

FREE!

# Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Community Newsletter

The Review

November 2016

Produced by: Rousay Community Association

Subscriber: Electronic



## DRIVERS PLEASE BE AWARE....

Rousay Primary School pupils will be doing their daily mile around Sourin Mill on Tuesdays!

**THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OUT FOR US!**



“Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November,  
Gunpowder, Treason and Plot”

## Bonfire Night & Fireworks

**Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Pier Shore

Bonfire lighting at 6.45pm

Soup Supper

Anyone with suitable wood for use on the bonfire,  
please contact John on 821423 or Zoë on 821454.



## What's On at a Glance

### Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup>

→ Taversoe InnQUIZition, The Taversoe, 8pm

### Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

→ Mobile Library

### Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>

→ Bonfire Night & Fireworks, Pier Shore, 6.45pm

### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup>

→ Roast Dinner, Pier Restaurant, 4.30pm/6.30pm

### Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup>

→ SWI AGM, Rousay School, 8pm

### Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

→ RSPB Onziebust Project Drop-In Session,  
Rousay School, 2.30pm-4pm & 6pm-7.30pm

### Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup>

→ REWDT AGM, Church Centre, 10.30am

### Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup>

→ Remembrance Sunday Service, War Memorial,  
10.50am

→ Curry Buffet, The Taversoe, 12pm

### Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>

→ Service, St. Mary's Chapel, Westness, 11.30am

### Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup>

→ Circle Dance, Church Centre, 11.15am - 2pm

→ Festive Fun Workshop, The Craffhub, 7.30pm -  
9.30pm

### Friday, 25<sup>th</sup>

→ Rocky Horror Picture Show Night, Pier  
Restaurant, 7.30pm onwards

### Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup>

→ Bingo, Pier Restaurant, 3pm

→ Fish and Chips, Pier Restaurant, 4.30pm  
onwards

### Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>

→ Service, Church Centre, 11.30am

To subscribe, or to send in articles for the next edition of the newsletter,  
please use the following contact details:

**Editor:** Kayleigh Tipper

**E-mail:** [kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk](mailto:kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk)

**Telephone:** 01856 821360

**Write:** Howdis Meadow, Rousay, KW17 2PR

**Deadline:** 27 November 2016 (5pm) - late articles are not guaranteed to be included

Funder logo



From the community  
For the community

## Services in November

Sunday 13th November  
Remembrance Sunday Service  
War Memorial  
10.50am

Sunday 27th November  
11.30am  
Church Centre  
Roy Cordukes



Everyone welcome

## Rousay Circle Dance

Thursday, 24 November  
Church Centre  
11.15 - 2pm

Shared lunch  
£5 donation to Christian Aid

Everyone welcome



## Service

at St Mary's Chapel, Westness,  
on Friday 18th November at 11.30 am.

All most welcome.

## Screen Machine

The Screen Machine is due to visit Rousay on 26 and 27 November, showing a selection of films. At time of publishing, the programme was close to being finalised.

For more information, go to:  
[www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk)



The next meeting of the SWI will be at 8pm on Tuesday 8th November when we will be holding our AGM. We look forward to 10 minutes of entertainment from each of the Districts, so bring along your poem, recipe, songs or whatever you want to do! The competitions will be '3 ideas for next year's competitions' and '3 ideas for next year's programme'.

## Orkney Mobile Library



Next visit:  
Thursday 3rd November 2016



## Taversoe InnQUIZition

Tuesday November 1st @ 8pm

Free Entry

Snowball Jackpot

Light Snack Supper



## Remembrance Sunday

Sunday November 13th at 12.00

Curry Buffet following the service at the Memorial

Please phone if you'd like to reserve a table: 821 325

Profits to the Poppy Appeal



## Advance Notices for December:

### Taversoe InnQUIZition

Tuesday December 6th @ 8pm

Free Entry

Snowball Jackpot

Light Snack Supper



### Secret Santa

Tuesday December 13th (provisional)

Present Swop by the Tree at 8pm

Eggnog, Mulled Wine, & Nibbles

Remember to get your name in by November 18th if you'd like to participate this year





### For Sale

Fridge

Under worktop size

£50

Phone Jean at Viera View,  
821202 or 07917 683089



### For Sale

Leather 3-piece suite

Open to offers

Call 07917 742933 (Andrew)

### Wanted

House to rent  
From February 2017,  
for a few months.

Please contact:  
mary.almond@sky.com  
07989 355 030

## Rousay Heritage Trust Annual Trustee's Meeting 2016

Our annual ATM will be held on 07 December 2016 at 19:00 (prior to REW Development Trust Board meeting) at the Church Centre. All trustees are welcome and we look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it.

The Heritage Trust is keen to hear from residents who would like to become trustees and if you are interested in becoming involved with the Heritage Trust, please come along to the meeting or contact Helen at the Development Trust offices (821229 or email [helen@rewdt.org](mailto:helen@rewdt.org)) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you.



### Winter Opening Hours

Monday & Tuesday - CLOSED\*

Wednesday to Friday - 12pm to 2pm & 5pm to 11pm\*\*

Saturday - 12pm to 11pm\*\*

Sunday - 12pm to 10.30pm\*\*

Food served Daily from  
12pm to 2pm & 5pm till 9pm (Wed-Sat), and 7.30pm (Sun)

\* The bar will be open on the first Tuesday  
of the month for the Taversoe InnQUIZition.

\*\* If the bar is empty at 9pm we reserve the right to close early.

### Rousay Community Association

Community Rooms must be booked,  
in advance, for use through the  
booking clerk on 821 383 /  
07522647794.

Failure to book may lead to the room  
you wish to book being unavailable.

### Rousay Public Bus

Every Thursday, 7am-7pm

To book, call 821 360.

## PIER RESTAURANT

TELEPHONE: 01856 821359

*What's on in November?*

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Roast Dinner:**

Your choice of Roast Orkney Beef with all the trimmings followed by Apple Pie

OR

Spinach and Feta Cheese Lasagne followed by Apple Pie

*Please book in advance. Sittings at 4.30pm and 6.30pm. Please let us know when booking if you require the Vegetarian option. Two Courses Adult £10, Child / Small £6.*

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November - CLOSED (For Curry Buffet at The Taversoe. Please Support)**

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November - Rocky Horror Picture Show Night**

Join us for music and madness as we invite you to join us to celebrate the Original Rocky Horror Picture Show. Come dressed as your favourite character or simply join us and dance the Time Warp.

From 7.30pm onwards.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November - Bingo, Fish and Chips.**

Join us for a game of friendly bingo followed by your choice of our Fish and Chip Special or Regular Fish and Chips. Bingo Starts at 3.00pm.

DON'T PLAY BINGO? Just join us for the fish and chips! Served from 4.30pm.

Bingo £2.50, Fish and Chip Special £5, Regular Fish and Chips £7.95

### **Every Thursday:**

Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon.

Homemade cake & Hot Drink £3

### **Winter Opening Hours**

Monday:	11am-2pm	4.30pm-11pm
Tuesday:	11am-2pm	4.30pm-11pm
Wednesday:	CLOSED	
Thursday:	11am-2pm	4.30pm-11pm
Friday:	11am-2pm	4.30pm-1am
Saturday:	11am-1am	
Sunday:		4.30pm-8pm

***Home cooked meals available during opening hours. Kitchen closes at 8pm. Book a table or just pop in. We look forward to seeing you!***

Advanced notice for December:

4<sup>th</sup> December - Roast Dinner

**Now taking bookings for Christmas events.**



## The Crafthub c.i.c.

### NOVEMBER 2016 - CRAFTHUB NEWS

**DIRECTOR VACANCY** - The Crafthub C.I.C. is looking for a new Director to join the Board, anyone interested in being involved with the successful Community Interest Company as we move into our fourth year, contact us at The Crafthub for further details.

#### LOOKING FOR IDEAS FOR LOCAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

**CALENDARS** - The new Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre 2017 Calendar is now in stock, which features sketches, paintings and photographs from The Rousay Drawing Group and some of our photographers. The calendar comes with an envelope, ideal for posting to friends and family for Christmas - LIMITED STOCK - POP ALONG TODAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - ONLY £7.50 each or 3 calendars for £20.

**CANDLES** - We have a new range of candles from Orkney Candles in stock, 4 different varieties, Earth, Air, Fire, and Sea. These come in two formats, in a tin with a lid - 25 hours burning - only £7.00 each, or in a Whiskey glass tumbler in a gift bag - 50 hours burning - only £14.00 each. These will make perfect gifts for Christmas or birthdays.

**CRAFTHUB CHRISTMAS HAMPERS** - Packed in boxes ready for posting south the Crafthub Christmas Hampers are in stock, with lots of Orkney goodies, including a selection of meats from the Orkney Fine Meat Company, Christmas preserves and chutneys, oakcakes and fudge. A perfect gift for family and friends. Pop in to order yours today.

There are also a wide variety of hand made local crafts at [The Crafthub](#), for all ages ideal for Christmas gifts and stocking fillers.

#### WORKSHOPS IN NOVEMBER

**FESTIVE FUN WORKSHOPS** – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 11am - 1pm and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Come along to make a variety of Christmas Crafts in a friendly festive atmosphere, festive refreshments and all materials provided. £35 for each session (REW residents only £7 each - REWDT funding for the balance) PLACES STILL AVAILABLE - PLEASE CONTACT THE CRAFTHUB TO **BOOK YOUR PLACE** IN ADVANCE

**Monday Coffee Morning** – Every Monday from 11am – 1pm. £2 a session – All welcome, informal chat or bring along a craft.

**SPINNING CIRCLE** – Drop in Spinning Workshops on Wednesdays from 11am - 1pm - £3 a session. Visitors welcome.

**Art Club** – Every Wednesday from 3.15pm - 4.30pm - All welcome age 5 - 11yrs £3.00 a session including materials and refreshments

**PEEDIES CLUB** – Every Thursday from 2pm - 3.15pm - Parents, Carers and Under 5's - £2 a session. Visiting families welcome. Please phone in advance if possible.

**\* COMING UP \***

**MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm - 4pm**

The Directors warmly invite you to join them at The Crafthub

Pop along for a glass of Christmas Cheer

A great opportunity to browse for Christmas presents,  
in a relaxed atmosphere, supporting local crafters.

A wide selection of local gifts for family and friends, tea-towels, calendars,  
Crafthub Christmas Hampers and meats from the Orkney Fine Meat Company  
(lots of prizes donated by crafters and a Crafthub Hamper).

Festive drinks and nibbles - **don't forget to bring your 10% discount voucher**

### NOVEMBER OPENING TIMES

During NOVEMBER **The Crafthub** will be open Monday – Friday - 11am - 3.30pm

PLEASE NOTE: We are now able to take most debit and credit card payments for over £15 at The Crafthub

e-mail : [crafthub@btconnect.com](mailto:crafthub@btconnect.com) website : [www.crafthuborkney.co.uk](http://www.crafthuborkney.co.uk)

Go on Facebook today to keep in touch with Crafthub news and updates



## Islands View Surgery

Opening Hours:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>09:00-13:00</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>14:00-18:00</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09:00-11:00</b>	<b>16:00-18:00</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11:00-15:00</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00-12:00</b>	<b>16:00-18:00</b>

GPs from Dounby will continue to visit on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Nurse Practitioners will continue to cover all emergencies and out-of-hours calls. The female GP, Dr Mimi Thomas, comes over on Thursdays; all other GP clinics are covered by Dr Jonathan Kirk or Dr Huw Thomas.

The above hours are the times when Administrative staff are available to make appointments, take prescription requests, dispense previously requested prescriptions, and so on. The Nurse Practitioners are able to see people outside these hours, by appointment. If you need to make an appointment with the NP, but the main office is closed, please phone the Nurses' direct line on 01856 821406.

### A few reminders

To prevent delays in getting any medication, please order AT LEAST five days before you will run out.

Please try, whenever possible, to order early in the week.

If you think your appointment is likely to take longer than the standard 15 minutes, please let us know when you book it.

We can book longer appointments and are happy to do so.

Please arrive on time for your appointment.

All our GPs have boats to catch, and one person arriving late can have a knock-on effect for the rest of the clinic.

If you are travelling to a medical appointment outside Orkney, we can book your travel for you.

We can safely dispose of medication that you no longer need, or that is out of date. Please just hand it in at Reception.

### Apology

We extend our apologies to Brian Noakes who was listed as a director of Heat Smart Orkney in our recent Chair's Report, which was incorrect.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on 12 November 2016 at 10:30 at the Church Centre, Rousay. All members are welcome and we look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Refreshments will be provided.

The Trust is keen to hear from members who would like to become directors and a return slip has been included in the information we sent you. If you have not received your invitation letter, agenda and Chair's report, please contact Helen in the Office.

If you are not currently a member but would like to come along to find out more about us, you are very welcome.

### Proxy Voting

The Trust would like to remind every member of their right to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf, if they are unable to attend the AGM. A member who wishes to appoint a proxy must:

Lodge with the Trust, at our Office, a minimum of 48 hours before the AGM, a written instruction (this can be an e-mail), stating who they have appointed as 'proxy' and what they can vote on, i.e. changes to the Articles of Association, appointment of accountants, and/or appointment of directors. Currently these are the only items on the agenda that the members will be asked to vote upon.

A proxy need not be a member of the Trust. A proxy appointed to attend and vote at any meeting instead of a member shall have the same right as the member who appointed him/her to speak at the meeting on their behalf.

### REWDT Year of Learning

We are currently arranging the following courses for the rest of this financial year; dates and additional information to follow. If anyone is interested in attending these, please can you let Helen in the Office know, and if there are any dates you cannot make.

- Food Hygiene - date confirmed: 7<sup>th</sup> November (see later in our article)
- Safe use of pesticides (PA1) - this course is aimed at those involved with the storage, handling and application of pesticides. Currently awaiting confirmation of the date from the tutor.
- Working at Height Awareness
- Manual Handling & Ladder Safety

### Brinian Play Park Grand Opening

On a somewhat blustery afternoon of 14th October, the new play park at The Brinian in Rousay was opened, with Tyler Tunbridge, the youngest pupil at Rousay Community School, pulling the ribbon. The play park was funded by the Trust and The Big Lottery Fund and is adjacent to the Rousay Allotment Association polytunnel, which also sported its new cover! Project Manager, Michelle Koster addressed the children themselves, thanking them for their contributions for what they thought should be included in the play park, during an event held at The Crafthub, the previous summer. The Trust prefers to use local contractors wherever possible, and they were all thanked for their input and contributions.

The play park had originally be approved for development by the Board during 2015 and the Trust extend their warmest thanks to the local residents of Johnstons Road, for their patience and forbearance during the various construction phases over the past year. Once the ribbon had been pulled, the children swarmed in to the site, enjoying the new climbing frame roundabout, in particular. Katelyn Farquhar, the oldest pupil in the school, cut the cake inside the polytunnel itself, as Mums and Dads were thanked for braving the windy weather, and some of the balloons handed out, escaped in the winds! Particular thanks were extended to Marion's Shop for sourcing the cake and refreshments; and to Ian Donaldson to ensuring the polytunnel was cleared ready for use.

### **Tenders Welcome: Grass Cutting**

The Trust would like to welcome tenders for regular grass cutting and basic general maintenance at both the new Brinian Play Park and Allotment Site (approximately half an acre in size). Initially this will be for a one-year contractual period.

The Trust would require the grass to be cut at least 10 times during the summer months (May to September) and at ad-hoc times to be determined during the remaining months. This is to include strimming and all removal of grass cuttings.

Any maintenance issues found in the weekly checks undertaken by REW DT staff will be reported to the successful contractor and if they have the skills they will be invited to do the work outside of the grass cutting element of this tender submission.

The successful contractor(s) will be paid upon receipt of invoices (within 30 days of the date received). The successful applicant will need to be registered as self-employed.

For further information and a tender application, please contact the Trust's Office on 01856 821 229 or email [info@rewdt.org](mailto:info@rewdt.org) or visit our website at [www.rewdt.org](http://www.rewdt.org)

The closing date for tender applications is 30 November 2016. Please post tender applications in a sealed envelope to the Trust's offices at The Manse, Rousay KW17 2PR clearly marked 'Grass Cutting Tender'.

### **Tenders Welcome: Allotment Equipment Maintenance**

The Development Trust would like to welcome tenders for the maintenance of the equipment held at the Allotment Site. This includes: - Lawn Mower; Rotovators; Hedge Cutter; Strimmer; Shredder.

Initially this will be for a one-year contractual period.

The Trust would require the equipment to be checked as soon as possible and made ready for winter storage (i.e. petrol and oil removed, any repairs carried out) and in the early spring all equipment to be re-checked and made ready for members to hire. This would include any servicing etc. The Trust would like tenders to include the costs for this work but understands that any additional parts that need to be purchased would be paid for by the Trust and therefore would not need to be included in the tender costings.

Any additional maintenance issues found in the weekly checks undertaken by REW DT staff will be reported to the successful contractor and if they have the skills they will be invited to do the work outside of the general maintenance element of this tender submission.

The successful contractor(s) will be paid upon receipt of invoices (within 30 days of the date received). The successful applicant will need to be registered as self-employed and have public liability insurance.

For further information and a tender application, please contact the Trust's Office on 01856 821 229 or email [info@rewdt.org](mailto:info@rewdt.org) or visit our website at [www.rewdt.org](http://www.rewdt.org)

The closing date for tender applications is 30 November 2016. Please post tender applications in a sealed envelope to the Trust's offices at The Manse, Rousay KW17 2PR clearly marked 'Allotment Equipment Maintenance'.



## FREE REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene

**Date : 07 November 2016**

**Time : 09:30 to 16:30**

**Venue: Church Centre**

### Aims:

To provide basic knowledge of safe and hygienic methods of preparing, handling and storing food.

### Qualification:

Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland Certificate in Elementary Food Hygiene on completion of a 30 minute examination consisting of 30 multiple choice questions.

For further information and to book a place please contact the REW DT Office on 821229 or email [info@rewdt.org](mailto:info@rewdt.org)

Lunch (soup and a sandwich) can be provided for £5.00 (payable on the day).



In partnership with  
University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Orkney College



Ask us for more information on the following things the Trust offers:

#### Free swim sessions



#### Free lanterns



#### Subsidised rate

AGE Orkney  
Concern  
Here2Help

#### Grant Schemes

General Grants, Driving Lessons,  
Educational Bursaries, and Wellbeing  
(including 80% grant support towards  
10-session Gym & Fat Burn tickets).

#### Car Club

Contact  
us to  
join!



### Grant Applications and Education Bursaries

For a grant application form, please go to our website or contact the Office.

All applications must be received a minimum of **two weeks** before the planned Board meeting date or training event. This is to allow sufficient time for applications to be processed.

The following meetings are planned (any changes to these will be published on our website):  
Saturday 12 November (AGM); Wednesday 7 December.

### Contact Us

**Telephone:** 01856 821 229

**E-mail:** [info@rewdt.org](mailto:info@rewdt.org)

**Website:** [www.rewdt.org](http://www.rewdt.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rewdt](http://www.facebook.com/rewdt)



Office Drop-In Times: 10am to 12 noon (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) - contact to arrange an appointment outwith these times



Free Wi-Fi access is available to use at the Trust Office

**Directors:** Richard Tipper (Chair); Danny Daintith (Vice-Chair); Clare Daintith (Treasurer); Hilary Byland; Diana Compton; John Garson; Mark Hull; Carole Maguire; Alison Mainland; Bryan Milner; Alan Odling; Sarah Odling; Kayleigh Tipper

Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Co. Reg. No: SC318527 Charity Reg. No: SC040407

Registered Office: The Manse, Rousay, Orkney, KW17 2PR

...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...



*Heat Smart Orkney Ltd*

## **DIVERTING UNUSED RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO AFFORDABLE HEATING**

*Heat Smart Orkney Ltd is a new organisation created specifically to administer and manage the Heat Smart Orkney project.*

The **Heat Smart Orkney** project creatively addresses the issue of fuel poverty - an issue which affects 63% of the population in Orkney - and plans to launch the project with our own community on Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre.

The aim of this exciting new venture is to show that, instead of curtailing community wind turbines when the grid reaches capacity, turbines can continue working, and the electrical energy generated can be diverted to secondary heating systems in our homes, causing our primary heating systems to work and cost less!

## **LAUNCH UPDATE:**

The **Heat Smart Orkney** team have been hard at work preparing the launch of the **Heat Smart Orkney** project and we are now **OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

- We now have a phone number: **01856 821 277**
- You can contact us via email at: **info@heatsmartorkney.co.uk**
- Feel free to drop by the Manse during our **drop-in times of 10am-12pm Monday-Friday**
- Our website is: **www.rewdt.org/HSO**
- Find us on Facebook: search **Heat Smart Orkney**
- Our Project Officer, Diana Compton will give a brief presentation at the **REWDT AGM on Saturday, 12 November at 10.30am at The Church Centre**

We plan to begin contacting households who have expressed an interest in participating in the **Heat Smart Orkney** project soon, so if you are interested in learning more about the project, please feel free to contact us by **phone, email, Facebook, or in person** and we will add you to our contact list.

**We look forward to speaking to you about this exciting new project!**

The **Heat Smart Orkney** Team: Kira Hoffmann and Julie Morgan, Project Assistants, and Diana Compton, Project Officer

*Heat Smart Orkney is a subsidiary of the REW Development Trust and is partnered with*



*and funded by the Scottish Government through Local Energy Scotland and its Local Energy Challenge Fund*



# ROUSAY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

## Membership

£5.00 to become a member of the Allotment Association which gives you the benefit of hiring equipment and other offers from time to time. Please call in to see Helen at the Development Trust Office for more information.

## Plots Available

There are a few plots available now, both in the polytunnel and outside. The outside plots will be rotovated free of charge, ready for you to get planting, which is a great advantage.

The polytunnel plots are great value at only £10.00 for the year; the outside plots are £20.00 including the use of a shed.

Please contact Hilary on 821 400 or Helen on 821 229 if you are interested in taking a plot.

## Equipment Hire

Members can hire gardening equipment from the Allotment Association. The prices are as follows: -

Rotovator - £10.00 per day plus fuel used

Strimmer - £2.50 per hour, plus fuel used

Shredder - £10.00 per day

Trailer - £10.00 per day or £2.50 per hour

Hedge Trimmer – £2.50 per hour

Lawn Mower - £10.00 per day

To book the hire for any of the above equipment please contact Hilary on 821 400.

Happy gardening!



## **Your Islands, Your Choice**

Voluntary Action Orkney, in partnership with The Orkney Partnership and Orkney Health and Care has been awarded funding (from the Community Choices Fund and partners), to carry out an innovative pilot funding project, which is being delivered to the isles in Orkney. The project is called, *"Your Islands, Your Choice"*.

The delivery of the project falls into 3 main stages.

**The first** is a period of consultation using a survey followed up by the **second, an island meeting** to look at the results of the survey and identify what works well in your community and what the community would like to see improved or introduced. The paper survey can be found through the Community Association, the Community Council or the Development Trust, or by contacting ourselves at VAO, but the link to this is **Survey Monkey** is here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W5Y2LVQ> and we would like **everyone** in your community to complete this if at all possible. It's a short deadline, (3 ½ weeks), and would need to be completed by the **18<sup>th</sup> November**.

The more people that we can get to complete the survey, the better the idea we'll have of what your island's potential issues are. Although there are 14 questions it's not too onerous and can be completed quite quickly. **You don't need to answer every question to move through the survey.**

Once we've collected each island's feedback, we will come out for the island visit and a public session to determine which issues could be identified with the pot of money available. The next morning, we will be on hand to talk to groups (whether constituted or not) who want to pitch for the pot of money to address the issues deemed most important, or able to be achieved.

**Thirdly**, in March next year, we'll host a big event in Picky, where all the applicants are invited to deliver a 2-3 minute pitch (a bit like Dragons' Den!) and then the people in the isles will then vote for their favourite projects. The projects who receive the most votes will receive funds.

Now is your chance to take part in determining how a pot of money can be spent in your island on projects that you think are important. Take the link to the survey or contact any of the groups above for a copy. Happy survey completing!

# RSPB Scotland

## Onziebust Project



Orkney is home to truly incredible range of wildlife and is important in a UK and world context. The island group of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre are a fantastic example the range of habitats and species found on Orkney. This is due to the mosaic of habitats found here; from the moorlands that offer excellent chances of seeing hen harriers and short-eared owls to the bustling seabird cliffs and wetlands which support nationally important numbers of wildfowl and waders. Relatively unimproved farmland provides opportunity for corncrakes, buntings, finches, wildflowers and bumblebees.

Our Onziebust reserve on Egilsay is managed for corncrake, waders and greater yellow bumblebee. Orkney is one of the few remaining core areas for breeding corncrakes in the UK and Egilsay is in a strategically important location. Corncrakes are a species of conservation concern due to catastrophic declines as a result of increasingly intensive farming. Orkney also holds some of the highest known densities of breeding curlews in the world on areas of wet, unimproved land within the agricultural landscape. Curlews are a globally threatened species and have experienced an overall UK decline of 42 per cent between 1995 and 2008. Onziebust reserve is has supported 55 pairs of curlews and over 300 pairs of breeding waders in total at its peak. It is also a core site for the rare great yellow bumblebee which once found throughout the UK is now only found on the north coast of Scotland and some of the islands.

In 2015 a major project was initiated to invest in the Onziebust farm reserve over a period of eight years. This project seeks to change management of the reserve from a non-residential warden managing contracts and grazing lets to an in-house farming system with a team of staff managing all farm work. We want to create opportunities for interested people to learn about managing land for wildlife and will develop a training programme which will include an internship scheme for anyone interested in a career in wildlife conservation.

Having secured internal funding for phase 1 we have begun to make improvements to infrastructure this year. The farmhouse is being renovated to accommodate a resident staff member and a number of stretches of fences have been replaced. Some farming equipment has been purchased.

We are currently seeking external funding for Phase 2 which is due to start in 2017. We hope to recruit a resident farm manager and warden and start a cattle herd. By 2019, we will also have a resident stockman. We hope to upgrade the bothy to accommodate residential volunteers, to build a new cattle barn and replace the roof on another for storage. Further farming equipment will be purchased for cultivation, mowing and habitat management.

Following an initial meeting with the Egilsay community in July we would now like to provide an opportunity for the residents of Rousay and Wyre to hear about the project and to put forward any ideas to help shape the direction of future phases.

**We are holding a drop in session at the Rousay Community School to provide information and to hear ideas. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.**

**Date: Wednesday 9th November  
Time: 2.30-4pm and 6-7.30pm  
Location: Rousay Community School**

## Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

Have you tried out OIC's budget simulator yet? Find out more at <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/balance-oics-budget.htm>  
I first mentioned the budget simulator in my June "Letter". Since then OIC officials have been busy customising it. Interestingly, the simulator allows you, for example, to suggest stopping **all funding** to our life-line Orkney Ferries and the inter-island air service, but not reducing the salaries of the aforementioned OIC officials nor sacking the Finance Department. Nevertheless, the simulator does give an indication of the difficult decisions faced by us councillors in setting the annual council budget, which is predicted to be even tighter this year.

I sat on the shortlisting and interview panel for appointing a new acting headteacher for Eday and North Ronaldsay primaries. The post was offered to Steve Miller, well known to staff and pupils at both of those schools.

Stephen Fraser, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's Station Manager for Orkney, kindly saw me about recruitment of firefighters in the Isles. He shall be coming out to Sanday's community council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

I paid a visit to Peter Rickard, Interim Manager of THAW Orkney (Tackling Household Affordable Warmth), a new charitable organisation with the aim of eradicating fuel poverty in Orkney. I was impressed by their joined-up approach. If you need a helping hand to achieve a cosy home, it is well worth checking out their website: <http://www.thaworkney.co.uk>

As a member of the Orkney College Management Council, I attended this year's graduation ceremony at St. Magnus' Cathedral. While waiting for the procession to start, I noticed with horror evidence of last year's reception on the front of my red & gold doctoral gown, in the form of smears of blue icing sugar. Fortunately, the food colouring in it wasn't indelible. This year, another memorable reception was laid on by the students of the College's Hospitality Department, but this time I've made sure no reminders have remained for next year's graduation!

I accepted an invitation to meet with consultants from SKS Scotland, commissioned by the Sanday Development Trust to carry out a feasibility study and draw up a business plan for the regeneration of Kettletoft, a project supported by the North Isles Landscape Partnership. Many Sanday folk will have memories of the "Idea of North" study conducted by the Mackintosh School of Architecture in 2006. I am confident that this time the consultation is firmly grounded in realism.

Other meetings I have attended this month include those of the: Policy & Resources Committee, Monitoring & Audit Committee, General Meeting of the full Council, Stronsay Community Council, and the Leadership Board of the Highlands & Islands Science Skills Academy. I have also engaged in a strategic planning workshop of the Orkney College Management Council, and been to seminars on serious organised crime and on the use of intelligence information in licensing.

Several schools in the North Isles still have unacceptably high speed limits on the roads passing by them. I have been informed that the Council's road team have commenced a survey of existing 40 mph speed limits across Orkney.

At last the "extra" wheelie bins at the Hatston depot are going to be put to good use. Each household in the Isles (with the exception of those in Shapinsay and Westray, which already have them for their alternate weekly collections) is going to be provided with two bins for storing recyclable items and bagged-up refuse. This means your rubbish can be kept outside in a vermin-proof container during the week and wheeled to the roadside on collection day. (The collection frequency will continue as at present.) In addition, the recycling points will be increased in capacity.

I have been asked how long one should expect to have wait for a response to a query made to a Council department. OIC has corporate standards for this which state that an acknowledgement should be received within 5 working days and a substantive reply within 25 working days. (I, personally, try to do much better than this.)

The next local authority elections will be held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. I intend to have a mini-manifesto in place by then, on which I will stand, and which (if I am re-elected) I will use as a basis to form an alliance with other like-minded councillors, so that it is backed with sufficient support to become implemented. In the next few issues of this "Letter" I shall be sharing my thoughts on various areas of council activity and what I am thinking of putting into my manifesto, and I would welcome feedback from the public. I shall start this month with education (so pupils, parents, teachers, prepare to get in touch ...):

**Education:** Much of the Council's education policy is directed by Scottish Government legislation. (Alarmingly, under SNP education reform proposals, local authorities may lose any role in education at all!) Nonetheless, there is still some scope for local variation and innovation. For example, I support our "Orkney Offer", which capitalises on the almost-unique situation that our local further education college is council-run. This enables pupils in S4, S5 & S6 to blend academic education and vocational training to suit their needs and abilities. I firmly believe that schools must teach skills for life, and two specific skills I want taught in Orkney schools are: 1) Touch typing — In a world where the keyboard is taking over from the pen, this indispensable skill should be introduced in primary. 2) Driving — One of the most essential qualifications one needs as an adult is a driving licence, and in the senior secondary years we should, at least, be preparing students for the theory test.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, I shall be flying to Papay for a meeting of their community council, and I'll also be going along to Sanday's community council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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**Scottish Sea Farms** are innovators in the farming of superior quality Scottish salmon, reared with unrivalled husbandry in the West Coast and Highlands of Scotland, Orkney and Shetland. Recently awarded Business of the Year 2016 in Scotland's Food and Drink Excellence awards, we pride ourselves in providing a training and personal development plan designed to add to the skills of our staff and enable rapid career progression.

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