

THE BLETHER

the bletcher ['bleðə] – the newsletter of the community of Hoy and Walls

ISSUE 44 SEPTEMBER 2023

WE'RE BACK!

The last edition of The Bletcher was our COVID-19 Issue way back in April 2020.

Who would have thought that a, seemingly, innocuous virus, could have caused the disruption to our daily lives in the way that it did? There have been a few changes to the Island - **we've said goodbye to some much loved characters** and welcomed new members to the Community. Some things may have changed but the beauty of the island remains the same. We have seen an increase in visitors to the island again, the re-opening of the amazing Scapa Flow Museum, a Youth Hub provision for our teenagers, a Community Café and lots of the pre-COVID clubs up and running again. Now seems as good a time as any to get your favourite local newsletter back in circulation.



So watch this space for all your local news, local event updates and maybe a bit of fun too. If anyone would like to submit an article or make a contribution it would be most welcome. You can contact The Bletcher at cdo.iohdt@gmail.com or see the back page for further details.

Welcome to Issue 44 of **THE BLETHER.**

Many thanks to all the contributors to this issue and for the use of any of their photographs.

Do please get in touch if you have anything you'd like to share with the community!

Contact details for further information or for contributions can be found on the back page.

Island of Hoy Development Trust



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SCAPA FLOW MUSEUM NOMINATED FOR MUSEUM OF THE YEAR AWARD



In 2022 The Scapa Flow Museum re-opened after a £4.4 million refurbishment with a grand opening in April 2023 which Olympian Sir Chris Hoy attended. The Museum was nominated for the world prestigious Museum of the Year award, with the results announced on July 12th. Although the Museum was shortlisted for the prize it was the Burrell Collection that was declared 2023's winner. The Museum will be awarded £15,000 for being one of the four finalists, this, in itself, is a huge achievement for the team and staff of the museum and recognition for all the hard work and

effort that they have put in to a Museum that everyone can be proud of. Excitingly, the museum has also been awarded the 2023 Travellers Choice Award by Trip Advisor.

The refurbishment project was achieved after 8 years of fundraising and four years of project development, including involving the children from North Walls School as consultants for the new education space. The museum is a showpiece for Hoy and it's popularity is apparent from the sheer numbers of visitors that arrive daily to enjoy the modern museum that tells the fascinating story behind the impact that both the first and second World Wars had on the island. An added bonus is the Skalpaflöi café where you can round off your visit with a cuppa and a home bake or take your pick from the menu.



"I came into the project in February 2021 when the construction and internal fit-out was in full swing. There was no longer any uncertainty about its future, this was really going to happen. Being part of that decision making, when my own family connection to the building is so strong, was really special.

I was a little concerned about my lack of Wartime Orkney historical knowledge, but I realised pretty quickly that what they needed was someone who could make professional decisions about museum objects, display and content and also offer opinions on the aesthetic outcome of the building. This I felt I could do well, and am very proud of my part in how the building looks today.

My favourite aspect of the project was without any doubt, the collaboration with North Walls School. We all felt very strongly that by getting the children involved, we would be establishing an important relationship between the islanders and their museum. A relationship which would mean that Hoy folk would always feel that the Scapa Flow Museum belonged to them, as a monument to their island's story."

Ellen Pesci
Curator (Social History)



Ellen with Grayson Perry at the recent Museum of the year awards

HOY PRODUCE SHOW 2023



THE HOY PRODUCE Show was held on Saturday 29th July 2023 with a good number of entries in all the sections, with the photo section up on the last show. Tattie in a bag had twenty one entries with Angela MacIsaac winning with a weight of 2439g.

We would like to thank the judges Miss S Robertson, Mrs O Robertson, Mrs T Bruce and Ms R Marr and The Hoy Trust for sponsoring the show, and everyone who gave raffle prizes. Special thanks to

Olivia Thomson for all her hard work to run the events in The Hoy Kirk also special thanks to Bene'thill cafe for the lunches and Millennium Shield.

Results

The cup in Memory of Margaret Franks for Art and Crafts & best exhibit in Art & Crafts: *Jeff Clark*

Most points in art & crafts and the Charlie Gray trophy for most points in show : *Jude Callister*



Most points in veg and the

J.M.F Groat trophy for best exhibit in veg: *Hughie Besant*.

Jim Taylor trophy for best exhibit in flowers and the Jim Taylor trophy for most points in cut flowers: *Mabel Besant*

Elsie Seatter vase for wild flowers: *Mabel Besant*

Trophy in Memory of Elsie Seatter for best rose: *Adam Clark*

Best exhibit in Farm produce: *Sue Hollands*

Tattie in a bag: *Angela MacIsaac*

Best Eggs: *Morwen Thomson*

Most points in Farm produce: *Marion McDowell*



Best exhibit in baking & most points in baking: *Pamela Johnston*.

Burnmouth trophy for most points in Orkney traditional baking: *Suzanne Milne*.

Trophy in Memory of Cathy Clark Best exhibit in Photos: *Elsbeth Groat*
Most points in photos: *Stephen Cook*.

Children Section 6yrs and under: *Russell Clark*, most points: *Russell Clark*, 16yrs and under: *Corban Kestrel*, most points: *Malcolm Clark*.



Fay Clark

CHURCH SUMMER SALE 4TH AUGUST 2023

This year's sale was kindly opened by Elaine Grieve, Lord Lieutenant. She spoke of her family, **her folk being married in St Columba's and a long time connection with Longhope, before declaring the sale open.**

Many folk had generously donated items for the stalls, and these were spread out ready to tempt anyone who lingered, and happily many succumbed. Not only did they face the temptation of the various sales tables and the chance to purchase raffle tickets, there were also games in which canny assessments as to weight or number could be made and written down for the princely sum of 20p or 50p for the grid. There were also refreshments in The Shore and these could be sampled while waiting for the raffle to be drawn, and anticipation ran high for there were many good prizes to be won. It all made for a busy but enjoyable evening.

The amount raised from the sale, with donations was £803.27

Lastly but definitely not least, we must say a very heartfelt thank you to all of you who gave us your support—those who volunteered to help on the stalls, those who gave items enough to make a sale and those who came and made it a successful evening—**we couldn't have done it without you.**

Jean Gillespie



YM SUMMER SIZZLER

On Sunday 30th July YM Empower opened the doors to The Shore for its Summer Sizzler Family day. There was a fully licensed bar and a menu to cater for most tastes. The whole event was arranged by the YM Empower Committee: Denize Lace was in the kitchen rustling up her specialities such as chilli con carne, quiches, mac 'n' cheese and minute steak rolls, to name but a few. Moira Cossar ran the bar with a big smile and bags of energy with Lesley Sole assisting and Mia Train supporting Denize in the kitchen.

There was a great community turn out with many comments about the quality of the food and customer service and how lovely it was to enjoy each others company in great surroundings.

A great afternoon was had by all, there was a really positive vibe, the sun was shining and the Committee gave the community a taste of what the YM can offer.



RNLI OPEN DAY 20TH AUGUST 2023



£874.86 raised at Lifeboat Open Day

Sunday 20 August 2023

As the morning progressed, the wind dropped and the flags and bunting fluttered lazily as the sun filtered through the light cloud cover, sparkling the peaceful sea. Stalls were busily set up, teas were brewing and the cakes, those marvellous home bakes, were ready for the off or should I say, the scoff!

At the rather busy pier, three RNLI lifeboats lay alongside each other creating a rare and unforgettable sight. How great to see all those yellow wellies brightening the scene as various lifeboat crews wandered (as opposed to the normal emergency rush) down the pier to help us celebrate our Open Day.

Once again the steadfast Longhope Lifeboat Guild, the volunteer crew, Stormy Stan and other jolly helpers made the afternoon a happy and successful fundraising event. However, this success was only made possible by the presence of all those who came down to generously support us. Thank you.

The highlight of the afternoon was the joint exercise performed by the lifeboats just off the pier. With the Y boats launched as well, the lifeboat crews carried out *man overboard* and *recovery procedures*. **It was an awesome display and we can't thank our flanking stations, RNLI Stromness and RNLI Thurso enough, for coming along.**

As the evening drifted in and the event petered out, many lingered for a while to chat by the pier, while cake fuelled children charged about on the shore. Since the pandemic these spontaneous community moments have become quite rare, so it was pleasing to strengthen the community bond, with their lifeboat station.

Finally we would like to say a special thank you to the midges, for delaying their appearance but as they say, all good things come to an end.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone involved for helping save lives at sea.

Mary Harris



WATER SAFETY OFFICER RNLI

I have recently had the delight of accepting the role of Water Safety Officer for the Longhope Lifeboat Station. I am very much looking forward to supporting the crew in the preventative/educational side of water safety, and am particularly excited about working closely with our younger islanders towards making smart and safe decisions in and around the water which surrounds our community.

On average there are 96 water related fatalities each year in Scotland, I am proud to represent the team who devote their efforts to decreasing this in future.



It was a pleasure to be involved with Longhope Lifeboat's Open Day in the capacity of Water Safety Officer. I hoped for good engagement and very much achieved that from both adults and children alike.

The 16-01 Tamar class lifeboat colouring competition was judged by Chair of the Guild, Trish Avis, who picked out Malcolm Clark's picture as the winner, with Thorfinn Johnston a close runner up. Prizes have gone to both children, well done to all who entered!

The timed crew kit challenge drew the crowds and saw the three crews bond and cheer each other on, (with a decent amount of healthy rivalry of course), Lewis from Stromness took the lead with a cracking time of 50 seconds to get into full kit. Longhope crew, you best get practicing ahead of next year!

How long can you keep your hand in ice cold water? Do you think you could swim in water that cold? The cold water shock experiment led to some valuable conversations with a number of brave folk ranging from primary age right through to adults.

'Spot the Dangers' activities helped the children identify a variety of situations to look out for when they're in and around water, hopefully as they get older these learning outcomes stick with them and they are better equipped to deal with water related challenges.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Scott and the Crew, the Guild, and Mary, our Press Officer, for all of the hard work that went into making the day a successful one.

If you have any questions about water safety, or would like to learn more about how to safeguard yourself in the water, contact me via email on deanna_johnston@rnli.org.uk

Deanna Johnston



THE YM

The day-to-day running of the YM was taken over by a new charity YM Empower (SC051470) known as "The YM" 18 months ago. We have 4 Trustees and a further 32 members. Membership is free and there is no financial responsibility for the YM, but members do have the opportunity to nominate and vote for Trustees at the AGM. Our aim is to get the YM established as one of the key hubs in our community. To help us with this we have received a number of grants to date which have made it possible to restart the Lunch Club and run the Community Cafe 2 days per week. The grants to date have come from:



2022
 IoHDT £7,500 for help with wages and start-up costs
 OIC £6,000 to support employment of catering staff
 VAO £1,000 to help with food costs for the Lunch Club
 Cooke Aquaculture £1,000 to help with costs of the Christmas Meal and to buy equipment for the Parent and Toddlers Group and the Café

2023
 IoHDT £10,000 for help with wages
 Energy Savings Trust £3,449 for purchase of 2 e-bikes
 IoHDT £1,150 match funding for purchase of 2 e-bikes

Our aim is to increase our activity with more community events so if you have ideas of what you would like us to do or want to get involved in organising some events, we'd love to hear from you. In addition to the Lunch Club and Café we now have 10 different Community Groups using the YM but we have room for more if you have an idea for something you would like to try out. We have decided to keep the hire fees for local groups at pre-covid rates so for example you can hire The Shore for up to 4 hours for £6 and the Hall for up to 4 hours for £8. If you would like to become a member of The YM charity please contact Moira Cossar, details below.

The YM
 Chair: Denize Lace
 Treasurer: Lesley Sole
 Secretary: Moira Cossar



For bookings, membership forms etc please contact Moira Cossar on 07867 575 692, via Messenger or email

info.theym@gmail.com

Sunday Lunch and Bar
The Shore 10th Sept 1pm

Vegetable Soup
 Smoked Salmon Paté & Oatcakes
 Mozzarella and Tomatoes

Roast Chicken
 Roast Pork
 Nut Roast
 Veggie Sausage & Bean Cassoulet
 Served with Tatties, Veg and Stuffing

Chilled Lemon Flan
 Chocolate Filled Pavlova
 Trifle

Tea/Coffee

3 courses £17.50, 2 courses £15
 Main Course only £11.50

To book contact Moira on 07867575682 or email info.theym@gmail.com by Wed 6th Sept

Moira Cossar

IOHDT NEWS

Even though COVID put many things on hold, the work of the IOHDT has carried on to support many groups in the community. There are three different grants available to apply for—The Community Grant Fund, The Training Grant Fund and the Event Fund. All details of how to apply are on the website (see back page for link) but this month we will be highlighting the Training and Learning Fund. To bring you up to date the figures of the funding granted is:

Since April 2020:

Community Fund Grants = £75,856.65

Training Fund Grants = £25,907.27

Event Fund Grants = £1133.84

Since April 2023:

Community Fund = £25,300.00

Training Fund = £2,276.74



Next board meeting: 13th September 2023, 7:30pm at The Shore

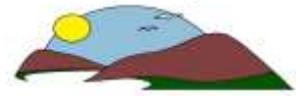
FOR ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Debs prior to the meeting 701444 or chair.iohdt@gmail.com



The Training and Learning Fund

Island of Hoy Development Trust



This is a fund that is open to all residents of Hoy & Walls : individuals aged 16 and under will need to get a parent/ guardian to apply on their behalf.

The fund has two main criteria that has been agreed by the board and is in line with the charitable aims of the Trust, they are:

1. To promote training, particularly among residents of the Community, and with particular reference to skills which assist the participants in obtaining paid employment.
2. To advance education and in particular to promote opportunities for learning for the benefit of the general public.

Training grants are available towards the training costs of vocational courses, development courses (including driving lessons and examinations) or for professional qualifications. Travel expenses and materials that are directly related to the course may also be applied for along with accommodation costs where it can be proven that the accommodation is necessary—please note that this does not include mileage and fuel costs.

You are also required to provide a statement on how the grant will benefit your personal development.

You can apply for up to £500 per 12 months. There is more information and details available. Please contact the Trust office for the full details.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FUNDING MUST BE APPLIED FOR BEFORE ANY COURSE IS BOOKED OR UNDERTAKEN AS FUNDING CANNOT BE ALLOCATED RETROSPECTIVELY



DATES FOR DIARIES/NOTICEBOARD

Check out what's happening on the events calendar at:

<https://hoYorkney.com/hoY-community-events-calendar>

Orkney Community Wind Farm Drop in Sessions

Wednesday 13th September

YM Longhope 1pm—4pm

North Walls Centre 6pm—8pm

HOY & WALLS COMMUNITY GARDEN



TREE PLANTING & FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

12-3PM

COME & BE PART OF OUR EXCITING NEW PROJECT

TREE'S & TOOLS PROVIDED—ALTHOUGH YOU ARE

WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN

REFRESHMENTS & SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE

You'll find us at our new site behind the

Medical Centre in Longhope



HOY HERITAGE CENTRE HOY KIRK

FRIDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 6:45pm

The evening commences with the ferry from Stromness to Mousness returning at 10pm (booking essential contact Orkney Ferries). Light supper & refreshments. Free.



SHETLAND COD AND BARRA SANDS

Orkney International Science Festival evening at Hoy Heritage Centre with talks on the 19th-century Shetland cod fishing boats that sailed to Rockall and Farøe, and the island of Barra and its fishing tradition. With Elaine Stewart, Monica MacLeod & John Goodlad.



WEATHER UPDATE



With thanks to Jeff Clark

Total rainfall for the month: 116.7 mm

Highest total in 24 hours:

21.2 mm on 29th

Ave. rainfall total for August 101 mm

Highest maximum temperature: 21.8C on 10th

Lowest maximum temperature: 13.8C on 4th

Ave. maximum temperature for August: 16.8C

Lowest minimum temperature: 5.1C on 4th

Highest minimum temperature: 14.3C on 21st

Ave. minimum temperature: 11.2C

Ave. temperature for August 14.0C

Long term ave. temperature for August 13.75C

Meet the team

Island of Hoy Development Trust



IoHDT Board

Chair: Debs Jaques

Treasurer: Moira Cossar

Directors

Max Collop

Keith Dobney

Andy Dobrzynski

Lindsay Hall

Scott Johnston

Alex Sinclair

Kieran Sinclair

Jayne Traynor

Office staff

Liz Davidson—Finance and Administration Manager

Deanna Johnston—Assistant Administration and Finance Officer

Nici Budge—Office Assistant

Project Officers

Kim Dobrzynski—Community Development Officer

Aisling Phillips—Carbon Neutral Islands Officer

Denize Lace—Wellbeing Co-ordinator

GET IN TOUCH:

Phone: 01856 701356

email: info.iohdt@gmail.com

Articles:

cdo.iohdt@gmail.com

Wellbeing:

denize.lace.iohdt@gmail.com

If you have something to contribute or ideas for the newsletter please contact Kim

Phone number: 01856 701356

Email: cdo.iohdt@gmail.com

Snail mail: Revenge, Naval Hall, Longhope, KW16 3PG

Items for inclusion in the October issue must be submitted by 12th October 2023. Anything received after this date will go into the November issue



BRINGING THE BLETHER TO YOU

To limit the amount of paper wastage we are publishing The Blether online.

If you would like to receive a paper copy please sign up to the mailing list. You can do this by emailing

cdo.iohdt@gmail.com or calling the Trust Office and we will post your copy out to you.

There will be a link posted to the Community Facebook page so you can download the latest copy.