

# 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](http://www.bressay.org), email [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org) or call 01595 820706.**

## BDL update

**Another busy Speldiburn year is coming to an end so we've had a quick look back through events, and here are some noteworthy highlights.** We've showcased 6 exhibitions: our open exhibition, Memories and Makes by Heather Christie, Sand and Sound project by Chris Wild and Bressay bairns, Elissa Moar's amazing mandalas, scenery and underwater photos by Cy Sullivan, and our current other worldly exhibition by Susan Pearson. We held 12 workshops - a variety of singing, pastry making, bairns crafts, cookery and fermentation. We organised the Garden Show and Undercover Bressay with 9 gardens open to the public and live music provided by Laoku (Jo Smith's daughter, Giselle). It was a glorious sunny day. Gardie House and Gorie provided not only garden space but woodland walks. We also had a very successful Wool Week with open studios and 'Knitted with Love', an exhibition of local knitwear at Speldiburn.

## Green Projects

We have commissioned Voar Energy Ltd to undertake two projects for us this winter. The first grant, funded primarily by CARES, will investigate possible options for community energy generation in Bressay. Two well attended engagement events have taken place, where a wide range of ideas and possibilities were discussed including collaboration which could benefit local businesses or community owned facilities, the positive impact community owned energy money has brought to other islands, issues with Shetland's grid capacity, future commercial developments in Shetland and the potential for any project to increase Bressay's resilience. This will be a first step towards a future project. We expect Voar to complete their report in February.

The second project, fully funded by Community Energy Scotland, will see Voar gather knowledge and views from the community on priorities for sustainability, resilience, decarbonisation and wellbeing. The information will be used to inform a community climate action plan that can add to the sustainability aspect of BDL's existing development plan. We hope this will complement the community energy project by expanding the data on our islands energy needs.

Finally, BDL has received funding to set up a Community Resource Centre at Speldiburn. This will be one of a number of locations aimed at increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing to support sustainability.

## Sand and Sound project with Chris Wild and Renzo Spiteri



Some photos from back in the summer - so lovely that we wanted to share a few. L-R Eliza Dean-Page, Anna Wills, Pip Mason, Mariette Lowe, Chris Wild, Andrea Sanchez, Elisa Wills, Ella Tulloch, Benji Wills.



See page 4 for news from Ella's Park.



Christmas at Speldiburn. We have a great range of crafts, art and cards - here's Rozanne's wonderfully festive window arrangement. We also have two new books in stock by Stella Sutherland and Jonathan Wills.

## What's On?

### BRESSAY HALL

**Hall AGM.** 7.30pm, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

**Bairns' Christmas Party.** 3.30 - 6pm, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Food, games, and a visit from Santa.

**Christmas Eve Carols.** 6.30pm. Bressay Hall.

**BUHA 2025 ticket sale.** Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, from 2pm.

**Winter Community Pop-Ins.** Tuesdays, until 10th December, 3.30 - 6pm at the Bressay Hall. There's always lots of fun and special activities! Come along for a cuppa and a chat, everyone welcome. Look out for more dates in the New Year.

**Cards (500):** Wednesdays 7.15pm, all welcome

**Mobile Library Van.** At the Hall Car Park. Wednesdays 2 -3pm approximately every 6 weeks. Next visits TBC in the New Year.

### SPELDIBURN

**Cookie Decorating.** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm. All ages welcome and materials provided. Free of charge.

**'Uncle Davie's Red Cross Blanket'** - Talk with Jonathan Wills about his new book. 2pm, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Refreshments provided, served from 1.30. Signed copies of the book available.

**Bressay Community Energy Update and Community Climate Action Plan Meeting.** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 7pm.

Input and comment welcome from all Bressay residents. Refreshments provided.

**Social Afternoon.** Wednesdays, 2 - 4pm. Big Room. Everyone welcome. Come for a free cuppa, a chat, and bring a friend!

**Living Well Hub.** In the NHS room. Visit for advice or a chat, and visiting services, such as sensory impairment, social security and oral health - look out for adverts for these visits. The Living Well Hub's last day this year is the 18<sup>th</sup> and it will re-open on Wednesday 8th January 2025. You can also get in touch through livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk or by calling 01595 74 4120.

**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.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/bressayparkrun) for updates.

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

## Tuesday and Wednesday Socials

The Speldiburn Wednesday Social has continued throughout the year with activities chosen to best suit attendees. Since the summer this has included drying flowers, making puzzles, films, wool spinning and singing. Everyone is welcome to come along and transport can be arranged if required.

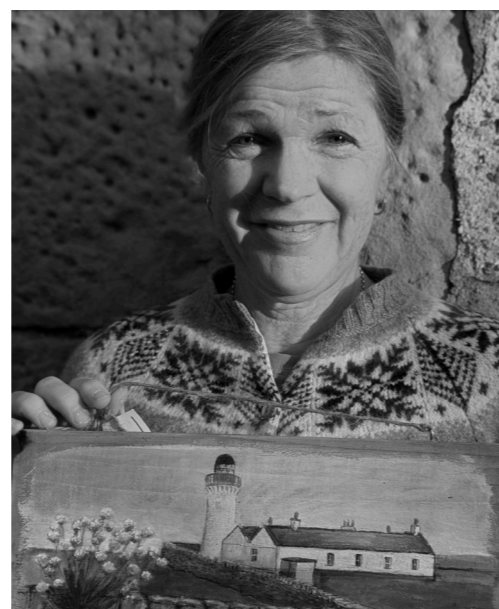
Theresa and Rita from the Living Well Hub are with us every Wednesday but we're often joined by other agencies like Women's Aid, Adult Learning and SIC Sport's and Leisure with their 'Kit for All'.

Gareth Powell (RSPB Species On The Edge Project Officer) has visited regularly, encouraging bee friendly activities like planting cuttings which, when established, will help encourage pollinators and raise awareness of species and habitats important to Shetland.

Last Tuesday, Jo Smith (BDL Development Officer) joined Joanne Fraser at the SIC Community Pop In for a Christmas decoration making session. The Pop In has been a regular Tuesday afternoon event in the Hall and will continue in January and February.



## Made in Bressay



Heather Christie and her family moved to Bressay three years ago but many folk will have been familiar with her long before that as her family connections made her a regular visitor. Heather is a painter and illustrator and interpretive designer. Her work at Speldiburn has a distinct Bressay theme and uses traditional media as well as found wood or driftwood. She is inspired by local natural and cultural heritage; wildlife, plants, landscape and architecture.

**Facebook:** [heatherchristieartco](https://www.facebook.com/heatherchristieartco) or  
**Instagram:** [heather\\_christie\\_art\\_co](https://www.instagram.com/heather_christie_art_co)

## Bressay History Group news

Bressay Heritage Centre had a good 2024 summer season. We had 1373 visitors, up 269 on 2023, with the busiest months being July and August. Sadly, the donations do not line up so well, with the average for 2024 working out at 0.39p per head, compared to 0.55p per head for the overall seasons of 2023 and 2022.

Admission charges haven't worked well in the past so next year we will suggest a £1 donation on our posters in the hope of improving our income. Visitors have been positive about our displays and interested in Bressay as a whole with one lady offering help with the Latin names for the shell display; and another sent in a photo of a roadside wildflower that she had noted was missing from our 'Roadside Verge' display. Many visitors were looking for information about their family history and we are pleased to have been able to help them all. We have given out leaflets, maps and information to help visitor get the best possible experience. Some visitors came back along after their trip and they all said they had had a great day! Bressay History Group have two projects to work on through the winter – the return visit of the Bressay Stone and a VE Day commemoration planned for May.

Always a busy time of year for the Bressay Post Office, here are two photos from our archive. Top, Geordie Anderson who was postman through the 1970s. Bottom, Bob and Isabella Abernethy outside the new Post Office extension on its opening in 1929.

*Copyright M.Scollay.*

## Bressay defibrillator locations

There are three defibrillators available for use in Bressay.

Here are their locations:-

Speldiburn - outside the front entrance.

Bressay Ferry - onboard the Leirna.

Pelagia fish factory - outside the canteen door.

## An enjoyable summer at Speldiburn



Speldiburn Cafe summer staff: Anne Bateson, Andrew Lowe, Dolly Mason, Beatrice Tulloch, Joanie Mason, Mariette Lowe, Sky Marsh. Missing from the photo are Hope Williamson, Breagh McDonald, Kieran Thomson, Sophie Johnson, Jaxson Cox and Beryl Williamson. We at BDL would like to say a big thank you to our hardworking cafe team who helped provide great food and service - sometimes seven days a week and all the time making the kitchen a joyful place to be! Through the summer season they provided set lunches and buffets for almost 40 tour groups as well as several local groups, these ranged in size from six up to twenty six, adding a steady and reliable income for the cafe. Speldiburn will be open for lunch on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the winter but will close from the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, opening again on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.



## New Bressay books available from Speldiburn and the Mail Shop

**Her Lasting Joy, collected poems of Stella Sutherland.**

This new collection of poetry by the late Bressay poet includes all Stella's known work, some published for the first time. Stella was wonderfully observant and through poetry she deals gracefully with nature, comically with the mundane and bravely with tougher topics. Her poems are written in a mix of Shetland dialect and English.

**Uncle Davie's Red Cross Blanket by Jonathan Wills.**

Jonathan's newest book tells the story of his uncle Davie Slater's life through family photos, letters and historic documents. From growing up in Scalloway, through to his family life in Lerwick, the book focuses on his life during WWII. Davie wrote over 200 letters and postcards home during his time as a POW in Nazi occupied Poland.

*Both books are priced at £20.*

*light lunches homebakes crafts art exhibitions*



## Speldiburn Cafe Winter Hours

**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 Garden Show 2024

The Bressay Garden & Produce Show took place on Sunday 25th of August. As usual Bressay folk provided a brilliant display of flowers, vegetables, photos, junior art, home baking and jams. There was a wonderfully friendly atmosphere throughout the afternoon with a super mix of locals, returning family and visitors from outside Bressay too.

Enthusiastically compered by Ali Mason, the prizes were handed out in style. Jonathan Wills was awarded the Anderson Best Vegetable Exhibit cup and Joanna Smith won the much-coveted Tattie Cup. The other trophy winners were Amanda Sinclair, Maureen Burke, Lynda Tait, Gemma Tulloch and Lee Smith. Beatrice Lowe was awarded Best in Show. Magnus Tulloch won the Junior Shield for his brilliant vegetable creation of a sheep (see photo below).

As well as the exhibits, tea, delicious home bakes and a raffle were enjoyed by all, raising £700.50 for Bressay Development Ltd.'s community projects. £15.75 was raised for the Red Cross for their Ukraine appeal. The fun 'Tattie in a Bucket' competition saw heaviest crop of tatties won by Calvin Bremner and largest number of tatties won by our youngest competitor, 3 year old Elisa Wills.

We would like to thank the judges, Ann Johnson and Kirsten Williamson (fruit and vegetables), Joanne Sandison (food), Jean Robertson and Nan Mort (floral) and Malcolm Innes (photography) for their time and diligence. Thank you also to the many people who helped on the day to make such a lovely show.



*Maureen Burke with a splendid collection of garden flowers*



## Spooky Celebrations at Ella's Park

Ella's Park was home to some spooky going-ons at Halloween, and this provided a soft opening for the newly named community garden which a small group of folk, supported by Bressay Community Council have recently been endeavouring to improve. Ella Deyell sold the park to the Shetland Islands Council many years ago, back when an industrial site was planned for the area, that never really happened, so after asking Ella's son Laurence the name Ella's Park was decided on. Some 25 years ago trees were planted in the park which have mostly grown well but little has happened in the park for some years now, so volunteers started some work this summer to hopefully improve Ella's Park. Any ideas would be be great. You can get in touch with the group by email:

[ellasparkbressay@gmail.com](mailto:ellasparkbressay@gmail.com)



*Clockwise from the top: Katrina Gifford and Louise Anderson. River Tulloch, Pip Mason, Rae-Anne Stove, Patty Mason, Joanie Mason. Anne and John Bateson. Isla More, William More, Billie More, Carly Westmoreland.*