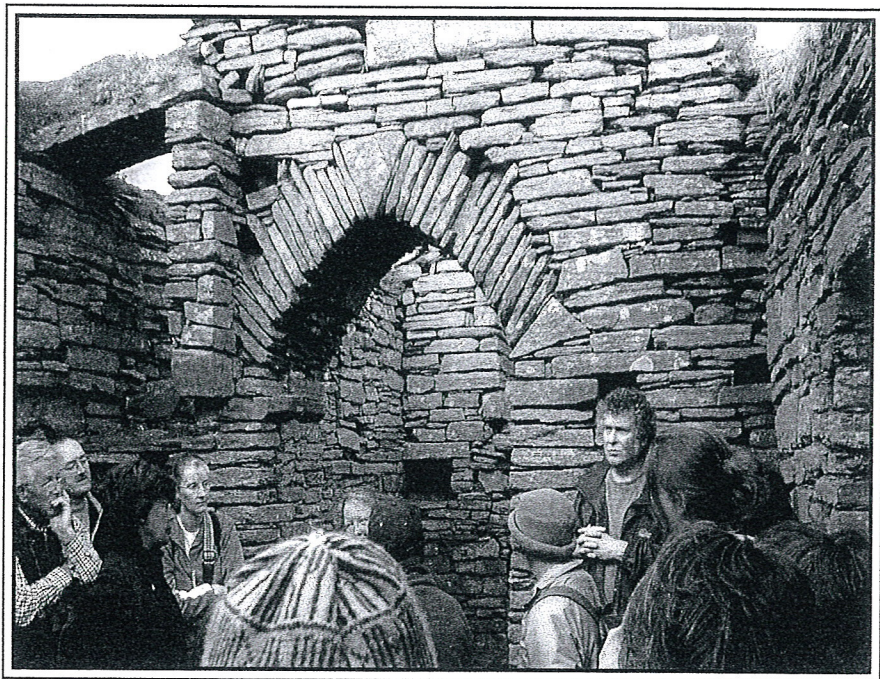


Orkney Heritage Society



Newsletter 2006/2007

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 2006-7

President	Mr I. M. Heddle, Cletyan, Ireland Rd, Stenness
Vice President	Mr A. J. Firth, Edan, Berstane Rd, Kirkwall
Chairman	Mrs A. K. Brundle, Hillside School, Twatt
Vice Chairman	Mr T. Rendall, 22, Craigie Crescent, Kirkwall
Secretary	Mrs S.B. Wenham, Langwell, Orphir
Treasurer	Ms Inga Scholes, Norderay, Holm Branch Rd Kirkwall
Membership Secretary	Mr W. Groundwater, Clowigar, St Ola
Web Manager	Mr L. Burgher, Roebank, High St, Kirkwall
Committee	Mrs M. Banks, Mayfield, St Margaret's Hope Mr B. M. Clark, Westwood, Berstane Rd, Kirkwall Mrs H. M. Firth, Edan, Berstane Road, Kirkwall Dr S. J. Gibbon, 24, High Street, Kirkwall Mrs P.O. Long, Langbigging, Stenness, Mr N. A. D. McCance, West End House, Burray Mr D. Oddie, The Anchorage, Cromwell Rd, Kirkwall Mr A. Tulloch, 29, Reid Crescent, Kirkwall

Front Cover:- Interested audience in the Monastery on an Annual O.H.S. Trip to Eynhallow

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A lot has happened since the last newsletter, not least the major flooding in Orkney in October involving so much loss to so many. We send our commiserations to those involved.

The massive alterations to the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness are almost completed and reconstruction of a nearby long closed shop is underway.

The new bus station is progressing fast and will change the face of Kirkwall. In fact, the changes in every part of Orkney are too numerous to mention here.

Lists of our events were handed out at the AGM in November, so many are past, but we hope to see you at the remaining events on the list on page 32.

Dr Ray Fereday would be truly delighted if he could see the response to this year's Fereday Prize Competition. The quantity, quality and variety of research is truly remarkable and will be helpful towards many a doctorate in the future.

It has been decided not to print application forms in the Newsletter for those wishing to join the Society, as people do not wish to deface their copies. Instead, please contact the Membership Secretary, Mr Bill Groundwater, whose address is inside the front cover and he will send a form. Ms Inga Scholes, Treasurer, has agreed to hold Application forms in the office of A. J. B. Scholes, Chartered Accountants, 37, Albert Street, Kirkwall. These should be completed and sent to Mr Groundwater, who will send a receipt.

As the cost of the hire for the Annual Eynhallow trip has remained steady for several years, it is inevitable that the hire for the boat to Eynhallow has been raised this year, so an increase in fares is indicated on page 31.

Once again, we are greatly indebted to Mrs Liz Gilmore for her advice and skilful proof reading, not to mention her amazing patience.

The year cannot be allowed to pass without the Orkney Heritage Society recording its congratulations to the *North Ronaldsay Trust* for the success that they achieved in reaching the finals of the television programme *Restoration Village*. It made for exciting and very partisan viewing together with a great rise in the use of the telephone during the preceding weeks and on the day. Several attempts were made to get an article or photos included here, but unfortunately they arrived too late. We look forward to hearing about the Trust's next enterprise and the final outcome of all the hard work of the North Ronaldsay folk.

Please read the editorial note at the end of *Away from Home* on page 32 and send any contributions for that to either of the co-editors-

Mrs Hilda Firth, Edan, Berstane Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1NA Tel 872537

Mrs Iris Heddle, Cletyan, Ireland Road, Stenness, Orkney KW16 3EZ Tel 850 988

We would also be very pleased to hear from you if you wish to discuss any other ideas for articles which you think may interest our readers.

Welcome to the newsletter of Orkney Heritage Society, produced at the end of another very busy year.

In March 2006, with great regret, we accepted the resignation of our Chairman, Bill Hamilton. The Society had benefited greatly from his hard work and enthusiasm and particularly his quiet efficiency and organisational skills. Kim Foden, Neil Leask and Linda Tait have also retired from the committee in the past year. We thank them all very much for all they have done for the society and for Orkney's heritage. We welcome new committee members Leslie Burgher, who is dealing with our website, Pat Long and David Oddie.

As this newsletter shows, the Society is involved in a great many activities, at a great variety of levels. One of the highlights of the year is the annual trip to Eynhallow, organised by Sandy Firth, assisted by Bryan Clark. We also have a busy events programme, arranged by the Events Sub-Committee who have brought us a wide range of speakers from as far afield as Shetland and Dover. The Society runs the Fereday Prize Award, devised by a former History teacher, Ray Fereday, who hoped pupils would question relatives and older people on old customs in every aspect of Orkney life, thus preserving much which would otherwise be lost. This year's results on pages 8 and 9 bear out how successful this has been. The Marjorie Linklater Award is for creative writing, by an older age group in education in Orkney and the Laura Grimond Award recognises sympathetic and high-quality building. Applications for the Laura Grimond Award are being made now for judging and will be reported in next year's newsletter. Members of the committee also look at planning applications that are to go before the Council, particularly those in Conservation Areas and make observations and suggestions as appropriate. Members are keeping a close eye on the early stages of the plans to control Kirkwall's traffic.

This year members of the Heritage Society committee have taken very active parts in Orkney Islands Council's Community Heritage Forum. This body is one of a group of Community Forums which are organised and run by Orkney Islands Council to draw together a broad band of informed opinion for the Council to use in the creation of policy. The document produced by the Forum is now going through a series of consultations and checks, and will probably be finalised at the end of the year. Our involvement was originally led by Bill Hamilton, and as a result of his commitment Orkney Heritage Society was very honoured to be asked to contribute the Introduction to the document. We look forward to its publication.

Sadly, the next volume of *New Orkney Antiquarian Journal* has not yet been published, but the papers have been assembled and the editorial team hope that it will be out this year.

Other highlights to look forward to include the Society's involvement in a pair of conferences in 2008, one in Kirkwall and one in Westray, looking at the Norse

period here and elsewhere. Help will be needed from members of the Society in running many aspects. The conferences are being led by Dr James Barrett of the University of York. He has been working for several years on the excavation of a Viking/Norse house at Quoynegrew in Westray. Though post-excavation processes mean publication is still a little way off, the building has been consolidated as a visitor attraction. And for those who can't wait for the book, details of the excavation can be found on the University of York website at www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/quoynegrew.

Over the last few years it seems that the study of Orkney's Heritage has been revitalised by the work of many societies, individuals and organisations, including the Orkney College, Orkney Islands Council and Historic Scotland. Orkney Heritage Society is proud to be part of the process. This newsletter bears witness to the strength and range of the Society's work.

Treasurer's Report by Inga Scholes

Having completed the preparation of the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2006, they were then audited by Mr John Laughton, Manager of the Clydesdale Bank. The Society showed an overall surplus of £1,133, however this surplus was only achieved due to interest of £3,089 which we received on our investments.

Some of the main points are:

INCOME

Subscriptions amounted to £340, and we made a profit on the Eynhallow Trip of £452. We also re-claimed £91 in respect of Gift Aid. During the latter part of the year the Society made the decision to start charging £1/person to all attending lectures, this helped a little towards the cost of hiring the venue/equipment and advertising.

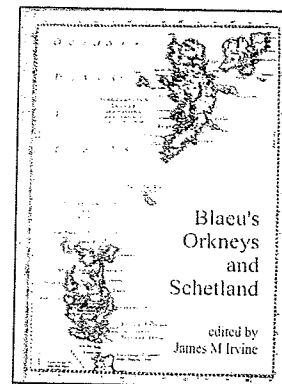
EXPENDITURE

The travel costs for one of our lecturers amounted to £194, rent of rooms was £283, the various awards cost the Society £386, postage, stationery and advertising came to £870. The Society was responsible for 48% in respect of the combined Ancillary Policy with the Orkney Archæological Trust, and this amounted to £670. We gave a donation of £200 to Dr Stephen Harrison for research into the re-assessment of the earlier Neolithic pottery from the Isbister Chambered Cairn in South Ronaldsay and finally we gave a loan of £2,500 to the Archæology Department at Orkney College to assist in the cash flow of the NORCE Project. The loan will be repaid to the Society during 2007.

Review by W. P. L. Thomson of *Blaeu's Orkneys and Schetland* by Captain James Irvine

Blaeu's *Atlas Novus*, published in Amsterdam in 1654, contains maps of Orkney and Shetland which are well known to many people in their modern reprint. The maps originate from a remarkable survey of the whole of Scotland by Timothy Pont. The printed maps contained puzzling distortions, particularly the rotating of the North Isles through 90° so that they appear 'east up' rather than the usual 'north up' which was used for the rest of Orkney. The errors must result from the Dutch engraver having difficulty orientating sketch surveys originally drawn on separate sheets. Nevertheless they have a modern value since they show more place-names than any map before the Ordnance Survey. Very often this is the earliest form of the name.

It is less well known that the maps were accompanied by a number of written descriptions of the islands. These have been fairly inaccessible because there was no modern edition. A few years ago they were translated from the original Latin by Ian Cunningham of National Library of Scotland. Captain James Irvine's book reproduces the map, prints the translations and examines them from an Orkney viewpoint. These descriptions, and particularly the 12,000 word 'New Chorographic Description of the Orkneys', provide important insights into the 17th century. Whereas we have good descriptions of 18th century Orkney beginning with Wallace and Brand and ending with Low and the Statistical Accounts, and a wealth of easily accessible archive sources, the 17th century is still relatively unexplored. Captain Irvine has made valuable contributions to the history of this period both in the present book and in his previous work on the Poll Taxes.



Some impressive detective work identifies the anonymous author of the chorographic description as Walter Stewart, the parish minister of South Ronaldsay and Burray, and dates the description to c.1644, about half a century after the original survey. If Stewart saw Blaeu's map, which Captain Irvine believes he did, he must have been surprised to discover that the Dutch engraver had placed St Margaret's Hope in Burray.

This handsome volume has been printed by *The Orcadian*. The inclusion of the colour maps is an excellent feature; it is good to have them on a scale which allows all these place-names to be read without the aid of a magnifying glass.

Blaeu's *Orkneys and Schetland*, edited and published by, and available from Captain James Irvine, 11 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey, KT21. £14.95. He has kindly offered to waive the postal charges for U.K. members of Orkney Heritage Society.

Review by Emma Grieve of Andrew and Sigrid Appleby's *Now and Then Notes and Letters*

Andrew and Sigrid Appleby's *Now and Then Notes and Letters* is a fascinating collection representing the 'best of' Andrew and Sigrid's contributions to *Orkney Today*.

This collection charts Andrew's day-to-day goings on at Fursbreck Pottery in Harray, his visits with friends, his recollections from his formative years, and his unique remedies for common ailments. Letters from France and Denmark vivify their life there in the winter, and a moving final section describes how the couple coped with a diagnosis of liver cancer. Andrew's love of puns and his general irreverence for 'rules' allows him to take outrageous liberties with spelling, punctuation and the English language as a whole. As the introduction states, when *Orkney Today* requested their readers 'to list their favourite and least favourite contributors,' it was hardly surprising that 'Andrew won both polls'. His style is unconventional, to say the least; his humour dark; his eating habits questionable. Yet Andrew's writing conveys his character perfectly, and it is difficult not to be charmed.

Sigrid's letters, which adopt a more conventional and descriptive style, give a sense of how Andrew and Sigrid's relationship must work in general; her writing provides a wonderful contrast and complements Andrew's columns.

Should the need to read escape you, the book is also an aesthetic pleasure. Illustrated throughout with Andrew's line drawings and photographs, the book also, rather uniquely, features photographs in the lower corner of Andrew throwing a pot, which can be animated by flicking through the pages with a thumb. Once tired of flicking the pages to show the pot being lovingly teased from the clay, there is always the option of flicking it in the other direction, and watching the pot being coaxed back into a modest lump of dirt; an amusing touch typical of Andrew.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of this collection is that it essentially forms an epistolary novel. All the features of a compelling read are here. Andrew is such an engaging 'voice' that there is certainly a strong and compelling central protagonist. His recounting of past events and current views on life convey his interesting background and unique outlook.

Sigrid's portraits of their home in France add a descriptive and evocative setting, and the final section on *Coping with Cancer* provides a poignant and thoughtful twist in an otherwise amusing and entertaining book.

Altogether, *Now and Then Notes and Letters* is a touching and memorable read - highly recommended.

Now and then Notes and Letters by Andrew and Sigrid Appleby. Published by *Orkney Today*. Price £7.99.

Review by W.P.L.Thomson of Caroline Wickham - Jones' *Between the Wind and the Water; World Heritage Orkney*

This lovely book focuses on Orkney's famous Neolithic sites, particularly the group known as 'the Heart of Neolithic Orkney' which in 1999 were placed on the World Heritage list. These sites are Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness and Maeshowe. The book is, however, much more. After an initial chapter which highlights the importance of these places in world terms, it expands into a comprehensive survey of Orkney's archaeology and history. The time span covers everything from the fragmentary evidence of a Mesolithic presence through the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the broch period, the arrival of the Vikings, and indeed up to 20th century wartime Orkney. To fit all this into 178 pages is no mean achievement.

Although many people, both Orcadians and visitors, are fascinated by archaeology, books written by archaeologists are often difficult reading. This one is clearly written in jargon-free language and is immediately accessible to the non-specialist reader. It is a popular account, but 'popular' only in the best sense of the word, since is based on a thorough knowledge of the academic sources, and comes complete with the notes and bibliography which will lead the reader to further information.

An interesting chapter deals with Orkney archaeologists beginning with the nineteenth century antiquaries who are often dismissed as a 'pick-and-shovel brigade' but included people like George Petrie and James Farrer who carefully recorded their observations. An exciting feature is the way that this chapter is brought right up to date so that we are told about work which is in progress.

There are copious illustrations, many in colour, and good-quality paper allows a high standard of reproduction. Care has been taken with the selection of illustrations which include archive photographs and the work of a number of contemporary photographers. In addition to the illustrations of the sites it is charming to see lady archaeologists of a by-gone age dressed in a manner more appropriate for afternoon tea rather than serious digging, and a bit alarming to find WW2 tanks zooming around among the stones of the Ring of Brodgar.

The book has been published with the assistance Orkney Museums and Heritage, and the author acknowledges the help she has received from other local people. If you do not already own a copy you should buy it - it is not just a description of the World Heritage sites, but it cannot be equalled as a comprehensive and accessible account of Orkney's archaeological past.

Caroline Wickham-Jones, *Between the Wind and the Water; World Heritage Orkney*, Windgather Press, 2006, £18.99, Paperback, 178 pages, 89 illustrations and 5 maps.

Marjorie Linklater Writing Award 2007 by A. J. Firth

As usual the competition is for a piece of original writing which must have some bearing on Orkney. It is open to senior pupils in Kirkwall Grammar School, Stromness Academy and Orkney College students. This year saw 17 entries from Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy.

Our Congratulations go to the Winners who were:

1st Place – Hetty Jenkins – *The Ratcatcher* Stromness Academy

Highly Commended –
Charlotte Platt – *The Black Building* Kirkwall Grammar School

Caron Oag – *Speechless* Stromness Academy

Nadine Headley – *Necessary Breezes* Stromness Academy

Commended –
Allan Lennie – *Horse Power* Kirkwall Grammar School

Sam Harris – *Esmeralda* Stromness Academy

Vashti Mayborne – *Linklater Award Piece* Stromness Academy

Once again Orkney Heritage Society is indebted to the panel of five judges for sparing their time; reading the entries and placing their first four in order of merit. All markers remarked on their pleasure at the high standard of writing, but expressed surprise at some spelling and grammatical mistakes which had occurred.

The Fereday Prize Awards 2007 by Sheena Wenham

The Fereday Prize attracted the usual very high standard of work. The Judge, Sheila Garson, was impressed by the detailed local historical research on a wide range of topics. The information from the best projects will be photocopied and stored in the archive department of the library where they will provide a resource for other local history researchers. Prizes and certificates are presented to year 2 pupils as follows:

First Prize *THE HARRY STORES* by Teri Hamilton This was a superb project with a wealth of original research which displayed a good understanding of the subject matter.

Second Prize *THE DOUNBY SHOW* by Scott Hamilton This project covered all aspects of the Show, both agricultural and industrial and displayed great original research.

Third Prize *WHAT HAPPENED TO HOY IN WW2?* By Hannah Thomson This project contained very good research which really brought wartime Hoy to life.

Very Highly Commended:

Sam Archibald – *Orkney Shipwrecks*; Michael Brass – *The History of Longhope Lifeboats*; Andrew Clouston – *Finstown Businesses*; Alistair Clouston – *Yesnaby*; Mark Foubister – *Sandwick Football Club*; Lara Hourie – *Captain T. Marcus*; Kayleigh Wick – *Outertown 1900 – 2007*; Emma Lawson – *4, Ness Road*; Erika Mathers – *The Tormiston Mill*; Robbie Norquoy – *The History of Veterinary Services in Orkney*; Paula Ross – *Trenabie Mill*; Eileen Thomson – *The Papa Stronsay Monks*; James Watson – *Orkney Fiddlemakers and Players*; Cherise Wilson – *World War 2 in Stenness*; Natalie Anderson – *How did WW2 affect Orkney?*; Beverley Campbell – *How did World War 2 affect Orkney?*

Highly Commended:

Sinclair Bain – *The History of the County Show*; Rachel Blair – *The Phoenix Cinema*; Adam Bourne – *Cruise Liners that have visited Orkney*; Hamish Flett – *The Ba' – An Orkney Game*; Laura Flett – *The Tomb of the Eagles*; Ailsa Green – *St Magnus Cathedral*; Steven Green – *The Stenness Primary School*; Molly Harris – *The Ba'*; Danielle Harper – *Orkney Fudge*; Andrina Hutchison – *The Brough of Birsay*; Victoria Irvine – *A Guide to Archaeology in the West Mainland*; Elizabeth Jones – *The Covenanters' Memorial*; Ben Johnson – *Finstown*; Keith Johnston – *Orkney's Farm Machinery through the Years*; Wayne Kirkness – *The Parish Cup*; Jenna Leask – *Orkney Food*; Cameron Linklater – *History of the Stromness and West Mainland Mart*; Gavin Linklater – *The History of Sandwick Football Club*; Mark Mainland – *A Fisherman's Life*; Meriel Miller – *Skaill House*; Magnus Parkinson – *Dr John Rae*; Rhiannon Phillips – *Maeshowe*; Kelly Reid – *The History of the Orkney Pony*; Jade Ritch – *The Ivy Lea*; Megan Rowland – *Dr John Rae*; Ryan Sclater – *The Great Storm of 1953*; Mark Spence – *Peat Cutting in Orkney*; Ross Spence – *Eynhallow*; Heather Taylor – *Firth Primary School*; Douglas Tucker – *Dr John Rae the Unsung Explorer from Orkney*; Ewan Wallace – *Start Point Lighthouse, Sanday*.

Commended:

Morgan Brawn – *Scapa Flow*; Sophie Budge – *Highland Park Distillery*; Amy Bull – *Kirkwall*; Emma Flett – *Witchcraft in Orkney*; Mitchell Flett – *Orkney Scrambling*; Hazel Hourston – *Scapa Flow*; Graham Morgan – *The History of North Ronaldsay Sheep*; Tarus Moir – *The Wrigley Sisters*; Kirsten Nicholson – *Stromness Shopping Week*; Gary Stanger – *The Stromness Lifeboat*; Harriet Stout – *Place Names of Orkney*; Leanne Spence – *The Ring of Brodgar*; Roddy Wishart – *The Royal Oak*.

Old Orkney Riddles by Neil Leask

For the past sixteen years, I have collected, among many things, old Orkney riddles, covering most subjects. They were commonly told as entertainment, the object being to guess what the riddle was describing. Unfortunately they are seldom heard nowadays. Can you guess what they describe?

I would like to thank my informants though sadly, many have now passed away. If you know of any riddles which are not mentioned please contact me - details from either editor - so that I can add them to my collection. There is no other way I can now do so.

1. Teenk, tank, under a bank, ten apin two.
2. I hiv wan, an thoo his wan, an everbody his ane, bit thoo uses yir ane more than I wid use it.
3. As I gaed ower the hills o' Hoy, I met a peedie yellow boy. I ate his flesh, an' drank his bluid, an' threw away his yellow skin.
4. There was a man o' Adam's race, who had a certain dwelling place, hid was neither Heaven, Earth, nor yet in Hell, so whaur could that human Martyr dwell?
5. Whit his eyes bit canna see?
6. A stranger cam tae me door wan day, staffless and legless, an' says, 'Ca away yir ducks an' hens, yir cats an' dogs I care no.'
7. Hids a' holes an yet hid hads ap water.
8. Whit his teeth, bit canna aet?
9. Hid sits high, an it cries sair, hid his the heid, bit no the hair.
10. Long and lanky, short and thin, a peedie head an' no chin.
11. A peedie hoose, tha's a' fill o' maet, there's no doors or windows tae let me in tae aet.
12. Whit hears everything bit says nothing?
13. Whit'll go up a chimney doon, bit'll no go doon a chimney up?

14. Whit is it that goes o'er the water, an' under the water, bit never touches the water ?

15. Whit his eyes an' a tongue, bit can neither see nor speak?

16. Four stiff standers, four dilly danders, twa lookers, twa crookers, twa fluke clappers an' a fling bye.

17. I hid a peedie sister, her name was Pretty Peep, she waded in the waters, deep, deep, deep. She climbed ap the mountains, high, high, high, my poor peedie sister, she hid but wan eye.

18. Hid's neither in the hoose, nor oot o' the hoose, bit hid's pairt o' the hoose.

19. Women do hid sittin doon, men do hid standing ap, an dogs do it on three legs.

20. Women hiv them in front and hens hiv them behind.

Answers

1. Someone milking a cow.
2. Your name.
3. An orange.
4. Jonah in the whale's belly.
5. A tattie.
6. A worm.
7. The links on a swey hanging on an open fire holding up a kettle of water.
8. A comb.
9. A bell.
10. The fire tongs.
11. An egg.
12. An ear.
13. An umbrella.
14. An egg inside a duck.
15. A boot.
16. A cow.
17. A needle.
18. A window.
19. Shaking hands.
20. Knees.

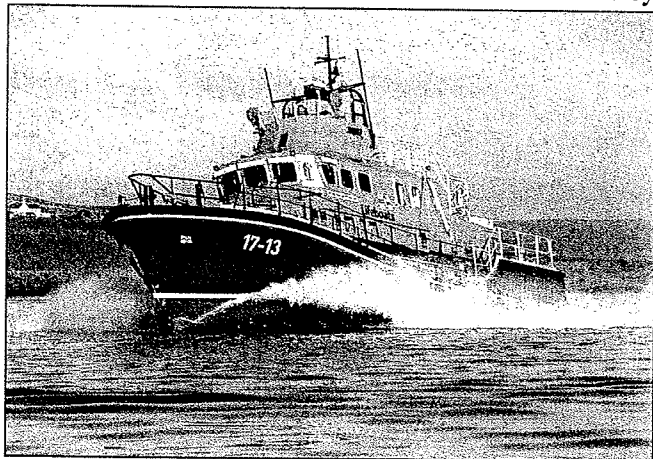
Medical experiences with Kirkwall Lifeboat by Dr Steven Beaven

I must confess that it was with some relief that I found I was not needed. The message had come through that 'the lifeboat doctor' was needed on an utterly foul Saturday last November, when we were in the middle of a very busy day of 'flu vaccinations' in the Health Centre. The vessel involved was in the Pentland Firth – not 'our patch' – and it fell to Dr Christine Bradshaw, the locum GP in Hoy to attend. Her heroic efforts being winched up, down, and up again by the Coastguard helicopter in force 10 winds to attend a tragic incident in which two seamen lost their lives, hit the local and national news.

Most (no, all!) of my experiences with Kirkwall Lifeboat have been tame by comparison, but the potential is always there. Serious injuries at sea are more likely in adverse conditions. The lifeboat crew are well trained in first aid and infrequently need the assistance of their doctor. Medical evacuations from the North Isles if weather conditions (fog or a storm) make it the only option and incidents at sea when there are known to be serious casualties result in a request to attend – usually with no more than minutes' notice.

I – or when I am away, one of my colleagues in Skerryvore Practice – will hurry to the lifeboat, grab what medical equipment we expect to need, along with some RNLI clothing and head off with the boat. The outbound trip is full of anxiety about the problems which may be encountered, as information about what is in store is often sketchy. The inbound trip may vary from calm (in terms of the patient's condition!) to highly stressful, always complicated by the difficulties of assessing a patient's condition in a hostile environment. Don't get me wrong, the crew are all very friendly. I was referring to the noisy, cramped, pitching and relatively poorly lit physical environment of the lifeboat, complicated at times by the lifeboat doctor feeling a bit sick...

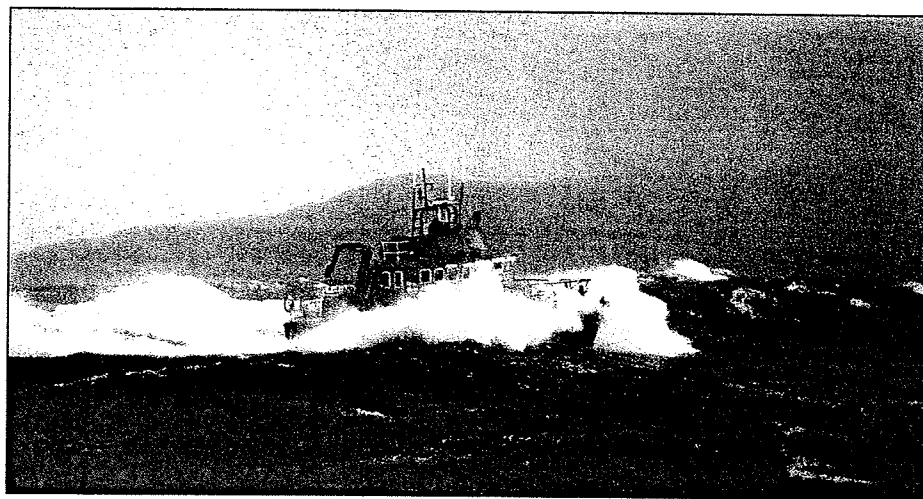
Exercises with the lifeboat have allowed me to be familiar with the boat as a working environment. The equipment now carried on the boats is standardised, comprehensive and the crew well trained, but there will always be limitations to what can be done whilst battling back to Kirkwall. I have had the opportunity to



be winched up to and down from the Coastguard helicopter in an exercise, an experience I found exhilarating. I expect it to feel different when done in earnest, in conditions like those experienced by Dr Bradshaw.

Part of my role is assessing the health of the crew. They have regular medical examinations, when we have the opportunity to discuss their health and fitness. They are expected to function effectively (and as volunteers) in difficult conditions and need to be fit for the task. Their commitment and courage deserve the highest praise.

My experiences to date have involved dealing with some serious injuries with, thankfully, satisfactory outcomes. Handing casualties on to land-based services in the best possible condition for transfer to the Balfour Hospital is our aim and we have always had excellent support from the local Ambulance Services who will invariably be awaiting our arrival when needed. Much as I value this challenging work, I have no great desire to emulate Dr Bradshaw's experience, but when the call comes, I'd go...



These two photographs, from an RNLI source, are of the Kirkwall Lifeboat *Margaret Foster*. Her RNLI Number is 17-13 denoting that she is a 17 metre 'Severn Class' lifeboat and is the thirteenth boat of that class.

Further to the writing of this article, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has awarded their Bronze medal for gallantry to Dr Christine Bradshaw for her involvement in the afore-mentioned incident. She is the first lady doctor to be so honoured and one of very few doctors to receive the award. It was only her second service with the RNLI and was carried out in horrendous conditions.

Cartoon by Anne Brundle

Orkney Heritage Society has contributed to the Community Development Plan. Discussions Groups have looked at having sensible signs.



Some Brainteasers from Hilda Firth

For those of you, who are completely nonplussed by Neil's Orkney Riddles, try these. Answers on page 32.

1	20 OSIAP
2	12 MIAY
3	3 BM
4	4 SIAS
5	52 CIAPOCMJ
6	57 HV
7	7 WOTW
8	8 NIAO
9	13 SOTAF
10	10 GBHOTW
11	11 PIAFT
12	90 DIARAT
13	13 IABD
14	12 DOC
15	29 DIFIALY
16	26 LITA
17	12 SOTZ
18	7 SOAFPP
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Samuel Laing Junior by Patricia Long

Samuel Laing Junior was born in Edinburgh in 1811 but moved to Papdale House in Orkney when he was eight, his father having inherited the Papdale estate on the death of his brother Malcolm. He began his schooling at the Grammar School but when the master left in 1823, Samuel was sent to school in England. He returned to Kirkwall to spend two years studying with a tutor before entering St John's College, Cambridge.

Samuel graduated in 1832 as Second Wrangler, coming second in the Mathematical Tripos. He was elected a fellow of the college and went on to win the Smith's Prize, awarded for the best essay on physics or applied mathematics by a junior BA. He stayed on at the university until 1835, then took a degree in law and was called to the bar in June 1837.

In 1839 Samuel became private secretary to Henry Labouchere, president of the Board of Trade and in 1840 he was appointed Counsel to the Rail Road Commissioners. That year he married Mary Cowan, with whom he had eight children. As Secretary of the Railway Department 1842-47 Samuel Laing was a member of the Dalhousie Railway Commission that produced the 1844 Railways Act. He is credited with the idea of Parliamentary Trains, which had to run at least once a day, in both directions, on every line, stopping at every station and providing third class coaches, at no more than 1d a mile.

When these trains were first introduced, third-class passengers were 28% of the total, in 1875 they made up 78% and the parliamentary trains are given most of the credit for this increase.

In 1842 he won the £100 Atlas Prize for his essay on *National Distress: its Causes and Remedies*. It was published in 1844 and was clearly widely read. John Stuart Mill, in his book on Political Economy, quotes facts from it and it is quoted several times by Karl Marx in *Das Kapital*. The essay, a copy of which is in the Orkney Room, makes very powerful reading on the plight of the working classes. The literally unimaginable conditions he describes in the manufacturing cities clearly touched and angered him. He wrote, 'anything is better than this, anything



is better than that the bulk of the population should be ground by want and misery down to a state of contented degradation.'

In 1845 Laing gave up his civil service position and began to act as counsel for railway companies submitting projects to the Rail Road Commissioners. He then became Chairman and Managing Director of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway in 1848 and, still keen to provide affordable railway travel for the poor, introduced the idea of excursions.

Laing was Liberal MP for the Northern Burghs 1852-57 and resigned from the railway in 1855. Having lost his seat in 1857, he regained it in 1859 and became Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

In 1860 he went to India to serve as the Finance Minister for four years. He is one of the three men credited with restoring India's financial equilibrium after the Mutiny. In 1864 he gave a lecture to the Kirkwall Young Men's Literary Association on his Mission to India in which he said that he started for India at literally a week's notice. When he got there he 'had just three months in which to prepare, get in from the different departments and local authorities and revise estimates in the minutest detail of every branch of civil and military expenditure of our great Indian Empire.' In three months he saved £5 million out of an annual budget of £28 million and in the next year saved another £2 million. He recalled that he had been called to the railway when its finances were at low ebb and large reductions were necessary and that it had been the same in India. He observed, 'What was wanted in each case was simply patience in hearing evidence before coming to a decision, common sense in arriving at a sound decision and firmness and promptitude in carrying it out.'

In 1867 a financial crisis at the Brighton Railway forced the resignation of most of the Board and Laing again became Chairman and restored the company's profitability. He remained in this post for another 27 years, until he was 82. From 1873 to 1885 he somehow combined this with being MP for Orkney and Shetland.

In 1868, Laing, with James Mackenzie and Philip Rose, proposed a trust fund 'to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalists in diminishing the risk by spreading the investment over a number of stocks'. Their Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Co is now the largest global growth investment trust in the world.

The year in which he ceased to be an MP, 1885, saw the publication of his first book of popular science, *Modern Science and Modern Thought. Problems of the Future* followed in 1889 and *Human Origins* in 1892, when he was 79 and 81, and still chairman of the railway. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, wrote, 'Talking of popular science, I know no better books for exciting a man's first interest, and giving a broad general view of the subject, than these of Samuel Laing. Read these books and you will be a fuller man.'

Samuel Laing Senior regarded the education of his son as his principal concern and seldom can an investment have paid off so handsomely.

The Ghosts of Skail House by John Ross Scott

We met in the dining room, our shadows stretched along the low ceiling in the candle light. Each of us had parked our cars a distance away and had walked cautiously in the dark towards floodlit Skail House. - a cool wind blew from the direction of Skara Brae.

Tonight was to be a night with a difference, we were about to learn of the spirits that had made 17th Century Skail House, part of the Breckness Estate, their home.

An apparition, clad in a black veil, then slowly made its way down the stairs holding a candle. It gave no name but in a chilling voice said: 'Welcome to Skail House. Quite a lot of you may be familiar with the house during daylight but tonight I am going to provide you with stories from its darker side.'



Photograph by Ken Amer

The veiled storyteller - Fran Flett Hollinrake (the woman behind the Dragon History Tours and Creepy Walks in Kirkwall and Stromness) - led us into the darkened drawing room, and pointed to a wool winder in the corner of the room before sharing a frightening tale linked to it.

Then we arrived in Mrs Scarth's bedroom. Around the four-poster bed we stood as the storyteller revealed that this was where Mrs Scarth, who was a bit of a recluse, spent most of her life from the time Colonel Scarth died in 1972 until her own death in 1991. She was a heavy smoker and one of the most frequent stories surrounding this room is that people often smell the whiff of tobacco.

It was here that the storyteller revealed the tale of the 'Book of the Black Arts'. More shaken than ever we afterwards followed her on the meandering trail to the Maid's Bedroom, a room Elizabeth Scarth's daughter was uncomfortable in. She felt a presence and remembered going down a walled passageway known as 'Brownie's Hole'.

In the main living room we learned of Skail House's most famed 'inhabitant', Ubby, a friendly ghost who in his time had been a slightly odd character who lived at Skail House and built the island in Skail Loch, where he died.

It was in this flat that Major Malcolm Macrae, the 12th Laird of Skail, at 10 p.m. one night in 1991, while wiring in a lamp and alone except for his dog heard footsteps coming along the corridor towards him. The dog's hackles rose and it barked wildly, but nobody was there.

The bedroom of the uppermost self-catering flat was small and gloomy. We all squeezed in with only the candle, held in the storyteller's hand, providing light.

Here she told us of a past resident in the flat, Peter Topless, who dropping off to sleep one night felt someone sit down in the corner of his bed. She also read from a letter, sent to Major Macrae by a guest in the flat. He wrote, 'I was lying in bed around 11.30p.m. on the point of going to sleep. It was dark, but there was just enough light to see my wife standing in her nightdress looking out of the window. I remember feeling mildly irritated that she had not already come to bed, when she just faded away and I realised that she had been in the other bed all the time.' A cold shiver ran down my spine as I realised I was standing on the exact spot where the spectre had been standing.

Moving away, I felt a warmth return to my body.

In bidding us farewell, the storyteller wished us a safe journey home and the sweetest of dreams.

This tour was a special one for Halloween 2006, but it is hoped that further tours will be held.

Front view of Skail House, with an attractive cloud formation giving a faint aura of - what?



Photograph by kind permission of Major Macrae

Long Distance Running by William Sichel

I moved to Sanday in 1982 and for the next 10 years was too tied up with re-building the ruin, getting married and starting a family to be able to train much. I had been heavily involved with sport before moving to Sanday. In the early '90s I began to have a little free time and started to run again - the aim being to 'get fit for my 40th birthday!' I competed in the Hoy Half Marathon in 1992 and got such a buzz out of it that it reminded me just how much I had enjoyed my running in the past. The result was that I got back into regular training around Sanday and resumed my marathon running in late 1992 and through 1993, becoming British Veterans Marathon bronze medallist that year.

Late in '93 my running shoe supplier phoned me from Edinburgh and told me all about ultra distance running. He enquired about my recovery rate from marathons. I replied that I recovered quickly. After a few more searching questions he suggested that I might be good at ultra distance running and why didn't I aim for the Scottish 100km (62 miles) Championships being held in Edinburgh in July 1994. That was like a red rag to a bull and I was immediately interested. I was advised to try an intermediate distance before tackling the 62 mile race so I travelled to the Isle of Man to compete in a very hilly 40 mile road race. I came second and an ultra runner was born.

I then ran in Edinburgh in the Scottish Championships over 100km. I won it at the first attempt and the rest, as they say, is history. Photograph is of William finishing the world's hottest and toughest 135 mile Badwater Ultra Marathon through Death Valley in America.



From then on I started to train and race seriously and a whole new lease of athletic life opened up for me. Nowadays I have my own fitness suite at home with treadmill, bike, weights etc and the quiet roads of Sanday at my door. I train almost every day but not only running. I include cycling, race walking, and 'aquajogging' (running while floating upright in the swimming pool supported by a special vest). This is an impact-free method of training and or recovery.

The next major challenge will be on November 18th when I attempt my first Six Day super-endurance race in Monaco - something completely mad for the end of the year, but it will be a supreme challenge for me.

20 Next year I will try for some

Scottish ultra marathon records over 48 hours in the Czech Republic as well as in the world's longest point-to-point race.

Editors' Note: William wrote this article for us last year and finished the super endurance race in Monaco, with a world's best performance for 2006 running 478.6 miles in the six days. What a man!

Tam's Tally of Orkney Books 2007

Available at Stromness Books & Prints 1, Graham Place, Stromness

George Mackay Brown – The Life	Maggie Ferguson	John Murray	25.00
First Wash of Spring (Vol. 4 Orcadian Letters)	George Mackay Brown	Steve Savage	17.50
Collected Poems (New in P/B)	George Mackay Brown	John Murray	18.99
Orkney - Photographs	Gunnie Moberg	Birlinn	9.99
Stromsay's Garden Birds	John Holloway	Stromsay Bird Reserve	28.00
Helicopter Dreams	Ron Ferguson	Famedram	9.99
Bloody Orkney?	Virginia Schroder	Bellavista	20.00
Place Names of S. Ronaldsay & Burray	Gregor Lamb	Bellavista	16.95
Winter Tales (Reprint)	George Mackay Brown	Polygon	6.99
Island of the Women (New in paperback)	George Mackay Brown	Polygon	6.99
An Orkney Murder	Alanna Knight	Allison & Busby	6.99
Now & Then Notes and Letters	Andrew & Sigrid Appleby	Orkney Today	7.99
Mr Mac & The Blue Goose	Mac Petrie	Mac Petrie	15.00
Blaeu's Orkneys & Shetland	James M. Irvine	James Irvine	14.99
Between the Wind & the Water	C. Wickham Jones	Windgather Press	18.99
Mixer Maxter – Fireside Tales from Orkney	Margaret Headley	Margaret Headley	8.00
Westray Flagstone	David Leather	Westray Heritage Trust	8.00
On Holy Ground – Ecclesiastical Sites of Westray	Various	MS Research Westray	10.00
Orkney From Old Photographs (Re-issue P/B)	Gordon Wright	Steve Savage	14.50
Orkney Bird Report 2005	Various	Orkney Bird Report	6.00
Preferred Lies – Journey to the heart of Scottish Golf	Andrew Greig	Weidenfeld & Nicholson	12.99
Birth, Blood & Boundaries – History of the Parish Cup	Jocky Wood	Orcadian	19.95

Away from Home by Neil McCance

It can be said that Heritage depends on memory either individual, on the memories of others or, indeed, on the sum of memories. Well, enough of this philosophising, I will now attempt to record some of mine before they fade entirely and refer to some of the manifold responsibilities placed on the young subalterns.

In 1951 (or could it have been 1952) I was stationed with my battalion in the German Ruhr town of Wuppertal when we received orders to move to Berlin. My company was to move a month in advance to take over the role of Internal Security Company based in a converted block of flats in the main shopping area near the Kurfurstendam. In addition to a company of about 120 officers, NCOs and privates, ten of the regimental families were to travel with the company because, if they did not travel, the mothers would have been too near the date of giving birth to be able to travel.

The Company Commander, a major, and the Second in Command, a captain, had obviously heard of this development as they set off for Berlin by Jeep leaving me, at 21 years old but the senior subaltern in the company, to command the move. I immediately began to consider the awesome prospect of one of the wives going into labour on the journey, which was fraught with possible problems during our passage through the Russian zone. Also there was the problem of explaining to the Russian authorities how, on arrival in Berlin, the numbers on the train did not match those on the travel documents.

I therefore arranged a short midwifery course with the Regimental Medical Officer who gave me all the information he thought I needed to know in about ten minutes. When I arrived at the station at the head of 'Charlie Company' I was immediately presented with the sight of what could have been ten entrants for the Miss Zeppelin Contest of 1952 and a horde of free range children. Seeing this ashen-faced young lieutenant gazing at the scene Mrs. Colour Sergeant Munro put a kindly arm round my shoulder saying 'Don't worry son I know what to do, I've had nine already.' Comforted by this we entrained and fortunately reached Berlin without any addition to our numbers.

On arrival, we were tasked to be in support of the civil police, and were told by our predecessors that nothing ever happened. In fact we turned out operationally four times. The first time we were to support the Berlin Police by being on hand in case the protest march against the Essen Bloodbath got out of control. This consisted of an estimated 100,000 protesters marching from each of the four Sectors and meeting at the Funkturm, Berlin's answer to the Blackpool Tower, in the British Sector making a total gathering of 400,000. However it rained and no one turned up! On the second occasion the company, armed to the teeth, hid in the bushes in the Tiergarten ready to rescue Anthony Eden should any attempt to kidnap him when planting a tree in the Garden of Remembrance occur.

No attempt was made. I cannot remember what the third occasion was but obviously it also came to nothing in spite of all our preparations.

The final occasion will, however always remain in my memory as the occasion when I and 9 Platoon (The Dandy Ninth) were sent in the early hours one morning with six lorry loads of barbed wire to besiege the Russian wireless station. We were joined by the rest of the Company about 24 hours later and I distinctly remember thinking 'if this doesn't start World War III don't know what will' a heavy responsibility for any young officer. We spent a week on the streets during which time the Berliners were delighted asking why we hadn't done it earlier.

After a month of Internal Security duty we rejoined the Battalion, which had arrived and was now based in barracks in Spandau adjacent to the prison in which the convicted senior Nazi war criminals were detained. We took our turn with the Americans, the French and the Russians in providing the prison guards. I don't remember who the prisoners were but Hess must have been one of them as he was still there alone when we again were posted to Berlin in 1958/59. We had no direct contact with the prisoners as there was a separate prison staff controlling them. We, however, saw them when they were taking exercise in the yard.

Whilst still in Berlin a colleague was posted back to the UK leaving his dachshund dog called Whisky for me to look after until he could arrange travel, quarantine etc for him. When he was ready to travel I sent the owner a telegram to the effect 'Whisky arriving Northolt etc.' This apparently caused much activity amongst the Customs service at the airport, which took some sorting out!

Some final thoughts: as this all happened during the times of National Service, maybe some young men from Orkney were there at the time. Finally I distinctly remember that as OC Train I had to sign for it, but I have no memory of anyone signing for it back. Does this mean I still own some of the Deutches Bundesbahn rolling stock?

Editorial Note.

If you were in Germany around the same time as Neil, we would all like to hear about your experiences - whether or not you are a member of the Orkney Heritage Society. Our preference is for not more 500 words but if a photo can be provided as well, around 450 words would be perfect.

The title of this series has been changed to 'Away from Home' as it was originally intended to capture experiences of Orcadians during National Service and many served only in this country or in Europe. This is immaterial. There are many of you out there, so come on - please start writing! It would not be required until end of January 2008, so there is plenty time to think.

Editors' addresses are on the Editorial Page.

A Lifetime Dream Achieved by Captain Chris Irvine

It was while watching my Dad's ship coming into Kirkwall pier that I first became aware of the skill of ship handling. Dad was boatswain aboard the *St Rognvald*. It was his job to be at the wheel or, depending on watches, on the aft mooring station. However it was watching the diminutive Captain Harvey, struggling to see over the bridge wing and grappling with the engine telegraph, which attracted me to the skill of ship handling.

To watch the *St Rognvald* approaching the east side of Kirkwall Pier in a westerly gale and berthing successfully was poetry in motion to me. Captain Harvey's skill was considerable. It was with these images indelibly etched in my mind that I determined to go to sea and attain those skills.

Born in August 1956, the only Orcadian in a family of Shetlanders, I spent most of my pre-sea life around our house at 9 Laverock Road in Kirkwall. My world was a very small place, most of it within walking distance of Laverock Road. Our family didn't own a car. One of the most exciting places to be was 'doon the pier', where there always appeared to be activity. So it was, while strolling 'doon the pier', watching a group of Sea Cadets rowing in the basin in an RNSA dinghy, I thought 'This is for me!'

The Cadets were run by a coastguard Bill Gardens at the time, the father of the Kirkwall Lifeboat's Coxswain Geoff Gardens. I still remember how Bill taught us the proper way to throw a heaving line. Standing on the edge of the corn slip, he would make the Turk's head of the heaving line reach the west pier consistently with every throw. A skill which is lost on many sailors these days!

The experience I gained in the Sea Cadets, from the age of twelve until I went to sea, allowed me to obtain some boat handling and sailing practice and a certain amount of leadership skill was engrained. Robbie Sutherland and Sandy Firth were very influential mentors at this time.

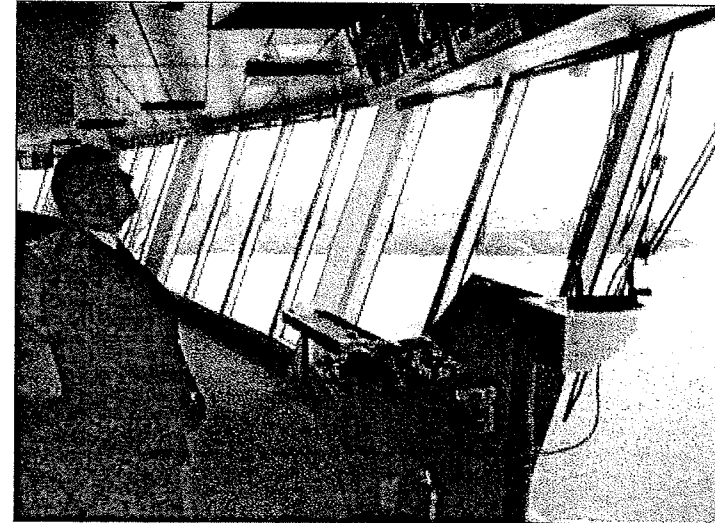
A Seamanship O' level was gained after studying with my pal Willie Pottinger in Sandy Firth's dining room. Sandy taught us because Seamanship was not a subject covered in Kirkwall Grammar School's curriculum. I gained another 8 O' levels and was persuaded by my father to stay on at school. He advised me to go for an officer cadetship at sea rather than going 'on deck'. Following his advice I stayed on for another year and gained Maths and Physics Highers in Kirkwall along with Navigation O' level from Stromness Academy, which gave me a 'passport' to a career at sea as an officer cadet.

I joined my first Ship *Norvegia Team* for Denholm Ship Management in Singapore on 7th July 1973 after a couple of weeks' pre-sea training in Glasgow. There followed 10 years on deep sea routes and 7 years offshore on dynamically positioned diving support vessels. I gained my Masters Ticket in 1985 and was promoted to Master of the *Dynamic Installer* in June 1987. She was employed offshore in West Africa at the time.

I married Moira in 1980 having met her while at Glasgow Nautical College. We spent two trips at sea together. It was after the birth of our daughters, Jennifer and Claire, that I became determined to find a job which gave me more time at home.

That opportunity arrived when I accepted the Masters job on the ill fated short-sea ferry *Varagen* in 1989. After the failure of that venture I joined Orkney Harbour Authority as Marine Officer, getting my 1st class Pilot's Licence in 1994.

A ship's Master has to wear many different hats, being either a father figure or authoritarian, or being a listener to a crewman's family problems. He has to have a head for figures as the ship account is handled by the Master and his medical knowledge has to be tested when illness or infection hits the crew. In fact one Master who relieved me had to perform an amputation after a crewman had his leg badly damaged in an accident! However it was always the ship handling part of being Master which kept my interest and that is what I now do as Pilot with Orkney Harbours.



Pilotage in Orkney is really interesting as the job involves a wide variety of ship types. You can find yourself in a small coaster taking coal to Stromness while your next job may be piloting a 300,000 tonne tanker in to perform a ship-to-ship transfer

in Scapa Flow. With cruise ships of all sizes; tugs towing barges; container ships to Hatston pier; tankers and gas tankers to the jetty at Flotta and a range of other vessels, the job does not lack variety.

I feel indebted to Captain Harvey and his contemporaries who, probably unknowingly, inspired me to follow a career which has allowed me to come home and pursue the occupation which I felt was so appealing years ago.

Photograph is of Captain Irvine piloting the *Golden Princess*, the largest ship ever to come into Kirkwall Bay, past Helier Holm Lighthouse.

A Burray Bakehouse by Linda Tait

My earliest memories are of sitting at the window at the top of the stairs in my parents' house, Summerlea, watching searchlights picking out enemy aeroplanes over Watersound. One night we had to take refuge in our air raid shelter on the edge of the shore, where there is now a turning place beside Bayview and across the road from Ivydene, the Post Office at that time.

From an early age my constant companion was our mongrel spaniel, Mush. He and I made frequent daily forays from the back door of our home to my father's place of work, the bakehouse. It was a single-storied former dwelling house with a porch, converted into one large room and a huge oven. The floor was stone-flagged and the walls white-washed. The wooden fitments, such as the big work table and dough troughs, were worn smooth with years of use. An extremely ancient biscuit brake lurked behind the door. When my father was three years old he nipped the top off his right thumb in the aforesaid contraption. He was rushed to St Margaret's Hope by boat for medical attention at the so-called 'Infirmarary', an old and rather imposing building still to be seen on the pier road.

Even with a school-leaver helper, my father worked long hours. From Monday to Saturday he rose at four o'clock in the morning and carried on continuously until lunchtime. He had an hour or so to himself during the afternoon, but could often be found shovelling up coke, cleaning the bakehouse floor and doing other maintenance jobs, or discussing financial matters with my mother. She had a very good business head, being intelligent, accurate and meticulous. Mr Scott, our accountant, praised her book-keeping and presentation. After tea my father was again in the workplace, preparing for the next day, or as he called it, 'Setting the sponge'. He would come back in about nine o'clock, eventually going off to bed about eleven, if there were no visitors! He was however, adept at fortifying himself by having a 'well-earned forty winks' at any time, even during a game of cards! For him, Sunday was 'the day of rest'. He got up late - nine o'clock - had the traditional lunch of roast beef, but went to his workplace by seven o'clock to prepare for Monday.

Up until 1939 Burray was a quiet island. The bakehouse had a number of locals calling in every day but, with the start of the War, this place needed elastic sides. There were frequent visits of soldiers, civilians Balfour Beatty's men and colourful Italian prisoners of war. Exciting though they were, my favourites were Willie Ritch from across the road and quiet, but humorous Jock O' the Wart, a cousin of Bryan and Allan Taylor.

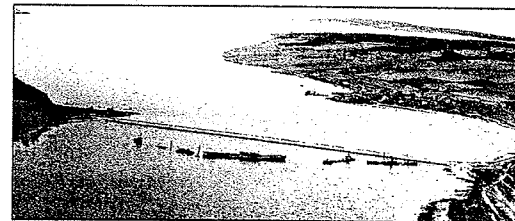
Although there was no electrical machinery, we had an early wind generator for our own supply of electric light. On cold, wintry days my father would help me up on a chair, set against the warm oven wall and I'd watch fascinated, while he stoked up the furnace. Even now, I can feel the sulphurous heat of burning coke mingled with the flour-laden air.

Both Mush and I eagerly accepted slices of fondant, portions of currants, raisins and sultanas or, as a special treat, some juicy and sticky glazed cherries. We were privileged as sweeties were on ration.

Sometimes, while I watched, a batch of golden sponges was extricated by means of a long-handled peel. When cooked, the cakes were deftly sliced in two and smothered in strawberry jam from large stone jars. I'd enjoy watching him take a biscuit mix to the brake where he'd churn out a baking of hard biscuits which were eventually packed in a large job lot of Abernethy-marked greaseproof bags, no matter what the recipe! Apple and rhubarb tarts were dusted with great handfuls of caster sugar. I've observed him, face glistening and thick, black curls white with flour, heaving trays of fragrant-smelling French shortbread and Fly Cemetery from the oven. I cannot ever recollect having seen bread being removed from the oven but I know that brown and white loaves and cookies, currant cookies, plain and bran quarters, soda scones and heaters were made daily.

On occasions I was allowed to go into the bakehouse, in the early evening if my father was working on a wedding cake. Often it was three-tiered which would take him weeks to complete. After baking, these cakes had to stand for quite some time while he carefully brushed them with hot apricot jam. They were left for days, and then coated at least twice before applying marzipan. Then the laborious matter of icing and decorating had to be done. My father was an artist in icing intricate and fragile shells, stars, teardrops, scrolls and slender trellises. The graceful white porcelain pillars and silvered vase, used for the flowers on the top tier, were returnable items, to be cleaned and packed in tissue paper until the next time. The last cake I saw being prepared was for my cousin Anita Duncan's marriage to Mungo Montgomery in September 1968. Although he was an excellent baker, my father was never called upon to take an active part on the domestic front. The kitchen was my mother's domain! She maintained he could not down-size quantities for her oven.

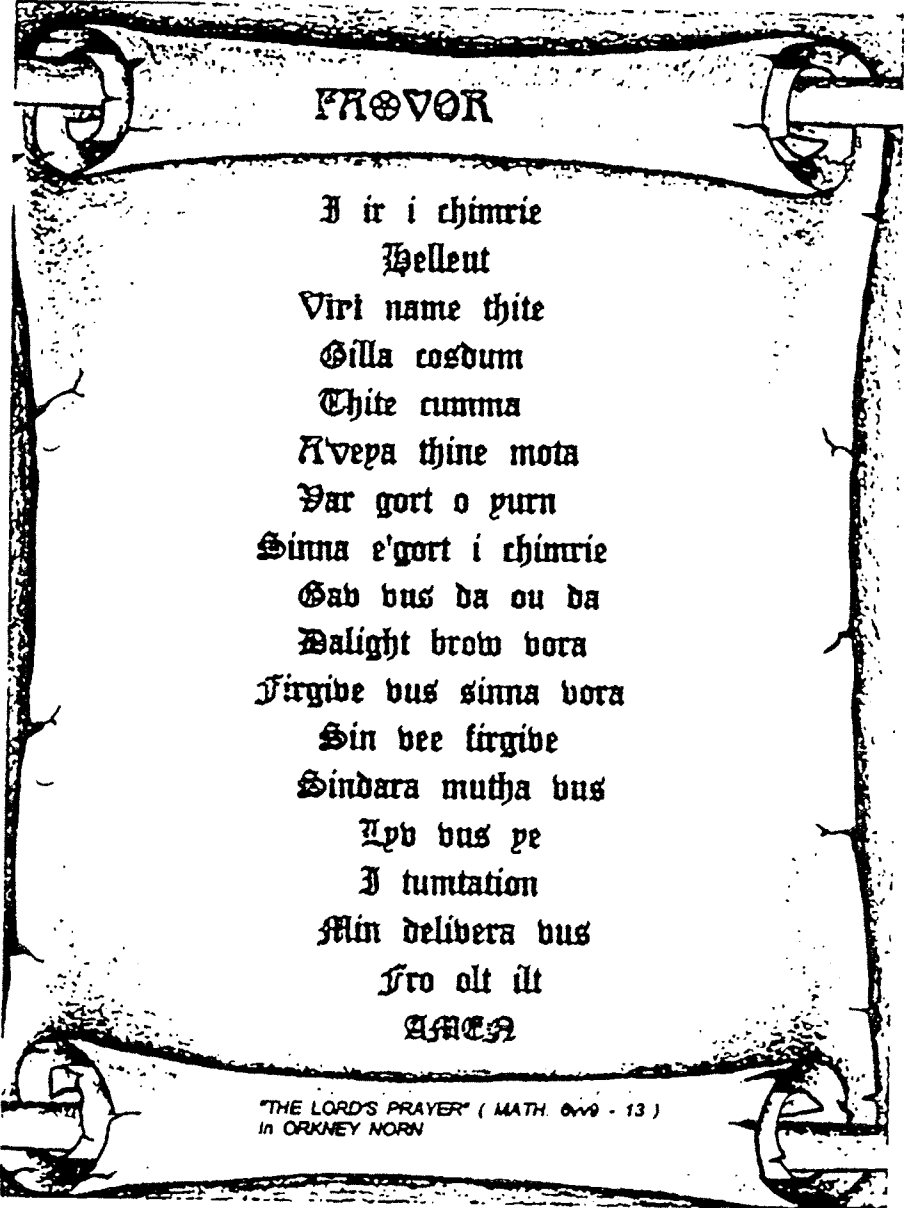
He could think only in stones of flour, pounds of sugar and pints of milk. As for regulating heat in an electric cooker, he had conveniently created the fiction that it was a mystery to him. He nevertheless, was always called upon to beat butter and caster sugar for cream. Personally, I think he was very glad to sit back and watch my mother turn out small batches of dainty fancies, in contrast to the large quantities he supplied daily to the island's regular customers and the considerable influx of Second World War military and construction personnel.



An early photograph of the Churchill barriers, which were built by the firm of Balfour Beatty.

A large part of the workforce was the Italian Prisoners of War many of whom swelled the ranks of customers visiting the popular baker's shop in Burray.

Orkney Village by John Clarke



FRÖVOR

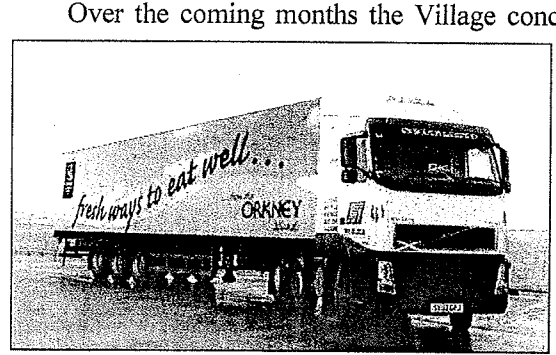
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"THE LORD'S PRAYER" (MATH. 6:9 - 13)
 in ORKNEY NORV

Orkney the Brand was conceived more than 11 years ago when I wrote the original Orkney Marketing Strategy. The underlying idea was to link the image of businesses and their products to that of Orkney as a source of finest quality premium goods and services. Initially, the focus was on presenting businesses to the trade in order to get the products into outlets in our target markets which were certain European countries as well as the South of England. This effort was supported by trade press work which achieved wide-spread coverage.

It was then time to move the focus of effort towards raising awareness of these products with the end consumer. Not only would this raise sales levels but, importantly, it would serve to support the retailers who would then be less inclined to de-list a product and even consider taking on more. One thing that the top trade shows had not enabled us to do was to showcase a range of Orkney products as they are sector specific but consumer shows would help us to overcome this as they tend to be much more inclusive.

So it was that in 2004 I set about profiling a number of consumer shows across the South of England and sounding out the organisers to see what interest there might be in an Orkney stand featuring a range of different products. One of these shows, the Royal Bath & West, was quick to understand what we were aiming to do. I visited the Show that year and the organisers showed a growing enthusiasm for the concept of an Orkney Village.



Over the coming months the Village concept took more detailed shape as companies, hearing of the plans, signed up to attend. And this was before I had made any public announcement about it. The backers of Orkney the Brand - Orkney Enterprise and OIC - were greatly encouraged by this interest and formally approved the project, complete with village green and live

entertainment.

And so the hard work began. I engaged Pat Stone to be responsible for logistics which entailed co-ordinating and collating the products and displays of all 16 companies and ensuring that all were on the JBT Orkney trailer at the right time on the given date. Pat was given huge support by Sally and her team at JBT. In fact, Orkney Village owes much of its success to its commercial sponsors. *The Orcadian* for undertaking all of the printing - including a dedicated Village newspaper; JBT for providing the Orkney liveried trailer and organising the haulage and *Northlink* for donating the space for the trailer on their ferry.

The Lord's Prayer in Orkney Norn presented by Willie Groat.

One could almost guess it!

Orkney Local Access Forum - formerly Countryside Committee by Alistair Tulloch

Due to inclement weather we missed one meeting over the past year.

Orkney Islands Council consulted us on the presentation of a draft for Renewable Energy Planning Framework Document and further consultation would be made after our response.

On the topic of membership of this Committee, the feeling of the meeting was that since it was acting as the Local Access Forum, it was not appropriate to expect member organisations to pay an annual subscription. Expenditure relating directly to the work of the Local Access Forum would be met by the OIC. It would not jeopardise the Committee's independence but would mean altering the constitution. This was subsequently done at the AGM.

Orkney Tourism Group and Historic Scotland Rangers are now represented on the Committee – and have been taking an interested and active part in some of the proceedings. A general invitation to organisations interested in joining was made through the local newspapers. The new name has been adopted and on the website, the logo incorporating this would be used, giving the acronym OLAF.

Wide-ranging discussions raised many points: the LAF should be consulted in disputes; disputes may be brought to the LAF either directly by an individual or by the OIC; procedure to follow in such cases; advice be given between disputing parties; number of meetings that many of the procedures might occupy etc. The LAF will be a partnership between agencies, users, land managers and the community.

The website would be updated regularly and members were encouraged to support this. Mrs Skene of OIC Planning suggested including a page, to which members could subscribe, for 'This Month's Walk'. Mrs Skene and Mr Manson have done quite a lot towards their Core Path network, and regularly keep us up to date on this by presenting a series of photographs and answering questions. 'Paths for Health' was another innovative approach to get people involved with the countryside. As well as consultation with groups on the LAF, the wider public would be approached through a variety of ways. Hopefully this will lead to consensus on favoured Core Paths.

An interesting evening was devoted to our input on the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme. This took the form of a 'workshop' whereby three teams put forward their interpretations of what was sought by the guidelines. Scapa Flow had been chosen because of its enchanting beauty, spectacular open landscape, remarkable wildlife, rich archaeology, fascinating history and distinctive character, making it a unique natural, historical and cultural resource.

This scheme, on completion, will markedly enhance the already outstanding quality of the Flow's environs by getting involved with access, biodiversity, understanding, culture and nature theme.

At our most recent meeting Mrs Skene gave an update on Core Paths Planning and explained the second round of informal consultation, Strategic Environmental Assessment and also the timetable associated with these. The Draft Plan on some of these issues is due in 2008. Mrs Skene is also responsible for producing an Environmental Access Plan.

We were issued with a fairly lengthy book entitled Local Access Forum - a guide to good practice, second edition. Being presented with such a volume, it was deemed too short a notice for us to make any worthwhile comments at that time. This will be dealt with at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda were the OIC procedures for dealing with contravention of Sections 14 and 15 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. There was quite a discussion on the correctness of a Flow Chart, which had been compiled by OIC. On a similar vein, A. Tulloch brought up the legal position which we, as members, might be subjected to should our services be required. This led to much discussion should such a situation arise, and how many persons might be required to represent OLAF. Comparisons to other LAF groups could provide some indication and provide answers to any questions which we may find difficult.

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY EYNHALLOW TRIP 2007

Subject to weather conditions, this year's Eynhallow Trip will take place on **Monday 9th July, leaving Tingwall Pier at 7.15 p.m. and returning from Eynhallow at 10.15 p.m.**

Cost is £15.00 per adult and £10.00 for under 12's – No concessions as this is a Society Charter. **Tickets are on sale from Kirkwall and Stromness Tourist Offices as from Monday 28th June.** Refunds are dependent on the trip being cancelled by the Society on the advice of the crew.

As usual an archaeologist will be there to give a talk on the ruined chapel. An R.S.P.B. representative has been invited by the Society to discuss the varied bird population. There are no roads on this uninhabited island, therefore suitable footwear is strongly advised. - **NO DOGS permitted.**

NOTE: - Tickets are in two parts. The outward half is handed over on boarding at Tingwall. The return half is handed over when boarding at Eynhallow. If in doubt about weather, telephone **751 360** within office hours to confirm sailing.

**Orkney Heritage Society, c/o Mr A. J. Firth,
Tel. (01856) 872537**

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY EVENTS

These events ran from the A.G.M in Nov. 2006 Please join us for the remainder.

2006 13th December ALISTAIR PEEBLES

Marks and Angles – A Photographic Manifesto

In the Supper Room Kirkwall Town Hall at 7.30pm

2007 16th January DONNA HEDDLE

Centre for Nordic Studies

In Orkney College at 7.30pm

13th February BRIAN SMITH

Gallows and Gibbets – Rough justice in Shetland and Orkney 800 – 1700

In Orkney College at 7.30pm

13th March SUE OVENDEN

Recent Geophysical Surveys in Orkney

In Orkney College at 7.30pm

10th April NEIL Mc CANCE

At Her Majesty's Expense

In Room 2 Kirkwall Community Centre at 8 pm

17th May RICHARD HINGLEY

Getting Iron Age Orkney in context - Themes for an Archaeology of Iron Age Britain

In Orkney College at 7.30pm

Either 2nd or 12th June Possible visit to CORRIGALL FARM MUSEUM

At a date yet to be arranged archaeologists James Moore or Antonia Thomas will talk on their recent survey of the monastery in Eynhallow.

9th July TRIP TO EYNHALLOW - details on page 31

September SCOTTISH ARCHÆOLOGY MONTH

Talks to be arranged at a future date.

All events are subject to change, please check the press and local radio for details near to the time

Answers to Brainteasers on Page 15

1 20 old shillings in a pound.	11 11 players in a football team
2 12 months in a year	12 90 degrees in a right angled triangle
3 3 blind mice	13 13 in a baker's dozen
4 4 sides in a square	14 12 days of Christmas
5 52 cards in a pack of cards minus jokers	15 29 days in February in a leap year
6 57 Heinz Varieties	16 26 letters in the Alphabet
7 7 wonders of the world	17 12 signs of the Zodiac
8 8 notes in an octave	18 7 sides on a fifty pence piece
9 13 stripes on the American flag	19 3 men in a boat
10 10 green bottles hanging on the wall	20 20 questions on this page

Life members

Miss Helen Angus
Mr & Mrs A. Appleby
Mrs E. A. Bain
Miss Thora Bain
Mrs B. Ballin-Smith
Ms May Banks
Mr & Mrs Jon Barker
Mr & Mrs A. Bevan
Mrs J. Boyes
Mrs A. Brundle
Mr L. J. Burgher
Mr & Mrs J. K. Chesters
Dr Stephen Clackson
Mr Bryan M. Clark
Miss Ivy Cooper
Mr & Mrs R. Cormack
Mrs Maureen Cowie
Dr B. Crawford
Mrs Inga Croy
Drs O.& M. Cuthbert
Sir Peter Maxwell Davis
Mrs J. A. Duncan
Lady Dunmore
Mr Bruce Dunnet
Mrs D. Early
Dr Ray Fereday
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Dr Nigel Firth
Mr Max Fletcher
Dr R. A & J. M. Fletcher
Mr J. R. Flett
Mrs Margaret Flett
Mrs S. Flint
Mr P. Ford & Mrs C. Jowett
Mrs Hazel Foubister
Dr Sarah Jane Gibbon
Mrs Julie Gibson
Mrs E. A. Gilmore
Mrs Hazel Goar
Mr John Grimond
Mr Magnus Grimond
Mr William Groundwater
Dr William Hamilton
Mr Ian Harvey
Mrs R. S. Harvey
Mr & Mrs Ian Heddle
Miss Mary Heddle
Dr Ian M. Hourston
Mr T. P. Hughes
Mr James M. Irvine
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Mr Stuart Kemp
Mr Tom King
Miss D. E. S. Lamb
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Mr Neil Leask
Mr Peter Leith
Mrs Agnes Liddell
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Mr J. A. B. Townsend

Ms Kate Towsey
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Miss Helga Tulloch
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Mrs S. B. Wenhaim
Ms C. Wickham - Jones
Mr Bryce Wilson
Miss Sonja Wishart
Mr & Mrs A. W. Wright
Dr & Mrs F. Zabriskie

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