



STRONSAY LIMPET



No. 88

*Funded by the Stronsay Development Trust
Published on the last Thursday of the month*

Oct. 2012

New Slipway

Stronsay Development Trust

SLIPWAY



Proposed new slipway

All interested parties are invited to a meeting to discuss the proposed development of a new concrete slipway for public use at the harbour, potentially funded from community turbine income subject to community approval.

The meeting will be held at the Stronsay Hotel on
Wednesday 7th November.

The idea being that the Trust pays for the materials and admin/planning costs and employ (where possible) voluntary labour from those who would make use of this facility in order to reduce costs.

Contact: Tony Withers CDO on 616300 or
cdostronsay@btconnect.com



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

In This Issue

New Slipway	1	Stronsay Community Council	13
The Days of the Travelling Shops	2-4	Recent Bird Sightings	14-17
Rural Shops	5&6	Post Office Opening Times	17
Volunteers Wanted!	6	Now & Then	18-19
Eco Club	7	Music in Hospitals	20
Youth Garden Project	8&9	Poem (“Technicolour Tango”)	21
Blow Away Gardening Tips	9	Local Businesses	21&23
The Good Side of Gossip	10	Groups, Clubs & Organisations	23-26
Recipe Book Competition Winners	11	Useful Information	27
Letter from School Place	12&13		

Click on any of the above titles to go straight to that item. Click on “Stronsay Limpet” at the foot of any page to return to this page.

The Days of the Travelling Shops

by Nana Peace

Looking back to the years 1926 – 1930, we in Stronsay had a travelling shop every day from Monday to Saturday. I cannot remember what days each had, but the names were: Peter Twatt, Robert Watt, Norman Burr, James Swanney, Oliver Corse, W.P. Drever, and at one time, James Chalmers also had a van, so on the odd day we could have two vans at the door.

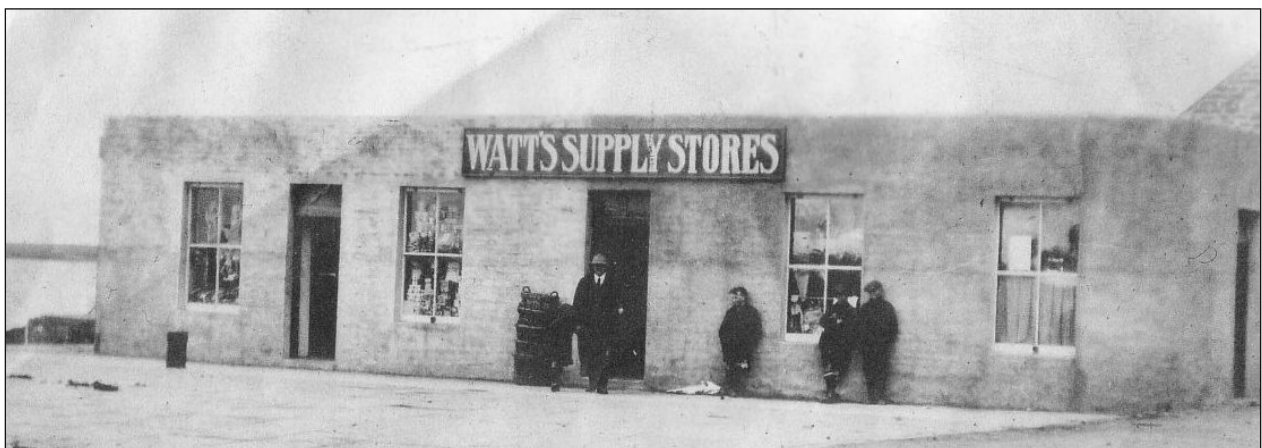
Peter Twatt had the shop which is now called Ebenezer Stores.

Robert Watt had Watt’s Supply Stores at the head of the ferry pier, now demolished.

W.P. Drever had a general merchant’s shop at what is now called Cardinham House.

James Swanney had a baker/grocer’s shop at what is now called Hillside.

(continued on next page)





W.P.Drever, General Merchant, Whitehall Village, Stronsay. (Now Cardinham House) W.P.Drever standing in doorway with Mrs Drever standing to the left as you look at picture.



Andrew Swanney, merchant, Stronsay, with shop assistant Sally Ritchie, at rear of Swanney's shop, now called Hillside.

Oliver Corse had a shop at Hazelbank.
All had groceries and some drapery etc.

Norman Burr had a butcher shop at Bayview, and I think he had the first motor van, but before that it was horse-drawn vans, drawn by big Clydesdale horses, which were lovingly spoiled by the customers as they went from house to house. They also knew exactly where to stop at each house.

Oliver Corse had a pony and spring-cart, and he sat in the middle of the boxes with the bread and groceries. I loved the iced biscuits he sold at a penny each (big ones).

Most of the vans had a special day for each district, and I have heard my father say that



W.P. Drever's horse drawn shop van driven by Doddie Taylor, standing between Hillside and W.P.Drever's shop.

James Swanney came to Odiness at eleven o'clock regularly every time, so you got lovely new bread that day. They also made really good soda scones, and the recipe is still a well-kept secret. Their rolls, biscuits and oatcakes were also really good, as were their Paris buns.

W.P.Drever's shop was amazing as he sold everything from the proverbial needle to an anchor, as the saying goes. The smoked ham he sold made a lovely pot of tattie soup!

(continued on next page)



The Days of the Travelling Shops (continued)



Yoking the horse into W.P. Drever's van.

Robbie Watt and Norman Burr were both butchers, and so we had plenty of good beef, mutton and pork etc. Sadly, in November, 1937, Norman accidentally drove his van over the steamers pier and he was drowned.

Peter Twatt had a tailor's shop where you could get clothes made out of good tweed material. Remember this was at the height of the herring fishing boom in Stronsay, so there were plenty of customers to be fitted out.

The shops up the island were Ellerslie, Boondatoon, and Holin. They all sold groceries. Holin was a really good shop selling groceries, material, fancy goods etc. I remember the display cabinet with perfume and face-powder, a delight for the young ladies. Holin shop also owned Holin Cottage, and the owner, Annie Peace, took home hats in the latest fashion, so it was always a race to get there, with all the ladies getting their new hats.

In Rousam, you had John o' the Grind's shop, which was also a good shop selling almost everything, so we were spoiled for choice.

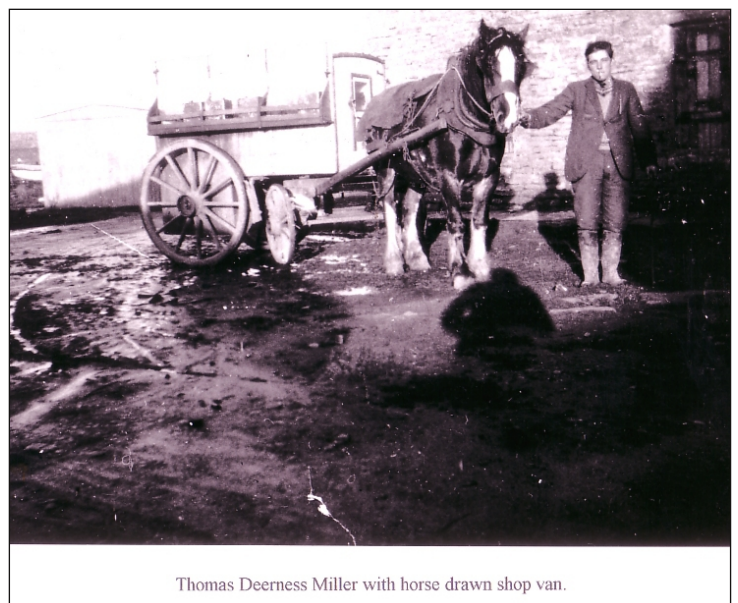
Another village shop was Maggie Harcus's shop at Shamrocklea. She sold an amazing selection of goods, as did Lizzie and Ella Cummings at Orcadia, near the Lower Station.

In the fishing days, all the village shops were very busy, and for us ones up the island, it was a great outing to come to the village on a Saturday night. Three ice-cream shops and a chip-shop were kept very busy, the chip-shop being situated at the end of the garden of what is now the Stronsay Hotel. It is now Mike Erdman's shed.

Later, in 1935, I worked in the village cooking for T.D. Miller when he had the shop at the head of the pier, and I really enjoyed that. I have really good memories of the fishing times in Stronsay.

All the shops changed hands a few times, and now we have Maurice and Sheila at Olivebank, and Mike and Viv at Ebenezer Stores. So keep up the good work please and keep us supplied with all our good food as usual. ■

Photographic research by Bill Miller



Thomas Deerness Miller with horse drawn shop van.

My father was a grocer and learned his trade in Sainsbury's in the 1930's followed by WW2 service with the NAAFI in North Africa, Italy and Greece post-war. From 1956 until his death in 1983 he owned and ran a village shop. From the age of 9 I helped out serving and going round the villages with his delivery van selling food, paraffin and books for borrowing; plus counting in the annual stock-taking unpaid. Father felt it his duty to go out in the worst weather to meet the needs of his customers – really it was a social service. More than once he needed a tractor to drag the van out of the snow. With seven sons and others to feed there were savings on the food bill but the hours were very long (6 days a week) and none of the sons were willing to take over. Like the butcher and the pub across the road it closed as competition and demand changed - a self-service store opened in the nearby town and the Wednesday bus became an attractive day out. Retaining honest staff is always a challenge – a pilfered packet of Woodbines (cigarettes!) with an 8% profit margin meant that 13 packs had to be sold to recover the loss.

I recall my father's outburst when the environmental health insisted that he installed a wash basin so that the banana knife could be cleaned – and not in the one where paraffin hands were washed! Consumer protection/regulation has become more costly. Tobacco is hidden, alcohol is subject to restrictions when sold and is subject to hefty local licensing even with OIC rebates. OIC can give some grant aid for rural shops. The 1996 Food Labelling Regulations include penalties up to scale 5 (£10k fine) for selling “use by” food beyond the stated date and cases of default can be found locally and with the major chains – both can suffer reputational damage which is worse than the legal cost and

fine. Order too much perishable or “use by” dated food and the unsold wipes out all profit on that sold. Order too little and customers can go elsewhere. Having the right stock level and rotation is a challenge. It is too easy to say the profit margin should reflect the added risk as price does affect demand. Who would be a shopkeeper?

I recently analysed a rural shop's accounts in rural Orkney. Over a period of years the Sales approached £2 million. That sounds attractive. But how much did the business cost?

How much was borrowed and how much long-term security and sustainability is there when a big supermarket or home deliveries service arrives?

Gross profit (that is the difference between the cost of sales and the cost of purchases excluding any expenses of sale) was 17.2% overall.

As a Percentage of Total Expenses

Wages were 44.5%

Bank Interest (on an overdraft to buy the land/building/stock) 18.9%

Miscellaneous 9.2%

Heat & Light 5.2%

Rates & Insurance 4.4%

Machinery 9.1%

Repairs & Renewals 3.6%

Phone 1.6%

Post, Travel and Stationery 1.0%

Bad Debts 0.7%

After payment of these expenses the net profit (the amount on which a trader will possibly be taxed) was only 2.1%. In plain terms only £1 gain/free money for every £47 spent by a customer! This is an insane low level of return on capital and labour. This convenience shop was under funded from day

(continued on next page) ➔

Rural Shops (continued)

one and was sustained only by a wholesaler giving support. Only if the wages were paid to part of the owners' family could these figures be justified. With insurance and electricity rising far higher than inflation the small rate relief given to businesses by the SNP Government is a small lifeline.

There is a good case to be made for isolated community shops to have greater assistance to remain viable. When they close there is often regret but you have to use them or lose them. The shop in the middle of Shapinsay closed. There are 2 of the 3 shops on Sanday still for sale (the one in Lady – even with a petrol pump – for about 5 years!). Only the best rural shops gain a bonus “goodwill” benefit on their sale. Is there any evidence that community or co-operatively owned local shops perform better (meeting custom demand in the best way at the right price)

than privately owned or managed shops? What is Eday's experience? Is the effort and profit split between the producers, the wholesalers/distributors, and the retailers fair?

My father just enjoyed meeting “his” customers and earned great respect for his dedication. Good business to him was more than economics; it was about meeting human need with a kindly service. It needs more than kindness now however to survive and grow a business.

It would be good to read about the advantages and pressures that face other local enterprises.

Leo Martini-Brown
Waterhall
lmartinibrown@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in working with kids and the outdoors? Are you a keen gardener? Or perhaps you just simply want to try something new! Maybe then you would like to help out with Eco club or the Junior Garden Club.

I look forward hearing from anyone who is interested or simply wants to find out more.

Contact me on 616354 or by email macleod.marion@gmail.com.

Any volunteers will need to have a CRBS (Central Registered Body in Scotland) disclosure check.

Marion Miller, *SDT Youth Greenhouse Worker*



The *Limpet* is freely available on the web where you can download it and print it for yourself. If you really want a printed copy then you can continue to do so but please think hard. Do you really need a printed copy or could you manage with the online version, perhaps printing just one or two pages for reference?

If you currently receive a printed copy of the *Limpet* and decide that you can manage with the online version please tell the place from which you collect your printed copy.

www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk



Eco club started again in September for its autumn term. The children have enjoyed a variety of activities so far. The first thing they did was to dig up the five varieties of Heritage potatoes that were planted back in May. They were gifted from the school through the Crofting Connections Project. Varieties included: Edzell Blue, Isle of Jura, British Queen, Fortyfold and Shetland Blacks. It was very interesting to see how the different varieties performed both in yield and taste. Shetland Blacks were everyone's favourite when it came to taste.

Photos show "tattie" digging and the five varieties of "heritage" potato varieties.



Youth Garden Project

by Marion Miller

This new project was set up for youths of secondary age who are interested in cooking and gardening. The sessions have so far included “wild cooking” in the greenhouse. Main ingredients were all grown by Eco club. A menu was composed and prepared and cooked by the children on camping stoves. The combination of fresh air, home grown veg and “outdoor” cooking seemed to “tickle” the taste buds of all involved and the plates were soon cleaned up. A plate was also prepared for parents to sample the cooking.

Photos show, picking, preparing and plating up.





For any queries or if your child would like to join either clubs phone Marion on 616354.

Blow Away Gardening Tips

by Roger Neville-Smith

It is great fun looking at the copious records I have made about all the crops that I have started this season. Some plants have grown surprisingly well e.g. cauliflowers and others like my can't-go-wrong Rooster potatoes have been small and sparse. I have learnt that without protection most crops suffer in a poor summer.

As the weeds gradually faded with the cold windy weather I have been looking forward to finding my favourite hoe. What I had forgotten was that I had lost a pair of shears as well and that they had opened their jaws during their abandonment, waiting for that special moment: this, I was about create. Thankfully I had my wellies on when I trod on the hoe which twitched heroically, unbalancing me enough to catch my foot in the shears-trap. The effect was

to fell me like a an ungainly she-elephant and puzzle the dog.

The dog proof fence has still failed in its prime duty and the escapee has enjoyed numerous trips up the lane and nearly got enrolled in school. Inspired by some recent TV pictures of the Longleat lion enclosure, I have extended the barrier, and am now confident that there is simply no chance of a further break out.

Ever an optimist, I have picked off the last caterpillar from my broccoli yesterday and have sown winter lettuce and sweet peas which will have blazing blooms in May next year. Winter provides months of planning for next year and I will have a new garden to tame so lots of opportunity for more stories. ■

The Good Side of Gossip

by Jenny Stone

It is said that it's the little things that you notice most, when the big changes come around once again, and for certain that's true, if you've time to think about it. Thankfully, (sometimes not thankful at all) there is just too much going on at any given moment, to give much thought to what has been, in order to keep up with all that has need of attention at the present moment. I don't know about you, but that keeping up business is a job in itself, and I never do. Always running behind, with fingers crossed, is the name of my game most days.

Nonetheless, I can't help but notice these wee differences. Near six months have passed, and no sign of lime scale in kettle or pot yet; my catering size container of vinegar is now virtually redundant. It still seems unnatural not to have the rubbish out ready for Monday morning, and I frequently forget to get it to the roadside for Tuesday afternoon when I should. Even now, I still haven't quite grasped the idea I can go to the bank any other day than Thursday. I cannot quite get over going to Aberdeen and returning home the VERY SAME DAY.

Saying that, it actually is the more important changes you notice the most, and, of course, nothing is more important than folk. It's not just moving away from all the people you are familiar with, it's moving in amongst a small throng of a population you know very little about. And there are a lot more people not to know... Sitting outside the supermarket today, waiting for a friend to finish her shopping, I was aware as people streamed by, that, apart from one or two, I knew no-one at all. Impossible in any small community, especially one you are wint wae.

A wonderful acreage of anonymity awaits you. 'This is brilliant!' says I to me, as I got

over the initial shock. 'Nobody gives a bugger what I do!'

The down side is, no-one gives a bugger what you do. As Oscar Wilde once said, 'There's only one thing worse than being spoken of behind your back. And that's NOT being spoken of behind your back'. So true, if but Arctic comfort when it is your turn to be thrashed by the dirty end of the jungle drumstick.

Actually, though, you mustn't grudge it when your turn comes around, as it inevitably must. Think of the gossip as like a community bank, where all must contribute their share in order for it to thrive and survive. Let's face it, what else is there, sometimes, through those drab dark months; especially after the festive season has sacrificed it's last sad strip of tinsel? After all, there's only another three months of winter to go. And the rest...

Of course, you must never be concerned about your contribution to the bush telegraph news stockpile. That's the best part; it's all done for you, hot off the press, whether you want it or not. (Usually not. Good news is boring, it's the bad stuff we're after). Free, gratis and for nothing, as the saying goes.

Of course, I have maintained sanctimonious standards always, free of the taint of hypocrisy. I have never had time for gossip, and utterly abhor such practices. By the way, did you hear what Mrs. So and So was getting up to with...YES, SHE WAS. With Mr. Wots His Name??? Never!!! I know, it's just shocking. OF COURSE I won't tell anybody else....

Missing it all (mostly).

From someone who has scarpered to Scapa. ■

Front Cover Recipe Book Competition

SOS - Support Our School

The SOS Committee would like to thank all the children who designed a front cover for the new Stronsay Recipe book. The competition was won by James McCleod, he received his prize of £20 at the school on Friday 12th October 2012. Natalie Rose, Jasmine Campbell-Scott Howells and Charlie Williams also received prizes for their contributions, they will be used to advertise the recipe book. Thank you also to Ruth Bowen who kindly and enthusiastically judged the entries.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed their tried and tested recipes for us to use in the book. We hope to have it ready for the Christmas market. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

SOS Committee

Viv Erdman, Kate Worrall, Arna Cooper, Wilma Holland and Gaynor Smith



The *Limpet* now has its own *Facebook* page:
www.facebook.com/StronsayLimpet.
Please use this page to give feedback on the *Limpet*
(brickbats as well as bouquets!).

Letter from School Place

by Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson

I must apologise for not getting my 'letter' into the *Limpet* on time last month. So this month you will be getting your own special composite edition.

I have now made a start getting out and about and have attended a Community Council meeting in Eday and Parent Council meetings in Stronsay and Sanday. The timetable at KGS is proving to be an issue of concern to all isles' schools. It is strongly felt that rather than KGS closing early on a Friday afternoon (leaving isles' pupils at a loose end until ferry time), a late start on a Monday would be more beneficial, so that isles' pupils would not need to go in on Sunday night. It has been suggested that each of the North Isles Parent Councils invite the head of KGS to attend one of their meetings, so that she can be confronted with parents' concerns face to face. A good idea, I think.

I have been making an attempt to tackle the unfairnesses of the ferry refit timetable by trying to draft one myself, and I am now beginning to appreciate the difficulties. I would be indebted to anyone with ideas on how it could be achieved. Regard it as akin to doing a difficult crossword puzzle, solving an expert-grade sudoku or proving Fermat's last theorem!

At School Place, councillors have been examining and condensing the long list of priorities we were each invited to make submissions to not long after we were elected. Regrettably, the majority of my

colleagues voted to reject my suggestion that OIC look into establishing a local 'Orkney Bank' to invest in the county, support local businesses, make us less reliant on the increasingly dubious national and multi-national banks, and, indeed, provide an additional source of income for the council. My proposal to introduce the teaching of Mandarin into Orkney's schools was also rejected. Future generations of Orcadians may well live to rue these two decisions, I fear.

Continuing on the theme of Orkney's future, I am pleased to say I have been placed on the Constitutional working group, tasked with considering Orkney's options in the event of Scottish independence. We stand at a point in history where we have a rare chance of self-determination. Do we stick with Scotland, remain part of the UK, return to Norway, become like the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Faroes, or even go for independence ourselves? We have all these cards in our hands and must play them wisely.

The ballast water issue has still not been resolved, although I do think Talisman should be consulted before the option of ceasing exchange is rejected entirely.

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, councillors voted to leave it to the officials to sort out the expenses issue, and this was ratified at the Full Council meeting.

(continued on next page)



Letter from School Place (continued)

In my two roles as member of the Orkney College Management Council and OIC representative on the University of the Highlands and Islands Foundation, I attended the recent graduation ceremony at St. Magnus cathedral (a most splendid venue for such an event). It is heartening to see the support given by local businesses in the form of student prizes, and there is a real patriotic pride in our students from our college graduating in our cathedral.

Well, the current cycle of meetings has now ended, and I have had an autumn break just like the schoolbairns, interrupted only by an additional Air Services Consultative Committee meeting, attended by the transport representatives from the North Isles. ■

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson

West Manse, Sanday KW17 2BN

07718100244 stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk



Cllr Clackson (right) with James Fraser,
Vice-Chancellor of the UHI (left)

An announcement from the Community Council

Stronsay Community Council

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

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

An invitation to raise concerns or issues over the air and ferry transport provision on Stronsay is extended to everyone, including clubs, societies and organisations based on Stronsay.

These will assist Adrian Miller, the Community Council Transport Representative, at Orkney Islands Council Transport Meetings. Adrian can be contacted by letter, telephone or in person.

Colin McAlpine,
Clerk to Stronsay Community Council

Recent Bird Sightings

by John & Sue Holloway

Yet another totally unexpected sighting of a major rarity on the island was discovered by Kath and Norman Kent near the Rothiesholm School at 5pm on 30th September - a Parrot Crossbill. The bird was amazingly tame, and because it allowed such close approach when we arrived at the site a short time later, we initially thought of taking it into care but when I bent down, hoping to pick it up - expecting to find it had a damaged wing or

some other injury - it flew a foot or so along the roadside and carried on foraging for seeds. On my second close approach it flew up onto the roadside fence-wire. It was clearly fit and healthy! Having taken several of the similar 'Common Crossbill' into care over the years - when we discovered that the only seed the birds could manage to pick up with their strange-shaped bills was dried porage oats - and knowing

(continued on next page)



Parrot Crossbill by the roadside - note the massive bill!



2 Crossbills and the Parrot Crossbill (centre) for comparison.



Recent Bird Sightings (continued)

that young Lewis and Keith at the adjacent Rothiesholm School would be interested to see the bird, we went to alert them and ask if they could spare some of their next day's breakfast! Luckily they had some dried oats and Lewis helped to scatter some along the edge of the road where the crossbill was feeding. Within a few seconds the bird was tucking in, oblivious of our presence just 2-3 ft away!

The bird was still there the following morning so we sprinkled more porage oat-seed in the roadside verge - to get the bird off the road - and went off to round up everyone we could think of who might be interested to see it. Fortunately the bird was around until lunch-time by which time well over 30 people had enjoyed amazing close views - without leaving their cars! - but it was not seen again that day or the following morning. It looked as if the bird had left the island but sadly we found it dead that evening, close to the road where it had first been seen. (See photos on previous page)

SE winds in late September brought a few small migrants to the island, including a Yellow-browed Warbler - all the way from Russia - in the Airy garden on 22nd, and one of the same species

at Holin Cottage the following day. It is often difficult to be certain whether individual birds seen one day are different to individuals seen nearby the previous day, so after the Holin Cottage sighting we went straight off to Airy to see if the Yellow-browed Warbler seen the previous day was still there - and it was! A third individual was seen at Slap on 28th and more recently one was found at Linksquoy on 16th October.

Good numbers of migrants have been arriving in the mainly easterly winds over the last week or so, including many hundreds of Redwings, the majority of which have been feeding in the fields around the Rothiesholm School. But many migrants have typically been found - and photographed - near habitation: 2 Siskins feeding on weed-seeds below the post box at Olivebank; a big flock of Brambling on the roadside fence by Ossen; a Merlin on a fence-post in the Airy Road; 3 different species of migrant in the Linksquoy drive, and a male Ring Ouzel in the garden at Millbank - seen by Rona and John from inside the house! (See photos)

(continued on next page)



Siskin feeding below the post box at Olivebank.



Recent Bird Sightings (continued)



The Brambling flock near Ossen in mid-October (photo by George Winslow).

Whooper Swans began to arrive in late September when a few parties of Pink-footed Geese were seen flying south, and with the meadows being generally cropped short by the cattle very early this Autumn, large flocks of Golden Plover and Curlew could be found in big numbers feeding in this ideal habitat. A huge party of over 1,500 of the former was present in the fields around Linkhouse for several days around that time. Robins are appearing now and most will probably over-winter here, and Mill Bay now holds a party of Long-tailed Ducks and a few divers - Red-throated and Great Northern - all of which will also probably spend the Winter here.

In the last few days the usual wintering party of 100 or so Bar-tailed Godwit has been seen in the Airy/Holin area, a party of 120 Cormorants was seen flying past Bomasty Bay and Hen Harriers - both 'ring-tails' (females or young birds) and two different males - have been seen regularly, particularly in the Dale/Millfield area.

There was a big influx of Redwings on 13th October when several hundred arrived - mostly in the Rothiesholm School area - accompanied by just a handful of Fieldfares. A party of over 60 Brambling has taken up residence in the Bomasty Bay area - and may still be present - and Goldcrests could be found in most gardens with bushes. A few Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs

have also arrived and a second Ring Ouzel was seen - a dull juvenile bird near The Bu. Many hundreds of Blackbirds also arrived in mid-October, the young males characterised by their 'all black' (including bill) appearance.

Most of the migrants which arrive at this time of year have flown across the sea from Scandinavia - a 200 mile journey at least - and many arrive exhausted in adverse weather. The ideal weather conditions for birds to leave Scandinavia (usually in the evening for most species) is a clear sky, and the best for ornithologists waiting eagerly for their arrival here in the north of the UK is for these birds to run into a belt of rain and the associated SE winds moving northwards across the country.

(continued on next page)



Merlin by the roadside near Airy Cottage.

Recent Bird Sightings (continued)

Migrants running into this rain belt have no option but to come down to feed and rest and it is impossible to speculate how many perish at sea in such conditions. The toll must be considerable - imagine a tiny Goldcrest (thousands of which make the journey from Scandinavia to the UK each year) just missing landfall on Fair Isle and being driven out to the west in a gale-force south-easterly! One very lucky exhausted Goldcrest was found by Colin in the road near his house at The Hill recently, where after taking it into care for a short time the bird 'perked up' in his warm hand and

flew off.

Most of our autumn migrants are woodland species and one can only speculate as to how they feel when arriving here in Orkney in a virtually tree-less landscape. The poor Great-spotted Woodpeckers when they are here can be seen desperately flying from fence-post to fence-post in the hope of finding food. With more easterly winds forecast over the next few days we can certainly expect at least a few more interesting sightings before the autumn migration is over. ■



3 migrants at Linksquoy (l-r): Spotted Flycatcher, Song Thrush, and Dunnock.



Ring Ouzel (and Blackbird) in the garden at Millbank (photo by John Walsh).

Post Office Opening Times

Stronsay Post Office

Christmas is approaching, and the Post Office will be open longer from 12th November.

Monday - Saturday 8.30-12 and 1-3

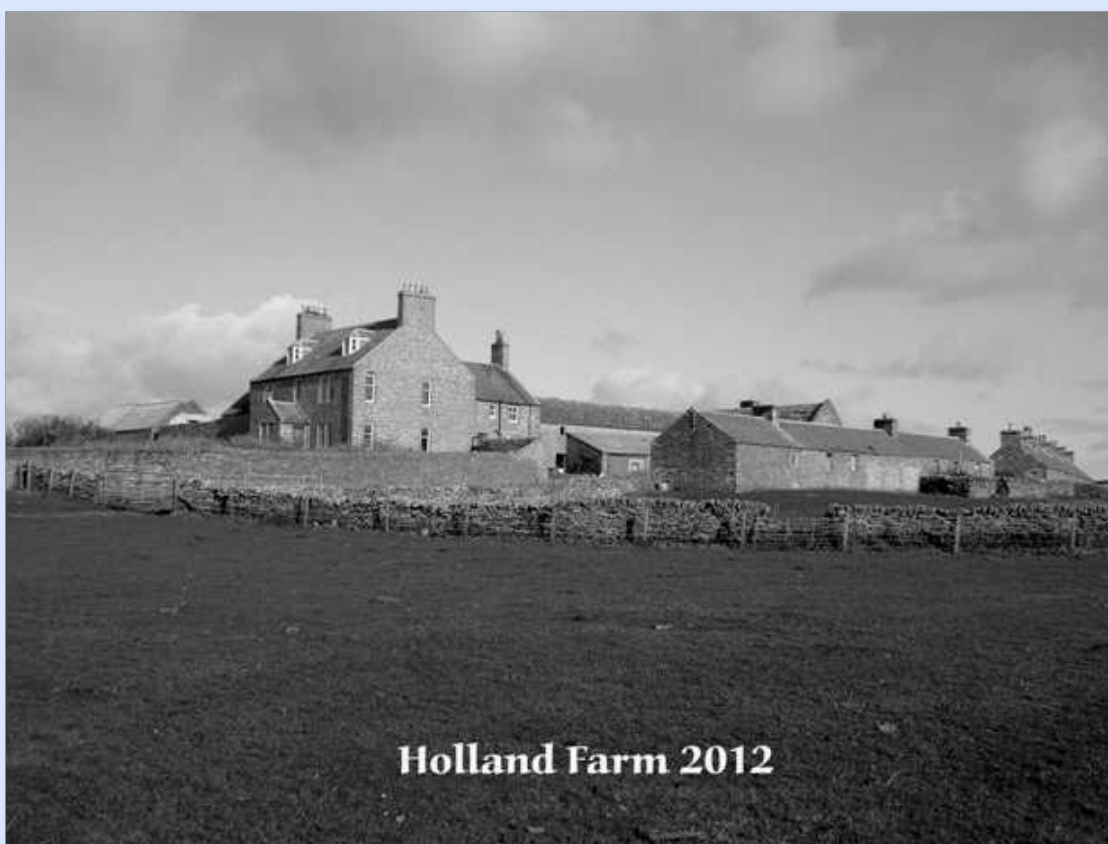
Apart from doing your Christmas post, you can also find a selection of Christmas cards, decorations and gifts.



Holland Farm 1930 & 2012



Holland Farm, Stronsay, circa 1930.



Holland Farm 2012



Oddie 1940 & 2012



Oddie, Stronsay, circa 1940



Oddie 2012

2012 photographs by Bill Miller

Music in Hospitals



MUSIC IN HOSPITALS

SCOTLAND

communicating through live music



18
NOV.

Musicians Required

Music in Hospitals is seeking professional musicians to give concerts in hospitals and other care establishments in Orkney.

Auditions will be held on **SUNDAY 18 November 2012** at **The Reel, Broad Street, Kirkwall.**

Musicians are carefully selected for:

- their ability to communicate easily
- their flexibility, warmth of approach and sense of humour
- their ability to deal with all kinds of situation
- their wide-ranging repertoire including a selection of Scots songs

Audience participation is encouraged

The therapeutic value of live music is widely recognised by the medical profession and, although demanding, the work can be extremely rewarding.

Suitable groups might comprise, for example:

- singer with instrumental accompanist
- singer/instrumentalist with pianist
- singer who is able to accompany him/herself on a portable instrument
- instrumental duo/trio with interactive programme

Ideally instrumentalists should be able to play by ear or memory.

Further information and application forms are available from:

Music in Hospitals, 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LD

Tel: 0131 556 5848 Fax: 0131 556 0225

email: info@musicinhospitalsscotland.org.uk

web: www.musicinhospitalsscotland.org.uk

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No 3138683 VAT No. 356 7549 14 Registered Charity No 1051659.

The charity is also registered in Scotland No. SCO38864.

Registered Office: Coco House 83-89 High Street Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 1DZ

Technicolour Tango

The word, I think, is surreal;
 For "The Dancers" are surely that.
 An aurora of fantasia
 In a Northerner's habitat.
 A kaleidoscope of colours
 With Mother Nature at the mix.
 And below are the spell-bound onlookers
 Whose beings she meant to transfix.
 Competition for the rainbow, it seems,
 As the Merry Dancers "dosie-doe".
 Our drama queen of natural beauty
 Presenting an exclusive show.
 Rubies as viewed in firelight,
 Emeralds as seen through the dew,
 Colours chasing gossamer
 In a tantalizing hue.
 The Northern "Merry Dancers"
 Are seemingly having a ball.
 The occasion, of course, is spontaneous
 With an invitation to us all
 As Violet partners with Rose again
 As they seldom "sit one out",

And are usually seen together
 Unless the Dashing White Sergeant is about.
 Whilst below in a spell-bound audience
 Is a standing ovation, well deserved.
 Mother Nature calling the tune, of course,
 As she's not known to be reserved.
 The last dance, alas, is in progress,
 Choose your partners for the last time
 For the technicolour happening is now over
 But the rainbow is waiting in line.
 And what of Mother Nature?
 Is she putting up her feet? No way!
 I rather think that she's off somewhere
 For she's a rainbow to put on display.
 Mother Nature, can it be? You have favourites it
 would seem
 For your best is for the Northerners
 With a technicolour perfection in your colour
 scheme.

© Helene Harrison

Local Businesses**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 and B&B's. Com-
 missions taken.

Upper Scapa Cottage
 St. Ola

Orkney - KW15 1SD
 Phone: 01856 870075

Email: jennystone001@btinternet.com

COMPUTER SERVICES

Advice, Internet connection issues,
 Website design, Hosting, I.T.
 Training and much, much more.
 Contact Neil @ Schoolbrae, 616317
 Email: enquiries@gb-en.eu



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 Olivebank and the Stronsay Post Office.

My hand-milled soap balls will be appearing in the shops this month. They're quirky, they float and they smell gorgeous! Limited amount only, so hurry and get yours now before they're all gone.

Tel: 616281

Email: info@orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk

Web: www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk



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 and I'll supply it.

Call Bill Miller on 616420

Business adverts

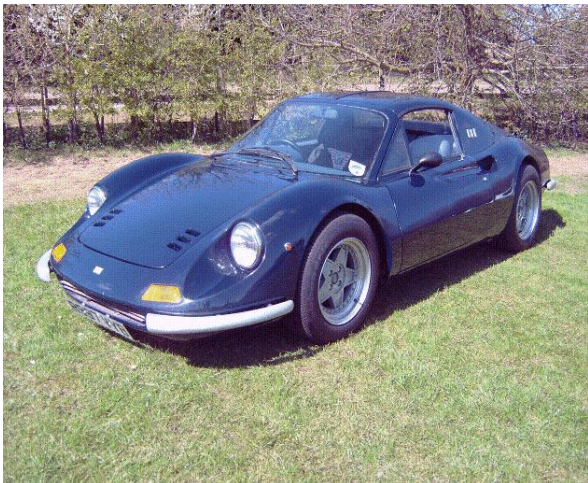
Up to 25 words - £1.50. 25 word advert with photo - £3. 25 to 50 words - £3 and so on.

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.

The cutoff date for adverts to be included in the next edition of the Limpet is on the front page. Contact details are on the back page.





“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

Groups, Clubs & Organisations

COFFEE AT CLEAT

Saturday, October 27
2:00pm



Everyone welcome
Coffee, tea, juice
Raffle and a sales table
Homemade pickled beetroot for sale

*All proceeds split between Macmillan
(Orkney) and Friends of Anchor*

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES CLUB

Ages 10 or over only
Friday night 8pm until 10pm
Community Centre
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

GUY FAWKES BONFIRE & FIREWORKS



7pm on Saturday 3rd November
at the Community Centre

Adults £2.50, children £1.00
Starts with judging of the Guy Competition
Supper of mince, haggis & clapshot
Raffles, 100 club, glow sticks
Followed by darts & euchre



MOBILE LIBRARY



Next visit:
MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2012

Please note that the Mobile Library will be operating to a revised timetable from the commencement of the winter ferry timetable up until the New Year.

All visits will be on **Monday** and the stop times will be as follows:

Council Houses: 8.45am-9.45am

School: 10am-12pm

Kirk: 12.30pm-3pm

Fishmart: 3.15pm-4.45pm

The change will affect the following dates:

5th November

3rd December

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

STRONSAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

For details and booking contact Colin on 616446.



STRONSAY STITCHERS

This month's gathering will be Thursday 25th October
From 7 – 9.30pm in the Church Hall

25
OCT.

Hand-made is very big this year – so how about making your own Christmas presents. Now's the time to get cracking! Why not come along and make a start on a project you've been planning to do but haven't yet started – you'll be in the company of like-minded folk.

You can come for as long or as little as you like. A donation of £2.00 per session towards heating & lighting is all we ask and there will be tea, coffee, biscuits.



The good news this month is that we were successful in obtaining funding thanks to the Community Council and the OIC for our Tapestry in Stronsay Project.

It means we can invite the lady in Orkney who's taken charge of the Orkney panel of the Great Scottish Tapestry to bring it out here to Stronsay. What this means is that folk will be able to put a stitch in or as many as they like over the days it will be here. You don't have to know about embroidery, as there will be someone to show you how to do it. We're hoping as many people as possible will put a stitch into this piece of historical art, which will be displayed in Holyrood once completed. We have yet to fix a date for it to be here, but we will keep you up to date with progress.

Currently, we are the first island community to have requested the Tapestry. Quite a lot of folk have been stitching in Kirkwall – locals and even tourists – since it arrived this summer, but there's still a lot of work to be done! The aim of the Tapestry is to tell the history of Scotland in 163 panels. Each panel has been taken on by various communities throughout Scotland and the Islands. Orkney has been allocated panel number 7 and its theme is 3000 BC, the early Neolithic farmers and features the Ring of Brodgar. For more Tapestry information please look on: www.scotlandstapestry.com.



**HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE
Supervised session times:**

	am	pm
Monday	Buddy	4.15-5.45
Tuesday	9.30-11.30	Buddy
Wednesday	Buddy	4.15-5.45
Thursday	Buddy	4.15-5.45
Friday	Buddy	4.15-5.45
Saturday	closed	closed
Sunday	closed	closed

Under the 'Buddy' system members may use the gym if they feel confident to exercise with another member who is also inducted, over 18 and pre-paid.
Buddy hours are the same as school opening times. A code will be needed to access the gym.
14&15 year old member use is limited to periods when a fitness advisor is on duty (see above).
16&17 year olds must be with an inducted member who is over 18 or at a time when a fitness advisor is on duty.

New inductions by appointment only. Tel: 616449

SWIMMING POOL

Tuesday Sessions	
Public	7-7:40pm & 7:40-8:20pm
Adult	8:20-9pm
Wednesday Sessions	
Private	7-7:40pm
Public	7:40-8:20pm & 8:20-9pm
Thursday Sessions	
Beginners	3:20-4pm
A squad	7-8pm
B squad	8-9pm
Saturday Sessions	
Private	2-2:40pm & 2:40-3:20pm

Admission charges: £1.20 child, £2.40 adult

For Swim Club info contact Sarah (616406) - For private hires contact Elsie (616331)

www.facebook.com/pages/Stronsay-swimming-pool/209886629022374

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

The cutoff date for items to be included in the next edition of the Limpet is on the front page. Contact details are on the back page.

Useful Information

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES	
Monday	8:30-12
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	8:30-12 and 1-3
Saturday	9-12 and 1-3
From 12/11 Monday-Saturday	8:30-12 and 1-3

Post collection times 7:30, Monday to Saturday
 Replacement bin bags Telephone OIC (Technical Services) on 01856 873535
 Sunday service at the Kirk 11 am (for more information please see the 'Notices' section on the Kirk website at www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/STRONSAYKIRK)
 Our Lady's chapel, pier head Daily Masses at 7:30 am and every Sunday at 9 am
 Next Special Collections Friday 23 November 2012

Doctor	616321	Neil's on Wheels	616454
Nurses	616480	Taxi	616335
Medical emergency	01856 888000	Balfour Hospital	01856 888000
Registrar	616239	Hydro	0800 300 999
Hall bookings	616446	All water enquiries	0845 601 8855
Post Office	616278	Kirkwall Library	01856 873166
Companions	616261	Kirkwall Police	01856 872241
Kirk	616311	Vets:	
Monastery contact@the-sons.org	616210	Flett & Carmichael	01856 872859
Stronsay Hotel	616213	Northvet	01856 873403
Olivebank	616255	Dentists:	
Ebenezer stores	616339	Great Western Rd.	01856 879683
Castle Bird Reserve	616363	King Street	01856 875348
		Earls Palace	01856 872958

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.*

www.stronsaylimpet.co.uk -  www.facebook.com/StronsayLimpet

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE LIMPET

You can send a subscription to a friend or relative for a birthday present.

12 editions for £20.00 including P&P

Please make cheques - UK banks only - payable to "Stronsay Development Trust".

(UK only. Non-UK subscriptions, please ask for a quote.)

The Stronsay Development Trust, a Scottish Charity SC038888

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/SDT

Supported in its activities by HIE Orkney, Orkney Islands Council, and Orkney Community Planning Partnership