

# **STRONSAY LIMPET**

**FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**ISSUE 141 - March 2017**

*Published on the last Thursday of the month*



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## **NO MORE PRINTED COPIES OF THE LIMPET!**

Unless you have filled in a form like the one printed at the back of this edition of the Limpet you will not receive a printed copy of the Limpet after this, the March 2017 edition. The form is also available on the Limpet website, the Limpet Facebook page and the Stronsay Facebook page.

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## **SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**4 MAY 2017**

### **ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS**

Voters in the Northern Isles have no polling station and postal voting is the norm. If you have not yet received your polling card or if you want to vote in person on mainland Orkney then contact the local electoral registration office on 01856 876222 or email [ero@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:ero@orkney.gov.uk).

Postal vote packs will be sent out on 13/14 April and should be delivered on or soon after Tuesday 18th April 2017

Voting will be done through the Single Transferable Vote system, where voters rank the candidates in order of preference. The count takes place on the morning of Friday 5 May in the Kirkwall Town Hall and Community Centre with an announcement expected before lunchtime.

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## **CONTACTING THE LIMPET**

Please use the Limpet's email address if you want the Limpet to publicise an event. Don't use a Facebook message because the Limpet's editor does not always see them. Contact details are on the back page of every Limpet.

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## **28 MARCH 2017—NEW ONE POUND COIN**

The new 12-sided one pound coin comes into use on 28 March 2017. The old one pound coin will cease to be legal tender after 16 October 2017.

For more information see webpage <http://www.thenewpoundcoin.com>.

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The next edition of the [Limpet](#) will be published on **Thu 27 April**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 23 April**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>



## **FUEL POVERTY SCHEME APPLICANTS**

Thank you to everyone for returning the application forms in good time. The payments to the various providers were sent out at the end of February, accompanied by a list of account holders and their account numbers. The £150 grant should be reflected in the applicant's next statement. If your statement fails to show a credit of £150 please get in touch on 616250.

Carole Cotterill



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Registered Office: Unit 1 Woods Yard, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR



## **COMMUNITY FUND UPDATE**

The following grants have been awarded to individuals and groups in Stronsay during February and March 2017:

Fuel Poverty Grants, 41 recipients @ £150	£6,150
Stronsay Parent Council, for a defibrillator cabinet to house a defibrillator gifted to the school	£260
Stronsay Community Council, for troughs and plants to replace the tubs at the head of the pier	£104
Stronsay Cycles, for general maintenance and repair during the first year of operation	£1,040
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,554</b>

To date a total of £101,275.63 has been awarded to individuals and groups in Stronsay since the beginning of the financial year, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.  
The Board of Stronsay Development Trust



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## **ENTERPRISE ZONE / LOBSTER PONDS UPDATE**

The Units at the Enterprise Zone have been completed subject to the provision of a new electricity supply, which should be in place by the end of April. Once the new cable has been laid, the yard will be surfaced and disabled access provided to Units 1 and 5. It is anticipated that the project will be ready to be signed off in mid-May.



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## **TENDERS SOUGHT**

Tenders are sought (labour only) for laying turf and planting shrubs on the earth bank to the west of Wood's Yard. Please contact Dave Bourn-Fernley on 616230 or [davefernley@gmail.com](mailto:davefernley@gmail.com) for further details and to view the site



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# SAWING BEAMS TO WALKING PLANKS

I am afraid I can't resist it any longer it is time to get into my real comfort zone and look at some buildings. Over the next few months I am going to look at a variety of different buildings, share why I am called to them and why I think they are significant. I am starting with the former chapel, drill hall and barn that is now the home of Craft Enterprise. Why?



Well because it is so untypical of Orkney architecture. This building has a roof structure called 'half-hip' most buildings on Stronsay and throughout the Isles have traditional plain gable ends and a few with the wonderfully named 'Craw steps'.



The geometry of this kind of roof is much more complex and requires more timber and a craftsman of some considerable skill. All of which suggests a building that was to be noticed. Upstairs, in what is now the cafe, the long roof beams are exposed and at the end of each are the carpenter's marks in roman numerals incised using his 'carpenters axe' so that having sawn, shaped and jointed each one they would be correctly placed in the roofs geometry. These marks are often



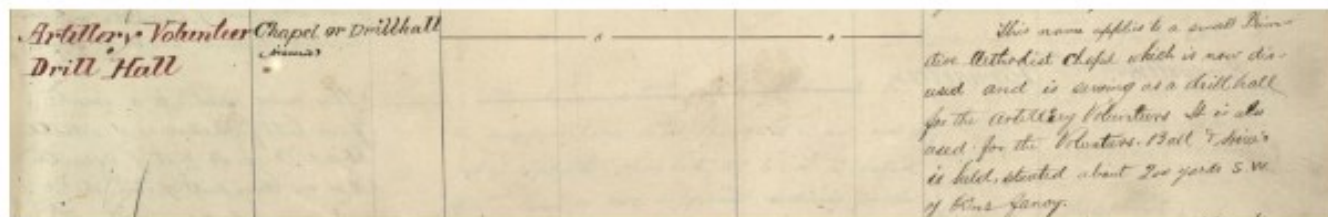
hidden so it was a delight to see that the restoration of the building had given them their place of distinction. I was heard to exclaim, with an embarrassing degree of loudness that Jill has got used to over the years, "Carpenter's Marks and they've been pit sawn!" Each beam had the scarf marks of the teeth of the saw that had cut them: straight, at a slight angle and slightly variable, (see the illustration below).

Before mechanisation and in rural areas where a sawmill was unavailable timber was converted from tree to plank using a pit saw. One man above and the other below in the pit. If you look closely at the photograph you can see the large iron staples, or dogs, used to hold the trunk rigid. The origin of the terms 'top dog' for the man above and 'under dog' for the poor chap in the pit and the sawdust below, often the 'loon' (apprentice).





We have no record of whether these timbers were sawn on site, on Stronsay or imported as 'deals' of timber ready to be finished on site, most probably the latter. A similar chapel was built by the same architect on Westray and records for this lie in the archive in Kirkwall. Maybe a 'trip to toon' is called for.

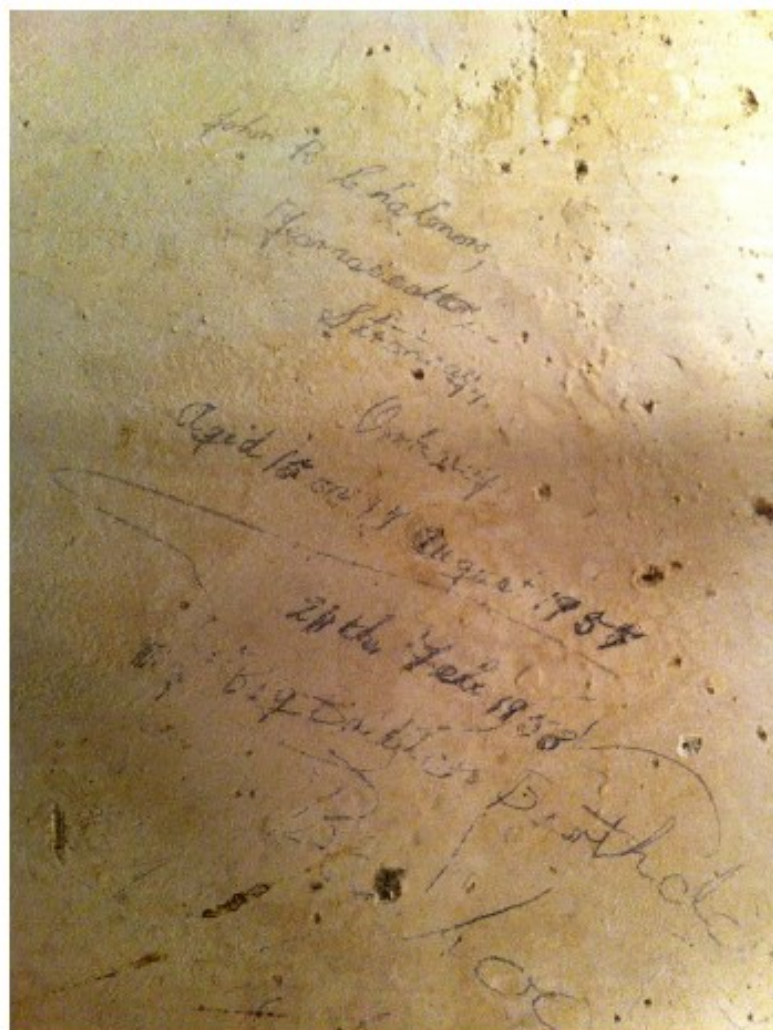


*The Ordnance Survey Name Book describes the building as ".... A small Primitive Methodist Chapel which is now disused and is serving as a drill hall for the Artillery Volunteers. It is also used for the Volunteers Ball & Soiree's is held...."*

This description was undertaken for the 1870 Name Book and the information would have been collected by the surveyor and certified by local persons of knowledge and good standing. When Dianne and Paul bought it to convert into their 'Craft Enterprise' it had long ceased to be a drill hall and was then an agricultural barn. Latterly used to house a threshing machine and subsequently a combine harvester.

As the building was restored it gave up some of its past stories. Drawings and graffiti were discovered that gave colour and history to its fascinating past.

These names are from its time as a thrashing barn and relate to a form of 'Secret Club' for the late John Chalmers (Yearnasetter), his brother and some of their school mates who at weekends enjoyed the use of the barn, particularly "after a good days thrashing when there was nice fresh straw...we would amuse ourselves by walking the plank" a kind of initiation game. They would run up a sloping plank from the loft and launch themselves into the straw some distance below. Success meant you could add your name to the role of honour on the wall.



Also on the walls were the names and drawings of boats, possibly some form of prayer token to keep the boats and their crews safe, probably from when the building was a chapel.

This is clearly a building of great character that has been part of Stronsay's story for over two centuries, and thankfully continues so to do.

Dave Hutchinson, Bayview

## **North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme – Development Phase Update – No 5.**

Hello,

As I write this update on the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS) we are heading towards the end of March and time is rapidly marching on towards the date for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Since my last update in January, we have been concluding the majority of the project studies and procuring the final studies required by the HLF as part of the NILPS development phase. The details are highlighted below:

My colleague, Tom Hunter, has recently been visiting the islands and meeting with groups/individuals to consider small-scale projects regarding the Historic Environment in each island. This will help prioritise potential projects for delivery but it is our intention that at least one project per island will be further developed.

The Heritage Trail and Active Travel study has completed its site visits with Jane Dixon from Ironside Farrar completing a few final island trips to finalise proposals.

The Landscape and Seascape Study is also being written up. The information from this survey will provide an essential element of our application to the HLF.

The Visitor and Marketing Study is also being finalised. This report will include a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) Analysis and Marketing Strategy.

The Biodiversity Study is now completed.

The contract for the monitoring and evaluation of NILPS has recently been awarded to Resources for Change ([www.r4c.org.uk/index.html](http://www.r4c.org.uk/index.html)). The company have experience of monitoring and evaluating other schemes around the country.

The branding, graphics and website development for NILPS is currently out to tender.

Once all of the studies required as part of the round 2 submission have been completed and approved by the NILPS steering group, they will be made available to the public. I am currently considering the most effective medium to disseminate the studies and shall update you on this once we reach a conclusion. As highlighted in the previous update, in order to meet the next HLF deadline the final version of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for NILPS needs to be submitted by the end of July 2017. The regional board for the HLF will meet at the end of November 2017 to consider the NILPS application. As such, we hope to hear the outcome in December 2017. Subject to a positive outcome NILPS should commence in early 2018.

As mentioned previously, my priority from now until the end of July will be producing the LCAP as well as developing the projects we intend to deliver under NILPS. The studies have helped identify projects for delivery and I continue to keep in touch with various groups regarding these projects. This will continue as collectively we work up suitable projects for delivery during the 2018-2022 scheme.

*(continued on next page)*



I would ask that you please disseminate this information as widely as you can within your own community and let me know if there is anyone you would like included in future communications. Further information is available at the following link - <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/D/north-isles-landscape-partnership-scheme.htm> Thank you again for your continued participation and working with the various individuals who have been involved in producing the studies. I will continue to keep in touch as we keep working towards our end of July submission.

Best regards,

Alister.

Alister Brown

Development Officer – North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme

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**The NILPS Development Phase is being supported by the following organisations**



## **Bird News**

### **This Month's featured area – Dale Farm.**

Dale Farm, situated near the middle of the island, has played host to a wonderful array of species – not surprising, as Norman and Kath Kent who have farmed there for over forty years, are keen birdwatchers and have diaries crammed with records of bird sightings. Nesting species such as Quail and Corncrake in the fields, and Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, and Sandwich Terns in the small 'reserve' area which still exists to this day. Exotic rare migrants such as Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, and Rosy Starling have been attracted to the trees and bushes of various types around the houses and out-buildings, and many Waxwings have taken advantage of the apples put out in order to attract them in several recent late-Autumns. The first (of 2) Nightjars recorded on the farm was completely unexpected, discovered at dusk as it hawked for moths in one of the grassy meadows as Kath and Norman drove slowly around the area collecting mushrooms! As regards the duller, drab-looking species, several Rosefinches have been recorded – mainly in Autumn – including one which was discovered high up in the rafters of one of the byres.

There have been some amazing sightings close to the house – a Tree Creeper clinging to the pebble-dash outside the sitting-room window; a Grey Wagtail bathing in the newly constructed bird-bath outside the kitchen window; a Tree Sparrow which took up residence among the House Sparrows in 2008, and most recently a Great Spotted Woodpecker which almost took up residence in the Winter of 2015-2016!

The list of birds seen 'in the gardens' is even more staggering, and includes - Arctic Warbler; Radde's Warbler; several Icterine, Barred, and Yellow-browed Warblers; Firecrest; Red-breasted Flycatcher and Wryneck. All would be classified as major rarities in almost any UK garden but as regards colouration, none match the party of 3 Bee-eaters which frequented the garden and surrounds regularly in May 2015. Several pairs of Linnets nest annually among the bushes close to the houses, and on one occasion a mixed pair of Linnet and Twite successfully reared young in the Honeysuckle by the front door of Dale Cottage. The off-spring were a challenge to identify among the late-Summer flocks! The flowering shrubs in the area are a great attraction to some of the larger moths, and Humming-bird Hawk-moth, Convolvulus Hawk-moth and Bedstraw Hawk-moth have all been recorded. Ghost-moths are seen regularly among the grasses in early summer.

The small Quarry adjacent to the Fire Station has turned up some unusual species including Goldfinch (when the species was a major rarity here!) Little Bunting, and one of the Nightjars, but the most unexpected find was the Woodchat Shrike of the race 'niloticus' (from the Middle-East) in September 1999.

An American Golden Plover - the first island record - was discovered close to Dale Cottage in Autumn 1988 and both Desert Wheatear and Oriental Skylark are on the list as 'fly-pasts' in the same small area. A great find by Kath and Norman opposite the drive in January 2016 was another American species new to the island - a (Carolina) Wood Duck - a truly exotic species - frantically feeding and preening in a small pond just 20yds from the road.

*(continued on next page)*



There have been several sightings of (white) Gyrfalcons from Dale in the last 25 years – all ‘fly-overs’, and a Red-footed Falcon has also been recorded, disturbed from a freshly plucked (ready-to eat!) House Sparrow. But the most unexpected record on the farm was the Slender-billed Curlew flushed at close range by the roadside on the ‘Dale Hill’ on 24th May 2011 – a species which has recently been declared extinct!

(Following photos: NK & JFH)



*‘The Rosefinch among the couples was quickly encouraged outside with the help of a broom and some shouting.’*



*‘Grey Wagtail at the bird-bath – just a few feet from the kitchen window!’*



*‘The long-staying Tree Sparrow at Dale -  
a species yet to be recorded on our own land at Castle!’*

*(continued on next page)*



*‘Nothing ‘done by halves’ at Dale – two female Blackbirds brooding on the same nest!’*



*‘The niloticus Woodchat Shrike - a great find in the Dale Quarry by the Fire Station.’*



*‘A great find opposite the drive – the Wood Duck of January 2016.’*

*(continued on next page)*





*‘A Curlew Sandpiper by a small pond close to the road in Autumn.’*



*‘The Slender-billed Curlew probing in the mud of a small pond at Dale in May 2011.’*



*‘Right outside the kitchen window – a Waxwing!’*

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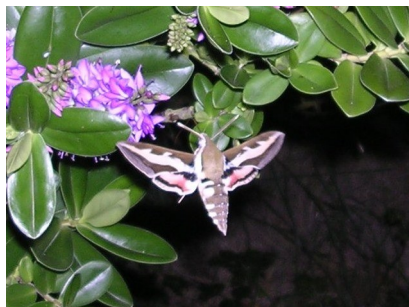




*'A beautiful male Yellowhammer in the drive.'*



*'Male Hen Harrier – also from the kitchen window!'*



*'Bedstraw Hawk-moth on the hebe in the Dale Cottage garden.'*

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## Recent Bird Sightings

A Pied Wagtail with no tail was seen several times in Whitehall Village in late February and a Woodcock was seen by Norman at dale on 23rd. Next day there was a party of 3 Slavonian Grebes close inshore at Castle and the first singing Skylark was heard over the fields at Holin. The identification of the owl seen flying around inside the farm buildings by Susanne at Greenfield in February remains a mystery although it was certainly either Short-eared or Long-eared. Both species have been seen elsewhere on the island this Winter including a Long-eared on the outside of the hedge at Southbank on 28th Feb (see photo). The over-wintering Chiffchaff has been seen by Sheila at Helmsley on several occasions.

A Pied Wagtail - complete with long tail – was seen several times in the village street from late February well into March, and a surprise (they are always a surprise!) as Sue and I drove across the Mill Stream bridge on 3rd March was the sight of a Water Rail scampering up the bank and dashing into cover under the over-hanging fuchsia. Amazingly there have been two other sightings of the species this year already - one (probably the same bird as was seen on 3rd March) dashed across the Castle drive, 100yds or so from the Mill Stream on 9th March, and the other was seen by Kath and Norman as it darted across the road at Mt Pleasant on 12th March. One sure sign of Spring migration was a party of 6 Skylarks close together which flew up from the Castle Drive on the warm, sunny day of 11th.

A few Whooper Swans – probably family parties - have been seen throughout the last month, including 2-3 on and off in the front garden at Eastbank, and 5 in one of the Coweshouse fields close to the Odiness Road. The reduction in the number of Greylag Geese present for some time in late Winter has resulted in a big increase in the number of duck – both species and numbers of! There have been up to 19 Pintail on the Bu Loch and a party of 6-8 Tufted Duck on the Matpow Loch.

Another sure sign of Spring migration was the male Brambling seen perched on the fence in the Banks Drive by Jim Miller on 17th March.



*'The Long-eared Owl at Southbank'*

*(continued on next page)*





*'The 5 Whooper Swans at Coweshouse – almost certainly a 'family' party'*



*This adult Whooper Swan was found feeding alone close to the house at Cott'*

### **Stop Press** (Wed 22 March)

Snow at 9am, bright sunshine by 10am and a party of 8 'honking' Whooper Swans – which may have spent the Winter on Stronsay – flying NW over Castle at 10.30, probably heading for the breeding grounds in Iceland. JH.



## STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE

The last cycle of council meetings before the election is now finished, and the last General Meeting has been held, at which I moved the last amendment of this council. It had been agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting to replace the present convener / vice-convener leadership arrangement with a convener (civic head), leader (political head) and depute leader; my amendment was for the term of office of the leader to be 2 years (as already agreed for the convener and depute leader) rather than for the full term of the council (this time 5 years). I think it is risky to choose a leader to serve for such an extended period, particularly when new councillors (such as I was 5 years ago) are unlikely to be very familiar with the candidates standing for the position and will find it hard to judge their potential. Regrettably my amendment was defeated.

From now until the local government election on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, statutory committees, such as licensing, will continue to meet, as will some of the member/officer working groups I currently sit on, such as the Empowering Communities Working Group, and I shall still be representing OIC on the UHI Foundation and the Highlands & Islands Skills Academy Leadership Board. Also, existing councillors will continue to attend community council meetings. So I'll carry on being busy as your councillor right up until polling day. What happens afterwards depends on you, the electorate.

The deadline to register to vote at the council election is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. If you think you are not on the electoral register or have recently changed address or name, call in at the Electoral Registration Office in Kirkwall (8 Broad Street, round the side of "The Reel"), telephone them on 01856-867222, or e-mail [ero@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:ero@orkney.gov.uk). In the North Isles there are no longer any polling stations, so, unless you want to travel to Kirkwall to vote, make sure you have also registered for a postal vote. For the first time ever, **at this council election 16 and 17 year-olds can vote**, so make sure you are registered to vote by post, too.

I was at the meeting of the Magnus 900 working group at which the final arrangements for the nonacentennial celebration of the death of St Magnus were presented. Among the events, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April there will be a re-enactment of his martyrdom on Egilsay. For info on how to be involved contact [Ragnhild.Ljosland@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Ragnhild.Ljosland@uhi.ac.uk) at the Centre for Nordic Studies.

As reported in *The Orcadian* (9<sup>th</sup> March), at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting I asked about a replacement for the Golden Mariana, given its recent breakdown. We were informed that a search is underway. Also reported in *The Orcadian* (2<sup>nd</sup> March) were my comments on the Island Games. When we are increasing charges, raising council tax, cutting services and freezing school budgets, I do not see how we can justify blowing a million quid on a week-long sporting event. To put it into context, this is over twice what our 2017/18 council tax increase will bring in. Which would you prefer: a sporting event that will be of little or no benefit (and quite possibly disruptive) to the North Isles, or no rise in council tax for the next 2 years? Or how about restoration of monthly visits of the mobile library and new stationary and textbooks for our schools? What about a bit extra for the ferries and air service? On the other hand, it was reassuring to hear about our maintenance programme for piers and harbours, and to approve a stage 2 capital project appraisal for the resurfacing of our island runways.

*(Continued on next page)*

All councillors were invited to a special meeting of the Development & Infrastructure Committee to consider the local development plan. This gave me the opportunity ask about flood protection for Whitehall village. We were reassured that Whitehall is included in the flood protection plan that has to be submitted to the Scottish Government.

Out and about in the Isles: Together with Cllr Harvey Johnston (Chair of Education, Leisure & Housing), I (as vice-chair) enjoyed an official visit to the Sanday Heritage Centre and Sanday School. I spent an evening in North Ronaldsay at a public meeting to talk about the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund and to discuss plans for the future of North Ronaldsay School. Now that the last pupil is leaving for KGS this summer, it is proposed to "put the school on stand-by" (a more inspiring term than "mothballing") and use it as a community educational resource. I have been to meetings of both Stronsay's and Shapinsay's community councils this month, and to parent council meetings in Stronsay and Sanday.


The Parent Council Chair Person Conference provided a great opportunity to catch up with parent council chairs and head teachers. Straight after lunch, we were treated to an instructive presentation on the spread of norovirus by projectile vomiting!

At the meeting I called with officials regarding issues with the "ActiveLife" card, I was told there is going to be a 6-month review in June, at which concerns from the public will be considered. Also, closer links with NHS Orkney are being forged, which may allow exercise on prescription. If you wish to feed your experiences into the 6-month review, please pass details on to Garry Burton at OIC ( [garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk) ) and feel free to CC me in.

Other meetings I have attended at School Place this month include: the Special General Meeting to ratify our budget and council tax rates, and meetings of the Change Programme Management Board and Constitutional Reform Working Group.

I shall be in Westray on 27<sup>th</sup> March for their community council meeting and on the 28<sup>th</sup> for the meeting of their parent council. I'm due to attend meetings of the Eday Community Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, Sanday Community Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, and of the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April (the day before my birthday)—provided I'm not martyred on the 15<sup>th</sup> April while I'm on Egilsay!

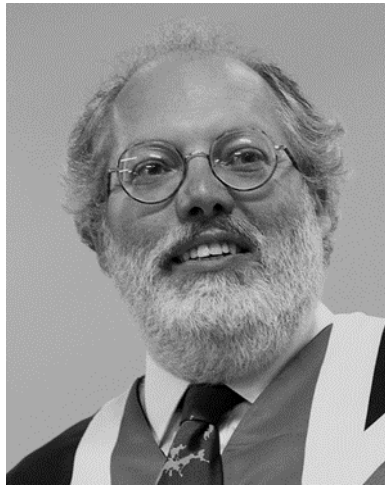
This issue and back numbers of "Letter from School Place" are now available for downloading from [clackson4northisles.pbworks.com](http://clackson4northisles.pbworks.com) along with my manifesto.



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson  
West Manse, Sanday  
[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)



# VOTE 1 for STEPHEN CLACKSON to carry on at Orkney Islands Council



## Manifesto

As an independent candidate **without any political party allegiance or affiliation**, I am producing this mini-manifesto so that you know what I stand for and what I propose to do on your behalf if re-elected to Orkney Islands Council.

### I will continue ...

**to stay in touch** with the issues, concerns and aspirations of the folk of the North Isles ward, through my attendance at community council meetings, parent council meetings, community events, being available for a chat on my frequent ferry journeys, and dealing with the casework of individual ward constituents and community groups—not to mention that **I actually live in the North Isles**;

**to report back** to ward constituents via my monthly “**Letter from School Place**” (now also available on-line at [clackson4northisles.pbworks.com](http://clackson4northisles.pbworks.com)) and invite your comments on what I am doing on your behalf;

**to stick up for the North Isles** at School Place—all of them: Auskerry, Eday, Egilsay, Gairsay, North Ronaldsay, Papa Stronsay, Papa Westray, Rousay, Sanday, Shapinsay, Stronsay, Westray and Wyre;

**to defend Orkney's interests** in the wider world (as I have been doing through my membership of OIC's Constitutional Reform Working Group and *Our Islands, Our Future*). In particular, to get Scottish Government funding for Orkney Ferries and improvement to our Internet connectivity, and in facing the uncertainties of Brexit and a possible Indyref2.



## **Priorities**

**Finance:** This underlies everything Orkney Islands Council is able to do. The future of central government financing of local authorities looks bleak. If we are even to maintain our current level of services, we are going to have to rise to the challenge of developing enterprises to generate much more of our own income. I will support the use of our strategic reserves to establish such income-generating enterprises.

**Transport:** The recent *Inter-Island Air & Transport Study* commissioned by OIC has unequivocally demonstrated that according to the Scottish Government's own *Routes & Services Methodology* we are under-provisioned. I will continue supporting OIC's demand for the Scottish Government to fund new ferries and finance the running of our internal ferry fleet, and I will push for the money thereby saved from OIC's budget to be re-allocated to our inter-island air service. Meanwhile, I shall be pressing for a review of Orkney Ferries' fare structure.

**Education:** I will work to make sure North Isles' schools are able to maintain their high academic standards and that subject choice is safeguarded for pupils in our junior high schools. I want us to grow all our island schools (primary and junior high) into educational resource centres available to the whole community.

**Empowering communities:** Currently being piloted in Papa Westray and Stronsay, I will support the roll-out to other islands of this initiative designed to decentralise council services to communities and give community councils a greater role in the management and delivery of those services.

**Island proofing Orkney's own islands:** In the *Our Islands, Our Future* campaign, OIC has been calling for a commitment to "island proofing" to be incorporated into all Scottish Government legislation to ensure island groups are not inadvertently disadvantaged. I shall work to make "island proofing" of Orkney's own islands an integral part of OIC's policy-making processes and activities.

**Brexit / Indyref2:** To the best of my abilities, I shall play my part at OIC to steer Orkney on a safe course through the unsettled waters of the near future.



Campaign website:  
**[clackson4northisles.pbworks.com](http://clackson4northisles.pbworks.com)**

*Promoted by Dr Stephen Clackson, West Manse, Sanday, Orkney KW17 2BN*



**VOTE McIVOR**  
**Stuart Roy McIvor**  
**9, Millbank, Shapinsay KW17 2DU**  
[stuart1707@aol.com](mailto:stuart1707@aol.com)  
**01856 711271 or 07759 008587**

I thoroughly enjoyed my two days getting around Stronsay recently. As you probably know by now I am on the campaign trail to be elected for the North Isles ward on May 4<sup>th</sup>. My intention is to visit every household in the North Isles ward which also include the inner isles of Rousay and Shapinsay where I now live. If I missed you – my apologies.

As I said in my leaflet I have known the North Isles for thirty years. I first of all lived and worked on Sanday then after a spell in Edinburgh, my place of birth, I came back to Orkney in 2013. A job in tourism had taken me to Edinburgh but there I got involved in politics for the first time and was elected as a councillor for a ward of 30,000 people, somewhat more than the population of the North Isles! It gave me a huge insight into the problems experienced by ordinary people and I believe I helped many. But quite honestly it was nothing new to me. I had been a police officer in London and there were similarities. As a police officer it isn't just about making arrests. Much of the job is assisting people who don't know who to turn to in times of need. The police station or beat officer was where they could seek help so it saddens me that many police stations around the country have closed in recent times.

What did I learn in Stronsay? Well much of it did not surprise me. Ferries – where are the new ones, timetables and their appropriateness to the island? Care of the elderly but above all jobs, jobs and jobs. This will help keep our young people here and encourage others to come and live on the isles. Hand in hand with this would be suitable housing. I have good knowledge here as I am on the board of Orkney Housing Association and actually live in an OHAL house.

Good facilities for visiting yachts was mentioned and an imaginative idea for facilitating study for KGS pupils; also hostel arrangements during exam times. There were some great ideas and if elected I would hope to make them a reality.

I am standing as an Independent with no membership or affiliation to any political party.

If you want to know more you can see my **Manifesto** by checking out Facebook – [McIVOR 4 NORTH ISLES ORKNEY](https://www.facebook.com/McIVOR4NORTHISLESORKNEY) or contacting me on 01856 711271 email [stuart1707@aol.com](mailto:stuart1707@aol.com)

**Stuart Roy McIvor**  
March 2017

**STRONSAY LIMPET—CAPTION COMPETITION**  
**PHOTOGRAPH FOR FEBRUARY’S COMPETITION**



February’s winner was Mike Burger whose caption was:  
*“Was this the first ‘hot tub’?”*

Just one other entry was received:  
*“When the bin spontaneously combusted prompt action was necessary”*

Now try your hand at the this month’s photograph on the next page.



**STRONSAY LIMPET—CAPTION COMPETITION**  
**PHOTOGRAPH FOR MARCH'S COMPETITION**



What do you think is happened here? Answers to the editor please by 7pm on Sunday 23 April. The editor's contact details are on the back page of every Limpet.

# I DO!

By Ellie from Newfield

It's a calculated risk I would say.  
Or a gamble, a "shot in the dark"  
And if you do manage to get it right  
You'll be singing like a lark.  
Matrimony is the subject,  
That old-fashioned pledge of "I do".  
A conventional act straight from history,  
Can you remember it too?  
Those serious vows of commitment,  
Endless planning for the Great Day.  
Those children you planned "for the future",  
The in-laws, erm, well, any-way.  
The bride's mother poured into tight corsets  
Hence the escaping tears.  
It's been a while since she was "on show"  
And the weight's crept on through the years.  
The bride's father warned to "keep sober"  
Supporting his un-used set of teeth.  
And grandad just concerned for "his dinner",  
Complaining loudly at the corned beef.  
A bride is always beautiful  
Like a princess in a fairy tale  
And of course her groom, our hero,  
All starry-eyed and face deathly pale.  
Yes, a wedding in the family,  
What a wonderful time for all  
And depending on the circumstances  
You could end it all with a brawl!

©*Helene Harrison*

## ***SALES, WANTS, GREETINGS, THANKS***

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to every one who came to the quiz night for Tickled Pink Breast Cancer, so far we have raised £240, with more to add to the pot when the supper bill is counted, and a couple of donations to come in, we will leave the pot open for another week just in case any body wants to donate. Thank you to quiz Mistress Barbara for all her hard work on setting the quiz and to her assistant Simon who collected sheets and kept the score. Well done to the winning team of Shirley, Andy, Dan, Sam, Pam, Andy, Flo and Butch. Hope you all had a good time. Looking forward to the next one.

Debbie & Chris, Stronsay Hotel

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General building work undertaken, decorating and gardening  
from grass cutting to full landscaping.  
Call Steve on 616222.

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### **AVON SALES**

Contact Yvonne Weaver on 616375 for an Avon catalogue

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### **WANTED!**

If you have any large old shirts that you no longer use (missing buttons not a problem) then Stronsay Junior High School would really appreciate them for use as painting shirts. Thank you

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### **ODD JOBS**

Odd jobs, gardening, window cleaning  
No job too small  
Call Tony Piper on 616357

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### **WORK WANTED**

Anything considered! Please contact James Hannant (age 21) on 616454

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Local sales, wants, etc are free!

The cutoff date for adverts to be included in the next edition of the *Limpet* is on the front page  
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## LOCAL BUSINESSES

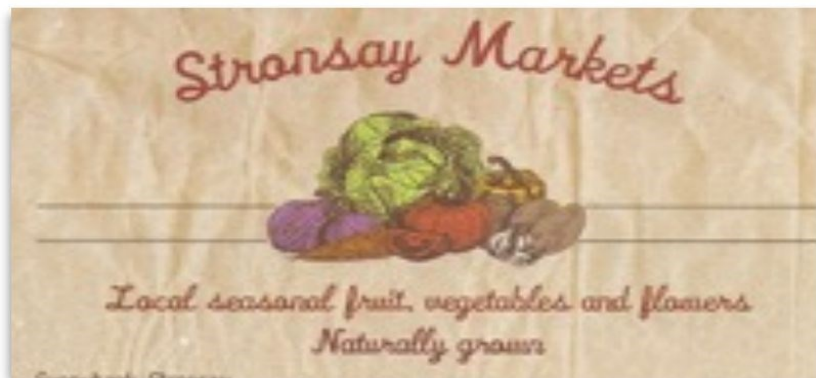
handmade with love

# Airy Fairy

- ★ Handmade Quilts, cushions & clothes ★
- ★ Beautiful, bespoke & personalised gifts ★
- ★ Handmade especially for you ★
- ★ Makower fabrics in stock £10 per metre ★
- ★ Studio visits welcome by appointment ★




Hazel Shearer, Airy, Stronsay, Orkney, KW172AG • Phone 01857 616231  
[hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.airyfairy@gmail.com) • [www.airyfairyonline.co.uk](http://www.airyfairyonline.co.uk)



*New business, a mini market garden, set up in late 2015 at  
Sunnybank, Stronsay*

*Currently supplying mixed salad leaves, some winter vegetables and  
bedding plants. There will be more as the season progresses.*

*I will supply a list each week with availability*

*Please look at my Face book page "Stronsay Markets" or  
send me an email "[stronsaymarkets@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaymarkets@gmail.com) and I will put you  
on my mailing list*

Local business adverts are free!

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **STRONSAY MARKETS - THE FIRST 12 MONTHS**

My love of producing vegetables and my desire to form a business came together in 2015. My ultimate desire was to produce as much seasonal, fresh vegetable, fruit and flowers, organically and local, as possible I have no idea yet whether I could ever supply the entire needs of Stronsay but last year was a good test.

As everyone knows locally, the difficulty is mostly due to wind and a very looong dark winter. It is quite wet as well but the temperature never falls very low. I have a small protected space at Sunnybank with fuchsia bushes that have grown for decades, offering vital protection. I have made a grid of growing “rooms” each with wind break mesh fences and have just completed the construction of my second polytunnel. I have had successes and failures. I have not thrown anything away and have found a small group of enthusiastic customers who enjoy the freshness of the vegetables and can cope with the erratic nature of the supply.

Successes included:

- Calabrese - quick growing under mesh
- Carrots - in the green
- New potatoes
- Cauliflowers
- Spinach
- Salads, salads and salads almost throughout the year
- Leeks
- Beetroot but a very small crop
- Courgettes
- Range of bedding plants

Failures included

- Onions - grew large and soft but did not keep
- Death and destruction from the Diamond Backed Moth which destroyed all brassicas for 6 weeks - cabbage, broccoli, mustard, rocket etc.
- Sprouting broccoli - those that survived sprouted early or gave up
- Main crop potatoes - large loss through rotting

I am creating more space for growing this year including another polytunnel. I am going to trial cut flowers, as well as soft fruit. I guess one day I will have to give up the regular day job....

I enjoyed supplying plants for the Kirk sale in May which contributed about £200.

I have a Facebook page called Stronsay Markets where I have photos and a list of available produce each week - contact me through the personal messaging service. I have an email service to those that request this - just drop your details to [stronsaymarkets@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaymarkets@gmail.com).

*(See photographs on next page)*

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**LOCAL BUSINESSES**  
**STRONSAY MARKETS - THE FIRST 12 MONTHS**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**



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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **JOHN DUNNE GARDEN SERVICES**

- \* General Garden Maintenance
- \* Window Cleaning and Guttering Services

- \* Reasonable rates
- \* Quick and professional

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Tel: 616247

### **The Old Manse Bed and Breakfast Logie Easter, Kildary IV18 0NZ**



Dating back to the 1780s set in a large woodland garden just off the A9 and six miles from Invergordon, the Old  
Ensuite Double and twin rooms

**Telephone : 01862 842357**

**Website : [www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk](http://www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk)**

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Local business adverts are free!

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **STRONSAY HOTEL—TAKEAWAY MENU**

Phone 01857 616213

Six days a week (Tuesday- Sunday) 5pm to 9pm

**NOTE—closed Monday**

Homemade lasagne + chips	£5.95
Homemade sausagemeat pie + chips	£5.95
Homemade chicken curry + rice or chips	£5.95
Homemade chicken masala curry + rice or chips	£6.50
Homemade chicken & veg pie + chips	£6.50
Breaded haddock + chips	£5.50
Breaded wholetail scampi + chips	£6.50
2 sausages + chips	£3.00
2 fish fingers + chips	£2.80
“Stronsay Beast Burger” + fries	£4.50
“Stronsay Cheese Beast Burger” + fries	£5.00
Portion of chips	£1.30
Half portion of chips	£0.80
Portion of cheesy chips	£2.10
Half portion of cheesy chips	£1.10
Portion of onion rings	£1.20

5pm to 9pm

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

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### **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 874723

<http://www.jennystoneart.com>

Email [jenny@jennystoneart.com](mailto:jenny@jennystoneart.com)

**PATRICK  
McGRATH  
LTD**

**Gas Safe Registered Engineer  
Plumber**

Services include:

- Installation, servicing, maintenance of all domestic gas appliances
- Landlords gas safety checks
- Bathroom fitting
- Bathroom supply
- General heatings
- All other types of domestic, commercial, industrial plumbing works
- Isles work welcome

Call Patrick on **07933 488283**  
Email: [patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com](mailto:patrickmcgrathltd@gmail.com)



PLUMBING  
& HEATING



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### **DRIVING TUITION**

Patient and friendly learner driver tuition with Richard. Including Pass Plus for passed drivers. To book lessons call 616268 or 07789104861. Or message my Facebook page 'Drive 2 Stay Alive'. Lesson times are very flexible to suit you, and lessons start and finish at your chosen address.

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Local business adverts are free!

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## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### “NEIL’S ON WHEELS”

- 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

### Ebenezer Oil Heating Services

Oftec trained engineer



**Oil Tank Installation**



**Boiler Servicing**

Oil boiler servicing,  
repair and replacement



**Boiler Installation  
& Commissioning**

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

Tel 01857 616339  
ebenezer@stronsay.org

## ***Freshly hand-crafted soaps from Simone’s soap kitchen on the beautiful island of Stronsay.***



### ***“Treat yourself to a bar of pure island magic”***

Simone Kirk, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AG, Tel: 01857 616281

**Website & online shop: [www.orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk)**

Email: [Info@orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk](mailto:Info@orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk) • Facebook / Twitter / Pinterest

Soaps available all year round in Stronsay at: Ebenezer Stores, Post Office, Olive Bank, Craftship Enterprise. A visit to the soap kitchen during your visit to Stronsay may be possible but please phone before you set out.

Local business adverts are free!

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# REOPENING

Open everyday from Saturday  
8th of April until Wednesday  
19th of April 11am-4pm.

**Normal opening hours**  
from April 22nd (April-December)  
Sat-Wed 11am-4pm  
Closed on Thursday and Friday.



For more information visit: [www.craftshipenterprise.co.uk](http://www.craftshipenterprise.co.uk)  
or Tel.: 01857 616249



Local business adverts are free!  
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# WORKSHOPS

at the Craftship Enterprise Chapel



## WEAVING A CIRCLE

Textile Workshop by Simone Kirk

Learn how to make a simple, yet effective circular piece of weaving on a peg loom.

Price: £25, from 2-5pm



## PATCHWORK MOSAIC

Paper Workshop with  
Dianne Riley-Moore

Create your own patchwork picture.  
All material and a canvas are included.

Price: £20, from 2-5pm

## GLASS FUSION

Glass fusion Workshop with  
Rosalind Neville-Smith

Make jewellery, a coaster or a small art piece.

Price: £30, from 10am-1pm



On Thursday 27th April 2017.

To book please contact me via [www.facebook.com/craftshipenterprise](https://www.facebook.com/craftshipenterprise) or  
[dianne@craftshipenterprise.co.uk](mailto:dianne@craftshipenterprise.co.uk)

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



### **STRONSAY STITCHERS**

**THURSDAY 27th April 2017**

**7-9.30pm, Church Hall, refreshments & biscuits, £2**



### ***Stronsay Spinners***

**Saturday 8th April in the Church Hall. From 11am to 3pm. Lunch: please bring your own. Refreshments will be available. £2.00/person.**

Learn the basics or get back to spinning in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. All levels very welcome, from beginners to more experienced. Bring your own wheel, equipment & something to spin if possible. If not, we have a spare wheel, a few drop spindles & plenty of fleece. If you'd just like to come for a "taster" that would be great.



## **STRONSAY CRAFT FAIR DATES FOR 2017**

**Saturday 20th May**

**Saturday 23rd September**

**Saturday 25th November**

If you would like to take part please contact Simone 616 281 to book your place

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## GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS



# Stronsay Free Swimming Sessions



Level 2 swimming coach Ben Delaney is travelling out to Stronsay to provide free swimming sessions for pupils from P1 –S4. For more information and to book a space see details below.



### Class Times

9.30am - 10.30am	Beginners and Improvers
11am - 12pm	B Squad
1pm - 2pm	A Squad
2.30pm - 3.30pm	CPD session for Instructors

**Venue:** Stronsay Swimming Pool

**Date:** Thursday 13th April

**Contact:** Andy Rose: 01857 616 277  
andyrose85@btinternet.com

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

### **STRONSAY DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th April at 3-4.30pm in the Community Hall (carpet room)

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### **BAG THE BRUCK** **(Beach Cleaning Event)**

**SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> – SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**

This year's event is scheduled to take place throughout Orkney during the above dates.

Any group or individual wishing to take part should contact [bagthebruck@gmail.com](mailto:bagthebruck@gmail.com) for health and safety information and a supply of bags and gloves.

Community council sponsorship is available for this event and any groups/individuals wishing to apply for sponsorship must notify the Island Link Officer in writing by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Colin McAlpine,  
Island Link Officer,  
Stronsay Community Council,  
The Hill,  
Stronsay,  
KW17 2AT

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

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### **STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE** **supervised sessions**

**Changes to supervised session times.**

**From Monday 11th April 2016**

All Supervised Sessions will run from 4.30 pm to 6.30.pm

MONDAY	4:30—6:30
TUESDAY	Buddy system
WEDNESDAY	4:30—6:30
THURSDAY	4:30—6:30
FRIDAY	4:30—6:30
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 or Julie - 616335

Gym during supervised sessions - 616449

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### **FIBROMYALGIA**

Do you suffer from fibromyalgia? There is a local Facebook group just for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/463333273823206>.

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

### **KIRKWALL MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS TO STRONSAY**

Orkney Digital Library <https://orkney.overdrive.com>

For full details of library van visits please see the library's website  
<http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobiles.htm>

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### **ORKNEY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau will be on Stronsay **17th May 2017** between 1pm and 4:30pm. To make an appointment to see one of their advisers at the Community Centre - Carpet Room or to arrange a home visit please telephone 01856 875266 by Thursday 11th May 2017 at the latest, thank you

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau will be on Stronsay **9th August 2017** between 1pm and 4:30pm. To make an appointment to see one of their advisers at the Community Centre - Carpet Room or to arrange a home visit please telephone 01856 875266 by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 at the latest, thank you

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

### **STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL—FREE SWIM WEEK!**

As a thank you to the community for their support a 'Free Swim Week' will be held the week beginning 24th April 2017.

---

### **STRONSAY SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE**

#### **Monday**

Public session 6.30-7.10

Adult lane 7.10-7.50

#### **Thursday**

7-7.40 Private Hire (pre-booked)

7.40-8.20 Private Hire (available for booking)

#### **Saturday**

Private hire 2-2.40

Public session 2.40-3.20

#### **Swim club**

Wednesday Beginners and developers 3.30-4.10

Thursday A and B squad 3.30-4.30

To enquire about Private Hires, phone Elsie on 616238.

To enquire about Swim Club, phone Sarah on 616406 or Andy 616277

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### **POOL CHARGES**

#### **Public Sessions**

Adults (16 and over) £2.40

Children £1.20

#### **Private Hires**

40 minute session - £15

60 minute session - £20

#### **Swim Club**

Children will be offered 10 week blocks which can be paid up front (non-refundable)

40 minute sessions - £16 block booking; £2 per session

60 minute sessions - £20 block booking; £2.50 per session

#### **Men only and Women only Sessions (16 and over)**

Block booking of 10 sessions over a 12 week period (non-refundable)

£24 block booking

£3 per session

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

### **KIRK NEWS**

With the new sound equipment in the Church it is now possible to record the services. If you are unable to get along to church each Sunday and would like to get a copy of the service week by week please phone Elsie on 616238. Services at 11am unless otherwise stated. A crèche is available for children aged 9 and under

- April 2nd – Rob Kiff
- April 9th – (Palm Sunday) David
- April 16th – (Easter Sunday) David
- April 23rd – June Freeth
- April 30th – Mike or Viv

---

### **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 pool all at £3 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, etc

Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri . . . .	08:30—12:00
Sat . . . . .	09:00—12:00
Sun . . . . .	Closed
Post collection times . . . . .	07:30, Monday to Saturday
Bank day . . . . .	Tuesday
Replacement bin bags.. . . .	Contact Island Link Officer in the Fishmart
Sunday service at the Kirk ..	11 am (see <a href="http://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5">http://tinyurl.com/pj7xtg5</a> )
Our Lady's chapel, pier head	Mass 11.20am (weekdays), 10.30am (Sundays & Holy Days)
Next Special Collection . . . .	?
Rubbish collection . . . . .	Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

Doctor . . . . .	616321	Balfour hospital . . . . .	01856 888000
Nurses . . . . .	616480	Electricity	
Medical emergency . . . .	01856 888000	problems . . . . .	0800 300 999
Stronsay registrar . . . . .	616239	emergency . . . . .	105
Hall bookings . . . . .	616446	Water problems . . . . .	0845 601 8855
Post Office . . . . .	616278	Highland Fuels . . . . .	0800 224 224
Companions . . . . .	616261	Kirkwall Library . . . . .	01856 873166
Kirk . . . . .	616311	Kirkwall Police . . . . .	101
Stronsay Hotel . . . . .	616213	Vets:	
Olivebank . . . . .	616255	Flett & Carmichael .	01856 872859
Ebenezer stores . . . . .	616339	Northvet . . . . .	01856 873403
Neil's on Wheels . . . . .	616454	Dentists:	
Taxi . . . . .	616335	Orkney Dental . . . .	01856 872030
Airy Fairy . . . . .	616231	King Street . . . . .	01856 875348
Castle Bird Reserve . . . .	616363	Earls Palace . . . . .	01856 872958
Craftship Enterprise . . . .	616249	Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210
Star Island Soap . . . . .	616281	Email <a href="mailto:contact@the-sons.org">contact@the-sons.org</a>	
Driving tuition . . . . .	616268		

**EMERGENCY! POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE or COASTGUARD - dial 999**

### JIM HOLLAND HAULAGE—DELIVERIES

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

### HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk)

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk) (preferred method); phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10am & before 8pm, please!); or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page



A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Scotland  
Company Number SC271553  
A Scottish Charity, Charity Number SC038888  
Registered Office: Unit 1 Woods Yard, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AR

# **REQUEST FOR A PRINTED COPY** **OF THE LIMPET**

*The existing Limpet distribution lists will be scrapped on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and new distribution lists will be created.*

*If you really need a printed copy of the Limpet every month please complete this form and hand it in at either Olivebank, Ebenezer Stores or Claremont on or before 1 April 2017.*

**PLEASE RESERVE ONE COPY OF THE LIMPET EVERY  
MONTH FOR  
HOUSE NAME (or number)**

--

**I WILL COLLECT THE PRINTED COPY FROM**

<b>OLIVEBANK</b>
------------------

<b>EBENEZER STORES</b>
------------------------

*(delete whichever is not applicable)*



**REQUEST FOR A PRINTED COPY  
OF THE LIMPET**

***PLEASE  
FILL IN THE FORM OVERLEAF  
AND RETURN IT TO  
EITHER  
OLIVEBANK,  
EBENEZER STORES  
OR  
CLAREMONT  
ON OR BEFORE 1 APRIL 2017***

***EXISTING DISTRIBUTION LISTS WILL BE SCRAPPED  
WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 2017 AND NEW DISTRI-  
BUTION LISTS WILL BE CREATED***