



THE BLETHER



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

ISSUE 40 DEC2018

Wishing all our
readers a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!



SCAPA FLOW MUSEUM UPDATE

Since July, our temporary exhibition in the Hoy Hotel has attracted over 1800 visitors, with lots of positive comments in the Visitors' Book:

"Loved it! Excellent display"

"Excellent comprehensive exhibition – good luck with future developments!"

As the temporary exhibition now forms our office base at Lyness, we are able to offer limited winter opening hours. If you see the lights on, do come in!

Meanwhile, we are proceeding with the procurement of a contractor for the works on the main site. Following an unsuccessful first round, a reduced tender package focusing on the new extension and Pumphouse has recently been advertised. We are hopeful that this will enable work to start on site in the first half of 2020, whilst we continue to explore options for the renovation of the Oil Tank.

Jude Callister

OIC PUBLIC CONSULTATION—HOY WIND FARM PROPOSALS



A public consultation drop-in session is due to be held in Hoy early in the new year to update the community on plans for a wind farm on the island.

It was announced in April that the Council planned to undertake a detailed investigation to see if land to the west of Lyness would be suitable for a substantial wind energy development.

Detailed work has been ongoing on this assessment since then, including discussions with Scottish Natural Heritage, bird and ground studies, with updated plans to be unveiled at the session.

The drop-in session takes place in the North Walls Centre community room on Tuesday 8 January 2019 between 1pm and 7pm. Staff from the Council's Strategic Projects team and local elected members, will be on hand to discuss the plans

in more detail and answer any queries local people may have.

The site the Council has been looking at lies at and to the south of Wee Fea, the hill behind Lyness which contains underground wartime oil tanks.

Council Leader James Stockan is a Councillor for Stromness and the South Isles.

He said: "Since April our Strategic Projects team has been looking at how best to take forward a major project of this kind."

"As we expected, with any wind farm development, our announcement attracted a range of views – and these have been taken into consideration when developing the plans."

"We undertook to keep the local and wider community closely involved as the project progressed and we're looking forward to heading out to Hoy to discuss revised plans with local folk."

OIC press release 21st December 2018

HOY DANCERS



Since Hoy Dancers started the new session at the beginning of September we have had a lot of fun and laughter! We have Shifted Bobbins, joined in Kelly's Kapers, Reeled and Birmed, we've two stepped and one stepped, waltzed and wheeled and we've even done a Twelvesome Reel!

We have had two parties in the 11 sessions – one to say goodbye to David

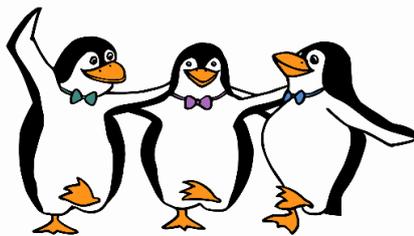
Mager who supported dancing during most of his years in Orkney – and the second one was our 'Festive Party'. The bring and share supper and mulled wine was a treat to behold! We get visitors joining our sessions and they are all made very welcome.

This all happens in the YM, Longhope from 8 – 10pm each Monday. How much is it? - £2.50 payable at the door. We begin our next session on 7th January 2019. Anyone interested in dancing should come along as we will have a taster/refresher session on the first night back.

For further information please contact Mabel on 791359.

Hoy Dancers

(Incorporated in Orkney Traditional Dance Association)



The 2019 session of traditional dancing
begins on Monday 7th January
And every Monday until the end of April
in the YM, Longhope
from 8 – 10pm

The first night will be a refresher night and a good time
to come along to find out what we do.

We dance for Fun, friendship and fitness.
Cost: £2.50 per adult and £1 per child
Includes refreshments

The contact person is Mabel: 01856 791359

If you are interested or want to know more about what we do please get in touch



COUNCIL COMMENT— TRYING TIMES IN THE CHAMBER

Since my last contribution things have got exceedingly Political around School Place – note the ‘capital’ P as normally we work in a ‘small’ p environment – there is a huge difference!

As has been reported in the Orcadian, the Scottish Government seem reluctant to accept that Orkney and Shetland are unique in being expected to fund internal island ferries and to provide a financially acceptable level of support. On top of this they then expect us to fund additional pre school ‘education’ from a reducing grant and tie our hands by continuing to insist on maintaining unrealistic teacher numbers – in the face of a reducing school roll - and restricting how much we can generate through Council Tax.

It will be well noted on the island that OIC had a proposal to create an income generating, ‘wind farm’ scheme, but that too seems to have hit the buffers with the ‘statutory consultees’, po-

tentially too many ‘bird strikes’. As I type, the current plan is for the Strategic Project team to come out to North Walls (I think) to have a public event on the 8th of January to explain / discuss the change in thoughts – watch / listen for updates after New Year. James and Magnus are both planning to attend (I’ve Education meetings all day so can’t join you all) and will both be available to discuss any issues constituents may have, wind farms or not.

The run up to Christmas has been somewhat less than jolly and far from ‘seasons greetings to all’. However, all councillors are still battling for the best for Orkney and hopefully we still have support from the community.

Here’s to a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous, friendly 2019.

Cllr Rob Crichton

COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND LINK OFFICER

Members of the Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Island Link Office will be closed from Monday 24 December and reopen on Monday 7 January at the Development Trust Office, Longhope. Times and venues after that will be advertised in the New Year.

The first meeting of the Community Council will take place on Friday 18 January 2019 at Northwalls School at 18:45. Any items for the agenda should be forwarded to ghwclerk@btinternet.com or ring 701498 by Friday 11 January 2019. Many thanks!

BOOST IN NUMBERS FOR HOY COMMUNITY FIRE CREW



The issue of fire service personnel shortages here on Hoy appears to have come to an end, with the local Group manager of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, John McKenna, reporting

that Longhope fire station is now fully manned and has been equipped with an up-to-date appliance.

Staffing issues here on Hoy came to the fore at the beginning of 2017, when a fire in Lyness had to be attended by firefighters from Stromness who travelled here by ferry, due to a lack of firefighters based on Hoy.

An extensive media campaign and the availability of more locally based training courses has paid off, with the recruitment of a new person bringing the crew up to full strength. However, Mr McKenna said that the message still remains – more retained firefighters are still required.

Speaking to The Orcadian recently, Mr McKenna said that “My team and I have been on a push to recruit new applicants, not just for Hoy but for all the stations across Orkney in general. We’ve had a really good response to that. In the last few months we’ve increased numbers quite substantially across all the stations.

In particular, what was really pleasing for me was that, on Hoy, we’ve had two applicants quite recently, one of whom has got through the process. That now gives us the opportunity to have Hoy fully manned at all times, which is of great benefit to the Hoy community. Mr McKenna also said he has two more applicants set to further boost the Hoy crew after the New Year.

Asked about the challenges his team has faced in recruiting he said “We’ve had the recent addition of our BAA carbonaceous training unit at Kirkwall airport, which means we can do far more breathing apparatus training on the islands. That’s been of great benefit. We’re also able to run the task management courses, which is the initial training course for new candidates here in Orkney. That means, obviously that people don’t have to go south anymore, which I



know caused problems for people on the outer isles.

“Mr McKenna said “I’m confident we can boost numbers further and we won’t stop at the latest number of applicants – we still have space for more people on the crews and I won’t rest on my laurels until I’ve got numbers up further.

Source of information: The Orcadian

Photo: Courtesy of Matt White

Update from the Crew

Crew managers Edgar and White, would like to welcome our newest recruit, Alan Mackinnon, who has recently passed his basic training and now returned to the station on Hoy. This brings the total number of firefighters to four allowing us to attend incidents much quicker, without having to wait for fire appliances to arrive from Stromness.

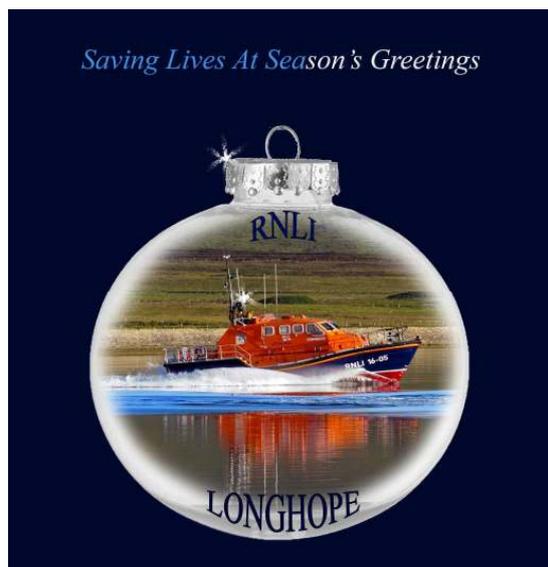
Alan will now go for breathing apparatus training, early next year and gain full competency in fire-fighting, along with further training on our island’s new fire appliance. This vehicle is called a rapid response unit and it carries some of the most modern firefighting technology to date in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fleet.

We would also like to thank Ronald Sinclair for his near thirty years of service to this island; his experience and guidance is greatly appreciated.

Dougie, Matt, Ronald and Alan wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT



Photos: Mary Harris

As you may have noticed we have a relief lifeboat *RNLI 16-10* while our boat is away south for maintenance.

4 November 2018

Lifeboat tasked to diving incident in Scapa Flow. Once again RNLI Longhope lifeboat was off to a very speedy response to the pager alert that morning at 10.12am. It was during a pre-exercise briefing that the crew were requested to launch by UK Coastguards. As they were all kitted up and ready to go, the lifeboat was underway in minutes and heading out of Longhope. They were tasked to attend a dive boat in Scapa Flow where a diver was in difficulties. However the situation was under control and the dive boat had reached Houton pier as the lifeboat arrived. In case assistance was needed, the lifeboat remained on standby until the ambulance arrived and the casualty was transferred. Sea conditions were slight and visibility good.

Coincidentally this call out was the first for recently enrolled Stella Kirkpatrick.

30 November 2018

Longhope lifeboat was just leaving Aberdeen harbour on passage to RNLI Poole in Dorset when at 8.54am, the crew were tasked by UK Coastguards to return into the harbour area. A concerned mem-

ber of the public had alerted the police that they had seen an unknown object drifting down the River Dee towards the sea. RNLI Longhope all-weather lifeboat with RNLI Aberdeen D class lifeboat and local vessels, searched the appropriate areas of the River Dee and outer harbour waters to no avail. At 9.45am the lifeboat was stood down and the search was abandoned.

Coxswain of Longhope lifeboat, Kevin Kirkpatrick said 'With all the recent heavy rain and high winds there was a fair amount of debris and logs being carried down the river which could easily have been mistaken for something more serious. Thankfully this time it was a false alarm. However it is very important for members of the public to contact the emergency services immediately if they think they have seen anything suspicious in the water or have seen anyone in difficulties along the shore. Just call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

The lifeboat then carried on with their passage to RNLI HQ at Poole where the lifeboat is due for routine maintenance checks.

RNLI Longhope would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful time over Christmas and the New Year and thank you for your continual and loyal support.

Mary Harris, Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer for Longhope



LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT GUILD



9 November 2018

A magnificent total of £3127.74 was raised for the RNLI by the dedicated Longhope Lifeboat Guild at the three winter Bazaars of Longhope, Graemsay and Flotta. Many thanks to all the folk who came and supported the events and to all the businesses and individuals who donated the fantastic raffle prizes.

Thank you

LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT MUSEUM

Since the Appeal was launched at the beginning of October we have managed to raise a staggering £47847.53. People from Orkney and beyond have been so generous by responding to the appeal, mainly due to the huge push and promotion that Craig Taylor from The Orcadian newspaper, has been doing regularly and for which we are extremely grateful.

We are also delighted to say that restoration work has started and what a grand job it is too. We have a long way to go yet, but hopefully the museum will be ready and greatly improved before the Commemoration next March.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has very generously donated to our Appeal and to all the Businesses, Clubs and Societies that have been fundraising for us. The range has been amazing, inspirational and very varied, for example: Orkney Clay Pigeon Club, the Peedie Corner Cafe in Stromness, the Ness Battery and Zoe Davidson's beautiful jewellery collection inspired by the Thomas McCunn lifeboat.

We couldn't do it without your generosity and support. Thank you.



GABLE END FILM CLUB PROGRAMME JANUARY TO APRIL 2019

As mentioned at Film Nights over the past couple of months, the Film Club are trialling a new pricing system and dispensing with formal membership dues for the next twelve months.



The main reasons for this change are to simplify the current complicated system, where there has often been confusion about membership, and increase the inclusiveness of Gable End Film Nights where folk will hopefully feel welcome to attend only one or two films a season. From January 2019, adults will pay £5 and school age children £1.

Regarding voting on future programmes; anyone interested simply needs to provide me with their email address. If you know of anyone who would like to be included on this mailing list or is new to the island and would like to attend Film Nights, please ask them to get in touch. This seasons programme, as always, is a reflection of folks votes.

Finally, as has become tradition the past two years, there will be having a Secret Cinema Night on Saturday 29 December. Bring drink and nibbles and we'll make an evening of it! (if you want to know what the film is going to be, just ask Catherine when you see her or telephone.

19 January: COLD WAR (15)

Paweł Pawlikowski's epic romance set against the backdrop of Europe after World War II. Sumptuously shot in luminous black and white, it spans decades and nations to tell a love story that is as tragic as it is moving, and as transportive as it is honest. In the ruins of post-war Poland, Wiktor and Zula fall deeply, obsessively and destructively in love. As performing musicians forced to play into the Soviet propoganda machine, they dream of escaping to the creative freedom of the West.

9 February: THE WIFE (15) After nearly forty years of marriage, Joan and Joe Castleman (Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce) are complements. Where Joe is casual, Joan is elegant. Where Joe is vain, Joan is self-effacing. And where Joe enjoys his very public role as Great American Novelist, Joan pours her considerable intellect, grace, charm, and diplomacy into the private role of Great Man's Wife. *The Wife* interweaves the story of the couple's youthful passion and ambition with a portrait of a marriage, thirty-plus years later - a lifetime's shared compromises, secrets, betrayals, and mutual love.

23 February: PAPILLON (15)

Based on the international best-selling autobiographic books *Papillon* and *Banco*, the film follows the epic story of Henri "Papillon" Charrière (Charlie Hunnam), a safecracker from the Parisian underworld who is framed for murder and condemned to life in the notorious penal colony on Devil's Island. Determined to regain his freedom, Papillon forms an unlikely alliance with a convicted counterfeiter Louis Dega (Rami Malek), who in exchange for protection, agrees to finance Papillon's escape.

Gable End Film Club Programme continued

9 March: A STAR IS BORN (15)

In this new take on the iconic love story, four-time Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper makes his directorial debut, and also stars alongside award-winning, Oscar-nominated 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.

23 March: PETERLOO (12A)

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. The Peterloo Massacre was a defining moment in British democracy which also played a significant role in the founding of The Guardian newspaper. Starring Maxine Peake and Rory Kinnear.

13 April: FIRST MAN (12A)

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.

27 April: WIDOWS (15)

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, amid a time of turmoil, tensions build when Veronica (Viola Davis), Alice (Elizabeth Debicki), Linda (Michelle Rodriguez) and Belle (Cynthia Erivo) take their fate into their own hands and conspire to forge a future on their own terms.

All dates are Saturdays
All programmes start at 8pm

YOUR ISLAND, YOUR CHOICE 2



Your Island, Your Choice is back!

There is going to be another round of funding available next year. As last time VAO, with the help of a local island steering group, will be organizing this.

The previous round of Your Island Your Choice which was run last year saw the awarding of funds to the Longhope Rowing club and the Patient Transport Scheme.

These projects were put forward by community members and voted for by the community at an event in The Shore, Longhope.

To get the ball rolling, VAO will be visiting Hoy on Friday 11th January to refresh folk on the process for this and to answer any questions. (Venue and times to be announced in the New Year). At this meeting a steering group will be set up to liaise with VAO and to provide advice re: applications and to organize the community event where people vote to decide which project/s receive funding.

Everybody is welcome to attend the meeting to find out the amount of funding available and to get an idea of what sort of projects would be funded. Any community/voluntary group will be able to apply and you don't have to come from an existing group but all projects must happen in Hoy and Walls and must benefit our island and community.

Do please come along to the meeting and get involved.



CARNIVAL DANCE



YM

**FRIDAY 28 DECEMBER
9PM ONWARDS**

**RAFFLE, BAR AND FOOD
MUSIC BY
DAVID BOWEN &
TRIO**



OIC Public Consultation Drop in Session on Hoy Wind Farm Proposals



**Tuesday 8 January 2019 - 13.00 to 19.00
Community Room, North Walls Centre**

An opportunity to see revised plans for a proposed wind farm on Hoy.

Staff from the Council's Strategic Projects team and local elected members will be on hand to discuss the plans in more detail and answer any queries you may have.

Please use the car park at the rear of the school and enter by the rear door at the Healthy Living Centre.

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

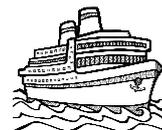
Health Centre	01856 701209
Doctor - out of hours and for emergencies	01856 888000
Island of Hoy Development Trust	01856 701356
North Walls Community School	01856 791246
YM	01856 701824
Hoy Centre	01856 791256
Orkney Islands Council	01856 873535



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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Registered in Scotland as a charity
(SC038909)

Company Limited by guarantee
(SC306586)

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

Date: 16th January 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 OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2018



October

Total rainfall for month
193.3mm

Not the highest total for Oct. that was
194.5mm in 1998.

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 31.9mm on 22nd.

Highest max. temp. 17.1c on 10th

Lowest max. temp. 7.4c on 26th.

Ave. max. temp. 11.9c

Lowest min. temp. -1.5c on 30th.

Highest min. temp. 11.8c on 10th.

Ave. min. temp. 6.4c

Ave. temp. for October 9.1c

November

Total rainfall for month 66.3mm

Not the lowest total for November that
was 65.0mm in 1993.

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 12.0mm on 2nd.

Highest max. temp. 14.6c on 14th

Lowest max. temp. 6.1c on 26th.

Ave. max. temp. 10.6c.

Lowest min. temp. 0.9c on 26th.

Highest min. temp. 10.1c on 3rd and
14th.

Ave. min. temp. 5.7c.

Ave. temp. for November 8.2c.

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 (February) must be submitted by 5th February 2019