

**Orkney Schools Metasaga**

**Welcome to the**

**Kirkwall Grammar School Metasaga**

*Explore our Island*

*Think our thoughts*

*Find your voice*



**ORKNEY SCHOOLS OF AMBITION**  
ISLANDS LEARNING TOGETHER

Orkney Schools Metasaga  
*Developing Leadership at all Levels*

What's it all about?

A Metasaga is like a philosophical treasure hunt. It allows you to explore an area, but at the same time it helps you discover yourself.

On the front page of our metasaga booklet it says "Explore our Island...Think your thoughts...Find your voice"

When you visit a metasaga site you are asked to consider your opinions and to ponder your beliefs. You have to reflect on who and what you hold dear, to contemplate what is really important to you and fathom that which you will not compromise.

Taking part in a metasaga will help you understand yourself in a meaningful way. It encourages you to think and consider your place in the world and your relationships with others.

Inspiration for developing the Metasaga came from Kate Coutts, Headteacher at Uyeasound PS in Unst, Shetland. Kate had been initially been inspired by the work of Leif Jossefson (Metafari) in Tanzania.

For further information go to: <http://metafari.blogspot.com/search/label/Metasaga>

Metasaga is a journey through the culture, heritage and physical landscape. It allows leaders at all levels to engage in deep self-reflection by exploring their environment. It makes leaders at all levels reframe their thinking using metaphor, narrative, tradition and artifacts found in their own physical environment. It combines the business techniques of non-directive coaching, dialogue and appreciative inquiry with the traditional story telling teaching of our culture, the Norse saga.

Impetus for taking forward Metasaga as a highly motivational and interactive leadership tool was generated by colleagues from Orkney who took part in the original Metasaga experience in Shetland in summer 2008. They recommended that the tool be embedded as part of Orkney's Schools of Ambition project.

### Planning

Pupils and staff from each of the 6 secondary schools attended a central conference.

Each school was in the process of developing a Metasaga. They had explored the catchment area of their own school and identified key stopping points.

Pupils researched each stop and developed a series of reflective and interpretive questions. The schools then created a Metasaga in their community. Each school visited a neighbouring school to trial their Metasaga. Participants could then post their responses on-line.

A strategy group then chose an activity from each of the schools to create an Orkney wide Metasaga. This will also be posted on the internet using the Education service's website.

Orkney Schools Metasaga was developed in partnership with Orkney Schools of Ambition and an Orkney - Shetland Islands staff initiative for developing leadership skills.

Participating schools:

Kirkwall Grammar School,  
North Walls Community School,  
Sanday Community School,  
Stromness Academy,  
Stronsay Junior High School,  
Westray Junior High School.

## Street map of Kirkwall



### A Metasaga from the Cathedral– Royal Oak Memorial

The Royal Oak was sank on the night of October 14th 1939, by the German Submarine U-47 with the loss of 833 lives. The bell hanging in the Cathedral is from the Royal Oak and the book below it contains the names of the 833 men who died on the 14th of October a new page is turned everyday.



Hyperlinks:

<http://sites.scran.ac.uk/stmagnus/>

<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/stmagnus/magcath.htm>

### Interpretive Questions:

What date did the Royal Oak sink and why?

How many people died on the Royal Oak?

### Reflective Questions:

What does belonging mean to you?

What is your life motto?

What makes someone a hero?

### A Metasaga from John Rae's Tomb in the Cathedral

Inside the cathedral nave is a memorial to John Rae, who was born in 1813, the fourth son of a wealthy man. Making friends with natives in Canada he became a skilled arctic explorer and is possibly most famous for the discovery of the North West Passage and the fate of Sir John Franklins last expedition.



### Interpretive Questions:

Who was John Rae?

What did he do to be remembered in the Cathedral?

Who was St Magnus?

Why is the Cathedral named after him?

### Reflective Questions:

In what ways have you explored something new?

Have you ever had to stand your ground when people didn't believe something you said?



## Tankerness House Museum

Tankerness house museum was originally a house, bought in 1641 by James Baikie as the “town house of the Baikies of Tankerness” and renamed Tankerness house. You can read more about James Baikie in the Museum. The family continued to own the house until 1951, when it was passed to Kirkwall Burgh Council. Since owning the museum the council has restored the building and converted it into a museum.



Inside Tankerness house are some paintings by the famous Orkney painter Stanley Cursiter whose plaque can be seen in the Cathedral you just left.



### Interpretive Questions:

What was the purpose of St Magnus Cathedral?

What were the main exports of Orkney before the 19th Century?

What was the main industry in the 19th Century, and what about now?

What are the main exports of Orkney today?

What happened in the 1840's and why?

### Reflective Question:

What are your special talent(s)?

Do you think its important to develop your talent(s)?

Do you feel confident enough to share your talents with other people?

## Groatie Buckie Hoose

The Groatie Hoose or 'Pirate Gow's follie' as it is also known is a summer house built in 1730; it was relocated to Tankerness gardens in May 2005. The spire was built using igneous rock that was the ballast \* in the ship belonging to an Orcadian called John Gow, he was the last British pirate to be hanged for treason.

### Interpretive Questions:

What is the name of the weather instrument found at the top of the Groatie Hoose?

What is the Spire made of?

What was the name of John Gow's ship?

Where was the ballast reclaimed from?

What is a Groatie Buckie, and why is the Groatie Hoose named after them?

### Reflective Questions:

Do you contribute to activities going on in the community you live in?

How does it make you feel when you do something for your community?

What do you think people will remember you for?





## The Ba'

The Ba' is a ball game that is played annually in Kirkwall between two teams– The 'Uppies' and the 'Doonies'. There is a men's 'Ba' and a boy's 'Ba' on held on Christmas and New Years day.

For the 'Uppies' to win the 'Ba', they have to touch the 'Uppie' wall, situated at west end of the town.

For the 'Doonies' to win the 'Ba', they have to jump off the pier into the inner harbour holding onto the ball.

Once the 'Ba' reaches either wall at the west end of the town or the harbour; players from the winning side contest amongst themselves to see who wins the right to keep the 'Ba'. It is a great honour to become a 'Ba' winner.

### Interpretive Questions:

When was the Ba' first played?

What makes you an 'Uppie' or a 'Doonie'? a team?

How is the ba' won?

Who won the last Ba'?

### Reflective Questions:

How do you know if you belong to a group or

How might it feel to be excluded?

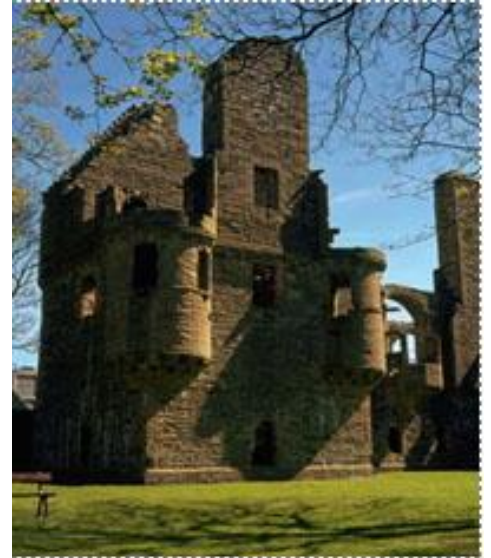
Would you feel jealous if someone in your team was given more praise than you?



### The Earls Palace

Then known as “Newark in the yards”, the construction of the earls palace began in 1600, by Patrick Stewart, a few years after he became the Earl. Using forced labour to quarry and ship in the stone for the ambitious scheme, Patrick Stewart planned to build a dwelling unrivalled in comfort, design, and beauty.

His plan was to incorporate the remains of the bishops palace into a massive palatial complex.



The Earls Palace was completed in 1607 but, shortly afterwards Patrick Stewart was arrested for treason, and work had to be abandoned. After his execution in 1615, the portion of the Earls Palace already built became the residence of Orkneys bishop.

### Interpretive Questions:

Who built the Earls Palace?

Why was it built?

Why was it never finished?

### Reflective Questions:

Do you think the past is important?

Do you think we should be proud of our history?

What traditions are important to you and your family?

Map of the locations of the six Metasaga stops across Orkney.

Each location have their own booklet to allow you to undertake your own voyage of personal discovery.

