

# THE BLETHER

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

ISSUE 38    AUG 2018

## HOY HOOLIE 2018—THANK YOU



Hoy Hoolie 2018 was a great success and we would like to say thank you to:

All the volunteers of the Hoolie gang that worked so hard and are too numerous to mention individually;

All the performers that provided more than just a show

All the voluntary groups of the island that joined with us over the weekend, namely:

The Youth Workers  
The Hoy Produce & Poultry Show  
The Hoy Kirk  
The Longhope Lifeboat Museum Trust  
The Island of Hoy Development Trust bus drivers

All of the businesses of the island that linked with us to achieve such a great weekend, especially JMF Groat & Sons for their extra effort, both helping us sell tickets and solving problems that came up.

Adie Bolton for the fantastic job on sound as usual

All the individuals in the community that helped us out in many different ways even though they couldn't be there for the weekend

All the wonderful people that came along to enjoy the event.

*Ian Davidson*

**Welcome to the thirty-eighth issue of *THE BLETHER*.**

*This issue includes news and updates from the Io-HDT, the Museum 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 thirty-eighth 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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## SCAPA FLOW MUSEUM UPDATE

The final major piece of work to ready the buildings at the Scapa Flow Museum for redevelopment, emptying the Oil Tank of its large exhibits, is now underway. The Category A-listed structure, made of riveted steel plates, dates from 1937 and will be restored as part of the redevelopment. As this involves replacing the roof of the tank and blast-cleaning and repainting the interior, the space needs to be totally emptied of objects and display equipment.

The work to shift the objects safely is being carried out under the direction of Jim Mitchell, from Argyll and Bute-based Industrial Heritage Consulting Ltd, and a team from Alloa-based JPS Restoration Ltd were recently on the island to get everything ready to move into storage.

One of the biggest and most delicate tasks was dismantling the Cantick Head lighthouse mechanism and lens, which will be stored safely in four specially-made crates, the largest with a width, depth and height of two metres. Now JPS Restoration have finished preparing the objects, they will be moved into storage elsewhere at Lyness by local contractor, Heddle Construction.

The project tender has now been advertised, with work onsite expected to begin in the Autumn.

Peter Diamond, Orkney Islands Council’s Head of Education, said: “The renovated museum and visitor centre will be a tremendous asset for Lyness, Hoy and Orkney as a whole.

“As well as being a valuable resource for visitors to our islands, it will help preserve artefacts for current and future generations that tell the remarkable story of Scapa Flow’s role as major naval base through the two world wars.”

Meantime, our temporary exhibition in the Hoy Hotel Hotel, Lyness, which has been part-funded by IoHDT, is open and attracting visitors:

### 2018 OPENING TIMES

#### 30 June – 23 September

Sun – Fri: 10.00 – 16.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 15.00

#### 24 September – 31 October

Mon – Fri: 10.00 – 16.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 15.00

Limited opening during the winter may also be possible, and we will give an update as we move into the winter season.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TOILETS AVAILABLE AT THE EXHIBITION PREMISES**



Jude Callister



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

### Community Resilience Project

The second meeting of the newly formed Community Resilience Group took place in June and various options discussed in the event of an emergency. As each emergency service already has some information relating to dealing with an emergency it was agreed to bring all the information together. Also the creation of an "Action Plan" leaflet for each household was agreed upon and is ongoing. The next meeting of the group will take place in September

### Hoy Post Office

The Community Council have received a letter regarding the closure of the Hoy Post Office which can be found at this link:

<https://bit.ly/2vK2liZ>

The Community Council would welcome any suggestions on how this post office could be reopened please contact the Post Office or email details to [ghwclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ghwclerk@btinternet.com)

### Cardboard in the paper recycling bins at Lyness

Another reminder please no cardboard in the paper recycling bins at Lyness

### Removal of stone from beaches

Information from Democratic Services regarding the above:

"There is some provision for the owner of the beach to remove materials if the beach forms part of an agricultural holding and the materials are being used on that same holding. If any other parties were to remove any materials from a beach it would almost certainly require planning permission"

*Trish Avis*

*Island Liaison Officer*

*On behalf of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council*

## THE EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

The Empowering Communities initiative has been developed to investigate opportunities for Community Councils to participate in the design and delivery of a number of services currently provided by Orkney Islands Council (OIC), and has been progressed in consultation with Community Councils, community groups and partnership agencies.

The majority of Orkney's Community Councils currently maintain kirkyards for OIC and this project will see Community Councils involved in shaping and delivering a range of other Council services. The type of services Community Councils could become involved in will require ongoing consultation, but could include: road maintenance; pier operations and maintenance; upkeep of core paths; airfields; refuse and recycling; transport and property maintenance.

Working in partnership with Community Councils could bring many benefits to island communities including increased employment opportunities; increased sustainability and improved access to locally-based services, the potential to develop skills within the island-based workforce in addition to introducing significant efficiencies across Council Services.

Local input could provide a new way to support and develop communities across Orkney, developing

services which are more responsive to local demand, while also creating a more efficient means of delivery for the Council.

### Island Link Officer, Office Opening Times

The Island Link Officer role encompasses the post of Community Council Clerk for Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council. All Community Council queries should be forwarded to Mrs Trish Avis, Fea, Longhope, KW16 3PA has been appointed as the Island Link Officer for Hoy. Email [ghwclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:ghwclerk@btinternet.com)

### The Island Link Officer will be opening an office from Monday 20 August

*The opening times for week commencing 20 August, 27 August and 3 September will be:*

**Monday 12 noon till 4pm (Development Trust Office, Longhope)**

*From Week commencing 10 September onwards*

**Monday 12 noon till 3:30pm (Alternate North Walls Healthy Living Centre and the Hoy Centre)**

**Wednesday 12 noon till 5pm (Development Trust Office, Longhope)**

**Further details will be posted on the Hoy and Walls Community page and via posters in the**

## EBB AND FLOW AT THE HOY KIRK



It was a sea drenched evening at Hoy Kirk and we were delighted to work with Alice on her programme. Seaweed is one of my favourite topics and so when Alice suggested a whole day devoted to the shore I was up for it.

Hoy Kirk has gained a reputation, we hear, for offering diverse evenings characterised by a warm welcome. 'Ebb & Flow' was one of those unexpected evenings where you become enthralled by unlikely subjects and life never quite feels the same again! Beach walks are now dominated by searches for limpet grazing marks

and their home scars, the circular depressions in rocks they have made by repeatedly returning home.

Billy and John Budge gave the night a humorous and also sobering taste of life at sea with interludes of salty songs and music.

All throughout the evening the smell of the sea drifted from the kitchen as Fergus prepared a delicious set cream made with carrageen, served in a scallop shell no less. Fergus, despite being in back pain, shared some of his vast knowledge of foraging and I was sad to have to dash for the ferry back to Stromness and miss some of his gems.

It was one of Alice's last nights in Hoy and it was a lovely time that I hope lingers for a while like the salty taste of a shore walk on a wild day.

Thanks to the IoHDT for their support.

*Rebecca Marr, Hoy Heritage Officer*

## INFORMATION FROM NHS ORKNEY

From Sunday 1st July 2018 HIAL have introduced car parking fees at Kirkwall airport. NHS patients travelling to attend an NHS appointment will be exempt from these fees. In order for patients to qualify for free parking they will have to present either their appointment card or letter (NHS Orkney travel voucher/ticket confirming their flight details will also be accepted).

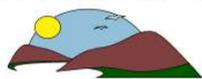
- On entry to the car park patients will be issued with an entry ticket.
- On their return to Kirkwall airport patients

should go to the information desk with their entry ticket and proof of their appointment where their ticket will be validated to allow them to exit the car park free of charge.

NB: Patients must present proof of their appointment in order for their entry ticket to be validated. Should patients be unable to provide proof of their appointment at the information desk they will have to pay car parking fees before exiting the car park. Car parking fees are not reclaimable under the Highlands and Islands travel scheme.

## UPDATE IOHDT SURVEY

Island of Hoy Development Trust



Way back when .....ok, it was March, the IoHDT circulated a survey to the island community to get feedback on life in Hoy and Walls.

We're not quite ready to undertake a community event just yet but we are planning one for the beginning of October so that we can feed back all the results from the questionnaires.

This is just the start of the consultation and the analysis required to put together an updated island development plan in collaboration with the commu-

nity, the community council and other interested agencies. It's a hard thing to please anybody or everybody but we've been reading all the comments from those who did the questionnaires and trying to work out what the island's priorities are now, and in the future.

Clearly some of the communities thoughts and wishes are beyond the abilities of the Trust alone but through collaboration and co-operation, community engagement and lobbying of external agencies we may be able to develop an updated plan to improve and enrich the life we have.

# SEPA COASTAL FLOOD WARNINGS FOR ORKNEY



The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Orkney Islands Council are launching new Coastal Flood Warnings for Orkney in September. This will add 11 new Flood Warning Areas, including Longhope and Hoy, to **Floodline**, SEPA’s flood forecasting and warning system. Once the schemes are in place, SEPA’s flood forecasters will be able to alert people in these areas when flooding is likely.

Floodline is a free service operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Flooding information can be accessed by anyone via the Floodline website or telephone service, but if you sign up, you will be able to receive warning messages for Longhope and Hoy direct to your landline or mobile phone. We aim to issue Coastal Flood Warning messages at least 6 hours in advance, but it can often be 12 hours or more, hopefully giving you time to prepare and take action. If you are interested in another Flood Warning Area in Orkney, such as Stromness, we can sign you up to receive messages for that location as well.

Orkney’s Coastal Flood Warnings will be launched on **18 September**. Claire and Becky

from SEPA will be at the **YM** ready to answer any of your questions about the new service and to help you sign up to Floodline. Drop in any time on the 18<sup>th</sup> between **14:30 – 19:30** for a chat and some light refreshments.

If you have any photos of flooding in Longhope or Hoy, or any flooding stories that you would be willing to share, please bring them with you. Your experiences could help us improve coastal monitoring in the area.

For more information on Floodline, visit [www.floodlinescotland.org.uk](http://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk) or phone 0345 988 1188. Please note, you will not be able to sign up to a Coastal Flood Warning until 18 September.



## HOY DANCERS UPDATE

Summer 2018 has been a good one for the Hoy Reels and Jigs evenings. Hoy Kirk has become a popular summer dance venue for the regular dancers and visitors who support these 3 events – the sloping floor is a challenge but adds to the fun as the sets gravitate downwards.

Both June and July evenings had perfect weather conditions for the trip on the Graemsay over to Hoy and back. Local dancers share lifts or organize a bus to make the trip 'North'. Visitors have also come along to have a birl or two with us. The highlight this year has been to see 4 generations coming along - 'just like how it used to be!'

The programme is made up of reels and jigs from the vast repertoire that is available and is geared to be fun and manageable by most dancers.

The final Reels and Jigs evening will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone welcome. Look out for the posters.

The regular Monday dancing will resume on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with an evening which includes introduction to dance. The first night of the session is a good time to come along and see what we do as it is geared to introduce new dancers to traditional dancing and also set what we might do in the new session. Come and give it a go – you may well enjoy being part of the fun we have. Diary dates here to cut out/save for reference.

Mabel j Besant  
For Hoy Dancers

A Social Dance Quote: *Dancing is all about wordless communication – a light pull on a shoulder, a step forward and a shift of weight, a shared understanding of the music and how it moves bodies.*

Jasper Winn

### HOY DANCERS – (INCORPORATED IN OTDA)

#### Diary Dates for September – November 2018

Dancing is in the YM, Longhope from 8 – 10pm  
Entry is £2.50 per adult and £1 per child (children must be accompanied by an adult)

#### September '18

3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (Note: none on 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### October '18

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

#### November '18

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

#### December '18

Break for 5 weeks

Back in January 2019 – date to be confirmed



Mabel j Besant

[mabel.besant775@btinternet.com](mailto:mabel.besant775@btinternet.com)



01856 791359 or 07900966650

## LONGHOPE REGATTA 7 JULY 2018

Saturday the 7th July saw Longhope blessed by a fabulous sailing day with sunshine and a fine breeze. A total 20 boats turned out with 6 yoles, 5 catamarans and 10 assorted dinghy. racing around a figure of eight course, with the beats on its 2 outer ends against a SSW wind which gradually backed SE by end of afternoon. Despite a down tide and wind start, all competitors managed to stay behind the start line before gun.

First off were the Yoles which were dominated by *Solwyn* owned by Ian Richardson and skippered by Leyton Venables which went on to win both races.

On the *Mohican*, Gareth Southgate and Harry Kane, who where unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, had their places filled by two plucky Stromness schoolboys Mark Taylor and Kenny Holm gallantly took their places.

Dinghy sailing was dominated by another schoolboy from Birsay Malcolm Tipler in *Go Quickly Red*, fighting of fierce competition from Holm Sailing Club.

The local sailing was dominated by the girl and boys from Blair Atholl, Laura Johnston and Max Andrews however they were overshadowed by young Robbie

Gillespie in his Laser *Wild Thing* and newcomers Clive and Tanya Brond in a Bosun *Winkle*. Bringing some brightness and speed, the Catamaran sailing was also dominated by one sailor Lee Thomson in *Spindrift* who went on in the afternoon to win the Donald Thomson Cup. Donald Thomson was Lee's grandfather and a pioneer of Catamaran sailing in Orkney, sailing the original *Spindrift*.

A special mention is due to young Leo Thomson for his success in the raffle prizes—truly a winner for the future!

Following racing everyone retired to the local "yacht club" for mince and tatties. followed by prize giving, raffles and a milkshake with sprinkles.

As always a massive thank you to all the visiting sailors plus all the locals who contributed in any way to make this another great Longhope Regatta.

Many Thanks

Angus Budge  
Commodore  
Longhope Sailing Club

## LONGHOPE REGATTA RESULTS

### MORNING RACES

#### 3 Sail Yoles

1<sup>st</sup> Gremsa (Maurice Davidson and Crew)

#### 2 Sail Yoles

1<sup>st</sup> Solwyn (Leighton Venables and Crew)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lily (Wullie Finnie and Crew)

#### Snipes

1<sup>st</sup> Go Quickly Red (Malcolm Tipler and Crew)

2<sup>nd</sup> No Fear (*G Foubister and Crew*)

#### Mixed Centreboards

1<sup>st</sup> Warspite (Andrew Leslie)

2<sup>nd</sup> Winkle (Clive Braund)

1<sup>st</sup> Local Wild Thing ( Robbie Gillespie)

#### Catamarans

1<sup>st</sup> Spindrift (Lee Thomson and Crew)

2<sup>nd</sup> Awesome (*I Rushbrook and Crew*)

### AFTERNOON RACES – ALLCOMERS

#### 3 Sail Yoles

1<sup>st</sup> Gremsa (Maurice Davidson and Crew)

#### 2 Sail Yoles

1<sup>st</sup> Solwyn (Leighton Venables and Crew)

2<sup>nd</sup> Lily (Wullie Finnie and Crew)

1<sup>st</sup> Local Sumato (Ken Sutherland and Crew)

#### Mixed Centreboards

1<sup>st</sup> Warspite (Andrew Leslie)

2<sup>nd</sup> Fiddlesticks (G & L Bartlett)

1<sup>st</sup> Snipe (Fred Johnston Memorial Cup) Go Quickly Red (Malcolm Tipler and Crew)

#### Catamarans

1<sup>st</sup> Spindrift (Lee Thomson and Crew)

2<sup>nd</sup> Willie Flippit (*C Rendall and Crew*)

A fantastic days sailing and a big thank you to all of the sailors and all involved in the day. Good Luck to all Sailing Clubs for a great Regatta season.

Angus Budge, Commodore Longhope Sailing Club

## RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT

### 20 May

A remarkable **£474.91** raised at RNLI Longhope May (Yellow Welly) Day. RNLI Longhope lifeboat guild and crew members would like to thank everyone who came down to the station on Sunday to generously support our fundraising event. Although threatening, we were lucky the weather held for the day.

Once again the guild supplied a huge amount of delicious home bakes and Jo produced another cake masterpiece for 'Guess the weight of the Cake'. Other competitions included Lucky Numbers, The Grid, Where's Welly and of course there was the raffle. The lifeboat shop did well with £142.42 taken with the sale of souvenirs.

A special thank you to the children of North Walls School for the very creative yellow welly art work which has brightened up the muster room.

However the highlight of the day for the children was



Soak the Crew. It all started off quite calmly with wet sponges being politely lobbed at the crew line-up. However it developed into a much more raucous watery onslaught when the hose was captured by the kids. Buckets were quickly filled and duly chucked over the soaking crew who tolerated it for a wee while. However when the hose was turned on the crew, battle commenced. The squealing kids gleefully fought back with great gusto, derring-do and determination and I would say that although soaked to the skin, they won the day! Many of them finished the day off with a courageous dip in the sea.

Many thanks to the crew for their support and for being really good sports, the children for such a brave attack, the guild for all their hard work and for everyone who took the time to visit and ultimately help save lives at sea.

### 20 May

The Certificate of Service for Matthew. RIP

Coxswain Kevin Kirkpatrick was very pleased to present to Nicola Budge and her children The RNLI



Certificate of Service honouring the role that her late husband Matthew Budge played as a volunteer Crew Member with Longhope lifeboat. Matthew served in the following capacities:

*'ALB Crew Member 2003 to 2017 and as a relief Mechanic from 2014 to 2017. During his service at Longhope the lifeboat rescued 5 lives from shipwreck.'*

Being a local farmer Matthew was often one of the first volunteers to arrive at the station when the lifeboat was called out on service. He handled his illness with great dignity and we all miss Matthew very much and hold his memory close to our hearts.

### 1st July Open Day

We would like to thank all the folk, both locals and visitors, who came down to the station to support us on Sunday 1 July. We had a marvellous day and an impressive **£786.18** was raised for the RNLI. The weather was kind and the ice creams melted in no time. The guild worked hard as usual supplying teas, scrumptious home bakes and cakes. **£154.05** was also taken in the lifeboat shop from the sales of souvenirs etc. Visitors were welcomed on board the lifeboat and to meet the crew.

The crew muster room temporarily became the competitions room and it was quite amusing to see the yellow wellies, lifejackets and oilskins sharing space with tables laden with prizes ranging from knitted bedsocks, bubble bath, sweeties, fluffy toys etc.

During the afternoon the lifeboat launched on exercise and was joined by the Shetland Coastguard

## RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT CONTINUED

SAR helicopter. Once again the exercise proved to be breathtaking and exciting as the two services combined to practise winching crew members from the



deck into the helicopter while the lifeboat continued travelling at full speed. A truly awesome sight.

The finale to the day was the return of our local rowing team who had completed a gruelling marathon row to Moaness and back again raising funds for the RNLI and The Hoy and Walls Rowing Club. What a fantastic achievement for the team.

Once again we would like to thank our loyal supporters for such a generous response, the Guild for all the hard work, the community bakers for boosting the homebakes, Hoy Coastguards, our lifeboat crew and Shetland Coastguard SAR. For such a small community I think we all did very well.

A special thank you to Bob Simpson from Stromness who arrived heavily laden with raffle prizes. Bob, with help from Anna Bain and Mark, has raised for the RNLI a staggering grand total of £4714.12 from the sale of used stamps, cameras and old bank notes! So please keep those stamps coming.

### 9 July

Crew members from Longhope lifeboat were delighted to receive a cheque recently from Serco NorthLink Ferries for **£2090**. This incredible sum was raised from a staff survey which saw a donation made by Serco to the RNLI for every completed response. The ferry company annually raises funds from this survey and donates to lifeboat stations that lie within the sea area their ferries operate in. They endeavour to find a personal link between the company and the lifeboat station and in this instance the link was Lorna Heddle. Lorna was a volunteer crew member of Longhope lifeboat for many years before joining NorthLink Ferries where she now serves as an AB.

Stuart Garrett, Serco's Managing Director at NorthLink Ferries, commented: "We are very proud to

continue our support of RNLI with the donation of the funds from our annual staff survey.

"We really enjoyed speaking with Second Coxswain Angus Budge and the volunteer crew from the local community, as well as of course Lorna and her family who were very much involved with Longhope Lifeboat for many years. Everyone provided a great tour of Longhope's Helen Comrie lifeboat and we really appreciated the experience."

RNLI Longhope would like to thank Stuart Garrett (Managing Director) Magnus Dixon (E-Marketing Manager), Kris Bevan (Freight Manager) and Lorna Heddle for visiting the station and presenting this generous donation. We would also like to thank the staff of NorthLink Ferries for completing the survey which generated the donation.

### 18 July

Shout

Lifeboat launched to stand by cargo ship Priscilla aground on the Pentland Skerries

### 26 July

Shout

A successful attempt to refloat the 2280 tonne vessel MV Priscilla, that had run aground on the Pentland Skerries with six crewmembers aboard, was finally achieved. With two tugs Multratug 20 and Green Isle taking part.

The Dutch registered vessel Priscilla, carrying a cargo of fertiliser, ran aground about five nautical miles north east of Duncansby Head in the early hours of Wednesday morning 18 July. After several failed attempts to refloat it, the vessel has been stranded on the skerries until now. There appeared to be no major damage or a threat of pollution. Operations including removing a substantial amount of marine gas oil and the cargo of fertiliser, have since been underway to prepare the vessel for this attempt.



Steven Rhodes RNLI Longhope

## RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT CONTINUED

RNLI Longhope was tasked by UK Coastguard to standby the vessels while the ship was being towed to safer waters of Scapa Flow. The lifeboat was refuelled and back at station at 2am.

### 4 August Shout

RNLI Longhope lifeboat was requested to launch this morning at 6.20am by UK Coastguards. It had been reported that there was a person in distress at John O'Groats. Thankfully the person was located safe and

well and the lifeboat was stood down as it approached the area. The lifeboat returned to station and was made ready again for service.

*Mary Harris*

*Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer for Longhope*

Photos: Mary Harris, with Steven Rhodes (Pricilla photo)

## ROWING CLUB

For many years in Hoy and Walls, amongst some folk, there was talk and a dream to have a local rowing club but in November 2016 the idea became real. Thanks to a tip off from the Orkney Rowing Club, a Shetland Yoal was located at Bressay in Shetland. With funding from the Island of Hoy Development Trust the yoal was purchased and brought home. And for one night, looking like a fish out of water, it was proudly displayed on the stage of the YM hall in Longhope with a motley crew in fancy dress manning the oars.

Life jackets were bought with help from the Hoy Trust and a few days later the yoal was launched and gingerly taken for a row up the bay. I watched the progress from my garden with some amusement as the crew came to grips with the art of rowing. There were 6 oars all randomly doing their own thing, lots of 'crab catching' and a huge amount of laughter which rippled across the water and must have been heard in Flotta.

The group has come a long way since that first chaotic venture and look much more streamline and well coordinated, travelling further and faster with steadfast determination and confidence. Happily, I still hear the banter and laughter as they row by and push up the bay.

Recently the club decided they wanted a challenge and an adventure. They also needed funds to cover the cost of the yoal's care and repair. So they came up with an extraordinary and daring plan. On the day RNLI Longhope Lifeboat held their Open Day the club would do a sponsored marathon row to Moaness and back, via Lyness. They would split any money raised between the rowing club and the lifeboat.

Many an eyebrow was raised with gasps of disbelief and awe. This is a round trip of 25 miles and we all know the strength of the tides that stream around our island. The wind was fresh that morning too as they pulled away from the shelter of the pier.

Jan Witkamp who was cox for the first leg said: 'It was a rough morning at 8 am, certainly the roughest we have

been out in. We had to take a long and hard tack into the wind and waves to get to East Point on Walls and then take the waves and wind at the rear to get past the point at Crockness.'

And then they were gone from view and in the afternoon as we served tea with home bakes at the Open Day we silently worried about our rowers, particularly as there were three lifeboat guild members in the crew.

The raffle was done and the day was drawing to a close when there was a cry of: 'There they are!' We could just make them out coming around Crockness, the wind had dropped and after 8 hours hard rowing they found the strength to give it a final hard push. It was an incredible homecoming victory row and a sight to behold.

As the crew secured their worthy yoal to the pontoon you could see the utter exhaustion but that sparkle in their eyes said it all.

We are proud of you all and amazed at your marathon achievement and determination. RNLI Longhope would also like to say a massive thank you for sharing your donations with us and adding a unique and hopefully recurring event to our Open Day. Hats off and congratulations to the Hoy and Walls Rowing Club.

*Mary Harris*



## STROMABANK MUSIC NIGHT—22ND JUNE



What a great night! Lots of people contributed— a great session from John and Billy Budge, Keith Dempsey and Ian McFadyen.

The Hoykuleles did a turn, as did a number of new artists, including Beth Law, Vicky and Alex McKinnon and Maisie and a wee boy of four years old who did a brave song about 'bananas and pyjamas'. There were

many other contributions and great choruses— too many to mention!

A special thanks to the Stromabank Hotel who did us well with fantastic chips!

We're all looking forward to the next one in early September (7th). If you want to do a turn—music, singing poetry, story telling—please contact Ian McFedries tel: 701662

*Ian McFedries*

## WHATS GOING ON AT THE HOY KIRK?

We have a programme of events planned at Hoy Kirk Heritage Centre, something for everyone we hope!



Our exhibition this year celebrates the Hoy Express, the postal delivery cart popularised by Edwardian postcards. As a subject for Orcadian picture postcards, the Hoy Express was almost as popular as the Old Man of Hoy or St Magnus Cathedral. In the days before motorised transport, when horses and carts were still in regular use to carry the mail in rural Britain, Hoy's own mail-cart, pulled by bullock, was probably unique.

The Hoy Kirk Craft Show and Sale will be held on Sunday 2 September. Those wishing to exhibit are invited to contact Olivia on 791155 or email at [hoyheritage@btinternet.com](mailto:hoyheritage@btinternet.com).

Also in September we have the Orkney International Science Festival evening on **Friday 7 September**. There is a packed programme of talks on

distilling and brewing and a performance by Oceanallover with their new spectacular outdoor/indoor, mountain themed performance 'Orographic'. Plus stargazing (weather permitting), and Orkney light bites as well. The evening kicks off at 6:30pm. Check posters and [hoyheritage.co.uk](http://hoyheritage.co.uk) for details.

September also sees a heritage evening at Hoy Kirk inspired by the sea eagles. 'Eyrie, Dwarfie, Trowie' will feature talks by Lee Shields, RSPB, Tom Muir, storyteller, and archaeologist Antonia Thomas. This will be held on **Friday 28 September**.

And finally on **Friday 19 October** we will be holding a night titled 'Johnny Pottinger's Scrapbook'.

The evening takes the Hoy newspaper clippings collected by Johnny to shape an evening of all things Hoy. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to take part in the evening by reading newspaper articles. This collection will also provide the content for our winter exhibition.

If you would like to sign up for Hoy Heritage updates visit our website at [www.hoyheritage.co.uk](http://www.hoyheritage.co.uk)



## HOY HOOLIE 2018—WHAT A STOMPER!

### Some thoughts on this year's Hoolie!

"Both evenings were a roaring success and aside from some very weary faces, every single person that I spoke to told me that it had been a fantastic weekend. I'd like to thank the Hoolie team for inviting me to take part, the bands for coming across and doing an excellent job of performing, and the Hoolie revellers for being such a fantastic crowd. "

"I had never been to the previous 2 Hoy Hoolies, but I now realised why the same folk were coming back again and again, and I can honestly say that 2 years of waiting and anticipation for the next one will be a very long 2 years indeed. See you at The Hoy Hoolie 2020 folks!" *Deanna Johnston*

"All those folk in 'Team Hooliegan' need to be congratulated and sincerely thanked for all their hard work in organising a brilliant, friendly and happy weekend. Also we need to thank the musicians for coming over and supporting this event, we are so lucky to have experienced their outstanding talent."

*Mary Harris*

"As a performer at this year's Hoy Hoolie, we arrived safe in the knowledge that we would be looked after, and generally want for nothing. The Hoolie has fostered a reputation for hospitality, community spirit and a generosity that only comes from what can be called an 'island hug'. An all-encompassing warmth, that you feel when you are loved and valued and your very presence is appreciated." *Bob Gibbon*

## GABLE END THEATRE PROGRAMME 2018— SUMMER/AUTUMN



### AUGUST

Sat 18

**FILM: EDIE (12A)**

Edie (Sheila Hancock) has spent 30 years caring for her husband in a loveless marriage. Suddenly liberated by his demise, and filled with bitterness for her “wasted years”, she foils her daughter’s plan to put her in a care home and heads to Scotland to fulfil a long-held ambition to climb Mount Suilven.

Sat 25

**MUSIC: KIRSTY LAW**

Recommended to us by Twelfth Day, Kirsty Law is an innovative young vocalist and song-maker based in Edinburgh. Drawing on traditional ballads and Scots folk songs, she combines traditional and original melodies, poems and text for a spellbinding performance.

**LICENCED BAR**

**TICKETS £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL AGE £1**

**BOOKINGS: Tel. HAZEL 791312**

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 8

**FILM: SWEET COUNTRY (15)**

Australian western set on the Northern Territory frontier in the 1920s, where justice itself is put on trial when an aged Aboriginal farmhand shoots a white man in self defense and goes on the run as a posse gathers to hunt him down.

Fri 14

**MUSIC: THE POOZIES**

The Poozies are **Mary Macmaster** on vocals and Camac electro-harp, **Eilidh Shaw** on fiddle and vocals, **Sarah McFadyen** on fiddle, banjo and vocals, and **Tia Files** on guitar, fiddle, vocals and stompbox.

**LICENCED BAR**

**TICKETS £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL AGE £1**

**BOOKINGS: Tel. HAZEL 791312**

Sat 22

**FILM: THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (12A)**

A writer (Lily James) forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island in the aftermath of World War II, when she decides to write a book about their experiences during the war.

### OCTOBER

Fri 5

**DRAMA: ACHILLES**

The newest offering from Glasgow based laboratory theatre company Company of Wolves. **ACHILLES** tells the story of the greatest hero of the Greeks during the Trojan War; how his best friend is killed by the champion of the Trojans, his desperate grief, and his terrible vengeance. In a unique fusion of storytelling, dance and song, Achilles is the story of a man's exorcism; a burning out of his vulnerability, his rage, and his humanity. This solo performance is created and performed by Ewan Downie, with directional assistance from renowned dancer Ian Spink.

**LICENCED BAR**

**TICKETS £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL AGE £1**

**BOOKINGS: Tel. HAZEL 791312**

Sat 6

**FILM: PHANTOM THREAD (15)**

Drama/romance

Sat 20

**FILM: THE MERCY (12A)**

The incredible story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst and his solo attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

Sat 27

**STORYTELLING: part of the ORKNEY STORYTELLING FESTIVAL, 13.00 - 15.00**

Stories on the theme of fairies and ‘little helpers’. Suitable for the whole family, children particularly welcome.

The calendar will continue to fill up, so keep checking the Events Calendar on [www.hoyorkney.com](http://www.hoyorkney.com). If you would like to be on our email mailing list, please get in touch at [gable.end.theatre@gmail.com](mailto: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	0900-1100	1730-1930	0930-1100 approx	Nurse evening surgery by request
Tuesday	1000-1200*	1300-1500	0930-1100 approx	*joint doctor/nurse clinic
Wednesday	0900-1200**	1400-1600	0930-1100 approx	**blood tests
Thursday	0900-1100		0930-1100 approx	
Friday	1000-1200†	1730-1900	0930-1100 approx	†Longhope 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday; Hoy 2nd and 4th Friday

**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**

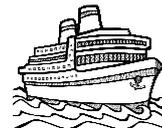
Health Centre	01856 701209
Doctor - out of hours and for emergencies	01856 888000
Island of Hoy Development Trust	01856 701356
North Walls Community School	01856 791246
YM	01856 701824
Hoy Centre	01856 791256
Orkney Islands Council	01856 873535



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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### DATES FOR DIARIES/NOTICEBOARD

#### Thought for the day

Don't forget to be  
Awesome!

#### GARDEN AND GROUNDS CARE

- Mowing and strimming
- Weed control
- Pruning and trimming
- Clearing & tidying.
- Paths and flagging etc



Call Richard on 701346  
Burnhouse

Longhope Sailing Club will be holding a Fishing night on Friday 23rd August from Longhope Pier.

Fishing to take place between 7:30 and 9pm, followed by a BBQ at the Pier, bring your own BBQ and Booze!



Hoy Dancers

Reels and Jigs at the  
Hoy Kirk

24th August 2018

For more details  
contact Mabel—  
01856 791359

# HOY KIRK CRAFT FAIR



## SUNDAY 2 SEPT 11AM-4PM

#### Call for exhibitors

To book your table or  
submit craft work for sale  
please email  
hoyheritage@btinternet.com  
or telephone 01856 791155

10% commission on all sales with  
proceeds to Hoy Kirk heritage Centre.  
Exhibitors can set up from 10am.  
Doors open to public 11am.



#### GRAEMSAY, HOY & WALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Next meeting

Friday Sept 7th, 6.45 pm

at

Graemsay Community Hall

All meetings are open to the  
general public



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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: 22nd August**  
**Time: 8 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 MAY AND JUNE 2018



### May

Total rainfall for month 45.1mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs 10.0mm on 13th.

Highest max. temp. 24.4c on 29th.

Lowest max. temp. 10.1c on 3rd.

Ave. max. temp. 15.6c

Lowest min. temp. 2.6c on 1st.

Highest min. temp. 11.8c on 19th.

Ave. min. temp. 7.0c.

Ave. temp. for May 11.3c.

### June

Total rainfall for month 24.1mm

This is not the lowest rainfall total I have recorded for June that was 22mm in 1988.

There were nineteen days without rain in the month.

Highest max. temp. 24.2c on 27th.

Lowest max. temp. 12.5c on 23rd.

Ave. max. temp. 16.0c.

Lowest min. temp. 5.6c on 14th and 16th.

Highest min. temp. 12.4c 30th.

Ave. min. temp. 8.9c

Ave. temp. for June 12.5c

*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](mailto:debs@theblether.org.uk); [vincent@theblether.org.uk](mailto:vincent@theblether.org.uk)

Snail mail: Loft, Longhope, KW16 3PQ

Items for inclusion in the next issue (October) must be submitted by 5th October 2018