

# REW Community Newsletter

'The Review'

Produced by: Rousay Community Association

Subscriber: Electronic



## Rousay WI

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Underwater Photography  
by Penny Martin

Competitions:  
Box of sweets  
Bowl of bulbs



## Yoga

Wednesdays  
3.30 - 5.00pm  
at the School.



## What's On

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

- The Big Clean, The Pier, 11am - 2pm
- Classic Cocktail Party, The Taversoe, 7.30pm

### Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup>

- The Big Clean, The Pier, 11am - 2pm

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

- Taversoe InnQUIZition, The Taversoe, 8pm

### Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup>

- The Big Clean, The Pier, 11am - 2pm

### Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>

- The Big Clean, The Pier, 11am - 2pm

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

- OIC Special Refuse Collection
- Rousay WI, Rousay School, 8pm

### Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup>

- Film Showing ("Murder on the Orient Express"), Rousay School, 8pm

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

- Palm Sunday Service, St. Mary's Chapel, Westness, 11.30am

### Every Monday

- Coffee Morning, The Craffthub, 11am - 1pm
- Bridge, Rousay School, 7.30pm

### Every Tuesday

- Tai Chi Chuan, Rousay School, 3.15pm - 4.15pm & 4.15pm - 5.15pm
- Boxercise, Rousay School, 7.15pm (7pm for absolute beginners & refreshers)

### Every Wednesday

- Triangle Club, Church Centre, 10am-1pm
- Yoga, Rousay School, 3.30pm - 5pm
- Fatburn Extreme, Rousay School, 7pm

### Every Thursday

- Knitting & Crochet, The Craffthub, 11am - 1pm
- PRE-BOOK**

### Every Sunday

- Fatburn Extreme, Rousay School, 11am



## Film Showing

The Rousay Cinema will be showing  
**Murder on the Orient Express**  
on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the School at 8pm.

## Rousay Show 2018

Look out for details about the following, in the next Review:

- Carrot seeds & equipment for 'The Longest Carrot' competition [provided for child entries only]
- Sunflower seeds & equipment for the 'Grow your own Sunflower' category [children only]
- Tattie-in-a-Bucket [all ages]



To subscribe, or to send in articles for the next edition of the REW Community Newsletter ('The Review'), please contact the Editor:

**Editor:** Kayleigh Tipper

**E-mail:** kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk

**Telephone:** 01856 821360

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

**Deadline:** 27 March 2018 (5pm) - late articles are not guaranteed to be included

Funder logo



From the community  
For the community



The Taversoe  
01856 821 325

### Classic Cocktail Party

Saturday March 3rd from 7.30pm

Classic Cocktails

Canapé Nibbles

Posh Frocks & Men's Ties



Taversoe  
InnQUIZition



Tuesday  
March 6th  
@ 8pm

Free Entry

Snowball Jackpot

Light Snack Supper

### Special Refuse Collection

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018

To book, call Orkney Islands Council (873535).



### Palm Sunday

A Service for PALM SUNDAY at St Mary's Chapel, Westness, on Saturday 24 March at 11.30am. All warmly welcome.



### Rousay Tai Chi Chuan 2018

**Now Free under the Active  
Islands / Active Life Membership**  
Non Active members  
**£10.40 for 2 hours, £6 for 1 hour**

Every Tuesday at the School.  
New Exercises this Term.

1<sup>st</sup> hour Energy Exercises at 3:15  
2<sup>nd</sup> hour Tai Chi Form at 4:15  
come for one or both.

All ages and abilities welcome.

REW DT Well Being Grants can be applied for  
to support Active and Class Costs.



[www.facebook.com/orkneytaichi](http://www.facebook.com/orkneytaichi)

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

### Dinner Reservations

The Olds have decided they need more sun, so are away again!  
I 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

### Winter Opening Hours

Monday & Tuesday - CLOSED\*

Wednesday - 5pm to 11pm\*\*

Thursday & 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.

### Orkney Mobile Library



Next visit to Rousay & Egilsay:

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April**



Thank you to the Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust for funding the purchase of waterproofs for the pupils and staff of Rousay Community School!



Local Gardener needed at the School Garden to remove some spiky thorn bushes for us, please!

Please contact the school with an estimate of your price for the work on 01856 821 226 or by email on [admin.rousay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk](mailto:admin.rousay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk)

Thanks!

### Marion's Shop & Filling Station

The Shop will be closed for deep-cleaning and re-stocking in mid March.

Arrangements for the sale of fuels will be unaffected but will be cash only until the shop re-opens.

The shop will re-open on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm.

### Do you have a heat pump?

I need something done to my air to air heat pump, but nothing SO urgent it warrants someone coming out especially.

I wondered, if anyone else needs PIPE DREAMS man to come out, could they let me know and then we can share the cost of his coming over to Rousay?

Joyce 821377

### Wanted

Looking for any furniture for sale or freebie. Only need the basics but all stuff considered. Need everything basically.

Tel. 07570 144028.

Thanks in advance.



### For Sale

Victorian  
Metronome

£45

Tel. 07917345735

### For Sale

4-berth Sprite Caravan

Old-style, dry and water tight and cosy. Hooks up to electric.

Ideal family over spill, storage.

£375

Contact Trish 821 487



### For Sale

Hanging Light on chain

24" in height

£45

Tel. 07917345735

### For Sale

PS1  
PS2  
with extras  
£35 ONO

Wii  
with extras  
£40

821 322



### For Sale

2002 Mercedes

First class reliability.

No mot but wouldn't cost much to put through; needs rear brake disc and pads which I've bought and will come with car.

Automatic and a lovely drive.

Open to sensible offers

Contact Trish 821 487



1st Rousay Rainbows and Brownies would like to thank the Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Gairsay Community Council for their contribution towards our trip to Thinking Day on the 24th of February. Our unit all made their promise at the event and had a really good time mixing with 240 girls from across Orkney.

Thank you once again!



Thank You

Prize bingo held on Sat 10th, raised £155 for the Triangle Club.

This was made possible with the kind donations of gifts for prizes and monies donated.

To all that supported the day, many thanks, Ann



### For Sale

Single bed

Good condition

£25

Tel. 07917345735



# SCOTTISH

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

### Retained Duty Service Firefighters

An RDS Firefighter is a professional firefighter who may have a full time job outside the fire service but responds to emergency calls within their local area as & when required

Applicants are required to be aged 18 years or over, have a good level of physical fitness & have the required standard of vision & colour perception

You will be required to be readily available to attend incidents & should therefore live or work around 5-8 minutes from the Rousay Fire Station

Why not join us?

For more information you can contact Russell (07761 939645) or Zoë (821 454)

For detailed information on the admission process and to apply please visit

**[WWW.MYJOBSCOTLAND.GOV.UK](http://WWW.MYJOBSCOTLAND.GOV.UK)**

and search for "RDS Orkney"

**Applications for this intake close on  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018**

#### **Rousay Community Association Community Rooms Bookings**

Community Rooms must be booked in advance. Failure to book may lead to the room you require being unavailable.

To book for your function, contact Sally:

Telephone: 821 383

Mobile: 07522 647 794



#### **Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau**

Next Rousay outreach visit: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018, 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 16<sup>th</sup> August.



## MARCH – Opening times

Mon – Fri

11am to 3.30pm

\*\*\*

Every Monday – Coffee Mornings

11am to 1pm

£2 per session

\*\*\*

.....

The Crafthub would like to welcome Clare Daintith as a new director  
and we look forward to working with Clare as we approach the new season

\*\*\*\*

## WORKSHOPS

Everyone welcome

\*\*\*

Every Thursday in March | 11am – 1pm

**Knitting & Crochet – Tips and Techniques – Murray Stewart**

£10 per session – REW residents £2 (REWDT fund 80% ) Refreshments and materials included  
Beginners and intermediates welcome

\*\*\*

**Coming Up in April – FREE workshop including lunch – Blide Trust**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April -| 11.30am – 2.30pm

Wet Felting (tbc)

Aromatherapy sessions – one to one with Carol Shearer (Please contact us to book)

Propagation talk – David Sneesby (at the allotment)

Booking essential for all workshops – please phone for more details  
We'd also love to hear your ideas for future workshops

## WE'RE ON THE MOVE – WATCH THIS SPACE!!!!

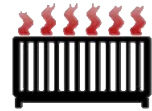
From 19th March 2018 The Crafthub C.I.C will be relocating to a space within *At The Pier* C.I.C, located at the pier, Rousay. We aim to be open in our new premises from 19<sup>th</sup> March and look forward to your continuing support. We will shortly be announcing a program of workshops and events for the coming year. Please contact [crafthub@btinternet.com](mailto:crafthub@btinternet.com) or phone 821455 during our regular opening hours with any queries.

For up to date information on opening times and to book 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





Heat Smart Orkney Ltd



**DIVERTING UNUSED RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO AFFORDABLE HEATING**



## **EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS HAVE BEGUN ON ROUSAY, EGILSAY & WYRE!**



**A special thanks to all of our project participants for your  
patience awaiting this long-anticipated project milestone.**



*RS Merriman's vans arrive on Rousay*

**27 houses on Rousay, Egilsay  
and Wyre have been  
scheduled for installations  
to date; RS Merriman's will be  
contacting householders  
directly to book  
appointments as they work  
their way through their list of  
properties.**



*RS Merriman's  
electrician  
Kevin with newly  
installed Quantum  
heater at Quoys,  
Rousay*



*HSO Project Officer Di Compton  
greet's RS Merriman's  
technicians at the Rousay Pier*

**"You've definitely got the right  
team with Merriman's. They  
were ever so polite and they  
had everything with them. They  
made sure the power was off for  
the minimal time and they  
cleaned up after themselves  
before they left. It couldn't  
have gone any better!"**

*-Mrs Celia Knibbs, Quoys, Rousay*

*For more information or to contact us:*

**Phone: 01856 821277    Email: [info@heatsmartorkney.co.uk](mailto:info@heatsmartorkney.co.uk)**

**-PLEASE NOTE-**

*We have changed our office visiting hours in order to accommodate your enquiries better:  
**Drop-in Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 9-3, or please make an  
appointment in advance to see us if a Thursday or Friday is more  
convenient for you.***

## Introducing .... At The Pier C.I.C.

**At The Pier** C.I.C is an exciting new social enterprise which will be located at the site previously occupied by the Pier Bar and Restaurant from Spring 2018. It will offer a lively and welcoming community space featuring a café, a shop, a venue for events and gatherings, and potential employment and volunteering opportunities. As part of this venture The Craithub C.I.C will be relocating to a space within **At The Pier** premises.

As a Community Interest Company, **At The Pier** C.I.C will work for the benefit of the community, limited by guarantee where profit and assets are used for the community and with no personal gain to any individual.

We are keen to hear from REW residents who wish to be involved in the development of the new company – sharing ideas, or joining us as a director. Our current board of interim directors are Eric Shortland (interim Chair), Ann Strickland, Murray Stewart, Zoë Flaws and Fiona Mitchell.

We will be starting work **At The Pier** on the weekends of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March and if anyone has an hour or two to come and help 'The Big Clean' working party – just pop along between 11am and 2pm. Refreshments provided.

Everyone welcome – we look forward to seeing you.

Contact [atthepier@outlook.com](mailto:atthepier@outlook.com) with inquiries and suggestions.

## Tingwall to Kirkwall Bus Service

I have been in contact with our MP, Mr Alistair Carmichael regarding the Tingwall to Kirkwall bus service and the difficulty for some people with their shopping accessing coaches that do not have low platform floors.

Part of Alistair's response from Gavin Barr Executive Director of O.I.C. is as follows: "the DDA legislation states that by 2020 all public bus services shall be operated using low floored accessible vehicles. Stagecoach in Orkney is in the transitional period of replacing a number of coaches with low floored buses...Stagecoach confirmed that passengers have the ability to store shopping in the hold area of the bus and/or on the bus. They also noted that bus drivers should provide additional assistance to people with restricted mobility. Stagecoach has confirmed that they will reaffirm this message back to the drivers." If you feel that you would like to report any past or encounter in the future any driver who does not act appropriately Stagecoach "have asked that in order to identify the driver responsible, it would be useful to obtain dates and times that a driver has not been accommodating, so that they can appropriately respond to the matter internally."

*Ann Chapman*

**Bag the Bruck: Saturday 21st - Sunday 29th April 2018**

The Outdoor Orkney Group has recently contacted this office to advise community councils of the arrangements for the 2018 Bag the Bruck collections. The event is scheduled to take place over a nine day period this year, extending from Saturday 21st until Sunday 29th April.

Please note that this activity qualifies for grant through CCGS, as long as the **application is made to the clerk prior to the event**. Funding can be provided to one or several groups and CCGS is subject to a maximum project cost of **£300** in any financial year.

Please send your emails to [rewgclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rewgclerk@gmail.com) to register your interest for this activity.

**Vermin Eradication Scheme**

There is a limited amount of funding available to residents of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre to request funding towards eradication of vermin.

Requests should be in writing to the Clerk, Mrs Emma Soames, at the address below, or emailed to [rewgclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rewgclerk@gmail.com)

Mrs Emma Soames, Clerk to Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council,  
Broiland, Rousay, KW17 2PR

**Maintenance of Kirkyards and War Memorials  
on  
Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre**

Tenders are invited for the maintenance contracts for the nine sites on Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre. The contracts are for a one year period.

Brinian Kirkyard, Rousay  
Glebe Kirkyard, Rousay  
Scockness Kirkyard, Rousay  
St Magnus Kirkyard, Egilsay  
St Mary's Kirkyard, Wyre  
Wasbister Kirkyard, Rousay  
Westside Kirkyard, Rousay  
War Memorial, Egilsay  
War Memorial, Rousay

The necessary forms are available from the Community Council Clerk:-

Mrs Emma Soames, Clerk to Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council,  
Broiland, Rousay, KW17 2PR

Phone: 01856 821289                      e-mail: [rewgclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rewgclerk@gmail.com)

Tenders should be forwarded to the Clerk, at the above address, in a sealed envelope marked "Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Grasscutting Tender" before Monday 9th of April 2018.



## Allotment Association



### Plots & Equipment Hire

Plots are available now and the equipment is still available for hire. For information about the allotment plots, poly-tunnel plots or equipment hire, please contact Ian on 07879 496686.

### Please remember to close the gates at the Allotment site & Brinian Play Park

It has been reported that the gates are being left open at the Allotment site and the Brinian Play Park. Please can all parents make sure that they close the gates when they leave with their children as we have also found dog mess in the play park, and keeping the gates closed should prevent this from happening again. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

### Blide Trust at the Allotment

With support from Your Islands, Your Choice funding (matched by the REW DT), the Blide Trust this April will be building grow boxes and trellis in the poly-tunnel (dates still to be confirmed). Later in the seasons they will also be installing a decking area with seating at the site.

### Date for your Gardening Diary

David from the Blide Trust will be giving a talk on Propagating at the Poly-tunnel on Friday 20 April at 11:30, all are welcome.

Happy gardening!



Orkney PC are hoping to visit the Isles to offer our services to anyone that may require some IT Help.

We offer a wide range of IT Services, some of which are listed opposite. Please call for these or any other services you require and we will do our best to help you out.

Once we know how many people are interested, we can arrange dates.

Tel. 01856 878488

E-mail: [enquiries@orkneypc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@orkneypc.co.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/orkneypckirkwall](https://www.facebook.com/orkneypckirkwall)

- **Full PC and Apple repair service**
- **PC Healthchecks**
- **New Laptops, Desktops with the latest Intel and AMD Processors. Free data transfer included.**
- **Refurbished Laptops with 12 Months Warranty, refurbished desktop computers usually in stock.**
- **Gaming computers built to customer specifications and budget.**
- **Printer sales and repair service**
- **Wifi Access points, Point to point wireless links, range extenders, CCTV. (ideal for weak network spots or for businesses requiring a better signal)**
- **Team Viewer sessions for remote access between computers so we can help you from our shop.**
- **Tuition on most IT topics from general computer enquiries to using various programs, i.e. Word, Excel, and email. (including one to one tuition)**

### Coming Soon—Final Survey Report

The REW DT would like to thank all the residents who completed our survey, both online and with Emma & Denis Soames. The response was huge with 74% of households taking part, the results will be used to help with DT directors to plan the projects we will deliver in the next few years. With a few final tweakings to the layout to be completed, once the final version is received from Emma, we will publish the report for all to see. The final version will be published on our website, with a link from our Facebook page and hard copies will be placed around the three islands for people to read too.

The directors will use the report to improve services where possible and start projects linked to the report findings. There will be more updates on this in future Reviews, so watch this space.

### Opening Hours

The Trust has new office 'Drop-In' opening times which are Monday to Wednesday 10:00 to 15:00, outside of these hours the inner door to the Manse may be locked. Thursday & Friday will be by appointment only.

Occasionally all the staff are away from the office on DT business, and so if you wish to speak to us it is always better to phone first to make an appointment.

### New Peedie Lap 5K Race

On 9 June 2018 we will be holding our first 5K race. The race will be for all abilities to run or walk from the top of the Pier Road to the Fire Station and back. Primary age children can cycle with their parents/guardians, but this is not an adult cycle race, but more of a 'fun' event. More details to follow and if you want to help our on the day we will be looking for water stop marshals and people at registration and on the finish line, please let us know if you can help.

### Getting Online for the Over Fifties

This helpful free service has been set up to encourage and help our 'slightly older folk' to get online. The main focus of the club is to offer a friendly service where Clare Daintith will help you with any issues, big or small on iPads, Hudls, Kindles, Smartphones, any other tablets and general laptop usage.

If anyone would like some IT Support in their own home, so you can keep in touch with family and friends or to set up internet banking and any other online issues please give Clare a call on 01856 821287.

Clare will be setting up a monthly drop-in computer club at the Manse with refreshments and baked goods and the internet. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Clare know. Dates are still to be confirmed and will be advertised in The Review.

# Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust

## Community Update: March 2018

### Free Swim Sessions

The Free Swim tickets will expire on 31 March 2018.

At the moment, the REW DT are working with the Pickaquoy Centre to see if this offer can be continued after 1 April under the new Pickaquoy Sponsorship Scheme. We will keep you updated.



Here's some of our current funds and projects. For more information, please contact us.



#### Educational Bursaries

Nationally-recognised qualifications only.  
Up to 80% or £500 (maximum of £1,500 in any 5-year period).



#### Driving Lessons

Via a recognised driving school.  
Up to 80% or £500 (maximum of £1,500 in any 5-year period).

#### Wellbeing Grants

This grant scheme covers sporting, craft, art and other non-certified learning and general wellbeing courses/workshops/events, and is for individuals and groups.  
Up to 80% or £500 (maximum of £1,500 in any 5-year period).



#### Here2Help

Regular help with a range of household tasks, at a rate subsidised by the Trust.

Contact Age Scotland Orkney direct:  
Telephone: 01856 872438 (Gillian)  
E-mail: [gillian@ageconcernorkney.org.uk](mailto:gillian@ageconcernorkney.org.uk)

#### Car Club

Our electric car is available to book from as little as one hour or as long as you need.  
Application Forms, FAQs, & T&Cs on our website or contact us.



### 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 training/event/payment due date, whichever is earliest, as well as a minimum of **two weeks** before the planned Board meeting date. This is to allow sufficient time for applications to be processed.

**The next two Board Meetings are planned for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 & Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

#### 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)



**Free Wi-Fi access** (plus access to a laptop and printer): 10am to 12 noon (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).  
Contact us to arrange an appointment outwith these times

#### Directors:

John Garson (Chair), Gill Wigley (Vice-Chair), Kayleigh Tipper (Treasurer), Hilary Byland, Christina Cox, Carole Maguire, Bryan Milner, Eric Shortland, & Alan Odling. Mark Hull is a co-opted director.

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



ActiveLife  
More people, more active, more often



ActiveIslands  
More people, more active, more often

## ROUSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

(01856 821 443)



Keep up to date with our official  
Facebook page and groups:  
"Rousay Healthy Living Centre"  
"Rousay Fatburn Extreme"  
"RHLC Buddy System"  
"Rousay Boxercise"

### Opening Hours

#### 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 \*  
Wednesday 18:45 - 19:45 \*\*  
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

## BOXERCISE®

**TUESDAYS @ 7.15pm**

(7.00pm for absolute beginners  
and those wanting a refresh)

**Rousay Community School Hall**

Free for ActiveLife &  
ActiveIsland Members

50p for Budget Members

£4.25 Standard Session Fee

*Boxercise is a fun, fast-paced exercise  
class incorporating techniques of boxing  
Participants must be a minimum of 16yrs old*

## FATBURN EXTREME

**Rousay Community School Hall**

**Sunday 11am & Wednesday 7pm**

**FREE - ActiveLife & ActiveIslands**  
**50p - Active Budget Members**  
**£3.50 - Non Active Members**

Yoga



**Yoga  
&  
Tai Chi**  
**Included in  
ActiveLife &  
ActiveIslands**

Tai Chi



## Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

Champagne corks (or rather, for budgetary reasons, corks of bottles of less expensive alternative sparkling wines) were popping at School Place on the last day of January to celebrate the announcement by Derek Mackay (Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Finance & the Constitution) that £5.5 million will be included in the Scottish Government's budget for 2018-19 to provide additional funding for Orkney's inter-island ferry service. It is a great relief that our message has at last got through to those who hold the purse strings. Furthermore, Orkney is set to receive an additional £1.1 million as its share of an increased allocation to local government. However, this budget is only for a single financial year. We still need a long-term solution for our ferry revenue funding and, of course, capital funding for a ferry-replacement programme. Therefore, we have to hope this financial settlement is not something that will happen only once in a blue blood super moon!



Blue blood super moon – next one due 31<sup>st</sup> January 2037

A good thing Humza Yousaf (Minister for Transport & the Islands) has done is to provide a fund to help with the costs of minibus training for the community transport sector. Although people with a car licence issued before 1997 automatically have the D1 entitlement, this no longer covers driving "for hire or reward" unless you've passed the appropriate PCV-D1 test (see <https://www.gov.uk/driving-a-minibus>). For details of the Community Transport Association scheme, go to their website at: <http://www.ctauk.org/in-your-area/d1-trainer-training-project.aspx>.

Unfortunately, I couldn't get to the Education, Leisure & Housing Committee meeting because the morning plane to Sanday was delayed and then eventually cancelled on account of gremlins in the fuel bowser at Kirkwall Airport. I was very sorry to miss discussion of the items on Rousay School's inspection report and the report on the Inspection of Community Learning and Development in Orkney, in which Sanday was one of the focus areas.

Weather caused transport disruption for the Air & Ferry Services Consultative Forum meetings. I was there, but the community council transport reps from Eday, Sanday, Shapinsay, Westray, and Rousay/Egilsay/Wyre/Gairsay didn't make it.

At the Special Policy & Resources Committee Meeting for provisionally setting our budget, we agreed to allocate £82 million this year to running council services. Council Tax will have to go up by 3%. Notwithstanding the discussions we had at our various budget-setting seminars, I was still uncomfortable with some of the cuts proposed, so I moved three amendments: 1) not to reduce our grant to community councils by £21,500, particularly when we claim to be "empowering communities"; 2) to retain modern language assistants (I argued they are as essential to effective foreign language teaching as labs are to science and cooking facilities are to home economics—especially when some schools are no longer doing trips abroad); 3) not to make a cut of £65,500 affecting additional support for learning.

My first amendment was successful, so community councils can breathe a sigh of relief, but, regrettably, a majority of councillors did not support my other two amendments. (A recorded vote was taken, so who voted which way is available for all to see.) My failure to get my third amendment through worries me greatly, as I feel this cut could have a detrimental impact on the quality of education deliverable in our Isles schools, especially with regard to equity. I shall be pressing at OIC to get this changed, if necessary with another attempt at an amendment at the ratifying Special General meeting.

Other meetings I have attended in Kirkwall this month include: a briefing meeting of the Orkney College Management Council, a meeting on housing strategy, a Special Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the Council's schemes of administration and delegation, a seminar on our council plan, a councillors' political session, and a tender opening.

In Sanday, I very much enjoyed the Burns' supper organised by the school and led by the pupils. The surname Burns was originally spelt "Burness", which makes it likely that Robert Burns' ancestors came from Sanday (or possibly Westray).

I shall be attending community council meetings in Westray on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, in Shapinsay on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and in Sanday on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.



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