

Weel Bressa, Whit News?

We need you! We are always on the look out for interesting Bressay related news, stories and photos. If you have anything which you think may be of interest to other folk on Bressay then please do get in touch. Similarly, if you have any questions for us here at BDL, or are interested in finding out more about any of our projects just pop along or drop us an email. We love having new perspectives to help with our plans!

Find out more at www.bressay.org, email info@bressay.org or call 01595 820706.

Meet Jo, our new Development Officer



"It's great to be back in Bressay. My family name is Redman, I was born in York, and we spent our early years near the Lake District until our move to Shetland in 1974 when I was 4 yrs old.

A year later, we found a wonderful site on Bressay to settle down in. I was raised here at Ham Station on our self-sufficiency smallholding. We built our own house on the foundations of the old Fishing Station, and it took fifty years to finish. Now, we have dry stane dykes and established trees and shelter belts, all handmade. It all takes time, but it's been well worth it.

I've finally returned after 24 years working, fostering, and raising family sooth. I left Bressay with my husband-to-be and his Shetland family in 1999. I worked in Hampshire and Northamptonshire in many different roles. In industry, manufacturing, print and graphics, care work, horticulture, retail and hospitality and sales to name but a few. I've also enjoyed volunteering in the local school, rainbows and scouts.

I attended the Bressay Primary School and Anderson High School. On leaving school I first worked in the Faroe Islands in the Sjomanshaemid in Runavik.

I took part in Stuart Hay's wonderful global classroom back in its early days. I participated in an exchange with two Swedish girls who were to bide in Bressay for one year. I studied then at the Riddarfaerskolan of Music and Art in Stockholm. In Scandinavia, I witnessed an inspiring approach to creativity, learning how to improvise and loosen up. I'd welcome a dose of that every year to be honest! After completing my BA Hons Degree at Glasgow School of Art I came back to Shetland.

I got the commission to produce a sculpture for the opening of the North Atlantic Fisheries College in Scalloway. The sculpture shows a flight of 'Tirriks' in aluminium. For this, Malakoff taught me welding and it remains in situ, prevailing at the sea's edge.

In gratitude to Malakoff, I assisted in the production of presentation boards for their flat bottom aluminium boats, attending a Brussels trade fair. Suddenly the need to give Shetland an identity and help promote Shetland skills and amenities became very much apparent.

After market research and training at Shetland Enterprise, Artmachine was formed. I formed a partnership with 'JJ' then, and for the first 10 years we developed Artmachine to employ several staff in both Orkney and Shetland. Artmachine still operates today. The business began in Bressay. Initially run from

1 Hamilton Park's sitting room. We then upgraded to mum and dad's goat shed. It's amazing what can grow from humble beginnings in a repurposed goat shed.

I have taken delight in seeing ideas flourish in all aspects of Shetland culture. I've found that to make a start you need a base. Bressay Development and Speldiburn Hub is just that kind of place where ideas can grow. What is so amazing now is that it has become a social and central resource to Bressay. Something which I would have greatly loved to have been around when we first worked on Bressay.

I'm looking forward to continuing to build on the strengths of Bressay development work in my new role as a BDL officer, sharing my position with Aimee Labourne."

A postcard from Bressay



Our new illustrated map postcard is now available at Speldiburn! Celebrating our island, the drawing highlights natural features and interesting places to visit, and is printed using vegetable-based inks. Price, £1.

Undercover Bressay

Do you enjoy your gardening? Would you let folk come and see what you've got growing this year? Jo would love to hear from you! On Sunday 4th August, we are holding an open day to highlight how Bressay enjoys getting things growing. A day where folk can visit various growing spaces, and gardens. It often starts with wee things undercover. Whether you have a polycrubb, or your own make-shift construction, if you'd be happy to welcome visitors then please get in touch.



Rozanne Perdu will be one of our undercover hosts!

What's on?

BRESSAY HALL

Badminton: Mondays from 7pm. Equipment provided or bring your own. No need to book.

Cards (500): Wednesdays 7.15pm, all welcome

Undercover Bressay: Sunday 4th August. Visit undercover growing spaces. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Bressay Garden Show: Sunday 25th August. Save the date!

Mobile Library Van. Next visit 23rd July. At the Hall Car Park, from 10.50am to approximately 11.20am.

SPELDIBURN

Bressay Garden Show meeting. Thursday 20th June, 7.30pm. For anyone interested in helping in any way!

Social Afternoon. Wednesdays, 2 - 4pm. Big Room. Everyone welcome. Come for a free cuppa, a chat, and bring a friend! There are optional activities, and the group will be trying bowling at the Hall on 19th June - come along and have a go!

Living Well Hub. Wednesdays, 2 - 4 pm NHS Room. Visit Rita and Theresa for advice or a chat. They also arrange visiting services, such as sensory impairment, social security and oral health. Look out for adverts for these visits.

Art and Craft Group. The group meets monthly, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, from 7pm. All kinds of art and craft are welcome! See separate posters and Facebook posts for details.

Musical Group: First Thursday of the month, from 7pm. Next meeting 4th July. An evening gathering with a focus on traditional/folk and very relaxed middle of the road. Contact 01595 820368 for more information.

BRESSAY UNDER 5s. Friday mornings 10.30 - 12.30am. Suggested donation of £3 per family, all welcome.

PARKRUN Saturdays: Meet outside the Heritage Centre by 9.15 am for 9.30 start.

Check www.facebook.com/bressayparkrun for updates.

Keep a look out on notice boards, social media, our website and online calendar for updates.

We've planted 3000 trees!

Back in March, with the help of a great team of volunteers, we planted the final 1000 trees in the woodland at the Brough Loch. Below, with some of our peerie saplings are some of the team - Ella Tulloch, Patty Mason, Pip Mason, Mariette Lowe and Magnus Tulloch. We'd like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who has helped this year, including Pelagia (Bressay) Ltd, who very kindly donated £800 towards the cost of trees. We are proud that the woodland is open year round and always full of interest. It makes for a lovely walk and a perfect spot to stop for a picnic or ponder!



Wonderful Wednesdays!

Our Wednesday Social Group has been continuing to meet and has been having so much fun trying all kinds of activities, with support from Holly, our new sessional worker. You can see a display of the group's crafts in the Big Room at Speldiburn, including woven baskets, clay bees, pompom birds, and painted stones.

Louise from Shetland Library also recently visited with a selection of old photographs as part of her work with Memories Shetland. Heather Christie spent time with the group for her project all about memories of lockdown. You will find a 'Guide to Self-Care in Bressay' enclosed in this newsletter, which Heather produced as part of her project.

Our Wednesday Social Group is always keen to try new things, so if you have a skill to share or just something fun for a group to do, get in touch!

Green Library

You can now borrow books from our 'Green Library' at Speldiburn! Covering a huge range of topics inc. Grow your own, energy efficiency and up-cycling. The mini library is located just outside the cafe. Green Library books all have a green sticker on their spine - just put your name on the contact sheet - and enjoy your book!

Bressay Bees!

Gareth Powell, People Engagement Officer for RSPB, tells us here about his recent work in Bressay.

"Voar. A glimmer of warmth, the return of wings, the emergence of colour to the hills and cliffs as we dust off the winter. Then a slight hum, maybe a buzz. Out of its hibernation lumbers a queen bumblebee. Sheltering through the winter in carefully dug holes they are ready to head out and start their new nests. Amongst these is our very own Shetland bumblebee, the Drummie Bee. With bright orange and yellow hairs, it's distinctive from our other bees both in appearance but also in its scarcity. Only in the Hebrides can you find the same bumblebee. Species on the Edge is stepping in to improve habitat, protect nesting sites, and increase food sources. We also need people to go out and survey the bumblebees in their area.

This spring, the Wednesday Social Group made model bees, painted to represent our different species, to be used at a bumblebee ID workshop in April. The day of the workshop brought sun as attendees walked the roads looking for the models and occasional live queen as it bumbled on its way. Thanks to the Wednesday Social Group for the time and the laughs and thanks to all who attended the workshop! Look out for bumblebees while you're out walking this spring!"

If you are interested in bumblebee surveying, please contact: Gareth Powell, gareth.powell@rspb.org.uk



Wednesday Social Group, and their handmade bees!

Bressay History Group news

Local Historian and teacher, Jon Sandison provided an excellent and thoroughly informative talk to a full house on the 26th of March. Jon walked us through the roles Bressay and Shetland played in both world wars beginning before the outbreak of WWI, in spring 1914, with a story about the Shetland Territorial Companies of the Gordon Highlanders. Several trips were intended to bring the men over to Bressay, but the weather was very much against them. Not everyone made it and most of their plans had to be abandoned. However, Bressay hospitality was good and the cold wet territorials were provided with tea in the Hall. By November most of these men would find themselves fighting in France. Bressay's strategic position was evident in the photos Jon presented, many new to us, including the early plans for the Admiralty watch tower on Anderhill, the WWI guns and numerous navy vessels in Bressay Sound.



H.M.S. Illustrious 1904. This Royal Navy visit was in response to a number of German Navy vessels visiting Lerwick in July 1904.

Bressay Heritage Centre is open 1st May to 28th September on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10am - 4pm.



H.M.S. Rodney passing the St Sunniva 1932. Photo courtesy of Jon Sandison.

Denadays Bressay Marina was a particularly interesting spot during May as most of the boats were craned out of the water to allow for some annual maintenance. The photo below shows the scene as the Trojan was lifted back. Then in September 1976 - a quiet evening and a quite different array of craft. Photo courtesy of Marjory Thomson (Smith).



Made in Bressay

1st in our series to focus on the fabulous crafts we have for sale in Speldiburn. Pat Tulloch knits beautiful, reversible headbands in 100% Shetland wool, she also sews and makes jewellery! Her headbands come in a variety of lovely colour combinations. This one is £30. Showing one off to its full potential is Pat's granddaughter Eliza. Photo by Joanna Smith.

light lunches homebakes crafts art exhibitions



Speldiburn Cafe Summer Hours

Table booking available

Tues - Fri 11am-3pm *lunches & cakes*

Saturday 9.30 - 11am *breakfast rolls & cakes*
12-3pm *lunches & cakes*

Good As New Shop open during cafe hours

Bressay Up Helly Aa

BUHA brought a weekend of fun to Bressay! The theme this year was the mythological wolf-like Norse creature Fenrir, who featured on the bespoke galley, built specially for this year's event. The stunning bill head was painted by Rozanne Perdu. Jarl Laurence Robertson, Kolbeinn Vikingsson, and his squad put on a fantastic weekend, and raised a brilliant £1200 for Shetland Macmillan Nurses at the beard shaving at Maryfield. We were delighted to once again welcome the squad, family and musicians to Speldiburn for a hearty early breakfast on the big day!



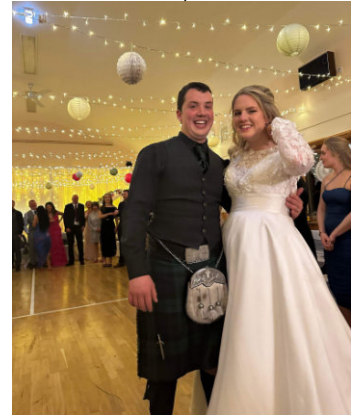
Plant Sale & Teas



2024's spring plant sale was another wonderful success. A total of £1,051 was raised for the Red Cross Refugee Fund. The Hall was full for most of the afternoon and we really enjoyed the fun and sociable atmosphere. Thank you to all the generous folk on Bressay who donated and bought plants! You can still buy a small selection of plants and seeds at Speldiburn.

Congratulations Cristy and Dan!

It's wonderful to have a Bressay wedding! Cristy (nee Tulloch) and Dan (Swanson) were married on the 5th of April in the museum, followed by a meal and dance at the Hall. Here they are with Cristy's grandparents Ray & Lindus. And looking lovely in the (beautifully decorated) Hall. Best wishes to you both!



Winter Workshops

This winter, supported by funding from Shetland Local Action Group, we held an exciting range of workshops for all ages. Thank you to all those who hosted sessions, and brought their fantastic skills and creativity, and thank you to all those who came along! Here are photos from just some of the sessions.

If you attended a session and have any thoughts or ideas for future sessions, please do get in touch!



Clockwise from the top: Mandy Moore taught us creative ways to use felted knitting scraps. Magnus and Ella Tulloch enjoying an Easter-themed session with Mandy. Alex Purbrick brought fun activities for the bairns, like this fabulous stick character. Chris Wild shared his passion for pastries, and these are the fantastic results (photo by Chris). Blyde Welcome hosted a delicious afternoon of cooking.