

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 1991

THE SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following objectives by charitable means, but not otherwise:

- a) To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of Orkney.
- b) To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.
- c) To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Orkney.
- d) To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, conferences, publicity and the promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

Orkney Heritage Society 1991-92

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Hon President: | Lady Grimond, Old Manse, Firth |
| Hon Vice President : | Mrs. Marjorie Linklater, 20 Main St. Kirkwall |
| Chairman: | Iain Heddle, Mill of Eyrlund, Stenness |
| Vice-Chairman: | Alexander Firth, Edan, Berstane Road, Kirkwall |
| Secretaries: | Miss Andi Ross, Outerdykes, Stenness
Mrs Mona Sinclair, Skaraness, The Quadrant, Kirkwall |
| Treasurer: | John Laughton |
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Committee: |
Alistair Tulloch, 29 Reid Crescent, Kirkwall
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Mrs Elizabeth Bevan, Hopedale, 9 Ness Road, Stromness
Peter Leith, Appichouse, Stenness
Paul Sutherland, Junction Road, Kirkwall
Mrs Ann Brundle, Hillside School, Birsay
Mrs Daphne Lorimer, Scorradale, Orphir
Dr. Frank Foden, Cruachan, Annfield Crescent, Kirkwall
Jack Rendall, The Glen, Rakwick, Hoy |

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EDITORIAL

ADVOCATES of an unrestricted market economy have found support in Adam Smith's metaphor of the hidden hand guiding such an economy to produce the greatest benefits for all. While this may betray a rather limited understanding of "The Wealth of Nations" it ignores an important fact. In 1776, when "The Wealth of Nations" was published, Smith could not know how the other hand would work in an increasingly industrialised economy with a population rising to crisis point. Increasing benefits for all in these circumstances must now join the pursuit of the philosopher's stone as another human illusion.

The other hand creates pollution, global warming, urban social atrocities and a host of associated ills.

As an Island group we should react with more than distant sympathy to the knowledge that global warming and the sea level rise spells possible extinction for the low lying coral island states of the Pacific Ocean. The

Heritage Society's attempt at education by sponsoring a conference on waste management and recycling is a small but welcome step. It was to other islands, Bornholm in Denmark and Shetland that they turned for advice. Bornholm is well ahead of us in sensible energy production, recycling and waste treatment and Shetland had made some commendable recycling efforts. What appeared to limit the success of these efforts, particularly in Shetland, was the operation of market forces. If a local authority cannot sell its waste paper and glass at least at break-even prices then they are unlikely to be recycled. On the macro economic scene we have nations desperately pursuing economic growth in order to create wealth in order to, among other objectives, reduce the pollution created by their growth. We wonder what Adam Smith would have said about it all and question if those Pacific Islands will still be there when a solution to the work of both hands in the market economy is found.

Ian MacInnes

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year has certainly flown by so, in theory, if the old saying is anything to go by, somebody must have been having lots of fun!

The year began, with a successful Annual General Meeting, which, after business, was addressed by Mr Gourlay, Orkney's Tourist Officer, who posed the question, "Is it right to commercialise our heritage?". He went on to state that Tourism is now one of our main industries. Because of the summer trade full staffing could be kept on throughout the winter months and local crafts had become fully fledged industries; there was also a revival in Orkney music. The down side of tourism was the damage to wildlife, vegetation and the man made features, such as Skarabrae.

A lively debate followed. Members present felt fairly confident that Mr Gourlay was as careful as the next to make provision to ensure that the present attractions of Orkney should not be spoilt.

Originally suggested by the O.H.S., a Tourism Conference was hosted by the Orkney Islands Council earlier this year, to which we made a lengthy and comprehensive written contribution; Sandy Firth and Laura Grimond attended the Conference to represent the Society. All agreed it had been a worth while event, and could be followed up by another Forum next year, perhaps involving Caithness.

Planning Issues

An area of disappointment for the Society was the passing of planning permission for the unsympathetic house at Rackwick. The Committee hopes that Rural Conservation Area status can soon be achieved there through the cooperation of all relevant bodies, as the valley, cherished by both inhabitants and visitors, is a great asset to the heritage of Orkney.

Earlier in the year we were much involved with the continuing debate about the various traffic systems being suggested for Kirkwall. There is disappointment at the apparent unwillingness to introduce some form of

pedestrianisation in the narrow shopping ways of Bridge Street, Albert Street and Victoria Street; some people would also like to see Broad Street included in the list. Much resistance is met from traders whose fears of loss of trade are simply not borne out from experiences in other parts of the country and Europe. We now fear that the system planned for Victoria Street, with a limited number of "on street" parking spaces, is again going to see people constantly driving through hoping to find a space, or on the pretence of looking for a space.

We were late in coming forward with objections to the marshalling area in Kirkwall; members of the committee are divided on this issue. The fact now remains that the marshalling area is here to stay, along with other changes to the waterfront and road way. We can only hope that the alterations will be made sympathetically.

Following our various representations about the above two issues, Councillor Jack Ridgway, Chairman of the Roads and Miscellaneous Services Committee, Mr Campbell, Director of Engineering and Technical Services and Mr Holmes, Deputy of Roads and Miscellaneous Services came along and spoke to the Committee. A full and lengthy discussion ensued. If any members would like fuller details of the various meetings with members of the OIC and Officials, please do contact me, and I will tell you whatever I can.

Other parts of the town, namely the area from the Cathedral down Tankerness lane and across to the Peerie Sea, are still awaiting decisions. Tom Eggeing was recently kind enough to address the Executive Committee telling us of the ideas and suggestions put forward by Halcrow Fox, and explaining some of his own ideas. He stressed that nothing had been agreed upon and these plans were simply ideas. Members of the Committee had the chance to express their fears and reservations about some of the suggestions and all agreed that the Society would have to remain vigilant when plans come up for public scrutiny.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Litter

The Society has been in continuing correspondence from the beginning of the year with the Council and Council Departments about the problems of litter, in the towns, in the countryside and on the beaches. Every body seems to be concerned about it. More powerful litter laws are coming into being very soon, putting onus on local authorities to keep areas neat and litter free. We have, on a number of occasions drawn attention to the success the Anti-Litter Campaign is having in Shetland. Their full time coordinator, employed by the Shetland Amenity Trust, has worked hard to keep the litter problem in the lime-light and has successfully involved many sections of the community. It has been proved that for a modest outlay costs can be saved and the community can have a sense of pride, both in its own efforts and the results.

With the apparent success of our recent conference on Waste Management and Recycling it is hoped that issues such as litter control, and other environmental topics, will be given a higher profile.

Talks & Lectures

This year we have had talks from various people. Roger Mercer, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, came to give a public lecture about the work of the Commission, and the Archaeology and Landscape of Scotland. I think all present enjoyed this talk and found it both interesting and entertaining.

A further lecture was given in April, in Stromness, by visiting Norwegian Academic Reidar Bertelsen, his subject being the Medieval Archaeology of Northern Norway. A very small gathering met in the Stromness academy to hear (with difficulty!) Mr Bertelsen's talk. Mrs Lenore Brown welcomed Mr Bertelsen in Norwegian. Following the lecture members of the Orkney Norway Friendship Association served the refreshments, which they had very kindly provided. Mr Bertelsen also gave a talk in Sanday, the proceeds of which went towards the Swimming Pool fund.

Very recently we welcomed Dr. Maurice Lindsay to Orkney, as you probably saw in The Orcadian. All involved considered it a very successful trip, he managed to find all the information he needed about the Society to write an article for the Scottish Civic Trust Newsletter. We await its publication with interest! We thank Marjorie Linklater for her help in the organisation of the visit and for her kind donation of delicious food; thanks also to the other members of the Committee who contributed refreshments and time.

Visiting academics, Paul and Alison Newman gave a very successful public lecture about Old Orkney Farm Buildings. The product of their work will be published in the not too distant future.

Sandy Firth again organised a successful trip to Eynhallow; many thanks, Sandy - luckily no hiccups this time - actually, luck does not come into it at all, the trip, as always, was very carefully planned and organised.

I represented the Society at an Oil Pollution Control 'training day' on Flotta, organised by OXY. It was all very interesting and they are obviously trying to be prepared for any eventuality, but one remains sceptical about the effectiveness of all the equipment in the face of a serious spill in anything but calm conditions. Nevertheless, they are correct in saying that the possibility of a spill is always there, even with all the precautions taken, and that it is in everyone's interests to be familiar with pollution control procedure.

Projects Fund

The Society is considering the establishment of a 'Projects Fund'. It has been noted that various schools, such as Dounby, have undertaken very worth while projects, namely the Skippy Geo, Fishermen's huts at Marwick, and more recently the Kirbister Farm museum garden - and a super job they have made of all their projects. Whilst the Society has congratulated them and given moral support, it is thought we are now in a position to give financial support to local initiatives.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Treasurer

This year we have lost our Treasurer, Brian Douglas, he did a great job for us, and will be missed. The Royal Bank had the cheek to promote and transfer him away from Orkney! We all wish him well, and the Society gave him a book token, in thanks, for his help.

Happily, we do have a new treasurer. Retired accountant Mr John Laughton very kindly offered to undertake the task of keeping our books in order. We are very lucky in the talents of our membership!

Waste and Recycling Conference

Our most recent undertaking was the Waste and Recycling Conference, held in conjunction with the Orkney Science Festival. I am very happy to say it was a success; we had some super speakers, and lively debate throughout, ably Chaired overall by Sandy Firth. Copious notes made by him and by Willie Thomson, who chaired an individual session, were "recycled" by the latter for "The Orcadian", and this Newsletter. Thanks are due to them and the other session chairmen, Ian McInnes and Councillor George Wylie. The Committee have thanked me profusely, and I am very grateful for that, but I must say, it was far from a one person show! There would have been no conference had our President, Laura Grimond not had the brilliant idea. Sandy Firth made himself available to me for help and advice, as did Laura; I am sure they have both suffered from terrible earache as a result. Anne Brundle designed the cover of the leaflet and Mona Sinclair helped all through the two days of the Conference. Howie Firth and his secretary, Dorie Foubister, are also to be thanked for their cooperation, help and encouragement, as are the Royal Bank, for their sponsorship, the Science Festival Committee and Josh Gourlay. Finally, I have been stunned by the kindness and generosity of Committee Members to myself, I simply cannot thank them enough!

The most recent event on the calendar took the form of a slide show, and the theme was a journey through time - ORKNEY PAST AND PRESENT, the slides are the product of years of 'snapping' by members of the Society - past and present!

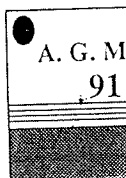
This has been a very lengthy report; I told you we've had a busy year, and probably I have missed something out!

My last few words go to our Chairman, Iain Heddle and his wife Margot. The last few months have been exceedingly difficult for them, and I cannot let the opportunity go by without praising, on behalf of all our members, their great strength and courage; they have remained cheerful and positive throughout, one cannot help but admire such spirit.

Andi Ross.

ADDENDUM

Our later newsletter has provided our hardworking secretary with the opportunity of updating us on the business of the recent AGM of 22nd October and this will be dispersed as separate items throughout these pages.



SUBSECTIONS

Following on from earlier discussion :

1. The Archaeology Committee was revived with Mr. W. Thomson as Chairman, after a short period of being in abeyance
2. A Waste management and Recycling working party will be established.
3. A Junior Group has been officially formed Steve Dickenson, chairman and Christopher Gee, founder member, have been empowered to initiate "lift-off"!

THE FEREDAY PRIZE

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY'S LOCAL STUDIES PROJECT PRIZEWINNERS

Pupils in many Orkney secondary schools have again been taking part in the local studies project sponsored by Orkney Heritage Society. The Heritage Society judges were impressed by the amount of research which many participants had undertaken, and also by their obvious enthusiasm.

In recent years this project has formed a regular part of the second year course in many schools, and it provides an excellent preparation for the 'Investigation' which is a required part of the Standard Grade History examination.

This year's winner is Alison Muir, a Kirkwall Grammar School pupil from North Ronaldsay, whose winning project was 'The Changing Lifestyle of Women in North Ronaldsay during this Century'.

The project was based on a series of extended interviews; it was a lively piece of writing, and was and was illustrated by interesting photographs and was published in the Oct/Nov edition (No.38) of the Orkney View..

Second prize went to Christine Groundwater of Stromness Academy for her study of 'The Harray Men's Graves'. She told the story of the Harray men who perished in one of the dreadful seventeenth century famines. Excellent photographs illustrated the site in conditions when a light dusting of snow revealed the low mounds, and the project also contained detailed directions for locating the site.

Third prize went to Duncan Abernethy for 'The Raising of the Swanbister Gun', the story of the recovery of a gun from the German cruiser, the 'Bremse'. His detailed account was accompanied by an interesting collection of original documents.

Special Prize
Angela Sutherland

More results on page 7

FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

In June this year OHS helped to sponsor "The Slockit Light", a most successful art collaboration by Mary Scott and Dave Jackson in the St. Magnus Hall, the timbered roof of which added its own stunning magic.

John Cumming wrote in "The Orcadian": Celebrating the work of Mackay Brown, Muir, Linklater and the Sagas, this was an excellent choice as a Festival show. St. Magnus Hall was, quite simply, transformed. Decorated sails hung in the roof, reflecting in the glazed tops of the four boxes or kists which formed the core of this three-dimensional narrative. On the walls multiple units were arranged to form panels each of which represented a calendar month. Timed lights synchronised to music by Tom Anderson led the observer through the cyclic sequences. The lights faded and we were left to contemplate our own reflection, the reverse image of the sails and the roof timbers.

Our support was appreciated by the Festival Committee and was very much in line with our society objectives.

Highly Commended

Ellen Baikie
Susan Bichan
Alison Black
Rebecca Brown
Rohan Casey
Simone Chalmers
Carol Clanachan
Diane Clouston
Kelly Coghill
Angela Craigie
* Rachel Cromarty *
Kerry Flett

Ingrid Groat
Catherine Jones
Leo Kerr
Alison Lamont
Nicola Learmonth
Theresa Leslie
Celia MacInnes
Paul Manson
Jonathan Martell
Katy Matthews
Laura Mowatt

Kenneth Ritch
Mary Ann Robertson
Jamie Russell
David Scarth
Stephanie Seatter
Miranda Seyd
Karen Spence
Susan Stevenson
Claire Sutherland
Kirsty Swan
Kirstie Tait

Commended Certificates.

Gillian Anderson
Donna Campbell
Dawn Clouston
Emma Deans
Neil Dixon
Joanna Goggin
Erik Grievie
Andrew Hamilton
Kirsty Holden
Rebecca Howard
Barry Johnston
Helen Johnston
Tina Lamont

Lianne MacDonald
Laura MacIver
Victoria McHarg
Isla McIntosh
Simon Meason
Sheena Morrison
Carol Muir
Heather Philips
Emma Scott
Daniel Sargent
Stewart Sinclair
Keith Slater

Kris Smith
Steven Spence
Alison Tait
Erik Tait
Leesa Thomson
Maurice Thomson
Melissa Tilbury
Helen Towrie
Lisa Tullock
Simon Welsh
Ben Whittles
Becky Young

* We are fortunate to be able to present Rachael's project
"My Heritage : South Cara " see page 15

SAVE OUR DYKES!



A continuing cry.....but there is still a multifarious tumbledown problem here. One wonders how much worse it would be now without the help of Conservation Volunteers whom we owe a considerable debt of gratitude. If only grants could be given for their upkeep and renewal as is available for barbed wire and electric fences, those modern menaces...Stone dykes lend so much character to the landscape, never mind shelter to the animals, and are very much part of our heritage.

DON'T WASTE IT - RE-USE IT! CONFERENCE REPORT

By Willie Thomson and Sandy Firth

THE SOCIETY'S well-attended conference on Waste Management and Recycling, held during the Science Festival, dealt with the threats of pollution, litter, refuse and waste.

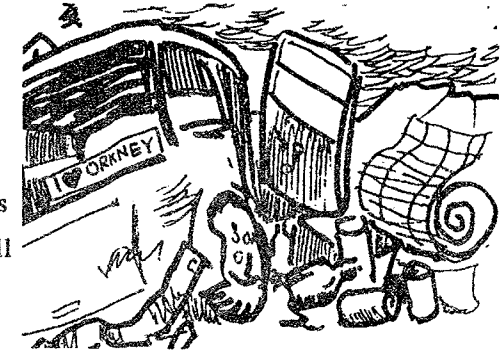
It brought to Orkney guest speakers from Bornholm in Denmark, from Shetland, and from Scotland as well as involving our own members, council officials and the general public. A number of visiting speakers were also able to address councillors and have discussions with council departments.

A presentation by Jorgen Jespersen and Erling Malmquist from Bornholm opened the conference. Bornholm - "the green island of the nineties" - is recognised as a world leader in methods of using waste material.

The speakers described what could be achieved in an island comparable in size to Orkney, lying about 100 miles east of the main part of Denmark.

Incinerators produce enough energy to heat 2,300 houses; there is a biogas plant producing fuel gas from pig and cow manure, and a plant producing hot water from straw-burning. Other advanced energy systems include a solar heating plant and wind energy turbines.

Mr Jespersen was quick to point out that these developments were not a series of good ideas which stand on their own, but depended both on public attitudes and national policies. In the case of Denmark, these policies involved heavy taxation on fuel which created a strong incentive to save energy.



John McKendrick of UK 2000 addressed the commercial aspects of recycling; it was considered necessary to create markets for recycled products. This session raised a number of controversial points, which were energetically debated.

Rick Nickerson, Shetland Amenity Trust's anti-litter co-ordinator, gave two papers. On Tuesday he described his investigations into the feasibility of glass recycling (a report, Special Action Programme for Inter-regional Co-operation, is available).

His second talk on Wednesday featured "MITNIE" the giant seagull, who helps Rick bring the problems of litter and pollution to the attention of the Shetland public. The campaign there has been a great success, drawing support from voluntary organisations and schools. This was an appealing presentation which infused the conference members with a desire to have similar commitment to tackling the litter problem in Orkney.

One of the highlights of the conference was a paper by Dr. Angus Marland of Edinburgh University's Centre for Human

Ecology which described experimental solar-aquatic systems of treating sewage. Within a large greenhouse there was created what Dr. Marland described as a "living machine," working with nature rather than against it. After initial screening, sewage flows through a series of tanks and artificial 'marshes', becoming progressively cleaner as a variety of plants and even fish extract pollutants. The end result is water of a standard fit to be discharged, or even capable of being converted to drinking.

These greenhouse-tanks are full of beautiful plants, the process is largely odourless, and the sale of plants, fish, worms and composts are possible side-lines. Running costs are similar to traditional methods of disposal, and the technology already exists to deal with the sewage of a town of 10,000 population.

Local contributions to the conference included a collection of slides shown by Dr. Frank Foden, illustrating the beauties of the Orkney shore, but also the black spots and eyesores, many of which could be put right at no great cost and indeed mainly by a change in our habits. *This is also the subject of our 'CHALLENGE' article on page 10*

In summing up Sandy Firth gave a thorough report of sessions for those people who had not been to the whole conference; he then introduced OIC officials, Louis Kerr, Norman Rushbrook and Bob Cross; they all gave very full accounts of the problems facing Orkney and the audience was pleased to be given some insight into the ideas they had for helping to solve them.

Finally Sandy opened up the meeting to include all the conference speakers and the audience which resulted in lively and sometimes heated discussion; the clear message which emerged was that waste disposal, re-cycling and energy saving was not something to leave to 'the Council' - it was everyone's responsibility, including individuals and companies as well as the government.

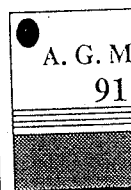
COMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS IN 1992

It is hoped that next year we can arrange at least 2 extra members' outings. For spring a day in Hoy has been suggested, taking in the Martello Towers and Melsetter House, probably with a meal in Hoy. It has also been suggested that we hire David Lea's bus, and David, of course, for the day, if available.

The second outing is to be a re-run of "The Record of the Rocks", which was one of the events in the Science Festival. "A classic scenic geological walk around the West Shore of Stromness over the flagstones formed in the ancient Orcadian Lake", with Dr. John Brown and Bryce Wilson.

Hopefully Eynhallow will again be on the calendar.

Confirmation and Dates will be published when finalised.



A. G. M
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DOUBLE WELCOME

Mrs. Marjorie Linklater who has done so much for this Society has been made Honorary Vice President.

Paul Sutherland, previously on the committee as its youngest ever member, has been elected back on to help us now that he is home again in Kirkwall after taking a Degree in Law.

CHALLENGE

Around Orkney Mainland



by Frank Foden

I have recently completed a shore and cliff walk all the way round the Mainland, a distance I reckon - taking in all the dents - of something not far short of two hundred miles. The various stints of ten, twelve or fifteen miles at times involved my getting to the last break-off point and back home for the next, accomplished by the services of the most helpful and efficient chauffeur. We contrived only once to miss one another in timing and location

It took longer than I expected because of the interruption of a bout of illness; but I managed during the exercise to sample a full range of seasons and changes of Orkney weather, from July through spring and autumn bluster, with the winds blasting me along or furiously opposing my passage, looking down on seas gently lapping 'with low sounds by the shore' or bashing frantically at cliff and stack; and on one or two occasions through pockets of crispy frost. However, I generally chose the brighter days, not just to avoid punishment but to guarantee the chance of decent photographs, for I have brought back with me upwards of six hundred slides of this magnificent, and in places, much abused coastline.

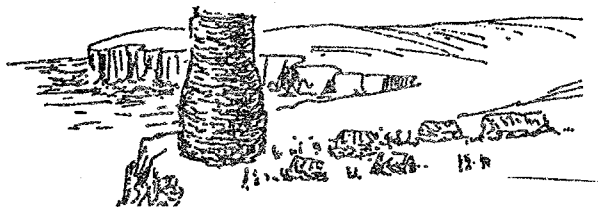
There can be no coast of comparable complete length in Europe, perhaps in the world, more crowded with littoral variety, scenic, geographical, geological, botanical, archaeological features, incident and curiosity. My progress started from Shore Street, Kirkwall, eastward round Carness, Tankerness, Deerness and Rosness, along the great stretch of shelving coast and moorland which bound Scapa Flow, round the Ness beyond Stromness and on to Kirkwall along the Eynhallow Sound and the shores of Widefirth. No single bit of this colourful crenelated coastline is quite like the next bit.

With a different sort of licence from that of Robert Rendall, the native Orkneyman whose 'many-faceted mind' has so vividly portrayed the 'Island Shore', I shall when I am ready write my account of this fascinating trek. I take the liberty now, as a marvelling recent immigrant, to mention a few of the impressions that I have brought back to Kirkwall with me.

First the geology. They include wonder and delight at the miraculous maze of landforms curved and smashed out of the Devonian rock by the ever pounding seas at Yesnaby and beyond, Rerwick, Mull Head and south to Rosness, the immaculate geometry of the jointing that allows such sculpturing, and the starkness with which bared flags and many-layered cliff faces reveal - with a little interpretation - what things might have been four hundred million years ago.

These features are all products of the fierce forces of erosion that have whittled away most of the enormous platform of Devonian flags that once lay across the north of Scotland and these northern seas. They are complemented by some quite spectacular examples of land-building, the tombolos and ayres that the overburdened tides and currents of the turbulent seas of Orkney have deposited wherever opportunity allowed. Some like the Ayre of Kirkwall, now much modified by human construction, are obvious and well known. There are a dozen others, with ponds and oyces behind them along the twistier parts of the coast, for example at Weethick, Mill Sand, St. Mary's Bay of Ayre, Skail of Kirbister, Oyce of Isbister. The Deerness Peninsula is part of Mainland Orkney only on account of the dune-belt tombolo that separates St. Peter's Pool from Dingieshowe Bay. Where there is nothing more exciting to look at, there are miles and miles of raw-edged sheets of boulder clay. The debris of the great ice fields that once covered our land, the basis of Orkney farming.

As impressive as the remarkable geomorphology of the Orkney coasts, are the monuments of human construction,



ranging from those of more than 3000BC down to the present time, many quite unlabelled and unexcavated - a bad day, it might be, when they become so. There is certainly no other coast of Britain so fringed with 'brochs', 'broughs' and 'burnt mounds', remnants of ancient villages, holy buildings, Pictish to Victorian in age; there is a Viking city, a Viking cathedral and a Viking castle. I leave altogether out of account here Stromness and Kirkwall, themselves monuments of mediaeval and more recent development.



YELLOW FLAG



MEADOWWEET

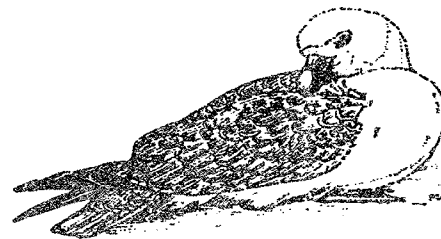
To attempt in such a short piece as this a description of wild life on the Orkney coast, especially the birds and flowers, would be in vain; but - allowing for the almost total absence of woodland, there can be few other coasts of comparable length providing such a variety of habitats and species. The seas themselves and the littoral abound in rich growth of the green and brown weeds, and there are countless clefts, miniature dells and sometimes whole terrains, deep at the proper time of the year in wildflower masses. For Orkney does not deal in penny numbers; if the plant grows at all, it grows in profusion and with blooms twice the size of those further south. 'Common' or 'rare' makes no matter. Celandines and buttercups wear a burnish brighter than any I have seen elsewhere; primroses, daisies, mimulus, red campions, dandelions, bluebells - disdainful of their supposed need for arboreal shade - flourish bravely in their season on the banks above the shore. I have never

anywhere else seen such acres of ragged robins, leaving no green showing through the cerise mantle, as on the moist fields behind the earth dyke away from the sea on Braebuster Ness. Not much good perhaps for efficient farming, but what a sight. And the same may be said of the golden array of king-cups and 'waving segs' that mark the marshy dips to the sea of many a pasture.

There are magnificent 'rarities' too; foot-long spikes of northern marsh orchid, dense masses of heath spotted, nests of

claytonia, splendid heads of angelica. But the most festive botanical sight of this entire walk, was the Brough of Birsay, decorated like a great cake with thick pink icing of thrift.

This was not a bird-watching expedition but I was accompanied all the way by gulls of every kind, terns, and on every cliff edge was watched by the beady eyes of fulmars as they effortlessly swooped back and forth along the cliff contours.



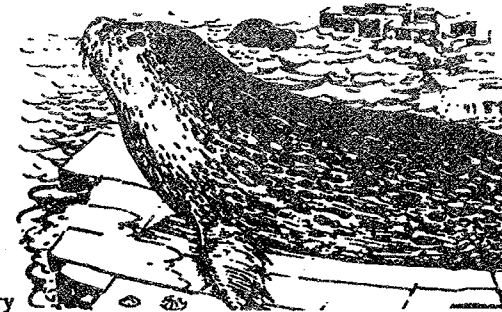
Thousands of guillemots advertised their precarious presence on Marwick Cliffs by a powerful whiff from below. My walk was signalled ahead of me by circling and squeaking oyster-catchers, ring plovers calling 'T-V, T-V' and, in the spring, I was serenaded by the seductive 'Ooh-oo' of the male eiders. Bonxies sometimes showed slightly aggressive interest in my progress and on Holland Head a male raven beat the rock with his beak and 'Skark-skrarked' menacingly at me to divert me presumably from the nest down the cliff. Time and time again, anxious to avoid encounter, seals, grey, and common, slid off the rocks and splashed out to sea; I would then turn and find them ganging up on me from behind in pure curiosity.

As for curiosities and 'incidents', there were plenty of them: the queer whale-bone 'eagle' on the headland north of Skipi Geo, the towering wind-mill above the Burgar coast, the cannon mounted on a concrete block to command the entrance to Deer sound at Gumpic Ness, the factory chimney monument to the unfortunate Covenanters drowned at Scarva Taing one dreadful December night in 1679. Few of the interesting historical incident sites are marked. Orcadians do not go in for that sort of thing. There is, for instance, the

wholly forgotten landing at Carness of the invading Earl of Caithness with his 'great battering piece' and sixty soldiers for a siege of Kirkwall Castle; the landing at Kirkwall of an English force under Admiral Sir John Clere in 1557 when he came with ships and artillery for a similar purpose. Slightly better known is the landing on the Orphir coast of Sinclair Earl of Caithness, on the way to defeat by the Orkney men and his own death in the Battle of Summerdale of 1528. There is nothing at Houton to mark the departure of Montrose with his army of Orkney men for his disastrous last battle at Carbisdale in 1659. All these are worthy of a decent stone or cairn to commemorate them.

There is no lack of ugly evidences of the more recent wars 1939-1945. Tangles of utterly rotted barbed wire still festoon a few banks, while the reinforced concrete gun platforms, blockhouses and lookouts, will be there for a few more hundred years. For the military seldom take much trouble to remove their rubbish - in any age.

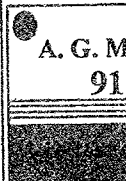
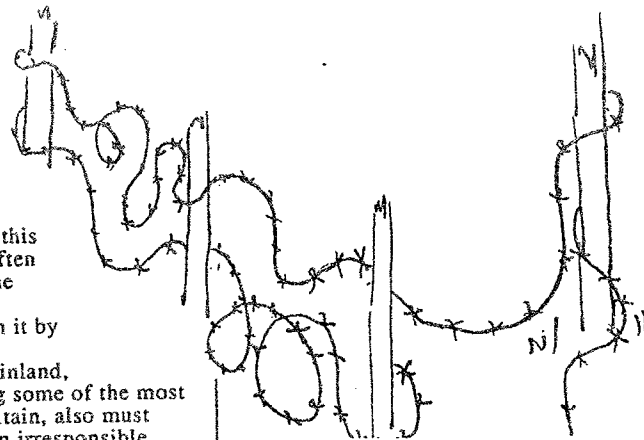
Speaking of barbed wire, what a pity that so beautiful a land as Orkney has to be criss-crossed by thousands of miles of this barbarous stuff; but I can imagine the agricultural anguish that would be caused by a suggestion that the old walls be rebuilt. The rotten condition of some of the wire fencing near the coast suggests that there is not much point in keeping it there anyway; but it would be



a merciful, cheap and charitable thing to do, if farmers would put climb-over blocks in the many places where wayfarers would do no harm to themselves or the land.

The nastiest feature of this exciting coastal (and often inland) landscape, is the wanton ugliness and desecration imposed on it by so many native human occupiers. Orkney Mainland, in addition to affording some of the most majestic scenery in Britain, also must qualify for first prize in irresponsible waste dumping; creeks and gullies by the dozen, clogged by rotting tyres, bedsteads, plastic feed fertilizer bags, cans, boxes, and plastic bottles, mountains of containers that once held gallons of 'Flash' and 'Domestos' that farmers' wives used to keep their kitchens spotless. There is enough discarded farm machinery, of every age from the horse tedder to the combine harvester to stock farm museums for the whole country. In at least two places, someone with a wry sense of humour has installed disembowelled arm chairs to allow the traveller to sit and contemplate all the horror.

Cars and car parts there are, of course, in rusting plenty. One beach I know, is lined for several hundred yards by car hulks. And many of the beaches themselves form an absolutely disgraceful exhibition platform, not just for rubbish discarded at sea, but also waste cast upon the waters from the Orkney shore. Vile and stinking effluents form unimpeded from some farms into the sea; and if there is anyone left who is enthusiastic for sewage disposal direct into the sea, a walk along the rocks from Crow Nest to Rambery - when the wind has blown it back to land, or in the recesses of Thickbigging in the Bay of Firth should help to cure them of the prejudice. I have much more to say on the dismal subject of desecration of the Orkney coast - and pictures to illustrate it. But this is enough to be going on with.



ST. BONIFACE PAPAY

Lady Grimond at the AGM drew the attention of members to the recent developments on St. Boniface Church. They were delighted to learn that the legal obstacles previously preventing the commencement of this imaginative project have now been overcome. The notion of restoring this old church into an ecumenical centre was originally the idea of Dr. Raymond Lamb, conceived as part of a whole series of innovative ideas to develop and encourage visitors to the North Isles, which also included the Eday Heritage Walk. Encouragingly, the OIC agreed to the project and now that the way is clear, the meeting was anxious that the OIC pressed ahead quickly. It was however noted that the funding for this appears to have been removed from the OIC expenditure budget and its restoration was urged unanimously as soon as possible. A further advantage to this project is that experienced, skilled masons, resident in Papay, may benefit by its commencement.

THE BOUNDARY STONES OF HARRAY AND FIRTH



This is the title of an exhibition, just finished, in the "Black Pig Gallery" of Kirkwall, consisting of black and white photographs by Alistair Peebles, complimented by myth-inspired colourful tapestries and mixed media works from Carol Dunbar, entitled, "Down in the Deep Blue Sea". The combination made a most attractive show and the photos have revived interest in a near forgotten subject. Below is reprinted Alistair's introduction to this work, by kind permission of Sigrid Mavor, the gallery owner.

"The map overleaf will give some idea of where these stones are to be found. They mark the parish boundary between Harray and Firth, and follow that boundary as it runs from Stenness to Rendall. What little I know about the origins of these stones I owe to John Firth of Harray and Eoin Scott of Firth.

They were erected at the behest of a Government Commission at around 1848, by a former Scarth of Binscarth and others, - perhaps partly as an attempt to rationalise Commonly land-holdings in the area, as they were trying also to do in the rest of Scotland. The existence of Udal rights here made the attempt a little less straightforward, however.

The parish boundary follows the watershed, on the hills at least, and that accounts for its crooked meandering. The marker stones are placed irregularly along the line of the boundary, and for the most part, their positioning may be accounted for by consideration of the line of sight from one stone to the next.

As far as I have been able to discover, by map

or by foot, there are 13 stones, and all but one are still standing. That one fell when part of the peat bank at Clay Loam gave way. It will one day be reinstated, as was the stone at the Chair of Lyde, a few years ago, by Jackie Taylor of Lyde. This latter stone seems to have been a casualty of manoeuvres during the war.

I found one of the stones by accident about 3 years ago, and have searched the area off-and-on since then for the rest. The stones are mostly of sandstone - creamy coloured originally, I think, but weathered in a great variety of ways. One or two have been put to practical use, but for the most part, they just sit where they have sat for about 150 years, 'H' on one face and 'F' on the other (and 'S' on the most southerly, for Stenness), and carry the marks of their original message still remarkably clearly."

(Perhaps our readers have further information? Certainly Peter Leith has a story or two! - Ed)

STANDING STONES

IT gives great pleasure to see the Stenness Hotel rising so superbly from the ashes. Judging from old illustrations, the renovation appears to have taken into account the character of the hotel as it was originally constructed. Now a major building to be proud of -- compliments to all involved!

Each year the Heritage Society sponsors local studies projects in Orkney schools for pupils in secondary 2 (the 'Fereday Prize'). A feature is the large number of excellent farm studies, of which fourteen-year-old Rachel Cromarty's description of South Cara is a very good example. It is particularly interesting because of her family's five hundred-year association with South Cara, but she also provides a very good record of the developments and changes over the last two generations. The original project was copiously illustrated by interesting maps and photographs which it has not been possible to reproduce in this newsletter.

My Heritage: South Cara.

By Rachel M. Cromarty.

As the Cromarties have been at South Cara since 1450, I set out to discover how South Cara has evolved, and I would like to learn to love and care for it in the future. South Cara sits on the east coast of South Ronaldsay. At one time at least ten families lived off the same area as one family does now. It was a hard living from land and sea. It would be too much to try to go back to 1450, but I will give a short summary of the family tree, and of the amalgamations, and I will also write about my father and grandfather's life and how the farm has changed.

Amalgamations.

1955 - Lower Cara and Upper Cara	55 acres
1967 - Bought Heights of Alma (from Betty Herdman)	87 1/2 acres
1970 - Bought Mount Pleasant (from Fred Brown)	
1970 - Bought Inkerman	
1970 - Bought Balaclava (from Fred Brown)	137 1/2 acres
1972 - Bought Sebastapol	
1972 - Bought Cott of Lally	
1972 - Bought Dyke-end	
1972 - Bought Cronstat	233 acres

My dad took over the farm when he was fifteen. He started with 52 acres in 1955. By 1961 he had five beef cows and twenty-five others finishing. In 1967 the farm was a dairy farm. Now in 1991 he has 65 beef cows and 106 followers.

The Cromarty Family Tree.

1. John Cromarty of South Cara, born 1450.
2. Magnus Cromarty of Cara, married Cristen Cara.
3. John I Cromarty of South Cara, married Marion Craigie of Brough.
4. John II Cromarty, married Marion Hervie.
5. Magnus Cromarty of Cara, died 1616, married Margaret Groat of Cara.
6. John III Cromarty, died 1647, married Annas Stewart of South Cara.
7. Magnus Cromarty, married Margaret Flett (m. 1663).
8. John Cromarty, born 1663, married Margaret Smith.
9. Alexander Cromarty, married Margaret Stewart (m. 1795)
10. William Cromarty (1800-1864), married Margaret Butcher. Lived in S. Ronaldsay.
11. Samuel Ross Cromarty of South Cara (1859-1908), married Elizabeth Ridland. (lost at sea).
12. John Robert Cromarty (1889-1948), born Lerwick, worked South Cara, married Margaret Ritchie.
13. John Goodsir Cromarty, born 1939, married Ann Matheson Cromarty.
14. Rachel Margaret Cromarty of South Cara, born 1977.

The Farm House.

In the house the step-grandmother, mum and dad all lived. When dad was nine his dad died. Dad's mother's brother worked the farm until dad was fifteen and had left school. The grandmother ruled the roost. She had a servant-girl, and there was also a servant man who helped on the farm in spring and harvest. The farm house had three bedrooms, a living room, a parlour, kitchen, scullery, porch and garden. There was no bathroom inside for a while. The toilet was a small wooden shed and was called a dry toilet. When a toilet was added it was built in the porch. To begin with in the kitchen there was a 'New Leader' or range. When the kitchen was modernised the range was put in the living room. In the bedrooms there were box beds. This house is now used as a holiday cottage.



Near the house there was a dairy for making cheese and butter. The cheese was packed in girnels which were wooden boxes filled with oatmeal to keep it dry. Hens eggs were for use, and also for selling. Hens would be eaten when laying days were over, but the best for eating were the 'cockie chickens'. At one point there were over a thousand hens. Every day dada would collect the eggs and put them in boxes to be sent away.

A new farm house was built in 1975-6 and the Cromarty family live there now. The house has six bedrooms, two kitchens, two living rooms, a utility room, an office and five bathrooms. We have been doing farmhouse bed and breakfast since 1989.

The Farm Buildings.

The main range of farm buildings are the dairy, stable, byre, barn, calf shed, turnip shed, hen-house, coal and feed store, pig sty, potato shed, and an old barn used for storing implements. Over the years the farm buildings have developed as follows:

- 1946 - A Nissen hut was the first addition to the farm.
- 1952 - The Nissen hut was blown down in the hurricane of that year, and was replaced by a block-built building used as a poultry house and hay store.
- 1960 - A silo was erected. The turnip shed and calf shed were knocked down, and the dairy was also taken down.
- 1969 - A cubical house was built for dairying.
- 1970 - The slurry tank was added.
- 1974 - Both the byre and the cubical house were extended. A milking-parlour was installed in the old byre.
- 1975 - The new house of South Cara was built. Some small buildings like the old pig sty and the implement shed were knocked down.
- 1976 - A big silo was built.
- 1977 - Kennels were built on to the calf shed. A garage was built as well.
- 1978 - A workshop with a grain store inside was built.
- 1982 - Dad's first earth-wall silo was built.
- 1989 - The earth-wall silo was extended which meant that the potato shed and another pig sty had to be knocked down.
- 1990 - An extension was made to South Cara farm house.

Fields.

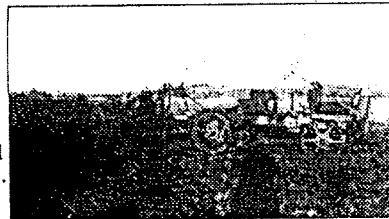
The following are the fields which were on the farm when my dad's dad was alive:

Calves Park, Long Field, Brecks Field, Haven Field, Middle Field South, Middle Field North, Myres Field, Shore Field, and Balaclava Field. The Brecks Field, Haven Field, Middle Field South and Middle Field North nowadays make up one big field called Middle Field. Similarly the old Myres Field, Shore Field and Balaclava Field make up one big field which is called the Shore Field. The Long Field is unchanged, and small areas around South Cara are where the Calves park was. Nowadays the fields are as follows:

1. Long Field: The best field on the farm. It has been the same as long as my dad can remember.
2. Middle Field: Good quality soil.
3. Shore Field: A big variety of soils, deep black soils at the top and clay near the cliffs.
4. Balaclava: Reclaimed from heather. Part of the old house is still standing.
5. Cronstat: Reclaimed from heather. Part of the house is still standing.
6. Dyke-end Hill Field: Incorporates Inkerman, Sebastapol and the Cott of Lally, 30 acres all reclaimed from heather.
7. Dyke-end Steading Field: Partly reclaimed from heather, but the rest was already in good condition when it was bought.
8. Berston Field: The middle section of this field is very steep so care must be taken on tractors.
9. Shore Field to Berston Fiels: There is a cliff walk on average ten metres wide. Here you will find lots of wild flowers in season and sea-pinks. There are nesting burds in abundance. The beach is very stony with flat rock formations where lots of little sea-creatures can be found. Below the Dyke-end Steading Field there is an old mine shaft.
- 10 Matches Field: Very stony. It was reclaimed from heather and included an old stone quarry now infilled.
11. Commons East: Fair soil. It was recalimed from rough.
12. Commons West: Fair soil improved by ploughing and reseeding.
13. Commons Hill Field: Rough, poor and stony, needing a lot of stones removed. This area is good for wild life as there is plenty of water and shelter.



Meg and Jack with the reaper



Old tractor made up of car parts

Crops as They Once Were.

The crop of oats was cut by reaper and sheaves were tied by hand, then stooked. There were six sheaves to the stook. When the stooks were dry they were carted in and built into stacks. In winter the sheaves were carted into the barn and threshed, and the oats were bruised or crushed and fed to stock. Chaff and straw were used for feeding and bedding. Chaff was also used in the house for stuffing mattresses. The oats and bere were also milled and used in the home. The processing of bere was a bit more complicated. After threshing, the grain was put through a humler to remove the awns.

A tractor - a Fordson with iron wheels - and a reaper were used to cut the hay. The hay was turned by fork, then forked into cools (small ricks). After curing, the hay was forked on to a cart and brought back in to the yards and built into a hay stack.

My grandfather was the second person on the island to stop growing neeps, as he put water-bowls in the byres, so my dad does not remember much work with the neeps. Potatoes, cabbage and carrots were grown for home use only.

Once when Jock wastaking in turnips he fell in a well. Dad can remember Jock in the stable supported by a sling.

Crops Now.

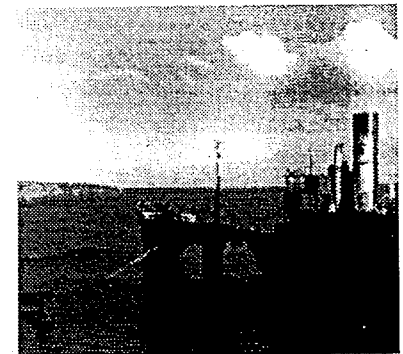
My dad does not grow oats and bere anymore. He sometimes grows hay. The hay is cut by tractor and mower, then it is turned by a hay-turner. A baler then bales the hay and it is collected by a tractor and bale-lifter. The grass is cut later in the year than for silage and different fertilisers are grown.

The silage iscut by mower, then picked up, chopped, and blown into a trailer. the trailers cart the silage to the silo pit where it is back-raked in and rolled by tractor. After all the silage is in, it is covered by a polythene sheet which is weighed down.

When barley is grown the field is first ploughed and cultivated, then a contractor drills the seed barley and fertilisers into the ground. Spraying helps to keep weeds down. When the crop is ready to be harvested, the combine harvester cuts down the barley and it is carted to the grain store. It is treated with a preservative before being stored. The straw left over is baled and used for feed or bedding.

Shipwrecks.

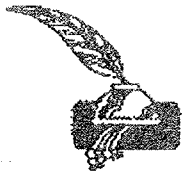
There have been a few notable shipwrecks on our coastline. My grandfather was awarded a bronze medal for trying to save life from drowning. The medal and scroll were presented by the Royal Humane Society. A ship called 'The Geraldo' was sailing from Leith to Kirkwall with A cargo of coal. This was 30 January 1940. A plane came overhead and dropped bombs which went down the funnel of the ship, blasting it to pieces. Some men scrambled to a life-boat. Most men made it, but sadly it was machine-gunned by another plane. The boat then hit a reef and capsized. My granddad, his neighbour Archie Bichan, and a Captain Bennet all swam out and tried to rescue some of the crew. Seventeen people were lost that night and nobody managed to save anyone's life, but they really tried. So on 7 may the three men received a scroll and a medal presented by Lord Lieutenant Cohen of Tankerness House.



In 1969 the Liberian registered cargo boat, 'The Irene', ran out of fuel while crossing the North Sea, and was eventually washed on to the rocks below the Shore Field. My dad was alone on the cliffs, waiting for the coastguards. As the ship came in she hit a reef, she rolled violently but, remarkably, regained stability. She came forward some more, then came to rest against a shelf of rock. It was anawesome sight - the wind howling, the distress flares lighting up the skies, and the noise of the sea, wind and occasional screams of men. The men were rescued safely by the breeches buøy and taken to Kirkwall. The horror of the night was the loss of the Longhope lifeboat and her crew.

UNIVERSITY STATUS FOR STROMNESS.....

The "old" Stromness Academy buildings are again happily and purposefully buzzing with life since the installation there of Heriot Watt University's INTERNATIONAL CENTRE for ISLAND TECHNOLOGY. Internal and external repair and refurbishment have been underway for some time and we look forward in due course hopefully to the landscaping and enhancement of the old playground where the panoramic sweeping view over land, sea and hills is second to none.



ORKNEY BOOKS 1991



Author	Title	Date
Barrow, G.W.S.	A Kingdom in Crisis; Scotland and the Maid of Norway	1990
Behre, Göran,	Gothenburg in Stuart War Strategy	1990
Bell, Bernard, and Dickson, Camilla,	Excavations at Warbeth (Stromness Cemetery) Broch, Orkney	1990
Besant, Pam	On Orkney : Poems	1991
Black, Jeremy,	New Light on an Orkney M.P. of the Early Eighteenth Century	1990
Brown, George Mackay	Gipsy	1990
Brown, George Mackay	Selected Poems	1991
Brown, George Mackay	The Seaking's Daughter Eweka	1991
Burgher, Leslie,	Orkney; An Illustrated Architectural Guide	1991
Crawford, Barbara E,	North Sea Kingdoms, North Sea Bureaucrat; a Royal Official who transcended national boundaries	1990
Dahlerup, Troels,	Orkney Bishops as Suffragans in the Scandinavian-Baltic Area	1990
Dex, Joan	Out Skerries. An Island Community	1990
Dickson, Neil,	An Island Shore; Selected Writings of Robert Rendall	1990
Ditchburn, David,	A Note on Scandinavian Trade with Scotland in the Later Middle Ages	1990
Donaldson, Gordon,	A Northern Commonwealth	1990
Fereday, R.P,	The Orkney Balfours, 1747-99	1990
Hanson & Sciater (Editors)	Scottish Archaeology: New Perceptions	1991
Jackson, Anthony	Faroes	1991
Jesch, Judith,	Women in the Viking Age	1990
Lillehammer, Aravid,	Boards, Beams and Barrel-hoops; Contacts between Scotland and the Stavanger Area in the Seventeenth Century	1990
Magnusson, Magnus,	The Viking Road	1991
Nickerson, R,	Special Action Programme for Inter-Regional Co-operation (Glass Re-cycling)	1989
Owen, Olwyn,	Tuquoy, Orkney, 1988	1990
Power, Rosemary,	Scotland in the Norse Sagas	1990
Prestwich, Michael,	Edward I and the Maid of Norway	1990
Renaud, Jean,	La Saga des Orcadiens	1991
Samson, Ross,	Social Approaches to Viking Studies	1991
Schei, Liv & Moberg, Gunnie	The Faroe Islands	1990
Seyfrit, Carole L,	Social Impact of North Sea Oil Development on Rural Youth	1990
Smith, Beverley,	Isbister; an Orkney Islands Council Guardianship Monument	1990
Smith, Brian,	Shetland, Scandinavia, Scotland, 1300-1700	1991
Spence, Rhoda	Reading by Lamplight: A Scottish Bedside Book	1990
Stevenson, Robert B.K,	The Celtic Brooch from Westness, Orkney, and Hinged Pins	1991
Tait, Charles	The Orkney Guide Book	1990
Thomson, William P.L,	Tax Problems - They are Nothing New	1991
Wills, Johnathan	A Place in the Sun	1991
Wylie, George	Showyard on the Heather : The Dounby Show	1991

OBITUARIES

We regret the passing of the following member

Lady Birsay
Professor Ronald Miller
Miss Jessie Mowat,

Mr Harold Shearer
Mrs. Rene Traill-Thomson
Mrs. Margaret Shearer

A. G. M
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FINANCE

Publisher	Place
John Donald	Edinburgh
Galdragon Press	Glasgow
Inst.Hist.Research	Nairn
Balmain Books	London
John Murray	Nairn
Balmain Books	Edinburgh
R.I.A.S.	Edinburgh
John Donald	Edinburgh
Shetland Times	Lerwick
Orkney Press	Kirkwall
John Donald	Edinburgh
Saltire Soc.	Edinburgh
Tempvs Reparatum	Oxford
University Press	Aberdeen
Robert Hale	London
Boydell & Brewer	Suffolk
John Donald	Edinburgh
John Donald	Edinburgh
Shetland Amenity Trust	
Hist. Build. & Mons.	Edinburgh
John Donald	Edinburgh
Aubier	Paris
Cruithne Press	Glasgow
John Murray	London
John Donald	Edinburgh
Orkney Press	Kirkwall
Charles Tait	Orkney
Mainstream	Edinburgh
West Mainland Agri. Soc. Orkney	

In the absence of Mr. John Laughton (while his house is being built) Sandy Firth, acting treasurer, reported the society as having a healthy balance but he noted that subscriptions were well down. (Apologies if this is due to the lateness of this newsletter... - subeditor). He stressed that we would welcome new members and hopes that existing members will subscribe on time.

By unanimous agreement the modest membership fees were raised with effect from 1st July 1992 as follows:

ADULT - £5 FAMILY - £10
LIFE - £50

The Junior Group will arrange a suitable subscription in due course.

Sandy also announced that a special contingency fund had been established, whereby some of the interest from the Marwick Bequest capital is being invested in a separate account which will not be restricted by the distinct terms attached to the actual legacy.

The former Occidental, now Elf Covenant is due to expire in November 1992. We have been informed that Elf Enterprise will honour this. It is believed that they are anxious to support local groups such as ourselves and may even look at an increase.

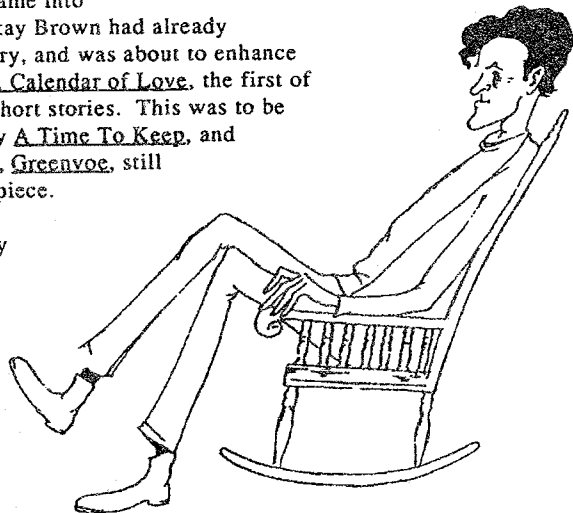
BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

by Archie Bevan

WHEN the Heritage Society came into being in 1967, George Mackay Brown had already published three volumes of poetry, and was about to enhance his reputation as a writer with A Calendar of Love, the first of his magnificent collections of short stories. This was to be followed in quick succession by A Time To Keep, and Hawkfall, and by his first novel, Greenvoe, still regarded by many as his masterpiece.

By the time the Heritage Society was celebrating its Tenth birthday, George had published another novel Magnus, another collection of short stories, and two books of poems. There was also An Orkney Tapestry, and the first two of his entrancing children's books. His output was prodigious, and of a quality which placed him increasingly at the forefront of Scottish letters. He has also achieved wide international recognition. His books have been published in Europe and America, and he has become known to an even wider public through his long and fruitful association with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. A number of his short stories have been filmed for television including the memorable trilogy presented in the 'Play for Today' series by the late James MacTaggart.

Ill-health and the burden of years have not affected the quality and quantity of George's output. His prose and poetry and drama, fashioned as always with the skill and assurance of a master



craftsman, still provide us with a transcendent vision of Orkney and its people, their lives made meaningful down the ages by what the writer has always regarded as 'the still centre' of our island story, the martyrdom of Magnus, and by its church, that 'great stone ship', which 'must carry the people of Orkney across many centuries - seas of tranquillity and rage and apathy - the years flashing and falling from her bow like cloven waves, towards the City of God.'

On the occasion of his seventieth birthday, it is indeed fitting that this Society should salute the achievement of an Orkneyman who has contributed so much to our island heritage.

Readers' Notes

Contact us and make your ideas Orkney Heritage Society's business.

'ANDI' INFORMATION ...

- 1 OHS Minutes, Newsletters and Periodicals are available in Kirkwall and Stromness Libraries.
- 2 All committee members are approachable!
- 3 OHS welcomes discussion on any topics relevant to the society, which might be more diverse than people think.
- 4 If you think we are irrelevant, and you are not already a member, please JOIN and make us less so, especially if you are YOUNG! Look out for the green forms or contact Brian, our treasurer, at the Royal Bank, Kirkwall.