

The Friends of

St Ninian's

Deerness

(2)



On Tuesday 30th June 2009, it will be exactly one year since St Ninian's Church, also known as The Lower Kirk, belonged to Deerness again. Its history, tradition and heritage are now being kept in trust for the generations to come. To all who contributed to this, an enormous debt of gratitude is owed, THANK YOU! from The Friends of St Ninian's.

Successfully acquiring the building was only the first chapter of our story and a great deal of forward planning has been progressing to promote the long-term viability of the project. The first phase, of transition from the elected and constituted steering group to a company limited by guarantee, is now complete, and The Friends of St Ninian's are now in the process of becoming a registered charity.

The past year has seen a chain of fund-raising events, from lectures on Deerness Archaeology to Afternoon Teas on the day of the Deerness Boat Show; from the entertainment – A Deerness Yuletide, performed in St Ninian's, to the Blue Door Charity Shop in Kirkwall. This last raised an astonishing £3,600 over the two weeks, thanks to every attic and wardrobe in Deerness being cleaned out! Throughout this time, folk have been so generous, giving of their time, energy and money unstintingly.

The company's objects are to hold events in the Kirk, and other venues for the interest, benefit and bringing together of the local community and others throughout Orkney and further afield, to raise funds for the repair and upkeep of the Kirk, to produce a Friends newsletter, to undertake projects to advance our knowledge of, and to understand and value, both St Ninian's Kirk and the parish of Deerness, particularly projects which bring the generations together e.g. a project collecting old place-names, to set up an exhibit in the Kirk giving its history and to open the Kirk for quiet contemplation of a Sunday afternoon for all who wish to visit.

We are also supporting the current archaeological excavations at the Brough of Deerness, and ultimately, we wish to encourage local enterprise in Deerness, to create some employment opportunities by acting, with other local groups, for the long term health and vitality of Deerness, with St Ninian's as a focus for our belief in our community. Since having the building open as a museum is not practical, the long term plan is to set up a 'virtual' heritage centre based on a website for Deerness. Many 'ologies' will go on it; there'll be advertising, and links to other websites, not to mention photographs of this wonderful place and its people. The concept has great potential, and there is so much talent in Deerness, and it's a technology that will involve the younger generation too! Grants should be available to set up such a community project. Any extra monies raised by the web-site, which are surplus to requirements for the fabric and upkeep of St Ninian's will be ploughed back into the community.

The first step in this direction is to create our own web pages on the Orkney Communities website, and in this respect we have already got a great boost, as Deerness has its own page on the Orkney International Science Festival website, courtesy of the Festival's Director, Howie Firth. <http://www.oisf.org/index.php?path=deerness>

EVENTS SUMMER 2009

Wednesday June 24th St Magnus Festival Excursion, St Ninian's, Recital by George Vassilev 3.15p.m.

Friday June 26th The Mayfield Singers 7.30p.m. Entrance by donation
Light refreshments back at the Deerness Hall after the concert

Tuesday 28th July - Deerness Community Hall 7.30p.m.

Dr James Barrett of Cambridge University is giving a talk on the 2009 dig on the ***Brough of Deerness***. This is the group's second season of excavation on the Brough. Please come along and hear about our own 'Time Team' and our Deerness ancestors! There will be an admission fee of £2 and tea & biscuits will be served afterwards.

Saturday September 5th afternoon – Walk around Ward Hill Deerness with Geoffrey Stell, to the site of Chain Home Low Radar Station. 2.30p.m.

Monday September 7th, Deerness Community Hall 7.30 p.m.

Geoffrey Stell: Science at War in Orkney

A talk reviewing the various scientific aids applied to intelligence-gathering and to the detection and destruction of enemy aircraft and vessels in and around Orkney in both World Wars.

During this weekend 5th – 7th September, there will be an exhibition running daily at the Deerness Hall, with the theme of 'Wartime'.

Please note there is a postcard of an ink & wash drawing of St Ninian's, available at fundraising events, and the Deerness Stores.



Becoming a member of Friends of St Ninians

We welcome membership from Deerness folk, Deerness-connected folk and folk who simply want to support The Friends of St Ninian's because it's a worthwhile endeavour.

If you would like to join us, please fill in the form below, and send it with your subscription and/or donation, to the Membership Secretary for The Friends of St Ninian's – Jean Williams, West Kirk, Deerness KW17 2QH

Membership: Friends of St Ninian's Annual Subscription £10

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Other Donation: £ _____

NB. Annual subscriptions will run from when we become a registered charity, and will be eligible for Gift Aid.



The FOSN Board of Directors Contact List

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