



Sanday living and working

IN THIS BOOKLET

- THE SANDAY LIFESTYLE
- ISLAND INDUSTRIES
- SANDAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
- ISLAND LIVING
- NATURAL HISTORY
- ISLAND HERITAGE
- PRACTICALITIES
- ISLAND CONNECTIONS

Welcome

Sanday Development Trust, on behalf of the Sanday Community, are delighted that you are considering moving to Sanday. The likelihood is that you are already strongly attracted by the prospect of working in a beautiful and unique area of Scotland.

Our Sanday 'Introductory' leaflet has been prepared with the intention of providing more detailed information about our particular island, and about some of the additional attractions of living and working as part of our very dynamic and forward-looking community. Included in our leaflet you will find information about aspects of life in Sanday, including what we, as current residents, see the significant strengths of our community, and the associated benefits for ourselves and our families. Our community website complements the material in this leaflet and is well worth a visit

Even if you do not have children of school age, you may be interested to see what a happy, caring and vibrant school we have and we would recommend **that you take a look at the school's own website.**





Finally, our Ranger's website is also worth a look for anyone interested in local natural and social history.

We hope that what you read about Sanday in this leaflet might reinforce your interest.

Steve Ray

Chairman to the Sanday Development Trust



WEBSITES

www.sanday.co.uk

sandayschool.weebly.com

www.sandayranger.org

www.sandaysoulka.org

www.visitscotland.com

www.loganair.co.uk

www.orkneyferries.co.uk

www.pentlandferries.co.uk

www.northlinkferries.co.uk

The Sanday Lifestyle

Sanday is one of the largest of Orkney's Outer North Isles. As its name suggests, its many sweeping bays with their stunning beaches of glistening white shell-sand are a major feature of the island's topography, as is the ever-present sea. The island, nearly 16 miles long and lying a little over 20 miles north-east of Kirkwall, has around 500 inhabitants, and is served by excellent air and ferry services.

Despite being fringed by sandy links and spectacular dunes, Sanday's soil is rich and productive, producing excellent crops and sustaining healthy, wholesomely-raised livestock: the island has long been regarded as 'The Granary of Orkney' in recognition of its fertility. Its richness is not confined to its agricultural output, however, and the title 'The Jewel of the Isles', is acknowledgement of its rich archaeological heritage. Sanday has always been attractive to settlers across the centuries, and signs of the dwellings and the activities of these early settlers are in evidence all around.

Equally evident is the beneficial impact of latter-day 'settlers' on the present life of the island - incomers who have arrived from other parts of Orkney, as well as from all areas of the UK and beyond, bringing with them their skills, their ideas and their energies to add to those of the existing population.

Sanday still exerts a strong pull for those with a desire for a benign, safe and stimulating environment for themselves and their families, and the community is constantly being invigorated by the arrival of those who have made the decision to turn dream into reality.

The resultant mix of settled native Orcadian population and 'new blood' has created a community which is refreshingly outward-looking and forward-looking, and has helped to give Sanday its present balanced, robust, and thriving character. Geographically remote it may be, but Sanday is far from being a backwater and is in many respects impressively 'cutting edge'!



Island Industries

The principal industry in Sanday is farming, with shell-fish landings also contributing to the local economy. Every summer, Sanday Agricultural Association organises the annual agricultural and Industrial Show, at which Sanday's prime livestock is show-cased, as well as an impressive array of garden produce, baking, and arts & crafts.

A number of practising artists have settled in Sanday, attracted by the vibrant landscapes, big skies, and versatile seascapes.

The hotel trade and small-scale tourism and holiday lets provide part-time and some full-time employment for a number of residents, as do the three general stores on the island

Residents with skills in building and associated trades are much in demand at a time when a considerable number of new houses are being constructed and old ones are being renovated

The school, located in the centre of the island, employs about a dozen locally-resident teachers as well as a sizeable number of full-time and part-time classroom assistants and other ancillary workers.

The technological revolution has enabled an increasing number of residents to work on-line. For many years, one resident e-mailed his daily political cartoon to The Herald in Glasgow and weekly illustrations to The Financial Times in London. Broadband connection is universally available throughout Sanday.



geographically remote
impressively cutting edge

Sanday Community School

Sanday Community School caters for children from 3-16 years of age. Pupils in their final year (S4) study for a wide range of subjects and consistently achieve 'a significantly higher proportion of Credit awards than the national average', according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

Educational provision throughout Orkney is excellent: school buildings and generously-sized grounds are maintained to a level which would be envied elsewhere in the country; and the county must now be virtually unique in the UK in providing specialist teaching in Art, Music and P.E. for all Primary school pupils. That level of specialist provision also makes an important contribution to the breadth of curriculum offered to pupils in the secondary department.

A brand new well equipped secondary school opened in Kirkwall last year which offers education to Isles pupils in S5 and 6.

Even in a context of educational excellence, standing out. Indeed, the expression 'punching above its weight' might have been coined with Sanday School in mind: How many other schools with a similar combined roll could have beaten off competition from over 140 other schools in Scotland to win the chance to travel to Malawi? Even now, a few years on, there are still extremely strong links with our partner school in Malawi. Staff and pupils have enjoyed and built on reciprocal visits to Scotland and Africa. How many other schools of com-

parable size could have found themselves sending a delegation of budding animators to London's Leicester Square to collect the top award in a UK Wide short-film competition? And how many other schools of this size consistently produce a stream of confident and proficient young musicians, as well as young people whose level of sports and athletics performance has resulted in recent selection for county, regional and even national teams?

Pupils in both Primary and Secondary enjoy a rich and varied selection of opportunities, from after-school clubs and residential trips and visits, and benefits from extremely strong community links.

more to do than time to do it!

The school website is regularly updated and we strongly encourage you to visit to find out more. The Image Gallery provides ample visual evidence of the happy, industrious and caring nature of the micro-community at the heart of the island, while a click on the link to 'our latest inspection report' will reveal H.M. Inspectorate's detailed and highly positive assessment of the range and quality of learning experiences enjoyed by Sanday's children.

If you have children of school or pre-school age the Head teacher, Ms Wendy Scollay, will be delighted to discuss with you any aspect of the school

**the heart, soul and future
of our island community**

Island Living



Sanday's inhabitants enjoy a fundamentally tranquil lifestyle but the community is an active and dynamic one, whose clubs and groups offer an astonishing range of social, artistic and physical activities, while a hard-working Community Association

is responsible for administration of community facilities and for contributing to the social welfare of the island.

There is a nine-hole golf course, a Community Centre with swimming pool and a well-equipped fitness suite. A multitude of sports clubs for adults and juniors mean that cricket, football, netball, fencing, badminton, volleyball and athletics are all on offer. Sanday's low-lying terrain makes it perfect for cycling, its bays are ideal for water sports such as kayaking and horse-riding is increasingly popular.

Dance evenings to learn traditional dances, with live music from island residents, are held monthly in the winter and are enthusiastically attended by all ages from 3 yrs old to 80. They exemplify something special about the island, with their mix of original Orcadians and incomers from England and Scotland or even wider afield.

Musically, Orkney as a whole has a variety of thriving music scenes from the Pipe Band and live pub music to festivals. The Orkney Folk Festival and the prestigious St Magnus Festival both attract top-flight international performers in their respective genres.

The Sanday Soulka (an island-wide festival) offers organised weekends of themed events during the summer months. Activities range from walks and talks, to music and competitions, and attract locals and visitors alike.



CLUBS AND GROUPS

Afternoon Club

Agricultural Association

Archaeological Society

Bowls club

Bridge club

Craft Club

Gardening Club

Golf club

Heritage Group

Knit and Natter

Lifeboat Guild

Poetry Group

Reading group

Saddle Club

Spinning Group

Sports club

SWRI

Women's Guild

Natural History

Sanday is a European Marine Site and also has Special Protection designation. The island's underlying geology, and the erosion caused by winds and tides have produced extensive areas of sand-flats and rocks which provide ideal feeding-grounds for wading birds.

About a tenth of the world's entire grey seal population inhabits the waters around Orkney, and it is rare to walk on Sanday's beaches without spotting a scattering of inquisitive seals just off-shore; at certain times of the year, enormous colonies of seals hauled up on the rocks and beaches are a common sight. Sanday's seal cam has



broadcast the dramas of the last two seasons' breeding to a wider public.

In the past two decades, at least a dozen different species of whale and dolphin have been recorded around Sanday's coast, while resident otters, though very well camouflaged, can be glimpsed from time to time, particularly on the seaward side of any of the island's 3 lochs.

From May to August, Sanday's rich plant-life ensures that large areas of the island are carpeted in a vast array of colours. With support from a number

of agencies, including Scottish Natural Heritage, the Sanday Development Trust has produced a comprehensive range of very attractive and informative leaflets about the flora and fauna of Sanday, designed by local artist Carolyn Dixon. Another



two leaflets in the series deal with the island's archaeological heritage and with its role in both World Wars.

Sanday is very fortunate in having its own resident Ranger, employed by the Development Trust: his summer programme of activities for islanders and visitors includes guided walks and field trips, lighthouse visits, rock-pooling and beachcombing, photographic expeditions, excursions to other islands, bird-ringing and moth-trapping.

Ranger events are listed in the Sanday Sound and on the community website; the content of the Sanday leaflets can also be located on the relevant pages of the website.

an ornithologist's paradise

Island Heritage

At the same time as looking forward, the community is aware of the importance of cherishing the heritage of Sanday's past. As a result, the Sanday Development Trust procured funding for an ambitious Oral History project which culminated in the publication in 2009 of Sanday Voices, an impressive book and CD set which provides a fascinating insight into the recent history of the island, as recalled by residents, both native and incomer.



The Trust's Heritage Group have been very successful in the last year, opening the "Croft", a reconstruction of a traditional dwelling, as well as opening the island's new Heritage Centre. Sanday Archaeological Society meanwhile is due to continue excavating a "burnt mound" this summer using professionally supervised volunteers and continues with beach surveys looking for exposed remains and sites (see ranger website for 3,500 year old skeleton found in January 2015).

Practicalities

Sanday has three small general stores, one of them under community ownership. Between them they provide a wide variety of essential supplies as well as some more unusual luxury foods. A fourth shop is currently under construction to further extend the range of goods.

In addition, a wide range of fresh vegetables and bedding plants are available in

season from our market gardeners. There are two Post Offices on the island and RBS provides a regular visiting bank service.

The excellent mobile library visits Sanday once a month and staff are always happy to bring out books which have been requested.

In addition to the island's two

licensed hotels, there are several B&Bs and self-catering establishments.



Those contemplating a move to Sanday should not expect to wait long to identify a suitable property at reasonable prices. The island has a number of experienced and reliable tradesmen, capable of undertaking a wide range of building and renovation work.

Island Connections

Transport services between Sanday and the Mainland of Orkney are very good. Orkney Ferries' Ro-Ro ferry makes two return trips a day between Kirkwall and Loth Pier, with a single return trip on Sundays.

The island also has its own airfield with hard runway and the Loganair plane makes two return trips from Kirkwall each weekday, with one return trip on Saturday and an 'on request' on a Sunday. The journey by air takes just 11 minutes and is usually much enjoyed by visitors.

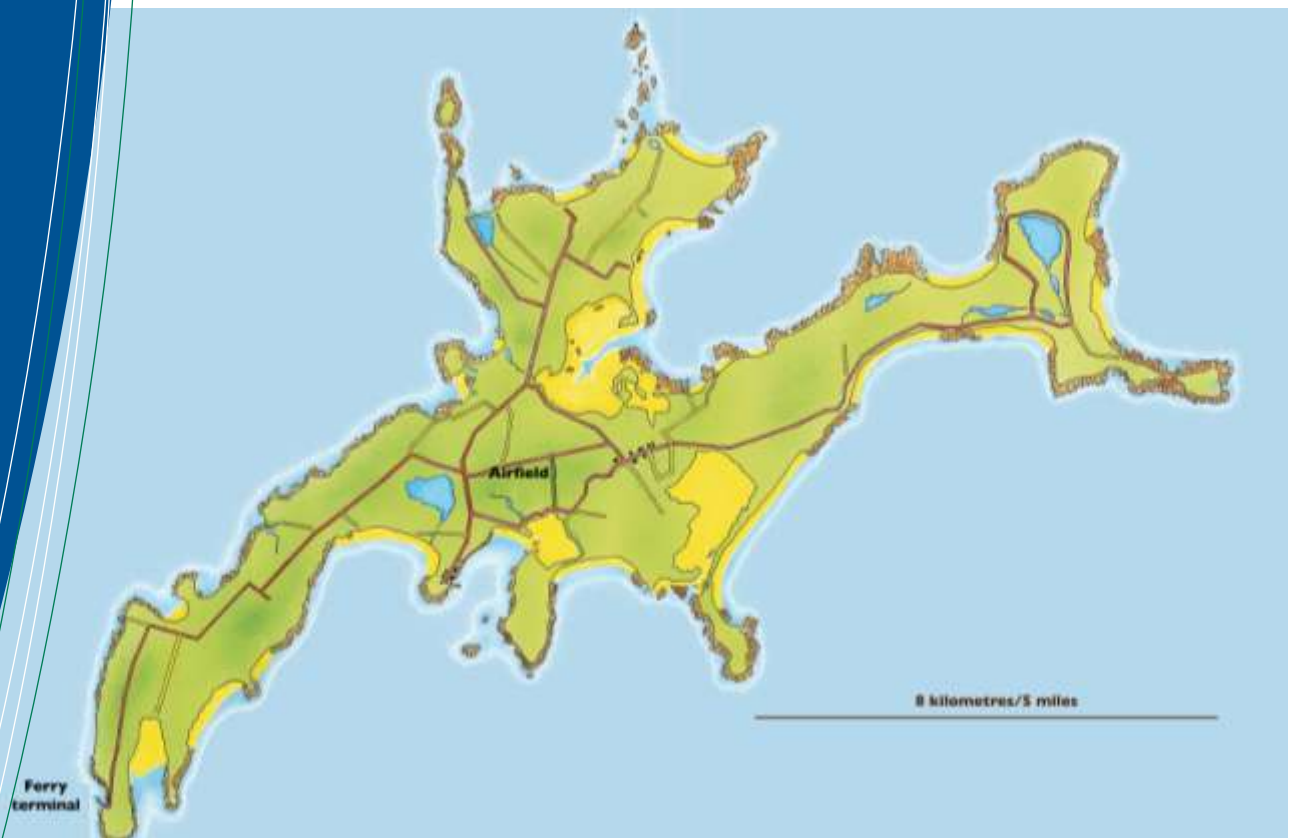
On both air and ferry fares, resident islanders benefit from favourable discounts.

Transport links between Orkney and the mainland of Scotland are also excellent. Flybe flights operating daily between Kirkwall Airport and Scotland's main cities. Pentland Ferries and Northlink Ferries both run daily ferry services across to the north coast of Scotland. For those who prefer to cut



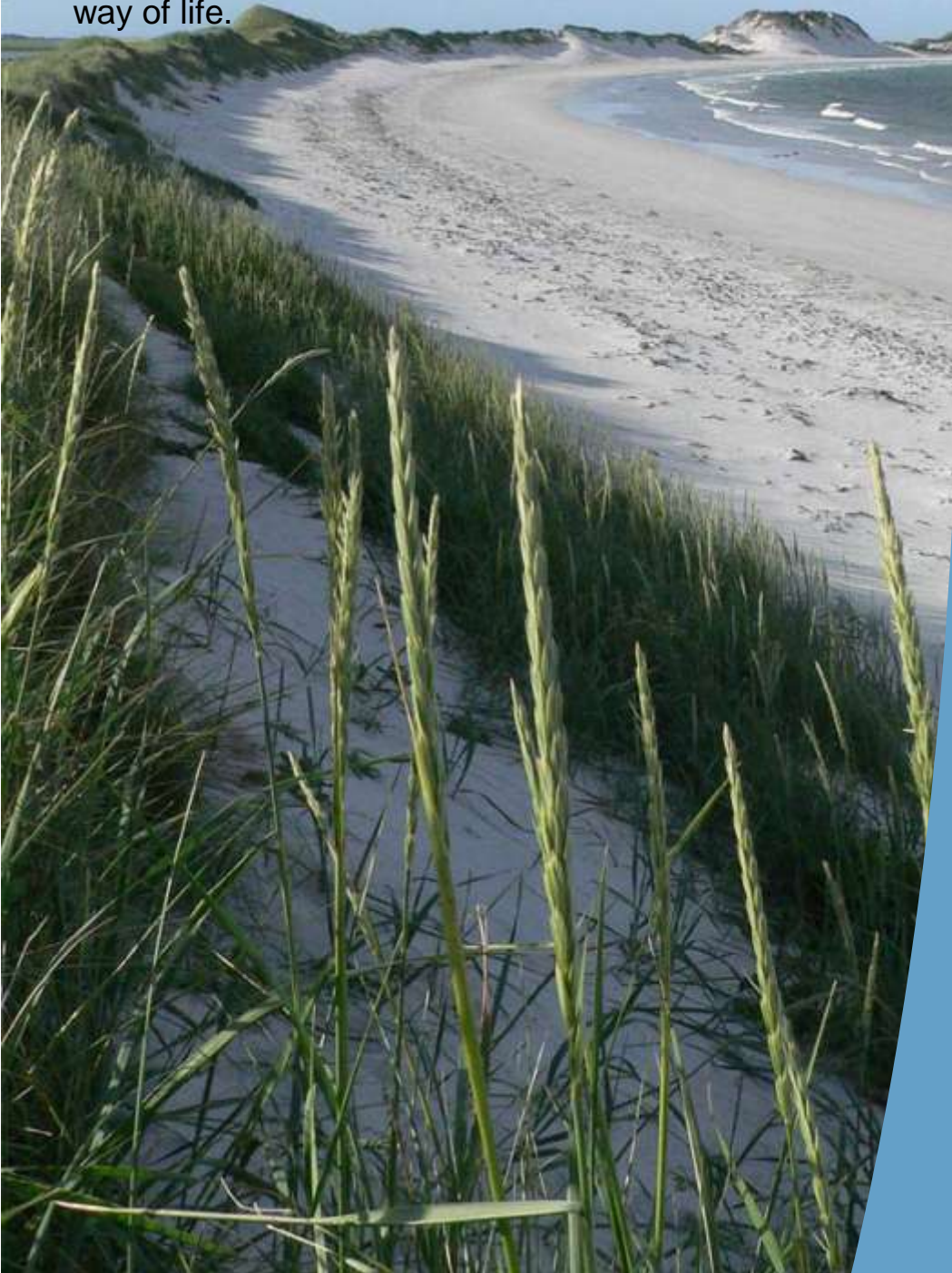
down on driving time through Scotland, Northlink Ferries operates an additional service with cabin accommodation on the Kirkwall- Aberdeen route.

All Orkney residents travel at discounted rates on both of these Northlink Ferries' routes and an Air Discount Scheme has recently been introduced to provide residents with significant reductions on the cost of flights to Scottish mainland destinations.



Constant contact with the elements helps to keep islanders conscious of the delicate balance in their natural environment, and there is a general desire in Sanday to preserve that balance at the same time as ensuring the island's continuing economic viability.

The dynamic nature of Sanday's community as a whole, and of its school and young people in particular, generates a great deal of optimism for the future. With the enormous progress made in relation to the island's transport and communication systems, geographic 'remoteness' has virtually become an irrelevance, except in that it helps to safeguard a particularly desirable way of life.



Sanday living and working

Published by Sanday Development
Trust, June 2015

All rights reserved

