

THE BLETHER

the blether ['blɛðə] – the newsletter of the community of Hoy and Walls

ISSUE 41 MARCH 2019

WALLS AND HOY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Walls and Hoy Agricultural Society ploughing match took place on Saturday the 2nd of March in Longhope. Weather conditions were good with light winds and sunshine – the rain only arriving after most of the ploughing was done.

Ploughing was undertaken at Aithsdale and Garson by kind permission of Messrs Flaws and Seatter. Four ploughs competed in each section with the general purpose and one way ploughing taking place at Aithsdale and the reversibles at Garson.

The judges were Carl Wood from Sandwick and Robert Tullock from Firth. The prize giving and cup presentation took place in the evening at the Royal Hotel, Longhope.

There were many cups up for grabs, including a new Matthew Budge Memorial Cup which was presented by Nici Budge and the little Budgies. This perpetual cup is for the best ploughed rig (local) and was awarded to Max Andrews. There was also the Royal Hotel Plate for best allcomer which was presented to Gemma Sinclair.



Max Andrews, Nici Budge and the Budgies
Photo: Olivia Thomson

Welcome to the forty-first issue of *THE BLETHER*.

This issue includes news and updates from the Museum, RNLI and the community.

See the 'Dates for Diaries' and Gable End programme for what's on, but do check dates and times nearer the event as some things do change.

Many thanks to all of the contributors to the forty-first issue and for the use of their photographs.

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

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

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Gemma Sinclair
Photo: Olivia Thomson

Overall:

Straightest Ploughing – Gemma Sinclair
Neatest Ends – Max Andrews
Best Kept Outfit – Kevin Thomson
First on Field – Kevin Thomson
First Finished – Donald Sutherland
Youngest Ploughman – Gemma Sinclair
Oldest Ploughman – Donald Sutherland

Detailed results on page 3

With thanks to Grace and Ian Robertson for the information and Olivia Thomson for the photos.

HOY DANCERS

What's happening on the dance floor Monday evening in the YM.....

In this session we are having the seasonal obstacles - bad weather every other Monday! As numbers are on the low side at the moment the programme takes a bit more planning but this doesn't take away from the fun of dancing. It keeps us all fit and healthy. Still time to come along and join in if you feel like a birl around the floor.

No need to be shy - I spotted a few potential dancers at the Carnival Dance in December!

For your diary - Summer Reels and Jigs in Hoy Kirk are on:

10th May, 14th June, 19th July and 23rd August.

Notices will go up in the usual places near to the events.

Mabel j Besant, for Hoy Dancers

SCAPA FLOW MUSEUM UPDATE

Our temporary exhibition in the Hoy Hotel re-opens for the season on 1 March. We welcomed over 1800 visitors between July and the end of October 2018 and are looking forward to a busier season this year. We already



have group visits booked from a number of tour companies and are looking forward to a return visit from guests aboard the *MV Hebridean Princess* which will be making a port call at Lyness on Saturday 3 August.

Guided walks around the Lyness Wartime Trail will start again each Tuesday and Thursday from 1 April and again, we are already taking bookings for some of these.

Procurement for the capital works is ongoing and a successful site visit from interested contractors took place at the beginning of February.

Meantime, plans are developing to mark the centenary of the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet in Scapa Flow. Commemorations on the 21st June will remember the German lives lost during the internment and scuttling, the graves of whom are cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at the Lyness Royal Navy Cemetery, Hoy.

A programme of community events will reveal the historical significance of the scuttling and mark its impact and continued legacy in Orkney.

2019 exhibition opening times

1 March - 30 April

Monday to Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00

1 May to 30 September

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 16:00

1 October to 31 October

Monday to Saturday: 10:00 - 16:00

A YEAR ON HOY AND WALLS



When I saw the advertisement for the Community Island Nurse on Hoy, I was looking for a new challenge, loved Scotland and islands, and so although I had never visited Orkney I decided to take the plunge and apply. Much to my surprise, I was chosen

for the post and started work a year ago.

The job has certainly been a challenge and steep learning curve, taking on roles of social worker, occupational therapist and undertaking many other tasks that previously would have been handed over to others. A stand out experience was climbing up to the top of the cliffs at Rackwick with a heavy emergency bag on my back wondering if my age and fitness level had been considered when offering me the position!

Everyone has been very welcoming from the moment I arrived and my rented house now feels like

home. Little did I know that during the year I would row from Longhope to Moaness (never having rowed before), taken part in a regatta which I loved and that I would sing in St Magnus Cathedral as a member of Hoy Sound (never sung in a choir before, need more sopranos please), plus really enjoying learning how to do Scottish Country Dancing. Reflecting on the year, I have met so many people, made some lovely friends, learnt so much about nursing and living on an island and discovered skills I never knew I possessed.

Hoy and Walls have revealed their many colours, the beautiful, long summer days, the many shades of the sea, how dark the nights can be (nearly always remember a torch now) and how stunning the island looks in all seasons. I have learnt which roads should only be tackled on a tractor, to be more careful with my car keys (sorry all), to hang on to my car door and to always take appropriate clothing for the rapidly changing conditions. Certainly all and more than I expected.

Let the adventure continue.....

Sally Harvey

PLOUGHING MATCH RESULTS

RESULTS

General Purpose

1. Gemma Sinclair
2. Kevin Thomson
3. Donald Sutherland
4. Donald MacIsaac

One Way

1. Max Andrews
2. Sandy Linklater
3. Joe Sinclair
4. Richard Illingworth

Reversible

1. Sam Andrews
2. Graham Flaws
3. Harvey Seatter
4. Bruce Ritch

CUPS

General Purpose

J&W Tait cup for best general purpose (local) – Kevin Thomson

OSS cup

for best feering and finish (local) – Kevin Thomson
Best Feering and best Finish – Gemma Sinclair

One Way

Robertson Cup best ploughed rig (local) – Max Andrews

FW MacKay Cup for start and finish (local) – Max Andrews

Best Start – Sandy Linklater

Best Finish – Max Andrews

Reversible

Linklater Cup best ploughed rig (local) – Sam Andrews

Best Start – Graham Flaws

Best Finish – Sam Andrews

Thanks to Grace and Ian Robertson for providing the information.

RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT

28 December 2018

RNLI Longhope lifeboat was launched in the early hours of Friday morning at 2.05am. They were tasked by UK Coastguard to search for a vessel in distress that had sent out a Mayday call. The Coastguard SAR helicopter was also involved with the search.

The lifeboat located the vessel, launched the Y-boat and rescued a person who was suffering from hypo-



thermia. The casualty was taken to Longhope pier where the doctor and medical staff were in attendance.

The lifeboat was ready again for service at 5.45am. Second call out today for lifeboat as grounded vessel recovered and escorted to safety.

At 10.41am the pagers went off again for the crew of the lifeboat, the second call out this morning. They had been tasked by UK Coastguards to assist the owner of a grounded vessel in his attempt to

refloat his vessel. As the waters were very shallow the Y-boat was launched from the lifeboat to assess the vessel and also deliver and set up a salvage pump and establish a tow.

With the rising tide the damaged vessel eventually lifted from the rocks and floated free. Once the vessel was clear of the rocks the tow rope was transferred to the Capella, a 10m passenger vessel which was standing by to assist.

On reaching deeper water the lifeboat retrieved its 'Y' boat and escorted the vessels safely back to Longhope pier. The lifeboat was refuelled and ready again for service at 1.15pm.

31 December

Once again it was a late night call out for RNLI Longhope with the pagers alerting the crew at 12.19am. They were requested to launch by UK Coastguards and search for a vessel that had suffered engine failure in Scapa Flow. The lifeboat located the vessel, with one male occupant aboard about half a mile north of the Calf of Flotta. A tow was established and the vessel brought safely home to Longhope Pier.

Weather and sea conditions were moderate with wind from the west. The lifeboat was refuelled and ready again for service at 3.00am.

Mary Harris

Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer for Longhope

50th Anniversary and Commemoration of the Longhope Lifeboat Disaster

Longhope Lifeboat Museum Trust would like to invite folk from Hoy and Walls to the Commemoration on 17 March 2019.

Due to the limited amount of space in the museum we would like to reserve this space for those with family connections to the disaster and for nominated guests.

However there will be a live video link to the YM for those unable to attend the museum. There will also be memorabilia displays in the YM.

Below is a brief itinerary planned for the day.

11.40am. Service begins in Museum with live video link to YM.

12.45pm. Dipping of flags by flotilla gathered in Aith Hope.

2.20pm. Service, Guard of Honour and laying of wreaths at Osmundwall Lifeboat Memorial.

2.40pm. Refreshments served in YM

3.35pm. Guest speakers in YM and 'Heroes of Longhope' played by families of lost ones.

REMINDER—PERSONAL LICENCE HOLDERS

Personal licence holders in Orkney are being reminded that they must act now to ensure that they apply to renew their personal licences by **31 May** this year - or risk losing them.

Reminders have been issued to licence holders - but very few have come forward so far to renew their licence or advise the Council that they no longer need the licence.

Personal licence holders have a vital job within the licensed alcohol trade. As part of their important responsibilities they must undergo training every five years to refresh their knowledge of the licensing regime and apply to renew their personal licence every 10 years, submitting the renewal application no later than three months before expiry date of the licence. **As most licences are due for renewal this year following the introduction of legislation in 2009**, the Council is recommending that licence holders should do both now - so that an up-to-date refresher training certificate can be submitted with licence renewal applications. You won't be able to re-

new your licence without having done the training.

Licence holder training is available in the county through Orkney College. There is a course planned for 25 March but spaces are already limited so to book contact the college on 01856 569000.

The application form for renewal of personal licences is available online at :

<https://bit.ly/2NM9ptL>

Paper copies are available from the Council on request.

The application must be accompanied by;

- ◆ Your personal licence or, if that is not practicable, a statement of the reasons for your failure to produce the personal licence;
- ◆ Two new passport photographs;
- ◆ Your new refresher training certificate; and
- ◆ Payment of the application fee of £50.00.

Taken from OIC web page

2018 WEATHER ROUND UP

Weather data for 2018

Total rainfall for year 1,130.5mm (44")
This total is 372.8mm (14.5") less rain than 2017.

Wettest month was Oct. 193.3mm

Driest month was June 24.1mm

Warmest month was July. Ave. temp. 15.0c

Coldest month was March. Ave. temp. 3.7c

Highest max. temp. 25.3c on July 26th.

Lowest max. temp. -0.8c on 28th. Feb.

Lowest min. temp. -5.5c on March 18th.

Highest min. temp. 16.6c on July 27th.

Ave. temp. for 2018 was 8.84c

Ave. temp. over 29 years is 8.72c

Many thanks to Jeff Clark

RECYCLING NEWS FROM ORPHIR COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Did you know that Orphir Community School can recycle packaging from personal care and beauty products? This can include, flexible packaging from facial wipes (NOT baby wipes), caps, pumps and trigger sprays from shampoo bottles, hair products and deodorants.

They can also recycle plastic pots and flexible plastic tubes from skin products and all the hair colourant kit bits and pieces that can't be recycled in your regular collections. Plastic roll on

and stick deodorants are also included in this list of things they can recycle!

Do have a look at the list (<https://bit.ly/2GWkKW96>) start collecting and donate them to Orphir Community School who recycle them through Terracycle.

They are also recycling pens, mechanical pencils, felt pens and highlighters.

Trish Avis is currently looking into links with OCS.

Your Island Your Choice



YOUR ISLAND, YOUR CHOICE 2019

Below is a list of groups that have applied for funding, in no particular order!

L Train, Funds to be held by The Island of Hoy Development Trust
Project name: **St Colms playpark redevelopment**, including legal right to develop the area, establish HSE status and reinstate some equipment. **Amount requested £3700**

C Thomson, Funds to be held by Island of Hoy Development Trust
Project name: **Lego club** setup at the Shore, YM. Purchase of lego and boards and establish the group. **Amount requested £979.40**

R Thomson\I Cannon, Funds to be held by Northwalls School Parent Council
Project name: **Youth Club transport** from Hoy and Longhope to NorthWalls Centre for 20 sessions. **Amount requested £2000**

M Groat, Funds to be held by Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council
Project name: **Purchase of Satellite phone** for Community Resilience project, funding shortfall. **Amount requested £780**

O Thomson, Funds to be held by Hoy Centre Committee
Project name: **Smart TV for the Hoy Centre** for Youth Groups & local groups using the Centre. **Amount requested £500**

Please remember you decide who gets funding!

The voting event will be taking place on Tuesday 5 March at 6:30pm at North Walls Centre.

A representative from each group will give a short presentation (2 to 3 minutes) and there will be a chance to ask questions.

The voting is open to anyone resident on the island aged 8 and above.

NORTH WALLS CENTRE

NORTH WALLS CENTRE

Lyness, Orkney, KW16 3NX
Bookings Sue Kettle 01856791081

Facilities include gym, swimming pool, all weather court, kids adventure play area, playing field, multi - purpose hall and community room

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED

AND

LIFE SUPPORT 3 PEOPLE

North Walls Pool is owned and maintained by Orkney Islands Council but is run by North Walls Centre committee for the benefit of our community.

At present we have 4 Lifeguards and 5 Life support 3, meaning each person is on duty once a month. The more volunteers we have the less people need to do. The other option would be to offer more swim sessions to the community, depending on demand (extra sessions would only go ahead if volunteers were free and able to do so).

To become a lifeguard you would be required to complete at least 36hrs training followed by a test to qualify.

To become a Life support 3 person you would be required to train until competent in CPR in order to assist the lifeguard should there be an emergency.

If you would like any more information please, Tel Laura: 07895962293

SHORELINE BIRDS—AN EXHIBITION



Shoreline Birds Art Exhibition

Original watercolours
Adele Pound
Wildlife artist from Northern Ireland

1 March - 30 September 2019
Open daily 11-3

Beach Gallery

Hoy, Orkney Islands
www.beachgallery.co.uk

Please check website for opening times before travelling

The Beach Gallery at Kirkhope is holding an exhibition of original watercolours by wildlife artist, Adele Pound from Northern Ireland.

Adele is a keen birdwatcher. She says "Behind each piece of art is field work—hours of watching and sketching birds from life until they are embedded in my mind's eye. This allows me to reimagine them into paintings which are themselves works of the imagination. My work is intended to inspire the viewer and engage them with the natural world all around them."

Living in Northern Ireland, Adele is able to observe birds that travel distances from as far north as the Arctic Circle, and as far south as Africa and south America. This seasonal coming and going has been part of life and culture in northern Ireland for as long as there have been people to witness it.

The display will run from 1st March until 30th September, open daily 11 am to 3 pm. Please check the website beachgallery.co.uk for any changes in opening hours.



Are you feeling fit and energetic, or want to raise funds for your favourite charity or do you just want to break the record for the fastest local?

Now is your chance to enter the Hoy Half Marathon which will be taking place on **Sunday 16th June.**

Go on, you know you want to—one of the most scenic half marathons you'll ever run (or walk), it's also a bit hilly! Still plenty of time to get into training.

Entry is now open, so, to sign up visit

<https://www.entrycentral.com/hoy-half-marathon>

For further details or if you have any queries contact Jude or Jan 01856 701300



GABLE END THEATRE PROGRAMME SPRING



All performances start at 8pm, unless otherwise stated

MARCH

Sat 9

FILM: A STAR IS BORN

In this new take on the iconic love story, Bradley Cooper makes his directorial debut, and also stars alongside music superstar Lady Gaga in her first leading role in a major motion picture. Cooper portrays seasoned musician Jackson Maine, who discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally. She has given up on her dream to become a successful singer, until she meets Jack, who immediately sees her natural talent.

Sat 23

FILM: PETERLOO

Mike Leigh's portrayal of the events surrounding the infamous 1819 Peterloo Massacre. Government forces charged into a crowd of over 60,000 people who had gathered in a peaceful protest against rising levels of poverty and to demand political reform. Many protesters were killed and hundreds more injured, sparking a nationwide outcry but also further government suppression. Starring Maxine Peake and Rory Kinnear.

Fri 29

MUSIC: THE JENNY STURGEON TRIO

Hailing from Aberdeenshire and now living in Shetland, Jenny Sturgeon is a talented singer songwriter, whose passion for wildlife is reflected in her work. She was recently commissioned by The National Trust for Scotland to compose some new songs and music in celebration of St Kilda's 30th anniversary as a World Heritage Site. Jenny is joined here by Jonny Hardie (Old Blind Dogs) on guitar and vocals and Charlie McKerron (Capercaillie) on fiddle and vocals.

TICKETS £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL AGE £1

BOOKINGS: Tel. HAZEL 791312

LICENCED BAR; RAFFLE

APRIL

Sat 13

FILM: THE FIRST MAN

The riveting story behind the first manned mission to the moon, focusing on Neil Armstrong and the decade leading to the historic Apollo 11 flight. A visceral and intimate account told from Armstrong's perspective, the film explores the triumphs and the cost - on Armstrong, his family, his colleagues and the nation itself - of one of the most dangerous missions in history. Directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling.

Fri 19

MUSIC: THE BURNING HELL & RANDOLPH'S LEAP

Hailing from Prince Edward Island, The Burning Hell have toured the UK and Europe extensively, charming audiences with their bass clarinet and guitar-driven whimsical story-songs. Here, they are joining forces with Scottish singer-songwriter Randolph's Leap (aka Adam Ross). This Canadian/Scottish collaboration brings catchy melodies, intelligent lyrics and life-affirming performances celebrating the humour and heartbreak of day-to-day life.

TICKETS £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL AGE £1

BOOKINGS: Tel. HAZEL 791312

LICENCED BAR; RAFFLE

Sat 27

FILM: WIDOWS

Widows is the story of four women with nothing in common except a debt left behind by their dead husbands' criminal activities. Set in contemporary Chicago the women take their fate into their own hands and conspire to forge a future on their own terms.

The calendar will continue to fill up, so keep checking the Events Calendar on www.hoyorkney.com. If you would like to be on our email mailing list, please get in touch at gable.end.theatre@gmail.com.

NOTICEBOARD

HOY AND WALLS HEALTH CENTRE

Telephone: 01856 701209 Web: www.hoydoc.co.uk

Day	Dr am	Dr pm	Nurse	Notes
Monday	0900-1030	1745-1915	0900-1000**	
Tuesday		1300-14.30	0900-1000**	
Wednesday	0900-1100***	1400-15.30	0900-1000**	***blood tests
Thursday	0900-1030		0900-1000**	
Friday	0900-1030† 1000-11.00*	1745-1915	0900-1000**	†Longhope 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday; *Hoy 2nd and 4th Friday

**Nurse usually available at these times but please ring for an appointment

Appointments and Prescriptions

The Hoy and Walls Health Centre will be open Monday to Friday 9 am to 1 pm and during surgery hours. Please call within these times to arrange an appointment and request prescriptions. Please ensure that you give **5 working days** notice for repeat prescriptions.

Emergencies

In case of an emergency, phone 01856 701209.

When the surgery is closed call Balfour Hospital 01856 888000 and ask the operator to bleep the Hoy GP.

Useful phone numbers

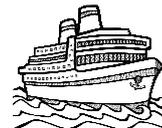
Health Centre	01856 701209
Doctor - out of hours and for emergencies	01856 888000
Island of Hoy Development Trust	01856 701356
North Walls Community School	01856 791246
YM	01856 701824
Hoy Centre	01856 791256
Orkney Islands Council	01856 873535



ask them to page the Hoy doctor

**Travelling**

Community bus mobile	07833777760
Houton Ferry office	01856 811397
Kirkwall Ferry Office	01856 872044
Northlink	0845 600 0449
Pentland Ferries	0800 688 8998
Taxi/Tours - Albert Clark	01856 791315
Taxi/Tours - Steve Rhodes	01856 701632

**Shopping**

JMF Groat - shop	01856 701273
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WWW.ORKNEYCOMMUNITIES.CO.UK/IOHDT/

Registered in Scotland as a charity
(SC038909)

Company Limited by guarantee
(SC306586)

Registered Office: 8 Albert Street,
Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HP

Date: 17th April 2019
Time: 8.00 pm
Venue: North Walls Centre



Island of Hoy Development Trust

FOR ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG

If you have any queries or questions, please contact Debs
prior to the meeting

Debs 701444 or chair.iohdt@gmail.com



WEATHER ROUND UP FOR DECEMBER 2018 AND JANUARY 2019



December 2018

Total rainfall for month 101.8mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 12.8mm
on 4th.

Highest max. temp. 11.5c on 31st.

Lowest max. temp. 5.9c on 4th.

Ave. max. temp. 8.6c

Lowest min. temp. -0.1c on 10th.

Highest min. temp. 7.3c on 30th.

Ave. min. temp. 3.5c

Ave. temp. for Dec. 6.0c

January 2019

Total rainfall for month 153.2mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 21.0mm on 26th.

Highest max. temp. 10.5c on 6th.

Lowest max. temp. 3.9c on 23rd.

Ave. max. temp. 7.3c

Lowest min. temp. -1.4c on 17th.

Highest min. temp. 7.8c on 10th.

Ave. min. temp. 2.4c

Ave. temp. for January 4.8c

Jeff Clark

THE BLETHER®

If you have something to contribute or ideas for the newsletter then please contact Debs or Vincent:

Phone: 01856 701444

Email: debs@theblether.org.uk; vincent@theblether.org.uk

Snail mail: Loft, Longhope, KW16 3PQ

Items for inclusion in the next issue (April) must be submitted by 5th April 2019