



# NEWSLETTER

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## Bicycle Hire

The Trust is pleased to announce the purchase of eight new hire bikes. The bikes (pictured below) are model Orbea 42, pack 19. Each bikes will have a unisex frame with back racks and compatible panniers; and whilst the picture shows no pedals, the Trust has been assured that our hire bikes will indeed have pedals!



The bikes should be available from early March, and the daily charge increased slightly to £10 per day in line with current hire charges throughout Orkney.

Bike hire will be managed by Alex Wright (Brekan), with Louis Craigie (Lochend) undertaking a bike maintenance course with Orkney Cycle. All bike and maintenance training is being delivered through funding secured with Cycling Scotland.

## Island Games - Gibraltar 2019

Alexander Scott has been announced as part of the Orkney team participating at the Island Games in Gibraltar 2019.

Zander will be participating in the Athletics team alongside existing North Ronaldsay competitors Michael Scott (Squash) and Mark Holbrook (



**GIBRALTAR 2019**  
NatWest International  
Island Games XVIII

\* a challenge has been set to bring back Gold by fellow NRT Director John Scott, who won Silver and Bronze in the Games in 1985. Sadly we couldn't find a photo...

## YIYC

'Your Island Your Choice' is the Community Choices Fund that supports participatory budgeting (PB) in Scotland.

PB is recognised internationally as a way for local people to have a direct say in how public funds can be used to address local needs, and this year we have been offered £5,563 by Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) to put towards local projects.

Following a Coffee Evening on the 23rd February and presentation of all suggested projects, the following were chosen and finalised with VAO:

New laundry equipment at the Island's laundromat located at the Old School, a public address system to support community events, new lighting fixtures to meet Dark Skies accreditation criteria, a signpost near the airport to assist tourists coming off the plane.



## Cavan

The croft of Cavan - renovated by the Wise family over the past four years - is back on the market following their recent move off the island.

We would like to wish Suzanne, Steven and Roy all the best in their new location in Scotland, and we look forward to welcoming new residents to the island.

As we write there has been some interest in the property, and we look forward to the possibility of new residents being announced in the next newsletter.

## CloudNet

The island is fast approaching 21st Century connectivity! We are currently awaiting the exterior of the School House to be rendered, at which point CloudNet will be able to fix their receiving and transmitting equipment to the chimney stacks. *(contd.)*



## Recycling & Waste Management

Last year we secured funding to research how the island could benefit - in status or financially - from an update of our current recycling and waste management activities.

The team is currently made up of Helen Galland (Rue) and Mark Holbrook (New Manse).

Helen will be looking at current waste solutions already operating within Orkney, and Mark will be meeting with WasteSwitch Ltd in West Lothian to discuss waste supply chains and other projects currently happening throughout Scotland.

Both Helen and Mark will obtain a qualification that will provide a working understanding and awareness of the relevant waste management regulations and legislation that they must adhere to.

It is hoped that by the next newsletter suitable projects will have been identified and possibly in operation, with our goals being to recycle more waste in a way that benefits the island.

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## School House

The School House has now had all internal walls replaced with insulated interior walls, new oak interior doors fitted, with a new bathroom is due to be installed shortly.

Exterior windows and doors have been replaced with triple glazing and the house's heating system has been updated from electric night storage heaters to an air and water heating system.

Scaffolding will shortly be going up in order to remove the old render on the exterior of the building, which will then be re-rendered to seal the property.

A set of solar panels will be fitted in the walled garden and the building will also be the transmission point of the pending island broadband network, with the School House benefiting from free broadband connection.

*An official opening is being scheduled for June 2019.*

### **CloudNet (continued)**

As the Scottish Government extended the BDUK project (which covers the cost of installing satellite and broadband in remote areas) through to 2019, CloudNet did not submit the applications until recently in order to have the maximum amount of time to complete the installation on the island.

### **5G**

In addition to this network the island has been chosen as a 5G trial area.

We will be given five or six 5G phones to distribute around the island (to be used for calls and data), as well as for use to distribute Wifi signals into public areas.

### **Amazon Smile**

If you can order from Amazon you can donate directly to the NRT at no extra cost to you. Sign up via [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and 0.5% of all your purchases will be donated to the Trust.

### **Hansel & Gretel**

On Saturday 21st April for “one night only” Hansel & Gretel will be performed at the Memorial Hall, with a stunning script penned by Sid Ogilvy.

Awards are sure to follow!

### **James Martin's Great British Adventure**

North Ronaldsay made a star appearance on ITV's first episode of *James Martin's Great British Adventure*, thanks to the celebrity chef's interest in the rare North Ronaldsay sheep and their unique taste.

Billy Muir introduced James to the island's famed delicacy, with the episode also featuring additional Orcadian delights including craft vinegar made from bere meal and locally caught scallops.

### **Births**

We are very pleased to congratulate Helga and Michael Scott (Old Manse) on the birth of Lottie, a sister for Isabella, on 1st October 2018, alongside Dusty and Michael Ridley (Holland) who welcomed Ned, a brother for Orlie, one day later on 2nd October 2018!



left: Lottie and Isabella

right: Ned



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### **North Ronaldsay Trust AGM**

The North Ronaldsay Trust's Annual General Meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## Northern Lighthouse Board

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Billy Muir is celebrating 50 years with the Northern Lighthouse Board.



## CDM update



**above:**  
New Kirk, North Ronaldsay, taken Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Shows back row (left to right) Mark Holbrook, Claire Wilson, Andy Golightly NILPS programme manager.

Front row: Helga Scott, Anne Bignall & Valerie Dawson.

## Sheep Festival 2019

Plans are underway for SheepFest '19 with the dates confirmed as 29th July - August 9th.

An enthusiastic new committee has been set up to help organise the Festival, led by Heather Woodbridge, and an application has been submitted to Awards for All Scotland for funding.

## Community Development Manager Update

- by Helga Tulloch

### Island Conference

An Island Conference is planned for later this year, with the formal opening of the Schoolhouse as the main event.

This event will be an opportunity for North Ronaldsay to give others an insight into our culture, history and heritage and allow us to send out a positive message about where we are going and how we intend to get there. As well as highlighting all that is best about the island it will raise our profile with existing and potential funders and be a chance to explore ways in which they and other supporters of the island can help us move forward. A final date will be set shortly.

### Dark Skies

We are currently gathering additional information requested following submission of our initial application.

### Marketing

In July and September 2018 North Ronaldsay had a visit from Destination Orkney and Visit Scotland to discuss potential ways of marketing the island and how that might sit within a wider Orkney plan.

### Commercial Nest Unit

We've been looking into requirements of businesses that might use the facility and putting together applications for the necessary preparatory studies to be carried out.



**above:** Neil Moir, Project Officer, Scottish Government. Shows map of Scotland showing 'activity so far' with regard to Rural Housing Fund, blue flag on map for North Ronaldsay Schoolhouse Project.

**below:** Helen Macdonald of Ulva Ferry Housing Project.



### Orkney Sheep Foundation

Kevin Woodbridge has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the OSF, and following the departure of Hunter Peace, Kate Traill Price has been appointed as Convenor.

The charity continues in its aim to preserve the ancient North Ronaldsay sheep, with a focus on re-centering its base for operations onto the island and 'coming home' to North Ronaldsay.

### NILPS Dyke Worker/Ranger

The North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS) team were out in North Ronaldsay for the day on Wednesday 20th February. They are Andy Golightly, Anne Bignall, Valerie Dawson and Claire Wilson. A meeting was held to discuss the various projects that NILPS will be delivering including the post of a manager to attend and oversee the maintenance repair of the sheep dyke.

The next step is to meet with stakeholders and agree the job description for that post.

### Housing

On Thursday 22nd February I attended Rural Housing Scotland's annual conference, 'Rural Solutions', at the Birnam Arts & Conference Centre.

It was really useful to hear about different projects and meet so many project managers and funders, and great to hear North Ronaldsay's Schoolhouse project mentioned by Aileen Campbell, MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government in her ministerial address, and also by Neil Moir, the Project Officer from the Scottish Government. A highlight was speaking to Helen Macdonald,

Housing Project Manager for the Mull & Iona Community Trust about the impressive Ulva Ferry Housing Project - the provision of 2 affordable high-quality, three-bedroom homes for rent with low energy design.

It was also interesting to attend the 'instant homes' workshop and learn about 'Kranog' from Fiona van Aswegen, Managing Director – these innovative, architect designed luxurious self-catering units were a hot topic of discussion, the question being could these be a possible solution to rural housing needs? Using simple off-grid technologies they have no utility bills and are built to cutting edge Passivhaus standards. They're factory built and require little building work, arriving at their location in parts that are simple to put together.

A big thank you to the North Ronaldsay Community Council for providing financial support to attend an invaluable conference.

