

NOVEMBER 2009

Greetings to all on Stronsay. It has been a very busy time for the Trust. Since my last jottings I have been involved in assisting Julia Crocker in completing the turbine business plan. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Julia for the enormous amount of work she has done to get us to the stage we are now at. The Art mural project is at the funding application stage and I have assisted Jenny move the project forward and we are hoping to hear some positive news soon. Again thanks are due to Jenny for her sterling efforts to date. The Mother and Toddler group now renamed 'Little Limpets' are seeking funds to sustain them in the future and we are at the funding application stage with this and I am confident this worthwhile project will continue to function once funding has been secured.

I am presently involved in looking into the potential of a mobile slaughter house for Stronsay. The concept is simple and very cost affective compared to a building based solution. The vehicle would visit farms and process the animals on site. The vehicle would also be able to hang the carcass and store waste by freezing it. The system is used in the USA in remote locations very successfully. Up to ten beasts can be processed a day and reduces stress on the animals and reduces energy costs as meat could be supplied locally pre-packed within the unit. Carcasses would still need to be transported off the island via the local haulier and the potential for employment increases the attractiveness of the idea. I am hoping to arrange a meeting with interested parties in the new year. I am aware of issues such as inspectors and vets in attendance but solutions to these problems are available with a bit of lateral thinking. More info in the near future!!! Any input would be appreciated.

I was recently cornered by the Powerdown Officer to assist her on the highly enjoyable 'Tattie Night'. The competition I ran was "Who could hold up a bag of tatties with one arm the longest!" It came as no surprise to see Mike Holland win. It proved that he is as strong as an ox.....and almost as intelligent!!!

Finally on a serious note. The securing of our NHS service is utmost in our minds and the SDT, Community Council and Community Association have joined forces for a unified approach to protecting the service we enjoy. We are working on a joint document to ask pertinent questions to get some clarity from the powers that be as to our service rather than the ambiguous promises so far given...more to follow.