

# Roond Aboot Birsay

“ News for and by the people of Birsay ”

November 2018

Issue 55



Picture from [www.orcadian.co.uk](http://www.orcadian.co.uk)

## PARISH CUP SUCCESS!

Caroline Atkinson

Birsay ended their 34 year wait as they lifted *The Orcadian* Parish Cup for the first time since 1984, with a 3-1 win over St Andrews on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Goals from Scott Flett, Darren Heddle and Scott Smith secured the win for Birsay on a beautiful summers evening at the Picky Centre, Kirkwall.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, Birsay Parish Football team held a dinner dance and medal presentation in the Birsay Hall to celebrate winning the 2018 Orcadian Cup. *Continued on page two...*

Lynne Nicolson welcomed families, friends, supporters and along with this year's team players from the cup winning sides of 1984, 1971 and 1970. Lynne spoke in rhyme as she reflected over the seasons up and downs, the immense atmosphere at the final and how proud the parish was of the team's achievement. Lynne then introduced Jackie Wood who gave a fantastic speech about Birsay FC past and present. He reminisced about the old football pitch on which the new hall stands and the characters who played there. Following his amusing words Jackie presented a team quiz on Birsay FC. Each table was a team and competed against each other. It was great entertainment and everyone learnt something new!

Following the speeches Davy Atkinson, Danny Nicolson and Robbie Norquoy who co-manage the team presented the team with their Parish Cup medals and club trophies. Scott Flett, who had been voted Man of the Match by the Orcadian during the final and was presented with the shield. Sam Spence, who captained the team came up to receive the cup and that concluded that part of the evening and the party began. Everyone danced into the early hours and the cup was continually passed around containing various concoctions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to join in the celebrations.



**Top L-R:** Robert Norquoy, Scott Smith, Kevin Spence, Scott Flett, Ryan Allan, Wayne Kirkness, Kieran Rendall, Connor Archibald, Sigurd Smith, David Scarth and Davy Atkinson.  
**Bottom L-R:** Danny Nicolson, Eric Grieve, Brian Garson, Sam Spence (Captain), Tom Flett, Kyle Archibald and Stephen Garson.

Missing from the photo: John Esslemont, James Gaudie, Darren Heddle and Brendan Spence.

# Editorial

Hello and welcome to the new edition of Roond Aboot Birsay with news from the various groups in the parish, a bit late again but hopefully we'll start to get them out more regularly in the future.

It's been a busy summer in Birsay with a lot taking place, another successful St Magnus Marathon, Birsay winning the parish cup and various other events, although now, winter seems to have arrived suddenly with very little settled autumn weather.

It's taken some time to get a new administrator for the newsletter but I'm very pleased to say Jack Norquoy has taken on the job which he will fit in between studying at the University of Aberdeen and his Scottish Youth Parliament work. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

**Kenny Spence, Editor**

Hello everyone and welcome to this the 55th edition of Roond Aboot Birsay, and my first as volunteer administrator. As you will have read above, my name is Jack Norquoy and I proudly hail from the Birsay Village. I'm currently in my second year at the University of Aberdeen studying History and International Relations.

I am delighted to take on the role of newsletter administrator. The Roond Aboot Birsay has been of great local value to Birsay for many years now and it is vital to keep it going since we live in such a busy parish.

In this edition we have contributions from all aspects of Birsay life but we are always looking for more! If you would like to be included in the next newsletter or have any ideas for contributions and features in the newsletter please get in touch to our **new email address**.

Hope you enjoy reading this edition of Roond Aboot Birsay and I look forward to the next one planned for February 2019.

**Jack Norquoy, Administrator**

***New Roond Aboot Birsay Email Address: [birsayroondabout@gmail.com](mailto:birsayroondabout@gmail.com)***



# Birsay Community Council

Since the last newsletter a new Community Council membership has remained the same, Kelly Coghill, Richie Delday, Marty Hay, Stevie Spence, Allan Spence (Planning Rep), David Scarth (Vice Chairman) and Kenny Spence (Chairman).

There is not much to report since the last newsletter but over the summer we have attended to a few jobs in the parish that have been brought to our attention by members of the public. We have had the road across the links levelled out so it should be better for walkers and cyclists to use. The hole that had appeared in the slip at Buckquoy has been repaired. The Council refused to carry out repairs but threatened to close the slip on safety grounds if it was left as it was. After discussion the CC bought cement and with more materials and help from David Moar we repaired the slip ourselves, I am still trying to source funding to repair some of the undermining at the slip.



The fishermans hut at Skiba Geo has also been closed through the summer as the lintel above the door is collapsing, along with Birsay Heritage Trust we have employed a stone mason to repair this as soon as possible.

We raised with the council that nearly all the lairs in the cemetery around the wall were taken and we were concerned that they had not put in concrete strips as they have done in other cemeteries for new lairs in the future. We have now been assured that concrete strips for headstones will be put in soon.



Finally, an update on the proposed Costa Head Wind Farm again. As everybody will be aware the planning application was rejected by OIC but Hoolan have just announced that they are intending to appeal the decision to the Scottish Government, I think a decision will be made by the end of the year following site inspections. We will continue to investigate Community Shared Ownership of the Wind Farm if the OIC decision is overturned, but in the mean time we will just wait to see how it progresses.

**Kenny Spence, Chairman**

## Birsay Community Association

The Birsay Community Association has had another busy summer season. Along with our usual type of bookings we have also had comfort stops for many of the visiting cruise liners. Another successful St Magnus Marathon was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The marathon day is a great family day as there is also a 5k and 10K which start and finish at the hall. We are always looking for volunteers to help out on the day. If this is something you would be interested in please contact us on [admin@birsayhall.com](mailto:admin@birsayhall.com) or speak to one of our committee members.

**Next year's St Magnus Marathon date is set for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

We continue to hold Whist & 500 on the last Tuesday of each month with the exception on December.

Our annual Festive Fling is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This year's band are Wayward and as usual this will be an over 18 years of age event. Tickets will be available online and detail of this will be announced soon.

If you would like to help out at events then being a 'friend of BCA' is for you. You are not expected to attend meetings but are willing to give a hand now and again at events.

For booking enquires please contact Ann Spence our caretaker on **721301** or email [admin@birsayhall.com](mailto:admin@birsayhall.com).

**Caroline Atkinson**

With the recent storms, it's hard to believe that we are only a few weeks removed from one of the hottest summers on record.

Hot weather can be a blessing and a curse for wildlife. On one hand, great yellow bumblebees have had a strong year across Orkney, with the wildflowers at Marwick remaining a key habitat. However, the red-throated divers that frequently breed on Birsay Moors have had a poor season. These birds build their nests by small bodies of water, and such space has been hard to come by amid such dry weather.

With regards to the seabirds at Marwick Head, our reserves team are in full report-writing mode after a busy season of survey work. We expect to have all the data analysed in the next few weeks, and hope to include a summary of our findings in the next newsletter.

One survey that has been finalised is our corncrake report, as unfortunately, there was only one confirmed bird calling in the parish this year, down from three in 2017. Thank you to everyone who called up about potential sightings or calls. With corncrake numbers so low, the more ears listening out for them, the better.



Even with summer over, there is still plenty of wildlife to see. Many birds are now travelling to their wintering grounds, so autumn is a great time to spot rarities that may have been blown off course or stopped for a mid-migration rest. RSPB Scotland staff and volunteers recently cleared away some overgrown vegetation around The Loons hide, opening up the view in a fantastic location for waders, wildfowl and raptors such as hen harrier. Two little egrets have already been spotted from the hide, so keep your eyes peeled for more rarities.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, we organised a beach clean at Marwick Bay in partnership with the Orkney Field Club. With the weather forecast predicting a blustery day, we weren't sure how many people to expect, so imagine our surprise when over fifty hard-working individuals turned up to help out. It was great to see so many people donating their time to the cause, and we collected twenty bags worth of bruck. Thanks to everyone who came along.

As always, if you'd like to come along to any of our events or learn about how you could get involved with our work, please do get in touch. Our Stromness office is open Monday to Friday, or you can call us on [850176](tel:850176), or email [orkney@rspb.org.uk](mailto:orkney@rspb.org.uk).



## Farmers Gathering

Issy Grieve

The Birsay Farmers Gatherings will continue again this winter, with all current and retired farmers from within and neighbouring parishes very welcome. The group meet once month in the Birsay Hall at 7.30pm. Unfortunately we will be increasing the price of supper to £3, but with good Orkney farmhouse cheese, bere bannocks and the occasional fine fancy, our farmers still think their evening out is a bargain. This year they can pay for each gathering or pay £24 at the start of the season.

The dates and programme are as follows, please cut out and keep.

1st December	Visit to Swannay Brewery.
25th January	My Farm: Braebuster Farm, Deerness K Eunson.
22nd February	Department of Agriculture and SAC. Talk from Colleagues from both organisations.
22nd March	My Farm: Breeding Aberdeen Angus Cattle, Colin and John Davidson.



# Birsay Heritage Trust

Issy Grieve, Chair

The first few months of 2018 has been a year of challenge and change for BHT. Two of our long-standing trustees are no longer with us. Johnny Johnston and Rae Phillips who were both instrumental in driving forward the objectives of the trust and are both greatly missed. We were fortunate to have Rae with us, supporting our new apprentice miller, Ali Harcus, over the past year. Rae's generational knowledge and skills have been fundamental in ensuring the future of the mill, as latterly he spent so much of his time mentoring Ali. Historic Environment Scotland have been providing us with a fellowship grant to help us employ our new miller and we are grateful this will continue to next Spring. Keith Johnson has stepped down from his dual roles as Chair and Trustee but remains a member, on whom we regularly rely for his font of knowledge.

The trust has also been busy working on a submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore Twatt Airfield (HMS TERN). This is a huge project for Birsay, for which we are currently seeking funding in the order of two million pounds. If we are successful at the first stage of the process, then it will take us another year to fully develop the bid, we will have the plans on show for you to view, in the hall this winter.

In the meantime please feel free to contact any of the current Trustees, Issy Grieve (Chair) Anne Mathieson (Secretary), Donna Wishart (Treasurer), Tommy Matches, Ronnie Ballantyne, Kevin Dick, Greer Norquoy, Marty Hay, Willie Shearer, Sue Tysack and Norman Shearer.





# Barony Mill



At Barony Mill this summer we have had a willing band of volunteers including three paid local young people; Jack Norquoy, Tom Flett and Ellen Hay who have helped provide mill tours, bagging Beremeal, and much more. Collectively they have greeted around 4000 visitors from all over the world. We are always seeking new volunteers.

We launched our new range of Barony biscuits and oatcakes, all containing Birsay Beremeal. You should now be able to purchase them in all local shops. We also developed a new mouse hunt game for the mill, which has proved very popular with our younger visitors to the mill.

We entertained two film crews, featuring some famous TV chefs, we will let you know when the shows are due to be broadcast.

This year we have sown 50 acres of Bere, 15 more than the previous year and would be looking to grow similar again in 2019.

We are getting close to making the mill sustainable, but it will take us a little while to achieve that, so we are grateful to the support of our members, those who give donations and Orkney Islands Council, who are in the process of providing a new kiln floor.



## **Barony Mill Summer Tour Guide Team 2018**

***Top L-R:*** Nigel, Annabel  
Eltome, Sue Barnard, Anne  
Mathison, Erlend Brown, and  
Paul Hide.

***Bottom L-R:*** Tom Flett, Jack  
Norquoy, and Ellen Hay.

**Missing from picture:** Ian  
Garman and Sue Tyzack.

# St Magnus Way

David McNeish

The Egilsay section of the St Magnus Way was opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018. St Magnus arrived on Egilsay with two ships only to find Hakon, his cousin and joint Earl of Orkney, arriving with eight. We had only one ship, the MV Eynhallow, which was packed with 85 pilgrims for the official launch of the St Magnus Way on Egilsay.

Thankfully everyone who turned up wanting to come found a place on the boat and the first stop was Rousay where the Pier's coffee was in high demand. More pilgrims joined us from Rousay and together we disembarked in Egilsay where the weather was kind.

There are three sites on Egilsay particularly associated with Magnus and each has its own tradition of being the place where Magnus was martyred. This gave us good reason to visit, in turn, the memorial, the far shore, and the kirk, a total distance of 3.5 miles. Whilst shorter than the mainland sections of the St Magnus Way, this means it can easily be completed in a half day, or combined with a walk around the RPSB reserve or around the coast for a full day excursion.



First stop was the 1938 memorial erected by St Magnus the Martyr in London. Sarah Jane Gibbon was on hand to explore the stories and the landscape of the 12<sup>th</sup> century as well as the story of the memorial, the site of which was determined by local folk, who had been warned not to play there as bairns for blood had been spilt.

From the memorial, the track leads on eastwards down to the far shore and one of the highlights of the day was standing at the shore gate and watching the look on the faces of those approaching when they first glimpsed the pure white sand of the beach. This is indeed a thin place, where heaven and earth touch and it was not difficult to imagine Magnus glimpsing Hakon's eight ships and realising things were not going to go well.

A poem composed for the occasion was read out and a chance to pray and reflect was followed by the splashing of one of the younger members of the group as they made their way resolutely out from the shore for a swim.

St Magnus Kirk with its distinctive round tower was our next stop. Pausing at the leeward side of the graveyard, Sarah Jane outlined the importance and significance of the church, and the likelihood that it had always been a tower of peace and pilgrimage, visible to pilgrims approaching from any direction. We then made our way inside (if such a thing can be said of a roofless kirk) for a short service of Christian worship. Pilgrims were in good voice as we sang, prayed and reflected on the difficult work of peace building and the inspiration Christ was for Magnus, and both are for us.

By this point our souls were refreshed but our feet weary and the community centre bid us a warm welcome, with enough baking even for the bairns. Donations to Orkney Pilgrimage were welcomed and donors given a pilgrim token, designed and hand made by Andrew Appleby and Duncan McNeish at Fursbreck Pottery. Almost as remarkable as everyone getting on the boat in the morning, was that everyone made it to the pier in time for the return trip.

We're very grateful to the local community association for hospitality, to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust for funding the waymarkers and a forthcoming interpretation board and to everyone who came and made it such a memorable day.

To see a map of the route and directions for Egilsay and the other five sections, visit [www.stmagnusway.com](http://www.stmagnusway.com)







# Dounby Community School

Thinking • Learning • Community



The school was involved with the Orkney International Science Festival during the first couple of weeks of September with nine different presenters working with the children in demonstrations, talks and workshops.

The school also worked with the National Deaf Children's Society who brought their listening bus to the school to help our children learn about communication with people with deafness. *(Photo - Inside the listening bus).*



The school worked with Access Parkour and Orkney Active Schools to bring a morning of parkour workshops to the children.

A very successful coffee morning arranged by Primary 6/7 raised over £400 for Music in Hospitals Scotland, a charity that brings music concerts and performers to hospitals and care settings across the country. This event was supported by Robin Barr who has been making seven tunes for seven walks across the county and fundraising for Music in Hospitals Scotland. On the same morning Primary 5/6 ran a fun, fundraising event that also raised £400 towards next year's Lagganlia outdoor education event.

Recently, thanks to a parent of the school winning a competition and nominating Dounby School, Muller yoghurts are preparing to bring an international athlete from the UK squad to the school and are donating £2,000 worth of sports equipment to us.

**Alastair Forsyth, Head Teacher**

# Dounby Boys Brigade



The 1st Dounby Boys Brigade has started again and boys will be doing all the usual activities as they work towards gaining their badges in March. The five headings in the programme are; Body, Mind, Spirit, Community and Creativity so our sessions are made up of a range of activities which include physical games, thinking games, bible stories, and crafts.

**Anchor Boys:** a typical session would be to start with a physical game, spend some time talking to them about a story from the bible or have a thinking game, we might do a craft so that they make something to take home, and then practise a small bit of marching and end the session with a physical game if we have time.

**Junior Section:** the session activities are similar to Anchor Boys but are made to suit the boys age group. Junior Section also compete for a Robertson Trophy against the other Orkney Companies. We practise for the Bible Reading competition, a quiz, indoor football and the marching competition. We usually try and arrange a trip for the boys during the session, in the past we have been to the Kirkwall Police Station, Stromness Fire Station, Stromness Lifeboat and the Orkney TA.

**Company Section:** boys work out of the BB Discover Programme which is divided into Community, Recreation and Skills sections. We usually have some games do a craft and work on one of the sections in the programme. We occasionally finish the session by making toasted sandwiches. Company boys also compete for a Robertson Trophy so we have games competitions and also a bible reading competition. We make up a football team up with Finstown BBs and compete against Kirkwall for the Foulis Cup in May.

Last year we had a total of 14 Anchor Boys, 7 Junior Section and 8 Company Section boys enrolled, slightly up from last year. We took part in the Battallion competitions with the Juniors finishing 4th and the Company boys finishing 3rd in their groups. We hosted the Battallion Anchor Boys Fun Day in the Dounby Centre with over 30 boys from Kirkwall, Finstown and Dounby taking part, we also hosted the Junior indoor football and the Company Section games night.

*Continued on page 14...*

Company Section boys laid the wreaths at the War Memorials in November and we ran our Christmas post in December, which is our main fundraiser. The boys were awarded their badges by Elizabeth Herdman in the Milestone Kirk in March, Elizabeth also came and made pancakes with the boys on Shrove Tuesday, as she always does.

We had an excellent turn out of boys and parents for Bag the Bruck at the Bay of Skaill in April. We hosted the annual Orkney Battalion Parade in the Milestone Kirk on the 22nd April, we marched from the Dounby school behind the Rendall Pipe Band, a total of 101 boys and 22 Officers took part and Dounby Company Section boys made up the Colour Party Marching. We take part in events with the other Companies in the Orkney Battalion and take part in the annual Battalion Parade in April.

Our Company Section joined forces with Finstown Company and competed in outdoor football against Kirkwall Company for the Foulis Cup in May winning it this year after being beaten by Kirkwall for the last two years! During the summer we have helped with the car parking duties at the St Magnus Marathon and at the Kirkwall Council of Churches picnic, we will also be helping with some work on St Magnus Way later this year. As always, we are grateful to the adults who helped out at the Anchor Boys Fun Day, the Christmas Post, Bag the Bruck and the Football etc.

The 1st Dounby Boys Brigade meet in the Dounby Centre on Tuesday nights during school terms from October to April.

#### **Anchor Boys**

*Who?* P1 - P3

*When?* 6pm - 7pm, Tuesday | £1.50/session

#### **Junior Section**

*Who?* P4 - P6

*When?* 7pm - 8.30pm, Tuesday | £2/session

#### **Company Section**

*Who?* P7 - S4

*When?* 8pm - 10pm. Tuesday | £3/session

**All boys are welcome.**

***Kenny Spence (Captain)***





# St Magnus Kirk Trust

Greer Norquoy

*The summer season is now over and once again many visitors from around the globe have enjoyed visiting our beautiful peedie kirk in the Place.*

*Comments capture not only the simplistic beauty of the church but also the serenity and spiritual experience within the building.*



Last year, the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Magnus, saw many important events take place in Birsay. Mapping Magnus was a major community archaeological research and training project commissioned by Orkney Islands Council and Archaeology Institute delivering a programme of activities and events that explored the story of St Magnus and medieval Orkney. Local residents, schoolchildren and volunteers took part in the excavations in the village.

Bertie Harvey, one of the founder members and former trustee of The St Magnus Church Birsay Trust was actively involved in the archive research and surveys conducted in the 'Place'. On the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Dr Sarah Jane Gibbon and archaeologist Dan Lee gave a talk on Mapping Magnus in the Birsay Community Hall. Fittingly this talk was dedicated to Bertie. Bertie passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Family, neighbours and friends said goodbye at his funeral in his beloved St Magnus Church on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

We were delighted to see the return of one of the International St Magnus Festival events in Birsay this year. As part of the 2018 festival on 25<sup>th</sup> June the church was the venue for a guitar recital by Michael Button. Michael is a young artiste whose playing has won much acclaim. Both the artiste and the audience appreciated the very good acoustics in the venue.

Jo Philby and Elaine Grieve held a concert in the kirk on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This was part of a tour promoting Jo's third album 'Standing by the Shore'. Having lived in Birsay for a number of years Jo enjoys returning to perform in the church much to the delight of her audiences.

*Continued on page 16...*

# Birsay Bride and Grooms



There were two local weddings in St Magnus Church during the summer months.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - **Sarah Davidson & Mark Weir** (left)

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August - **Graham Mowat & Rachel Blair** (right)

*Congratulations to all.*

## St Magnus Kirk dates for the diary...

The annual Christmas Carol Service in St Magnus Church is pencilled in for **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** with Orkney Rocks leading the festive celebrations. We look forward to seeing friends old and new.



# Regulars At Milestone Kirk

As well as the regular Sunday Services, Milestone Community Church is used by the community in a variety of ways. If you're interested in any of these, or want to know more, a contact name is given.

## Weight Watchers

*When?* Every Wednesday, 5-7pm.

*Contact:* Carol Ann McArthur, 07810751991.



## West Singers

*When?* Fortnightly on a Wednesday 7-8pm.

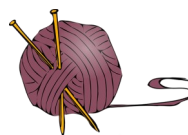
*Contact:* Issy Grieve, 721432.



## Knit 'n' Natter

*When?* Every Thursday, 2-4.30pm.

*Contact:* Cindy Miller, 721431.



## Fiddle Lessons

*When?* Every Friday, 6-9pm.

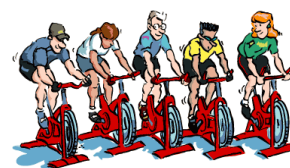
*Contact:* Katie Ann Gibson, 771343.



## West Mainland Spinning

*When?* Monthly, first Saturday of the month at 11am.

*Contact:* Pam Farmer, 841487 or mobile 07949 738778.



## Book Club

*When?* Monthly, last Monday of the month at 2pm.

*Contact:* Jenny Johnson, 771328.



## Messy Kirk

*When?* Monthly, last Friday of the month at 3.30-5pm.

*Contact:* David McNeish, 771599.





# Milestone Kirk Upcoming Dates

## Upcoming dates for the diary...

### Sunday Worship

Every Sunday at 11am including Sunday Club during term time and all-age services during the holidays.

## November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 3.30 - 5pm, Messy Kirk.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving service with Harvest lunch.
- 11<sup>th</sup> 6pm Film Night - The Greatest Showman.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dounby Shopping Night.
- 18<sup>th</sup> 7 - 8.30pm Children's Forum (P5-P7).
- 25<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm, Bereavement Service.  
*For all who have lost loved ones, recently or in the past.*
- 30<sup>th</sup> 3.30 - 5pm, Messy Kirk.

## December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 - 8.30pm Children's Forum (P5-P7).
- 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm Film Night - The Bairns' choice of Christmas Film.
- 14<sup>th</sup> 3.30 - 5pm, Messy Kirk Nativity Practice.
- 16<sup>th</sup> 11am, Messy Kirk Nativity Service.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am, Christingle Service.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Watchnight Service.  
*Mince pies from 10.30pm; Carols from 11pm; Service begins at 11.30pm.*

### Sermons Online

Every week the service at Milestone is recorded. This means we can produce CDs of the whole service for those who are unable to attend regularly. The sermon is also published online - there are links from our website and Facebook page but you can also visit the sermon page directly at: [soundcloud.com/milestone-kirk](https://soundcloud.com/milestone-kirk)

If you know of someone who might appreciate receiving a CD every week, please let David know. David can be contacted on [771599](tel:771599) or email [dmcneish@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dmcneish@churchofscotland.org.uk)

How time flies, its been a busy few months for Birsay SWI. We, along with the RNLI, provided teas and refreshments for the St Magnus Marathon in July. We also had our mystery day out in July, when members visited Orkney Alpacas in Deerness. After morning coffee and cake we got to feed the alpacas, bottle feeding lambs and kids and all the other animals and birds. We also had an enjoyable lunch out before continuing on our mystery tour.

A varied programme of evening events has seen members entertain and be entertained by other SWI Branches. We also held our annual bulb and vegetable shows, learnt many different ways to display and use a bunch of flowers, entertained by local musicians, awed by beautiful and poignant quilts and updated on the Mapping Magnus Project.

Our November and December meetings will see us learning new skills or improving those we already have, if you would like to know more we welcome anyone to come along even if its just for the night see to what we get up to behind closed doors at the Birsay Community Centre our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.



*President Joanna Fornear presents the Vegetable Show Trophies to Margaret Spence.*

# Ladies Who Sing



Issy Grieve

Last winter we started a new group for ladies who like to sing. They met in the hall every second Wednesday of the month from 8.00pm till 9.30pm. The group gave their first tentative, short, public performance at the start of the summer and this has inspired them to continue this winter. The group is lead by Kirsty Drever, in a very relaxed, informal manner and ladies are welcome to drop into any of the sessions. This means that if folk are busy there is no pressure to attend every week.

The group have decided that with so many of the singers coming from the Dounby area that they will meet in the Milestone Kirk this session. The group always have time for a cup of tea and chat when they meet every second Wednesday. Just drop past if you feel like joining in. You'll be made most welcome.

## Dates for the diary...

Wednesday 12th and Wednesday 19th December, 8-9.30pm at Milestone Kirk.

Wednesday 9th January, then every two weeks following this in 2019.

# Weather



Keith Johnson

## Hundasaeter Weather Station Report

The Graph on the next page shows the following for the three summer months  
June, July, August, 2000- 2018.

The average temperature **(red)** for the three months with the red dotted line showing the average of the averages; the scale is on the right side of the graph.

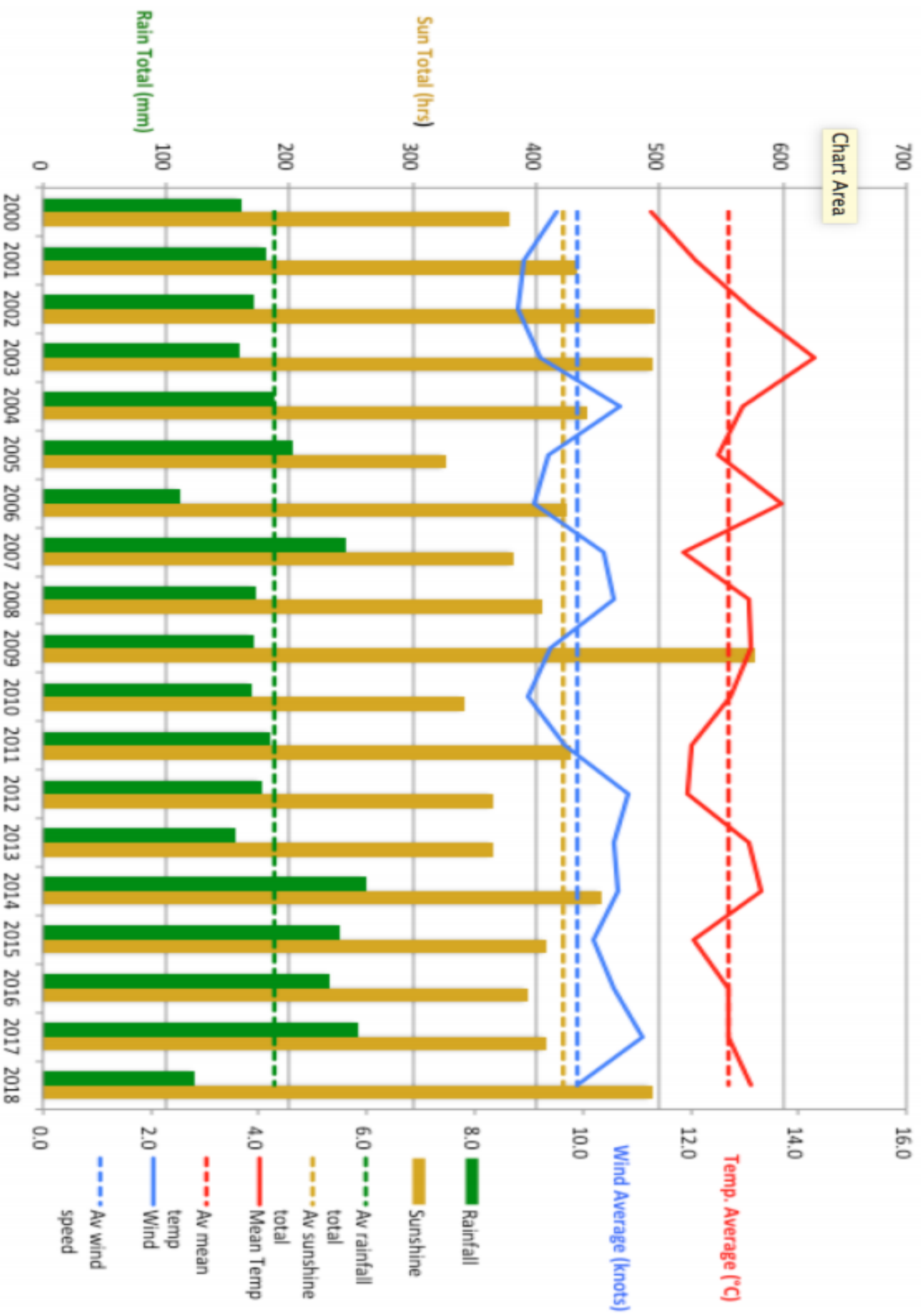
The average wind speed **(blue)** for the three months with the blue dotted line showing the average of the averages; the scale is on the right side of the graph.

The total hours of sunshine **(yellow)** for the three months with the yellow dotted line showing the average of the totals; the scale is on the left side of the graph.

The total rainfall **(green)** for the three months with the green dotted line showing the average of the totals; the scale is on the left side of the graph.



# Summer Quarter (Jun, Jul, Aug) 2000-2018



# 2017 Weather Summary

Keith Johnson

## Hundland Loch Weather Station Report 2017

### Temperature

The average yearly minimum temperature recorded was 6.0 and the average maximum temperature recorded was 11.4. Overall scoring to a 8.7 yearly mean temperature in 2017. In comparison, the average yearly temperature for Birsay 2000-2016 was 8.3 and Grimsetter 1950-2000 was 7.8.

### Rainfall

The average yearly rainfall recorded was 1220.1mm with the average maximum rainfall at 50.4mm. In comparison the average yearly rainfall for Birsay 2000-2016 was 1056.5mm and for Grimsetter 1017.2mm. The average days in 2017 with >0.2mm rainfall was 262 and days with >1.00mm was 211.

### Sunshine

In 2017, the yearly average hours with sunshine was 1046.6 hours and the maximum average of sunshine was 14.9 hours. In comparison, the yearly average of sunshine for Birsay 2000-2016 was 1204.4 hours and Grimsetter 1950-2000 was 1158.7 hours. Birsay 2000-2016 average maximum sunshine hours was 16.2 and Grimsetter 17.1 hours. The days with no sunshine in 2017 was 74 days, matching Birsay average for 2000-2016 and Grimsetter's for 1950-2000 was 86 days.

### Wind

The average wind speed in 2017 was 13.2 knots. Birsay 2000-2016 was 11.9 knots. The average maximum wind speed in 2017 was 67.8 knots and 84.3 knots in Birsay for 2000-2016. The number of days with gale force winds in 2017 was 27. In comparison, Birsay 2000-2016 was only 12 days.

### Fog, Thunder and Snow Days

The average number of days with fog in 2017 was 7 days. The average number of days with thunder in 2017 was 3 days. The average number of days with snow falling was 6 days, snow laying 0 days and hail falling was 36 days.

# Birsay Wordcross

## Birsay Landmarks...

M	H	J	D	E	R	T	Y	B	C	V	S	F	O	O	N	G	S	H	W
B	A	R	O	N	Y	M	I	L	L	A	Q	W	S	G	N	B	M	M	H
O	W	R	U	I	N	B	A	S	D	E	R	N	B	K	J	U	Z	S	A
A	Q	W	W	E	O	E	A	R	L	S	P	A	L	A	C	E	Y	H	L
R	D	R	T	I	G	H	J	K	D	R	C	B	M	L	I	L	A	A	E
D	X	C	H	W	C	G	S	Q	L	B	L	M	M	Z	B	Q	K	M	B
H	M	Q	Y	Q	R	K	R	W	L	R	O	V	A	X	I	C	R	P	O
O	R	W	U	A	E	Y	H	E	I	O	O	B	R	J	R	D	I	S	N
U	A	D	I	D	W	U	W	E	M	J	J	A	W	G	S	F	K	H	E
S	F	F	K	K	Q	I	D	A	A	K	H	Q	I	F	A	S	S	I	B
E	R	C	L	M	E	O	H	S	N	D	G	D	C	D	Y	R	U	R	O
L	E	V	O	N	R	P	G	D	S	D	H	F	K	B	B	Y	N	E	P
O	T	B	E	B	B	L	R	R	W	X	I	H	B	Y	A	H	G	M	L
C	S	R	G	V	H	M	S	T	E	R	N	G	A	I	Y	A	A	E	E
H	U	W	A	C	H	P	G	F	L	V	E	T	Y	U	A	W	M	M	E
S	B	R	B	S	J	K	F	T	L	B	A	Y	U	P	H	E	T	O	K
X	R	Y	I	A	H	M	C	S	N	O	O	L	E	H	T	E	S	R	N
J	I	U	K	Z	B	N	N	U	I	F	I	D	J	J	K	O	L	I	M
U	K	I	S	Y	A	S	R	I	B	F	O	H	G	U	O	R	B	A	B
B	O	A	R	D	H	O	U	S	E	L	O	C	H	G	B	P	G	L	R

You have 15 Birsay landmarks to find! Do you have the skill? Answers will be revealed in next Roond Aboot Birsay.

