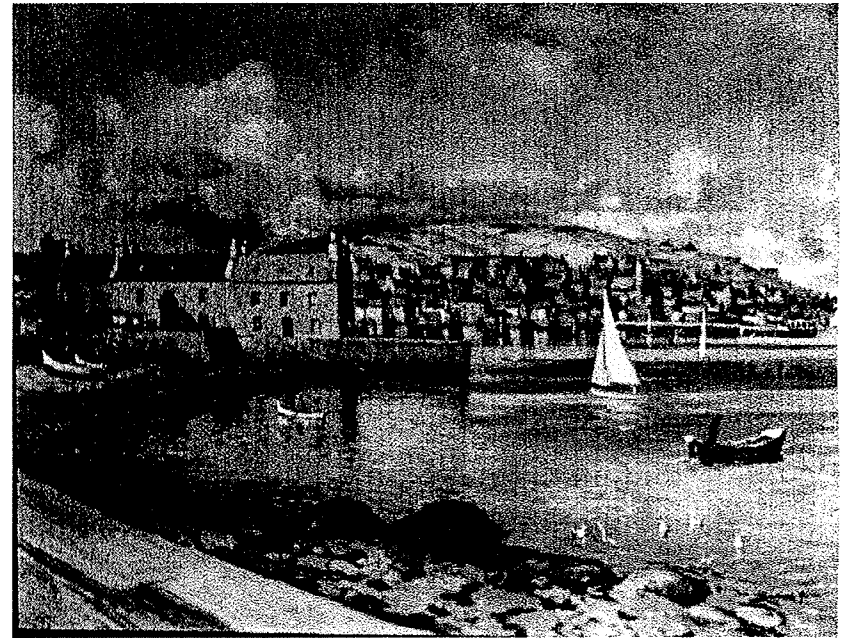


Orkney Heritage Society



Newsletter 2000/2001

Objectives of the Orkney Heritage Society

The aims of the Society are 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 promotion of schemes of a charitable nature

Committee 2001

President	Mr. I. Heddle, Clethan, Ireland Road, Stenness
Vice President	Mr. A. J. Firth, Edan, Berstane Road, Kirkwall
Chairman	Mrs. D. Lorimer, Scorradaile House, Orphir
Vice Chairman	Mrs. A. Brundle, Hillside Road, Twatt
Secretary	Mrs. S. Wenham, Langwell, Orphir
Treasurer	Mr. N. A. D. McCance, West End, Burray
Membership Secy.	Mr. P. Astley, Flat 1, 29, Broad Street, Kirkwall
Committee	Mrs. M. Banks, Mayfield, St. Margaret's Hope
	Mrs. H. M. Firth, Edan, Berstane Road, Kirkwall
	Mr. C. Gee, Brinnifea, Orphir
	Dr. W. Hamilton, Innistore, Dundas Crescent, Kirkwall
	Mr. M. Hayes, Summerlea, Burray
	Mrs. R. Jenkins, Ballasquoy, Arwick Road, Evie
	Father. K. Nugent, Chapel House, Main Street, Kirkwall
	Mr T. Rendall, 22, Craigie Crescent, Kirkwall
	Mrs. E. Thomson, 13, Craigiefield Park, Kirkwall
	Mr. A. Tulloch, 29, Reid Crescent, Kirkwall
Archaeologist (Office)	Mrs. Julie Gibson, Hutton, Rousay
Conference Co- Ordinator	OHS/OAT Office, Old Academy Buildings, Stromness
	Mrs. K. Towsey, Seaview, Burray

Cover

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Ian McInnes, who has kindly allowed us to use this print of one of his paintings.

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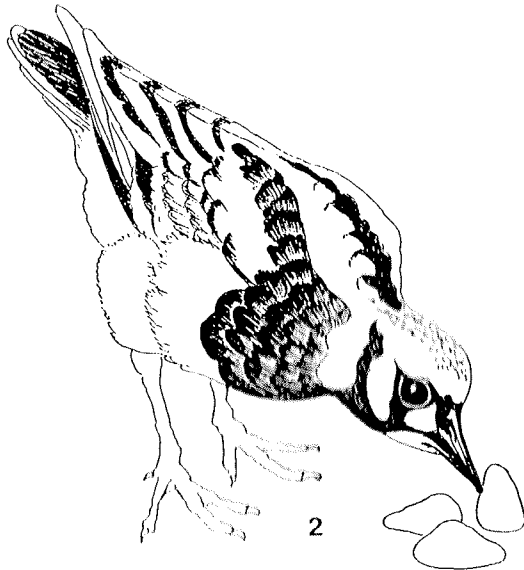
Editorial

Did you notice the 2000/2001 on our cover this year? Yes! There is a reason. To give our contributors a chance to think before writing, we start asking them in October/November, which got us in a real muddle this year. Apologies again to Bryce who was asked (late) to write about Dr. Charles Clouston - founder of the Stromness Museum. Bryce politely pointed out that he'd gone to the gravestone to check, and did we realise that we were a year out for the centenary? Oops! Of course we were not when we started, so to avoid any further mishaps, this will be the pattern for the future!

For some reason the fact that Orkney is now the venue of a World Heritage site was not included in any of Orkney's major revues of 2000. We hope you will agree with us that we should acknowledge this important award and thank all those who worked so hard to achieve it.

Anne Brundle has taken time to organise lectures over the winter, see page 26, also watch the *Orcadian* and listen to Radio Orkney for future events. Book early for the evening trip to Eynhallow on 18th July. Tickets will be on sale at the Tourist Office from the end of June.

Have a good year, and if you wish to contribute to the next newsletter, we'll be pleased to hear from you.



Message from the Chairman

This year 2000 was quietly busy and successful for the Orkney Heritage Society. In May the very first Marjorie Linklater Award for Original Writing was presented to Laura Barnett by Magnus Linklater, Marjorie's son and the Chairman of the Scottish Arts Council. The Committee read, digested and exhaustively discussed the Council's Development Plan and submitted a series of recommendations, one or two of which were adopted. The Society supported, with some success, Eday's objection to the removal of its distinctive lighthouse - a compromise solution is to be discussed this spring. In August, a stand was again taken at the Vintage Rally which received considerable interest - especially the Street Furniture Exhibit. In November, the Proceedings of the Neolithic Conference *Neolithic Orkney in its European Context*, published by the McDonald Institute of Archaeological Research was launched by Anna Ritchie. It is a superb volume, has been very well received and will be an essential reference book for all students of the Neolithic for some time to come.

During the year members heard many interesting lectures while, in July, the annual trip to Eynhallow was its usual sell-out success. Lectures and trips are being planned for 2001 and preparations are far advanced for an Iron age Conference, *Sea Change: Orkney and Northern Europe in the Later Iron Age*, from September 6th to 10th. The Society's "baby", the Orkney Archaeological Trust, is going from strength to strength, organising excavations throughout the islands during the summer and being one of the signatories of the letter of intent protecting Orkney's World Heritage Site - the first Archaeological site to be so designated in Scotland. The Postgraduate MA course in Archaeological Practice in which it is involved with Orkney College, has been validated and will commence in 2002.

Throughout the year the Society has been vigilant in protection of Orkney's heritage. To do this it needs your support and the support of every like-minded person in Orkney. Get your friends to join - there is weight and power in numbers and members enjoy it.

Daphne Home Lorimer.

A Tribute to Margaret Spence

By Jean Crichton

It was with great sadness that we heard in the autumn of the death of Margaret Spence, a long-standing member and friend of the Orkney Heritage Society.

Margaret had a deep knowledge of and strong ties with Orkney's history, especially that of the West Mainland and her beloved Stromness. She was particularly proud of her connection with the Paplay family whose recorded history spans several centuries as is evidenced by the fine old tombstone in St. Magnus Cathedral.

A teacher by profession, she exemplified the phrase "learning is for a lifetime" for she was always keen to study – whether it be language classes in Norwegian, family history research, Art and appreciation, antiques, rural crafts and customs of yesteryear or local archaeology. Of course she also loved horse-riding and fast cars! To all her interests she brought a keen mind and a lively sense of humour.

Margaret's hospitality and talents as a hostess were evident on countless occasions when she and her husband welcomed guests from all walks of life, from Orkney and abroad, especially Norway. Conversation flowed freely with the drinks and delicious canapés. Alton House will long echo to her sparkling voice and gentle laughter.

We are grateful to have known her as a member of our Society and remember with sincere sympathy Bill and her family, to whom she was devoted.



(Photo by kind permission of Bill Spence)

John Radford by Gunnie Moberg
'a great friend and companion'

I first met John in the late seventies. Every Autumn, he would come up at the same time as a small group from the Sea Mammal Research Unit, Cambridge. He would arrive in his own small plane, an Auster. They came to count the Grey seal population in Orkney and the Inner and Outer Hebrides. The longer journeys were made by Loganair, with a camera mounted underneath the aircraft, for counting the big colonies. Andy Alsop was mostly the pilot on these trips, himself a wildlife enthusiast.

Lovely trips were made to places like the Monach Islands, North Rona and around Orkney. Shorter trips were done by air in John's Auster and by sea in a Zodiac, to known small colonies. They were on the look out for new breeding places, easily spotted by the white coats of the pups. John loved islands and stacks and had photographed many of them up and down the coast of Britain.

Flying with John was, at first, a bit alarming. He would fly the plane more often with his knees than his hands, his head disappearing out of the window. 'Anything to get the picture' as he said after. John couldn't imagine life without flying and when his licence wasn't renewed, due to deterioration of hearing, he was devastated.

In 1984, I persuaded him to come back to Orkney by car, from his home outside Nottingham and he stayed with us in Stromness. The daylight hours we spent driving around Orkney, photographing, visiting many islands too, places that previously John had only see from the air. One memorable trip was with Christopher Zawadski, to Copinsay. The cliffs were alive with birds.

In the evenings, John would entertain us with fascinating stories from his flying career. He seems to have done most things you could possibly do from a plane! During the Second World War, he ferried aircraft from factories to maintenance units, often flying at night, getting lost and navigating by trunk roads! Later, when he bought his own plane, he did everything from beach joy rides to spraying crops in Sudan and later there, dropping political

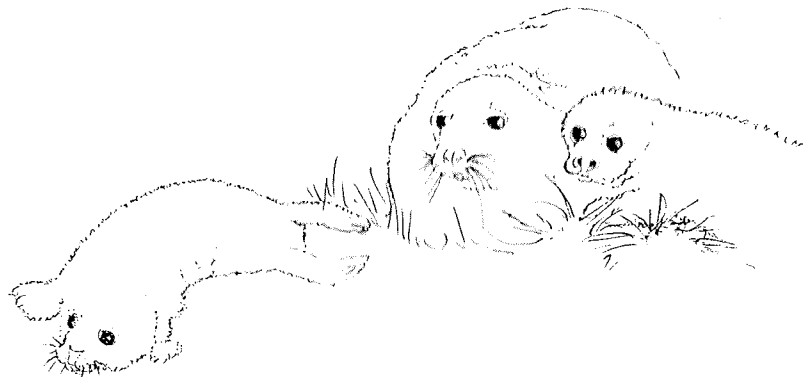
THE FEREDAY PRIZE RESULTS 2000

pamphlets for the British after King Farouk's abdication in Egypt.

John and I made trips outside Orkney too. In 1985 we drove down the west coast of Scotland, our passenger being George Mackay Brown. It was a spectacular journey in lovely weather. I don't think John had read many of GMB's works but he was a great admirer of him as a person, 'so unassuming and a great gentleman'. He came with me to Shetland and later to the Faroe Islands where I was working on books. He loved these wild places and for me, was a great companion, sometimes a bit alarming when climbing down cliffs and up stacks, leaving me standing. I never knew how 'old' John was but at one time he was the oldest pilot in Britain holding a commercial licence.

From Greenland, with Oxford University Arctic Expedition, in 1938 to spraying crops in Sudan, Orkney was the place he loved, not only for its beauty and wildlife but also for the people and peace. He asked for his ashes to be scattered here.

[The Orkney Heritage Society gratefully received a gift of £55.00 from the collection taken at John Radford's funeral. Ed.]



This Competition for Second Year Pupils in Secondary schools in Orkney has once again received no entries from Kirkwall Grammar School or the island schools, but Stromness Academy has more than made up for this with a very creditable presentation both in numbers and quality of work. It is very regrettable that such useful research, which is valued by the archivists, is coming from only one area of Orkney.

The winners of the 2000 competition are:

First Kirsten Stevenson – **The Burness Road at War.**

Second Erik Grieve – **Marwick**

Third James Isbister – **The Kirbister School 1874 - 1968**

Very Highly Commended:

Heather Bichan Firth School 1873 – 2000.

Gareth Chalmers Mousland

Ingrid Harrold Twatt Aerodrome

Katie Robertson The Old Public Waterworks of Stromness

Monica Slater My Grandad's Recollections of Sandwick during World War 2.

Laura Wilson The History of the Orkney Bus Service.

Highly Commended: Michael Alexander, *Neolithic Orkney*; Laura Ballantyne, *The Barony Mills*; Erika Balfour, *Orkney Meat*; Rachael Brass, *Stromness Shopping Week*; Emily Gorn Cuween Cairn; Shona Johnston, *Orkadian Links to Canada*; Diane Kelday, *Stenness in World War2*; Lynn MacKay, *The Dairy at Saverock*; Yvonne McCKay, *Stenness School in the Past*; Ewan McDill, *The History of Argo's Bakery*; Alison Russell, *Tankernsess House*; Afra Skene, *Sub-tropical Orkney*; Isla Slater, *The first World War German Fleet*.

Commended: Gareth Allen, *The Lairds of Skaill House*; Christine Copland, *Minhowe*; Kirsten Colquhoun, *An Insight into Radio Orkney*; Callie Firth, *Happy Valley*; Lynsay Flett, *The Dounby Show*; Leah Heddle, *The Costa School*; Nicola Laud, *World War 2 in Orkney*; Jennifer Muir, *The Bu' of Orphir*; *Its Importance in Orkney History*; Zoe Nicolson, *Edwin Harrold and Happy Valley*; Kevin Pepper, *Graemsay*; Marie Stanger, *The Barony Mills*; Garry Stevenson, *Junior Inter-County 1947 – 1997*; Claire Wright, *Skaill House*.

Orkney Heritage Society thanks all the entrants for their time-taking research and the teachers for guiding their work. Pupils who wished to, have donated their work to the Archivist Department of the Library for anyone doing research.

The Marjorie Linklater Writing Award 2001

By A.J.Firth

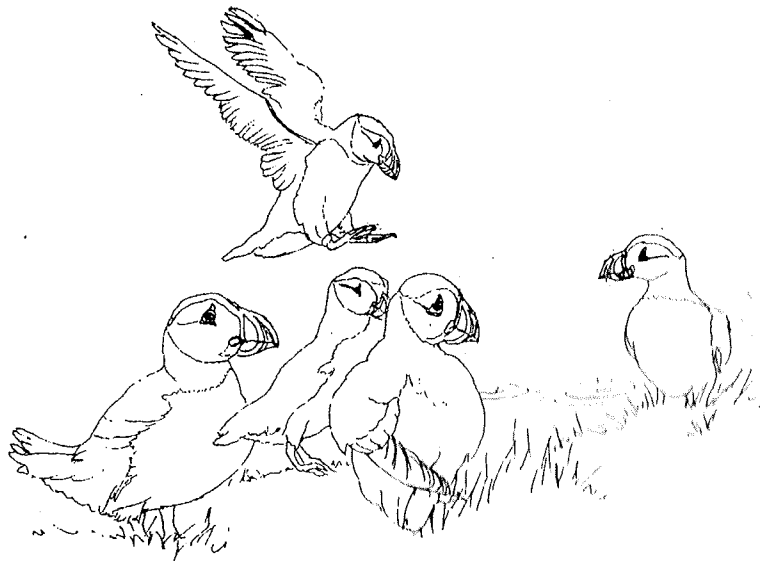
Laura Grimond Award 2001

by Ian Heddle.

The awards, which were launched in 1999, got a good response from those people who had taken care to produce or restore buildings which blend with or add to their surroundings. Every entry had been done with the desire to maintain appearances in keeping with its locality. Several deserved the highest praise.

Now, two years later, we have the second round of awards and I'm pleased to say that we have had a good response. To date we have sent out eleven entry forms and seven of these have been officially entered. Hopefully there will be more before the deadline of 30th April.

We shall have quite a busy time on the judging with visits to Westray, Sanday, Eday and Hoy as well as several Mainland sites. Every entry will be visited by at least Sandy Firth and myself, with Hilda and Iris. We photograph each one ourselves and I also take a video, so that our other judges can see all the entries as well. They do their best to get to see the entries on site, but being in professions, their time is more precious than for those of us who are happily retired.



2001 saw Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy presenting a combined seven entries. These consisted of three in prose, and four poems. All were of a high standard.

Because of the difficulty of mark comparison, on the suggestion of Magnus Linklater, O.H.S. has decided to split the subjects in future. As from next year there will be an alternating one-subject presentation. The final Date for entry to the 2002 Award has been fixed at **14 December 2001**, and this will be in Prose. This will give time for the marking and presentation to be completed before the students leave school.

In the current year it has been decided that the first prize of £50 shall be divided in to two, with £25 for the winner in each of the two categories.

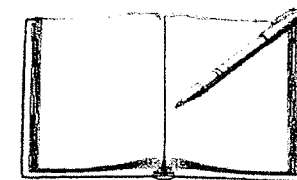
The results are: -

Prose

1st. **Candy Adamson** Stromness Academy "Changes".

Highly Commended

Helen Chalmers Stromness Academy "Lucky?"



Poetry

1st. **Alice Thomson** Kirkwall Grammar School "Silent Signals from Wea Fea".

Highly Commended

Gemma Pirie Kirkwall Grammar School "Rackwick Road".
Heather Aberdein Stromness Academy "Up on the edge".

Fiona Isbister, (Stromness Academy) with "Family Ties", and Rachael Mackay (Kirkwall Grammar School) with "Rackwick Beach" will each receive Orkney Heritage Society Pens, as will all the candidates.

Centenary of a prominent Orcadian
The Reverend Dr. Charles Clouston 1800-1884
By Bryce Wilson

Charles Clouston first saw the light of day at Brinnigar, the tall manse and glebe overlooking Hoy Sound in the Innertown of Stromness. His Father, William Clouston, a local laird and minister of the joint parishes of Sandwick and Stromness, was a classical scholar. His accounts of Sandwick, Stromness, Cross, Burness and North Ronaldsay (his former charge) in the Old Statistical Account are considered to be unsurpassed in Scotland.

Charles had much to do with flying at that time was a scientific enquiry of Edinburgh he ministry, but he also meteorology, and in medicine (which practise during his minister.)

In 1825 he to his father and Brinnigar, where he record the weather temperatures. This would continue when on his father's death in 1832 he became minister of the disjoined parish of Sandwick and lived in the new manse there. He published a paper on the meteorology of Orkney for the British Association, and contributed a chapter in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. His botanical studies added several new species to the list of Orkney Plants, and he was deeply interested in the geology of the islands, local antiquities and the early stirrings of archaeology.

All of this led to a prominent role in the formation of the Orkney Natural History Society, which held its first meeting in Stromness on 28th December 1837. He was elected President, a position he would hold until his death 47 years later. The aim of the Society was "the promoting of Natural Science by the support of a museum and by any other means in its power" and so Stromness Museum was born.

In 1839, Charles Clouston wrote the Sandwick section for the New Statistical Account, giving a detailed account of the parish and its people. A man of his time, he displayed a blind spot, typical of his social class and profession, for the old native culture that had sustained the people of Orkney through centuries of unbridled landlordism and Calvinism: "I know of no customs, games or amusements peculiar to this people." In his *Guide to the Orkney Islands* of 1862, he could boast..."the light of knowledge is fast chasing away from Orkney the superstitious phantoms of former ignorance."



live up to, but he colours. Scotland place of great At the University qualified for the studied botany and obtained a degree he would freely career as a parish

became assistant returned to live at began to daily and Gulf Stream

Stromness Museum - by Dr. Ian Hourston

Stromness Museum has fascinated me for longer than I can clearly remember. Even before I came as a small boy to live in Orkney my parents must have taken me there while on holiday from London. Or, if they didn't, my beloved maternal grandad certainly would have, lifting me up for a closer look as he explained some detail of a stuffed bird's plumage. The place was magical.

Now, at an age when I have to keep moving to avoid being mistaken for an exhibit, I still get the same sort of feeling. Yet the museum is greatly changed (thankfully not beyond recognition) particularly as a result of the recent renovations. The striking cast of Westray's Leathery Turtle stares out from the wall, its mouth agape in wonder. (It's maker, Head Conservator James Jackson of Liverpool Museum, assures us it's the only such turtle in the world to be mounted with its mouth open showing the outgrowths that grip and mangle its diet of jellyfish.) What would it see if it's glassy gaze were real? A scene both novel and familiar to the rest of us.

The novelty comes largely from the handsome display cases – rectangular, octagonal, even semi-pyramidal. Familiarity lies in the exhibits themselves, especially the birds ranged round the walls of the original white cabinets. 'What's hit is history, what's missed is mystery' the old collector's used to say. But when you consider how many people were helped towards an appreciation of wild nature perhaps it wasn't all bad. Pride of place is given to the Golden Eagle on his rock, but everything's here from fossils to mammals, with old Orkney artifacts and memorabilia thrown in. (Until I read on a panel on the wall I had no idea that in Singapore in the 1960's I would have found James Sinclair from the Bu in Hoy in charge of the herbarium had I visited the Botanical Gardens just a bit sooner.)

Eclecticism reigns downstairs as well. Dr. John Rae, a startling figure in his inflatable dinghy and fur-fabric hat, sits in state at the top of the ramp but rubs shoulders, figuratively speaking with exhibits from far and wide. In the annexe are the ship models I remember so fondly. The *City of Florence* with its amazingly detailed rigging, boat builder Maxwell's lovely little *Amy*, built from old piano keys but, sadly, now not labelled. And those curious half ships, sometimes placed against a mirror, but more often up against a board painted to resemble the sky, so your brain keeps fretting about where the other half has gone.

It's a treasure house. The Orkney Natural History Museum Trust do us a tremendous service in maintaining and, with a little help from their friends and the National Lottery, enhancing this priceless asset. The danger, as with all things that seem to have been there forever, is that we take it too much for granted.

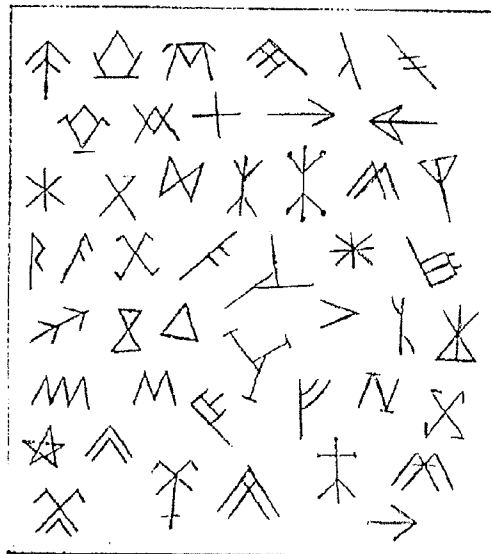
Mason's Marks in St. Magnus Cathedral

By Liz Johnston (Assistant Custodian)

"When was this Church built?" is one of the most common questions asked by the many visitors to St. Magnus Cathedral. Oh, for a simple answer! From founding in 1137 to completion, spanned a period of something like 350 years - and a complicated picture it conjures up. For those interested I would recommend "St. Magnus Cathedral and Orkney's Twelfth Century Renaissance" which is edited by Dr. Barbara Crawford.

As well as the obvious way of dating the building stages by the style of Architecture and decoration used, the grouping of mason's marks gives an indication of which areas were constructed by which group of masons, and when. It is generally accepted that masons trained at Durham, moved North by way of Dunfermline to work at Kirkwall, as well as some from Nidaros in Norway. The mason's mark was his signature, identifying his work so that he could be paid according to what he produced. Most of these works were composed of straight and angular lines chiselled into stone, although a few curved ones do exist.

During the Cathedral's Catholic times, the interior was limewashed and decorated, which meant that the majority of marks were totally covered over. Throughout restoration work at various times since the Reformation, areas of the building were scraped back to the sandstone, with the resulting unfortunate obliteration of many marks. Also the



insertion and later removal wooden staircases, partitions, screens, galleries etc., has left gouges and scrapes in the stonework which, to the over-enthusiastic mark seeker can become something they probably are not. On the exterior of the Cathedral, weathering has destroyed most of the marks which were once visible.

I should say here that a former custodian, Mr. Albert Thomson, put a great deal of work into finding and recording mason's marks in St. Magnus Cathedral and this can now be accessed in the Orkney Library.

For my own part, I have looked at any areas which can be readily reached and only include these marks which seem to me convincing. Such a large part of the building is inaccessible without scaffolding and the benefit of suitable lighting. This is a subject requiring more study, research and recording, leaving me with such questions as - "If the same simple mark e.g. an arrow or a triangle occurs in two separate places, does it really mean that the same man must have made it? Would not many masons independently use the same mark because of its simplicity?"

(Picture reproduced by kind permission of the author from her card available for sale in the Cathedral)

View of St. Magnus Cathedral from Copland's Lane

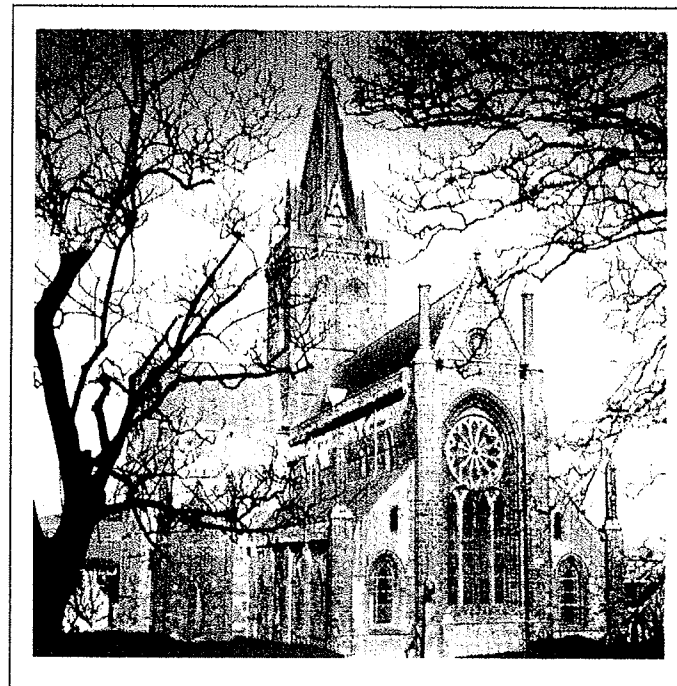


Photo by Sandy Firth

The Sreet Furniture Project by Christopher Gee

In Spring 2000 the Orkney Heritage Society's Committee decided that an effort should be made to record items of 'street furniture' all over Orkney. The term 'street furniture' refers to things like milestones, mounting blocks, old post boxes, water pumps, notable gates and gateposts, bridges, plaques, cannon, date stones, marriage lintels etc. These are items which one may encounter in streets and roads. It was felt other items, like boundary markers and stack steeths etc., which are also of interest, should be noted as well despite their not actually being 'street furniture'.

It is important to record these items now as it is all too easy for a date stone or a lintel to be obliterated in a renovation, for example, or an old post box to be replaced or moved. A record sheet was designed and on this each item is described and a photograph attached.

Each of the Community Councils were written to, along with **The Orcadian**, requesting information for the project, and over the summer I received a number of letters detailing items considered worth recording. Birsay Heritage Trust and Westray Development Trust have undertaken the recording in their areas and have been supplied with a quantity of record sheets.

In the meantime I am photographing and noting items of interest. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who could inform me of anything they think would be worth recording. If you would like to help with the recording I would be very pleased to hear from you as well!



A new event rewarding Orcadian athletes took place at the Pickaquooy Centre in November of last year with a Sporting Awards presentation dinner and dance. We felt that more could and should be done to recognise the number and commitment of the sporting community in Orkney. Categories then had to be decided. Sportswoman and sportsman awards were obvious as was a junior sportsperson but what else? – a team award! One person no sports athlete can do without is their coach and very often their efforts are little recognised so that was our fifth award. Finally we wanted to encapsulate sport in all its' glories and we felt that a photo competition would enable everyone to see what a wide variety of sports are played in Orkney and in a wide variety of terrains and weather. We were also pleased to be able to include in the awards the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils/Sports Scotland Rosebowl for services to sport.

We wanted trophies that would really make people sit up and take notice and Kenny from *Ortak* came up with a wonderful design using stone quarried from the West Mainland combined with waves of silver embedded with amethyst stones.

We selected a small group of three people to make the final decisions, all with a strong sporting background. The Orkney Sports Development Group committee met and reduced the 60 candidates nominated to a short list of three per award who would then be decided on the night. The short listed candidates were contacted, congratulated on their success and offered a free ticket for the dinner.

The evening started with a reception for the guests hosted by Orkney Islands Council. The Arena had been transformed for the evening and the staff at the Centre had done a wonderful job in creating the right atmosphere. The dinner was excellent with Orkney beef and salmon as the main courses, beautifully prepared by Heinz Zeigert and his staff. After this, the awards started with a very pro-active method for choosing the sports photograph of the year. The rest of the awards were then presented with the short listed candidates being named and congratulated before the winning envelope was opened and the winner announced.

This years event will again take place in the Pickaquooy Centre in November so start training now. Our gratitude and congratulations go to the award sponsors and winners as follows:-

- SALSC / Sport Scotland Service to Sport Award: Katy Coward
- Focus on Orkney Trophy for Sports Photograph of the Year: Michael Mowat
- Alastair McLeod Trophy for Team of the Year: Orkney Rugby Club First XV
- Bobby McLennan Trophy for Coach of the Year: Brian Diack
- Alan Clouston Trophy for Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Ingrid Norquoy
- Orcadian Trophy for Sportswoman of the Year: Moira Nicholson
- Orcadian Trophy for Sportsman of the Year: William Sichel

Wyre Heritage Centre

By Margaret Flaws

Although Wyre is a small island, - roughly two miles long by one across, - it had an importance in the past, like Egilsay next door, far outweighing its size. From Saga times there are the remains of Cubbie Roo's castle and the little chapel built by Cubbie Roo himself, or by his son Bjarni, bishop and poet. From more recent times there is the Bu, home of the poet Edwin Muir.

During the year a number of people come to Wyre to visit these sites. Until recently a visit to Wyre was in the nature of an exploration. True, there are descriptions of the castle and chapel displayed, but with no knowledge of who Cubbie Roo was these are of limited value.

When the school in Wyre was closed the Education department decided to convert the building into a Community Centre and this meant the old hall was now surplus to requirements. It stood there looking sadder and sadder until Wyre's Community Councillor, Clive Temple, decided it could be turned into a visitor centre with a lick of paint and some enthusiasm.

As there are so few people now living in Wyre volunteers to do the necessary cleaning, painting and repairing were recruited in the usual army fashion - you, you and you! The funds for this were supplied by the Wyre Community Association - us, by another name!

Last, but by no means least, displays for the walls were made, with information on all topics associated with Wyre, from Cubbie Roo, through Edwin Muir, to the boat service for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, which operated from Wyre for so many years. We concentrated on these specific Wyre themes as our particular area since other aspects of Orkney history are covered admirably elsewhere.

We were lucky to have so many people willing to supply us with photographs to use, and by far the biggest contributor of these was Tommy Gibson who has been collecting local photographs for many years. It was also very enjoyable work, putting together the displays and ferreting out the information. The displays were a triumph for our local artist Bridget Woodford and her sister Heather. My triumph, I think, was Cubbie Roo's family tree, though I am a little unsure of some aspects of that!

Needless to say, we are not finished with the work. We will probably never finish it but it is a splendid extra hobby for us all and we hope a good resource for visitors.



How Orkney Tartan Originated in Westray

By Cathie Bews

In the early seventies machine knitting classes were provided for those interested in learning. In Westray, quite a few ladies took advantage of this opportunity and after learning bought themselves knitting machines. They worked for companies on the mainland of Orkney, but when work became scarce, quite a few machines were standing idle. The local doctor at the time Dr. Mears, suggested we start our own company and Westray Knitters Society was born.

This was quite successful, and in the late seventies it was felt that we should attend the Highland Trade Fair in Aviemore. Now more than twenty years on it is still a yearly event.

It was while we were there two years ago that a seed was sown. An American lady came past our stand with a sample of the Scottish Parliament Tartan and asked if we could knit jerseys to match. (This tartan had been designed by Mr. Ronnie Hek of Coldstream). Could this be the way forward we wondered? We went home and did our best to match up the colours and the following year, we took them back and showed them to Mr. Hek. "Here!" he said, "Why on earth bother with this? Go and design your own tartan - I'll do it for you!"

Where did we go from here? This seemed like a good idea to keep our society viable, but would Orkney accept it? However Mr. Hek provided us with voting slips and four different designs, and after putting them in shops we left Orkney to decide. We now have the result in the new "Orkney Tartan."

The colourings are just that of our landscape in full bloom - blue skies, green fields, golden sunsets, purple heather, primula Scotica and even the humble curly doddy (red clover).

At present we have home workers in different parts of Orkney making scarves, jewellery, cross stitch kits, pin cushions, pot pourri etc. Westray Knitters can now supply kilt weight and lightweight wool, silk, and poly/viscose material to order.

As you can see from the above, the original seed has now borne fruit.

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Editor's note. Unfortunately we could never reproduce here the true soft colouring of this lovely tartan but if you have never seen it, may we suggest that you take the earliest opportunity to do so. As the author says it really reflects the colours of Orkney at its best.

## North Ronaldsay Today

By Sinclair Scott

North Ronaldsay in the north of Orkney is a small geographically remote island. Since the end of last century the population has dropped from nearly 500 to around 70 and half the population is over 50. Farming/crofting, the main occupation of the island, is generally part time. Fishing, casual labour, jewellery, art and crafts, bird netting and sheep based products provide other part time work and there is limited income from the shop, post office, pub and tourism.

The lighthouse becoming unmanned with the loss of three full time and two part time jobs identified serious problems and a sustainable future would require diversification and development. More people were needed and that itself raised the twin problems of lack of jobs and lack of housing. Possibilities identified by a development group set up were increased tourism based on the island heritage and the use of the lighthouse buildings as a base for expansion of the successful island based jewellery business and other island crafts. Niche marketing of the N. Ronaldsay short tailed seaweed-eating sheep and by products would provide a starting point.

A list of some of the artefacts gives some idea of the extent of preservation required.

- The sheep dyke - a drystone wall surrounding the island to keep sheep off the in-bye land and out on the foreshore - is a scheduled monument.
- The Old Beacon, North Ronaldsay's first lighthouse (Scotland's third) - a uniquely distinctive building, is a scheduled monument. The "new" lighthouse now automatic (second highest in Scotland) is a listed building
- The diesel mill, the old water mill and the remnants of the post mill are all listed as are both churches (sadly unused) and many croft houses.
- The remnants of a Brough at Burlan and the remains of two "dykes", which in days long gone divided the island into three, still can be seen
- Buried dwelling complexes exist at Houmie, Stennabreck and Outer Stromness.
- Burnt Knowes, burial kists and a solitary standing stone with a hole through it add to the diversity of this small island of around 2000 acres.
- The North Ronaldsay Trust - a company limited by guarantee - has been set up to provide the leadership required to develop and prioritise the projects and to secure funding. The various island committees back it and outside the island "The Friends of the North Ronaldsay Trust" provide expatriate and other support. Underpinning the effort is the past of the island itself. The old customs based on "tunships" play their part. The communal work ethic, history and handed down stories of shipwrecks, rescues, ancient murders and press gangs are part of life. The "disruption" - hence the two churches - and the story of the estate under succeeding lairds and factors profoundly influenced the people. All these combine to form the ethos that is North Ronaldsay.

## Wind Energy Developments on Bargar Hill, Orkney.

by Micky Austin.

Orkney has seen the development of the giant windmill from prototype to maturity. The first machine MS1 was rated at 250kW and was built as a one-third scale model of LS1 to test design concepts. Construction started in 1982. The tower comprised a steel tubular column 1.84m diameter, 9.2m high mounted on a hollow reinforced concrete frustum 6m high giving a total tower height of 15.2m.

The Howden machine was rated at 300kW and was a prototype for a series of machines which formed a wind farm in the USA. This machine had a steel tower 2m diameter giving a height of 25 metres to the rotor centreline. The steel tower was hinged at the bottom to allow erection by ground winch instead of requiring a large crane. Construction started in 1983. The machine had triple blades which gave a more aesthetic appearance and also allowed generation at lower wind speeds. The 28 metre diameter blades were of laminated timber.

The LS1 machine was rated at 3MW and, when completed in 1987 at a cost of £14.5m, was the most powerful horizontal axis wind turbine generator in the world. The culmination of a government-sponsored research project it was designed to test various techniques.

The blade diameter was 60 metres - the wingspan of a Jumbo Jet. The nacelle, a steel structure clad in aluminium, housed the machinery. It measured 6 metres wide, 7 metres high and 15 metres long. The frustum was a truncated steel cone with aluminium cladding and housed the generator. The 37. high pre stressed reinforced concrete tower stood on an octagonal base 1.5m thick, 9.8m across the flats on an octagonal foundation 1.3m thick, 14m across the flats. The tower was pre stressed by 8 No. grouted tendons, each carried a tension of around 90 tonnes.

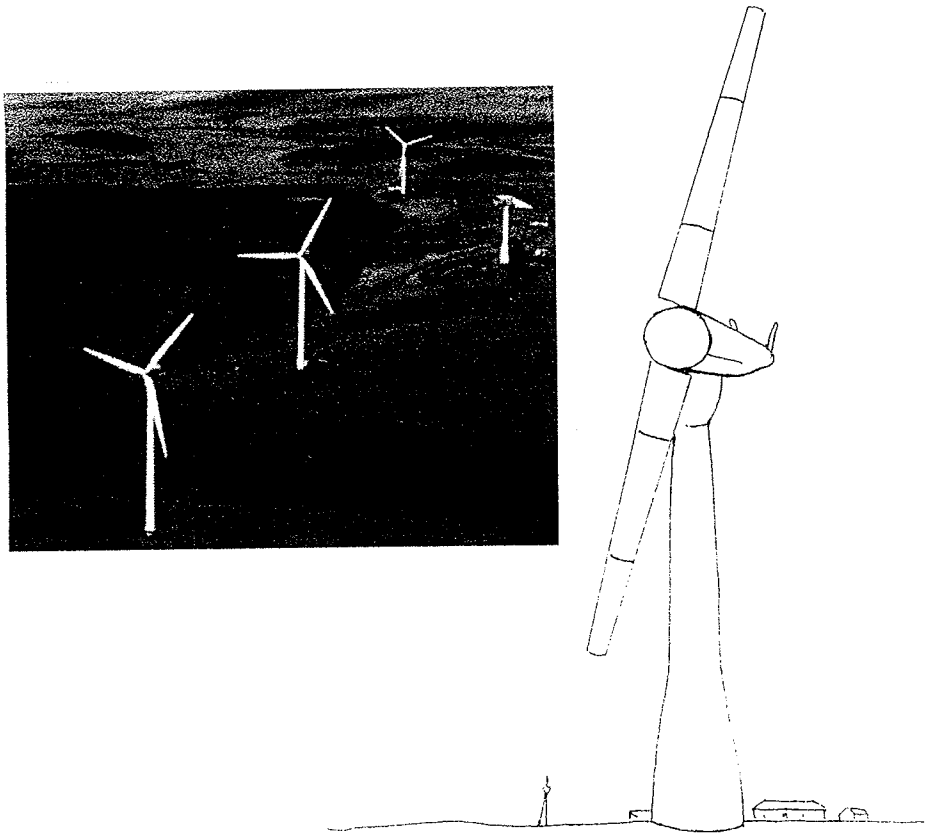
Construction of the LS1 tower was a major project in itself. Modern machines have steel towers which are prefabricated and quickly erected by crane.

The "Thorfinn Project" - two wind turbines rated at 2MW and

**“Travellers” – Reviewed by Donna Heddle**  
(Details of book in Tam’s Tally)

1.5MW - was developed during 1999. The 1.2MW Sigurd machine was erected last year on the site of the Howden machine.

The LS1 proved that giant aerogenerators were technically feasible but uneconomic at such power. However, the design of modern machines has gradually been refined and their power is now approaching that of LS1.



[The end of an era for LS1. It was "goodbye" to an old friend and "welcome" to the new ones. Ed.]

*Travellers* is a rich and varied collection which allows the range of poetic diversity of George Mackay Brown to journey to its full expression. We find all the familiar themes of religion, community, faith, and myth allied and interwoven but, like jewelled and beautiful ornaments, they are angled this way and that in order to shed light upon hitherto unexplored facets in poem clusters such as 'St. Magnus Day 1992', 'Saint Magnus Day', and 'Saint Magnus Day: The Relics'. The reader journeys through a timeless physical and mental landscape visiting places as diverse as Earl Rognvald's Jerusalem, Edinburgh Castle, Australia, and Pluscarden Abbey. There are clusters of poems about festivals, midwinter and midsummer, which hark back to the great Celtic tradition of poets such as Duncan Ban Macintyre and his great praise poem 'Moladh Beinn Dobhrainn/ In Praise of Ben Doran' in which the power and acuity of the expressed observation is the distillation of many yearly cycles and thus acquires a timeless, otherworldly quality. The dimension of timelessness is always a feature of GMB's work. The paradox is in the passing of chronological time and of the never ending circle of existence - the end is always in the beginning so, although destruction is a possibility so too is renewal, and its symbols in GMB's work are the journey and the seedcorn.

It is sometimes easy to forget that GMB was heir to a Celtic tradition as well as a Nordic one. This collection reminds us very strongly of the importance of this heritage to him in poems such as 'Mhari', written to his dead Highland mother. Both traditions come together in his expression of island identity.

It is not only content and influence which is varied, style is, too. There is a wide selection ranging from narrative verse involving Norse imagery and skaldic *kennings* to chinoiserie and haikus - a testing ground for the poet's skill passed through triumphantly in examples like the following, in which the susurrant of the sea itself may be heard throughout.

Sea, old sculptor, carves from the western ramparts  
Stack and cave and skerry,  
Sweep harpist, with sagas of salt and stone.  
(‘Haikus for the Holy Places: Sea and Cliffs’)

Archie Bevan and Brian Murray have brought together a celebratory collection which is a weaving together of motifs, styles, and meanings old and new, and is imbued with a distinctive elegiac quality, albeit one which looks to the future. These poems are a distillation of all the elements that made GMB the voice of these islands. Fittingly, that voice pens its own epitaph in a poem about Tolstoy,

Look, the crucible is cold,  
Look, the manuscript  
Sifts pages across the great oak table,  
The sheaves are in the barn.  
A book is heavy with jewels and icons.

## What is this Mine Howe we've released?

By Carolynn and Douglas Paterson.

I don't think that any of us considered, in those first evenings when excavations began, what would happen after Mine Howe was opened. The response and interest has been amazing. Even knowing nothing about archaeology, we realised that this needed to be preserved.

When the suggestion arose, the decision to open to the public took some time to make. This was a new area to us. What did we know of advertising, tourism and all that entailed, as well as provision of car parking, some sort of visitor centre and a 'dig' for four weeks with a production team filming our progress, problems, and hopefully their solutions along the way. However, once the decision was made, we set to work in the spring of 2000 knowing that we had a lot to do in a very short time. Planning permission was the first hurdle to overcome and was fairly easily achieved. A visitor centre was our next and biggest dilemma – what size, layout and source? As interest grew we realised that we would have to upsize our original plans. This too was overcome, with a day trip away and a Portacabin purchased. Putting in a found for our centre had to be overseen by an archaeologist and Julie Gibson, whose help has been invaluable constantly since day one, gave up some of her free time to assist us. It all started to take shape and some of us discovered talents that we never knew we had – painting, producing informative text for visitors as well as a brochure with a logo to distinguish us from others.

All this was achieved with help from various sources and already we were in May. Interest was being generated from the press and media and the phone never stopped ringing. Structural engineers recommended some work should be done within the structure and this was soon completed.

By May, we were allowing visitors in by arrangement. Although we had not planned to open until June, we began regular public opening for a few hours three times a week because there were so many people contacting us wanting to see Mine Howe. Between calving, lambing, nursing and children it was very difficult to accommodate everything, but we managed and have been delighted by the response.

The 'dig' began on 28<sup>th</sup> May and continued, on and off, for eight weeks. The whole experience of working with a team of archaeologists and a film crew has been enlightening. We learned enough about archaeology to realise that even the experts have no clear idea what the cell is. We are looking forward to 2001 with some trepidation as we have been featured on the Time Team and will be in the Orkney Tourist Board 2001 Brochure, which we are sure will make another year to remember.

We have no regrets about what we have done. We have made some great new friends and met people from all over the world and look forward to meeting more of the same in the future, including you and your friends.

## Healthcare in Orkney

By Dr. John Curnow

The provision of healthcare in an Island setting is probably one of the most challenging features of the National Health Service today. On the face of it, it is exquisitely simple, being just the case of providing community and hospital services at strategic points throughout the Islands. This is admittedly expensive but would provide the medical cover enjoyed by citizens elsewhere in the United Kingdom. In practice this is far from the case and brings into play all sorts of factors that conspire to confound such efforts. A closer look at the problem rapidly identifies why this should be.

One of the underlying features of the Health Service is the prefix "National", which provokes the principle of equity and universal access. In other words the patient in Orkney should receive the same quality of care, as he or she would do if living on the mainland. However the trend in the United Kingdom is towards the formation of centres of excellence. More and more physicians and surgeons are specializing to ensure that they have sufficient numbers of patients to meet the stringent standards set by their professional bodies. This is also reflected in the provision of hospital facilities and support needed to manage the particular condition. With a small community such specialisation is just not possible. It follows therefore that there will be patients suffering from less common conditions that simply cannot be treated on the Island. This is a feature of the fact that the expertise does not exist away from larger centres and not just a consequence of cost. It is important to decide just what should be undertaken on the Island and what should be referred elsewhere. The need here for a more general approach to medicine is obvious but this reverses the National trend.

Remote and Rural medicine is becoming increasingly important as many communities throughout the United Kingdom face the problems created by specialization. Orkney is one of the leading Boards pioneering this emerging discipline. The traditional division between community and hospital care is being broken down, as general practitioners become increasingly skilled in providing high quality treatment for their patients within the hospital setting. This naturally leads to a continuity of care second to none and what we do on the Island we do well. The provision of new hospital facilities clearly indicates the Board's commitment to providing an acceptable level of consultant lead services, particularly in surgery. The new and exciting "Integrated Care Model" is re sculpturing medicine in the Island context fit for the twenty first century. Working with partners in the local Authority the "total" approach to care is creating considerable benefits already and this should be progressively more evident. We have much work still to do but the remote and rural process has begun.

## Orkney Countryside Committee

By Alistair Tulloch

Some of the aims and objectives of the Town and Country Projects Programme operated by the Dept. of Development and Planning on behalf of the Leisure and Recreation Committee of OIC were reviewed. Should any bias be towards "Tourist" development or opportunities for local enjoyment of the countryside? The March meeting was more or less wholly devoted to the Orkney Development Plan 2000. Including Coastal Development (1-2 kms. inland), its description and effects, e.g. Fish Cages and the remedial work at Pharay Kirkyard. Tourist Development was discussed: - Landscaping - there was no tree preservation order but trees in conservation areas were protected; storm/natural loss of tree, no comment was made then but some Development towards these ends is now afoot; Difficulties on the "Right to roam" policy would prove too difficult to police. Shipping of waste to Shetland is the format for the future. There must be awareness of proper waste disposal by the public.

In June, Steve Callaghan, Heritage Officer, OIC, was invited to talk of his remit, progress and other associated ideas, such as a Museum's store to centralise the storage under a sort of umbrella type collection for better ease of recording etc. He spoke of a proposed Museum of Maritime History and what it might contain - the Defence of Orkney, Churchill Barriers, Italian Chapel, Wireless Museum etc. The Completion of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century galleries in The Orkney Museum, additional restoration at Kirbuster farm and compiling an audio tour for St. Magnus Cathedral, were all in the pipeline. His remit of "Built and Human Heritage", was big enough without extending!

There was a really interesting meeting in September when the Chairman congratulated OIC on reading and replying to our comments regarding their Draft Development Plan. That same evening, Mr. Piers Blaxter of OIC gave an extremely interesting and comprehensive presentation and discussion on *The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site Management Plan and Visitor Management Proposals*. Integrating Cultural and Natural Heritage, development should be done sensitively and not be "cheap n' cheerful". Discussing Traffic conflictions, the Brodgar area has to be worthy of its World Heritage Site, and a number of propositions were made to this end, one being a main car park some 10 min. walk from the site with people walking or cycling to it. The Tourist Board wanted bus or coach stops at each side of the Ring, so that tourists could disembark, walk to visit the monument, then walk to board the coach at its advanced position. Disability provision was a problem. Also mooted were the provision of Photo Stops, the desirability of dedicated foot/cycle paths, and which materials should be incorporated. Tree-screening of the car park and re-instating the Odin Stone were other suggestions. In conclusion, Mr. Blaxter was thanked for his interesting and illuminating presentation.

## Finance Report 1999/2000

by Neil McCance.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported that the balances of the various accounts were as follows:

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Current Account                    | £ 1,458        |
| Abbey National Building Society    | £28,000        |
| Abbey National Building Society    | £42,397        |
| St. Boniface Kirk Restoration Fund | <u>£22,945</u> |
| Total                              | £94,800        |

The increase of £8,379 in accumulated balances from the previous year is mainly accounted for by not having yet made the annual contribution to OIC. The main sources of income were bank interest of £1,067, Building Society Interest of £2,098 and the annual ELF (now Talisman) covenant of £8,000, including tax reclaimed. Total expenditure of £5,711 was covered by Administration, Printing, Insurance, Advertising, Subscriptions, rents, St Boniface, Fereday Prize and various Miscellaneous Expenses. The accounts were again audited by Mr. Shearer of the Clydesdale Bank to whom our thanks are due.

Since the end of the financial year, books of the printed proceedings of the Neolithic Conference have been sold locally to the value of £2,718. Publishing expenses and cost of books for sale in Orkney, to a total of £8,873, have been paid to the McDonald Institute. However, the sum of £3,830 has been held in the accounts towards this expense.

The sum of £4,000 has been paid as part of the start-up costs of the Iron Age Conference, £1,000 as a grant and £3,000 as a loan. A £27,000 Abbey National Savings Bond has been purchased to obtain a higher rate of interest still leaving the ordinary savings account open with £1,000.

## PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2000/2001.

In the Supper Room, Kirkwall Town Hall

Tuesday 2th November, 2000 at 8.00pm: Book launch of  
*The Proceedings of the Neolithic Conference.*

Tuesday 16th January, 2001 at 8.00pm: **The Island of Damsay** by Sue Whitworth and Sheila Grieve.

Thursday 15th February, 2001 at 8.00pm: **Little Rocks and Big Ideas** by Cameron Taylor.

Tuesday 20th March, 2001 at 8.00pm: **The Mona Sinclair Lecture The Stewart Earls** by Peter Anderson. This will be followed by a **Coach Tour of Renaissance Orkney** led by Peter Anderson on Wednesday 21st March, 2001.

Wednesday 25th April, 2001 at 8.00pm: **Design Matters** by May Banks.

Thursday 17th May: **Archaeology in Orkney Today** by Julie Gibson.

Thursday 6th to Monday 10th September, 2001: **"Sea Change" Orkney and Northern Europe in the Late Iron Age and After.** Inaugural Speaker: Martin Carver.

This conference is organised by Orkney Heritage Society. Bookings can be made until July 1st at a cost of £80 and thereafter the full cost will be £90. At all times it will be £40 for the unwaged. Further details and booking forms can be obtained from the Organising Secretary:

Kate Towsey, e-mail: kate.towsey@talk21.com  
[or tel. (01856)731227]

## Tam's Tally

Orkney books published in 2000/2001,  
available at **Stromness Books and Prints.**

| Title                                         | Author                       | Publisher            | Price<br>£ p. |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Travellers                                    | George Mackay Brown          | John Murray          | 10.99         |
| This Great Harbour<br>Scapa Flow              | Bill Hewison                 | Orkney Press         | 17.95         |
| Scapa                                         | James Miller                 | Birlinn              | 20.00         |
| The Bull &<br>the Barriers                    | Lawson Wood                  | Tempus               | 15.99         |
| The Islands<br>of Orkney                      | Liv Schei<br>& Gunnie Moberg | Colin Baxter         | 20.00         |
| Images in Time<br>Volume 3                    | James W. Sinclair            | The Orcadian         | 14.95         |
| Mair Farming Tales                            | Bert Baikie                  |                      | 8.45          |
| Autobiography of<br>Samuel Lang<br>of Papdale | R.P. Fereday [ed.]           | Bellavista           | 14.95         |
| In Dreams we Moor                             | Robert C. Marwick            | Brinnoven            | 5.99          |
| Orkney Days<br>[Poems]                        | Lucy Dougall                 | Puget Sound<br>Press | 7.85          |
| Circle of Light                               | Alison Gray                  | John Donald          | 9.99          |

## Neolithic Orkney in its European Context

By Nick Card

|                                                        |                   |                     |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------|
| Two Millennia of<br>Church &<br>Community<br>in Orkney | Frank D. Bardgett | Pentland Press Ltd. | 7.95 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------|

|                |              |             |      |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| Orkney on Foot | Kate Barrett | Felix Books | 5.95 |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------|

|                         |         |           |      |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|------|
| Orkney Bird Report 1999 | Various | Committee | 6.00 |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|------|

### Reprints

|                                                |                |             |      |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------|
| The Little General<br>& the Rousay<br>Crofters | W.P.L. Thomson | John Donald | 9.99 |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------|

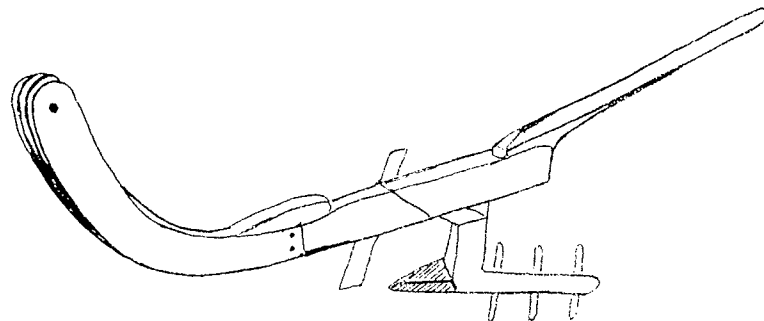
|                    |                     |             |      |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|------|
| A Calender of Love | George Mackay Brown | John Murray | 8.99 |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|------|

|                |                     |             |      |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|------|
| A Time to Keep | George Mackay Brown | John Murray | 8.99 |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|------|

|                                      |                |         |      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------|
| The Folklore of<br>Orkney & Shetland | Ernest Marwick | Birlinn | 8.99 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------|

The Roman Plough by George Marwick is a Reprint by the Friends of Orkney Archaeological Trust. It is a limited edition of 500. Copies are available, post free, from

Mrs. Liz. Gilmore,  
Brough View, Birsay KW17 2LT



Occasionally a conference is held that will become a landmark in the study of a particular discipline. Neolithic Orkney in its European Context was one such conference. So it was with great anticipation that we awaited the publication of the proceedings, wondering if the written word would live up to the memories and excitement of the actual conference. We were not to be disappointed. The result is a book that will be for years to come a standard volume in archaeology, not least because of the expert editing by Anna Ritchie.

This volume brings together the wealth of knowledge of some of the best known names in Neolithic studies from all over Europe, who offer new ideas about life and death, monuments and landscapes not just in Orkney but the rest of Britain and Europe. From the introduction by Professor Colin Renfrew we are lead through the rich tapestry of modern thinking on the subject and the way that many of the fundamental questions are presently being addressed and hopefully answered, e.g. the Unstan-Grooved Ware debate. Although the book is laid out in five separate sections, it soon becomes obvious how inter-related they are. Despite many of the contributions being based on evidence from beyond our shores it is interesting to see how relevant they are to Orkney studies. Two of particular interest in this respect were the papers by Mike Parker Pearson and Gabriel Cooney.

In general this volume shows how far Neolithic studies in Orkney have come in the last 20 years or so. It is not only the amount of new evidence from sites like Barnhouse, Stonehall, Crossiecrown and Pool but also the way that this information is used by the archaeologist. No longer are we happy just to catalogue and pigeon-hole sites and artifacts, but by detailed analysis we are able to pose new questions and view the data in new ways. Andrew Jones paper on his analysis of pottery typifies this new approach and allows the difference in pottery styles and technology to address issues such as social identity and development. There are too many excellent papers to do justice to them all in this brief review but two others that deserve mention are those by Arlene Isbister and by Aaron Watson and David Keating. Both papers deal with aspects of the Neolithic not usually addressed, colour and sound, which help to add life and new dimensions to the world of the Neolithic.

Overall, as if we needed reminding, this excellent volume emphasises the importance and pivotal role Orkney continues to play in the study of the Neolithic in Europe.

With all this in mind I look forward with equal anticipation to the forthcoming 'Sea Change' conference this September. Next time perhaps when the proceedings are published it will be, not by the McDonald Institute of Archaeological Research, but by the Orkney Institute of Archaeology!



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Miss I. S. Work  
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Wright  
Dr. F. Zabriskie

If you know of any corrections to this list, please contact either  
Mrs. I. Heddle Tel. 850 988 or  
Mrs. H. Firth Tel. 872537

For your own use, or that of a friend  
**Orkney Heritage Society**

President  
Mr. Ian Heddle  
Cletyan,  
Ireland Road  
Stenness  
Orkney

Chairman  
Mrs. D. Lorimer  
Scorradale House  
Orphir  
Orkney

The Society aims to retain all that is best in the Architecture and culture of these islands but at the same time, tries to encourage beneficial Developments which are well conceived and carefully designed.

If you would like to join the Heritage Society please fill in the section below and send it to our Treasurer:

Mr. N.A.D. McCance,  
West End, Burray, Orkney. KW17 2SS

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**Orkney Heritage Society Application for Membership**

I \ We wish to join as an Ordinary \ Life member and enclose the appropriate Subscription \ Banker's order.

Signature:.....Date.....

Name (Mr. Mrs. Ms. etc.).....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Ordinary member (Orkney Mainland, Burray & South Ronaldsay) - £6.00  
Ordinary Member (Isles) £5.00  
Family member (Orkney Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay) £12.00  
Family member (Isles) £10.00  
Life member £50.00

**LATE NEWS FLASH!**

Low's "**History of Orkney**" edited by Olaf D. Cuthbert. OHS. Is delighted to have lent it's name to this long overdue transcription of Orkney's first History in English with its fascinating insight into 18<sup>th</sup> Century life in the County. Brilliantly edited it is already sold out and a paper back edition is planned.

We feel we cannot let the dreadful situation further south pass without a mention. Many of us have personal knowledge of farmers whose livestock have been hit by this current foot and mouth epidemic.

Our sympathies are also with our own folks here in Orkney: the difficulties imposed as a result of the controls needed to combat the outbreak; the anxiety until it is contained and eliminated. These are not only within our farming community but also the myriad allied industries.

At least here, everyone works to help everyone else. How else would we have survived in the past?