



THE BLETHER

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



ISSUE 35 DEC 2017



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

HOY SOUND

On the last Sunday in September, Hoy Sound and Orkney Camerata put on an afternoon concert in the Hoy Kirk. The event was a great success. A big thanks to Andy Fellows and Laurence Rugg for their hard work getting the singers and musicians ready for the performance.

Also to the Hoy Kirk for the use of their lovely acoustic space

Each group performed individually. Camerata played a selection of pieces, some with their soloist Yvonne Gray

and Hoy Sound sang three pieces conducted by their music director Andy Fellows.



What made the concert unique was the coming together of the Camerata and Hoy Sound in pieces written especially for them. This was Laurence Rugg's setting to music of two poems by George Mackay Brown and four by Yvonne Gray.

The choir thanks the Island of Hoy Development Trust for their continued support making this event possible.

Hoy Sound rehearse on Thursday evenings at 8pm until 10pm at the Shore in

Longhope and are keen to welcome singers of all abilities.

SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE TRAINING

As part of the ongoing training that all Scottish Ambulance Service and First Responder crews have to undertake to keep up their skills and knowledge, the Hoy and Walls Ambulance crew had to complete a four day training course.

This consisted of working through a 108 page work book, containing a number of improvements to the old standards, a text now universal through out Scotland. During this process, workshops and discussions took place and practical demonstrations of skills learnt had to be shown. The work book is split up into day sections, and at the end of each day a review and question section followed.

The training on day 1 covered many aspects of FPOS and care, such as Primary survey, airway management, basic life support CPR and AEDs, whilst day 2 covered the respiratory system, oxygen therapy, heart and circulatory system and its disorders.

On the third day the training closed with poisoning, wounds and bleeding, the skeletal system, hypothermia/hyperthermia and burns and scalds. The last day was taken up with each crew member sitting a paper exam, based on all the above subjects. The pass rate was 75%, and all had to pass before going on to the practical exams. We were lucky enough to have as our training officer Sonja Marwick, based in Kirk-

wall, and senior Paramedic Lyndon Sinclair, to oversee and set the final part of the exam.

Each crew member was taken through a scenario set in the Health centre and had to explain what they would do and then carry out the procedure. This was then assessed and discussed by the examiners and crew member. Upon completion of this, each crew member was given an appraisal.

We are pleased to announce that all Hoy Ambulance crew passed both the written and practical examination.

Mike Webster



JOB VACANCY—TURBINE RESPONDER, HOY ENERGY LTD

A vacancy exists with Hoy Energy Ltd for a Turbine Responder.

Tasks include remote monitoring and site duties relevant to the community owned Wind Farm Project at Ore Brae, Lyness, Hoy and reports directly to the Site Manager.

Employment is offered on a permanent part-time basis as part of a two person team working largely from home on a rota system of two weeks on, two weeks off. Flexible working within the team is essential. Additional 'out of hours' visits to the Lyness site will on occasion be required and thereafter remunerated in addition to the main contracted hours of work for monitoring, as part of the call-out system operated with the projects support partners and stakeholders. All job specific training covering IT, electro-mechanical work, Health & Safety etc will be provided for the successful applicant prior to deployment.

Applicants must be permanent residents on Hoy or Walls with a clean line of sight to the turbine generator at Lyness and are required to have basic computer skills and familiarity with Web and Email soft-

ware, upon which additional training can be added. Also experience in record keeping, both written and computerised, would ideally be part of an applicant's skill set. Similarly any familiarity with an industrial SCADA system would be seen as advantageous but not a pre-requisite.

Remuneration package includes salary c£5.5k p/a (based on 14 hrs per week) with reimbursement of business related out of pocket expenses including mileage, telephone and internet costs.

Applications in writing, to include an outline CV detailing any relevant previous work experience, should be submitted alongside contact details of the two most recent previous employers nominated for reference purposes.

Closing date 31-12-2017.

Please address to:
Operations Director
Hoy Energy Ltd
c/o Scholes Accountants
8 Albert Street
Kirkwall

IOHDT MAKES BID TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE CHALLENGE FUND



As outlined in the last edition of the Bletcher, IOHDT have made an appli-

cation to the Scottish government's *Climate Challenge Fund* (CCF) totalling **£298,738**. The Hoy and Walls Green transport project (HoWGreen), if successful, will: 1) purchase a new fully electric bus (to replace one of our existing - but ageing - diesel-electric hybrid community minibuses) and b) install the first rapid-charger on the island, providing new infrastructure for charging electric vehicles (including the new bus). Other funds from the bid will be used to provide information and island 'taster' events on low carbon transport options, such as electric cars and e-bikes. We also aim to help those with existing petrol and diesel cars save fuel (and money) by piloting the new driving efficiency "Lightfoot" system. In this we already have the support of the company that has developed and marketed this system, and which can be fitted to any vehicle (an older version of the "Lightfoot" sys-

tem operates in our community minibuses). Lightfoot have agreed to supply hardware, install the system into numerous vehicles on the island and underwrite their subscription costs for operating and monitoring software.

The HoWGreen project aims to significantly reduce transport-related emissions by 65 tCO₂e per year - we've already estimated that the electric bus will provide a carbon saving of approximately 47t/yr! A fully electric bus will also instantaneously reduce the running costs of the community bus, thus helping us to secure its long-term future. We hope it will also encourage an increase in its usage by both residents and visitors to the island.

To support our application, we would really be interested in your views, so would appreciate it if you would take just a little time to answer questions in the survey that can be found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/57WSFGN>

SCAPA FLOW VISITOR CENTRE AND MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Scapa Flow Visitor Centre and Museum is currently preparing for a major redevelopment, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Environment Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Orkney LEADER fund and Orkney Islands Council Capital Projects programme. All the existing buildings will be renovated, and a new building linked to the Pumphouse will provide a controlled exhibition environment and improved visitor facilities.

The museum closed, as usual, on 31 October 2017, and work to pack the collection and prepare the buildings for renovation work is now underway. It will remain closed until Spring 2019. Completion of the works is scheduled for the end of April 2019, with an official opening to coincide with the centenary of the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 June 2019.

The museum team, aided by a number of volunteers from the island have been working hard since the museum closed to record and pack the collection, and that work is now complete.

From January onwards, staff will be working on developing the new exhibition with a scriptwriter and exhibition design company Studio MB.

2018 season

During the 2018 summer season we will have a 'pop-up' museum at Lyness, accommodated in 2 large portakabins adjacent to the ferry terminal. This will also become an office base for staff once they vacate the Pumphouse. The temporary exhibition space in The Orkney Museum will be used to display some of the wartime collection, including a 360 degree photo record of the former display.

The exhibition at Lyness will consist of information only, with no objects on show. This means that it will not necessarily be staffed at all times, although there will be a staff presence as often as possible. We hope there will be a small retail area in the office, and a local business hopes to be providing food and drink from mobile premises adjacent to the site.

Alongside the exhibition we will be delivering more frequent guided walks and we hope that this com-

bined offer will still encourage visitors to come across to Lyness.

As work progresses, we intend to issue regular updates and please check our Facebook page and website for news of any special events. Meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for your patience and understanding.

<https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyArtsMuseumsandHeritage/>
http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/Scapa-flow-visitor-centre-and-museum_2.htm

Jude Callister



Volunteers helping to pack and record the exhibits.



NORTH WALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL—TO ACHIEVE IS TO BELIEVE

We have had another busy and productive term here at North Walls with lots to tell you about.

New Vision Statement

Thank you to the North Walls school community for helping us develop a renewed vision statement for our school, **“To Achieve is To Believe”**.

This vision statement builds on the work undertaken by pupils last summer when they picked key values that every child should understand and recognise within themselves by the end of their time at North Walls.

Our **SMART** Values: **S**afety & Happiness - **M**indful Learners - **A**chievement for All - **R**esponsibility & Resilience - **T**eamwork & Trust



Working with the Wider Community & Charities Committee

The ‘Working with the Wider Community & Charities Committee’ organised a fantastic day of fun to help raise money for Children in Need. The day was made even more special with the arrival of Pudsey Bear to North Walls. This was Pudsey’s first visit to our school but he said he would definitely come back to visit our wonderful and kind boys and girls. The WWCC committee helped raise over £60 for Children in Need.



Special Visitor

The boys and girls got a special treat a couple of weeks ago when we received a surprise visit from our local constabulary. Constable Inverarity took time to chat to the boys and girls and patiently answered LOTS of questions. Our time ended with the mandatory school visit requirement of flashing lights, sirens....and lots of screaming!

Watch out Lord Sugar!

P5-7 helped develop lots of skills for life and work through their Christmas Enterprise project. The Merry Crafter, Cake Crafters and Galaxy inc. all created business plans and received loans to help them create products to sell at our Christmas concert. The combined profit totalled an amazing £439.84! This money will go towards our Nethybridge trip and the development of outdoor learning at North Walls.



(Continued on page 6)

NORTH WALLS SCHOOL CONTINUED

After school Badminton Club



Our after school badminton club was a great success both in terms of club attendance and the great progress made by the boys and girls to develop their badminton skills. Thank you very much to Sandra Kestrel for giving up her time to help run this club and pass on her skills in such a supportive way. All our boys and girls are keen to continue to be given the opportunity to attend an after school club and some suggestions included, a drama club, football club, tag rugby club, tennis club and animation club, however, WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you think you may be able to help run any of the clubs suggested, or have another idea for an after school club, then

please contact the school on 791246 or email admin.northwalls@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Sad Farewells

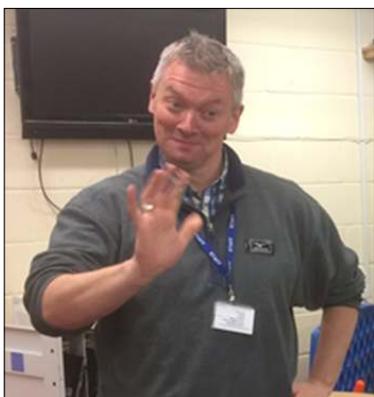
It was with a very heavy heart that we said goodbye to Dawn Clark, our maternity cover clerical assistant, this term. Dawn showed great commitment and support to North Walls during her time with us and we would all like to take this opportunity to thank her for this and to wish her and her family all the best with the safe arrival of their new baby.

We would also like to take this opportunity to officially welcome back Sarah Firth after her maternity leave. Welcome back Sarah from us all... my office pen stealing days are over! ;)



There has also been many a tear shed over the last couple of weeks as

we have prepared to say goodbye to our wonderful Mr Stout. Cameron has been a class teacher at North Walls for eight years and his daily presence will be greatly missed by all. Kind donations from staff and parents helped buy him some gifts. The boys and girls also created a fantastic framed thank you picture and memories book to help remind him of all the happy times he has had at North Walls. We hope that Cameron will come back to see us very often in his supply teacher role and as a dear friend of North Walls.



Merry Christmas Everyone!



Christmas festivities took off with a very loud bang at North Walls as the boys and girls and members of the Haey Hope club pulled their crackers in excitement of the great shared Christmas dinner to come and buey, were we in for a treat! Karen, our wonderful school cook, worked hard to bring together the most delicious Christmas dinner with the support of her team, Christine and Alice. I'm sure I speak for us all when we say a special thank you to Karen and her team for helping to make this a truly special (and delicious) event. The boys and girls also took this opportunity to say a belated thank you and goodbye to Christine who retired earlier this year. Christine, thank you from us all for all your support and we wish you all the very best in all your future

adventures.

NORTH WALLS SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED



No, the picture above is not the Blackpool illuminations; it is North Walls Community school! Grace, our fantastic janitor, decided to surprise our boys and girls as they arrived for their Christmas concert by organising an amazing light display. Thank you Grace for taking the time to do this and thank you to all the staff at North Walls for making these events so special, our boys and girls are so very lucky to have such thoughtful and caring members of staff.

Our Christmas concert, 'Christmas around the World', was a great success. Lots of people commented on the happy, warm and supportive atmosphere at the concert and the outstanding talents of our boys and girls. The concert began with a warm welcome from Hannah Illingworth and this was followed by an outstanding Christmas Medley performance by our nursery children, Adi, Brooke, Anna, Nathan, Jacob and Lexi. I am sure all the parents of our nursery children will join me in thanking Liz and Claire for the great learning and support that helped make this such a memorable performance.



Next on stage was Connor Thomson, Connor read part 1 of the Orkney Nativity and this was followed by our song from North America, 'Cowboy Christmas'. Our cowboys, Alex, Zach, Hannah, Craig, Neve and Maisy looked amazing and they all done a fantastic job helping all the boys and girls with their line dance. Craig Morris followed this with his reading of part 2 of the Orkney Nativity and this was followed by our French song, 'Petit Papa Noel'. Hamish Cannon began this song with a beautiful solo followed by an instrumental by our fiddlers, Connor, Janet, Lora, Nuala, Hannah and Maisy. The final part of the song was sung beautifully by all the boys and girls.



Zach Rhodes then went on to read part 3 of the Orkney Nativity and this was followed by our African song, 'Betelehemu'.

Our Africans, Ruby, Stefany, Nuala, Frankie and our African King, Joseph, did a wonderful job helping all the boys and girls perform this tradition African harmony song.



NORTH WALLS SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED



Lachlan Macisaac read the final part of the Orkney Nativity story and this was followed by our song from Antarctica, 'Here Comes the Snow'.

Our snowflakes, Amy, Lora, Ruby, Janet, Gracie and Hannah, sang and danced as sparkly as they looked.

The boys and girls then went on to sing the Maori version of 'Silent Night'. Our Maori boys, Corwen, William, Finn, Connor, Bruno and Edgar, may have looked authentically fearsome but I'm sure if you had the privilege of hearing them on the night, you will agree that they sang like angels. Following all these fantastic performances came two very special songs. Before the concert, the boys and girls asked the Haey Hope Club for their Christmas memories and they then worked with the very talented Sue



Whitworth and Fran Gray to turn these memories into songs. The result was a very special rendition of 'The 12 days of Christmas' and an equally touching rendition of the song, 'Magic Moments'.

The boys and girls were accompanied by the fantas-

tically talented Hoykuleles who helped them make these songs truly special. Therefore, we would like to extend a very special thank you to Sue, Fran and all the members of the Hoykuleles for giving us your time, your support and for sharing your incredible talents.

We ended our concert with a very special rendition of 'White Christmas' in sign language. Thank you to Barbara Balcombe, our hearing support teacher, for helping us find this wonderful version and thank you to Maisy for leading the solo and to Alex for leading the signing.

Hannah Illingworth ended our concert with special thanks to all the people and pupils that helped make this a truly wonderful night.

Finally we would like to reiterate our thanks to the Haey Hope Club for sharing their wonderful Christmas memories, to Jean Gillespie for giving us the Orkney Nativity, to our wonderful community for coming along and supporting us, to Sue, Fran and the Hoykuleles for their time and talent and finally, to the amazing teachers and support staff of North Walls for helping to bring this special event together. Thank you Mrs Shearer, Mrs Allan, Mrs Linklater, Ms. MacMillan, Liz, Claire, Olivia, Mrs Groat, Mr Stout, Grace, Isabelle, Sarah, Lorraine and Karen.

Shirley Stuart

KELP FOREST SCHOOL IN HOY AND WALLS—KELPIES

Children and their parents/carers are invited to join Friday afternoon kelp forest school. We meet at a different location each week: such as the Rackwick bothy, Lyrawa plantation, and Millbay, Lyness.

We are now looking for suitable locations in the south and would welcome suggestions of places children can explore on a beach or in woodland. Ideally our southern locations would include a small shelter (outbuilding or hut), perhaps something that could one

day become the Rackwick bothy of South Walls, with a bit of help.

Any ideas please speak to Ron, Sandra or Alice or email: alicealbinia@gmail.com



NOTES FROM OUR RSPB WARDEN

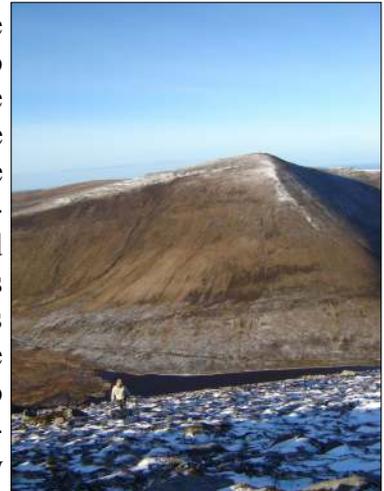


The glorious quality of low winter light makes this a wonderful time to enjoy walking my set routes over the hilltops to count mountain hares. This annual survey gives us a good idea of how the numbers have changed over the years and I have been pleased to see that the numbers recorded this year were typical, with 120 counted.

Although conditions can be bracing, the glorious autumnal shades more than compensate. There are blazing orange tones from bracken set off against lime coloured sphagnum mosses. I was struck by the shades of red and green this week, like nature's own Christmas decorations.

Thank you to everyone who came along to my presentation on what has been happening on the

Hoy nature reserve this year and to those who came along to try all the fun activities at the open day, the following day. We had fun making fat balls for the garden birds and some nature inspired crafts to take home and enjoy. It was a busy but enjoyable couple of days and I hope to offer another open day in the spring.



In the meantime, don't miss your chance to take part in the community consultation and find out the latest news about stoats on the island. Join us at the Gable End Theatre between **2-7pm** on **Friday 12 January**. There will be experts on hand; kid's activities and **an illustrated talk at 8pm**.

Lee Shields

THE ORKNEY NATIVE WILDLIFE PROJECT

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project has launched a community consultation to gather the thoughts and ideas of Orkney's residents and invite people to give their views on a range of proposed opportunities for people to engage with the project. Amy King, the Project Development Officer, hopes the consultation will also encourage Orcadians to find out more about the project and why Orkney's incredible native wildlife needs protecting.

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project is a partnership between Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and RSPB Scotland, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to ensure that Orkney's native wildlife is protected from the impact of invasive non-native stoats and continues to provide benefits for the islands' residents, visitors and economy.

Stoats pose a significant threat to many of Orkney's native species, including the hen harrier, short-eared owl and the unique Orkney vole. Development funding of £64,600 was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help the partnership progress plans for an ambitious stoat eradication project before applying for a full grant of more than £3 million in early 2018.

To find out more about the project, get in touch with Amy King on 01856 886 161 or amy.king@snh.gov.uk. The consultation runs until February 2018 and the questionnaire is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C8662JK> as well as at various locations across Orkney. See above for details of the consultation on Hoy on 12th January.

RNLI LONGHOPE STATION

It is with great sadness that we lost Matthew and Michael, both very loyal and valuable members of the lifeboat crew.

Also unhappily Cathy Clark recently passed away. She was a dedicated and long serving member of the lifeboat guild and will be greatly missed.

RIP

We will carry their memory in our hearts.

A busy few months for the lifeboat crew with 13 call outs so far this year and various other activities going on.



20 August

Longhope Lifeboat and our vintage lifeboat the Thomas McCunn were part of an impressive convoy to enter Stromness to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Stromness Lifeboat. With RNLI Stromness and Thurso lifeboats plus the Orkney Towage tug Harald in full firefighting flow, and various other vessels, it was a spectacular sight for the large crowd waiting ashore.

13 September

SHOUT: Longhope lifeboat crew were paged at 19.45hrs by UK Coastguard to answer a Mayday call. They were underway seven minutes later to a vessel in distress at the north side of the uninhabited island of Hunda, off the shore of Burray. Two persons were aboard the 8metre boat Peerie Yin which had suffered engine failure. The anchor

had been dropped but unfortunately the line broke and the anchor was lost. As the lifeboat approached they could see that the stricken vessel was beam onto the shore and minutes away from suffering damage from the rocks. Manoeuvring in shallow waters with moderate sea conditions and a northerly wind the lifeboat managed to establish a tow and bring the vessel into deeper waters. They then towed the vessel to Flotta and brought it safely alongside the pier. The lifeboat returned to station at 22.10hrs, refuelled and made ready again for service.

18 September

Today the station had a very special visit from Charlie Hepburn with an incredible donation to RNLI Longhope of £1200. Sadly Charlie's wife Kathleen, nee Stout, died suddenly a few weeks ago while they were on holiday in Orkney. Kathleen was born in Longhope and it was her home for many years so at her funeral her family asked that any donations be made to the Longhope lifeboat. It was such a pleasure to meet Charlie and his lovely grandchildren, Daisy and Campbell, his late wife's sister Elizabeth with her husband Ian and show them around our lifeboat. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see young Campbell, in future years, as a volunteer crew member on a lifeboat somewhere around our shores. We hope that they will visit again and we would like to thank everyone very much for their extremely generous donations. Rest in Peace Kathleen.

23 September

Longhope lifeboat station recently had the great pleasure of spending a few hours with children and their families from the Orkney Deaf Children's Society. First port of call was our lifeboat museum at Brims before coming along to the station to meet some of the crew. It was during this time that a parent asked: 'What should we do if we fall into the sea'? Our Coxswain Kevin Kirkpatrick took time to carefully explain the dangers and safety procedures to follow when near, or in water and each family were grateful to receive some children's visual aids, a pamphlet and promotional items from the Respect

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RNLI UPDATE



the Water campaign. With lifejackets safely donned the group were then shown around our lifeboat. The children were particularly excited and seemed to really enjoy being inside the boat and having a go at sitting in the Coxswain's seat, while looking very knowledgeable at all the computer screens and finally trying on the headphones. One of the aims of this very valuable society is to raise awareness in order to reduce vulnerability and feelings of isolation. Maybe through excursions like this we can contribute in some small way towards this aim and it seems to me that the society is doing a sterling job. We thoroughly enjoyed their visit and we would like to thank everyone involved and hope we can build on this friendship and that they will all come to Longhope again.

6 October

SHOUT: RNLI Longhope lifeboat was requested to launch at 16.34hrs by UK Coastguard following a report of a diver getting into difficulties and failing to surface whilst diving on a wreck 1nm NE of Cava Lighthouse. The crew were tasked to join a search and rescue operation in Scapa Flow with Stromness and Kirkwall Coastguard Rescue Teams, the UK Coastguard SAR helicopter and other dive boats in the vicinity.

Once the casualty was located and then recovered by Longhope lifeboat, a paramedic from the UK Coastguard helicopter was winched onto the lifeboat to assess the diver's condition. The casualty was then taken to Stromness. The lifeboat then returned to station at 8.50pm, refuelled and was ready again for service.

Amazing total of £3576.52 raised for the RNLI by Longhope Lifeboat Guild.

RNLI Longhope lifeboat guild and crew members are stunned by the fantastic response and generosity of all who supported the RNLI through the recent Bazaar held in Longhope and our 'Travelling Bazaars' to Graemsay and Flotta. A very impressive total of £3576.52 was raised at the three events for our charity which depends on support like this to help meet the cost of saving lives at sea. The shops, businesses and people of Orkney have once again been outstanding in their wonderful donations of raffle prizes and we can't thank them enough for their good will and loyalty.



Although the weather was rather unpleasant to say the least, folk left the comfort of their homes and came out to attend the bazaars and we are so grateful for their encouragement, commitment and generosity.

The communities of our scattered islands maybe small but what a great bunch of people they contain. Our RNLI wouldn't exist without this charitable input from the people... what with the cost of all the crew training, the well maintained equipment from welly boots to boats and the shore facilities. Every penny helps bring our volunteer lifeboat crews home safely from the sea and back to their families and loved ones.....we sincerely thank you all.

Text and Photos: Mary Harris

LAUNCH OF ACTIVE ISLANDS SCHEME IN OCTOBER



Back in October, the North Walls Healthy Living Centre and Northwalls Centre held an open day to help launch the Active Islands Scheme. Residents of Hoy and Walls were given the opportunity to try out some of the facilities for free and there were various activities on offer. It was a fun afternoon with lots of people taking part. Members of the North Walls Centre Committee provided the refreshments.

The Active Islands scheme means that folk living on Hoy can now benefit from a new membership option under Orkney's ActiveLife initiative.

Launched on 14th October, Active Islands gives islanders access to gym facilities and fitness classes on their specific island for £12.50 a month or £17.50 for a family. Budget memberships are also available at a cost of 50p per activity.



Islanders will still have the option to take out a full Active Life membership, giving them access to a full range of facilities across Orkney at a monthly cost of £19.50 for an individual or £29.50 for a family.

If you didn't make it to the open day and would like any information on the Healthy Living Centre and Active Islands please feel free to contact Laura 701265 or Trish 401498.

The Healthy Living Centre will be closed from Monday 25 December till Sunday 7 January. Sessions will resume on Monday 8 January. The buddy system will be available during this time.



Why not join up and get rid of all that Christmas excess!

GABLE END THEATRE—FILM
PROGRAMME 2018

All performances start at 8pm, unless otherwise stated

13 January: DUNKIRK (15)

May/June 1940. 400,000 British soldiers are holed up in the French port town of Dunkirk. This is that story, seen through the eyes of a soldier amongst those trapped forces, two RAF fighter pilots and a group of civilians on their boat, part of the evacuation fleet. Directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Tom Hardy and Mark Rylance.

27 January : LOST IN PARIS (12A)

Fiona is a small-town Canadian librarian. When her orderly life is disrupted by a letter of distress from her 88-year-old Aunt Martha who is living in Paris, Fiona hops on the first plane she can and arrives only to discover that Martha has disappeared. In an avalanche of spectacular disasters, she encounters Dom the affable, but annoying tramp who just won't leave her alone. Lost in Paris is a wondrously fun and hectic tale of peculiar people finding love while lost in the City of Lights.

10 February: THE BIG SICK (15)

Don't be put off by the awful title. This romcom tells the story of the cross-cultural romance between Pakistan-born aspiring comedian Kumail and graduate student Emily, a romance which is at odds with Kumail's parents' plans to find him a suitable Muslim bride. When Emily is stricken with a mystery illness, Kumail has to negotiate the crisis with her parents, who he's never met, while dealing with the emotional tug-of-war between his family and his heart.

24 February: IN BETWEEN (15)

In Between follows the lives of three strong, independent minded Israeli-Palestinian women sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv. Away from the constraints of their families and enforced tradition, they find themselves 'in between' the free and unfettered lives they're aspiring to lead and the restrictions still imposed on them by a blinkered society

10 March: MY COUSIN RACHEL (12A)

From the 1951 novel by Daphne du Maurier. A young Englishman plots revenge against his late cousin's mysterious, beautiful widow believing her responsible for his death. But his feelings become complicated as he finds himself falling under the beguiling spell of her charms. A gothic melodrama with wonderful Cornish scenery.

24 March: LOVING VINCENT (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. A unique and beautiful film which I saw in Kirkwall and highly recommend.

14 April: MAUDIE (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.

28 April: DEATH OF STALIN (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).

If you would like to receive alerts for events or films, please email gable.end.theatre@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

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	0930-1100 approx	
Tuesday		1400—15.30	0930-1100 approx	
Wednesday	0900-1200**	1300 - 14.30	0930-1100 approx	**blood clinic
Thursday	0900-1030		0930-1100 approx	
Friday	0900-1030 [†]	1745-1900	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.



Find out more about The Island of Hoy Development Trust!

If you wish to get more information about the Trust to find out, for example, what's happening on Hoy and Walls that the Trust is involved in, how you can engage and contribute, and how you may be able to get support from us, then please get in touch with us on 701356 or email info.iohdt@gmail.com and subscribe to our mailing list.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

If anybody, child or adult, would like to try out doing some creative writing, or has a writing project they would like to work on, please let me know and I could put on a trial workshop in the new year. Workshops work well run weekly in blocks of six or eight, 1.5 hours each, with a different writing exercise each week, followed by group discussions, one on one editing, and at least a third of the time left for writing. But the model is adaptable.

Any questions please email alicealbinia@gmail.com



WWW.HOYORKNEY.COM

Registered in Scotland as a charity
(SC038909)

Company Limited by guarantee
(SC306586)
Registered Office: 8 Albert Street,
Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HP

Date: 28th February 2018
Time: 8 pm (TBC)
Venue: North Walls Centre



Island of Hoy Development Trust AGM

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 AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2017



August

Total rainfall for month
86.5mm
Highest rainfall in 24hrs.
17.5mm on 2nd.

Highest max. temp. 19.4c on 18th.
Lowest max. temp. 14.5c on 20th.
Ave. max. temp. 16.4c
Lowest min. temp. 5.4c on 20th.
Highest min. temp. 13.7c on 27th.
Ave. min. temp. 10.8c
Ave. temp. for August 13.6c

September

Total rainfall for month 124.2mm
Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 27.4mm on 10th.
Highest max. temp. 17.0c on 5th.
Lowest max. temp. 12.4 on 15th.
Ave. max. temp. 14.7c
Lowest min. temp. 4.1c on 21st.
Highest min. temp. 13.4c on 25th.
Ave. min. temp. 9.9c
Ave. temp. for Sept. 12.3c.

October

Total rainfall for month 160.9mm
Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 21.5 on 16th.
Highest max. temp. 16.6c on 15th.
Lowest max. temp. on 8.9c on 29th.
Ave. max. temp. 13.0c
Lowest min. temp. 3.7c on 29th.
Highest min. temp. 12.0c on 31st.
Ave. min. temp. 8.6c.
Ave. temp. for Oct. 10.8c.

November

Total rainfall for month 245.7mm
Not the wettest Nov. I've recorded that was 263.6mm
in 1996.
Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 52.8mm on 21st.
Highest max. temp. 12.2c on 8th.
Lowest max. temp. 6.1c on 30th.
Ave. max. temp. 8.3c.
Lowest min. temp. 0.2c on 23rd.
Highest min. temp. 7.0c on 2nd.
Ave. min. temp. 3.9c
Ave. temp. for November 6.1c

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 (December) must be submitted by 8th February 2018