



WIN
A LIFE-CHANGING
OPPORTUNITY
IN ORKNEY



WIN
**A SCOTTISH COASTAL RETREAT
& ESTABLISHED HOLIDAY LET BUSINESS
IN ORKNEY**

—  —
TWO ICONIC COTTAGES. A LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY.
SUPPORTING FOUR INCREDIBLE CHARITIES.




ESTABLISHED
HOLIDAY LET
BUSINESS



BREATHTAKING
COASTAL
LOCATION



A UNIQUE LIFESTYLE
OPPORTUNITY IN
ORKNEY



SUPPORTING FOUR
INCREDIBLE
CHARITIES



The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea



Supporting children and families facing bereavement



Preserving the heritage of Orkney's lifeboat service



Supporting heart research and saving lives

— PRESS PACK —
WIN THE LIFE YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF  MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE YOU DO
PRIZE OF A LIFETIME • SUPPORTING LIFESAVING & LIFECHANGING WORK • CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

RNLI VOLUNTEERS OFFER CHANCE TO WIN UNIQUE ORKNEY COASTAL RETREAT

After 10 successful years building and running Cantick Head Lighthouse Cottages, owners Vicky and Alan Mackinnon have made the decision to retire. Rather than selling up in the traditional manner, they have decided to run a prize draw competition, thereby creating a rare opportunity for someone new to own one of Orkney's most unique coastal accommodation businesses.

Set on the dramatic cliffs of Hoy, Orkney, Cantick Head offers far more than just property ownership. It combines lifestyle and income in one extraordinary location, with uninterrupted ocean views across the Pentland Firth and towards the entrance to Scapa Flow, alongside incredible wildlife and an established tourism business already attracting visitors from across the world.

As featured in the Daily Mail, The Sun, The Times, The Scotsman, the Daily Express and BBC One's The One Show, Cantick Head has become known for offering guests a truly unforgettable stay in one of Scotland's most breathtaking coastal settings.

The prize draw gives entrants the opportunity to win:

- Two Victorian former lighthouse keeper's cottages built in 1858
- A successful furnished holiday let business generating £35,000+ during a 7-month season from one cottage alone
- Wood-fired hot tub and sauna
- Gym/workshop space
- Website, booking platform and social media presence

The business is supported by consistent 5-star reviews, reflecting exceptional guest experiences and strong repeat demand.

Guests and visitors regularly experience some of the UK's most spectacular coastal scenery, alongside incredible wildlife including puffins, seals, dolphins, gannets and even orca passing along the coastline.

While Cantick Head currently operates as a successful holiday let business, it also offers the opportunity for a complete lifestyle change. Whether used as a family home, a coastal retreat or a slower pace of life away from the pressures of modern living, Cantick offers a rare chance to embrace island life in one of the UK's most remarkable settings.

This is more than a property; it is a lifestyle and income in one of the UK's most breathtaking locations.





THE CANTICK STORY

For Alan and Vicky Mackinnon, Cantick Head has never simply been a business. Parents to three sons, Vicky and Alan are both Royal Navy veterans. In 2017, they made the decision to leave the south coast of England and move to Cantick Head on the Orkney Islands, in search of a different way of life.

The move was driven by a desire for a slower pace of life, a stronger sense of community and the opportunity to provide their children with a safer and more outdoors-focused childhood surrounded by nature and the sea.

Perched above the Pentland Firth on the island of Hoy, Cantick Head offered everything they had hoped for; dramatic landscapes, wildlife, ocean views and a lifestyle far removed from the pressures of modern life. Like many who visit Orkney, they quickly realised it was a place that gets under your skin.

For their children, island life offered the kind of freedom and safety that feels increasingly rare today; the sort of childhood that reminded them of stories like *The Secret Seven*, where children could explore, adventure and simply enjoy being outdoors.

Since moving to Orkney, Vicky and Alan have worked hard to build the Cantick brand into a thriving and successful business. Over the years, they have welcomed guests from across the UK and around the world, including visitors from the United States, Canada and Australia.

The business has become known for exceptional guest experiences, reflected in consistent 5-star Google reviews and returning visitors who come back year after year to experience island life in this unique coastal setting.

Alongside running the business, Vicky and Alan have remained heavily involved within their local community. Both are volunteers with RNLi Longhope, and Alan is also a volunteer with the Longhope Lifeboat Museum. The family's connection to service continues today, with two of Vicky and Alan's sons now also serving in the Royal Navy.

When considering selling the business and retiring, Alan and Vicky realised there was an opportunity to do something different. Rather than simply selling the cottages, they decided to launch a prize draw that would not only allow them to retire but also offer somebody else the opportunity to win the lifestyle they themselves have been fortunate enough to experience, whilst also raising money for the four charities closest to their hearts.

Alan said:

'Cantick Head has been far more than a business to us. It has been our home, our lifestyle and a place where we have shared the beauty of Orkney with visitors from across the world.

Moving here changed our lives completely and gave our two younger children an incredible childhood. When we started thinking about retirement, we realised we had the opportunity to create something positive that could also help support causes that mean a great deal to us.

It felt like a genuine win-win; giving somebody else the opportunity to experience this amazing place and lifestyle, whilst also raising money for charities we truly believe in.'

Whether the winner chooses to continue growing the business, create a family home or simply embrace a quieter pace of life, Cantick Head offers a truly rare opportunity in one of the UK's most remarkable locations.

A photograph of the Cantick Head Lighthouse, a white cylindrical tower with a black lantern room, standing on a rocky outcrop overlooking the sea. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The text 'A HISTORY OF CANTICK HEAD & ORKNEY' is overlaid in white serif font on the upper part of the image.

A HISTORY OF CANTICK HEAD & ORKNEY

Cantick Head Lighthouse stands on the southern coast of Hoy, overlooking the Pentland Firth and the entrance to Scapa Flow; waters long recognised for their beauty, power and maritime significance.

The lighthouse was designed by Alan Stevenson, a member of the famous Stevenson family of lighthouse engineers whose work shaped much of Scotland's coastline during the 19th century. The Stevenson family were responsible for many of the country's most iconic lighthouses and are also famously connected to author Robert Louis Stevenson.

First illuminated in 1858, Cantick Head Lighthouse was built to guide vessels navigating the challenging waters around Orkney and the Pentland Firth; an area known for powerful tides, rapidly changing weather and heavy maritime traffic.

The two Victorian former lighthouse keeper's cottages included within the prize draw were originally built to house the lighthouse keepers and their families, forming part of the historic station that has stood watch over these waters for more than 160 years.

Today, the lighthouse remains operational and continues to overlook one of the UK's most dramatic coastal landscapes.

The island of Hoy is one of Orkney's most distinctive and rugged islands, known for its dramatic cliffs, rolling moorland, sea stacks and quiet beaches. It is home to the world-renowned Old Man of Hoy, one of Britain's most famous natural landmarks, alongside some of the UK's most spectacular coastal walking routes and wildlife habitats. Unlike much of Orkney's gentler landscape, Hoy's terrain is strikingly dramatic, giving the island a character all of its own.

Orkney itself is an archipelago rich in history, shaped by Viking heritage, maritime tradition and ancient archaeology dating back thousands of years. From Neolithic sites older than the pyramids to the wartime history of Scapa Flow, the islands are internationally recognised for both their historical significance and natural beauty.

Today, Orkney is celebrated not only for its landscapes and wildlife, but also for its strong sense of community, safety and quality of life; qualities that continue to draw visitors from around the world.





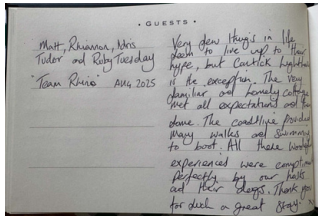
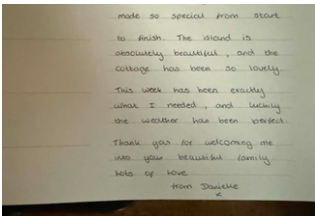
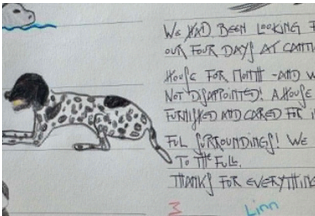
Cantick Head offers a rare opportunity to win not only an established coastal business, but a completely different way of life in one of Scotland's most spectacular island locations.

Blending lifestyle and income, the cottages have become known for offering guests a unique opportunity to experience Orkney's dramatic coastline, wildlife and slower pace of life.

A Proven Coastal Business

The two Victorian former lighthouse keeper's cottages currently operate as successful furnished holiday accommodation, attracting visitors from across the UK and internationally, including guests from the United States, Canada and Australia.

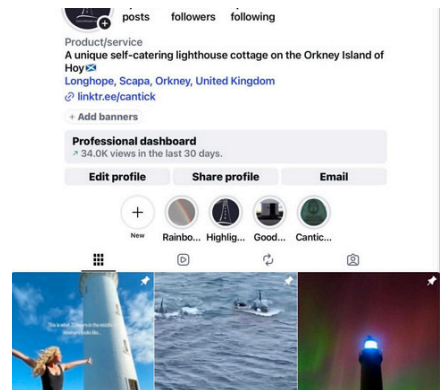
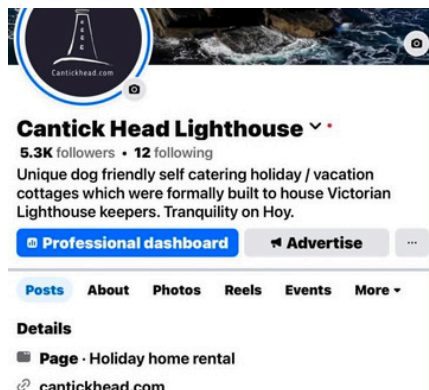
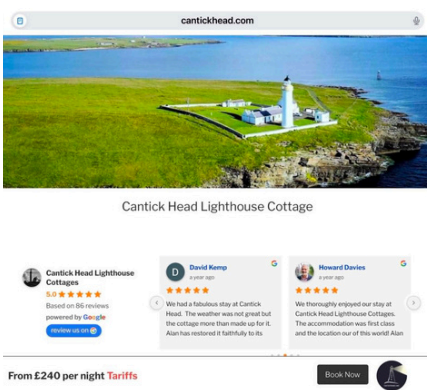
Over the past decade, the business has built a strong reputation for exceptional guest experiences, reflected in consistent 5-star Google reviews and returning visitors year after year.



The business includes:

- Established branding and online presence
- Existing website and booking platform
- Active social media presence with over 40K followers
- Strong repeat guest demand
- Immediate income potential
- Wood-fired hot tub and sauna
- Gym/workshop space

One cottage alone currently generates more than £35,000 during a typical 7-month season, offering the opportunity to continue and further develop a successful tourism business in Orkney.



Supporting Causes Close to Our Hearts:



SUPPORTING CAUSES CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

10% of all ticket sales from the Cantick Head Prize Draw will be donated to support four causes that are personally important to Alan and Vicky Mackinnon.



RNLI LONGHOPE

RNLI Longhope

Supporting the volunteer lifeboat crews who save lives at sea around Orkney and the wider UK coastline.

 rnl.org



Longhope Lifeboat Museum

Preserving the history and legacy of Longhope's lifeboat crews and the community's deep connection to the sea.

 longhopelifeboatmuseum.org.uk

Sophie's
LEGACY


CREATING CHANGE

Sophie's Legacy

A charity created in memory of Sophie Fairall, Vicky's godd daughter, who sadly lost her life to cancer at just ten years old. The charity works to support children who are in hospital and their families.

 sophieslegacy.org.uk



SCARLETT
FUND

The Scarlet Foundation

A charity close to the family's hearts, inspired by Scarlet, Vicky's cousin's daughter, who was born with a serious heart condition.

facebook.com/TheScarlettFund

Alan and Vicky are both volunteers with RNLI Longhope, and Alan also volunteers with the Longhope Lifeboat Museum. Supporting causes connected to saving lives, supporting families and helping communities is something deeply important to them.

The prize draw aims not only to create a life-changing opportunity for one winner, but also to make a meaningful contribution towards causes close to the family's hearts.



Sophie's Legacy

Sophie's Legacy is a charity created in memory of Sophie Fairall, a young girl who died from childhood cancer aged 10, after campaigning to improve the experience of children and families in hospital. The charity provides practical and emotional support to families staying with seriously ill children, including help with meals, transport costs, toiletries, clothing, activities, and wellbeing support for parents during long hospital stays.

Alongside this direct support, Sophie's Legacy campaigns nationally for improvements in children's healthcare, including better hospital food, feeding parents who stay with their child, increased childhood cancer awareness and research, and greater access to play specialists in hospitals.

The charity has a particularly personal connection to Vicky, who is Sophie's Godmother and continues to support the charity and its work supporting children and families facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable.



RNLI Longhope

The RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) is a charity dedicated to saving lives at sea around the coasts of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Entirely dependent on donations and supported by thousands of volunteers, the RNLI provides a 24-hour search and rescue service through its network of lifeboat stations, lifeguards, water safety teams and flood rescue teams.

Alongside responding to emergencies at sea, the RNLI works to educate the public about water safety and drowning prevention through national campaigns, community engagement and training.

The charity has a particularly personal connection to Alan and Vicky Mackinnon, both of whom are volunteers with RNLI Longhope Lifeboat Station, supporting the lifesaving work carried out in the challenging waters around Orkney and the Pentland Firth.



The Scarlett Fund

The Scarlett Fund was created after Scarlett was diagnosed at just five months old with Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome, one of the most serious congenital heart conditions. Following lifesaving open-heart surgery at Glasgow's Yorkhill Hospital, Scarlett's family experienced first-hand the dedication of hospital staff and the challenges faced by families of seriously ill children.

Inspired by Scarlett's courage and resilience, the family established The Scarlett Fund to raise vital money for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity and The British Heart Foundation through fundraising events and community support.

The charity has a particularly personal connection to Vicky, as Scarlett is the daughter of Vicky's cousin.



Longhope Lifeboat Museum

Longhope Lifeboat Museum is an independent maritime museum based in the former RNLI lifeboat station at Brims, Hoy, preserving the powerful history and heritage of the Longhope lifeboats and the island community they served. At the heart of the museum is the historic lifeboat Thomas McCunn, believed to be the only seaworthy vintage lifeboat still housed in her original setting.

The museum tells the story of generations of volunteer crews, including the tragic 1969 Longhope Lifeboat Disaster, while celebrating the courage, resilience and maritime traditions of Orkney.

The charity has a particularly personal connection to Alan, who serves as a Director and Vice Chairman of the charity alongside his role as a volunteer with RNLI Longhope Lifeboat Station.

AS FEATURED IN

DAILY MAIL | BBC ONE'S THE ONE SHOW | THE TIMES | THE SCOTSMAN |
THE SUN | DAILY EXPRESS

Cantick Head Lighthouse Cottages has attracted national media attention for its dramatic location, unique accommodation and coastal lifestyle.

Featured across national newspapers and television, Cantick Head has become recognised as one of Orkney's most distinctive coastal stays.

Further information, guest reviews and accommodation details can be found at:

www.cantickhead.com

Quick Facts

Prize

- Two Victorian former lighthouse keeper's cottages built in 1858
- A successful furnished holiday let business generating £35,000+ during a 7-month season from one cottage alone
- Wood-fired hot tub and sauna
- Gym/workshop space
- Website, booking platform and social media presence

Key Dates

- Prize draw launch date: 01 June 2026
- Ticket sales close: 10 January 2027 @ 23:59hrs
- Draw date: 11 January 2027
- Winner announcement: On completion of the draw

Ticket Information

- Ticket price: £5
- Website: [RAFFALL](#)
- Bitly Code: [Win 2 cottages](#)



Charity Support

- Longhope RNLI
- Sophie's Legacy
- The Scarlett Fund
- Longhope Lifeboat Museum

Location Highlights

- Positioned on the dramatic cliffs of Hoy, Orkney
- Uninterrupted views across the Pentland Firth towards Scapa Flow
- One of the UK's most spectacular coastal locations
- Surrounded by wildlife including puffins, seals, dolphins, gannets and occasional orca sightings
- Fresh sea air, open landscapes and peaceful surroundings
- Dark skies, spectacular sunsets and northern lights opportunities
- Access to quiet beaches, cliff walks and rugged island landscapes
- Close to the world renowned Old Man of Hoy sea stack and coastal walking routes
- Rich maritime, Viking and wartime history throughout Orkney
- Strong island community and slower pace of life
- Regular ferry connections to mainland Scotland
- Renowned for walking, wildlife, photography and outdoor adventure
- An opportunity to experience life in one of the UK's most scenic island communities

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the lighthouse included?

The accommodation is situated beside Cantick Head Lighthouse. The lighthouse is owned by the NLB and is operational. It is not included in the prize.

Can the winner continue operating the holiday let business?

Yes. The accommodation currently operates as established holiday accommodation.

Can the winner simply live there instead?

Absolutely. The prize offers both a business opportunity and a lifestyle opportunity.

How is the winner chosen?

The winner will be selected in accordance with the prize draw platform's terms and conditions. The prize draw is being run by [RAFFALL](#).

How do the charities benefit?

10% of proceeds from ticket sales will be distributed between Longhop RNLI, Sophie's Legacy, The Scarlett Fund, and Longhope Lifeboat Museum.

Are media interviews available?

Yes. Interviews, photography and additional media assets are available upon request.

Is there an alternative prize?

Yes, the winner can choose a £200k cash prize instead.

Where can I find terms and conditions?

The terms and conditions can be found on the [RAFFALL](#) website.

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Instagram: [Instagram photos and videos](#)

Facebook: [Cantick Head Lighthouse](#)

TikTok: [TikTok videos](#)

FINAL NOTES FOR MEDIA

Additional interviews, photography, filming access and feature opportunities are available upon request.

Potential feature angles include:

- Scottish island lifestyle
- Unique accommodation
- Charity fundraising
- RNLI connection
- Sophie's Legacy connection
- Scarlett Fund connection
- Longhope Lifeboat Museum connection
- Orkney tourism
- Family story
- Escaping city life
- Coastal living
- UK travel and staycations

For all media enquiries please contact:

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07525 354623

CANTICK®

WIN 2 LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGES

OR £200K CASH ALTERNATIVE

£5
PER ENTRY

SCAN TO ENTER



PROUDLY SUPPORTING ORKNEY'S VITAL CHARITIES



Lifeboats

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea



Supporting children and families facing bereavement



Preserving the heritage of Orkney's lifeboat service



THE
SCARLETT
FUND

Supporting heart research and saving lives

ENTER NOW AT: <https://bit.ly/win2cottages>