

ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Education, Leisure and Housing

Achievements in the Service November 2018

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Education

Readiness for School Empowerment Inspection

As part of the Scottish Government's Education Reform agenda all local authorities in Scotland have been inspected to gauge their "readiness for school's empowerment." Two inspectors from Education Scotland visited Orkney early in November and met with pupils, teachers, Head teachers and officers and staff across the ELH service and beyond.

Both inspectors were very impressed by the level of participation by all the groups they spoke to which included our young people, teachers, head teachers, managers and officers. Overall, they recorded a high level of satisfaction with the level of empowerment in Orkney and that there was a strong positive message in this regard from all colleagues spoken with, in the four areas of: improvement, curriculum, staffing and funding.

The strong positive messages from Orkney will feed into a national report written by Her Majesty's Inspectors which will, in turn, be present to the Deputy First Minister to inform him of school's readiness for empowerment across Scotland.

Orkney College

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Orkney College UHI held its annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony at the St Magnus Cathedral on Friday 28 September. The Cathedral was packed to capacity by Further and Higher Education students and their supporters to celebrate their achievements. The awards were presented to students by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who is Chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Students reported that they had a very enjoyable day and appreciated the fact that The Princess Royal had spoken personally with each of them.



286 students from Orkney College have completed studies across a range of courses including Agriculture, Archaeology, Business Management, Education, Heritage, Early Education and Childcare, Social Care, Computing, Carpentry and Joinery, Accounting, Art & Design, Northern Studies and Hospitality.

There were also several special awards presented to students in addition to their academic awards.

William Lowe received the Orkney College Undergraduate Student of the Year award in recognition of his exceptional academic achievement, contribution to life in the Archaeology Department and his work in engaging with the wider community at Orkney College.

The Orkney College UHI Further Education student of the year was awarded to Vikki Thomson, who successfully completed an NC in Administration. Vikki was recognised for her resilient and positive approach to her studies whilst overcoming health challenges and for the use of technology during her studies. Vikki is continuing her studies at Orkney College UHI having just started the NC Computer Technologies with Games Design course.

The Highlands and Islands Students' Association Class Rep of the Year Award was presented to Orkney College UHI student Graham Sinclair. Graham has been a dedicated class rep for the past four years and he has continuously ensured that the views of his peers were represented, as well as being involved in most activities within the college as a representative.

James Ellsmoor, a MLitt in Island Studies (with Distinction) graduate was awarded the University of the Highlands and Islands Postgraduate of the Year Award. He won this award as a result of his global work promoting innovation to other island communities. In addition, he is the co-founder and Director of Solar Head of State, a non-profit working in Small Island Developing States to promote access to solar energy by working with both local communities and national/regional governments. This year he was also awarded a grant from the UHI Student Development Fund to attend the 7ICEF academic conference in Hawaii. Where he presented his research on innovation in islands. He was one of two UHI student representatives at the RETI conference of island universities in Okinawa where he also presented this research



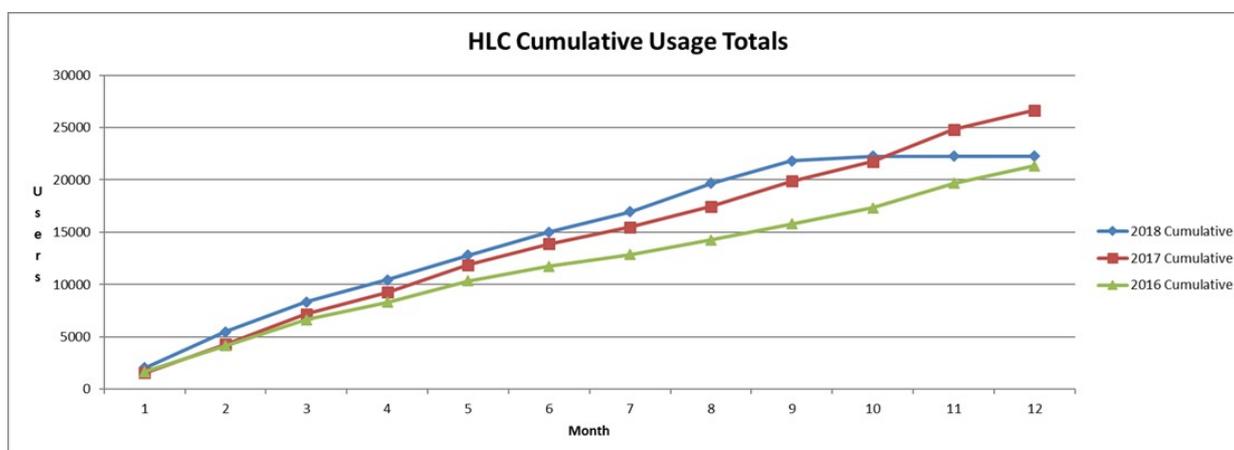
Careers Fair

Developing the Young Workforce Orkney, based in the College, collaborated with Skills Development Scotland to host a Careers Fair in the Pickaquoy Centre on Tuesday 28 August. The event attracted a wide range of employers and educational providers. Over 700 people attended the event.

Sports and Leisure

Healthy Living Centres

Our small local Healthy Living Centres usage has increased in 2018 again with Stronsay already being up to 24% year to date and Shapinsay seeing some huge increases each month in comparative from 2017 and previous years with having the best usage since they opened this year.



Hostels and Campsites

Hoy Centre was visited by Visit Scotland on the 13 June 2018 for a Quality Grading and was only 1% off from receiving a 5 Star rating. With gaining 5 additional points in comparative to 2017 with increasing the standard of cleanliness from 80% to 100% and hospitality and friendliness from 80% to 90% so for 2018 we are currently sitting at the top end of a 4 star rating and currently exceeding guests expectations and providing a high quality service which is a great achievement for the team at Hoy Centre.



Community Learning and Development

Community Learning and Development Partners Plan 2018-21

Orkney Islands Council has a statutory duty to produce a Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan with partners every 3 years to ensure adequate and sufficient provision of CLD in our area.

Orkney's 3-year Partners Plan for CLD, has been produced by Orkney's Strategic Community Learning Group (SCLG), and out how we will deliver CLD across Orkney over the next 3 years, ensuring services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way.

This plan supports and develops the shared mission set out in the Orkney Community Plan and incorporated Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2018-21 of: 'Working together for a better Orkney'. By aligning the CLD Partners Plan to the priorities identified by Orkney Partnership, namely, Strong Communities; Living Well and Vibrant Economy, the work of the SCLG will complement that of the Orkney Partnership Board and ensure a CLD lens is applied to the priority themes.

The three focus points of this CLD partnership plan for 2018-21 are; strong communities (social capital) focusing on relationships and society, living well (human capital) focusing on health and wellbeing, knowledge, skill and motivation, and vibrant economy (natural capital) focusing on input to produce goods/services/materials.

Strong communities

Support and recognition of community and voluntary contribution: When communities are confident, skilled, active, inclusive and influential they create a positive environment for people to enjoy a good quality of life. As Orkney relies so much on volunteering in our communities it is important to support and recognise our volunteers and community groups.

Living well

Family learning: Family learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Through further collaboration we will develop a better understanding of family learning opportunities, needs and developments required to ensure we are supporting those young people and families most in need of support.

Vibrant economy

Improving learning pathways: Given the variety of learning opportunities to develop skills for learning, life and work available in Orkney, more holistic approaches are required to collate sources of information so that people of all ages are better supported to reach their full potential.

Positive Feedback from Her Majesties Inspectors

Community Learning and Development received a continuous engagement visit from Her Majesties Inspectors of Education (HMIE) during October, when they visited to evaluate the progress made by Community Learning and Development in its totality on 2 areas of suggested improvement:

- Improve governance of CLD in line with legislation.
- Further develop joint evaluation and monitoring to include shared ownership of actions.

Although the visit had a mainly strategic focus HMIe also met with some learners and young people to ensure the high standards evident during the last CLD inspection were being maintained.

The visit went very well, and the feedback received was very positive moving us from a satisfactory position to one where the HMIe are confident in pointing other Local Authority areas to have a look at Orkney as an example of good practice. A formal report will be issued in due course, but the inspectors were very confident in the progress and developments made by the CLD partners and especially the Strategic Community Learning Group who are responsible for the Orkney CLD Partners Plan.

MSYP Update

It's been another busy few months for our local MSYP's, who both now live outwith Orkney while studying, so have had lots of opportunities nationally.

The most recent Scottish Youth Parliament sitting took place in Kilmarnock in October and MSYP's were accompanied by Cheryl Rafferty, Community Learning Officer. Cheryl says "It was amazing to see the skills of all of these young people in presenting and debating issues that are relevant to young people from across Scotland. At the sitting they also launched their new campaign which is on Public Transport – 'All Aboard'. This is really something that I think our young people here will engage with as it is relevant to us all."

It is also nearing the end of our current MSYP's term, and both have decided to stand down. We have therefore been visiting Secondary Schools and promoting locally the opportunity for new young people aged 14 – 25 to express their interest in standing as an MSYP. CLD will work with those expressing an interest in the interim and the election process will take place in March 2019.



Please see below an extract from Jack Norquoy, MSYP on what he has recently been up to:

"Back on 22 September I attended the first meeting of the Scottish Government's Children and Young People Panel on Europe. At the meeting we outlined the aims of the Panel over the coming weeks and focused on our first theme of 'Opportunities and Funding' post-Brexit. At the end of the day we agreed a set of recommendations for the Scottish Government to take forward.

On 13 October, I chaired the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics event 'Brexit and Young People'. This was a fantastic panel discussion with really engaging and insightful views shared by the panellists from all sides on a variety of youth-related topics. Following the Festival of Politics I was really pleased to be interviewed by 'The National on Votes At 16, young people's rights in Brexit, and youth participation in Scotland and the UK. You can read the article here:

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/16981545.children-in-scotland-16-year-olds-being-denied-vote-is-a-civil-rights-breach/>

At SYP67, I joined the brilliant new Creative Communications Team (CCT) in their first meeting. At the meeting I offered my support to the Team for the year ahead and in the interim period until our new Communications Officer is in-place, which I have been delighted to be on the interviewing panel for. I also helped to take forward the election process for the first ever CCT Convener as they agreed.

I've continued to keep @SYPBoard up-to-date with the work and activity of all Trustees and supported @OfficialSYP feeds with the creation of infographics and videos, such as for the Festival of Politics and UN DGD Geneva trip. This is the fourth board update email I have led the creation of.

On 25 October, I gave evidence to the Cross Party Group on Children and Young People in the Scottish Parliament, who are currently exploring the impact of Brexit. I delivered a presentation on all the rights-based work of SYP on Brexit alongside the CYP Panel on Europe, Mhairi Snowden of Human Rights Consortium Scotland, and Sinnead Gormally of Glasgow University.

As I write this update I'm in Croatia where I have proudly joined fellow MSYP's, Together and the Children's Parliament to represent Scotland at the EuroChild Conference 2018 in Opatija. At the Conference we have delivered workshops on youth participation in Scotland to delegates from over 20 countries. We highlighted the structure and rights-based work of SYP, Together and Children's Parliament, in particular our joint annual meeting with the Scottish Government Cabinet. It was really special to meet delegates from across Europe and share how youth participation works in our respective countries. We often get frustrated by the slow pace of change but attending the EuroChild Conference has highlighted to me how so many countries look to and admire SYP - this is something we should all be proud of."

Youth Worker Training

On Sunday 9 September the Community Learning and Development Team ran the annual Youth Worker Training event. This year rather than deliver the sessions across several different evenings we amalgamated our main youth worker training programme into a full one-day event. As always, the training sessions organised were guided by staff feedback in the annual appraisals and was offered to all CLD youth worker staff and volunteers and also to partner organisations delivering youth work in Orkney.

20 youth workers attended the training day which included:

Introduction to Dynamic Youth Awards

This is an accreditation through youth work. Interactive games ideas which provided some practical and hands on ideas for any youth work setting.

Challenging Behaviour

Run by Youth Scotland, it introduced participants to a variety of skills that will assist them to deal with challenging behaviour in a youth work setting, in a way that avoids the use of aggression and introduces the participants to the use of effective co-escalation techniques. This session also focused on how to recognise and deal with bullying behaviour within youth work settings.

Youth Work Outcomes

This session looked at the 7 national youth work outcomes and how they can be achieved in a range of youth work contexts and practices. Each outcome has a set of indicators that help youth workers and young people understand the difference youth work is making and how well young people are progressing towards the outcome. This session looked at why we need the outcomes and how we can use them in our local youth club settings.

Use of Social Media

This session focused on internet safety and educating youth workers and young people about the possible dangers that the internet can bring and on using the internet safely. This session also concentrated on staff use of social media.



West Mainland Youth Clubs Fundraiser

Stromness, Stenness and Firth Youth Clubs recently held a joint fundraising Christmas Craft Bazaar/Jumble and 50/50 Sale. All proceeds from the sale will help towards the groups organising their Christmas Parties. This event would not have been possible without the help of the West Mainland Youth Achievement Group who came along set up, served on stalls, made teas and coffees and cleared up at the end. Another job well done by these young volunteers!



Stromness Youth Club Halloween Party



This year's Stromness Halloween Party, run by Stromness Youth Club, saw over 60 children in attendance with some fabulous fancy dress costumes. Three of the older members of the Youth Achievement Group judged the fancy dress and 8 more members assisted with 'dooking' for apples, crafts, scary boxes and a spooky piñata. A great night was had by all.

KGS Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expeditions 2018

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Expedition season in Orkney opens at the end of March and closes at the end of September. The final groups to undertake their practice expedition this year were Kirkwall Grammar School's 2018 Bronze intake. 33 young people signed up for Bronze this year and to complete their Bronze Award they must undertake a practice expedition and qualifying expedition.



Before setting out on their practice expedition, young people must know how to navigate, erect their tents, administer first aid and use their stoves safely amongst other important elements of pre expedition training. Training is provided by KGS staff and the Council's Outdoor Education team and DofE Manager. Prior to the practice expedition, initial training is undertaken over the course of a day at the Birsay Community Hall which, with its numerous spaces, provides an ideal base to run a series of workshops covering all of the essential elements of basic expedition training that will allow young people to undertake their practice expeditions with a degree of competence and safely.



The practice expedition is the ideal opportunity for young people to try out the new expeditions skills and consolidate what they've learned indoors in a practical outdoor environment.

Staff are on hand throughout the practice expedition to support young people encourage further learning and offer guidance that will contribute towards young people completing their assessed qualifying expeditions successfully.

KGS pupils will undertake further expedition training within the school prior to venturing out on their qualifying expeditions in the Spring.

Annual Halls Event

20 people representing 12 different halls and community centres came along to King Street Halls on Saturday 22 September 2018 for the Annual Community Halls Training event. After the regular halls round up, a funding ideas update and a brief discussion about licencing, everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch which gave committee members the opportunity to sample Edwina's delicious Beremeal biscuits and of course network with representatives from other hall committee members from across Orkney.



Following requests at last year's halls event, two training sessions then ran simultaneously, delivered by staff from Orkney College; Food Hygiene and Safe Service of Alcohol Delivery. The costs of both courses were met by the Strategic Community Learning Group through the local training grant allocated from The North Alliance. This meant Community Hall Committee members attending this training event only had to meet the costs of the participant packs. For further information on The North Alliance go to: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/northalliance/>

Following the training there was a quick round up, evaluation and opportunity for people to put forward their ideas for next year's event.



This event continues to be a firm favourite with Community Hall Committees across Orkney who benefit greatly from the practical and relevant training and also from the opportunity to meet up with representatives from other halls, share ideas, problems and solutions and make useful contacts to support their invaluable work back in their local community halls.

Active Schools

Sportscotland School Sport Awards

The sportscotland school sport award is a National Lottery funded programme, a national initiative that is designed to encourage schools to continuously improve physical education and sport.

In September, Shapinsay Primary School and Stromness Academy were the first two schools in Orkney to be awarded Gold status. To receive this prestigious national award is no small feat. Both schools had to complete an online questionnaire, create a development plan on areas to improve and then collate and present PowerPoint evidence. This evidence was then assessed by a panel made up of sportscotland and other national sporting bodies in nine different areas:

- Physical Education.
- School Sport.
- Pathways.
- Compete and Perform.
- Celebrating Sport.
- Leadership.
- CLPL.
- Recognition and Rewards.
- Access to Facilities (Secondary only).

Active schools coordinators Kirsty Spence and Michael Swanney worked in close partnership with Leanne Bews, Belinda Morrison and the pupils on their sport committees to achieve this accolade.

The award was presented to the schools by sportscotland's Head of School and Community Sport, Jacqueline Lynn, and National Lead for School Sport Award, Nicola Thomson.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportscotland said: "Congratulations to all the staff and pupils at both schools - they should be extremely proud of this fantastic achievement. Not only have they put physical education and sport at the heart of their school and local community, but they have managed to do so in a way that encourages all pupils to engage in physical activity whilst having fun at the same time. Sportscotland is committed to building a world-class sporting system for everyone, and a crucial part of that is putting young people at the centre of our efforts. Working with our partners in local authorities and governing bodies of sport, we are creating closer links between physical education, school sport and club sport, which benefits young people by providing more and better opportunities to take part in sport."

Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager for Orkney Islands Council, said: "A Gold Sports Award is a huge achievement for a school. It shows that schools have taken the time to look really hard at their provision for pupils with the help of the Active Schools team, found out from pupils where they feel the school is at, and then worked with pupils to figure out what needs to be put in place, or done to enhance what's already there. It really is all about looking at sports from the pupils' perspective and getting them involved in moving things forward. It's a lot of hard work and assessment by a panel to reach Gold status - so congratulations to everyone at Stromness Academy and Shapinsay Primary involved, and well done for setting the bar for all the other schools around Orkney working on their development plans."

Schools in Orkney currently doing sport awards are:

- North Walls Primary School – Bronze.
- Orphir Primary School – Bronze.
- Stenness Primary School – Silver.
- Stronsay Junior High (Primary) – Bronze.
- Westray Junior High (Primary) – Bronze.
- Kirkwall Grammar School – Silver.
- Sanday Junior High (Primary) – Silver.
- Stromness Primary School – Silver.

Pupils and staff from Shapinsay Primary School are pictured below.



Pupils and staff from Stromness Academy pictured along with Michael Swanney.



Sportscotland Young Ambassadors Regional Conference

Sportscotland's Regional Conference held at Kingsmill Hotel in Inverness on Wednesday 19 September 2018. Pupils from Orkney's Secondary and Junior High Schools' recently applied to become the next Sportscotland Young Ambassadors to represent Orkney. The nine successful candidates, consist of pupils with a keen interest in developing Sport and Physical Activity within their school and local community. Many of the Young Ambassadors are also budding athletes, training and competing locally or regionally, for their given sport.

The Young Ambassadors recently travelled to Inverness to attend the sportscotland regional conference; for pupils from the Highlands and Islands. The conference informed pupils of the role they were about to undertake, attend various workshops and gain motivation from National athletes. Pupils were very excited to meet Stefan Hoggan, a Great British para-triathlete and Sara Law, who represents Scotland's women's national rugby union team.

Young Ambassadors braved the weather, travelling back to Orkney with their mentors from 'Active Schools Orkney', where many had an overnight stay in Papdale Halls of Residence due to weather conditions; before travelling back to the isles the following day.

Candidates will now begin planning and delivering sporting activities, with the aim of getting 'more children, more active, more often'. We wish them the best of luck in their new role as a sportscotland Young Ambassador.

- KGS: Kirkwall Grammar School – Mentor: Carolynn Leslie (Active Schools)
- SA: Stromness Academy – Mentor: Michael Swanney (Active Schools)
- WJHS: Westray Junior High School – Mentor: Catherine Johnson (Active Schools)
- SCS: Sanday Community School – Mentor: Catherine Johnson (Active Schools)
- SJHS: Stronsay Junior High School – Mentor: Catherine Johnson (Active Schools)

Young Ambassador Group Photograph



Back, left to right: Megan Clouston (KGS), Keira Stevenson (KGS), Anna Turner (SA), Jamie Barber (SA) and Sarah Wilson (WJHS).

Front, left to right: Julian Beale (SCS), Kirsty Harrison (KGS), Caitlin Muir (SCS) and Jamie Mackenzie (SJHS).

Museums and Heritage

Scapa Flow Museum Project: Final Stage of Preparation

The final major piece of work to ready the buildings at the Scapa Flow Museum for redevelopment - emptying the Oil Tank of its large exhibits - has now been completed. The Category A-listed structure, made of riveted steel plates, dates from 1937 and will be restored as part of the redevelopment. As this involves replacing the roof of the tank and blast-cleaning and repainting the interior, the space had to be totally emptied of objects and display equipment.

The work took place over the summer under the direction of Jim Mitchell, from Argyll and Bute-based Industrial Heritage Consulting Ltd, by a team from Alloa-based JPS Restoration Ltd. They prepared the large objects by stabilising moving parts, or dismantling where necessary, and lifting and moving the objects into store was carried out by Heddle Construction.

One of the biggest and most delicate tasks was dismantling the Cantick Head lighthouse mechanism, mirrors, and supporting structure. The four-metre high assemblage is now stored safely in six specially-made crates, the largest with a width, depth and height of two metres.





Moving the large vehicles in stormy conditions was also a challenge, but one ably met by Heddle Construction.



The renovated museum and visitor centre will be a tremendous asset for Lyness, Hoy and Orkney as a whole, preserving artefacts that tell the remarkable story of Scapa Flow's role as major naval base through the two world wars for future generations.

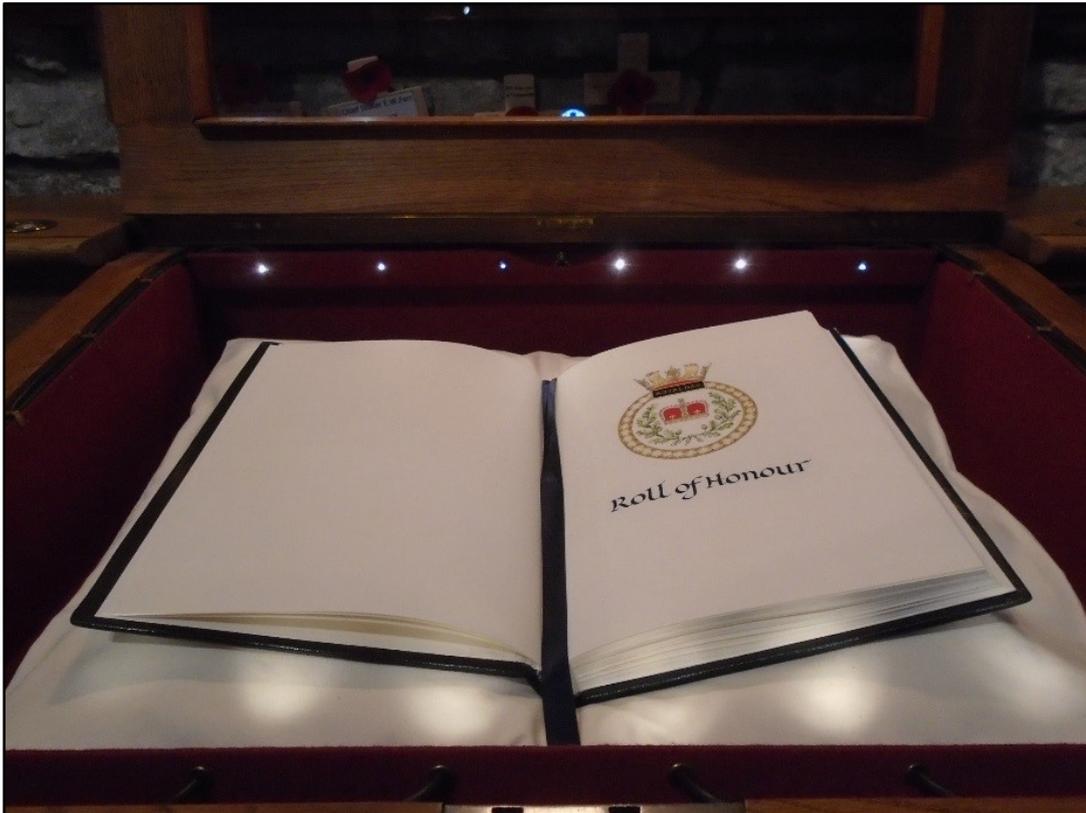
Royal Oak Roll of Honour Returns to Orkney

The HMS Royal Oak Roll of Honour has gone back on display at St Magnus Cathedral after conservation work to repair damage to the book.

The Book of Remembrance, which records the names of the men lost in a U-boat attack on the battleship in 1939, was damaged during a break-in at the Cathedral.

Repair work was undertaken by Caroline Scharfenberg, at Book and Archive Conservation Services in Edinburgh.

The Roll of Honour was created in 1993 and has been re-installed in a glass cabinet in the Cathedral, beneath the bell from HMS Royal Oak.



Gareth Derbyshire, Chairman of the Royal Oak Association, said: “The HMS Royal Oak families are delighted and relieved that the Book of Remembrance has been restored to its rightful place in St Magnus Cathedral. The Book of Remembrance and the memorials at the Cathedral and the harbour at Scapa are the only tangible link that the families have to the men and boys who were lost. The Book of Remembrance has been an important focus point for families who have visited Orkney over the years. Its restoration will help to ensure that the sacrifices of those men and boys will be recognised by future generations.”

He added: “We are hugely grateful to all parties who helped in the restoration of the Book, particularly Caroline Scharfenberg who has done a superb job, and Orkney Islands Council.”

German torpedoes struck HMS Royal Oak at 12.58am on 14 October 1939. The battleship sank quickly with the loss of 834 lives. Today the wreck is a designated war grave.

Pages in the Book of Remembrance are turned weekly, and family members may ask to see a particular page.

Housing

Papdale Halls of Residence

New Residents

Welcome Thomas Owen, Alex Mackinnon, Maisy Grist, Neve Morris, Frankie Whitewood, Mancel Sharpe and Zach Rhodes who join us to continue their studies at Kirkwall Grammar School. All new residents received an induction evening. We hope they settle in and enjoy life at Papdale Halls.



Life Cycle Works

We have used the summer holidays to complete some life cycle works to the building. The dining room floor has been resurfaced and the boys' accommodation block has been repainted with some added blocks of colour. The dining room, lower coffee bar and darts area have also been repainted and have had splashes of colour added which has added warmth and brightened up the white walls. The girls' accommodation blocks will be repainted in the October holidays.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Papdale Halls of Residence (PHoR) held a Coffee morning on Friday 5 October. Several residents helped bake and decorate buns, staff also donated sweet and savoury items. We managed to raise £224.66, with more donations due in. Well done to all involved and thank you to everyone who donated, baked and attended.



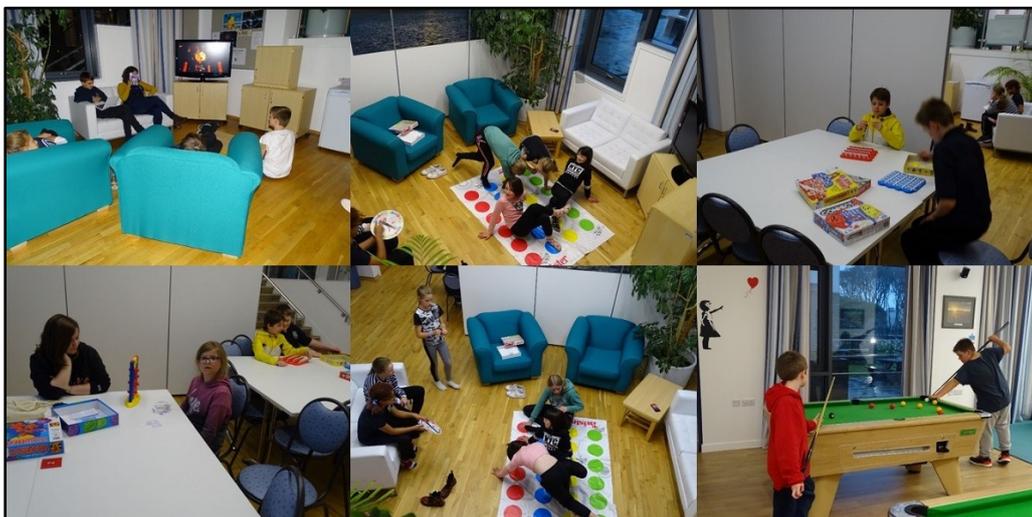
Activities this term

Residents have participated in the following activities this term, Arts and Crafts, games hall, discounted swimming, indoor curling, card games/board games, dungeons and dragons.



North Walls Primary School Comes to Visit

8 pupils and their teacher came in to stay at Papdale Halls of Residence on the 18 September. The pupils were in Kirkwall to attend a hockey taster session at The Pickaquoy Centre. Many of the pupils had not stayed at the Halls before and were excited for the experience. They joined in with some board games in the evening and caught up with previous pupils/friends who have moved on to S1. This was a great opportunity for them to come and experience the Halls, in preparation for when they come in to continue their studies at Kirkwall Grammar School. We hope we see them again soon for other trips and transitions.



Funding for Books

We recently applied for and were successful in obtaining £3000 funding for equipping the library with new books and for new materials for supported study. There will be a meeting with the residents to decide on which books to get and a survey will be taken to see what equipment will be best for supported study. Huge thanks must go to Cooke Aquaculture in supporting PHoR, and we will see the money is well invested for the residents. PHoR continues to seek funding from many sources and hopefully will be successful in some of them.

Table Tennis Competition

Thursday 27 September saw Papdale Halls host their first table tennis competition of the term. With many entering we saw Bradley Sailor and Kyle Dixon in the final. Kyle Dixon was declared the winner, both boys won a small prize. We look forward to hosting more competitions next term.



Halloween Party



Wednesday 31 October saw our Annual Halloween party with staff and residents dressing up and playing party games. Great fun was had by all.

