

DECEMBER 2009

Merry Christmas to everyone in Stronsay.

Just to update you on my main activities since the last issue, it is fair to say things are a little less manic than when the Turbine funding was still being worked on. However other projects and issues have kept us all busy at the Trust.

The signing up of two new potential board members last week is most welcome! To keep the Development Trust effective we need more of you to step up to the mark and consider joining the board and help us improve our lot on Stronsay.

Marion our Powerdown Officer assisted by Julia Crocker (SDT Chair) hosted a well attended evening with regard to a Community Greenhouse. There is potentially excellent funding available from the Climate Challenge Fund for this type of project so an open meeting was held to find out whether it might be a well supported facility on Stronsay. There were slides and plenty of opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of a Keder greenhouse(see photo below). Many useful suggestions were offered and will be taken forward. Thanks go to all who attended and to Nicola for laying on a magnificent spread for us at the Fishmart. Formal application for funding will now be completed.



I have made an application for funding for a pilot project to explore the viability of using dried and compressed and treated tangles made into fuel pellets and logs for multi fuel heating systems. If anyone has an interest in this idea and is willing to assist let me know on 616300.

I will be sending out a short survey form to all farmers asking them if

they are interested in the mobile slaughterhouse idea. This is in response to a very mixed reaction to the proposal and I wish to know if there is enough support for the idea or if the status quo is preferred. If the response is positive then this aids securing funding if not I will put the idea into the long grass!

The Trust has asked me to conduct a feasibility study into the purchase of the light haulage side of Jim Holland's business on behalf of the community as a social enterprise employing local people to run it. Should this lifeline service go to a mainland contractor the service is very likely to suffer and be more expensive. This proposal is considered so important that it will receive a great deal of my work time in an attempt to secure funding. More to follow...

Finally I have received confirmation from the authorities that Whitehall's open sewage pipes will not be replaced by main sewerage for at least ten years!!! Mike Erdman has started a petition at the shop for you to sign in protest at this decision. A copy of the letter about it is also there for you to read. The more fuss we make the sooner this situation is likely to be rectified. Kettletoft got theirs done because they shouted louder!