

FREE!

# Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Community Newsletter

The Review

July 2017

Produced by: Rousay Community Association

Subscriber: Electronic

REW HS

## REW Heritage Society's Summer of History Island Boat Trips on the Nybakk Museum Boat

The Nybakk Museum Boat will be visiting Rousay on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. As part of our project we are offering free boat trips around our islands with Captain Per Kare. As an added treat, Julie Gibson will be giving a talk about the historical activity during the Norse & Viking eras.



The boat takes a maximum of 20 passengers and if you are interested in coming on a trip, please either email [helen@rewdt.org](mailto:helen@rewdt.org), or phone the Development Trust office on 821 229. Last bookings via the office are on Thursday 29 June at 12 noon. After this time, please either email [helencastle91@gmail.com](mailto:helencastle91@gmail.com) or text 07879 68650 and Helen will get back to you regarding your booking. Please note places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Boat Trips are: -

Sunday 2nd July at 3 p.m.      Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 12 noon

Please meet at Rousay Pier 10 minutes

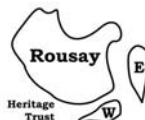
before these sailing times as the vessel will leave promptly.

**Only those who have confirmed bookings**

**will be able to go on the trips.**



LOTTERY FUNDED



## What's On

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Service, Church Centre, 11.30am
- Nybakk Boat, departs Rousay 3pm

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Nybakk Boat, departs Rousay 12pm

**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Eynhallow Trip, departs Tingwall at 7pm
- The Taversoe InnQUIZition, 8pm

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Bags with Lyrics, The Craffthub, 8pm

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Service, Church Centre, 11.30am

**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Service, Church Centre, 11.30am

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>**

- The Taversoe InnQUIZition, 8pm

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Bags with Lyrics, The Craffthub, 8pm

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Open Day, Skail Farm

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Open Day, Skail Farm
- Service, Church Centre, 11.30am

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Car Boot Style Charity Shop, Pier Restaurant (Shop), 12pm - 6pm

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Service, Church Centre, 11.30am

REWGCC

## ROUSAY, EGILSAY, WYRE & GAIRSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Removal of Scrap Cars Scheme

A limited funding package has become available for the removal of scrap cars from Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre. Scrap cars will be collected and delivered to Kirkwall, **free** of charge to the customer. You will be responsible for making necessary arrangements to have the car lifted on the lorry and make any submissions to DVLA.

Applications should be submitted by Friday, **28 July 2017**.

If you have a scrap car that you wish to dispose of, or require further information, please contact the Interim Clerk, either by phone or email, as detailed below:-

Democratic Services, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall

Phone: 0185687 3535 ext 2237

E-mail: [rewgclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rewgclerk@gmail.com) or [jackie.montgomery@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.montgomery@orkney.gov.uk)



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 July 2017 (5pm) - late articles are not guaranteed to be included

Funder logo



From the community  
For the community



### Taversoe InnQUIZition

Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

and

Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8pm

Free Entry

Snowball Jackpot

Light Snack Supper



Advance Notices for August :

### Taversoe InnQUIZition

Tuesday August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8pm

Free Entry

Snowball Jackpot

Light Snack Supper



### Orkney Mobile Library

Next visit:

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

### Services

Church Centre

11.30am

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Local
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Local
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Local
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Local
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Local

All welcome.

### Bags with Lyrics



All Colours Shapes and Sizes!  
Singling Sessions  
Thursday 6th and 20th July  
20.00 at The Craft Hub  
All ladies made very welcome

# FREE STUFF!

RACHAEL IS THROWING STUFF OUT SO SHE'LL BE HOLDING

## A CAR BOOT STYLE CHARITY 'SHOP' IN THE SHOP PART OF THE PIER RESTAURANT ON SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY (12 – 6pm)

**EVERYTHING WILL BE FREE TO TAKE AWAY**

THOUGH ANY DONATIONS  
WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED  
ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL CHARITY

### Orkney Heart Screening

CLOTHING	BAGS	BOOKS	BEDDING
TILES	TOYS	PICTURES	GARDENING STUFF
KITCHENWARE		DRESSING-UP PROPS	ETC

Some new stuff will be raffled (draw @ 5pm)

REWGCC

### ROUSAY, EGILSAY, WYRE & GAIRSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

#### Trial Project

#### Inter-Islands Ferry Passenger Tickets between Egilsay, Wyre & Rousay

REWGCC is continuing the trial scheme offering a book of passenger ferry tickets for inter-island use on the MV Eynhallow between Egilsay, Wyre & Rousay.

The scheme is open to permanent residents on the three islands providing free passenger travel which can be used for visits to the GP, shop, functions etc. all encouraging inter-island activities.

To be considered for an allocation of inter-island tickets please provide the following information:-

Name and address  
Category i.e. Adult, Junior, OAP/Concession  
Contact phone number

Applications should be forwarded by Tuesday, 15 August 2017 to:-  
Jackie Montgomery

Democratic Services, Orkney Islands Council,  
Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall, KW15 1NY

Tel: 01856 873535

email: rewgcc@btinternet.com or jackie.montgomery@orkney.gov.uk

# CRAFTHUB

Community Interest Company



**\*\*\* July Open Daily \*\*\***

**11am to 5.30pm**

\*\*\*\*

Summer is in full swing and this is turning out to be one of our busiest seasons ever.

The Crafthub team would like to thank all our volunteers and crafters for their help and contributions—it is truly appreciated.

If any crafters have any new stock please just pop in when you can - we'd love to see you.

**Thank You**

\*\*\*

## **NEW ARTWORK**

We have new artwork from Diana Merrick, Julian Milner & Annabella Daintith, come and have a browse in the Crafthub Gallery

\*\*\*

## **ROUSAY, EGILSAY & WYRE SOUVENIRS**

Pottery, Fridge Magnets, Keyrings, Tote bags and more...

\*\*\*

Every Monday – Coffee Morning 11am – 1pm

No Childrens Art Club in July - look out for Holiday sessions in August.

\*\*\*

We have a selection of craft books and holiday reading - you can either bring a book to swap or make a small donation to CLAN

\*\*\*

If you have visitors and they are short of room in their luggage - we can arrange to post items to an address of their choice - just let us know at checkout.

\*\*\*

**We are taking bookings for the following workshops – they have limited spaces and fill up quickly so please get in touch as soon as possible to book your place.**

## **CROCHET & KNITTING TECHNIQUES – Shelagh Grieve**

**3 weeks left - Friday 30 June, 7 July, 14 July - 1pm to 3pm**

Beginners & Intermediate welcome

Cost of the course including materials and light refreshments £15 per session

**REW residents pay £3** - 20% of the total cost the remaining 80% is covered by REWDT

## **PASTEL TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP – Diana Merrick**

**One Day course Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August – 11.30am - 3.30pm** – places limited to 8 so please contact us early if you are interested.

Cost of the course including light refreshments £40 - Lunch available at £5 extra

**REW residents pay £8** – 20% of the total the remaining 80% is covered by REWDT

## **AFRAYEDKNOT – Mark Cook**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August - 11.30am - 2.30pm** due to popular demand Mark will be returning for another traditional hand knotting workshop using rope found on Orkney beaches. He will be making doormats for those who missed the last workshop.

Cost of the course including materials and light refreshments £40

**REW residents pay £8** – 20% of the total the remaining 80% is covered by REWDT



Further workshops are planned in October (Doorstops) and November (Christmas Wreaths) dates to be confirmed. Anyone interested in these workshops – please contact us as soon as possible as places are limited.

### MID-WEEK WALK n' DRAW – Joseph Hewes

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August – 11.30am to 1.30pm**

Explore Rousay on foot and sketch what you see – all abilities welcome to join Walk n' Draw

Cost of this workshop £15 per session including light refreshments

**REW Residents pay £3** – 20% of the total the remaining 80% is covered by REWDT

...and for later in the summer

**OIL PAINTING** – Ingrid Grieve - dates to be confirmed

**VIKING JEWELLERY** – Heather Croy - dates to be confirmed

***If you are interested in any of the summer workshops please call us as soon as possible so we can register your interest. Once dates are confirmed we'll let you know and confirm your booking.***

For up to date information on opening times and workshops

please visit - [www.crafthuborkney.co.uk](http://www.crafthuborkney.co.uk)

email: [crafthub@btconnect.com](mailto:crafthub@btconnect.com)

phone: 01856 821455

go to our Facebook page

Look out for our new flyer and adverts in the new Craft Trail brochure and Islander magazine – 2017



#### WYRE MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR BRIDGET WOODFORD

#### NOUST GARDEN

#### OPENING & PLANTING EVENT

2pm – 6pm August 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

Bridget's family, friends & colleagues and everyone else who would like to join us are invited to attend the opening/planting afternoon at Wyre Pier.

This will be an opportunity to remember Bridget and to participate in the beginnings of a small but beautiful planted seating area created from the kernel of an idea she long held close to her heart. As well as the seating and windbreaks, we'd like to have as many flowering plants as possible that would provide colour throughout the year as well as food for insects and birds. If anyone wishes, they are welcome to bring along a plant or low bush to personally add to the garden in celebration of Bridget's memory. (When making your choice please bear in mind that this very small site is right above the shore so your plant should be comfortable next to the sea and not require acres of space!)

Gardening tools, snacks & refreshments will be provided. Handwashing & toilet facilities at the pier.

If you require further information please contact Heather (821 211),  
Ann (821 332) or Rachael (821 367 or [rharris@btinternet.com](mailto:rharris@btinternet.com)).



## Stone Chippings Scheme

The stone chippings have begun to be delivered to our islands. The board has offered contracts to the contractors who applied to lay the chippings for those applicants who requested this additional service and, where necessary, to transport the required quantities to where they are needed. The Trust will be informing the contractors of the houses that have been awarded chippings and they will contact you directly to arrange a convenient time to do the work. Please be patient, the Trust has awarded 33 different properties chippings, across the three islands and so this will take time to complete all deliveries and the laying of the chippings. If you need further information, please contact the office.

The Trust would also like to apologise to anyone who had experienced difficulty booking the Eynhallow ferry as a result of the delivery vehicles under this scheme. The Trust has requested from the supplier a reduction and future staggering in the number of deliveries per week of the chippings to reduce this problem and also the use of ferry sailings on which there is least pressure to accommodate vehicles. However, with so many benefactors of this grant award, we do need to get the stone chippings to the three islands over the next couple of months to allow the laying to be done during the summer weather.

## Highlands & Communities Needs Survey

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) has been commissioned to carry out a detailed Household Survey that will help to guide further housing development. Working for the Development Trusts in Sanday, Stronsay, Shapinsay & RE&W, they will be sending a questionnaire booklet to all households on those islands. We ask that you spare a few moments of your time to complete the survey and return it in the replied paid envelope. The questionnaire will be completely confidential and only be viewed by HSCHT staffs who will analyse the return and produce a report on the key findings.

## Allotment Association

Plots are available now and the equipment is available for hire.



**Membership fees** are now due and are still at the same rate as last year at £5.00. This allows you to access the hiring of the various gardening equipment held at the site and to rent a plot for the year, if desired. To become a member or re-new membership please see Helen at the DT offices.

**Plots** are available now for both the allotments site (at £20 a year, including use of a shed) and the poly tunnel (at £10 a year). To rent a plot please see Helen (at the DT) or Hilary (821 400).

**Equipment Hire** available: -

Rotovator	Strimmer	Shredder	Hedge Trimmer	Lawn Mower	Trailer
We have both a large and small rotovator available: £10 per day, plus fuel	£10 per day or £2.50 per hour (if preferred), plus fuel	£10 per day	£10 per day or £2.50 per hour (if preferred)	£10 per day	(Needed for the safe transport of the large rotovator and the lawn mower): £10 per day

To book the hiring of equipment, please see Hilary (821 400).

Happy gardening.

REWDT

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



**Free rechargeable/ solar-powered lanterns**  
Distributed by Islands View Surgery. Contact the Nurse (821 406) or Anne (821 265) at the Surgery.

**Orkney Scotland Here2Help**  
Traditional home help service - regular help with a range of household tasks, at a subsidised rate.

**Grant Schemes**  
General Grants, Driving Lessons, Educational Bursaries, and Wellbeing



### 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.

Board meetings planned for 2017:

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November


Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

The Annual General Meeting is planned for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October.



### Contact Us

**Telephone:** 01856 821 229  
**Website:** www.rewdt.org

**E-mail:** info@rewdt.org  
**Facebook:** 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 (plus access to a laptop and printer) is available to use at the Trust Office during office drop-in times

**Directors:** Bryan Milner (Chair); John Garson (Vice-Chair); Kayleigh Tipper (Treasurer); Hilary Byland; Chris Cox; Diana Compton; Clare Daintith; Mark Hull; Carole Maguire; Eric Shortland; Stuart Sailor

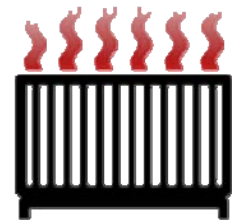
Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee.

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

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



Heat Smart Orkney Ltd



### DIVERTING UNUSED RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO AFFORDABLE HEATING



For more information or to join the project contact us:

Phone: **01856 821 277**

Email: **info@heatsmartorkney.co.uk**



Alternatively, learn about our progress on **Facebook** by searching **Heat Smart Orkney** and on the web at **www.rewdt.org/HSO**



## Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau

Next Rousay outreach visit: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, 11:30am to 2:30pm, in the Church Centre.

We are there to advise on any issue. To make an appointment or arrange a home visit, please contact 01856 875266 no later than Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August.



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

### ROUSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

#### Supervised Session Hours

Monday	19:00 - 21:00 *
Tuesday	19:00 - 21:00 *
Wednesday	x x x
Thursday	19:00 - 21:00 *
Friday	x x x
Saturday	16:00 - 17:00
Sunday	x x x

\* The gym closes at 20:15 if empty

#### Buddy System Hours

Monday	09:00 - 17:00 *
Tuesday	09:00 - 17:00 *
Wednesday	09:00 - 17:00 *
Thursday	09:00 - 17:00 *
Friday	09:00 - 17:00 *
Saturday	x x x
Sunday	10:45 - 11:45 **

\* During School Term Times

\*\* During Rousay Fatburn Extreme

Extra Summer **Buddy System** Hours  
(by kind permission of Sally Norquoy)  
Wednesday 5th July-Friday 14th July,  
weekdays, 0930-1100

Extra Summer **Supervised** Sessions  
Every Wednesday from  
26th July-16th August inclusive 1530-1645

Please note that from the start of the new term  
the Buddy System Hours will be 0900-1700

See our Facebook page "Rousay Healthy Living Centre"  
for more up to date information and ask to join our  
Rousay Fatburn Extreme Group  
for exclusive FBX news and banter.



Calling all members young and old.

It's our 80th Anniversary and we are having  
a meal at The Taversoe on the 17th September.

All are invited and we look forward to  
seeing members from the past and present.

If you are interested please contact  
Julie for more details on  
07947999683 or tommyjulie@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you.



#### Summer Opening Hours

Monday 11am to 5pm  
Tuesday to Saturday - 11am to 11pm  
Sunday - 11am to 10.30pm

Food served daily from  
12pm to 5pm (Mon),  
12pm to 9pm (Tue-Sat),  
and 12pm till 7.30pm (Sun)

Booking for meals is highly advisable - 821 325

**My Favorite Thing  
To Make For Dinner Is  
RESERVATIONS**

#### Dinner Reservations

The summer is proving to be a busy one at The  
Taversoe. To avoid disappointment, we would  
kindly ask you to consider making a reservation  
should you wish to come in for a meal. Many  
thanks for your understanding, Carey - 821 325

## Rousay Heritage Society Summer of History Programme

### Future dates for the diary:

**10-23 July:** Excavations at Skaill farm.  
Test pit weekend/open days **22-23 July**.  
Volunteers and visitors welcome.

**3-28 July:** Excavations at  
Swandro coastally eroding site.  
Details available soon.

**Volunteers welcome!** Please get in touch if you want to take part in the fieldwork at Skaill.

Contact The Archaeology Institute for details on how to take part: [studyarchaeology@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:studyarchaeology@uhi.ac.uk)

Or phone 01856 569225

### Archaeological Building Recording at Skaill Farmstead – 14 to 16 June 2017

Work at Skaill Farmstead, Westness, got underway last week with some building recording, walkover survey and a workshop with the Rousay Community School.

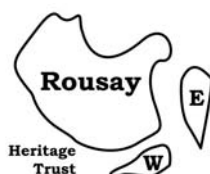
The University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute were joined by the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) survey team to record the remains of the buildings at Skaill farmstead and The Wirk (Norse tower). The HES team produced accurate scaled drawings of the buildings (plans and sections) using a plane table and alidade – a basic but very effective survey method which results in highly accurate scale drawings. At Skaill farmstead, these include features such as the fireplaces, doorways, blocking, alcoves and shelves allowing the different phases of construction to be identified. The house was extended four times to the north as the farm expanded during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the barn, the beautiful corn drying kiln was recorded along with a flue, a grain store, winnowing doors and vents. A dairy was identified at the northern end of the house.

Walkover survey was started around the farmstead with the help of volunteers. Features such as the stone walled enclosures, and earthworks such as banks and terraces were recorded. These sites were mapped with a handheld GPS and help to place the farm buildings into a wider context. An earlier phase of enclosure, perhaps an early hill dyke, was walked on the steep slope above the road.

Ten pupils from the Rousay Community School had a day of activities during the week. This started with a class-based workshop about what archaeologists do, how we know where to look, what we find and what this can tell us. They looked at finds and thought about what you might expect to find below the ground, especially in a farm mound such as that at Skaill, and above the ground in terms of built heritage. The class then visited Skaill farmstead and after a picnic lunch found out about building recording and photography from the HES team. Pupils traced from the geophysics plot of the farm and we looked at what we could see on the ground. They finished by drawing their own plans of the farm buildings. The weather was kind and a good day was had by all.

We look forward to starting the excavations at Skaill and Swandro next month!

The project has received a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Stories, Stones and Bones grant and additional funding from the OIC Archaeology Fund and the REW DT.



**LOTTERY FUNDED**





### For Sale

Fridge

Under worktop size,  
ice box, good condition, £45.

At Viera View -  
821 202 or 07917 683089

### For Sale

New "Strider" sandals from *Cotton Traders*  
size 4-5; cost £28 but will accept £14.

A robust yet flexible black sole teamed  
with a comfortable, dark beige cushioned  
foot bed and two adjustable, dark olive  
straps.

Phone: 821 305



### For Sale

County Show Tickets

Contact Angus 821 200



### Snooker Club Membership

Fees now due

Contact Angus 821 200

### For Sale

JML Vee Slicer

£10

Jenny 821 344

### The Rousay School Market Garden

Produce will be available for sale over the  
summer holidays at the School Garden

Please pay for produce by using  
the Honesty Box on site

Thanks for your support!



### Offers from Rousay Growers

- Sufficient Fushia for a hedge 30ft long, with plants 18" apart. Potted plants 10p each.
- Sufficient Hebe for a hedge 40ft long, with plants 2ft apart. Potted plants £5 each, with large discounts for quantities.
- Polytunnel frames for sale complete, or in sections. Offers invited.
- Call 821 276

### Thank You

Thanks to all who took part in homemade in the parish event. congratulations to Sheena Marwick. First for the sponge cake Sally Inkster third for here bannocks



St MAGNUS  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL

Kira and the St Magnus International Festival  
would like to thank everyone who came out to see  
the performance on 20 June at **the space**-  
the musicians enjoyed performing and meeting everyone!

Very special thanks to

Zoë Flaws and the Rousay Community Association,  
and Muriel Marwick and the Scottish Women's Institute  
for their generous support and donations.

### A Big Thank You



The total raised through the  
Strawberry Teas came to £360.00

Many thanks goes out to all who helped  
put this event into place, baking and raffles  
and local grown strawberries, and to all  
who supported and enjoyed the fair.

Triangle Club

## Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June, *The Islands (Scotland) Bill* was published by the Scottish Government, the measures in which will include: a requirement to "island-proof" future legislation & policies, the creation of a national islands plan, and greater flexibility around councillor representation within island communities (which could benefit our North Isles ward, in particular). This bill has arisen as a direct result of the *Our Islands Our Future* campaign, initiated and carried through by our former convener, Dr Steven Heddle with the support of OIC's Constitutional Reform Working Group, of which I was (and still am) a member.

At the first Education, Leisure & Housing (ELH) Committee meeting of the new council, I proposed Cllr John Ross Scott (a former popular house parent at the Papdale Halls of Residence—see below) for my previous role of vice-chair. He was appointed unopposed. As I wished, I was re-appointed to the Orkney College Management Council and appointed to the new Education Quality & Standards Consultative Group. Also, I am continuing on the Local Housing Strategy Working Group.



Cllr Scott (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) bids farewell to some students and staff at the Papdale Halls

At the start of the ELH meeting I requested that two items which were to be taken *in camera* should be taken in public. I succeeded with one of them: the item recommending that the North Ronaldsay Schoolhouse be leased to the North Ronaldsay Trust (with a view to utilising it as a gateway house), the Shapinsay Schoolhouse and land at Helliar be sold to the Shapinsay Development Trust (for developing affordable housing), and the Eglisay Community Association be permitted to purchase or lease the Eglisay Schoolhouse (as a flexible housing resource)—all good-news stories that deserved to be publicised.

Journalist and writer, Magnus Linklater wrote a foreword to our 10-year strategy for the arts (*Orkney's Creative Future*) in which he mentions Max's legacy to the musical tradition of Orkney ... "the extraordinary playing of local fiddlers and accordionists". This encouraged me to remind everybody of the importance of retaining free musical tuition and instrument hire for our children. In the item on our *Museums Forward Plan 2017-22*, I asked if the service will support non-OIC heritage centres (such as those on many of our islands) to acquire museum accreditation, and I was assured that it will, by, for example, providing mentoring.

One of the performance indicators used in monitoring our council services is *recruitment & retention of permanent staff*, and this currently stands at "green". At the Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee meeting (and ELH, too), I requested that we add *recruitment & retention of non-permanent staff* to our indicators, as this may give a somewhat different complexion on things. We agreed that the next 2 islands to have the *Empowering Communities* project rolled out to them will be Hoy and Sanday, and towards the end of the P&R meeting, councillors unanimously assented to progressing plans for a council-owned, large-scale wind-farm development. If constructed, this will generate a much-needed income stream for OIC. As readers will know, I have long been calling for an enterprise like this. It is good to know that the council "Zeitgeist" has (at last) caught up with me.

Councillor induction has been continuing, and we have also been having "member priority sessions", at which we've been discussing what the priorities of the new council should be, and where we have had the opportunity to input issues of particular concern to our respective wards and the commitments we made in our manifestos. There have been two meetings already of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board, and I have attended my first meetings of the board of Orkney Ferries Ltd and of the Orkney Health & Care Committee. I've also had my first Monitoring & Audit Committee meeting of this council.

Out in the Isles, I've been to a meeting of Sanday's community council, and after the council recess I shall be going to Stronsay for a meeting of theirs. I am looking forward to flying to Eday on 28<sup>th</sup> June to see the school-bairns' *Magnus 900* performance at the Heritage Centre, and to spectating at the North Isles Sports in Sanday on 1<sup>st</sup> July (in which 2 of my children are competing).

On account of the unexpected "snap" General Election, our community council elections have been postponed until after the shows, and details of dates will be published in August. Notably, at these elections 16- & 17-year-olds will not only be eligible to vote, but will also be eligible to stand! So, if you are in this age-group, have a think about it.

It's been pretty "full on" since the council election, so I'm looking forward to the council recess, although there are still a few meetings to go before it starts.

Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson  
West Manse, Sanday  
stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

stephen.clackson@council.orkney.gov.uk <<<< **NOTE THE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

"Letter from School Place" is available for downloading at [fisp.pbworks.com](http://fisp.pbworks.com)

