



DECEMBER EDITION OF THE LIMPET

The December edition of the Limpet will be published one week earlier than usual.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28 November	Kirk hall—Stitchers (final for 2019)
30 November	Community Hall—Christmas Craft Fair
1 December	Kirk hall—communion
2 December	Wood's Yard—Drop-in session
3 December	Kirk Hall—Peedie Library
4 December	Community Hall—Diabetes Support Group
4 December	SWRI sale and joining night
8 December	Kirk—Carols by candle light
11 December	SWRI children's party
12 December	Wood's Yard—Drop-in session
14 December	Community Hall—Tree lighting ceremony
15 December	Limpet—Deadline for December edition
18 December	Cleat—Bookworms
20 December	Community Hall—Playgroup Christmas party
21 December	Wood's Yard—Santa's Float
24 December	Kirk—Watchnight service
25 December	Kirk hall—Short, informal service
31 December	Community Hall—Hogmanay Party
17 January	Community Hall—Baked tattie evening

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS IN THE LIMPET

You can send Christmas & New Year greetings to your friends & family by placing a FREE notice in the December edition of the Limpet. Deadline is 7pm on Sunday 15 December.

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk (preferred method); phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10:30am & before 9pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*.

The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on **Thu 19 December**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 15 December**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>



Christmas & New Year Arrangements 2019/20

During the Christmas and New Year holiday period sailings will be as per timetable subject to the undernoted changes.

There will be no sailings on Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 December 2019, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 January 2020.

The scheduled sailing to North Ronaldsay on Friday 27th has been changed to Saturday 28th December. The sailing on Friday 3rd January has been changed to Saturday 4th January 2020.

Tuesday 24 December and Tuesday 31 December there will be an additional sailing from Stronsay to Kirkwall as follows:

Depart	Stronsay	1750
Arrive	Kirkwall	1925

Change to Stronsay/Eday timetable Friday 27 December 2019 and Friday 3 January 2020.

The 0730 sailing from Stronsay to Eday and on to Kirkwall has been cancelled and replaced with

Depart	Kirkwall	0700
Arrive	Stronsay	0840
Depart	Stronsay	0855
Arrive	Eday	0930
Depart	Eday	0945
Arrive	Kirkwall	1100

Change to Sanday timetable Friday 27 December 2019 and Friday 3 January 2020.

The 0950 sailing from Kirkwall to Sanday and return has been cancelled and replaced with

Depart	Kirkwall	0740
Arrive	Sanday	0905
Depart	Sanday	0915
Arrive	Kirkwall	1040

**Ferry Services
Shore Street
Kirkwall
KW15 1LG**

Tel: (01856) 872044

Fax: (01856) 872921

Email: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

Website: www.orkneyferries.co.uk

Remembrance



Stronsay Junior High School was lit up in red this year to show our support for the Scottish Poppy Appeal.

The primary children also made themselves busy making poppy lanterns for display in the school and Kirk windows. These were lit overnight on Sunday 10th November and Monday 11th November 2019 to show our respect.



Thank you to Sam and Toni-Anne for representing our school so beautifully at the Stronsay Memorial Monument and laying a wreath at the service on Sunday. The school also held its own memorial service at 11am on Monday the 11th November. On this day every child was gifted a packet of poppy seeds from Poppy Scotland as a symbol of hope.

We are now starting to collect the boxes of poppies and monies raised from the Poppy Appeal across the island.

Thank you to all who have supported this honourable cause.





Welcome to what I hope to be the first of a regular update for the Trust. Maybe each time highlighting some aspect of the Trusts activities and a brief update on others.

First of all I would like to thank all who attended the recent "double" AGM at the Community Centre. It was good to have Andrew Golightly to talk to us about the work of the North Isles Landscape Partnership. Thanks also to Sarah Richings and Jude Erdman for being available to answer questions on their work with the Wellbeing Project and the recycling centre. I would also like to thank all those who prepared the refreshments and opened the bar for the evening.

The support for the recycling is going well with donations of clothes, cardboard and glass bottles to Woods Yard and plastic bottles (remember 1 & 2 only) in the council skip. There is now a large selection of used ladies, gents and children's clothing at Restore, be sure to check it out!

Jude tells me there is quite a backlog of cardboard left over from between when Tara and Steve left and he took over the operations, and also when the machine was out of use due to an electrical fault. New cardboard is coming in as fast as he is able to process it, without even touching the backlog. Jude is only funded for 20 hours a week whereas Steve and Tara worked over 30 hours.

So how can we all help Jude? First of all by removing any adhesive tape from the cardboard, the tape clogs up the machine and removing it is the most time consuming part of the log making process. Secondly, please flat pack your boxes, they take up a lot less space that way. Thirdly, could you tear your cardboard up? A3-A4 size is ideal and can be put straight into the machine. Fourthly, why not come down to Woods Yard and give Jude a hand? Did you know that many funders of community projects look favourably on volunteer hours? They will actually class it as match funding enabling the Trust to apply for more funding for community projects.

If you have any skill or experience that you think may be useful to the Trust, why not get in touch.

If you have any ideas that you feel that the trust might be able to put into action, contact us (don't be surprised if we ask you to get involved!).

Perhaps you feel you could make a contribution as a board member - we always have vacancies.

Remember that Stronsay Development Trust is for the benefit for the Island and community of Stronsay.

Mike Erdman
SDT Chair



FISH MART CAFÉ AND HOSTEL

A warm welcome from the new take over of the Fish Mart! Tara and I are taking over together from 1st December. Initially we are spending some time redecorating and adding a few personalised features to the premises before a grand re-opening in January.

Initially I had interviewed with the Community Council prior to me moving here over summer. At the time I couldn't commit enough hours to the café with our current home life situation and me being here alone running a new home, family and a business within the first few months. However, with Tara keen to take the reins as café manager and have a business to get stuck into and make it her own, we are moving forward with our plans. She will be the face you see day to day in the café, creating her own menu and building on it as we progress.

I am managing the hostel, bookings, private hire and administration. Previously I have worked managing charity events and marketing to raise money for others so am putting all of that into practice in the Fish Mart. I also ran a successful bakery from my home when my older three children were still babies so I have all of the experience to use this in the café, as well as previously branching out to meet customer orders for specialist dietary requirements and creating my own recipes for them.

A big thank you for all of the support we have received so far and we are taking on board many suggestions. Please do bear with us as we start our adventure! We are starting small and manageable initially until we get into the swing of it as well as balancing life with a business. However, we have some exciting new ideas to take forward and begin next year from suggestions made at the public meeting.

Day to day information for the café will be through our new Facebook page and linked to the Stronsay page. The website is mainly aimed at visitors but please keep checking as we have a news section with regular updates. I would love to link local businesses, craftspeople and the rangers to our website. If you could let me know if you are happy for this then pop me a message with your details and I'll add that on and hopefully build some strong links between visitors and businesses. I'm planning a big media push through December to boost the marketing so will hopefully generate some publicity.

Everyone always holds Richard and Evelyn in such high regards with their time at the Fish Mart, so I hope we can carry on in your footsteps and do it justice. Thank you for all you have done keeping it running for the island.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and for such a warm welcome to the island, helping me get stuck into life here!

We look forward to welcoming you in the New Year.

Louise and Tara

Fish Mart Contact details:

- www.facebook.com/stronsaycafehostel
- www.stronsaycafehostel.weebly.com
- Email for bookings and enquiries: stronsaycafehostel@gmail.com
- Telephone 01857 616 401 or 01857 616 376

If any links don't work please do let me know so I can resolve any early technical issues. Thanks.

UPCOMING: COMMUNITY LEARNING COURSE ON STRONSAY – FROM FEBRUARY – APRIL 2020



Hi all,

I will be offering a seminar series within OIC's Community Learning and Development programme from February until April.

I can hear you groan... the topic is all over the place, discussed everywhere in the media and the news ... is there really the need for more of it?

Well, if you are expecting to be told the 'usual stuff', to be admonished to scrap your car and cycle against gale force winds to get hold of your weekly supplies, to dig into your last savings to install energy efficient measures (because you may not be not eligible for assistance)... as if this alone would save the world: then I agree, there is no need for another lecture. We get plenty of them from different sources, often without further explanation and no option to critically analyse what we are being told and draw our own conclusions what is feasible for us as individuals under our very own personal circumstances.

So, why is this course different?

Because I will not regurgitate what we hear in the news. Because I would like to explore 'the bigger picture' together with participants and provide background information and context, from a local to the global perspective.

We will start by addressing a variety of questions, such as for example:

What exactly do we mean when we discuss climate change, what are natural and anthropogenic (= man-made) causes, and how does climate change affect us and our natural environment?

What are scientists referring to when they mention greenhouse gases, a reduced Albedo-effect, ocean acidification, Arctic amplification and many other terms and how is this all connected?

How do scientists know, where do they get their data from, how is climate change 'measured', what is uncertainty, what are mitigation strategies and what is adaptation?

Where can reliable and trustworthy information be found which is accessible and not hidden behind paywalls of academic journals?

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In this seminar series we will explore these (and more!) topics together, explain scientific jargon, investigate examples and case studies from around the world and try to achieve a better understanding of the role a changing climate plays in our life and how it influences policies as well as politics. Every session will start with a PowerPoint presentation or sometimes a short film, followed by Q & A and discussion.

The course is open to everybody and nobody will be judged, whether you are a climate change sceptic, or you are convinced that climate change is a real emergency. In any case, after completing the course you should have a comprehensive understanding of the issues, be able to draw your own conclusions and know how to find and validate further information.

Practical information: Look out for OIC's upcoming course enrolment notifications; they will be launched early January and you should be able to find all essential enrolment information here: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/E/Evening-Classes.htm>.

At the moment it is anticipated that the weekly sessions take place on Thursdays from 8 pm to 9:30 pm which I believe would not collide with other regular events on Stronsay. But participants will be offered a doodle poll, so days/times can be changed if necessary. OIC aims to keep courses affordable and offers concessions for eligible participants. If anybody is not eligible for concessions but needs support, Stronsay Development Trust has indicated they might be able to assist by pointing out other potential sources of financial assistance.

If you have any questions in relation to the course, you can contact OIC (after the upcoming courses have been published) or alternatively, please feel free to contact me directly via email at reihls13@yahoo.co.uk

It would be great to welcome you all in February at the Fish Mart!

Susanne Davidson

BIRD REPORT

Although late Autumn can bring a few surprises, late October and November have been very quiet this year. The small ‘invasion’ of Waxwings (3 in total) petered out – but the species is very unpredictable so there may be more yet to come. They may occur at any time throughout the Winter and almost always on the remaining rose hips here on Stronsay.

Other unusual species to look out for in mid-Winter are Woodcock and ‘white-winged Gulls’ - Iceland Gull and Glaucous Gull - which may occur amongst the flocks of the common gull species. There has been one record of the extremely rare Ivory Gull on the island – seen feeding on a dead dolphin on the shore near Banks by Jim and Fran Miller almost 30 years ago! This species is very tame, the Stronsay bird allowing Jim and Fran to walk within a few feet of it as it fed on the rotting carcass.

Anthony (Gesty Dishes) has seen several Snow Buntings in early Winter this year and although the startling black and white colouration makes them easy to identify in flight, they are not so easy to locate on the ground, where they usually feed in stubble fields or among the organic ‘litter’ along the shoreline.

Birds of prey are present in ‘back-to-normal’ numbers this Winter - most sightings being (typically) of Hen Harrier, Merlin, and Kestrel – but sightings can be very irregular – 3 or 4 species may be seen one day and then none for a fortnight!

The wintering duck population is now just about back to normal. Phew!

Thanks again for all the calls, and if anyone has bird records they would like to submit, please send them in as soon as possible as we are now compiling the annual Stronsay Bird Report.

(All photographs taken on Stronsay)



‘A sure sign of approaching Winter in the ‘Slap’ garden – Starlings congregating before heading off to their overnight roost’

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'Waxwings in the Castle garden during the last big 'invasion' in November 2010'



'Water Rails may occasionally be seen in gardens vying with the local Starlings etc. for scraps'



'Kestrels always show some gingery colouration to the upperparts'

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'Merlins are similar in size but lack the warm gingery tones of Kestrel'



'Glaucous Gulls are bigger and 'heavier' looking than the similar Iceland Gull'



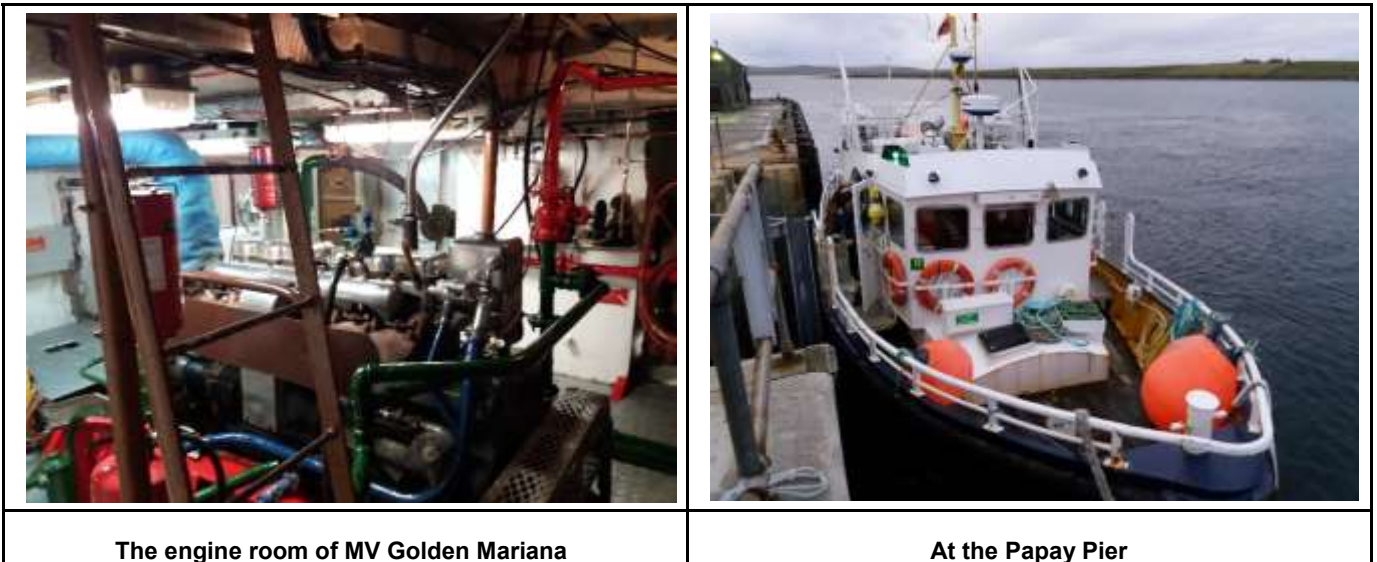
'Iceland Gull – most are seen in mid-Winter feeding in the grassy fields'

STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

Reporting on the exploits of your councillor in Orkney and beyond

Hallowe'en has come and gone, and we are still in a surrealist state like that portrayed in Louis Buñel's film "The Exterminating Angel". Thank goodness, therefore, for local government—at least we are here to keep the organs of the national body functioning whilst Parliament and central government await defibrillation. ¡Viva el gobierno local!

This month I have been out in Westray and Papa Westray to attend community council meetings. They happened on consecutive nights, so I took the *Golden Mariana* across from Gill Pier to Papay in the morning between. This is the first time I have sailed on her, and I was impressed with how well she is maintained and cared for. The *Golden Mariana* is the oldest vessel in the Orkney Ferries' fleet. She was built in Bideford in Devon in 1973. (Devon also happens to be where St. Boniface was born, after whom St. Boniface Kirk is named.) I had time on Papay during the day to hold an impromptu surgery, which I hope was helpful to those who came along to it.



At the Education, Leisure & Housing meeting I publicly congratulated Sanday School on its very positive inspection report and praised the work put in by the staff and pupils to achieve it. I also applauded how our Isles junior high schools are bucking the trend for reducing the number of subjects examined at S4 (and earlier). Without these examinations, how can a pupil provide documentary evidence of the "broad general education" they are supposed to have received in their secondary years?

One of the matters I brought up at the meeting of the UHI Foundation I was at in Inverness is the particular challenge that residents of the Isles face in order to take courses at Orkney College, and their need for flexible occupancy accommodation.

This month I have also attended meetings of the Orkney College Management Council and a meeting in Lerwick (see photograph below) of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board. On Sanday, I was invited to a discussion on *NHS NearMe*, for which Sanday is going to be a pilot area, and I enjoyed an evening at the Sanday Harvest Home along with about 180 other people—a very well-attended event compared to harvest homes in many other parts of Orkney.

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Regrettably, part of our lifeline inter-island ferry service has been adversely affected by the implementation of the “Merchant Shipping (Bridge Visibility) (Small Passenger Ships) Regulations 2019”. A Prohibition Order was issued on the *Eynhallow* by the MCA during its annual survey, the effect of which is to limit the height of vehicles permitted to be carried on the vessel. This scuppered the much-looked-forward-to visit of the *Screen Machine* to Rousay. At the time of writing, the impact on the carriage of other large vehicles is being assessed and urgent discussions with the MCA are ongoing. Rest assured that provisions are in place which allow the carriage of emergency vehicles in life and death situations.

At the *Young People’s Council Chamber Debate*, well done to Sanday School secondary pupils Jerry Brown and Jakub Dybisz for presenting cogent arguments in favour of government-funded new vessels for the Orkney Ferries’ fleet and for an improved air service for the North Isles.



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson
West Manse, Sanday

stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk



You can download “Letter from School Place” from lfsp.pbworks.com

RECORDS OF A BYGONE AGE

Below is part two of the transcript made by William Spence of Airy and Lower Millfield in the early 1970s which was passed on to me by Ingram Shearer. Here William tells of his early memories of the area around the farm of Holland and of his own farming career starting off at the small farm of Sillerha' before moving on, firstly to Millfield and then to Airy.

Ian Cooper

Houses and lairds in Stronsay, starting with the Farm of Holland

Holland is situated in the south end of Stronsay, the land extending to roughly 500 acres. The house itself is magnificently built and looks very lovely indeed. The stone for the house came from a quarry about a mile away called the 'Stebb Hill'. The house looks out to the southwest, overlooking Auskerry, Copinsay and the lands of Deerness. The land of Torness stretches to 110 acres and is down to pasture now for grazing cattle but I believe was under the plough at one time. There is a loch down towards the sea. It was very large at one time but the bankment was dug down and a pipe laid down to drain the water into the sea continuing to do so up to the present time.

The land under cultivation is made up of 13 different fields namely: Outertown, Inganoust, Areby, Kirkyard Field, Sougathers, Leashun, Viggie, Quoyblakes, Norquoy, Brecks, Greenwall, Sound and Arvaquoy. There are also three fields which no longer form part of Holland - Newbigging, Sillerha and Meura.

The land is mostly level and quite flat ranging from good black earth to some clay soil. At one time it grew mostly oats which was shipped away but that is no longer the case. Barley is grown now, most of it used on the farm for feeding purposes. The surplus is sold out of the island.

The first people I remember in Holland were the Stevensons, who originally came from Westray. William Stevenson was twice married, with 19 children in all. I don't remember much about the older family but I went to school with the younger family. I can still picture William Stevenson going past to church in his four wheeled phaeton as they called it. He was married to a Caskey, a daughter of the minister in the old kirk. She was a very pleasant woman and much respected. I saw her a lot at that time as I was doing casual work at Holland.

As a boy I was fascinated with the steam engine driven by a coal fire which I believe used about 100 tons of coal in the year. The man feeding the mill had two people, one on the right and the other on the left, cutting the bands and keeping the strings. The lower barn was filled up first, two men hand tying and building it tightly in different rows in the barn. There were two carters working at the stacks, one putting a load on at the stack and the other unloading at the barn. A great number of mice were to be seen in the last stack to be thrashed. Once thrashed down the straw was built in big stacks and used for early feeding in winter. To get these big thrashings done men were called in from the small farms in the district.

During the winter months two men looked after the cattle, feeding them with turnips, straw and bruised oats. This was the time to get the cattle fattened up for sale in Kirkwall or Aberdeen. The cattle had to walk to the pier, some of them were absolutely exhausted after walking the long distance from Holland farm.

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The married families on the farm stayed very well, the young unmarried were always on the move getting to know the difference employers. The wages at this time were about £8 in the half year. A must with them was to own a watch. These watches being of very good quality lasted a long time. I don't know what they cost but I'd imagine they were fairly expensive.

Now I come to the first of the tractors in Stronsay. This was in the early 20s at Housebay. It did a lot of good work in comparison with past machines. It would be something of a museum piece now.

It was not until the late 30s before they began to come in again but during the war years, owing to the labour shortage, more and more began to come in until, now at the present moment, I would think they are up to their maximum number in Stronsay. In fact the coming of the tractor has made a new way of life on the farm.

Now as to the cropping in this period. It was standard practice to keep to a 5 shift system, 2 oat crops, next turnips and down to grass for 2 years. This was mostly the practice before the First World War. I would say this worked fairly well on good land but on poorer hill land seaweed was carted and spread on. But even with this, crops were sometimes poor and of inferior quality. I would add to this that on the good deep soils in a good year there would be good grain. At that time oats grown were by name Sandy, a white oat and a black oat. In the district we were in we could grow nothing but black. I wonder what was wrong; was it too much seaweed and the land getting sour? For now at this time the same land is growing the better quality white oat or is it the better fertiliser in the land nowadays.

Now in the early 20s we had something which altered the fertility of the land completely. You will say what was this? It was a wild white clover. Small quantities of these clovers came on the market at the price of £1 for 1 lb in weight. This was tried out in seed mixture and proved a success. The supply of seeds got better and the prices came down to a more economical level. These clovers trap the nitrogen in the air therefore building up fertility. Of course it took time to alter these theories but when I look back the grass was practically finished by September. Look what a change there is today! I can remember cutting oats late August or early September and giving it to the cows in the fields. In the older times we worked more to a fixed pattern but now cropping is cut down in most cases about one half.

Take for instance, potatoes. Most places had around 1 acre and this was a chance to get the most out of the children. I suppose they reckoned they were nearer the ground and not so far from the tattie! When our own ones were finished we had to help the neighbours but this made it more enjoyable.

Grass is now looked on as the major crop on the farm and rightly so as the climate here does suit grass. If a field is needed for cropping or reseeded it is usually the one with the worst grass. As to its use you can either eat it down in the summer with your cattle and sheep or cut for hay or silage. An all year round crop you call it.

Now the use of manures have increased to a great extent from what I remember first and we have this advantage that we can have our fields tested to see if there is a deficiency. We can then correct it by using different manures but still it can be a tricky business. When we came to Airy in 1943 one of our fields was very badly run down and it is only now in 1971 it is coming up to scratch.

On the farm there can be dry land, wet land, clay land and black earth. It can make you ponder which is the correct approach and the weather can affect each differently.

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To give an instance of the difference of the numbers of stock being carried. At Sil-lerha' we had four cows, four yearlings, four calves and two or three sheep and lambs. I know at the present moment this has more than doubled. This would be much the same in general all around the farms in Stronsay.

The kinds of cattle were mostly Shorthorn, big and strong in the bone. One of the big events was when the cow calved. Usually in each district was a man with rather more skill than the ordinary, to be called day or night, if necessary. After the event the cow got a hot drink, the man got tea or possibly a refreshment.

The final part of these memoirs will be in next month's 'Limpet'.



Tenders invited

Additional surface water drainage is required at Woods Yard

In brief the work will consist of:

A section of the carpark being cleared.

A drainage channel installed and linked to existing rainwater outflow pipe.

Additional levelling to car park area.

Removal of any works related waste.

Existing drains may also need cleaning.

All tenders in writing to woods yard by 5pm Monday 16th December 2019.

Please contact Woods Yard for more information and to walk through the job
01857 616410 or email sdtoperations@btconnect.com

HISTORIC STRONSAY **WHERE DID ALL THE PEOPLE LIVE?**

The 18th century population of Orkney was greater than today and that applies to every island! Stronsay's Rev. Mr John Anderson made a valuable return to Sinclair's (Old) Statistical Account of Orkney 1795-1798. He reports that in Stronsay from 1674-1693 (20 years) there were 382 baptisms and 109 marriages. From 1744-1763 (20 years) there were 601 baptisms (females 292, males 309). For the period 1780 – 1793 (14 years) there were 326 baptisms (153 female) 173 (male); 92 marriages and 251 burials. These figures annualized for the 17th and 18th century are surprising and far higher than today. Anderson gives an age breakdown in decades; there were 223 aged under 10 and 9 aged over 80 in a population of 887. **At that time there were said to be 178 houses.** In 1772 he says there were 1015 “souls” in Stronsay.

Given that Whitehall village did not exist and the long row of terraced cottages had not been built for the Fair Island settlers at Lower Station I wonder where were these houses? At Whitehall we have the original ruined Whitehall Farm (with the fine high ground wall seawards), Feastown and Waterhall which are all pre 1750 but little else that I am aware of. The late 19th century 25 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map shows a few buildings which have not been replaced. **How many Orkney residents today live in houses or on sites which were inhabited over 250 years ago? Was there any central settlement?**

Anderson notes with approval the recent formation by the farmers of a mutual benefit. There were at that time 500 horses, 900 black cattle, 3000 sheep, 300 swine, 700 geese with 27 two-ox carts and 55 Boats. When kelp flourished this was a prosperous place, with off shore land owners renting their lands.

Source:

Orkney Library

The Orkney Parishes (1927) ref 314. 1 Y

Leo MARTINI-BROWN

(lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2019

Photographs by Roger Neville-Smith



CRAZY DAYS GONE A.W.O.L.

By Ellie Harrison

And where do you think you've been?
What time do you call this?
Strutting around at all hours
Wayward little miss!
She's noticeable in her absence
Being part of the family
And I've searched every building,
Every acre, every tree.
It goes without saying now
She's forgiven for killing my robin
And I'm willing to forget
I almost broke my neck skidding on her toy bobbin.
If only she'd come home
I promise to do as I'm told,
I'll even warm her milk,
As she's not so fond of it cold.
Now I'll be forced to buy a mouse-trap
As our Killer Queen is away.
I think our hearts are breaking,
She's been gone for more than a day.
The flags are at half mast
Her maj' is not at home.
So where on earth has she got to,
She's not one to roam.
Crazy Dazy on her walk-about,
Not a care in her head
Whilst we are truly grieving,
Believing her to be dead.
But oh the joy we feel
When she returns, all cool.
I can almost hear her say,
Sighing "Chill, you silly old fool".
How upsetting is her absence
I;m like a jar without its lid
And not forgetting, of course,
That she cose me forty quid!

©Helene Harrison

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

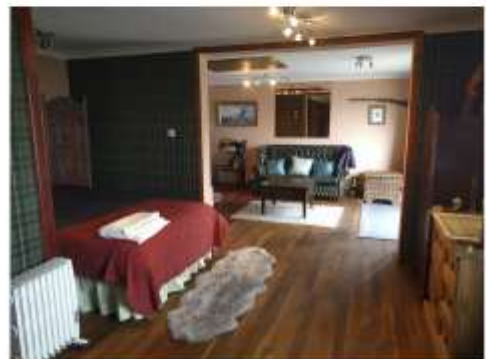
For Sale: Clifton House, Whitehall Village, Stronsay



O.I.R.O. £140,000



Large detached house with versatile accommodation over three floors, plus a single-storey annexe, which can be self-contained as a 'granny flat' or holiday rental.



Located in the village of Whitehall with views over the sea towards the monastery island of Papa Stronsay. Within walking distance of village shop and ferry terminal.

For full brochure or to view please contact the owners:

Tel: 01857 616458

Email: suzanne1clements@gmail.com

Items on this page are free!

The cutoff date for adverts to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page
Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS IN THE LIMPET

You can send Christmas & New Year greetings to your friends & family by placing a FREE notice in the December edition of the Limpet. Deadline is 7pm on Sunday 15 December. Contact details for the Limpet are at the foot of the first and last pages of this edition.

CHIMNEY SWEEP

I understand that the chimney sweep's last visit was cancelled for some reason. If you want your chimney swept please email me and I will try to arrange a "bulk buy".

Bruce Fletcher editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk

GERMOUNT SURGERY

Please order repeat prescriptions in good time for Christmas and New Year.
Drs Neville-Smith and Fisher

RNLI HALLOWEEN PARTY

£459.50 raised

Thank you to everybody who made the RNLI Halloween party a great success. Thanks also to all the folks who took part in the fancy dress, neepie & pumpkin lanterns and the recycled models, not forgetting the committee and the extra helpers who put in a lot of effort to bring the whole thing together. Big shout out to our judges Roger Neville-Smith and Paul Williams.

The Halloween party has been a long-standing tradition of Stronsay's RNLI branch, going as far back as when I was peedie. I remember mum making costumes for my cousin Eleanor Shergold and myself; we went as buttons and bows I can't remember which was which but we won a prize of a box of Maltesers. Does anybody remember how far back to the first RNLI Halloween party? Massive thank you to you all mean time

Anne-Maree Carter

FOR SALE

Waterhall, Lower Whitehall Road, KW17 2AS

contact the Orkney Property Centre Kirkwall or <https://tinyurl.com/yxqkjpm1> for details

Leo Martini-Brown, Dunera. lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk

Items on this page are free!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

MAURICE A. WILLIAMSON **YOUR LOCAL ONE STOP SHOP** **Grocer/Butcher/Fuel/Hardware Supplies**

Olivebank, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AF
Tel:01857 616255 Email: m.williamson1@btconnect.com
Find us on Facebook at Maurice A. Williamson

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1967

Serving all your butcher needs;

All cuts of beef; Silverside, topside, mince, rump, minute steak, stewing steak, fillet etc.

Pork/pork products; Loin, gammon, home-cured bacon, luxury medallions

Chicken; Whole, portions, breasts, kiev, cooked chicken strips

Our very own premium quality sausages; including a wide variety of flavours – Pork /beef /pork, cheese & chive/pork & red onion/pork & black pudding/ beef, onion & mustard etc.

Home-made; White puddings, black puddings, our very own Olivebank grill, sandwich fillings, ready-made meal options

....AND SO MUCH MORE!



Local business adverts are free!
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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Faces of Orkney

*Portraits in Oil
by an Orkney-based artist.*

*Pay tribute to your loved ones
with a commissioned portrait.*

Email: facesoforkney@gmail.com

Tel. Suzanne: 07914 379512

Special rates for Stronsay residents.

STRONSAY FERRY HOPPER SERVICE

We are sad to announce that other business commitments now mean that the Ferry Hopper service is no longer available.

Suzanne Clements

Local business adverts are free!

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



We are a brand new local company, we decided to take the plunge after many years of working for others, to set up our own business. Craig has many years experience in general building work, labouring, ground work ect. I am a time served joiner. We have all our own equipment so no need for the extra cost of hiring from elsewhere.

**We can do all types of ground work, pipe laying, guttering and roofing. Replacement windows and doors, finishings, concrete and general work. All types of work considered, no job too small, all work finished to a high standard. Full public liability insurance, safe, reliable and trustworthy.
Reasonable prices.**

Contact Craig or Christine for more information.

Local business adverts are free!
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LOCAL BUSINESSES

REDHOUSE PLANTS MARKET GARDEN



Seasonal vegetables available daily. Bedding, perennial and vegetable plants.

Local honey in season according to availability.

Open 09.00-17.00 Mon-Sat.

Redhouse, Lower Whitehall, Stronsay. Tel: (01857) 616 377

**STRONSAY
RANGER**

**GUIDED TOURS
AND NATURE
WALKS**

CONTACT 07922711525

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND
INSTAGRAM
SEARCH FOR STRONSAY
RANGER

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

handmade  with love

Airy Fairy

- ★ Handmade Quilts, cushions & clothes ★
- ★ Beautiful, bespoke & personalised gifts ★
 - ★ Handmade especially for you ★
- ★ Makower fabrics in stock £10 per metre ★
- ★ Studio visits welcome by appointment ★



Hazel Shearer, Airy, Stronsay, Orkney, KW172AG • Phone 01857 616231
hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com • www.airyfairyonline.co.uk

The Wyrð Weaver

Handcrafted Textiles and Primitive Folk Art



Come and visit Eunice's studio at...
Newbigging, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AN

Open Daily
Phone - 01857 616230

Find and buy on Facebook @orkneywyrdweaver
Email - thewyrdweaver@btinternet.com



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LOCAL BUSINESSES



*New business, a mini market garden, set up in late 2015 at
Sunnybank, Stronsay*

*Currently supplying mixed salad leaves, some winter vegetables and
bedding plants. There will be more as the season progresses.*

I will supply a list each week with availability

*Please look at my Face book page "Stronsay Markets" or
send me an email "stronsaymarkets@gmail.com and I will put you
on my mailing list*

**PATRICK
McGRATH
LTD**

**PLUMBING
& HEATING**

**Gas Safe Registered Engineer
Plumber**

Services include:

- Installation, servicing, maintenance of all domestic gas appliances
- Landlords gas safety checks
- Bathroom fitting
- Bathroom supply
- General heatings
- All other types of domestic, commercial, industrial plumbing works
- Isles work welcome

Call Patrick on **07933 488283**
Email: patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com



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LOCAL BUSINESSES

JOHN DUNNE GARDEN SERVICES

- * General Garden Maintenance
- * Window Cleaning and Guttering Services

- * Reasonable rates
- * Quick and professional

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Tel: 616276

The Old Manse Bed and Breakfast Logie Easter, Kildary IV18 0NZ



Dating back to the 1780s set in a large woodland garden just off the A9 and six miles from Invergordon, the Old
Ensuite Double and twin rooms

Telephone : 01862 842357

Website : www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk

Local business adverts are free!

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

STRONSAY HOTEL

Phone 01857 616213

Open Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun 5pm to 9pm

TAKE AWAY MENU

Homemade lasagne + chips	£5.95
Homemade chicken curry + rice or chips . .	£5.95
Homemade chicken & bacon pie + chips . .	£6.50
Breaded haddock + chips.	£5.50
Battered haddock +chips	£6.50
Breaded wholetail scampi + chips	£6.50
2 sausages + chips	£3.00
2 fish fingers + chips	£2.80
“Stronsay beast burger” + fries	£4.50
“Stronsay cheese beast burger + fries	£5.00
Portion of chips	£1.30
Half portion of chips	£0.80
Portion of cheesy chips	£2.10
Half portion of cheesy chips	£1.10
Portion of onion rings	£1.20
Half cheesy chips = minus 20p	
Cheesy chips = add 80p	
Half chips = minus 60p	
Half rice = minus 60p	

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

“NEIL’S ON WHEELS”



- All mechanical work undertaken.
- Tyres
- ECU/ABS/airbag diagnostic testing
- Welding specialist
- MOT prep work
- Home start
- Towing service

MOBILE: 07723 304 260

HOME: 01857 616454

Ebenezer Oil Heating Services

Oftec trained engineer



Oil Tank Installation



Boiler Servicing

Oil boiler servicing,
repair and replacement



Boiler Installation

A serviced boiler
is an efficient boiler
and will save you money

& Commissioning

Tel 01857 616339
ebenezer@stronsay.org

Anthony Potts
Foot Health Professional

Qualified Foot Health Professional
MCFHP MAFHP

About Me
I qualified as a foot health professional (FHP) in 2017 studying at the SMAE Institute in Maidenhead. I am a Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals.

Treatments offered
Nail cutting and filing
Callus (hard skin) removed
Corns treated
Nail conditions treated
Verrucas treated
General assessment and advice on foot health
Home visits
Please telephone for an appointment

Tel: 07570531618
antpottsguitar@btinternet.com
Gesty Dishes, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AJ

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



The home of traditionally hand-crafted Orkney soaps, solid shampoo bars and balms.
Hand-spun yarns, woven throws, wall-hangings and more.

Member of Stronsay Craft Trail: Orkney Star Island Soap & Textiles, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney.

Open all year round. Visitors welcome by arrangement. 

Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281. Email: info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk

Web: www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk.



BELLIE M DESIGNS

Tieve Studios, Berryhill Road, St Ola, Orkney KW15 1SF.

Online shop www.belliemdesigns.com

Orders also taken via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or phone 07736838489 with email invoices that can be easily paid by card or PayPal.

Local business adverts are free!

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



**Stronsay Christmas
Craft Fair**

Saturday 30th November
Stronsay Community Hall
13.00 - 16.00

Hand-made Crafts
Raffle, Refreshments & bakes

Stronsay Community Association

The poster features a dark blue background with decorative elements including purple leaves and vines in the corners and along the sides. In the center, there are two reindeer and two stylized Christmas trees with stars on top. At the bottom, there are four holly leaves with red berries. The text is in various colors: white for the main title and date, pink for the activities, and light blue for the organizing association.

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



Christmas Tree Lighting

- ~ Mulled Wine ~*
- ~ Entertainment ~*
- ~ Mince Pies ~*
- ~ Bar ~*
- ~ Raffle ~*
- ~ 100 Club ~*
- ~ Supper ~*

Sat 14th December ~ 7pm ~ Community Hall

Everyone Welcome!

Adults: £6

16 & Under: £1

Brought to you by the
Stronsay Community Association



SWRI CHILDREN'S PARTY

Wednesday 11th December

For children age 9 and under.
At the Community Hall from 6pm to 7:30pm

SANTA'S FLOAT



Saturday 21st December, from Wood's Yard 6:30pm
Buffet, refreshments and raffle in the Hotel after.
Money raised will go to the new Nursery play area.
(contact Vicki)

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Stronsay Community Association
Presents:

HOGMANAY PARTY

COMMUNITY HALL
31ST DECEMBER @ 10PM

MUSIC
BAR
RAFFLE

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL
*Come along with an instrument
if you have one
&
bring in the bells!*

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STRONSAY BOOKWORMS

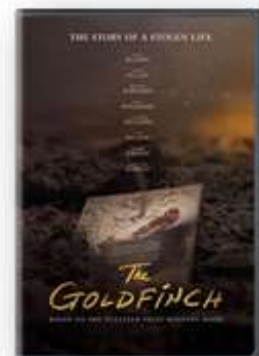
**will be meeting again on
Wednesday 18th December
at 7.30pm at Cleat
to watch**

'THE GOLDFINCH' CERT 15 (149mins)

**based on Donna Tartt's Pulitzer
prize-winning novel.**

**THERE WILL ALSO BE A FEW
CHRISTMAS NIBBLES**

**Any first time members please let Donna
know (616242) so that we can provide
enough seats and nibbles!**



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



Stromsay S.W.R.I.



Wednesday 4th December

At 7.30pm in the hall

Sale in aid of the Children's Christmas Party

Competition- "Christmas Wreath"

Hostess- committee

This is the joining night when our new year begins, all ladies and girls aged 11 and over very welcome

Non members pay £3 per meeting.

To join for the whole year is £20 for adults and £10 for juniors

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



DECEMBER 2nd and 12th

**Wood's Yard
drop in session:
10:00-14:00**

sdtwellbeing@gmail.com or 01857616410



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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

RNLI HALLOWEEN PARTY

£459.50 RAISED!

Thank you to everybody who made the RNLI Halloween party a great success. Thanks also to all the folks who took part in the fancy dress, neepie & pumpkin lanterns and the recycled models, not forgetting the committee and the extra helpers who put in a lot of effort to bring the whole thing together. Big shout out to our judges Roger Neville-Smith and Paul Williams.

The Halloween party has been a long-standing tradition of Stronsay's RNLI branch, going as far back as when I was peedie. I remember mum making costumes for my cousin Eleanor Shergold and myself; we went as buttons and bows I can't remember which was which but we won a prize of a box of Maltesers. Does anybody remember how far back to the first RNLI Halloween party? Massive thank you to you all mean time

Anne-Maree Carter



(Photographs by Roger Neville-Smith—more on next page)

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



Stronsay Community Association

TENDERS INVITED

EXTENSION TO NORTH SIDE OF COMMUNITY HALL

A 3350 x 6450 lean to extension is to be added to the north side of Stronsay Community Hall. In addition to the extension; 3 skylights and a commercial extractor fan is to be put into the kitchen and the surrounding pavement of the build is to be disabled friendly.

Works can be started from 17th February 2020 onward and completed by no later than 1st June 2020.

Plans for this build can be viewed on the Orkney Islands Council website
ref: 19/033/PP

For further information about this job please contact;

Alison Hourston

Email: alison565@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01857 616287

Tenders to be submitted to Alison Hourston by
Saturday 30th November 2019 by 5pm

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the Stronsay Community hall? We have a kitchen and fully licensed bar, with two large halls and a small meeting room; perfect for weddings, parties, games, meetings and much more!

- Disco equipment
- Table tennis
- Badminton
- Air hockey
- Pool Table

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

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

For more information & bookings contact:

Pam Shearer Tel: 616397 Email: pamshearer@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hallcommittee>



STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

supervised sessions

All Supervised Sessions will run from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

MONDAY	4:30—6:30
TUESDAY	Buddy system
WEDNESDAY	4:30—6:30
THURSDAY	4:30—6:30
FRIDAY	4:30—6:30
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	Buddy system by request

The gym can be accessed throughout the day if you have a 'buddy' to go with.

A code is required, please speak to one of the team if you have any questions

Inductions by appointment only

Andy - 616277 or Julie - 616335

Gym during supervised sessions - 616449

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

KIRK CORNER

Locum minister—Scott Daily. Manse telephone 616286

During the month of December there are many events taking place at the church, and I wanted to make you aware of a few of them.

On the 3rd the Peedie Library will take place at the church hall from 3 pm to 4:30 and as always all are invited to come browse through the truly massive amount of books on hand, have a cup of tea or coffee, and eat some of the simply amazing baked goods. In fact, it would probably do me some good if others came and eat them all, so I don't justify taking more than one!

On the 8th we will be having the popular Carols by candlelight at 7-8 pm. Come along and chose a carol to sing and enjoy more good food and pleasant company.

On the 24th we will have the Christmas Eve Watchnight service beginning at 11:30 pm, I understand this year the locum will try and time it better so that it does not end early and leave everyone sitting waiting for midnight. Certainly, one of the highlights to this special night time service is the lovely music by the many talented musicians as we reflect on the events of that "holy night" long ago.

On the 25th we will have a short and informal Christmas morning service. Traditionally the children bring along toys and gifts they have received. If you are a bit older and have something you are excited about (and it will fit in the church hall) you can bring that along as well.

Besides all these special services, we of course have our regular Sunday morning services during this Advent season. With the exception of the Christmas Eve service we will be meeting in the nice warm Church Hall, so come along and join us as you are able.

Thank you and blessings
Scott Daily, locum minister

For details of services see the kirk website <https://tinyurl.com/y2ctm7o5>

PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Friday 20 December.

1:30pm to 3:15pm in the Community Hall

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE

Monday

7-7.40 public session
7.40-8.20 adult lane (16+)

Thursday

7-7.40 private hire (pre-booked)
7.40-8.20 private hire

Saturday

2-2.40 private hire (pre-booked)
2.40-3.20 public session
3.20-4pm private hire

Swim club lessons weekly

To enquire about private hires, phone Elsie 616238

To enquire about swim club, phone Sarah 616406 or Andy 616277

POOL CHARGES

Public Sessions

Adults £3
Children £1.50

Private Hires

40 minute session - £15
60 minute session - £20

Swim Club

Children will be offered 10 week blocks which can be paid up front (non-refundable)

40 minute sessions - £16 block booking; £2 per session
60 minute sessions - £20 block booking; £2.50 per session

Adults (16 and over)

Block booking of 10 sessions over a 12 week period (non-refundable)
£24 block booking
£3 per session

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STITCHERS AND SPINNERS

We will be taking a break in December and will resume again in January 2020.

COMPUTER CLUB

Computer club will be held on Wednesday the 4th December at 8 till 9pm in the meeting room at Woods yard . We will be meeting in the conference room in Unit 1 of Wood's Yard. There will be internet access and laptops available for use free of charge or feel free to bring along your own technology.

ADULT TABLE TOP GAMES CLUB

Games club will be held on Wednesday the 11th December at 8pm till approximately 9.30pm. We will be meeting in the conference room in Unit 1 of Wood's Yard.

Please contact Duncan Bliss-Davis on 616317 or duncandavis79@gmail.com for further details about the Computer or adult games club or if you need a lift.

KIRKWALL MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO STRONSAY

Next Mobile Library visit will be in January

Winter

- Council Houses 8.45 - 9.45
- School 10 - 12
- Kirk 12.30 - 3
- Fish mart 3.15 - 4.45

For full details visit the library's website

<http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk>

PEEDIE LIBRARY IN THE CHURCH HALL

We have a great many books on a wide range of subjects. We also have a DVD section. Tea, coffee, juice & biscuits available - sometimes even cake!

Even if you're not a reader why not call in for a cuppa & a chat. If you need a lift please ask Viv Erdman (Ebenezer Stores) and we will arrange it. See you there!

The Peedie Library will be open between 3pm and 4:30 pm on Tuesday 3rd December for our last session in 2019:

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY MEDICAL PRACTICE

In an emergency phone 01856 888000

Surgeries by appointment only

Phone 616321 to book an appointment

Monday 9:30—10:30, 15:30—16:30

Tuesday 9:30—10:30, 14:30—15:30

Wednesday 9:30—10:30, from 14:00

Thursday—no surgery

Friday 9:30—10:30, 15:30—16:30

Ordering repeat prescriptions

Phone 616321

Please note the changed email address orkney.stronsay@nhs.net

Website www.orkadespractice.co.uk

Please will patients order prescriptions at least 8-10 days before they are needed. This will reduce frustration when items have not been delivered from the mainland.

Collecting prescriptions

Please will patients collect their ordered prescription 10:30-11:30am or 2-4pm Monday, Wednesday or Friday. This avoids the busiest time when the prescription boxes are being unpacked.

In an emergency phone 01856 888000

MEDICATION OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Please order repeat prescriptions in good time for Christmas & New Year.

Drs Neville-Smith and Fisher

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Diabetes Support Group will be held in the carpet room at the Community Centre on Wednesday 4th December from 3pm-4.30pm.

JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

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USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES etc

Monday to Saturday	8:30am—5:00pm
Sunday	Closed
Post collection times	07:30, Monday to Saturday
Bank day	Tuesday 09:00-15:00 (closed 12-1 for lunch)
Island Link Officer..	Fishmart office 10 to 12 on Tue, Thu & Sat. Phone 616475
SDT Office	Wood's Yard 10am - 11am Mon-Fri. Phone 616410
Sunday service at the Kirk ...	11 am (see https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5)
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	Weekday Mass at 11.20am, except Tuesdays 8am. Sundays and Holidays of Obligation, Mass at 10.30am.
Next Special Collections	6 December 2019 and 21 February 2020.
Weekly rubbish collection	Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

EMERGENCY! POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE or COASTGUARD - dial 999

Airy Fairy 616231	SDT office 616410
Castle Bird Reserve 616363	Stronsay Band 616335
Craftship Enterprise 616249	Stronsay Hotel 616213
Doctor 616321	Taxi 616335
Ebenezer stores 616339	Stranded seals, etc 616339/206/498
Fish Mart 616401	Balfour hospital 01856 888000
Hairdresser 616337	Electricity
Hall bookings 616397	problems 0800 300 999
or 07752 043 325	power cut 105
Island Link Officer 616475	Water problems 0800 0778 778
Medical emergency 616321	Highland Fuels 0800 224 224
Neil's on Wheels 616454	Kirkwall Library 01856 873166
Manse 616286	Kirkwall Police 101
Nurses 616480	Vets:
Olivebank 616255	Flett & Carmichael . 01856 872859
OIC out of hours 01856 873535	Northvet 01856 873403
Post Office 616499	Dentists:
Red House Plants 616377	Orkney Dental 01856 872030
Registrar 616239	King Street 01856 888258
School 616246	Deyanov Dental . . . 01856 877118
Silver Darlings 616412	Golgotha monastery. . . . 616210
Star Island Soap 616281	<i>(Email contact@the-sons.org)</i>

HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](#)

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk (preferred method); phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10:30am & before 9pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page



A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland
Company Number SC271553
A Scottish Charity, Charity Number SC038888
Registered Office: Unit 1 Woods Yard, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR