

# Out & About

## Inspired by the Italian Chapel, film-makers invite locals to get involved

SAMANTHA CRAIGIE

Orkney residents are being asked for their contributions and input into the making of a new film, which is to be partly set in Orkney, during the Second World War.

*The Melted Heart* tells the story of Guido, an Italian prisoner of war, who, after being brought to Orkney to construct the Churchill Barriers, becomes involved with creating the Italian Chapel.

During this time, he meets, and falls in love with Cora, a young Orcadian woman.

According to screenwriter Inga Sempel, also Italian, her story was inspired by the blacksmith who created magnificent wrought ironwork in the interior of the Italian Chapel.

The PoW is said to have incorporated a romantic heart as a tribute to the Orcadian woman he had secretly fallen in love with.

Storm and Light Pictures, which is making the film, is inviting Orkney residents to an open press conference on Sunday, June 22, to create awareness and a more widespread understanding of the project.

The film-makers will be in Orkney to look for original music composition, location options and contributions and input.

Anyone with memorabilia, photographs, anecdotes, evidential documentation, archive footage, or those who

just want to share memories of the Italian Chapel, and the Churchill Barriers, is being encouraged to come along to the conference and be involved with the project from the beginning.

The film's producer, Clive Leighton, explained how the idea for the movie came about.

"While on a late summer 2013 trip to Orkney, and in particular to the Italian Chapel, screenwriter Inga Sempel and myself realised that movies very rarely told of any Italian or Scottish contribution in World War Two.

"Here was a story that took those two worlds and collided them in a remote location, but in a very real and day-to-day survival sense.

"Through research, and meetings with the author of the true story behind the chapel, Philip Paris, and travelling back to her native Italy to meet with survivors and descendants of Camp 60, Inga developed a movie outline that celebrates that bond between those countries on personal, international and philosophical levels."

Inga Sempel added: "I'm writing the story for *The Melted Heart*, starting from the Churchill Barriers; what their significance was for the prisoners, and what they represented for the Orcadian population.

"The whole film revolves around the concepts of protection versus risk, freedom versus imprisonment, and fighting to gain peace versus staying in peace to avoid fighting.

"*The Melted Heart* is both a pure and absolute love story, a film about internal and external conflicts, and above all a message of strength and freedom."

*The Melted Heart* conference will take place on Sunday, June 22, 2014, at The Reel in Kirkwall, between 4.30pm and 6pm.

For further information, contact Clive Leighton on (0141) 389 8720 or email [clive@stormandlightpictures.com](mailto:clive@stormandlightpictures.com)



The Italian Chapel, on Lamb Holm, the inspiration for the proposed film, *The Melted Heart*.

([www.theorcadianphotos.co.uk](http://www.theorcadianphotos.co.uk))

## The artistic process, distilled . . .

### Review

*Bowls Weaves and Words*, by Dawn Thornton Collins. Loft Gallery, St Margaret's Hope

Dawn Thornton Collins divides her time between London and South Ronaldsay, but it is Orkney that clearly influences the delicate, unusual artwork on display here in three distinct forms — bowls, weaves and words.

Squares of woven paper are held in resin. Dawn makes striped colour paintings of Orkney landscape, then slices them into strips which she weaves.

However, I look at the weaves before I read their titles (e.g. lemon sky over winter heath) and the

first thing that comes to mind is not landscape but textile: they resemble deconstructed tartan. They also look like pixelated jpegs — digital connotations which are refreshingly contemporary.

My favourite weave is *Night sky* when in November only the lighthouse scans that land - a familiar scene in the South Parish.

The stencilled words are taken from the RSPB's monthly bird reports.

Bird species and local place-names are selected (October 2013 includes "sooty shearwater", "osprey", "Start Point Lighthouse") and within these words, individual letters are painted gold.

The bowls resemble skulls


or "the broken eggs I find on my Orkney walks" and are cast in different materials — plaster, resin, bitumen and gold.

Three white bowls contain natural objects — a coil of golden hay, a sprig of Shepherd's Purse, a sheep's jawbone with teeth coated in gold. Presented like this, commonplace objects become almost holy.

Dawn's work here shows the artistic process distilled.

The act of selecting fragments of nature to present through craft is a kind of alchemy and the ever-changing natural world is captured and celebrated in these fragile pieces.

Amy Liptrot

 the pickaquoy centre

### POOL CLOSURE

Due to essential maintenance, the Swimming Pool and Health Suite will be closed from Monday 23 June – Sunday 29 June. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**NEW! BTS RELEASES** – The new Body Combat, Body Pump and Body Balance routines are here, and there's no better time than now to try the classes if you've never been before! The new routines will be rolled out from w/c Monday 23 June.



University of the Highlands and Islands Orkney College

### Thing Trail Seminar

Archaeology Department, UHI will host a free public seminar to welcome the M/S Nybakk Venner to Kirkwall Monday 23rd June, 10.30am to 1pm Orkney College Restaurant

Viking Heritage – Julie Gibson  
European Assembly Sites – Dr Alexandra Sævi  
Orkney Art

### Creative Escapes

HIGHLAND PARK HOUSE KIRKWALL  
Art, Drama, Gallery, Accommodation and Studios

Opening Weekend 21st-22nd June  
**FREE ART AND DRAMA WORKSHOPS\***

The gallery will be open 12 noon – 8pm  
Find out more at:  
[www.artistholidaysorkney.co.uk](http://www.artistholidaysorkney.co.uk) 01856 876077  
With kind support from the

### THE PHOENIX CINEMA

Thurs 19	6:30pm	Bad Neighbours	
Fri 20	7:30pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 15)
Sat 21	12 noon	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 12A) 
	3pm	Tarzan	(Cert 12A) 
	6pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert PG) 
Sun 22	3pm	Tarzan	(Cert 12A) 
	6pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert PG) 
Mon 23	11am	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 12A) 
	2.30pm	St Magnus Festival: Heflig & Begeistzet – Cool & Crazy	(Cert 12A) 
Tues 24	7:30pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 15) 
Wed 25	7:30pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 12A) 
	2.30pm	St Magnus Festival: The Boyfriend (1971)	(Cert U) 
	7:30pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past	(Cert 12A) 

The *Murray Arms*  
hotel, restaurant & bar

Saturday, 21st June

**BBQ followed by live band**  
**'THEY DROVE ALL NIGHT'**

Rhythm & Blues, Rock n' Roll Band