



29th July ~
10th August

Welcome to the 3rd annual North Ronaldsay Sheep Festival!

The first North Ronaldsay Sheep Festival ran in 2016 to assist in the rebuilding of the North Ronaldsay's iconic dry-stone Dyke in the traditional manner.

The North Ronaldsay Sheepdyke is a grade 1 listed structure and is essential in traditional day to day management and care of the famous seaweed-eating North Ronaldsay sheep. This drystone wall is an essential barrier for farmers to ensure the genetic purity of the North Ronaldsay sheep breed as well as preventing copper poisoning by grass diet. Constructed by hand in 1832, the Sheepdyke is said to be the longest drystone structure in the world, measuring over 13 miles dividing foreshore from inland pasture. The Sheepdyke annually undergoes storm damage and is traditionally maintained by coastal landowners and shepherds. With a low island population, there is currently not enough island man power to maintain the Dyke and now the community needs a little outside help.

The unique style of Dyking (wall building) has been passed down through the generations but this skill is may be at risk of being lost due to a steady decline of population in recent years. There was over 500 people living in North Ronaldsay in the early 1800s but now the island has a population of less than 50.

In addition to the essential repair work, the festival will host a range of cultural activities including traditional island dances, talks, music evenings and workshops.

Great care and consideration has gone into the previous two festivals to be sympathetic of the community's wishes. The target areas of Sheepdyke for repair are carefully chosen by the Sheep Court (a committee of island shepherds) and permissions sought from landowners.

We hope you enjoy this year's festival!

Festival Desk

NEW this year, the Festival Desk will be stationed at NRBO for information about events, volunteer and event sign-up and acts as a point of contact for all festival goers.

Have a question? Need a map? We've got it covered at the Fest-Desk.

Monday – Friday

9:00 – 9:30 and 14:00 – 14:30

Saturday & Sunday

10:00 – 10:30

USEFUL AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In the event of an emergency call 999.

On-duty Medical Professional

07876 651885

North Ronaldsay GP Practice

01857 633226

North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory (NRBO)

01857 633200

Lighthouse Visitor Centre

01857 633297

Loganair

01856 872494

or 873457

Orkney Ferries

01856 872044

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 9:15	<p>Meet at 9:00 at NRBO for Registration / Sign-up at Festival Desk.</p> <p>*Shuttle bus leaves NRBO for dyking site 9:15 following daily brief.</p>				
9:00 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Dyke Building Session</p> <p>*Shuttle bus back to NRBO for lunch break at 12:30</p>				
12:30 – 14:15	<p>Registration / Sign up from 14:00 at Festival Desk.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch</p> <p>*Shuttle bus leaves NRBO 14:15 for afternoon session.</p>				
14:15 – 17:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Afternoon Dyke Building Session</p> <p>*Shuttle bus leaves for NRBO at 17.30</p>				

PLEASE NOTE: Dyke Building is subject to weather conditions and may be cancelled if the weather is adverse.

Public Liability and Employer’s liability insurance is held by the Festival Committee, kindly funded by The Orkney Sheep Foundation. Volunteers must ensure that they have received the health and safety briefings prior to participation in the dyke building activities.

Dyke Building Schedule

Volunteers can register at the Festival Desk on arrival or sign-up on the day. Already signed up online? No problem, but you must still register at the Festival Desk so we know you made it!

Dyke building will take place Monday – Friday each week of the festival.

A shuttle bus will run between The Bird Observatory (NRBO) and the site location at 9.15, 12.30, 14.15 and 17.30. Other stops can, of course, be arranged with the driver.

Before catching the bus please make sure you are wearing suitable clothing and sensible shoes (steel-toe capped is recommended). Please make sure you have any personal belongings you may need with you and remember to bring plenty of water and snacks to keep you hydrated and energised while working.

Once at the site location the team leader will explain and demonstrate the process of building the North Ronaldsay Dyke. You will then be able to lend a hand yourself!

Subsidised Volunteer Information

Volunteers awarded subsidised places are expected to do two sessions of dyke building per day (up to 3 hours morning and afternoon) for the days they are available.

We encourage subsidised places, volunteering more than five days, to choose one session (per week) to take a (well-deserved) break and enjoy the island or another daytime activity.

If you do not hold a subsidised place you are encouraged, but not required, to attend every session.


	Sunday 29th	Monday 30th	Tuesday 31st
Daytime		From 14:00 Wool Mill tours ***	14:00 Afternoon Knitting Bring along your craft! Tea and coffee provided Community Centre
Evening	20:00 Festival Welcome Party NRBO	20:00 'North Ronaldsay and It's Sheep' – Talk NRBO	20:00 Talk on Honey Bees, by Brian Saunders NRBO
9pm open music session at NRBO			

	Sunday 5th	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th
Daytime	Island Football Islanders v Visitors Kick-Off 14:30 The Links	From 14:00 Wool Mill tours ***	10:00 Wildlife Bingo Walk The pier
Evening		20:00 'North Ronaldsay and It's Sheep' – Talk NRBO	20:00 Ukulele Workshop (instruments provided) NRBO
9pm open music session at NRBO			

Volunteers! Please sign up at the festival desk for events for which you require the shuttle bus. [*** = Sign up essential]

Wednesday 1st	Thursday 2nd	Friday 3rd	Saturday 4th
From 10:00 Lighthouse Tours ***	10:00-12:00 Morning Felting workshop Community Centre	The Great Island Bake-Off, Entries to Community Centre by 17:00	10:00 – 17:00 Treasure Hunt Collect form from Festival desk
	14:00 – 16:00 Afternoon Felting workshop	14:00 – 15:00 Traditional Dance Instruction Community Centre	
20:00 Helga Scott, a talk on sheep skin tanning NRBO	20:00 Traditional Music Session led by The Aim Family NRBO	17:30 North Ronaldsay Trust host a BBQ Bake-Off prize giving Venue weather dependant.	20:00 Island Dance, with Kitty Halcrow and Karen Tweed. Treasure Hunt prize giving and NRT Prize Draw
9pm open music session at NRBO			

Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th
From 10:00 Lighthouse Tours ***	10:00-12:00 Morning Felting workshop Community Centre	From 14:00 Island Produce Showcase Community centre
	14:00 – 16:00 Afternoon Felting workshop	
20:00 NR Filmclub screening of ‘Rams’ Community Centre	20:00 Playclub reading See Festival Desk for details NRBO	20:00 Quiz and Island Dance, with Kitty Halcrow and Fionn McArthur Community Centre
9pm open music session at NRBO		

 There will be several shuttle buses running between NRBO and the Community Centre for dances.



Janie Hall



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**THE ORKNEY SHEEP
FOUNDATION**

| Conserving An Island Heritage

**The North Ronaldsay Sheep Festival would like
to thank the local community, our hard-
working volunteers and our funders, without
whose support, the festival could not go ahead.**

Thank you!

2018 logo by Clodagh McMorrow