

THE BLETHER

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

ISSUE 45 OCTOBER 2023

ORKNEY COMMUNITY WIND FARMS TO CARRY OUT GROUND INVESTIGATIONS IN HOY

The proposed location for Orkney Islands Council's community wind farm project on Wee Fea will see a range of works being undertaken in October.

Central Alliance, part of the RSK Group, a global leader in the delivery of sustainable solutions, secured the contract to carry out the works following the Council's recent tendering process. The GI works will involve a series of boreholes and test pits across the site to ascertain the soil, rock and geological conditions, and will require excavators and small mobile drilling rigs on site. From this work a number of samples will be sent away for laboratory testing, and this will result in an extensive geology report being prepared.

With insights gathered from the surveys, design engineers will have the necessary information available to them to make informed design decisions for the site's infrastructure including the roads, hardstandings, cable trenches and foundations that will be required as part of the development. In essence, comprehensive GI works act as a preventive

Welcome to Issue 45 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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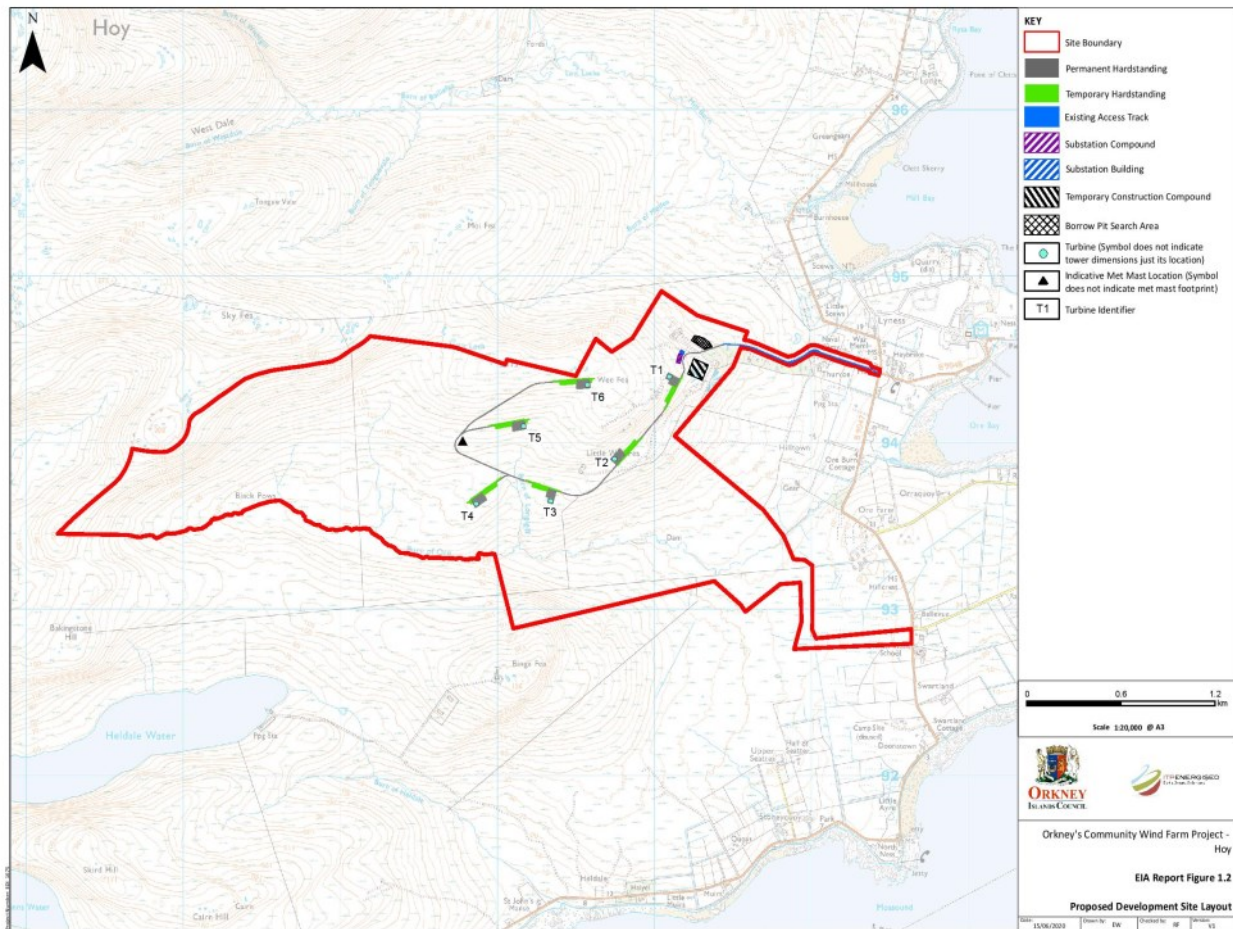


Photomontage visualisation of how the wind farm development will look from North Walls School. More images can be found on orkneywindfarms.co.uk

measure that enhances the overall success and sustainability of wind farm projects by mitigating risk. The outcome of these surveys will then help form the final business plan which will be presented to Elected Members next year who will make the decision on whether to go ahead with the project.

Continued on Page 2

SITE LAYOUT PLAN



Orkney Community Wind Farms consists of three developments – in Hoy on Wee Fea, Quanterness near Kirkwall and the island of Faray in the north isles. Each development has received planning permission for a six-turbine wind farm. The wind farms are estimated to bring in £5.5 million profit to Orkney each year to help the Council preserve and enhance essential services. It could also bring in an annual £86,400 to Hoy as part of the location-specific Community Benefit Fund over the 25-year lifespan of the project. In addition, the three sites will contribute nearly 90MW to the new 220MW electricity transmission link between Orkney and mainland Scotland which was approved by Ofgem earlier this year.

Michelle Green
Strategic Projects Officer (Communities & Engagement)
Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration

You can find out more information about the project by visiting www.orkneywindfarms.co.uk or by following the Facebook page @orkneycommunitywindfarms.

THOMAS MCGUNN 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



A very Happy 90th Birthday party for our vintage lifeboat the Thomas McCunn was had on Saturday 30 September, at Longhope Lifeboat Museum. This is a community museum, steeped in history and precious memories and kept going for our community by volunteers. We would like to thank all those folk who came along; we really appreciate your support.

Massive thanks also to our flanking stations RNLI Thurso and RNLI Stromness (and RNLI Wick who unfortunately couldn't make it), for your continual loyal alliance and for providing a spectacular joint exercise including the very moving and respectful salute.

Special thanks to our island children who made cards for Thomas and sang Happy Birthday, accompanied by fellow pupil Jack Johnston on the piano, on Friday morning.

The children and many adults were delighted and entertained by the presence of the gorgeous alpacas and naughty goats that came along to enhance our day. Thank you so much Abbie and Rich.

Particular thanks to the YM Longhope, who kindly lent us all manner of items to make food service possible including their marvellous barbeque.

Thanks to Mary Harris for making sure we all knew what we were supposed to be doing and that everything happened as it should on Saturday as well as providing entertainment for kids (of all ages) with her games stall.

Finally huge thanks, once again, to our fabulous Lifeboat Guild for your hard work and loyalty and to all the Museum Trust members who also worked hard to make a great day. This party was the final day of a four day series of events starting with visits from the Vintage car rally and the North Walls Community School children.

Apologies to anyone that may have been forgotten - so many folks helped make the day a special one and we are grateful to you all! A big thank you for all your kind support and donations.

RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT NEWS

Congratulations to Richard Gordon, Ryan Urquhart and Thomas Whitehead for passing their Crew Development Plan and have become our latest qualified volunteer crew members



Photo: Mary Harris

YM UPDATE

FANTASTIC NEWS FOR THE YM!!

We are really thrilled to announce that the YM has be awarded **Active Communities** funding of **£38,496** by the **People's Health Trust** using money raised by Health Lottery Scotland. The funding is for 2 years and will allow us to continue the **YM Friday Lunch Club and Community Café**, providing local employment and a place for folk to meet and enjoy freshly cooked food.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us over the past year, without your involvement this next step wouldn't have been possible.

Active Communities supports people to create and shape local projects that will help their community or neighbourhood to become even better. Active Communities projects aim to develop social links and ties and support residents to discuss and act on things that are important to them.”

People's Health Trust is an independent charity investing in local neighbourhoods to help create a society without health inequalities. It works closely with each of the regional and country lotteries raising money through The Health Lottery, and distributes grants. You can find out more about their organisation at www.peopleshealthtrust.org.uk

funded
through



NEWS FROM KIRKSIDE



Every few weeks I drive off the ferry at Lyness and think ‘Oh good, a couple of days at Kirkside’. I come to Hoy and Walls as what’s known in my trade as your ‘Interim Moderator’.

That refers to the person (usually a minister) who keeps the connection between a parish without its own minister and the wider Church of Scotland. Over I come, and stay in cosy Kirkside along beside St Columba’s Church, and do minister-like things. I conduct a service, go into the school if they want me to do anything there, visit folk suggested by our elders, chair meetings, and so on. It’s all stuff that Anderson, Jean, Moira and Michael do brilliantly the rest of the time, but it provides that supportive tie to the bigger Church.

Sometime next year, we hope, there will be huge re-shuffle so that the whole of Orkney becomes one big parish. It will take a lot of administrative hassle away from your local elders, and it will mean you’ll no longer be treated as if you don’t have your own minister – actually you’ll have *all* the ministers in Orkney (7.0 full-time-equivalent of us) as we share the work across every bit of the county in a new way and with much better reach.

The congregation will get a say in who has the particular care of Hoy and Walls for those tasks I’ve been doing. I’m hoping it will still be me. Sitting on a Saturday night with a fish supper, watching the Hoy Head skim past Kirkside’s sitting-room window on her way to the pier, and getting ready for Sunday’s service, is one of my favourite things to do.

If there’s ever anything I can do for anyone, let me know at 831648.

Marjory MacLean

GENERAL YOUTH WORKER VACANCIES



HOY YOUTH HUB are currently recruiting for a number of General Youth Workers to join our team.

If you have an interest in working with young people in a relaxed informal setting, to provide a safe environment for them to socialise, learn and develop new skills, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking to staff the following weekly sessions, on a rota basis, which can be flexible to suit your other commitments (eg. weekly, fortnightly, monthly).

Tuesday Evening - 5pm to 7pm

Saturday Afternoon - 4pm to 6pm

Saturday Evening - 7pm to 10pm

Full training will be given, including Child Protection and First Aid.

All positions are subject to a PVG check, in respect of regulated work with children. Please submit written applications giving details of any experience or qualifications which may be relevant to hoyyouthhub@gmail.com or the registered address below by 5pm Monday 23rd October 2023.

Registered Address: Myre House, Longhope, Orkney, KW16 3PQ, Email: hoyyouthhub@gmail.com
A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, SC052311, Regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Supported by



Island of Hoy Development Trust

GRAEMSAY, HOY AND WALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Creative Lives



MAGIC LITTLE GRANTS

Supported by players of



Supporting The Orkney Community

HOY & WALLS COMMUNITY GARDEN



In March 2019 a call was put out to the residents of Hoy & Walls to see if there was any interest in a Community Garden being set up. There were many responses to say that it would be something good for the island, and so the work to set it up began....

Three and a half years later, with a COVID interruption in the middle, we are finally in a position to say that the project can get up and running. Here is where we are up to:

A charity called the Hoy & Walls Community Garden SCIO was set up and an application was made to NHS Orkney to lease the land to the rear of the Health Centre in Longhope. NHS Orkney have very generously given us a 10-year lease, with the proviso of creating a living barrier to ensure that patients to the Health Centre are afforded some privacy. Since the land lease was sorted there has been a lot of work going on in the background to get some funding to set everything up, have some community engagement sessions to find out what is on residents ‘wish list’ for the garden and try and put some sort of plans together. Everybody

who is resident on Hoy is invited to take part in any aspect of the Garden that they wish to, whether that be to put ideas forward, offer gardening advice and expertise, working on the garden or even to sit and enjoy the surroundings – once there is something to look at.

On the 1st October we held a community tree planting day, 60 trees were ordered which were kindly funded by the Island of Hoy Development Trust, along with a couple of garden tools. With the addition of a very kind donation of trees from Stephen Seymour Clancy, we planted just under 150 trees.

On the 7th October there was a community day at the YM and Cooke Aquaculture funded the food and drink for the day. This gave everyone in the community a chance to come and have a look at what is happening, get an update of where we are up to and give their input on plans. We have also secured funding from the Robertson Trust and the National Lottery so we can get started. One of the main projects is to erect a polycrub so that we can have a space that can be used year-round. To do this we need to apply for planning permission and the Community Council have kindly agreed to apply for it on behalf of the Community Garden to reduce costs.



There are also some funding grant applications that we are waiting for news on so.... Watch this space

Funds awarded to the Community Garden

Island of Hoy Development Trust	£200.00
Cooke Aquaculture	£250.00
Robertson Trust	£2000.00
National Lottery	£5916.00
CLLD	£6761.25
CNI	£12995.00



Island of Hoy Development Trust



Get Involved!

The garden is open to all ages and groups, regardless of ability or agility. Its all about you and the Community.

Any questions email:
kimbo263@gmail.com or
dobbydub@gmail.com

CARBON NEUTRAL ISLANDS PROJECT



The Carbon Neutral Islands Project is an ambitious initiative dedicated to transforming entire islands into sustainable, carbon-neutral environments by 2040. Through supporting carbon offset or emission reduction projects suggested and developed by the community, we aim to reduce carbon emissions to net zero, mitigating the impact of climate change and serving as a model for global sustainability. The project aims to enhance the quality of life for island residents alongside creating a resilient island that sets the standard for combating and adapting to climate change.

Aisling, the Carbon Neutral Islands Development Officer, is working to support the community to achieve these ambitious targets, supported by the Island of Hoy Development Trust. Last year, we published the Community Carbon Neutral Pathway, which highlighted steps that the island could take to reduce carbon emissions and offset the unavoidable. This Pathway is expected to run alongside the Community Action Plan, a five-year plan for island improvement and development. Both these plans are built from extensive community engagement activities, and you can read them by contacting the email address at the end of this article, or find copies in various locations across the island.

The Scottish Government has allocated capital investment to bolster the initial stages of the Carbon Neutral Islands Project. For the current financial year (March 2023 - March 2024), the project hopes to allocate these

funds to three or four community-identified initiatives, following last year's engagement activities.

The first three projects identified to benefit from CNI funding are; the Hoy and Walls Community Garden; an e-bike project that will see the refurbishment of the bike storage sheds in Longhope as well as a number of e-bikes for community use; a Community Tree Planting Scheme. It is hoped that these three projects will reduce carbon emissions, build dedicated community spaces, and positively impact our island's overall well-being. Once our projects are rolling, we hope to move to start thinking about the long-term future. We need everyone's input to create a sustainable future that works for all of us. By working together and sharing ideas, we can overcome challenges and build a better future for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

If you use social media, please follow the project's Facebook page "Carbon Neutral Islands - Hoy and Walls" or look us up online at:

"carbonneutralhoyandwalls.wordpress.com" to keep up to date with the project and to get involved with any future community engagement events!

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please get in touch with Aisling via email at: cniofficer.iohdt@gmail.com

Aisling Phillips
Carbon Neutral Islands Development Officer

IOHDT NEWS

Island of Hoy Development Trust



The Community Fund Support Grants

The Community Fund has been in operation since early 2014 and was set up to distribute income from the turbine to benefit the island community. Constituted groups within the Hoy and Walls Community are entitled to apply for funding* towards a variety of community projects. *Please note, allocation of these funds is dependent on the number of applications that the trust receives and amount of funding available in any one year.

Applications will be assessed to ensure that the projects meet the funding criteria and the aims of the trust which are:

1. To provide in the interests of social welfare, facilities within the Community for recreation and other leisure time occupation available to the public at large;
2. To preserve, restore and improve the environment in through the provision, maintenance and/or improvement of public open space and other public amenities and other environment and regeneration projects;
3. To preserve, for the benefit of the general public, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around the Community in buildings of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest

Since 2020, applications to the Community Fund are reviewed by the Board of the Trust in a closed session at end of the monthly board meeting. Any director who has a conflict of interest because of an involvement in a project is asked to step out of the meeting and they take no part in

any of the decisions regarding that project.



The list of community projects is not exhaustive and if you are unsure as to whether or not your groups' project could potentially be funded, we urge you to get in contact with us and we can assist you with this.

Whilst the grants are only available to constituted groups, if you are an individual, or your group is not yet constituted, please do not be put off. We encourage the community to discuss ideas with us, there may be a way in which your idea could be a reality and we will work with you if there is a possibility that we can make it happen.

Applications can be done in a number of ways. You can download a form by clicking on the following link: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/2016/06/community-fund-application-form/>, we can email, or post you a hard copy, or why not pop in to the office and we will be happy to dedicate our time to discussing the application in detail with you?

Project funding may depend on groups applying for match funding as well as funding from the Development Trust. For larger sums of money, the Trust expect groups to contribute at least 20% of the total cost of the project. In some instances, projects may attract external support and groups should investigate this to qualify for funding through the trust. The office may be able to assist you with this, please feel free to contact us.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN AND FUNDING WILL BE REFUSED IF THE APPLICATION IS RETROSPECTIVE.

Next board meeting: 18th October 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

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) To bring you up to date the figures of the funding granted is:

Since April 2023

Community Fund Grants = £25,600
Training Fund Grants = £4497.26

September 2023:

Community Fund = £684.14

CANINE CONVERSATIONS

A is for Alsatian, or is it?

Alsations, are actually German Shepherd Dogs (GSD). This intelligent, loyal, protective breed was brought over to the UK in the first World War. Unfortunately it was thought inappropriate to glorify an animal with a German prefix, therefore, as the breed came from Alsace in Germany, it would be known as an Alsatian. Only in 1971 did the Kennel Club relent and gave the breed it's proper name.

When I moved to the island in 1984, I brought with me two 'Alsations'. One of the so called bad boy breeds of the dog world. The island rumour mill went into over drive: "there would be whole scale sheep slaughtering, people would be attacked, no one would be safe" Needless to say none of this happened. Kelly and Tegan became well known and loved by many, even invited guests at the Boys Brigade.

I was surprised at the amount of caution surrounding them, walking through Kirkwall to the Presto's to get my shopping, tying them up outside, people crossing over, or giving us a wide berth walking along the street.

On one occasion the Peace's bus driver, wouldn't let me on the bus because "they would fight", demanding one dog had to travel at the back of the bus the other at the front, needless to say both dogs pined for each other all the way to Houton. I was dismayed by the comments and reactions received, the lack of knowledge, along with, little access to dog classes and training. This gave me a dream, to help out and inform owners, unfortunately, it wasn't until 2006, with the help of like minded owners, wishing to enhance their relationship with their dogs. that the Hoy Hounds was formed.

Anyway, back to the breed. It's a bit like the taste of Marmite, I don't like Marmite, but I love GSDs. My present one is Nina, a bit laid back sometimes, that's down to her life style, training, and catering for the breeds needs. Yet, the breed still has a label, I accept people's caution, and nervousness when they don't know her.

In July this year, Maureen Bates & I, attended the East Mainland Agricultural Show. It is the only one of the shows to hold a fun dog agility competition, which we thoroughly enjoy entering. I had Nina, and Tilly (my Working Collie)

& Maureen took Judy (another GSD).

Soon after we arrived, we noticed a toddler was pestering her mother to come over and stroke the dogs. The child's mother was quite cautious, but we reassured her and gave guidance on the dog's body language, before they approached. The dogs were lying down, mirroring each other (happy in each others company) and the peedie lassie came and stroked both dogs, and got a lick off Judy, did a wee dance and giggled. Absolutely beautiful to see.

The day was crowned by another special moment at the agility. We were standing chatting to a family next to us, who's daughter was running their pup in the agility class. Their young lad Connor, was wanting to have a shot, but the pup was not quite up to speed for him to handle. Seeing his enthusiasm, I checked with his parents, before offering him a run round with Nina. Which he 'jumped' at. He listen to the basic commands, which he relayed to Nina at the obstacles, bit of a hiccup at the weave, but the pair ran the course & they were brilliant! It made his day, and mine, and to cap it all, he got a Blue rosette for second place. As for Nina, she got another run of fun agility, and plenty of extra treats. Win win!!

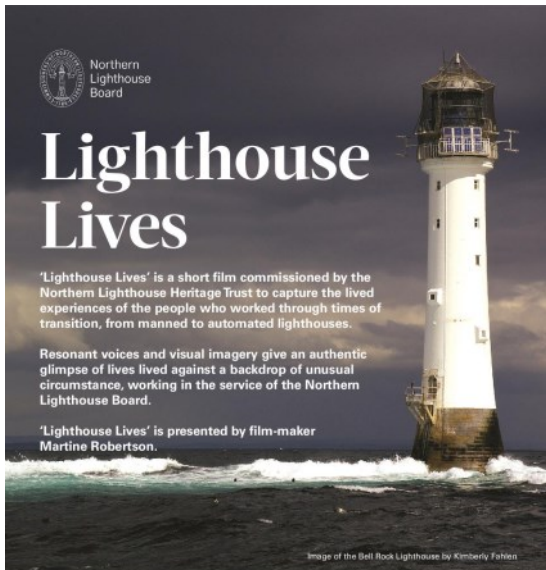
I trust my dogs, my dogs trust me. I gain this by giving confidence, by training, and by understanding what they are saying.

Dogs do talk all the time, it's just not in English, but that's another story.....

*Grace Robertson
Higher Diploma in Canine Behaviour
and Psychology,
Diplomas in Canine Communication,
and Canine Aggression*



DATES FOR DIARIES/NOTICEBOARD



Venue: The Gable End Theatre

Date: Tuesday 10 October. Time: 8pm Cost: Free

To book tickets: Donations for Film Society welcome.

The film is the culmination of a nine-year oral history project, in partnership with the School of Scottish Studies Archives.

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

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

THE HOY DANCERS

Main Hall in the YM

Entry £2.50 adults, £1.00 school age children

Saturday 2nd October 8-10pm

Saturday 14th October 1:15-3:15pm

Monday 23rd October 8-10pm

Saturday 28th October 1:15-3:15pm

Monday 6th November 8-10pm



"A heart-stopping, unforgettable movie."
- IndieWire

"A sharply moving exploration of the bond between parent and child"
- Variety

"★★★★★
An amazing feature debut. Mescal and Corio's rapport is a marvel"
- The Guardian

"The best film of the year so far. You won't walk away the same person."
- The Wrap

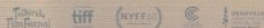
"Profound and masterful"
- IndieWire

"★★★★★
Aftersun stops you in your tracks"
- Time Out

PAUL MESCAL FRANKIE CORIO

AFTERSUN

Written & Directed by Charlotte Wells



SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER – 8PM
AT THE GABLE END

RNLI GUILD

Meeting at Lifeboat Shed

Wednesday 11th October @
7:30pm

LEGO CLUB

YM Community Hall

Sunday 8th October 12-2pm

Sunday 29th October 12-2pm



DATES FOR DIARIES/NOTICEBOARD

The Orcadian Story Trust
presents...

**ORKNEY
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL 26-29 October 2023**

FRIDAY 27 OCT 7pm
HOY HERITAGE CENTRE,
HOY KIRK FREE
soup & refreshments from 6:45pm

Ferries from Stromness - book through
Orkney Ferries 6pm to Moaness & 10pm back.

Featuring
Peter Chand
Shonaleigh Cumbers
Katherine Soutar
& local storytellers

www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk
Tickets for the festival can be booked online.
Hoy event tickets on the door.

Supported by



North Walls Centre and
North Walls Parent Council

**FAMILY FUN
HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

**Sunday
October 29th
6-8pm**

Doors
Open
5.30pm

Raffle
Best Costume
Lantern Competition
Games
Music/Disco
Food
Teas/Coffee/Juice

Kids £1 Adults £3



KYLA BROX Review 23rd September 23

The Gable End Theatre and community of Hoy recently had the pleasure of welcoming blues singer, Kyla Brox, daughter of legendary blues musician, Victor Brox, and gave her a well earned stage to shine on. The show did not disappoint. Ms Brox oozed confidence and experience as she drew us in with velvet smooth vocals, and an impressive range: a nod to having been onstage with her Dad since she was 12.

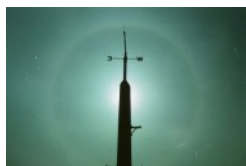
Kyla was joined by her husband, Dan, on acoustic guitar, a fantastically talented and yet totally understated and modest character, complimenting the soul in Kyla's voice perfectly.

Performing at such an intimate venue can be a daunting prospect as there really is nowhere to hide, and yet Kyla and Dan's evident expertise of performing meant that they drifted effortlessly between utter transcendence and charismatic glimpses into their personal lives, stopping between songs to share anecdotes and offer context to each of them. The pictures which they managed to paint gave us an insight into the experiences and places which inspired them, and took us on each of the journeys that they'd travelled.

Kyla is, and will continue to be, a 'must see' for any fan of the blues genre.

Deanna Johnston

WEATHER UPDATE



With thanks to Jeff Clark

Total rainfall for the month: 109.8mm

Highest total in 24 hours:

19.8 mm on the 18th

Ave. rainfall total for September 110.4 mm

Highest maximum temperature: 25.9C on 7th

Lowest maximum temperature: 13.5C on 16th

Ave. maximum temperature for September: 16.45C

Lowest minimum temperature: 3.1C on 12th

Highest minimum temperature: 15.4C on 7th

Ave. minimum temperature: 11.0C

Ave. temperature for August 13.72C

Long term ave. temperature for August 13.75C

Thirty six year temp. ave. for September is 12.0c

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 November issue must be submitted by 5th November 2023. Anything received after this date will go into the December 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.