



TIMETABLES

[Loganair - interisland timetable 19 Feb 2024 to 26 Oct 2024](#)

[Orkney Ferries - winter timetable 25 Sep 2023 to 4 May 2024](#)

[Orkney Ferries - summer timetable 5 May 2024 to 29 Sep 2024](#)

[Orkney Ferries - Summer Excursions 2024](#)

[OIC - school holidays 2023-2027](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Stronsay Archaeological Survey - Field walking	Mon 15 Apr & Thu 18 Apr
Stronsay Stitchers	Thu 25 Apr
Orkney Ferries summer timetable starts	Sun 5 May
Spring Craft Fair	Sat 11 May
OIC Special Collection	Mon 13 May
Citizens Advice Bureau visit	Wed 15 May
Mobile library van visit	Mon 20 May
Digital forum	Fri 31 May
Peedie concert	Fri 21 Jun
Massive Weekend!	Fri/Sat/Sun 16/17/18 Aug
Stronsay SWRI centenary	Sat 7 Sep
Bingo	Sat 28 Sep
Bonfire Night & quiz	Sat 9 Nov
Christmas Craft Fair	Sat 23 Nov
Christmas Tree lighting	Sat 30 Nov
Hogmanay Dance	Tue 31 Dec

COMPANIONS GROUP

Meets every Wednesday in the Fishmart Café at 2pm for a cuppa & cake whilst chatting and catching up with the news. For more information phone Shirley on 438.

GP & COMMUNITY NURSE ROSTER

The latest available roster for the Doctor and the Community Nurse can be found on the Stronsay Limpet's website at <https://stronsaylimpet.co.uk/RosterGPandNurse.html>

The next edition of the Limpet will be published on **30 April 2024**, the deadline is 7pm on that date. Contact details for the Limpet are on the back page of every edition.

STRONSAY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UHI Archaeology Institute is re-convening the Stronsay Archaeological Survey in April 2024, after a 17 year hiatus, under the leadership of Dr Ben Elliott. We will be re-starting fieldwalking activities on an annual basis, aiming to cover as much ploughed land as possible to find material evidence of past lives in Stronsay. Fieldwalking is an accessible way to identify and record the archaeology brought to the surface by the plough, and can help us to better understand the distributions of lots of different kinds of artefacts and activities across an entire landscape. If you are happy spending the day outdoors, walking fields, and adding to our knowledge of Stronsay's history, then this could well be for you! Fieldwalking will take place on Monday April 15th and Thursday April 18th, from 10.00-17.00. If you are interested in being involved in this, please contact Ben in advance via email: benjamin.elliott@uhi.ac.uk, and he can give you the full details of where to meet and what to expect. All welcome.

LOGANAIR - AIR DISCOUNT SCHEME (ADS) **AND INTER ISLAND DISCOUNTS**

I thought that with a number of new people on the island and as a general reminder it might be helpful to give the following information:

If you are an Orkney resident you can apply for the Air discount scheme (ADS). This gives you 50% off the fare cost between Kirkwall and all Scottish airports. To register call the ADS Team on

Freephone 0800 032 2890 or
email info@airdiscountscheme.com

If you are using the inter-island "peedie" plane, fares from Stronsay to Kirkwall are currently £19 per adult return. If you are travelling from Kirkwall to Stronsay as the first part of your return, the fare is double. However, if you are over 60 then if you book by phone you will get the return discount of £19. Please note that you cannot get the discount when booking on line. If you do not know when you will use the return part (from Stronsay to Kirkwall) just ask for an open return (valid for three months) you then need to book the date you later decide on. Alternatively, you can book any date in the next three months and later change that date by logging on to Manage My Booking on the Loganair website orkneyres@loganair.co.uk. Open return tickets are only bookable by calling Loganair on 01856 872494. It's also worth remembering that Loganair occasionally have sales e.g. Easter sale is now on. So, consider booking now to save on fares. Fly Flex and Fly Flex+ allow you to change dates through Manage My Booking.

I hope that this is useful.

Dianne Riley, Chair, Visit Stronsay Group.
visitstronsay.com.

STRONSAY DRAMA GROUP

From Louise McQuaid

We are looking for feedback from young people to develop drama activities on Stronsay through a funding invitation which is very exciting for us! Their voice is important as community members and should be part of the decision making process as it will have a direct impact on them. They don't need to be involved with the drama group and have no obligation to join.

Could parents please share with their children and support them in completing [this short survey](#). It is anonymous, and any details entered in the survey that compromise anonymity will not be used or shared.

The survey closes on Sunday 14th April.

STRONSAY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Stronsay Heritage Society now has a Facebook presence:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/360918173546885>

DIGITAL FORUM—FRIDAY 31 MAY

From Alistair Carmichael MP & Liam McArthur MSP, 22 March 2024

Last year, we promised that our next Digital Forum event would focus on the planned transition from the UK's analogue 'copper wire' landline system to a digital landline network, known as 'Digital Voice' or 'Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)'. This followed considerable interest in this issue at last October's Digital Forum, as well as correspondence from a number of constituents raising understandable concerns about potential impact of a digital transition on communities in Orkney.

We are now pleased to confirm that the next Forum will be held later this spring, with **representatives from BT and the UK network regulator, Ofcom**, attending to provide information regarding their work to prepare for the planned 2025 switch-off of the 'copper wire' analogue network.

We will also have the opportunity to hear **updates from Openreach and EE** on the continued rollout of mobile and broadband coverage the islands.

The event will take place from **12-2pm on Friday 31 May in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, with a 'hybrid' option available** so that those unable to attend in person can tune in and participate online. As with previous Digital Forums, the format will consist of presentations from speakers followed by open Q&A sessions.

Anyone who wants to find out more about either the digital switchover or the expansion of connectivity in the isles is welcome to come along. Further details, including speakers and details on how to join remotely, will be shared in due course. In the meantime, you can register your interest at the Facebook event listed [here](#).

Stronsay Stitchers



Stronsay Craft Fairs 2024 - for your calendar

Spring - Saturday 11th May

Christmas - Saturday 23rd November

For more information or to book a table please contact Simone on 616 281 or PM Facebook.

Stronsay Stitchers - Thursday 25th April

7.00pm-9.00-pm, Church Hall, £2.00/person

We are an informal group meeting monthly doing our own stichy things. You can bring any project you're working on such as crochet, needlework, knitting etc. Everyone welcome.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN VISITS 2024

20 May, 15 July, 9 September, 4 November

For further information go to web page <https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/mobile-library>, send an email to library@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 01856 873166.

Winter	Council Houses	8.45	-	9.45
	School	10	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	4.45
Summer/Re/fit	Council Houses	9.25	-	10
	School	10.15	-	12
	Kirk	12.45	-	3
	Fish mart	3.15	-	5.30

STRONSAY SWRI - CENTENARY!

Stronsay SWRI will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary on Saturday 7th September 2024. We will be having a buffet meal in the community centre for all present and past members! If anyone has any old photos/memorabilia that they'd be happy to share, please contact me as soon as possible, we'd hopefully have a slideshow on the TV of old photos. Also any stories or memories that you have would be appreciated, thank you!

Sheena Cooper

Sunday 31st March 2024
The Manse, Stronsay KW17 2AF **KIRK CORNER**
DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk
01857 616284

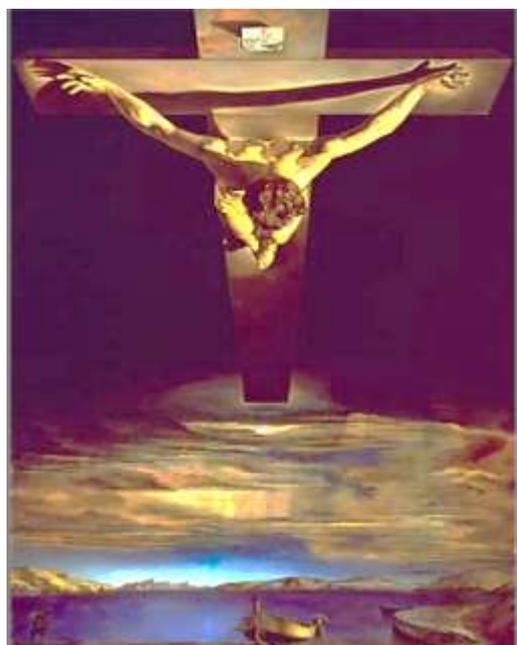


Happy Easter!

Its Easter time, and dare I risk saying its Springtime? As we move into April, surely there is hope despite all the bad weather we have had, better days lie ahead. For Christians the real source of hope at this time is Easter. And despite all the terrible things going in our world, despite all the hard or sad or painful things going on in our lives, Easter can give us hope; not just that death need not be the end, but that there is a spirit that can help us through our troubles and even change things for good.

We can see many different aspects of Jesus: at Christmas his birth and hope of peace,; in His life, his compassion and care for the least, the lost, the lonely, the hurting , and his challenge to open up to the Way of loving others, with God's help. But its so often in this last week, called Holy Week, that we see the deepest truth of Jesus, amidst the sheer horrors of life and death from his courageous entry to face evil, coming as a bringer of peace not war. His humanity in how despite his fate looming, he still has time to help those who other people reject and put down.

Jesus also shows over this past week he came and still comes to challenge unjust authorities and selfishness that destroys others. In our service on Maundy Thursday this week, our readings suggested one day there will be judgement on nation states that conduct horrific crimes against humanity. Until then, we have to live in the real mixture we know of pain and death and struggle, but also live with hope and spirit and goodness and forgiveness that Easter uniquely shows.



Once again I turn to Salvador Dali's painting of Christ of Saint John of the Cross, that hangs in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery. It inspired me as a youth and still does. It's a painting which suggests that somehow at Easter, the world can have fresh hope, God is reaching down to bring light into darkness, through all Jesus achieves on the cross. God reaches down through his son to bring life and light amidst ordinary life of fisher folk, and our world. Dali said it spoke to him of Christ as the very unity of the universe.

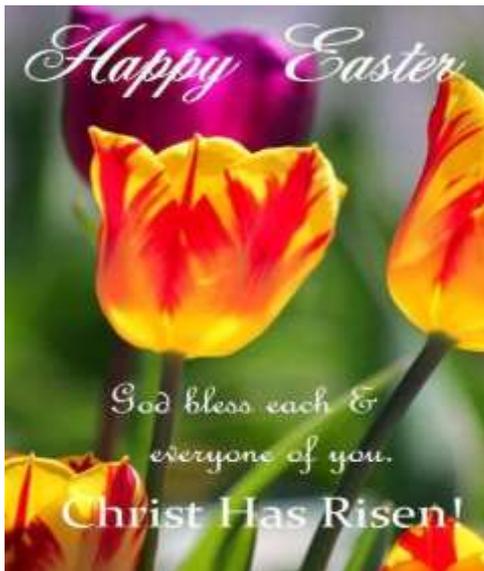
That someone as strange, eccentric, and at times people say mad or bad, as Dali, can paint something as religious as this, is also encouraging. It suggests God can reach out to anyone despite all our faults, and helps us use our talents for good, if we open up enough to His Spirit, and maybe see the inspiring around us.

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We watched a bit of Gladiators on tv, and two of the people thought not to be very good, came through to do well. There is hope in life that those who seem not good enough, can sometimes win through. It does not mean the sporting sides we support, will win, but there is hope, and because of Easter there is hope for ourselves and this world of ours. I heard yesterday how someone not far from here, had recently paid a large sum from life savings, to help friends escape the horrors of Gaza. If one person can be so inspired and caring to put money second to help someone in great peril, maybe there is hope for us all, in seeing goodness and, in being challenged to do our bit to share the light amidst the darkness,

Some people say Easter is just a legend or a con trick; but the facts do not support that. I am a natural sceptic and questioner, and have examined and studied the historical facts. When combined with modern day experiences, I believe with all my heart and life, Jesus was no conman, nor just a good man who can inspire us by his selfless example, but that He lived on somehow through the horror of the Cross Easter to offer the spiritual presence of God today for people like me and you through life's ups and downs- if we let him in.

He does not promise a life free of pain, death or disaster, but rather a Spirit working in and through people to help and inspire us as we share together for the good of those in need. Somehow his spirit lives on to help anyone seeking his love, friendship, hope forgiveness and encouragement.



I know its true because he has been the bedrock in my life that enables me to do far more than I ever believed possible, through as many ups and downs, evils and goodness as most of us face. Anyone who knows me, knows I am far far from perfect and get it wrong regularly, but I am more than I would ever have been without the help of the Risen Jesus, and I know at times the Peace only he can offer amidst it all. I believe he wants to offer that to anyone, not least at Eastertime. Amidst all life throws at us, there is hope- Jesus died but his Spirit lives on to inspire around our struggling world.

Easter is a time for hope and this year especially when the clocks change, we can be challenged to use our time, to do our bit to see and share that hope, that goodness, that spirit, in our everyday lives. Can you let the Hope of Easter go with you and despite the world's darkness, see and share the good around anew in the weeks to come? Maybe in the little things like a smile, an act of kindness, a better night's sleep, someone laughing, an encouraging word, and of course Spring flowers and other signs of fresh hope?

Join us please at any of our services in the weeks to come. I pray you have a blessed Eastertime and beyond.

David Rev David I W Locke. MA M.Sc., BD



ORKNEY 2025

Volunteer Sign Up Sessions

Be a part of history: Volunteer for the International Island Games 2025

The International Island Games is coming to Orkney next year from 12 - 18 July and we need 700 volunteers to make it happen!

If you'd like to join us and volunteer at this fantastic event, you can find the application form on our website: www.orkney2025.com/volunteer

Don't like completing forms? Pop along to our office at 2 West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall and we'll complete it for you.

Sign up at our office from 10am-2pm, on the first Friday of every month:

Friday 1st March
Friday 5th April
Friday 3rd May
Friday 7th June
Friday 5th July



Ready to be a part of something incredible?



Scan Here

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau



Will be visiting

Stronsay

on

Wednesday 15th May 2024

when we will be in

Unit 1 Wood Yard

between

10am and 3pm

Please book an appointment by **Friday 10th May** by contacting us at:

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau

Anchor Buildings

6 Bridge Street

Kirkwall

KW15 1HR

or on 01856 875266

or by e-mail at bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk



Stronsay Youth (P6, P7) (S1 upwards)

Do you like Horrible Histories?

**We are delivering a Heritage based
project on behalf of NILPS and SDT
by way of a 14 week youth club
2 Age Groups - Thursdays and Sundays**

**Enjoy Heritage and earn your
own Heritage Hero Award**

**Email for more information:
aurorawavesorkney@gmail.com
or cdostronsay@gmail.com**



Fishmart Sunday specials



Fishmart specials subject to availability on the day, normal menu also available.

£14.50 for 2 courses

To book a table please call 616401 during opening hours.

Sunday 3rd March	Beef suet pie & seasonal veg	Fruit crumble & custard
Sunday 10th March	FISHMART CLOSED	-
Sunday 17th March	Homemade Lasagne, chips, side salad & colslaw	Pineapple upside-down cake & custard
Sunday 24th March	Mince, tatties & seasonal veg	Chocolate brownie & vanilla ice cream
Sunday 31st March (Easter Sunday)	Homemade chicken Kiev, new potatoes & seasonal veg	Fruit crumble & custard
Sunday 7th April	Cottage pie & seasonal veg	Jam sponge & custard
Sunday 14th April	Gammon steak, chips, peas or beans & optional fried egg	Eton mess
Sunday 21st April	Chicken casserole & rice	Raspberry cheesecake
Sunday 28th April	Chicken Enchiladas	Lemon sponge & custard

STRONSAY FLOODING

Leo Martini-Brown

SEPA issue a 'Flood Risk Management Plan Data Sheet for Whitehall' which is target area 371 with the category 1 status (highest risk). Apparently 70 people and 60 houses and businesses are currently at risk from flooding and this will increase to 100 people and 80 homes and businesses by the 2080s due to climate change.

Notable floods took place in 1953 and 2005.

SEPA's current plans cover

- 3711: To avoid flood risk
- 3712: Preparation for flooding
- 3713: Reduction of flood risk

SEPA acts in partnership with many other bodies and there is a key task for local Councils and Community Councils via resilience plans. These need constant review and updating.

By the end of June SEPA would like public comments on whether new potentially vulnerable areas for flooding (PVAs) can be identified. This consultation can be via Citizen Space or contact Peter.Finnie@sepa.org.uk. Are there any others in Stronsay?

The issue will be considered at the next Community Council meeting and I am sure that CC members would welcome suggestions and practical proposals.

There are rare cases where a strategic decision is taken not to defend against flooding, perhaps due to cost. IF global warming is not brought under control how frequent might flooding become here?

If plans to mitigate are costed and viable then I suggest that a failure to provision should result in LOWER Council Taxes – so that locals can make their own (or collective) steps.

Comments invited

A KINDLY REMINDER FROM GERAMOUNT SURGERY

We understand that on occasions you cannot attend your booked appointment at the surgery, but if for whatever reason you cannot attend your appointment, could we please ask that you inform the surgery as soon as possible. This then allows the appointment to be given to another patient.

Records of a Bygone Age

Stronsay Schools Part 5 –

A new Head, a new Schoolhouse and a new Century

In last month's article we left the school and the island celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. After the excitement of such a historic event, School Board minutes quickly returned to more mundane matters:

Robert Miller from Coweshouse, who had been Compulsory Officer for the last 18 years, announced his resignation in October 1897 as he was leaving the island. A new Compulsory Officer was quickly appointed, this being Peter Shearer of Schoolbrae, at a cost of 2/4d (12p) per day. His duties were to include calling at each school once a fortnight to ascertain attendance levels and in order to obtain a list of absentees from each and to call on these absentees and parents where necessary. He was also to be at the call of the clerk where needed and to report to the Board on attendance levels once a month. It seems that Mr Miller didn't, in fact, leave the island as he remained as clerk and treasurer to the School Board for many years afterwards.

Grace and Elsie Brown both resigned their posts in February 1898, one as teacher at the South School and the other at the Central, with Miss A F Blyth appointed to replace Elsie to the assistantship at the Central, with a salary of £55.

SCHOOL BOARD OF STRONSAY, ORKNEY.—WANTED.
(1) CERTIFICATED FEMALE TEACHER for STRONSAY SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL; salary at the rate of £55 per annum, with free house, partly furnished.—**(2) CERTIFICATED FEMALE ASSISTANT** for STRONSAY CENTRAL SCHOOL; salary at the rate of £55 per annum; knowledge of vocal and instrumental music indispensable in applicants for this vacancy. Each will require to commence duties on the 7th February next, or as soon thereafter as possible. Applications, with testimonials, to be lodged with Robert Miller, Stronsay, Clerk to the Board, up till 2d February next.

This advert, seeking replacements for the Misses Brown, appeared in the Scotsman in January 1898.

A severe snowstorm disrupted the school in March 1898, with impassable roads leading to the school being closed on the 20th and remaining so until the 28th. The school was once again opened on a number of Saturdays after this to try to make up for lost teaching and learning time.

Regular HMI inspections continued to take place and, with another inspection approaching in 1898, school cleaner Mrs Wallace from Park Cottage was asked to scrub all the floors in the Central School weekly and continue doing so until after the inspection. Her efforts must have helped make a good impression as the subsequent report of this inspection was thought to be very acceptable and the clerk was instructed to convey to the school the Board's appreciation of the extremely satisfactory work the teachers had accomplished during the year.

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In April 1899 Mr Macpherson, who had given thought to resigning 3 years earlier but had been offered an increased salary and persuaded to stay in post, again submitted his resignation as headmaster after 6 years in the post and this was reluctantly accepted by the Board. Before he left the island in June the children presented him with a 'purse of sovereigns' as a mark of their own and their parents' respect. Just how many sovereigns were enclosed in the purse isn't known but, bearing in mind that the equivalent of a sovereign in 1898 would be well in excess of £100 today, this must have been a substantial gift.

The post was advertised at a salary of £125 but, although a number of applications were received, none were deemed suitable and the post was re-advertised, this time at a salary of £140. Mr George Milne from Dufftown was the successful applicant in this second round, taking up the post in August.

A few months later, in January 1900, Mr Milne announced that he could not live in the schoolhouse in its present state and, after viewing reports on the property, the Board agreed that it would be more practical to build a new schoolhouse at the same site rather than repair the old.

That same month George Milne volunteered for service with the Gordon Highlanders, who were fighting in the Boer War in South Africa at the time. It seems he may have had second thoughts about this move as, soon after, he told his commanding officer, Captain Campbell, that he couldn't take up the post as the School Board refused to keep his place open for him. This was a statement that was hotly contested by the Board as, they maintained, they were unaware Mr Milne had volunteered and that there had been no indication from him of his wish to resign his post! In the meantime, having taken George Milne at his word, Captain Campbell had written a letter of complaint to the Scotsman stating that the School Board had refused to keep Private Milne's position open while, he wrote, the Board were also stipulating that Mr Milne supply a substitute to cover the 2 months of his notice. The Board responded robustly to this allegation, writing strongly worded letters refuting the accusation to both the Scotsman and the Orkney Herald. Captain Campbell's statements, which the Board insisted had no foundation in truth, were recorded in the minutes as having caused great distress to members of the Board.

Mr Milne's resignation was subsequently tendered in a letter dated 2nd February 1900, to take immediate effect, and was readily accepted by the Board. The Headmaster post was then advertised yet again, with 26 year old Shapinsay man Mr James Drever appointed to the vacant post in March 1900 at a salary of £140, along with a free house, yet to be built! This lack of a house didn't seem to bother Mr Drever unduly and he took up the post the following month.

A tender for the new schoolhouse was accepted soon after, with James Chalmers of Sandybank submitting the only tender. This comprised £399-10/- for the building of house and offices, £10-10/- for the supply of gates and £30 for the boundary wall and gates - a total of £440. An application for a loan of £440 to cover this cost was submitted to the Government-funded Public Works Loan Commissioners and this was successful, with the loan to be repaid over 40 years. The work was quickly authorised and went ahead at pace, with Mr Drever soon happily taking up residence in the newly built house.

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Applications were invited from older pupils to apply for the post of pupil teacher at the Central School with the aim of this being a first step toward training for the teaching profession. Applications were received from Mary S Gorie of Clestrain, Annie Jane Logie from Brigend and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Fotheringhame from Hescombe, all three girls being aged about 14. With what was thought to be three very suitable applicants it was agreed that a competitive examination should be held to decide who should be appointed, with the successful applicant initially being paid a salary of £5 as a monitor. After this examination in December 1899 the results were recorded as: Annie Jane Logie 65%, Lizzie Fotheringhame 50% and Mary Gorie 45%. Miss Logie and Miss Fotheringhame were both appointed as monitors on the understanding that, on reaching the age of 15, they would then be engaged as pupil-teachers. All three young ladies were later to move on to become qualified teachers and teach in Stronsay, two of them until they retired.

Miss Blyth resigned as Assistant Teacher in July 1900, with Miss Isabella Shearer of Stromness being appointed as her replacement at a salary of £65. By this time Annie J Logie and Lizzie Fotheringhame had been engaged as pupil-teachers, with both young ladies to be paid at a rate of £7 for year 1, £9 for year 2, £11 for year 3 and £13 for year 4.

At this time, although school education had been available to all up to the age of 14 since 1883, it appears there was no compulsion to attend after the age of 12 or 13 if pupils could prove by examination that they had a basic level of education and the prospect of full time employment. This all changed in 1901 when new legislation made it compulsory for all pupils to attend school until reaching the age of 14.

Records of the number of pupils attending school seem to be hard to find but, in that same year of 1901, the roll at the Central School was recorded as 154.

Influenza hit the island once more in 1901 with the school being closed from 24th May until 17th June to try to help control the spread of the raging epidemic.

Ongoing snowstorms were recorded every day from the 7th to the 14th February 1902 with the school shut during that time.

At a School Board meeting the following month a motion was agreed that, to prevent the old Central Schoolhouse falling into ruin the office of Janitor and Compulsory Officer should be dependent on him occupying the said house and that the present incumbent should be given 3 months' notice of his services no longer being required. A few months later Alexander Chalmers of Balfour Cottage was appointed to the combined post of janitor of the Central School and Compulsory Officer and moved into the old schoolhouse, now renamed School Cottage. I haven't been able to find out just where the old school house was in relation to the new but it seems they must have been quite close together.

A two day school holiday had been declared for 26th and 27th June 1902 to celebrate the Coronation of King Edward VII and his wife, Queen Alexandra. Unfortunately, due to the ill health of the King, the Coronation had to be postponed at very short notice. At the King's request the nationwide celebrations still went ahead as planned on those dates although the Coronation itself, now a much smaller affair, wasn't held until 9th August.

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1902 also saw more resignations and appointments, with James Drever resigning his headship in July, to be replaced by Mr Robert J Arnaud at a salary of £140. Irish lass Jessie Smith, who had received high praise from the Inspectors over the years and had been in post for 8 years, resigned her post as infant mistress in August and was replaced by Miss EJ Struthers.

In September 1902 a glowing HMI report recorded that Stronsay was the best school in Orkney outwith Kirkwall and Stromness. The teaching staff at that time were Mr RJ Arnaud, Miss EJ Struthers and Miss IS Shearer, along with Annie J Logie and Lizzie Fotheringhame as pupil teachers in their third year. The school roll at this time was standing at 143.

Later in 1902 a number of cases of scab had been recorded and, due to the highly contagious condition of the condition, a number of pupils had been excluded.

In March 1903, on the application of John Leslie of the boat 'Fear Not', it was agreed by the Board that his 12 year old son John should be exempted from school until the end of August to enable him to assist on his father's herring drifter as a coiler. I'm not sure what 'Health and Safety' would have made of such a request today! A number of other requests for exemption were also granted, mainly for the older children to work on the farm or assist at home to allow a parent out to work. Very soon after these exemptions were granted the Board received a letter from headmaster Mr Arnaud pointing out the detrimental effect these exemptions were having on teaching within the school.

In March 1904 it was intimated that both pupil teachers at the Central School - Annie Jane Logie and Lizzie Fotheringhame - had passed the 'King's Scholarship Examination', qualifying them as fully fledged teachers. Soon afterwards 2 more pupil teachers were appointed to the Central School - Ella Scott of Wardhill and Margaret Cooper of Tifmaka.

It is interesting to note that, in the School Log of 1st July 1904, (the last day of the school term), headmaster Mr Arnaud records that 'The two Pupil Teachers' engagements had terminated on 30th June. Annie Logie however, out of a sense of decency, put in an appearance today: not so Liz Fotheringhame.' Miss Fotheringhame was obviously not in favour that day!

Rev Joseph Caskey, who had been minister of the Established Church on Stronsay for 57 years, died on 18th May 1904 and as a mark of respect all schools were closed on the day of his funeral.

In July Miss Struthers left the Central, to be replaced by Miss Elizabeth Williamson of Kirkcaldy at a salary of £85. That same month Miss Shearer resigned due to ill health and her successor as teacher in the intermediate department was Miss Beatrice Ramsey of Midlothian, with her salary set at £75. Pupil teacher Ella Scott resigned in October as she was going to Canada with her family and headmaster Mr Arnaud then resigned in November 1904, to be replaced by Thomas Fullerton from Stonehaven in January 1905. After his appointment took effect members of the teaching staff were: Headmaster Mr TA Fullerton, together with Assistant Teachers Elizabeth Williamson and Beatrice Ramsey, aided by Maggie J Cooper in her 2nd year as a Pupil Teacher.

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Both of the female teachers at the Central School were boarding at the old Central Schoolhouse, now renamed School Cottage, with the Compulsory Officer and his family. Finding the sanitary arrangements there far from ideal the ladies requested that the School Board should provide a water closet for their use. This was quickly agreed and a water closet suitable for both the teachers and the compulsory officer and his family was soon built at a total cost of £11.

A rather intriguing entry in the school log on 9th May 1906 recorded the headmaster, together with a number of the senior scholars, had visited a farm ‘to inspect a manure destroyer.’ Just what a manure destroyer was and what its purpose would have been is left to the imagination but it may well have been an early form of a machine to spread farmyard manure (or dung as it was better known) on the fields.

Mr Fullerton tendered his resignation in December 1906 and, after a long and tedious advertising and appointment process in which 3 previous applicants had been approached and declined the post, Mr J McKechnie took up duties in March 1907. This apparently turned out to be a most unsatisfactory appointment, with Mr AW McCallum from Burray replacing Mr McKechnie just a few months later. In his first entry in the school log, Mr McCallum noted that he had spent his first day at school filling in forms which should have been done by his predecessor!

School Board accounts for that year, which would have been for all 3 Stronsay schools, showed an income of £469 from various grants, with an additional £60 granted from the Airy Mortification (a charitable fund for endowing the education of Stronsay pupils), a total of £529. Expenditure included £505 in teachers’ salaries, £21 in School Board Officer’s salaries, £8 on postages and advertising, £52 on books and apparatus, £28 on repairs, £20 on rates, taxes and insurance, £36 on fuel and cleaning, and £65 on loan interest and repayments, a total of £735 which left a deficit for the year of £206. With a balance of £60 carried forward from the previous year and a withdrawal of £146 from the local rates this balanced the books nicely. If only life was always so simple!

In November 1906 a visiting committee called along each school, finding the North School attendance record very good and the other two schools good but went on to note their ‘regret that so many scholars should be kept at home to work and for reasons not given as to necessitate so much visitation from the Compulsory Officer.’

Mr McCallum seemed to be a stickler for punctuality and, if any of his teaching staff were late in their arrival at school, this was duly noted in the log. Miss Williamson seemed to be a regular offender, being 15 minutes late on 3rd July 1907 and 8 minutes late the following day. These misdemeanours continued to be logged over the following months, with the headmaster warning Miss Sinclair, the junior Pupil Teacher, about her continuing absence and lack of punctuality. This seemed to have the desired effect as on 7th March 1908 Mr McCallum thought it worth to record that all the teachers were at their posts on time that day and working earnestly.

(continued on next page)

After a series of good HMI reports, the school inspection in 1907 was much more critical due in some part, the inspector believed, to changes in teaching staff. With the appointment of the new head (Mr McCallum) the report was more positive about the future of the school as it moved forward. The report was also quite critical of the building itself, stating that ‘The school is dingy and out of repair, and the walls in several places are disfigured by scribbling. The woodwork should be painted and the walls should be distempered. At least one of the rooms is damp. The office accommodation is insufficient. The Board should keep in view the necessity of refurnishing the Infant room.’ It concluded by saying that the grant paid out by the Scotch Education Department to schools meeting their set standards, upon which the school relied so much for its funding, had been paid but with considerable hesitation.

An outbreak of chicken pox in July 1907 resulted in all children in affected households being excluded from the school. Then, more seriously, in October an outbreak of Scarlet Fever was prevalent on the island and this led to the school being shut on the 22nd of that month, reopening on 4th November after being fumigated and disinfected. The children from the Station, where the disease still had a strong hold, were excluded for a further 2 weeks.

Maggie J Cooper of Tifmaka had passed her final Pupil Teacher King’s Examination by July 1908 and was appointed as a fully qualified Assistant Teacher, joining headmaster Alexander W McCallum, Elizabeth Williamson and Beatrice Ramsey on the school staff. Attendance at the time was once again reported as poor, with many of the older pupils being kept home to help with the singling (hoeing turnips).

The HMI report around that same time showed a great improvement from the previous year, with the teachers being singled out for their good work through the year.

The Central School received a huge boost to its resources in November 1908 when philanthropist James Coats, millionaire owner of the J & P Coats thread and weaving company of Paisley, gifted a bookcase and a number of books to the school. Determined to do what he could to help education in more deprived areas of Scotland, this was one of around 4,000 libraries, each of at least 300 books, established and funded by James between 1903 and 1912. A catalogue of Stronsay’s Coats’ Library books lists almost 500 books covering a wide range of subjects and topics, from history and reference books through poetry and religion and on to biographies, classical fiction and tales of derring-do.

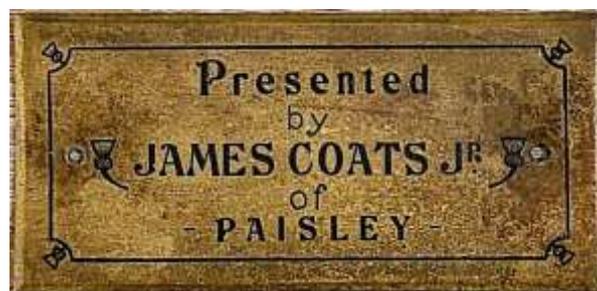
In a chance conversation with Doris Shearer from Airy Cottage she told me that they had a bookcase at Airy for many years which had a J&P Coats label on it. It had been passed to them by her in-laws and is now with their son and daughter in law in Kirkwall. There seems little doubt that this would have been one of the bookcases originally donated by James Coats, in all likelihood the one donated to the Central School in 1908. Raymond Dennison remembers a wooden bookcase standing just inside the door of the headmaster’s room in the early 1950s and, by his description, it may well be the same one. When or why it was taken out of the school isn’t known but it may have been sold off when the school was renovated in the late 1950s.

(continued on next page)

In another twist to the tale, a brass presentation plaque bearing the name of James Coats was recently found among a box of odds and ends during the renovation of a shed at Roadside. Again it would be almost certain that this would have come off a bookcase, in all probability the same one, but how it found its way into that box remains a mystery.



This bookcase is almost certainly the one gifted by James Coats to the Stronsay School in 1908 and which Raymond Dennison remembers standing in headmaster John Drever's classroom. It now has a new home in Kirkwall, being cared for by The third generation of Shearer owners.



And the brass presentation plaque, very probably off that same bookcase.

Beatrice Ramsey resigned at the end of that year, with the vacant position being filled by the headmaster's daughter, 24 year old Mary McCallum, with her salary set at £90.

(continued on next page)

The school roll at that time was 125 and the School Board intimated that children could only start or leave school on the Scottish Term or Quarter days, these being the 28th of February, May, August and November.

Back to the building front now, and in November 1908 additional maintenance and building works at the Central School was started, again carried out by James Chalmers, at a cost of £298-10/-.

With the enhanced facilities now available after this upgrade the School Board applied to the Scotch Education Department for the Central School to be reclassified as an 'intermediate' school. (It appears that this 'intermediate' status was dependent upon adequate provision for the teaching of additional subjects and, if achieved, would in turn attract more funding.) This request was rejected as the Department felt there were insufficient resources in place to justify this upgrade and, with this in mind, the School Board agreed to appoint an additional teacher to the school.

This teacher was to be Miss Mary Gorie, formerly of Clestrain, who had graduated MA from Edinburgh University in 1907 and was said to be the first female graduate from Orkney's North Isles. She took up her duties on 18th October 1909 and was to continue to be a well-respected and popular teacher and local stalwart in Stronsay for over 40 years.

A number of exemptions, either to work in the harvest or to care for the house to let a parent do harvest work, were again granted by the School Board in September 1909 but it was agreed that, in future, no exemption would be granted to a pupil achieving less than 80% attendance in the previous year. These exemptions weren't finding favour with the headmaster nor with His Majesty's Inspectorate, both citing the poor attendance record at the school due in some part to these exemptions, but more of this in next month's article.

Ian Cooper
March 2024

KEEPING WARM

These knitting patterns are from the 1940s so they may not be high fashion but they will keep you warm!

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/1940s-knitting-patterns>

Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

Orkney's only regular councillor newsletter—reporting back to North Isles Ward constituents since 2012.

Like the whole of Orkney, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of long-standing BBC Radio Orkney presenter, Dave Gray. In the days immediately following his death, it was somewhat spooky still to hear his voice making the safety announcements on the ferries, which, in a sense, immortalises him, as does his Orcadian dialect recording for the MRI scanner at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Dave had remarkable insight into the political machinations at School Place, and he agreed with many of my own observations over the years. As a councillor, it could be a bit of an ordeal being interviewed on air by Dave—he could give you quite a grilling! In the March 2021 edition (*issue 442*) of *The Sanday Sound*, there was a role reversal when he was the interviewee "In Conversation with Ute". This interview with him can be found at this URL: <https://clackson.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Sanday-Sound-442-Dave-Gray.pdf>.

Having received a sufficient level of funding from the Scottish Government, at our General Meeting we ratified a decision not to raise the council tax level for the forthcoming financial year. However, apart from those entitled to the council tax "Isles" discount exception of 50% for maintaining employment that I defended last month (see *last month's Issue*), a surcharge of 100% will now be applied to second homes. Our General Fund revenue budget for 2024/25 has been set at £112,424,000. Up to £20,000,000 will be drawn from our Strategic Reserve Fund.

There was considerable discussion about discontinuing the tradition that we stand to speak at General Meetings. I supported maintaining the tradition (embarrassingly forgetting to stand myself!), but the amendment was defeated 11 to 9. My previous suggestion, that we circulate a bottle of port around the chamber during General Meetings (in the clockwise direction, of course), was regrettably not included in the amendment. You never know, had it been, it might have made all the difference!

Orkney has been allocated £20,000,000 by the UK Government through its Levelling Up Fund. Although Kirkwall is named specifically, it has been confirmed that the money can be used over a wider geographical area, so I hope to see some of it used in the North Isles. The fund, which is for capital projects, will be spread over 10 years, and, as I understand it, a board will need to be set up involving the community to determine how the money will be disbursed. We await further details.

I attended a talk, hosted by the Orkney Heritage Society, by Howie Firth to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Orkney County Council Act 1974*. This Act is what has enabled us to build up our Strategic Reserve Fund. Howie explained how the council at the time had the foresight to work with the oil industry to come up with proposals of mutual benefit and then apply political persuasion at Westminster. Howie suggests, by analogy, we should be doing the same now vis-à-vis the renewable energy industry. A recording of the talk is available on-line at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GDV9_TWKSQ.



Some excellent and impressive work was on display at the exhibition *Perspectives—Orkney's Recent Art Graduates* at the Pier Arts Centre (see photograph above) alongside which was a showcase of the work of senior school pupils from KGS and Stromness Academy. Among the exhibitors, I recognised a few names from the North Isles. What talent we have here!

I travelled to Inverness to participate in a meeting of the University of the Highlands & Islands Foundation at their new HQ at UHI House on the Raigmore Hospital campus (see photograph below), and on the evening of the following day I was in Thurso for a meeting of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. I am OIC's representative on both of these organisations.

Other meetings I have attended this month include a special Policy & Resources Committee meeting, meetings of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board, a seminar on the ferry replacement programme (which I had to leave before the end of so I could catch a ferry), and a seminar on our local transport strategy (which I had to leave early in order to take transport south).

Since my last *Letter*, I have been to community council meetings in person at Sanday and Eday, but an attempt to attend Papay's virtually by "Teams" failed miserably.

Stephen

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson
Member for the North Isles Ward,
Depute Convener Orkney & Shetland VJB

West Manse, Sanday
stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

Letter from School Place is also available on-line at clackson.info



Prescription Collection and Delivery Service



Please contact the wellbeing coordinator on 01857 616410 or email sdtwellbeing@gmail.com if you would like a prescription collected and delivered.

A poster with a light beige background. At the top, the phrase 'CASH IS FREEDOM' is written in an arc above a logo of two hands holding a bird. Below this, the main title 'A CASHLESS SOCIETY MEANS ZERO CASH' is displayed in large, bold, black letters. A list of prohibitions follows in smaller, bold, black text: 'NO CAR BOOT SALES / MARKETS', 'NO TOOTH FAIRY / PIGGY BANKS', 'NO SAVING CASH FOR A RAINY DAY', 'NO TIPPING THE WAITER OR HAIRDRESSER', 'NO GIVING TO THE HOMELESS', 'NO GIVING TO BUSKING MUSCIANS', 'NO SELLING UNWANTED ITEMS FOR CASH', and 'NO BUYING ANYTHING WITH PRIVACY'. At the bottom of the list, it states '100% DIGITAL CURRENCY MEANS YOUR LIFE IS 100% DEPENDENT ON A POWER SOURCE & THE INTERNET'. The final message at the bottom of the poster is 'EVERY PENNY YOU RECEIVE WILL BE RECORDED. EVERY TRANSACTION WILL BE TRACKED' in large, bold, black letters.

CASH IS FREEDOM

**A CASHLESS SOCIETY
MEANS ZERO CASH**

**NO CAR BOOT SALES / MARKETS
NO TOOTH FAIRY / PIGGY BANKS
NO SAVING CASH FOR A RAINY DAY
NO TIPPING THE WAITER OR HAIRDRESSER
NO GIVING TO THE HOMELESS
NO GIVING TO BUSKING MUSCIANS
NO SELLING UNWANTED ITEMS FOR CASH
NO BUYING ANYTHING WITH PRIVACY
100% DIGITAL CURRENCY MEANS YOUR LIFE IS
100% DEPENDENT ON A POWER SOURCE & THE INTERNET**

**EVERY PENNY YOU RECEIVE WILL BE
RECORDED. EVERY TRANSACTION
WILL BE TRACKED**

NEW TOYS AND NEW PROJECTS

Roger Neville-Smith, Stronsay Markets

Gardening on the northern edge of the turtles back is a challenge. My lean athletic body has been converted into a creaking gate. The relentless wind and short growing season make this growing malarky far from smarty. It's not been my style to give up easily and one approach if things are going badly is to buy a new toy.



I find you can never have enough hoes, tillers and rakes so invested in the Wolf-Garten range of multi change tools. They are great with adjustable handles that do not like being left out all winter but generally survive my habitual lack of care.



Lawn Mowers are essential for my small grass maintenance business. When going gets tough, buy another mower. I now have three grass cutters, two strimmers and an electric scarifier. I have at last found a moderately dry place for them to recuperate after a season of abuse. I don't know what they talk about for 6 months but I suspect there are no compliments aimed my way. In another month the grass will be growing again although currently most is stuck, looking a bit grey and unloved, rather like my hair. Last week I thought I should check they started up OK. After a zillion pulls on the cord and a long lie down, it was obvious they were in a deep

sulk. I tried to cheer them up with some petrol and a new spark plug each but still nothing. Somewhat shame faced I asked my fix-it man if he could look. Thankfully within a short time he had given them a stern talk and they agreed to run.

Like I said the growing season is painfully short so I started out with a polytunnel 8 years ago. Got light, heat, water, hot bed, staging, bed, hospitality set. Actually the last two ideas never happened. This was the hub of my empire with sowing, potting, mixing potions and generally having fun. I fancied growing soft fruit which is a challenge outside so purchased the next tunnel. The strawberries and raspberries did well the first year but each year since have been less productive. The raspberries mostly died - possibly neglect or virus (I sound like your friendly GP). The currant bushes were defoliated by Saw fly larvae and the blueberries blew a raspberry and discouragingly died as well. More on polytunnel two later

As my aspirations increased, another tunnel was required but bigger. The land needing levelly but with skill, patience and a mini-digger, Craig and Steve had the job done in no time. I built a new strawberry bed with walk in bird cage and have had a couple of good years of fruit. There has been space for peas, beans, sweet corn, salads, carrots etc. At last real success. Only one thing for it - another tunnel but bigger still 22 x 60 foot. Well that was 2 years ago.... The ground was levelled again by Craig and Steve but this time a big earth mover. Next came a post driller on a tractor to get the loops into the ground. Then came the torrential rain for months. The whole site was water logged and it was nearly 6 month before work could resume.

(continued on next page)



Meanwhile the polytunnel kit was lying in grass and docks. I felt the chance of finding all the components was remote. Unfortunately, distracting interest and poor weather have beaten me back and despite Robin, the strong man, the tunnel is still a skeleton in need of a pretty dress. This year I am sure it will be completed and then it will be time for another project!

The best laid plans of mice and men. Actually no mice just more pesky wind. I probably mentioned wind already. This last year has been windy, like really windy. The Met office label storms, starting at Aaron and ending with Zeberdee. Well by the time we got to Derek two tunnels had blown to bits which was disappointing because they had only been up a few years. I sent a tear stained handkerchief to First Tunnels and obligingly they sent replacement covers. After waiting for time and a lull in the weather the 2 covers are now on. More on this story later

There has been no let up in the storms. I think I mentioned the wind earlier. It might have been storm Joshua or Kenneth but polytunnel one was the next to go. This one had been up 8 years so I was less unhappy. With Robin working like a trouper (is that PC?) the new cover is on and almost secure which is good because it's back to gale force again. Time to concentrate on Polytunnel 4.



Meanwhile I have been working on getting a good strawberry crop this year. Polytunnel two housed my first plants but gradually deteriorated with foliage to die for but very little fruit: and all at ground level. More on my poorly knees later. This year I have built staging and invested in coir grow bags from Cocogreen. They come totally dry and compressed so need rehydrating with dilute fertilizer - I used seaweed solution. I purchased the strawberries, some as small plants and the majority as rooted runners. Sadly they arrived in a poor state so

I complained to Marshalls, the supplier. They kindly sent replacements which looked slightly better. Anyway they are all planted up and I have put in an irrigation system with multiple into each bag, pumped under pressure. Thankfully after a few weeks there is signs of life but I doubt I will be in time for a bumper harvest at Wimbledon.

Unfortunately my knees have indicated that my foolish youth was foolish and now are both in a bad place. The NHS is already warming my bed as I wait for my first replacement. The growing areas cover large area and walking between them, carrying stuff etc is getting harder. So my next big idea was an electric trike with trailer which I was sure would be a great solution.

(continued on next page)



Riding the trike was less obvious and I felt that, rather like an unbroken horse, it was pretty keen to buck me off. I took it for its first serious outing to church just after receiving it. Steady, steady I went but trike had independent ideas. Eventually the trike won and through me into a ditch which was rather undignified and muddy. Arriving at church slightly late and dripping I made a dramatic entrance. Good job I was not wearing my posh suit.

This winter has been very windy and wet. Every time I put the cover over the trike it blew off. After one particularly bad night it disappeared completely, probably gone for a flight to Denmark. Unfortunately the trike became pounded with water and resulted in the battery failing, likely full of water. So now waiting to find out if the battery can be fixed otherwise it's a several hundred pound replacement.

Occasionally it feels like spring is imminent. I feel that I am relatively well prepared. My next blog will describe the big push.

GNOMES & FAIRIES AT CLEAT

The gnomes and fairies are back at Cleat!
All money from the wishing well will go to Ronald Macdonald house in Glasgow.

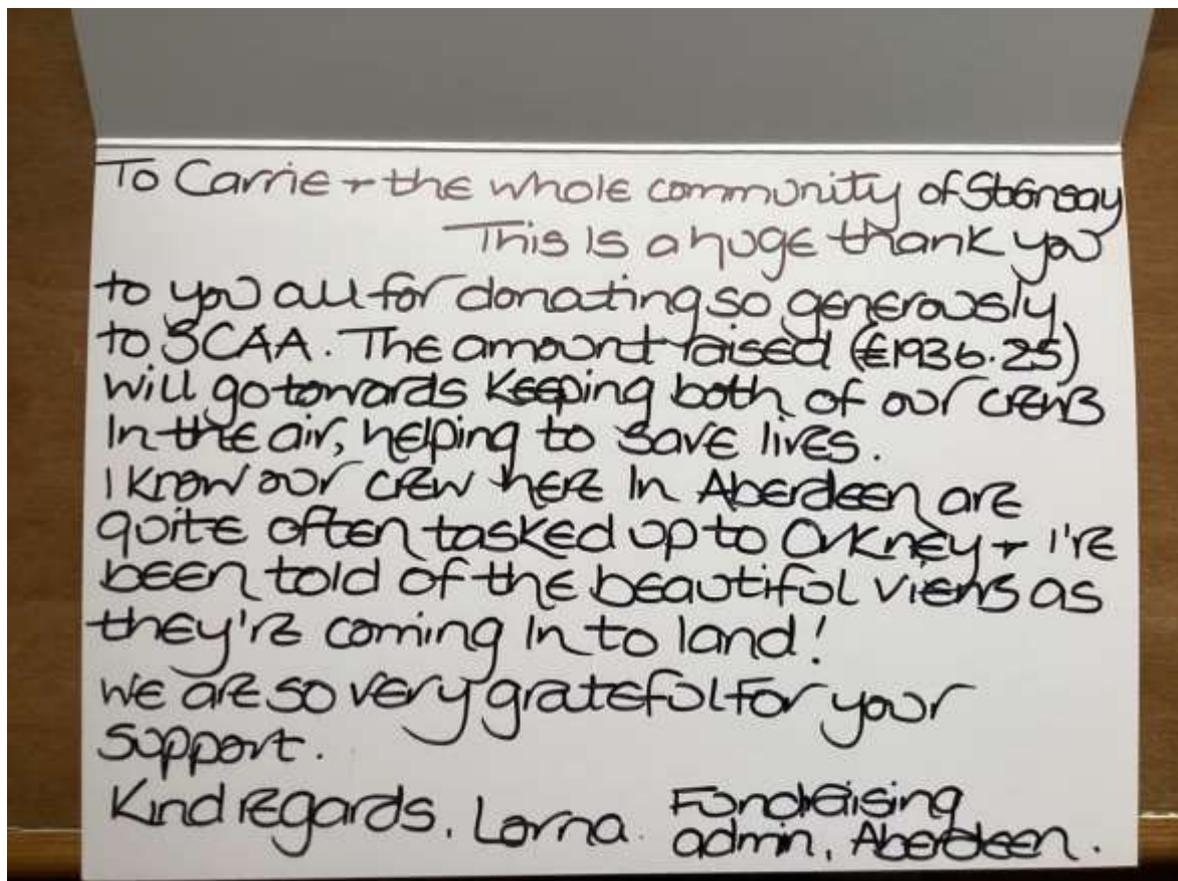


EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH AT THE STRONSAY HOTEL

A group of friends enjoying a delicious Easter Sunday lunch at the Stronsay Hotel.



FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc



Items on this page are free!

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

FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

DONNA BLYTH EDUCATION SERVICES

Donna Blyth BA Hons, MEd, PGCE, SQH, CPT3A, CELTA

Email: donnablyth@outlook.com

Tel: 01857 616242 / 07852 805780

Tuition in English Language, English Literature, EAL and Literacy for learners of all abilities from age 5 - adult

£25.00 per hour for 1:1 tuition

£45.00 per hour for groups of 2 or more depending on requirements (max 4)

Tuition in clarinet performance and music theory up to grade 5

£15 per 30min lesson for 1:1 tuition

Assessment for Applications for Examination Access Arrangements

Assessments and reports for EHCP and Coordinated Support Plan applications

Please contact me for details and prices

I am GTCS, DBS and PVG Scheme registered.

I have valid, current Safeguarding and Prevent certification

References available if required

All enquiries and services provided are treated in confidence as far as possible and according to KCSIE legislation 2023

RECYCLED CARDBOARD LOGS

The recycling centre has plenty of recycled cardboard logs. They are a bargain at only £7.00 for 30 logs. Available at the recycling centre or call Viv on 207.

WANTED—INFORMATION

re. history of SS Athenia life-boat, now at Seafield, Stronsay.

Can anyone help in establishing the identity of a Stronsay resident who actually lived in the SS Athenia converted lifeboat on the foreshore at Seafield, during the years 1960-1980 (very approximate) together with his sheep!?

This information came from Mr Thomas Shearer, who lived at Seafield for many years from about 1983 - 2002, and who now lives in Kirkwall. He cannot remember this other man's name, and whilst it does not effect the wartime history of the lifeboat, it adds an interesting dimension to its post-war history.

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FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc



Stronsay at War

The Stronsay Heritage Society is planning to create a display and accompanying booklet for the Stronsay Heritage Centre to document *life in Stronsay* during the First and Second World Wars.

We are hoping that folks both in and outwith Stronsay will send us copies/scans/photographs of the following types of items:

- Written memories or diaries (of life in Stronsay or from Stronsay folk experiencing life elsewhere because of the war)
- Photos (of Stronsay or of Stronsay folk)
- Letters
- Postcards
- Memorabilia or Souvenirs
- Ration Cards
- Recipes or household hints
- Fashion
- Products/Labels/Advertisements from local businesses
- Invoices/Receipts
- Certificates or Awards
- Programmes of Events, Fundraisers or Appeals
- Newspaper clippings about Stronsay



We can also borrow your originals and scan them ourselves if that's easier for you.

Naturally, if you'd like to donate any wartime-related artefacts or original photos to the Heritage Centre, we'd be very glad to receive them.

Please contact Jennifer Graham (07973 716278)
or Ian Cooper (616 322)
or via email: heritagesocietystronsay@gmail.com



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FOR SALE, WANTED, THANK YOU, etc

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Dunera, Lower Whitehall Road, Stronsay, KW17 2AS

A detached bungalow (period 1920-60s) with garden and parking space.
Comprising huge sitting room sea facing, kitchen/diner, 4 bedrooms, shower room & hall
(167 sq. metres) plus 4 sq. metre porch.

Habitable but needs upgrading or project development.

Oil fired central heating with multi fuel stove in living room.

Water, phone connected.

SEPA for up to 6 residents.

Council Tax C.

Primary energy indicator 288 kWh.

£5736 over 3 years. Energy Efficiency Band E (44) – Scottish average is Band D - 60

Environmental Band F (37) – Scottish average band D - 59

Interest invited. Not currently with external agent.

Viewing by advanced appointment only. Flexible entry date.

Offers invited above £130k. Finance options from seller.

Leo Martini-Brown

lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk

VAN AVAILABLE FOR CHARITY WORK

The Pomona Prefect logo peedie red van is available for charity work on the island if anyone needs a man and a van and wants to help the island reach the target. Saturdays service and cost for this is suggested as £10 per hour min donation for half hour units. All to the Stronsay Defib fund. No live animals, persons transported or dirty, sloppy stuff carried. Limited load and not a taxi service. This is a temporary thing to raise money and not a challenge to any services on the island. Call Julie for all taxi work and Sinclair Haulage for freight!

Also, if anyone needs their car karcher jet washed and vaccuming and then can do at Ellerslie as you pass for a donation to same Defib Fund. Cost is £10 per basic body wash and wheels rinsed and boot/inside vacted. Limited to cars. No monster trucks, panel vans, lorries or camper vans sorry.

This charity service will be hopefully available until there are enough defib machines in position with the people trained to cover us all 24/7. Availability is limited to Saturdays.

Any questions and to book give me a call.

Nicandro J. Porcelli, Ellerslie. Telephone or text to - 07732 276046

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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

For further information about the sites please contact

- Sharon at Orkney Property Centre, Kirkwall on 01856 877 866 or
- Dianne on 07785 111 126 or
- email drileymoore@hotmail.com

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



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Are you missing out on £200?



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Claim your cost of living payment now

Whether working, self-employed,
a stay-at-home parent or claiming
benefits – you could be entitled!

Automatic payments will be made to people in Orkney receiving:

- Housing benefit
- Council Tax reduction (means tested)
- Free school meals/clothing allowance (means tested)
- Exempt from council tax because all occupants are under the age of 18
- Exempt from council tax due to being under 26 and previously in care / looked after

You can apply if you currently receive
Universal Credit or Pension Credit

You can also apply if you have savings under £6000 and your
earnings are below the threshold in the table below.

Number of Children	Single Person Earnings	Couples Earnings
0	£1928 per month	£2361 per month
1	£3300 per month	£3734 per month
2	£4048 per month	£4482 per month
3	£4978 per month	£5412 per month

To apply visit the website below, call 01856 873535

www.orkney.gov.uk/COL

...or scan
me into
your phone
camera



STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the Stronsay Community hall? We have a kitchen and fully licensed bar, with two large halls and a small meeting room; perfect for weddings, parties, games, meetings and much more!

- Disco equipment
- Table tennis
- Badminton
- Air hockey
- Pool Table



For more information & bookings contact Anne-Maree Carter email annemaree.carter@btinternet.com

Rooms for hire from only £2 per hour plus hydro charge.

Adult supervision (over 18) must be present during hire.

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hallcommittee>



EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Located at Wood's Yard we have a cabin full of great pieces of equipment including E-bikes, kayaks, wetsuits, beach games, sports equipment, accessibility aids and more.

Give us a call on 616410 or email cdostronsay@gmail.com and see what's available.

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to *The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR.*

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the back page of every edition of the Limpet there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

SWIMMING POOL - OPENING TIMES

Charges - Adults £3, Children £1.50, Private Hires £15.

Monday	Adult lane 6:30-7:10:00	Public session 7:10– 7:50
Thursday	Private hire 6:30-7:10	Public session 7:10-7:50
Saturday	Private hire 2:00-2:40	Public session 2:40-3:20

To book a private hire phone Elsie on 616238.

LIFEGUARDS WANTED!

Stronsay swimming pool is looking for enthusiastic, reliable and conscientious people to become part of the pool team.

We will train you using the national standard RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification and in return all we ask is you help us keep our small pool open and sustainable.

The ability to swim and a degree of fitness is required before you start your journey into 'lifeguard life'.

Interested parties should contact Andy Rose: email andyrose85@btinternet.com, phone 01857 616277 or mobile 07769 689 310

OVERSEERS WANTED !

Always looking for reliable overseers for the swimming pool, please! Previous volunteers welcome. Involves taking payment, handing out bands, helping with evacuation procedures etc. Contact Mairi Dennison via Facebook messenger or tel 616331. We politely request that parents/guardians whose children use the pool regularly take a turn at overseeing, in particular.

STRONSAY ON YOUTUBE

- [Bicycle tour of Stronsay in August 2022 \(poor audio quality\)](#)
- [59° North](#)
- [Links House, Stronsay: Finding the Mesolithic in Orkney](#)
- [Stronsay, Orkney](#)
- [The mystery of the Stronsay Monster](#)
- [Orkney—living and working](#)
- [1930's stone crushing machine in action on Stronsay](#)
- [Stronsay harbour \(taken from inside the harbour\)](#)
- [Five reasons to visit Stronsay](#)

HANDY EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Ebenezer Stores stronsaystores@gmail.com

Olivebank m.williamson1@btconnect.com

Fishmart café fishmartcafehostel@gmail.com

For telephone numbers see the back page of this edition.

OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PIERHEAD

OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES

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

Mass times are as follows:-

Sunday & holidays: 11am. Tuesday: 8.00am. All other days: 11.20am

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.

STRONSAY KIRK

Weekly service at 11am.

Minister—Rev David Locke, phone 616284.

Stronsay kirk's website:

<http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stronsaykirk>

Stronsay kirk's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553904828107651>

ISLES SPECIAL COLLECTION ROTAS



The dates for isles special collections up to 30 September 2024 are detailed below.

If you wish to have domestic bulky items uplifted you can apply online via the Council's Website see link <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/Special-Refuse-Collections.htm>, if you do not have internet access then please contact Customer Services on telephone number 873535 to book. Bookings must be placed as soon as possible and up to 2 working days prior the week commencing collection date, any special collection bookings received after 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the week commencing collection date **will not be processed and will be held over until the next available collection date.**

Please note that payment for collection is required on application and prior to collection. **Only items that are on the request form will be collected by the contractor.**

Special collections from commercial premises can be arranged by contacting Development and Infrastructure on telephone number 873535 extension 2320.

Eday

Week Commencing: 29 April 2024 and 22 July 2024

Graemsay

Week Commencing: 20 May 2024 and 09 September 2024

Hoy and Flotta

Week Commencing: 15 April 2024, 1 July 2024, and 2 September 2024

North Ronaldsay

Week Commencing: 10 June 2024 and 19 August 2024

Papa Westray

Week Commencing: 3 June 2024 and 12 August 2024

Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre

Week Commencing: 6 May 2024 and 5 August 2024

Sanday

Week Commencing: 20 May 2024 and 19 August 2024

Shapinsay

Week commencing: 13 May 2024 and 19 August 2024

Stronsay

Week Commencing: 13 May 2024 and 05 August 2024

Westray

Week Commencing: 06 May 2024, 08 July 2024, and 16 September 2024

For further information on refuse and recycling services please refer to the Council's website www.orkney.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE
REVISED NOTICE - WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024

STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Shirley Whiteman Vice Chair: Damian Stout

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Stronsay Community Council invites applications for financial assistance from anyone who is permanently resident on Stronsay.

Grants are available for travel assistance and events and/or projects of benefit to the community.

If the request is for travel assistance, members can award 50% of the requested amount with a capping limit of £200 funding within twelve months.

Full details of the event and/or project will be required and will be submitted to the next Community Council meeting for consideration. During 2024 meetings will be held on 25 March, 19 August, 7 October and 25 November.

Financial requests must be with the Island Link Officer prior to the event/project taking place and the payment of any grant awarded will require submission of evidence of expenditure from the applicant.

Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be submitted on a new version of the Application For Financial Assistance form available from the Island Link Officer.

If more information, or an Application for Financial Assistance form is required, please contact the Island Link Officer, tel: 616446 email: stronsaycc@gmail.com

Colin McAlpine
Stronsay Island Link Officer
31 January 2024

If you see something in the Limpet that is inaccurate or no longer valid
please drop a line to "*The Editor, Claremont KW17 2AR*"
or email editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk



**Happy
Feet
Foot health**

New Business

happyfeetorkney@outlook.com

I am starting a new business as a fully qualified foot health care practitioner . I offer home visits and competitive rates. Please contact Shirley by email or on **07767714634** for more information or to arrange an appointment.

Happy Feet Foot Health Care

07767714634

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



Community Bus

Book by 7pm the day before travel

Contact Mick

07508884024
01857 616 376

bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com

Tuesday - Morning ferry drop off, evening pick up

Tuesday - Olivebank round trip 9:30-11:00

Wednesday - Village drop off 11:30, pick up 1:00

Thursday - Morning ferry drop off, evening pick up

Friday - Morning plane drop off, afternoon plane pick up

(max. 4 passengers)

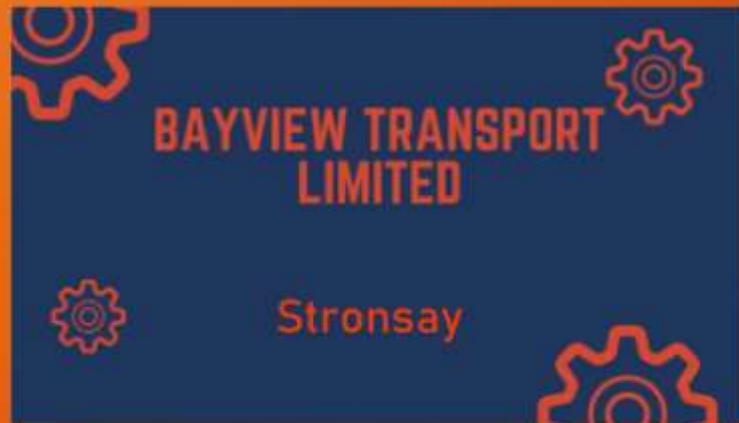
Maximum 8 passengers. £2.50 per return journey. Cash or card accepted.

Booked passengers will be contacted the evening before travel with a collection time.

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Taxi

School transport

Mechanic repairs and diagnostics

Contact Mick

07508884024

01857 616 376

bayviewtransportlimited@gmail.com

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POMONA PREFECT



ORKNEY NORTH ISLES' COMMERCIAL AND LEISURE SMALL BOAT CHARTER

CHARTER RATES SUMMER 2024

LOCAL EXPERT GUIDED TOUR RATE: £450 - BOOKED IN ADVANCE

A. Sanday Sound: Linga Holm

C. Eday Sound: Calf of Eday

B. Stronsay: Vat of Kirbister

D. Sanday: Start Point/Lashy



Departure is 0830 hrs: Depending on weather, tide and swell. Trips 3-4 Hours. Whitehall/Kettletoft/Loth/Backland.

Lunch packs from the Stronsay Fishmarket Café are provided on request. Hot and cold drinks are free. We are a licensed fishing boat: Dinner could be a beach barbecued lobster fresh from the creel or line caught mackerel!



BESPOKE CHARTER RATE: CALL TO DISCUSS



Minimum 2 Hours- £180 from Whitehall Stronsay /£200 Eday & Sanday. Then £80 per hour up to 8 hours or as agreed.



Diving: Let us know your Dive Plan for a quote. We have specialist leisure diving and snorkelling insurance cover.

Fishing rods can be hired £15 trip and some tackle, bait and gear available to purchase. Fishing grounds as requested or local advice.

Snorkelling gear can be hired: £15 per mask, weights and flipper sets in adult and child.

- Tours start May 15th.
- PFDs (lifejackets) provided for adults and children.
- Wear sensible shoes, trousers and warm clothes and waterproof gear. Toilet aboard.



- Advise all passenger details on booking form.
- Skipper's discretion applies at all times in carriage for safety.
- Please allow for some flexibility with weather conditions. We'll get you out!



BOOK NOW- 07707 306787 pomonaprefect@gmail.com www.pomonaprefect.com

Pomona Prefect Ltd Incorporated in Scotland as Private Limited Company Number SC676532

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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

BUILDING WORK

Building work carried out by time-served tradesman

No job too small!

Please note changed telephone number

Phone Paul Williams on 616222 or email williams778@btinternet.com

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to *The Limpet*, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the back page of every edition of the *Limpet* there is a list of useful telephone numbers including the emergency numbers for reporting problems with water or electricity.

Local business adverts are free!

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

Holmsgarth Crafts



*Seasonal Gifts,
Memory bears,
Stronsay book bags, and much more
Many items can be personalised
Made To Order*



Contact Margaret McAnally - [Holmsgarth Crafts | Facebook](#)
[07432614089](tel:07432614089)

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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Marion Miller Jewellery

Unique Jewellery inspired by the sea and shore.
Designed and handmade on the island of Stronsay, Orkney

www.marionmillerjewellery.com

Tel 07919550943 E-mail marionmillerjewellery@gmail.com



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LOCAL BUSINESSES



Traditionally hand-crafted in Stronsay—soaps, solid shampoo bars, conditioner bars and balms. Hand-spun and hand-dyed yarns from Orkney fleeces, woven throws, wall-hangings and more.

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

Tel: (+44) 01857 616 281

Email: info@orkneystarsoap.co.uk

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

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

**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



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LOCAL BUSINESSES

Roger at Stronsay Photographic

Available for:

Portraits - groups and individuals

ID photographs - printing on site

Tuition

Special commissions

Cozy studio with professional lighting

Home visits



Contact via Stronsay Photographic Facebook page and Facebook or tel 616228

Special offers also on Stronsay Facebook page

Roger at Stronsay Markets



Local seasonal soft fruit and vegetables

Grown naturally without artificial fertilisers, pesticides or weed killer

Cropped same day (usually)

Check out Facebook "Stronsay Markets"

Contact me on stronsaymarkets@gmail.com and I can add you to the regular list of available produce

See Stronsay Markets on YouTube https://youtu.be/8e6sz_Z2eQU

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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 • www.airyfairyonline.co.uk

Ebenezer Oil Heating



Oil boiler servicing, repair and replacement

Oil tank inspection and installation

Why not let me check out your heating system, I can advise upgrades to make your heating more efficient & cheaper to run

10 year parts and labour guarantee on all new Grant Vortex boilers

All my work is covered by the OFTEC Competent Persons Scheme

Why would you use anybody else?

Tel 01857 616207 Mob 07500682867 Email ebenezer@stronsay.org

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

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



The Old Manse is a listed building dating back to the 1780s set in a large woodland garden just off the A9 and commanding far reaching views of the surrounding countryside.

We are ideally located for those travelling to and from Orkney. The ferry terminals of Gills Bay (Pentland Ferries) and Scrabster (North Link Ferries) are no more that 2.5 hours drive with John O’Groats just 2 hours away.

Ensuite Double and twin rooms

Tel 01862 842357 Email oldmanse.kildary@btinternet.com

Web www.oldmansebandbkildary.co.uk

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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.

HOW TO CONTACT THE *LIMPET*

Send an email to 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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STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As from 25 March 2024, the following have been confirmed as members of Stronsay Community Council:-

Dominic BLYTH	St. Catherines, Stronsay, KW17 2AN tel: 616242 email: saniman@live.co.uk
Shane HOURSTON	Housebay Cottage, Stronsay, KW17 2AJ tel: 07593965600 email: s.hourston@yahoo.co.uk
David LOCKE	Church of Scotland Manse, Stronsay, KW17 2AF tel: 07776448301 email: dlocke@churchofscotland.org.uk
Leonardo MARTINI-BROWN	Brynley Cottage, 12 Whitehall, Stronsay, KW17 2AS email: lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk
James SEATON	Thorfinn, Stronsay, KW17 2AS tel: 07470111871 email: safehandsno_1@hotmail.com
Damian STOUT Vice Chair	Linksness, Stronsay, KW17 2AT tel: 616258 email: damiienstout@btinternet.com
Shirley WHITEMAN Chair	St. John's Cottage, Stronsay, KW17 2AT tel: 616438 email: shirleywhiteman@icloud.com

The role of a Community Councillor is to ensure that they work for the best interests of the whole community and remain representative of, and accountable to, the represented community.

If you have a community related issue that you wish to bring to the attention of the Community Council, please contact any of the above members, or the Clerk, tel: 616446
email: stronsaycc@gmail.com

CMc
25 March 2024

USEFUL INFORMATION

Post Office opening hours	Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 5:00pm. Sunday closed all day
Post collection times	Ebenezer post box 7:30am, Monday to Saturday
Bank (RBS)	Thursday 9:30am to 3pm (closed 12-1 lunch), phone 616262
OIC Special collection.	Week Commencing: 13 May 2024 and 05 August 2024
Island Link Officer.	Fishmart office 10 to 12 on Tue, Thu & Sat. Phone 616475
SDT Office	Wood's Yard 10am - 11am Mon-Fri. Phone 616410
Sunday service at the Kirk . . .	Weekly service at 11am
Our Lady's Chapel, pier head	Mass: Sun & holidays 11am, Tue 8am, other days 11.20am
Next mobile library van visit .	https://tinyurl.com/orkmoblib
Weekly rubbish collection	Tuesday (bags out by 8am but not on the night before!)
Recycling skips nearly full? . .	Send email to recycling@orkney.gov.uk
Forward scam emails to	report@phishing.gov.uk
Stronsay's Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/476168409207488

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

Airy Fairy	616231	Silver Darlings	616412
Bank (<i>Thursday only</i>) . .	616262	Sinclair Haulage	600404
Community council	616446	Star Island Soap	616281
Companions Club	616352	Stranded seals, etc	616207/206/498
Craftship Enterprise	0778 511 1126	Stronsay Band	616335
Doctor	616321	Stronsay Pub & Hotel . . .	616407
Ebenezer Stores	616339	Stronsay school	616246
Ebenezer Oil Heating . . .	616207	Stronsay taxi, school	616376 or
	or 07500 682 867	transport, mechanic	07508 884 024
Fish Mart	616401	diagnostics & repairs	
Golgotha monastery. . . .	616210	Balfour hospital (24/7). . .	01856 888000
	or contact@the-sons.org	Water problems (24/7) . .	0800 0778 778
Hairdresser	616337	Electricity	
Hall bookings	616263	general enquiries	0800 048 3516
	or annemaree.carter@btinternet.com	(lines open Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)	
Highland Fuels	01856 873766	problems (24/7) . . .	0800 300 999
Island Link Officer	616475	power cut (24/7). . .	105
Kirk secretary	616238	Police (non urgent) (24/7)	101
Limpet editor	616297	Kirkwall Library	01856 873166
Medical emergency	616321	Dentists:	
Neil's on Wheels	07723 304 260	Daisybank Clinic . .	01856 870547
Manse	616284	Deyanov Dental . . .	01856 877118
Nurses	616321	Com Dental Service	01856 888258
Olivebank	616255	Orkney Dental	01856 872030
OIC out of hours	01856 873535	Vets:	
Post Office	616499	Flett & Carmichael .	01856 872859
Red House Plants	616377	Northvet	01856 873403
Registrar	616239		
Scottish Fuels	01856 873105		
SDT office	616410		

HOW TO CONTACT THE [LIMPET](#)

Send an email to editor@stronsaylimpet.co.uk or write to "Claremont, KW17 2AR".