

# STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

ISSUE 97 - July 2013

Published on the last Thursday of the month



## REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

The Health Board have decided to introduce a system of dispensing repeat prescriptions from the mainland pharmacist in place of the island dispensary. This has already been done on North Ronaldsay, Shapinsay, Rousay and Sanday.

- Prescriptions will be checked by a pharmacist for potential errors.
- VAT will be saved for the cost of the items.
- Prescriptions will be ordered at surgery as usual.
- Prescriptions will be dispensed at a Mainland Pharmacy and sent to Stronsay by haulier.
- The sealed packets of medicine will be collected from the surgery as usual.
- An emergency supply of medicines will be kept on Stronsay in case of bad weather delaying delivery.
- Prescriptions will need to be ordered at least 7 days before required.

Start date anticipated to be 1 September 2013

We will work hard to make this work for you.

Dr Roger Neville-Smith

Dr Rosalind Fisher

## LIMPET BLOG

The Limpet blog has been running since April this year but there have been very few comments and there is no way of knowing whether or not anyone actually reads it. Would you prefer the blog or should we revert to using the Limpet's Facebook page? Contact details for the Limpet are on the back page.

Limpet blog = <http://stronsaylimpet.islandblogging.co.uk>

Limpet Facebook page = <https://www.facebook.com/StronsayLimpet>

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The next edition of the Limpet will be published on Thu 29 August. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on Sun 25 August. Contact details on back page

# The Stronsay Fest

*"The Island where the music never ends"*



## Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th August 2013

**Stronsay folk are known for their musical talent,  
great cooking and generous hospitality,  
come and join the festivities, fun and food**

### Friday 23rd Aug

**18.30 - 21.00**

**Fishmart:** Children's tea  
and entertainment



**20.00 to late**

**Stronsay Hotel:**  
Jamming  
and Karaoke



**All welcome to bring your  
instruments and voices**

### Saturday 24th Aug

**10.00 - 12.00**

**Beach:** A walk, led by Katy  
Norbury, RSPB. A treasure  
hunt, fun for all the  
family



**Start 14.00**

**Moncur Memorial Church:**  
Concert - featuring local talent

**20.30 - late**

**Hall:** Dance with the Stronsay  
Band and buffet supper

### Sunday 25th Aug

**10.00 Start**

**Village:** The Herring Walk -  
A guided tour by Bill Miller



**11.00 - 12.00**

**Moncur Memorial Church:**  
Songs of Praise

**12.15 - 14.00**

**Hall:** BBQ and games

**14.30 - 15.30**

**Stronsay School:** Peedie  
concert featuring local talent

**12.00 - 16.00**

**Community Greenhouse:**  
Open for a look around, a  
cuppa and snack made from  
the produce grown here.

A more detailed programme of events will be  
available on the day.

To get to Stronsay by boat:  
**Orkney Ferries - Tel: 01856 872044**  
[www.orkneyferries.co.uk](http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk)

Free minibus between locations.  
Lunches available in the Fishmart.  
Evening meals available in the Hotel.



**Sponsored by the Stronsay Development Trust**

If anyone would like to take part in the concerts or has any free time to volunteer  
for the event please contact Jacqueline Dennison on [stronsaylass45@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stronsaylass45@hotmail.co.uk)

## **BUMBLEBEES AND MY GARDEN**

When I first came to Stronsay, seven years ago, I was astonished and delighted to find that my garden had a huge population of bumblebees. I had never seen anything like it there must have been hundreds if not thousands . The hebes, fushias and rugosas were covered with them. This continued for three years. I meanwhile planted lots more plants for bumblebee food. I currently have nearly 40 of them.

The first things that seemed to cause their population to drop were the two volcanic ash falls. I had an organic gardening tutor at the time so I asked him about the effect of fresh volcanic ash on bumblebees. He said that the sulphur was damaging for their nests. Last year, you remember, we had sudden heat in March/April. The bumblebee queens came out and started feeding but then the weather became cold and wet and things didn't flower very well. In the end, "my" bees' population seemed to be a bit better than the year before but nothing at all the way it had been. This year seems so far to be a disaster. The queens came out, but there were so few flowers that they seemed to have very little food. The upshot of this is that I currently have almost no bees and one species, the brown ones appears to have vanished entirely.

Whilst all this has been going on I contacted both John Crossley and the bumblebee conservation organisation at Stirling University. Notably I learned two things. The species that we have here: Hortorum, Lucorum, (both black with white tails and yellow stripes, and the honey brown ones, Pasorum. There is a very rare one, a yellow bumblebee, I don't recall it's name, but they feed on vetch and other native wildflowers and don't tend to come into gardens. I also learned about bumblebees' life cycle.

They all die each year except for the new queens. The new queens mate and feed and then hibernate, emerging the following spring. The queens feed when they emerge and look for a suitable place to establish their nest. They like quiet undisturbed places like old mouse holes, long grass and sometimes they nest in compost heaps. Having found her nest and laid in some food the queen starts laying her eggs to produce the smaller worker bees. These are all female. Later in the season males and new queens are produced. They mate and then the males die. Eventually the workers die too and the new queens are left to hibernate and start the new colony the following year. In order to sustain their population each year they need a succession of food throughout the season from spring to autumn. They are horribly susceptible to insecticides.

I think it's clear why they're so vulnerable. We need them of course to pollinate plants including various vegetable crops.

I would like to work to see what can be done to help them. I wonder if there are others on the island who would also like to do this. If so please contact me on 616456. Or [leokeo@btinternet.com](mailto:leokeo@btinternet.com) Thanks,

Leonora

## **FROM THE MANSE WINDOW....**

One of the magazines Marlene is sometimes given in Australia is the Peoples Friend. What a great read! I thought I would share a few observations from the Stronsay Manse windows.

How wonderful to see the sea from most directions! It's a beautiful view, and gives us a great sense of delight and pleasure to look at such magnificent scenes. We cycled down to Vat of Kirbister and were amazed at the gloop, rookeries, cliffs - a dramatic vista. Sometimes we can see the "Hopeful" hard at work in the bay.

The fields have been busy places in the whole two weeks we have been here, with the tractors hard at work mowing the pasture and then soon back to collect the rows for silage. A patchwork of mown paddocks around the whole island. How the birds love it too—finding all kinds of food wherever the mower has been. Then rising in flocks to follow the new areas as they occur.

Birds are a fantastic part of the life of Stronsay. We reach for the Bird book and try and find them as quickly as we can. In every direction different species can be enjoyed—seagulls, starlings, and flocks of dark magpies...how wonderful!

Car, vans, SUVs and vehicles are evident along the roads. We know a few now, and notice how many wave as they pass by. It's good to find the various people at work as they move about on their journey to the shops, school, homes and village activities.

Visitors to the Manse are a joy—a friendly welcome, or offering some information and news about activities in the community. The Kirk is still an important part of the life of the community. The wedding last weekend was a great highlight! Good to see the team working on the belltower and getting the ring back in time to welcome the bridal party—well done!

There are lots of animals in the fields near here. Cattle moving in herds along the fences, sheep and lambs grazing, with some ducks and geese in the far distance. Seeing the fertility of the island agricultural activities is a real delight for us. Peter the rabbit is around every day on the grass.

Light across the sky changes every day, even every hour, as the wind drives the clouds, and the sunshine breaks through in patches on many days. It has been warmer in Stronsay than in Adelaide in South Australia on some of the days we have been here. I can confirm there is no truth in the rumour that summer came on Wednesday this year!

What a wonderful rhythm to life here. The variety in so many living things, and the pulse of activities in personal life, community activities, and natural events is a great experience for us. We thank the folk at the Kirk for the invitation to share with you three months, and thank our gracious God for all the loving kindness we have enjoyed already.

Come and visit with us—or invite us to your favourite part of Stronsay while we are here.

Blessings in abundance,  
Rodger Bassham

## **FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF STRONSAY: AS TOLD BY A NEWCOMER**

In the months leading up to my high school graduation, I had been pestered by endless questions about my immediate post-graduate plans. “College,” was the expected answer. “A small collection of islands off the northern coast of Scotland” was considerably more exotic. Following this response was a look of bewilderment, a visible mental catch-up, and then, “Scotland. Wow! That’ll be pretty cold.”

And so, for months on end, I was told how cold Orkney would be. Casual conversationalists knew nothing else about the place, and truth be told, neither did I. These were unchartered territories; strange new places in exotic foreign lands. My journey would be one of exploration, discovery, and as many facebook updates as possible, to satisfy the curiosity of family and friends.

After snoozing my way through two ferry rides and a quick tour of Mainland, (with a brief interruption for lunch) I stepped on to Stronsay for the very first time. The sky was grey, the faces unfamiliar, the wind abusive. And yes: it was cold. I come from Thailand, people. I spent the last seven years in a land of 70 million, where winter is 28 degrees, and people literally die of cold at 6. There is no wind, ever, and there is always, *always* sunshine. I was totally, completely, and undeniably far, FAR from home.

But then I saw the house. I saw the church. I saw the garden, the greenhouse, the shop. I met a few people, then I met a few more. Honestly, I have never been so graciously welcomed, nor have I ever been so loved-upon-sight. Everyone – and I mean *everyone* – I’ve met has offered me everything but the clothes on their backs, that I might feel more at home, or more comfortable, or more accepted. Car rides, and cups of tea, and Jimi Hendrix CDs. Everything. I’ve never known care and community like this. Even the cows follow us around, as if to offer their friendship and fraternity along each stretch of the road.

Allow me to close by noting this: Stronsay is very different to my hometown. Yet in no other place have I ever seen such magnificent coast, roamed such beautiful fields, or been privileged to meet such lovely, lovely people. To spend these next few months on Stronsay will be an absolute joy (Even if it *is* cold).

Sincerely,

Emily, a Newcomer (the new minister’s grandkid)

## **TURTLE DOVE**

Last month John mentioned in his bird report the lovely turtle dove which visited our garden at Scoulters. As some of you may not be familiar with this lovely bird, (we certainly weren't), I thought you might like to see the photo I was able to take.

Margaret.



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## **BLOW AWAY GARDENING TIPS - JULY 2013**

Is this another peculiar year? Perhaps this is the challenge of gardening every year. Firstly a cold start, then the whole country except the northern isles gets a heat wave. Watering has been a problem because it has been so dry. I look with envy at the lush growth on the field potatoes and wonder why mine are growing so slowly. Perhaps it is not speed but some unseen quality that matters; whatever, they would like a drink.

The manse garden onions have decided that death was too easy after having the tips chewed off and are continuing to grow. I do not hold out much hope, sadly, but I am prepared to be shocked. I have had some good cauliflowers from the community greenhouse but they all were ready within one week which was rather competitive. Tomatoes in the greenhouse are growing well but little setting fruit compared to all the leaves. I think I am supposed to take some of the leaves off when that happens.

Outdoors I am experimenting with 5 different “green manure” crops. Two weeks after sewing agricultural mustard is winning, field lupins making some effort and a very slow performance from red clover. I will report on these scientific trials later, assuming the rabbits do not have them for breakfast. I am away just now and hope that I return to lots of crops. The Community Greenhouse is having an open day on 25 August when I hope there will lots for folk to admire - I just had time to sew spinach, radish and lettuce before setting off south so there should be something to see.

Roger Neville-Smith

20 July 2013

## **LATEST BIRD SIGHTINGS**

The water-level in both the Bu and Matpow lochs is just about perfect now for attracting wading birds, and a flock of over 70 Dunlin have been seen at the former in the last few days. These were all adults with black bellies returning south from the northern breeding grounds and we can expect a good selection of wader species at the lochs over the next few weeks. Dunlin have also been seen at Matpow, where the Arctic Tern colony on the small island in the loch is now in full swing, and many of the young can be seen crouching among the low vegetation, waiting for the parents to return with a feed of small fish which they plunge into the sea for off-shore. A family of Shelduck has been present at the Matpow Loch for some time now, along with the occasional Shoveler and Mallard.



*Waders at the Bu Loch alongside the road near Mingro. Several Dunlin (smallest), Redshank, and one Black-tailed Godwit (largest)*

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There is still hope of finding a Rosy Starling among the roving Starling flocks which feed in the freshly cut/cleared fields of silage - but one every five years is probably Stronsay's ration of this very rare species which breeds no closer than SE Europe. There have been a few godwit of both species among the Curlew in the silage fields, and one flock of over 70 Golden Plover opposite Gorie's which were only present for a few hours. A small party of Golden Plover has also been seen by Kathleen and Michael near McRobert's House and there should be many more arriving before Autumn sets in.

July is the best month in which to see Swifts here and a few were recorded early in the month, including four together over Airy Farm on 8th.

There have been yet more sightings of Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl during mid-summer - particularly in the Hill 'o Roo/Cliffdale area by Brian and Christine, where one of each species was seen recently, having a mid-air 'skirmish'.

Swallows have not been quite so numerous this year due to the mainly cold weather in early summer but good numbers of young have been seen in the last few days including newly-emerged birds on the hydro-wires behind Seaview on 21st July. It is not unusual for Swallows to have three broods here, the last young leaving the nest as late as early September. The Sand Martins in our own sandy 'cliff-face' at Castle have bred successfully - at least two broods - and they can often be seen resting on the hydro-wires above the Mill Stream in our drive - 12 together on a few occasions. They are noticeably smaller and shorter-tailed than Swallows, and the upperparts are brown. Sand Martins have also been seen occasionally between the Bu and Mt Pleasant in mid-Summer in the last few years and it is quite probable that they have also bred in the vicinity this year - possibly in the dunes along the nearby shoreline.

Susanne from Greenfield alerted us to a second injured Arctic Skua - again probably injured as a result of flying into over-head wires. It is amazing that two individuals of this very agile flyer could be injured in the same way but there seems to be no other explanation for their injuries. Both had probably been so intent on harrying terns in order to steal their 'catch' that they missed seeing the overhead wires during what is always a frantic chase.

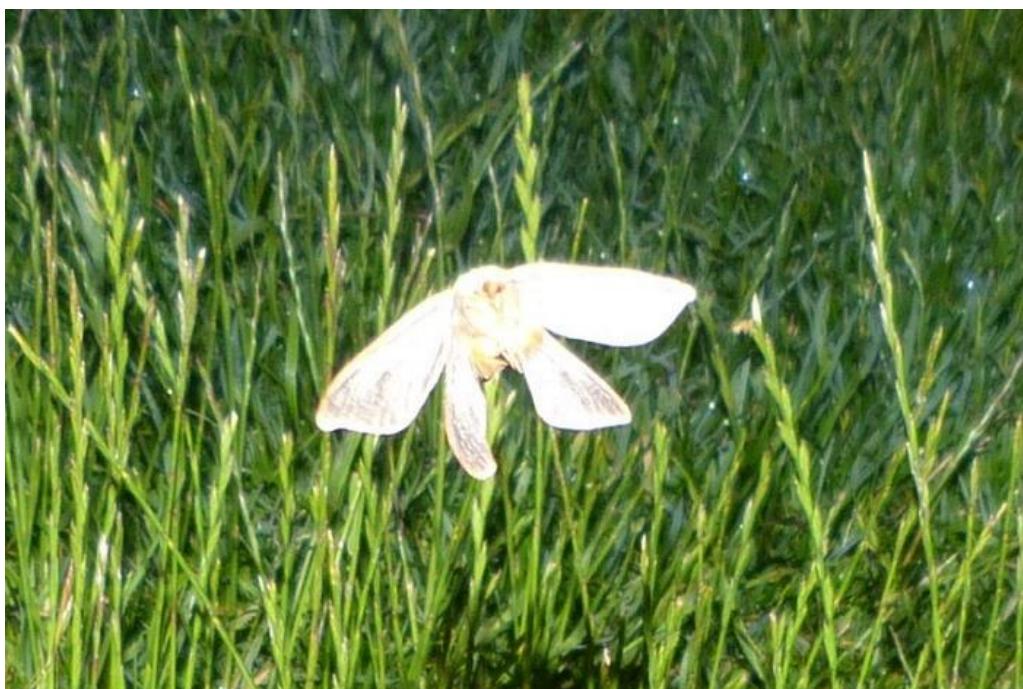
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Norman Kent took these photos of Ghost Moths at Dale during July. One depicts the male doing it's eerie, wavering, up-and-down dance as if attached to a dangling piece of string. The other is of a male and a female which landed on Norman's hat the same evening! The fawn female is considerably larger than the male - and does not dance!

There have certainly been less butterflies this Summer due to the cold, but a few Red Admirals have been seen in the last week or so. We have not heard of any sightings of Painted Lady or Small Tortoiseshell - the other two species which are regularly recorded here apart from Large White and Green-veined White.

Thanks again for all the calls.

John Holloway



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## **THE WINDS OF CHANGE ON STRONSAY**



Stronsay Waterworks



Samsons Lane

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Oddie



Midgarth

*(continued on next page)*



Rousam Hill



Kirbuster

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Newhouse Rousam

Bill Miller, Glenmanna, Stronsay

## **MEMORIES OF THE STRONSAY HERRING FISHING**

*(This article was written many years ago for "The Orcadian" by Bill Miller's mother who died 10 years ago. It contains her memories of Stronsay in the 1920s and 1930s and is reproduced here to give modern-day inhabitants an insight into what Stronsay was once like)*

I think it is about time that something was written about Stronsay, which at one time was a great and important fishing port, to enable the younger generation to understand what a special place it used to be. I base my information on what I can remember, and also what was told to me by older generations. The Lower Village, known more affectionately as "The Station", had one of the first fish curing stations situated there. At that time there was no "station pier", and so the boats had to land their catch on the beach below where the slaughter-house is now situated, and there, the fisher-women, known as gutters, gutted, cleaned, and cured the fish.

Before the herring season commenced, white fish such as cod, saithe, haddock, whiting, etc. were caught, and these were salted and dried in the open air.

At that time, Stronsay had about a dozen "Zulus", open sailboats crewed by Stronsay men, and that number would have been doubled by boats from other islands. These boats were hauled up all winter and then painted or tarred ready for the next fishing season.

The "station pier" was built towards the end of the 19th century. An Aberdeen firm built several small cottages in this area, and this attracted several families from the Fair Isle who came to Stronsay and settled. Some of these families were Leslies, Stouts, Eunsons, and Williamsons. One family named Reid came from Buckie. Men came from other islands to seek employment, and some of them married and settled in Stronsay, thus enlarging the population greatly. Some of these were Wylies, Andersons, Millers, Fiddlers, Jacksons, etc. At one time there would have been between 40 and 50 children going to school from the "Station" alone.

Long before this time, there must have been a farm down at the "Station", as there were remains of old buildings all around. One house had wooden fixings suitable for a stable, another was a pub or alehouse, and there were several pigstys etc. In 1909, a life-boat was stationed in Stronsay, due to the large number of boats going Eastwards. This boat was called the "John Ryburn", and was anchored out off Feastown, until the lifeboat slipway and shed were built later. A house for the mechanic was built next to Feastown, and this house was and is still called Ryburn.

The lifeboat crew were -1<sup>st</sup> Coxwain, William Leslie, later taken over by George Eunson, Peter Shearer, Feastown, John Fiddler, Rose Cottage, John Stout, No. 13, Station, John Eunson, George Stout, Peter Williamson, and John Miller, mechanic. The lifeboat was taken away in 1915, as most of the men were away fighting in the First World War.

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There were several small shops in the area - Mimie Leslie, Bab Leslie, Mrs Lovell who sold lace etc., and a wooden shop owned by Flett, and later by D. Learmonth who also had a travelling shop-van. A house and shop name Arnabruach (Now known as Orcadia) were, built and this was run by Ella and Lizzie Cummings.

The "Station" was like a little town when all the windows were lit up at night by ordinary oil lamps, and later by the modern "Tilley" lamp. There would have been in excess of twenty families living between Feastown and the bottom end of the Station.

### Whitehall Village

This was firstly called "Strynie", as the North End of Stronsay was known as North Strynie and South Strynie. Curing stations appeared all along the shore out past St Peters Churchyard and along towards Huip, but this industry later moved back along to the village when the "steamers pier" was built. The "New Pier" or "West Pier" was built in 1909/1910 by Samuel Firth (Contractor), father of the late John Firth, of Nettlebar, Harry. He also built Swanney's Shop and house, now known as Hillside, and also Edenvilla, now known as Fagerheim, where the Post Office is situated.

In 1909, the Edenmore, a large three masted sailing ship, went ashore on rocks at The Roan, on the South East corner of Papa Stronsay. The cargo of pianos, dressers, cutlery, crockery, etc.etc. was purchased by Samuel Firth, and was later sold at an auction on Stronsay.

Stronsay was at it's busiest between the 1920s and 1930s. In 1921, there were 1067 inhabitants, but when the fishing season was on, there would have been in excess of five thousand extra people on the island. There would have been anything up to 300 fishing drifters and sail boats with nine men on each, plus fisher girls, salesmen, brokers runners, coal fillers, coopers, and all the other personnel attached to the herring fishing industry.

Coal fillers who came from Stronsay, Westray, Stromness, and elsewhere, had a busy time as all the drifters had to be filled ready to set off to the fishing grounds. The fillers started work at midnight on a Sunday and filled coal from the coal hulks which were anchored off the Huip shore in a place known locally as "Jack's Hole" which is opposite the house of a man called Jack Leslie. There were several coal hulks in this area. David Chalmers of Stronsay, had one called the Hebe, Sutherland of Stromness had the Watchful, Duncan Jamison, and Leslie, also had one each, and there was the cement barge which still lies aground in that area. Most of these hulks would have been filled three times each week by coal cargo boats, and the fillers would then set about the endless task of transferring it to the drifters.

The local farmers had a ready market for all the produce they could bring to Whitehall Village, and the task of the bakers, butchers, and general merchants, was not an easy one

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General Merchants were James Swanney, W.P. Drever, Supply Stores, Maggie Harcus, Peter Twatt, J & W. Stout, Robert Watt, Peter Lennie, and James Chalmers. Bakers were James Swanney, J & W. Stout, and Claremont. Butchers were Supply Stores, James Chalmers, Robert Watt, MacKenzie, and James Reid. Travelling shop vans were, Swanneys, W. P. Drever, Peter Twatt, Robert Watt, James Reid, Corse, James Chalmers, and Fotheringham, Boondatoon. Ice Cream shops were Signorini, Gillinotti, Fugacia, Robert Watt, and James Chalmers. There were also several small sweet shops, barbers, shooting stall, with travelling salesmen such as Jews and Turks , selling all types of goods. Don Chalmers of Kirkwall, and Robert Watt had chip shops.

The Stronsay Hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1939, boasted the longest public bar, north of Inverness. The hotel had eleven bedrooms and a bungalow which slept eight, a private bar, a large hall which was used by salesmen to display their goods, two sitting rooms, a large dining room, a smoking room, kitchen etc. In the fishing season, four barbers were employed full time plus part time workers, a cook, two waitresses, and young girls to help part time.

There was the "English Rest Hut", supervised by Sister Wray in what is now "Helmsley", the Y.M.C.A. in what is now "Dunera", and a rest hut on Papa Stronsay.

The Kirkwall Pipe Band and Kirkwall Brass Band came to Stronsay every summer on a Saturday, and you can just imagine the village on that day, when the Earl Sigurd, or Earl Thorfinn arrived. The shops would stay open until 1 am, and the atmosphere was electric.

In early June, the first of the stock boats would arrive with empty barrels. The Stronsay coopers would also have been busy all winter making barrels. The Earl Thorfinn would arrive in the middle of the night loaded with hundred of workers, men and women from all over the East Coast. Buckie, Findochty, Portsoy, MacDuff, Whitehills, Aberdeen, Lossiemouth, Wick, Frazerburgh, The Hebrides, Ireland, and many other fishing ports. The fisher lasses would get under way, cleaning out the wooden huts which were used to accommodate them, six to a hut. They would fill their "ticks" with chaff, and get ready for work the next morning. Several Stronsay lasses were employed in the gutting, especially at James More's curing station, where the council houses now stand.

Farmers were engaged with their horses and long "lorries", carting the herring to the various curing stations. The noise and bustle was terrific, everyone hard at the work until Saturday evening. No work was done on a Sunday.

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A wooden chapel was used for church services until a new concrete one was built next to "Dunera". The singing in this place on a Sunday evening was something worth hearing, with hundreds of fisher-folks joining in with the locals. After the service, the Salvation Army would hold a service at the head of the pier, and this could be heard all along the village. The fishermen would then walk up around past Whitehall Farm, and around past Sandybank, stopping at the various farms to buy a tumbler of milk for two-pence, or a tumbler of butter milk for a ha'penny.

The Stronsay Fish Mart which was built in 1910, had several offices which were rented by salesmen, curers, and any other personnel engaged in the herring industry. One of these salesmen, Alec Mair, came as a young man to help out with his education, and later became a Professor of Medicine at Dundee. He visited Stronsay on several occasions in later years.

Germany and Russia were the largest buyers of Stronsay herring, and it was by no means uncommon to see ten cargo ships in the harbour at one time, ranging from 450 tonnes to 2000 or so tonnes. Stevedores did the loading.

Pilots were required to guide these ships in and out of the harbour, and this was no easy task. The competition between pilots was keen, and they would travel long distances to be the first one to get to the ship, and thereby get the pilotage. These ships would be crewed by Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Germans, Spanish, Russians, and Americans, and all were on friendly terms.

Two Policemen and their families were stationed at the Stronsay Police Station during the season, and kept everyone happy. Motor boats were used to convey workers to and from Papa Stronsay, where there was also a shop owned by James Stout, late of Whitehall Farm. Dances were held in the cinema which was a large hall behind "Armadale", where the Stronsay Hotel now stands, and also in the Drill Hall, and Kildinguie.

Sadly these days are all gone, most of the fishermen's houses at the Lower Station are derelict, but memories of the "Station" still remain.

Margaret Jane Miller (nee Rendall), Kirkwall. Formerly of Glenmanna, Stronsay.

## **'CRICKETING YARNS' - NOW SUMMER IS HERE!**

By Brian Crowe

In a Lancashire match a fast bowler was bowling on a bad wicket, and the opening batsman - who shall be nameless - had to face a number of terrifying deliveries. The first whizzed past his left ear; the second nearly knocked his cap off; and the third struck him an awful blow over the heart. He collapsed and lay on the ground – then after a minute or two got up and prepared to strike again. The umpire asked him if he was ready. He replied, ‘Yes, but I would like the sight-screen moved.’

‘Certainly’, said the umpire. ‘Where would you like it?’

The batsman replied, ‘About half-way down the wicket between me and the bowler.’

Alec Skelding was umpiring a match in which the bowler had a complete set of false teeth. As he delivered a particularly fast ball, all his teeth dropped out. The ball hit the batsman on the pad, and the bowler turned round and mouthed un-intelligible noises. Alec quick to see what had happened, said, ‘I beg your pardon, I cannot tell what you say.’ The bowler tried again, but Alec still pretended he could not distinguish the words, so the bowler stooped down, recovered his dentures covered in dust, replaced them and turning round, said, ‘How’s that?’

‘Not out’, said Alec.

In a match against Gloucestershire, Brian Close was fielding at forward short-leg with Freddie Trueman bowling. Martin Young received a short ball which he hit right in the middle of the bat. It hit Close on the right side of the head and rebounded to first slip, who caught it. Close seemed none the worse, but when he returned to the pavilion at the next interval someone asked him: ‘That was a terrible blow; aren’t you worried standing so near? What would have happened if the ball had hit you slap between the eyes?’ ‘He’d have been caught at cover,’ replied the indomitable Yorkshire captain.

The Nottinghamshire Club and Ground used to play an annual match against a local village club, and the club’s captain, feeling very sure of his side’s strength, warned the Nottinghamshire secretary that he had better send a strong team this year, otherwise they were ‘in for trouble’. He got what he asked for, and Harold Larwood was a member of the strong side that came from Trent Bridge. The village club batted first, and their opener was a huge, massive ‘village blacksmith’ who took guard and settled down to face the great Larwood. The first ball was a typical thunderbolt. It shaved the off-stump and landed viciously in the gloves of the wicket-keeper standing very well back. As the ball looped its way back from wicket-keeper to bowler, via slip, cover and mid-off, it was noticed that the massive batsman had not moved a muscle. His brawny arms still held the bat firmly in the block-hole, his menacing crouch was unchanged and his eyes were still fixed firmly on the far end of the wicket.

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A second Larwood thunderbolt, again whistling past the off stump, had the same effect: not a move, not even the flicker of an eyelid from the vast and massive batsman. As the third ball was delivered the umpire's arm was flung out and his shriek of 'No ball!' echoed round the ground. For the first time the batsman unbent. He strained ponderously upwards, turned to first slip and confided, "'E couldn't fool me, I knew 'e never 'ad one all the toime!'

(Ack.broadcast/caster/commentator, late Brian Johnstone)

#### APPENDIX – (for the uninitiated)

A 'no ball' is called by the umpire if the bowler oversteps the bowler's crease before releasing the ball - the batsman cannot be out, except 'run-out' if he unsuccessfully attempts a run.

First-slip, wicket-keeper, cover, and mid-off are all fielding positions.

There are two sight screens, one behind each wicket over the boundary.

If a delivery hits the batsman on his legs without the bat connecting with the ball, the bowler can appeal for an LBW (leg before wicket) decision; the umpire will not give the batsman out unless there is an appeal.

Harold Larwood was an English Test Match fast bowler of the 1930s era, famous or infamous - depending on whether you are English or Australian, for bowling intimidating 'bodyline' deliveries at great speed.

'Whizz Denne'

# **STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE**



## **Supervised session times from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

	<b>am</b>	<b>pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>Buddy</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>

Under the ‘Buddy’ system members may use the gym if they feel confident to exercise with another member who is also inducted, over 18 and pre-paid.

Buddy hours are the same as school opening times.

A code will be needed to access the gym.

14 & 15 year old member—use is limited to periods when a fitness advisor is on duty (see above).

16 & 17 year olds must be with an inducted member who is over 18 or at a time when a fitness advisor is on duty.

**New inductions by appointment only.**

**TEL No : 616449**

## **All these years!**

By Ellie from Newfield

There's a need to ask the question  
Is he friend or is he foe?  
My feelings for him are mixed  
For I depend upon him so.  
He's never let me down  
So complaining seems unfair,  
Life wouldn't be the same  
If ever he wasn't there.  
We've shared our cosy bedroom,  
Changed times but twice a year.  
His greeting every morning  
Is the first thing that I hear.  
We work together well  
As a double act we're fine  
Though I'm the silent partner  
And he's a noisy swine.  
But I mustn't disrespect him,  
When he calls I will obey.  
But first thing in the mornings  
I wish he'd go away.  
Love-hate, this relationship  
That we share together;  
Love on the fine, sunny mornings,  
Have in cold stormy weather;  
For it's to his tune I just dance  
Down to pulling on me socks.  
Me and my bedside mate,  
That bloody alarm clock!

©Helene Harrison

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **STRONSAY HOTEL**

The Stronsay Hotel is offering take away meals from 5pm daily (earlier if required). This menu is also available to eat in at the hotel (for a small extra charge) with the addition of some fine Orkney beef steaks, Rump or Sirloin the choice is yours.

Phone 616213

#### **TAKE AWAY MENU**

Homemade lasagne plus chips . . . . .	£4.95
Homemade sausagemeat pie plus chips . . . .	£4.95
Homemade chicken curry plus rice or chips .	£4.95
Homemade chicken pie plus chips . . . . .	£5.50
Breaded haddock plus chips . . . . .	£5.50
Breaded wholetail scampi plus chips . . . . .	£6.50
2 sausages plus chips . . . . .	£2.40
2 fish fingers plus chips . . . . .	£2.40
Portion of chips . . . . .	£1.20
Portion of cheesey chips . . . . .	£2.00
Portion of onion rings (8) . . . . .	£1.00

### **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 FISH MART**

Monday- 12-2  
Tuesday- 12-2  
Wednesday - 12-2  
Thursday - CLOSED  
Friday- CLOSED  
Saturday- 12-2 and 4-6  
Sunday- 12-6

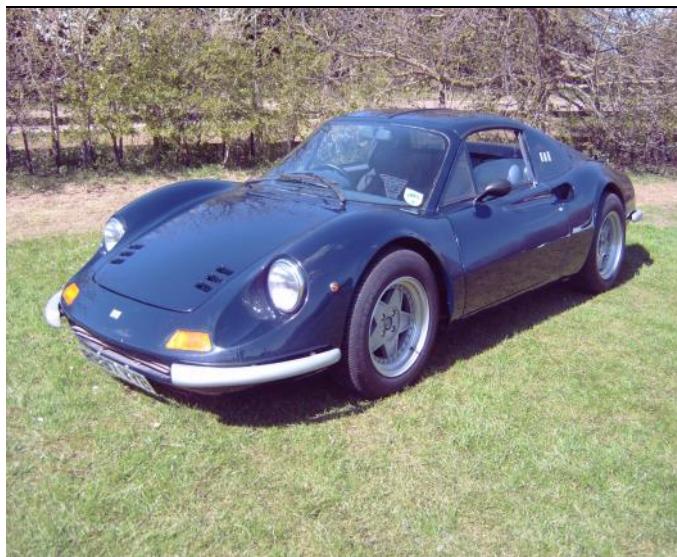
To enquire or to book the hostel contact Lauren on 01857 616220 or email [laurencaithness@hotmail.com](mailto:laurencaithness@hotmail.com)  
Also check out our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/StronsayFishmart](http://www.facebook.com/StronsayFishmart)

#### **Business adverts**

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

The cutoff date for adverts to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page  
Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**



### **“NEIL’S ON WHEELS”**

All mechanical work undertaken, welding specialist,  
MOT prep work, home start, towing service, no call out fee.

MOBILE: 07723 304 260  
HOME: 01857 616454

### **ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP**



Real soap made by hand in Stronsay. Lovely as gifts, souvenirs, or all year round. This year's new collection now available plus all your favourites. The new soaps are: Stronsay Goats' Milk & Bere, Goats' Milk & Marigold Petals, Green Wave & Kelp, Stronsay Sunset, The Beach, Wild Island Flowers and Dry Stone Wall. They are on sale at Olive Bank and the Post Office in Stronsay. Also available in mainland Orkney shops and online via my website at [www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk).

Tel: 01857 616281.



### **COMPUTER SERVICES**

Advice, Internet connection issues, Website design, Hosting, I.T. Training and much, much more.

Contact Neil @ Schoolbrae, 616317  
e-mail: [enquiries@gb-en.eu](mailto:enquiries@gb-en.eu)

### **STRONSAY ARTWORKS**

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

Phone 01856 870075  
Email [jennystone001@btinternet.com](mailto:jennystone001@btinternet.com)

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

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# Pop Up Shop

## Stronsay



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
10.30am – 4.30pm**

**Stronsay Fish Mart Cafe, Hostel & Heritage Centre**

## Hand - crafted

## Gifts & Souvenirs

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

The cutoff date for items to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page

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

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

### **STRONSAY STITCHERS**

Next meeting Thursday 29th August, 7 - 9.30pm  
in the Church Hall.

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### **FILM SHOW AT THE KIRK**

All Welcome!! See an Australian classic  
“Storm Boy”—suitable for children and adults.  
7pm, Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August  
Free of charge.

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### **STRONSAY SCHOOL**

#### **OPEN EVENT TO LAUNCH THE SCHOOL'S NEW AIMS AND VISION STATEMENT**

The school plan to host a community event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August to launch our new aims and vision statement. As part of this event, we intend to display a range of old photographs showing Stronsay School and the island life.

We would like to ask for photographs to be lent to the school to make this possible. Photographs should be labelled with your name and can be handed in to the school office.

We appreciate your help in making this possible.

Thank you

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)***

### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Next visit:

**TUESDAY 13 August**

Council Houses: 9:15—10

Stronsay School: 10—12

Stronsay Kirk: 12:30—3

Fishmart: 3:15—5:30

Mobile library schedule [http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2\\_timetable.htm](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2_timetable.htm)

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or [general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk)

Kirkwall library website - <http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk>

Kirkwall library online book catalogue - <http://212.219.208.10/TalisPrism>

Check new library opening times

[www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours)

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### **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

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### **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.

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## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES**

Monday	8:30—12
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	9—12 and 1—3
Saturday	8:30—12 and 1—3
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	Friday 2 August 2013
Rubbish collection	Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

Doctor	616321
Nurses	616480
Medical emergency	01856 888000
Registrar	616239
Hall bookings	616446
Post Office	616278
Companions	616261
Kirk	616311
Stronsay Hotel	616213
Olivebank	616255
Ebenezer stores	616339
Neil's on Wheels	616454
Taxi	616335
Castle Bird Reserve	616363

Balfour hospital	01856 888000
Hydro	0800 300 999
All water enquiries	0845 601 8855
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
Earls Palace	01856 872958
Golgotha monastery	616210
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@the-sons.org">contact@the-sons.org</a>

### **JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES**

Catalogue deliveries made on Tuesday and Friday only.

Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

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

Send an email to [stronsaylimpet@btinternet.com](mailto:stronsaylimpet@btinternet.com), phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10:30 & before 21:00, please!) or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LIMPET**

You can send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present?

12 editions for £20.00 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, and

Orkney Community Planning Partnership