



# Club Times



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Joint Newsletter from the Community Learning and Development Service and Orkney Association of Youth Groups

Hello and welcome to issue 20 of the Club Times. It has been another busy year for all the youth groups in Orkney. This newsletter is a flavour of what's been going on.

## Gold Success for Orkney Achievers

Four young folk from Orkney have been awarded the highest accolade in the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Halina Romaniszyn, George Ellis, Aidan Morrison and Ingrid Kerr were presented with their Gold Awards by Fiona Macleod, Acting Minister for Children and Young People, at a reception at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, attended by HRH Earl of Wessex.

All four have worked their way up through all three levels of the award, completing the five sections of the award (expedition, residential, volunteering, physical and skill) over the last twelve months.

Councillor Harvey Johnston, who is Chair of the Council's Education, Leisure and Housing Committee said: "I was genuinely honoured to be at the ceremony along with the young folk and their families. The energy and commitment that they have given to achieving the award is extraordinary and we should be hugely proud of them as they have done extremely well."



The Council's Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, Wilf Weir said: "We are very proud that four young Orcadians have achieved the highest accolade in the Duke of Edinburgh Programme with Gold Awards. I was privileged to share this occasion with Halina, George, Aidan, Ingrid and their families. The Gold Awards are a very fitting tribute to the huge amount of work and energy they put into the process, the skills they have developed and service they have dedicated to other people."

Walter Gorman from the Council's Community Learning and Development Team said: "I would like to say a huge 'well done' to our Gold achievers. It is by no means an easy task to complete all three levels and all sections of the award and especially Gold level. It involves many hours of training, determination and a challenging final expedition. So Aidan, Halina, Ingrid and George should be immensely proud of their achievements, as I am and I'm sure their parents are."

## West Mainland Youth Achievement Group

### Stromness Community Centre Craft Sessions

Stromness Youth Achievement Group arranged activities for younger children during the school holidays. Lucy and Phoebe are pictured here preparing some of the crafts. Over 105 children attended during the 6 October sessions. The feedback was great from the younger children and their parents. As well as crafts the children are encouraged to play games and have a well-earned snack.



## Bridging the Gap

5 young people from Stromness Youth Achievement group have trained themselves up to help train older people how to use iPads and use social media safely. Janette Mackie and Gemma Gunn have supported the young people with 8 weeks training



and to run the course for 10 weeks. Residents at St Peter's House were offered the chance to try iPads out as a bit of a practice run before working with the 12 people that came along to the course at the Stromness Community Centre. The course was funded by the Digital Challenge Fund. The course has been very popular and names are now on a waiting list for a future course as long as funding is available for venue hire, refreshments, etc.

## Stromness Tree Lighting



Stromness Community Council asked the Stromness Youth Achievement Group to help with the tree lighting event. 8 young people dressed up as elves and helped hand out mulled wine and mince pies. They also helped collect donations of money which will be used at next year's fireworks display.

## Stromness Youth Achievement Group with Pudsey at Papdale Halls of Residence

Papdale Halls of Residence invited Stromness Edge and Youth Achievement Group through to an evening of quizzes and games to raise money for Children in Need. 15 young people attended and great fun was had.



## Youth Work Changes Lives Campaign

Stromness young people were invited to meet with Liam McArthur MSP to talk about their involvement in local youth work projects, how youth work has changed their lives and how their communities have benefited from the work they have done. Liam fed back that he was very impressed by the level of work that the young people were involved in and how committed they were towards helping their community.



## 2015 Orkney Youth Chamber Debate



On the 10 December, young people from Stromness Academy, Kirkwall Grammar School, The Connect Project and Orkney College came together to debate three points with Councillors and Council Officials. The 3 topics discussed were: 1. Should Orkney take in refugees? 2. Is Orkney the best place in the UK for a young person to grow up in? 3. Are pupil/student councils the best way forward to consult the young people of Orkney? The event was hailed a huge success and prompted lots of ideas for further discussion and action in the future.

## Viking Feast

On 26 June, Orkney Association of Youth Groups offered senior youth groups from across Orkney the chance to come together and meet other young people and have fun taking part in Viking themed activities. The day offered a tour of St. Magnus Cathedral, Viking feast, Viking games, pyrography, Viking costumes, Viking hair and make-up. The project was developed following interest shown from Primary Schools from activities with library staff travelling round schools within the Viking chest. The day was funded by the Culture Fund and Award for All.



## Youth Scotland Involvement Training

Involvement Training organised by Community Learning and Development, Orkney Youth Cafe and Papdale Halls of Residence.

The aim of Involvement Training is:

- Meaningful participation and involvement of young people.
- Improved communication between young people and youth workers.
- Increased skills and capacity-building of young people.
- Improved confidence and self-esteem of young people.
- Opportunities for young people from different areas to come together, share experiences and have fun.
- Accreditation through the Youth Achievement Awards.



The training took place over 2 weekends. It is aimed at young people aged 14-18 who regularly attend youth groups. People who have shown an interest in developing their skills and becoming involved in their group or community. A third stage to the training is expected for the young people to carry out project in their community.

The photo shows all the young people and staff who participated in the training.

## East Mainland Youth Clubs



The Kirkwall and East Mainland Primary Youth Clubs opened their doors for the Autumn/Winter season, many of which started in early September. The Holm and St Andrews club being the last to open their doors to the youngsters at the beginning of November.

The Holm and St Andrews club is proving very popular this year with an average of 35 children attending each week. A big 'thank you!' to the Holm Community Council for giving the Holm and St Andrews club a cash boost of £250 to spend on sports and craft equipment to help boost the club's resources and encourage as many youngsters as possible to enjoy the facilities.

Lots of fun and games have been had at the Zone for both P4/5 and P6/7 groups, with fun and games at Halloween.

Our P4/5 and P6/7 youth groups enjoyed a dance session with Just Dance who kindly came to both clubs to give a hip hop taster session.

The Teens Plus Youth Club is still growing and going well with a few new members this year. A thank you from us to Lianne from Feel Fantastic for coming into the club to give us some tips on how to put make-up on properly, just in time for the Christmas party season! The Teens Plus Club is hoping to be granted funding for a weekend trip away in the Spring next year to experience new and exciting things off the island. Watch this space.



As a joint Christmas treat for all the clubs, we booked the Picky Cinema for a private showing of 'Pan' this year. A good choice of film enjoyed by young and old.

## Youth Awards 2015

The Annual Youth Awards Ceremony was held in King Street Halls on Tuesday, 17 November. The event was organised by Voluntary Action Orkney, OIC Community Learning and Orkney Youth Workers Forum.



Young people helped with the planning and running of the event. Jack Norquoy, Thorfinn Moffat and Scott Manson hosted the event, with Liam McArthur MSP presenting the awards. Award presented were – Saltire Awards, Dynamic Youth Awards, Connect Awards, Youth Achievement Awards, Involvement Training and Summit Awards.



## Club changes in 2015

### Staff who have left this year are:

- Emma Springett – Deerness Youth Club.
- Paul Casey and Carolyn Cooper – Kirkwall.
- Christine Sclater and Gavin Innes – Stromness.

### Staff who have joined us this year are:

- Jenny Middlehurst, Keely Donald and Lianne Taylor – Stromness.
- Fiona Robertson and Nirit Leonard – Kirkwall.
- Laura Baillie – Holm and St Andrews.

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