

(Good Morning Scotland presenter: "The time now - seven thirty")

(Radio Orkney theme tune)

Every morning Radio Orkney opts out of BBC Radio Scotland's national programme, to broadcast half an hour of local news and features from our studios on Castle Street in Kirkwall

(David Delday) "Hello and a very good morning. This is Around Orkney from BBC Radio Orkney on this Thursday the tenth of September. Thirty minutes of news from across the county with me David Delday. Coming up between now and eight o' clock - climbing Everest without ever actually setting foot in the Himalayas."

In the news today, Shetland votes to explore options for autonomy, calls to exempt farmers in the isles on rules that ban the burning of plastics, the importance of ferry operators in getting key messages to people visiting Orkney, and the decline in arctic skua numbers.

(Sound archive of Radio Orkney opening day - Old theme tune)

The station has been broadcasting across the county since nineteen seventy seven

(Sound archive of Radio Orkney opening day. "Good morning, this is Liz Davies welcoming you to our opening programme on Radio Orkney, and hoping that you'll stay with us, this and every morning." "Welcome, too, from Howie Firth, and later on in the programme we'll be bringing you the day's weather forecast, some local music, and our what's On diary." )

(Good Morning Scotland news jingle)

Nearly done for the morning. Time to rejoin the national network

(News meeting - "For the programme tomorrow, potentially, we could have Gender Pay ...")

Once "Around Orkney" is off air, work starts on planning for the next morning's programme. Story ideas come from keeping across what people are saying on social media, looking for local angles on national developments, covering the work of organisations that affect life here, and - most of all - from knowing life in the county and from a network of friends and contacts across the isles and parishes. Dave Gray is the boss:

(Dave Gray) "We have a very specific remit. We have to produce programmes and news specifically for folk in Orkney. So, that's easy in one way because folk in Orkney want to hear about news that everybody else in Scotland wants to hear about - what's happening. But the community programmes that we do are very very special. They are tailored to fit in with the community. so we do agricultural programmes, we do traditional music programmes, we do culture programmes, archaeology programmes. In fact, we'll do a programme on anything that anybody wants to listen to. So, you come in the door here, if somebody comes in and says 'I want to hear a programme on classical music', no problem at all. We'll put a classical music programme on."

There's been one big news story to cover since March. Of course the covid nineteen pandemic, and the impact of lockdown on local life. The leader of Orkney islands Council, James Stockan:

(Councillor James Stockan) "Radio Orkney and the council have always had a relationship that sometimes gets on edge, because we are challenged beyond where sometimes the council wants to be. But, at the same time, we've got messages that we need to get to our community. The council doesn't get everything right. It sometimes makes mistakes, and finding these things, to get to the bottom of that is really important - both for the council, and for our community. We really value what Radio Orkney does over these times, because we've got messages that we need to get out. And particularly during the months of the pandemic, the value has been so incredible for our community. The work that's been done by the station, getting these messages out, working along with us, but still at the same time challenging where necessary. Because that is the function, and that gives us a good outcome for our community."

(Charis Sandison: "It's half past twelve, and that's time for the Radio Orkney lunchtime news, with me Charis Sandison. A very good afternoon to you.")

On days when there isn't a government briefing about the pandemic, as likely as not it'll be our newest member of staff, Charis Sandison, reading the lunchtime news. We've just found out that her links to Radio Orkney go back two generations. Her grandfather, Danny Nicolson, was part of the team that refurbished the building on Castle Street when we moved in. He came back the other day for a look around. His handiwork still looks great.

You might not know that the mixing desk we use in our main studio came to us from BBC Radio Two, when they had a make-over.

Our building used to be a bank ... the safe has long been painted over ... who knows what's still inside?

And our back garden used to be Kirkwall's slaughter house in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. When archaeologists dug here they uncovered a fearsome pig's jawbone. Thanks to the UHI Archaeology Institute for the pictures

(Cameron Stout: "Please wish Bruce Esson a very happy birthday for today. And Ralph Fotheringhame on the 15th. Blair Douglas's 'New Island Waltz' would be good for both of them, it says ...")

As well as the morning and lunchtime news, we're back on the air again in the evening. Friday Requests runs all the year round from six o'clock - marking birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and keeping people in touch. And we're just about to start a new series of our winter programmes, every week night from October through to March. We're on air on 93.7 fm, on line via BBC Sounds, and on demand via the Mixcloud website.