

NORTH RONALDSAY TRUST NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018



In this issue:

- CDM Appointed
- School House
- Sheep Festival
- Grand Prize Draw
- Island Conference
- Dark Skies
- Coffee Morning
- Sarah Moore BBC
- Fund Raising Activities
- Island Flights Booking Online
- Community Centre WIFI
- Astronomy Weekend
- Cycle Grant
- NLB Visit
- Island Games

Astronomy Weekend

Our CDM Helga Scott is organising an Astronomy weekend on Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 September during the 28th Orkney International Science Festival. Talks and workshops with speakers including Maarten de Vries; what to see in the night sky. Matjaz Vidmar; astronomy and space. Maciej Winiarczyk; time-lapse photography of the aurora. Gordan Mackie; a tour of the solar system. Christian Wilhelm; Mission to Mars.

Look out for further notices

.New Website

www.northronalsay.co.uk

The website www.northronalsay.co.uk has extended its content to cover all of the island attractions, accommodation, transport, lighthouses, wool mill, archives, standing stone .

More will be added in the future. If there is something that you think needs adding then send an email through the island website.

It is planned to be as current as possible to promote the island and support the CDM's marketing targets for the island

CDM Appointed

On the 6th May 2018 the Trust appointed Helga Scott as Community Development Manager. The CDM project is funded through Leader, HIE, OIC, and NRT, with financial support from NRCC, for an initial 2 year contract.

She said, "I am really excited about this new opportunity to research and develop the various projects outlined – it is a real pleasure to work with the current team of directors towards securing a sustainable future for North Ronaldsay."

Helga has completed an induction period and is now progressing through the research to;

- * Identify suitable housing possibilities
- * Identify site for Commercial 'Nest Unit'
- * Establish funding Opportunities
- * Dark Skies accreditation
- * Island Marketing—Tourism, Culture, Heritage, arts, crafts, Wildlife, Attractions
- * Communications
- * This funding will enable the Trust to focus on projects that will look at increasing both the islands population and economy. Helga is currently in discussion with land and property owners who have notified the Trust that they wish to sell, lease or gift land or property. Anyone interested in getting in touch with the Trust regarding property please contact Helga, northronalsaycdm@yahoo.com or 07340 495768.

School House

The School House project is nearing the start of building work. We have received acknowledgement of funding from the Scottish Governments Rural Housing Fund and the Princes Countryside Fund. The lease will be signed shortly enabling the work to commence. The house will be now be fully renovated, upon completion it will have a low energy rating with new wall insulation and triple glazed windows.



During this process we have received fantastic support from Orkney Islands Council, in particular Luke Fraser Team Leader (Policy and Planning) Housing Services, as well as Dave Stewart from db Projects.

We look forward to welcoming the first occupants to the School House when finished

3rd Annual North Ronaldsay Sheep Festival

So the two weeks of festivities have come to an end the people came, worked, played, made friends, and left their toil to help rebuild approximately 250 paces of sheepdyke north east of Sandbank. A gap leading to the Back Ness



pund was also repaired

New island friends came from Scotland, England, Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium and Hong Kong. Dyke building took place mornings and afternoons during weekdays but there was also a huge range of other activities: Lighthouse Tours, Wool Mill Tours, Felting Workshops with Sam Bullen, A Treasure Hunt and a Wildlife 'Bingo' walk with Alex Wright. Evening talks included North Ronaldsay Sheep Management, Bee Keeping and Sheepskin Tanning (and the potential for a Tannery on North Ronaldsay). Other evening activities included Traditional music from the Aim family (Magnus, Graham and Jessica), a sheep-themed Film night, an annual Ukulele evening with Claire Maguire and also organised by Claire, entertaining reading of short plays. A very competitive football match on the links resulted in a 1-1 draw, with the Rangers (Visitors) beating Thorfin (Islanders) on penalties.

The Trust held a BBQ followed by the judging of the Island Bake-Off Competition – winners were 1st: Laura Stenzel (vegan cookies), 2nd: Thorfinn Scott (sheep biscuits) and 3rd: Mark Holbrook (mutton pies). An island dance with music from Kitty Halcrow and Karen Tweed included the Grand Prize Draw and also celebrated Brian and Christina Saunders' wedding day – complete with wedding cake and bride's cog. A quiz night was followed by a second dance with music from Kitty Halcrow and Fionn McArthur.

Loganair Online

Loganair are planning to introduce online inter island bookings over the coming weeks. Together with bookings you will also be able to change bookings online up to 24hrs before the flight at no additional cost, apparently.

Kirkwall Airport Parking

For those who have not as yet applied for parking exemption at Kirkwall airport then an application form can be obtained from sshearer@hial.co.uk who will also require a copy of your vehicles V5 document

Island Conference

After the School House is finished the Trust is planning a 'ribbon cutting ceremony' and an Island Conference to invite dignitaries from the Scottish Government, Westminster Government, Princes Countryside Fund, OIC, and possibly more.

The event is still in its initial stages of planning but will be designed to thank people for their support, as well as displaying our aims. It will also give an opportunity for the islands display their products and services and show our thanks for the support but also outline our plans for the future

Dark Skies

One of the core projects for the CDM is to obtain the Dark Skies Accreditation. Much work has been done in the past by Howie Firth, the late Kathleen Scott, and the application is now in it's final stages.

This accreditation will put North Ronaldsay on the map and help develop winter tourism on the island.

There is now a Dark Skies group formed on North Ronaldsay who are affiliated with the British Science Association group on Orkney Mainland with the aim to promote and enjoy Dark Skies activities on the island. Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the activities of the group please get in touch with Helga Scott,

Community & Public Wifi

There is a fast broadband connection at both the community centre and the airport waiting room. However as its an Orkney Islands Council connection it is restricted with the same filters as within the OIC offices, one being sending of emails

Sarah Moore—The Island that Changed my Life

Sarah has recently been the subject of a documentary for BBC following her move from near to Edinburgh to the island. The link to the program online is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bbbz7c/ad/the-island-that-saved-my-life>



Following the airing of the program on the 16th July there have been 20 expressions of interests in moving to the island. To which the CDM has contacted all inviting them to the island as well as keeping them updated of island news such as available housing and employment opportunities when they arise.

Grand Prize Winners

Orkney Wine - Mrs M Jackson (c/o Sangar)
Scapa Glasses - Sinclair Scott
Swannay Beers set - M Shearer, Kirkwall
Orkney Ales - Ian Webster, Edinburgh
Orkney Tweed Vole - Grieve, Stromness
Orkney Brewery Tour - Stan Jamieson, Kirkwall
Longship Tray - Clive Mead, Gloucestershire
Hume Sweet Hume Voucher - Ella Henderson, Stromness
Sheep Festival Mug - Lynn Morris, Kirkwall
Highland Park - T Cromarty
Tour of Highland Park Distillery - Bernie Holbrook
Tour of Kirkuvagr Gin Distillery - Liz Forgan
Karen Tweed Tune - Isla Davison
NRBO Voucher one night for 2 - Wm Tulloch, Sand Ha', Stromness
Donaldson's Voucher - Kitty Lam, Hong Kong
Donaldson's Voucher - George, Maud
Idiom - Wrigley Sisters CD - Amy Tulloch, Stromness
Judith Glue Voucher - Stan Jamieson, Kirkwall
Freda Bayne Bag - Lou Flett, Stromness
Orkney Cheese Voucher - Caroline Stevenson
3rd Prize - £100 - Sinclair Scott
2nd Prize - EE Hawk Phone - M Shearer, Kirkwall
1st Prize - 5 nights Lighthouse Cottages - Mrs E Duncan, Aberdeen

The Trust would like to apologise to members who received tickets through the post with an additional charge to pay

We would like to thank all the people that supported the raffle, buying, selling of the tickets and also to the generous gift donated to the Trust.

In total raised through the prize draw raised over £2,461

Orkney to Essex

At the end of May Mark Holbrook supported by John Scott took Orkney food with the main course being North Ronaldsay Mutton Sausages to Harwich in Essex to prepare a meal, washed down with a keg of Swannay Breweries Scapa Pale Ale. Together with a raffle of Highland Park and island gifts managed to raise £300 and the demand for 'probably' the best sausages in the world



Community Coffee Mornings

There have been three coffee mornings since the last newsletter during which the community has been updated with the happenings within the Trust, Community Council, Orkney Council, Book Club, Film Club, Sheep Festival, Island events and more. There has also been presentations from Thaw in relation to support of Fuel Poverty, CloudNet Solutions regarding providing an affordable Island Broadband Network, Orkney Sustainable Fisheries, Luke Fraser from OIC Housing, and Dave Stewart from db Projects regarding the School House and Island Conference.

Kirkwall Fund Raising

In June of this year a 'North Ronaldsay' event was held at the Masonic Hall in Kirkwall. The audience were briefly updated on the Trust's activities and future projects before sitting back and enjoying a recorded version of this years island pantomime 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'.

Following on from the film there was lots of yap between the audience drinks, raffle and cheer.

At the end of the day we managed to raise just over £600 to support the Trust's projects

A Visitor from Uzbekistan

In late June Shakhnoza Begmatova from Uzbekistan Women's Business Association visited North Ronaldsay for 2 nights as part of a study tour to Orkney funded by the EU, the focus of which was interviewing women entrepreneurs. Uzbekistan is one of the Central Asian republics, and has been on a course of reform since its president took office in 2016. It has a very young population and realises that its future stability will depend on developing its economy so that there are jobs and careers for young people, many of whom are educationally well qualified. It



recognises that in order to do this it has to expand trade and cultural links with other countries, and within the UK they see particular potential with Scotland, as Scotland shares various challenges and opportunities. For instance, Uzbekistan has various natural resources that might enable it to develop in areas like tourism or renewables, where Scotland has led the way. A particularly interesting aspect is that they have a large number of native sheep, and would like to further develop their wool industry, to get added value. During her visit to the island Shakhnoza spoke to Jane Donnelly about the wool mill, Helen Galland about Woolly Wally, Mark Holbrook about his chocolate making and Alison Duncan about how North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory has developed and the impact it has made on the island in providing work for people and amenities for the community.

NLB Inspection Visit



North Ronaldsay Lighthouse welcomed staff and Commissioners from the Northern Lighthouse Board in June

Mike Bullock, NLB's Chief Executive said

"We carry out inspection voyages twice a year. It's an opportunity for our Commissioners to see our operational Aids to Navigation, which helps their understanding of the technical detail and challenges we face.

"Thank you to RLK Billy Muir and to Mrs Muir for the very warm welcome we received at North Ronaldsay."

North Ronaldsay Airport Firefighters start training at Kirkwall Airports Fire Training Centre



North Ronaldsay Airport workers are now undertaking their firefighting training at Kirkwall Airport. This provides a more comprehensive training environment fighting a variety of flammable media together with additional casualty recovery training.



The training includes understanding the different types of extinguishing media for different fires, branch techniques and two person fire-fighting techniques to extinguish a fire quickly.



Cycle Grant

We have recently been successful in obtaining a grant to purchase 8 new hire bikes. These hopefully will be delivered nearer the end of the year .

Part of the funding application was to create a maintenance hub to handle all island bike repairs for residents and tourists. However this part of the grant was unsuccessful but the trust is still hoping to deliver on this with other resources. Part of the funding will come from the sale of the older bikes to interested parties, or by part exchanging the bikes when the new bikes are purchased.

Island Archives

The New Kirk has had some recent minor repairs however there is more funding coming next year to assist in updating the building with toilet and facilities to make hot refreshments. The funding is being delivered under the NILPS project and will start in 2020

The funding is to enable the archives to become more of a heritage centre for the island in a more comfortable manner with the benefit of a 21st century interpretation display.

The end result being an area to attract more tourists and assist in growing the local economy.

Dyke Worker/Ranger

The North Isles Landscape Partnership has confirmed that from April 2019 we will have funding for a dyke worker who will co-ordinate and undertake a repair programme, as well as supporting its use as an agricultural structure.

The post could be working closely with crofters to assist with sheep management as well as carrying out additional work within the community during winter months.

This could include support work with training, island promotion, sourcing and applying for additional funding, and liaising with the Development Trust, Community Development Manager.

An allocation for funding which will enable an additional position as Ranger. This role would include guide activities and as well as supporting the development of the island for the Trust.

This is a fully funded, three year position and it is hoped that the successful applicant will also be the first resident of the renovated School House, and will bring an additional family to the island.

The position will be advertised nearer the time as the funding is released

Bank of Scotland

John Scott of North Manse received £1,000 from the Bank of Scotland for the time that he volunteers to support the Trust as director and also gifted to the Trust to match an element of fundraising.

North Ronaldsay Sailor representing Orkney in Gibraltar 2019

Mark Holbrook will be representing Orkney within the sailing team at the Island Games in Gibraltar July 2019. There will be two adult sailors sailing the Olympic sailing dinghy Laser with a full size rig, and two juniors sailing with a radial sail which a slightly smaller size sail.

The picture on the left is from Holm Regatta 2017 and Mark's sail number is 140004



If you have items for the next newsletter then contact newsdesk@northronaldsay.co.uk