



A Photographic Census of Hoy Parish
between 2011 & 2013

Pearl Sinclair

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Hoy, Orkney

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created as part of the Hoy Heritage Project www.hoyheritage.co.uk

FRIENDS OF HOY KIRK



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A landscape photograph showing a wide valley with rolling hills. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the distance, arching over the valley floor. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a patch of lighter blue sky above the rainbow. The foreground is dominated by dense, brownish-yellow vegetation, likely heather or ferns, growing on a hillside. The overall scene is atmospheric and scenic.

When the Hoy Heritage Project started, numerous old photographs came in to the Hoy Kirk. That gave me the idea to take new photographs of all the Hoy residents and all the regular visitors with holiday cottages, and get them to write about themselves in their own handwriting. This book is the result, it is a photographic census made over two years. Thanks to all for their cooperation and many thanks to Karl Reid and Rebecca Marr for their help.

Pearl Sinclair

Pearl Sinclair has made a valuable addition to the archive of Hoy parish with this book. To photograph the people and places around you is to record history. Pearl has stopped the clock and given us a picture of Hoy parish at a particular moment in time. Already much has changed since these photographs were taken underlining the importance of such a document.

The scope of this book takes in the occupied properties within the parish once served by the Hoy Kirk - now home to the Hoy Heritage Archive. Holiday homes have been included in this survey of occupied houses as these regular visitors, most from mainland Orkney, have a valued place in the community.

Thank you to all who overcame any camera-shyness and most of all to the person behind the camera who undertook this significant task. Thank you Pearl.

Rebecca Marr, Hoy heritage project



People who have been unable or did not wish to be photographed are represented by their house.

The Residents

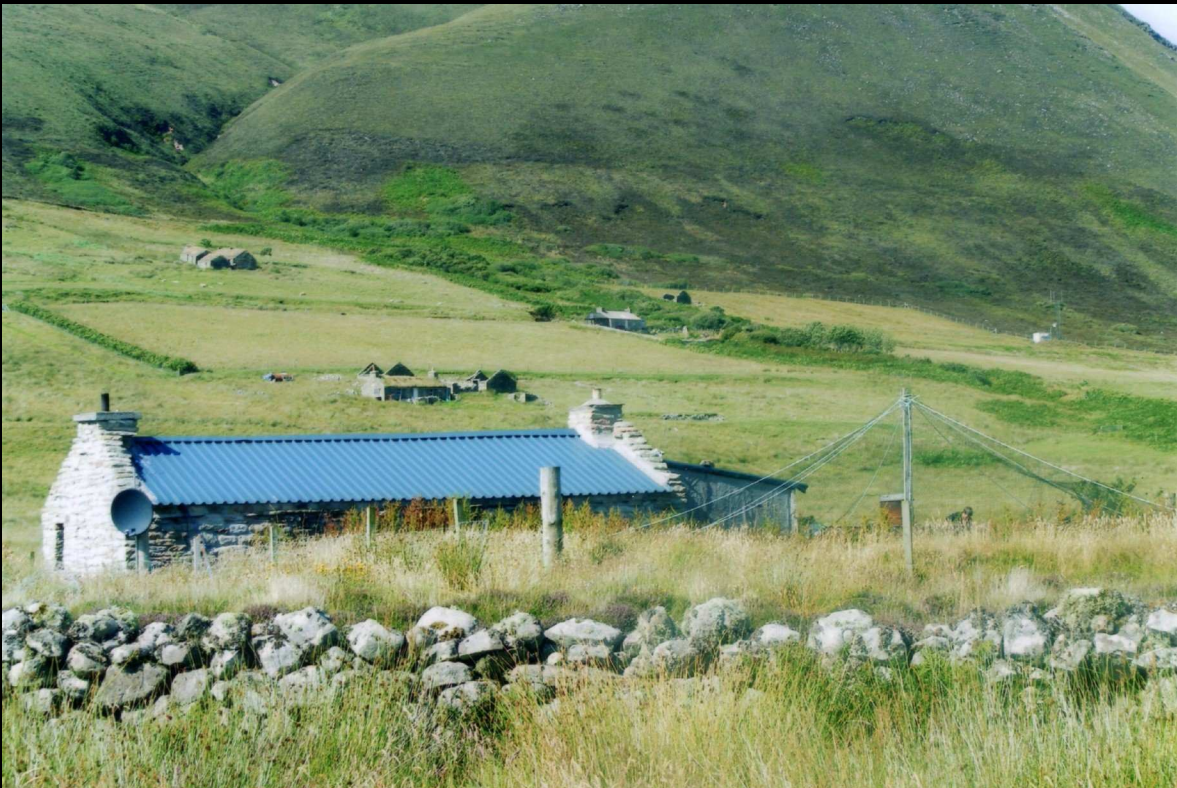
Backdyke
Bayview
Beneth'hill
The Bu
Burgar
Burra House
Burnmouth
Cliff Cottage
Garson
The Glebe
Glen
Greenhill
The Head
Hoy Lodge
Hoyvale
Inkster
Ley House
Lythe
Lythend
Nether Linksness
Orgil Cottage
Quoydale
Quoys
Saltwater Slap
Sandybraes
Selwick
The Slack
West Linksness

The Regulars

Bunertoan
Burnhouse
Burnmouth, Rackwick
Cliffgate
Greenhill, Rackwick
Greenmoss
The Groups
Hielans Cottage
Kingshouse
Lower Rumin
Midhouse
Moorfea
The Moss
Murra
Nether Ootro
Nether Moss
Newstead
Ootro
The Park
Quernstone
The Quoys
Scar
Seaview Cottage
The Shore
The Test House
Upper Park
Westend Cottage
Windbreck
White Glen

Home

The Residents



Backdyke Rackwick



Bay of Quoys





The cafe was built in 1997. The photos show Trina, Mike Skinner of Shetland and Sandy Futh who worked in the cafe in 2012. Benethill is how the old folk spoke the name at the area Beneath-the-hill.



2012



JEAN + TERRY WITH SOME OF THEIR EXTENDED FAMILY -
JEAN - MORWEN (GRAND DAUGHTER) TERRY + CONNOR (GRANDSON)
BACK ROW - THORFINN - NOEL - MAENUS. MISSING FROM PICTURE IS
NIGEL - NICHOLA + OLIVIA, + NUMEROUS GRAND CHILDREN



TERRY + JEAN THOMSON - THE BU OF HOY.

JEAN WAS BORN IN THE BU IN 11TH DEC 1942. TERRY WAS BORN IN CROCKNESS NEAR LYNSS IN 7TH SEP. 1942.

TERRY MOVED TO FYFE IN SEP 1959 WHERE WORKED IN PAPERMAKING 6 YEARS AT TWO FYFE COLLEGES ACQUIRING MANY ISCLASS SUBJECTS.

JEAN + TERRY MARRIED IN HOY CHURCH ON 2ND AUGUST 1962. (NOW CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY) RETURNING TO LIVE IN FYFE UNTIL SEP. 1973 WHEN THEY RETURNED HOME TO LIVE AT THE BU OF HOY WHERE GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY HAVE LIVED.





Adam and Dawn Clark live at Burgar, Hoy.

Adam, son of Albert and Fay Clark and Grandson of Cathy Clark (also of Hoy) has lived in Burgar, a Hoy Trust owned, croft house for 10 years.

Adam married Dawn Rosie, of Flotta, in June 2012 when she moved in with Adam and his dog Ben and two cats Leo and Snuffles.

Adam is always busy with grass cutting, farm work at Quoynedale, his greenhouse, lorry driving, holiday cover for the council and post office, and many other jobs. Dawn travels to Kirkwall for work in an office.

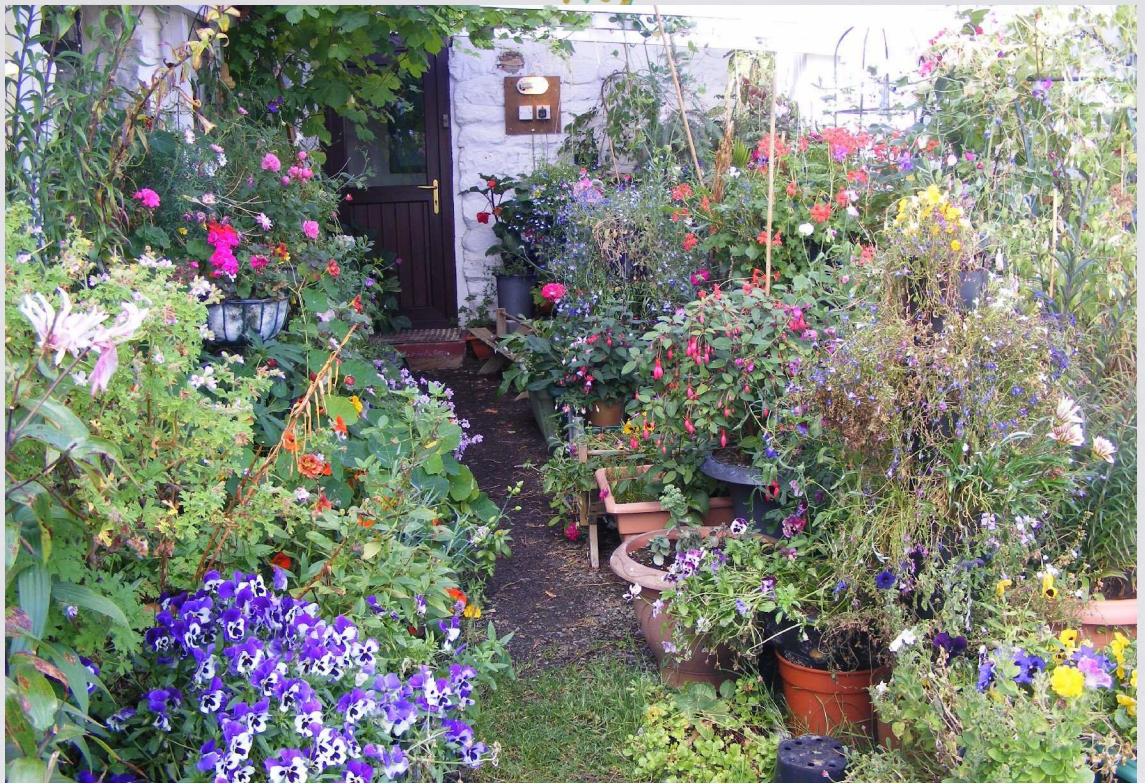




Joyce Groat (page 32)



Burnmouth wharress HOY



Geoff Van Bellians

THIS IS GEOFF and JACKIE
VAN JENNANS IN THEIR
CLUTTERED AND VERY LIVED-IN
SITTING ROOM AT BURRA HOUSE



GEOFF IS A RETIRED ACADEMIC
IN ASTRONOMY and PHILOSOPHY
AND MUSIC! JACKIE HAS BEEN
A TEACHER FOR OVER 40 YEARS
AND IS AMERICAN. GEOFF IS OF
A FLEMISH/ENGLISH FAMILY AND
WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN MANCHESTER.
WE LOVE BURRA HSE AND OUR CAT "HEPPY"

MY HUSBAND AND I SITTING OUTSIDE
BURRA HOUSE WHICH WE PURCHASED IN 1989
WE MADE AT LEAST 2 TRIPS A YEAR IN
THE SUMMER TO STAY AT BURRA HOUSE, THEN
IN 1999 I RETIRED AND WE MOVED
TO LIVE PERMANENTLY IN BURRA HOUSE.

HERE WE ARE IN PART OF THE
GARDEN. WE HAVE ABOUT 2 ACRES OF LAND



IN OUR SITTING ROOM, SIR WALTER SCOTT
IS REPUTED TO HAVE WRITTEN PART OF
THE PIRATE, WE HAVE HAD RELATIVES OF
PREVIOUS MINISTERS VISIT US.

THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE
YOU SEE IN THE PICTURE GROWS IN OUR GARDEN
IT IS SAID TO BE ONE OF THE OLDEST TREES
IN ORKNEY.

Mrs J. Van Jennans

D. HUTCHISON CLIFF CORRIE RACKWICK
BORN KIRKWALL IN 1941 IN AN AIR RAID
MOVED TO RACKWICK WESTRAY IN 1945 WENT TO
SCHOOL UNTILL 1952 THEN MOVED TO KIRKWALL
THEN NHS ORKNEY 1973 FIRST VISITED RACKWICK
THEN MOVED TO LIVE THERE IN 1981



MUCKLE HOUSE NEXT DOOR HOLIDAY HOME FOR MANY
INCLUDING GEORGE HUCKAY BROWN PETER MAIWELL
DAVIS STAYED IN MUCKLEHOUSE WHILE WRITING FILM
MUSIC FOR BOYFRIEND AND DEVILS BY KEO RUSSELL
TODAY ITS A HAVEN OF REST FROM AN
INCREASINGLY MAD WORLD



Working in Hwy Post Office, Joe had since 1980
taken over after Isaac had retired



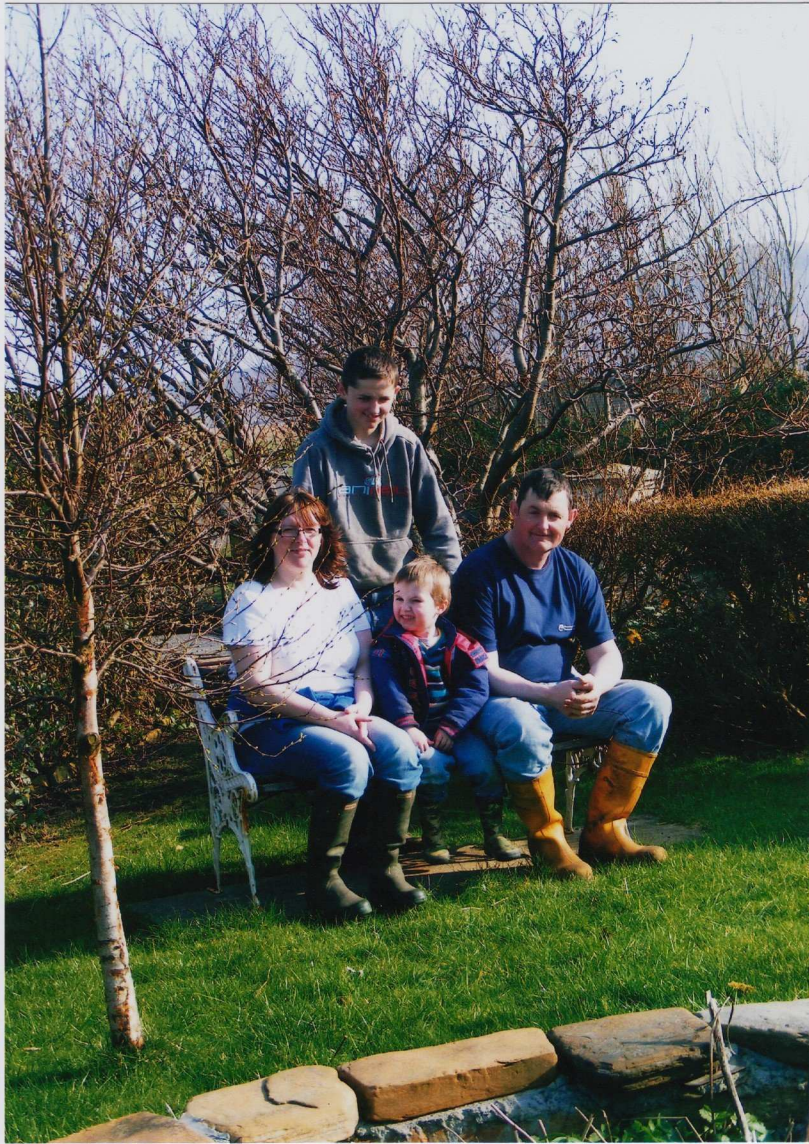
Catherine Clark (nee Rendall) I was born in 1929
went to Rackwick School until I was fifteen, worked in
my Father's Shop (T.H. Rendall) until I married in 1953.
married Albert Clark & lived in Lyness until 1963
when we moved to Garsa in Hg,

Catherine J. Clark

Garrison, Hay with the Post Office
on the Front



DONALD MACISAAC



ANGIELA
MACISAAC

DONALD
MACISAAC

LACHLAN MACISAAC



THE NAME OF OUR HOUSE IS THE GLEBE. IT WAS BUILT IN 1990. ALSO IN THE PHOTO IS TOMMY MOAR WITH HIS TRACTOR. I WAS BORN IN ORKNEY AND DONALD COMES FROM LOCHABER. WE WERE MARRIED AT THE LONGHOPE MANSE BY THE REV FIONA LILLIE. BOTH OUR SONS WERE BORN IN ORKNEY. WE ALSO HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS NAOMIE AND CHLOË WHO WERE BORN IN INVERNESS.

Spring 2012. Jack Rendall M.B.E. and his wife Dorothy outside their home at Glen, Rackwick, Hoy. Just before Dorothy went off to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for major heart surgery. Replacement of a damaged mitral valve, with a jug's valve, and a double by-pass. Made a good recovery.



Jack b. 26.10.1927 in this house. The family (Thomson or on dirt off side) have been resident in Rackwick since 1679, originally at Coeris Nook. They came with the Ritch's, Willisons after the defeat of the Covenanters at the Battle of Beechwell Bridge by King Charles of England. Along with 250 others they were imprisoned then sent on a slave ship to America. But the ship was wrecked off Mull Head, Decem. in Dec. 1679. These 3 fellows arrived in Rackwick and Jack's folk have lived here ever since.

Dorothy was on holiday with friends in 1977 in Rackwick, met Jack, nursemaid blossomed, courted by telephone and letters and wed in St. James, Kinghorn, was at school in July 1978. From mid July 1978 Dorothy made her home here, and their daughter Lucy was born on 21st Nov 1980.





This is us having our photo taken by self timer in our garden at the Greenhill Wharfedale Hoag.
I was born in the parish of Ewie in 1941 Maiden name Pearl MacDonald Kemp, and Francis Sinclair was born in Stromness in 1936. Met Frankie in 1957 when she came home from serving in the Royal Artillery in Jordan. Got Married in 1960 fifty two years ago where is time went.



Purchase the Greendill from Jo Stone
on the 23 of November 1995 had it
Renovated in 1996 for a weekend cottage
but decided to retire in Hoy

Pearl & Franzi Sinclair

Amy Kinsey, Martin Phillips, Mary, Aisling
and Laura Phillips and Sky



We have lived at the Head for about 13 years, since Mary and Aisling were tiny and before Laura was born. My granda Reggie Ritch has born at the Head and when I was little his Auntie Mary Ritch lived here. My mum spent most of her holidays here when she was growing up and then we did the same. At that time the Head was a working farm but when Mary Ritch died the house and farm were left to my granda's cousin from Aberdeenshire. He sold up but eventually Martin and I were able to buy the house back. It wasn't in

a very good state and Martin worked for several years to completely renovate it keeping it as original as possible though. It took a while because he did all the work himself just as we could afford it - when we moved in there was still just the kitchen and bedroom and the bathroom so for a while all five of us slept in one room. It was a bit crowded but when grandpa was little seven people lived in the house that size, his grandparents, his mum, two aunts, an uncle and him.

As the girls got bigger Martin built an extension with bedrooms for them and a bit more space for all of us.

Braeburn is a beautiful place to live. It is really wild in the winter time but the waves are amazing and its always good to be in with the fire or listening to the wind outside. In the summer it is like a different world. I'm glad the girls have grown up here in a place we all love. It is my favourite place in the world, the hills and the sea and the cliffs and the loneliness. It's the only place that will ever be my home.



OUTSIDE THE HOY LODGE BASIL GROAT WITH
HIS TWO DAUGHTERS CHARLOTTE GROAT ON THE RIGHT
AND JOYCE GROAT ON THE LEFT :



This photo is of Betty Ritch, resident of Hayvale since 1987, and Maureen her middle daughter, a very frequent visitor. Betty and Reggie, her late husband, moved back to Hay in 1987 to live in



Hayvale, previously Reggie's mother's house. He was brought up in the Head, in Braebuster. He and Betty, from Tyneside, met during the war when Reggie was in the R.A.F. They lived in Straness for a few years after marrying in 1946, living most of their married life in Cullercoats on Tyneside, but visiting Hay every year for holidays at the Head and in Hayvale.





Erland Omand Inkester Aug 2012



After 44 years of Boy's Brigade camps, annual family holiday weekends with friends and by myself to Bodewick I applied to the Hey Trust and was accepted as the tenant of Inkester. I started to renovate old Inkester in Oct 2010 and in June 2012 I laid the formal for new Inkester and building work began with the intention to make the move 'south' from Stranresser to Hey in 2013



Magnus and Rachel Thomson with children Morwen (born June 2005) and Connor (born Sept 2009) in the kitchen at Lythe. Magnus works for Scottish Water, is station officer in the Hoy Coastguard and farms at Lythe.



Here we are in the garden. Lythe was previously owned by Leslie Sinclair and cousin Jo Stone, and this is Jo's beautiful garden.



Morwen and Connor helping Dad feed the
ducks and hens outside Lythe



I'm Elaine Batchelor and I was born in Yorkshire where I lived and worked till moving to Orkney in 1988. I am pictured at Lythend with my assistant, Jasper. Lythend belongs to Hoy Trust and I stayed there whilst 'South Isles Ranger' June 2011 to March 2012. Would love to move back.



Ron Bulmer Lee Shields

Finn Bulmer

by Ley House - overlooking Bay of Quays.



Ron Bulmer with Lee Shields and Finn (the smallest one!)
Ron first came to Orkney in 1989 - though has a long family
connection stretching some 80 years. However it was in 2007 that Ron
came to Hoy to work where he met Lee. Three years later they
were married, with Finn arriving shortly after - he now has a sister
Anna (there is just under two years between them)

Lee is the RSPB Warden for the RSPB reserve on Hoy -
landscape certainly unique in Orkney but is recognised as
significant at national, European and indeed international levels.
Ron, to compliment this, is the Outdoor Education Practitioner,
part of the Council's outdoor Education Team.
Finn, however, is a well known socialite!



Linksness



Nether Linksness



This photo is of Jimmy and Margaret Moar outside Orgil Cottage Hoy. We got married 21st March 1969 and came to live here right after we were married. Jimmy worked as a parttime postman for north Hoy and Rackwick for 27 yrs. until he retired from the service aged 60 in 1998. We have 2 grown up sons, one in Shetland and the other in Stromness, 2 grandsons, and a great Nephew who was born on 9th July 2012.



This photo was taken summer 2011, and is of Jimmy Moor at the Wharres burn, Hoy. He has fish boxes filled with rock and stones slung under the buoys, which he tows out and empties on the beach a little distance from the burn.



Albert & Fay Clark. we ~~live~~ live at Quoydale,
since Sept 1985 with our sons Adrian, Alan & Adam.



Fay outside Quoydale with the dogs.
Scot and Ben. our son's dog.

My connection with Hoy goes back to 1988 when I started teaching at North Walls School in Lyness. I stayed at the school for the next five years and it was towards the end of this time that we bought Quoys, one of the oldest farms in the parish, where kye used to be gathered for ferrying across to Stromness, but a place which after the War gradually fell into disuse. It is very fertile ground, located between two barns, with the Ward Hill behind and the Bay of Quoys in front.

Over the last twenty years the garden around Quoys has matured into a sheltered place, with trees, vegetables, fruit bushes and lawns, thanks mainly to the continual effort and vision of John. There are plenty of areas out of the wind to watch the many seabirds and waterfowl on the shoreline and in the bay. It is always possible to tell when the long-tailed ducks are 'at home'. Their calls are unmistakable. And the sweep of sand at low tide is a great place to wander.

We have spent many happy times at Quoys with family and friends. It is a very special place. I also enjoy meeting the pupils I taught in the late eighties and hearing about their lives and their children.

Apart from teaching my main interest is theatre. I was Expressive Arts Adviser for the county, and have directed many plays for the St Magnus Festival over the years, such as 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Romeo and Juliet', together with a trilogy of Orkney-based plays written by the late Alan Plater, including his adaptation of George Mackay Brown's 'Greenide' (available Christmas 2013 as a CD).

My husband John is a novelist and political campaigner. His second novel 'Strip the Willow' won the best Scottish novel of the year award in 2010. He worked hard to ensure outdoor education would be available to all Orkney schoolchildren, and founded the Hoy Partnership to get the Hoy Centre modernised and extended for a range of uses.

Our son, Finn, works at the BBC World Service as a Chinese specialist. He recently took charge of a three year programme to develop resources for teaching English in all Cambodian schools, in a country still recovering from the ravages of war and of Pol Pot.

Heather, our daughter, graduated in sculptural glass, drawing inspiration from the beach at Rackwick. She now works in small London hospitals as an Art Psychotherapist, helping folk with severe learning difficulties and psychoses to develop more understanding and control in their lives.

pp Penny Aberdeen





Kes Johnston
Isaac Johnston
Zoe Byers
Leanne Fischler
Joey Fischler

[Handwritten signature]



Saltwater Slap Rackwick

Jeff & Avil Clark. Sandybraes. Rackwick.

Jeff was born in Edmonton London in 1937. Avil was born in Woodford Green in 1938. We came to Rackwick. Hoy in 1974 with our two young children Howard & Lesley to rebuild Sandybraes. with the financial help of the Hoy Trust. After rebuilding the house we worked at various jobs, machine knitting working at the Rackwick salmon hatchery and doing observations for the Meteorological Office a job which lasted twenty five years until all stations



became automatic. We still keep rainfall data.

We were founder members of the 'Friends of Hoy Kirk'. Set up to purchase the Hoy Kirk from the Church of Scotland. We helped to raise the initial funds to pay for the re-furbishment of the Kirk, which includes the kitchen toilets etc. We are still active members of the committee.

We have just recently celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary 14th Oct 2011





My name is Finlay Morrison and I live at the 'Slack' in Braebister.

I have lived here since I was born in 1977. My parents, Angus and Mary, originally from the Isle of Lewis, moved here in 1974. Having replied to an advert in the Glasgow Herald, placed by the Hoy Trust. Looking for young couples to move into and renovate a couple of run down houses.

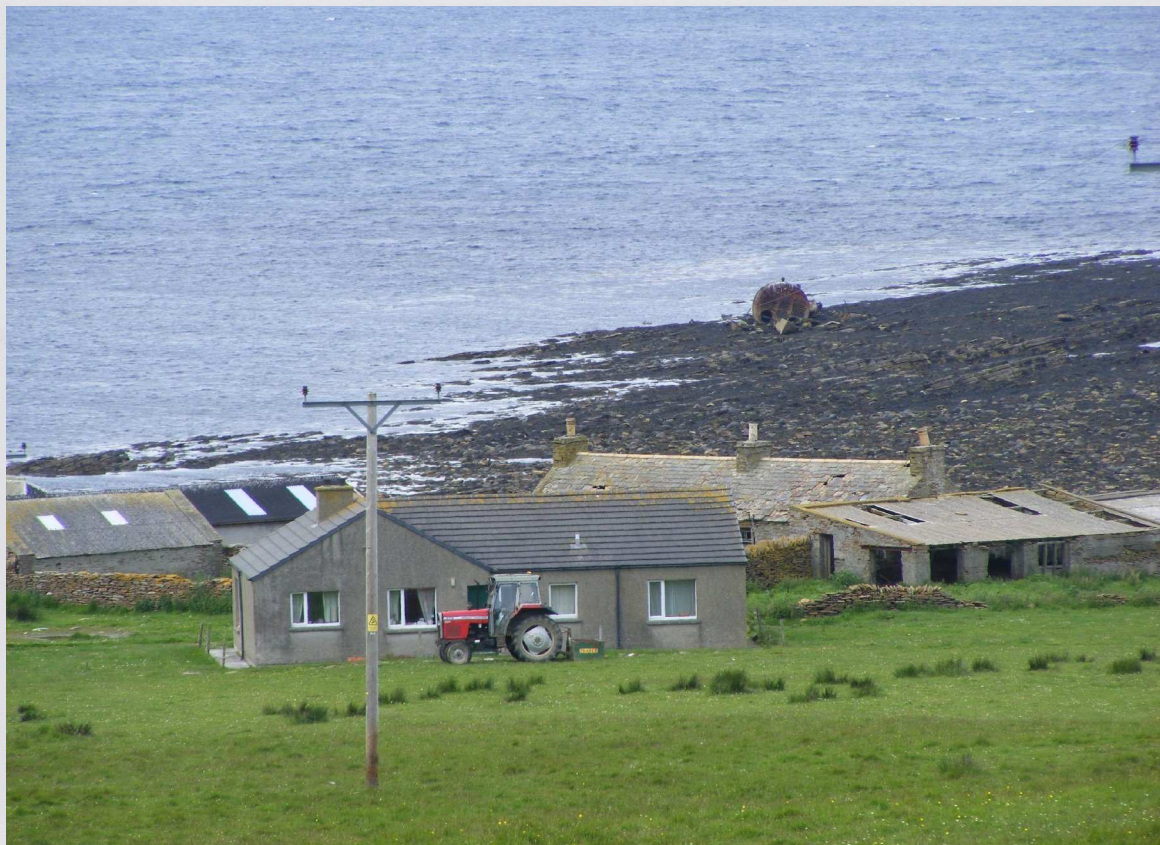
Along with my brothers, Donald and Mark, I spent my childhood climbing the hills, playing in the fields and the burn, and couldn't have asked for a better place to grow up in.



I have worked on Hoy since leaving school at 17. Starting at the Rackwick Hatchery with John Eccles. Then at Rysa Salmon with Davy Spence, and I am now a manager at the Lyness Salmon Farm.

I am engaged to Marina and we have two wonderful girls called Molly and Lily.

Selwick
Hoy.



This view shows the house and buildings and on the beach in the background the boiler from the Aberdeen trawler "Strathellist" wrecked in October 1952.

The 12 man crew were rescued by breeches buoy, the longest rescue ever done in this country by that method at roughly 400 yards from shore.

Thomas Moor. 27/1/2013,

The chimneys on the old house are used as a guide between the skerries when they are in line



This is a tractor I bought at the Bounty Show in 2011.

Thomas Moat 27/1/13



ROB , CRISTLE + RUBY

ROBERT , ORIGINALLY FROM CRAWLEY MOVED TO
HOY IN JUNE 2010. CRISTLE FROM STORNOWAY
MOVED IN NOV 2010 . RUBY JOINED US IN
MAY 2011



ROBERT, CRISTIE + RUBY.

OSCAR THE DOG.

Home from home

The Regulars





Bunertoon means 'above the toon' - it's the highest cottage in Rackwick, tucked under the hill near the cliff's edge, with great panoramic views over the valley and beach, to the cliffs on the opposite side. It was a ruin, only a pile of stones, when the composer Peter Maxwell Davies moved to Orkney and rebuilt the cottage in the 1970s. This was where he was inspired to write his many manuscripts of music. Since 1999 Cally and Graham Bevan have shared the cottage with family & friends.



Burnhouse has belonged to the Moar family for approximately 100 years. Ebenezer Moar came from Birsay to Rackwick to be the school teacher before becoming the Post Master at Burnhouse.

Euan (Muckey) spent many school holidays with his grandparents Isaac & Bessie Moar at Burnhouse. Much time was spent exploring this end of the Island or at Orgil farm with the Great family & Tommy.

Burnhouse was replaced with a new bungalow in 2000, with a new extension added in 2012.







Burnmouth

The bothy during Bag The Bruck beach clearing weekend



JUNE 2012

KRISTEN BAIN AND HER LATE HUSBAND
MALCOLM BAIN PURCHASED GREENHILL RACKWICK IN 1996
KRISTEN AND HER FAMILY
Amanda, Lindsey, Malcolm and Alistair
CONTINUE TO ENJOY FREQUENT WEEKENDS AND
HOLIDAYS AT GREENHILL.
PICTURED ABOVE
KRISTEN DAUGHTER Amanda Son in Law ALLY
GRANDDAUGHTER DEMI AND GRANDSON ALLY.
and MADA THEIR DOG.



We have been coming across to Hoy since 1984.
In summer ¹⁹⁹⁸ we bought the greenmoss from the Mansons who purchased Bear at the same time.
In the early days our visits were only for holiday in the summer in rented houses.
We have though been across to Hoy every New Year for 29 years apart from 2.
The house has been renovated over the years with the time cladding being replaced with wood
All being well, we hope that we will be able to come across to Hoy for many more years.
Runa and I would like to wish this project good luck as it will provide a fantastic piece of social history for the future.
Gordon & Runa Hill.



Cliffgate



The Groups



2012

Nancy & Geoffrey Benton



KINGS HOUSE

Katie and John Holmes taking a well earned break from gardening.



Now that the renovation of Kingshouse is complete, John and I spend most of our time in Hoy working on improving and maintaining our garden.



For our sympathetic restoration
of Kingshouse we received
a Highly Commended
Laura Gummond Award from
the Orkney Heritage Society.



We are Sandy & Liz Dennison and we bought Lower Rumin from Mark and Lucy Flett in December 2010. Previously the property had belonged to Jack and Dorothy Rendall of The Glen.

Since buying Lower Rumin we have been carrying out some minor alterations, including the opening up of an internal doorway between the two parts of the property.

Since buying Lower Rumin we try to come to Rockwold once a month.

Lower Rumin



Sandy & Liz Dennison with Fergus



I BOUGHT MIDHOUSE IN 1989 FROM SACK RENDALL THE -
- GHEN RACKWICK, IT WAS A MERE SHELL OF WHAT
IT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN, SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN
A LABOUR OF LOVE TO BRING IT ~~TO~~ WHAT IT IS
NOW. MY FAMILY AND I LOVE COMING OVER AND
SPENDING TIME THERE ALL YEAR ROUND



LESLEY, ALEX AND ME IN THE FRONT GARDEN.



In 1962 my late husband Frank Mackee bought the schoolhouse which consisted of four walls and one small end window. It belonged to the Education Authority of the Orkney County Council.

In 1967 it was rebuilt by Alfi R. Pirie & workmen from Diphis. That was the year that The Old Man of Hoy was filmed and televised for the first time.

In 1969 my husband died, but the boys and I continued to holiday in Rackwick during school holidays and weekends. In 1992 the sun porch was built. In 2012 solar powered lighting was put in.

Allostea as it was renamed will remain a holiday cottage for the Mackee family.

Mary Mackee







BUNTY WISHART (NORTHOUSE), ROBBIE AND LEWIS FLETT (THE MOSS)

WE BOUGHT THE MOSS FROM JOHN AND ROSSLYN LEASK IN 2004.
SINCE THEN WE HAVE SPENT MANY HAPPY TIMES THERE. A REAL HOME FROM
HOME, A DIFFERENT HOME. ONE WITH NO MAINS POWER. IT DOES
THE BOYS GOOD TO GET AWAY FROM PLAYSTATIONS AND TOO MUCH TV.
OUTDOOR PURSUITS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY AND RACKWICK HAS
PLENTY OF HILLS TO CLIMB AND FISH TO CATCH. GREAT FUN FOR
YOUNG AND OLD. SPEND A FEW DAYS THERE AND YOU FIND
YOURSELF IN RACKWICK MODE WHERE TIME MEANS NOTHING.

THE MOSS

NO LONGER A TUMBLE OF STONES

THE WALLS RING WITH CHILDRENS LAUGHTER.

A HOME, ONCE MORE.

The Taylor family Neil, Sarah & Savannah
and dogs Myszka, Kazia & Sparkle.

Every year after Shopping Week the land rover
would be packed to the brim and the Johnstones
(Sarah's family) would set off from Stranness
for their annual 3 week holiday to Huckle
House. These were magical times spent with
many friends exploring, clay mining, fishing
camping and much socialising. Sundays
were extra special as many visitors would
come over from Stranness for lunch and
a few home brews.

Expeditions to the beach & burn for the
daily wash (we had no running water then)
were memorable!

Now we try to get over when we can
and still go to the beach, go fishing and
generally chill out. Rackwick has that
magical "aura" that anyone who has
experienced it will never forget.





This is me, Ruth Lindsley, with my dog Maddy, in the living room of Murra, which belongs to my sister Sarah Poole. We have had a long association with Hoy. Our father John Linsell, was in the Navy during World War II and was posted from Luton in Bedfordshire up to the Naval Base at Lyness towards the end of the war. Unlike some of the other sailors, Dad loved the Orkneys, particularly Hoy, and passed that love on to Sarah and me.

He started bringing us here, for our summer holidays, in the 1960's. Murra, at that time, was being used as a shelter for sheep. But with Basil Groats permission, we spent a very memorable six

weeks one summer putting up doors and clearing out sheep dung. Sarah and I were given the task of casting the dung away in a leaky 2 handled peat basket - not a popular holiday pastime for teenage girls! Once we had made Murra habitable we started to rent it.

Since then, Sarah came here almost every year and eventually was able to buy the cottage and put in modern conveniences. I have been a less frequent visitor but, being recently retired, have taken the opportunity to come and spend several months here. It is a very different experience being on Hoy during the winter but I absolutely love it!

The strong sense of community and mutual support here combined with the lack of crime and vandalism is a wonderful contrast to down South. I am passionate about wildlife conservation and protection of the countryside. I come from Suffolk, a very pretty county, but which I have seen, in the last 25 years, relentlessly carved up by industry, houses, roads and intensive farming methods. I cannot put into words how much I value what still exists here on Hoy. The land is not drained and overcultivated, there are still truly wild places with abundant wildlife. That is what makes Hoy so life affirming and important to me.





I first visited Rackwick in 1954 which was the first
Stommas Company Boys Brigade camp on Hay and from
then on Rackwick was the preferred place for the company's
annual summer camp. In the early eighties John Teak
and myself bought the Moss, which was derelict, from
Jack and Dorothy Kendall and over time renovated the
house and later the outbuildings one of which became
Nether Moss. In 1995 we divided the property John
acquired the original Moss and I acquired Nether
Moss and over the years I built the sun porch and
later with the arrival of our first grandchildren we built
an extension on the back which gave Nether Moss an
extra bedroom.



'Netherootroo' - (Hoy Trust property) leased by James & Carrie Stockan

Rackwick was a favourite place to go as a teenager and often visited whilst involved with the Boys Brigade.

During the summer holidays it was often difficult to find a cottage to stay in and I realised I really longed for a cottage to have the opportunity to go over and spend more time in Hoy.

In 1982 while out walking with Jack Rendall he told me that this house belonged to the Hoy Trust. I wrote to enquire about leasing the property. In the summer of 82, within 3 weeks and with help from David Hutchison and Malcolm Lyon, we succeeded in making Netherootroo wind and water tight, and a place that could be slept in after decades of being uninhabited.

The rafters in the roof were made from old tables from Porteous's bakery in Stromness. The purlings were from reclaimed timber salvaged from 'The Borg' - (a ship wrecked in Birsay in the 1930s). Everything was done at minimum cost.

J.M.F Groat did the haulage and we had just enough unbroken asbestos sheets to complete the roof, this was in the days when everything had to be winched on and off the old Hoy Head.

Our family have spent many fantastic holidays and enjoyed short breaks throughout the year. The cottage has been enjoyed by many, including several couples on honeymoon, various family members, Stromness locals and visiting tourists. The open fire has been a highlight, with occupants enjoying collecting driftwood from the beach and then relaxing in the evening with a warm fire and a meal by candlelight.





We are Kenny and Shirley Pine (nee Work). Glenlea, Greenogue, Ophir. We married in July 1976 and we have two daughters - Susan aged 35 years and Gemma aged 29 years, they now both live in Dunfermline but both girls still enjoy coming home and getting out to Hoy when they can. Susan has two sons - Josh who is 13 years and Ewan aged 10 years. Gemma got married to Kieran McElroy in 2011 and as yet have no family. We as a family have had a lot of fun and magical times at Newstead, Hoy over the years and we all still really enjoy when we can get out for a break to our little cottage at the foot of Ward Hill. Kenny has had a lot of connection with Hoy as he grew up, his grandfather and his father both worked in both North Hoy and Longhope area a lot of their lives, his grandfather, Bob Pine began working for Malcolm Stewart when he bought Hoy in 1948 (we think) as did his father, Duncan Pine until he passed away in 1997. As Kenny's

parents lived in different houses, usually in the longhope area, while Duncan worked there Kenny went to school for a time in South Walls, the school he went to is now the Stroma Bank Hotel. When Kenny left school the first job he had was laying concrete at Orkitt Farm and he is still doing work there to this day along with other bits and pieces for other people in the area.



Because of the interest in Hoy Kennys father Duncan approached Mrs Peterson about leasing Newstead in 1984, at that time the cottage was a ruin. Mrs Peterson lived at Burgar, Hoy and agreed to give Duncan it off her lease, Duncan then bought the old wooden house of West Kirkness from Tommy Moar and it along with stones from the ruinous Newstead were used to rebuild our holiday home!

We used Newstead extensively in the 1980's when our girls were small and were out in Hoy every spring, summer and Autumn school holidays, it was too cold at winter time. We do not get out to Hoy as much as we would like these days because of other commitments but we hope to rectify that in the near future.

These photos were taken while we were out spring clearing and aining Newstead in April 2012, sadly Rolly our little dog in the pictures is no longer with us, he was killed in a tragic road accident.



SPRING 2012 , OVER OPENING UP THE NORTH HOUSE
AFTER THE WINTER. A FEW FRIENDS
CALLED BY ALBERT CLARK MARGARET
MOAR AND ROBBIE FLETT AND OF
COURSE PEARL SINCLAIR [TAKING THE PHOTO]



SPRING 2012 . LIGHTING THE FIRE AT THE
NORTH HOUSE FOR THE FIRST
TIME AFTER THE WINTER
GRAND TO BE BACK.



Graham & Heather Scott (née Dunnet) with son Jack & daughter Alice outside 'Ostros' Rackwick, 2012.



Heather, Graham, Alice & Jack Scott inside 'Oostroo'
Rackwick 2012.

This picture shows me, George Argo senior and my son George Junior (or, as our friends call us, Big George and Peedie George), sitting outside our Racknick house 'The Park'.

We took over lease of The Park in 2008 from my Aunt, Ethel Young. Ethel had secured a tenancy in 1972 after writing to Malcolm Stewart from the Hoy Estate. Rent was £25 per year which was paid annually at Martinmas. The lease then was for all the buildings at the Park including the outbuildings which now form the Upper Park and the public toilets. In 1979 the council secured one end of the shed and put in the public toilets as well as an outside toilet for Ethel. This was a real luxury!

In 1981 Chris and Jean Bosch sub-let the other end of the shed which became the Upper Park. The top end of The Park was eventually separated and is now leased by Liz Rosie.

As kids we spent many happy holidays in Racknick with Ethel. There was no running water at that time so we used to carry water down from a tap near to where Cliffgate is now built.

Most of the renovation work on the Park was done in the early '70's by Downby firm Patrick C Bews. We still have the original invoices showing wood measured in feet and nails charged by the pound. The original buildings were built using local stone which had earth between them acting as a bond and as insulation. Much of this washed away over the years so as part of the renovations I am doing I have pointed the stonework and installed insulation.



My hope is that my children will fall in love with Racknick as I did all those years ago. George is now 7 years old and Ian is 3. George is at an age where he can start to explore and discover for himself the beauty and magic of Racknick.



Tommy Moar (page 58)



Myself, my wife Déirdre and my children Magnus and Kávin first went to Rackwick in 1992. We fell in love with the place and from then on Rackwick was the holiday of choice and we had many happy weekends with Granny and Grandad Byers.

We were very lucky to be offered the chance to purchase Querstone's in 2009.

We visit as often as we can enjoying our cottage the landscape and the tranquil view. Our children Magnus and Kávin visit regularly with friends and enjoy outdoor pursuits and the simple life Querstone offers.

When I go to Rackwick I completely relax, loose all the stresses of business life, park a highland park and take in the fabulous view.



We have been coming to Hoy since the early 1990's. I am Steve Fenton and am married to Jenny who is John Aberdeen's sister. We have lived and worked in Bristol for many years, Jenny as a GP and myself as a university academic, and have brought up our children Alex and Lynda there.

We were delighted when the chance came to share the Bothy at Quoys with John and Penny. At first it was virtually a ruin but with hard work by Max and Jan it became a lovely cottage. We come every year, usually in the summer, but occasionally at other times, and can recall some bouncy crossings with Stevie and Davie. Mostly we don't have a car here and rely on Faye and Albert to give us lifts when we arrive laden with messages. We have seen a fair bit of them and their family over the years and, of course, have got to know Cathy, who has always been a most welcoming neighbour.

We enjoy working and relaxing in the garden and have got better at identifying the amazing variety of birds here. Walking on the shore or through the glen is lovely, in most, if not all, weathers! I tend to get the boat to Stromness a couple of times a week for a game of golf, leaving Jenny to wrestle with the weeds.

Jenny and I love it on Hoy.

Summer 2012
(Missing, Kevin
& Neal)



Renovating, (or rebuilding!) Scar was to have been an adventure for Kevin & his brother Davey. Sadly Davey died shortly after the purchase of Scar was made. It took Kevin a while to get over that and doing up Scar was put on hold for a period while the initial plans for the house were quite basic, but thinking ahead for our twilight years, forged us to go the extra distance and we are happy with what we have now & plan to retire to here



Peem always loved coming to Hoy as a boy, with his parents & friends on holiday. They stayed at Quoydale (his great grandparents had lived there) and sometimes at Rackwick with there caravan.

When we got married we stayed at Quoydale for our honeymoon and then I also fell in love with the island.

We don't get out as often as we would like to, but maybe someday we hope to get out more.

Also there is another generation coming up that likes to come out as our 2 daughters and son all like to come out to 'Seaview Cottage'.

Summer 2012.



Clara Sinclair has been a frequent visitor to Rackwick for the past 35 years enjoying staying in the majority of the cottages. She now has her own wee holiday caravan which is situated at the ruins of the Shore, where she and her family enjoy regular holidays and weekends. Pictured above is Clara Sinclair herself enjoying a relaxing Rackwick day at her caravan and hopefully many more to come.



The Teer House

Tramways Artist Ian MacIver brought it from Cyril Baker, a Shetland music teacher, in the 70s, and used it as a painting studio till he died in 2003. It's still in the family, serving the same purpose.



In the 50s it seems to have been known as 'Honey Moon Cottage'. You can see why — it's beautifully situated for the view over Rackwick Bay.

The Teer House was built about 1870 as a base for the engineers who brought the telegraph cable across from Caithness. There's said to be a twin structure on the Caithness side, but we haven't checked this out. It was guarded by the Territorials during WW1 'to prevent any evil-disposed person from tampering'.



Morag Machmes & John McGill





Chris and Jean Booth, who live in Kirkwall, have been visiting Rackwick as a family since 1970 and when Ethel Young offered them a sublease of the byre of Park 1981 they gladly accepted. The building, which was in a ruinous state, was skilfully renovated by Duncan and Kenny Pirie (with a little help from the family) in the summer of 1982. It is now called UPPER PARK. Having their own base in Rackwick has enabled Chris and Jean to enjoy their hobbies of hill walking and Natural History studies.



Westend Cottage - purchased by Alexandra Smith (Alex) on 1st June 2012!
Pictured Alex's son Rob and his partner Lisa on a visit to Westend February 2013.

I love living on the 'edge' and have done so now for the greater part of my life always on North Sea coastal edges! For the past 25 years I've lived close to the beautiful river Stour estuary in Mistley - a small settlement where the Stour flows between the borders of Essex and Suffolk to the sea @ Harwich.

I first visited Orkney some 30 years ago, and therein started a love affair - with the Islands. I have been a regular visitor ever since. Twenty years ago I had an opportunity to purchase a property on Shapinsay. However this didn't transpire as it was felt generally

in the family circle
^ that I would miss out on ^{the} grandchildren's
growing up - I would be too far away.

Grandchildren all five are now adults
ranging from 18-25! Now is my time and
happily the family are looking forward
to being part of the adventure
Westend Cottage ^{and the Islands} will provide. All family
members live in East Anglia dotted
around in ~~the~~ towns and villages of Ipswich
Colchester, Manningtree, Nayland, Radwell
and Hitchen.

I have many interests which include
art, literature history I like to write
prose and poetry but mostly I'm passionate
about the environment. I believe we are care
-takers of this world and 'wail' loudly about
the lack of care and indifference that abounds.
In Mistley I set up a charity to protect a herd
of Mute Swans. Swans have lived in the shallow
waters of the estuary here for hundreds of years
and are our precious heritage.

Westend Cottage will shortly be undergoing a few
changes, and growing a little in size. The changes
will be sensitive to tradition and the environment
In planning changes to Westend Cottage, we have
been very ably assisted and guided ^{architect} by Maurice
Davidson of 'Orkark', Kirkwall. Our plans
are currently with Orkney Islands Council
planning dept. I intend that Westend ^{and Croft} Cottage
will ^{be} restored to a high standard and hope that
it will be well maintained ~~and~~ loved and enjoyed
by future generations of family as the years
unfold. For now and as long as I'm able, I
look forward to living a dream, embracing
the community and meeting new people, making
new friends and contributing to the future
survival of a way of life and culture.



WINDBRECK, RACKWICK, IS OWNED BY DONALD & ANCIELA MACISAAC
& IS A SELF-CATERING COTTAGE FOR LET BY THEM. THE
COTTAGE WAS RENOVATED IN 1997 BY ANCIELA'S UNCLE JACKIE
GREGG & BASIL GREGG. WINDBRECK HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR
GENERATIONS.



Stronness Academy took on 'whiteglen' as a project to teach skills to pupils with the intention of it becoming a resource for the school. After that project failed to be supported Ian MacInnes took it over and rebuilt the damaged back wall - the gable had been struck by lightning and re-roofed the old house in corrugated asbestos. In the 80s the craft passed to me and Neil + I carried on the renovations.



