

THE BLETHER

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

ISSUE 33 JUNE 2017

THE CRUISE SHIP 'BERLIN' VISITS LYNNESS



Photo: Jamie Wild

On Monday, 5th June, the Berlin docked at Lynness after setting sail from Leith the previous day. She had been chartered by the National Trust for Scotland for a cultural cruise called 'Northern Delights'.

A wide variety of buses and mini-buses awaited the passengers and whisked them off to various locations around the islands. There was a diverse selection of tours available including a hike to the Old Man of Hoy, St John's Head and the RSPB Nature Reserve, a Lifeboat themed excursion, a trip to Melsetter House and a visit to the Scapa Flow Interpretation Centre.

Some of the passengers then enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea and cakes at The Shore in the YM

provided by the Lifeboat Guild, with music from local performers.

Leaving Lynness proved slightly more tricky than arriving and the Berlin, scheduled to leave at midnight, finally left Lynness at 4 am in the morning with a little help from tugs; fortunately she was only going as far as Kirkwall.

After a day in Kirkwall, and tours of well-known sites on the mainland, she was sailing to St Kilda, then Shetland, before returning to Leith via Peterhead.

By all accounts, the passengers enjoyed their time on Hoy and Walls, so we may be in for another visit next year!

More details of the Longhope Lifeboat crew and Guild involvement, can be found on page 5.

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

The June issue includes news and updates from around the islands.

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-third 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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RACKWICK WEATHER MAN

Jeff has always sent us his monthly weather records since the Blether began. When I read this piece by Rebecca Marr from the Friends of the Hoy Kirk I thought it would be great to share this further. It's a good reminder of the amazing and talented community we have on Hoy.

Jeff Clark recorded a high of 26.1 in Rackwick, Hoy, on Friday and 25.6 on Saturday, 26 and 27th May. That makes Friday 26 May the hottest day in May on record for Rackwick.

The Rackwick Weather Station has been recording since 1983 when Jeff sent his observations in to the Met Office. On his retirement from the job they left him the technology so the Rackwick Weather Station still exists off grid and Jeff and his wife Avril still make daily observations. The records can be viewed at Hoy Kirk heritage centre where Jeff keeps them updated.

Jeff Clark has had an interest in meteorology since he was a teenager working on a farm in his home county of Surrey. It was only in the 1970s when he moved with his wife Avril and their family to Rackwick, Hoy, that he had the chance to turn a hobby into something more substantial.

While on coastguard callout the conversation turned



to the weather and the district officer suggested that Rackwick would be an ideal location for a weather station.

The idea lodged in Jeff's mind and a few weeks later he wrote to the Met Office at Kirkwall Airport asking if they would be interested in weather observations from Rackwick. Shortly after a letter from the head office in Bracknell arrived saying they were interested in the proposal, subject to an inspection of the site. This was in 1983. The inspection was done and everything was fine but there was one snag. There was no telephone line to Jeff's house and the cost of BT bringing a new line through the valley was too high. Jeff

agreed to use the call box in the hope that things would change in the not too distant future. Kirkwall Met Office would call Jeff at the telephone box at the observation times. In unforeseen circumstances a line was eventually brought to the house. A big hill fire in 1984 destroyed a lot of the existing telephone line, BT then decided to put the line underground and Jeff got a phone line.

In 1993 the Met Office installed a computer and modem to transmit observations directly to parent stations around the country - another snag! The line could only deal with spoken signals and not modem traffic. It was some time before the line could be improved.

A day consisted of eight observations, starting at 06:00, then 07:00, 08:00, 09:00, 15:00, 18:00 and 21:00 - all times G.M.T throughout the year. An observation involved observing amounts of cloud cover, types of cloud and height, reading air temperature and wet bulb temperature (the difference between the two giving humidity and water vapour levels), wind speed and direction, visibility and any present or past weather conditions. At 09:00 a National Climatological Message was sent giving the maximum and minimum temperature, rainfall and any significant weather of the past twenty-four hours.

In 2008 all manned observation stations were closed and the network became totally automatic; the human eye was redundant. However, Jeff still collects daily rainfall amounts and sends the monthly figures to Edinburgh.

Last word to Jeff: 'During this time I was ably assisted by my wife, Avril, and we also enjoyed several visits to the Met Office College at Shinfield in Berkshire to attend courses to keep us up to date with developments. We also met many interesting people there including meteorologists from all round the world. As a retirement gift we were presented with a beautiful short & Mason barograph made in 1941, which I'm sure has its own interesting history'.

Text by Rebecca Marr

Photograph of Jeff and Avril take by Fionn Macarthur.

31ST HOY HALF MARATHON



Well, I'm really not sure where this year is going! Already, another Hoy Half Marathon has been and gone, with the usual band of volunteers producing an event, seemingly out of nowhere.

Marathon day dawned rather warm and sticky, but by the time the runners left a nice breeze had developed, although conditions were still quite warm (for a change!).

Fifty fun runners (including a couple of bikes and a few turbo-charged push

chairs!) set off on the 5 k fun run, whilst 157 people tackled the more serious challenge of the Hoy Half itself, with its amazing views and challenging hills.

Tim Ross won the event in a time of 1.18:20, with Craig Mattocks in second in 1.28:00. In the womens' race, Kate Jenkins was first in a time of 1.41:51 with Emma Cowsell in second in 1.46:02.

The winner of the fun run was Finn Aberdeen.

Congratulations are also due to our local runners who did fantastically well—Dawn, Laura, Naomi, Matt, Kevin and Lindsay.

UPDATE FROM THE HOY DANCERS

June 2017

The Hoy Dancers 2016/17 session ended on a high note with a relaxed social evening on 1st May - it was good to see so many folk there enjoying this Monday 'special'.

Just a few weeks before we held the 'Final Fringe' which went off really well – 72 people joined us by coming over on the Hoy Head which was, once again, just newly back from refit. The weather-forecast was awful in the lead up so I was on tender-hooks for a few days incase everything went pear-shaped – there is a first time for everything! The day dawned, not as bad as thought and everything went to plan.

A super fun workshop was delivered by Lorna and myself. We wove the day with dances that Jessie had written through the years for Hoy and I added a Tony Trickett flavour by teaching the dance I wrote for him called 'Tony's Trauma'. Some of these dances were enjoyed over again at the evening dance to the music by the David Bowen Trio.

The whole day went like clockwork thanks to the superb team-work by dancers, family members and friends. It was with a little sadness mixed with pride that I watched the last 'duff run' leave Longhope Pier, a little ahead of schedule, on a bonnie night. 12 years is quite an achievement to keep an event of this magnitude going on a peedie island. Well done Hoy Dancers!

The future: We will begin our regular Monday dancing in the YM on the first Monday in September and this year I am also offering a trial 5 weeks of afternoon dancing starting from Wednesday 20th September. We need to have 8+ people for these sessions to be viable.

Hoy Reels and Jigs: We have had one very successful dancing evening in Hoy Kirk. Sadly only four dancers came from the Mainland but we had lots of visitors making it a super evening. The next one is on **14th July 6.40 until 9.30pm** with the final one planned for 25th August.

Mabel j Besant
For Hoy Dancers

COUNCIL COMMENT



Up and Running

The dust has started to settle as the new council gets ready for the next five years. Since Election Day, which the Stromness and South Isles councillors didn't really feel part of, there's been a substantial amount of jockeying for positions with 'behind the scenes' debate and discussion.

Where has it left James, Magnus and I? It's been well documented that James was successful in his bid to be elected Leader of the new council but what does that really mean, and in particular how does it affect his constituents.

From a functional point of view, James is now on every substantive committee at School Place and also chairs the Policy and Resources committee, involving all 21 councillors. He potentially chairs numerous sub committees but may elect to defer to his deputy, Cllr Leslie Manson, to spread the responsibility. Fortunately for us all, James has a strong focus on 'locality' and, although he now has a 'political' responsibility for Orkney, his heart is firmly in the community and, I am sure, will respond as appropriate to any contact made by any constituent.

To spread the work load, and help as best we can, Magnus and I have opted to split committees as far as possible. I was successful in my bid to be elected chair of the Education, Leisure and Housing committee and Magnus joined the Development and Infrastructure committee. We both 'signed up' to the Planning committee, whilst I joined the Licensing committee and Magnus is now on the Police & Fire Board and the Board of Orkney Ferries (both of which have a very real significance to the South Isles).

There are numerous 'sub-committees' that we are both on and our diaries are far from empty. It has been much the same since the election. The electorate should be reassured that there has been intensive training sessions since the election, for **all** councillors, covering topics as diverse as Corporate Parenting, Pension Invest-

ment, How the Council Works and the relationship between OIC and Community Council's. These sessions often lasted all day – certainly leaving the new councillors under no illusion as to challenges that lay ahead.

Although the chairs of the substantive committees: Policy and Resources; Education, Leisure and Housing and Development and Infrastructure have been decided we still don't know who is going to chair Orkney Ferries, the Police and Fire Board or the Licensing committee. Watch this space, still some interesting times ahead!

James, Magnus and myself direct contact details are as per the OIC website but include:

James.Stockan@orkney.gov.uk

Magnus.Thomson@orkney.gov.uk

Rob.Crichton@orkney.gov.uk

Our mobile phones may well be switched off during the day as we don't want to intrude on meetings but please leave a message on our voice mails or contact us outside potential meeting times i.e. 10.30 am – 4 pm.

Rob Crichton

Photo taken from OIC Updates facebook page



IOHDT UPDATES ON FUNDS AVAILABLE

If you've signed up to get updates from the Trust you'll already have seen by now the newsletters that have been published from our office regarding the Training and Learning Fund and the new Event Support Fund.

If you haven't seen these, they provide detailed information about what the funds can be used for, who can apply for them, and how much grant you can apply for.

There are three aspects of the Training and Learning Fund.

The first is the Individual Training and Learning Fund which is intended for use by individuals aged 16 and over, and has been well used to date for a variety of courses and activities. So far, we have received and approved 70 applications for funding in this category, with a combined total of £17,496.39 paid out across the two established aspects of the Training and Learning Fund, with many of the applicants applying for additional funding for other activities or courses either within the same year, or in subsequent years up to their personal allowance of £500 per year.

The second is the Group Training and Learning Fund which has been more recently introduced and is intended for use by any group, constituted or not, for a variety of courses and activities to pursue their joint interests.

The third aspect is new Under 16's Training and Learning Fund. Has your child been considering sports lessons at the Pickaquoy Centre on mainland? Perhaps your child would like to attend football, or

dance classes on a Saturday morning, and you can't get to them without an overnight stay?

We could support you, not only with the cost of the lessons, but where it is proven that undertaking certain activities or courses will result in unavoidable travel costs, and/or unavoidable overnight accommodation costs, applicants may apply for funding towards these areas too.

Another fund that has recently been launched is the Event Support fund which is available to group applications for funding towards holding events for charitable purposes and community benefits.

You could receive support from us if the outcome of your event leads to fund raising for charities, either in Orkney or further afield, and/or community benefits on or around Hoy. Whilst the funding is not available towards the cost of the acts themselves, support could be available towards the travel and accommodation of acts for events up to the value of £500 per act. The main purpose of this is to give islanders a level playing field to that of mainlanders when it comes to raising funds

For more details of the funds and how to apply, links to the various newsletters can be found on our website www.hoyorkney.com/category/newsletter.

See details below if you'd like to sign up to the mailing list, become a member of the Trust or just find out more.



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.

RNLI LONGHOPE STATION

It's been a busy two months for RNLI Longhope, with four call outs for the crew members and various events for the Guild.

27 April

At 06.22, RNLI Longhope lifeboat crew were paged to launch by UK Coastguard. Despite the early hour the lifeboat was away within 13 minutes. It took over an hour to reach the stricken vessel which was located about seven miles east of Orkney. Sea conditions were poor and deteriorating with a heavy swell and northerly winds gusting 28mph.

The 10 metre yacht *Cloud Nine* was on passage from Inverness to Kirkwall and had become disabled by partially jammed steering. She carried four crew members and unfortunately one had become unwell in the rough seas. The lifeboat established a tow and headed to the more sheltered waters off Copinsay.

After a tow of four hours the lifeboat delivered the yacht safely to Kirkwall Marina, then headed home and was back at station, refuelled and ready again for service at 15.45.

30 April

The crew were paged at 12.30 and requested to launch by UK Coastguard. An inflatable liferaft with no persons onboard had been reported drifting in the Pentland Firth, south-west of Hoy. The 25 man liferaft had been lost yesterday from the Papa Westray ferry, *Golden Mariana*, as she returned from refit at Inverness. Once located, the crew members had a tricky job of securing the raft to the lifeboat as there were no fittings with which to attach a rope. However, with some ingenious rope work, the crew managed to lasso the liferaft and wedge part of it onto the transom at the stern.

The seas were moderate with a cold south-easterly wind gusting 30knts and visibility was good. Progress back to Hoy was slow due to the strong tides and vulnerability of the liferaft but eventually the more sheltered waters of Aith Hope were reached. Once close inshore the liferaft was released and the wind blew it ashore where the Hoy Coastguards were waiting to retrieve it. An unusual call out but a great example of problem solving and teamwork from the crew.

3 May

RNLI Longhope, Thurso and Stromness lifeboats, along with two UK Coastguard SAR helicopters and various other vessels, carried out an intensive search after a diver was reported missing at 17.27. After returning to station at 23.10 and refuelling, the lifeboats returned to the search

area to continue looking. The diver was found at 3.10 by a Russian sailing vessel and transferred to Thurso lifeboat. Although safe and well, he was then taken to Caithness General Hospital as a precaution.

7 May



Yellow Welly Day

Longhope Lifeboat Guild raised £420.70 for the RNLI. We would like to thank everyone who came down to the station to support us and for your continual generosity.

Also a special thank you to the children of North Walls School for the fantastic art work which is now hanging up and looking very cheerful in the lifeboat station.

Finally well done to the kids who came down and totally drenched the crew.... particularly aiming at Ian who bravely faced the torrent without his waterproofs and in shorts. Very amusing when the sponges were swapped for buckets of water and the hose... oh what fun we had!



21 May

The crew were paged by UK Coastguards at 20.33 on Sunday 21 May. They were requested to attend the 16m fishing vessel *FV Kemarvin* that had lost power and was drifting off Duncansby Head.

The lifeboat arrived on scene at 21.02 and quickly established a tow. The fishing vessel with three crew onboard was then towed safely into Scrabster harbour. Weather conditions were good and the tides ideal for the rescue which went smoothly.

RNLI LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT STATION

The lifeboat returned to station, was refuelled and ready again for service at 02.00.



Photo: Karen Munro

5th June

RNLI Longhope entertain passengers from cruise ship and raise £503.75

It was a rather daunting request that Longhope Lifeboat Guild received from the tour managers of *MS Berlin* cruise ship. Would it be possible to provide afternoon tea and home baked cakes for visiting passengers?

Initially the guild were rather surprised and a few eyebrows were raised. That's a lot of cakes and we are only a small community and have a limited supply of bakers. However, the one thing to get our guild fired up and ready to go is a challenge. To raise funds for the RNLI is what it's all about and so sleeves were rolled up and the pinnies duly donned. What was really remarkable was the help received from other folk in our community who backed us up and whose incredible baking was an absolute godsend.

The rather splendid 139m cruise ship berthed at Lyness and the passengers were taken off in buses to have various tours about Hoy and Walls. The Lifeboat orientated tour was led by local tour operator Steve Rhodes and Coxswain Kevin Kirpatrick. On the itinerary was the Lifeboat Museum at Brims, the Lifeboat Disaster Memorial, views and discussion of the Pentland Firth and a tour of the lifeboat station while the nature enthusiasts had a guided walk along the back shore.

When the tours finished, the guests, which had been divided into two groups, arrived at The Shore with a 15 minute break between groups in which the guild prepared for the next sitting. The members of the guild worked away happily like a well oiled machine and the event went smoothly and successfully.

But the icing on the cakes were the local musicians who entertained the visitors during their stay. Fran Gray and The Hoykuleles captivated their audience with their very original and excellent renditions. The guests were truly impressed and some happily joined in with the singing. John Budge, on accordion, sang some favourite Orkney songs including a poignant lifeboat themed song.

As the cruise liner sailed away into the distance, the remaining cakes were quickly boxed up and whisked down to the lifeboat shop where they were eagerly bought by generous local folk.

With donations from the cruise liner company and passengers, the sale of souvenirs and the remaining cakes we



raised a total of £503.75 for the RNLI. A magnificent effort by all concerned and the guild would like to say a very special thank you to the bakers and musicians for their wonderful support.

Swimming Gala

Finally it should be mentioned that, although our school was not involved, the Longhope Lifeboat Swimming Gala is held every year in Kirkwall. The event was originally started over twenty years ago when swimming pools were introduced to the schools on the islands of Westray, Sanday, Stronsay and North Walls (Hoy).

The event was conceived and a trophy donated by the late John 'Jackie' Groat who was Britain's longest-serving lifeboat Honorary Secretary in recent times and he had filled this volunteer position at Longhope for almost 33 years.

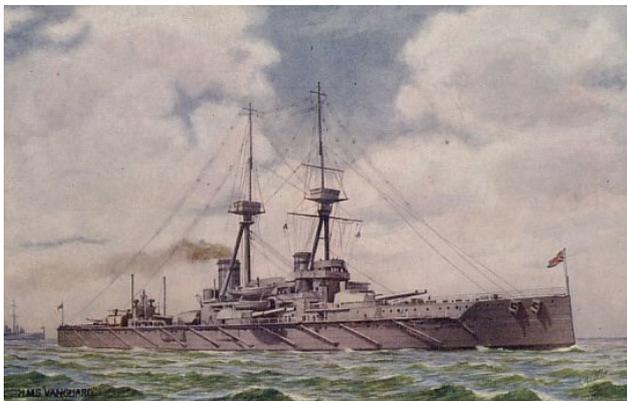
This year, as representative of Longhope lifeboat, Second Coxswain Angus Budge, attended the very exciting event and was honoured to present the trophies to the winning teams. It is events like this and the dedication of the swimming teachers and lifeguards of the isles that help promote essential swimming skills and safety in the water for the children of Orkney.

Next event is the **Lifeboat Open Day** on Sunday 30 July at 2pm.

Text and Photos Mary Harris, unless stated otherwise.

COMMEMORATIONS TO MARK THE LOSS OF HMS VANGUARD

Taken from OIC news webpage



Postcard of the Vanguard circa 1915

Commemorations will be held this summer to mark the huge loss of life when a Royal Navy battleship was blown apart while at anchor at Scapa Flow in Orkney. A series of internal explosions destroyed HMS Vanguard in an instant on the night of 9 July 1917. Just two of the 845 men on board survived. The catastrophic loss of Vanguard, a dreadnought battleship which had seen action at the Battle of Jutland, is one of the most tragic accidents in the history of the Royal Navy. The many hundreds of casualties will be remembered later this year on the centenary of the sinking.

Relatives of some of those who died will be among those taking part in a series of commemorative events on 9 July 2017. These will be preceded by a musical concert in St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall on the evening of 8 July, performed by an ensemble and Corps of Drums from the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines.

On July 9, a wreath laying service involving two modern-day Royal Navy vessels will take place above the wreck of the Vanguard, which lies in 34 metres of water to the north of the island of Flotta. This will be followed by a service of commemoration at the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery in Hoy, where 41 of the ship's crew were buried.

Later in the day there will then be a watch night service at St Magnus Cathedral. Starting at 23:00, it will mark the moment when the ship went down.

"These will be very poignant events," said Brian Archibald, Head of Marine Services, Engineering and Transportation with Orkney Islands Council. "They offer the opportunity to remember the sinking of HMS Vanguard and the terrible loss of life in Scapa Flow on that July day 100 years ago.

"We are very pleased that descendants of men who served aboard the ship will take part in the commemorations. There will be limited space aboard the vessels involved in the laying of wreaths above the wreck, and so priority will be given to relatives who have travelled to Orkney for the occasion.

"Many other people from our community will want play their part in commemorating the loss of the Vanguard and her crew, and all are welcome at the services at Lyness Cemetery and back in the Cathedral on 9 July."

More detailed information about the Vanguard commemorations will be published in the weeks ahead.

On the night of 9 July 1917, Vanguard was anchored in Scapa Flow. At 23:20, and without warning, the entire ship was destroyed in an instant by the on-board explosions.

Just three of the 845 men on board were recovered alive. One later died of his injuries. The survivors were two ratings, Stoker Cox and Royal Marine Private Williams.

At the time of the explosions, 16 of the ship's officers were attending a concert aboard another vessel. Eight ratings had just left Vanguard in a picket boat to collect them and also survived.

Although the exact cause has not been proven, the accepted explanation is that the fire started in a fuel compartment adjacent to an armaments magazine. The intense heat ignited cordite in the magazine, triggering the explosions that blew the ship apart.

The wreck of HMS Vanguard has statutory protection as a designated war grave.

SCAPA FLOW VISITOR CENTRE AND MUSEUM

Museum Development Project

Following a period of intense activity over the winter to prepare our funding bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund it has seemed strange to spend the last few months in limbo. Our submission was made on 3 March and the Board meet to consider the application later this month, so it's not long to wait now..... We'll be able to report back in the next issue of The Blether, so watch this space!

The *Daisy*

After completing their restoration of the racing yole *Skua*, volunteers from Orkney Historic Boat Society have turned their attention to *Daisy*. Formerly owned by Willie Groat, the *Daisy* was built in 1910 by James Nicholson of Flotta, and was used mainly for cod and haddock fishing in the Pentland Firth.

Daisy had spent most of the time since Willie donated her to the museum on display in the Oil Tank, but the poor conditions in the Tank meant

that the boat was in danger of deteriorating and she was moved into the Romney Hut at the end of last season. A few rotten sections of gunwale have been replaced, metal fixings treated and the boat cleaned and repainted. There a few finishing touches still required, but it's lovely to see her looking shipshape once more.

The volunteers are at Lyness most Tuesdays during the summer and are always happy to talk to visitors about current and future projects, or to chat about boats in general.



The original name plates, which have been cleaned, waiting to be re-attached to the hull

Jude Callister



The *Daisy* on display in the Romney Hut

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ARE RECRUITING

The Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council have been asked to forward this information from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

When applying for the role of Firefighter – candidates should:

§ Be eligible to work in the UK and be 18 years of age or over (no upper limit)

§ Live or work within a reasonable proximity of Hoy Fire Station. Contact the Orkney District Office (details below) if more details are required.

§ Be willing to commit to the full recruitment process, including practical selection tests such as confined spaces - full details of these can be found in our Recruitment Information Pack or by contacting the District Office

§ Be willing respond to emergency calls via a pager from home or your place of work at any time of the day or night

§ Have the express permission of your primary employer to become an RDS Firefighter

§ Be committed to providing an important emergency service within your community

§ Be committed to attend a 2-3 hour training session at your local fire station one night per week and be available to attend a two-week training course designed to

provide you with the basic training needed to start your role as an RDS Firefighter. This course will, if there are sufficient numbers, be run exclusively on Orkney.

§ Your ongoing training and development will be provided at your local fire station

As an Equal Opportunities employer, we are striving to ensure that our workforce represents the community in which we work, and as such welcome applications from females as well as male recruits.

Should any females require further information, you can contact the District Office, or contact in confidence one of the following female members of staff who will offer advice and mentoring.

Kirsten.Glue@firescotland.gov.uk

Leona.Gordon@firescotland.gov.uk

Zoe.Flaws@firescotland.gov.uk

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality, including ensuring our recruitment is targeted to all of Scotland's diverse communities. This includes targeting people who may not have previously considered a career in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

District Office 01856 875428.

Paul Edwards | Group Manager | Service Delivery |

Kirkwall-Orkney | Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

T: 01856 875428 | M: 07887825896 | Email:

paul.edwards@firescotland.gov.uk

STROMNESS MUSEUM CLOUD COMPETITION



Now Open! The Stromness Museum Cloud Photography Competition!

It will run for a year until 10 May 2018. Clouds must be above Orkney and captured between now and next May.

Two categories: Adult and 16 & Under. Send your entries (up to 6 per entrant) to cloudcomp@stromnessmuseum.co.uk

Please include your contact details, the category (adult or 16 & under) and if you can, identify your cloud. You might find help at the Cloud Appreciation Society who will be judging the competition.

<https://www.facebook.com/cloudappreciationsociety/>

EVENTS AT THE HOY KIRK

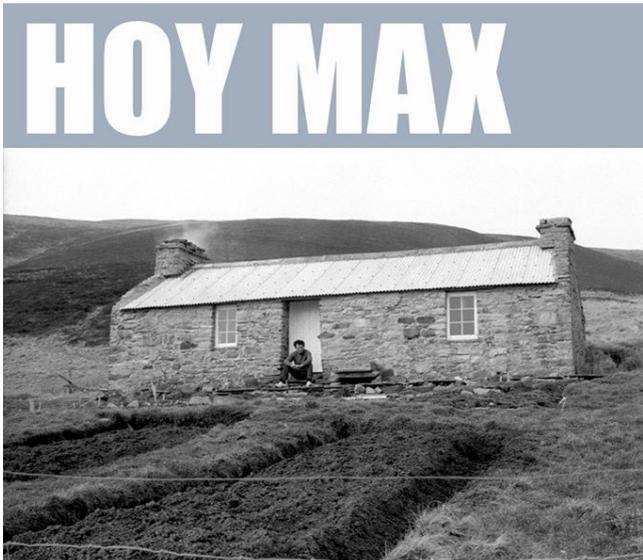
HOY MAX EXHIBITION

12-25 JUNE open 11am-4pm

The exhibition HOY MAX celebrates Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' time living in Rackwick, Hoy. Exploring how the island and its people shaped the composer's life and music, and in turn how Max contributed to this small community.

Included in the exhibition are letters, newspaper clippings, scores, films, photographs and audios. Many of these are donated for the exhibition by his neighbours and friends in Hoy.

Underpinning the exhibition is a series of portraits of Max in Hoy made by his friend the photographic artist Gunnie Moberg.



HOY MAX

An intimate exhibition celebrating Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' time living in Rackwick, Hoy and exploring how the island and its people shaped the composer's life and music, and in turn how Max contributed to this small community. With letters, photographs, scores, films, audios and events.

HOY KIRK
12-25 June
open daily 11-4

Walk with archaeologist Dan Lee SAT 17 JUNE 10am-2pm from Moaness Pier, through the valley, to Max's croft, Bunnertoon in Rackwick. Free. Bring lunch. Lift back to Hoy Kirk and time to see the show before the ferry back.

Orkney Ferries run a daily foot passenger service from Stromness to Moaness, Hoy. Hoy Kirk is 15 mins walk from the pier. Café at Moaness.
www.hoyheritage.co.uk
hoyheritage@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF HOY KIRK
 ORKNEY
 Islands Council
 Reg. Charity No. 50369

HOY KIRK Heritage Centre
 26 May - 10 June & again from 27 June



Seaview: Harry Berry
 An exhibition of photographs from the artist's collection



ST MAGNUS FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE WITH THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE OF SCOTLAND VOICES

TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2pm – 3:15pm

Timothy Dean conducts a programme that includes Peter Maxwell Davies' Lullaby for Lucy with lyrics by George Mackay Brown written to celebrate the birth of Lucy Rendall.

For the concert, as well as Lullaby for Lucy, the mixed programme brings us songs from the British Choral tradition from its earliest examples by Tallis and Sheppard to the more recent music of Britten and Vaughan Williams. Poulenc's Salve Regina written in 1941 adds music from the French tradition to this programme. The Royal Conservatoire Scotland Voices will also include a range of Broadway songs and Spirituals.

Tickets at the door £5 No booking required.

GABLE END THEATRE
PROGRAMME 2017 — SPRING/SUMMER



All performances start at 8pm, unless otherwise stated

JUNE

- Sat 24 **VARIETY PERFORMANCE: KIRKWALL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY** bring their show: 'To Shetland and Beyond - The Year the tide turned'
It tells the story of KAOS's journey with the show CATS, and has songs from loads of musicals including 9 to 5, Les Mis, Cats, Hairspray, Sunshine on Leith and many more.

JULY

- Wed 5 **MUSIC: KILTEARN FIDDLERS**
In the spirit of Hadhirgaan...
Award winning Kiltearn Fiddlers emerged from the Fèis Rois Traditional Fiddle Classes, initiated by Rita Hunter, in 1990. Alpha Munro, the leader of the Kiltearn Fiddlers, formed the performing group to improve their performance skills, expertise and confidence and to promote Scottish Traditional Music in the area.

They have competed and performed at the Highland Festival, Blas Festival and we compete quite often at Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the Inverness Music Festival. Individual performers have played at Celtic Connections, Glasgow and the Cambridge Folk Festival. Abroad the Kiltearn Fiddlers have played at the Festival of Cornouaille, Brittany, been to Roskilde - Denmark, Brideswell Festival, Ireland and Falun Fok Festival, Sweden.
- Sat 15 **FILM: MOONLIGHT** (cert. 15)
The one that did win the Oscar. A timeless story of human self-discovery and connection, Moonlight chronicles the life of a young black man from childhood to adulthood as he struggles to find his place in the world while growing up in a rough neighbourhood of Miami.
- Fri 21 **MUSIC: GNOSS**
A dynamic new four-piece of fiddle, flute, guitar and percussion, that tackle energetic tune sets and driving folk song with a "maturity of ability many of a greater age will envy" (Living Tradition). All current students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Graham Rorie, Aidan Moodie, Connor Sinclair and Gregor Kincaid have been tipped as "ones to watch" (Songlines) for their lively, engaging and honest performances.
- Fri 29 **FILM: TRAINSPOTTING 2** (Cert. 18)
The long awaited sequel to Danny Boyle's classic 90's film, adapted from the novel by Irvine Welsh. After 20 years abroad, Mark Renton returns to Scotland and reunites with his old friends Sick Boy, Spud, and Begbie. Starring Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle and Johnny Lee Miller.

GABLE END THEATRE: CONTINUED



AUGUST

Sat 5

FILM: HIDDEN FIGURES (Cert. PG)

Putting man on the moon is one of humanity's greatest achievements, but the women who played a part in getting him there have gone unsung for too long - and the fact that some of them were African-American is the surprise draw of this inspiring, Oscar-nominated account, which stars Taraji P. Henson, Janelle Monae and Kevin Costner.

Fri 11

MUSIC: BEN MAGGS

Ben recorded his first EP "Let in the Light" in 2011, receiving critical acclaim and winning awards for his then signature song "New York". His new album "Come as you are" draws especially on Ben's experiences and adventures around the British Isles - the dramatic wilderness coastline of the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, his Grandfather's Welsh homeland and also his native Cotswolds.

With a style reminiscent of contemporary folk, folk pop, or the troubadours of the 70's, there really is something here for everyone.

Sat 19

FILM: HACKSAW RIDGE (Cert. 15)

The extraordinary true story of WWII Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, who served during the Battle of Okinawa. He refused to kill people, and became the first Conscientious Objector in American history to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Starring Andrew Garfield and Hugo Weaving.

The diary will continue to fill up, so do keep a look-out for emails and posters, or check out www.hoyorkney.com events calendar . If you would like to receive alerts, please email gable.end.theatre@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

Remember the Gable End Theatre Loyalty Card!

Unlike the ubiquitous coffee cards, this won't give you a free cuppa after a number of purchases, but a ticket to a show! So, if you attend 4 shows, you get a ticket to the 5th absolutely FREE*.

We think this is a great way of rewarding our regular theatre-goers and encouraging more folk to come along to enjoy the top quality music and entertainment regularly on offer at the Gable End.

Just remember to bring the card with you and get it signed at the Box Office each time.

**One card per person. You can use the card at any paid show that is promoted by the Gable End (not one where the venue has been hired by an outside company, or when admission is free) and it doesn't apply to films as there is already a Film Society membership scheme.*

NOTICEBOARD

HOY AND WALLS HEALTH CENTRE

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

Day	Dr am	Dr pm	Nurse	Notes
Monday	0900-1100	1745-1930	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	0900-1100†	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.

GRAEMSAY, HOY & WALLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

All meetings are open to the general public, and held at North Walls Community School, except where noted meeting dates for 2016 are:-

Friday 18 August 6:45 at Graemsay Community Association - General Meeting

Friday 17 November at North Walls School - General Meeting

Thought for the day

"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us ."

Jo Cox MP



ISLAND OF HOY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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ES.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: 5 July 2017

Time: 8 pm

Venue: North Walls Centre



Island of Hoy Development Trust Meeting

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 APRIL 2017 AND MAY 2017



April

Total rainfall for month
93.4mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs.
25.3mm on 25th.

Highest max. temp. 12.6c on 8th.

Lowest max. temp. 8.0c 23rd.

Ave. max. temp. 10.0c

Lowest min. temp. -1.2c on 17th.

Highest min. temp. 8.4c on 6th.

Ave. min. temp. 4.2c

Ave. temp. for April 7.1c

May

Total rainfall for month 38.1mm

Highest rainfall in 24hrs. 12.5mm on 23rd

Highest max. temp. 26.1c on 26th.

This is the highest max. temp. I've ever recorded in
May, beating the previous 23.7c recorded in May
2012.

Lowest max. temp. 9.7c on 10th.

Ave. max. temp. 15.2c

Lowest min. temp. 1.4c on 4th.

Highest min. temp. 11.2 on 26th.

Ave. min. temp. 7.4c

Ave. temp. for May 11.3c

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 (August) must be submitted by 8th August 2017