

Local History Research Project

Create a list in your jotter of all the different ways to find out about the past

- Newspapers
- Interviews
- Websites
- Library - books/journals
- Archives
- Museums

Aim of Local History Research Project

- To research a local History topic that you are interested in.
- To practice basic research skills.
- To identify and make use of sources of information outside the school
- To take responsibility for your progress and work.

Local History Project

Completed at home - you have 3 months to work on it
You will not be given any other History homework at this time

Can be presented in a number of ways from PowerPoint to Posters to Videos to Reports

You can submit an electronic copy or paper copy or both.

Any pupil who does not submit their local history project will have to follow the department homework policy - lunchtime completion opportunities.

Fereday Prize

All of the S2 Local History Projects which meet the criteria for the Fereday prize will be considered.

This means as we mark your projects, we will select a few from each class to be judged for the Fereday prize.

All projects which are awarded Very Highly Commended will be put to the Orkney Library and Archive- you need to opt out if you do not wish to have yours included.

To be entered for the Fereday Prize

1. Your project must be based on an aspect of Orkney History.
2. The best entries are **original** and contribute to research on local history in Orkney using primary source material.
3. It should be **your own work** but you can get help and advice from an adult and your teacher.
4. It must include a list of resources - people, books that you have used in your research (Bibliography)
5. Want digital copies.

In order to make them more easily photocopied they should;

- Have pages numbered.
- Be done on light paper as dark paper does not copy well.
- The Archivists say that they are "valuable assets to the archives" in the Orkney Library.

Orkney's History

Orkney's History

- Avoid choosing topics that cover far too much e.g. World War Two or the History of Orkney.
- Try to choose something you are really interested in.
- Try to make your title into a **question** or hypothesis that you will **answer** in the project.
- If you carry out *original research* on any aspect of Orkney history it will be also considered for the Fereday Prize.

Teacher recommendations

- You should make your title into a question or hypothesis that you will answer in the project. This is important for your structure as well as focusing your research.
- Your research should be **original** so by structuring your project as a question it will encourage you to use a range of sources to find your information.

Structure: Include

- An **introduction**; a little (or a lot) about *why* you decided to choose the investigation you have chosen, what you were hoping to find out, and some background information on the topic before you start.
- The **main section** should be organised into different parts with headings - so plan this before you start writing the good copy. This section can be as long as you like!! It might be helpful to think of your headings as **questions** you are going to answer.
- **Impact** on Orkney - explain how your topic is connected to Orkney, what **impact** has it had on the people or places or culture of Orkney.
- A **conclusion**. This is where you try to answer the question you created by summarising what you have found.
- A **bibliography**. Include your sources of information - the people, books, sites, etc. and dates accessed/interviewed. Also mention where you found them (for example, at Orkney Library)

Helpful Hints and Tips

- Structure your topic as a question - something which you can research and answer within your project
- Include 2 or more primary sources (best practice are interviews)
- Make it clear that the topic you have studied has had an impact on Orkney
- Pick something you will enjoy learning about

Timeline

June- Choose topic/question and begin to research

Summer Holidays- complete your researching, including visiting the library and undertaking interviews

August- Write a draft introduction and main section of your research - remember to label all photographs and diagrams with names and dates

September- Write your conclusion and bibliography. Edit and read over what you have done to complete your project.

Due **October**

Researching

Start by looking at available resources in your school library.

Ask the librarian for some help- they may have some suggestions/tips for you.

Then consider looking at the Orkney Library and Archive - large amounts of resources and the staff are always willing to help.

You can use the library catalogue to help you find information-

<https://prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/orkney/>

Orkney Library and Archive

Orkney Library - Borrowable resources (downstairs)

Orkney Archive and Orkney Room - references to sources (upstairs)

Consider - The Library and Archive have a lot of materials from the last 100 years or so but less for before this period.

They can assist you in looking for resources by:

- Explaining the types of things the library and archive hold
- Showing them how to use the catalogue or looking items up for them
- Helping them to read documents if they are awkward
- Making copies or scans if required.

Previous VC Commended projects

- 60 years of the Mini: What made it a popular choice for Orcadians across the decades.
- Why did the egg industry in North Ronaldsay collapse?
- Have Christmas Celebrations Changed in Orkney Since 1950?
- How Do You Combine Farming With Music - The Braelanders
- "The Gable End Theatre, how was the theatre created, how has it impacted the island community and has it continued to provide educational benefits?"
- "Does Cleaton House, Westray have an interesting and long history? The History and Significance of Cleaton House Westray"
- How Has the Development of Council Housing Dramatically Improved the Lives of People Throughout Orkney?
- How Has St Mary's Village and Its Way of Life Changed Over the Past 250 Years?
- What Was Costies, and What Was Its Importance To the Local Community in Orkney?
- What was the impact of bringing mains electricity to the island of Eday?
- How has the Orkney Army Reserves changed over the years?
- What did the business of John Scarth / John Scarth Engineering Ltd bring to Orkney?
- "Old East Mainland Schools, How was school life back in the day?"

Orkney Heritage Society |
Fereday Prize - Orkney
Communities