



The Friends of St. Ninian's, Deerness, Orkney

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FOSN's AGM—Thursday 14th March, 7:30pm

NEWSLETTER
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We hope you can join us at Deerness Community Hall.

It'll be a good chance for a catch-up, a yarn over a cuppa or a glass of wine and get your input on the way forward for FOSN.

THE BLUE DOOR

An imminent fund raising event is our week in the **Blue Door Charity Shop from 11 to 16 February 2013** and we look forward to receiving any donations you can make to our stock for that week.

Contact Isobel Gardner on 741307 if you can do a stint any morning or afternoon at the Blue Door.

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WORK ON THE KIRK

The focus during 2012 was on the fabric of St Ninian's inside and out – after all our main purpose from the start has been to preserve this community asset as well as all it stands for.

Outside a lot of work was completed on the Kirk thanks in the main to a Heritage Grant from Orkney Islands Council. The major redecoration got well underway at the beginning of 2012 and the task ahead was daunting. But up galloped a knight in shining armour - Kevin Garriock and what a splendid difference he made! We are very grateful to him and all those who so generously gave of their time and energy.

A loud hip hip hooray to all who helped in any way – you know who you are!

We also acknowledge Peter McKinlay's generosity, expert advice and patience whilst we tried out so many test pots of paint!

Not only did the walls get a spectacular makeover, but the steps to the dais were rediscovered, and the lamp, courtesy of Radio Orkney's Bruck Programme and brought back to life by Laurence, was hung above the vestry door. Goodbye to the white plastic lampshade!

St Magnus Festival

All was ready for June, when we were delighted to host another St Magnus Festival concert, This time the artistes were The Cardinal's Musick, and what a treat. Music for the soul indeed and the glorious sound of their beautiful voices will stay long in the memory.

St Magnus Festival musicians praise the Kirk's acoustics highly and enjoy performing there very much.

We must thank all the Deerness volunteers who helped with the organisation of the teas for the audience after the concert, and

who provided the baking, which gives great pleasure to all who attend (including some who come mainly for the teas)

Disappointingly we won't be hosting an event this year as the Festival is going to Flotta.

What's Been Happening in 2012 & Looking Forward to 2013

Sadly the parish has lost good folk in the past year again but new life has come too, and there are lots of new faces and made over houses in the parish. Following the success of the St Magnus Festival, the summer and autumn went by more quietly than they had in 2011, with a number of projects being thought out to take forward in 2013. FOSN are delighted to announce that we received bookings recently for two weddings in St Ninian's next year! That's a spur to carry on with the work on the fabric of the Kirk and we have ideas of which more at the AGM. We will always need to find funding for these projects and the more members the better, to help cover our annual running costs.

Website Update

Anthea Hume and Nonnie Dingwall have been busy working on our website, www.deernessorkney.com. They are doing a splendid job and we are again very grateful to them. Also thanks must go to Pauline Wilson for providing her regular Deerness bird reports. There's a way to go yet and we're just scratching the surface, but we're getting there and with your input we can go much further. We see the website as a Deerness resource, not just for FOSN, and are very happy to welcome other Deerness input: e.g. advertising for goods, services, events; reports and updates from other Deerness organisations and groups maybe even a local swap shop.

Please contact us via the website, info@deernessorkney.co.uk or directly with any of the committee.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our membership currently stands at 106 and we need your help in expanding that. If you have friends and relatives outside Deerness, outside Orkney, who you think might be interested in helping us becoming members, please direct them to the website www.deernessorkney.com or any of the committee. We'd welcome a newsletter from expat Deernessians!

2012/2013 memberships are now due – if you're not paying by direct debit, please forward payment (£10 individuals, £15 couples) to Denise Brown, Old Schoolhouse, Deerness, KW17 2QH, or "post" your payment in an envelope, with your name on it, in the FOSN box at the Deerness Shop.

If you don't already pay your FOSN subscription by direct debit, we'd very glad if you'd think about doing so. It helps FOSN with postage and administrative costs. **Email us at info@deernessorkney.co.uk** or contact Membership Secretary Denise Brown, Old Schoolhouse, Deerness, KW17 2QH if you want to set up a direct debit.

Please also think about letting us use your email address which we will not share with anyone else. Postage costs are always increasing and using email is a useful saving for the Friends. Contact Denise with your e-mail details if you are happy for us to contact you in the way.

The AGM

At the AGM we'll discuss other projects going forward in 2013 which include:

- a project instigated by Leslie Foubister in commemoration of the men from Deerness who died as a result of the Great War, in the lead up to the centennial of the start of war, in 2014
- Deerness Places & Names - for which a lot of help is needed, and we'll discuss at the AGM. (NB we'll also be delighted to see you at a talk on the project at the Over 60s meeting on 28 February)

- a gathering in the Kirk in summer to let everyone see the work done thus far

- a Deerness Crafters Christmas Sale on the weekend of 16 November 2013. Anyone interested in the last, please contact Isobel Gardner on 741307, Anne Mitchell on 741300 or Ernie Skea on 741203

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN 2012 AND WE HOPE
YOU CAN JOIN US AT THE AGM ON 14TH MARCH**