

DEERNESS NEWSLETTER 2018

(INCORPORATING THE FOSN ANNUAL NEWSLETTER)

For several years now, the Friends of St Ninian's have produced an annual newsletter which goes out to our members. This year we're joining forces with the Deerness Hall Committee to distribute a newsletter about Deerness, to every home in the parish, and to all the Friends of St Ninian's. We're doing it because lots of new folk have come to Deerness and might not know what all happens here, and old friends of Deerness may be interested in knowing what's happening here at present. Deerness rightly prides itself on being a sociable and welcoming parish and wherever you work, whatever your interests are, we hope you'll take part in some Deerness activities and enjoy being involved.

A list of clubs, groups and activities currently taking place in the Parish can be found on pages 4 and 5.....

HALL NEWS

After a very successful year and a great Harvest Home, 2018 is going to be very different. As you may know, we have been able to get funding to extend the Hall with work scheduled to start this summer.

Briefly, the plan is to build a permanent stage at the rear of the Hall, add a multi-purpose room and more showers, toilets and a laundry; the camping facilities are being upgraded, also adding an electric vehicle charging point. We will need help from the community to do some painting, and notices will be in the shop and the bulletin at the time.



There will obviously be some disruption during the building process to both the hall itself and the parking area, and the camping facilities will have to be closed temporarily, but the enlarged Hall and improved facilities will be a more useable and attractive venue for locals and visitors. The committee room should be available for use through most of the build, but parking may be restricted.

We will still hold as many of our regular events during 2018 as we can, starting with our popular Plant Sale and Teas on Sunday 13 May, and any donations of plants would be gratefully received.

And we are planning to hold an event to celebrate the completion of the extension it would be great to see you there!

FOSN

Hello everyone, please take some time out to enjoy our latest (combined) newsletter, whether you are reading it here in Deerness, elsewhere in Orkney, or somewhere else across the world. I am sure you will find something of interest amongst the various updates around what FOSN has been doing, or are planning and all the other information about what's going on in Deerness.

As per usual you will see the FOSN Board, along with a willing band of volunteers, continues to be busy - arranging, running and hosting a wide variety of events and projects, which bring many social, educational, heritage and cultural spin-off benefits to the Deerness community and beyond, as well as essential fundraising . Once again, FOSN would like to acknowledge all the contributions of hard work, valuable time, energy and donations which we have received over the years, we cannot underestimate how much your support is appreciated.



St Ninian's, its history and heritage and all it stands for, is a unique community asset and one we cannot afford to lose.

We hope you can continue to support us and encourage others to do likewise – Thank you.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT, SOMETHING DEERNESS

Our bi-annual Christmas Art and Craft Market was held on 4 & 5 November 2017, and was another winner, displaying the fantastic arty crafty talent there is in this parish. You name it we seem to produce it and to such an exciting standard. Everyone worked so hard and most important - enjoyed themselves, and we did really well considering there were so many other craft fairs on all over Orkney.

Thanks to one and all, especially the café team who kept us all fed and watered magnificently! The next SDSD is scheduled for November 2019, and please don't be backward in coming forward with ideas – we need to keep ahead of the competition now they're all too aware of just what Deerness can do!

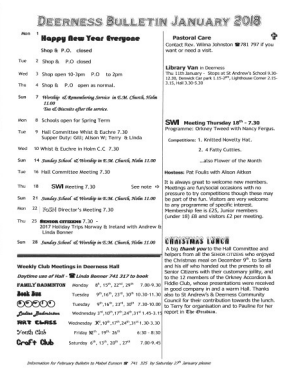
Contact for this: Isobel Gardner on 741307 .

DEERNESS BULLETIN

Gareth Williams (Deerness's Postmaster) and Mabel Eunson (phone 741325) produce the Deerness Bulletin every month. It lists everything they've been told about, that is taking place that month in Deerness, and has been on the go every month since 1984!

Pick up your copy every month at the Shop, or find it on the DeernessOrkney Facebook page.

And use it, to let the rest of us know about any events you're planning in Deerness.



FRIENDS OF ST NINIAN'S (FOSN)

The Friends of St Ninian's are the folk who look after the Kirk. It's no longer a Church of Scotland place of worship and so it's used for concerts and exhibitions, but also funerals and weddings, carol services, and more. Our members pay an annual membership (£10 individuals, £15 families) and that income goes towards heating, insuring, maintaining an old building.

We strive annually to upgrade the building and currently we're planning work on external doors and skylights (if we can get grant help to do so). We're also exploring the idea of a green toilet. We know too that we have some major external issues and are gradually working our way through a list of repairs and plans.

We also undertake Deerness projects like the World War 1 project, our 2011 Deerness in 100 Objects exhibition and the Christmas craft-sale, Something Different, Something Deerness, all about raising awareness about Deerness in, and out of the parish.

Membership forms are enclosed with this newsletter, are available at the Deerness Stores, from Denise Brown 741336, membership secretary, or from the website www.deernessorkney.co.uk. If you're not already a Friend, please think about becoming one – without your support, the Kirk is hard to look after.

Friends Directors are:
 Chair: Ernie Skea 741203.
 Secretary: Isobel Gardner 741307.
 Treasurer: Anne Mitchell 741300.
 Membership Secretary: Denise Brown 741336.
 Directors: Donna Eunson 741450, Mabel Eunson 741325, Richard Falconer, Laurence Irvine 741304, Tanya McGill, Ian Sutcliffe 741449, Innes Wylie 741342, Stuart Wylie 741303.

MONTHLY BIRD REPORT



Pauline Wilson writes a Deerness Bird Report every month and it goes on the Facebook page and to www.deernessorkney.co.uk. It's much appreciated and a valuable record of what's been flying past. If you see anything unusual, or have a bonny picture of any birdlife in Deerness give Pauline a call on 741382, she would love to hear from you.

It would be good to have other regular reports from any of you – beach combers, boatmen, the farming month, craftsfolk, the natural world, photographs, whatever from Deerness you'd like to share. Get in touch with Jill via the Facebook page (see Page 3 for contact details).

The Friends of St Ninian's have now remembered 11 of the 13 men on the Deerness War Memorial, all of whom died either during or immediately after World War 1.



We have brought together as much official, local and family information as we can for all of them and hope next to get all that information onto the website www.deernessorkney.co.uk. Some is already there, but more is to come.



We will be holding an Armistice commemoration at the War Memorial on Sunday 11 November 2018, one hundred years on and hope as many folk as possible can join us in that very special remembrance.

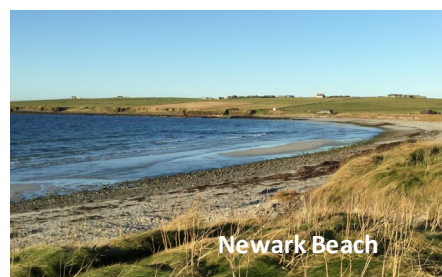
DEERNESS IS A NICE PLACE.....

In fact it's a lot more than that isn't it? It's a beautiful place which enjoys a not inconsiderable degree of uniqueness thanks to its extremely enviable location. This uniqueness is well described in the book "Almost an Island" and if you don't already have a copy of this wonderful informative book then I strongly suggest that you rush out and buy one now - if you are lucky enough to find one that is!

Deerness has lovely sandy unspoilt beaches where many people enjoy playing with their children and walking their dogs or even on the occasional sunny summers day just sitting on the sand listening to the lazy sound of the waves gently lapping up onto the shore, whilst on the other hand there are those hardy souls who enjoy nothing better than donning on their warm winter woolies and battling against the elements which can appear to blow in from the sea in every imaginable direction in the winter time!

Deerness too has many lovely areas of coastal walking from low level paths to the high cliffs around the Mull Head, a walk around which can take in the spectacular Gloop and a visit to the archaeologically important Brough of Deerness. There is also an extremely well maintained and managed visitors centre at the Gloop car park with that most important of facilities - toilets!

During your walks whatever the time of year you will be accompanied by the sounds of the many species of birds which are either just passing through or call Deerness their home, with Pauline Wilson being our resident expert here! There's lots more to Deerness than this of course but you'll just have to explore it and find out for yourselves unless of course you already know! Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Deerness and use it wisely with consideration for others so that it can be appreciated by everyone.



The following will all take place in the Community Centre, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 1 May at 7.30 pm - Hall Committee AGM. Come along and hear what has been happening over the last year and what is planned for the future. New committee members and volunteers always welcome!

Sunday 13 May from 3.00 to 6.00pm—Plant sale and teas, in aid of Hall funds.

Monday 14 May at 7.30pm—Friends of St Ninians AGM, followed by Tom Muir, Sarah Jane Gibbon and Emma Grieve for stories and music.

Saturday 26 May—there will be a concert as part of the annual Orkney Folk Festival in the Kirk, followed by teas in the Hall. More information and tickets from www.orkneyfolkfestival.com

Sunday 12 August – Friends of St Ninian's at the Vintage Rally, raising funds for the Kirk.

Wednesday 29 August at 7:00pm—Drama Group meeting re. "Swallows and Amazons" (see page 5).

Sunday 11 November – commemoration at the Kirk, to mark Armistice Day.

December 2018 – Deerness Over 60's Christmas Lunch in the Hall, by the Hall Committee, with entertainment. All over 60's resident in the Parish welcome as guests of the Hall Committee.

November 2019 – Something Different, Something Deerness. Contact Isobel Gardner with any queries 741307.

DEERNESS CRAFT CLUB



The Craft Club meets in the Hall on a Saturday evening from 7pm to 9.45pm from October to March and is attended by first time crafters to very experienced crafters who are very enthusiastic about passing on their skills to beginners. A wide variety of crafts are covered and include knitting, crochet, tapestry, cross stitch, embroidery and patch work and many others. More information from Linda Bonner on 741317.

BOOKBUG

Bookbug is a group for all ages of pre-school children (including babies) and their parents/carers where children have fun while being introduced to songs, action books and rhymes.

Bookbug is held every Tuesday from 10:30 - 11:30am in the Deerness Community Centre during school term times.

For more information, please contact Kath Wylie on 871176, or the Orkney Library and Archive on 873166.



ART CLASSES



Isobel Gardner runs informal art classes weekly in the Hall. At the moment they're on Wednesday afternoons but that might change and details will be in the Bulletin. There's no set charge, just a donation to the Friends of St Ninian's, and everyone does their own thing.....good sense of humour essential! For details, please phone Isobel on 741307.

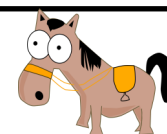
YOUTH CLUB

Meets on Friday evenings during term time. For more information on times and activities contact Penny Russell on 741435.




HORSE CLUB

Anyone interested in meeting up once a month to look at videos, books or just talk about horses please contact Terry Penna 741233 mm3poi@btinternet.com



SWI

 With a membership of 36 with ages ranging from 17 to almost 90, the ladies of the Deerness SWI get together on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Meetings are well attended social gatherings, with programmes varying from travel talks, craft demonstrations, health & wellbeing and interaction with other branches. New members and visitors are very welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Linda Bonner on 741317, or email her on bonner.fea@btinternet.com

SENIOR CITIZENS

The Senior Citizens group meets once a month in the Deerness Community Centre, for a variety of programmes and talks, with supper. The group is open to anyone over the age of 60.

For more information please contact Mabel Eunson on 741325.



BOWLS



The Bowls Club meets on Tuesday evenings from October to March, from 7.00 - 10.00pm. All abilities welcome! Contact Sheila Eunson on 861367.

BADMINTON

East Mainland Ladies' Badminton Club meets every Wednesday from 1:45 - 3:15pm in the Deerness Community Centre from October to April, and is for any female living in the East Mainland and Kirkwall, who wants to play non-competitive badminton, have fun and share a cuppa! More information is available from Linda Bonner on 741317, or by email on bonner.fea@btinternet.com



Deerness Badminton Club is a family badminton club for all ages and abilities! Children over 10 years old are welcome, although those aged 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. The group meets every Monday from October to March in the Deerness Community Centre, from 7 - 9:30pm. Contact Andrew Bonner for more information, on 741317, or bonner.fea@btinternet.com

DRAMA GROUP



Deerness Drama Group is one of the oldest organisations in the parish with a long, long list of productions to its credit. All comers are very welcome to join in as performers, technicians, directors, music makers and set/costume creatives. We enjoy a wide variety of types of theatre: big popular musicals, challenging contemporary drama, and Orkney- inspired pieces; and often involve mixed casts of adults and children. Most recently, in 2016, we staged a big, colourful community pantomime, "Snow White and the Seven Frawds", and then a thought-provoking entry for the 2017 SCDA Festival, Caryl Churchill's "Far Away". Next up, for early 2019, to celebrate the re-opening of the hall with its new stage, will be the musical play of "Swallows & Amazons". There will be a meeting for everyone who would like to be involved in any way on Wednesday August 29th at 7.00pm at the hall.

Contact us: Linda Bonner, Secretary, at Fea, phone 741317.

For information about our next production, Gill Smee & Chris Giles at Quoylanks, 741328.

DEERNESS SMALL BOAT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

The Deerness Small Boat Owners Association was formed around 1999 with a view to create proper boat launching facilities within the parish, with much of the funding being provided by organisations wishing to back projects celebrating the new millennium. Since then, the association has extended and improved the facilities, with added parking, picnic area and high and low water slips. With approximately 50 full members, and many more casual users, the whole area is a hive of activity during the summer months, with all types of leisure activities being enjoyed on land and at sea including camping, bird watching, sightseeing trips or just watching the boats come and go. Fishing is becoming ever more popular with shoals of haddock and cod returning to the bay for the first time in many years. With more and more sightings of whales and dolphins in the area it is an exciting time for the association. New members and casual users are always welcome, with more information available from Graham Drever 741289 or membership forms can be picked up from the Deerness Stores.



DEERNESS STORES

Deerness Stores is a small, independent shop which serves the parish of Deerness in many ways: from stocking grocery, licensed goods, coal, petrol/diesel, we aim to serve the public as best we can. We also do deliveries within the parish. The monthly bulletin of what's happening in the parish is also available along with notices in the shop and the window.

The Post Office is open in the shop on week-day mornings.

We are a helpful and friendly shop. You ask and we try and do our best to help.

Phone 741208 and find us on Facebook <https://en-gb.facebook.com/DeernessStores>

DEERNESS FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Deerness-Orkney-214773505200495/>

Come and explore if you're a Facebook user – like us and keep in touch with what's happening. Use the page to advertise events, to ask about Deerness, to share information about Deerness. It's for everyone!

Jill Sutcliffe is the page admin and can be contacted via the page or on 741449.

