



The Review

Rousay's Community Newsletter
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FEBRUARY 2026

PARISH CUP

SEMI-FINAL

ROUSAY V. FIRTH



***SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
AT THE PIER RESTAURANT
FROM 11AM ONWARDS
LICENSED BAR***

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

Subscribe / Submit Articles: kayleigh@aroundrousay.co.uk

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

ROUSAY CINEMA

Presents



A couple lose their home and later discover the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness as they embark on a year-long coastal trek.

Saturday 21st February
Rousay School - 8.00pm
Cert 12A - 1 hr 55 mins

Optional silver collection for funds



FEBRUARY

Join Rousay Triangle Club every Tuesday 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.



You must let Alice Mainland know each Sunday if you plan to stay for lunch for catering purposes!

alicemnln@btinternet.com

All welcome! Egilsay & Wyre residents, you should have received a postal invitation to join us.

Musical Wednesdays

Musical Wednesdays @ The Space

Free music and singing groups for all

Firstly an after school group for families and young people. From 15.30 Piano etc! Under 12s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Followed by Rousay Sessions from 19.00 to 22.00

Contact Frances Roebuck
roebuckfrances@gmail.com
07850064093 for more information



ROUSAY LADIES SPORTS



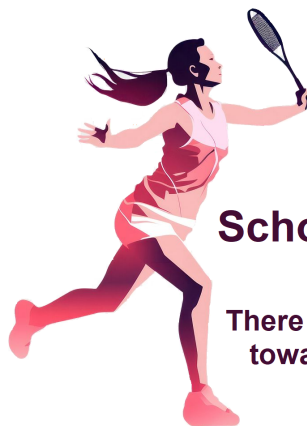
And now for something a bit different
Ladies RugbyFit!

Indoor **NON CONTACT** session based
around the fitness and skills required
in rugby with a big emphasis on **FUN!**

Join the former captain of the Orkney Dragons
and our resident Rugby Coach Jo Inkster
at the Rousay Community School
Sunday February 1st at 3pm

LADIES BADMINTON

WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS



School Hall from 7pm

There will be a cost of £1 to go
towards the hire of the hall.

We have racquets should you need to borrow one.

Sunday Prayer

Sunday Prayer

0900 to 10.00 at The Pier Cabin

07850064093 for more information



STITCH SUNDAY

Crafthub @ The
Space Rousay

2-4pm February 8th

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

Registered
SCIO
SC052087



CRAFTHUB @THE SPACE

FEBRARY EVENTS

02, 09,
16, 23
FEB

Pop-up Cafe

Every Monday 11am to 3pm
Come and enjoy some food & a natter
Hot drinks, soup with scone or bread & homebakes.

08
FEB

Stitch Sunday

2pm to 4pm moved to 8th from the 1st
Monthly sessions learning how to make the most of
your sewing machine.

04,11,
18,25
FEB

Musical Wednesdays

7pm to 10pm
Free music & singing group for all ages & abilities.

15
FEB

Musical Sunday

2pm - 5pm once a month
Free music & singing group for all ages & abilities.

01, 08
FEB

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

10:15 - 11:45
22nd - Thinking Day trip to town

04, 11,
18, 25
FEB

Chair Yoga

10:00 - 10:45 Drop-in session
For more details contact Nicky@REWDT.org

07
FEB

Photography Workshop

With James Grieve
email 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 website: www.rewdt.org

The Taversoe Inn - Next Steps

The Trust would like to thank Bill Brown for stepping in at the last minute to run the Taversoe over the summer season last year. Bill has stepped away from that role now so the Trust is in the middle of recruiting a Manager for the Taversoe. We hope to have someone in place in April with the building being open for business in May. Meanwhile, we are continuing with refurbishment and maintenance work. Look out for a grand re-opening in the Spring!

REW Youth

We have a baking/cake decorating event coming up in Feb, followed by Archery and Bag the Bruck in March- keep an eye on the REWDT facebook page and posters for further details!

Bikes

A new bike rack should be installed very soon outside the Sharing Shed. This will be available to all residents and visitors and is designed for people using bikes to get to and from the ferry. Please feel free to use it. And don't forget, we have 5 E-bikes for free hire to residents, so please get in touch if you would like to borrow one (but you may want to wait until the weather has improved a bit!).

REWDT
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

WINTER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2025 / 2026

ACTIVITY SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

Rousay Archery Sessions
Saturday 7th March, Rousay School Hall
11am-1pm- for ages 8yrs to 16yrs
2pm-4pm- Adults aged 16yrs+
Max of 8 places per session so book early to avoid disappointment!
To book places please email nicky@rewdt.org

ARCHERY

ED ORKNEY
OUTDOOR EDUCATION
Learning Through Adventure

Windbrek Info Day



Drop in



Come and hear about the Development Trust's plans for our Windbrek site, and have your say.

Vision Statement

We would like to bring this site into community use, with the objective of benefitting as many members of the community as possible.

Proposal

- Sustainable and varied veg production for our three Islands
- Production of wildflower plug plants for residents, using and protecting local genetics
 - Education and demo facilities
 - Circular economy opportunities

Where: Pier Cabin

When: 10:00 - 13:00 (drop in between these times)
28th February 2026

If you are unable to make this date, or get to the Pier Cabin please call 01856 821229 or email hannah@rewdt.org to discuss an alternative



Photography Workshop with James Grieve

Free workshop for REW residents
If you understand your camera controls and have some knowledge of composition then this workshop will help you develop your photography skills further and builds on the content of previous workshops in 2024.

**On Saturday 7th February 2026
10am to 4pm at The Space.**

Lunch, Drinks & bakes will be provided by The Crafthub.

**Places are limited, email Nicky to book your place
nicky@rewdt.org**



Funded by the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing fund by Scottish Government and VAO

**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**



ISLES SPECIAL COLLECTION

OIC Special Collections for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre

The next REW Special Collection will take place the week commencing 9th March 2026
If you wish to have domestic bulky items uplifted you can apply online at:
<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/our-services/waste-and-recycling/household-waste-and-recycling/special-refuse-collections-households> or by calling 873535.

Bookings must be placed as soon as possible and up to 2 working days prior to the week commencing collection date.

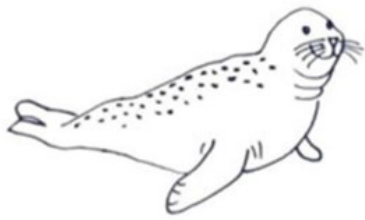
Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council

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),
Angus Firth, or Zoë Flaws.





ROUSAY SAILING CLUB

NEWS

Forthcoming Events:

Every Tuesday 19.00-21.00 at Norman's Shed - Boat Repair Shed Evenings. All welcome!

March (date tbc) – Social event

April (date tbc) – Childrens' indoor sailing day in partnership with the youth group

4th July – Regatta

November (date tbc) – Social event



Rousay Sailing Club

Message from the Treasurer:

*Membership subs are due!
Full membership is £20,
Affiliate membership is £5.*

Please BACS transfer your sub to:

Rousay Sailing Club, Bank of Scotland

Sort code: 80-22-60

Account number: 17329664.

Or, if you prefer – catch Julie Gibson and hand over cash or cheques!

You are very welcome to contact Julie on 821461.

Hello and welcome to a new Rousay Sailing Club Year!

2025 was a busy year, with much achieved. Here are some highlights:

- A great social event in March with entertainment by the Gablos, at which we launched our Affiliate membership category, and another social at the Pier in November
- Taste and Try sessions in July for various watercraft were very popular
- The Regatta in August was well attended and featured:
 - Childrens' Raft Building and Race*
 - Wyre Sound Races & Round Wyre Race*
 - Childrens' Crabbing*
 - Kirkwall Lifeboat visit*
 - Taste & try sessions*
 - BBQ and Social*
- Katie Joss joined our club and completed RYA Dinghy Instructor course
- A rental agreement with REWDT for Norman's shed is being finalised and the shed is being put to use already for storage of trailer-launched vessels and vessel maintenance
- Funding was granted for the acquisition of 3 ex-Island Games Dinghies, along with a three-stack trailer and rigs – these are now on island
- Skiff trailer and launching trolley combo are also on island
- We have obtained a GP14 and a Wayfarer for club use: an additional Wayfarer is also available on long term loan from Simon Butcher

Skiff rowing

Now that we have a trailer and launching trolley for the skiff, we plan on starting a series of skiff sessions during spring and Summer. Dates for this will be announced in due course.

Dinghy sailing & training

We hope to get regular sessions going from the start of the season in April/May. Details will be announced soon!

Rousay Home Help – Support in Your Home

Diane – 07939 146082

Located in Stenbister, Rousay

Looking for a bit of extra help around the house? I offer practical support to make day-to-day life easier, whenever you need assistance or simply some company

Services offered:

- Housework: cleaning, vacuuming, laundry
- Food preparation
- Companionship and conversation
- Errands on the island
- Ad hoc support as needed

DBS certificate is available from my previous role

Feel free to call or text to discuss how I can help. Thank you.

Looking for work

Hayden, 20 is looking for labouring work on the island if you need any help. Reference available from his previous employer of 4 years.

Please call: Stenbister on 07939146082. Thank you.

Handyman, Labouring & Joinery Service

Time served Joiner with 34 years' experience in construction.

Is offering a handyman, labouring, joinery service.

Written quotes or hourly rates available.

Also offering an accredited Clerk of Works, construction inspection service.

Andy Hind mobile 07835777651, 07939146082, andrew.hind01@outlook.com.

Beauty by Han Han

Treatments available

- ✦ Gel polish
- ✦ Manicure & Pedicure
- ✦ Lash and brow tinting
- ✦ Waxing
- ✦ Spray tans
- ✦ Massage
- ✦ Facials

For more information or to book an appointment please CALL [07731428809](tel:07731428809)



Beauty by Han Han

✦ New Treatment ✦

Back Facial

- ✦ Double cleanse with steam
(cleanse and decongest pores)
- ✦ Exfoliate
(clean and improve skin texture)
- ✦ Mask
(hydrate and moisturise the skin)
- ✦ Moisturise
(moisturise and protect skin)

Add a back, neck and shoulder massage

✦ Reduce muscle tension, aches and pain

✦ Boost circulation and improve blood flow

✦ Feel relaxed



ROUSAY BURNS SUPPER

A huge thank you to everyone for supporting the 2026 Burns Supper, it was great to see such a good turnout for the meal and dancing on a poor night.

Thank you so much to Freida for carrying in the haggis, and Ellen and John for the speeches. Thank you Craig and Sinclair for the excellent music, as always.

A huge THANK YOU to the following people, without whom it would not have been possible to put on such a successful night:

Alice, Alison, Bob, Carey, Catherine G, Charlotte, Courtney, Dave, Debbie, Ellie, Ewan, Grant, John G, Kate W, Laura P, Lisa C, Maddie D, Mollie, Muriel, Peter, Zoë.

Special thank you to those who stayed for the whole night to help tidy up and put the bar, chairs and stage away at the end.

The RCA AGM will be in April... we need more committee members and helpers to ensure we can continue holding events like these!



ROUSAY HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

SUPERVISED SESSION OPENING HOURS

MONDAY 6.30 - 8.30pm*
TUESDAY 6.30 - 8.30pm*
THURSDAY 6.30 - 9.00pm*
SATURDAY 4.00 - 5.00pm

BUDDY SYSTEM

Mon -Thur 9am to 4pm
Friday 9am to 3pm

* Should Mrs Ferguson be unable to remain open till 4pm due to school commitments we will do our very best to inform the buddies as soon as we can on our Facebook group.

SUPERVISED SESSIONS

Supervisor on duty.
No buddy required.

* We will shut early if the gym is empty of users half an hour before the advertised close time.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY EXTRA SUPERVISED SESSIONS

Thursday Feb 12th 12:00 - 13:00
Tuesday Feb 17th 15:30 - 16:30



Please check out our various Facebook pages for updates:

"Rousay Healthy Living Centre"
"Rousay HLC - Group X Classes"
"RHLC Buddy System"

ROUSAY GROUP X CLASSES

**WHAT KIND OF CLASSES WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED
IN SEEING ADDED TO THE ROUSAY HLC SCHEDULE?
HAVE YOU SAY IN THE POLL ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**



MEMBERSHIPS

Full details: www.pickaquooy.co.uk/activelife

If you have recently become an Active member please could you give us a quick email on the address below to arrange a very brief safety induction.

ActiveLife & Activelands give you access to the gym and Group X Classes. Budget £1 per session.

Tel: 01856 821 443

Email: rousay.hlc@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk

Stephen Clackson's Letter from School Place

A report from your councillor at the start of an uncertain year.



Above is shown (enlarged) the world's first Christmas postage stamp, issued by Canada in 1898 to inaugurate the Imperial Penny Post. It would cost you one penny (1d), or 2 cents in Canada, to send a Christmas card or letter (up to ½ oz) to most of the British Empire (but Australia & New Zealand had to wait until 1905), which is marked in red on the world map illustrated on the stamp. Today, the cheapest you can send a letter within the UK amounts to 208.8 times this figure; a multiple of 792 will get your Christmas card to Canada at the international economy rate, and you will be stung with a hefty factor of 816 to send it to anywhere in Europe! The penny post was discontinued in 1918, shortly before the British Empire reached its vastest.

2026 is the 250th anniversary of when thirteen British colonies on the east coast of North America took the decision to exit the British Empire. How wise that decision was (especially considering current events) can be judged by comparison with the control scenario to the north, where the colonies remained loyal and retained their ties with the United Kingdom (and still share our head of state, King Charles III). Now, where would you rather live right now, the USA or Canada? Forget the MAGA madness, sensible US citizens should be getting behind MAGBA (Make America Great Britain Again)!

Closer to home, 2026 is the year of the Scottish Parliament elections, which will take place on Thursday 7th May. (Why are elections always held on a Thursday?) To be eligible to vote in this election you need to be either a British or Irish citizen, or other foreign national permitted to enter or stay in the UK, and have reached the age of 16 on the day of the election. You also need to be registered to vote, so make sure you are on the Orkney Islands Area Register of Electors. If in doubt, you can contact our Electoral Registration Office by telephoning 01856-876222 or by e-mailing ero@orkney.gov.uk. You can also register on-line at <https://www.mygov.scot/voting-in-elections-in-scotland/register-to-vote>. Don't forget that there are no polling stations in the North Isles, so unless you are able and willing to travel into Kirkwall on the day, you'll need a postal vote.

On the council front, 2026 started quietly, beginning with a meeting of the UHI Orkney Stakeholder Group, at which I asked about ensuring that Orkney College's rodent management courses (an essential requirement if you wish to purchase professional-use rodenticides) are accessible to Isles residents. (For information, please e-mail ocshortcourses@uhi.ac.uk.) Other meetings I've attended recently include a seminar on the use of mobile digital devices in schools, a screening of the Scottish Government's budget announcement, an internal transport forum (with island transport reps), and a seminar by *Places for People* in relation to our Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

The Scottish Government's proposed budget (if approved) will be good news for our ferry replacement plans, with another £8,000,000 in the offing which we can put towards our Phase 1 (ships for Eday, Sanday, Stronsay & Westray) procurement. You can find full details at <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/latest-news/behind-the-headlines-ferry-replacement-programme/>.

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

West Manse, Sanday
stephen.clackson@orkney.gov.uk

Letter from School Place is also
available on-line at clackson.info

