

North Ronaldsay Film

Outline

22nd February 2008

REVISED 21st March 2008

Amended 25th March 2008

Working Title, 'Life on the Edge'

The proposed film will form part of the interpretive content of the new exhibition at the North Ronaldsay Lighthouse Visitor Centre. The film will provide visitors with a broad overview of life on a small island. It will also be included as part of an educational pack to be used in a 'story box' to be sent to schools to tell children what its like to be a kid on North Ron.

The film is to be presented by Joanie Craigie who lives on North Ron but goes to school in Kirkwall and boards there during the week. Joanie will act as a guide on a trip around the island introducing local people and places of interest over a weekend.

The film will begin on a Friday with Joanie arriving off the plane at North Ron airfield for the weekend. Before she leaves the airfield Joanie could talk to one of the airfield attendant (to make the point that with only 60 residents most folk have more than one job and those able, have to take a stint of working at the airfield) however the local Primary school finishes at 2.00pm so 1st stop on the tour should perhaps be at the school.

At the school we should meet the pupils in the playground. Here we could perhaps hear

the views of the kids on life on North Ron. Next sequence should be in the classroom where we meet the teacher, Sue Gilbert and hear her views on teaching at a school with only 6 pupils.

From the school Joanie could go home and we could meet her Dad Jimmy who came to the island as a lighthouse keeper and stayed on when the lighthouse became automated in 19-

On the way home our presenter could stop in at the local post office and meet Sandra Mawson who runs the post office, pub and shop.

The main section of the film will take place over the weekend when our presenter will travel around the island visiting a variety of locations (suggested in the outline storyboard) meeting local people and perhaps friends.

The film could perhaps end as it began on Monday morning with Joanie getting on the plane to take her back to Kirkwall.

The shooting of the film can be moulded to suit filming conditions, availability of contributors and the production scheduling and programming to fit the Movie Club's availability.

Filming will begin with Heather and Gavin Woodbridge in Kirkwall on Saturday 22nd March with Heather playing the fiddle at The Orkney Traditional Music Project and Gavin playing rugby. The main filming on

N.Ron will take place over the weekend beginning Friday 28th March. Filming will continue to suit the OMG's schedule and availability of participants, but should aim to conclude by the end of April.

The script will be developed between Orkney Movie Club and Campbell & Co.

Running Time is expected to be around 7mins with a maximum of 10mins

Orcadian music could be used as the film's sound track dependant on copyright fees.

This is a non-profit making exercise, any money raised at the Visitor Centre will go to the North Ronaldsay Trust for the upkeep of the Visitor Centre.

Outline Script

The script should act as a guide and be adjusted to suit the presenter's way of speaking.

At the airfield Joanie could begin by introducing herself:

. " Hi I'm Joanie Craigie, I'm 16 and I live here on North Ronaldsay. During the week I'm away at school in Kirkwall. I stay at the school hostel, which is good fun, but I still look forward to coming home" .

This weekend I'd like to take you on a trip around North Ronaldsay and show you what it's like to live on a small island. Let's hope the weather's good to us'.

In no particular order Joanie should ask the following questions (in her own way) of those she meets-

Airfield Manager Helen Swanney

Q. "This is Helen Swanney. How important do you think the air service is for the people living on North Ronaldsay"?

Outcome- We should find out that the air service is very important for school children and adults, the plane brings the post and the papers every day and is the lifeline between N.Ron and the mainland. Helen also runs the shop at the airfield which is open for an hour each day.

School teacher

Q. "Ms Gilbert was my teacher when I went to the Primary school here..... What do you think the main difference is between teaching at a school like this and teaching at a big school on the mainland"?

Outcome- While there might be advantages in pupil / teacher relationships there is a lot of organising of plane trips to the mainland involved.

Pupils (this will depend on the willingness of the kids to talk)

Q. "What do you like best about school"?

Outcome - We should find out about the good and not so good aspects of attending a small single class school.

Jimmy Craigie (Joanie's Dad)

Q. "This is my Dad Jimmy Craigie..... When did you come to N. Ron Dad"?

Outcome - We should learn that Jimmy came to the island as a lighthouse keeper in.....19.... and the family stayed on when the lighthouse became automated in 19..... and what he does today.

Shopkeeper - Helen Swanney

Q Helen runs the only shop on our island.... "How do you manage to keep the shop stocked and make sure you don't run out of supplies Helen" ?

Outcome - The shop is also the post office and the local pub. Supplies arrive weekly by sea and one goods flight per week. (this needs confirmation). We should know what the most important items in the shop are and that Helen also works at the airfield.

Fisherman (retired) John Cutt (possible location beside the old Pramm boats and fish house at the old pier)

Q. This is John Cutt, John used to be a fisherman on N.Ron and has written a book about the island.... "Are there still fishermen working on N Ron today" ?

Outcome - Fishing is no longer an important industry today. The local fishing boat is called a Pramm we should find out where the unique design came from. A short tale from John might be good. Mention that the old pier was originally built to land materials for the building of the lighthouse.

Farmer Sinclair Scott (possible location- beside a Crue)

Q. Sinclair's was brought up on a farm here on the island...." Did you have to help on the farm when you were a wee boy Sinclair" ?

Outcome - We should find out that the school kids on N. Ron had to help with farming work, at harvest time, bringing in the sheep etc. 'Harvest Home' is a big annual event on the island

Q. "What are all these stone enclosures Sinclair" ?

Outcome - The circular stone enclosures are called 'Crues', they were used to plant vegetables like cabbages, they protected the plants from the winds and frost and the sheep. The bigger enclosures are 'Punds' used to pen the sheep when they are being gathered for shearing and lambing. The wall runs all the way round the island and is listed by Historic Scotland. It keeps the sheep on the shore, where they live for most of the year.

Q. " Why do the sheep have to stay on the beach" ?

Outcome - N. Ron sheep are an ancient breed, they feed on seaweed, the copper levels in the grass can make them ill. They are much prized for their mutton and wool. The sheep are owned by the islanders. Everyone gets involved in bringing in the sheep.

Q. " Kelp used to be burnt in pits here, why was that" ? (location- beside a kelp pit)

Outcome - Kelp was burnt in these pits to produce potash and soda, used in the manufacture of soap and glass. Seaweed was also used as fertiliser.

Q. " Is this really an ancient grave "? (location- presumed Norse burial cist site)

Outcome - The Orkneyinga sagas tell the story of Halfdan Longlegs, the son of a Norse king who was murdered on N. Ron and local legend has it that this is where he was buried.

Wool Mill- Peter Donnelly

Q. "Peter Donnelly and his wife Jane run the wool mill here at the lighthouse, Peter, can you tell us about the process you use to make wool " ?

Outcome - The raw wool comes from the sheep that we saw outside. Peter should then explain (concisely) the main elements of the process resulting in a finished garment.

The Lighthouses- Billy Muir

1st Location- The Old light Beacon

Q. "Billy Muir used to be a lighthouse keeper and was kept on by the Northern Lighthouse Board when the lighthouse became automated". Billy why do we have two lighthouses" ?

Outcome - Billy should explain briefly, the story of the building of the Old Light Beacon in 1789. The shipwrecks, the 'Swecia' story and the eventual need to build a new lighthouse.

Q. " We are now at what we call the new lighthouse, can you tell us a little bit about what you do here Billy" ? (location- at the entrance to the lighthouse).

Outcome - Billy should explain when and by whom the lighthouse was built and when it became automated. It is the highest mainland lighthouse in UK? And has steps to the top.

Q. " That was a long climb Billy, how does such a small lamp give enough light so that ships can see it from far away" ?
(location- top of the lighthouse)

Outcome - Billy should explain how lenses work.

Q. "A lot of people remember the sound of the old foghorn, why is it not here anymore" ? (location- at the old foghorn building)

Outcome - Billy should explain that the original foghorn worked using compressed air and was replaced in 1998 by an electric horn. When the lighthouse was automated the NLB discontinued the foghorn.

Jenny Tulloch (Oldest resident on N. Ron)
(location - hopefully in Jenny's house, to be agreed)

Q. " Jenny, you have lived here all your life, you must have seen a lot of changes over the years. What was it like when you were a little girl growing up on the island" ?

Outcome- Jenny should say something about what schooling was like and perhaps the kind of games/ pastimes kids were involved with. It would be good if she could focus on her childhood.

Alison Woodbridge (Heather's mum and runs the Bird Observatory guest house). location

- unsure, perhaps in the front yard of the B. O.

Q. Alison runs the Bird Observatory guest house with her husband Kevin, who is also our doctor. " Alison, you must be very busy running the guest house and being a mum, but you also do other things" ?.

Outcome - Alison should explain what she does with net making?

Q. " How did the Bird Observatory get its name" ?

Outcome - Alison apparently has knowledge of the island's bird life and could talk about migratory birds and permanent residents. She could also perhaps mention the seals and whales.

The only other resident that we may want to interview is Sheila Deyell of Vincoin who is the 'Postie. The decision should be made with shooting and running time in mind.

Q. " Being the postie on N. Ron must be interesting Sheila, what's the strangest thing you have had to deliver" ?

Outcome - We should know that Sheila gets to know how everyone is keeping and gets to find out if anyone needs help with anything. N. Ron is a close community.

The questions are for guidance only, but we should try to achieve the desired outcomes as much as possible.