

STRONSAY LIMPET

FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST ISSUE 80 - FEBRUARY 2012





SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

VARIETY CONCERT STRONSAY COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30pm SATURDAY 3rd MARCH

Sketches, music, singing, etc

Everybody Welcome

Raffles
Tea, coffee and biscuits

ADULTS £3 16 and UNDER 50p

Please come and Support Our School

RADIO ORKNEY VISITS STRONSAY

On the weekend of 11/12 Feb Andrew Learmonth from Radio Orkney visited Stronsay and interviewed several people on the island:

- John Holloway about the island's birdlife
- Gaynor Smith, Diane Smith and Tilly Martin about The Silver Darlings
- John Stevenson about the island in general
- Dave and Ellie Harrison about collecting tangles at Housebay
- Bruce Fletcher about the *Limpet*

Andrew also spoke to Tom Muir from the Orkney Museum in the studio in Kirkwall about the herring industry.

You can hear the interviews in the 6:10pm programme on Radio Orkney on Thursday 8th March.

The next edition of the *Limpet* will be published on <u>Thu 29 March</u>. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by <u>Wed 21 March</u>. Contact details on back page



YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

JOIN THE BOARD OF THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT TRUST!

If you are entitled to be a member of the Development Trust have you thought about standing for election as a director/trustee to help us work towards a sustainable future for Stronsay? All ages, skills, experience and interests are welcomed and all contributions add up – even if you don't have a lot of time to spare.

The election of Directors will be held at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8 May 2012.

All the board directors are volunteers and we have up to 8 vacancies.

Nomination forms are available from Olivebank, Ebenezer Stores, Stronsay Arts and Crafts and the Post Office or you could phone me on 616349. The deadline date for nominations is Sunday 1 April.

Lisa De Geer Company Secretary Fagerheim, Stronsay KW17 2AR















FREE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012

All events take place at the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall

Date(s)	Days	Time	Workshop Title
15/16 March	Thurs/Fri	10am – 4pm	New Business Start Up
19 March	Mon	10am – 4pm	Marketing and Selling
20 March	Tues am	9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Introduction to Social Media
20 March	Tues pm	13.30 pm – 16.30 pm	Introduction to Social Media
26 March	Mon	10am – 4pm	DIY Website Creation
27 March	Tues	10am – 4pm	DIY Website Creation
29 March	Thurs	10am – 4pm	Whistle Stop Employment Law

Please let me know if you are interested in any of these events, as booking in advance is essential.

Kirsten Nicolson, Business Gateway, 14 Queen Street, Kirkwall KW15 1JE

• Tel: 01856 88 66 66

• Email: <u>business.gateway@orkney.gov.uk</u>

• Web: <u>www.bgateway.com</u>

STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE



Due to the financial constraints of the OIC Education & Leisure dept we have reduced the hours of supervised sessions.

Opening times Mon 30th Jan 2012 until further notice

	am	pm
Monday	Buddy	4-6
Tuesday	11-12	Buddy
Wednesday	Buddy	4-6
Thursday	Buddy	7-8
Friday	Buddy	3.30-5.30
Saturday	Closed	Closed
Sunday	Closed	Closed

REMEMBER YOU CAN GYM N' SWIM ON A THURSDAY FOR £4 (£3 for concessions) ADULT SWIM SESSION IS 8.20-9PM

New inductions by appointment only.

TEL No: 616449

LATEST BIRD NEWS

A heron which has been seen in Whitehall Village several times over the last two weeks may be a Great Blue Heron - the common large heron species over much of North America. The bird is similar to our familiar Grey Heron (several of which winter around the island annually) but has areas of rich rufous in the plumage - particularly at the bend of the wing and on the epaulettes (shoulders) where there are two patches of rufous - about the size of a gold pocket-watch. There are several other slight differences between Grey Heron and Great Blue Heron but as the two species are considered to be one single species by some authorities, identification may not be straightforward. (There is a similarly-plumaged bird in Kirkwall at present and another was present between the Matpow and Bu one evening in mid-October 1999).

Several Iceland Gulls are still present around the island and if anyone is keen to see one, the favourite areas seem to be at Dale, near the North Quarry, between Roadside and Gorie's, and near the South School. Fortunately the birds are often to be found feeding alone rather than with other gulls which does make them easier to locate. Oystercatchers are now back in numbers and a few Shelduck have been seen. Over 30 Pintail and six Gadwall have been seen on and off on the Bu Loch, where a smart drake Goldeneye has been present for some time. There are less small finches around the unharvested crops this year and probably as a result there have been less Hen Harrier sightings this winter than in the last few years. A Mealy Redpoll was in Jim Sinclair's garden at Northbank on 26th Jan and a very obliging Woodcock was feeding right outside the kitchen window at Castle on 2nd February (See photo).

Mill Bay holds the usual wintering Great Northern Divers - although far less Redthroated Divers than usual - and an unusual sighting from The Reserve in late January was a Little Auk feeding offshore for a short time. The vast majority of the Long-tailed Ducks present in the bay are adult males this year.

Worth looking out for in the Holin/Airy area is a flock of 200 or so Bar-tailed Godwits. Smaller than Curlew and rather greyer-looking, with long, slightly up-turned bills, the birds may be found feeding in fields of short grass - often among the wintering Curlews. Mixed flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings have been seen regularly in the Daisybank and South School/Eastbank areas - again feeding in the fields of short grass.

John Holloway, 15th February

(See photographs on next page)



Woodcock in the Castle garden - photographed from the kitchen window!



The heron between the piers in Whitehall Village.



The epaulettes can clearly be seen in this photo of the Whitehall heron.

OWNERSHIP OF CLAREMONT 1914-1990

Bruce & Maureen Fletcher

When we moved here in March 2004 we read in the photocopy of our deeds (seven large pages of tightly spaced, small, spidery but legible handwriting with the stamp of the "General Register of Sasines, Counties of Orkney & Zetland, book 181, folio 74-80, 11 March 1914") that the land was sold to Peter Lennie by Colonel William Edward Ligonier Balfour and that the deeds were witnessed by the colonel's butler, James Tait, and chauffeur, Arthur Cuthbert Moore. The deeds gave Peter Lennie 2 years to enclose the land with walls and build his house "which shall be to the value of at least £200"; he was prohibited from using the house for a business involving the sale of "any spirituous liquors, wine, beer or other intoxicating drinks".

Thanks to the rateable valuation records in Kirkwall Library's Archives we discovered details of the ownership of Claremont from 1914 to 1990. After 1990 the format of the records changed and ownership cannot be determined. The name Claremont does not appear until 1931, prior to that the house is referred to as "next to the Police House".

	, <u>1</u>	
1914-15	Shop & house (unfurnished)	Peter Lennie
1915-22	Shop & house	Peter Lennie
1922-25	Shop & house	Peter Lennie (tenants Mrs Manson & Mrs Logie)
1925	Shop & house	Peter Reid
1926-30	House, shop & bakehouse	Peter Reid
1930-33	House & shop (empty)	Peter Reid
1933-39	House	Peter Reid
1939-46	House & bakehouse (empty)	Robina Reid (widow)
1946-57	House & garden	Miss Elizabeth H Swanney
1957-59	House Garage	Miss Elizabeth H Swanney Sydney Swanney, motor engineer
1959-72	House Garage	Albert Swanney Sydney M Swanney
1972	House Garage	Sydney M Swanney & Mrs Lena Muir, Kirkwall Sydney M Swanney
1972-85	House Garage	Sydney M Swanney Sydney M Swanney
1985	House Garage	Mrs Isabella Swanney Mrs Isabella Swanney
1986-90	House Garage	John & Mrs Kathleen Roche John & Mrs Kathleen Roche
1990	House Garage	Brian J & Mrs V Hill Brian J & Mrs V Hill

GETTING ACCIDENTALLY DRUNK

(More Inebriations from The Parked Cottage)

This actually can happen! The murmurs of 'Yeah right' and 'Whatever' are almost audible in the background.... Honestly, it really is possible, though you can count on the number of fingers I have on MY hand how often you can get away with it, and still claim innocence as to subsequent intoxication. Although, actually, if you are reading this then you won't be able to perform such a feat, by dint of me telling you how to do it, ha, ha! Anyway, jeers of 'If you say so', and 'Pull the other one' are increasing in decibels. Goodness, but it is such an uphill struggle, for poor misunderstood waifs like me! Nonetheless, I will plough bravely on, against the rising tide of scepticism coming toward me. I have no idea why this should be so....

All those who are involved in the art of creating home-made wine will understand the process called 'racking'. Nonetheless, I will explain that this is a process where you siphon off the beginnings of the brew, after a month or whatever, to get rid of as much sediment as possible and thus aid the fermentation process and to make the potential alcohol as clear as possible.

Early one morning I decided it was time for me to rack off my very first attempt at wine. At only three weeks old, I saw no risk in doing this there and then, since it would, at this stage be merely syrupy vegetable juice (or so I imagined) and I could get it done and by before getting going on my tasks for the day. This wasn't going to take long, I thought; I can change out of pyjamas and shower and have breakfast afterward.

(Incidentally, what on earth is the point of getting out of your night gear, really, if you are mostly a homeaboot body like me? If you need to nip to the shop or something, just bung on a coat and a pair of shoes and Roberta'a your Auntie.)

Off I pattered in my slippers to arrange the necessary paraphernalia, and begin proceedings. Having never done this before, it took quite a few attempts to 'pull' the liquid far enough up the siphon for it to flow into the fresh demi-john awaiting, thus swallowing a fair amount of the stuff each time and not really registering the growing sensation of warmth I was getting in my belly.

Not until a good quarter of an hour struggling with this piece of pipe I was getting increasingly hacked off with did I stand upright to take a breather and notice that I was beginning to feel quite dizzy, and the beginnings of a real glow of happiness taking over. An hour later and mission accomplished I really wasn't giving a damn, and distinctly three sheets to the wind. By eight a.m I was fully stotious and needing my bed badly, to which I crash landed and did not awaken until twelve midday. (See? I rest my case about the pyjamas; a remarkable piece of foresight there I reckon) A wasted day; 'wasted' being the operative word since the hangover from green alcohol is unbelievable. Especially given also that I'd broken the golden rule with alcohol and not had anything to line my stomach beforehand.

So, there you are; it is entirely feasible to get a skinful, and not realise it. You didn't believe me did you? What, you STILL don't? After all my efforts to explain it all! Some people, they just don't appreciate honest sincerity when they hear it....

BLOW-AWAY GARDENING TIPS

The days are getting longer and I have a feeling that I should be planting or sowing something. It happens every year; I dig through the packets of seeds with sumptuous descriptions on the front that I have optimistically bought and sow tomatoes, leeks, peppers and lettuce in the certain knowledge that I will have a bountiful supply of spring growth. Every year, sadly, I am too early and I have a succession of premature deaths. This is, of course, bad luck and I am determined to learn nothing from my previous failures.

I am looking at what used to be a vegetable patch by the house. It was a Heath Robinson construction with re-used old posts, wire netting to repel all but the most gymnastic rabbits and a wind break. Last winter the gales devastated the fence as well as the broccoli, kale, leeks and spring cabbage; to be accurate everything that had not already been destroyed by the Hungry Caterpillar and his ridiculously productive family. I am now performing a repair job and should have another veg patch to work on this year.

Some jobs never were completed last year, including the spreading of Colin's manure (produced by the chickens, in case there was any confusion). The sacks have sat on the hard-standing staring at me for 12 months chastising me for my laziness. 2012 will be different, a year of completed and not abandoned tasks.

I have gathered a mass of toilet roll tubes and am sure I had a plan for their use when the collection began. Perhaps they will be miniature pots for award winning leeks and parsnips. Similarly I have every empty margarine container that has been used since the Ark found dry land. They will be very handy for.....

So I need to dream for a little longer before tipping the seeds into the waste bin via the garden. Meanwhile I have some seeds for sprouting inside, in the warm, under my nose so nothing can possibly go wrong. Alfalfa, mung beans and fenugreek here I come. I can not wait to pass on my life long learning to members of the Eco Club.

Roger Neville-Smith, 14 Feb 2012

TRANSPORT AND EDUCATION — IS CO-OPERATION THE KEY?

Swift retaliatory action has overturned the recently published inter-isles summer air timetable, which would have created serious difficulties for Stronsay School, possibly forcing a shift in the school day. Clearly nobody at OIC had considered what impact the proposed flight times would have had on the education of Stronsay's children, nor the inconvenience that could have been caused to Stronsay's working parents. (And what about the postal service? And would transportation of blood samples to the Balfour have been affected?)

Meanwhile, the flight times that had been proposed for Westray fitted the standard school day perfectly. Surely before publishing that timetable, thought could have been given to a fairer allocation of flights to accommodate the needs of <u>all</u> the islands.

As you are no doubt aware, all three of the current North Isles councillors sit on OIC's Transport and Infrastructure Committee (indeed one of them is its Vice Chairman!), and two of them are on the Education and Leisure Committee. Where were they when the summer air timetable was being drawn up?

If, when the time comes, I am elected to OIC, I want to see the end of one island getting first class treatment while the others have to make do with third class. I do not want to see divide and rule tactics applied between different communities, and decisions influenced by rivalries and jealousies. If there is one thing I do stand for it is FAIRNESS.

Recently, because Sanday School does not have a German teacher, my son has come over to Stronsay School to get help with preparing for his German Standard Grade. If elected, this is something else I want to push for — more CO-OPERATION between our island communities where there are common interests. We are all familiar with the proverb "United we stand, divided we fall". The North Isles ward has to compete with 5 other wards for increasingly scarce resources, and our 3 elected councillors have to be able convince 18 other councillors that the North Isles are deserving of a fair share of these resources and are not just some scattered, isolated populations on the periphery of Orkney that can be forgotten about.

Likewise, OIC as a whole has to make sure the Scottish and UK governments do not see Orkney as somewhere on the periphery of Great Britain that can be overlooked, pushed around and unfairly treated. This is another thing I would strive to do if elected to OIC — STICK UP FOR ORKNEY in the wider world.

STEPHEN CLACKSON (Prospective OIC candidate)

West Manse, Sanday

clackson4northisles@gmail.com

Promoted by Dr. Stephen Clackson, West Manse, Sanday, Orkney KW17 2BN on behalf of himself.

THE LOCH'S SPECIAL!

By Ellie from Newfield

A million different life forms, most of them too small to see. In a microscopic wonderland. But, they're all somebody's tea. Just a 'nautical nibble' I'd say, in their world of 'dog eat dog' The life-style of little-water loch where resides the common frog, It's the loch of 'living luncheons' with someone for every taste As they all eat each other and no one goes to waste. A mini-munch every minute in the loch 'a-la-carte' For the pond life prey on each other, meal tickets bred for the part. Fast food on the flick of the tongue make no bones about that. A passing protein parcel is that just-landed fresh catch. In the depths of the micro-mixed menus at this 24 hour take-away The water is keeping her secrets. Life is cheap, come what may. The frog who's a splendid, belching baritone just cannot eat any more. For the well-fed and the satisfied are the tongues with the quickest draw. Fast food for every palette with the tadpoles as dish of the day. A cannibalistic light brunch could well be passing your way. Is it survival of the fittest, the quickest or just fate When siblings eat each other and mate will feast on mate? Yet amongst it all is such beauty as marsh-marigolds steal the scene.

(concluded on next page)

And of course little Ragged Robin is the loch's enchanting beauty queen.
Whilst our burping baritone frog who's bursting to over-full Becomes a fleshy French fancy to a passing, greedy gull

©Helene Harrison

THE PIGS VERSUS THE PIG-HEADED

John M Mitchell

I was working as a machine operator on the night shift producing valves for the automobile industry. The factory consisted of three workshops and a foundry, and was situated on the edge of the green belt.

In the summer windows were opened to welcome in the cool night air. However, the resulting noise, over and above our rendering of "Help me make it through the night" and "Daylight come and I want to go home" upset the pigs on the adjacent farm. So, at the farmer's request the windows were closed. After a few nights the y were cautiously opened again. Apparently the pigs had got over it and no more was heard.

During the following winter the American parent company bought out the controlling shares and took over. Next summer the same scenario was re-enacted but this time the farmer was told what he and his pigs could do with themselves! So the farmer went to court and obtained an injuction which led to the closure of the foundry.

All the castings had to be produced at another of the firm's works in the Midlands and then trunked—at some cost—down to Kent. Result: Pigs 1 - Factory 0. A few years later valve production in the UK ceased and the site is now a housing estate, so presumably the pigs sleep in peace!

GREETINGS, PRIVATE SALES & WANTS

FOR SALE SEMI-DETACHED 1 BEDROOM BUNGALOW

Freshly decorated and new carpets throughout Sale to include:

Fridge, Freezer, Cooker and washing machine New Multi Fuel Burner in Lounge

Larger than average back garden comprising workshop (container) with power points and lighting, 2 new good quality garden sheds, coal bunker and greenhouse

Price: £55,000 (available from end February)

Ring: 01857 616388 or 616439

Business adverts

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

Private adverts (for sale, wanted, birthday greetings etc)

Up to 25 words - £1.00. 25 word advert with photo - £1.50. 25 to 50 words - £1.50 and so on. Adverts for the next (March) edition of the *Limpet* must be placed by Wednesday 21 March Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

LOCAL BUSINESSES



"NEIL'S ON WHEELS"

All mechanical work undertaken, welding specialist,

MOT prep work, home start, towing service, no call out fee.

MOBILE: 07723 304 260 HOME: 01857 616454

ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP



Real soap made by hand with care in Stronsay. In our Orkney range we have Orkney Bere barley bran - seaweed with sea salt - clay with the Stronsay Beast stamped into each bar. Favours for weddings or special occasions are done on commission only. Please ring for details.

Available from our online shop and locally at Olive Bank and Stronsay Arts & Crafts.

Tel: 616281.

Email: <u>info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk</u>. Web: <u>www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk</u>.

STRONSAY ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

Winter opening days are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 12.00 Cards, Candles, Books, Crafts, Stronsay handmade soap and much more.

Tel: Julia 616434

Business adverts

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

Private adverts (for sale, wanted, birthday greetings etc)

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LOCAL BUSINESSES

INSTANT PHOTOS

Passport, visa, travel pass, driving licence, gun licence, etc.

Personalised birthday, Christmas & get well cards with your own special message or photograph.

Business/Invitation cards.
You name it! Tell me what you want & I'll supply it.

Call Bill Miller on 616420

STRONSAY ARTWORKS

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

Phone Jenny on 616475



COMPUTER SERVICES

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

Contact Neil @ Schoolbrae, 616317

Business adverts

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

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GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

STRONSAY GAMES CLUB PANCAKE NIGHT!

24TH FEBRUARY 2012 8PM - 10PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
Under 10s must be accompanied by an adult

STRONSAY STITCHERS FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY CHURCH HALL FROM 7PM-9.30PM



The Stronsay Stitchers are back again for more creative camaraderie. Our first gathering of this year will be on Friday 24th February in the Church Hall from 7pm-9.30pm.

You can bring cross stitch projects, quilting, spinning, crochet, sewing, embroidery, mending, rug hooking, knitting, weaving or UFOs (un-finished objects) to name but a few. It's a great opportunity to get to grips with that old project that's been lurking in a corner for ages or start up a new one. You'll find us supportive, enthusiastic and tolerant (when it goes wrong!); bringing together a collective wealth of experience and knowledge.

We are an informal group that meets on the last Friday of every month. You can come for as long or as little, or even as often as you like. A donation of £2.00 per session towards heating & lighting is all we ask and there will be tea, coffee, biscuits (or the occasional home bakes if we're very lucky!).

So, if you feel like it, pack your stuff, bring your equipment and come along on Friday 24th February, Church Hall, from 7-9.30pm.

We'll look forward to seeing you then!

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

Items for the next (March) edition of the *Limpet* must be placed by Wednesday 21 March Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit:

MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2012

Council Houses: 9.00am-11.00am Stronsay School: 11.30am-2.00pm Stronsay Kirk: 2.30pm-4.30pm Stronsay School: 6.30pm-8.00pm

Mobile library schedule http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2_timetable.htm
Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk

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

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

Check new library opening times

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

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB

Ages 10 or over only
Friday night 8pm until 10pm
Entrance £1
Come along for a fun filled night
Air hockey table
Pool table
Play station 2
Nintendo WII & Sing Star
Snooker
Juice, crisps and sweets available

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Special event coming up? Why not hire the disco equipment with rotating glitter globe and pulsating coloured lights for only £5 plus room and hydro charge? A DJ from the Hall list <u>must</u> be used.

Also available for hire: badminton, table tennis and snooker all at £2 per hour plus hydro. All equipment provided.

Adult supervision (over 18) <u>must</u> be present during hire.

For details and booking contact Colin on 616446.

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

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USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30—12

Tuesday Closed

Thursday 8:30—12 and 1—3

9—12 Saturday

Post collection times 07:30, Monday to Saturday

Replacement bin bags. Telephone OIC (Technical Services) on 01856 873535

Sunday service at the Kirk 11 am

Our Lady's chapel, pier head Daily Masses at 7:30 am and every Sunday at 9 am

Next Special Collection

Doctor 616321	Castle Bird Reserve 616363
Nurses 616480	Balfour hospital 01856 888000
Medical emergency 01856 888000	Hydro
Registrar 616239	All water enquiries 0845 601 8855
Hall bookings 616446	Kirkwall Library 01856 873166
Post Office 616278	Kirkwall Police 01856 872241
Companions 616261	Vets:
Kirk 616311	Flett & Carmichael 01856 872859
Stronsay Hotel 616213	Northvet
Fish Mart Hostel 616339	Dentists:
Olivebank 616255	Great Western Rd 01856 879683
Ebenezer stores 616339	King Street
	Earls Palace 01856 872958

Golgotha Monastery: phone 616210, email <u>contact@the-sons.org</u>

HOW TO CONTACT THE **LIMPET**

Send an email to ricardian@btinternet.com, phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 or write to The Limpet, Claremont, Stronsay, KW17 2AR

The cut-off date for the next (March) edition is Wednesday 21 March

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LIMPET

You can send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present? 12 editions for £15.00 including P&P

Please make cheques—UK banks only—payable to "Stronsay Development Trust" (UK only. Non-UK subscriptions, please ask for a quote) Contact Bruce, details above

The Stronsay Development Trust, a Scottish Charity SC038888

http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/SDT

Supported in its activities by HIE Orkney, Orkney Islands Council, and

Orkney Community Planning Partnership