

STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST ISSUE 51 - SEPTEMBER 2009





STRONSAY GAMES CLUB

By Sheena Cooper

Here are some members of Stronsay Games Club receiving their Dynamic Youth Certificates which they achieved by attending the Orkney Association of Youth Clubs "fit 4 it" day in April.



Back row - Janet Holland, Chris Rose, Josh Cross, Zoe Birro, Alice Holland, Lauren Caithness

Middle - Craig Stout, Cameron Johnstone, Tina Riches, Alison Fraser, Avril Kent, Juliette Peace.

Front - Andrew Fraser, Natalie Rose, Keith Holland, Jacqui Smith.

Missing from the photo but also achieving certificates were Leanne Stout, Ocean Miller, Storm Miller, Elaine Dennison, Sinead Cooper, Lorraine Stout, Jenna Stevenson, Norman Chalmers, Jody Weaver and Diane Smith.

FROGS IN STRONSAY

By James Macleod

On a nice afternoon walk with my 13 week old puppy to the Crofters hill on the south end of Stronsay I was walking along and then came to a ditch. Having a look in the ditch I saw something move. When I had a closer look I realized it was a frog. I had heard that frogs were quite rare in Stronsay so I was quite excited. We tried to get a few pictures but the frog escaped. Disappointed I had no evidence of my frog find I carried on walking following the ditch. Getting to a bend we crossed over and walked towards the little loch called "Small Water". Near a boggy part I suddenly saw another frog hopping along. I managed to catch it and held it so my mum could take a picture. (see below)



I wanted to share my find with others and decided to write this piece for *The Limpet*. Does anyone know what kind of frog it is?

MANSE UPDATE—SEPTEMBER 2009





Well it's been another exciting month at the Manse. We now have all but 1 of the windows in place. We spent all day Saturday fitting them, but boy was it worth it. They look superb and as though they have always been there, which is what we wanted. Now that the windows are in we think the house now looks as though it is in the process of being lovingly restored. We have ordered fire doors (we need these for regulations) and have also ordered some electrics. We also concreted the floor in under the stairs which enabled us to order the stairs, which should be here in the next few weeks. Until that time we will still have to use the ladder through the last window gap. Tonight (Wednesday 16th Sept) Jim Holland delivered the bathroom and shower suites. The kingspan insulation for under the floor has been ordered. We have also sarked the lean-to roof in the kitchen, so we are almost wind & water tight.

More next month, Steve & Yvonne.

JOHN HOLLOWAY'S BIRD REPORT

Six Crossbills were in the garden at Holin Cottage on 24th August with two in the Castle garden on 30th, and big 'Greenland' Wheatears began arriving about this time, on the way to their wintering grounds in Africa. Wheatears are very obliging, displaying their black and white tails as the fly along in front of the car before perching on a road-side fence-post. Many of these smart, brightly coloured birds will be present over the next few weeks - particularly along the island roads.

The island gardens are great attractions for migrant woodland/hedgerow species and a good variety have been found so far this autumn - including 3 Barred Warblers, 3 Wood Warblers, and 4-5 Garden Warblers. On 26th August one particular garden held: Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Robin, and a superb red male Crossbill - all in the same tree! But even better was yet to come, when a new bird for Orkney was discovered in the garden at Ebenezer Cottage on the evening of 14th September - an 'eastern' Olivaceous Warbler - see photo below.



(The 'eastern' Olivaceous Warbler - seen on and off in the same sycamore tree but often difficult to locate. Photographed by JH from Ebenezer Cottage - thanks to Margaret and Raymond Dennison)

This very non-descript warbler was seen on and off in the same tree over the following two days - a great finale for regular visitor Steve Ricks on the last day of his holiday, and a real surprise for regular visitor Geraldine Guppy on the first day of her's.

Another species new for Stronsay - although seen 'from' rather than 'on' the island was a Balearic Shearwater off Bomasty Bay on 8th September. This species breeds in the Mediterranean but increasing numbers are being reported from Britain as far north as Orkney.

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The last four weeks have been excellent for sightings of birds of prey, with Sparrowhawk, Merlin, Kestrel, Peregrine, and at least 4 different Hen Harriers recorded, but most intriguing was a Buzzard with a dark-barred bright rufous tail soaring high over Holin Cottage on 16th September. It may have been a Steppe Buzzard from north/east Europe and beyond

On the lochs, wader numbers have generally been very low, whilst on the sea, Redbreasted Mergansers numbers are building up and several Red-throated Divers can be seen in Mill Bay, where a moulting adult Little Gull has been seen regularly.

And typically, as soon as this piece for The Limpet was completed, a Short-eared Owl appeared at Holin Cottage - perched on a fence-post in full view.

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

By Jenny Stone

(telephone 616475, email jennystone001@btinternet.com)

In October/November we are beginning a community art project for and by the children/young people of the island. The theme of the project will be Stronsay, looking at aspects of the island's past, present and future, as the children themselves see it.

This work will be presented in the form of three panels (one for each aspect of past, present and future), on a moveable frame, which, once completed, will be on permanent/semi-permanent display at the community hall. This will be a group effort, and the ideas for the actual artwork will come purely from the children/young people themselves.

This will be an opportunity for the young folk of the island to express, through art, their honest viewpoint on Stronsay, as well as display the talent of Stronsay's future artists, for the whole community to enjoy.

This project is open to any child/young person resident in Stronsay, aged between 3 and 18 years of age.

A number of young folk, interested in taking part in this project, have put their name down on a list that was on display at Stronsay Junior High School. However, it is important that all who are interested take part. Anyone who wishes to take part, or think that they might be, can, with parent's permission, get in touch with by phone or e-mail - number and address at the top of this page.

Don't worry if you think you are short of ideas for the project. Sessions will be held (at the hall) to help you generate your own ideas - everyone involved will be have their work included.

All comments, suggestions and constructive criticism on the project, from anyone living in Stronsay, are welcome. Regular meetings will take place at the hall, which will be open for anyone interested in putting their point of view forward.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN.....

....GENERATING YOUR OWN ENERGY?

If the answer is yes you can start by phoning the Energy Saving Scotland Advice line.

They can offer you free advice on a range of renewable energy matters. There are also grants of 30% or up to £4000 available towards renewable technologies. This grant scheme is called Energy Saving Scotland Home Renewables Grant and is managed by the Energy Savings Trust. There's a local representative in Orkney that can come out for a home visit.

....IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN YOUR OWN HOME?

Depending on your circumstances you may be eligible for free insulation and heating measures under the Energy Assistance Package.

To find out more phone the Energy Savings Trust Free Helpline 0800 512 012

Alternatively, if you need help in contacting the Energy Savings Trust or have any other queries that relates to saving energy in your home please contact Marion on 616354 or 0791 955 0943 (Community Powerdown)

OTHER NEWS.....

TRAINING

Would you be interested in attending a 4 day City & Guilds course in Energy Advice? This course is will be fully funded and held in Orkney. No specific date has been set at the time of writing, but if you feel this would be something for you get in touch on the number above. Not only would it be an interesting course but it may lead to further opportunities.

THERMAL IMAGING

Look out for an interest list in shops and post office. Sign your name to declare interest or contact me directly.

FOOD SURVEY

Thanks to all who returned the survey and all your positive feedback. The overall results will be displayed at the "tattie evening" in early November.

The winners of the produce box as pulled out of a hat by James Macleod are: Mr and Mrs J Miller, Banks.

ATTENTION ALL PRODUCERS!

"Tattie Evening"

On bonfire night celebrations held on the 7th of November this year, there will also be a "Tattie Evening" in the Community Hall. As part of this local food awareness event Stronsay Community Powerdown would like to invite you to display and sell some of your produce. Any kind of produce is welcome. Vegetables, baking, eggs, jam etc. The table will be FREE OF CHARGE! (Only a small donation needed for entry to the hall towards fireworks and supper)

Do you grow potatoes?

Please get in touch with what varieties you grow to help me compile a list of all varieties grown on Stronsay for a display.

Please contact Marion on: 616354 or 0791 955 0943

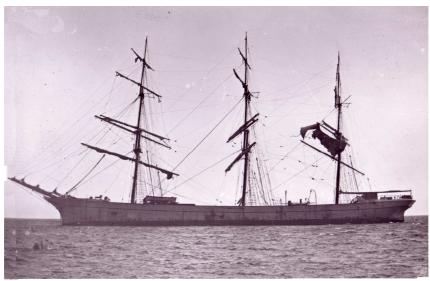
Email: powerdown.stronsay@gmail.com

There will be more information on the event nearer the time.

"THE INDIVIDEWELIST"



THE EDENMORE SHIPWRECK



The "Edenmore" of Greenock, shipwrecked on The Roan, Papa Stronsay, 7th October, 1909.

One hundred years ago, in the late evening of 7th of October, 1909, ten year old Andrew Burghes was rudely awakened by the sound of canvas cracking in the wind, and on going outside with his father, saw a large sailing ship hard aground on the Roan, a rocky outcrop on the South-Eastern point of Papa Stronsay. At that time Andrew lived with his parents James Burghes and Barbara Chalmers plus three siblings, in Easthouse which overlooked the Roan. In later years, he lived at the Smiddy in Whitehall Village.

The ship was the "Edenmore" of Greenock, a fine full-rigged iron vessel of 1672 tons, built in Port Glasgow in 1891, and en-route from Hamburg to Sydney with a general cargo. After leaving Hamburg on 3rd October, the ship had encountered very rough weather and had been hove to for most of the time. Captain Jackson intended to take the Northern route around Scotland between Orkney and Fair Isle, but unfortunately, was some thirty miles off course when she struck the Roan.

The night was very dark and there was a strong gale blowing when Stronsay inhabitants saw flares going up from the ship. A lifeboat, the John Ryburn, had recently been stationed at Stronsay, but unfortunately, was in Kirkwall for engine repairs. About midnight, the moon came up and a rescue attempt was made with ten of the lifeboat crew manning the largest and best boat available at the time. The sea was heavy and the boat was too small to take the twenty five crew members off the Edenmore, so on reaching the stricken ship, the crew were persuaded to launch their own lifeboat which was safely done, and with part of the crew in her, she was taken in tow by the rescuing boat , and , after a hard struggle, all were brought safely to shore.

Over the following days, discussions were held regarding re-floating the ship, but with her rudder gone, and her position on the rocks, it became apparent that it would be impossible to re-float her. The salving of cargo began on Monday 11th.

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The cargo consisted of wire, felt, cement, glucose, rock salt, machinery, glass-ware, earthen-ware, enamelled-ware, chemicals, pianos, furniture, and bags and bags of marbles. Stronsay children experienced no shortage of marbles for many years to come.

Samuel Firth, a building contractor from Harray, who built the West Pier, and also Fagerheim which now houses the Post Office, purchased the salvage rights, and eventually sold off the cargo at an auction on the West Pier.

Having salvaged as much of the cargo as possible, Mr Firth then offered the ship up for sale, and came to an agreement with a company called Einar Meling, from Stavanger, Norway, to sell the ship for £72.10/-. There was however a misunderstanding, as Einar Meling thought they were buying the ship and cargo for this amount, but they were put right by Mr Firth who stated that there had been a lot of pilfering from the cargo, and he wanted to be the sole owner of the cargo so that no-one could say they had purchased the pilfered items elsewhere. He did however concede that the divers employed by Einar Meling could keep anything they recovered from the seabed.

A letter dated 1st May, 1912, from W. P. Drever, of Drever and Heddle Solicitors, shows that Mr Drever purchased the cabin light off the Edenmore from Mr Firth for £8.7.6d and that he had "had it set up at Buttquoy with a fencing round it and am keeping it in perfect order". I wonder what became of it. Any ideas?

All that remains now of the once majestic ship is some rusty iron which leaves rust marks on the bellies of lobsters and crabs in that area.

Bill Miller



Crew of the "Edenmore", shipwrecked on Papa Stronsay, 7th October, 1909.

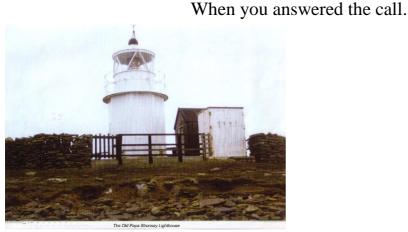
THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS

By Nana Peace

Nowadays all the lighthouses are automatic, but in days gone past they had light-keepers and it must have been a lonely job for them on some of the far distant places, such as Muckle Flugga for example. A shining light would have been a welcome sight for sailors far from home.

The following poem was written in 1991 by Eileen Tiller in New Zealand, and my pen-friend sent it to me. I think it is a thank-you to lighthouse keepers all over the world.

We will not see their like again Those gallant men who tended the lights That guided sailors far from home On dark and stormy nights. Theirs was a rough and rugged life No desk from nine to five Ensuring safety of our ships That sailors would survive But if by chance a crew was wrecked Along our rugged shore Willing hands were waiting To help them back once more No automatic light can see a ship in peril Nor pluck a man from stormy seas Their brothers keepers one and all In roaring gale or gentle breeze And so with gratitude We thank those men who tended lights That blinked and warned of danger In the darkness of the nights We thank you and salute you Dedicated keepers





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You served your country long and well

LOGANAIR TIMETABLES

Using the internet to find Loganair's timetable for flights between Kirkwall, Stronsay and the other northern isles is not a simple task; the home page of Loganair's website doesn't even mention the northern isles or the inter-island flights. However, tucked away at the foot of the Loganair "reservations" page you'll find Loganair's contact details for inter-island flights and a link to 3 inter-island timetables which cover the periods 01 August to 24 October 2009, 25 October to 22 December 2009 and 23 December to 28 February 2010.

Loganair contact details: Email *orkneyres@loganair.co.uk* Telephone *01856 872494* or *873457* Timetables *http://www.loganair.co.uk/reservations*

THE ORIGINAL ROUSAM RASCALS

The following is an extract from the Stronsay Kirk Session Records dated 17th November, 1834:

"Appearing before the Session were William Reid and John Brodie, both resident in Rothiesholm, who acknowledged that, along with James Angus, also resident there, were, on Sunday 19th of October last, very improperly engaged in killing whales that came ashore near Rothiesholm, and expressing their great sorrow for the violation of the Sabbath Day, and their entire submission to the determination of the Session.

The Session having considered the great impropriety of such a transaction in regard to the individuals concerned, and also the bad example to others, and at the same time considering the low circumstances of William Reid and John Brodie, now before them, agreed to accept their Voluntary Offering of ten shillings and sixpence each, for behoof of the Poor, and being induced by other circumstances connected with the affair, appointed them to be immediately rebuked and admonished with much seriousness, for the flagrant breach of the Solemnity of the Sabbath Day, which was accordingly done and they freed from Church Censure. The Session appoint the Clerk to state the case of James Angus to the Procurator Fiscal with a view to due observance of the Sabbath."

Note: The 1841 census (7 years later) shows a Reid family at Brake, and a Brodie family next door at Dykeside. I can't find James Angus.

IT GETS WORSE

From the Stronsay Bill of Mortality 1837.

"Betty Stevenson, aged about thirty years, was found dead at the Sea-Shore at Quoy-Olie in Rothiesholm, on the morning of Wednesday 14th June, 1837, and strong suspicions were entertained by the community that she had been murdered during the night."

If anyone can elaborate on the above stories, please give me a call.

Bill Miller, Glenmanna, 01857-616420

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE 100th MEMBER AWARD AND CELEBRATION

We are delighted to announce that our membership has almost reached 100! As an incentive to those of you who have not yet joined us to come and do so, we are offering a nice surprise to the 100th person to sign up.

Without giving too much away, the number of new members required to reach our target is very small - so you are in with a chance if you sign up shortly - but don't leave it too late. Becoming a member does not mean you are obligated in any way but we are confident that once you have given us a go you will join our regular band of exercisers who love it!

Joining the healthy living centre is so easy. No matter if you have never been in a gym before (many of us have been daunted by those first steps too, so we understand exactly how you might feel).

As long as you are 14 or over and there is no medical reason why you should refrain from exercise you can become a member and enjoy the benefits that exercise can offer.

Have doubts?

Need to ask questions?

Want to look around?

Phone us or call in during any supervised public sessions. We are here to help - and you never know - that surprise could so easily be for you!!

Telephone: Tracey or Julie on 616449

INFORMATION SOUGHT

Early in the morning of 09/09/09 these suspicious characters were seen lurking around Number 3 Whitehall. They were thought to be planting flowers. Any information will be treated as confidential - contact Craig on 616428



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DAFT HOMEMADE POETRY No 13

by Bill Embleton

THE MOUSE

There was a mouse down by my feet

A week ago at work.

At first I just ignored it

Then I pelted it with corks

Still it would not go away.

So then I let it be.

It just sat on it's hunkers

As I stirred my cup of tea.

I threw it down a bit of cheese,

It started tucking in.

Then it's missus joined it

Her kids were by the bin.

In half a tick the place was wick

All around my chair.

The poor things were starving,

I thought it isn't fair

So I put my lunch box on the floor

To let them all have some.

Now they have made friends with me

And every night they come.

Mice can't help being vermin

And as I hate to hurt a thing.

At least I can allow these ones

To have their little fling.

But a mouse at work is one thing,

One has to draw the line.

Should one come into my house

I'd kill the little swine.

ME PLANE RIDE

By Ellie from Newfield

I thought I'd catch a plane and go and see me daughter. Half way up the steps I knew I didn't oughta. Me legs were giving way on me, turning me into jelly And I got this queasy feeling somewhere in me belly. I always had more sense so I've never flown before; Old age has made me crazy, please sit me by the door! I never have liked heights, I've got that vertigo. Please let me off, I'm scared, I don't want to go. Well I might be looking calm, but I'm not feeling very great. The driver looks a lovely lad, I'd put his age at eight. I'm shaking in me seat, she's coming with a trolley, Would I like a drink? You bet I would, by golly. I'll try a tot of whisky although I never drink, Tipping it straight back while in me seat I shrink. We're circling round and round, they say we cannot land As the fog is far too heavy—she puts another in me hand. We circled round for hours, the fog just wouldn't thin. I didn't mind it half so much since I started on the gin. The chap sat next to me, I'd thought he was a mute. His tipple was just brandy then he winked and said "You're cute". I though I'd have to move, he was getting rather frisky, Then he fell asleep when he changed over to the whisky. The woman at the front, sitting third row on the right, She asked the man sat on her left—did he want a fight? Well you know I never drink, even when it's handy, But while I'm circling in this fog I'll try a drop of brandy. Oh yes, I'd fly again, it's not as bad as you think. I thought I'd find it scary as I never, ever drink. Oh dear, we're getting off and I didn't try the rum As I step down from the plane, landing safely on my bum.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

INSTANT PHOTOS

Passport, visa, travel pass, driving licence, gun licence, etc.

Personalised birthday, Christmas & get well cards

with your own special message or photograph.

Business/Invitation cards.

You name it! Tell me what you want & I'll supply it.

Call Bill Miller on 616420

STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP WHITEHALL VILLAGE

Stronsay and Orkney craft products
Fiction and non-fiction books, cards
Gifts, maps, Rowan and North Ron wool
Winter opening hours will start from October 4th
Thursday to Saturday 10.00 - 6.00 pm
Telephone 616434
www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk

STRONSAY FISH MART SUMMER OPENING HOURS

Cafe, Hostel & Interpretation Centre

Open six days a week 12 - 2 and 5 - 7 Closed all day on Tuesday Telephone 616386

STRONSAY ARTWORKS

Original paintings of Stronsay Landscape; Limited edition prints, greetings cards and postcards which are available for sale at local shops, Post Office, Hotel, B&B's and the Fishmart. Commissions taken.

Phone Jenny on 616475

Business adverts

Up to 25 words - £1.50. 25 word advert with photo - £3. 25 to 50 words - £3 and so on.

Adverts for the next (October 2009) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 24 October

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr E Stevenson, Bu, Stronsay Tel: *616216* Clerk: Pat Wilcox, Shamrock Lea, Stronsay Tel: *616353*

Dr Mackay's Retirement

The Community Council are making a collection for Dr Mackay's retirement. Please place your donations in the boxes provided in local shops and Post Office. Thank you.

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr E Stevenson, Bu, Stronsay Tel: *616216* Clerk: Pat Wilcox, Shamrock Lea, Stronsay Tel: *616353*

It has been brought to members attention that owners are allowing their dogs to mess on the footpath leading to the beach at Mill Bay.

Please show consideration for others and clean up after your pet.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - "BRING 'N' BUY" SALE SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 7.30 pm in the Community Hall

Hall open 2-4pm to receive goods, all donations welcome!

Why not have a clear out?

Raffles, games, quizzes and FREE supper!

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the hall

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

New reduced rate £5 per hour for room up to £15 max plus £5 for DISCO equipment.

A DJ from the Hall list <u>must</u> be used.

Now available to hire.

Badminton £2 per hour + Hydro

Table tennis £2 per hour + Hydro

Snooker £2 per hour + Hydro

All equipment provided.

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

Any damage must be paid for.

To book contact Colin on 616446.

Please note that any groups or individuals hiring

the Hall require their own Public Liability

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit 29th September

Council Houses: 9.00am-11.00am Stronsay School: 11.30am-2.00pm Stronsay Kirk: 2.30pm-4.30pm Stronsay School: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk
Kirkwall library website - http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk
Kirkwall library online book catalogue - http://212.219.208.10/TalisPrism

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB

Friday night 8pm until 10pm
Entrance £1
Come along for a fun filled night
Air hockey table
Pool table
Play station 2
Nintendo WII & Sing Star
Snooker
Juice, crisps and sweets available

KEYHOLDERS NEEDED!

Can you spare one evening every month? At the moment there are not enough keyholders for the swimming pool to open regularly. Full training will be given.

Please contact Yvonne on 616375 for more info.

EVENING CLASS

"Singing techniques" - tutor Michael Lee Previous experience <u>not</u> necessary Ability to read music not essential

All you need is enthusiasm. Join a friendly group of people every Monday at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Autumn session (10 weeks) commenced Monday 21 September. Please contact Brian Crowe on 616464 for more info

USEFUL INFORMATION

NOTE - **REVISED POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES** (from Mon 28 Sep):

Post collection times 07:30, Monday to Saturday Replacement bin bags. Telephone OIC (Technical Services) on 01856 873535 Sunday service at the Kirk 11 am Our Lady's chapel, pier head Daily Masses at 7 am and every Sunday at 9 am Special Collection dates 03 Dec and 05 Feb (2010) Doctor 616321/308 Balfour hospital 01856 888000 Nurses 616225/232 Kirkwall Library 01856 873166 Registrar 616239 Hall bookings 616446 Kirkwall Police 01856 872241 Post Office 616217 Vets: Companions 616307 Flett & Carmichael . . . 01856 872859 Kirk 616311 Dentists: Stronsay Hotel 616213 Great Western Rd 01856 879683 Fish Mart 616386 Olivebank 616255

HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET

Ebenezer stores 616339

Send an email to *ricardian@btinternet.com*, phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*

The Limpet is published on the last Thursday of the month. Items for inclusion in The Limpet <u>must</u> reach Bruce by the Saturday before the last Thursday in the month. The cut-off date for the next (October 2009) edition is Saturday 24 October.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LIMPET

Why not send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present?

12 editions for £10.00 including P&P

(UK only. Non-UK subscriptions, please ask for a quote)

Contact Bruce, details above

The Stronsay Development Trust, a Scottish Charity SC038888

http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/SDT
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