

More local songs sought to boost project

THIRTY-FIVE people enjoyed performing and listening to local tunes in Orphir on Saturday at the project's latest song share event.

And a plea was made by the project for information about the origins of the song, Hurrah for the Orkneys. A recording made in the 1960s featuring the voice of Henrietta Groundwater, then in her 80s, is in the archives at Orkney Library.

Sarah Jane Gibbon, the project's archive researcher, said: "We know Henrietta sang it but we would love to know who wrote it. There is only one verse and the chorus on the recording and we would like to know if there is more."

If you can provide more information contact Sarah Jane on 872056 or e-mail: orkneysingers@hotmail.com

Several other Orkney songs were performed at the session including Orkney Anthem with music written by Ivan Drever to words by TS Peace. Thora Linklater performed her own songs with her sister Ann Tait.

The Big Orkney Song Project is lottery-funded and aims to regenerate Orkney's song heritage.

The project is holding Song Share sessions around the county and the public is invited to attend and bring songs to donate to the collection.

Each event starts with a concert, invites people to sing their songs and ends with a workshop when those attending can learn to sing an Orkney song together.

Aimee Leonard acts as workshop leader/song developer, Sarah Jane Gibbon as history/archive researcher and Emily Turton as the administrator/vocal coach.

They are cataloguing and archiving songs that have been traditionally sung in Orkney, locally written, and contemporary songs and children's rhymes thereby building up a complete picture of Orkney's dynamic song heritage.

The next Song Share session will be at the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall, on Saturday, January 31 at 2pm.



BIG ORKNEY SONG PROJECT ORGANISERS: From left: administrator/vocal coach Emily Turton, history/archive researcher Sarah Jane Gibbon and workshop leader/song developer, Aimee Leonard.