

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF



FOR

THE PERIOD ENDED

31 MARCH 2016

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC045392

SCIO

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Hunter Peace Convenor

Robert Brewis Treasurer

Peter Titley Secretary

Kate Traill Price

Howard (Howie) Firth

Charity

number

SC045392

Registered office

Oakbank

1 Linksfield Court

Elgin

Moray

IV30 5JB

Independent examiner

Munro Rankine CA

Cathedral Accountancy Ltd

4 North Guildry Street

Elgin

Moray IV30 1JR

ANNUAL REPORT to 31 March 2016



Foreword by Hunter Peace, Convenor.

I am very pleased to introduce this report presented to the first Annual General Meeting of the Orkney Sheep Foundation founded at the start of 2015 with the objective of securing the future of the native seaweed-eating sheep on the foreshore of North Ronaldsay. On 2nd February 2015 it was registered as a charity and incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The native sheep of the Island flock are the last examples of the original Orkney sheep living in their natural environment and surviving almost exclusively on seaweed. However, they are now seriously at risk of extinction. Their survival over the last two hundred years has been due to a dry stone wall which encircles the island, the sheep dyke, now a listed Category 'A' Scottish Monument. The dyke was built by the islanders in 1832 to retain the Crofters sheep on the foreshore and the flock has been managed since by an ancient communal farming system headed by the Sheep Court, a non-statutory but hugely influential body of islanders.

With a declining and ageing population, the islanders no longer have the physical or financial resources to maintain the sheep dyke which has been progressively damaged, particularly in the violent storms of recent winters.

A group of committed conservationists founded this charity to help raise funds for the restoration and future maintenance of the sheep dyke and thereby secure the future of this unique and genetically important primitive breed.

There are five trustees; Secretary Peter Titley, Past President of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust; Treasurer Robert Brewis, a UK mainland North Ronaldsay breeder and Chartered Accountant, Kate Traill Price, Journalist and daughter of the Laird of the North Ronaldsay Estate which owns the foreshore; Howie Firth, a past Councillor for the Northern Isles, Author and Director of the Orkney International Science Festival and me, another North Ronaldsay UK mainland breeder with Orcadian roots and a business background. Brief biographies of trustees are included in the body of the report.

As you will read later, the charity was formally launched within a prestigious event in Kirkwall in September 2015 and in the report which follows you can read of its significant progress during its inaugural year.

Hunter Peace
Convenor
April 2016

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

The trustees present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 March 2016.

Structure, governance and management

The Orkney Sheep Foundation SCIO is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) formed on 2 February 2015. The purposes and administration arrangements of the SCIO are set out in its constitution.

The trustees who are members of the unit management committee and who served during the period were:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hunter Peace | (Appointed 2 February 2015) |
| Robert Brewis | (Appointed 2 February 2015) |
| Peter Titley | (Appointed 2 February 2015) |
| Kate Traill Price | (Appointed 23 April 2015) |
| Howard (Howie) Firth | (Appointed 2 February 2015) |

At each AGM, all the charity trustees must retire from office but may then be re-elected at this time.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives are to advance environmental protection and animal welfare by ensuring the conservation of pure bred North Ronaldsay sheep on the Island of North Ronaldsay and to advance heritage by supporting the sustainable production of the breed by traditional methods through the restoration and maintenance of the Sheep Dyke.

The organisation shall promote (but not promote exclusively) its activities and delivery operations to people within the immediate 'Area of Benefit' who are residents of the Island of North Ronaldsay (upon which island the unique breed of native sheep is endangered by the loss of integrity of the Sheep Dyke) and in view of the global importance of conserving a unique breed to a wider constituency of farmers, stockbreeders and the general public.

All of these may benefit from the charity's activities.

Historical perspective

The inspiration behind the formation of the OSF is drawn from a longstanding commitment to the conservation of native livestock. This is underpinned by a range of connections between the founding trustees and the island of North Ronaldsay, not least through recognition of the unique position held by the island's native sheep in the evolution of domesticated species and the special importance attached to the drystone sheep dyke which encircles the island shoreline.

This unique barrier serves two key protective purposes: Firstly, it confines the sheep to the seashore thereby protecting the productive land and crops inshore and secondly, it protects the genetic integrity of the native sheep by preventing them from mingling and cross-breeding with the non-native breeds kept by some crofters inland. Like all barriers the dyke is only effective if its integrity is maintained and it was the devastating effects of the winter storms of 2012 /13 which laid waste to many miles of the dyke and laid bare the reality that the huge task of maintaining the dyke was beyond the labour and financial resources of the ageing and reducing population of North Ronaldsay.

Without an effective sheep dyke the traditional communal system of keeping the native sheep will end. This unwelcome prospect threatens the very survival of the only remaining examples of ancient Orkney sheep, the forebears of which roamed the islands of Orkney during the Iron Age.

Thus, we were starkly reminded that a huge component of Orkney history was at stake and with it a vital *living* link with communal farming systems of a bygone age. It was our view that the importance of these animals and the community which nurtured them had a significance and value which reached far beyond the shores of this remote but culturally rich outpost of Britain.

Achievements and performance

The Orkney Sheep Foundation was approved and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 2 February 2015 with four founding Trustees: Hunter Peace (Convenor); Peter Titley (Hon. Secretary); Robert Brewis (Hon. Treasurer) and Howard Firth (Trustee). A fifth Trustee, Kate Traill-Price was appointed to the Board in April 2015. The normal operating procedure for the Board is via monthly telephone/video meetings supplemented by face to face meetings as required. The Board maintains a register of Trustees and a register of Trustee interests, the latter being a standing agenda item subject to declaration at the commencement of every Board meeting.

The Trustees

The OSF is a single tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with a current Board of five trustees and a capacity for a maximum of seven board members. The board is comprised as follows:

Hunter Peace (Convenor) has a business background in commercial property and was Project Director of Brixton Estate plc, a substantial international property investment & development company [now part of SEGRO plc]. For over 27 years at 'Brixton' he was responsible for the development and construction of business parks, retail and office buildings in most major European capitals, the USA and Australia giving him a broad knowledge of construction project management. His father's family farmed 'Dishes' on Stronsay, Orkney from at least the beginning of the 18th Century. His wife, Rita, is Hon Treasurer of the North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship (The society which promotes the breed on mainland UK and beyond), a past Chairman and a current committee member. They keep a flock of North Ronaldsay sheep on their small farm in North Hertfordshire and are strong supporters of the breed. Hunter's first degree is in Building Technology and Management and he holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Cranfield University.

Peter Titley (Secretary) retired from the RBST Presidency in August 2014. He served as a Trustee of RBST for many years and was previously Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Charity. He retired from a career in the Criminal Justice System in 2004. His partner Stella Lambert is President of the North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship and together they have maintained a Staffordshire smallholding for the past 30 years in pursuit of their commitment to conserving native livestock. Throughout that time they have been regular visitors to North Ronaldsay. Until his retirement in 2015, Peter was a commentator at agricultural and countryside events throughout the UK. He has an MA in Applied Social Studies from Keele University and in 2015 was awarded an Associateship of the Royal Agricultural Societies in the UK (ARAgS) for services to native livestock conservation.

Robert Brewis (Treasurer) has a lifetime experience in accountancy and auditing and is a consultant systems accountant. For the past 17 years he and his wife, Helen, have lived in Buckinghamshire where they have a 5 acre holding with an established flock of primitive sheep including the North Ronaldsay breed. Robert's wife Helen is a committee member of the North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship and Editor of its journal "*The Hemlin*". In addition to their Orkney sheep they own a flock of Hebridean sheep and are keen conservationists. They first visited North Ronaldsay in 2007. Robert has an applied science degree, and was admitted to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1982.

Howard (Howie) Firth was Orkney Islands Councillor for North Ronaldsay and Sanday for 9 years, in which time he was active in various island developments, as well as being Chairman of Orkney Islands Shipping Company and then Chairman of the Islands Council's Economic Development Committee. His background is in science, with a degree in mathematical physics from Edinburgh University, and in his early working life he was a travelling teacher of mathematics and science in the islands of Orkney for seven years. He went on to become head of Radio Orkney, one of the BBC's first two community radio stations, and then in 1989

the director of the world's first science festival in Edinburgh. For the past 24 years he has directed Orkney International Science Festival, receiving awards including an MBE and honorary degrees from the Open University and Heriot-Watt University. He has written widely and given many talks, and his book *Orkney* covers the story of the islands from the Devonian period up to today.

Kate Traill-Price has been involved with North Ronaldsay since birth, as a direct descendant of the Traill family who purchased the island in 1727. The family still own the original Laird's house and the Estate, which encompasses the dyke as well as the foreshore. Her family founded the North Ronaldsay Sheep Court in order to preserve what is one of the few remaining examples of community agriculture in the UK. Kate has a background in health and beauty journalism, having worked in the editorial department of several women's magazines, and holds a degree in French from Exeter University. She is currently serving a second term on the board of Directors of the North Ronaldsay Trust and has previously been involved in island-based renovation projects. She takes lead responsibility for OSF's media and public relations. Kate and her husband JD live in Kingston, Surrey with their two daughters, and they regularly visit the island.

Public Launch

The OSF was officially launched in Kirkwall, Orkney on 8th September 2015, within the programme of the prestigious Orkney International Science Festival. The Festival programme provided an impressive introduction to the OSF and its objects through the medium of Dr Marie Balasse of the French Natural History Museum, Paris who described the historic, cultural and social significance of seaweed-eating sheep in Orkney and their link to prehistoric settlements. Some 200 people attended the event with a significant level of support from residents of North Ronaldsay alongside representatives of key governmental bodies and enterprise organisations. The OSF continues to consolidate its links with a number of partner organisations and is developing a significant following via its website (www.theorkneysheepfoundation.org.uk), Twitter and Facebook accounts. We acknowledge the support of the *Rare Breeds Survival Trust* which enabled the development of the website.

Working with Partners

We established a link with *Business in the Community, Scotland (BiCS)* which acted as an umbrella organisation to explore a wide ranging sustainability plan for North Ronaldsay. This is a very positive development resulting from the attention which OSF has brought to the island by highlighting the increased threat to the native island flock resulting from substantial and recurring damage to the Dyke.

The challenge which this presents serves to underline the threat which the island community itself is facing. An aging and reducing population means that the islanders have neither the labour force nor the funding to manage the dyke or adequately manage the island flock, in the long term, without outside help.

Naturally, this is not a picture which sits happily with islanders but the stark reality is there. The positive thing is that, following the formation of OSF, a number of other agencies are now engaged and committed to tackling some of the related issues which are essential to rebuilding the island community and ensuring its future well-being. These include positive responses from two members of the Scottish Cabinet in Holyrood and the active involvement of:

- Orkney Island Council
- North Ronaldsay Sheep Court
- Highlands and Island Enterprise
- Historic Environment Scotland
- The Rare Breeds Survival Trust
- Drystone Wallers Association of Great Britain
- Scottish Agricultural Organisations Society Ltd
- Scottish Department of Rural Affairs
- The North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship (NRSF)

As we note at the outset of this report, our roots are in the Rare Breeds Survival movement, with which we have congruent objectives. It is therefore gratifying that this was recognised in a generous grant from the Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST). This enabled OSF to complete essential public relations and communications tasks, establish strong branding and cover the design and commissioning costs of its website. In this context we were fortunate to secure the services of artist and designer Selena Kuzman, who created our logo and the website, which is brought to life by a number of her stunning photographs.

A detailed survey of the Sheep Dyke was completed for the North Ronaldsay Trust (NRT) in 2009 but to our best knowledge this had not been used to pursue any major restoration plan. Clearly the dyke had deteriorated further and we considered that a digital copy of the original survey would greatly assist our efforts to bring survey information up to date. After some research we traced the original Chartered Surveyor and again, the RBST grant enabled a PDF version to be created and shared with the North Ronaldsay Trust.

Clearly the updating of the survey was a priority and a precursor to any future restoration plan. By mid-2015 we had an established link with the original surveyor but without sufficient funds to instruct him and with only a limited window of summer weather and daylight for the task we reached an impasse. Happily, and to our considerable relief, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) was able to provide funding at short notice. The resulting 2015 survey, together with the 2009 survey, now provide the essential baseline for long term studies of the progressive state of the dyke and digital copies of these important reports have been made available to all our associates and partners.

Harnessing Volunteers

We have recruited two Volunteer Ambassadors: Ecologist and Farmer, Rob Havard and Scottish Agricultural Consultant, Gerald Banks through whom we will also have access to the NFU in Scotland.

Links have been developed overseas, with connections in Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand. We hope to develop these further with the prospect of fund raising abroad and tapping into the large reservoir of interest which we are uncovering.

Closer to home we have been hugely encouraged by the impact of raising public awareness in the UK about the challenges facing North Ronaldsay. Broadcast publicity, newspaper and magazine coverage coupled with the judicious use of social media has raised the profile of the native sheep, the state of the Dyke and the plight of the islanders and we have established a register of volunteers whose commitment will be tested as we move into a year of practical activity.

Media relations

We have enjoyed positive links with national and local media and have board member, Kate Traill-Price, with a background in journalism to lead in this area. Articles have appeared in a number of magazines and journals both in the UK and abroad.

The highlight of our publicity came when OSF and the island project featured in the popular BBC1 series, *'Countryfile'* in January 2016. This edition, presented by Adam Henson, attracted a record-breaking audience and triggered a welcome upsurge in interest, a growing register of potential volunteer dyke builders and a flurry of donations to our funds.

The raised public awareness of the island's plight has proved to be the catalyst for the launch of the *North Ronaldsay Sheep Festival* to take place over two weeks in July and August 2016 where the focus will be on dyke repairs and sheep management. During September 2015 our Convenor Hunter Peace and Treasurer Robert Brewis walked the entirety of the Sheep Dyke and met with a number of local residents. Their trek was video recorded and has been used in later promotional material along with a film produced by Alan Mildren who has generously made this available to our Web site.

Island Links

The OSF is grateful to the many residents of North Ronaldsay who have indicated support for our organisation and welcomed our initiative. It would be invidious to mention individuals but the co-operation of the North Ronaldsay Trust, chaired by Peter Donnelly, is most welcome along with the advice and guidance received from the Clerk of the Sheep Court, Dr Kevin Woodbridge. The implied support of other representative organisations on the island is encouraging and we thank their officers for the consideration shown to OSF.

Each residence on the island has received individual communication from OSF by way of letters from our Convenor and in addition a number of islanders have furnished their email addresses to enable speedy two-way communication. To the Trustees of OSF, all of whom live

off-island, the regular updates from the island are an integral and important part of our information system and play an important part in our forward planning.

We appreciate the welcome received from the Laird, Caroline Tindall, and for the ongoing support and interest which she demonstrates on behalf of the North Ronaldsay Estate.

Funding and Accounts

Trustees are only too aware of the need for prudence, especially in these early days of the organisation. Only £281 has been directed towards trustees' expenses, the true extent of which, on travel costs alone, is substantially higher. The OSF benefits from both a significant commitment of time by the five directors and from their generosity in subsidising some development activity in year one, during which many important achievements have been made towards securing the future of the native North Ronaldsay sheep, managed under the only system of its kind in the world. Not all of OSF's achievements have had financial needs or outcomes, but the Treasurer's report draws attention to some that do.

We are grateful to many supporters who have made donations which tend to follow OSF media exposure. Maximising this effect must be high in our priorities. All trustees visited Orkney and North Ronaldsay at their own expense in the financial year but when the *BBC Countryfile* team visited to film on the island at short notice it was important to have trustees present and for this reason, the OSF paid modest travel expenses. Exciting events are planned for 2016 and feature in our social media platforms. Further work will take place for the future enabling of the OSF and the treasurer's targets include securing Gift Aid benefits for 2015 and future years. Our objectives are long term: the sheep have existed on the foreshore since 1832, and our aim is to keep them there far beyond the lifetimes of those reading this report. The treasurer aims to make it easier for friends to remember the OSF in their wills so that legacy benefits can be part of building a sustainable future on North Ronaldsay

Financial review

The charity raised £15,898 during the period and spent £6,169, leaving a surplus of £9,729. It is the policy of the OSF to build up unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, to a level which is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure for the ensuing summer season. The level of unrestricted funds held at the year-end was £9,729. Restricted funds are funds which are used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a specific purpose. The OSF held no restricted funds at the year end.

Donated services

The charity is wholly dependent on the efforts provided by volunteers. It is not practical to quantify this.

Report approved by the Trustees and signed on behalf of the Board

25th April 2016

Hunter Peace

Convenor

Peter Titley

Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ORKNEY SHEEP FOUNDATION SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2016 set out on pages 11 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - i) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Munro Rankine CA
Independent Examiner
Cathedral Accountancy Ltd
4 North Guildry Street
Elgin, Moray IV30 1JR

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

| | 2016 |
|--|---------------------|
| Receipts | £ |
| Donations | 6698 |
| Grants | <u>9200</u> |
| Total receipts | <u>15898</u> |
| Payments | |
| Payments for charitable activities | |
| Travel and Subsistence | 281 |
| Miscellaneous | 22 |
| Survey costs, of which £4200 were met by Historic Scotland grant | 4380 |
| Website | <u>1486</u> |
| Total resources expended | <u>6169</u> |
| Total Payments | <u>6169</u> |
| Surplus for year | <u>9729</u> |

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

| | 2016 |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| | £ |
| Bank and cash in hand | |
| Opening balances | 0 |
| Surplus for year | <u>9729</u> |
| Closing balances | <u>9729</u> |
| Reserves | |
| General Fund | <u>9729</u> |
| Closing balances | <u>9729</u> |

Accounts approved by the Trustees and signed behalf of the Board

25th April 2016

Hunter Peace
Convenor

Robert Brewis
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and

Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities and Trustees Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in incoming resources when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor specifies that the income is to be expended in a future period.

When donors specify that income is for a particular restricted purpose, which does not amount to preconditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in the incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

Grants from the Government and other agencies are included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example, government block grants.

1.3 Resources expended

All expenditure is included as payment is made and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity.

1.4 Costs of managing and administering the charity

These represent the costs incurred by finance, human resources, accounting, legal and other costs attributable to the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

2 Employees/Trustees remuneration

The charity did not employ anyone during the year and consequently no employee earned more than £60,000. No expenses were paid to the trustees other than reimbursement of travel expenses of £281 to K Price in relation to the BBC Countryfile programme.

Summary Timeline

January 2015

- Register of Trustee interests established
- Further storm damage reports from island
- Application to OSCR for incorporation and constitutional advice taken.
- Communications with office of HRH Prince of Wales
- Informal requests to RBST for support
- Planning commenced for Official Launch

February 2015

- Trustee Register established
- Conflict of Interest policy approved
- Dialogue opened with RBST Chairman and Adam Henson (BBC Countryfile)
- Formal communications established with OIC Planning Department.
- Appointment of Charities Aid Foundation Bank
- Commissioning of Logo and Website construction
- Planning of communications to North Ronaldsay residents
- Further Board appointments considered

March 2015

- Exploration of link to Orkney “Neighbourhood Partnership”
- Approval of Web design and OSF logo
- Community meeting with islanders proposed
- 27% return rate from Convenor’s personal letter to all island residents
- Link made with *BBC Countryfile* regarding possible feature
- NRSF updated and message of support received.
- Fundraising strategy discussion
- Proposal to appoint volunteer “ambassadors”

April 2015

- Kate Traill Price appointed to Board
- Advice received from office of HRH Prince of Wales regarding potential funding streams
- Interrogation of existing Dyke structural survey and enquiries regarding updating.
- Official launch date confirmed and event planning commenced
- Positive meeting with RBST Chairman and CEO regarding grant

May 2015

- Positive link established with North Ronaldsay Sheep Court (NRSC)
- Supportive response from Chairman of North Ronaldsay Trust (NRT)
- Policy agreed to include NRT, NRSC and Community Association in future updates.
- Dialogue established with BBC researchers
- Links established with Rare Breeds Canada
- Link established with Historic Environment Scotland
- OSF pre-launch meeting with island residents planned

June/July 2015

- Regular exchange established with Sheep Court

- Digital version of original survey produced
- Grant of £5000 received from RBST
- Social media (Facebook/Twitter) plans formulated
- Agreement reached on transparency

August 2015

- Website launched
- Mission statement agreed for publication
- Meeting in Stromness with Orkney Surveying Services (OSS) prior to commissioning updated survey
- Meeting in Kirkwall with Department for Rural Affairs
- Photographic and archive materials collected
- Meeting in Hertfordshire with NRT representative
- Trustee visit to North Ronaldsay
- Grant offer of £4,200 received from Historic Environment Scotland
- Dyke survey commissioned; completed 14th August
- Official launch programme confirmed
- Link created with Business in the Community, Scotland (BitCS)
- Personal invitations to Launch to all North Ronaldsay residents
- Policy on use of voluntary ambassadors adopted

September 2015

- Official launch of OSF within OISF; some 200 guests in attendance with excellent representation from island residents despite inclement weather and delayed flights!
- Invitations out to Ambassadors
- Positive post-launch exchanges with NRSC, NRT and number of individual households
- Follow-up letter and link to Dr Marie Balasse's talk sent to all North Ronaldsay residents
- Meeting with Orkney Butchers, Kirkwall
- Meeting with BitCS in Kirkwall
- Meeting with OIC Planning Department, Kirkwall
- Presentation on OSF project to RBST national event in Leicestershire

October 2015 to March 2016

- Ambassador terms of appointment agreed
- International contacts established in USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.
- Donor acknowledgment system established
- Links made with Chef Cyrus Todiwala who supports and promotes North Ronaldsay mutton.
- Presentation to North Ronaldsay Sheep Fellowship (NRSF) AGM Lancashire
- Post launch letter to all island residents
- Business in the Community Scotland establishes short life Working Group.
- OSF presents case for comprehensive "Sustainability Plan" for North Ronaldsay
- Links renewed with Drystone Wallers Association UK regarding training schemes
- First AGM plans commenced