

We're sure there are more but this is impressive for such a small and remote island.



This is the Community Greenhouse. There are twelve plots where people grow everything from cabbages to lemons and grapes.

The pictures below were taken in January 2016 by Marion Miller.





Farms on Stronsay

Huip - Hollic

Midgarth -Cooper

Rosebank -

Linksness -Stout

Whitehall -Stout

Clestrain -Stout

Sandybank -Evans

Hunton - Miller

Samsons lane -Peace

Dale -Kent

The Lodge -Cooper

Bay -Maxwell

Bu -Stevenson

Slap -Stevenson

Furrowend - Armstrong

Breck -Stevenson

Grind -Smith

Newbeging - Bourn-Fernly

Longbeging -Shearer

Millgrip -Stevenson

Daisybank -Work

Smiddy -Hall

Fairhill - Holland

Myres -Stout

Banks - Miller

Binditoon - Miller

Holland - The Monks

Windbreck - Bristow

Blinkbonny - Miller

Sunnyside - Cooper

Briarlea -Miller

Rusaland -Fraser

Cleat - Cooper

Housebay -Fraser

Holin -Dennison

Airy -Shearer

Greenfield - Davidson

Kirkhall -Shearer

Odiness -Dennison

Cowshouse -Miller

Kirbuster - Holland

Linnabracke - Riches

Millfield - Holland

Sampson's Lane - Peace

Linkshouse – stout

The SOS Concert was held in the Community Centre on March 12th 2016.



Lower Primary charmed the audience with their version of The Gruffalo...



While Jack, Johnny, Thomas and James entertained the audience by dancing in these rather fetching, handmade lederhosen!

A Brand New Festival for Orkney... and Stronsay was involved.



LALDIE HAANS CRAFT WORKSHOP WEEKEND AT CRAFTSHIP ENTERPRISE
SATURDAY 31st APRIL, SUNDAY 1st MAY

WE STILL HAVE SOME PLACES LEFT ON OUR WORK-SHOPS SO WHY NOT COME ON THE DAY AT THE TIME OF YOUR CHOSEN WORKSHOP & PAY AT THE DOOR
£15 for 1 workshop, £25 for 2 workshops

As there are limited places on some of the workshops it will be on a first come first serve basis

A Few Saturday Places Still Available:
10am-12am - A Stitch Up with Hazel / Stitching Cards with Dianne / Wild Pegloom Weaving with Simone.
1pm-3pm - Decoupage Cards with Dianne. (Glass Fusion with Rosalind fully booked).

Lots of Sunday Places Still Available:
10am-12am - A Stitch Up with Hazel / Fused Glass with Rosalind / Stitching Cards with Dianne.
1pm-3pm - Wild Pegloom Weaving with Simone / Origami Flowers with Dianne.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET THE OPEN STUDIO'S – ALL WELCOME WHY NOT JUST POP ALONG FOR A LOOK!

Saturday & Sunday:

1pm-4pm - AIRY FAIRY / MARION MILLER JEWELLERY, Airy Farm. The studio is up the Goldilocks stairs. Hazel Shearer and Marion Miller's shared exhibition and sale of work. **10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES AT OPEN STUDIO ONLY.** Lovely range of Fabrics for sale.

2pm-4pm - MILLBAY CRAFTS / ANDY WHITEMAN , The Garden Room, Holin Cottage. Ruth King and Andy Whiteman's shared exhibition and sale of work. **10% DISCOUNT ON MILLBAY CRAFTS PURCHASES AT OPEN STUDIO ONLY.**

STRONSAY MACMILLAN SPRING WALK May 15th 2016

THE FINAL TOTAL IS £2,800!!




40
40
School


WELL DONE



The Stronsay Limpet runs a popular caption competition.....

PHOTOGRAPH FOR MAY'S COMPETITION



The winning entry was from Julie Andrew:
"As you can see your Majesty, a sudden change in wind direction can sometimes upset our outdated north isles communications system. Unfortunately, the smoke signal email you just sent to Westminster has inadvertently become a notice of your intention to declare war on Westray!"

Other entries were

- "She rose like a Phoenix from the ashes—I wonder what happened to the other one?"
- "(Mark to 'Queen'): Don't worry Ma'am – even if the fire did spread that far, the 'Castle' behind us is not one of yours!"
- "('Queen' to Mark): That's it my lad – we've done 'The Lancers' and the 'Gay Gordons' outside but we're having 'The Last Waltz' in the hall!"
- "Her Majesty arrested after being caught burning job applications from Prince Charles"
- "Queen caught making a swift Brexit .."

2016 saw Dr. Roger's market garden come into its own. In April, he wrote about his gardening exploits in The Limpet. Scurvy has been kept at bay for another year....

I am hoping to provide a wider range of produce including soft fruit, bedding plants and cut flowers. Although not registered to provide Organic produce, I do not use pesticides, weed killers or chemical fertilisers, preferring muck, seaweed and physical protection like fleece.

I plan to have lists of my available produce updated every week published on Facebook, Limpet web site and on an email list for folk's convenience.



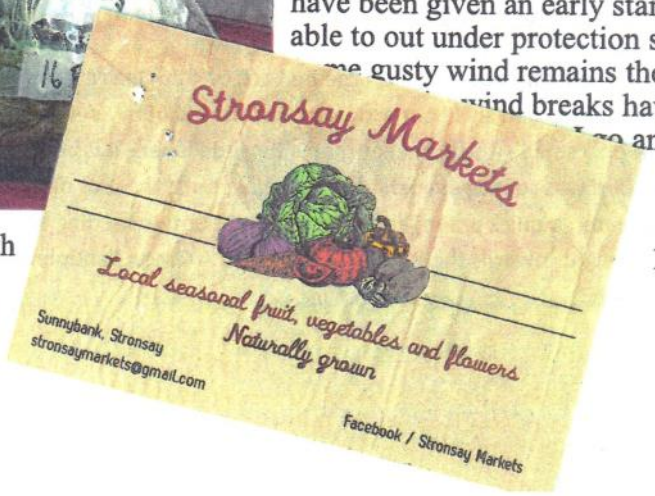
The kit for the polytunnel arrived in May 2015 but took nearly 8 weeks to dig the foundations and construct the frame. The skinning was surprisingly trouble free with help from a couple of unskilled enthusiasts. helpers



With help, growing beds were made with walkways. These have now been improved with shuttering and hoops to support mesh, netting or polythene



Produce ready to go. With the help of extra light and heat it has been possible to have salads ready to harvest from February. Out door crops such as onions, leeks and calabrese have been given an early start and should be able to out under protection soon. The ex- gusty wind remains the biggest chal- wind breaks have made a differ- and enjoying the



Roger Neville-Smith

15 April 2016

John and Sue Holloway were a familiar sight on the roads - often with Joyce in the back seat - catching sight of the many avine visitors to our island. John continues to record his sightings in The Limpet every month.





"Bird of the Spring so far has been an **Icterine Warbler** found at Gesty Dishes, but sadly the bird was only present for a short time. A **Sedge Warbler** has also been seen – and heard singing - at the same site, and at least two others have been heard elsewhere on the island – at Millburn Cottage, and Springwell. Other (common on Mainland Orkney but unusual here) species have been seen recently – **Jackdaw** (a single and then two together), and Wood Pigeons (3 or 4 in total). Neither species nest on Stronsay although a colony of Jackdaws did nest near Burgh Head until the 1990s.





There have been welcome sightings of **Short-eared Owls** in two areas recently – at Bay (Cyril Maxwell) and near Roadside (JH and Andy Whiteman) – indicating that their may be two breeding pairs present this year. The colony of **Sand Martins** nesting in Mill Bay seems to have grown again this year, with up to 15 birds seen regularly flying across the road south of Millbank and occasionally resting on the warm tarmac (generally - and perhaps sensibly!) in the wide passing place there."

"A great find – and long awaited! – on the Bu Loch on 12th was a **Temminck's Stint**, a species we have been hoping to find since our arrival on Stronsay in 1987. Very uncommon in the UK, this tiny wader is not only small - much smaller than a Ringed Plover - it is very non-descript! (see photo above). The bird was seen again next day and again on 19th – but on both occasions had a bath in the shallow water, a quick preen, and after a minute or two feeding around the muddy margin, flew off and out of sight towards the Rothiesholm Sands. A **Green Sandpiper** was also seen briefly at the Bu Loch on 19th."



Thomas Fish (S4) in the High Jump

The North Isles Sports take place every year between Stronsay, Sanday and Westray. 2016 was the 67th year of the event and it took place in Westray on June 18th 2016. Westray won the Tug of War but, with more points, Sanday won the North Isles Sports.



Stronsay Men's Tug of War team



Lower Primary cheering the Stronsay team.



There's always something to do on Stronsay. Country dancing evenings are very popular. Doris and Ingram Shearer teach us the dances while Gaynor Smith and Mike Holland provide the music.



If dancing doesn't keep you fit, there is always the Healthy Living Centre next to the school.

There's never a shortage of things to do .....

FOOTBALL - SUNDAY 22 MAY

Sunday 14 - Stronsay 1



RNLI - PUB QUIZ - SAT 22 MAY

Chris and Debbie would like to thank every one who took part in the quiz last night, A good time was had by all, even if the questions were tough. £50 was raised for the RNLI.

Thanks also to Barbara for all the hard work of preparing the questions and acting as a genial Quiz Hostess and keeping everyone in order (and devising a rather unusual way of playing Bingo). Well done *The Proffessionals* (sic) for getting top marks!

The Limpet's editor was able to take the opportunity to get in touch with his feminine side as Barbara's "glamorous assistant" whilst he kept track of the scores.

SOS CONCERT

On Saturday 12th March, the Stronsay School SOS fundraising conert took place at Stronsay Community Centre. The school's Lower Primary class gave a fantastic performance of The Gruffalo. Primary pupils also sang their hearts out to Dance to your Daddy (with fiddle accompaniment), Doris' Cheesy Crackers (with Doris' very own crackers to accompany!) and The Wee Kirkcudbright Centipede. The audience were also entertained with performances by Stronsay's Silver Darlings, Ingram, Mike & Leah, Simone Kirk, Mike Berger and Bruce Fletcher, Roger Neville-Smith and the SOS singers. There were refreshments and a raffle during the interval. Erynn and James did a great job of compering the evening and almost £500 has been raised for the school. Heartfelt thanks and a huge well done to everyone involved!



RNLI - STRONSAY BRANCH

Saturday 29 October RNLI Disco for the youngsters, in the Stronsay Hotel's ghostly grotto. Fancy dress and a raffle in aid of RNLI

Monday 31st October - Halloween party

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Saturday 5th November – Bonfire Night
Saturday 26th November – Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday 10th December – Christmas Tree Lighting
Saturday 31st December – Hogmanay Dance

SOS CALENDAR

SOS would like to thank all those who supported this competition, there were 25 entries in total. We hope to include all of your beautiful photographs in our calendar.

Congratulations to our winners:

Marion Miller
John Smith
Melvin Holland
Roger Neville-Smith
Adrian Miller
Gaynor Smith
Enza Emira Pandolfini
Sheila Burger
Shirley Whiteman
Vicki Holland
James MacLeod
Sarah Evans

Look out for the 2017 calendars going on sale at Olivebank and Ebenezer Stores £5 each. They will make great Christmas presents!

go to Jennifer Graham for collecting and collating the photogra own and Antoi such a professional job judgin

STRONSAY

From **August 2016** the Mobile Library Schedule will be changing to an **8-weekly** timetable.

Please discard your current list of dates - a new calendar timetable will be issued ready for **2017** but for the remainder of 2016 the Mobile Library will be in your island/area on the following dates:

20TH SEPTEMBER

14TH NOVEMBER

Stop times will remain unchanged and users are welcome to borrow more books each time to compensate for the longer period between visits.

If you have any questions please get in touch with the Orkney Library & Archive on **01856 873166** or you can email us at **library@orkney.gov.uk**

ORKNEY MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE
Established 1963

STRONSAY STITCHERS



Thursday 25th August
From 7pm-9.30pm, Church Hall, refreshments & biscuits, £2

STRONSAY BOOKWORM NEWS



We met at Odiness to discuss "The Mermaid Bride and other Orkney Folk Tales" by Tom Muir. While we all enjoyed the stories, we agreed that there was, inevitably, much repetition as different islands had similar tales to tell. We discussed the difference between Orkney and Shetland folklore and that it was important to keep this aspect of our culture alive.

- April 21st "The Lady in the Van" by Alan Bennett. Barbara will supply copies of the story (616305). Meet at Barbara's, School Brae, 7.30pm NB change of venue
- May 19th "The Girl on the Train" Paula Hawkins. Venue to be confirmed. Usual time.

We were amused to see that women and modes of transport are overly represented in these titles!

The New Play Park Opens Sunday 11th September 2016



Here is the press release from this momentous day:

Sunday afternoon saw the community of Stronsay gather together for the opening of the new play park. Children of all ages, from two year olds to those in their 90's, listened as Marion Miller, the Chair of Stronsay Community Play Park Action Group (SCPAG), told how in 2013 the old park had fallen into disrepair. Joined by fellow islanders Shirley Whiteman, Mairi Dennison and Jennifer Graham, SCPAG was formed and so began the daunting prospect of raising £80,000 to give the young people of Stronsay the play park they deserved. Referencing Martin Luther King, Marion told how "We had a dream..."

Kick-started by a £3,000 grant from the Bank of Scotland in 2013, the fund raising began in earnest. With a Curry Night, Treasure Hunt, Quiz Night and donations from the island Santa Float, the fund began to grow. A Bring and Buy charity table at Ebenezer stores on Stronsay yielded an amazing £2,800 over three years and a week at the Blue Door raised over £3,000. The dream was becoming a reality.

The turning point came with a £13,000 grant from the OIC Community Development Fund, £10,000 from Tesco's "Bags of Help" initiative and a grant

of £50,000 from Stronsay Development Trust. Two funds set up in memory of Jack Graham and Margaret Dennison have also made contributions. Marion thanked the community for their support, and was thanked in turn by John Smith, one of the junior members of SCPAG, before handing over to Carole Cotterill, Chair of the Stronsay Development Trust. To a round of applause, Carole cut the ribbon and announced the play park as officially open. Tea and a fine display of home bakes were served in the community hall.

As well as some of the finest views in Orkney, the new play park boasts ten pieces of play equipment and a state of the art shelter with solar panels, a radio, a light and blue tooth. There is a wheelchair-friendly picnic table and bench for parents and grandparents to enjoy. In due course, there will be another bench in memory of Margaret Dennison.

Councillor Graham Sinclair of OIC visited Stronsay for the official opening. Over a cup of tea he said he was "very, very happy to see such a fine facility being created in the Isles." He went on to say "I fully realise that it takes a great deal of effort from the fundraisers and the small community to achieve such a fine outcome. This is exactly the type of project that should be supported by the OIC Community Development Fund."

In a week where the Northern Isles were said to be the best place in Britain to raise children, the SCPAG and the people of Stronsay are certainly playing their part!





STRONSAY AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR.

Many thanks to the Stronsay Community Association and to everyone who came along both as customers and sellers. We all had a brilliant day.












FOR THE FALLEN

The pupils and staff of Stronsay Junior High School gathered around the War Memorial on November 11th 2016 to remember those brave men who left our island to fight in the two World Wars.



Sonya Goodram read the famous lines from the poem "For the Fallen" while Erik Flett read the line "They also serve, who only stand and wait". Mr Duncan played The Last Post and we observed two minutes silence while we thought about the soldiers and the families who were left behind.

This year marks 100 years since the terrible Battle of the Somme. In October, Charles Watt from Edinburgh visited Stronsay as his great-uncle Thomas Twatt was born and raised here. Thomas was killed on the Somme battlefield on October 12th 1916. More than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. Mr Watt brought with him a small cross to remember his great-uncle and to commemorate the other soldiers who had died at the Battle. At our act of remembrance, Filip Miller placed the cross on the war memorial while we stood quietly and thought about Thomas Twatt and his comrades from Stronsay.





In December 2016, it was announced that Erynn Stevenson, an S4 pupil at Stronsay Junior High School, had won a prestigious art competition. Here is an excerpt from "The Scotsman":

Pupils design tail fins for Orkney planes

A pair of young girls won a competition organised to design a tail-fin for each of the Britten Norman Islander aircrafts which carry out the Orkney Inter-Isles Air Service. The contest was organised by the airline Loganair, which operates the service on behalf of Orkney Island Council.

The top-prize in the Junior High bracket was claimed by **14-year-old Erynn Stevenson of Stronsay Junior High School** whose pastel artwork of a sun-set was a unanimous favourite with the judging panel which included representatives from Loganair, Orkney Island Council and The Orcadian. Both first and second prize winners will receive a pair of return tickets to any destination in Loganair's Scottish network.



BBC DOMESDAY BOOK 1986 - STRONSAY PAGES

(The Domesday Project is on the web at http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday)

In 1986, 900 years after William the Conqueror's original Domesday Book, the BBC published the Domesday Project. Over a million people contributed to this digital snapshot of the country and the pupils of Stronsay school were amongst them.

Not every reader of the Limpet has access to the internet so here are some of the Stronsay pages which were written by the school children in 1986 (a few minor spelling & grammatical errors have been left unchanged). What an interesting snapshot of life on Stronsay 30 years ago. Were you one of those children or was one of your own children involved? Do you remember this project? Please write to the editor and share your memories with readers of the Limpet. A lot has changed in 30 years (is the bell still in the barn at Housby?) so how about an update in 2016? Contact details for the Limpet's editor are on the back page of this and every edition of the Limpet.

HUIP AREA

The Holm of Huip is an island. It is a grazing land for many sheep, there are approximately seventy ewes. During the lambing season lambs are often attacked by Black Back Gulls, these are carnivourous sea birds who attack and often kill defenceless young lambs. The Holm is a place where you often sea seals, and birds nest there as it is so peaceful. Farmers go across twice a year to shear and dip the sheep. The air field is quite a big field with a small bit of concrete for the plane to land on. A small hut is also provided to shelter in. The field that the plane lands in has a small mound that is an ancient buriel ground. This mound is called the Green Hill. Little Linga is a seal sanctuary owned by the Fern Trust, this island also has sheep grazing on it.

THE LAND OF THE HOMIES

This area consists mainly of sea. In the sea there are mainly common seals who bask on the rocks. Lingaholm is a small island with Homie sheep living on it. They receive the name 'Homies' as they live on holms. This sheep were brought over from North Ronaldsay and bred here. Heather also grows on the island and there is a loch where the Homie sheep can get a drink. On the island there are two old houses, ruins now. Nobody has lived on the island for many years.

THE ISLAND OF PAPA STRONSAY

Papa Stronsay is a small island. During most summers and some winters a family lives there. The familys only source of power is two generators. They look after their sheep. When they are not living there some men come across every so often to check the sheep. There are two derelict houses of which one used to be a school house. On Papa Stronsay there are two piers and a light house. The island has one nice beach. Before the war during the herring season Papa Stronsay was a busy community. Now the only thing that remains to show this is am empty filleting station. There is a light house on Papa Stronsay which is maintained by people who go out every so often to paint and maintain it.

(continued on next page)

WHITEHALL VILLAGE

This area of the island includes Whitehall Village. In the village there are three shops, one bank, one pub, and a post office. The shops stock food, sweets, icecream, and bread. At Christmas they take in toys and other nice things for Christmas. The school in the centre of the island teaches about sixty pupils and has four teachers with seven visiting teachers. When you are fourteen years old you have the chance to go to a shcool on the mainland where more education is given. The rest of the area consists mainly of farmland. The bank (The Bank of Scotland) is only open on a Thursday when a cashier comes out from the mainland. Another feature of the village area is the Weavers shop, he has a hand weave loom and specialises in tweeds. This shop is also an outlet for local knitters.

QUEENS DRIVE

This is a very central area of Stronsay and includes many special features, such the old mill. It used to make oats and bere. The mill used to run on water but is now sadly closed because none of the farmers make these produce any more. Another feature of this area is the shores which have creamy clean sand and varieties of underwater creatures. We also have shop,church, post office, a community center which is also used for dances etc and a burial ground. The community is mainly farming and fishing.

ROTHIESHOLM HEAD

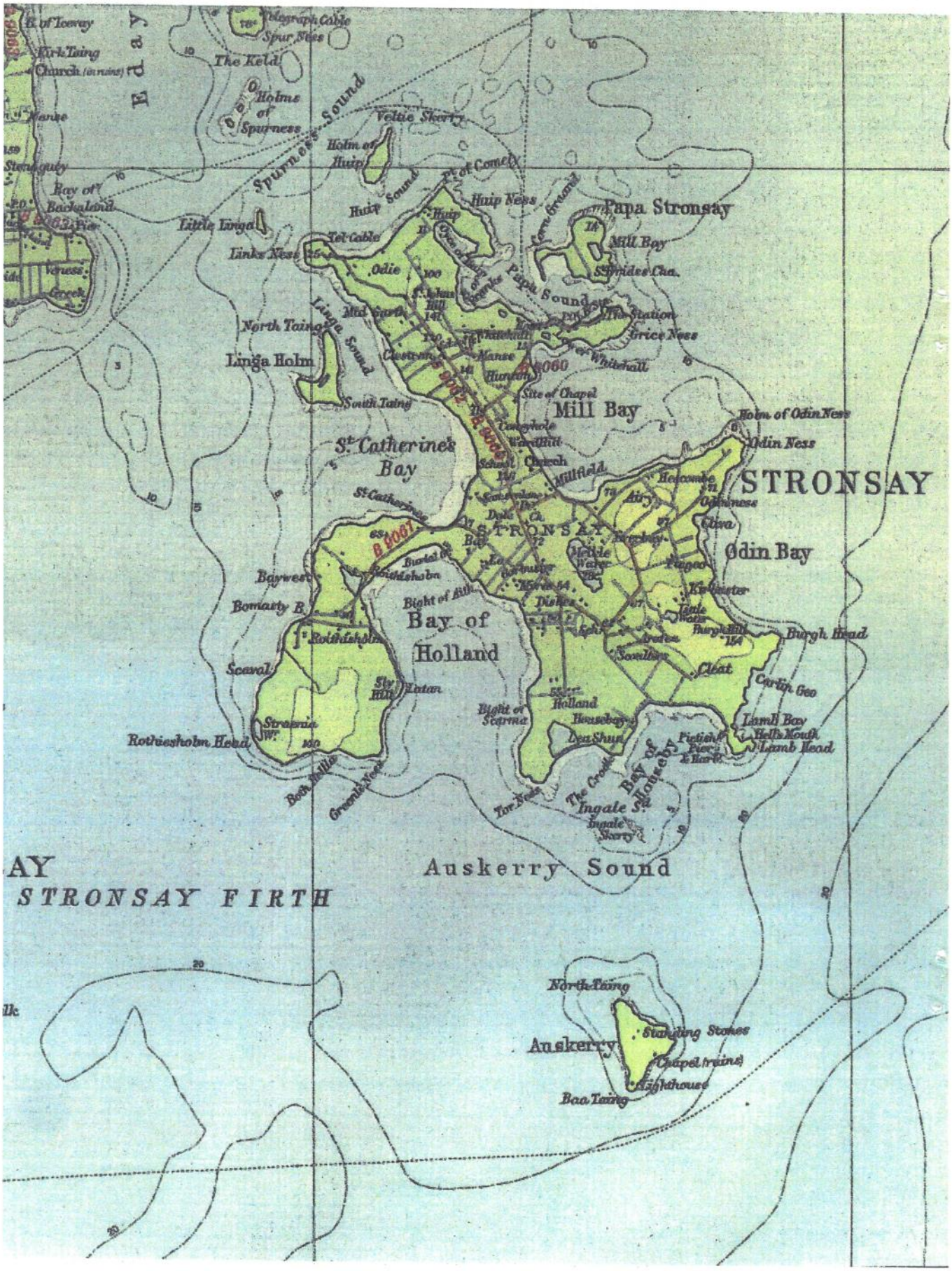
Rothiesholm Head is practically all covered in heather but there is some cultivated land and rough grazing. There are quite a few peat banks on the Head. Peats are cut from the banks then are left to dry and are then collected. Peats are like a substitute for coal, but many people use both coal and peat. It is a Stronsay tradition that only the people who live in Rothiesholm can take peats from the banks. There is a loch called Stranie Water which is said to be bottomless but it is more likely that it has a sinking bottom from the peats.

BURGH HEAD & SURROUNDS

This part of Stronsay is mainly sea but there are some farms. The two most prominent farms are Odness and Kirbuster. Just below Kirbuster is the Vat, a natural rock archway formed by the sea. Along from the Vat is the swimming pool which has also been made by the sea and is quite deep. Another feature is the Wart, an enormous hill which is supposed to be an underground burial chamber.

THE HOUSEBY AREA

The land that surrounds Houseby is very fertile. The land next to the sea is mostly cliffs and rocks. Down below is all sea. This is a very popular lobster catching place. There is a loch called Lea Shun. While the cattle are on this part of the land they drink from the lock. This cliffy area s a popular nesting area for many different kinds of birds. The Croak is a very large peice of sand near Houseby. The bell hangs in the barn. The barn used to be a church. When people stopped using this church the bell was kept and used to call people for meals.



Eday
Kirk Taing
Church (in ruins)
Telegraph Cable
Spur Ness
The Keld
Holms of Spurness
Spurness Sound
Veltie Skerry
Holm of Huip
Huip Sound
Pt. of Comely
Huip Ness
Papa Stronsay
Mill Bay
Bay of Backaland
Little Linga
Tel Cable
Links Ness
Odie
Papa Sound
Grice Ness
North Taing
Linga Sound
Linga Holm
South Taing
Mill Bay
Site of Chapel
Holm of Odin Ness
Odin Ness
St. Catherine's Bay
Church
Millfield
STRONSAY
Odin Bay
Baywest
Bomasty B.
Bight of Aith
Bay of Holland
Scaval
Sly Hill
Latan
Bight of Scarma
Holland
Housebay
Lea Shun
Burgh Head
Cleat
Carlin Geo
Lamb Bay
Lamb Head
Rothiesholm Head
Both Hellia
Greenly Ness
Tor Ness
The Crook
Bay of Houseby
Ingale Sd.
Ingale Skerry
Auskerry Sound
STRONSAY FIRTH
North Taing
Auskerry
Standing Stones
Chapel (ruins)
Lighthouse
Baa Taing