



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

18 December	Bookworms at Cleat
20 December	Playgroup Christmas party
21 December	Santa's float
24 December	Kirk—Watchnight service
25 December	Kirk hall—Short, informal service
31 December	Community Hall—Hogmanay party
5 January	Refit timetable begins
17 January	Community Hall—Baked tattie evening
3 February	Mobile library van visit

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**MEDICATION OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**

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

Please note that even when the Surgery is closed the island's medical staff are still available for emergencies, just dial 01856 888000 for Balfour Hospital switchboard who can then page the doctor or the nurse.

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**REFIT TIMETABLE STARTS SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

[http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk/pdfs/timetables/refit/ni\\_integrated\\_refit.pdf](http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk/pdfs/timetables/refit/ni_integrated_refit.pdf)

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**SHOP OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**

See list on page 2

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**HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET***

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto: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*.

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The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on **Thu 30 January**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 26 January**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

## STRONSAY BUSINESSES OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & HOGMANAY

<b>Date</b>	<b>Olivebank</b>	<b>Ebenezer</b>	<b>Post Office</b>	<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Surgery</b>
<b>Fri 20 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	Normal	Normal
<b>Sat 21 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	Normal	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sun 22 Dec</b>	<i>Closed</i>	10:00am-1pm	<i>Closed</i>	5:30pm-10:30pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Mon 23 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	<i>Closed</i>	Normal
<b>Tue 24 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	5pm-12 midnight	Normal
<b>Wed 25 Dec</b>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Closed</i>	12 noon-2:pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Thu 26 Dec</b>	<i>Closed</i>	10am-12 noon	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Fri 27 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	10am-12 noon	10am-12 noon	<i>Closed</i>	Normal
<b>Sat 28 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-6pm	8:30am-5pm	5pm-1am	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sun 29 Dec</b>	<i>Closed</i>	10:00am-1pm	<i>Closed</i>	5pm-10:30pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Mon 30 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	<i>Closed</i>	Normal
<b>Tue 31 Dec</b>	8:30am-6:30pm	7:30am-7:30pm	8:30am-5pm	8pm-1am	Normal
<b>Wed 1 Jan</b>	<i>Closed</i>	10am-12 noon	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Thu 2 Jan</b>	<i>Closed</i>	10am-2pm	10am-2pm	<i>Closed</i>	<b>Closed</b>

# **COOKE AQUACULTURE SCOTLAND LTD**

## **VACANCY: Stronsay Seawater!**

**Full Time: Site Manager**

**Full Time: Site Assistants**

As part of our ongoing expansion we are delighted to begin the recruitment for our new Seawater sites in Stronsay, Orkney. We are looking for a strong team who, with a passion for our sector, will assist with the site implementation and ongoing development of this area.

Alongside the initial start-up, the successful candidates will have the opportunity to work with a variety of different areas within the farming process, such as: feeding, grading, splitting, fish husbandry, harvesting and general site maintenance. For our Manager vacancy, you will report to our Orkney Area Manager and have responsibility for the overall management of our two Stronsay Seawater Sites.

All candidates must be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills, and be flexible with working hours. You will need to be a team player but have the ability to work alone when required. You must have at least three years relevant Aquaculture Management experience to be considered for our Site Manager opportunity.

**QUALIFICATIONS / SKILLS DESIRED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL AS FULL TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED:**

- Sea survival qualification
- First Aid Certificate
- Loadall/Forklift Licence
- Manual Handling
- Boatmasters or Powerboat Level 2 Certificate
- Full UK driving licence

### **THE TERMS**

In return, we offer exceptional terms and conditions, including; excellent salary, overtime, company bonus, annual leave, cycle to work scheme, refer a friend scheme, employer pension contribution, occupational health support, life insurance and employee events. A relocation package may be available for the right candidate.

### **APPLY**

For more information on our vacancy, and in particular to the hours of work, please contact Robert Peterson on 07919 912 916, or email: [Robert.Peterson@cookeaqua.com](mailto:Robert.Peterson@cookeaqua.com)

If you wish to apply for this vacancy please email your CV and Covering letter, stating which vacancy you are applying for, to [recruitment@cookeaqua.com](mailto:recruitment@cookeaqua.com) by 03 January 2020.



## STRONSAY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Once again the Stronsay Community Association did us proud with festive decorations and delicious bakes. Stronsay crafters put on a great show of hand-made items and we were delighted to welcome Robbie Wells over from Kirkwall with his Orkney Beachcrafts. There was a fantastic turn-out of folk and a great atmosphere all afternoon. So we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the day and to Roger Neville-Smith for some great photos (see below).

Simone (on behalf of Stronsay Craft Trail group & crafters).





## **TREE LIGHTING 14 DECEMBER 2019**

Stronsay's musical talent was on display during the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on the evening of Saturday 14th December.

*(Photographs from Roger Neville-Smith)*



*(more photographs on next page)*





## **BIRD SIGHTINGS - A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE YEAR**

Another year gone by, and as ever, a very different one to the year before as regards Bird sightings. But there are a few more 'birding days' until the New Year and things can change very quickly! As it did a few days ago!

The best birds of the year were a real mixed bunch – the Mandarin Duck on the Matpow Loch in late April; the staggering and unexpected Collared Flycatcher in the Osen garden in May and then a superb male Bluethroat at Airy. A Marsh Warbler sang forlornly opposite The Mill for several days in early July but did not attract a mate and soon left the area. There were record numbers of Pintail and Shelduck in Spring – a sure sign that Greylag Geese numbers were down.

There were 3 Two-barred Crossbills in late summer – a very rare species in the UK – and a few of the usual uncommon migrants in Autumn including Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike and Booted Warbler (very rare in the UK). Several Yellow Browed Warblers were seen in late September and a Red-breasted Flycatcher on 3rd October, and there was a very noticeable increase in the sightings of 'birds of prey' in early Autumn.

3 Waxwings were recorded in early October and a 'Kestrel' presented us with extremely difficult identification problems as – apart from most of the features looking 'right' for a lesser Kestrel the photograph (attached) shows what appeared to be one white claw – enough to make the bird a definite Lesser Kestrel according to all the birding literature we can find! The jury is still out on this bird (see photo including what appears to be a white claw – 'common' Kestrel has black claws).

Our minds were taken off the 'kestrel problem' when a Tree Sparrow turned up in Lower Whitehall – just the 4th island record! A Red-breasted Flycatcher was discovered at Osen and just as we thought the year was over as regards new 'sightings' Sheila Burger discovered – and photographed - a super Firecrest in the garden at Helmsley on 14th December.!

Thanks again for all the calls and information this year



*'Bird of the Year': Collared Flycatcher at Osen*

*(Photographs on next page)*



*'Bird of the Year': Collared Flycatcher at Osen*



*'Late arrival of the year' - Firecrest at Helmsley*



# STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOLPLACE

## *Relating the life and opinions of your councillor in the world of politics*

The General Election has happened, purdah is over, and councillors are now free again to express publicly their opinions on party politics. My own psephological interpretation of the results is that the voting trend was largely anti-Labour rather than pro any other party (the SNP representing the main left-wing alternative to the Labour Party in Scotland). Interestingly, this outcome vindicates the validity of my, as yet untried, “wrong answer” (for want of a better name—suggestions on a postcard, please) voting system. (Disappointingly, in 2018 it was rejected for trial by the University of the Highlands & Islands at their next rectorial election.) In my voting system, on the ballot paper the voter places a cross next to the candidate or candidates whom they would NOT like to be elected. (Just like at school, a cross is put next to the **wrong** answer(s)!)

The beauty of the “wrong answer” system is that every vote counts and simultaneously every voting motivation is catered for:

- - *If you support one candidate strongly you put crosses next to the rest;*
- - *If you are against a particular candidate, but otherwise don't mind who gets in, you put a cross only next to that candidate;*
- - *If you wish to give a chance to a couple of candidates, you place your crosses next to all but them;*
- - *If you wish to register a protest “no-confidence” vote, you place crosses next to all of them;*
- - *Finally, if you'd be happy with any of the candidates, you put no crosses at all (and so don't even need to turn up to vote).*

The candidate who wins is the one who gets the fewest crosses, i.e. the one that the fewest voters object to (the candidate the majority is content with). What could be a fairer voting system than that? (It is intriguing to consider how the course of history might have been different had my system been used in Parliament for Theresa May's “indicative votes” earlier this year.)

Nevertheless, Jo Swinson (Leader of the Lib-Dems) losing her seat does demonstrate how the current “first past the post” system used for general elections to the Westminster Parliament is a much more democratic one than the “additional member” system (with its party lists) used for Scottish Parliament elections (and in many European countries). If you cast your mind back to May 2016, you will remember that Kezia Dugdale (Leader of Scottish Labour) was defeated in the Edinburgh Eastern constituency yet still managed to gain a seat in the Scottish Parliament through the Labour Party list for the Lothian Region.

It was the late Tony Benn (Labour) who warned us that the people must always have the power to vote a candidate out (a power we retain at general elections thanks to the result of the “forgotten” referendum of 2011).

*(continued on next page)*

Meanwhile, back at Orkney Islands Council, at the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, I was pleased to be told that (after continual lobbying from me) data relating to the turnover of temporary staff at OIC will now be presented to councillors (albeit at the Human Resources Sub-Committee rather than as a “recruitment & retention performance indicator” at service committees). A report on our climate-change duties prompted me to ask if any carbon impact assessment had been made of OIC’s use of IT and the Internet. We were told that at present such an assessment is not a Scottish Government stipulation. For the item on requesting Scottish ministers to call in planning applications related to OIC’s Community Wind Farm Project, I supported the amendment that OIC should itself determine such planning applications (just as we do for OIC’s schools, council houses, etc.). However the amendment was defeated 12 votes to 7. During discussion on the Kirkwall Surface Water Management Plan, it was pointed out how important it is that internal house flooding is reported to SEPA, for, without such records in the Flood Register, Scottish Water will be unaware of the need to prioritise the affected areas for flood-prevention.

Other meetings I have attended in Kirkwall this month include a meeting of the Orkney Ferries Board, the General Meeting, a seminar on housing in the countryside, and an Integration Joint Board development session. I have also met with OIC officials to discuss the recent review of insurance arrangements for community schools and cover for community associations using school premises. In the Isles, I went to the Sanday Development Trust AGM, and I enjoyed the Sanday Christmas tree lighting event. Before Christmas, I still have a members’ session, a meeting of the Digital Strategy Consultative Group, a budget meeting and a Special General Meeting to go to.

A Councillor Privacy Notice, explaining how we councillors use your personal data, can be found on the OIC website at:

[https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Councillors-and-Committees/Councillors\\_Privacy\\_Notice.pdf](https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Councillors-and-Committees/Councillors_Privacy_Notice.pdf)

I would now like to take the opportunity to wish everyone in the North Isles a

Merry Christmas

&

Happy 2020 !



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson  
West Manse, Sanday

[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)

You can download “Letter from School Place” from [lfsp.pbworks.com](http://lfsp.pbworks.com)



## RECORDS OF A BYGONE AGE

*This is the third and final part 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 how machinery has changed over the years then goes on to recall a variety of noteworthy events – the importance of hens to the economy, the coming of the gramophone, burning kelp, fishing, numerous shipwrecks and recounting how he was an eyewitness at the scuttling of the German fleet.*

### **Farm implements**

I am going to give a description of the difference in the farm implements on the field and about the farm from first I remember up to the present day.

On the smaller farms windmills were to be seen for power to drive the small threshing mills. This as you can imagine was not very steady as in blustery days one wondered if the small mill would stand up to speed. Also there was the horse driven mills, the horses walking round and round on the mill courses as we called it. Not forgetting the small hand mill driven by hand. I can tell you this could warm you up as I know from first-hand experience at Southbank in the evenings. I have also tried the flail but I can't say I made much of it. It was something to see a man who could work it properly. It took practise. If you didn't have the right rhythm you could get a nasty clout on the head! Still on the barn work, one of the jobs I detested as a boy was helping to winnow oats. I will give an explanation of that. This is to separate the chaff from the oats. In this operation we used a round riddle - you see them around still. You needed a suitable wind to blow through the front and back door of the barn, the oats being shaken on the floor and the chaff to blow away. Not a very hard job but very disagreeable in the draughts!

On the larger farms we had the water power driven mills and at Holland at that time the coal fired furnace to get the boiler up to a good head of steam. After this the oil engines took over and are operating up to the present day. And, of course, the other major power on the farm was the horse and to a small extent the humble ox. We must give credit to the wonderful work the horse did in its day. On every farm there would be one or two horses and up to five or six pairs on the larger farms. In the winter time it was steady carting, rain or shine, seaweed from the shore, turnip carting, dung carting, goods to and from the pier and between all this the ploughing with single or double furrow ploughs. Then on to the spring work, seed sowing, harrowing, rolling etc. Except on the larger farms, most of the seed was sown out of the sowing sheet by hand, filled out of bags of seed on the field, with a woman helper giving assistance. You had to get going as the man with the horses and harrows was coming up behind.

On the larger farms they had the broadcasting machine for sowing seed. Later came the corn drill for burying the seed. This was a skilled operation for any man. He had to drive his horses at straight as a die in the field from the first go to the last. If it wasn't done properly it looked bad when the seed came up in stripes showing each width difference.

*(continued on next page)*



Following that came the work with the grubber, spring harrows, rollers and harrows in preparation for the laying down of the turnips, with this very big average laid down at these times. It was a big job. Lots of the dung on the farm was carted and spread in the open drill. There was a lot of thin tired looking horses after all this work. Now they were due for a rest out on the grass till harvest time. When work started with the reaper on the smaller farms, another skilled job, mostly the man drove the horses and lifted the sheaves on the reaper. He had to gather the sheaves on the tilting board to the size he thought right and pushed it off with a wooden rake. In a medium crop this could be fairly easy but in a heavy crop it was hard work. You didn't get any thanks from the workers behind who had to lift and tie these untidy scattered sheaves.

Now just a word about tying the band for these sheaves. This is a job we had to learn young. It looks so simple but just try it some of you young folks here tonight.

Now the reaper was a big advance on the scythe but the scythe wasn't laid aside. All fields big or small had to be opened out with the scythe right round before that reaper or binder came in. Now to the binder. This made a tremendous difference to the work on the farm as a labour saving device.

After a bit the black polled cattle came in and took over to a great extent. I will not go over the different breeds here in Stronsay at the moment, they are too numerous to mention but I think you all know what I consider best!

Then we had our sheep. As to the different breeds, they are not so much different from first I remember but they have had their ups and downs in number. I would think at the present time it is below average.

First I remember hens were a must on small farms. I have carried many a basket of eggs to the shops. In a way they were a form of barter. The shopkeeper stated his price. In most cases you got groceries for the eggs. They were a weekly income on the smaller farms and for a long time did well but as feeding meats got dearer, overhead rose sharply and we can see the results today in the very small numbers kept. Except for eggs I would say we are supplying more and more food stuffs from our farm but fewer and fewer people are on the farms which I am sorry to say that I regret.

But on the credit side we now have a much higher standard of living. Take for instance the old age pension. First it came out it was five shillings! This is a subject in itself. To sum up we have seen remarkable changes in this period.

Now to young men in farms today I say - feed your land, feed your livestock and you won't go far wrong.

After a day's harvesting some of the workmen when at tea in the farmhouse kitchen were discussing the price of the wild white clover. On overhearing the conversation the lady of the house remarked "Well a pound won't go far". One man replied "No madam, not in these times"!

About this time the gramophone came in. You bought different records to play the tunes. We owned one. Harry Lauder's tunes were very popular. A retired couple, Mr and Mrs Miller, lived in Hill House and these tunes were a great source of delight to them. He developed cancer but nothing could be done about that at that time and he suffered badly before he died.

*(continued on next page)*

Some of the married workers owned a milking cow and the wife made butter and cheese. But when the calf was born it had to go to the employer in lieu of the cow's keep on the farm.

On a farm the size of Holland they needed a lot of cattle. They went out and bought cattle from all the farms that had ones to sell. The employers on larger farms did no manual work, there was usually a grieve. This man would allocate the work, each man getting up at 6 o'clock and doing the work required. If he was a horseman he had to dress, groom and give feeds of bruised oats and at night time they spent about an hour doing the same again, I would say people were fairly contented and happy. There were lots of dances in the Hall or barns at different farms,

On Sundays the churches were well attended, the preachers giving long sermons. On Sacrament Sunday there was a mid day break. Work on a Sunday was cut to a minimum - anything that could be left until Monday was left, quite different from the present day!

At this time big sailing ships were going downhill. It was time for the steamships to take over. They could get to port on a certain date and please customers,

It was in the year of 1890 that a sailing ship "Festina Lente" lay to the southwest of Torness, coming ashore on Torness. The men launched a boat and came ashore but one man was lost. The ship broke up on the rocks and pieces of her timbers have been washed up for years. It was during the spring of the same year that the barn at Holland was burnt to the ground. The rafters used on the new barn which stands today were from that self-same sailing ship - the "Festina Lente".

You can see the remains of another ship, the "Olga", which came ashore on the Creuk Sands between Housebay and Holland and parts of it can still be seen buried in the sand. I would say about 50 or 60 years ago a big steamer went ashore on the south side of Auskerry but all attempts to get her off failed. She was said to be going to ports in South America with an assortment of very trifling goods. In both these cases all the men were saved. The steamer concerned was the "Hastings County".

Then we had the loss of the St Rognvald which ran aground in Odiness Bay coming from Shetland. All aboard were saved including a Shetland pony which swam ashore. The St Rognvald lay aground most of the summer, eventually breaking up during the storms.

As a boy I remember the "Edenmore" - a sailing ship - going ashore on Papa Stronsay. It was during the summer time that she went aground and she lay quite safe for a good while. She was eventually bought from the insurers by a Kirkwall man who took everything of value out of her. She broke up when the winter storms came. One of the items in her was marbles so we had plenty of them to play with as boys. Some of the people who lived at the Station managed to get some good furniture out of her before she was taken over by the insurance.

At this time there was a big contract job going on at Lyness on Hoy, the building of a pier in deep water requiring a great deal of cement. A lot of Stronsay men were employed including myself. I was one of those who saw the scuttling of the German fleet - a well-planned affair, making a lot of work for Orkney men and taking a lot of money into the county.

*(concluded on next page)*

Back home I stayed at Sillerha, working a lot in the tangles during the winter months building them up on banks to dry out there in readiness to burn up for kelp. The kelp was sold through Balfour (who owned most of Stronsay) carted down to the pier and shipped to Grangemouth. We got roughly £4 a ton for the kelp.

We owned a boat and did a lot of fishing off Auskerry for cod and haddock but the big trawlers came in and finished that. We could still fish plenty of cuithes and sillocks near the shore. I can still picture rows and rows of 'tinos' as we called them hanging up in the kitchen in Sillerha drying. They kept well for eating.

I remember at the bught down at Torness one day getting as many as my father and I could carry, staggering home with them hung on a pole between us. Some task for the ladies to gut and clean!

This deals now with the farm work and houses we were in as a family. We spent 20 years in Sillerha', then on to Millfield for a similar period. My father died from a stroke and as I was the oldest I took over with my mother and the rest of the family. I was in my early forties before I married. We then took over the farm of Airy and lived there for 30 years, In money matters we did well!

We left the farm when my brothers and sister died, rented this house 'Lower Millfield' and lived together here for almost 10 years. Bella died leaving me here at the present time where I am well looked after by a niece, relatives and friends.

*If anyone has any other information or Stronsay related stories, I would be delighted to hear of it, either by giving me a phone on 01857 616322, emailing [ian.cooper56@gmail.com](mailto:ian.cooper56@gmail.com) or just drop in past Steenyshed.*

*Ian Cooper*



## CHRISTMAS CAROL FOR THE DOG

This is a carol for the dog  
that long ago in Bethlehem  
saw shepherds running towards the town  
and followed them.

He trotted stiffly at their heels;  
he sniffed the lambs that they were bringing;  
he heard the herald angels sing,  
yet did not know what they were singing.

With tail erect and tilted ears  
He trotted through the stable door.  
He saw the shepherds kneeling low  
upon the floor.

He found St Joseph watching by  
Our Lady with her new-born boy,  
and being only dog, he wagged  
his tail for joy.

There, stationed by the Baby's crib  
he kept good guard through the long night,  
with ears thrown back and muzzle high  
and both eyes bright.

When the three tall kings came at last  
he barked a warning to each one,  
then took his stand beside the Child,  
his duty done.

Down into Egypt went the dog  
when Herod slew the innocents.  
He was not wise. He did not know  
why, whither, nor whence,

But only, being dog, he knew  
to follow where the Family led  
to Egypt or to Nazareth,  
And no one said

A word about the sharp-nosed dog  
who stuck close to the Family then.  
And yet, there must have been a dog.  
This is a song for him. Amen.

*Sister Maris Stella*

# MUM

By Ellie Harrison

It's not easy being a mother,  
Seemingly to never just get it right,  
The worry it all entails  
As you worry long into the night.  
They believe you can solve it all,  
Problems as big as a mountain,  
Never-ending in their quantity  
But then, who's countin'?  
Every pain they endure is yours  
No matter what their age.  
Advice you give so often  
Whilst they simply turn the page.  
The very reason for your life  
From the moment they exist,  
The heart of you very world  
As they your soul have kissed.  
Their tiny fist encloses your finger,  
You're entwined right from the start.  
Their fist around your finger  
Their being around your heart.  
Being a mother is not easy,  
Shedding many a heart-breaking tear.  
If only you could protect them,  
To always keep them near.  
As your worries just increase  
As adults they become.  
And yes, it's worth it  
One hundred percent  
When they say  
"I love you, mum"

©Helene Harrison

## CHRISTMAS & HOGMANAY GREETINGS

The editor of the Limpet (and his green-eyed, pure white cat Surrey) send their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to readers of the Limpet wherever they may be with a special “thank you” to all the contributors of articles and/or photographs that appear in the Limpet.

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David and Ruth sent greetings for a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends in Stronsay.

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Ken and Pam would like to wish all our friends in Stronsay our best wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful and Brexit-free 2020!

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Flora and Butch would like to wish all our neighbours and friends in Stronsay "A Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

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Chris & Debbie would like to wish all their family, friends and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.  
Thank you for all the support during the past year.

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A merry Christmas and happy New Year from Paul and Charlie

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends on Stronsay.  
Leonora.

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We would like to wish all our friends new and old a very happy Christmas and a happy New year.  
Pam & Andy (Hillside)

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We should like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a successful, calm and prosperous New Year.  
Robert & Ruth. (Harroddale)

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Steve, Yvonne and Doreen would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

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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



## CHRISTMAS & HOGMANAY GREETINGS



To all my lovely customers and studio visitors throughout the year I'd like to say a massive thank you. Your continued support and encouragement is greatly appreciated. Airy Fairy studio will be closed to visitors now until mid January for some studio renovations. I am still able to access fabrics and wadding etc so if anyone needs anything in particular feel free to message or ring me. When I re open to visitors there will be even more lovely fabric! In the meantime I'd like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year

Hazel x

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The Stronsay Community Association would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported us in 2019; through hiring the hall or coming along to events! This really helps a lot and makes a huge difference in such a small community, thank you for supporting your local community hall.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



We are always looking to improve and appreciate any feedback where possible or any suggestions for what you would like to see in the hall in the future:



Find us on Facebook: [Stronsay Community Association](#)

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Orkney Star Island Soap would like to thank all you lovely customers for all the soaps you've bought over the year and wish you all a very good festive season.

Happy Christmas and Very Best Wishes for 2020 from Simone.

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### OLIVEBANK

We wish all our customers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you for your custom throughout the year.

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# FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

## FOR SALE

### **Waterhall, Lower Whitehall Road, KW17 2AS**

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

According to Gibson Waterhall was occupied in the 17th century. It appears on ancient maps perhaps because Mrs Trail estranged wife of the Sanday Esquire got a name for herself in Court. She did well out of the Kelp industry. The rear cottage is probably early 19th century and was formerly thatched. The late Mrs Chalmers of Rose Cottage gave me a photo of the front before the late 20th century extension, which now has yellow external insulation. The garage roof came off in the gale last winter, hit the caravan and took a bit of the workshop roof as well on route into Ingram's field. Fortunately no persons or animals were hurt.

All our houses have histories and hopefully one day a local archive will bring together deeds, photos etc. I shall go on clearing/working at Waterhall until it is sold.

Leo Martini-Brown, Dunera. [lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk)

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Items on this page are free!

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## **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!**



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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](mailto:facesoforkney@gmail.com)*

*Tel. Suzanne: 07914 379512*

*Special rates for Stronsay residents.*

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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.**

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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](http://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 @orkneywyrðweaver  
Email - thewyrðweaver@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](mailto:stronsaymarkets@gmail.com) and I will put you  
on my mailing list*

**PATRICK  
McGRATH  
LTD**



**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](mailto: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](http://www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk)**

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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](mailto:info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk)

Web: [www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk).



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## **BELLIE M DESIGNS**

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

Online shop [www.belliemdesigns.com](http://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.

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

### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper    Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

#### **Dr. Roger Neville-Smith's Retirement**

Stronsay Community Council wish to inform residents of the pending retirement of Dr Roger Neville-Smith, effective from 31 March 2020. We would like to thank him for his many years of loyal and dedicated service and wish him a happy retirement.

Dr Rosalind Fisher will continue to work part time and NHS Orkney will be advertising shortly to begin the recruitment process to fill the remainder.

Stronsay Island Link Officer  
3 December 2019

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### **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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### **PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Friday 20th December**

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

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## **Volunteer Befriender – Stronsay**

The Adult Befriending Service are looking for a one to one volunteer befriender in Stronsay

Do you have an hour a week to spare to visit an older person?

You could make a real difference in someone's life!

- Sit and chat
- Play a game
- Go out on a trip
- Go to a cafe

**Training will be given.**

If you are interested in becoming a befriender in Stronsay please contact the Adult Befriending Service on 01856872897 and ask to speak to Alison, Kasia or Lynn

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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:

Anthony Potts Tel: 616420 Email: [antpottsguitar@btinternet.com](mailto:antpottsguitar@btinternet.com)

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



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### **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

Let me start by wishing a very happy Christmas time to all! December started a bit rough with a good bit of wind, but it is wonderful to see how most of the events and festivities continue to go on. Maybe Stronsay team wins so much at the tug-o-war because they are constantly working and living against the wind! In any case life goes on and another year draws to a close. I hope you have had an enjoyable 2019, for me the year went by very quickly, it seemed I was just starting to make plans for what to do with the bairns during the summer holiday and already it is nearly January.

Time is a strange thing, occasionally when we have nothing going on it appears to drag by, other times it seems to leap or even fly past. It is something we can not control, nor stop, but only make the most of what we have. The good news is we have a God who not only created time but controls it and works out His will at the perfect time. In the book of Galatians, it tells us that in the right time God sent forth His Son to be born of the virgin. Even the things that would have seemed wrong in our eyes, such as Rome ruling over Israel, were used by God at the right time. A Roman decree caused Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem. The Roman system of roads and the peace of the empire at the time helped not only Mary and Joseph to travel safely, but later Jesus and His disciples as well, and permitted the Gospel message to spread easily to the far corners of the world. My simple message of encouragement for you this month is that God has all things in His control, including time. He will work out all things for His good purposes in His good time as we trust in Him. Our responsibility lies in listening to His voice and obeying His prompting. What ever season of life we might be in we can know that at the perfect time God will act.

Let me again wish all a very happy and merry Christmas. I hope to see many of you at the various Christmas time events. And may you have blessed start to the new year. ,  
Scott Daily, your locum minister

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

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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

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### **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***

### **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 in 2020 on dates that have yet to be decided.

---

### **KIRKWALL MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO STRONSAY**

**Next Mobile Library visit will be on Monday 3 February 2020**

#### **Winter**

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

#### **Summer/Refit**

- Council Houses 9 - 10
- School 10.15 - 12
- Kirk 12.30 - 3
- Fish mart 3.15 - 5.30

For full details visit the library's website

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

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

## **Orcades Practice – Stronsay Branch**

**Geramount**

**Stronsay**

12<sup>th</sup> December '19

Orkney Ferries refit timetable is due to start on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. During that time the weekly Eday visit will change from Thursday to Wednesday. We will therefore have GP clinics here on the Thursday instead of Wednesday until refit is finished.

Thank you

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

Dr Rosalind Fisher

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

### **MEDICATION OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**

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

---

### **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](mailto:orkney.stronsay@nhs.net)

Website [www.orkadespractice.co.uk](http://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**

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### **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
<a href="#">Bank day</a> . . . . .	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 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5">https://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5</a> )
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	Weekday Mass at 11.20am, except Tuesdays 8am. Sundays and Holidays of Obligation, Mass at 10.30am.
<a href="#">Next Special Collections</a> . . . . .	21 February 2020.
<a href="#">Weekly rubbish collection</a> . . . . .	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 <a href="mailto:contact@the-sons.org">contact@the-sons.org</a>)</i>

### **HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](#)**

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto: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



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