

Weel Bressa, Whit News?

We are always keen to receive photos, information or stories from Bressay, if you have something to include in the next issue contact Beatrice - bealowe2@yahoo.co.uk. Or call Sharon on 820 706 or 07547280040 or email. bressaydevelopment@gmail.co.uk

Bressay Development Ltd update

Celebrate! 19th - 21st May

With one year of operating from the school under our belts and our second year about to begin, The Speldiburn Cafe, GAN Shop, art and craft studio and exhibition spaces, a well used recycling facility and a winter of classes and workshops has definitely given us all something to celebrate! And the Maryfield is up and running again too!

With the help of funding from the Big Lottery we will be holding a weekend of events to celebrate Bressay's achievements during the past (busy) year.

The Speldiburn Cafe official opening takes place on Friday the 19th followed in the evening, from 6pm - 8pm by a BBQ, with bar facilities at the Hall and at 9pm the First Foot Soldiers will be playing at the Hall. The Cafe and GAN Shop are both open on Saturday and the GAN Shop is also open on Sunday along with Sunday Teas in the Speldiburn Cafe from midday - 3pm. Our artist studios are open for a visit throughout the weekend.

We hope there's something on that will appeal to everyone so whether you're a regular Speldiburn visitor or you've never been before please do take this opportunity to come along.

Recycling

BD Ltd's 12 month Climate Challenge Fund supported project 'Skills for Sustainability' has been completed. The project has enabled us to provide a range of classes and workshops during the winter and to purchase resources which we will continue to use in the future here at the school. Copies of the project final report are available at the school. Here are a few numbers from it:- by the end of March 40.38kg of plastic bottles had been recycled, 36.5kg of soft furnishings had been donated to the GAN Shop and a total of 20 individuals had attended the Transition Turriefield workshops. Although the grant funding has ended we will be continuing everything we have started so keep coming with your recycling - newspapers, plastic bottles, ink cartridges, batteries and drinks cans are all accepted.

The Speldiburn GAN Shop



BD Ltd's fantastic Good As New Shop opened in the school on the 11th of February, since then the shop's volunteers have been kept busy sorting, ironing and pricing items ready for sale. The support for this new venture has been enormous, great quality donations have arrived every week, not only from Bressay but all over Shetland. Items have ranged from pot plants to dining tables, golf clubs, tea sets and bairns' toys. Among the varied stock we currently have a great range of kitchen accessories, some lovely handbags and a fantastic selection of cookery and garden books.

The shop is staffed by volunteers and we are really keen to hear from anyone who would be willing to do an occasional, or regular day during the coming months. If you would like to help please speak to Sharon.

Please keep coming with donations of goods for the shop and give us a call if you need us to collect anything.

**Open every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
12.30 - 2.30**

The Speldiburn Cafe is open at these times too so why not pop along for a browse and a cuppa!

Choose Bressa!

What's on.

Speldiburn Cafe open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays,
11.30am - 3.30pm & Saturdays, 11.30am - 2.30pm.
Bressay Heritage Centre also open Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
Speldiburn GAN Shop open Tuesdays, Fridays &
Saturdays 12.30pm - 2.30pm

May; 19th - BBQ & bar in the Hall 6pm - 8pm
First Foot Soldiers in the Hall 9pm - 1am
21st - Sunday Teas in the Speldiburn Cafe
midday - 3pm
28th - Plant sale and Sunday teas in the Hall (Hall
Committee)

June; 4th - Sports Club Sunday teas in the Hall
10th - Parish Cup football game - Bressay v
Whalsay
18th - Sunday Teas in the Hall (BD Ltd)

July; 1st - Noss Open Day
15th - David Sandison & The Tennessee
Wannabes playing in the hall (Sports Club)
29th & 30th - Bide Da Day in Bressa

BD Ltd Bulky Waste Schedule 2017

Month	Date	Location
July	Sat 15	Fullaburn
September	Sat 16	Voeseide
November	Sat 18	Hall

Bressay Under 5's

The newly formed babies and bairns group meet every Tuesday morning from 10.30 - 12.30 in the former Nursery. All peerie folk are welcome along with their parents or grandparents and it's not restricted to Bressay bairns, we've had a few regulars from mainland Shetland and one came all the way from America! Thanks to everyone who came along to our teas in March or voted for us at the PB event, the funds raised are helping us to get up and running and to buy some great new toys, equipment and craft items for the bairns.



Volunteers

The BD Ltd directors would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped to get our projects up and running over the past year. The Speldiburn Cafe's winter opening, GAN Shop and the bulky waste uplifts only happen because folk have donated their time to help support BD Ltd's efforts. Cleaning, decorating and maintenance of the school along with washing dishcloths, catering for events and writing this newsletter are all done by volunteers - a truly fantastic achievement! We don't want anyone to feel over called upon though and with so much going on we would really welcome anyone not already involved but willing to help to get in touch.

Could you teach a skill to other Bressay folk?

BD Ltd would like to offer a program of classes in the school next winter and we are looking for folk who would be willing to do either a one off class, demonstration, or a series of classes. Adult Learning Shetland is happy to assist anyone who's willing to do a class but has not done it before. If you have something to share (craft, IT, cooking, languages for example), get in touch with Sharon or Denise at Adult Learning and we'll help. denise.nicolson@shetland.gov.uk

Noss

Noss is now open for the summer! The impressive cliffs and seabird colonies, visitor centre and sandy beaches make it well worth a visit. The ferry runs from 10am until 5pm every day except Mondays and Thursdays. Or join us for Noss Open Day on Saturday 1st of July - the catering is provided by the Bressay Hall committee, so it will be good!

BD Ltd 2017 calendar

We are now gathering together photos to go in this year's calendar, we would like a good mixture of images of Bressay so if you have one which you think would look good please send it our way. All photos should be emailed to Afra by the 31st of May - afra.skene@hotmail.com

Bucks For Bressay

Congratulations to the Bressay Sports Club. Their plans to provide changing and shower facilities at the pitch was the most popular of the projects vying for the Community Council's Bucks for Bressay funding. A brilliant turnout of Bressay folk made for an enjoyable afternoon in the Hall and the event provided an excellent opportunity to see some of the interesting activities being undertaken by volunteers in Bressay just now. As well as the Sports Club, Bressay Under 5's, Bressay Hall, Bressay History Group and Bressay Boating Club all



Alistair Christie Henry and Malcolm Bell present a cheque for £2000 to Ross Manson, chairman of the Bressay Sports Club.

Bressay History Group

The Heritage Centre is open for the summer season. During the winter our program of four talks attracted a total audience of about 87 folk. We recently had a visit from fiddle player Catriona Macdonald who is collecting fiddle tunes, information and stories about fiddlers in Shetland up to the early part of the 20th century. She has already collected some interesting information regarding Bressay fiddlers but please get in touch with us or Catriona if you have something to add. bressayheritage@btinternet.com. Phone 820 750

An Archive Photo



Bertie Birnie, Barbara Birnie, Hilda Black and Jessie Birnie raising peats. Photo courtesy of George Birnie.

Elizabeth Jane Smith Collection

The Bressay History Group holds a large collection of dialect words collected during 1934 - 1944 by the late Elizabeth J Smith, Old Manse, Bressay. In each issue we will give you a word which she heard used in Bressay.

Last but one issue > **flite (v) = to scold.**

Last issue > **blink (n) = a moment; an instant.**

This issue > **yasp (adj)**

Parkrun

Kate Wills has been working to establish Shetland's first 'parkrun' in Bressay. This would involve a 5km walk, jog or run every Saturday morning. It costs £3000 to get it started but after that it's free for all to participate. To secure this funding, please donate your blue plastic coins at Tesco through the Bags of Help project to the Bressay parkrun and tell your friends to do so too. Once it's up and running, to take part you just register online at www.parkrun.org.uk, get an individual barcode and then this is scanned at the finish line of any parkrun worldwide. Your results are then emailed to you in terms of your age, gender, overall and personal result. The Speldiburn cafe has agreed to open for breakfasts at the end of every run so could be a great way to kick start your weekend. It is hoped that being the 'Most Northerly parkrun in the UK' would bring folk into Bressay and promote a positive view of the island. All ages and levels of participants do parkruns every week across the world - there are over 2 million registered participants - so everyone is welcome! To make the Bressay parkrun a success, volunteers will be needed for many tasks - barcode scanners, marshals, photographers, first aiders, people to put up signs, etc. If you are interested in volunteering (all ages and abilities welcome!) then please get in touch with Kate Wills, Run Director (email katewills1@gmail.com Tel. 696348 or 820205). Volunteering will be fun and could be a good opportunity for anyone looking to boost their CV or just wanting to play a positive part in the local community. Kate's Dad Jonathan will be the 'sweeper' - the person who makes sure everyone has finished the 5km - so "if he can walk it with old knees at 70yrs old then there's really no excuse... The more the merrier!"

E J Smith's nightmare voyage

[extracts from an unpublished memoir by Elizabeth J. Smith (née Anderson)] Courtesy of Elizabeth Edwards & Linda Sutherland.



Sisters Tamar & Elizabeth Anderson, about 1914.

In December of 1915, I was on my way home for the Christmas holidays, leaving Aberdeen at 12 noon Wednesday by the S.S. *St Magnus*, Capt. William Leask. After a short time out, the vessel got orders to put in to Peterhead, as a gale was expected. She could not do so, however, as the wind had veered S.E. - a bad ert for Peterhead; and no port being available for shelter with a south-easterly wind, the *St Magnus* kept on her course.

The gale increased, and even Wick harbour was useless. Off Copinsay, in the Orkneys, the skipper hove-to, amid a blinding blizzard of snow. I was in an upper bunk in the ladies' cabin, of which the occupants were an unlucky thirteen - chiefly Orkney and Shetland students, and a few officers' wives going to join their husbands in the Orkneys.

The dawn of Thursday was a mockery. The seas were tremendous, when I had summoned courage to look at them through the porthole during the few moments when it was not obscured by green walls of water. At one moment we were on the top of a high green hill (as I afterwards thought, like the Noup on Foula); the next rushing through a green valley (like the Daal) and climbing at tremendous speed the side of another green hill. It was paralysing.

The ship creaked and groaned, and from time to time she received on her decks a burden of water that crashed with a mighty impact. The crashes had been getting more frequent; and all at once, after an extra big one, the circular skylight above us burst in, and what looked like a solid green pillar of water stood from floor to ceiling of our cabin. Pandemonium ensued. Those who had been lying in the lower bunks, almost unconscious from seasickness, were washed out of them, the sea water rising about two feet; and galvanised by terror they rose and staggered through the water, shedding their wet clothes, perhaps unconsciously. I took a naked girl, Nellie Crichton, an Orkney student, into the upper berth behind me, so that she would not fall out. Shoes, suitcases, books, hats, oranges, biscuits, and all loose stuff swished madly about with every plunge of the ship, and a chorus of weak and doleful screams rose from the frightened students. I may say that I did NOT scream, but freely admit that had it been a fire, for instance, I would have screamed with the rest. *Story to be continued in the next issue.*



The Speldiburn Cafe

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11.30 - 3.30
Saturdays 11.30 - 2.30

Tasty soups, filled rolls, toasties and daily specials,
Homemade cakes and Bean Shop coffee

Takeaways & catering available

Bressay Up Helly Aa



Clockwise from left: Chris & his guizers entering the Hall on Friday night, Grant Nicol & Maurice Henderson outside the Speldiburn Cafe, Lyle, Magnus & Gemma Tulloch, Viking princesses Willow and River Tulloch, assorted guizers ready for the procession.

Choose Bressa.
Choose missing the ferry.
Choose catching it just in time. Choose the Speldiburn for dinner and Mary's for tea.
Choose 500 in the hall and Choose dancing in it tonight.
Choose the Sharks and cheering them on. Choose crofting or farming? Choose power cuts and blown homehubs.
Choose sewing, cooking and yoga in the school. Choose hitting the kerb or landing in the ditch.
Choose Bressa.

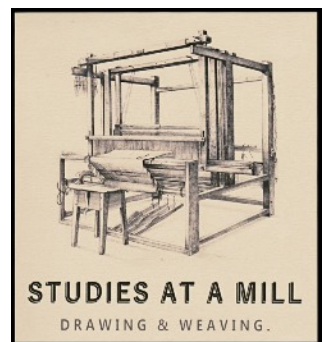
Ferryspotting

Ferryspotting

Thank you to the writer of the 2017 Bressay Up Helly Aa bill for letting us print this brilliant Ferryspotting piece. It's all going on - so what you waiting for - choose Bressa.

Aimee Labourne

Artist Aimee Labourne has spent almost a year drawing in her studio at the school, she is a winner of last year's Shetland Open Exhibition and will be exhibiting some of her drawings in the Speldiburn cafe from the 19th of May. We have asked her to describe where she found the inspiration for her work over the past year.



When I first arrived, I was very interested in the islands' war ruin sites, and I've been able to continue looking at these, visiting many fascinating ruin-sites during last summer. One of these visits to RAF Garth's Ness in Dunrossness gave inspiration for work which is currently on display at Bonhoga Gallery. I was very honoured to be selected as a prize-winner at last year's Shetland Open Exhibition, and this led to a group show at the gallery this year with all four winners. It was very enjoyable to discuss and share ideas with the others before deciding on the theme of 'Traces'. For my own response to this, I used photographs of patterns of decay from RAF Garth's Ness to generate panoramic landscapes, tracing imaginary formations of hills and coastlines.

Over this last year, I've also continued to be very interested in equipment used in weaving. As well as sketching examples here in Shetland, I spent some time in February drawing at a working mill and museum in Cumbria, where my sister is in residence as a weaver. From this May, I will be showing some of these drawings at Speldiburn Café. I continue to be fascinated by weaving artefacts, remnants of a pre-industrial age, and each made unique through age and use. Aimee

Congratulations to Ellie & Aaron



Hannah Bateson, Lizzie Coutts, Helen Ward, Nick Brett, Ellie Coutts, Aaron Leask. Enjoying a champagne toast to Ellie and Aaron's engagement on Noss. Photo by Kate Wills