

# **STRONSAY LIMPET**

**FUNDED BY STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**ISSUE 92 February 2013**

*Published on the last Thursday of the month*



## **THOSE DRAFT FERRY TIMETABLES!**

Adrian Miller, Stronsay Community Council Transport Representative

I would imagine that those of you who got the chance to see the two draft ferry timetables for consultation online for this years winter and refit timetables were as concerned as I was!

The community council received these proposals a few days before the first meeting for discussion at the council offices. We, representing the Community Council, would like to thank the Limpet for helping to spread the word as quickly as possible to make sure the Community Council was giving a fair view of public opinion to Orkney Islands Councillors and Orkney Ferries leaders as possible at this early stage. All the emails and phone calls received were unanimous, not one person who contacted us agreed with these proposals.

I attended the meeting in Kirkwall on Friday the 15th February and put the points raised to officials. Among these were:

- The refit timetable would be very damaging to business, shops, haulier, farmers and fishermen would all be badly hit, especially with the Monday and Wednesday proposals.
- Everyone on various appointments, leisure, etc would also suffer.
- There were job implications with the ferry proposed never to stay in Stronsay overnight during the refit.

As strong a case as possible was put to keep the status quo and we asked for no change on any of the two timetables. We had strong support from Sanday which was very helpful.

After some constructive discussion it was agreed by all that existing timetables would remain in place and these proposals would be scrapped.

I asked Orkney Ferries about the thinking behind these radical proposals and I was surprised by their answer. I was sure that it would be financial but it appeared this had no influence, it was down to complaints received from members of the public regarding the ferries being late on occasions. When asked where the complaints had come from the reply was Westray and Stronsay.

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## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies to Bill, Jenny, Leo & Val whose items for the Limpet cannot be included in this month's edition due to lack of space. The items should appear next month.

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The next edition of the [\*Limpet\*](#) will be published on Thu 28 March. Items for inclusion in that edition should be submitted by 7pm on Sun 24 March. Contact details on back page



## **Your community needs you!**

### **Join the Board of the Successful Development Trust!**

**Have you ever thought about standing for election as a director/trustee to help the Trust work towards a sustainable future for Stronsay?**

**All ages, skills, experience and interests are welcomed.**

**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 24 April 2013.**

All the board directors are volunteers and there are 7 vacancies.

Nomination forms are available from Olivebank, Ebenezer Stores, and the Post Office or  
you could phone the Secretary on 616349.

The deadline date for nominations is **Sunday 24 March 2013.**

Lisa De Geer  
Company Secretary  
Fagerheim, Stronsay  
KW17 2AR

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**When: 24 April 2013**

**Place: Stronsay Community Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.**

A light supper will be served.

*Everyone is welcome.*



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## **4PM ON WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH** **IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE STRONSAY HOTEL**

A meeting is to be held to discuss forming a Tourism Group.

If you'd like to help form the Group, help to plan and support the Island's future, and see how the group could help promote your business, perhaps you have thoughts to share, or if you can offer help with updating the website – then please come along.

Jacqueline Dennison – Community Development Officer 1856 879178

## **STRONSAY COMMUNITY FUND**

This new community fund was launched with £40,000 in November 2012 and I am pleased to announce that following approval of the 2011/2012 accounts, a further £120,000 will be paid as gift aid from Stronsay Renewable Energy Ltd to the fund.

Grants from the fund are awarded by the Development Trust board, the funds are to be used for community benefit and must be within the Charity's purpose, i.e. its objectives.

### **1. How to apply for a grant**

The policy (if required) is on the website.

Hard copies of the expression of interest form, the application form and the guidance for applicants can be collected from the Post Office.

On line copies are on the website [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/sdt](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/sdt)

All documents can be e mailed or posted to you by the Admin and Finance Support Officer (AFO) and Community Development Officer (CDO).

### **2. Would I get a grant for....?**

It is better to check the policy and guidance for applicants before completing an 'Expression of Interest' form which will enable you to discuss your proposal with members of the Development Trust staff team.

**3. All forms and letters** please send to Stronsay Development Trust at the registered office: Clifton, Stronsay, Orkney, KW17 2AR,

Julia Crocker

Admin and Finance Support Officer

[Julia.crocker@btinternet.com](mailto:Julia.crocker@btinternet.com)



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## **STRONSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

### **SMALL TENDER BRIEF**

Local island contractors are cordially invited to tender for the work outlined below:

To provide a toilet and kitchenette facility within the newly purchased Enterprise Zone site office/welfare unit.

We require a stud wall partition and two doors fitted within the unit. The installation of a saniflo toilet and basin. On the other side of this partition we require a sink and work top and cupboard.

To speak about this or to book a time to see the site office and details please contact Tony Withers on 01857 616300 or email me on [cdostronsay@btconnect.com](mailto:cdostronsay@btconnect.com)

Please note that time is tight to respond to this tender and all quotes will be needed by 15<sup>th</sup> of March with an availability to complete the work no later than 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.

Please note that the Trust can if required purchase the materials for the work beforehand as long as costs and suppliers information is identified by the contractor.

Thank you

Tony Withers Project Manager

**All correspondence** should be sent to Stronsay Development Trust at the registered office please.

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# **BURNS NIGHT AT THE STRONSAY SCHOOL**

By Bill Miller, Glenmanna, Stronsay

The Stronsay Junior High School “Support Our School” Group, which is a subgroup of the Parent Council, held a very successful Burns Supper fundraising night in the school on Saturday, 26th January.

This was run in conjunction with the “Plot to Plate Youth Group” which is a group of eight very keen youngsters, who have spent the autumn and winter focusing on local produce and cooking with seasonal vegetables which they have grown in the community greenhouse. This group is an after school group which is run by Marion Miller and the project is funded by “Awards for All” via the Stronsay Development Trust. The Burns night was an opportunity for the kids to showcase what they had learned since the start of the club. Next spring, the group will be growing their produce in a small greenhouse, erected especially for them at the site of the Community Greenhouse.

The evening started with the Selkirk Grace read by Reverend David Bowen, followed by a sumptuous feast prepared and served up by the school-children, parents, and other willing helpers. The traditional haggis, mince and clapsnot was very much appreciated, along with the more exotic fare of cabbage gratin, potato wedges, Bombay potatoes, bere bannocks, oatcakes made under the tutelage and to the recipe of Doris Shearer, pudding and custard, apple and chard muffins, carrot cake, chutneys etc, all sourced and prepared from Stronsay produce. Smoked salmon, kindly donated by Jolly’s of Kirkwall, tasted delicious on the locally made oatcakes.

The entertainment then got off the ground with the music teacher, Janice Maxwell and her fiddles and cello strings group, performing two Robbie Burns songs – Duncan Grey and My Love is But a Lassie Yet. This was warmly appreciated by the gathering.

Teacher, Sarah Evans and a group of children then recited and acted out some amusing Burns poetry relating to animals and again this was warmly received.

Jim Cooper then recited a lengthy and very amusing poem about Rodney Rocket, an over enthusiastic salesman who eventually died and went to heaven, where he did a great trade in selling creams for polishing harps and halos.

Young Jack Holland then delivered a very good rendition of the Robbie Burns poem, “A Man’s a Man For a’ That”

Bill Miller then recited a home-made, leg-pulling poem about the teachers, workers and pupils of the Stronsay School. *(By popular request Bill’s poem is printed in this edition of the Limpet)*

Sarah Evans and the upper primary pupils accompanied by Gaynor Smith on the keyboard, then sang “Donald Where’s Your Troosers”, the boys being suitably attired in kilts, and the name Donald being substituted for their names, John, James, Jude, and Mikey.

To finish off the entertainment, Janice Maxwell and her strings group, accompanied by accordions, guitar and harp, then played Burns songs, My Love Is Like a Red Red Rose, Coming Through The Rye, and Ye Banks and Braes, again, all warmly received by the audience.

A large raffle then took place with the numbers being read out by Andrew Fraser, a comedian who doesn’t realise it yet, who had the audience in fits of laughter with his comments, and doing a double-act with the headmaster, Andrew King.

*(continued on next page)*

Mr King then congratulated the children and Marion Miller for preparing the “Plot to Plate” food and mentioned the support of Dr Roger Neville-Smith in this project. He also thanked all the parents and helpers who had put a lot of hard work into making a delicious meal and making the night a great success, raising much needed money for the “Support our School” funds, which will enable the children to get those little extras which are sometimes needed in these times of cut-backs.

He further thanked all who had supported the evening by attending and purchasing raffle tickets.

Special thanks must go to all who donated raffle prizes, but they are too numerous to mention by name.

A very good night was had by all who attended.



*The locals enjoying the meal*

*(continued on next page)*



*The locals enjoying the meal  
Janice Maxwell with Strings & Things  
(both photographs by Bill Miller)*

## **STRONSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE**



### **Supervised session times from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

	<b>am</b>	<b>pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>Buddy</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Buddy</b>	<b>4.15-6.15</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>

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 No : 616449**

## **LATEST BIRD NEWS**

Although there were some extremes of weather during the last month or so, on average the weather was just that - about average - and as a result there have been no unusual bird sightings. The Bu Loch has been the most productive and a recent trip there with Doctor Rosalind's father Walker was very productive - along with a family party of five adults and three juvenile Whooper Swans there were two pairs of Goldeneye and Shoveler, three pairs of Gadwall, at least 20 Pintail, a few each of Mallard, Teal and Wigeon, and a single Red-breasted Merganser. The area is well worth a visit in late Winter although the birds may be grouped towards the far side of the loch.

Over 50 Fieldfares have been seen in the last few days - including single migrants in the garden at Dale and two in the oat-field here at Castle. A few Skylarks and Meadow Pipits have also been seen including a party of 15 of the latter near the South School - both indications that Spring is on its way. A Slavonian Grebe was in Mill Bay in early February but very few divers have been present around the island this Winter.

Several species of birds of prey have been seen recently, including Peregrine, Merlin and Hen Harrier - the most likely three species in Winter - but there have also been sightings of Kestrel and Sparrowhawk at Castle in the last few days. Small birds of prey can be very confusing and difficult to identify given the often brief sighting of a bird flying away from the observer. In general, Kestrels always exhibit some gingery brown on the upperparts; Merlins are rather dark, with dark-streaked underparts, and Sparrowhawks have 'barred' markings on the underparts - easy to see front on as in the picture of one taken recently by Sheila at Helmsley (see below). Sparrowhawks show a yellow or orange iris whilst those of Kestrel and Merlin are dark brown, but a further complication is the possibility of Goshawk - half a dozen or so have been seen in the last 20 years - which is similar to but generally bulkier than Sparrowhawk. Female Goshawks are almost as big as Hen Harriers whilst the males are much smaller and may be smaller than a big female Sparrowhawk! The identification of birds of prey can be very frustrating and many 'small raptors' we see here remain unidentified - particularly during migration when there is the added complication of potential Hobby and Red-footed Falcon. If only they could all be 'labelled' at birth!

The Blue Tit is still virtually living in the Castle garden - along with two Moorhens. A strange combination indeed!

*(continued on next page)*



*Female Sparrowhawk on the garden fence at Helmsley. Males have red barring on the underparts. In young birds the barring and the upperparts are dark brown whereas the underparts of young Goshawks are streaked with dark brown. (Photo taken from inside the house by Sheila Berger).*

*(continued on next page)*

And as ever, as soon as the article is ready to send off to Bruce something unexpected turns up - this time a Chiffchaff found by Sue at Linksquoy on Monday 18th February..... and later the same day the first Shelduck of the year - on the Matpow Loch, and 3 adult Whooper Swans on the Blan Loch (next to Mt Pleasant).

And yet again - the first Iceland Gull of the Winter - found by Norman in the field between Dale and The Kirk next morning 19th. This bird may stay around for a while and is very distinct, being quite strongly mottled with greyish buff on much of the pale plumage which contrasts with the almost pure white wing projections as the bird waddles about, searching for food on the ground.

### **'Pigeon Post'**

This month's sightings from the 'pre-Stronsay Limpet' era are both species which breed in the High Arctic regions. As with many of our sightings of rare species, both were photographed from the car - the best option for photography as the larger species generally fly a considerable distance if disturbed. Many however take very little notice of vehicles - until the windows are wound down!

The Sabine's Gull, seen briefly over the Bu sands in late July 1999 was subsequently discovered at Hunton on 5th August. This smallish gull has a distinct tri-coloured upperwing pattern which makes it very easy to identify in flight in adult plumage although it is similar to our Kittiwake in juvenile plumage. The majority of the UK records come from the west coast - particularly Cornwall - during storms in late Autumn, and it is a mystery why this bird should be 2,000 miles from the breeding grounds in late-Summer although it did have an injured leg which trailed in flight and may have contributed to the bird's inability to fly long-distances. The species breeds in Arctic Canada and Arctic Siberia, many spending the winter off the coast of West Africa, so whether this bird came from the NE or NW will also remain a mystery.

*(continued on next page)*

It spent much of the day of 5th August hawking for insects among cattle at Hunton and Whitehall but on one occasion spent some time on the Waterworks Pond where it posed perfectly as we watched it from the car.

The only other record for the island was one seen - and photographed - at The Pow in early October 1991 after a period of strong westerly winds.



*The adult Sabines Gull in flight at Hunton*



*The same bird at the Waterworks Pond'*

Also the second sighting for the island in the last 25 years, this male Snowy Owl was found by Harald Stout near the Airstrip in late March 2005. Very easy to spot in the open landscape, the bird spent two days in the area and was enjoyed by a steady stream of residents all eager to see this big, attractive species. Our own first view of the bird was particularly fortunate as it perched on the stone dyke just 100 yds from the Airport terminal (see photo). What was probably the same bird was discovered on Fair Isle - near the Airstrip - the following day.

The only other known record for the island was of one near Roadside on 23rd April 1991. It too was probably a bird which had wintered further south in the UK, moving northwards towards the breeding grounds.

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*Snowy Owl on the stone dyke along the road to the Airstrip*

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## Other Sightings

Whilst many of us have been watching the skies at night recently in the hope of seeing meteors and the odd asteroid there was a very interesting sighting much lower down in the sky on Monday morning - a White 'Rainbow' - sometimes known as the 'Fogbow' - seen by ourselves at Castle and Nigel & Juliet at Lower Millfield. This weather phenomenon can be seen as fog begins to clear and the few we have seen here have all been with our backs to the sun (as per a normal rainbow) and all around 9am. They are not as obvious as coloured rainbows but once detected, the even, white arc - slightly thicker than the coloured variety - becomes quite distinct and as with the ordinary rainbow, the 'feet' may be seen firmly 'attached' to the ground. Kath and Norman have seen many at Dale over the years around the same time of day, and Sheila Burger informs us that she has been lucky enough to see one at night whilst camping in France.



*Rainbow from Castle - August 2012*

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## **TALES FROM SUNNYBANK**

I guess some folk know that we have bought Sunnybank and are doing some work on it before moving in. Newspaper was found underneath the wallpaper; I thought I would share a sample from The Orcadian Thursday May 10 1923

“A young girl wanted for May term. Apply Mr Leask, Blackbrae, Stenness”

“Disagreeing with Summer Time - The modern innovation of changing the time of day has been in force for a few weeks now. Townspeople fall in with it more readily than do country folk. Opinion is divided as regarding the benefits derived therefrom, but dwellers from stone and lime are almost solid in favour. One farmer friend remarked to us the other day: ‘al’ th’ beasts aboot th’ place fell in wae summer time weel enough for they made tae do it, but fie on th’ ducks! They still wrought away be th’ auld time an’ held folk sitting up tae a’ ‘oors waiting for them tae come hame.’ Plague on th’ ducks.”

Roger Neville-Smith

18 Feb 2013

## **THE SHOOTERS BY NANA PEACE**

Seeing all the wild geese in the fields as you go along all the roads in Stronsay, takes me back to the days in the early nineteen-thirties when the shooters came every year to the island. They would have been men with plenty of spare money and the love of shooting.

Pattie Chalmers of Eastbank went around with them as the Muckle Water was one of their targets, and they also went around the cliffs at Burgh head and on to Odiness Point. They would of course have got permission from the owners to go around those places. Pattie was delighted to go around with them as he was well paid and got plenty of cigarettes and spare cartridges.

As I stayed at Kirbuster at that time, the sound of the guns echoed around. Snipe was one bird they wanted, and as my sister Maggie (Miller) was at that time cook at the Stronsay Hotel (the old one) she had the job of cooking the snipe as the shooters always stayed at the hotel.

They wanted the birds hung by the head for days and days so that they were ripe for eating, intestines and all. Not my favourite dish but that was what they wanted.

One shooting party included Barbara Cartland and her husband. My brother-in-law, Johnno Miller also worked at the hotel, and one day while the shooters were out hunting, Barbara Cartland got Johnno to take all her luggage down the pier as she was going to leave the island without telling her husband. Unfortunately for her, her husband returned before she could get away on a boat, and Johnno had to take all her luggage back up to the hotel. Intrigue !!

I think I have mentioned before in the Limpet what a lovely hotel that was, but sadly it was burnt down in 1939.

When I was aged 12 and 13, my summer holidays were spent there helping my sister Maggie to wash dishes and run errands which was great as I got 5/- (five shillings = 25p) per week, which bought school clothes for the winter. Also the busy life in the summer fishing season was great, dodging the horse-drawn lorries loaded with barrels of herring and salt, and yet, there never seemed to be any accidents.

If the shooters were to come back today, they would certainly get plenty to occupy their time, and something better and possibly tastier to eat than snipe. Happy days.

*(photographs on next page)*



*Old Stronsay Hotel*



*Nana & Maggie among herring nets 1932*

## **STRONSAY PLOT TO PLATE YOUTH GROUP**

During the midterm break in February the Stronsay Plot to Plate youth group enjoyed a cookery master class with Paul Doull from the Foveran Restaurant in Kirkwall. The Plot to Plate group has been meeting on a weekly basis since September last year. Together they have enjoyed growing, harvesting and cooking with their own vegetables. The project is funded by Awards for All and facilitated by the Stronsay Development Trust

Marion Miller who has been running the project has been very impressed with the children's interest and dedication. The master class with Paul was a culmination of a winter creating and trying out recipes based on produce grown in Stronsay and in the community greenhouse.

The day started in the morning with a fairly complicated recipe for Minestrone soup. After preparing a wide range of Stronsay vegetables and whilst the soup was cooking there was a bread making demonstration and also to everyone's delight how to make ice cream. After enjoying their own lunch and indeed treating some of the staff to it as well the kids made brownies using fresh beetroot. These turned out very tasty especially as some were maybe a little suspicious of the main ingredient.

Before finishing off for the day the children made their own pasta with basil. This was great fun and a few parents have reported pasta makers being put on birthday lists already. The day was rounded off by eating the ice cream made in the morning. It went down a treat! There was not much left for the parents to try when they came to collect their children for home.

The group were very grateful to Paul for taking a day out to come to Stronsay and share his expertise and ofcourse also to the school for providing the facilities. A great day was had by all.

The group is going to spend the rest of the spring and into early summer perfecting their horticultural and gastronomic skills.

*(Continued on next page)*



*The group with Paul Doull*



*Paul collecting some of the ingredients in the community greenhouse prior to the master class*

## **LETTER FROM SCHOOL PLACE**

Good news! Orkney Ferries' fares and freight charges are frozen for the forthcoming financial year. This was passed by an overwhelming majority of councillors at a special Policy & Resources Committee meeting for setting the Council's 2013/14 budget, despite amendments to increase charges tabled by Cllr Rob Crichton (Stromness & South Isles) and Cllr David Tullock (Kirkwall West & Orphir). I called for a "recorded vote" so that the public can see which councillors supported the fare freeze and which opposed it.

Continuing on the theme of ferries, on Friday 18th January, because of bad weather, the middle of the day sailing to Sanday, Stronsay and Eday was cancelled, meaning that more passengers than usual were needing to board the evening sailing, and 21 foot passengers had to be turned away. I contacted the Ferry Operations Manager about this, and this was his reply: "Our outer North Isles Ships are certificated to carry 100 persons on board as laid down by the MCA during the winter months from the 1st November until 31st of March. This has had a small impact on us in the past before I became the operations manager. On being informed of this particular shortcoming the company has approached MCA with a request to permanently raise our winter certificate numbers by 25. This request will be evaluated by the MCA and they may well turn it down as the certificate is based on the sea conditions and the length of available daylight, we will just have to wait and see."

It was decided at the Inter-Island Ferry Services Consultative Committee meeting to leave next year's winter timetable and refit timetables the same as this year's. I reiterated my conviction that the refit timetables need radical reform in order to spread the "pain" of the refit more fairly between the eastern North Isles and Westray, but I was a lone voice. After the meeting, the chairman, Cllr James Stockan said to me that if the community-council transport reps in attendance from the islands concerned refrain from expressing any discontent with the status quo, then it is difficult for him to justify progressing any reform.

At the Inter-Island Air Services Consultative Committee meeting, I requested details of the recent arrangement between the Scottish Ambulance Service and Loganair for the latter to provide non-emergency ambulance cover. It transpires that this cover only caters for the "walking wounded", who may use spare seats on scheduled flights, or have a plane chartered to pick them up if this does not interfere with the scheduled services. I suspect this is not what most of us had envisaged, and I am in correspondence with Liam MacArthur MSP on the matter. It was refreshing to hear Eric Shortland's thoughts on a future inter-island transport system utilising seaplanes and flying boats.

At the Education, Leisure and Housing (ELH) meeting, it was reported that under the "Phase 2 Development", four council housing units are destined for the Isles. I asked which isles, and was informed that Rousay and Sanday will be among them.

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Bad news - At the same ELH meeting, we were informed that the new Papdale Halls were designed to accommodate only 70 residents, and so places will be restricted. There will be a scheme of prioritisation to entitlement, and Leslie Manson will be undertaking an "engagement exercise" with the relevant parent councils to explain this. I urge parents to get involved in this engagement.

Since my last "Letter", I have attended community council meetings in Stronsay and in North Ronaldsay, each lasting, respectively 4 hrs 23 minutes and 5 hours! However, at least at the latter they provided tea, coffee, biscuits and cake. On Saturday 23rd February I am due to attend my first meeting of the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay CC.

Since September, OIC has had a complaints procedure. Complaints can be made by post to the Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall KW15 1NY, by telephone 01856-873535 or by e-mail [complaints@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@orkney.gov.uk).

Sadly there are no compliments or suggestions procedures, so do not hesitate to send those to me - especially the former!

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson

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## **BLOW AWAY GARDENING TIPS - FEBRUARY**

The sun has been shining for two days, the fog is lifting and all is right in the world (for gardening). Months of earnest preparation, studying seed catalogues and methods of growing like permaculture, raised beds, etc are now over. It is time for action!

Today the heated seed tray is plugged in. Margarine pots are gathered up to replace the originals which have been crunched up by the dog, compost is ready and the first seeds are launched. Parsley, peppers and lavender are the first to be sown. As I wait for my seed order to arrive I looked through the packets left over from last year. The faded smiles on the covers took on new energy as I held them, promising to get them to prosper this year. Some seeds have escaped from the packet and will have to go in the pot luck area.

I have marked out one area for growing at Sunnybank and need to prepare it for a return to productivity. It will be exciting to see which of the range of challenges attempt to defeat me this year. This enthusiasm may not last if my forecast of Spring is premature but sap is rising and there is nothing I can do about it.

Roger Neville-Smith

18 Feb 2013

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## **NEW DEADLINE FOR LIMPET ARTICLES**

With effect from March 2013 the deadline for items to go in the Limpet will be 7pm on the Sunday before the publication date which remains the last Thursday in the month. Therefore the deadline for the March 2013 edition of the Limpet (publication date Thursday 28 March) will be 7pm on Sunday 24 March.

# **THEN AND NOW**

Bill Miller



Steamer's Pier, Stronsay, circa 1950.



*Steamer's Pier 2013*

## **BURNS NIGHT AT THE STRONSAY SCHOOL**

Written & performed by Bill Miller at the Stronsay School's Burns Night Supper 2013.

(This poem appears here by popular request)

I was asked to come up here the night - and try like Robbie Burns,  
To do a bit of poetry - or some ither kind o' turn  
I didno ken just whit tae dae - didn't want tae luk a fool  
So thowt I'd get some stories, - about the Stronsay school.

There's Stevie whose the janitor, and Colin fae The Hill  
He keeps an eye on the sweemin pool – maks sure that hid keeps fill.  
Then Yvonne in the nursery, whit is that lassie like,  
She can turn her hand tae anything, she can even build a dyke.

Noo whit about young Pamela, that lovely English Rose  
I hear she sets off fire-alarms - no matter where she goes  
She teaches maths and chemistry, and science when she can  
For biology she gets a hand - from a skeleton called Stan.

Now Janice teaches music.- it's theory and all its riddles  
Its no easy gettan hold o' her – she's always on the fiddle.  
As you walk by her music room - you hear loud roars and bellows  
And then you find - its all O.K. – Dianne is on the Cello.

Now Sarah's no been here too long - but I am glad to say  
Thank God she got the teaching job, which means she's here to stay  
So settle down young Sarah - and no more you must roam  
We wish you well in Sandybank – Enjoy your Stronsay home.

Then Wendy Groat and Marie D – they're both home having babies  
I've come up with a cunning plan – and I was thinking maybe  
If they can stay home having bairns – It really will be cool  
The more they have the better - it will help to fill the school.

The Secretary Linda, and Sheena - her side-kick  
They both cam doon fae Shitland, and in foreign tongue they spik  
Wae Doos and Dats and idder words that really don't make sense  
Poor Antoine wis bamboozled – He thowt hid wis Brokken French.

Now Giggling Gaynor - from the Grind – she whizzes around at cleanan  
You'll never find her standing still – and never catch her leanan  
She wants to do the best she can – to keep the school quite clean  
But sometimes her mops - go for walks - especially at Hallowe'en.

*(Continued on next page)*

There's Peedie Don fae Samsons Lane – he used to drive big lorries  
But noo he has a cooshie job, drivan the bus for Maurice.

Now Arna and her merry men - there's Wilma and there's Carrie  
I hear that when the lunchtime comes, the kids are in a hurry  
They stampede down to Mr Kings, and then sedately walk  
But when they near the dining room, - their faces turn to chalk.

What is the bad bad news we hear – These words are on their lips  
The chippie - fryers broken – and we can't have our chips  
We don't want lettuce and carrot stuff – that's only rabbit food  
Give us some good old fashioned grub – the stuff that tastes real good.

I was going to mention lots of things, like who'se going out with who  
And then I thought, - I'd better not, - it's not the thing to do  
It might upset a few wans here, - it might go down quite badly  
Like young Craig Stoot - and young Dianne, - or is it Molly Bradley.

There's peedie Jack fae Kirbuster -- he always seems laid back  
He's quite a boy with all the girls - he seems to have the knack  
His humour is quite comical – he can fairly take the mick  
But recently I have been told – he's been wearing red lipstick.  
Young Andrew Frazer he's some boy, - I hear he likes a change  
He quite likes Storm, - but then storms off, - they say he goes "Free Range".

Kirbuster Keith's a canny lad, - in one lass he has a notion  
He has a favourite song I hear – My bonny lies over the Ocean .  
Daniel Carter likes birds as well – but when he's on the loose  
He goes out hunting with his gun – gets chased home by a goose.

And now we come to Mr King, - To him I've never spoken  
But I hear he's feeling very cold – his central heating's broken  
I thought that's why - on a Friday night - he's always in a hurry  
But I ken noo – it's tae get away fae you - that he rushes off tae Burray.

Now just before I finish off – must tell you I've been hearin  
An Evans boy fae Sandybank – is very keen on Erin  
I'd better stop noo just in case – some big lads get the hump  
I'll make a hasty exit noo – before I get a thump.

Well that's it folks – am stoppan noo – am runnan oot o' rhyme  
I hope that you've enjoyed yourselves – and had a pleasant time  
I'd like to thank the teachers here – and the other workers too  
Congratulations to you all – What a terrific job you do.

# **GRANDMOTHER'S FORGET-ME-NOTS**

By Ellie from Newfield

“The better the bed, the bigger the bloom”  
My grandmother used to say.  
For her garden was a place of magic  
And I still feel that way today.  
Grandmother in her garden  
Is a memory well preserved,  
Rewarded in botanical beauty  
Which she so rightly deserved.  
And I her willing apprentice  
Enraptured in all this beauty  
Would follow in her footsteps  
Destined by love, but never duty.  
Stories of the past she would tell,  
Life as it was “back then.”  
A caretaker of olden-day memories  
Passed on since heaven knows when.  
Such was the gift that she gave to me  
With each flower she introduced.  
Where roses scented the air  
And heavenly scents were set loose  
For the birds, the bees, and the butterflies  
Loved the garden too.  
And the Jacob’s Ladder climbed higher  
Just to get a better view.  
From London Pride to African Violet  
On a floral journey in between.  
Amongst borders and beds and rockeries  
Where grew the snowdrops “Winter Queen.”  
How she would love my garden now,  
Set in Mother Nature’s countryside.  
“You’ve such riches, lass” she would say  
“In the place where you abide.”  
She was a guardian of all values  
As grandmothers are, I think.  
Violet Grace in her garden  
Who favoured the Carnation Pink.  
Grandmothers, those keepers of wisdom  
In the archives of their mind,  
Already holding that knowledge  
That takes a lifetime to find.

©Helene Harrison

## ***GREETINGS, PRIVATE SALES & WANTS***

### **FROM THE FAMILY OF PAUL BURRIDGE**

Paul Kevin BurrIDGE aged 61 passed peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. He will be sorely missed by all. Paul had made many friends during his time here on Stronsay and everyone had a kind word to say about him.

Paul leaves behind his daughter Donna and brother Ken. We hope he will be remembered fondly and that everyone will only smile when they think of him.

He had an amazing send-off on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who came along and celebrated his life.

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### **THANKYOU**

I should like to thank the Community Council and all the people who contributed towards the voucher sent to me. I shall enjoy browsing through Amazon for a gift. Thank you again.

Patrick Shearer.

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### **STRONSAY HOTEL—CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP**

Chris and Debbie would like to thank everyone for the extremely warm welcome that they have received upon taking over the hotel.

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### **CLEAN UP—BAG IT THEN BIN IT!**



Please clean up after your dogs on Stronsay's beautiful beaches. Other folk, including small children, want to enjoy them too! .

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#### **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.

NO charge for "thank you" notices.

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

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

## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**



### **“NEIL’S ON WHEELS”**

All mechanical work undertaken, welding specialist,

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

MOBILE: 07723 304 260

HOME: 01857 616454

### **SUNNYSIDE**

### **AVAILABLE TO RENT FROM FEBRUARY**

3 bedroom cottage with garden

Oil-fired central heating

Fireplace in sitting room

No smokers and no dogs

Phone 01857 616306

## **ORKNEY STAR ISLAND SOAP**



Real soap made by hand with care in Stronsay. In the Orkney naturals range there is Orange Bear made with Orkney Bere bran to gently exfoliate, Sea Salt & Tangle made with seaweed and very good to use after gardening and Beast in the Bath made with French pink clay to help cleanse pores, with the Stronsay Beast stamped into every bar. Say it with soap - favours for weddings or special occasions are a novel and increasingly popular gift idea. I can only make these on commission so please contact me to discuss your requirements.

Available in Stronsay at M. Williamson, Olive Bank and the Post Office, Whitehall Village.

Available online (NEW website) at: :

[www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk)

Tel: 616281.

Email: [info@orkneystarsoap.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneystarsoap.co.uk)

### **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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## **LOCAL BUSINESSES**

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### **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*

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### **STRONSAY ARTWORKS**

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

Phone 01856 870075

Email [jennystone001@btinternet.com](mailto:jennystone001@btinternet.com)

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### **COMPUTER SERVICES**

Advice, Internet connection issues, Web-  
site design, Hosting, I.T. Training and  
much, much more.

Contact Neil @ Schoolbrae, 616317

e-mail: [enquiries@gb-en.eu](mailto:enquiries@gb-en.eu)

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#### **Business adverts**

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

### **RNLI “S.O.S” NIGHT**

The Stronsay Branch of the RNLI held their annual S.O.S. night in the Stronsay Community Centre on Friday, 25th January, 2013, their S.O.S. theme being **Sup Our Soup** and **Sample Our Sandwiches**. A good number of locals attended to take advantage of this bargain meal of soup and sandwiches at £3 per head, including seconds. There were also many raffle prizes, tombola, and quizzes to entertain the gathering. As a result of their generosity, the sum of £276.20 was raised to help support our brave men and women who man the lifeboats voluntarily. A big thank-you to all who supported this worthwhile cause.

Bill Miller, Secretary, Stronsay Branch of the RNLI.

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### **BURNS SUPPER 2013**

A big thank you to all that contributed with music, entertainment, help, food, raffle prizes and also financial contributions. Without you and everyone that came the evening would not been such a success. The total raised was £559.83!

SOS committee and Plot to Plate-youth Group.

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### **STRONSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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

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

Please note that as from 1st February 2013 the following slaughterhouse charges will apply:

Cow/Bull	£30	Pig	£25	Sheep	£10
Goat	£10	Lamb	£8		

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### **THANK YOU!**

Craig Stout, for his sponsored swim, would like to thank the pool committee for the free hire of the pool, Sarah, Andy and Chris for lifeguarding and also everybody who sponsored him. The final total was £400! This money will be put to good use on the tour at Easter.

Thank you.

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

### **STRONSAY STITCHERS** **THE ORKNEY PANEL OF THE** **GREAT SCOTTISH TAPESTRY IN STRONSAY.**

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING - The Stronsay Stitchers are delighted to announce that the Orkney panel of the Great Scottish Tapestry is due to arrive in Stronsay at the end of February and will be in Stronsay for the first two weeks of March. If you haven't been following the story, or need to refresh your memory please see The Limpet October 2012 and December 2012 editions for more information.

WHERE WILL IT BE - We will be organizing various times and places where it will be available to all so that everyone can come along and put in a stitch. These times and places will be posted in the shops and Post Office as well as on The Limpet Facebook Page. Please keep watch for regular updates.

WHY - We would like for as many folk as possible to add a stitch, so please don't feel it is something you cannot do because you don't know how to embroider – lots of us can't, but it's not going to stop us! There will always be someone with the tapestry to offer help and advice to those of us who might need it. Dropping by to add your stitch need not take up a lot of your time and it would be something to tell the bairns or grand bairns - that you actually stitched some of the Great Tapestry which is to be hung in Hollyrood when finished.

I'D LIKE TO, BUT.... If you don't get out and about so much, but would like to add your stitch, then please phone or ask a family member or friend to phone Simone on 616281. She will arrange for it to come to you at a convenient time and you can stitch in the comfort of your home.

DOES THIS APPLY TO ME? YES, YES, YES - People of Stronsay – we need your stitches! Elderly, middling and young; female and male let's show what Stronsay folk can do. Stronsay Stitchers asked for the tapestry to come out here, so please, don't let us down – we know you'll want to stitch, we really do! When the tapestry returns to Kirkwall wouldn't it be great if the reaction was: "A lot of folk in Stronsay must have stitched, just look how it's progressed since we last saw it!"

FIRST STOP, STRONSAY SCHOOL - Jo and Moira are due to be arriving in Stronsay on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February with the tapestry. They will be instructing us on how to progress the work, so we know exactly what we're doing. The next day, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, they will be at the school giving a wee presentation and the opportunity for the children and staff to add their stitches.

*(continued on next page)*

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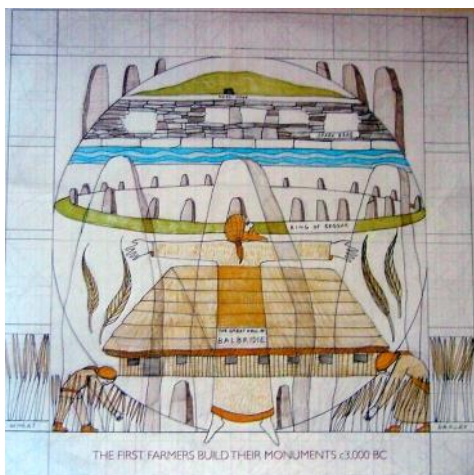
Contact details for the *Limpet* are on the back page

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

We would like to thank in advance the Headmaster Andrew King and all the staff at school, Anne-Maree Carter and Jo and Moira for their support, enthusiasm and generosity for this project. A big thank you to Bruce Fletcher as well for all the sterling work he does editing *The Stronsay Limpet*.



*Source: Tulimentan's photo from Facebook  
"Early Days". Jo (left) and Moira (right) make a start, Summer 2012.*



*Source: photo by Simone Kirk.  
The Orkney panel – Sketch by Tapestry Artist Andrew Crummy.*

## **STRONSAY STITCHERS—MEETINGS**

Thursday 28 February at Anne-Maree's (Storehouse) from 7—9.30pm.

IMPORTANT—Change of day for our March meeting

Friday March 29th at the Church Hall from 7—9.30pm.

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

### **GREAT SCOTTISH TAPESTRY IN STRONSAY**

#### **Stronsay Stitchers**

##### **STOP & STITCH – 1**

Orkney's panel of the Tapestry will be at  
Anne-Maree's house, Storehouse, Whitehall

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February

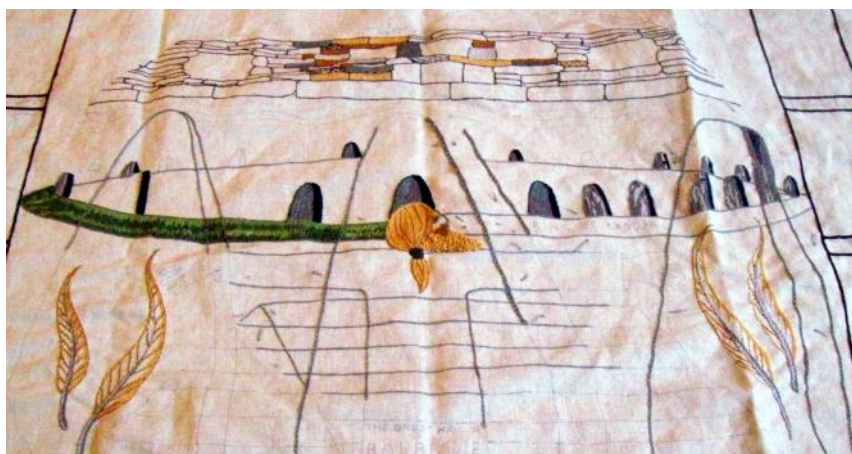
Between 4pm – 6pm

You are warmly invited to call in and add your stitch  
or just come and have a look.

We look forward to seeing you then or at the next

**STOP & STITCH.**

Details of next Stop & Stitch will be posted in the shops  
and on The Limpet's website and Facebook page



*Very recent photo of the tapestry including all the stitching done by folks on Rousay*

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## ***GROUPS, CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (continued)***

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### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Next visit:

**Monday 11 March**

Council Houses: 9:15—10

Stronsay School: 10—12

Stronsay Kirk: 12:30—3

Fishmart: 3:15—5:30

Mobile library schedule [http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2\\_timetable.htm](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/mobile2_timetable.htm)

Kirkwall library contacts - 01856 873166 or [general.enquiries@orkneylibrary.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.orkneylibrary.org.uk/html/opening.htm#NewHours)

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### **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

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### **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.

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## ***USEFUL INFORMATION***

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### **POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES**

Monday	8:30—12
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	9—12 and 1—3
Saturday	8:30—12 and 1—3

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 . . . . . ??

Rubbish collection . . . . . Tuesday (bags out ready by 9am)

---

Doctor . . . . . 616321

Nurses . . . . . 616480

Medical emergency . . . . . 01856 888000

Registrar . . . . . 616239

Hall bookings . . . . . 616446

Post Office . . . . . 616278

Companions . . . . . 616261

Kirk . . . . . 616311

Stronsay Hotel . . . . . 616213

Olivebank . . . . . 616255

Ebenezer stores . . . . . 616339

Neil's on Wheels . . . . . 616454

Taxi . . . . . 616335

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Castle Bird Reserve . . . . . 616363

Balfour hospital . . . . . 01856 888000

Hydro . . . . . 0800 300 999

All water enquiries . . . . . 0845 601 8855

Kirkwall Library . . . . . 01856 873166

Kirkwall Police . . . . . 01856 872241

Vets:

Flett & Carmichael . . . . . 01856 872859

Northvet . . . . . 01856 873403

Dentists:

Great Western Rd . . . . . 01856 879683

King Street . . . . . 01856 875348

Earls Palace . . . . . 01856 872958

Golgotha monastery. . . . . 616210

Email     [contact@the-sons.org](mailto:contact@the-sons.org)

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

Send an email to [ricardian@btinternet.com](mailto:ricardian@btinternet.com), phone Bruce Fletcher on 616297 (after 10:30 & before 21:00, please!) 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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### **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. Contact Bruce, details above

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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