

STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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Published on the last Thursday of the month



IMPORTANT!

The December edition of *The Limpet* will be published on **Thursday 24 December**. All items for inclusion in that edition must be submitted by **Saturday 19 December**.

Why not send Christmas greetings to your family and/or friends on Stronsay by putting an item in December's edition of *The Limpet*? It will only cost you £1 (for up to 25 words). Contact details are on the back page.

CHRISTMAS 2009—OPENING HOURS

Opening hours for Stronsay's medical team over the Christmas period will be posted in local shops in December. After several requests from Stronsay Community Council, NHS Orkney have finally provided *The Limpet* with the interim arrangements for GP cover after Dr McKay retires on 30th November 2009, these arrangements are described on the next page.

Stronsay Arts & Crafts shop Shop will be open Dec 17, 18, 19 and Dec 22, 23, 24 then closed over Christmas and New Year, opening again on 2 Jan 2010.

Date	Post Office	Ebenezer	Hotel	Fish mart	Olivebank
Thu 24 Dec	8:30—12:30	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	12—2 5—7	8-30—7:30
Fri 25 Dec	Closed	Closed	12:00—16:00	Closed	Closed
Sat 26 Dec	Closed	10—12	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun 27 Dec	Closed	10—1	Normal hours	5—7	Closed
Mon 28 Dec	Closed	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	Closed	10:30—12:30
Tue 29 Dec	8:30—12	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	12—2 5—7	8:30—6:30
Wed 30 Dec	8:30—12	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	5—7	8:30—6:30
Thu 31 Dec	8:30—4	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	12—2 5—7	8:30—6:30
Fri 1 Jan	Closed	7:30—7:30	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat 2 Jan	Closed	10—12	Normal hours	Closed	Closed
Sun 3 Jan	Closed	10—1	Normal hours	5—7	Closed
Mon 4 Jan	8:30—4:15	7:30—7:30	Normal hours	Closed	10:30—12:30

STRONSAY GP—UPDATE

From Karen Crichton

(NHS Orkney Interim Community Health Partnership General Manager)

NHS Orkney has been in touch with *The Limpet* to give an update on progress with recruiting a new GP for Stronsay and Eday. Also to let the community know the interim arrangements for GP cover after Dr McKay retires on 30th November 2009.

An advert will appear in the British Medical Journal on 21st November 2009 inviting applications for the Stronsay GP role. At the same time, NHS Orkney is seeking to recruit to vacant GP roles in Westray/Papa Westray and Sanday. When appointed, all of the new GP's will be supported by a 'Network of Care' which will provide a framework for clinical governance, mutual support and ongoing training to GP's and nurses working on the Islands. The interviews for these roles will be held during the week commencing 11th January 2010. An integral part of the interview process will be a visit to the Islands. NHS Orkney has also placed an advert in a national nursing journal for Nurse Practitioner's. One of the posts is to provide regular cover to Eday to replace Joyce Barker. The interviews and visits to the islands for the Nurse Practitioner roles will be at the same time as the GP interviews. In order to help attract prospective GP's to Stronsay, NHS Orkney has undertaken a partial refurbishment of the GP accommodation and are also planning some improvements to the surgery.

The decision to recruit for all of the vacant Island GP and Nurse Practitioner roles at the same time as part of the Network of Care has meant that interim arrangements for Stronsay GP cover need to be put in place from Dr McKay's retiral date until the new GP comes into post. Dr Nicole Shaer will take over from Dr McKay from 30th November - 4th December 2009. Dr David Mungwira will then work 3 weeks on, one week off, until the new GP is in post. Every fourth week will be covered by one of the flexible GP's already working in Orkney. These GP's will resume the weekly visiting service to Eday from the week commencing 30th November. The Community Nurses will continue to cover for the short periods of time when the GP is not on Stronsay.

STRONSAY FIRE STATION

Over the last few years fire fighters from the Stronsay fire station have carried out numerous Home Fire Safety visits and in the process have fitted a number of smoke alarms which are intended to be good for ten years. It appears that some of these detectors may have developed a fault where they beep periodically indicating a malfunction or a discharged battery. If anyone has had this problem please contact Ian Cooper on 616322, William Caithness on 616220 or Harald Stout on 616258 and we will be happy to come along and fit free replacements.

Remember – Smoke Alarms save lives, but only if they are fitted in the correct place and are functioning as they should! To ensure that smoke alarms are operating effectively they should be tested every week, given a light clean with a vacuum cleaner every 6 months and those with a replaceable battery should have the battery changed annually.

STRONSAY HARVEST HOME

The Stronsay Agricultural Society held their annual Harvest Home in the Community Centre on Saturday evening with the hall full to overflowing. Extra tables had to be brought in to cater for the crowd.

The Society President, Michael Cooper, in welcoming all present, remarked on how gratifying it was to see so many in attendance, when in other larger communities, harvest homes were being cancelled due to lack of interest. He then called upon the minister Jennifer George to say grace and an excellent meal was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, and after a few light-hearted anecdotes, Michael welcomed the guest speaker Andy Cant and his wife Alice. Introducing Andy, Michael stated that he was a highly esteemed vet, an excellent musician, and a very brave man. As an example of his bravery, Michael stated that one minute he would be dealing with a mad bull, and the next, he would be 'belly bouncing' with Raymond Peace in the Pipe Band.

In response, Andy based his speech on three questions – Are harvest homes still relevant, what is the future for vets and farming, and will methane emissions by cows affect global warming?

In a highly amusing speech which was warmly received by the crowd, Andy looked into each subject at length, demonstrating the effects of methane gas with the aid of a balloon, and recalling some well chosen incidents which again involved Raymond Peace. He also introduced a new mythical Stronsay creature which he referred to as the Mill Bay Parking Attendant. This will merit further investigation!

In conclusion, he assured us that with all the new diseases coming in from abroad, vets will still be in demand, we have nothing to worry about from cattle methane emissions, and judging by the obvious community spirit in the hall, yes, harvest homes are still relevant.

Vice President, Ian Cooper, then thanked Andy for his highly entertaining talk, and also thanked all the workers who had prepared and served up such a delicious meal. He then called upon Graham Sinclair to say a few words about Doctor George McKay who is due to retire at the end of the month.

Presentation to Doctor George McKay

Graham started off by saying that although the evening was indeed the time for happy celebrations, it was also a sad occasion as we were saying goodbye to Doctor George who had been involved with the Stronsay practice since 1996. He went on to describe how George had become completely involved with all aspects of community life, building up a successful partnership with our previous doctor, Jon Buchan, writing stories and obituaries for the local "Limpet" newspaper, his love of the outdoors, fishing for lobsters in his dingy, chasing greylag geese at the crack of dawn, and generally fitting in comfortably with the local community.

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In conclusion Graham described Doctor George as - very approachable, caring, down to earth, and a man who would be remembered in typical Stronsay style as “a fine critter and a good doctor”.

Katrina Kent then presented Mrs Gudrun McKay with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and Ian Stevenson presented Doctor George with a decanter and six glasses, suitably engraved with the map of Stronsay, and a bottle of 25 year old Highland Park whisky.

George was accompanied by his wife Gudrun and daughters Astrid and Iona. Unfortunately his third daughter Ingrid could not be present due to health reasons. In response, George thanked Graham for his kind words and went on to say how his maternal grandmother had been employed as a gutter lass in Stronsay in the early 1900s, and how his father, as a teenager, had spent a week in Stronsay in the late 1920s, having gone on a fishing trip with his father on the herring drifter “Concordia” BF 615, and became so sick that he had to be put ashore and was looked after by some gutter lasses, while his father continued to the fishing grounds, and picked him up on the return journey.

George recalled how he first came to Stronsay as a locum in 1996, and for the first three weeks the wind blew and it poured with rain, but on the fourth week the wind dropped and the sun shone. On looking out of his bedroom window over Linga Holm, he witnessed about fifteen different hues of green and blue and he thought – this is paradise. He was further inspired by the late Ralph Fotheringhame who regaled him with stories and the history of Stronsay which made the whole place come alive, and he soon realized that he was in the middle of a real live vibrant community and a ‘home from home’.

The practice set up by Doctor Jon Buchan was extremely well run and so professionally managed that he had no hesitation in joining Doctor Buchan as an ‘associate’ when invited to do so. This arrangement lasted until four years ago when Doctor Buchan retired due to health reasons, leaving George as sole practitioner employing locums to assist. Due to Doctor Buchan’s expertise and dedication, George inherited a successful practice which was up and running, and he has not found it necessary to change it in any way.

A good practice can only be successful if you have a good team backing you up, and this George had in abundance. He went on to sing the praises of his nurses, firstly Rhoda Stevenson, followed by Linda Smith, ably assisted by Margareth Richards, and last but by no means least, “the conductor of the orchestra”, his practice manager and dispenser, Katrina Kent, without whom the show could not go on.

In conclusion George said, “Recently, I was asked by a local when was I coming home, meaning back to Stronsay, and I thought, that’s nice, I have been accepted as a local in what is a reasonably short time, so I took that as a great compliment. I feel part of an extended family. I wish you all the best for the future, whatever that may hold, and you will never be far from my thoughts. I will never forget Stronsay”.

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Following this, the hall floor was cleared and dancing commenced to the Stronsay Band consisting of Don Peace, Gaynor Smith, Jim Rendall and Michael Cooper, ably assisted by Neil Anderson and Michael Smith. As M.C, Michael Holland kept the proceedings cracking along, and with the help of an influx of young visitors from other parts of Orkney, a few tunes on the bagpipes by Raymond Peace and Andy Cant (No belly bouncing) and a welcome supper in the wee small hours, the evening was an outstanding success. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

Bill Miller, Glenmanna, Stronsay.)



McKay Family—Iona, Gudrun, George and Astrid (photo by Bill Miller)

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

This event took place on Sat 7th Nov. With such a beautiful night there was a good crowd of folk. The "guy" competition was judged first, thanks to Colin and Jennifer for the judging. With 7 guys to choose from it was a tough decision but "Mr and Mrs Dynamite" by Jacqui, Diane and John Smith, Alice, Keith and Jack Holland won 1st prize; no one went away empty-handed as everyone got sweets for making the effort to enter. The bonfire and fireworks were next with a good display, once again, thanks to all involved.

Everyone then came in to the hall for a supper of mince, clapshot and haggis accompanied with the many dishes on the "tattie" buffet table. After this was our local Power-down Officer's "tattie" evening with quizzes and competitions. Mike Holland was crowned strongest man (we'll never hear the end of that!) and, after some stiff competition, Robin from Eday was crowned champion tattie peeler. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the evening happen and to everyone who came along.

Sheena Cooper 616306



(l to r) are Joshua Dawson, Jacqui Smith, Keith Holland, Alice Holland, John Smith, Diane Smith, Elizabeth Miller, Matthew Boler, Amos Erdman, Jude Erdman, Mikey Stevenson, Erynn Stevenson

STRONSAY GAMES CLUB

FUNDRAISING FOR CHILDREN IN NEED 2009

On Friday 20th Nov Stronsay games club held their annual fundraising night for the BBC children in need night. This year 7 children and 2 adults from the Eday youth club joined us for a pyjama party, disco, competitions, a raffle and lots of activities. Many thanks to them for making the effort to come across-hopefully it may become a regular event! A total of 57 folk old and young came along altogether and managed to raise the phenomenal sum of £235.60. Many thanks to everyone who supported us and made it such an excellent night-see you next year!

Special thanks to all the young folk who took on the responsibility of planning, organising and running all the competitions-well done!



Everyone all together at the end of the night

NEWS FROM COMMUNITY POWERDOWN

By Marion Macleod

“Tattie” Evening

I wish to thank all those who contributed both with help and food at the “tattie evening”. The buffet was fantastic and certainly didn’t disappoint in showing examples of the diversity of recipes that can be made from potatoes. All enjoyed the evening and I think the competition for the fastest “tattie” peeler in Stronsay was particularly exciting. The competition was fierce and the results very close but the 1st prize went to Eday—so you’d better all get practicing for the next one!!!

There was also an impressive display of nearly 30 potato varieties grown in Stronsay. It surprised some that some many were grown here and I’m sure there are even more varieties than that.

The children had also had fun with a poster competition and carving competition. There were some very impressive entries and some can be seen in the picture below.

Thank you all again!

Training

There may still be spaces available for free training in Energy Advice. This is a 4 day accredited course that will run in Kirkwall in January. This sort of course normally costs in the region of £800 but thanks to funding from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) this is available through Community Energy Scotland free of charge. So grab the opportunity! Fares and accommodation will be paid for.

Places are limited so call Marion on 616354 to secure a place.

Affordable warmth project

We have applied to CCF for funding for a part time post to put in place an Energy Efficiency Advisor on the island and also for the provision of free thermal imaging for households. More news on this will be posted as we know more.

Open Meeting

An informal meeting has been arranged to discuss the potential for the community of a shared, sheltered, under cover space for growing out of season or different fruit and vegetables on a non commercial basis. We would like to invite you to share your wishes and views with us on Monday the 7th of December at 7.30 in the Fish mart. A light buffet of some seasonal produce will be available.

From the Local food survey there was a great interest in the idea of a sheltered and under cover space for growing produce. A project like this should be of benefit to the community at large and should only complement what is already produced on Stronsay and NOT have a negative impact on those who are already growing/selling fruit and vegetables on Stronsay. The potential educational and social benefits are of upmost importance. To find out more and how you could be involved or to express your views please come along! All welcome!

MONTHLY REPORT FROM

TONY WITHERS—LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Greetings to all on Stronsay. It has been a very busy time for the Trust. Since my last jottings I have been involved in assisting Julia Crocker in completing the turbine business plan. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Julia for the enormous amount of work she has done to get us to the stage we are now at. The Art mural project is at the funding application stage and I have assisted Jenny move the project forward and we are hoping to hear some positive news soon. Again thanks are due to Jenny for her sterling efforts to date. The Mother and Toddler group now renamed 'Little Limpets' are seeking funds to sustain them in the future and we are at the funding application stage with this and I am confident this worthwhile project will continue to function once funding has been secured.

I am presently involved in looking into the potential of a mobile slaughter house for Stronsay. The concept is simple and very cost affective compared to a building based solution. The vehicle would visit farms and process the animals on site. The vehicle would also be able to hang the carcass and store waste by freezing it. The system is used in the USA in remote locations very successfully. Up to ten beasts can be processed a day and reduces stress on the animals and reduces energy costs as meat could be supplied locally pre-packed within the unit. Carcasses would still need to be transported off the island via the local haulier and the potential for employment increases the attractiveness of the idea. I am hoping to arrange a meeting with interested parties in the new year. I am aware of issues such as inspectors and vets in attendance but solutions to these problems are available with a bit of lateral thinking. More info in the near future!!! Any input would be appreciated.

I was recently cornered by the Powerdown Officer to assist her on the highly enjoyable 'Tattie Night'. The competition I ran was "Who could hold up a bag of tatties with one arm the longest!" It came as no surprise to see Mike Holland win. It proved that he is as strong as an ox.....and almost as intelligent!!!

Finally on a serious note. The securing of our NHS service is utmost in our minds and the SDT, Community Council and Community Association have joined forces for a unified approach to protecting the service we enjoy. We are working on a joint document to ask pertinent questions to get some clarity from the powers that be as to our service rather than the ambiguous promises so far given...more to follow.

(Tony's Tip of the Month appears on the next page)

TONY'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Are you receiving a state pension or pension credits? Are you getting all you are entitled to? I am hoping to get an advisor over to make sure older residents are not missing out on what they can claim. Please phone me on 616300 to express an interest in seeing someone from the comfort of your own home. If enough interest is generated I can get someone out soon.

Paying too much for your utility bills? Why not check on a price comparison site? If computers aren't your thing why not ask a family member or friend to check for you. One resident who asked for help saved over £210 on her bills by asking for help. Don't be shy, ask someone today!!

Goodbye and Seasons Greetings to all!!!

Tony Withers

MANSE REPORT—NOVEMBER 2009

Since our last report on 'The Manse' we have been concreting wall heads and removing skews to enable us to roof over the end walls. We still have the stairwell to shutter up and fill with concrete. We are almost ready and we now have someone to slate the roof, all we need to do is hole punch 10,000 slates??!! Clive Martin has begun installing the electrics and Joe Martin has made us an extra window for the kitchen. We have had our final delivery of kit from RTC in Elgin, so we have plaster board stacked up where there is floorspace and we still have 4 pallets of 3mtr plasterboard to pick up from Jim's yard. The staircase has arrived but we will not be fitting it till the roof is on. We have had the awful job of cutting and fitting Kingspan insulation (what a horrible job) and now we have temporary lights inside we have no excuse for not working at night. Craig has started putting up partitions, (when he has time). The bathrooms are all here now so really the only thing holding us up is the roof. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it gets brighter with every job we do. This really is our dream and we are glad to share it with you. Many thanks again to all of the helpers.

Steve & Yvonne.

THE MAGIC SHOW

By Stronsay School's lower primary

(This story appeared in last month's Limpet but part of it was inadvertently omitted)

On Monday 21st September the Lower primary went on a trip to Dounby school to see a Road Safety Magic Show. We all went to school, then Maurice and Sheila collected us and took us to the pier. We waited with Jennifer, Colin and Mrs Dennison until the boat came.

On the boat we ate our packed lunches and coloured some pictures. When we got to Kirkwall we got on a bus to go to Dounby. The bus had lovely comfy seats. When we got to the Dounby School they were waiting for us so the show could start.

Both the magicians were called Alan. At the start one of the Alans had a safety vest on and he could put a light through his body. The other Alan lay on the floor having a temper tantrum until he got a safety vest too. Soon both Alans were doing tricks with lights. They showed us the magic words STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK.

They did magic with traffic lights. They had a dog puppet that nearly got run over because it ran between parked cars to get to the ice-cream van.

A bird had fallen off its bike and had a plaster on its beak. When one of the Alans touched him he went 'OW.' We all sang a song about riding bikes safely. They put a box on the bird's head and tapped it quite hard, then the bird said he would always remember to wear a box on his head when riding his bike.

Soon the magic show was over and we got back on the bus and went to the pier. On the boat we made some pictures, played some games and had something to eat and drink.

When we got home we told our families all about our trip. It was really good fun.



"I'M SO GLAD WE MADE THE SWITCHOVER TO DIGITAL!"

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Monday 23rd Nov – Tues 22nd Dec 2009

	am	pm
Monday	10—12	3.45—5.45
Tuesday	buddy	6—8
Wednesday	buddy	3.30—5.30
Thursday	buddy	6—8
Friday	10—12	3.30—5.30
Saturday	closed	*1.30—3pm* <i>note change</i>
Sunday	closed	closed

Only 4 weeks to go until Christmas, and as a special present to our members we have a couple of deals to make your membership go further!

All Annual card members can bring a friend with them for free until Christmas, and for those with rarely used saver cards; you can share your remaining visits with a friend if you would like to. There's about 3 months remaining on those cards bought when the centre opened in March and we know there's a lot out there virtually untouched!

We welcomed our 100th member at the end of October and the lucky person who received a free 10 visit card was Ingram Stout. Congratulations go to him! Next month we will be announcing who our most regular attendee has been since the centre opened, with a special present as a Thank You for their support.

You may have heard that the 'Race to deliver a letter to Santa' has been won by Rousay closely followed by St Margaret's Hope. But the race is still on between the remaining islands and at the time of writing Stronsay is in a strong 3rd place. So come on lets have a concerted effort from Stronsay to maintain this position. There are still the prizes for furthest travelled male and female to be won, so all is not lost!

Some of the older school pupils are doing a sponsored 'Race for Santa' helping contribute the kilometres they do towards our total. They don't have to do all the 2411 km themselves! All proceeds are to go towards the school trip to France next year.

We have also just received excellent news regarding 'exercise on prescription' we have secured funding from the newly formed Health & Care partnership. This means there are places available for those who would benefit from commencing an exercise regime under supervision. If you think this might be for you please contact the Doctor for the go ahead.

The buddy system is now available from 8am on school days to improve access for our members and runs throughout school hours. Just try to avoid 12 – 1pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays due to a school booking.

Saturday opening has changed to try and fit in with the pool times. Why not drop the kids off at the pool and have some 'me time' at the gym instead of going back and forth. Try it—you might like it! Any questions please ring 616449 (Julie or Tracey)

JOHN HOLLOWAY'S BIRD REPORT

The old adage: 'What's hit is history, what's missed is mystery' applied particularly well to old ornithological records during times when it was necessary to obtain a 'sample' (dead bird!) in order to have a record accepted, but even this approach was not fool-proof and there are known examples of birds being collected abroad, brought back to the UK, and claimed here as new British 'records'. Cameras have long since replaced the gun although it is not always possible to film birds - particularly what are known as 'fly-overs' - and of the dozen or so white Gyrfalcons we have recorded on Stronsay since 1987 none have given us the opportunity to obtain one single satisfactory image. Some of the small skulking species are equally as difficult to photograph - none more so than the Dusky Warbler at Holin Cottage this autumn where I spent several hours over a two-week period, camera at the ready, and obtained nothing!

Late autumn was excellent this year with several Black Redstarts, Blackcaps, Woodcock, and above average numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings. Robins are everywhere now and most will stay until next Spring in their chosen gardens/farmyards etc. Recent highlights include a Grey Wagtail and a Goldfinch on The Reserve, followed by three Goldfinches seen by Jim Miller at Hunton next day. Ian Cooper saw a Long-eared Owl in the Midgarth drive and there have been a few other sightings of the species elsewhere. A male Stonechat has been seen on and off at Millbank by John and Rona and a Water Rail has been seen by the Mill Stream a few times.

A real surprise on 3rd November was a Cirl Bunting in our drive where it was seen again next day. Both brief sightings, with no opportunity to obtain photographs - yet again! More obliging were two other rare species for the island - a Barred Warbler at Dale on 4th, and a Blyth's Reed Warbler in the Castle garden on 8th. Both 'skulkers' but both caught on film - a welcome change! And then came Friday 13th - a great day - with several migrants arriving in the Castle garden: one Dunnock, one Song Thrush, 3-4 Redwings, a Woodcock, and a Water Rail, whilst at the Bu Loch, 2 Shelducks, several Goldeneye, and a Gadwall were present. Four Slavonian Grebes were in Mill Bay along with at least 15 Long-tailed Ducks - mostly males complete with long tails - and a dozen or so wintering Red-throated Divers.

A few parties of Snow Buntings have been seen in the Dale/Bu area and huge numbers of Snipe are now present. Pheasants can now be seen feeding in the open - mainly around the Kirk area - where Jennifer came almost face to face with an Owl in the Manse garden on 18th - almost certainly another Long-eared.

Many thanks to all who have reported their sightings. What we record here can only be a small fraction of the actual numbers of birds and the variety of species present at any time - but as ever, 'What's missed' is mystery!



HOW TO GET REAL HELP WITH YOUR ENERGY COSTS **THIS WINTER**

Scotland has always been known for its ability to feature four seasons in one day, particularly in summer, but the onset of winter always runs like clockwork. Now that the leaves are turning and the clocks have gone back it won't be long before the winter chill sets in

For many families and older people winter marks the beginning of their struggle to afford to heat their homes, often suffering in cold, badly insulated and draughty homes. Mike Thornton, Director, Scotland for the Energy Saving Trust, explains how a new initiative from the Scottish Government can help provide real financial and environmental benefits to those struggling to heat their homes:

“We are all looking for ways to make our fuel costs lower and our homes warmer this winter and the Energy Assistance Package has been designed to do just that and is open to everyone in Scotland.

“The package is a completely new approach to saving money and saving energy and provides real benefits – from cost savings on gas and electricity, to home insulation or even a whole new heating system.”

By calling the Energy Assistance Package hotline on 0800 512012 applicants can find out about the combination of offers that might be available to them, including:

- Energy advice – assistance to find out how to make your home as energy efficient as possible.
- Help to find out if you are entitled to more money through benefits or tax credits.
- Help to switch to the lowest-cost gas or electricity rates for those who qualify.
- Loft or cavity wall insulation.
- Other measures to make your home warmer – such as additional insulation, central heating and renewable heating systems.

Mike continues: “Everyone who feels the pinch should call the Energy Assistance Package hotline on 0800 512012 to find out how they can benefit from this unique and easy to access energy package.”

For more information call 0800 512012, free from landline phones, or visit www.energyassistancepackage.com

THE EVANGELINE DISASTER (Part 1)

The night of Monday / Tuesday 16th / 17th January, 1905, saw a horrendous and vicious south-east gale battering the coastline of Stronsay. Mountainous seas had been lashing the Mill Bay shores from the previous Saturday, bringing with them a bountiful harvest of tangles for the benefit of the kelp workers. One such worker was Peter Reid, a thirty-eight year old fisherman from Whitehall Village, who was out at 8 am working the kelp at the back of Glenmanna, when he spotted the body of a man floating among the ware. Peter called for assistance, and later took the body, which was that of quite a young man, to a store belonging to Stronsay fish curer, Robert Mitchell.

About an hour later, Reid's neighbour, Peter Caithness, a forty year old fisherman from Whitehall Village, was working the kelp in the same area when he came across the body of man lying at the high water mark. He described the man as aged about thirty-four years, and apparently a fisherman. Again with help from others, the body was taken to Mr Mitchell's store.

Word of the disaster spread throughout the community and men set out to search the shoreline. John Stout, a fifty-three year old fisherman from the Lower Station went around Griceness, and found timbers which he recognised as part of a fishing boat. On reaching the Sandy Geo, on the South side of Griceness, his attention was called to the body of a young lad of about eighteen to twenty years, surging back and forth in the ware. With others, he made several attempts to reach the body and after about half an hour, succeeded in bringing it ashore. This young lad was also conveyed by cart to Mr Mitchell's store, and was later identified as Alexander Mair (Bobbin), aged 17 years.

Part of the wreckage found had the last three letters of a boats name - INE. There were three Portknockie boats with names ending in INE. They were the Sunshine, Josephine and Evangeline. Later finds confirmed that the wreckage was that of the Evangeline.

The Evangeline, BF 1952, was a Zulu fishing boat built in 1896 by George Innes & Co. of Portknockie, for skipper David Wood (King), one of Portknockies most skilled fishermen of the time, and he was in partership with his nephew, John Wood (King). The rest of the crew had shares in the fishing gear. The Zulu was named after the Zulu wars in southern Africa and were successors to the Fifie. They had a straight stem and raked stern, could carry large sails, and could reach speeds of up to ten knots.

The following pictures are of the Evangeline and her crew. Of the crew, all those in the picture perished apart from the young man in the middle at the front. He was Alexander Mair (Saucy). He had had a row with the skipper (2nd from right in back row) over playing his melodeon and was not allowed to go on the trip. His place was taken by eighteen year old George Findlay (Hooker) from Cullen.

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The names Hooker, Bobbin etc, are nicknames or tee names to differentiate between families of the same surname in the Banffshire area.

Doctor Brodie attended Mitchell's store at 11 am and examined the three bodies there at that time. He later testified that these men had not been dead for more than eight hours at that time, thereby fixing the time of the disaster as sometime after 3 am on the 17th January.

Meanwhile, on Papa Stronsay, at about 3.30 pm on 17th January, thirty-two year old John Chalmers, a farm labourer and kelp worker, was working the kelp in the Mill Bay of Papa Stronsay, when he saw a large wave carrying something in with it. On closer examination, he found the body of a man, later identified as that of the skipper David Wood (King). John called for assistance from his father, fifty-three year old James Chalmers, and together they managed to recover the body, and had it taken by boat to the Lower Station, and from there, to Mr Mitchell's store. James Chalmers was a great grandfather to the late Ralph Fotheringham of Minerva.

On the following day, at about 12.45 pm, labourer David Brodie was working the kelp in the Mill Bay of Papa Stronsay, when he saw the body of a man in the water. With assistance, he recovered the body from the sea and had it transported over to Mr Mitchell's store. He described the man as a fisherman aged about thirty years, wearing oilskins. He also saw wreckage floating nearby.

Some time later, the Hull trawler "Mercury" picked up the body of Alexander Mair (Shavie), and on 25th January, some eight days after the tragedy, Stewart Williamson, a thirty-six year old fisherman from the Lower Station, found the body of James Mair (Shanker).

A fatal accident enquiry held at Kirkwall on 27th January, heard that the Evangeline had sailed with the fishing fleet early on Friday 13th January, from the harbour at Wick, heading for the fishing grounds off Stronsay. The day was fine, and there was no warning of the impending hurricane which was to hit them on the Saturday morning. The Evangeline was seen by another boat, hanging onto her nets at about six on the Saturday evening. Several other boats in the fishing fleet abandoned their nets and headed for Fair Isle to ride out the storm in deeper water.

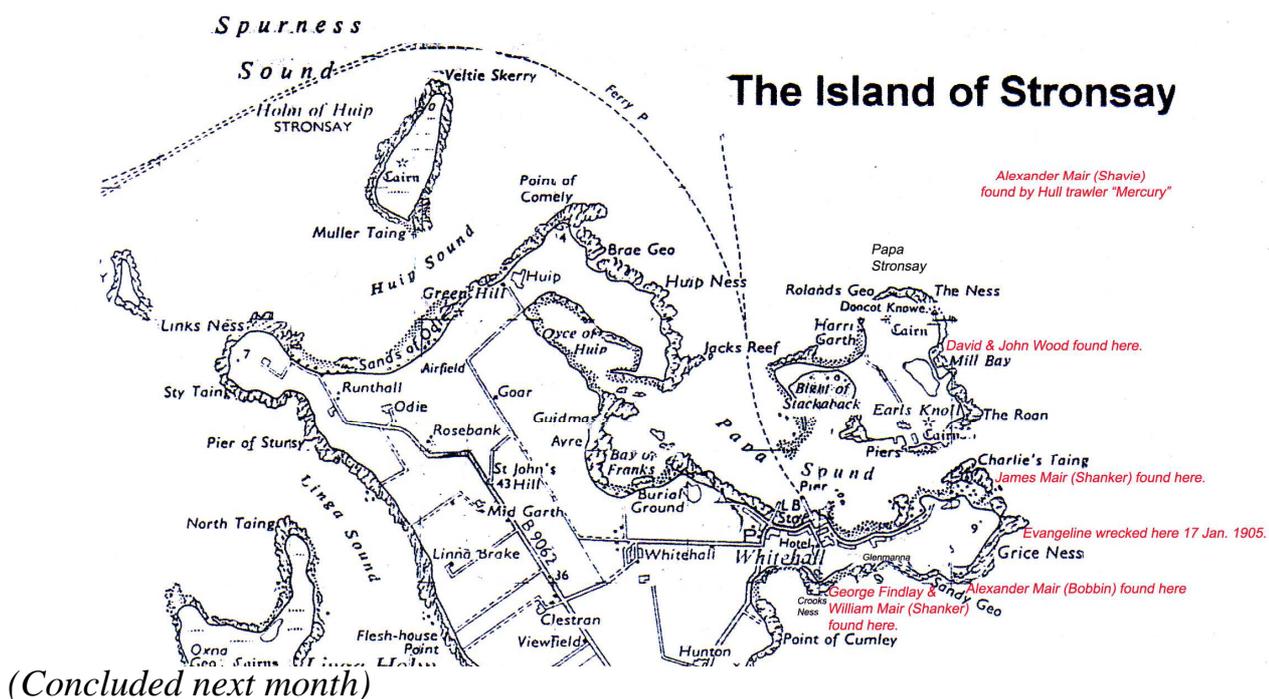
(Continued on next page)

Sadly, this was not to be the fate of the *Evangeline*, and experienced fishermen stated that she probably held onto her nets for as long as possible, and then attempted to gain the safety of Stronsay harbour, but due to the ferocity of the storm, and unable to see the shoreline in the dark, was driven onto the rocks at Griceness.

During the enquiry, all those who had recovered the bodies, and those who identified them, gave evidence to Sheriff Harvey and a jury, and many questions were asked of them as to the necessity for a lighthouse in the area, and also the idea of a lifeboat being stationed on the island.

The men who lost their lives that fateful night were:

- the skipper, David Wood (King), a married man aged 51 years who left his widow to bring up her five children.
- John Wood (King) aged 33 years, a nephew of David, who left a widow and four young children. Sadly one of his sons, eight year old George, was drowned in Portknockie harbour, in September, 1908.
- William Mair (Shanker) aged 32 years, who left a widow and three young children.
- James Mair (Shanker) aged 34 years, brother of William above, who left a widow and two young children. He is buried in Bay Cemetery, Stronsay, where there is a headstone erected for him.
- Alexander Mair (Bobbin) aged 17 years and unmarried.
- Joseph Mair (Bobbin) aged 23 years and unmarried. He was the brother of Alexander above, and his body was never found.
- Alexander Mair (Shavie) aged 38 years, who left a widow and four young children.
- George Findlay (Hooker) aged 18 years and unmarried. He came from Cullen, while the others all came from Portknockie.



THE CAT'S WHISKER

By Christine Richings.

Ben the black and white cat sat in his bed watching the rain run down the window. He wanted to go out but decided against it instead he would give his face a good wash. Licking his paw with each wipe he washed around his mouth and behind and over each ear. He made especially sure that he cleaned his whiskers they were very important to him letting him know what kind of gap he could squeeze into when exploring. If his whiskers fit in a gap then so would he. He finally wiped across each eye. This did not take long and when he had finished he decided he would go out after all even if it was still raining. He went to find his owner then sat facing the door indicating that he wanted to go out. Once the door was opened he trotted off down the side of the house up over the stone wall hesitating on the top in case next doors large ginger cat had decided to hunt in what he thought was his hunting ground. All clear he trotted off down to the beach to have a chat to his friends the limpets. He slowly tip toed over the piles of sea weed, he did not like the feeling or the smell, and went down to the rock pools where they lived. He sat on a large flat rock by now his fur coat was starting to get rather wet. He shook his head and one of his whiskers fell out and fell down between two stones. He sat for a moment longer but nothing interesting seemed to be happening down on the beach so he walked back up to the house searching about amongst the long grass on his way. Now down on the beach someone had noticed the whisker fall for a big old green crab had his home underneath the rock that Ben the black and white cat had been sitting on. He knew that a cats whisker was very precious not only to the cat but also to his friends the mermaids. As you might know a cats whisker is very long pointed at one end and very bendy just right for mermaids sewing. If any creatures of the sea need anything mended they always ask the mermaids. He scurried out from under his rock picked up the whisker and scurried back, there he must wait for the tide to rise. He would send a message using his mighty claws, clapping them together making a sound that would carry across the water. Mermaids would hear this and one would soon arrive. His fee for such a find must be a meal fit for a king. Ben the black and white cat had now reached his house, he jumped up onto the window sill and waited to be let in. Oh well, he thought, I will have some tea then get in my warm bed on the radiator where I will soon dry off. He was feeling quite sleepy now and had no idea what excitement he had caused down on the beach.

DAFT HOMEMADE POETRY No 15

by Bill Embleton

It was raining the night I had my blind date
it was miserable, cold and damp
Having stood at a corner an hour or so
my feet had began to cramp
I'd shrugged off the cold with a 'What the heck'
thrilled with the thoughts of the date
But when she appeared, I almost died
I could hardly believe my fate
She was old and ugly, tall and fat
clutching a bag of chips
Her curlers were red and her wellies were green
a pelmet skirt hung from her hips
Her mascara was running and so was her nose
her bottom lip hung on her chin
But the gaps in her teeth broke the camels back
when she gave me a sickly grin
I had suddenly remembered I'd left on the tap
I would have to dash away
My fire was blazing without any guard
and my dog had been locked in all day
Plus I'd left a pan of stew on the stove
and had forgot to shut the front door
By having to leave her so quickly
she would not want to see me no more
But she clung and groped, scratched and grabbed
dug her black nails in my arm
Spilled her chips all over my suit
and threatened me bodily harm
She said 'Pleath wait' in a guttural lisp
'I know what we can do'
'Juth hop in thith doorway and give ith a kith
then I'll go home with you'
I had then felt trapped and terribly sick
I wanted to curl up and die
It was plain to see if she came back with me
I had told her a pack of lies
Yet I didn't want to be seen on the street
in case I was seen by a mate
So I took her home, despite all my lies
I won't do another Blind date

LOCAL BUSINESSES

STRONSAY HOTEL

Festive Food!
Menu available on request
Booking advised
Meals served from 6 pm to 9 pm on
Sat 12 Dec—Fri 18 Dec,
Sun 20 Dec—Wed 23 Dec and
Sat 2 Jan—Sat 9 Jan
Phone 616213
www.stronsayhotelorkney.co.uk

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 ARTWORKS

Original paintings of Stronsay Landscape;
Limited edition prints, greetings cards and
postcards which are available for sale at lo-
cal shops, Post Office, Hotel, B&B's and
the Fishmart. Commissions taken.
Phone Jenny on 616475

FREE RANGE EGGS

Produced and packed on Stronsay
Available only from Olivebank
Ministry approved free range eggs from
The Hill. Production site ref: 1UK335SCO

STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP **WHITEHALL VILLAGE**

Price Reductions
Paperbacks up to 25% off October and No-
vember
Rowan Scottish Tweed 50g now £3.75
(r.r.p. £5.75)
Rowan Colourscape chunky 100g skeins
£9.25 (r.r.p. £11.25)
Open Thursday to Saturday 10.00-6.00 pm.
Tel 616434
www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk

STRONSAY FISHMART

Sunday	12-2 & 4-7
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	12-2 & 5-7
Wednesday	5-7
Thursday	12-2
Friday	12-2 & 5-7
Saturday	12-2 & 5-7
Saturday	7-9 (<u>Takeaways only</u>)

HOSTEL

3 rooms
(2 rooms sleep 4, 1 room sleeps 2)
Self-catering kitchen on premises
£14 per person per night
Phone 01857 616386

Business adverts

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

Private adverts (for sale, wanted, birthday greetings etc)

Up to 25 words - £1.00. 25 word advert with photo - £1.50. 25 to 50 words - £1.50 and so on.

Adverts for the next (December 2009) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 19 December

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

Need help with your sheep on weekends?

Call James on 616354

John and Madge

wish everyone on Stronsay a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year

Cassy,

Hope you had a wonderful 18th Birthday.

Lots of love Uncle Steve, Auntie Von & Jody. XXX



Cassy,

Happy 18th Birthday Cass

Hope you had a good day.

lots of love, Shannon and KitzeY.xxx



Happy 18th Cassy

Lots of love, Mum & Dad

Why not put a Christmas greetings message in the December edition of The Limpet?

December's edition will be published on Thu 24 Dec

The "cut off" date for items is Sat 19 Dec

Contact details are on the back page of every edition of The Limpet.

Business adverts

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

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

ST ANDREW'S DAY SALE—COMMUNITY CENTRE

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER AT 7:30pm

Church's Annual St Andrew's Day Sale
Bring and Buy, Raffle Prizes, and Usual Stalls. Supper provided
All are very welcome!

OPEN MEETING—FISH MART

7th DECEMBER 7:30pm

Informal meeting (arranged by the SDT Powerdown Officer) to discuss the potential for the community of a shared, sheltered, under cover space for growing out of season or different fruit and vegetables on a non commercial basis.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING—COMMUNITY CENTRE

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER AT 7pm

Switching on of tree lights followed by

Singing from the school children

A "peedie" concert by Stronsay's Silver Darlings

Community carol singing led by Stronsay's Silver Darlings & the Stronsay Singers

Mulled wine, mince pies, pizza, sandwiches and sausage rolls will be served

Raffle, 100 club draw

Admission: adults £2.50, under 16s £1

SANTA IS COMING TO STRONSAY!

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 7:30pm

On Sat 19th Dec the games club Santa float will make its way through the village

Float leaves Jim's yard at 7.30 pm

Followed by carol singing in the Hotel

Santa will accept any letters in the Hotel

Sweets for all the children

Collection of loose change for charity

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult!

Get your Santa hats, tinsel and fairy lights out and dress festively!

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

Items for the next (December 2009) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 19 December

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT MONCUR MEMORIAL CHURCH

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 7:30 p.m. Annual Candlelight Carol Service and Supper.

7:30 pm in the church hall. All are warmly invited to come along to this informal event as we gather around tables in the church hall and enjoy supper and singing to gether.

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER Children's Christmas Service

11 am in the church

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER Christmas Party for children (*baby-8 years*)

2:30-4:30 pm in the church hall

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER Christmas Film Night (*for children 9-16 years*)

6:30-8:30 pm in the church hall

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER Watch Night Candlelight and Carol Service

11:30 pm-12:15 am in the church

FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER Informal Christmas Service

11 am in the church hall

HOGMANY DANCE—COMMUNITY CENTRE

THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER 10pm—12:30am

Come along and see out the old year and welcome in the new!

Admission: adults £2.50, under 16's £1, supper

STRONSAY KIRK—LIFT TO CHURCH?

Would you like a lift to church during the winter months? We would be more than happy to organise the Ambulance, which is also meant to be used by the wider community, to come by for you on Sundays, to take you to the service and back home again. If you would like to be added to the list of passengers, please let either Jennifer George (616311) or Elsie Dennison (616331) know as soon as possible.

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Members of Stronsay Community Council would like to wish Nicola every success in her new venture at the Fish Mart.

Pat Wilcox (SCC Secretary)

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Special event coming up? Why not hire the disco equipment with rotating glitter globe and pulsating coloured lights for only £5 plus room and hydro charge? A DJ from the Hall list must be used.

Also available for hire: badminton, table tennis and snooker all at £2 per hour plus hydro. All equipment provided.

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

For details and booking contact Colin on 616446.

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

LIMITED PRINT

STRONSAY'S SILVER DARLINGS 2010 CALENDAR

Ideal Christmas present

Available now from local shops

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

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit—Tuesday 5th January 2010 (No visit during December)

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>

EVENING CLASS

ST01 Singing Techniques—Tutor: Michael Lee

This class starts from the assumption that everybody can sing! The aim is to help students to explore the possibilities of using their voice to make music and have fun.

Previous experience is not necessary, ability to read music is not essential

Every Monday at 7pm in the Community Hall.

Next session commences in January 2010.

Contact Brian Crowe on 616464 for more info

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.

DO YOU RECEIVE *THE LIMPET* EVERY MONTH?

If you live on Stronsay and your house doesn't receive a regular copy of *The Limpet* just give your name & your address to either Ebenezer Stores, the Post Office or Olivebank and a copy will be there for you on the last Thursday of each month. If you would like to receive your very own copy of *The Limpet* every month via Royal Mail or you would like to send a copy to someone else then you can take out a postal subscription, details are on the back page of every edition of *The Limpet*.

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

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USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Thursday 08:30—16:15
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday . 08:30—12:00
Saturday 09:00—14:00

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 7:30 am and every Sunday at 9 am
Special Collection dates 03 Dec and 05 Feb (2010)

Doctor 616321/308	Castle Bird Reserve 616363
Nurses 616225/232	Balfour hospital 01856 888000
Registrar 616239	Hydro 0800 300 999
Hall bookings 616446	Kirkwall Library 01856 873166
Post Office 616217	Kirkwall Police 01856 872241
Companions 616307	Vets:
Kirk 616311	Flett & Carmichael . . . 01856 872859
Stronsay Hotel 616213	Northvet 01856 873403
Fish Mart 616386	Dentists:
Olivebank 616255	Great Western Rd 01856 879683
Ebenezer stores 616339	King Street 01856 875348

HOW TO CONTACT THE LIMPET

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

The December 2009 edition will be published on Thu 24 December. The cut-off date for the December 2009 edition is Sat 19 December. The January 2010 edition of *The Limpet* will be published as usual on the last Thursday in the month—28 Jan.

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

Please make cheques—UK banks only—payable to “Stronsay Development Trust”
(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>

Supported in its activities by HIE Orkney, Orkney Islands Council,

Communities Scotland, The Crofters Commission and

Orkney Community Planning Partnership