



# The Review

Rousay's Community Newsletter  
Published by Rousay Community Association SCIO SC051808

JANUARY 2026



Rousay Community  
Association SCIO hosts



ROUSAY



BURNS SUPPER

**Saturday 24th January 2026**

£12.50 for Adults, £5 for Under-16s,

Under 5s free / Dance Only - £5

**CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES**

**Menu: Haggis, mince, clapshot /  
vegetarian & GF options**

DOORS OPEN FROM 6:45PM,

DINNER SERVED AT 7:30PM

**LOCAL ROUSAY SPEAKERS**

**RAFFLE DRAWN AND SUPPER AT 11PM**

Dance to the  
**Craig Mainland Dance  
Band**



The

Craig Mainland

Dance Band



Edited by: Kayleigh Tipper, on behalf of Rousay Community Association SCIO

Subscribe / Submit Articles: [kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk](mailto:kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk)

Deadline for submission of articles for the next edition: 27th January 2026, 5pm



# TRADITIONAL DANCE CLASS

WITH MABEL  
BESANT FROM HOY

Do you want to brush up on some  
Orkadian and Scottish dances?  
Or maybe you are new to the island and  
want to learn before the Burns Supper!  
Come along and join the fun, all welcome!

Friday 9th January 2026

From 7:30pm to 9:30pm

(including a break for  
tea and cake)



in the Rousay School Hall

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR  
INTEREST WITH ALICE MAINLAND  
TO HELP GAUGE NUMBERS  
[ALICEMNLND@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:ALICEMNLND@BTINTERNET.COM)





# STITCH SUNDAY

Crafthub @ The  
Space Rousay

2-4pm January 11th

Build your confidence  
using a sewing machine.

Learn how to use the  
different feet and stitches  
on your machine.

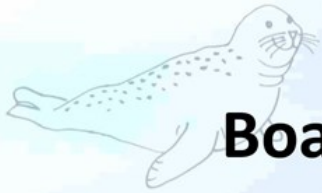
Mini projects each month

Bring your machine and all  
accessories including the manual.  
Threads and fabrics if you wish.

**OSCR**  
Scottish Charity Regulator  
[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

Registered  
SCIO  
SC052087





## Rousay Sailing Club

### Boat Repair Shed Evenings

Every Tuesday starting on 13th January 2026, 7:00pm til 9:00pm

Meeting at the Pier Cabin and on to the Pier Shed (Norman's Shed).

Anyone interested in learning about &/or repairing our fleet of  
2 Wayfarers, 1 GP14 and St Ayles Skiff or your own vessel .

We're preparing for the 2026 sailing season  
Please come along. No previous skills required.

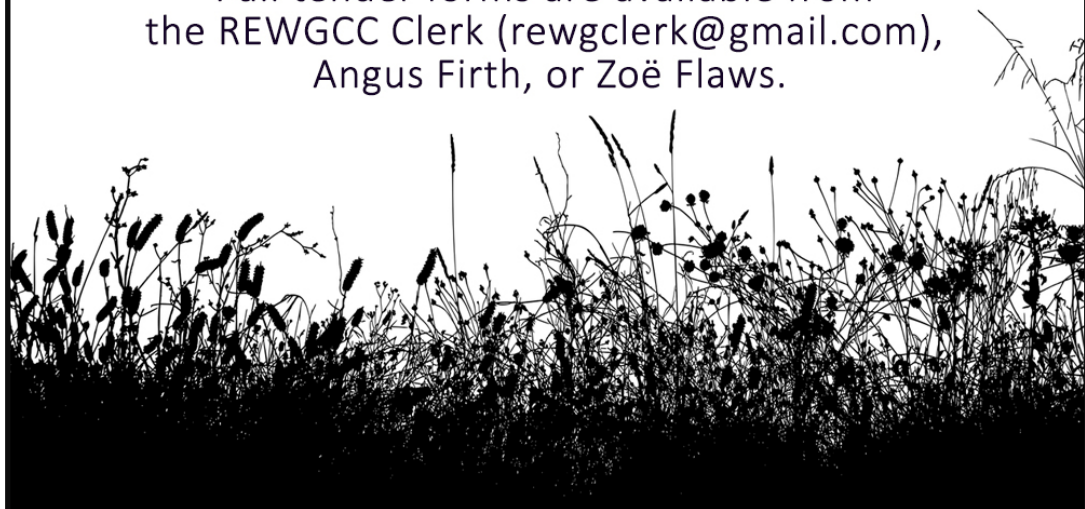
**Everyone welcome**

## Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council

### Invitation to Tender

REWG Community Council  
are inviting tenders for the  
Cutting of the Graveyard Grass  
in Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre.

Full tender forms are available from  
the REWGCC Clerk ([rewgclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rewgclerk@gmail.com)),  
Angus Firth, or Zoë Flaws.





2026  
Happy New Year!

Join Rousay Triangle Club  
on Tuesdays - 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> January -  
from 10am to 2pm in the  
Rousay School Community Room.

Come along for a coffee and chat, or  
stay to play fun games and enjoy a  
warming £7 soup and sandwich lunch,  
followed by tea and homebakes.

All welcome, there is no age limit!

You **must** let Alice Mainland know  
each Sunday if you plan to stay for  
lunch for catering purposes!  
[alicemnld@btinternet.com](mailto:alicemnld@btinternet.com)

# SOULISQUOY PRINTMAKERS



## Lifting the January Blues

23 & 24 January, The Space, 10.30am-3.30pm

A leisurely, fun and relaxed introduction to  
printmaking

Suitable for both beginners and those with some experience

Sign up for one or both workshops

All materials provided

Refreshments and lunch provided

Workshop led by Carol Dunbar and Laura Phillips

to book a place email  
[studio@soulisquoy.co.uk](mailto:studio@soulisquoy.co.uk)



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL  
**LOTTERY FUNDED**

WASPS Stromness Studios, Hellihole Road, KW16 3DE

Soulisquoy Printmakers Ltd is a registered Scottish Charity No SC078868

[www.soulisquoy.co.uk](http://www.soulisquoy.co.uk)

[studio@soulisquoy.co.uk](mailto:studio@soulisquoy.co.uk)



# SOULISQUOY PRINTMAKERS

**Printmaking Drop-in  
for Families and Young People**  
fun & free printmaking sessions



**23 January, The Space,  
5.00-6.00pm Families  
6.00-7.00pm Over 12 years**

WASPS Stromness Studios, Hellihole Road, KW16 3DE  
Soulisquoy Printmakers Ltd is a registered Scottish Charity

No SC078868

[www.soulisquoy.co.uk](http://www.soulisquoy.co.uk)

[studio@soulisquoy.co.uk](mailto:studio@soulisquoy.co.uk)



**Wellbeing**

**Lampshade Making Workshop  
with Layla's Craft Corner**

**Friday 30th January**

**11.30 to 14.00 at The Space, Rousay**

**To book a place email [Nicky@rewdt.org](mailto:Nicky@rewdt.org)**

**Free workshop for REW residents, age 16yrs+  
Drinks and bakes will be provided by The Craithub**

Layla's Craft Corner

A photograph of a woman with glasses and a white hoodie, focused on working on a lampshade. She is in a workshop setting with various tools and materials visible.

# Lampshade Making

*Workshop*

**Learn how to handmade and take home a  
truly unique lampshade to brighten up  
your space.**

**Get creative and have fun.  
No experience necessary.**

# CRAFTHUB @THE SPACE

## JANUARY EVENTS

12,  
19,  
26

JAN

### Pop-up Cafe

Every Monday 11am to 3pm

No cafe on January 5th.

Come and enjoy some food & a natter

Hot drinks, soup with scone or bread and homebakes.

11

JAN

### Stitch Sunday

2pm to 4pm Second Sunday in January.

Monthly sessions learning how to make the most of your sewing machine.

Bring your machine with all accessories and manual as well as threads.

11, 18,  
25  
JAN

### Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

10:15 - 11:45

Restarting January 11th.

23,  
24

JAN

### Soulisquoy Printmakers

10:30 - 15:30 Both days, Friday & Saturday.

Two separate workshops

Book by emailing: [studio@soulisquoy.co.uk](mailto:studio@soulisquoy.co.uk)

Friday 23rd - Drop in Sessions:

5-6pm Families; 6-7pm over 12 year olds

30

JAN

### Lampshade making Workshop

Friday 11:30 to 14:00

email [Nicky@REWDT.org](mailto:Nicky@REWDT.org) to book





# Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust

Company Registration No: SC318527 Charity No: SC040407

REWDT, The Pier Cabin, Rousay, Orkney KW17 2PU Tel: 01856 821229

email: [info@rewdt.org](mailto:info@rewdt.org) website: [www.rewdt.org](http://www.rewdt.org)

## Community Transport



### Upcoming Trips to Town

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February

\*Passengers pay own foot passenger fare

### Upcoming Trips to Marion's Shop

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February



### How to book a place on a Trip to Town or to Marion's Shop

Email [transport@rewdt.org](mailto:transport@rewdt.org) at least 3 working days in advance of the scheduled trip or leave a voicemail on 01856 821229.

We'll always do our best to help, but if we get less than 3 working days' notice for joining a trip or cancelling a booking, we might not be able to process it in time.

### E bikes

If you currently have an e-bike on hire, to prevent damage, please be sure to **store the battery in the house out of the cold!**



## Car Club/free vehicle hire for groups, clubs and families

When not in use for Community Transport purposes, our electric **Vauxhall Vivaro** is available for residents to hire free of charge. It seats 7 passengers and is a great option for reducing multi-car travel to the same destination either on or off the island.

We ask that residents wishing to hire the vehicle join the Car Club, which requires a driving licence check and an induction . Please email [transport@rewdt.org](mailto:transport@rewdt.org) for more information.

**Car Club members can also now hire our new wheelchair accessible electric vehicle, a Peugeot Rifter Allure, also free of charge.**

This is currently our **primary Car Club vehicle** which may be booked online [here](#) .



**Even if you are already in the Car Club, a new vehicle induction is required before first use, after which booking is available via the Car Club's online system in the usual way.**

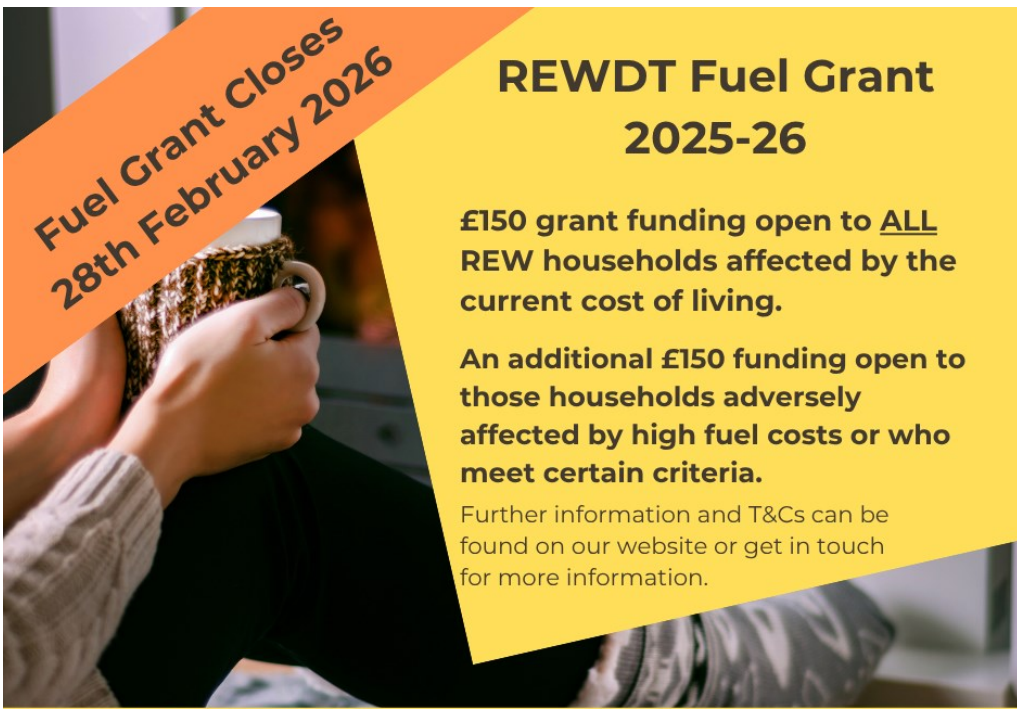
Please give us a **week's notice** if you need an induction. Capacity to give inductions will be very limited over the festive period.

To join the Car Club or to book an induction please email [transport@rewdt.org](mailto:transport@rewdt.org).

**Updated Car Club Membership Ts and Cs** will be uploaded onto our website soon. Email [christine@rewdt.org](mailto:christine@rewdt.org) if you would like a copy sent over to you.

For insurance purposes, Car Club Membership is **restricted to residents aged between 25 and 75.**

Please note: the **Leaf car** remains unavailable whilst it goes again for its MOT.



**Fuel Grant Closes  
28th February 2026**

## **REWDT Fuel Grant 2025-26**

**£150 grant funding open to ALL REW households affected by the current cost of living.**

**An additional £150 funding open to those households adversely affected by high fuel costs or who meet certain criteria.**

Further information and T&Cs can be found on our website or get in touch for more information.



**grants@rewdt.org**  
**01856 821229**  
**www.rewdt.org**



**Pier Cabin, Rousay  
drop in Mon-Wed  
9am-12:30pm**



## **Rousay Visiting Podiatry Service**

<b>WALKABOUT PODIATRY SERVICE</b>	
<b>Gemma Reid, BSc Podiatry Podiatrist</b>	
<b>HOME VISIT SERVICE</b>	
Treatment of a variety of foot problems hpc Registered	

**Gemma Reid, Podiatrist**  
**Tuesday 20th January 2026**

Clinic Appointments are in the Small Community GP meeting room at Rousay School.

Home visits can be arranged.

Appointments are £35 payable direct to Gemma at the time of your appointment. The REWDT Wellbeing 250 Grant can also be used to fund appointment cost- terms apply.

To book an appointment or to find out more please email **Nicky@rewdt.org** or phone **821229**





# Thank you

The Triangle Club would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas card fundraiser in December.

We raised £96 for Club funds.  
Thank you so much!



## Poppy Appeal

**A total of £122.79**

has been sent from the school to the Poppy Appeal this year from collection tins at various outlets on Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre



*Thanks to all who contributed*

*100% of all proceeds collected go directly to the Poppy Appeal*

# Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

## *Championing the communities of Orkney's North Isles.*

The agenda of the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) meeting was so huge (see photograph below of me holding the papers) that we could not complete all the items at a single sitting, and some had to be deferred and taken at the following General Meeting (see below).

At the P&R meeting I tried to get the item on the North Isles linkspan system upgrade discussed in public, but the legal opinion was that, as the exempt information (e.g. procurement details) would still have to be excluded from the public forum, informed and substantive discussions would be hampered. I had to accept that argument but requested a press release on our decision be issued afterwards, which it was—see page 2 of the 27<sup>th</sup> November edition of *The Orcadian*. The dilapidated control cabins (which I drew attention to back in February—see [Issue 145](#)) are going to be replaced by something much better; modern control systems will be installed, and key hydraulic components are to be renewed. The work is due to commence early next year with completion by the autumn. I am pleased that my call for us to be focussing on improving the critical infrastructure on which our lifeline inter-island ferry services depend (as reported on the front page of the *The Orcadian* 30<sup>th</sup> October) is now being heeded and acted upon.

In the item entitled “Council Climate Change Study”, I asked about whether any calculation is being made of the indirect greenhouse gas emissions caused by the Council's use of the Internet and e-mail traffic. I was told that this is currently not required by Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting (PBCCDR). I believe this is a serious omission, as the assumption is otherwise made that the Internet has no impact on the climate, yet the datacentres it relies upon are major consumers of energy, exceeding that of many small countries.

The last General Meeting of the full council of 2025 incorporated the 13 items left over from P&R (see above) plus an additional item on public service reform, which meant it went on for considerably longer than is customary. In the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2024/25 the contribution that older people make to our society was rightly acknowledged: **“People over 65 years of age support our community in many ways—acting as unpaid carers, child minders, and volunteers, amongst many other roles. Their contribution, as wise, experienced, stable, citizens, to the communities and the society, is considerable, providing continuity and stability in our social fabric”**. One of those “many other roles” is, of course, being Orkney Islands councillors, of which a little over one-third fall into that category, and next year that will rise to nearer one half.

Other meetings I have participated in this month include: confidential members' briefings; a meeting of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board; a meeting of the Sport & Leisure Member/Officer Working Group on outdoor education; a budget-setting challenge seminar; and an Orkney Health & Care briefing. The penultimate meeting I attended before we broke up for Christmas was of the House Working Group, at which one topic was the Council's revised flag-flying policy, which I had successfully got “referred back” at the General Meeting.

In the Isles, I went along to a meeting of Westray Parent Council, flew to North Ronaldsay for the shortest meeting of their community council I have ever attended (we finished before 9 p.m.!), and went back home for the lighting of Sanday's Christmas tree.

If you have ever built, or are building, a house in Orkney, Robert Askey would welcome hearing about your experiences for a book he is writing on the subject. He can be contacted at: [robert\\_askey@hotmail.com](mailto:robert_askey@hotmail.com)

At the end of 1938, German painter and printmaker Otto Pankok (1893-1966), whose artworks were declared “degenerate” by the Nazis, sent his friends the New Year's greeting “1939 ist mit Vorsicht zu betreten” (“1939 should be approached with caution”). I have much the same feeling about 2026 !

We must resolve to find Pandora's Box and release Hope (Ἔλπις).



**Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson**  
Member for the North Isles Ward,  
Depute Convener Orkney & Shetland VJB

West Manse, Sanday  
[stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk)

**Letter from School Place** is also available on-line at [clackson.info](http://clackson.info)

