

THE BLETHER

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

ISSUE 36 MARCH 2018

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT FOR HOY AND WALLS



In 2011, the IOHDT undertook a community survey in order to identify the priorities of the residents of Hoy and Walls and to use the resulting data to form a development plan for the island.

Seven years on, we want to know if the same things are still important to you, and what else you think about life on Hoy and Walls. We know that since the last survey there has been significant change within the area, new people moving in and a number of our young folk staying and making their life here. In addition, the community now has its own bus service, the YM has been improved, the community turbine is operating well, with various groups and individuals in the community benefiting from the grants available from the output of this.

Creating links with The Scottish Community Development Centre, the IOHDT is undertaking a community planning exercise with the overall goal of working with our community to create a development plan that reflects the aspirations of us all. We have created a survey which we would ask that you kindly complete. You can access the survey by typing the following details into your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HoyWalls>

Please encourage everyone in your household to complete the survey. If you need help filling in the survey please contact the office.

There are hard copies of the survey in the following places - please encourage anyone you know who is not online, to complete a paper copy:

The Trust office, Groats Shop, Doctors Surgery, Hoy Head, Hoy Kirk, YM and Lyness Waiting Room

The closing date for ALL completed questionnaires is **Friday 30th March**.
Postal address: IOHDT, Revenge, Naval Hall, Longhope, Orkney, KW16 3PG

Contact: liz.davidson.iohdt@gmail.com / dea.johnston.iohdt@gmail.com

Tel: 01856 701356

Thank you!

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

This issue includes news and updates from the School, 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-sixth 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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HOY DANCERS

A few words from Hoy Dancers as it is a while since you've heard from us! September 2017 saw the new session getting off the ground with new folks coming along to see what we do and we also have had visitors who have enjoyed joining in the fun! At the end of November we held a super festive evening of dancing, food and mulled wine – this marked the end of the 2017 session and the beginning of, what turned out to be, a two month break.

2018 has been slow to start with one thing and another – especially weather which has left me wondering WHY there is bad weather/high tide with the wrong sort of wind on a Monday! Since the beginning of September we have danced 13 out of 18 possible weeks.

On a Monday evening, from eight until ten o'clock, we meet at the YM and dance for Fun, Friendship and Fitness. The programme is mostly made up of set dances as that is what is preferred by the dancers although we do some couple dances, progres-

sive dances and circle dances. There is such a vast amount of Scottish dances to choose from there is always something new to learn as well as keeping up with our favourites. We welcome any new dancers – please come along and see what we do if you are interested or ring me on (01856) 791359.

The dates for the rest of this session are:

March: 19th & 26th, **April:** 2nd, 23rd & 30th, **May:** 7th & 14th.

The entry fee is £2.50 per adult.

Look out for the Hoy Reels and Jigs which takes place in the Hoy Kirk on a Friday evening between May and August – there are four sessions in the planning.

Mabel J Besant

HOY AND WALLS HEALTH CENTRE

This little test could save your life: The Scottish Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Bowel cancer is a major problem in Scotland causing many deaths each year, and most people will know someone whose family has been affected by the disease. The Scottish Bowel Cancer Screening Programme invites men and women aged between 50 and 74 to take part in screening every two years.

Bowel screening aims to find cancer at an early stage when treatment is likely to be more effective. It is the only screening programme where the test is completed at home, and is now even simpler as only one sample has to be submitted. Finding problems early is important because more than 9 out of 10 people diagnosed with stage 1 bowel cancer survive five years or more after diagnosis.


The invitations come through the post, but only 61% of people in Hoy & Walls returned a sample this year (and men were worse than women), so we're missing opportunities to pick up this potentially fatal disease early.

Have a look at the link below, pick up a leaflet from the surgery, or speak to the doctor or nurse next time you are in. You don't have to be having symptoms to benefit from this.

For more information paste the link below into your browser:

<http://bit.ly/2I3M43s>

Hoy and Walls Health Centre

 01856 701209

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Following the Council elections in October 2017 your Graemsay Hoy and Walls Community Council members are:-

Colin Bates, Adam Clark, Moira Groat, Grace Robertson, Alexander Sinclair, Rachel Thomson and Jayne Traynor.

At our first meeting in November 2017, the following were elected Office Bearers for one year:-

Moira Groat – Chair

Grace Robertson – Vice Chair and Planning Representative

Colin Bates – Transport Representative

Rachel Thomson – deputy Transport Representative

I am sure you would join with me in taking this opportunity to thank the retiring members Magnus Thomson, Mike Webster and Ronnie Sinclair for all the hard work and dedication they showed during their time on the Community Council. A special big thank you goes to Ronnie Sinclair who joined the Community Council in June 1994, so served as a councillor for 23 years.

Our next meeting is Friday 16th March at 6.45pm in North Walls School. Our meetings are open to the public.

Moira Groat (Chair)

DARTS AND POOL

The winner of the pool competition at the Royal on Saturday 3 February was Richard Illingworth and runner up Matt White.

Thanks to Val Crowson for organising and Alan White for providing the venue and prizes.

The **Ladies Darts Challenge** will be on **24th March at the Royal. Names in by 8 pm, £1 per entry.**



STOP PRESS!

The Haey Hope Club are in the Blue Door from 19th to 24th March. Please help us to raise money for a new bus. If you have any donations or can help at all please contact Gill Burdett 701337 or Hazel Morris 791312





COUNCIL COMMENT

Aspirations and Budgets

Away from the diarised cycle of committee meetings, elected members have been discussing and debating three inter-related issues: the new Council Plan, the forthcoming budget and fairer ferry funding. Much has been said about the ferry funding in the media and the position appears secure for the coming financial year but what of the Council Plan and the Budget.

Over the past few months councillors have been 'pulling together' views and comments made to them whilst canvassing for election (*those that had to!*) and adding them to recurring themes from our Community Planning Partners, including Community Councils. These views and opinions have formed the 'skeleton' of the new draft Council Plan which will hopefully reflect what the public want from the council, and what councillors aspire to achieve, during this term in office. The plan has been constructed around five specific themes:

Connected Communities – specifically mentioning transport and digital connectivity

Caring Communities – centred around health and wellbeing

Thriving Communities – jobs, infrastructure, learning and leisure

Entrepreneurial Communities – the local economy

Quality of Life – specifically mentioning the small things that really matter, parking, dog fouling, recycling, waste disposal

As the draft Plan nears completion the big difficulty comes when trying to match hopes and aspirations with the finance available during the budget setting process. Although funding has been achieved for the ferries the council still has to try and reduce spend as government grants certainly don't provide enough resource

to maintain the current level of service provision across a number of sectors. Prior to setting last year's budget the council introduced the 'Budget Simulator', an online tool that enabled the public to engage with the budget setting process. The results from the 'simulator' gave councillors and officers an indication of how the public would prefer to see the Authority react during times of restricted finance. The 'Simulator' indicated that the big things to 'protect' were health care, education and transport whilst comment was made that fees and charges should be increased to help 'balance the books'. In the Plan much is made of the things that folk want to see and what contributes to the quality of life in Orkney, but when it comes to money these are very often the things that we can't afford. There are statutory services that any local authority must provide across health and education but there are also services e.g. music tuition, leisure facilities, development grants, transport grants etc. which are discretionary.

Many of these discretionary services help make Orkney the caring, vibrant community that it is yet it is precisely these services that come under scrutiny and threat during the budget process. The difficulties councillors face is compounded by the fact that since 'Tough Times, Tough Choices' era many efficiency savings have been realised and Service Departments are as lean as they can be. It won't be easy to match the fledgling Council Plan with the reality of financial restrictions. Tough decisions will have to be made, but that is what we were elected for.....

Cllr Rob Crichton

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

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

Mrs Trish Avis, Fea, Longhope, KW16 3PA has been appointed as the Island Link Officer for Hoy. Email ghwclerk@btinternet.com or phone 701498

Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council

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, as detailed above.

Trish Avis

NORTH WALLS HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE



Active Islands Scheme, the island version of Active Life, launched by Orkney Islands Council in October 2017 has had a good uptake so far at North Walls Healthy Living Centre.

Active Islands enables islanders access to gym facilities and fitness classes for £12.50 per person or £17.50 for a family, per month. Budget memberships are also available at a

cost of 50p per activity. Membership fees are payable by direct debit.

If you are interested in signing up or want further details please feel free to contact Laura or Trish. Or alternatively pop by the gym on Monday, Wednesday or Friday 9:30 till 11 or Monday 4:30 till 6pm.

Laura is also looking to organise an AquaZumba Class in the next few months, possibly on a Wednesday or Friday evening 6:30 till 7:15, again please get in contact if you are interested.

Many thanks

Laura and Trish

NORTH WALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL—TO BELIEVE IS TO ACHIEVE

News from our Pupil Committees

This term at North Walls we have been working to establish our pupil committees. Through these committees the boys and girls have the opportunity to directly support school improvements and develop valuable personal and social skills such as listening skills and working with others.



Working with the Wider Community and Charities Committee (WWCC)

The job of our committee is to help everyone in the school think of others and involve the local community in the life and work of the school. Recently we have been thinking of ways to help raise money for the P6/7 residential and one idea was to make up an anagram competition of local places in Hoy and Walls. Competition sheets can be purchased from our school, Groat's shop and Stromabank hotel. It has been brought to our attention that we have missed out the letter 'k' in anagram number 7, sorry!

Eco Committee

The Eco committee is busy carrying out an environmental review to evaluate our school's performance against the Eco-Schools nine topics and use the results to develop an Action Plan.



The nine topics are:

Energy
Litter
Waste
Water
Global Citizenship
Transport
Healthy Living
Biodiversity
School Grounds

Ps. Please recycle as much as you can so that we can reduce waste and pollution!

SHANARRI Committee

The acronym SHANARRI is formed from the eight indicators of wellbeing:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| • Safe | Active |
| • Healthy | Respected |
| • Achieving | Responsible |
| • Nurtured | Included |

All of these wellbeing indicators are necessary for a child or young person to reach their potential. The job of the SHANNARI committee is to help raise awareness of the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators through fun competitions and activities. Our first job is to help raise awareness of how to travel safely. We will be asking all pupils to take part in a nationwide competition to create a logo and strapline or slogan to be the branding for national guidance and publicity to promote the wearing of seat belts. This competition accompanies the enactment of The Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Act 2017, which was recently passed in the Scottish Parliament.



Pupil Council

The job of the Pupil Council is to listen to pupil/staff suggestions to help improve our school and choose which projects to move forward. The pupil council is working on several projects including the creation of buddy bench, further developing the nature trail and improving other outdoor areas including the tennis court and school garden. It is hoped that a day can be organised for the Easter holidays when volunteers will be invited to come along to the school to help erect the new polytunnel, further details will be sent out nearer the time.

NORTH WALLS

Sports Committee

The job of the Sports Committee is to help our school work towards achieving the **sportscotland** School Sport Award. Our committee completed an online self-assessment to help us identify our current strengths and areas for improvement in PE & school sport. Craig and Kirsty Spence (our active schools coordinator) then developed an action plan that would help us improve areas highlighted for improvement. Below is our Action Plan.

Goal	Area	Measure/ Outcome	Action	Lead	Progress (Red, Amber, Green)		
					Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Notice board in school for displaying success in school	Celebrating Sport	Board display in community foyer of school so that parents and community can see sporting success.	Photos of PE participant of the week.	PE teacher	Completed		
After School Club	School Sport	Opportunity for one after school club	Swimming Club Other	Laura Johnson	Completed Badminton		Swimming
Develop P7 leadership skills	Leadership	Opportunity to motivate and inspire peers to take part in physical activity.	Sports Relief Week 19 th – 23 rd March 2018	Kirsty Spence		P7 have organised a day of events involving the school and local community	
Recognise and award our volunteers	Recognition and Awards	Display photos of volunteers and also hand out certificates of thanks at school assemblies.	Sports Committee to make certificates and update board	Sports Committee		Completed Blether – Local Media	Hand out Volunteer Certificates at Leavers' Assembly

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have helped support our school by giving up their time to sit on our committee or help out with after school activities.



Thank you Sandra for helping out at badminton and being such a great teacher.



Thank you Ceri for coming along to badminton to help out.



Thank you Laura for joining our committee, we are lucky to have you as our community representative.

NURSERY NEWS

The hard work of our nursery staff was acknowledged during our recent inspection when our nursery was judged to be 'Good' in all areas. We are all very proud of this achievement and will continue to work hard to improve our nursery with the help of our boys and girls and the continued support of our parents.

The boys and girls had a fantastic day out just before Christmas, as did their parents, when they went to the Picky centre for an inflatables session. As well as having a great time in the 'Farm zone' and 'Jungle Kingdom', the boys and girls learned lots about keeping themselves safe when travelling. The nursery boys and girls will soon be travelling to the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness as part of their exciting 'Beautiful Stuff' project. We will tell you more about this project and our visit in the next edition of the Bletcher.



NORTH WALLS PARENT COUNCIL

On the third attempt [with no thanks to the weather] the Parents Council came together for the AGM, on Friday 8 February.

The initial concern was whether there would be a quorum, but it was not long before that concern was fully dispelled, and it was really good to have such a fine turnout. It was also appreciated that Graham Bevan, our School Improvement Officer, and Counsellor Thomson were both able to take time from out from their busy schedules. Their input and insight were appreciated, ensuring that the meeting was informative, and concerns were addressed.

All Office Bearers were up for re-election. And, certainly for the short term all posts were filled. Steve Rhodes agreed to be interim Chair; however with his children moving onto KGS in July [and we wish them well, and indeed to all the youngsters moving on]... he cannot continue tenure. However, Rachel Thomson has agreed to be Vice Chair, so all is looking good. Ron Bulmer was quite prepared to step down as Secretary but was re-elected. Rob Ionides admitted he could count, consequently he was elected as Treasurer; and finally Debbie Rhodes was elected, in absentia, as financial examiner. Many thanks to those folk for stepping up to the mark.

Schools are busy places, and North Walls is no exception. The Council has been very proactive in supporting School, from raising finances to introduce, and help set up the Accelerated Reading Scheme, to fund raising at the Marathon Day. Consequently, the Parent Council bank account is pretty healthy, but, this only happens because of the support and input the Community makes. This is sincerely appreciated.

Decisions now have to be made is how best the Council can support School.

Onward projects include helping to fund the P6/7 Nethybridge Outdoor residential, cleaning the hard all weather court and getting the poly tunnel finished, however, there is one area with a major appeal — help with after school activities. Badminton was very successful, and still could be, but, helpers are very much needed. It doesn't *have* to be badminton, Active Schools have a wide range of activities [and training] that are available, and will be really supportive to get things set up, and help with running. But after school activities need not be sport orientated. We may have a chess master, or, well, the many and varied other skills could be made available. So, please come and talk to School, or approach anybody from the Parents Council.

Finally, the Head teacher, Shirley Stuart, shared the School Improvement Plan. This is integral to any school's measure of performance and learning strategy, and is key to the inspection process. A central theme of the Improvement Plan is ensuring that parents are engaged and involved with their child's/children's learning and North Walls is no exception. The Parents Council is at the heart of this; but, in fact, every parent is seen as a major stakeholder in the education process, therefore, can we show our support by returning questionnaires sent out as part of this process. By completing these questionnaires you will help ensure our school continues to move forward.

Ron Bulmer

NORTH WALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONTINUED

Sports Relief

Our P7 leaders are organising a whole day of events on **Thursday 22nd March** to raise funds for Sports Relief. Look out for the Community Beach Walkathon posters!

Website/ Facebook Page

We now have a school facebook page! The purpose of this page is to share school information and news with our parents and wider community so please ask to be our friend if you haven't done so already. We are still working on our website and hopefully our appointment with our website designer this

month will help see it up and running very soon.

Tag Rugby

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed their tag rugby workshop run by John from the Orkney Rugby Club. The boys and girls will be using the skills they learned on this day at the Peedie Schools Rugby Festival in April, watch this space!



Shirley Stuart

RNLI LONGHOPE NEWS

Although we have had some horrendous storms travelling across Orkney this winter, thankfully, apart from a medevac in January, the lifeboat has not been called out so far this year.

However behind the scenes the crew continue to update their training and also attend weekly exercises. The lifeboat mechanics keep the boat operating correctly with maintenance and repair of associated machinery and electrical equipment, so it's ready to go at a moments notice.

On Sunday 4 February Longhope lifeboat was very pleased and honoured to accept a cheque for £700.00 from members of The Highland Park Appreciation Society.



It has been decided to use this generous donation to purchase and install a defibrillator which will be positioned on the wall of the lifeboat station. As this is one of the busiest places in Longhope, with folk coming down to the shop and people using the pier, the defibrillator will be readily available for any members of the public to use if needed. We have great support from our local community and visitors and we hope this equipment will benefit the whole community. It is planned to give a demonstration on how to use this essential lifesaving equipment at the Lifeboat Open Day on 1 July 2018.

The film produced by the German film company *360°Geo Reportage* about the Longhope Lifeboat will be available on Arte TV. This European culture TV channel is free and on demand. You can find it by typing in Arte into Google search. The film will be shown on February 11 at 6.30pm and will be available for some time.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 20 May	Yellow Welly Day
Sunday 1 July	Lifeboat Station Open Day
Friday 9 November	Xmas Bazaar

Times and more information will be advertised nearer the day.

Text and photo: *Mary Harris*

HOY STOAT UPDATE

The programme to protect Hoy's native wildlife by removing any stoats from Hoy and determining how widespread they are has been running for a couple of months now and I know people are keen for an update on the results.

As part of the incursion response to the confirmed stoat sighting in November from a trail camera (put out following two reported sightings in October), RSPB Scotland employed two research assistants John Tayton and Alex Cropper. Their notes have gone into this summary of the story so far.



John and Alex have been busy, battling through snowy conditions, moving and adding to the network of traps and trail cameras designed to rid the island of these non-native predators and assess the scale of

the problem. John and Alex have checked 72 traps each week and although several rats were caught each week, there have been no stoats or stoat signs in the traps.

There are also 41 movement-sensing trail cameras set up around the island. Other than the original stoat captured on film in November last year, there have been no further stoats seen on camera. However, John and Alex have been in-

terested to see the various animals and birds the cameras have spotted. Alex said "I have enjoyed looking through all the camera footage and we have been rewarded with some great views of local wildlife including otters, hen harriers, mice, herons and more!"



John left in January to work on the Shiant, but Alex is with us for another month to help us understand how widespread the stoats are on the island and help develop plans to stop them spreading. If you suspect you have spotted a stoat please get in touch with Alex immediately on Alex.Cropper@rspb.org.uk or telephone 07545 507718.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who came along to the Orkney Native Wildlife Project open day last month – it was great to hear everyone's views and the team are keen to involve everyone who volunteered for the citizen science roles. For more information about the project and how you can help please contact: Amy King on amy.king@snh.gov.uk or telephone 01856 886161.

Lee Shields, Warden, Orkney Reserves

WEATHER DATA FOR 2017

Total rainfall for year 1,503.3mm (58.6")

This is the highest yearly rainfall total I have ever recorded since I began records in 1987. Previous highest was 1454.8mm in 1998.

Wettest month was November with 245.7mm

Driest month was May with 38.1mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. was 95.9mm on 6th June.

Highest max. temp. was 26.1c on 26th. May.

Lowest max. temp. was 3.3c on Jan. 13th.

Lowest min. temp. was -3.8c on 10th. Feb.

Highest min. temp. was 13.8c on June 14th.

Hottest month was August with an ave. temp. of 13.6c.

Coldest month was February with an ave. temp. of 5.0c.

Ave. temp. for 2017 was 9.2c.

This is just above the current yearly ave. of 8.9c

Jeff Clark

SCAPA FLOW VISITOR CENTRE AND MUSEUM



The refurbishment project is steadily moving forward, even if progress at times seems frustratingly slow! Work to pack and store the collection has been continuing through the winter and the Pump-house and Romney Hut are now nearly empty of their exhibits.

We are still working on plans for the temporary exhibition and hope to be able to open that on 1 May. Meantime, guided walks around the Lyness War-time Trail, costing £5 per adult, will be running at 11.00am least every Tuesday and Thursday from Tuesday 3 April, with extra sessions scheduled according to demand. Meet at the ferry waiting room. As plans and room specs are finalised we have identified a number of items that will be surplus to requirements and are pleased to be able to offer these for sale on the island. Please see the separate advert for details of the items and how to place bids.

If you have any questions about the project, please give us a shout on 791300, or email jude.callister@orkney.gov.uk.



50's, 60's and 70's Dance Night

Does anyone fancy a good old disco night of dancing around your handbags until your feet ache ... I know I do!

I thought it might be good to try an evening of music that would make us all smile and feel young again.

We can book the Shore room in the YM - maybe 7.30 to 10.00pm on a Friday evening - which would put a spring in our step for the weekend.

Also if anyone could teach me to jive that would be excellent too!!

If you'd be interested, please call Sharon on 701816 or email me on clegg.sharon@btconnect.com

EDUCATION, LEISURE AND HOUSING—ARTS, MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE SERVICE

SALE OF REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT

The following redundant equipment is offered for sale by tender:-



Lot 1
Buffalo 6 Burner Propane Gas Oven CE-371
W900 x D510 x H840mm; 1 year old, excellent used condition.
Bids over £600 accepted



Lot 2
LEC chest freezer
W960 x D510 x H840; 3 years old, good used condition

Lot 3

Assorted Arcopal Restaurant Ware; used condition

60 x cups and saucers
44 x side plates
19 x dinner plates
46 x shallow bowls
17 x deep bowls
26 x soup cups

**Lot 4**

Assorted cutlery; used condition

Knives, forks, spoons, soup spoons, tea spoons.

Tenderers must satisfy themselves as to the condition and value of the items. Successful tenderers will be responsible for the removal of the item(s).

To make an appointment to view, please telephone 791300 or email jude.callister@orkney.gov.uk.

All offers **net of VAT** should be sent in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Tender Redundant Equipment", to Glenda Munro, Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY no later than **5pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2018**. VAT will be charged on invoices and none of these items can be uplifted until paid for.

Jude Callister

BAG THE BRUCK 2018**BAG THE BRUCK**

Saturday 21 April till Sunday 29 April

Do you want to raise funds for your group and help the environment at the same time?

Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council will be offering small grants for any community group taking part

In order to take part please contact Trish on 701498 or email ghwclerk@btinternet.com before Saturday 21 April.

Outdoor
ORKNEY

Bag
the
Bruck

BAG THE BRUCK 2018

Saturday 21 April to Sunday 29 April

THAW ORKNEY—FREE LOCAL CHARITABLE SERVICE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU



Advice, assistance and support is available from THAW Orkney on Friday the 16th March 2018

11.00am - 12.30pm in the Hoy Kirk

2.00pm - 4.00pm in the YM at Longhope

7.00pm – 8.30pm at the North Walls Centre

THAW Orkney are here to help assist those households in Hoy who may be in fuel poverty, or on a low income, or in debt, or with child care or caring responsibilities, or who are coping with long-term health issues. THAW is a local charity whose services are independent, confidential and free:

**Could you pay less for your electricity?
Could you be warmer in your home?**

**THAW has helped a number of Orkney residents reduce their fuel bills
by several hundred pounds – perhaps we could help you?**

Come along to a drop-in session and one of our team will be able to answer any questions you may have and see what assistance is available. **You don't need an appointment**, but if you'd like a specific time to meet with an adviser, then please telephone us and we'll make the arrangement.

In the meantime, if you'd like any assistance, either in our Kirkwall office or in your own home, then please contact THAW Orkney on: 01856 878388, or email - info@thaworkney.co.uk



THAW Orkney is a SCIO charity number SC045272

JOB VACANCIES



'To help deliver the ambitious programme of Heritage activities, exhibitions and events within the Hoy Kirk in 2018 the following positions are now open for applications'.

Friends of the Hoy Kirk**Caretaker:**

Duties will include:

- Checking the Kirk to ensure it is presentable to locals and visitors alike
- Checking the fabric and maintenance of the building
- Maintaining the 'good order' of all archive items that are being exhibited
- Cleaning all areas of the Kirk to include: Kitchen / toilets / entrance / vestry / upstairs research room / stairway and the main part of the Kirk
- Ordering any cleaning materials or items required for Kirk maintenance and the kitchen

The above duties will be performed on an average of three days per week. The frequency will be dictated by the amount of visitors and the frequency of events.

The hours will be, on average, 4 hrs per week between May 1st and 31st October 2018

This position will be paid at £8.50 per hour.

Applicants for all positions will be responsible for making their own tax arrangement as required.

Archive Assistant:

Duties will include:

- Overseeing the continuation of previous archive built up within the Hoy Kirk
- All donations to the Hoy heritage Archive will be entered into the established tagging system
- All materials will be photographed / digitised
- All materials will be entered into the Hoy Heritage Archive Catalogue
- All digitised material will be transferred to the 'Calm' software for online access at the County Archive in Kirkwall and eventually via the internet
- Liaising with the County Archive, in Kirkwall, as required
- Liaising with the Friends of Hoy Kirk Heritage Officer
- Collating digital images for audio visual displays within the Hoy Kirk as required.

The hours will be, on average, 6 hours per week between May 1st and 31st October 2018

This position will be paid at £9.30 per hour

Heritage Officer

Duties will include:

- The development and management of a programme of events
- Devising and facilitating exhibitions
- Preparing materials and mounting of heritage exhibitions.
- Promoting exhibitions and events at the Hoy Kirk with local media.
- Enabling members of the public, visitors to engage with facilities within the Hoy Kirk
- Liaising with the FoHK Archivist in the recording and scanning of all material donated to the Hoy Kirk
- Liaising with committee members of the Friends of the Hoy Kirk

The hours will be, on average, 8 hours per week between May 1st and 31st October 2018

The position will be paid at £15.00 per hour

Applications for all positions must be submitted in writing only. The final date for submission of applications is 7th April 2018.

GABLE END THEATRE PROGRAMME 2018— SPRING



All performances start at 8pm, unless otherwise stated

March

Fri 16

MUSIC: TWELFTH DAY

Another welcome return for Orcadian fiddler Catriona Price and Peebles harpist Esther Swift. Their music mixes folk and jazz, underpinned by classical influences. They describe themselves as a 'two person quartet', their voices, fiddle and pedal harp giving a great sound rich in rhythm, harmony and texture.

ADMISSION £10/ACCOMPANIED SCHOOL-AGE £1; BAR; RAFFLE

BOOKING ADVISED: TEL: HAZEL 791312

Sat 24

FILM: LOVING VINCENT (Cert. 12A)

No other artist has attracted more legends than Vincent van Gogh. Various labels a martyr, a lustful satyr, a madman, a genius and a layabout, the real Vincent is at once revealed in his letters, and obscured by myth and time. Vincent himself said in his last letter: 'We cannot speak other than by our paintings'. The world's first fully painted animated feature, which took 5 years in the making, brings to life a stellar cast and a true tribute to the Dutch master.

APRIL

Sat 14

FILM: MAUDIE (Cert. 12A)

Maudie, based on the true story of the Nova Scotian folk artist Maud Lewis (1903-1970), is an unlikely romance in which the reclusive Everett Lewis hires a fragile yet determined woman named Maudie to be his housekeeper. Maudie, bright-eyed but hunched with crippled hands, longs to gain independence from her stifling family, and she also yearns, passionately, to create art. Unexpectedly, Everett finds himself falling in love. Maudie charts Everett's efforts to protect himself from being hurt, Maudie's deep and abiding love for this difficult man and her surprising rise to fame as a folk painter.

Fri 27

One Act Play Festival 8pm @ The Gable End Theatre
Look out for details.....

Sat 28

FILM: DEATH OF STALIN (Cert. 15)

Not all audiences will find this to their taste, but Armando Iannucci's black comedy has garnered rave reviews. It follows the Soviet dictator's last days and depicts the chaos of the regime after his death. Standout performances from Simon Russell Beale (Beria), Michael Palin (Molotov) and Andrea Riseborough (Stalin's daughter Svetlana).

Looking ahead, we already have:

Fri 8 June: Corner House (Louise Bichan and friends)

Sat 16 June: Madam Tsunami

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	0900-1100	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.

GRAEMSAY, HOY & WALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Next meeting

Friday March 16th, 6.45 pm

at North Walls Community School

All meetings are open to the general public

Computer Club at the Shore

Mondays 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

All welcome

Computers and tablets available to use during the club.

Tea, coffee and biscuits

Adults £1

Thought for the day


Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire

Craft Club— Fridays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at The Shore, Longhope

All welcome - Adults £1; Children 50p

Tea, coffee, biscuits, gossip!

DATES FOR DIARIES/NOTICEBOARD



WANTED

Lifeguards and
Life-support volunteers
for Swimming sessions.

Interested? Please
contact Laura Johnston
701265
North Walls Centre

REWARD

GARDEN AND GROUNDS CARE

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

Call Richard on 701346
Burnhouse



Entries for the 32nd Hoy Half
Marathon on the 17th June are
now open.

Go to

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

Local runners will be able to join even if
the race is officially full. In that case email
hoyhalf@gmail.com for an entryform.



Hoy and Walls Entertainment Group

A.G.M

TUESDAY 27 MARCH

7PM

GABLE END THEATRE

If you are interested in any aspect of
theatre; acting, directing, writing, set
design, sound, lighting, costume and
makeup etc., please come along to find
out more.

ALL WELCOME



Josh, doing YOGA classes
at the North Walls Centre

Contact him via the H&W
community page on face-
book for details!

North Walls Centre Committee

Next meeting: 25th April, 8 pm

In the Meeting Room



**Longhope
Sailing Club**

We are looking for new members whether to sail or
to help at the Regatta which will be on
Saturday 7 July.



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: 28th March

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 DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018



December 2017

Total rainfall for
month 144.5mm
Highest rainfall in
24hrs. 13.7mm on

7th.

Highest max. temp. 12.8c on 18th.

Lowest max. temp. 4.4c on 9th.

Ave. max. temp. 8.0c

Lowest min. temp. -3.0c on 28th.

Highest min. temp. 9.4c on 5th.

Ave. min. temp. 3.8c

Ave. temp. for Dec. 6.0c

January 2018

Total rainfall for month 173.6mm
Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 25.5mm on 15th.

Highest max. temp. 9.1c on 27th.

Lowest max. temp. 3.2c on 20th.

Ave. max. temp. 6.6c

Lowest min. temp. -1.8c on 20th.

Highest min. temp. 5.9c on 22nd

Ave. min. temp. 1.6c

Ave. temp. for January 4.1c

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 10th April 2018