



## **DECEMBER EDITION OF THE LIMPET**

The deadline for the December edition of the Limpet will be **7pm on Sun 13 Dec!**

## **FREE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS VIA THE LIMPET**

Send greetings to family & friends via the December edition of the Limpet—it's **FREE!**

Just send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk), deadline is 7pm on Sun 13 Dec.

## **LATEST GP ROSTER**

Monday 23 Nov - Sun 13 Dec Dr Philip Gaskell

## **MESSAGE FROM STRONSAY SURGERY STAFF.**

As we all move towards the 'new normal' all clinical staff will continue to wear PPE when seeing patients, both in the surgery and on home visits. This will include plastic aprons, gloves and masks. It would be appreciated if patients attending the surgery would wear face masks wherever possible.

Thank you, Stronsay Surgery.

## **FOOD BANK REFERRALS**

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau

If you are facing financial difficulty and struggling to afford food, please get in touch with us so that we can make a food bank referral for you. These are extraordinary times which nobody was prepared for so please don't feel embarrassed at asking for help, there are so many others in the same situation. To request a referral you can email the following address:

[bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk)

Our service is free and confidential.

## **TOILET AND WASHING FACILITY FOR KEY WORKERS**

Now that the public toilets are open again in the waiting room at the pier, toilet facilities will no longer be available for key workers at Cleat cottage.

Sheena Cooper

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

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk) or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR.*

The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on **Thu 17 December**. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on **Sun 13 December**. Contact details are on the back page. The Limpet's website address is <http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk>

# **ORCADES PRACTICE—STRONSAY BRANCH**

In an emergency phone 01856 888000

(*NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS* [ork.stronsay@nhs.scot](mailto:ork.stronsay@nhs.scot))

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

Please phone as usual if you require an appointment on 616321  
or email [ork.stronsay@nhs.scot](mailto:ork.stronsay@nhs.scot) (*NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS*)

All appointment requests are being triaged by Admin through the GP who will then contact you and give you an appointment if you need a face to face consultation. These arrangements will continue for the foreseeable future.

## **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS** **CORONAVIRUS RISK REDUCTION**

Until further notice:

- No more paper requests to be handed in.
- Please phone 616321 or email [ork.stronsay@nhs.scot](mailto:ork.stronsay@nhs.scot) to order. (*NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS*)
- Check one week later to see if they have arrived.
- Time slots will be given for collection.

Thank you

Dr Rosalind Fisher, Dr Mandy Fry and Dr Alison Lievesley

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## **GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON FACE COVERINGS**

WHEN TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ayxdc6>

WHO IS EXEMPT FROM WEARING FACE COVERINGS

<https://tinyurl.com/y4e7gpgu>

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## **NHS SCOTLAND—CORONAVIRUS**

NHS Scotland website for information on coronavirus is

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

If in doubt phone the surgery on 616321

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## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Five level plan to vary rules for rapid but proportionate response to COVID-19

For full details go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5ec6nlm>





# Recognising Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptoms



Symptoms	<b>Covid-19</b> Symptoms range from mild to severe	<b>Flu</b> Rapid onset of symptoms	<b>Cold</b> Gradual onset of symptoms
 <b>Fever (37.8C or above)</b>	Common	Common	Rare
 <b>Fatigue</b>	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 <b>Cough</b>	Common (usually dry)	Common (usually dry)	Mild
 <b>Sneezing</b>	No	No	Common
 <b>Aches and pains</b>	Sometimes	Common	Common
 <b>Runny or stuffy nose</b>	Rare	Sometimes	Common
 <b>Sore throat</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 <b>Diarrhea</b>	Rare	Sometimes (for children)	No
 <b>Headaches</b>	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 <b>Shortness of breath</b>	Sometimes	No	No
 <b>Loss of taste or smell</b>	Common	No	Sometimes

# TEST & PROTECT: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Following these steps is vital to tackle coronavirus in Scotland

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p><b>RECOGNISE SYMPTOMS</b></p> <p>A new persistent cough, fever, or loss or change in sense of taste or smell means you should immediately begin household isolation.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p><b>REQUEST A TEST RIGHT AWAY</b></p> <p>It is important to get a test as soon as possible. Visit <a href="https://nhs.uk/nhsinform/scot/test-and-protect">NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect</a> or call 0800 028 2816 if you cannot get online.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p><b>ISOLATE</b></p> <p>Isolate for 7 days from symptom start date, longer if fever continues and 48 hours after fever ends. Others you live with should isolate for 14 days.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>  <p><b>GET TESTED</b></p> <p>When isolating, you should only leave home to get tested. There are various ways of having this done.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>  <p><b>GET RESULTS</b></p> <p>They should be with you within 48 hours.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>  <p><b>PROVIDE DETAILS</b></p> <p>If you have coronavirus, NHS contact tracers will contact you to confidentially ask who you have had contact with recently. If you don't have the virus, you and your household can stop isolating.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>  <p><b>NHS INFORMS CONTACTS</b></p> <p>If you have coronavirus, the NHS will contact the people you have had close contact with. Your name will not be shared unless you give permission. All data will be held safely and securely.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>  <p><b>CLOSE CONTACTS ISOLATE</b></p> <p>They will be asked to isolate for 14 days from the last time they had contact with you.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>  <p><b>HOUSEHOLD OF CLOSE CONTACT</b></p> <p>If the close contact has no symptoms, others in their household don't need to isolate. If the close contact develops symptoms, they should follow this guide starting from step 1.</p>

If you do not have community or family support and need essential help, call the National Assistance Helpline on 0800 111 4000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or via textphone on 0800 111 4114. The helpline is for those who cannot leave their home or get the help they need elsewhere.

For current health advice and more information about the Test & Protect service visit [NHSinform.scot/test-and-protect](https://nhs.uk/nhsinform/scot/test-and-protect)





# WE'RE HERE TO HELP



We're **Home Energy Scotland**, the Scottish Government's free energy advice service. We provide impartial advice and support to help people stay warm, make the best use of energy and save money on their bills.

Lots of people have seen their energy costs rise since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. If you're worried about this, we can offer support.

## We can help with:

- Clear advice on ways to save energy and reduce fuel costs while staying warm at home
- Advice about grant and interest-free loan funding for heating, insulation and more
- Practical help if you find yourself without heating or hot water
- The latest information about extra help from energy suppliers

**GET IN  
TOUCH**

Phone **0808 808 2282** to chat to a friendly advisor – calls are FREE.

Email [energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

Visit [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org)

**HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG**

**0808 808 2282**

FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

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HOME  
ENERGY  
SCOTLAND

**WIN £500  
TOWARDS YOUR  
ENERGY BILLS!**

How good is your energy saving knowledge? Take Home Energy Scotland's quiz to find out. You'll pick up tips to help you save energy and money at home – and if you leave your details, you'll be in with the chance of winning **£500** towards your energy bills!

Scan the QR code to go directly to the quiz or visit **homeenergyscotland.org/win**



**HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG**  
**0808 808 2282**  
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT





## **AVAILABLE BENEFITS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY SCOTLAND**

### **Scottish Child Payment**

The new Scottish Child Payment, opened early for applications on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Low income families with a child under six will be able to apply for £10 per eligible child, per week. The first payments begin from the end of February 2021 and are made every four weeks. This is equivalent to £520 per year.

Applicants must be in receipt of: Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

We remain committed to rolling out the benefit to families with children under 16, planned for the end 2022. More information and how to apply can be found at [Scottish Child Payment](#).

### **Child Winter Heating Assistance**

[From 23 November 2020](#), the Scottish Government will introduce a new payment named Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an annual payment of £200 designed to assist with heating costs for children and young people up to the age of 18 years old who receive the highest care component of Disability Living Allowance for Children. This payment is automatically paid in to the same account that Disability Living Allowance is paid and payments will arrive in bank accounts [from 27 November](#) and within approximately 2 weeks. To qualify for the first payment, you must be in receipt of this benefit between 21 September 2020 to 27 September 2020.

### **Best Start Grant School Age Payment**

Reminder about Best Start Grant School Age Payment. It is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 to help with the costs of a child starting school. You may be eligible if you are the parent or carer of the child, and you get certain benefits or tax credits. Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit.

If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and don't have to be on a qualifying benefit. You would also be eligible if you are 18 or 19, in full time education or training and dependent on someone else like a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit, pension credit or universal credit for you.

For children who would normally start school this August you can apply [from 1 June 2020 to 28 February 2021](#). It is claimed in the year the child is eligible to start school, they don't need to attend school and can be home schooled and if school has been deferred until next year they should still claim within the application period this year.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Young Carers Grant

Reminder about Young Carers Grant. It's £305.10 per year for young carers aged 16 to 18 who live in Scotland. It's a cash benefit to spend as they choose and they can apply if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed. Young carers may be eligible for Young Carer Grant if they meet all of the criteria below: • they live in Scotland • they are aged 16 to 18 • they have been providing care for an average of 16 hours a week, for the last three months. The support they provide may be physical, mental or emotional. • the person or people being cared for are getting a qualifying benefit • they are not caring for any of the people in the application as a volunteer • they are not being paid to provide care for any of the people in the application • they have not applied for, or received Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions, or Northern Ireland's Carer's Allowance. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) - daily living component, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) - the middle or highest care rate, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – for children, Attendance Allowance, Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension or Armed Forces Independence Payment.

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*Home Energy Scotland helps people in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce their energy bills, and lower their carbon footprint.*

*We work with people and organisations to help tackle fuel poverty and the climate emergency.*

*We do this through a network of regional advice centres covering all of Scotland, which offer local knowledge and expert advice on:*

- *saving energy and keeping warm at home*
- *funding options including Scottish*
- *Government grants and interest free loans*
- *installing renewable energy at home*
- *greener travel including electric vehicles and ebikes*
- *cutting water waste.*

*We are funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Energy Saving Trust.*

*To [get in touch](#), use our online form, call our freephone number – [0808 808 2282](tel:08088082282) - or message us on social*

If you have any questions about the available grants or benefits listed above, please be in touch. Or, if you have any questions or concerns you would like to discuss, please be in touch. Appointments are available at Wood's Yard on December 1 and December 10, from 9:30-11:30. All social distancing guidelines will be followed. Or, I can be reached at [sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com) or on 616495.

Sarah Powers Richings



## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020**

Two wreaths laid. Covid-19 prevented more than a tiny number attending in person this year but the event is no less important.

*Photographs by Roger Neville-Smith*



## **FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ORKNEY IN 1974**

*By Dr Phillip Gaskell who will be Stronsay's locum GP until 13 December*

Aboard my faithful Honda 90, I arrived on Orkney mainland from Scrabster in early August, 1974, the day of the Orkney County Show. Harray lost in the football final. My 6 week student elective attachment at the Balfour was to be a turning point. I discovered wine, women and cooked crab claws! Perhaps watching Bill Groundwater operating came second. The discovered women were house doctor and two English nurses who with my male student companion formed a marauding troop in the most civilised way.

I remember overnighing in a cottage in Dounby, an “*It's a Knockout*” competition in the main street and a short spell on Hoy, Rackwick the highlight. I took my bike over to Rousay where the Rev Tom Johnston was minister at the time. I had encountered Tom at an SU camp on Arran in my youth. The professor of archaeology from Southampton University came through our hands in the A/E department with acute low back pain. Generously as a reward for sympathetic treatment, he provided a personal guided tour of the tomb he and his students were excavating, skeleton in sitting position.

Of course, Skara Brae, Maeshowe and the Italian Chapel were impressive to visit. So were my 4 tries in the first Orkney XV rugby fixture of the season against Moray – right place at the right time, playing at No8. The club have gone up and up since then.

At the time, GPs provided the anaesthetics and maternity care as well as covering the medical wards. Derek Johnson of Stromness was a hugely amusing character – as was Sidney Peace in another way. A bold band of single-handed GPs provided care on the islands, Tony Trickett on Hoy being a member of the lifeboat crew too.

The team collegiate approach adopted over the last few years for primary care provision on the Orkney Islands makes sense, attracts good GPs and ensures clinical skills are kept up to date. Islay (population 3,200) has a similar system - previously three solo practices, now one and with small hospital, A/E and after hours care all part of contracted work. I believe Mull has had less success with that approach, again, what were three separate practices combined – but longer travel times and more remote than Islay.

My only time on Stronsay was over New Year 2017/18 - a quiet time professionally for me and with the Hogmanay hooley not in the island calendar, opportunities to engage with locals were few. Attending the Church of Scotland was a highlight and on the café walls, the black and white photos of the herring fishing, salting and storage were an eye-opener to me. Spending the Thursday at work on Eday was a fine break in the week as was exploring the beaches, walking into a biting wind.

I was able to take advantage of the large kitchen at Geramount to make some items which, when photographed, formed part of an online application to the *Great British Bake Off*. I have made wedding and celebration cakes for fun for a few years – after giving up rugby at aged 50. Once through the telephone interview I was asked to attend along with many others from Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North of England for viva and tasting of two bakes, at a hotel in York. That was the end of my GBBO journey but I reckoned I had reached the round of the last 300, maybe? Happily, I was free to form part of a 30 strong group of amateur singers recruited to sing chorus in a Scottish Opera production of *Pagliacci* in July that year.

*(continued on next page)*

The show was translated into English and a promenade production in a massive tent pitched on Seedhill sports ground in Paisley. We practised assiduously from late March with a few of the professional chorus, the soloists and full orchestra added later. A once-in-a-lifetime privilege.

Before the pandemic moved most primary care consultations onto phone and video, practice teams had been expanded to ease the burden on a shrinking doctor workforce. Advanced nurse practitioners, pharmacists, mental health workers and physiotherapists have been made directly available to patients, receptionists requiring to make careful enquiry about the problem of the moment. General practice in populous areas, especially serving communities living in poverty, may have Community Link Workers in the team. They practise social prescribing, signposting patients to projects and activities which tackle loneliness, learning need and promote good health. Such settings are demanding of all staff and doctors too need to be resilient, especially if they are to remain in the same post year after year.

Dr David Player was my patient in Edinburgh before I shifted to Stirling in 2004: [Obituary: David Player, Scottish physician and public health pioneer | The Scotsman](#) He graduated with my father in 1948 and was is one of my heroes. A long, full life, made his mark. We need more of his like, He would be delighted that smoking in England has fallen to just 13% of the population – Scotland a little behind that.

I won't be surprised if I am asked to get involved in the mass immunisation required when Covid vaccines are available. A gradual return to normal will be welcome, especially by those living without garden and in limited indoor living space. The scope to travel will be the icing on the cake. Lets all enjoy some tea and cake. I think that is allowed in the Orkney Isles but will need to check!

And if anyone is available as a buddy for some wild swimming till 13 December, I have brought my wetsuit – give me a shout.



## **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY** **STRONSAY PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Dear Everyone

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Dementia Friendly Stronsay Project Coordinator. My name is Teri Shearer and I live at Clestrain with my family. I moved to Stronsay in 2016 following numerous family holidays to Stronsay to see my grandparents and other family. I love living on Stronsay and I am extremely excited and grateful to have been given this opportunity.

The main goal of the project is to raise awareness of dementia within our local community and pursue activities and education leading to Stronsay becoming a recognized Dementia Friendly Community by Alzheimer Scotland. My personal goal is to work collaboratively with the community in pursuing this recognition. I look forward to working with the Dementia Friendly Stronsay steering group, other volunteers, community members living with a dementia diagnosis and their families and unpaid carers, as well as the local Carers and surgery staff.

As part of this role I will be undertaking training in dementia awareness and care.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or support in regards to dementia and the project. I would also like to say that the steering group is open to anyone who would be interested in joining and your contribution and ideas would be greatly appreciated. If any questions related to this please ask!

Please also note that all discussions will be held in confidence and I am happy to help anyone in need.

Best wishes

Teri Shearer (tele:616460. Email: [dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlystronsay@gmail.com))

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## **RECYCLING SKIPS**

From OIC Updates on Facebook:

"Isles Residents - To help us plan and schedule skip collections, you can notify us at [recycling@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@orkney.gov.uk) when skips are nearing full and we will pass on the information to our Operations Team to arrange collection."

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## **ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND**

"There will be no Royal Bank visits until further notice.

Also we have set up 2 dedicated tel numbers

0800 051 4177 for anybody in isolation

0800 046 6734 for all NHS staff

Both lines are open 8-8

I hope you are all keeping well, and it won't be too long before I am back.

Lois"

## **STRONSAY WASTE MATTERS**



Hello everyone! I am the new Waste Management Officer for Stronsay and, although most of you already know me, I thought I should take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have lived on Stronsay for most of my life, except for attending university in Aberdeen where I graduated with a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology. I came back home in March with the aim of working on Stronsay for the time being, so I was pleased to be accepted in the role with Stronsay Waste Matters and Stronsay Development Trust at the end of September.

October was a busy month with 380 kilograms of cardboard briquettes and 240 kilograms of crushed glass produced! Cardboard briquettes are available to purchase in 10 kg hessian sack (£4 each or £3.50 if you return a hessian sack) or in 30 kg cardboard boxes (£10 each). They can be burned on open fires or multi-fuel stoves and produce clean ash which can be used in the garden. The glass is available in two grains, fine or coarse, both available at £15 for a 15 kg bag. The coarse-grained glass can be used as aggregate while the fine-grained glass can be used in sandblasting – they may also be useful in craft projects!

The Recycling Centre (Unit 2, Wood's Yard) is currently accepting cardboard and brown paper, mixed and clear glass, and used vegetable oil; these items can be dropped off at the centre 24/7, but, if you require assistance, the Recycling Centre is open 9am – 12pm Monday to Friday and I'll be happy to help!

Please remember to flatpack and remove any tape from your cardboard before placing it in the bins; this helps to speed up processing time meaning that the bins can be emptied more regularly. Please also remember that while we can accept glasses, bottles, jars etc. we cannot accept window panes or lightbulbs as these cannot be processed and could be hazardous.

Thank you!

Leah Shearer

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## **COMMUNITY WELLBEING COORDINATOR**

Appointments can be made to meet with the Community Wellbeing Coordinator on 24 November, from 9-12 am. All social distancing guidelines will be followed. Please call 410 to make an appointment or email [sdtwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:sdtwellbeing@gmail.com).



# Scavenger Hunt

15th November 2020



It was a lovely day in November  
 No wind or rain, what could be better?  
 Tara was making the cakes and John doing the  
 baking  
 A bacon roll and coffee deal they were making  
 It was all go at the water front  
 Food to sustain the participants of the  
 Scavenger Hunt!  
 The lists were given out at 2  
 And the rules to explain what to do  
 They needed their camera to portray  
 Someone in a boat, a house sign and mailbox  
 and Bruce doing YMCA  
 The other items needed to be collected and  
 brought in  
 They needed to be marked off to have a  
 chance to win  
 They all grabbed their lists and set off  
 To be back in time for the 4pm cut off  
 Mandy was the first one back from all the  
 people  
 Under her arm was a head light from a VW  
 Beetle!  
 Items, Norfolk And Good seemed to have  
 collected many  
 But as well they didn't need the loo because  
 they didn't have a penny!  
 Names Are Silly's Mike didn't look like a  
 well-dressed guy  
 He had white wellies but no paisley tie!  
 Creativity, BDT showed they didn't lack  
 I'm not surprised they would need a  
 super-sized toast rack!

Hilly Trow Hunters' Johnny looked kind of  
 groovy  
 But even with peedie Ula on their team they  
 couldn't find a Snoopy!  
 Arna and Doris used their brains, you might  
 note  
 To have a photo in SS Athena's life boat!  
 Odiness Farn tried to pass off some cleverly  
 painted white boots  
 No good, nil points, now vamoose!  
 Mr and Mrs Minion wore their matching  
 costumes with pride  
 It's unfortunate that when Susie got into the  
 boat she got a wet backside!  
 Simon and Christopher were the last to arrive  
 With a low score they were unlikely to survive  
 Not understanding was an obstacle they  
 couldn't surmount  
 When the score was only 3 the American  
 shouted 'I demand a recount!!'  
 With scores tallied, and very good for  
 beginners  
 Donna, Dominic and Christine were the  
 winners  
 With great community spirit their prizes they  
 shared  
 A prize for second and a prize for third they  
 declared  
 And so the end of the day was done  
 Now came the job of taking back the items  
 one by one!  
 Straight over the road to see Debbie and Chris  
 A well-deserved drink and sit down, ah, bliss!

Vicki C



### Thanks go to:

Tara and John for allowing us to host it in the Fish Mart and the bacon roll and coffee deal

Ebenezer Stores for £45 voucher

Fish Mart for the £20 & £10 vouchers

Stronsay Hotel for the £20 & £15 vouchers

Tropic Skincare with Sarah for the goodies

We got 4 big boxes of food for the Foodbank!





OPEN  
NOW

# STRONSAY POP UP HERITAGE CENTRE

The Stronsay Heritage Committee is pleased to announce the reopening of the pop up Heritage Centre and ask the following

- Only one family unit or "bubble" at a time within the centre
- Please use the sanitiser provided, hand washing facilities can also be found at reception if required
- Do not touch any of the displays or artifacts
- Enjoy and pass the word on



Situated in the Village of Whitehall, the centre showcases Stronsay's maritime history, specifically related to the herring industry. Stop by to see pictures of Stronsay as it was with 4,000+ people living on island. The pop up centre offers the community and visitors the opportunity to influence the permanent Stronsay Heritage Centre by providing a chance to comment and give feedback on existing displays, add ideas and offer suggestions on future displays.

## Contact us

01857 616410

Email

[stronsayheritage@gmail.com](mailto:stronsayheritage@gmail.com)

## For further information

Entry is free but donations towards the maintenance of the displays are greatly appreciated





# CROSSROADS ORKNEY

and



We would like to help ease the loneliness and difficulty of lockdown for Dementia sufferers and their carers at home. We have a variety of puzzles, crafts and activities which we can post or deliver. All free of charge. If you know someone who could benefit from this or wish more information please call Crossroads 870500 or Lorna Reid 781329

## **RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS**

There was a typical mixture of unusual species in late Autumn, spread across most areas of the island, but with bird-watching somewhat curtailed this year there are bound to have been several we did not see or hear of. One of the 'joys' of bird-watching!

One of the biggest surprises was at 'Lower Samsons' where Donald Omond found a Bullfinch in his 'garden' (wood?) there, and Sue saw a Yellow-browed Warbler in the nearby Castle garden the same day. The last Bullfinch here on Stronsay was over 10 years ago.

A large 'flock' (formerly known as a 'funeral') of Ravens built up in the Boonda-toon/Gesty area in late October/early November when over 40 birds could be seen (see photos) and there was an amazing flock of over 200 Rock Doves in the adjacent fields at the same time. Birds of prey have been recorded regularly including Peregrine, Merlin, Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier, and recently a Common Buzzard – quite rare here. A flock of over 500 Golden Plover has been (and still is) present – also mainly in the 'Banks' area.

Several species of duck have been seen – mainly at Matpow, where a Dabchick has taken up residence, and Donald Omond reported seeing a Grey wagtail in Whitehall Village and 4 Slavonian Grebes in Mill Bay. Anthony Potts saw a Woodcock fly up from within his garden at Gesty Dishes – and all through this 'late Autumn' period, the Lesser Whitethroat reported in October was still present – usually in the hedgerow on the South Side of the garden at Holin Cottage (see photo).

There have been several sightings of Stonechats around the roads (3 or 4 birds in total?) – generally perched on the fence posts/wires. A small delicate-looking species and relatively easy to approach in a vehicle.. The roads between the South School to Roadside, and Mt Pleasant to Cliffdale seem to be their favourite sites during the winter months here, but much depends on the wind direction!

Thanks for all the calls. John & Sue.



*'Pencil sketch of the Dusky Warbler at Holin Cottage (seen in the 'north' hedge there!).'*

*(Continued on next page)*



*'The Lesser Whitethroat on the 'south' hedge'*



*'The 'funeral' of Ravens on the fence at Boondatoon'.*



*'There was much squabbling – and plenty of 'honking'.  
(continued on next page).'*





*'One of the Stonechats near Eastbank.'*

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## **SCOTTISH BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME (SBVS).**

The SBVS will ensure that every address in Scotland has the ability to access a superfast broadband connection by the end of 2021, regardless of whether or not it will ultimately receive a superfast connection through the other two strands of activity.

This webpage has details of the scheme:

<https://scotlandsuperfast.com/how-can-i-get-it/voucher-scheme>

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## **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Orkney Islands Council is advising that special collections for the non-linked Islands of Orkney will begin again after being suspended due to the pandemic. The collection dates for Stronsay are week commencing 7 December 2020 and 15 February 2021.

Special collections include items such as furniture, household electrical appliances such as white goods, rugs, garden furniture, bicycles and other portable household items.

By using My Orkney, island residents can book and pay for a collection online, or alternatively special collections can be made by contacting customer services on 01856 873535 ext 2903.

Payment for collection is required prior to uplift and only items that are on the request form will be collected by the contractor.

The council would like to thank the public for their patience as we continue to seek ways to re-establish services due to the challenges faced during these unprecedented times. For more information go to:

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/Special-Refuse-Collections.htm>

## **STEPHEN CLACKSON'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE** **(CURRENTLY WEST MANSE)**

*Reporting on what your councillor is doing virtually and really as the Covid-19 crisis is moved to tiers*

To keep up to date with the latest Council news and Covid-19 information as it pertains to Orkney, please check OIC's website at <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/> . Don't forget also to read *The Orcadian* and listen to *BBC Radio Orkney*.

For business support, telephone 01856-886666 or e-mail [business.gateway@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@orkney.gov.uk) .

For Orkney Ferries information see <http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk/> or ring 01856-872044. For inter-island flights see

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/T/internal-air-services.htm> or ring 01856-872494 / 873457.

NHS Orkney has information at <https://www.ohb.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information> .

For Covid-19 testing telephone 01856-888211. For OIC's Homelessness Service ring 01856-873535 or 07921-582962.

The Scottish Government's guidance is located at <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/> .

I would have liked to have said the Covid-19 crisis is ending in tiers (Orkney has been placed in Tier 1), but it is not ending yet. We must remain vigilant and not become complacent. The UK is the first country in Europe to pass 50,000 Covid-19 deaths!

Image removed



for copyright  
reasons

Congratulations to Lord Wallace of Tankerness (Jim Wallace), formerly both MP and MSP for Orkney, on his appointment from next May as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In a statement, he said: "Hopefully I can reflect some of the spirit of island life." He might be the light that shineth in the darkness for our island congregations feeling increasingly abandoned by The Kirk. I suggest such congregations contact the Moderator-designate as soon as they can.

*(continued on next page)*

Our recently-appointed Lord Lieutenant, Elaine Grieve, has launched a webpage: [www.orkneylieutenancy.org.uk/honours](http://www.orkneylieutenancy.org.uk/honours), to encourage folk to nominate deserving people for awards and honours in recognition of their contribution to our communities. Anybody can make a nomination, but don't wait for the nominee to retire before getting round to it, as they must still be actively involved in what you are nominating them for. Details on what to do can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/honours>.

Council meetings I have attended "virtually" this month include: two Monitoring & Audit Committee meetings; a briefing from OIC's Senior Management Team; meetings of the Orkney College Management Council; a couple of ward meetings, a seminar reviewing our committee structure, and a meeting of the Education, Leisure & Housing Committee.

Isles-based "virtual" meetings: Eday Community Council, Eday Co-Op, North Ronaldsay Community Council, Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council, Sanday Parent Council (briefly), and Sanday Community Council.

Outwith Orkney: the first meeting of the UHI Foundation since November last year (by Webex).

Island Communities Impact Assessments, required under the *Islands (Scotland) Act 2018*, become mandatory this December. Notably, these also apply to decisions made by Orkney Islands Council itself with respect to its own islands. The purpose of the assessments is to "island proof" legislation, policy, strategies and services where those are considered likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities." I shall remain vigilant.

What with staff going to the press, leaks taking place of confidential meetings and Council officials appealing against a decision made by the democratically-elected members of the Planning Committee, I think it is fair to say that all is not well at OIC. I put some of the blame for this on the consequences of Covid-19. Instead of councillors regularly meeting each other and our officials in person at School Place, we are now dispersed and separated and only meet "virtually". The Council has become fragmented. Control has been lost. The optimistic claims by IT companies (and their salesmen) about the advantages of remote attendance have, in my experience, been discredited by this enforced experiment we're all enduring. Formerly, of course, every week I had the opportunity to talk to folk whilst travelling on the ferries back and forth to Council meetings in Kirkwall, and I was visiting different parts of the ward to attend community council meetings. Nowadays, it is quite a challenge to keep in touch with what is going on in the ward. So please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns.

You will have heard that some councillors have reported Cllr John Ross Scott to the Standards Commission. I would like to make it clear that I was not one of those councillors.

Keep well and carry on,



Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson,  
West Manse, Sanday

[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)

You can download *Letter from School Place* from [lfsp.pbworks.com](http://lfsp.pbworks.com)





# RECORDS OF A BYGONE AGE

## THE 'HARVEST HOME'

It seems at this time of year, with darker nights and a bit more time to sit back and reflect, that we contemplate and mull over the happenings of the past year. Who, a year ago, could possibly have imagined the events that have transpired since we first heard mention of a new virus affecting some of the population of China? It has certainly been a life changer in so many ways for us all and a time of tragedy for far too many.

We've been quite fortunate here in Orkney in that we've avoided to a great extent the full impact of the virus as felt in other parts of this country and in many other parts of the world. One of the sectors that has probably been least affected by the pandemic has been the farming industry and here in Stronsay we have been fortunate in that farming has gone on pretty much as normal. With the harvest all complete and cattle all in the byres, it's back to the same old winter routine for our farmers and a time to ruminate on the past farming year, a time to give thanks and to celebrate another year of seedtime and harvest.

As a culmination of these reflections, here in Stronsay we would normally be having our annual 'Harvest Home' dinner/dance and celebration around now but, like so many other events, that has had to be cancelled this year I'm afraid.

I've been having a look back through the minutes of the Stronsay Agricultural Society, who have been hosting the Harvest Home since the early 1930s, and found that the Society in its present form started up on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1920, so not only are we missing out on our Harvest Home this year but also on the Centenary celebrations of our Agricultural Society!

The importance of a successful harvest and the holding of festivals to celebrate this have been going on for thousands of years all over the world and the slightly more recent Lammas Day and associated Lammas Market were also originally an opportunity to share in and give thanks for the first fruits of the harvest. The celebration of 'Muckle Suppers' and Harvest Home celebrations on a smaller scale were quite common in Orkney in the 1800s and early 1900s, being organised by the tenants or owners of the larger farms as a token of thanks to their workers and helpers. This would usually have been held in a barn or loft at the home farm and was often quite a memorable event. A newspaper report of the time gives a flavour of the type of event that was often held to celebrate the ingathering of the harvest on some of the larger farms, and is not unlike the Harvest Home of today. The Orkney Herald of 4<sup>th</sup> November 1896 carried the following report in its Stronsay news column:

*HARVEST HOME - Last Tuesday evening Mr and Mrs Sinclair, Whitehall farm, entertained their numerous servants with their families and friends at a monster harvest home. In the afternoon the servants with their families, to the number of about sixty, sat down to a substantial dinner, which was done ample justice to. At 6.30 the friends began to arrive, and an adjournment was made to a spacious granary which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Dancing was soon in full swing, and a glance around told that everyone was enjoying themselves.*

(continued on next page)

*Refreshments were served at intervals during the evening, and at 11.30 the entire company, now numbering about 140, sat down to tea of which they showed their appreciation. Dancing was again resumed and kept up with spirit. A few songs were given during the evening and added variety to the entertainment. At 3.30 a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Sinclair, the genial host and hostess, was enthusiastically carried, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.*

The servants and their families at just one farm numbering about sixty! How times have changed in the farming industry.

On a more formal footing, the first Stronsay Harvest Home to be held under the banner of the Agricultural Society as we know it today took place in the Community Centre (or the Public Hall as it was then called) in 1934, with the ladies of the local SWRI doing the catering, something they continued to do for a number of years. There were no Harvest Homes held during the war years but, on its resumption, the catering was taken over by the committee members (or more accurately, their wives or partners!) and this is still what happens today. Many of the visitors to the Stronsay Harvest Homes over the years have expressed surprise about and passed comment on seeing a number of the local farmers stepping out of their wellies and boiler suits and washing off the worst of the grease and 'sharn' to become waiters for the night! Originally limited to those aged over 15, the age limit was reduced to 14, then to those 12 or over and now it is open to all. Another fairly significant step was taken in 1982 when the event became a licensed affair, firstly with a bar set up and run by the Stronsay Hotel and then, with an extension including a bar area built on to the Community Centre, bar services were taken over by the Community Association. No more trips outside where 'halfies' would be pulled discreetly from coat pockets and passed around!

The tradition of having a meal followed by music and dancing still remains the same as when the celebrations were held in a barn or loft but the Agricultural Society introduced the concept of having guest speakers to entertain the diners as they sat and 'swaged' after their meal. This speaker was normally the local teacher, minister or doctor or a local farming worthy. In 1976 it was decided to try to get a guest speaker from further afield each year and this has been the pattern ever since, except for two occasions when weather conditions prevented speakers from attending and a local speaker was thrust into the void at short notice. Bill Carstairs, the North Isles vet who was based in Sanday, was the first non-local speaker and since then there has been quite a collection of the great and the good who have made the journey out to speak at our Harvest Home. Speakers were normally folk who had a heavy involvement in or knowledge of farming and the local community and, over the years, we've had 5 vets, 5 sales reps, 4 College lecturers, 4 Agricultural Advisers, 3 National Farmers Union reps, 2 teachers, 2 Radio Orkney presenters, 2 Orkney Islands Councillors, a Member of Parliament., a Department of Agriculture inspector, a Member of the Scottish Parliament, a Minister, a Police Officer and a Bank Manager as well as several 'common or garden' farmers, whose qualifications had been achieved in the University of Farming Life, sharing their thoughts with us!

*(Continued on next page)*

There is no record of what was charged for admission to the first Harvest Homes but, in 1954, it was agreed that prices had to go up and ticket price was increased from 3/6d to 4/- (20p). To celebrate the new Millennium, a more elaborate three course meal was served at the Harvest Home, with wine and soft drinks provided on the tables, at an inclusive cost of £5 for the dinner and dance. 20 years later and the admission is now £10 – still pretty good value for money for a dinner and a dance!

Music, of course, always played an important part in any celebration and Stronsay has long been blessed with a host of talented musicians who were happy to come along and play for the dancing. More recently, bands or musicians from off the island were occasionally engaged to play to enable the local musicians to have a night off to better enjoy the festivities but generally it is still the locals who provide the music until the wee sma' hours. It's great to see the old traditional dancing still being the main stay of our Harvest Home dances here, thanks in no small part to some of the dedicated folk who have arranged and taken an active part in 'dancing evenings' where islanders young and old had the opportunity to come along to learn all the old dances.

In more recent years, the concept of and enthusiasm for Harvest Homes seems to have waned in Orkney, with many of these events having to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. I'm glad to say this hasn't been the case in Stronsay so far and we can only look forward in anticipation to some form of normality returning before too long, to celebrating the Harvest Home 2021 in good style and to also celebrating the Stronsay Agricultural Society Centenary plus one!.

Ian Cooper  
November 2020



## SERGEANT O.K.

*(Brian Crowe submitted this short story as a belated Remembrance Day commemoration.)*

Let me tell you the story as old Thompson told it, for he was present and I was not.

'When the 'Westminsters' went up to the front line in January, 1918, they had with them in No.2 Company, a great, big, red-headed fellow called **Sergeant O.K.** His name was not really O.K., but **Smithies**, but he was known as Sergeant O.K. by everyone for miles around, from the Colonel down to passing units who had lost the way.

Some said that the Germans opposite were aware of his nickname, and that one of them, coming face to face with him on a night raid, had at once shouted "O.K.", and put up his hands.

For Sergeant Smithies said O.K. to everyone and everything: it was "O.K. Chief", or "O.K. by me", or "O.K. to you", or just "O.K." when he was in a hurry. Jenkinson asserted that he answered O.K. on his wedding day, when asked if he would take Elizabeth Anne for his wedded wife.

Be that as it may, O.K. was his one expression, and by the amazing variation of tone and stress he could put into it, he made these two humble letters of the alphabet as expressive as twenty good lines from Hamlet. Scrambling in over the parapet after a wire cutting expedition, he would hiss O.K. in such a way that the second letter cocked itself up into a question mark. An answering grunt would bring another O.K. as eloquent as Deo Gratias. In a word it was his signature tune.

Sergeant O.K. was the life and soul of the entire Company. Everyone trusted him. When one of us was seized with a fit of panic he relied on Sergeant O.K. to put him right. He would come scrambling along the duck-boards, smiling and dishing out O.K.s on every side, and the shivering men about him at once felt a sense of rest. Sergeant O.K. was so robust and generous in his outlook. I remember once when young Jackson said something about trying to get resigned to the noise and the dirt and the fear of wounds, how Sergeant O.K. ticked him off for it.

"Not so much of your resignation here, lads," he said, "What we want is cheerful acquiescence."

"Gosh, what swell words you do use, Sergeant," chipped in Williamson, from the door of the dug-out, "do tell us what they mean."

Sergeant O.K. blew out his lips.

"Mean?" he asked. "O.K., I'll tell you what they mean. They mean that you must go out to meet your troubles, and not just sit down with them all heaped on top of you. Pagans do that, pagans are resigned. But you are Christians, aren't you? Well, put your backs into whatever comes, unless it's a shell; co-operate with God as you might say. After all He loves you, doesn't He?"

Some of the men used to envy Sergeant O.K.

"It's all right for blokes like him to talk about acquiescence, he hasn't got a nerve in his body; he hasn't got a wife and kids at home to dream about; he hasn't got sore feet. It's alright for him to jaw away about God, just because he's a blooming Papist and believes in God, but what do we know about God?"

Sergeant O.K. was always roused to eloquence when he heard such remarks.

"O.K.," he'd say, pulling at his eyebrows, "just you listen to me. I've got as pretty a wife as any of you, and two little girls and a motor bike as well, and I dream of them all. And if I have not got sore feet, I've got a mighty tired jaw from arguing with you blancmanges; forgive my accent.

*(concluded on next page)*

As to God, I'm not for monopolising Him, for He made and loves you all, though why He did the one and still does the other beats me. But I'll say this, that to my mind it is a proof that there is a God, that those who trust in Him can go through this beastly war without sulking, as you pagan chappies do. Bless you, many a time I've felt like running away or pretending illness; many a time I've had twinges of pain in my tummy, which were not caused by bully beef. But I say to myself: 'Smithies, if God wants you, He'll find you even if you are under twelve layers of sandbags, and if He does not want you then the Bosch will miss you point blank with an 18-pounder.' You and I do not judge this war so very differently, save that you can't see the love for all the hate. For you we are slaves of a hard fate, but I remember something about Christ not calling us servants but friends.

Besides you are not so certain that you aren't wrong, whereas I know I'm O.K.”

I have no doubt now, looking back after thirty years, that Sergeant O.K. was the greatest influence for good that I have ever seen. We Catholics felt his faith driving out our fear as we watched him going about the lines. He was just normal, not foolhardy not strung up, but a little piece of normal civilisation introduced into the chaos of Flanders. Even the pagan fellows all around us began to wonder if there was not a God of love after all. A man does not laugh and joke and carry the fears of grown men for them unless he is pretty sure that all is O.K.

Well, the day came when we had to fall back before the great German offensive, and in the bustle of the retreat with its panic and heroism, explosions and groans, no one noticed that Sergeant O.K. had been hit. He'd been seen at noon by Corporal Wilson, carrying a wounded Tommy to shelter, but, since then, no-one had laid eyes on him. Only in the evening, when we were resting wearily in our new positions, did we see a stretcher being carried back through our lines. The Padre went to see him as he passed his old Company, and we all saw him too with the blood soaking through his uniform, and the shadow of death upon his face.

“Am I going to die, Father?” he muttered in his agony, and when the priest did not reply at once he smiled feebly and said:

“It's O.K. by me, Father, but Lord, how I do love my wife.”

We never saw Sergeant O.K. again, for he died outside the dressing station, being too ill to make the journey to the base. The stretcher-bearers told us that he never regained consciousness after his arrival there, but this is not quite true, for the Padre who went back to see him, had another tale to tell. After he had lain delirious for some time, talking to his wife, and saying O.K. to imaginary officers, he suddenly became very quiet, and his poor haggard face lit up with a wonderful smile of recognition. He gazed thus smilingly before him for nearly a minute, then pulled himself half up on his stretcher with a last great effort, raised his trembling hand to his forehead in salute, and said quite audibly: “O.K., Lord.”

On Armistice Day each year, when everyone is silent, I always say a ‘De Profundis’ for Sergeant O.K., and many a time in the face of difficulties I have remembered the cheerful acquiescence he so eloquently preached. I am sure that few of us who were privileged to meet him in the trenches will ever forget his example and his last “O.K., Lord”; for in it he translated the message of *Gethsemane* into the humble language of the Sergeant's Mess.’

***(Taken from 'The Seven Deadly Virtues and Other Stories' by Bernard Bassett S.J, published by Sands & Co.. These stories appeared first in Stella Maris and in the Southwark Record)***



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<b>FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc</b>
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**THANK YOU!**  
**OLIVEBANK RAFFLES**

**RNLI RAFFLE**

1st prize—Doris Shearer with ticket 138.

2nd prize—Bruce Fletcher with ticket 22.

Thank you so much to all. The total of tickets sold plus donations looks to be around the £306 mark which is fantastic. Thanks to all & congrats to the winners.

**POPPY APPEAL RAFFLE**

1st prize—Bruce Fletcher (on a lucky winning streak!!) with ticket 361.

2nd prize—Hazel Shearer with ticket 453.

The poppy tin has received a combination of donations & money towards hamper tickets, with the tickets raising £265 alone, so thank you very much to all who have supported this deserving charity in such difficult times when they need it more than ever

There will be one last charity competition leading up to Christmas but with a different charity & different prizes...watch this space!

Thank you once again

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**WANTED**

I am looking to come to Stronsay in Feb/March 2021 to stay for a year. I hope to rent a one or two bedroom place and wondered if anywhere was available.

Feel free to contact me directly for further information.

[mike.hannam@rediffmail.com](mailto:mike.hannam@rediffmail.com)

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**WANTED**

Hi there, I just wondered if rental property with land is available on the island at all? Looking for a place on the islands for myself my five year old daughter and our animals. We are looking at properties to buy too but should we be able to rent that would speed up our progress. I work from home so can live anywhere but a rural place with plenty of space and some land around it is what we are looking for. I am registered with agents but there seems very little available.

Many thanks.

Anna Holland ([annacholland@icloud.com](mailto:annacholland@icloud.com), Scottish Borders)

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# FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

## BUILDING PLOTS FOR SALE

2 Building plots, Whitehall Village, Stronsay, Orkney

£35K each. Planning in principle for 2/3 bed bungalow plus 2 parking spaces. Electricity and water supplies are on site.

The plots are behind the village street making a secluded location but within easy walking distance of the shop, ferry, cafe and hotel.

The tried and tested practice on the Orkney isles for building is to buy a house kit and either have it erected by the supplier or our island contractor Castlehill Construction (who can also do the ground works)

For information about Stronsay, our lifestyle, its good school and other facilities please visit [www.visitstronsay.com](http://www.visitstronsay.com)

For further information about the sites please contact

- Sharon at Orkney Property Centre, Kirkwall on 01856 877866 or
- Dianne & Paul on 07785111126 or
- email [drileymoore@hotmail.com](mailto:drileymoore@hotmail.com)

Planning ref: 18/038/PIP on Orkney Islands Council planning web site



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# Fishmart Christmas Dinner

Come and join us for the winter holiday festivities

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tables available from 12pm- 4.30pm booking essential

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Two courses £15.00 Adult / £8.00 Child under 10

## **MAIN**

Roast turkey, roast potatoes, 3 vegetables, pig in blanket, stuffing and gravy or  
Vegetarian option available

## **DESSERT**

Mince pie and custard or  
Gingerbread Cheesecake

## **DRINKS**

Bring your own alcohol if you wish, glasses provided, no corking fee.

Free tea or coffee



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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***



An award-winning skincare company with a purpose; to help create a healthier, greener more empowered world.

FREE Catalogue available for pick-up or drop off.

Please be in touch with Sarah Powers Richings at 01857 616495 or follow me on Instagram: @sarahmarie.tropic or on Facebook: Tropic with Sarah Marie

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***



**We are a brand new local company, we decided to take the plunge after many years of working for others, to set up our own business. Craig has many years experience in general building work, labouring, ground work ect. I am a time served joiner. We have all our own equipment so no need for the extra cost of hiring from elsewhere.**

**We can do all types of ground work, pipe laying, guttering and roofing. Replacement windows and doors, finishings, concrete and general work. All types of work considered, no job too small, all work finished to a high standard. Full public liability insurance, safe, reliable and trustworthy.  
Reasonable prices.**

**Contact Craig or Christine for more information.**

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## **BELLIE M DESIGNS**

Tieve Studios, Berryhill Road, St Ola, Orkney KW15 1SF.

Online shop [www.belliemdesigns.com](http://www.belliemdesigns.com)

Orders also taken via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or phone 07736838489 with email invoices that can be easily paid by card or PayPal.

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***

### **REDHOUSE PLANTS MARKET GARDEN**



Seasonal vegetables available daily. Bedding, perennial and vegetable plants.

Local honey in season according to availability.

Open 09.00-17.00 Mon-Sat.

Redhouse, Lower Whitehall, Stronsay. Tel: (01857) 616 377

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RANGER**

**GUIDED TOURS  
AND NATURE  
WALKS**

**CONTACT 07922711525**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND  
INSTAGRAM  
SEARCH FOR STRONSAY  
RANGER

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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)

# The Wyrð Weaver

Handcrafted Textiles and Primitive Folk Art









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 Newbigging, Stronsay, Orkney KW17 2AN

**Open Daily**  
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 Email - thewyrðweaver@btinternet.com



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## LOCAL BUSINESSES



*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*

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**Gas Safe Registered Engineer  
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Services include:

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



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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **STRONSAY HOTEL**

Phone 01857 616213, email [cjdbuk@gmail.com](mailto:cjdbuk@gmail.com)

### **STRONSAY HOTEL AND THE VIRUS**

In these challenging times we have changed the hours that we are open. We will still provide a Takeaway service and we can deliver if required. Ordering can be done via phone or email.

- Mon, Bar closed
- Tues, Bar closed
- Wed, Bar closed
- Thurs, Bar closed Takeaway available from 5pm.to 7pm
- Fri, Bar closed, Takeaway available from 5pm to 7pm
- Sat, Bar closed Takeaway available 5pm to 7pm
- Sun, Bar closed Takeaway available 5pm to 7pm

We know this is very drastic but it is a drastic time, hopefully it will not last too long.

### **TAKE AWAY MENU**

Homemade lasagne + chips . . . . .	£5.95
Homemade chicken curry + rice or chips . .	£5.95
Homemade chicken & bacon pie + chips . .	£6.50
Breaded haddock + chips. . . . .	£5.50
Battered haddock +chips . . . . .	£6.50
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 cheesey chips . . . . .	£2.10
Half portion of cheesey chips . . . . .	£1.10
Portion of onion rings . . . . .	£1.20
Half cheesey chips = minus 20p	
Cheesey chips = add 80p	
Half chips = minus 60p	
Half rice = minus 60p	

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Local business adverts are free!

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.
- 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**



**Anthony Potts**  
Foot Health Professional

### Qualified Foot Health Professional MCFHP MAFHP

*About Me*

I qualified as a foot health professional (FHP) in 2017 studying at the SMAE Institute in Maidenhead. I am a Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals.

*Treatments offered*

Nail cutting and filing  
Callus (hard skin) removed  
Corns treated  
Nail conditions treated  
Verrucas treated  
General assessment and advice on foot health  
Home visits  
Please telephone for an appointment

**Tel: 07570531618**

antpottsguitar@btinternet.com  
Gesty Dishes, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AJ

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## ***LOCAL BUSINESSES***



Traditionally hand-crafted soaps, solid shampoo bars, conditioners and balms.  
Hand-spun yarns, woven throws, rugs, wall-hangings and more.

Orkney Star Island Soap, Isles View, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AG

Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281      Email: [info@orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk)

Web: <http://www.orkneystarlandsoap.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orkney.star.island.soap>



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



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



Thanks go to the School, the Fishmart, Ebenezer Stores and Olivebank for hosting this year's collection. A special thank you to Olivebank for hosting a raffle which saw 264 tickets being sold for this cause. An amazing total that will certainly help this year when fundraising has proved so difficult for The Scottish Poppy Appeal.

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# **STRONSAY BOOKWORMS IS BACK!!!!!!**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November,  
7.30 - 9pm at Fish Mart Café.**

**WE WILL BE DISCUSSING BOOKS WE HAVE  
READ SINCE WE LAST MET**



**PLEASE PUT BOOKS IN INDIVIDUAL BAGS SO THAT  
FOLKS CAN WAIT 72 HOURS BEFORE OPENING IF  
THEY WISH.**

**A CONTRIBUTION TO THE £15 HIRE CHARGE  
(INCLUDES TEA AND COFFEE) WOULD BE WELCOME.  
SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE MASKS PLEASE**

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

### **HANDY EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

Ebenezer Stores [stronsaystores@gmail.com](mailto:stronsaystores@gmail.com)

Olivebank [m.williamson1@btconnect.com](mailto:m.williamson1@btconnect.com)

Stronsay Hotel [cjdbuk@gmail.com](mailto:cjdbuk@gmail.com)

Fishmart café [fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com](mailto:fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com)

For telephone numbers see the back page of this edition.

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### **OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIERHEAD** **NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES**

Our Lady's Chapel on the pier is now open for public Masses with the permission of the Bishop of Aberdeen.

Mass times are as follows:-

- Sunday: 10.30am
- Tuesday: 8.00am
- All other days: 11.20am

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### **GOLGOTHA MONASTERY, PAPA STRONSAY** **DAILY STREAMING BROADCAST**

There is a daily streaming broadcast from Golgotha Monastery, Papa Stronsay.

<http://www.papastronsay.com/live>

The broadcast runs from 4pm – 7pm (the times shown are approximate):

- 4pm Short talk by one of the priests.
- 4:30pm Recitation of the Rosary.
- 5pm Mass.
- 6pm Further prayers and office of the day.

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

## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Chair: Ian Cooper    Vice Chair: Shirley Whiteman

### **HAULAGE OF AGGREGATES**

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Stronsay Community Council has a limited fund available to pay for the haulage of aggregates to be purchased by residents and used to improve private roadways leading to occupied dwellings only.

Please apply in writing, advising the Clerk of the roadway to be improved and the quantity of aggregate you will purchase. The Community Council will consider each application and offer financial assistance towards the haulage cost depending on demand and fund availability.

Applications must be received by noon on **MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.**  
Any applications received after this date will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified of the amount awarded and it will then be the responsibility of the applicant to order, pay for the aggregate and arrange for its delivery and forward the haulage invoice to the Clerk before the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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

02 November 2020

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

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### **STRONSAY'S FIRST ADVENT WINDOW CALENDAR!**

Hi everyone, with the dreaded C putting a stop to all our community events, it sadly won't be the usual fun and busy run up to Christmas.

However, we have something planned to hopefully brighten the island for everyone!

Imagine an island-wide advent calendar; each day until, and maybe including, Christmas day a new Christmas display will be revealed for everyone to enjoy. These displays will be mainly house windows and will all be visible from the main road or driveway to the house.

Some of the displays will also have a little extra treat hidden in a QR code that will be near the display - scan the code with your smartphone and enjoy!

We will hopefully find a way to share these codes online too so they can be enjoyed by relatives and friends who live away.

See the published list of dates and locations on page 46 of this edition of the *Limpet*. To enjoy the windows to their full effect maybe go later in the day.

Huge thanks to everyone who has come forward to make this idea come to life! We hope you'll all take a drive around and enjoy the Advent windows, which will stay up all through December so everyone has the opportunity to get a good view!

Thanks again, Hazel

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### **BIG ON BRUCK**

To read the November 2020 newsletter from the Strategic Waste Team at Orkney Islands Council go to <http://stronsaylimpet.co.uk/November2020BigOnBruck.pdf>

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### **MUSICALITY**

Hello to all members and aspiring members of Musicality. The dreadful events of this year have sadly meant that we have been unable to meet and play together.

I have been thinking about the super performance we gave at the Tree Lighting last December and the progress we made practising for this event. It was amazing!!!! I know that you will have been earnestly practising your instruments with enthusiasm and joy during lock down.....

It would be a shame to let 2020 go out without a get-together.

I wonder if you might like to meet together for a socially-distanced chat and cuppa or something stronger either at the Fish Mart or the Hotel before Christmas. Please let me know, and if it's something you would like to do I'll organise it (within Covid level 1 rules of course).

New members are most welcome to join us.

Donna (242)

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## **GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS**

### **Stronsay's Advent Window Calendar 2020**

- 1st December - Cleat Cottage, after 3.30pm  
2nd December - Linksness  
3rd December - Stronsay Hotel  
4th December - Police House  
5th December - Thorfinn  
6th December - Bayview  
7th December - Orcadia  
8th December - Stronsay Fishmart  
9th December - Heritage Centre  
10th December - Stronsay School  
11th December - Tullimentan  
12th December - Airy Cottage  
13th December - Midgarth  
14th December - Grindalea  
15th December - Sandybank  
16th December - Holland Farm  
17th December - Storehouse B&B  
18th December - Holmsgarth  
19th December - Santa Float, weather permitting  
20th December - Rose Cottage  
21st December - Blinkbonny  
22nd December - Sunnybank  
23rd December - Hescombe Cottage  
24th December - Airy Farm  
25<sup>th</sup> December - *Maybe a wee extra surprise...tbc*

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## STRONSAY CRAFTS CHRISTMAS 2020

We are sorry to announce that we will not be holding our Stronsay Christmas Craft Fair this year.

Instead, we would like to invite you to keep a watch out for regular posts on the Facebook pages listed below where we will be displaying and selling our products for the festive season.

We do hope you'll enjoy our best efforts to provide a local gift shopping opportunity.  
With all best wishes from the Stronsay Crafters.

Airy Fairy - <https://www.facebook.com/HazelAiryFairy>

All Things Heathen - <https://www.facebook.com/allthingsheathen>

Selkie Glass - <https://www.facebook.com/Selkie-Glass-1880517338873851>

The Wyrd Weaver - <https://www.facebook.com/orkneywyrdweaver>

Marion Miller Jewellery - <https://www.facebook.com/marionmillerjewellery>

Aurora Waves - <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraWavesOrkney/>

Star Island Soap & Textiles - <https://www.facebook.com/orkney.star.island.soap>

Stronsay Craft Trail - <https://www.facebook.com/Stronsay.Craft.Trail>

Craftship Enterprise - <https://www.facebook.com/craftshipenterprise>





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

### **KIRK CORNER**

Dear all,

We find ourselves at the beginning of the new church year—Advent 2020. It feels a little subdued and uncertain as we are still in the grip of the pandemic. Our Advent and Christmas celebrations are going to be therefore very different.

As mentioned last month, our Facebook Advent calendar—with ‘windows’ (i.e. videos) coming from members of all three congregations worshipping together online (Moncur Memorial Stronsay, Kirkwall East and Shapinsay) - is live. Check the contributions every day throughout Advent. If you do not have access to Facebook and would like a printed copy of some of the contributions (poems or reflections, clearly pieces of music cannot be included), please contact me.

Sunday ‘windows’ are going to be joint Kirkwall Council of Churches services prepared by ministers, priests and church leaders from the 8 churches in Kirkwall. We hope you can join us in worship every Sunday. You can access our services in any one of four ways:

- \* Through Moncur Memorial Church Stronsay and Kirkwall Council of Churches Facebook pages where our joint services will be published every Sunday
- \* Through the YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/y5seb2rp> or search for Moncur Memorial Church, Kirkwall East Church or Shapinsay Church.
- \* By dialling 01856 404667 from your phone and listening to the audio recording of the service. You will be charged as you would normally be for a local phone call (and that of course depends on your contract).
- \* By getting a script of the service by e-mail (do contact me if you would like that).

In addition to this, we are going to offer 2 Zoom services: the loss service (joint with the Peedie Kirk and the Cathedral) on the 7th December at 6 pm and the Christmas Eve one on the 24th December at 7 pm. If you would like to join by either Zoom link or by phoning in, please contact me.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and Christmas and a healthy and wholesome 2021 when it comes!

Rev Julia Meason, 01856 874789, [JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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# **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN VISITS TO STRONSAY IN 2021**

*BookyMcBookFace* will be visiting Stronsay on the following dates in 2021:

Monday	18 January
Monday	15 March
Tuesday	11 May
Tuesday	6 July
Tuesday	31 August
Monday	25 October
Monday	20 December

## **STOPS AND TIMES**

### **WINTER**

Council Houses	8.45—9.45
School	10—12
Kirk	12.30—3
Fish Mart	3.15—4.45

### **SUMMER/REFIT**

Council Houses	9—10
School	10.15—12
Kirk	12.30—3
Fish Mart	3.15—5.30

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## **DO YOU WANT TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE LIMPET'S EMAIL LIST?**

The emails sent to this list will be used to disseminate occasional time-sensitive information which is really only relevant to the current residents of Stronsay but may give potential visitors an idea of the island's community life.

To receive these emails you must first "sign up" by going to the Limpet website [www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk](http://www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk) and using the option at the foot of the page. You must also respond to the email asking for confirmation which you will receive very soon afterwards. There are quite a few folk who have signed up but have failed to respond to the confirmatory email - please check your "junk" or "spam" email folder if you have not received a reply within an hour or so. You can also unsubscribe from the list by using the same link

The Limpet website also provides a handy link to a list of all downloadable editions of the Limpet

## POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES etc

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

SDT office . . . . . 616410  
 Stronsay Band . . . . . 616335  
 Stronsay Hotel . . . . . 616213  
 Taxi . . . . . 616335  
 Stranded seals, etc . . . . . 616339/206/498  
 Balfour hospital (24/7) . . . 01856 888000  
 Electricity  
     general enquiries      0800 048 3516  
         *lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm*  
     problems (24/7) . . . 0800 300 999  
     power cut (24/7) . . . 105  
 Water problems (24/7) . . 0800 0778 778  
 Highland Fuels . . . . . 0800 224 224  
 Kirkwall Library . . . . . 01856 873166  
 Kirkwall Police (24/7) . . . 101  
 Vets:  
     Flett & Carmichael . 01856 872859  
     Northvet . . . . . 01856 873403  
 Dentists:  
     Orkney Dental . . . . 01856 872030  
     King Street . . . . . 01856 888258  
     Deyanov Dental . . . 01856 877118  
 Golgotha monastery . . . 616210  
     *(Email [contact@the-sons.org](mailto:contact@the-sons.org))*

## HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to [editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk](mailto:editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk) or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR*. Details of the deadline for the next edition are on the front page



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