

STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

ISSUE 115 January 2015

Published on the last Thursday of the month



Support Our School!

PANTOMIME

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Pantomime. We hope to have a full report in next month's Limpet and loads of photographs with a final total of money raised. Below is a 'peedie taster!'



(More photographs on next page)

The next edition of the [Limpet](#) will be published on Thu 26 Feb. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on Sun 22 Feb. Contact details on back page



LATEST BIRD SIGHTINGS JAN 2015

The first (and perhaps only) Iceland Gull of the Winter was discovered near the South School on 30th December and has been seen there and beside Daisybank several times since. It is a first-winter bird with virtually pure white wingtips which contrast with the overall faintly fawn-mottled pale plumage (See photo).

The new year began with two Greenfinches seen on and off at Helmsley, and two or three Chaffinches over-wintering elsewhere. A Jack snipe was flushed accidentally from the Castle drive a few times around 10th Jan and 'common' Snipe are again very numerous this Winter. A Water Rail was seen scurrying along the edge of the Mill Stream by Lower Millfield on 14th, by which time the almost incessant stormy weather was beginning to ease. There were several reports of male and female Hen Harriers in mid-winter and the occasional Peregrine, but the raptor highlight once again was the 'black' Gyr Falcon seen in flight at close range between Cleat and Houseby on 11th, and at long range on 12th. Curlew and Golden Plover numbers are very low again this Winter - both present in hundreds rather than the usual thousands, but Lapwing numbers seem to be encouragingly static.

The first SE winds of the year around 20th-21st Jan did the trick once again, with a Black Redstart - first seen on the East Pier by Debbie from the Hotel, and by ourselves in the same area the following day (See photo). A Dunnock was in the Castle garden on 23rd. The origins of these two birds is a complete mystery as both had at least 'crossed the sea' to reach Stronsay!

And would you believe it - what may turn out to be 'Bird of the Year' actually arrived on the Limpet Piece deadline day instead of the usual 'day after' - a brilliant Red-breasted Goose discovered by Leslie Miller beside Boondatoon this morning (25th Jan). The bird was grazing with a party of Greylags and was last seen between Banks and Beechwood mid-afternoon. The first record for the island of this rare species which breeds in the northern Siberian tundra regions and winters mainly in SE Europe (See photo).



The Iceland Gull near the South School – note the protruding white wing-tips

(More photographs on next page)



The Black Redstart beside the Monks' nativity scene in Whitehall Village



The Red-breasted Goose opposite Beechwood – the farmhouse of Fair Hill in the background

LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

This letter is like Janus — looking back to the old year and forward to the new. I hope everyone had a happy Christmas and has not yet broken too many of their New Year's resolutions.

Over the festive period I have been contemplating the concept of Santa and his part in our ever-more consumerist Christmas. Ostensibly, the name Santa Claus is derived from the Dutch for St. Nicholas, yet “Old Nick” is a nickname for the Devil, and Santa is an anagram of Satan! Maybe it is time to change the lines of one of our well-known Christmas carols to:

*For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from **Santa's** power
Now we have gone astray:*

For the first time, this year I went along to KGS's carol service at the cathedral. It was a moving service, taking the 1914 Christmas truce on the Western Front as its theme. My elder son read the German lines of Carol Ann Duffy's famous poem. Meanwhile, my younger son and daughter performed in Sanday School's interesting rendition of “A Christmas Carol”.

Councillors rounded off the year with a Christmas party. (Paid for out of our own pockets, I hasten to add!) I put some of my Sanday honey into our charity auction, which raised in total £1580 for the Orkney Charitable Trust. It is excellent that we can raise such funds, but I am conscious of the fact that, in our role as politicians, we should be in a position to implement policies to render such charities unnecessary.

I was pleased to meet with Sanday's new Projects & Grants Officer, and we discussed, among other things, the issues affecting island sustainability. It is imperative that our development trusts, community councils and OIC strive to encourage economic development in the Isles, which is essential for all those who need to be able to earn a living here. (Recreational facilities are all well and good, but they will not ensure the survival of our fragile island communities — any more than rearranging the deckchairs saved the Titanic!) I already attend the AGMs of several development trusts in the Isles. If any development trust whose meetings I have never attended wants me to come along to their AGM, or other meetings, please let me know.

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting we received a monitoring report on the Council Plan, which I welcomed, highlighting the importance of developments being reported regularly to the committee so that the public can gauge how well (or otherwise) we are progressing. Copies of “Our Plan” (“Wur Plan”) can be requested from OIC or found on-line at: http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/P/our-plan_2013_2018.htm

I was invited to a special meeting of the Development & Infrastructure Committee on the Churchill Barriers (the fixed-links we have been trying to make work properly for 70 years), and, more significantly, on the North Isles ferry replacement. I asked the question I am so often asked, namely: “When are we going to get new ferries?” and the answer was given as 2019 for the first one, but no commitment was made as to which ferry the new one would replace (it might be the Golden Mariana!).

(continued on next page)

The consultants undertaking the internal air and ferry study I referred to in last April's "Letter" came back to us with the first draft of their report. I am not at liberty to divulge its contents, but I will say that I commended them on their findings, which accord closely to the experiences members of the public report to me and to my own experiences as a traveller in the Isles.

Other meetings I have attended since I last wrote include: a growth bids seminar, general meeting, staff appeal, licensing, Change Programme Board, budget setting seminars, Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board, and Orkney College Management Council. And I enjoyed a braw evening at Sanday's Burns supper. (Burns' ancestors did, of course, come from Burness in Sanday.) Is anybody planning to hold a McGonagall supper in commemoration of Scotland's other (better) bard?

Shapinsay's community council meeting of the 10th December was rescheduled on account of the storms, so I went out there on the 21st January instead. On the subject of fixed links, a few Shapinsay folk have told me they would like to have a fixed link to the Orkney Mainland, while others have told me they definitely would not. All I say is: Be careful what you wish for.

I shall be attending the Eday School Parent Council AGM on the 28th January, and that afternoon I will be holding a surgery at the Eday Heritage Centre, if anyone wishes to come along. I shall also be attending the meetings of the Stronsay School Parent Council on the 16th February and Stronsay Community Council on the 23rd February, and, along with other councillors, I will be participating in a surgery at Kirkwall Grammar School on the 24th February.

The Inter-Island Air and Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings will be being held on the 11th February. So if you have any timetabling or other transport issues, don't forget to contact your community council transport rep in good time.

Stephen

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson
West Manse, Sanday
stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

BODY FORM!

By Ellie from Newfield

Yes, I can see his point of view
And that it isn't really fair
For he hasn't the body form
To hang around in the air.
And whilst those sparrows enjoy a feast
He's left looking on.
So a plan of action is needed
Before all the nuts are gone,
For he's not an agile sparrow
With a bodyweight of fluff,
He's the macho blackbird
Built for rough & tough
Whilst those acrobatic sparrows
Are showing off their skills
Hanging upside down
Pulling nuts through the grills.
Non-existent are table manners.
It's everyone to his own,
A free-for-all, a scrummage;
All goodwill left at home;
A fighting mode is now in place
Where there was peace before.
You've never seen such spite,
Not ever I'm certainly sure.
So look on now Mr Blackbird
For clumsy comes to mind,
"Dainty" just isn't in it.
And now I feel unkind
For your song is simply first-rate
And you are excellent company.
Mother Nature just didn't give you
The small bird's agility!

©*Helene Harrison*

GREETINGS, PRIVATE SALES & WANTS, THANKS

FOR SALE

2002 Landrover Freelander, Blue. In need of some TLC but had new clutch and 4 new tyres middle of last year. MOT May 2015. Would possibly make good farm vehicle. Contact Andy or Shirley at St. Johns (438) for details. Open to offers.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who used the local Christmas Card Delivery Service. A grand total of £187.70 was raised.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Santa Float. Huge thanks go to Suzanne, Debbie and Chris, Jim and Vicky, Ingram and Wilma, and of course Santa Claus! We raised £126! Thank you one and all!



Private adverts (sales, wants, greetings)

Up to 25 words - £1.. 25 word advert with photo - £3. 25 to 50 words - £3 and so on.

Thank you notices are FREE!

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES

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 01856 870075

<http://www.jennystoneart.com>

Email jennystone001@btinternet.com



Oil Boiler Servicing
Call Mike on 616339

A boiler that is serviced regularly
is an efficient boiler
and will save you money

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

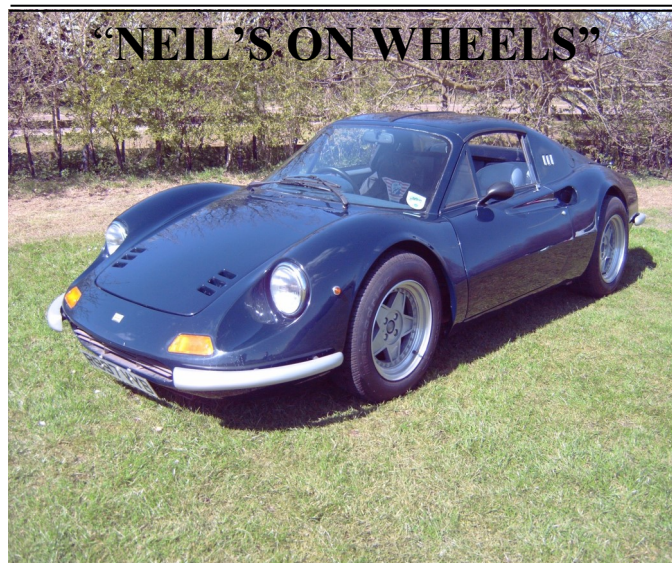
LOCAL BUSINESSES



ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP

www.orkneystarislansoap.co.uk

Hand-made soaps and balms available online and in Stronsay from Ebenezer Stores, Post Office & Isles View (by arrangement only please. Tel: 01857 616281).



- All mechanical work undertaken.
- Tyres
- ECU/ABS/airbag diagnostic testing
- Welding specialist
- MOT prep work
- Home start
- Towing service

MOBILE: 07723 304 260

HOME: 01857 616454

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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Stronsay Renewable Energy Limited



Registered Company No SC365016

We are currently seeking new directors to fill up to four vacancies arising on our board. Applicants should be enthusiastic about running our community wind turbine business on Stronsay and some experience in finance, commerce, technology or HR/personnel would be an advantage, although not essential.

There are monthly meetings for which agreed travel and overnight expenses can be paid. Meetings can also be held via Skype and as there is an expectation that directors will join in with any email discussions, an honorarium of £125 per month is payable, which includes an allowance for broadband.

Further background information on the business is available on our website www.stronsayturbine.co.uk

Please apply by letter enclosing your CV to
SREL Company Secretary
Clifton
Stronsay
Orkney
KW17 2AR

Or emailed to lisadegeer@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date 20 February 2015

Have your say!

The Scottish Older People's Assembly and Connecting Communities (VAO) warmly invites you to join us at the event on

Wednesday 18th February 2015

1.30pm - 4pm

King Street Halls, Kirkwall

This is a chance to have your say about issues that are important to you. The meeting will include information about the Scottish Older People's Assembly which was held in the Scottish Parliament on 31 October 2014.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided too.

This year, the Scottish Older People's Assembly is looking at how it works with local older people and how its methods can be improved.

The Scottish Older People's Assembly gives a strong voice to older people about their concerns and experience of life in Scotland and informs both the Scottish and UK governments.

Please register by 13th February 2015 by phone (872897) or email (kasha.jarosz@vaorkney.org.uk)



Let us know of your communication and dietary requirements and if you need any help with transport.

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE

Democratic Services

Stronsay Island Link Officer (REF: ORK00049)

Up to 17.5 hours per week

Temporary Post for up to 12 months

£18,863 - £20,451 pro rata (including Distant Islands Allowance)

A condition of this post is that you will be resident on Stronsay.

Community Councils play an important role in local democracy by representing the views of their communities which influences decisions in the planning and provision of local services by public sector agencies. The Council has established a project – Empowering Communities – which will enable Community Councils to become involved in the delivery and management of Council services at a local level. Two pilot areas – Stronsay and Papa Westray - have been identified to progress this project in the first instance.

The Island Link Officer will support the Empowering Communities Liaison Officer to develop and implement new service delivery mechanisms in Stronsay, working with the Community Council and other local groups to deliver a range of Council services locally.

You should have good experience of community engagement and supporting community groups including project management. You will be required to demonstrate excellent communication skills and be a highly organised and motivated individual.

As part of the Democratic Services team you will be required to act as an effective communication link by liaising with Orkney Islands Council, Stronsay Community Council and a range of organisations and stakeholders. Attendance at evening meetings will be required in addition to daytime requirements.

You will be an experienced IT user with an excellent command of written English, as well as being familiar with Microsoft Office.

For more information regarding this post, please contact Jackie Montgomery, Democratic Services, Tel: 01856 873535 Ext 2237 or jackie.montgomery@orkney.gov.uk

Further information and online applications can be made via the following link:
[-https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/orkney-islands-council/jobs/island-link-officer-5318](https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/orkney-islands-council/jobs/island-link-officer-5318)

Alternatively, please contact Customer Services for an application pack at Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY, tel: (01856) 873535 or e-mail: customerservice@orkney.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 9 February 2015

It is anticipated that interviews will take place week beginning 16 February 2015

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY STITCHERS



Our first meeting this year will be on Thursday 26th February 2015 in the Church Hall from 7 - 9.30pm. Refreshments. £2.00 per person please.

We're an informal, friendly group of people who meet up once a month to do our own projects, chat, share knowledge & experience, learn from and support each other. We ask each person for a contribution of £2.00 towards heating & lighting and offer tea, coffee, biscuits. Anyone is very welcome - you can bring any kind of craft work, unfinished project etc., providing it is suitable for doing in the Hall, it doesn't have to be "stitching

STRONSAY TELEPHONE LISTS

Updated Stronsay Telephone lists are still available from the shops and school. We will be submitting our total donations collected sometime in February. Upper Primary chose the charity Cancer Research. Thanks to everyone who has supported this so far!

Upper Primary and Mrs Dennison

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

KIRK NEWS

Services at 11am unless otherwise stated:

- Feb 1st – Martin Prentice
- Feb 8th – David Bowen
- Feb 15th – June Freeth
- Feb 22nd – Mike Erdman
- Mar 1st – David Bowen
- Mar 8th – Martin Prentice
- Mar 15th – June Freeth*
- Mar 22nd – David Fidler
- Mar 29th – David Bowen (Palm Sunday)
- Apr 5th - David Bowen (Easter Sunday)
- Apr 12th – Martin Prentice
- Apr 19th – Mike Erdman
- Apr 26th – David Bowen
- May 3rd – Mike Erdman
- May 10th – John Little
- May 17th – John Little
- May 24th – John Little
- May 31st – Viv Erdman

*June Freeth is a probationer at the Cathedral

STRONSAY SCHOOL BLOG

We would like to remind everyone about the Stronsay School Blog which has been up and running for a few months now. The Blog shares some of Stronsay School's highlights through pictures and articles as well as other relevant school information. You can access the blog at <http://stronsay-jh.blogspot.co.uk>. We hope you find the site interesting.

STRONSAY DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

The group will meet on Wednesday February 4th at 3pm. It would be really good if a few more folk could join us. Why not make it a New Year resolution? We are a very friendly group and not at all intimidating.

Please speak to Shirley if you want any more information.

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: Adrian Miller, Blinkbonny, Stronsay, KW17 2AF. Tel: 616354

Clerk: Colin McAlpine, The Hill, Stronsay, KW17 2AT. Tel: 616446

ASSISTANCE WITH HAULAGE OF AGGREGATES

Applications are invited for assistance towards the cost of haulage of aggregate from Mainland Orkney to Stronsay. The aggregate should be used for the improvement of private roadways leading to occupied dwellings only.

Please apply in writing to the Clerk providing details of the roadway and quantity of aggregate required. The Community Council will consider each application and grants will be awarded subject to demand and availability of funds.

Deadline for applications:-

NOON on MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2015

Please note that any applications received after this date will not be considered and applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after this date.

Successful applicants will then be required to order, arrange delivery and meet all costs for their own aggregate. The haulage invoice should be sent to the Clerk no later than 21st March 2015 in order to claim the grant.

Colin McAlpine
Clerk to Stronsay Community Council
The Hill,
Stronsay,
KW17 2AT.

ORKNEY FOLK FESTIVAL

21-24 May 2015

Sharon Shannon

Seth Lakeman

Ward Thomas

The Dardanelles

The New Rope String Band

The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc

Gordie MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boys

Tim Edey

Dallahan

Barrule

The Lowland Linties

Plus Orkney's home-grown talent, including . . .

Fara

Orkney Folk: The Fiddle Gathering

Saltfishforty

The Wrigley Sisters

The Chair

plus many more

"An amazing and indelible
few days" - MARK RADCLIFFE
BBC RADIO 2

Birsay
Deerness
Harray
Holm
Kirkwall
Sanday
Sandwick
St Andrews
Stromness



/orkneyfolkfestival



@OrkneyFolkFest

For Subsidised Travel,
Special Offers & a Chance
to Win a Trip to Orkney
see overleaf



orkneyfolkfestival.com

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

supervised sessions

These times will run up to the Christmas break.

MONDAY	3.45-5.45
TUESDAY	Buddy system
WEDNESDAY	3.45-5.45
THURSDAY	3.45-5.45
FRIDAY	3.45-5.45
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	Buddy system by request

The gym can be accessed throughout the day if you have a 'buddy' to go with.

A code is required, please speak to one of the team if you have any questions

Inductions by appointment only

Andy - 616277, Julie - 616335 or Tracey - 616350

Gym during supervised sessions - 616449



Crossroads Orkney have been contracted to provide an additional new service on a 12 month pilot basis only, funded through the Change Fund, to offer direct care and support to people who are living on their own and do not have a carer to provide support. This new service is available on Sanday, Stronsay, Westray, Hoy and Shapinsay. This is to meet the needs of people for care and support where there has been an unpredictable increase in their care needs and generally to be delivered as part of a short term/unplanned package of care in conjunction with other services.

This is a new service for Crossroads Orkney whose core business is to provide respite services as support to carers of people with support needs. Please make referrals directly to **Crossroads Orkney** by contacting **Olivia Tait** at the Travel Centre, West Castle Street, Kirkwall KW15 1GU, on **870500** or email to carers@crossroadsorkney.co.uk

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit:

MONDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

Council Houses 9 - 10

School 10.15 - 12

Kirk 12.30 - 3

Fish mart 3.15 - 5.30

Mobile library schedule http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/assets/Isles_Mobile_2015.pdf

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>

Library opening times

www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours

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

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.

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

USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday	8:30—12
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30—12 and 1—3
Friday	Closed
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 (see <http://tinyurl.com/kvk5gfp>)
Our Lady's chapel, pier head Mass 5 pm (Mon–Fri), 11.30am (Sat), 9am (Sunday)
Next Special Collection 28 February
Rubbish collection Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

Doctor	616321	Balfour hospital	01856 888000
Nurses	616480	Hydro	0800 300 999
Medical emergency	01856 888000	All water enquiries	0845 601 8855
Registrar	616239	Kirkwall Library	01856 873166
Hall bookings	616446	Kirkwall Police	101
Post Office	616278	Vets:	
Companions	616261	Flett & Carmichael	01856 872859
Kirk	616311	Northvet	01856 873403
Stronsay Hotel	616213	Dentists:	
Olivebank	616255	Great Western Rd	01856 879683
Ebenezer stores	616339	King Street	01856 875348
Neil's on Wheels	616454	Earls Palace	01856 872958
Taxi	616335	Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210
Castle Bird Reserve	616363	Email contact@the-sons.org	

JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES

Catalogue deliveries made on Wednesday and Friday only.
Large items will be delivered on Saturday.

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk, phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 11am & before 9pm, 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