



## **TIMETABLES**

[Loganair - interisland timetable 29 Oct to 18 Feb 2024](#)

[Orkney Ferries - winter timetable 25 Sep 2023 to 4 May 2023](#)

[Orkney Ferries - refit timetable 7 Jan to 9 Mar 2024](#)

[OIC - school holidays 2023-2027](#)

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Impromptu Christmas Stitches	Fri 22 Dec
School Christmas holidays	Mon 25 Dec 2023 – Fri 5 Jan 2024
Orkney Ferries refit timetable starts	Sun 7 Jan 2024
OIC special collection	Mon 12 Feb 2024

## **STRONSAY HOTEL & PUB—REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK!**

Hi, for those who don't know me my name is Jim Seaton and I am currently one of the directors on Stronsay Hotel & Pub board on behalf of the Stronsay Development Trust.

The hotel has now been open for 6 weeks and, like all start up businesses, it has had some successes and some teething problems, but this is to be expected. As the hotel is an asset of the island and belongs to the island we feel that it is important to get feed back from the public, both positive and negative. Also, we would like to answer anyone's queries or address any rumours as it is important to us that we are open and welcoming to everyone on the island.

Please feel free to call/text 07470111871 or email [safehandsno\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:safehandsno_1@hotmail.com)

Thanks,

Jim Seaton

## **OIC ONLINE SURVEY**

Orkney Islands Council has today (20 December) launched its annual online survey seeking input from the community on where they want Council spending prioritised.

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/News?postid=8614>.

## **GP & COMMUNITY NURSE ROSTER**

The latest available roster for the Doctor and the Community Nurse can be found on the Stronsay Limpet's website at <https://stronsaylimpet.co.uk/RosterGPandNurse.html>

The next edition of the Limpet will be published on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**, the deadline is 7pm on that date. Contact details for the Limpet are on the back page of every edition.

## OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS & HOGMANAY

	<b>Surgery</b>	<b>Pub</b>	<b>Olivebank</b>	<b>Ebenezer</b>	<b>Fishmart</b>
<b>Fri 22 Dec</b>	Open usual hours	5pm—1am	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Sat 23 Dec</b>	CLOSED	5pm—1am	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Sun 24 Dec</b>	CLOSED	5pm—12am	CLOSED	7:30am—7:30pm	<b>Closed from Monday 18 December, reopen Wednesday 14 February</b>
<b>Mon 25 Dec</b>	CLOSED	12pm—5pm	CLOSED	10am—12noon	
<b>Tue 26 Dec</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am—12noon	
<b>Wed 27 Dec</b>	Open usual hours	5pm—12am	10am—1pm	10am—12noon	
<b>Thu 28 Dec</b>	Open usual hours	6pm—12am	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Fri 29 Dec</b>	Open usual hours	5pm—1am	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Sat 30 Dec</b>	CLOSED	5pm—1am	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Sun 31 Dec</b>	CLOSED	5pm—9pm	CLOSED	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Mon 1 Jan</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10am—12noon	
<b>Tue 2 Jan</b>	CLOSED	Open usual hours	CLOSED	10am—12noon	
<b>Wed 3 Jan</b>	Open usual hours	Open usual hours	CLOSED	10am—12noon	
<b>Thu 4 Jan</b>	Open usual hours	Open usual hours	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	
<b>Fri 5 Jan</b>	Open usual hours	Open usual hours	Open usual hours	7:30am—7:30pm	



## Stronsay Community Bus Launches January 2024

We are pleased to announce a new community bus service, commencing on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, supported by funding from the Stronsay Development Trust.

There are set routes for each day. To book your place, phone and leave a message or email before 7pm of the day of travel. We will then get back to you with a pick up time.

£2.50 per return journey.

Cash or card accepted.

**Phone:** 01857 616 376

**Email:** bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com

Tuesday	Morning ferry drop off, evening ferry pick up
Tuesday	Olivebank round trip 9:30-11:00
Wednesday	Village drop off 11:30 Pick up 1:00
Thursday	Morning ferry drop off, evening ferry pick up
Friday	Morning plane drop off, afternoon plane pick up

Thanks for all the community support in the last few months as we were getting established.

We are continuing the pupil and teacher transport, taxi service and mechanics and diagnostics.

We look forward to welcoming you in the new year.

Mick and Louise  
Bayview Transport



# Community Bus

Book by 7pm the day before travel

Contact Mick

07508884024

01857 616 376

[bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com](mailto:bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com)

Tuesday - Morning ferry drop off, evening pick up

Tuesday - Olivebank round trip 9:30-11:00

Wednesday - Village drop off 11:30, pick up 1:00

Thursday - Morning ferry drop off, evening pick up

Friday - Morning plane drop off, afternoon plane pick up

(max. 4 passengers)

Maximum 8 passengers. £2.50 per return journey. Cash or card accepted.

Booked passengers will be contacted the evening before travel with a collection time.



Taxi

School transport

Mechanic repairs and diagnostics

Contact Mick

07508884024

01857 616 376

[bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com](mailto:bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com)



19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The Manse, Stronsay KW17 2AF **KIRK CORNER**

[DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk)

01857 616284



Happy Christmas everyone.

Luke's gospel chapter 2 says: *the angel said to the shepherds, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'* When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, *'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

It seems a few got to see an angel, a few got to see the baby, but the real good news was spread by ordinary people; we can all be sharers of good news if we want, if we have eyes open to see the signs, like a humble baby



Our church angel has a broken wing; the winds here can even affect angels! Yet someone told us the kirk lights had cheered her up. Despite the broken wing, the light still shines out, through simple little signs if we have eyes to see amidst the ordinary, and hearts open to share.

For example, we can even get a tiny bit of good news about our ferries! I have enjoyed the ferries' Christmas decorations, and the wifi on board working. Today I heard the Earl Sigurd has started doing rolls and sausage- see

picture of the café notices. Now, I have not seen them, and maybe like some sceptics at Christmas, want clearer evidence! But I am cheered by the hope and look forward to trying them in the new year.

Another ordinary example, comes to mind which we maybe take for granted. We have just heard reassurance that the water on Stronsay is safe to drink, and we can be grateful to all who dealt with the issue and shared the news with us.

Separately, Christmas carol CDs the church handed out, cheered up a lady with dementia. A card from a local young person saying how she enjoyed our Messy Christmas service was so encouraging, as was when people joined with our son saying 'be not afraid' at the Carols by Candlelight' Yesterday I had a lovely Christmassy day on Eday, sharing with church and school folk- and I managed to reverse twice onto the ferries without making a fool of myself! It all added to the joy from the great Christmas events shared on Stronsay, in church, school, community hall, outside/inside, in the shops, Fishmart, Hotel and much more.



*(continued on next page)*

Where is the good news of Christmas to be found? Maybe the answer is in being open again to the lots of little ordinary ways that we can find and share goodness / good news, listening and seeing the hope around in Christmas, especially the basic hope of a child showing God is with us. God comes to be with us, amidst the troubles and trials of life, especially through people sharing and encouraging.

David Marie and Isaac wish everyone on or connected with Stronsay [and Eday], a Blessed Christmas and a good New Year. **David**



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### **TWENTY IS PLENTY!**

That's the message that motorists see when they drive through villages in The Highlands. Of course, many people are rushing to catch ferries at Scrabster or Gill's Bay but speeding, as we know, can wreak havoc in the lives of those affected. Twenty is plenty has now become an accepted part of the journey north.

Here on Stronsay, we live a different pace of life. We have learned, just recently, the effects of speeding on our island and while "twenty is plenty" is not something we would want here, slowing down especially around houses and the school can only be for the good of us all.

Please think about it...



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### **KEEPING WARM**

These knitting patterns are from the 1940s so they may not be high fashion but they will keep you warm!

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/1940s-knitting-patterns>

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If you see something in the Limpet that is inaccurate or no longer valid please drop a line to "*The Editor, Claremont KW17 2AR*" or email [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk)

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## Prescription Collection and Delivery Service



Please contact the wellbeing coordinator on 01857 616410 or email [sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com) if you would like a prescription collected and delivered.

The poster features a central graphic of two hands holding a coin, with the words "CASH IS FREEDOM" arched above it. Below this, the main title "A CASHLESS SOCIETY MEANS ZERO CASH" is displayed in large, bold, black letters, with "ZERO" underlined. A list of prohibitions follows in smaller, bold, black text, and the poster concludes with a warning about digital currency tracking.

**CASH IS FREEDOM**

**A CASHLESS SOCIETY  
MEANS ZERO CASH**

**NO CAR BOOT SALES / MARKETS  
NO TOOTH FAIRY / PIGGY BANKS  
NO SAVING CASH FOR A RAINY DAY  
NO TIPPING THE WAITER OR HAIRDRESSER  
NO GIVING TO THE HOMELESS  
NO GIVING TO BUSKING MUSCIANS  
NO SELLING UNWANTED ITEMS FOR CASH  
NO BUYING ANYTHING WITH PRIVACY  
100% DIGITAL CURRENCY MEANS YOUR LIFE IS  
100% DEPENDENT ON A POWER SOURCE & THE INTERNET**

**EVERY PENNY YOU RECEIVE WILL BE  
RECORDED. EVERY TRANSACTION  
WILL BE TRACKED**



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Stronsay Community Association would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported us in 2023; 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](#)



Housebay Hydraulics would like to say thank you to all of our customers and wish you all a

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!**



Thank you for supporting local and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

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 GREETINGS

The editor of the Stronsay Limpet wishes everyone a very happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year

A Christmas message to Roy & Beverley at Boondatoon.  
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year,  
Love Sheila & Robert xx

Happy Christmas and New Year to all, best wishes.  
Dianne

Ken and Pam would like to wish all our Stronsay friends a happy and healthy 2024

I wish all family, friends & acquaintances a very happy Christmas and a peaceful  
New Year. I also send a great big thank you to all the people who have so kindly given me  
lifts to/from the ferry, the doctor's surgery, and the kirk. Special thanks to both Olivebank  
& Ebenezer Stores for taking grocery orders via email, delivering the goods to my door  
and taking payment via BACS.

This year I am putting all the money that I would have spent on cards & postage to-  
wards a significant donation to the Salvation Army.

Bruce Fletcher (Claremont)

Roger, for Stronsay Markets and Stronsay Photographic,  
wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2024

Simone and David would like to wish everyone a happy festive season and the very best  
for 2024.

Wishing everyone all the best for the new year  
From Jim, Vicki and the boys

Flora & Butch wish their friends and neighbours in Stronsay 'A Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Peaceful New Year'

David and Ruth send Christmas and New Year greetings to all our friends in Stronsay

A big thank you to all soap and yarn fans for your custom this year  
Simone at Orkney Star Island Soap & Textiles

Wishing all Stronsay friends a Happy and Peaceful Xmas, a very Merry Hogmanay, and a  
good 2024. Love from Leonora.

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# FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc



## Stronsay at War

The Stronsay Heritage Society is planning to create a display and accompanying booklet for the Stronsay Heritage Centre to document *life in Stronsay* during the First and Second World Wars.

We are hoping that folks both in and outwith Stronsay will send us copies/scans/photographs of the following types of items:

- Written memories or diaries (of life in Stronsay or from Stronsay folk experiencing life elsewhere because of the war)
- Photos (of Stronsay or of Stronsay folk)
- Letters
- Postcards
- Memorabilia or Souvenirs
- Ration Cards
- Recipes or household hints
- Fashion
- Products/Labels/Advertisements from local businesses
- Invoices/Receipts
- Certificates or Awards
- Programmes of Events, Fundraisers or Appeals
- Newspaper clippings about Stronsay



We can also borrow your originals and scan them ourselves if that's easier for you.

Naturally, if you'd like to donate any wartime-related artefacts or original photos to the Heritage Centre, we'd be very glad to receive them.

Please contact Jennifer Graham (07973 716278)  
or Ian Cooper (616 322)  
or via email: [heritagesocietystronsay@gmail.com](mailto:heritagesocietystronsay@gmail.com)



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## **FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc**

### **FOR SALE**

White Citroen Berlingo diesel van, MOT July 2024, 2007 Reg. £850.  
Will deliver to Stronsay. Phone Ken on 01856 841487 or 07939 304 766.

### **RECYCLED CARDBOARD LOGS**

Winter is coming, the nights are getting colder, and the recycling centre has plenty of recycled cardboard logs. They are a bargain at only £7.00 for 30 logs. Available at the recycling centre or call Viv on 207.

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### **VAN AVAILABLE FOR CHARITY WORK**

The Pomona Prefect logo peedie red van is available for charity work on the island if anyone needs a man and a van and wants to help the island reach the target. Saturdays service and cost for this is suggested as £10 per hour min donation for half hour units. All to the Stronsay Defib fund. No live animals, persons transported or dirty, sloppy stuff carried. Limited load and not a taxi service. This is a temporary thing to raise money and not a challenge to any services on the island. Call Julie for all taxi work and Sinclair Haulage for freight!

Also, if anyone needs their car karcher jet washed and vaccuming and then can do at Ellerslie as you pass for a donation to same Defib Fund. Cost is £10 per basic body wash and wheels rinsed and boot/inside vacced. Limited to cars. No monster trucks, panel vans, lorries or camper vans sorry.

This charity service will be hopefully available until there are enough defib machines in position with the people trained to cover us all 24/7. Availability is limited to Saturdays.

Any questions and to book give me a call.

Nicandro J. Porcelli, Ellerslie. Telephone or text to - 07732 276046

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## **FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc**

### **DONNA BLYTH EDUCATION SERVICES**

Donna Blyth BA Hons, MEd, PGCE, SQH, CPT3A, CELTA

Email: [donnablyth@outlook.com](mailto:donnablyth@outlook.com)

Tel: 01857 616242 / 07852 805780

Tuition in English Language, English Literature, EAL and Literacy for learners of all abilities from age 5 - adult

£25.00 per hour for 1:1 tuition

£45.00 per hour for groups of 2 or more depending on requirements (max 4)

Tuition in clarinet performance and music theory up to grade 5

£15 per 30min lesson for 1:1 tuition

Assessment for Applications for Examination Access Arrangements

Assessments and reports for EHCP and Coordinated Support Plan applications

Please contact me for details and prices

I am GTCS, DBS and PVG Scheme registered.

I have valid, current Safeguarding and Prevent certification

References available if required

All enquiries and services provided are treated in confidence as far as possible and according to KCSIE legislation 2023

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### **WANTED—INFORMATION**

re. history of SS Athenia life-boat, now at Seafield, Stronsay.

Can anyone help in establishing the identity of a Stronsay resident who actually lived in the SS Athenia converted lifeboat on the foreshore at Seafield, during the years 1960-1980 (very approximate) together with his sheep!?

This information came from Mr Thomas Shearer, who lived at Seafield for many years from about 1983 - 2002, and who now lives in Kirkwall. He cannot remember this other man's name, and whilst it does not effect the wartime history of the lifeboat, it adds an interesting dimension to its post-war history.

Any information would be gratefully appreciated, thank you.

Brian Crowe

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# FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

## **PROPERTY FOR SALE**

**Dunera, Lower Whitehall Road, Stronsay, KW17 2AS**

A detached bungalow (period 1920-60s) with garden and parking space.  
Comprising huge sitting room sea facing, kitchen/diner, 4 bedrooms, shower room & hall  
(167 sq. metres) plus 4 sq. metre porch.

Habitable but needs upgrading or project development.

Oil fired central heating with multi fuel stove in living room.

Water, phone connected.

SEPA for up to 6 residents.

Council Tax C.

Primary energy indicator 288 kWh.

£5736 over 3 years. Energy Efficiency Band E (44) – Scottish average is Band D - 60

Environmental Band F (37) – Scottish average band D - 59

**Interest invited. Not currently with external agent.**

**Viewing by advanced appointment only. Flexible entry date.**

**Offers invited above £130k. Finance options from seller.**

**Leo Martini-Brown**

**[lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk)**

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# Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

*A monthly report from your councillor, who's been working to improve road safety for our island children.*

20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph—20mph



Work is now underway to install the new 20mph speed limits at Sanday School. Gradually, my long struggle for road safety for our island children is coming to fruition. It is anticipated that the installation of 20mph limits will be completed at all the Isles schools by this summer.

I was able to attend the meeting of Stronsay Parent Council in person. After the meeting, we had an interesting tour of the Stronsay Junior High School's facilities for play pedagogy. (This is not a new pedagogical approach, with play being an essential component of A.S. Neill's educational philosophy, as practised at Summerhill School in Suffolk for over a century now.) I am a qualified teacher myself, and I maintain my registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, even though, as a councillor, I am not permitted to teach in Orkney Islands Council's schools. Formerly, I did supply work at Sanday Community School, teaching predominantly science and mathematics. I have an abiding interest in education, and I am not alone in being profoundly disturbed by the direction our SNP/Green Scottish Government is steering education in Scotland. The latest results published by PISA (the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment) confirm that something is going awry, with scores in Scotland in all three categories (reading, science, maths) falling to record lows. The "Curriculum for Excellence" clearly isn't excellent under this government, and even the First Minister has conceded that this is "not good enough". I agree with him! Persistent political meddling should be pushed out of education, and the bulk of bureaucracy banished.

Teachers need to be alert to creeping Americanisation, largely due to the Internet and wrongly-set spell-checkers. I've noticed a few school-produced carol sheets with Noah Webster's spellings of certain words, such as "Savior" instead of "Saviour".

Remaining on the education theme, I attended an entirely virtual public meeting of the University of the Highlands & Islands Foundation (on which I've been OIC's representative since 2012—one of the longest serving Foundation members). The *UHI Strategic Plan 2030* has now been published, and I was pleased to see in print my changes to the University's "mission", approved by Foundation at the 1<sup>st</sup> June meeting (*Issue 125*). The mission reads: "To have a transformational impact on the people, communities and economy of our regions." Unlike any other university, the UHI has a commitment to our region, to the Highlands and the islands, indeed, this is why it was established in the first place. Orkney College (rebranded *UHI Orkney* for consistency throughout the partnership) is now uniquely the only local-authority-owned partner in the UHI, and OIC has a special responsibility to nurture it and grow it as a fully tertiary institution. An alternative model was presented at the Foundation meeting by way of the example of the newly created, combined *UHI North, West and Hebrides*. This new institution results from the merger of North Highland College, Lews Castle College and West Highland College, and its strategic aims include growing research and knowledge exchange, and enhancing the standing and experience of its staff—admirable aims that we should be adopting at UHI Orkney, too.

After the night in Stronsay, I spent the rest of that week in Kirkwall, attending a special meeting of the Monitoring & Audit Committee, and two lengthy meetings of the Policy & Resources Committee, before managing to get home to Sanday in time for its Christmas tree lighting event.

Robert Burns wrote "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men gang aft a-gley," and this applied to my attendance at a meeting of another external body on which I am OIC's representative, the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. The meeting was to be held (as is customary) in the ballroom of the Pentland Hotel in Thurso. Then, owing to the weather forecast, this meeting, which I was booked to attend in person, was cancelled at very short notice. It was transformed into a virtual "Teams" meeting, to which, in the event, I was unable to gain access, despite numerous attempts. So frustrating, so computer technology.

Other meetings I've attended this month include some confidential members' sessions, a ("blended") meeting of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board, and a General Meeting at which I was one of the minority of seven sensible councillors who supported installing temporary toilets at the Ring of Brodgar carpark while a longer-term solution is being sought.

The festive period is a good time to catch up on reading. Thinking of something appropriate to the season, I cannot make up my mind whether to tackle finishing *The Bible*, read *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, or embark on *The Works of Flavius Josephus*. My favourite Christmas film is *The Shining*.

*Stephen*

**Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson**  
Member for the North Isles Ward,  
Depute Convener Orkney & Shetland VJB

West Manse, Sanday  
[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)

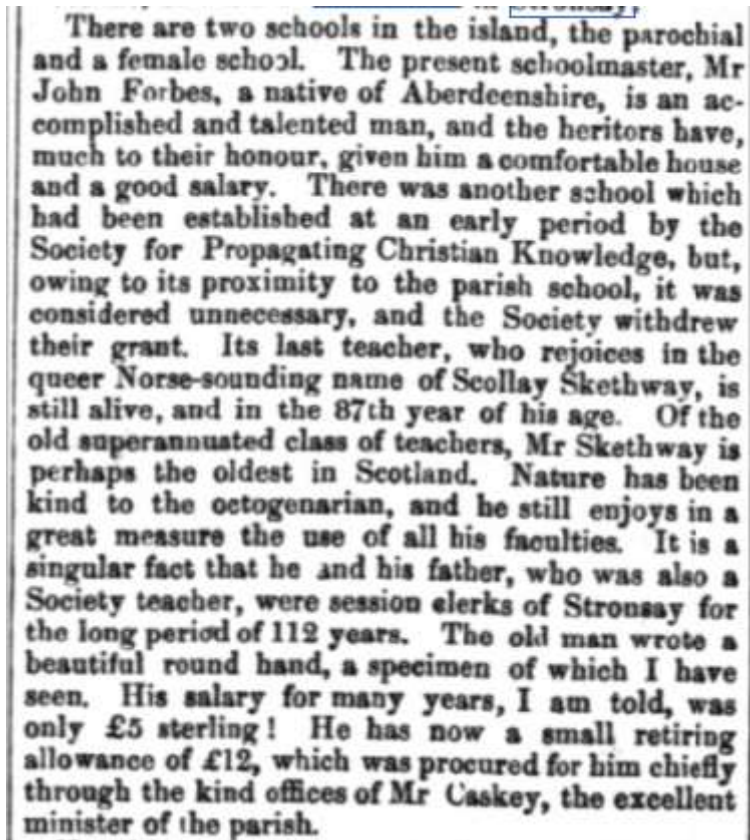
*Letter from School Place* is also available on-line at [clackson.info](http://clackson.info)





## Records of a Bygone Age Stronsay Schools Part 2 – The coming of the 1872 Education Act

In Part 1 of this story we were left with a number of unanswered questions about long-time teacher Scollay Skethway and where he had actually taught. An article written by one James Calder in the John o' Groats Journal of August 1863 does give a little more information about Mr Skethway and his school but still leaves unanswered the questions of where it was situated and how long it operated, as is the question of where the female school mentioned in the article was located.



There are two schools in the island, the parochial and a female school. The present schoolmaster, Mr John Forbes, a native of Aberdeenshire, is an accomplished and talented man, and the heritors have, much to their honour, given him a comfortable house and a good salary. There was another school which had been established at an early period by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, but, owing to its proximity to the parish school, it was considered unnecessary, and the Society withdrew their grant. Its last teacher, who rejoices in the queer Norse-sounding name of Scollay Skethway, is still alive, and in the 87th year of his age. Of the old superannuated class of teachers, Mr Skethway is perhaps the oldest in Scotland. Nature has been kind to the octogenarian, and he still enjoys in a great measure the use of all his faculties. It is a singular fact that he and his father, who was also a Society teacher, were session clerks of Stronsay for the long period of 112 years. The old man wrote a beautiful round hand, a specimen of which I have seen. His salary for many years, I am told, was only £5 sterling! He has now a small retiring allowance of £12, which was procured for him chiefly through the kind offices of Mr Caskey, the excellent minister of the parish.

In addition to Mr Skethway's role as schoolmaster, he was appointed as a ruling elder of the Established Church, acting for many years as Session Clerk to the Kirk Session. This too was a post his father had held before him, with John acting as Session Clerk to the then minister Robert Scollay for a long time and this association with Rev Scollay may well have been where Scollay's unusual Christian name was derived.

The Kirk Session of that period was a powerful body, whose duty included meting out the justice of the time to those who were perceived by the Church to have stepped out of line. In the Session minute of a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1847 it is interesting to note a part of this duty recorded as follows:

*'The Moderator stated that he had called this meeting in consequence of a Fama Clamosa concerning Mr Stewart Logie, Parish Schoolmaster, Stronsay, the members present having taken the case into consideration unanimously came to the resolution to refuse Mr Logie admission to the Lord's Table until he proves his innocence.'*

*(continued on next page)*

Scollay Skethway continued in the post of Session Clerk until 1856 when John Forbes took on the role, the third consecutive headmaster to hold the post.

Returning to schools once more it seems that Stronsay must have been luckier than many other Orkney schools where, in a lecture given in Kirkwall in 1850, one Dr Paterson painted a depressing picture of the schools of the time:

*'The parochial schools of Orkney are in a state of the most lamentable inefficiency. The average attendance at several of them during the year did not exceed eight or ten pupils, while the education attained at many of them is of the meanest and most trifling kind. Although there are exceptions among the teachers, and although many of them may be inoffensive men, yet in general they are so illiterate, and so disqualified for their situation, that a considerable part of the £470 paid in salaries to them is worse than thrown away.'*

In all likelihood this lecturer would have been Rev Dr Robert Paterson, minister of Kirkwall's East (or Paterson) Church, which is now part of the Orkney Islands Council Offices.



*Kirkwall's East Church, familiarly known as the Paterson Church where its long-time minister Rev Robert Paterson preached for 50 years.*

Much of the following information regarding schools and teachers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the time of the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 has been gleaned from the Census records of the time so there will be gaps in the timescale and some of the details are my own interpretation of what seems a likely progression of teachers and the schools they taught in.

We firstly return to Stewart Logie, recorded as Schoolmaster of the Parish School in the 1841 census. Mr Logie's wife had died in 1842 and, by the 1851 census, 58 year old Mr Logie was living at 5 Whitehall with his two sons, with his occupation recorded as a retired schoolmaster. This seems quite a young age to retire from the teaching profession and we are left to wonder if the *fama clamosa* considered by the Kirk Session a few years earlier could have had any bearing on his retiral.

*(continued on next page)*

That same 1851 census shows a 26 year old John Forbes living at Hunton, with his occupation given as a Parochial Schoolmaster and General Teacher, having been appointed to the post in May 1849. It's interesting to note here that his birthplace was recorded in the census as 'At Sea, British Subject'.

By the time of the 1861 census he is residing in the Schoolhouse of Stronsay with his wife Catherine and their young daughter, by which time Mr Forbes was recorded as being the Island Registrar in addition to his role as Parish Schoolmaster.

It is in 1861 too that another school first puts in its appearance in a census when the name of 21 year old Miss Peterina Peace first appears, recorded as a Teacher of English at the New School and her name was to be synonymous with education in Stronsay for many years to come. This new school was funded and run by the United Presbyterian Church in Stronsay but it isn't clear just where the school was. A leading contender has to be at what is now called the Old Schoolhouse, although it may possibly have been sited elsewhere.

Moving on to the 1871 census we find Mr Forbes still in post as a Parochial Schoolmaster, now with a family of six, but, in what I believe must have been an error, his name was recorded as Thomas instead of John. Miss Peace too was still shown as a teacher at the New School, being resident there with her widowed mother and widower grandfather.

1. Thomas Forbes, (M), 41, Head, Mar. Parochial Schoolmaster. At Sea ( British Subject )
2. Catherine Forbes, (F), 37, Wife, Mar. . S Ronaldsay
3. Edith W Forbes, (F), 11, Dau, . Scholar. Stronsay
4. Catherine Forbes, (F), 9, Dau, . Scholar. Stronsay
5. George Forbes, (M), 8, Son, . Scholar. Stronsay
6. Christine Forbes, (F), 5, Dau, . Scholar. Stronsay
7. Elizabeth Forbes, (F), 3, Dau, . . Stronsay
8. Charles Forbes, (M), 1, Son, . . Stronsay
9. Janet Lennie, (F), 24, Servant, S. General Servant. Stronsay
10. Mary Lennie, (F), 21, Servant, S. General Servant. Stronsay

### *The Forbes family at the Schoolhouse as recorded in the 1871 Census*

The following year, education in Scotland was to make a gigantic leap with the introduction of the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act which enshrined in law compulsory education for every child in Scotland between the ages of 5 and 13, stating that '*There shall be provided for every parish and burgh a sufficient amount of accommodation in public schools available for all persons resident in such parish and burgh for whose education efficient and suitable provision is not otherwise made...*'

This Act was to be overseen by the Scotch Education department in London and a vital component of this was the formation of School Boards in every burgh and parish, those Boards being charged to '*maintain and keep efficient every school under their management, and shall from time to time provide such additional school accommodation as they shall judge necessary.*'

With the Act gaining Royal Assent in August 1872, the formation of around 1,000 School Boards in Scotland moved rapidly forward and, with Stronsay and Eday linked together to form a joint School Board, elections were soon held there.

*(continued on next page)*



Those successful in the first election were Colonel David Balfour of Balfour, Rev Joseph Caskey of Stronsay, Rev James Ingram of Eday, Mr Adam Horne of Eday and Mr Thomas Scott of Stronsay and they moved to their first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1873.

At this meeting, noting that *'in performing their duties under this Act, it shall be lawful for any school board to acquire by purchase or otherwise sites for schools, teachers houses and gardens, and to enter into contracts for the erection of schools and teachers houses thereon...'* it was resolved to proceed immediately with the erection of two Female Infant Schools, complete with schoolhouses, one in the north end of the island and one in the south.

Free education for all was still some way off and fees for pupils attending the school were fixed at 1/6d (7½ p) per quarter, quite a significant amount at that time, with the fees payable in advance to be collected by the Clerk and accounted for by him to the treasurer of the Board.

With these fees set, it was also noted that the Act stipulated *'it shall be the duty of every parent to provide elementary education in reading, writing, and arithmetic for his children, between five and thirteen years of age'* and that the Board also had a duty of care to pupils whose parents were *'unable from poverty to pay therefor; to apply to the parochial board of the parish or burgh in which he resides, and it shall be the duty of the said board to pay out of the poor fund the ordinary and reasonable fees for the elementary education of every such child.'*

The Board also gave notice to the Parochial Board (the forerunner of the Parish Council) of the island that an assessment of 9d (3½p) in the pound should be added to the local taxes. An annual government grant was also available, its payment rate being dependent on satisfactory school inspections and attendance rates. These three elements together were then expected to fund the educational costs on the island.

At what was obviously a very busy initial meeting of the Board, John Forbes, the present teacher at the Parish School of Stronsay, was appointed to continue as headmaster of the now renamed Public School at a salary of £100 per annum. It was also agreed that it would be most appropriate for 'accommodations' of younger children to be taught by female teachers.

Further appointments were made, with William Stevenson, Holland, John Meil, Samson's Lane and Robert Chalmers, Milltown being appointed, together with Joseph Caskey and Thomas Scott, as Managers for the Stronsay district.

A report before the Board informed them that *'the detached peninsula of Rothiesholm was found to contain about 30 children under 13 years of age of whom about 20 were too young to attend any of the proposed schools'* and Rev Caskey was appointed to correspond with the Board of Education as to the best mode of supplying them with a means of education. This was to be the first of many conversations regarding the Rothiesholm children and how their education could best be catered for.

Just three months later, in July 1873, the School Managers were authorised to secure sites, prepare plans and estimates and to do generally whatever may be required to expedite the construction of the two schools and their attached teacher's houses.

*(continued on next page)*

The new Board had on hand £20/11/4d from fees collected from the old Parochial School and agreed to open a new bank account with this. It was also agreed that a suitable coal cellar should be constructed at the school and that the treasurer should arrange the supply 2 tons of coal for school use for the ensuing year. Cleaning the school and tending the fire in the school was to be paid at the rate of 30/- (£1-50p) per year.

Headmaster Mr Forbes drew their attention to the condition of the existing school-house and outbuildings and it was remitted to the School Managers to take immediate steps to put the house and buildings into a state of thorough repair. An estimate of £36 from joiner James Chalmers and mason Caleb Dickson was later received for the necessary repairs while the cost of a 10' x 8' coal shed was quoted at £14/12/- and an estimate for the building of a garden wall around the property at 3/- (15p) per linear yard was also submitted. All but the garden wall were authorised to go ahead, with the wall to be reconsidered the following year.

Also at that July meeting, following informal discussions with the Managers of the Stronsay United Presbyterian Church, the Board considered a formal letter offering to transfer ownership of the U.P. Female School to the School Board as follows:

*'We the Session of the U.P. Congregation of Stronsay, Managers of the Stronsay U.P. Female School, do hereby give over to you any claim we have to said school with its furniture. As a condition of this transference of property we would mention that the present teacher Miss Peterina Peace be continued in the situation now held at a rate of remuneration not less than she is now receiving.*

*We have no written, or indeed, any title to the site, the free use of which has hitherto been granted by Colonel Balfour of Balfour as a convenience and benefit to the inhabitants of Stronsay.*

*We have no claim to the dwelling house built to the east end of the school room by Thos. Fotheringham presently residing there, therefore wish it to be distinctly understood that this note of transference conveys no right nor title to said dwellinghouse.'* (Thomas Fotheringham, who had built the dwelling house in question, was the grandfather of Miss Peace)

After due consideration of this offer the School Board was happy to accept the property under those terms and conditions.

Another task at this meeting was to set the school holidays and, aware that many of the pupils would be expected to help with harvest work, it was agreed that, rather than set a fixed date, the six week summer holiday should commence at the beginning of harvest, with a week's holiday for the Christmas period beginning on Christmas Day.

By the end of October 1873 grant applications for funding the new schools had been submitted to the Scotch Education Department and had been agreed by them. Sites for the schools had also been agreed, one at the junction of the Housebay and Everbay roads and the other at the junction of the Whitehall road with the main road near Clestrain, both sites being the property of Colonel Balfour.

*(continued on next page)*

More appointments were being made by the School Board, with 18 year old Grace Chalmers of Castlehill being appointed as Sewing Mistress at the Central School at a wage of 2/6d (12½p) per week while Edith Forbes, daughter of the schoolmaster, and Alexander Learmonth of Millfield, both about 13 years old, were appointed as Monitors at the same school at a salary of £1 per annum, all appointments commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1874. What could well have been the first school inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) under the new School Board system took place in October 1874. Very good Inspectorate reports were submitted for both the Central and South Schools but it was noted that attendance was below average and the School Board Officer was to be authorised to visit defaulting parents with a view to increasing attendance. This report for the South School could only have been for the old United Presbyterian school as the new South School had yet to be built.

In December 1874 plans for both the North and South female and infant schools prepared by architect John Scott were to hand and found satisfactory and title to the proposed sites confirmed. By April 1875 plans and specifications for schools and schoolhouses had been finalised and agreed and tenders sought.

The HMI inspector again visited in October 1875 and the resulting report painted a glowing picture of the school, stating that:

*'This is one of the best schools I have seen. There is not a failure in any branch and in several subjects (notably in grammar) the attainments of the children are very considerably beyond the requirements of the Code. Parsing is full and accurate; meanings of words are given with great intelligence. Writing is well formed and Copy books are clean and carefully kept. Arithmetic is very accurate. There was not a figure wrong in the first Standard and scarcely a mistake in the Second and Third. Geography and History are complete, ready and thoughtful.*

*The leading feature of the school is the admirable organisation and order with which the pupils obey and execute instructions and the general tone of politeness and good breeding is simply admirable. Excellent specimens of sewing were shown. Edith Forbes deserves special praise for her papers'*

The members of staff at this time were headmaster John Forbes assisted by 2<sup>nd</sup> year Pupil Teachers Alexander Learmonth and Edith Forbes, with Grace Chalmers in the role of Sewing Mistress.

In March 1877, in what seems to have been quite a generous gesture by the Board, two Pupil Teachers, who I assume would have been Miss Forbes and Mr Learmonth, the two monitors appointed 3 years earlier, were given 30/- each in recognition of their having passed their latest teacher exams. Around the same time Grace Chalmers resigned as Sewing Mistress, apparently to concentrate on her dressmaking skills at her parent's new house at Sandybank, and the Clerk was instructed to advertise for a new Mistress.

If any of our readers have any information or theories about these schools, their teachers or where the schools may have been situated I would be delighted to hear of it by email at [ian.cooper56@gmail.com](mailto:ian.cooper56@gmail.com) or give me a phone on 01857 616322.

Ian Cooper, December 2023



# FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

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For information about Stronsay, our lifestyle, its good school and other facilities please visit [www.visitstronsay.com](http://www.visitstronsay.com)

For further information about the sites please contact

- Sharon at Orkney Property Centre, Kirkwall on 01856 877 866 or
- Dianne on 07785 111 126 or
- email [drileymoore@hotmail.com](mailto:drileymoore@hotmail.com)

Planning ref: 18/038/PIP on Orkney Islands Council planning web site



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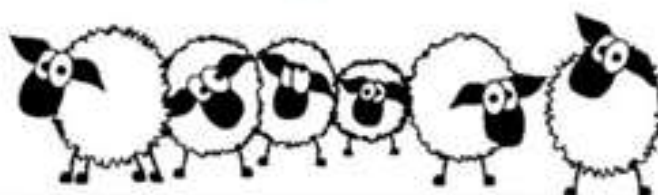
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For further information go to web page <https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/mobile-library>,  
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Winter	Council Houses	8.45	-	9.45
	School	10	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	4.45
Summer/Refit	Council Houses	9.25	-	10
	School	10.15	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	5.30

### IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS STITCHERS

## Stronsay Stitchers



Claremont

Friday December 22nd

1.30 onwards

Looking forward to a get together before Christmas!

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

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## **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
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Give us a call on 616410 or email [cdostronsay@gmail.com](mailto:cdostronsay@gmail.com) and see what's available.

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## **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

On the back page of every edition of the Limpet there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

## **SWIMMING POOL - OPENING TIMES**

Charges - Adults £3, Children £1.50, Private Hires £15.

<b>Monday</b>	Adult lane 6:30-7:10:00	Public session 7:10– 7:50
<b>Thursday</b>	Private hire 6:30-7:10	Public session 7:10-7:50
<b>Saturday</b>	Private hire 2:00-2:40	Public session 2:40-3:20

To book a private hire phone Elsie on 616238.

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### **LIFEGUARDS WANTED!**

Stronsay swimming pool is looking for enthusiastic, reliable and conscientious people to become part of the pool team.

We will train you using the national standard RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and in return all we ask is you help us keep our small pool open and sustainable.

The ability to swim and a degree of fitness is required before you start your journey into ‘lifeguard life’.

Interested parties should contact Andy Rose: email [andyrose85@btinternet.com](mailto:andyrose85@btinternet.com), phone 01857 616277 or mobile 07769 689 310

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### **OVERSEERS WANTED !**

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## **STRONSAY ON YOUTUBE**

- [59° North](#)
- [Links House, Stronsay: Finding the Mesolithic in Orkney](#)
- [Stronsay, Orkney](#)
- [The mystery of the Stronsay Monster](#)
- [Orkney—living and working](#)
- [1930's stone crushing machine in action on Stronsay](#)
- [Stronsay harbour \(taken from inside the harbour\)](#)
- [Five reasons to visit Stronsay](#)

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### **HANDY EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

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Olivebank [m.williamson1@btconnect.com](mailto:m.williamson1@btconnect.com)

Fishmart café [fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com](mailto:fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com)

For telephone numbers see the back page of this edition.

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### **OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIERHEAD**

#### **OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES**

Our Lady's Chapel on the pier is open for public Masses with the permission of the Bishop of Aberdeen.

Mass times are as follows:-

- Sunday & holidays: 11am
- Tuesday: 8.00am
- All other days: 11.20am

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### **GOLGOTHA MONASTERY, PAPA STRONSAY**

#### **DAILY STREAMING BROADCAST**

There is a daily streaming broadcast from Golgotha Monastery, Papa Stronsay.

<http://www.papastronsay.com/live>

The broadcast runs from 4pm – 7pm (the times shown are approximate):

- 4pm Short talk by one of the priests.
- 4:30pm Recitation of the Rosary.
- 5pm Mass.
- 6pm Further prayers and office of the day.

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### **STRONSAY KIRK**

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Minister—Rev David Locke, phone 616284.

Stronsay kirk's website:

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

Stronsay kirk's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553904828107651>



**STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Chair: Shirley Whiteman      Vice Chair: Damian Stout

**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Stronsay Community Council invites applications for financial assistance from anyone who is permanently resident on Stronsay.

Grants are available for travel assistance and events and/or projects of benefit to the community.

If the request is for travel assistance, members can award 50% of the requested amount with a capping limit of £200 funding within twelve months.

Full details of the event and/or project will be required and will be submitted to the next Community Council meeting for consideration.

Financial requests must be with the Island Link Officer prior to the event/project taking place and the payment of any grant awarded will require submission of evidence of expenditure from the applicant.

Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be submitted on an Application For Financial Assistance form available from the Island Link Officer.

If more information, or an Application for Financial Assistance form is required, please contact the Island Link Officer, tel: 616446 [email: stronsaycc@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaycc@gmail.com)

Colin McAlpine  
Stronsay Island Link Officer  
19 October 2022

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If you see something in the Limpet that is inaccurate or no longer valid  
please drop a line to "*The Editor, Claremont KW17 2AR*"  
or email [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk)



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See Stronsay Markets on YouTube [https://youtu.be/8e6sz\\_Z2eQU](https://youtu.be/8e6sz_Z2eQU)

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

## **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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### **HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET***

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

# Love Parties, but hate waste?



Reduce landfill waste by hiring Peedie Party Packs range of children's reusable plates, cups & cake stands instead of buying disposable! we even have themed packages & games packs available, happy to accept hires from across Orkney including the Isles.



Peedie Party Packs



peediepartypacks2221



PeediePartyPacks@hotmail.com

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

Post Office opening hours . . . . .	Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 5:00pm. Sunday closed all day
Post collection times . . . . .	Ebenezer post box 7:30am, Monday to Saturday
Bank (RBS) . . . . .	Thursday 9:30am to 3pm (closed 12-1 lunch), phone 616262
OIC Special collection. . . . .	Week Commencing: 12 Feb 2024
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 . . .	Weekly service at 11am
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	Mass: Sun & holidays 11am, Tue 8am, other days 11.20am
Next mobile library van visit .	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/orkmoblib">https://tinyurl.com/orkmoblib</a>
<a href="#">Weekly rubbish collection</a> . . . .	Tuesday (bags out by <b>8am</b> but <b>not</b> on the night before!)
Recycling skips nearly full? . .	Send email to <a href="mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk">recycling@orkney.gov.uk</a>
Forward scam emails to . . . . .	<a href="mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk">report@phishing.gov.uk</a>
Stronsay's Facebook page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/476168409207488">https://www.facebook.com/groups/476168409207488</a>

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

Airy Fairy . . . . .	616231	Silver Darlings . . . . .	616412
Bank ( <i>Thursday only</i> ) . .	616262	Sinclair Haulage . . . . .	600404
Community council . . . .	616446	Star Island Soap . . . . .	616281
Companions Club . . . . .	616352	Stranded seals, etc . . . . .	616207/206/498
Craftship Enterprise . . . .	0778 511 1126	Stronsay Band . . . . .	616335
Doctor . . . . .	616321	Stronsay Pub & Hotel . . .	616407
Ebenezer Stores . . . . .	616339	Stronsay school . . . . .	616246
Ebenezer Oil Heating . . .	616207	Stronsay taxi, school . . . .	616376 or
<i>or</i> 07500 682 867		transport, mechanic	07508 884 024
Fish Mart . . . . .	616401	diagnostics & repairs	
Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210		
<i>or</i> <a href="mailto:contact@the-sons.org">contact@the-sons.org</a>		Balfour hospital (24/7). . .	01856 888000
Hairdresser . . . . .	616337	Water problems (24/7) . .	0800 0778 778
Hall bookings . . . . .	616263	Electricity	
<i>or</i> <a href="mailto:annemaree.carter@btinternet.com">annemaree.carter@btinternet.com</a>		general enquiries	0800 048 3516
Highland Fuels . . . . .	01856 873766	<i>(lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)</i>	
Island Link Officer . . . . .	616475	problems (24/7) . . .	0800 300 999
Kirk secretary . . . . .	616238	power cut (24/7). . .	105
Limpet editor . . . . .	616297	Police (non urgent) (24/7)	101
Medical emergency . . . .	616321	Kirkwall Library . . . . .	01856 873166
Neil's on Wheels . . . . .	07723 304 260	Dentists:	
Manse . . . . .	616284	Daisybank Clinic . .	01856 870547
Nurses . . . . .	616321	Deyanov Dental . . .	01856 877118
Olivebank . . . . .	616255	Com Dental Service	01856 888258
OIC out of hours . . . . .	01856 873535	Orkney Dental . . . .	01856 872030
Post Office . . . . .	616499	Vets:	
Red House Plants . . . . .	616377	Flett & Carmichael .	01856 872859
Registrar . . . . .	616239	Northvet . . . . .	01856 873403
Scottish Fuels . . . . .	01856 873105		
SDT office . . . . .	616410		

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