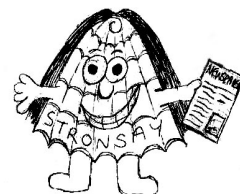


STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

ISSUE 63 SEPTEMBER 2010

Published on the last Thursday of the month



EBENEZER STORES

The Erdman family are going on holiday from 16-24 October. During this time our opening hours will be shorter. We will be opening at 8:30am and closing at 7pm. There may be times when we are shut but we will publish the exact opening times during the week before we go away, so please take a copy from the shop.

We are employing some learner staff so please be patient with them!

Mike & Viv

ON BEING A LOCUM TENENS

By John Rawlinson

‘Locum tenens’ means ‘holding a position’, keeping the ‘show on the road’ and the ‘shop open’ whilst the permanent holder of the post is absent. Specifically in respect of Dr John Rawlinson, it is of course the locum GP position that he has held with such delight and frequent recurrence during the past three years. ‘Here he comes again’, I think I hear as the Varagen approaches the Stronsay pier; ‘there must be a very strong piece of elastic twanging him back up from deepest Cambridgeshire with such regularity!’ And so there is; let me explain.....

The reason for the repeated arrivals of Sally and me on your Very Special Island (for so it has become to us) is an interesting one and derives from what I may whimsically call “A Tale of Two Georges”.

The first George was the late Dr George Drever, GP on Flotta and son of Mr Drever, Headmaster of Stronsay School a good few decades ago. About thirteen years ago George and his wife Val gave us (and our Labradors) warm and generous hospitality on Flotta when we came on a “fact finding” (or more accurately a “curiosity-satisfying”) mission to Orkney. I had long wanted to experience the unique way of life of a Scottish island doctor, to compare and contrast with my practice in rural Eastern England. “Oh, come away,” said George,” and I’ll answer as many of your questions as I can”. He did and there it was: Sally and I were ‘hooked’ by Orkney and began to return at least once a year, often (to our English friends’ bewilderment) in December as well as in summer-time.

(concluded on next page)

The next edition of The Limpet will be published on Thu 28 Oct. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by Sat 23 Oct. Contact details on back page

And then we met the Second George; or rather, I should say, I met him again because the George McKay who phoned me three years ago to see if I would do a locum spell for him declared himself to have been one of the students in the Anatomy classes I was teaching in Aberdeen University in 1973! We had recently arrived back in the UK from the North Yemen where Sally was the Childrens' Nurse and I was the doctor in a small Save the Children Fund team setting up a mother and child health clinic in the immediate aftermath of the Yemeni Civil War. I have long had a fascination for Anatomy and so before we left for the Middle East, I had arranged the Aberdeen job to return to. Why Aberdeen? Well, although a Lancastrian by birth and rearing, I have nursed a passion for the poetry and songs of Robert Burns since I was a love-sick and Socialist teenager and 'Aberdeen' sounded as Scottish as Scottish could be (although, as well I knew, Burns was only linked to the North East by his father's Kincardineshire birth-place.....I could, incidentally, write a whole "Limpet-full" of ramblings about Caledonia's Bard, but that's for another time perhaps!)

So, George Number Two – George the Stronsay Doctor – and his delightful Ryburn Cottage became our introduction to your island and also, most importantly, George became a good friend, even though I haven't the foggiest idea about either fishing or goose-shooting!

What of the future of the medical presence on Stronsay? The whole issue of the best pattern of Primary Health Care (or as I much prefer to call it, "Family Doctoring") in the North Isles has been exercising my mind for a dozen years and I remain convinced that the Island Doctor working in tandem with the Island Nurse is by far the best model for looking after the physical and mental welfare of islanders and for providing a really satisfying as well as a challenging professional life. I am as passionate in my defence of traditional island doctoring as I am about Robbie Burns...and believe me, that's saying something!

So, thank you, Stronsay, for making me, Sally and our Labradors so warmly welcome time after time and we hope to continue to take the Stronsay Remedy regularly (.....doctor's orders!) throughout the years ahead.



John Rawlinson



Sally Rawlinson

ART PROJECT UPDATE

A brief meeting was held at the hall on September 1st for parents and young folk taking part in the art project. There was a good turnout for such a quick meeting – thank you all for coming. It was intended first, as an opportunity to raise any concerns and ask questions, second, to discuss progress, and third, timing.

There were a few concerns raised, such as what was going to be done with the art work that has already been produced, where and how the art project was going to be displayed, and how we actually create the project itself. Everyone will have their work displayed, in equal measure, and none will be wasted. All artwork has been carefully stored in portfolio cases, and any unused in the actual project itself will be returned to their owners. The project itself will be on permanent/semi permanent display in the new hall, on the wall adjacent to the fire exit. It is still intended to be a group activity, with all participating working together simultaneously.

BEACHCOMBING / BUSHWHACK WEEKEND

The art project and eco club joined together on 10th September at Rothiesholm Beach for a beachcombing session. The wind picked up a good bit during the afternoon, and black clouds gathering made us wonder if we should cancel. But it cleared up very quickly, and ended up being a really beautiful (if chilly!) evening. We gathered a plentiful selection of shells and other materials for the art project, as well as seeing of animal and plant life, and everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves, even if some of us were ready for a hot cuppa to thaw out afterwards!



(concluded on next page)

The next day, Saturday 11th, as part of the Bushwhack weekend that Marion organised for the eco club, Malcolm Handoll held an afternoon session at the hall to demonstrate how to make useful equipment out of natural materials. Using a selection of plants, such as reeds, willow wands, nettle stalks and even meadowsweet branches, he showed us how to make rope out of the fibres and bark of these plants, and even showed us how to make 'rush lamps' – using the inner layer of the rush to absorb oil before lighting it. The young folk then took off with their own ideas, making stars, tent frames and even a bow and arrow amongst other things. Many thanks to Marion for organising this, and to Malcolm for an excellent and fascinating afternoon workshop.



GREEN ISLAND FESTIVAL

The Green Island Festival was held in Stronsay on the first weekend of September. On the Friday the pupils at Stronsay School had the benefit of a visit from the drama group Eco drama. Eco drama travel all over Scotland in their bio fuelled “magic van” doing drama and workshops with school children and communities. The children from primary to S3 seemed to have great fun whilst learning about recycling and alternative energy.

In the evening a drama performance called “Isle of Egg” was performed in the Community hall. Members of the Silver Darlings introduced the evening with some of their lovely music and an audience of approximately 40 children and adults then enjoyed the funny but sometimes serious play whilst munching away on free bags of homemade popcorn (see picture 1). The play told the story about an imaginary island of Egg not all too different from Stronsay. The characters were brilliantly acted through music and interacting with the audience.

On the Saturday the Community Hall opened its doors to provide the venue for the Green Island Festival Craft Workshops. There was plenty to look at on the information boards which had pictures and samples displaying local fibers, types of dyeing, woven items, handmade paper, locally produced soap cakes to try. There was also plenty to do (see picture 2) such as weaving bags on cardboard, mini rugs on peg looms, felting, and spinning on CD drop spindles, papermaking, rag rug hooking and working with plastics and cardboard. All the recycled materials had been collected for the past few months from shops and the school.

Because it was run on an informal theme from Saturday through to the Sunday, folk were able to stay for as long or as little as they liked and were able to participate in whatever activities took their fancy. Judging by the amount of wonderful things produced the event was a real success and a good time was had by all (see pictures 3, 4 and 5). The Eday Youth Club attended the event on the Saturday and enjoyed the day making stuff, eating and playing in the play park.

In the main Hall there was a local food café. Visitors were able to enjoy a 3 course meal with all the main ingredients having been grown or sourced on Stronsay with some extras that came from Eday. There were all sorts of dishes from soup to a hot Stronsay vegetable curry to a berry crumble that disappeared all too fast.

Nearly 100 meals were served throughout the 2 days and many came back on the Sunday for another feed and to sample what delights can be produced on our small island.

A special “thank you” to all the cooks, to those who helped with the cleaning (you all know who you are!) and to the Silver Darlings for playing at the drama night. And, of course, a big “thank you” to all the visitors who made the weekend into what it was!

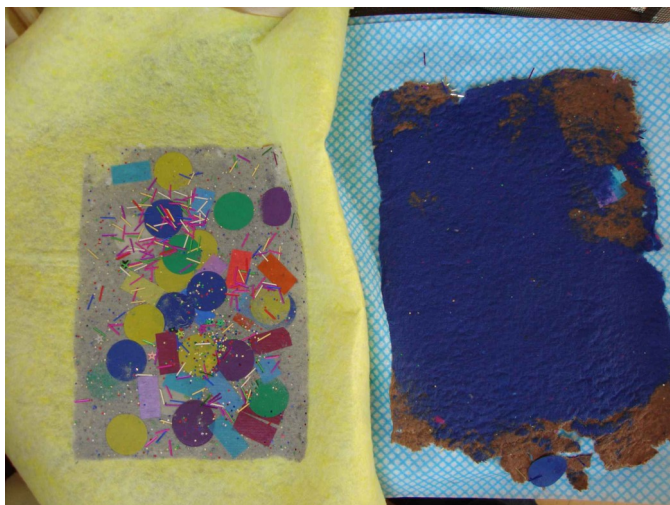
(pictures are on the next page)



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

(More PowerDown news on next page)

ECO CLUB

The Stronsay Children's Eco club had their first session in the greenhouse at the end of August. Since then a group of around 12 children of varying ages has been enjoying a variety of activities. They have been planting, weeding and harvesting their very own plot in the greenhouse (see pictures 1, 2 and 3). They are all very proud of their plot and are currently growing lettuce, radishes, peas amongst other crops that they have prepared for spring. We have also done "bug hunting" and learning about how soil is made.

A few weeks ago the children enjoyed a blustery but fun evening down on the Bu sands collecting shells and identifying creatures found in and around the rocks. This activity was run together with the Stronsay Arts Project (See separate article).

Bush craft day

On the 11th of September Eco club had the pleasure of a visit from Bush craft trainer Malcolm Handoll who resides in Stromness. Malcolm is a trained survival and mountain leader who teaches children and adults survival skills such as making fire according to how our ancestors had to do it and how to make rope and lanterns using natural fibres and materials.

Being blessed with a lovely sunny and wind free morning we all gathered down on the shore at Housebay Bay. Malcolm then took us all in his very inspiring way through the ancient skills of fire making. We gathered seeds of thistles and dry grasses which were used for tinder. The real skill was in how to work the wooden bow used to create friction between the two pieces of wood which then slowly started to smolder after a lot of hard work (see picture 4 and 5). When we eventually got a fire going there was great excitement amongst all (see pictures 6 and 7).

In the afternoon everyone gathered in the Hall to learn some more skills of our ancestors such as making rope from Nettle fibres and lanterns using rushes (See separate write up by Art Project).

Eco club will continue until November and restart once the daylight returns in March.



Picture 1

(concluded on next page)



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7

BIRD REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

An amazing and colourful array of unusual species have been seen on the island in the last few weeks - the majority arriving in SE winds and rain in early September. A great start to the Autumn migration!

Late August had been rather quiet with the usual build-up in numbers of Pied Wagtail and Wheatears but there were few other migrants other than a good assortment of waders on the Bu Loch. The loch has been at the perfect depth again this Autumn and unusual species feeding there included 4 Curlew Sandpipers and two Little Stints along with many Knot and several Black-tailed Godwit. The most astonishing bird of this period however was seen by myself and regular visitor Ken Barclay at Bomasty Bay - a Little Shearwater flying south quite close inshore. Another unusual sighting was a Lapland Bunting at Grice Ness, seen by another regular visitor to the island - Geraldine Guppy. A huge influx of this species into the U.K. was recorded around this time, and 5 were seen by Sue and myself at the airstrip on 16th September.

The biggest 'fall' of birds began on 3rd September with a single Rosefinch at Sunnybank and another at Castle, where a Barred Warbler was also found. By the 6th the SE wind had increased to 5-7 and many more species arrived including Redstarts, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, and 2 Rosefinches together on The Reserve. Several other woodland species were present including Fieldfare, Brambling and Siskin but the most unexpected and colourful discovery was at Airy Cottage - a Great Spotted Woodpecker which was present for several days and seen subsequently at Holin Cottage and in the Castle drive at Millburn Cottage. New species recorded next day included Chaffinches, Blackcaps and Garden Warblers, with most established gardens having at least a Willow Warbler and a Spotted Flycatcher present. Vying for 'Bird of the day' on 9th were a Wryneck in The Reserve drive and a Hobby along the Airy Rd. Other new species present included Tree Pipit by Simone's new house near Hescome, a Lesser whitethroat in the Airy garden, and both Whinchat and Stonechat. A very unusual sight next morning was a Yellow Wagtail on the lawn in the Castle garden with a late Swift flying overhead, with yet more to come later - a Wryneck at Airy and a Red-backed Shrike by the Bu Loch. A different - and very elusive - Red-backed Shrike took up residence at Sunnybank for a few days from 12th. On the 13th the Castle garden held Whitethroat, Barred Warbler, Reed Warbler and Blackcap, and a Marsh Warbler was found at Sunnybank, but most birds were keeping to dense cover as the wind veered to a NW direction bringing migration to a halt. Most had departed by 17th. 3 different Sparrowhawks were seen during the period - no doubt feeding on some of the weaker, tired migrants which had just arrived from the other side of the North Sea. Kath & Norman have seen both male and female Hen Harriers regularly 'hawking' over the unharvested crop at Dale, and Peregrine, Merlin, and Kestrel have all been seen regularly during the last month.

(continued on next page)

The first two weeks of September had been exceptional but there can be no doubt that many species were missed among dense cover in island gardens etc. Many island residents have phone to tell us of their own sightings - the majority being of Spotted Flycatchers and Redstarts, tying in with our own sightings. A big 'thank-you' to all.

With SE winds forecast for the first part of the coming week at least, we could experience another - even bigger - fall of birds during the next few days. Fingers crossed!

John Holloway

PS: A big 'thank-you' also to all who helped with Sue's sudden unexpected helicopter ride to Kirkwall in late July and to all who have sent cards, flowers, and good wishes during her time in hospital. Sue is now well on the way to a full recovery. (Please note that washing in the Castle area currently hung on line by husband - please make allowances!)



Curlew Sandpiper at the Bu Loch



Male Redstart at Springwell



2 Rosefinches on The Reserve



Great Spotted Woodpecker in The Reserve drive

(concluded on next page)



Hobby on roadside fence-post



Marsh Warbler



Kestrel at the Hundi Quarry



Merlin at Boondatoon



Another Redstart photographed on the island this Autumn - this time a bird in more typical, rather dull plumage, and almost certainly a young bird. Redstarts are very wary birds and often the first clue to their presence is the orange tail as the bird flies off into cover. Several were reported around houses/gardens this Autumn. Many show a brighter, more orange wash to much of the underparts than this bird.



Clifton
Stronsay
9 September 2010

Proposal for the light haulage business and development of the land

Community consultation

The names on completed forms have been counted and are now stored securely by the company secretary.

To ensure confidentiality only the numbers were given to the board at the meeting on 8 September:

83 agreed with the current proposal by the Development Trust to buy the light haulage business, to set up a community owned Haulage Company and to develop an Enterprise Zone in the haulage yard.

9 did not agree with the Development Trust's proposal.

A total of 140 households were sent the proposal.

Julia Crocker
Chair

A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland
Company Number SC271553
A Scottish Charity, Charity Number SC038888
Registered Office: Clifton, Whitehall, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR



STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Update on the proposal for the light haulage business and development of the land.

Firstly just a recap on the notices put up on 10 September;

Signatures on the completed forms have been counted and are now stored securely by the company secretary. To ensure confidentiality only the numbers were given to the board at the meeting on 8 September:

83 agreed with the current proposal by the Development Trust to buy the light haulage business, to set up a community owned Haulage Company and to develop an Enterprise Zone in the haulage yard.

9 did not agree with the Development Trust's proposal.

From correspondence and general conversation, there has been an indication that it is not clear what the Development Trust's role is and some issues have centred around the question;

Why do you need to buy a business, or does that mean you would buy any business that hadn't sold?

Please excuse a couple of definitions or a bit of jargon busting:-

Development Trusts are community run organisations that are concerned with the economic, social, environmental and cultural needs of their community. They are owned and managed by the local community and aim to generate income through trading activity that enables them to move away from dependency on grant support.

The community wind turbine and the haulage/enterprise zone projects are defined as social enterprises.

Social Enterprises exist to make a profit just like any private sector business. However, instead of paying dividends to share holders or inflated salaries to owners and managers any profits or surpluses they make are reinvested into economic, social and environmental purposes; for example providing employment opportunities, skills training, furthering the arts and cultural activities and supporting other community groups. Without making a profit social enterprises cannot meet their social and environmental objectives; they must trade, to be sustainable.

(continued on next page)

It is important to stress that the Haulage business is in no way reliant on the Enterprise Zone to operate and the business model is designed to ensure this is the case. However any extra business resulting from activity at the EZ will be welcomed but not essential to the viability of the lifeline haulage service.

We are definitely not an organisation set up to rescue businesses that have not sold, so why are we proposing to buy this light haulage business?

This particular business provides a lifeline service that everyone on the island needs and the owner cannot afford to give it away.

The alternative could well be a mainland intervention by a large firm that took jobs away from Stronsay and result in huge price increases to users.

It is viable although not hugely profitable as a separate business from the heavy haulage

The potential of the land that is being sold with the business provides the opportunity to expand and create a bigger and more diverse social enterprise supporting the continued sustainability of the island for the future.

We have also received correspondence that suggests different ways in which the light haulage might operate. So we plan a discussion session in October and will invite all those who wish to discuss how their proposals could work to come along for a less formal 'around the table' meeting.

COMMUNITY AND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS REPORT.

We are excited to announce officially that BBC's 'Autumn Watch' are coming to Stronsay! They are here to film the seals and birdlife etc on the island. They will stay on the island for 4 weeks over October/November and there will be 14 of them coming, so be sure to extend them a warm Stronsay greeting! You may know the show and its sister programme Spring Watch hosted by Kate Humbold. This visit will make our little island famous and will no doubt result in an influx of visitors as a result. I would like to thank Allen and Carol for organising the complicated accommodation requirements and to logistics of feeding this lot when they stay. Thanks also to Bill Miller who has quietly assisted the BBC researchers with his extensive local knowledge and contacts.

The Turbine project continues at a pace. We have now employed our Project Managers. They are NorthWind Associates and have an excellent track record including the recent HammersHill project which is almost complete. Our chosen financiers are the Co-Op Bank who are supporting us in a most enthusiastic and positive way. A huge amount of effort has gone into this £1.7m project with much yet to be done prior to completion. The community will find that it will prove worthwhile once those blades start turning and income begins to benefit Stronsay.

(concluded on next page)

Now that the result of the island consultation on the haulage buy out and Enterprise Zone has been confirmed as positive, I will be submitting our business plan to funders and apply for planning permission. Thanks to the Community Council who will be putting in the PP on our behalf.

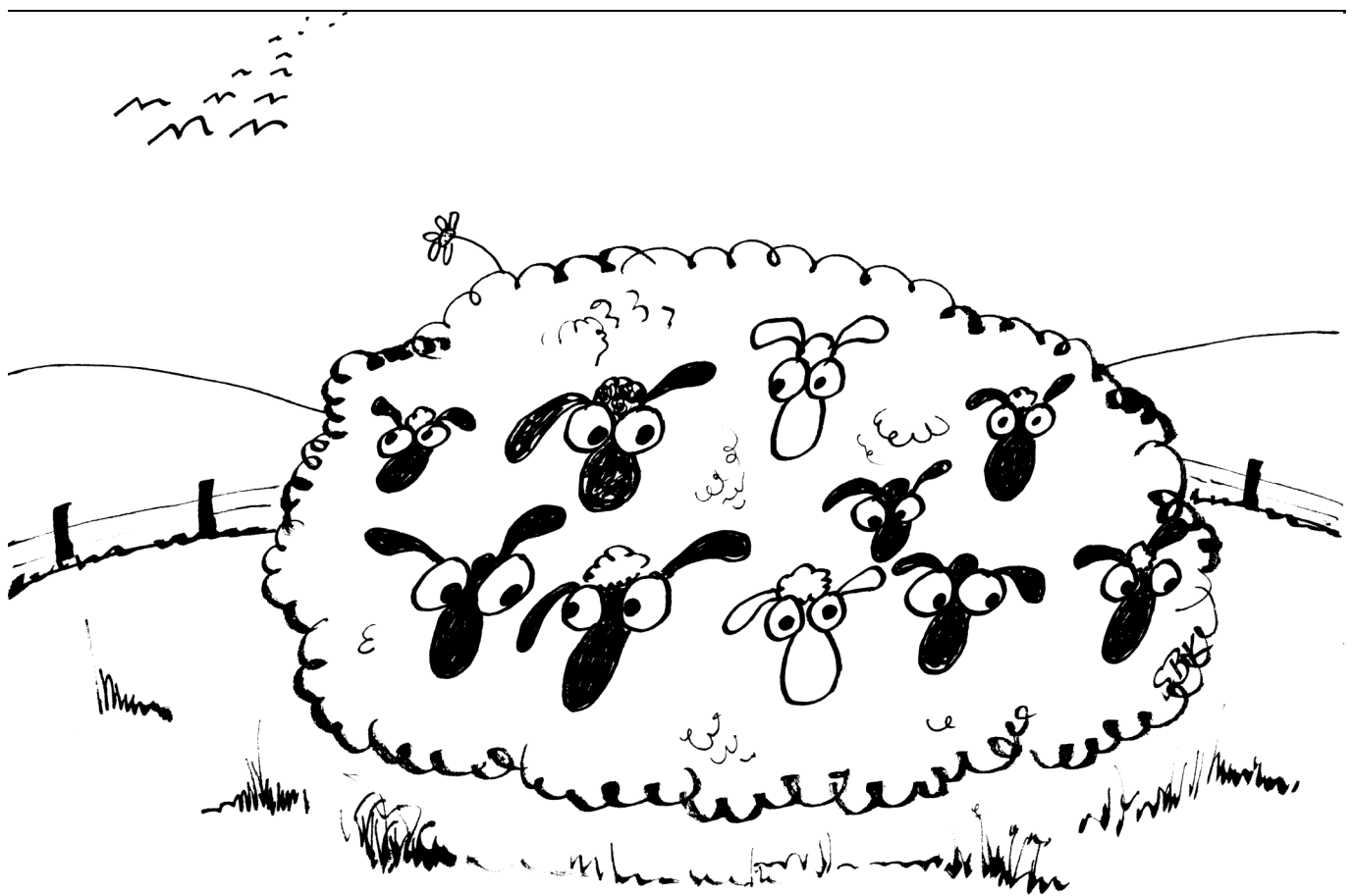
I am finding it difficult to find a welding instructor available this term to come over to Stronsay and stay overnight who would be acceptable to funders. However come the new year someone could be available. Sorry for any disappointment this may cause but due to the magnificent response to this it will happen eventually.

If you do have a business idea that would want to take up the option of a business unit, start planning now. I am willing to help in anyway and can link you up with people who can make this happen.

TONY WITHERS CDO/TDO S.D.T.

email; cdostronsay@btconnect.com

tel 616300



“You can’t beat a good cloutie dumpling on a chilly day”

FREE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME **SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2010**

Date(s)	Days	Duration	Workshop title	Venue
2nd/3rd Nov	Tues/ Wed	2 day	New Business Start Up	Stromness
4th Nov	Thur	1 day	Financial Record Keeping	Kirkwall

For further details or to book please contact Kirsten on tel 01856 886666; or by email business.gateway@orkney.gov.uk; or call along the office at 14 Queen Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1JE

***** Please note booking in advance is essential due to limited numbers *****

www.bgateway.com

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE



Opening over the October School Holidays
Saturday 9th October – Sunday 24th October to be as following:

	am	pm
Monday	10.00-11.30	Closed
Tuesday	Closed	7.00-8.30
Wednesday	10.00-11.30	Closed
Thursday	Closed	7.00-8.30
Friday	10.00-11.30	Closed
Saturday	Closed	Closed
Sunday	10.00-11.30	Closed

Please be advised that any saver cards purchased back in March 2009 will be disposed of at the end of November. So you still have time to use up your remaining visits. Who knows you might even remember why you bought them!

An open day will take place in November. Watch this space in the next edition of *The Limpet*.

Healthy Living Centre telephone number: 616449

STRONSAY'S LIFEBOATS

During the fatal accident enquiry into the loss of the Portknockie fishing boat Evangeline on Griceness, Stronsay, in 1905, it was suggested that a lighthouse on Papa Stronsay, and a lifeboat stationed on Stronsay, might have prevented the tragic loss, and so in 1907, a lighthouse designed by David Stevenson, a relation of Robert Louis Stevenson, was erected on Papa Stronsay, and on 15th April, 1909, a lifeboat was stationed on Stronsay.

Stronsay's first lifeboat was the "John Ryburn", a motor Watson Type lifeboat, 43 feet long and 12ft. 6 inch beam, built by Thames Ironworks, Builders of London, at a cost of £2,770-9-5d, from a legacy of W. McCann Esq, Largs, Scotland. She was fitted with a 40 horse power Tylars engine, which cost £375.

At the same time, Stromness were also getting a new lifeboat, but as this was in the middle of the lobster fishing season, the Stromness crew refused to go to London to collect the boat, so the Stronsay crew took the boat home to Stromness. On arrival, a large crowd had gathered on the Stromness pier to see the new lifeboat, and they were very disgruntled with the Stromness crew for not collecting their own boat. Things got quite heated, and one man boarded the Stromness boat with malice in mind, and had to be arrested by the two Stromness based policemen. The crowd then turned on the policemen and stoned them as they dragged their prisoner off to the police station.



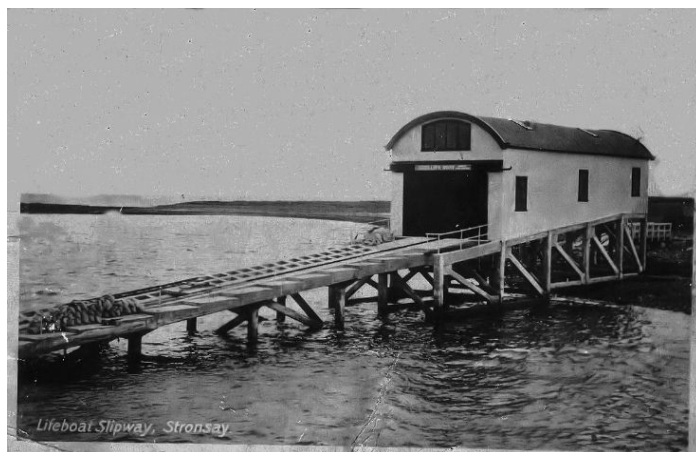
*Stronsay's first lifeboat, the John Ryburn, a 43ft boat, on station from 1909 until 1915.
After Stronsay, she was stationed at Peterhead and Broughty Ferry, saving well over 100 lives.
Last heard of in 2000, berthed in Caernarvon, and now named "Bempo"*

Initially, the lifeboat was anchored out in front of Feastown, but in 1911, a lifeboat house and slipway was constructed at a cost of £3,050, and in 1912, Ryburn Cottage was built for the lifeboat mechanic at a cost of £300. It was sold in 1937, and the lifeboat slipway was surrendered to the landowner in 1938, with the lifeboat shed being removed in or around 1949.

(continued on next page)

The main reason for the removal of the lifeboat in 1915 was that the First World War was in progress and most of the lifeboat crew were away fighting in the war.

The lifeboat was then stationed at Peterhead until 1921, and during her time there, she saved some 158 lives. She then went to Broughty Ferry where she saved a further 15 lives. In 1935 she was sold out of service to a Mr Hughes of Rhyl, North Wales, who fitted a wheelhouse and new engine, and re-named her “Bempo”.



Following the loss of several fishing boats in and around the North Isles, the R.N.L.I. decided to re-open the Stronsay Lifeboat Station, and so in October, 1952, a relief lifeboat, the Edward Z. Dresden arrived on station. She was a 45'6" Watson class boat, built in 1929 and stationed at Clacton from that time until she came to Stronsay. She remained at Stronsay, anchored in the harbour between the piers, until 1955, when she went back on the relief fleet until 1968 when she was sold out of service. She was re-named “St Peter”, and was last heard of when she was lost off Troon in 1984.



*Stronsay's second lifeboat the Edward Z. Dresden 1952 - 1955.
A 45.5 ft. Watson class built in 1929 for Clacton Station and remained there until she came to Stronsay in 1952. In 1955 went on relief until sold out of service in 1968.
Re-named St Peter and used as a yacht until she was lost at Troon on 1st September, 1984.*

On 1st February, 1955, a brand new lifeboat arrived on station. She was the “John Gellatly Hyndman”, a 52ft. Barnett class motor lifeboat, fitted with two 60 bhp Ferry VE6 engines, at a total cost of £35,294, provided with a legacy from Miss Amelia Hyndman of Greenock. In 1969 she was re-engined with two 72 hp. Thornycroft engines.

(concluded on next page)

She remained on station, anchored between the piers, until 30th May, 1972, when the station was closed down. During her time at Stronsay, she was launched 116 times and saved 47 lives. She then went on the relief fleet, being stationed at numerous venues in Scotland, England and Ireland, and saving a further 45 lives, until she was sold out of service in 1985.

Since that time, she has changed hands a few times, and was last heard of in 2008, having been restored to her former glory by the new owners, Andy and Jools Ashley in Portishead on the Bristol Channel. See coloured photograph below. A friend of theirs has restored the old Stromness lifeboat, the Archibald and Alexander M Patterson, and both boats are in first class condition. It is their intention to sail them up to Orkney one day.



The RNLI purchased what was W. P. Drever's shop, now Cardingham House, and the upper floors were occupied by the lifeboat mechanic Sidney Swanney. The ground floor rooms housed all the lifeboat equipment, oilskins, stores etc.

Thomas Carter was the coxswain from 1952 until 1956 when Jimmy Stout took command. Other members of the crew as far as I can remember were, Sammy Reid, Archie Reid, John Reid, James Reid, John Dennison, Ernie Fiddler, Willie Miller, Johnno Miller, Dod Burghes, Jim Work Senior and Jim Work Junior, David Rendall, Jim Clyne, John Stout, Doddy Maxwell, Johnno Pottinger, Neil Miller and Willie Cooper. The shore attendant was Johnnie Devin. Captain Edward Horrabin Clements D.S.C., was the honorary secretary and responsible for authorising the call outs. Andrew Burghes from the Smiddy later became honorary secretary.

Since 1972, the seas around the North Isles have been covered by the Kirkwall lifeboat.

Bill Miller

ROUSAM MEMORIES

by Elizabeth Stevenson (Rothiesholm)

In May 1939 I started my education at the small, one teacher Rousam School, a big adventure for someone who had rarely been beyond the end of the farm road. I don't remember the first day there but I do recall that at one point I got a small wooden framed slate and a slate pencil along with a copy book.

The days I remember well were the more unusual days. For instance, all the pupils went on a trip to Rousam Hill to gather sphagnum moss (which was used at one time to treat wounds) and to pick wild flowers which we brought back to the school and pressed between the pages of books. This was done as a competition which my brother Rab won much to the chagrin of the girls.

There were Saturdays when we collected eggs for the Balfour Hospital, not to feed the patients as I thought but to sell for funds for the hospital. My oldest sister, our friend Madelaine and myself would set off with baskets each carefully lined with grass. We would go down the west side and get six eggs or perhaps four from each house depending on how well the hens were laying but always willingly donated. Remember in those days six eggs was probably their profit for the week. Back up to the school and carefully place the eggs under a tussock of grass before setting off over the hill to Rosevale to a warm welcome from lovely Maggie who with her husband Johnnie lived out on the point. A chat, a cup of tea and a biscuit then Maggie would accompany us amid much laughter and fun to Bella Jean and Jimmy at Viewforth for another chat and another biscuit while Bella Jean played us tunes on her melodeon. Calling along all the houses in that district we would collect the eggs from under the tussock and give the baskets to the teacher.

Another collection was the Penny-A-Week fund - a red and green tin with a string handle attached was given to a child in each area in turn and every household gave a penny for the war effort. My area was from home out along the road to Cliffdale, St Catherines and Mount Pleasant. Home along the Rousam sands to hunt for groatie buckies (cowrie shells) always keeping an eye lifting for Otter footprints.

Then one day we got our gasmasks. Little brown boxes with a string attached which we wore over our shoulder, inside were horrible, smelly rubber masks that thankfully were never needed. All the family got one except my baby sister who got a huge contraption the size of an ordinary oven into which she was bodily popped.

Sunday was Sunday School and prompt at three o'clock Peter Cooper of Tifmaka, the local elder and Sunday School teacher, arrived on his bicycle - a dear man with a loud melodious singing voice.

These are some memories from my days at the Rousam School.

RAIN OR SHINE!

By Ellie from Newfield

Would my garden miss me, I wonder,
If I was absent for some time?
Would it carry on regardless
Come rain or come shine?
Would the Red Hot Pokers burn so bright
Or the Periwinkles wink?
Would there be that heavenly perfume
That comes from the Carnation pink
While Grand-mother nods in her bonnets
In colours of pink, purple or blue,
Her clover leaves branching out
Seemingly saying “How do you do?”
While at the top of Jacob’s Ladder
With seeds just waiting to pop
Would they seed themselves without me?
Would they miss me, well, maybe not.
Would I miss those bright yellow blood spots,
Mimosa so cheerful and gay;
The vibrant, exciting Poppies
That cheer up my every day?
Pampas Grass softly swaying,
Gorgeous Veronica’s blooms,
The Buddleia tempting the butterflies
Or the Cottontail’s fluffy plumes?
Many and cheerful those Pansies
That seem to pop up everywhere.
Would my garden miss me
If I should cease to care?
Now that we’ve grown old together
And we’ve been such loyal friends
I think we’d miss each other
As on each other we so depend.

©Helene Harrison

DAFT HOMEMADE POETRY BY BILL EMBLETON

(Number 29)

Paradise lost

Sitting underground, in our cosy little Pict house
Weathering the storm that is sweeping Lamb Head,
Feasting on partins, winkles, spoots and lobsters
While granny (who has no teeth)
Is sucking barley bread

If it's fine tomorrow we'll do some hunter-gathering.
Maybe catch a seal and a rabbit or two,
Geese, wild duck, various kinds of birds eggs,
and a basket full of brassica
To paint our bodies blue.

Our island teems with animals, wild birds and sea fish.
We want for nothing foodwise, as everything is here.
Some made things we do lack, we get from other islands.
We know these nearby islanders
And barter without fear

But who are in those long boats we saw at sea this morning,
Could they be a threat to my tribe and family?
Bearded men with long knives, horned hats and axes.
Are they friendly incomers?
We'll have to wait and see.

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 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

STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

Stronsay and Orkney craft products,
Fiction and non-fiction books, cards,
Gifts, maps, Rowan and North Ron wool
stockist.
From 29 Sept the shop will be open on
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
12.00 to 17.30
Tel 616434
www.stronsayartsandcrafts.co.uk

BICYCLE SPARES AT OLIVEBANK

Olivebank now holds stocks of bicycle
tyres, inner tubes, chains, pedals, oil, etc
Phone Maurice or Sheila on 616255

STRONSAY FISH MART CAFE & HOSTEL		
Phone 07793 621 669		
Monday	12-2	5-7
Tuesday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	12-2	5-7
Thursday	12-2	5-7
Friday	12-2	5-7
Saturday	12-2	5-7
Sunday	Sunday Roast (bookings ONLY) 12-2	5-7

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 (October) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 23 October

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

PRIVATE SALES & WANTS, GREETINGS etc

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Al and Margareth Richards (latterly of Minerva, Stronsay) have relocated.
We wish to thank all the Stronsay Limpets for their kindness, friendship and support over
the past 14 years.

However, we've only moved to Kirkwall so watch out!

FOR SALE

Vauxhall Astra 53 Reg 2.0 Diesel
Low mileage 84k. Clean condition and very reliable. 2 new tyres and battery.
Full service history. MOT end Jan 2011. Taxed
Phone 616 354

KITTENS LOOKING FOR GOOD HOMES

Norwegian Forest Cat X kittens 2 Tabbies (£30) and 2 black (£20) ones.
Ready mid October and will be wormed and de-flead
These kittens grow into big lovable cats and make great hunters.
Phone 616 354!

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

SEAN, SHEENA & LAUREN'S

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON & EVENING

At Sunnyside, Stronsay
Saturday 2nd October
2pm to 4pm & 7pm to 8:30pm
Raffles, sales table
All welcome

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

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 (October) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 23 October

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

GREEN ISLAND FESTIVAL

We would like to say a big “thank you” to everyone who donated materials to the Green Island Festival. Your support was greatly appreciated.

From Simone, Marion and Eunice.

FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Notices will be put up in the shops and surgery as soon as supplies arrive. Patients with chronic health problems and their carers should have the jab as well as everyone over 65 years old. If you are uncertain whether you should have it please contact the surgery for advice.

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

HARVEST THANKSGIVING FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 24th October 11am in the church

Donations of produce, homebakes or tinned items (to help decorate the church and be included in baskets for the “over-eighties”) may be brought to the church hall on Saturday between noon and 6 pm.

Everyone is very welcome!

Rev Dr Jennifer Graham

STRONSAY PARENT COUNCIL

In the current economic climate, the school’s Parent Council felt it appropriate to form a sub committee with specific responsibility to raise funds for school-organised events. The committee members are: Madeline Martin, Viv Erdman, Arna Cooper, Wilma Holland and Gaynor Smith.

All future Parent Council fund raising events will be headed

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

If you would like to help in any way please contact a member of the sub committee. Raffle donations would also be appreciated.

Colin McAlpine

Clerk

Stronsay Parent Council

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

Items for the next (October) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 23 October

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

FILM NIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER

For the younger folk at 6pm we have Walt Disney's "Up"

Certificate "U", approximate running time 90 minutes.

Popcorn and juice will be served.

After the film we have home bakes, tombola & a raffle then at 8.30pm an old classic

"The Philadelphia Story".

Refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome to watch both films.

This is a fundraiser towards a book drive for the kirk's partners in Malawi.

There is no charge for watching the films, instead we ask that you make a donation.

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

The CAB will be visiting Stronsay and holding sessions
in the Fishmart from 1pm to 4:30pm on the following dates

Wed 13th Oct

Wed 10th Nov

Wed 6th Dec

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB

Ages 10 or over only

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

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

Items for the next (October) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 23 October

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

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit - **Tuesday 12 October**

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—SINGING

Monday evenings at Stronsay Community Hall from 7pm to 9pm

Current session of 10 lessons commenced Monday 20 September.

No experience necessary, all you need is enthusiasm.

For more details contact Brian Crowe on 616464

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.

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!

Items for the next (October) edition of *The Limpet* must be placed by Saturday 23 October

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30—12
Tuesday	Closed
Thursday	8:30—12 and 1—3
Saturday	9—12

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

Next Special Collection 26 Nov 2010 & 04 Feb 2011

Doctor 616321

Nurses 616480

Medical emergency 01856 888000

Registrar 616239

Hall bookings 616446

Post Office 616217

Companions 616261

Kirk 616311

Stronsay Hotel 616213

Fish Mart 07793 621 669

Olivebank 616255

Ebenezer stores 616339

Castle Bird Reserve 616363

Balfour hospital 01856 888000

Hydro 0800 300 999

Kirkwall Library 01856 873166

Kirkwall Police 01856 872241

Vets:

Flett & Carmichael . . . 01856 872859

Northvet 01856 873403

Dentists:

Great Western Rd 01856 879683

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 Limpet is published on the last Thursday of the month. Items for inclusion in *The Limpet* must reach Bruce by the Saturday before the last Thursday in the month. The cut-off date for the next (October 2010) edition is Saturday 23 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

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