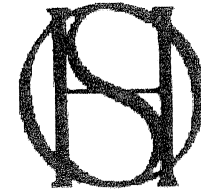
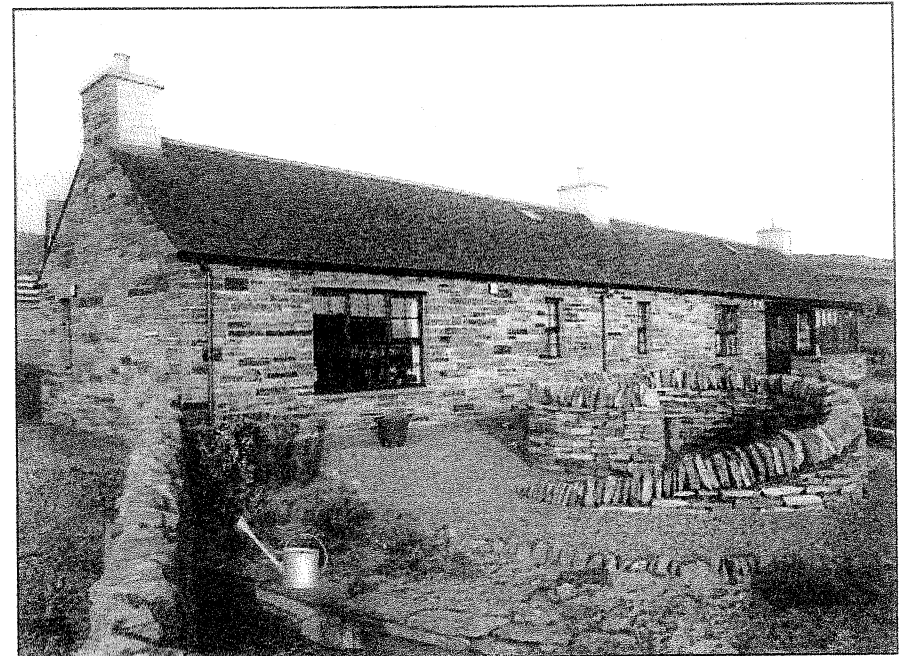


# Orkney Heritage Society



Hiroshima 1946.  
Photo by D. Rendall - five months  
after the bomb was dropped.



## Newsletter 2007/2008

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## 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 2007-8

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	Miss L. Campbell, Moan House, Harray
Treasurer	Ms I. Scholes, Norderay, Holm Branch Rd, Kirkwall
Membership Secy.	Mr W. Groundwater, Clowigar, St Ola
Web Manager	Mr L. Burgher, Roebank, High St, Kirkwall
Committee	Mrs H. M. Firth, Edan, Berstane Rd, Kirkwall
	Dr S. J. Gibbon, 24, High Street, Kirkwall
	Mr N. Leask, Smerquoy, St. Ola
	Mrs P. O. Long, Langbigging, Stenness,
	Mr D. Oddie, The Anchorage, Cromwell Rd, Kirkwall
	Mrs L. Tait, Quoyburray Farm, Tankerness,
	Mrs S. B. Wenham, Langwell, Orphir
	Dr F. Zabriskie, Harpsa, Birsay

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**Front Cover:-** Drumlamond House, Innertown, Stromness, Winning entry in the Laura Grimond Award 2007-8 Photo by kind permission of Ken Pirie

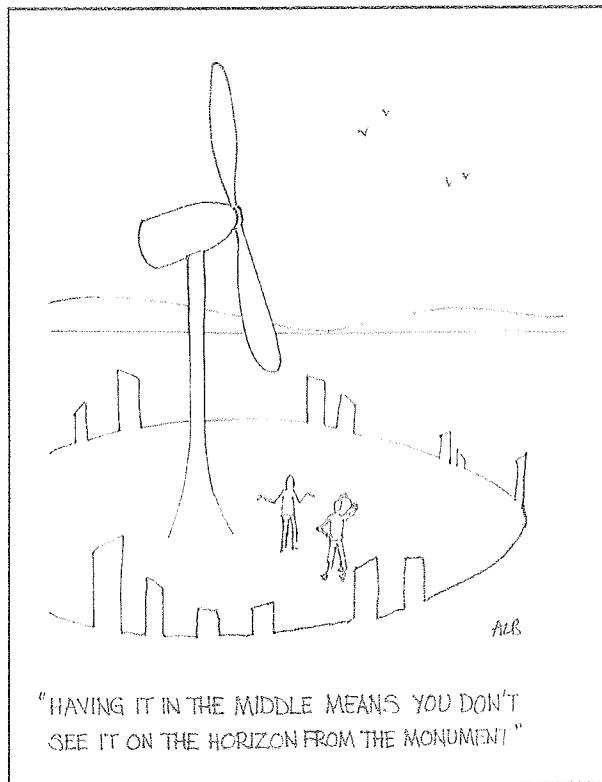
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## Editorial

The editors are hopeful that you will enjoy this copy of the Newsletter for it contains a wealth of varied and interesting articles. Every year, at about October time, you would see two blank faces looking at each other and asking how on earth we are going to fill 32 pages? In February and March we are beginning to worry about fitting everything in! As usual, we are so grateful to all our contributors who willingly submit to our requests for articles and photographs, and never complain when we have to remove some parts of the document in order to do just that. Sometimes it takes quite a bit of discussion between all parties before a mutual agreement is reached but, happily, we are all still friends when the Newsletter is published. Again, because of lack of space, we are sorry to say that we have been unable to include any reviews of the many excellent books written by a number of our members. Hilda and I would like to thank Liz Gilmore, once again, for being a most conscientious proof reader. Any mistakes you still find are ours. We hope that you will enjoy Anne Brundle's thoughtful solution to one of the major discussion topics of the year.

Iris Heddle and Hilda Firth.



## Chairman's Report by Anne Brundle

The Orkney Heritage Society has had another busy year. Its sub-committees have organised events, run the annual Eynhallow excursion, judged awards and produced this excellent newsletter. In the coming year we will have another major academic conference, organised with Orkney Archaeological Trust and Dr James Barrett from the University of Cambridge.

The Society also has a sub-committee that reviews planning applications and offers comments where necessary. As I write we are waiting to see whether planning permission will be granted for the Merranblo wind turbines, and how the needs of the World Heritage Site and the green energy industry will be balanced against one another. Merranblo stands on the Uranium Corridor. Older members will remember the Society's very active part in the 1970s campaign against uranium mining in Orkney. Now it seems to be time for another round of public debate on what kind of power generation we want and how that may affect the environment.

This has also been a year of changes in the committee. We were shocked by the sudden passing of Alistair Tulloch, one of the Society's longest serving committee members. His contribution is greatly missed. At the 2007 AGM Sheena Wenham offered her resignation as secretary after some ten years, though she remains on the committee along with several new members. We thank all the retired members for their valuable work and Sheena in particular. Her steadfast support, dedication and constant supply of useful ideas has made her a joy to work with. We also welcome Lynn Campbell who has so kindly offered to take on the position of secretary.

We believe this is the first year that a committee (member) has had a baby. We welcome Miss Josephine Gibbon and congratulate parents Sarah and Robert. Sarah continues to organise the Maritime Societies Conference even as her young daughter learns to sleep through the night.

Orkney Heritage Society looks forward to a busy year.

\* \* \*

### Alistair Tulloch by Harold Esson

Alistair's was a life of dedication to his family, his work, and the many causes in which he was involved. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1933, and passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007. He received his education at Firth School and Kirkwall Grammar School, and then served his time as a Motor Mechanic with Leslie Esson in Finstown.

After National Service in the Royal Air Force, he worked at the Rossland Garage in Kirkwall, from 1955 to 1973. He studied through correspondence courses and attended evening classes. This enabled him to gain entry to Aberdeen College of Education, and he graduated from there as a Teacher of Technical Education in 1976.

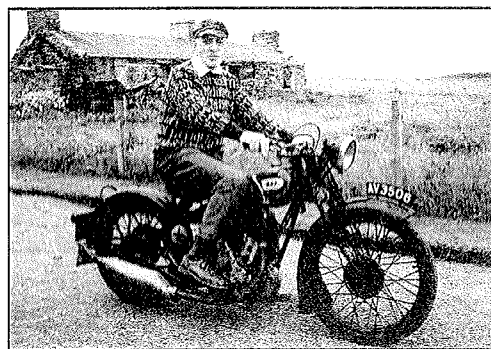
In 1961, Alistair married Rosina McGibbon and they had two children, Alan and Ruth. They lived at Edenmore Villa in Finstown, next door to the house where Alistair was born. They moved to their new home at Reid Crescent, Kirkwall about twenty years ago, and called it 'Edenmore' as well. During his time in Finstown, Alistair had been closely involved with the Boys Brigade, and also held the post of Church Manager.

He joined the staff of Kirkwall Grammar School in 1976. As a motor mechanic of repute, part of his remit to begin with was as a Further Education Lecturer, teaching City & Guilds Courses to the motor vehicle apprentices. The rest of his timetable was taken up with teaching Technical Subjects. When the apprenticeship scheme moved out of Orkney, Alistair became a full-time Technical Teacher. He was a disciplinarian, which you have to be, and was professional in everything he did, getting the most from his pupils.

Although his work as a motor-mechanic had involved engineering skills, his ability with wood was also of the highest order. Rosina and Alistair's house bears witness to this.

Alistair will be best remembered, though, as the founder of Orkney Vintage Club, as it was he who put the very first advertisement in *The Orcadian* on 18<sup>th</sup> November,

1982. He was Chairman for the first six years and helped guide the Club through the formative years. He was Chairman again in 1999 and since the Club became a Limited Company in 2002, he had been the Minutes Secretary. Another skill Alistair provided was that of newsletter proof-reader. Nothing ever slipped through the net. He also wrote many fine articles, most with a humorous slant.



*Alistair enjoying a run on Harold Esson's 1930 BSA*

He joined the Royal Air Force Association in 1991 and wrote reports of their meetings for the press. He proudly wore his father's war medals at the Armistice Day Parade each year. Alistair was also a member of the Royal British Legion in Kirkwall, and he and Rosina enjoyed the dancing there most weekends. He was also a member of Orkney Countryside Committee, Orkney Heritage Society and Orkney Family History Society.

After he retired from Kirkwall Grammar School in 1997, he and Rosina fulfilled a long held ambition to travel more, enjoying many holidays in their home country and even more abroad, visiting various European destinations, Canada and America.

A light has gone out, but it will still shine on as we remember a friend and colleague who was a very special human being.

\* \* \*

### Corrigall Connections by Neil Leask

Corrigall and me – we go back a long way. My first connection with Corrigall Farm Museum was on a work experience placement in 1989. I have always been interested in this type of work and thanks to Bryce Wilson I was able to work alongside the custodian Harry Flett. Over the subsequent years, I helped out mainly on open days and at other events.

In 2001 I formally became a volunteer, thanks to the encouragement of Steve Callaghan. Over the following years I learnt how to look after the Museum. Harry was always happy to share his knowledge so I was able to learn a lot. It is, of course, the type of job where you are always learning right up to retirement.

I was lucky in being the successful candidate for the full-time custodian's post after Harry Flett's retirement in May 2005. Due to my interest and work experience, I had a fairly good understanding of how the Museum ran – however, one of the greatest challenges was rebuilding the livestock. As I was starting from scratch, it was a good opportunity to source some rare breeds. From the Insisters of Burm Isle Shetland, I acquired rare Shetland poultry. Supposedly originating from the Spanish Armada some four hundred years ago, their exotic appearance and the fact that they lay green eggs has been of great interest to visitors. I also introduced some ducks from the Corsie family in Burray. With Marian Chesters' help, I managed to get a North Ronaldsay ewe and lamb. That was kindly gifted by the Muir family of Hooking in North Ronaldsay. The cats and their kittens are always popular especially with the children.

I am not the first member of my family to work in this district as my late grandfather, Samuel Leask, worked as a cowherd to the Harray family at the neighbouring farm of Upperbigging c1916, when he was aged nine. He often spoke of his experiences up in the Harray Hills mainly alone with the farm's dog

and sometimes up to twelve cattle. I wonder how many nine-year-olds of today would relish this responsibility. To pass the day he would spend a lot of time studying nature; identifying wild flowers and plants; searching for wild birds' nests and occasionally making a crow's foot out of crested dogtail grass. Luckily he passed on the knowledge so I now make these at the Museum, a short distance from where my grandfather made them over ninety years ago. (See illustration)

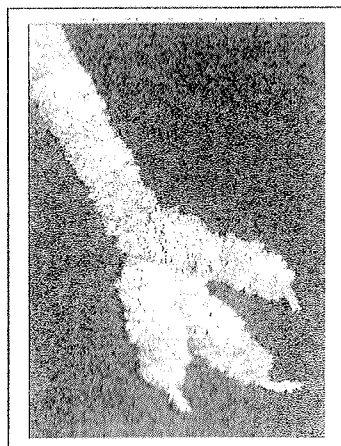
It was quite common for children only to attend school during the winter months when the cattle were kept inside. It was the usual practise to work a six months term earning one pound per month, the total amount being paid after the six months work!

A further coincidence is that my grandfather's brother John worked as a harvest hand at Midhouse, now the Museum, around the early 1920s. A Spence family was living in it then. He spoke of a Mary O'Midhouse as being a hard worker; her cooking was good but was always of the plain variety with salt fish being a regular diet. He slept in a box bed that had a covering of felt on its roof as the house roof was leaking quite badly then!

I even have a connection with the neighbouring Toonship of Corston. After leaving school, aged fourteen, my grandfather went to work for Mecam (Malcolm) Clouston, a retired Sea Captain who lived at Garth. He was in charge of running the farm as Malcolm's knowledge was more sea orientated. Captain Clouston entranced my grandfather with his stories of life at sea, the hardships and superstitions. He would never kill a rat for example (rats always leave a sinking ship) and would say to my grandfather if he found that he had killed a rat, 'Sam yir a bloodthirsty beggar!' He could never eat onions because once they had run out of provisions and had to survive solely on onions for weeks. He went for a daily dip to Linneith's quarry hole in the burn of Corrigall, since apparently a bucket of cold water over the head on board ship improved the morale. He also taught him an American slave song, which stuck in my grandfather's mind all his life. The first verse went,

'I loved a little country girl,  
Her rustic beauty rare,  
Wi' rosy cheeks,  
Quite pearly teeth  
And lovely light brown hair.'

My grandfather was recorded singing this song on Radio Orkney in 1981. A few years ago I was able to share these tales with Malcolm's descendants in Christchurch, New Zealand. I little thought the stories I learnt as a child would be so useful in years to come! The links go on and on...



Over the years Corrigall has acquired a good reputation. This is largely due to the hard work and enthusiasm of Orkney Museums and Heritage staff and the former custodian, Harry Flett O.B.E. The Museum is a valuable asset to the community, to tourists and all who visit. Corrigall has an average of seven thousand visitors a year!

I really enjoy my job and I feel very privileged being able to provide visitors with this unique experience and insight into how life once was in Orkney.

\* \* \*

### Seek and Ye Shall Find - Enthusiasm in Burray by Suzie Woodward

*The Refuge* is a dwelling-place in Harray. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century an outer-isles family was evicted by their landlord. Bringing with them a few meagre belongings and their box bed, the Laird of Binscarth granted some rough ground in Harray to 'park' their dwelling; it was named *The Refuge*. Eventually, locals took pity on them and 'built a house' around the family's box bed. That box bed is in the *Fossil & Heritage Centre* in Burray. The story fascinates many visitors – and makes them think.





Preserving our heritage is vital: Orkney has so much to offer and our visitors play a vital part in our islands' economy. It is for our visitors, as well as our own sakes, that important collections and stories are retained, preserved and made available to all.

But doing this costs money, and there's not a lot of that about these days. Yes, some grants are available, but many small heritage centres just do not have the core funding to attract matched funding grants. So we have to look elsewhere for the skills and help required. How many local people drive past *your* heritage centre daily yet have never put a foot inside? Working on that principle, I started a *Fossil & Heritage Centre* Newsletter in Autumn 2007, which was sent to every household on Burray together with a questionnaire. From that resulted a dozen volunteers with a range of skills and abilities, but above all they brought much-needed enthusiasm!

Early meetings produced more ideas than could be dealt with at once but any apprehensions I had quickly evaporated. Someone once advised me 'when beginning fund-raising, start small with something easily achievable'. This was good advice; we focussed on just three areas to start with - sort out and open the Tack Room; raise money to purchase display cases; start to develop the Archive Room. In addition, each member of the group has a specific area of Burray which they are encouraging by delivering the Newsletters by hand and talking with people.

These three aims are small enough to be achievable for our opening in March 2008; above all these will give great confidence and satisfaction to the volunteers. 'A little praise goes a long way', and together with the 'We've done it!' feeling, this will engender enthusiasm for the coming year.

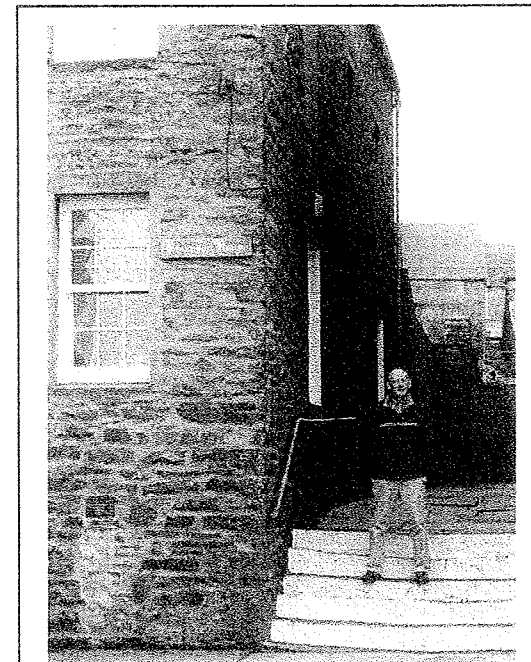
Charity begins at home - so get local people involved. For example, we are appealing for family history information linked to Burray - documents, articles, maps, artefacts, family trees etc. We are also looking for anyone who has appropriate 'collectibles' that could be displayed as part of our *Three Small Exhibitions a Year* programme - that's what the new display cabinets are for. And we're paying for those with money raised through our efforts in the Blue Door Charity Shop in January.

If anyone can assist, donate material or wants more information, please contact Suzie Woodward Email: [vestlaybanks@btinternet.com](mailto:vestlaybanks@btinternet.com) or phone 01856 731305.

\* \* \*

## Swanson House, St Margaret's Hope by Leslie Thomson

William D. S. Thomson (1865 - 1937) was my grandfather and my earliest memories of him probably date from 1932/33, when I would have been about three to four years old. I was climbing up the steps to Swanson House when I was confronted by a pair of legs. I stepped to the left and to the right but the legs moved to block my way. I looked up but all I could see was the curve of a huge tummy, and high over that his big face and big grin. At about six feet high and twenty-two stones, it is little wonder that he was called beefy Thomson, and reputedly was used as a meed for ships coming into the pier. He was the local harbour master when St Margaret's Hope was a busy little port. He planted trees on the bank from the village to the pier. He was also the local sanitary inspector and unofficial vet with a reputation for his skill with animals. He was a character, and was well liked and respected in the village.



Leslie on steps of Swanson house.

Sometime in the nineteen-eighties when on holiday in Orkney, I passed the time of day one quiet sunny afternoon with a man in Back Road in St Margaret's Hope. Having worked out who I was in a typically devious Orcadian exchange, he started to reminisce about Old Man Thomson. The best story was of grandfather being admitted to hospital in Kirkwall. He was unsure if he were in for examination or surgery and was bold enough to put the question to the then surgeon, Mr McClure, who was a bit of a wag himself. In response to the possibly anxious enquiry, McClure is said to have looked at grandfather's twenty-two stones and exclaimed, 'My God, man, I'm not an archaeologist.'

About this time Professor Childe was exciting Orkney and the world with his discoveries at the diggings at Skara Brae.

In the area near the back door of Swanson House, Grandfather installed a bath. This was no mean undertaking in a village which had no running water. At the head of his bath stood a table with a metal framework supporting a copper

cylinder. The cylinder was filled with 'soft' water collected from the roof into a large stone tank in the back yard. A primus stove was used to heat the water which was the let into the bath through piping attached to a tap in the cylinder. Buckets of cold water were used to achieve a suitable temperature. Came the great day for the first bath. Success? Not quite. Grandfather had not taken Archimedes into account in his scientific planning. Alas, the twenty-two stones displaced most of the water onto the bathroom floor.

He was an early experimenter with wireless – earphones into a crystal set. There was an elaborate system of aerials in the garden linked to the flag- pole (the figurehead of a ship stood at the foot of the pole). He complained vociferously about crackle and bad reception, but did not trace the fault to the local boys who delighted in rubbing sticks along the precious aerials.

He cycled daily to and from the pier (all twenty-two stones of him) until a week before his death. The bike was said to have spokes reinforced for his benefit. It also had a potentially lethal back pedal brake. My father continued to ride it regularly until 1985.

Grandfather believed in good food and plenty of it. Woe to those with poor appetites! The sight of a sheep's head on the dining room table didn't encourage mine. He kept a walking stick beside his chair and was liable to bring it down with a most alarming bang on the polished table, with a loud injunction to 'Eat up!'

He obviously liked good furniture and certainly had an eye for good design. He had taken the huge grinding stones from Newark when he left Sanday. They sat, one at the foot of the stairs and the other inside the back door. Many years later, my father presented them to Tankerness House Museum for safe-keeping. A grandfather clock stood at the turn of the stair, which led to 'the best room' and to their bedroom on the first floor. The bedroom had a large double half-tester mahogany bed with purple drapes from a mahogany canopy. The footboard was about four feet high with heavy barley sugar twist end posts.

The 'best room' had a five oil lamp chandelier with elaborate gilt chains linked up to a central hook in the ceiling rose. The chairs were an odd collection of Hepplewhite and Chippendale design. There was a heavy round mahogany table with central pillar and claw feet. On side tables there were jars of birds' eggs, a model canoe with Red Indian and paddle, a stuffed owl and cases of butterflies. There was a black marble fireplace with brass fire irons. On the mantle shelf there were two large Chinese vases. The pictures were all of Far Eastern origin – brought home by my Uncle Andrew. There was also a tall china display cabinet with diamond glazing.

At the ground level the room to the front had a window in the gable end with a handy pair of binoculars to have a closer look at the pier. The walls were terracotta with white woodwork. There seemed to be dozens of prints and drawings of sailing ships. There was a First World War bayonet with the tip painted red to create a fearful impression as it appeared from its scabbard. The

shotgun, which had killed the owl (on the Pentland Skerries), was hung above the door. On top of the bookcase there was a collection of pewter teapots. This room was used as the dining room and as the downstairs parlour for visitors. There was a small bedroom off it where Granny often had her afternoon rest.

The kitchen was a dark room with a large black range. This was the hub of the house, full of smells of boiling soup, baking scones and drying oatcakes. There were two large black pots, one for the soup and the other for boiling Granny's white washing. When Granny got the telegram reporting that father had passed his 'master's ticket', in her agitation she forgot which pot was which. The white collars did nothing for the flavour of the soup... The dresser had lots of painted bowls. Black and white wallie dogs sat beside the brass tea caddies on the mantelshelf with its fretted brass trim. A large pantry ran the whole length of the kitchen, separated from it by a glazed wall through which you could see whatever prepared food was in store e.g. jellies set in white moulds. A door from the kitchen led to the back porch, the coal cellar, the bathroom, the sink for the water buckets from the well, and another ledge with a basin for hand washing: I can still smell the Pears soap and the dash of lavender in the water.

In the garden there was greenhouse in which Granny had a variety of pot plants sitting in china bowls. These were taken into the house as they came into bloom. There was a large stone tank which collected the rainwater from the roof. There was shed-cum-workshop which seemed to have an endless variety of tools, fishing gear, vet's implements, garden tools, boxes of nails, paint pots and the bicycle propped against the workbench. From here we unearthed two harpoons which we still keep. A path went up the right hand side of the garden, a narrow flowerbed on one side and the large vegetable plot on the other. At the top was the drying green, and beyond that, best of all, the hen house and hen run – a delight for a small boy brave enough to feed the hens and collect the eggs. A line of sycamore trees grew along the left hand side wall – alive in summer with the buzz of bluebottles. The proximity of the outside dry closet accounted for these and other swarms of flies.

By the end of the thirties, my grandparents were both dead. After the war, my Aunt Ethel went to live in Swanson House in her retirement. Following her death in 1973, the house was sold. I still retain a few of the ornamental contents – the Chinese vases, the pewter teapots and the wallie dogs.

\* \* \*

### Away From Home by David Rendall

The Pilot boarded our troopship and two tugs came alongside to assist us to dock. I had arrived in Japan in a snowstorm on a cold January day in 1946. The place

was Kure a naval base which had previously been heavily bombed. It now looked like a huge scrap yard of warships and midget submarines.

A few weeks earlier I had flown from Penang to Singapore to join an RAF Signals Unit just out from the UK. On disembarking we continued by rail to Iwakuni, our new base. Our journey took us through the devastated city of Hiroshima. It had only been five months since the 'Bomb' but in spite of all I had read it had not prepared me for what I could now see, a large city completely destroyed by one bomb. [See picture on back cover. Ed.]

Iwakuni had been a school for naval officer cadets and it reminded me of Hatston, being at sea, with hangers and a slipway for the use of amphibious aircraft. Kamikaze pilots were said to have used this air base.

Our accommodation was in a substantial, two storied buildings, ten rooms on each floor and built to allow for movement in cases of earthquake. Ropes hung from the top floors as a means of escape in such instances. We made use of these ropes during one violent earthquake, the centre of which was only a few miles along the coast, destroying a fishing village. When I think of it now I imagine I hear the barrack blocks creaking and see the overhead power lines flashing as they touched one another, a frightening experience I will never forget.

We were among the early arrivals along with some airmen from other Commonwealth countries. We were to live together, work together, and mix socially, but that was only possible a couple of months later. Till then we had no canteens or any form of entertainment.

Soon spring arrived with the beautiful cherry blossom. We got beds to lie on, heating in our rooms, a brewery to supply beer (no spirits) and the Australian Canteen Service opened for business, life was on the up and up. We Poms as the Aussies called us, could now buy things we hadn't seen for years, tins of fruit, cream, big bars of chocolate and cigarettes in tins of fifty. We were glad the NAAFI didn't venture this far.

Amongst all this we had work to do, communications with the outside world had to be established and here the signals became very much involved. In 'Flight Operations' we controlled all flying within the British Commonwealth Area which was Southern Honshu. Similarly, the Americans controlled all flying in the north.

Having come from South East Asia, this was like a new world, where flights were of longer duration and largely over water, requiring the need to be in very regular contact with one another. Aircraft from Hong Kong carried, among other things our mail from home and we always enquired in our first contact, if they had any on board. When they did, the news was round camp before the 'Sunderland' flying boat landed.

The passengers on the flights were mainly Allied personnel, but they also carried former ranking Japanese military who were to be tried as war criminals in the area where they served.

Whilst I was caressing a Morse Key, George Craigie, formerly of Scockness Rousay was coaxing every drop of power out of our transmitters and the late Roland Barnett of Berstane Road played his part in providing the transport to take us to work – an 'Orcadian Trio' far from home. We never thought anything about it at the time, but we were in fact preparing the way for a few of the air routes of today.

The authorities issued a guide telling us about the Japanese people, their culture, history etc. and how we should behave as the occupying force. Fraternisation was strictly forbidden. Unlike Germany and Italy the Japanese had not been defeated in their homeland. At that time the idea of surrender was totally alien to the Japanese way of thinking and was a form of humiliation. However gradually we were accepted by them and at no time in our area were we shown any disrespect.

During the summer months we took advantage of the pleasant weather to see some of Southern Honshu. We used trains and ferries to get to the islands off the coast. One of these was Miyajima, now a favourite with overseas tourists and classed as one of Japan's scenic wonders. The Inland Sea was also worth a visit and is now a National Park. Of the two occupied areas we had the best scenery.

The summer also saw the start of football. Each unit had a team and competitions were arranged, including an international resulting in Scotland and England being in the final. For the occasion we flew in a pipe band from the Cameron Highlanders who were based in Shikoku. They gave a great display of piping and marching, and the drum major showed his skill with the mace. The local people came from the small town nearby, probably the first time they had seen a pipe band and men in kilts. They enjoyed it and showed their appreciation. It was quite a day and for the record, Scotland won 1-0. The pipe band stayed overnight resulting in the need of an extra supply of beer the next day.

Iwakuni must have been an unusual station to administer considering the mix of nationalities there, but again that was probably why we got on so well with one another. We made friends swapped experiences, pleasant and unpleasant, of where we had been before we came to Iwakuni. We talked about our homes and families and found that we had a lot in common.

We were all survivors and knew that when we left Japan it was unlikely we would ever see each other again. But we were the richer for having done so.

The last time I saw Hiroshima I was on the train to Kure. Twelve months had passed since I first saw it and each time I had gone through there were signs of recovery, Small wooden buildings being erected, bulldozers had cleared rubble to make some streets and stalls could be seen. Life was returning.

However, this time it was goodbye, I had a date with a troopship to take me home.



Orkney's astonishing output of academics is well known and with the use of the internet it is becoming possible to find out more about them, the valuable contributions they have made and the influence they had on future generations.

One example of this is Balfour Stewart. He was born in Edinburgh in 1828, the son of William Stewart of Brugh in Westray and Jane Clouston, daughter of Rev William Clouston of Sandwick. His discovery that objects radiate and absorb energy of the same length won him the Royal Society's Rumford Medal in 1868 and contributed to the foundation of spectrum analysis. As director of the Kew Observatory and the senior figure in the Meteorological Office he did important early work on the sun and the ionosphere but his greatest impact was through two students. As professor at Owens College, Manchester he helped set them on the path to discoveries that were of world-wide importance; C. T. R. Wilson, inventor of the cloud chamber, and J. J. Thomson, who discovered the electron. Both were awarded the Nobel Prize for their discoveries and Stewart is recognised as being an important influence in the early stages of both careers.

Strangely enough, Balfour Stewart is not the only Orcadian Physics professor to produce a world-famous student. William Peddie from Papa Westray was Professor of Physics at Dundee University (1907-1942) and wrote the widely-used *Manual of Physics*. He took one of his graduates on as a research assistant and interested him in radio waves. The student was Robert Watson-Watt, the 'father of radar'.

Orkney has produced many distinguished members of the medical profession and one of the best examples is Sir James Learmonth, knighted by George VI after he had operated on him. He was the son of William Learmonth from Stromness and held, most unusually, two chairs of surgery at Edinburgh University; Systematic and Clinical. He was a pioneer in vascular and peripheral nerve surgery and wrote many influential papers. Dame Sheila Sherlock, the leading figure in the treatment of liver disease, described him as her mentor and his surgery on David Simpson, the pioneer of powered prosthetic limbs and designer of the first successful foetal heart monitor, restored use of his right arm and influenced him in his choice of career.

His son, also James, was an enormously influential educationalist. After his death in 2003 the James Learmonth Scholarship was established to help teachers in Malawi pursue further studies in education.

\* \* \*

This time we only gave one Award and that was to Drumlamond, Innertown, Stromness. The sloping site looks out to Hoy Sound with the Kame making a strong centre of interest. The house is entirely faced with local stone cut and laid to a very high quality of workmanship. The windowsills are unjointed worked stone in lengths to suit the openings and the joinery is just superb. The architects have blended the house to its surroundings with an exceptional show of skill. The garden has been designed for easy maintenance with natural stone unifying the whole conception.

Four projects gained a Highly Commended.

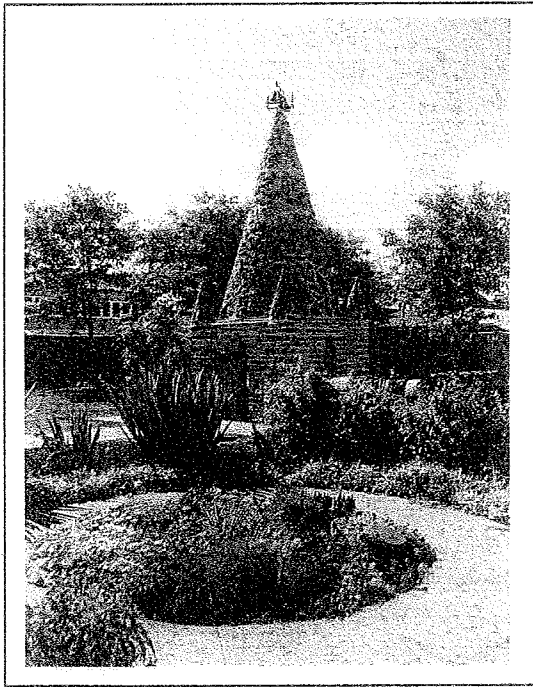
The Groatie Hoose has been saved from obscurity and very skilfully re-sited in Tankerness House Gardens with great care to detail. The surrounding garden has been landscaped to add to the scene. We were concerned that the ironwork was not galvanized and is already starting to deteriorate.

The new Dental Centre in Garson, Stromness makes a bold statement in colour and is an attractive building with a pleasing use of local stone in its boundary walling. What a pity that the car park has to have such prominent lines and lettering!

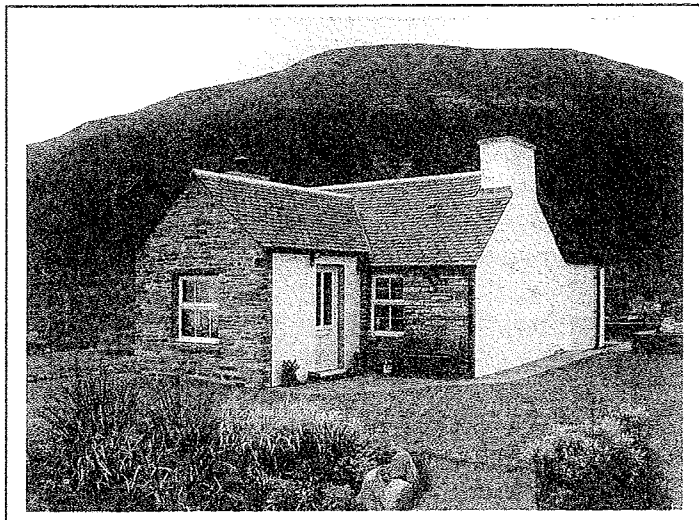
Hannabreck, Dounby is not an old Orkney house re-furbished but is a complete re-build on the same site, being a little forward of the old house and a little wider. Stone from the old house was used for most of the facing and large stone flags on edge form the boundary wall. It looks really charming but has some basic architectural errors. The ridge being higher than the skews is the main snag, but the overall appearance is just lovely.

Kingshouse in Hoy is an old cottage with an addition. The work was again a real labour of love and great care was taken to make it all look very attractive. The owner has done an amazing amount of hard work to create a charming garden around it. The only real criticism centred on the choice of windows. The whole property blends together quite beautifully.

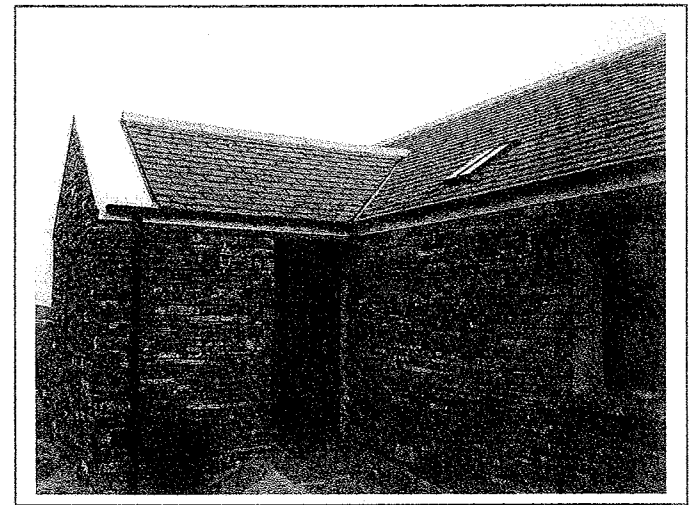
There were seven entries which were commended and caused considerable discussion among the judges, before agreement was reached. These were: 1-5 Sutherland Court, Kirkwall; 1-4 The Phoenix, Junction Road, Kirkwall; Hoy Outdoor Centre; Shorelines Gallery, Finstown; Keldavaten, Burnside, Harray; Smiddybrae House, Dounby and 3 King Street, Kirkwall. There were three other entries which did not meet the conditions for the awards.



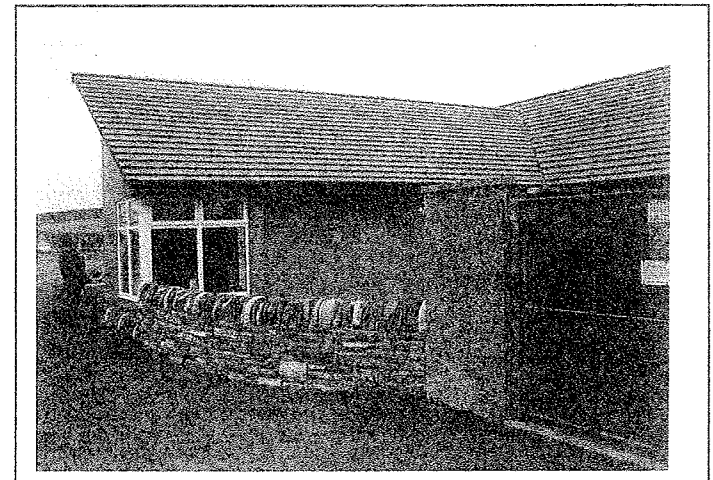
The Groatie Hoose



Kingshouse



Hannabreck, Dounby



The Dental Centre, Stromness

## First Nations and Orcadian Community Totem Pole Carving Project by Andrew Drever

The beginning of this project came in the way of a phone call from Lynn Foubister who now works as a community worker at Seaton in Aberdeen. Lynn had previously been involved in the carving of a pole with Seaton community and wondered if Holm would be interested in a similar project. Andrew Drever who was chairman of the Holm Community Association put this proposal to the committee and, after some head scratching, received approval.

Fife carver, Kenny Grieve was to be our main contact as he had already co-ordinated the carving and raising of 26 poles throughout Scotland and had worked with the First Nations' carvers from the outset.

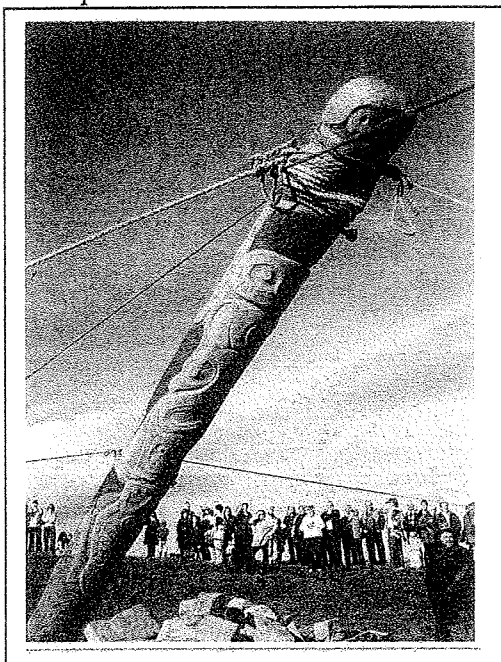
Kenny travelled to Orkney in June 2007 to give a public presentation and to visit some primary schools to gauge what interest there was. It was apparent from the outset that this would be an exciting project for the whole community to get involved in and would be a unique hands-on experience.

Four carvers, XwaLack Tun, Drew Atkins, Ray Natrall and Jordon Seward travelled from Vancouver and spent a fortnight with host families where many cultures and gifts were exchanged.

The opening event was in the Holm Hall and was attended by many locals who came to see the ceremonial blessing of the log and the stripping of the bark. The following day the carvers, along with locals, set to drawing the designs that would be transferred onto the pole. Many people came to the hall with their ideas and all were incorporated into the design.

People of all ages and abilities took part in the carving under the supervision and guidance of the carvers with some working for a few minutes right through to others working full days.

Towards the end, a ceilidh was held with a sumptuous buffet and presentations were made before the dance that lasted into the small hours. The final day was a day of brilliant sunshine and was attended by around 500 locals who turned up to see the raising of the pole. Following a blessing of the earth and



the calling of witnesses, the ropes were attached and with a gentle pull and great ease the pole was raised into the air and stood proud in its final resting place at the end of Number 1 Barrier.

This was a unique experience that caught the imagination of our community and this produced a lasting piece of artwork that will be a focus and reminder of friendships forged.

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## Tree Planting at Redland by Eoin Scott

It was during the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, 1977, that we at Redland in Firth made the decision to plant some trees.

We have a burn running through the farm and on the steeper slopes it had cut quite considerable gullies, with a number of attractive waterfalls, some still with their old Norse names. These areas were very sheltered and a favourite place for the sheep to be during bad weather. Early in 1977 we had a blizzard, which drifted over these gullies and, as we discovered the next day, a number of our ewes were buried in the drifting snow. We managed to dig out and save most of them, but several did perish.

As a consequence we decided to fence off the area, to be stock- as well as rabbit-proof to avoid a repeat of our sheep disaster. Having done so, the question was what to do with this newly-separated piece of land. As our ancestors had planted a few trees here we decided to enhance it by planting a few more. It was about five acres, so my sister Dorothy, my eleven-year-old nephew Robert and I began the job by early March and completed the task in about six weeks. There were 5000 saplings of about six inches high, so small simply because they were the cheapest.

They consisted of Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine around the perimeter, and the deciduous ones in the centre, like Sycamore, Beech, Birch, Hornbeam, Silver Birch, Larch, various Willows, Field Maple, Alder, Hazel, Wild Cherry, Rowan and Swedish Whitebeam. Also we bought about a dozen trees at about three feet high, expensive, but thinking that they would have a big head start, it was worth trying. However, only about half of them survived and within five years the six-inch saplings had surpassed them in height.

Knowing from my parents' planting of seedlings from the old trees, grass can be one of the big killers of small trees, so to my horror it was discovered by mid June the grass was becoming a serious problem. Dorothy and I set about pulling the grass from around each tree and by the time we finished, with bleeding fingers, it almost had to be done again in July. I knew, for one thing, we didn't have the time, so I made enquiries to the Forestry Commission what their solution

was to this grass problem. They gave the name of a granular grass killer that was basically harmless to trees. I got J & W Tait Ltd to order it, and being in such a rush to beat the grass, never read the full instructions. It warned that this substance was harmful to Larch so, as a consequence, I killed most of my Larch, except the ones I had missed.

Surprisingly there was a very good survival rate and, with the trees at six feet apart, it quickly became impossible to walk through in any comfort, so clearly the next task was to lop lower branches to make a passageway to enjoy a pleasant walk.

We have since added several other areas to the plantation, but still mainly planting within the vicinity of the Burn of Redland, almost annually expanding it and to now over fifteen acres. The benefits are numerous; the increased shelter is so marked. How the domestic animals take advantage, is quite remarkable. The increased wildlife is also very marked, birds love the environment and it is very rewarding to hear the variety of calls and the flight activities of the small-feathered visitors. Now, after all the planning and hard work, we have a lasting pleasure not only for today but also for those who come after us.

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#### Kirkwall Travel Centre by Adele du Feu, Senior Transport Manager OIC

Public transport in Orkney has moved forward in recent months with the opening of the Kirkwall Travel Centre in the autumn of last year. Kirkwall Travel Centre not only replaces the former bus station, it also provides a hub for public transport for all of Orkney along with information on all travel opportunities to, from and around Orkney. A number of locations within the town were considered before the final location on the corner of the Great Western Road/Junction Road/West Castle was selected. This site was chosen on the basis of being in heart of Kirkwall, close to its amenities and had the added advantage of becoming integral with Visit Orkney providing a central point for visitors to access information as well as a convenient location for residents.

The Travel Centre was developed with the following aims:

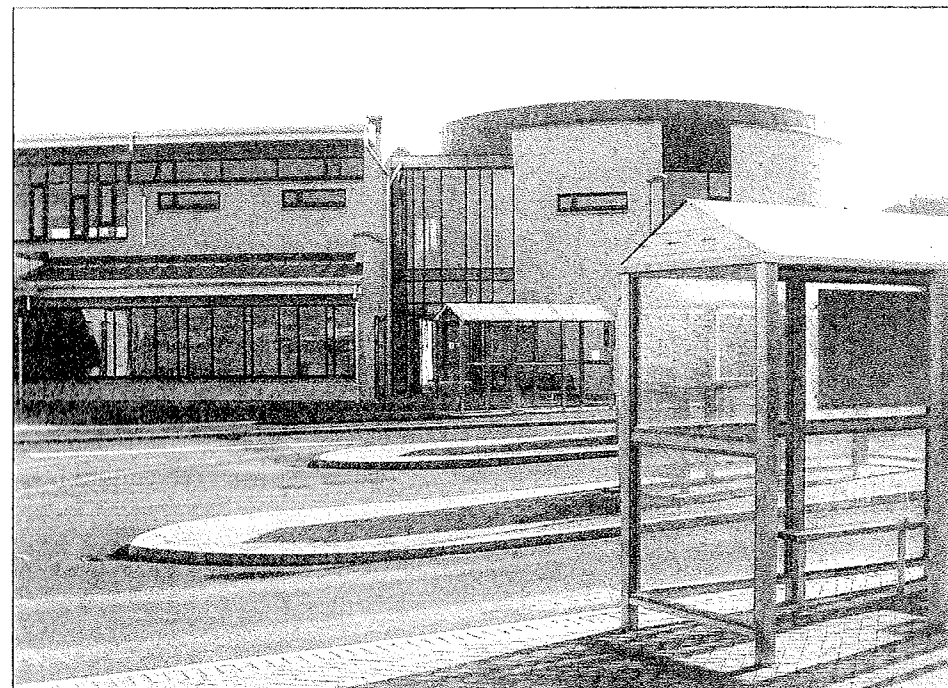
- Ensuring travel opportunities meet the needs of the whole community.
- Integrating various means of travel around Orkney.
- Promoting accessibility for all.

These aims tie in with those of the Local Transport Strategy for Orkney, the document which shapes transport in Orkney for the next three years.

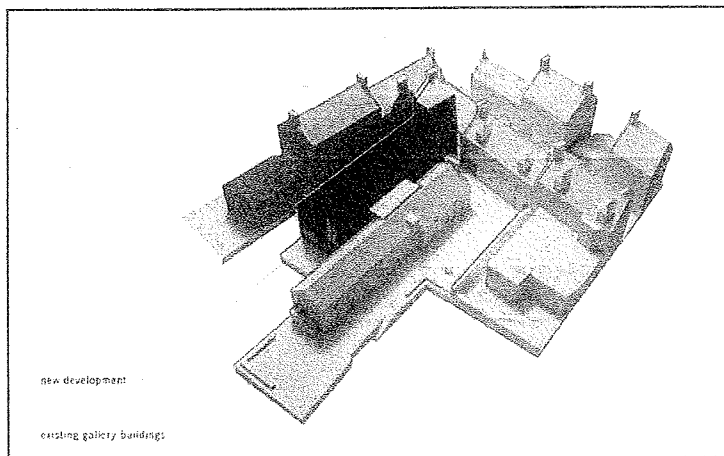
Throughout the development of Travel Centre there was an emphasis on partnership working, and the design of the site was based around the Travel

Centre functionality and the relocation of VisitOrkney to the premises. The new building maximises space whilst remaining in keeping in size and with its surroundings. The Travel Centre is fully accessible and has a range of facilities, including toilets, changing facilities, cycle parking, an information desk and boards, recycling facilities and a conference room which is available for bookings. The Travel Centre is manned by a travel advisor who can assist with journey planning. There are over 100 arrivals and departures of buses every day from the Travel Centre, which are accommodated at five bus stances. Each stance has a lit shelter with seating, an information board containing service times from that stance and a litter bin.

The Travel Centre compliments the new fleet of low floor buses which are operated by Orkney Coaches, making travel by bus accessible to many who could not readily get out and about otherwise. Along with these developments, the launch of the new look Public Transport Guide during the same period represented exciting developments for public transport in Orkney. We hope these initiatives as well as forthcoming projects such as integrated ticketing and real time information will encourage residents and visitors to use public transport in our Islands, thus reducing our carbon footprint and ensuring our natural heritage is preserved for future generations.



## New and Old - The Pier Arts Centre by Neil Firth



I'm sure most, if not all, members of Orkney Heritage Society will know the history of the Pier Arts Centre; that it opened in 1979 following a remarkable fundraising campaign by the Centre's founder, Margaret Gardiner, and her Orkney friends including Marjorie Linklater, Bryce Wilson and Sylvia Wishart. The story of Margaret's generous gift to Orkney and Orcadians of a large proportion of the twentieth century British artworks that she had accrued (she didn't like to regard it as a collection – a word that in her opinion implied some measure of forethought or planning) is well known and has been the basis of nearly thirty years of successful growth of artistic endeavour and activity in Orkney.

To house this 'collection' and to make room for temporary exhibitions of local and touring art-shows, Margaret and her allies secured the two historic Stromness waterfront buildings and the eponymous pier that have become Orkney's premiere Arts Centre.

These buildings and pier are firmly embedded in Stromness's heritage being among the first listed structures as the town moves south from the pier-head to the heart of the conservation area. The original building on the street having gone through many changes - as became evident when its interior was stripped back to its bones in the recent refurbishment and extension of the Centre - was most notably, from 1836 -1867, the home of Edward Clouston, the Hudson's Bay Company Agent. It has an elegant late Georgian panelled room that came to light in the original conversion of the building from house to gallery in the mid 1970s. To the east of this fine C listed house sits the pier and the long low B listed building that has variously been: a Hudson's Bay Company store; a coal store; the

Royal Engineers' planning base during the Second World War; a hostel and a dwelling house. These two buildings have now been joined through the addition of a new building to the south that links into the rear of the pier building and joins to the building on the street through the incorporation of a fourth building that runs in line with and abuts the gable of the street building.

Besides the archaeological study of the building on the street, which now provides the new entrance to the Centre, it was also subject to survey by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland and was photographed, internally and externally by the Royal Commission for Historic and Ancient Monuments Scotland.

With great vision and practical genius our architects and builders were able to re-shape and re-form the Pier Arts Centre. The best of what was already there has been maintained and preserved and a new building has been added that signals its contemporary pedigree and its cultural purpose through its precise detailing and defined presence, whilst the close relationship of its form and scale to its near neighbours gives it a comfortable familiar family resemblance. Besides enabling level access to all the different buildings and floors of the Centre the development has provided: a suite of new galleries, improved visitor facilities including a reference library, meeting room and shop. Beyond this precise control of the museum environment has been gained through air handling plant whilst workspaces and a collection store along with an artist's flat complete the non-public back of house facilities.

The outstanding quality of architect Reiach and Hall's scheme has been recently been recognised through the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland Andrew Doolan Award for the best new building in Scotland 2007.

We believe we have a good building - one that fits its location and purpose well – a building and a pier for people to trade ideas and ambitions.

*I am indebted to the author of the archeological report, the late Judith Robertson, to Bryce Wilson for his history of the Pier Arts Centre's buildings and to James Troup for his overview of information that we uncovered and for his infectious enthusiasm.*

*Orkney Heritage Society members who would like further information on the Centre or details of the history or archeological study of the buildings should contact the staff at the Pier Arts Centre who will be happy to assist. tel: 01856 850 209, email: [info@pierartscentre.com](mailto:info@pierartscentre.com)*

[Ed. The original article had much more detail about what was found as the work progressed but due to the space available in this Newsletter the editors had to make certain cuts. The full document can be obtained at the above email address.]



## Stromness Townscape Heritage Initiative Heritage Lottery Fund by Miriam Frier

We were delighted to hear in October 2007 that the Stage One bid submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for money for Stromness Outstanding Conservation Area had been successful. It all sounds good so far doesn't it? This was the culmination of six months work jammed into seven weeks, a tight deadline driven by the potential change in the way money is to be awarded from HLF to the heritage sector and our thoughts that money could be a little tight with the funding required for the upcoming Olympic Games. Our success so far is a result of the very hard work of consultants and community alike. Thank you again one and all. The agreed money from HLF (in principle) is for £1.44 million which requires match funding from various partners, bringing the total to a minimum of £2.88 million. This is to be spent on the Built Heritage and enabling training in Heritage Conservation Skills.

So what are the benefits for the Heritage of Stromness and throughout Orkney? The money will be used in part to bring derelict historic buildings back into use – a benefit for the streetscape and a desire of the Stromness Community. There is then the challenge of the use of reclaimed derelict space, as one of the principles of the Townscape Heritage Initiative is to have economic outcomes i.e. it's not just about making Stromness look pretty – which is surely a good thing. Some money can be spent in the public realm and one of the express desires is to see concrete flags replaced with the real thing. This of course raises questions around sources of stone which we are exploring with some good friends at British Geological Survey, Scottish Stone Liaison group and Historic Scotland. Third Party Grants for private individuals will hopefully see restoration of some of our Caithness slab roofs, buildings covered in lime rather than concrete and wood sash and case windows.

Another vital component is around training. Historic Scotland has just launched a national Progression Award in masonry conservation which will enable heritage skills to be consolidated for tradespeople in Orkney. Working with both Orkney College and Historic Scotland, we hope to deliver this course for three years to really give the Heritage Skills on the island a boost which will benefit not only Stromness but all the 641 Listed Buildings in Orkney. There will be PLENTY of opportunities to get involved so please keep an eye on the press.

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## The Big Orkney Song Project by Sarah Jane Gibbon

The Big Orkney Song Project is a new venture instigated by the Orkney Singers, a non-profit-making organisation with the aim of encouraging singing in the community. The Orkney Singers have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance in funding the project which aims to reinstate Orkney's singing tradition.

Historically, Orkney had a strong singing culture which has sadly almost disappeared in recent years. The main aim of the Big Orkney Song Project is to reinstate this essential part of Orkney's heritage so that traditional Orkney Song is heard once more in the islands and its value appreciated by the community. It aims to do this by cataloguing the existing collected songs in the Orkney Library and Archive: by collecting and recording songs which are remembered within the local community; by collating songs held in collections elsewhere; by preventing songs currently stored from being lost through copying, transcribing and notating; and encouraging these songs to be sung and heard once more by the wider community.

The Orkney Singers intend to collect new material and to catalogue existing material in order to create a Big Orkney Song Collection which will be made freely available to the public at the end of the two year project; copies being held in the Orkney Library and Archive in Kirkwall and the Song Shop in Stromness.

The new material will be collected by holding approximately 25 'Song Share' events throughout Orkney where, hopefully, local folk will come together to share with one another their knowledge of Orkney songs, by singing remembered songs, bringing along any old recordings or song words they have and by discussing the background and history of the songs. The singing and discussions will be digitally recorded and transcribed, and any recordings and words brought in will be copied and added to the collection with the owners consent.

The idea behind the project is not just to create a collection of songs, but to use the collection to actively encourage singing within the community through holding concerts and workshops. As well as this, the project aims to add a valuable contribution to Orkney's social history by studying the songs sung in Orkney. For instance, looking into life and community through song words, and exploring changing influences on the community through the songs sung, one example being the changes brought about in the twentieth century with increased access to songs from outwith the islands.

The Orkney Singers are committed to the project, and although dependent on successfully gaining funding, hope to begin the 'Song Share' events in the coming year. These events will include performances of known Orkney songs by members of the Orkney Singers and plenty of opportunity to talk about songs and singing. Look out for advertisements in the local papers and on the radio and

please come along and join in. It doesn't matter whether you can sing or not, or whether you have any songs or not. The idea is that by bringing people together to talk about songs from their childhood and songs they have heard sung in Orkney, a renewed interest in Orkney song will be established and a collection of songs will be created for present and future generations to utilise and most importantly enjoy!

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### Birsay Heritage Trust by Johnny Johnstone

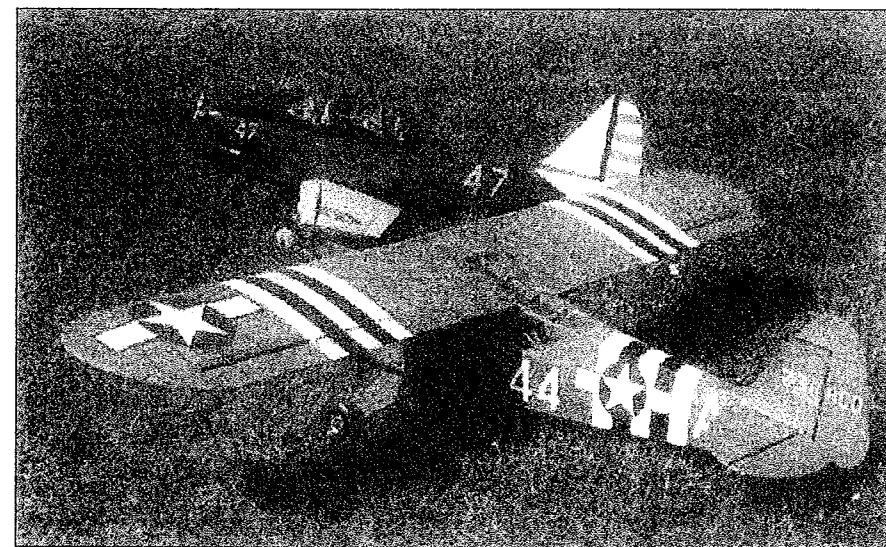
It is now more than ten years since we founded the Birsay Heritage Trust and up to now we have been concentrating on the Barony Mill. It was our No. 1 priority because we felt it was most important that it be saved. It was the last working water mill in the area and there was a real danger that it would disappear altogether if something was not done to preserve it and so we have worked long and hard to get it up and going again. Now the only problem is lack of money but we are not alone in that. Nevertheless, the Mill is going along fine and we are once more providing Orkney, and indeed many places outwith Orkney, with good old traditional stone ground beremeal and oatmeal.

We have now decided to turn our attentions to another project in our parish which we feel needs to be restored and preserved. That is the old Control Tower and aerodrome at Twatt. I fear this will be a much more challenging project, requiring much more funding. The old Control Tower has fallen into disrepair over the years and is no longer in a safe state for visitors to go inside. We have now got permission from Orkney Islands Council to take over the whole area, formerly known as HMS Tern. Quite what we are going to do with it is a different question! We are at the moment waiting for a survey to be completed to see how much needs to be done to make it safe for the public to visit and how much it will cost to do this. After that, we will see what we can come up with.

Last year, we got into discussions with the Museums and Heritage people from the Council who were planning a few events in connection with the Science Festival. This included a drive through of HMS Tern and we decided to stage a display of scale model World War Two aircraft part of the old runways to coincide with this event. We had been approached by Freda Bayne who told us that her brother-in-law, Ronald, was prepared to come up from Kent with a van-load of model planes and fly them at Twatt. Ronald had spent most of his career testing and developing military aircraft and now in his retirement he had turned to radio controlled models. There was a lot of work to do in getting everything organised but with the kind permission of Stephen Harvey from Quoydandy, who owns the land, and the use of a marquee, and with the assistance of some of our

Trustees and several 'volunteers' we managed to get it all organised. The weather could have been kinder but it wasn't too bad and the event proved to be a great success, with hundreds of visitors forming a steady stream into the field all afternoon. Ronald and his assistants managed to do quite a lot of flights and a great time was had by all.

This year, we hope to do something even more ambitious. Things are at a very early stage but we have hopes to get a real World War Two Spitfire to come up to Twatt, along with several other planes. Possibly nothing will come of this plan and there are certainly lots of things to think about if we were to realise this ambition. For a start, we don't even know if there is a long enough stretch of runway still available. It might also prove to be too expensive. However, we do hope to have some event which will be a follow on from the tremendous success of last year.



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### Orkney Access Forum and Countryside Committee by Sandy Firth

#### "The Right to Roam"

2007 has been a very busy time for this Committee. Under new legislation there are many problems to be resolved and implemented. It was agreed that: To save confusion over the new constitution and where it fits in to Orkney's developing system of public involvement in the use and appreciation of our Islands, the name 'Orkney' and Countryside Committee, needed to be included with Access Forum.

A logo was created, with the letters OLAF – 'Orkney Local Access Forum' superimposed and with the full title in small letters round the edge.

Membership of the Committee consists of two members (or their substitutes) of each of the Orkney branches of the following organisations: Environmental Concern Orkney (ENO), Farming and Wild life Advisory Group (FWAG), Historic Scotland Rangers Service, Hoy Trust, National Farmers Union of Scotland (NFUS), Orkney Archaeological Trust, Orkney Agricultural Society, Orkney Disability Forum, Orkney District Association of Young Farmers, Orkney Enterprise, Orkney Field Club, Orkney Fish Farms Association – in abeyance, Orkney Heritage Society, Orkney Islands Council – Liaison Officer, Orkney Islands Council – four Councillors, Orkney Islands Council – Planning, Orkney Islands Council – Outdoor Education, Orkney Natural History Society, Orkney Ramblers, Orkney Riding Groups, Orkney Tourism Group, Orkney Trout Fishing Association, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Association for Country Sports, Scottish Agricultural College, Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA), Scottish Women's Rural Institute, Orkney Federations (SWRI), VisitOrkney, Voluntary Action Orkney. Thirty-one organisations with the proviso that any other Orkney based organisations can be, from time to time, added or deleted from the list on a motion carried at the AGM.

A great deal has been achieved in advising and assisting the Local Authority in the implementation of the Land Reform Act of 2003. Core paths have appeared and further development is ongoing. An Orkney Draft Plan has been prepared and reported on the Council Committee. This is now out for public consultation. Other OIC policy documents that have been discussed are: Development Plan Scheme, Supplementary Planning Guidance, Onshore Wind Energy Development (consultation draft), and Housing in the Countryside Consultation Paper. Local access forums now exist around Scotland and the committee was represented at a networking meeting in Inverness to find out how other groups carry out business and about the type of problems/opportunities experienced elsewhere.

An open information meeting was held in Stromness on 15th March, which was well attended. The committee also has a regularly updated website which includes information on local walks as well as recent meetings and access in general. [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk)

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## The Fereday Prize Awards by Sheena Wenham

The judges, Morag McGill and Hazel Goar were impressed by the high quality of the projects this year. They independently selected the same projects to take first, second and third prizes.

First Prize – *History of Sclater's Shops* by Katrina Bevan.

The quality of the interviews, the photographs and the information about sites and events, and the coverage of all the areas of the Sclater's enterprise made this a fascinating project.

Second Prize – *The Gale of 1952* by Annabella Penny.

This was a really well put together project. It was a very assured piece of work filled with stories, cartoons, dialect and interviews.

Third Prize – *I'm a Fairy from Pharayland* by Leanne Smith.

This project was full of enthusiasm and stories. The use of local knowledge and contacts made this a project with information that might otherwise have gone unrecorded.

Very Highly Commended

*Stromness Lifeboats* by Morna Brown, *District of Grimbister* by Ian Clouston, *The History of Harray School* by Ian Coghill, *Harray Folk* by Ross Hamilton, *The Riding of the Marches* by Davey Harvey, *The History of the Dounby Athletic Club* by Isla Kirkness, *Clydesdale Staigs of Orkney* by Susie Manson, *History of Stromness* by Eilidh McGachie, *Kitchener Memorial* by Sarah Mowat, *Sinclair Supply Stores* by Thisbe Sinclair.

Highly Commended.

*Longhope Lifeboat* by Dawnmarie Clouston, *Orkney Fishermen's Society – The impact of fishing in Stromness 1953-2008* by Isaac Crichton, *North Ronaldsay Lighthouses* by Murray Crichton, *The Pier Arts Centre* by Sandy Firth, *History of the Vikings in Orkney* by Leanne Fischler, *Stromness Swimming Pool* by Lauren Groundwater, *Stromness Shopping Week* by Abigail Marcus, *Hayon Farm* by Victoria Marcus, *The Italian Chapel* by Ryan Major, *The Stromness Hotel* by Lewis Moar, *Birsay Football Club* by Scott Norquoy, *Orkney Yoles* by Alexander Sinclair, *Maeshowe* by Jodie Spence, *The History of The Orcadian* by Gillian Stewart, *Seal Cull* by Kerrie Sutherland.

Commended.

*Firth Bay Oysters* by Paul Aim, *Baikie's Stores* by Erika Brown, *Stromness RBL Pipe Band* by Marcus Craigie, *Michael Alexander Craigie* by Michelle Craigie, *The Grace Paterson Ritchie Lifeboat* by Ian Dickenson, *The String* by Louise Fraser, *Bits and Bobs about the Anderson Family* by Kathyne Heddle, *Orkney*

*Food and Drink Products* by Grace Houghton, *Highland Park* by Parnell Inkster, *The Knowe of Skae* by Eilidh Leiper, *John Rae* by Ross Manson, *History of The Italian Chapel* by Daryl McIndoe, *Children of the Past* by Ruby Merriman, *Grimbister* by Innes Morrison, *Orkney's Farm Machinery* by Daniel Sandison, *The Tombs and Cairns of Rousay* by Henry Shortland, *St Magnus Cathedral* by Leanne Sinclair, *The Kirkwall Ba'* by Andrew Stanger, *The Brough of Birsay* by Alanna Swanney.

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### Marjorie Linklater Writing Award 2008 by Sandy Firth

This year saw ten entries from Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy.

As usual the competition was 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 at a similar stage.

1<sup>st</sup> Place and Winner – Charlotte Slater – *There was a banging on the door.*  
Stromness Academy

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Leah Drever – *The Creatures of the Night.*  
Kirkwall Grammar

Highly commended – Katherine Stockan - *The Hudson Bay Secret.*  
Stromness Academy

Highly commended – Claire Mackenzie – *Letting Go.*  
Kirkwall Grammar

Commended – Amanda Hourston – *Drift Wid*  
Kirkwall Grammar

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 their order of merit. There was some close marking.

All markers mentioned their pleasure at the high standard of writing.

### ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY EYNHALLOW TRIP 2008

Subject to weather conditions, this year's Eynhallow Trip will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 12s – No concessions as this is a Society Charter. Tickets are on sale from Kirkwall and Stromness Tourist Offices as from **Wednesday 2nd July**. 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 RSPB 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 Evie 751 360 within office hours to confirm sailing.

Orkney Heritage Society, c/o Leslie Burgher,  
Tel. ( 01856 ) 87 1375

Finances	
<u>Account Balances</u>	£
Current	802.37
St. Boniface	19,187.90
Archaeology	493.28
Abbey National	62,698.64
Conference	472.00
<u>Income</u>	
Gross interest	0.61
Talks – Donna Heddlie	20.00
Subscriptions	10.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions (Scottish Archaeology 2007/8)	70.00
Advertising	34.10
Room Hire	152.65
Photocopying	8.40
Expenses for Laura Grimond Awards	172.58

<b>Tam's Tally of Orkney Books 2007/8</b> Available from Stromness Books and Prints, 1, Graham Place, Stromness Orkney KW 16 3BA Tel. 01856 850 565 (N.B. P/B = paperback)			
Polygon	George Mackay Brown	Northern Lights - reprint and new in P/B	9.99
John Murray	Maggie Fergusson	George Mackay Brown - the Life - new in P/B	9.99
Birlinn	Caroline Wickham-Jones	Orkney - A Historical Guide - reprint in P/B	7.99
Tempus	Nicholas Leach	Orkney's Lifeboat Heritage	17.99
John Cutt	John W.A. Cutt	The Way We Were: Reminis- cences of a N. Ronaldsay Man	8.00
AOP	J. Storer Clouston	The Spy in Black (reprint)	20.00
Orkney Museums	Pam Beasant	Stanley Cursiter	20.00
Bellavista	Gregor Lamb	Sky over Scapa - reprint and revised.	25.00
Fifth House	Dennis F. Johnson	York Boats of the Hudson's Bay Company	12.00
Dundee City Council	George Stout	Eight Acres and a Boat, 200 Years Crofting Fair Isle	9.99
John Donald	Graeme Davis	Early English Settlement of Orkney and Shetland	9.99
Orcadian	Alan Bichan	A Year in an Orkney Kitchen	22.50
Orkney Bird Report	Various	Orkney Bird Report 2006	6.00
Bloomsbury	P.R. Morrison	Wind Tamer - now in P/B	6.99
Bloomsbury	P.R. Morrison	Wave Traveller - sequel in P/B	6.99
Accidental Wordsmith	Jim Hewitson	Boulders at Hirte Geo	9.99
Orkney Museums	Tom Muir	Assiepattle and the Stoor worm (Trad Tales Series)	4.95
Periscope Publishing	G. Burroughs	SCAPA AND A CAMERA - reprint	25.00
Colin Baxter	Liv Schei & Gunnie Moberg	Islands of Orkney - new in P/B	12.95
Celtic Cross Press	George Mackay Brown	The Fairground Poet (limited edition)	35.00

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