
BRESSAY DEVELOPMENT LTD

Skills for Sustainability

CCF no. 4631

Bressay Development Ltd

Bressay school

Bressay

Shetland

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Contents

	Page
Project Map	3
Introduction	3
The Setting	3
The Group	4
The Skills for Sustainability Project	5
Skills for Sustainability Activities	6-9
Skills for Sustainability Outcomes	10-11
Learning and Reflection	12
Finance and Administration	13
Legacy	14
Supporting Information	15-21
Images	15
Comments	16
Evidencing methods	17
Promotion	18
Turrieffield workshop feedback	19
Output grid	21
Report Authors	22

Introduction

In March 2016 Bressay development Ltd were awarded £12,190 of grant funding from the CCF for our Skills for Sustainability project. The outcomes of the project which would help to reduce CO2 emissions by 10.11 Tonnes over project lifetime were; Development of a community asset, to support community cohesion and economic development; Provision of adult learning to upskill the community in relation to sustainable lifestyles; Improved environmental awareness among Bressay residents

. To do this we intended to:

- Provide community facilities including a reference library, bike shelter, hire bikes, sewing and repair facilities, tools and workspace
- Engage with and up skill the community with classes, talks and workshops in the following areas: Cooking with local, seasonal food, grow your own and composting, furniture and clothing repair and upcycling, bike safety and maintenance, home energy efficiency.
- Provide bikes and bike shelters for community use to encourage local residents out of their cars and give classes to raise confidence in bike safety and maintenance.
- Increase community awareness of the impact of food miles, food waste, packaging and recycling.
- Build relationships with local crofters, growers and producers with the aim to increase the opportunity for locals to experience and benefit from local food through the BD Ltd café. This would lead to increased demand for local food and increased opportunities for growers.

Bressay

Bressay is an island on Shetland's east side, a seven-minute ferry journey from Lerwick, Shetland's capital town.

Bressay has fantastic natural resources and is ideal for walking and cycling. Its lovely croft dotted landscape has areas of interesting geology, wild bird, seal and otter populations, beaches and sites of historical interest.

The current population stands at around 340.

Services including schools and healthcare (Bressay has a district nurse), along with sport facilities and most employment are accessed in Lerwick. Along with the redeveloped Primary school which houses the Speldiburn Café, GAN Shop, community library and creative hub Bressay has a small grocery shop which has a good supply of basic foodstuffs, a community Hall and Heritage Centre but the community rely on Lerwick for much of their shopping, work and entertainment.



BD Ltd

Bressay Community Development Association was set up in January 2014 to address major challenges faced by the residents of Bressay including depopulation, an aging population, lack of on island services and increasing ferry fare costs to the Shetland mainland. In 2013 the primary School closed, further adding to the need for local development. In August 2015, the BCDA became a Company limited by guarantee, renamed as Bressay Development Ltd. All Bressay residents over the age of 16 can join without charge and our current membership stands at 42 but community participation in group activities is much larger.

The main aim of our organisation is to secure and sustain a vibrant future for Bressay, with an active, connected, thriving and resilient community. Objectives include retaining and supporting the existing population; improving and developing facilities on the Island; identifying and exploring funding opportunities for community activities on the island and strengthening the community bond.

Since securing the lease of the former primary school in December 2015 and with grant assistance from the Climate Challenge Fund, Awards for All, Shetland Islands Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, BD Ltd have worked hard to create and run a community hub which includes a café, generous creative studio and exhibition spaces, a good as new shop, community library, community training / work room and recycling facilities.

Bressay Development Ltd currently managed by seven volunteer directors and employs a part time development worker and part time café staff.

The Skills for sustainability Project

Developed by the BD Ltd environment sub group and designed to provide much needed facilities and social opportunities for the local community whilst encouraging carbon reduction, the Skills for Sustainability project has run workshops and courses, encouraged recycling and helped BD Ltd to develop a large empty building into a now thriving community hub.

The Skills for Sustainability project has taken place in the former primary school on Bressay, a building, sheds and yard leased by BD Ltd from the Shetland Islands Council since December 2015.

The school



Skills for Sustainability achievements

The Skills for Sustainability project has helped Bressay Development Ltd to create a thriving and valued community hub, a place where locals come together to socialise, learn and relax. The project has established a fantastic community resource providing:

- Skills centre resources including gardening, sewing and woodwork equipment, a community use computer and a reference library.
- Bikes, accessories and maintenance information.
- A Good As New Shop which encourages reusing other peoples unwanted goods and provides a great attraction for locals and visitors.
- Recycling collection point and onward delivery for items including batteries, ink cartridges, plastic bottles and newspapers.
- A setting for ongoing classes and workshops to up skill the local community.
- A garden shredder which can assist the community to produce compost and mulch from garden waste and a paper shredder which will be used to turn newspapers into animal bedding.
- Web site development which will enable us to communicate and share information with the community.
- A feel-good boost to the community.

School visitor quote “fantastic to see the building brought back to life and full of folk again “

The Good As New shop - before -

and after



Skills for Sustainability Activities

To achieve the project outcomes the project we:

- Offered support to locals struggling to heat their homes and information to those considering more sustainable heating option with a Home Energy pop up shop delivered by a home energy specialist.
- Held 15 sewing classes & workshops, regular winter social evenings which focussed on teaching simple sewing techniques, using a sewing machine and making use of recycled materials including shopping bags from old shirts, whales from old jeans and making “new” fabrics from tiny scraps. 12 adults and 2 children attended.
- Held 4 ‘Transition Turriefield’ training courses providing information on growing your own in Shetland, climate change, reducing food waste and composting. A total of 19 adults and 1 child, 6% of the island population took part.
- Held 3 crafting with recycled fabric workshops. Seven adults attended.
- Held 1 seed sowing evening, 3 primary and 1 secondary aged children took part.
- Composted 225kg of material from the Speldiburn Café
- Held a local food cookery workshop which encouraged the use of local eggs and Orkney bere meal and taught cookery techniques including making bannocks, soufflés, curd and mayonnaise. 10 adults and 1 young person attended.

In addition to our intended activities for the Skills for Sustainability project we have also:

- Opened a Good as New Shop, receiving unwanted items from Bressay households and selling them at affordable prices. The shop is staffed by volunteers, so far eight individual volunteers.
- Made provisions for shredding of garden material and newspapers provided for recycling by members of the community
- Made use of an old shed to provide a potting shed which we will use to provide fresh ingredients for use in the café and an area for community growing and training sessions.
- Provided cold frames for potting on seeds for the café and a compost bin to enable us to produce compost on site.

Skills for Sustainability activities

Sewing evenings

Two committed volunteers have ensured that weekly Tuesday sewing evenings have continued all winter along with sewing workshops. The evenings have been aimed at encouraging folk with no sewing experience to build the confidence to mend and re-use fabrics which they would otherwise dump. The evenings have also been attended by quite capable sewers as well as some with no experience, who have wished to gain specific skills such as inserting a zip or patchwork and often folk attending have worked on different individual projects, accessing help if and when required. This has led to very sociable evenings that all involved wish to continue attending again next winter.



Recycled fabric craft workshops

These four classes were held in the run up to Christmas and encouraged folk to use waste fabric along with items they might normally throw out (or charity shop finds) to make individual decorations and gifts. Cardboard, old bangles and worn out jewellery and decorations were turned into wreaths, baubles and mobiles.

Speldiburn Good As New Shop

Not part of the original project, the GAN shop was born from community feedback to the project. The Bressay community had to take items they no longer wanted to Lerwick, either to the dump or to charity shops costing both time and money. The Speldiburn GAN shop reduces CO2 emissions by cutting travel distances to dispose of items and reducing waste going to the incinerator or landfill. Since its opening it has been enthusiastically supported by the Bressay community and has become a visitor draw to the Island. CCF funds and a team of volunteers have allowed us to repaint the dark room and provide shelving and clothes rails, although most were salvaged or bought second hand.





Cookery workshop

Local cook and food writer Marian Armitage provided a class and demonstration for ten locals which focussed on recipes to cook with Bressay's fantastic free range eggs and Shetland bannock making. The attendees ranged from novices to well-seasoned cooks. The class was popular and Marian has agreed to hold another local food class later in the growing season to focus on using fresh local produce. We also hope to hold further cookery classes run by other tutors.

Transition Turriefield workshops



The four workshops devised and run by Shetland group Transition Turriefield were aimed primarily at individuals who were keen to grow some or more of their own food. A mix of presentations, group work and practical sessions were used to encourage participants to think through their growing needs; combat specific issues the growers had faced and understand what could be done to improve success in their individual growing conditions. The course was modified to take account of requests and problems of individual attendees a few of whom were new to growing but most having established plots of their own and it proved an excellent opportunity to share experiences. Information on climate change, food miles, reducing waste, using recycled items and composting was incorporated the course. Exercises included planning a growing space, soil testing, sowing seeds, deciding what varieties to grow, understanding how plants grow and identifying pests, diseases and weeds. Each participant received an information hand out.



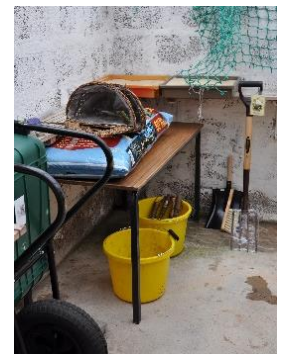
Recycling facilities

This part of the project has expanded and been far more successful than we originally planned. The recycling centre at the school now receives plastic bottles, newspapers, ink cartridges, batteries and drinks cans. Prior to this initiative only glass and drinks cans were collected from a bank on Bressay the other items had to be taken to the waste management site in Lerwick which was inconvenient for most and impossible for those without their own car, this meant many people put these items in their refuse. The CCF grant has helped us to advertise the facilities, everything is weighed and a volunteer takes the plastic and batteries to the recycling centre in Lerwick, ink cartridges are sent to be reused and we shred the paper for animal bedding. We deliver cans to a local company for recycling. Items can be dropped off at the school any time, either left in the building or in a purpose made recycling box outside.



Sowing seeds & Composting

A local gardener plus a small group of children from the local junior club sowed the first batch of seeds for use in the Speldiburn Café, this was the first job in an effort to encourage growing and also to supply the café with fresh, on site salad, tatties and veg through the summer months. The BD Ltd run Speldiburn Café, began composting its food waste in July 2016, open part time, 225kg of waste has now been weighed and composted. Glass, cans and plastic bottles from the café are recycled along with the community recycling.



Community hub

The Skills for Sustainability project has been one part of a larger effort by BD Ltd to transform an empty former primary school building into a thriving community hub. Now 16 months into the development the bright and welcoming building houses a café, Good as New shop, artists' studio spaces, the local under 5's group, recycling facilities, a jewellery workshop, community library and rooms and resources for community use. The building is being used on an almost daily basis by a large proportion of the community, old and young, men and women and offers a space to socialise, learn, relax and enjoy. The combination of facilities in the building allows folk to have a cup of tea with friends when they drop of their recycling or to browse through the library books with coffee after a morning workshop, the building once so important within the community is now once again a focal point for the community.



Skills for Sustainability Outcomes

The Skills for Sustainability original press release: -

“Bressay Development Ltd are leading the skills for sustainability project which will develop a community asset, upskill the community, raise environmental awareness, change behaviours and support community cohesion. This will be done through provision of equipment, workshops and learning resources with support from several local organisations leading to long term carbon savings.”

The facilities and activities supported by the CCF grant have undoubtedly massively assisted BD Ltd.’s aim to build a vibrant community hub, although we don’t keep figures for locals visiting the building or details on precisely what has drawn those who use the building, a recent count of familiar faces came to over 100 individuals so at least 1/3 of the Island’s community are regular visitors to the building. They often bring their friends and relatives with them from outwith Bressay and these numbers are boosted further by visitors and tourists. The school hub is a truly wide reaching effort and the building is now providing a welcomed and sociable focal point.

The redevelopment of the building assisted by Skills for Sustainability project has generated great support and appreciation from individuals, organisations, councillors and even MSPs. This is proved by the footfall into the building and the comments below.

"The Bressay community hub based at the school is becoming part of the fabric of the island. This has been an important investment in Bressay's future as the Hub is a welcoming, warm and friendly place for an increasing number of community activities. The cafe is used by local people and visitors to meet, rest and speak. It will become core to the islands future. The drive, energy and initiative of all those who have made this happen deserve great credit and continued support."

(Tavish Scott MSP and Bressay resident)

"The Skills for Sustainability project in Bressay over the past year has really helped to pull the community of Bressay together. Above all for me is the incredibly vibrant 'Good as New Shop' in the old school premises. Each time I have visited I have been impressed with the transformation from just a dull room in a large building to a buzzing hub for locals and visitors alike. I have noticed that, coupled with the cafe, people now have a purpose to go and visit the old school premises (a re-cycled community asset in itself!) and have a cup of tea and a chat while browsing in the shop or donating second hand items for sale."

(Pat Christie, Shetland Islands Council, Community Involvement & Development Officer)

The projects greatest success has undoubtedly been the development of a community asset which will continue to provide a setting and resources for learning and socialising long after the project’s completion. A greater sense of social cohesion feels entirely tangible to those of us involved with delivering the project but like behavioural change is quite hard to evidence.

Our individual outcomes for the project were to:

CO2 emissions reduced by 10.11 Tonnes over project lifetime of 3 years

We have estimated that a total of 5.945 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been reduced in the projects first year through recycling waste paper, plastic, glass and reusing unwanted goods.

Development of a community asset, to support community cohesion and economic development.

This part of the project has produced some unexpected outcomes. Community participation has been greater than we anticipated, over 100 members of the community are now regular visitors to building, using the recycling facilities, visiting the GAN shop and attending events. Increased footfall to the building has benefited the Speldiburn Café as visitors often stop at the café for coffee or lunch while using the other facilities in the building. The GAN shop has been a surprisingly great success, and has generated income of £647.20 in its first 7 weeks of business, up to the 31st of March. This is really encouraging because it greatly helps our not for profit company to afford to continue to run and develop the community hub. Donations received on the sewing evenings totalled £177, this shows that we can generate enough income from the classes to continue next winter without the support of the Climate Challenge Fund grant. We also hope that by offering to shred bulky garden waste for the community for a small charge and selling shredded newspaper for animal bedding that our recycling efforts will generate a small income which can help sustain the project aims into the future.

Provision of adult learning to upskill the community in relation to sustainable lifestyles

This outcome has been delivered. The sewing and cookery classes and workshops focusing on growing food and reducing CO2 have been very well received by the community and these will be repeated as feedback has shown a clear demand for more of these sorts of events. The feedback we have received shows that attendees left the classes and workshops better informed and with improved skills. Learning resources and work space are now available for the community to use.

Improved environmental awareness among Bressay residents

This outcome has been partly delivered. Six bikes plus helmets and maintenance equipment are now available for use and although the bike workshops and safety days have not yet taken place promotion of Bressay as a biking destination has begun and we are planning to advance this part of the project through the summer months. 12 workshops to develop skills within the community have taken place covering all the planned areas except furniture restoration, we have been in contact with potential tutors for woodwork and upholstery and we hope to provide workshops and classes in this area later in the year.

Learning and Reflection

Evidencing change is difficult

The participants of our events and those using the school facilities have busy lives and are often put off by questionnaires and forms to fill in and providing detailed evaluation information proved too demanding for the individuals involved. However the level of community engagement that the project has helped secure has been proved by the numbers of individuals directly involved in the projects activities and also those using the community hub and its facilities.

Running this project along with several others caused a huge workload for our volunteers

The Skills for Sustainability project brought with it funding that was essential to develop and provide resources for our community hub. However, pressure on volunteers has stopped us from managing to keep all aspects of the project to its planned timescale. With the knowledge, contacts and the community support we have gained since the start of the project BD Ltd is now in a much stronger position to support our local community in the coming years and to continue to promote carbon reduction.

Volunteer time

It is very easy to underestimate the time involved when undertaking a project like this, each and every event requires several emails and a couple of phone calls to the tutor, checking of dates, volunteer availability, designing of posters, correspondence with media outlets, sometimes a site visit prior to the event and building caretaking routines. This is often quite enjoyable and allows us to become familiar with contacts who will continue to assist the group in the future. Evidence gathering and report filling too add hours each month and our group has agreed that a paid post to assist us would have been a very useful addition to the funding application.

Responding to the community

Some of the most successful parts of the project were not part of our original project but were directed by our communities' response to the project. We were keen to provide facilities and resources that would be valued by the community and offer learning opportunities which would be genuinely useful whilst also encouraging a less wasteful lifestyle. We have been gladdened by the support we have received from locals and the success of the recycling facilities and the GAN shop has been driven by them.

Finance and Administration

Our total funding award was £12,190. The 12-month project concluded with an underspend of £2801.10 due mainly to us not purchasing a bike shelter; actual expenditure is broken down as follows:

	£ awarded	£ claimed	£ underspend
Skills Centre resources	8758.00	6316.89	2441.11
Workshop costs	1950	1613.01	336.99
Room hire	800.00	795.00	5.00
Marketing	682.00	664.00	18.00
Total	12190.00	9388.90	2801.10

There were underspends in the Skills centre set up budget. £3000 was budgeted for a bike rack and shelter but communication issues due to a BD Ltd development worker who left the post without passing on appropriate details led to a timescale too short to arrange the siting of the bike shelter, a bike rack however was fitted on the site following from negotiations with the council. £2000 was budgeted for a projector and white board but as the project progressed it was felt that a white board was unnecessary, a projector was purchased for £239.99 and the extra budget was spent on some extra items to further our veg and salad growing efforts, increased costs of the bikes and equipment plus some extra expenditure on tools. £242 was reallocated to the marketing budget and this has allowed us to fund a website which will promote and encourage the community to use our facilities and attend future events. A small underspend in the workshop budget was due to us being unable to organise tutors to run woodwork and furniture repair classes within the project timescale, although our ongoing discussions with potential tutors will hopefully result in the classes being held later in the year.

All admin, event organising, recycling, marketing, budgeting and purchasing was done by volunteers, no charges for their time or travel expenses were included in the budget or claim forms.

Three of the grants awarded to BD Ltd in 2016 were paid retrospectively, this has impacted on our timescales for purchasing items as we have limited financial resources and our very limited number of volunteers involved with admin have often found it hard to complete regular claim forms and keep money coming in. Keeping control and good understanding of the finances which have included the skills for Sustainability project but also setting and running a café, artist studio spaces and a community office has been a steep learning curve for our newly fledged group. Our achievements during the last year are really impressive, a vast number of lessons have been learnt along the way and we are consistently striving to put processes in place which will enable us to be more efficient and productive.

In hindsight this project could have been delivered more effectively if a paid post for admin and general oversee had been included in the original application. Originally, we had thought our BD Ltd development worker (a post which started in June 2016) could assist with the project but the post had to be re advertised after a few months and although our new development worker was instrumental in the setting up of the GAN because of her late arrival, 7 months into the project and a need for her attentions to be focused on other projects. Our small and enthusiastic group of volunteers focus on predominantly practical tasks so most admin tasks were left to one volunteer.

Legacy

The legacy of the Skills for Sustainability project is very important to us – we will continue to:

Encourage growing and consuming of local food by

- Increasing the use of local food in the Speldiburn café.
- Continuing to provide cookery and growing classes – we have one already planned for the summer.
- With the help of volunteers, we have sown lettuce, chard and herbs at the school for use this summer in the café, this process will be repeated to allow the café a regular supply of fresh salad.
- Volunteers have helped keep the planting areas outside the school tidy but we hope to build on this firstly by providing more growing areas at the school with the aim to eventually help make a community garden with a community compost area.

Provide classes and workshops for the community

- We've been talking with the Council's adult learning department and they are keen to help us provide more classes – they held 3 taster session classes at the school in February and March, the community would like us to provide a range of classes.
- Classes to provide computer and smart phone skills to members of the community along with furniture repair and further cookery classes are among those we plan to offer.

Encourage recycling and composting and provide facilities which will make this as easy as possible for the community to do

- The recycling facilities at the school will continue to be provided with the addition that we aim to sell shredded newspaper as pet bedding and we will offer to shred twigs and small branches for the community.
- The GAN shop has been a fantastic success and will continue with extra opening hours during the summer. At this point we have volunteers marked down to run the shop on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays through the whole of April and May, so far, a total of 10 individual shop volunteers have been involved.

Encourage cycling and walking on Bressay

- The bikes purchased as part of the Skills for Sustainability grant will be offered for use in Bressay this spring and summer – we have individuals signed up to attend a bike maintenance day, the date is yet to be set.
- One of our volunteers has recently trained as a walking leader and we will be helping to promote walking for health and social benefits and encourage walking as part of a group.

Supporting information



Comments from Bressay residents

"I am grateful to the BDG for setting up the recycling box. I hate throwing away the plastic milk bottles and yet I use them every day. I now deposit them and other plastic in the box - I imagine you might need a bigger one soon.

I read that in Greenpeace literature that there could be more plastics the sea than fish in the future so anything we can do to reduce inappropriate plastic disposal is good.

I've also appreciated the GAN shop - it's great to have both opportunities on the island and within walkable distance. I know people from Lerwick who choose the days GAN is open to open to come over.

Well done to all the volunteers and to BDG."

(Bressay resident)

"it's great to be able to recycle without going to Lerwick because I just don't have time for that"

"I love second hand shops - that's how I get most of my clothes - so having the GAN shop at the school is ace - plus it's a nice way to socialise"

(Bressay resident)

"I really appreciated to opportunity to try out some machine sewing, the evenings were really enjoyable and I'm looking forward to them starting again next winter"

(sewing evening participant)

"Have used the local recycling facilities at the school. Have really only changed where I recycle.

The plastic bottles we previous took to Tesco car-park. Newspapers were either put in general waste bin bag or compost bin.

Likewise, we have donated some items to The Good as New Shop which would otherwise have gone to Lerwick Charity shops."

(Bressay resident)

"Our household gets through a lot of plastic milk bottles, they all used to go in the bin but being able to drop them off at the school has changed this – we recycle them all now"

(Project volunteer & Bressay resident)

How has the recycling facilities or GAN Shop changed the way you dispose of unwanted goods? More likely to 'throw things out' and put to GAN shop rather than gathering dust in the house. Now keeping things for recycling rather than putting into household rubbish.

Are you dumping less waste / unwanted goods because of these? Yes.

Have the recycling facilities or GAN Shop reduced the distance you travel to dispose of waste? Yes. No need to travel to Lerwick.

Do you think the recycling facilities and GAN Shop are useful - anything to add? Very useful and will become more so once better known. Need especially to push recycling provision and what is possible to put there.

(Bressay resident)

Evidence

Surveys

Early in the project we produced questionnaires to establish baseline figures on recycling, transport and food consumption habits but we found it quite difficult to get completed surveys returned to us. A questionnaire was filled out by 5 individuals who attended the sewing classes at the beginning of the first evening. We found this a useful gauge of attendee's interests and abilities and all the activities asked for were covered during the 5 months of classes. Of those who responded one had never sewn before and 4 could do simple sewing or could sew but would like to learn more. We asked those who attended the classes and workshops for feedback following the events and all the responses are included in this report.

Weights & measures

As the service offered at the school allows people to leave goods for recycling whenever they find it convenient we have now way of knowing exactly who or how many individuals are using the service. The items are sorted on site by volunteers, weighed and stored ready to be sent for recycling. The facility was ready for use in October and by the end of March the following quantities of goods for recycling had been collected: Plastic bottles – 40.38kg, batteries – 18.89kg, glass – 5.59kg, ink cartridges – 3.95kg, newspaper – 382 kg, drinks cans – 2.58kg. We are delighted that the community have been so keen to use the facilities. The lower weight of glass and cans is due to a council provided glass and can bank which has been sited on Bressay for a number of years.



All items sold in the Good as New Shop have also been weighed except the 46 items of furniture which included 16 wooden framed armchairs, 1 welsh dresser and 2 sets of drawers. These were too heavy for our equipment or volunteers to weigh. Items weighed are as follows:-

Books/CDs/DVDs etc. - 195.01kg, Clothing - 285.98kg, Household - 428.57kg, Toiletries - 16.12kg, Craft/Stationery - 7.61kg, soft furnishings - 36.50kg, toys - 26.44kg.

Promotion

Our main methods of communication with the community has been the BD Ltd Facebook page which currently has 334 followers and a post reach of 1148, this offers an excellent way to quickly update a large number of people. BBC Radio Shetland offers a free nightly "whats on" which we regularly use to let listeners know about upcoming events. Posters, in prime locations in Bressay and when relevant also Lerwick provide a great way to catch folks eye and put across information. The BD Ltd quarterly newsletter "Weel Bressa, Whit news" has provided information on the project in each issue.

BRESSAY DEVELOPMENT LTD

Skills for Sustainability project

Wednesday 20th April

Bressay school - 7.30pm

Bressay development Ltd are delighted to announce that we have received a grant from the Climate Challenge Fund which will enable us to promote, encourage and support CO2 reduction.

The project includes developing community repair and maintenance facilities in the school and we will hold regular classes and talks in areas including: bike maintenance, furniture repair, sewing, food growing and energy saving.

Please come along to Wednesday's meeting as we are really keen to find out what members of the community would like to learn more about and what skills already exist within Bressay.

All welcome



Transition Turrieffield Workshops

Saturdays 10am - 1pm in the Bressay school

Transition Turrieffield has been supporting folk in Shetland to grow their own vegetables and reduce food waste through their Carbon Classroom initiative since 2013. They also grow a wide range of vegetables, all organically and with low carbon impact, on the Turrieffield croft in Sandness which are sold in veg boxes throughout Shetland, in Scoop and from some rural shops. BdLtd are really pleased that Transition Turrieffield are coming to Bressay. The following workshops will be held in the school, on Saturday mornings, from 10am - 1pm.

28th January - Soil and what to grow

Soil (bring your own sample!)

Seeds & growing - go home with some sown seeds.
What to grow & where.

4th February - Planning and climate change

Planning a growing area; protection; layout, etc.
Climate change & why folk should consider growing their own food.

11th March - Practical growing and problems

Potting on & planting out
Pests, diseases & solutions
Dealing with weeds.

18th March - Composting

Why, what, how.
Build your own bin.

The events are free to attend.

Morning tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided by Bressay Development Ltd, donations to BD Ltd welcomed.



- ✗ To book a place on any of the workshops contact Sharon on 820 706 or 07547280040 or email. bressaydevelopment@gmail.com
- ✗ Transport can be provided.
- Ferries info. From Lerwick 9am or 10am, from Bressay 2pm or 3pm



The Speldiburn Cafe open 12.30 - 2.30

For soup, snacks, cake and coffee

Open the above Saturdays and every Tuesday and Friday

Whats on,

Friday & Saturday nights, Hall Social nights till 1am.

July:

Wednesday 13th - home energy advice, in the school

Sunday 24th - Bide da day in Bressay

August:

Saturday 13th - Bressay Sports Day

Sunday 28th - Bressay Garden & Produce Show.

Bressay Development Ltd Environmental Bulky Waste Uplift Schedule 2016

Month Date Location

July Sat 16 Fullerton

September Sat 17 Voieside

On site 10.15 am - 2.30pm

By prior arrangement and subject to volunteer availability, assistance may be given to uplift large or awkward items from households.

Contact: South - Edwin 07990547352.

Central - Hazel 020377, North - Alistair 020372

Let us know if you are available to help supervise.

Skills for Sustainability project

Bressay development Ltd are launching a new project called 'Skills for Sustainability' and have secured funding from the Climate Challenge Fund. Through the year we will be aiming to provide information, support and skills to enable Bressay folk to save money and energy and to reduce waste. We will be providing bikes for hire and hope to encourage more of us to cycle. We will also be setting up a community repair and maintenance room at the school and we are organising classes on a range of subjects including furniture repair, sewing, bike maintenance, food production and recycling. Our first event is a home energy advice

Home energy advice drop in

Wednesday 13th July - 11.00 - 5.30 in the school. Steven Coutts, Home Energy Specialist for Home Energy Scotland, will be holding a drop in surgery session on all matters energy, insulation and heating in the home. Residents can come along and speak to him about what support may be available for them. Steven will also take bookings for Home Energy Visits for householders thinking about changing their heating system, considering what to do about insulating their walls, and also support to householders struggling to understand their bills or how best to work their existing heating systems.

Bressay Youth Club

Chris Dyer gave the bairns a fantastic look at life in Shetland in the past.



Da Voar Redd Up

The workforce at Shetland Fish Products, Heogran, Bressay had a mid-day of the shunties from 'White and Willows' to the MTR refuelling station (over half a mile). It was upsetting to see how much brack had been washed or blown ashore. A total of 10 1 ton capacity bins were filled with old rope, netting, plastic boxes, cans and other debris while there was another 2 bins filled with plastic bottles.

One of the bottles had a message in it from 7 year old Isaac Hovesson who sent it while on a fishing trip with his father aboard the Guardian Angel. He was delighted to hear someone had found it as sent in August 2014.

Sealife, birds, animals and even humans can all be harmed by the rubbish which is mostly thrown into the sea by thoughtless people



The Bressay Sports Club, Hall Committee, History Group and Grotting Club along with several individuals also took part in this year's Redd up. The improvement is clearly noticeable and our verges just now are bright with wild flowers instead of plastic.

Isaac Hovesson with his letter.

Sewing evenings - every Tuesday

Bressay school - 7.30pm - 9.30pm

£3 per evening

29th Nov, 6th & 13th December Recycled Fabric Christmas crafts With Wendy Hand

Bring fabric if you have some but materials will be provided

Other weeks activities will be tailored to suit but suggestions so far include; learning to use a sewing machine, making cushions, using scrap fabric, changing a zip, making bunting, quilting, and making curtains.

Not sewed before? That's fine, all levels of ability welcome

Tea & coffee provided

Skills for Sustainability



Transition Turriefield workshop feedback

A

Thank you for attending one of more of the Transition Turriefield workshops. Bressay Development Ltd held the workshops as part of their Skills for Sustainability project which was grant funded by the Climate Challenge Fund. The final part of the project requires a report to be submitted to the CCF and it would be greatly helpful to have comments from participants which could be included. Please return this questionnaire, or just your comments, by email or drop it in at the school. Thank you.

1. If there was a specific area that you hoped to learn about what was it?

Hoped to learn more about growing techniques and varieties, timings etc suitable for the Shetland climate.

2. Did the workshop help with this?

Yes, workshop did definitely help with this and a lot more besides.

3. Did the workshop meet or exceed your expectations?

All the Transition Turriefield Workshops we attended exceeded our expectations. It was also good to come together with other Bressay gardeners and be inspired to look at producing more of our own food, and just take time to think about our gardens.

The workshops were very relaxed with a good atmosphere for learning and you felt you could ask any questions. The workshops improved my understanding of climate change and how what we grew could contribute to reducing climate change.

4. Have you made any changes to the following as a result of the workshops?

Yes, changes will be made both to what crops we grow and how we grow them. We will try some new crops/varieties and with better knowledge, try again with some things which have not been a great success in the past. Also looking more at growing under cover.

- What you grow
- How you grow
- What groceries you buy

More conscious of food miles and the importance of truly local fresh food.

5. Please note any comments you would like to make

These were wonderful, very enjoyable workshops which gave inspiration in the heart of winter!! Penny and Alan had clearly put a lot of dedicated work into planning and preparing these workshops and were very open, knowledgeable and interested in all our questions about growing vegetables. Their enthusiasm was contagious and gave a fresh perspective on growing our own food here in Shetland. There is no substitute for local, year on year experience which Penny and Alan clearly demonstrated. Their workshops catered for all levels of gardening experience and provided inspiration to learn some new gardening techniques and just generally give gardening a go!

(Bressay resident)

B

1. If there was a specific area that you hoped to learn about what was it?

I grow quite a lot of vegetables already but I rely mainly on the supermarket during the winter so I would very much like to extend my growing season. Also I wondered if there were easier/better ways to do some of the things I'm already doing.

2. Did the workshop help with this?

Yes

3. Did the workshop meet or exceed your expectations?

Exceeded. I was surprised by just how much I learned and I enjoyed every workshop.

4. Have you made any changes to the following as a result of the workshops?

Yes. I will plan later season planting to offer winter salad crops. I now know that my soil is a little acidic and have taken steps to improve it and I had always assumed that buttercups grew from tiny bits of root – they don't – this will save me a lot of time. The discussions around climate change have made me more adamant to buy food from close to home and to be more cautious when buying other goods too.

5. Please note any comments you would like to make

It was really interesting to hear other people's experiences of growing here in Shetland as well as Penny and Alan. Plenty to think about. The workshops were interesting and the company was great!

(Bressay resident)

Climate Challenge Output Grid

Activities Grid – Please fill in only those activities which relate to your project. More information about all of these activities can be provided in other sections of the report – these figures will enable us to collate some overall impacts of the CCF.	
How many advice/information centres – regular drop-in centre, advice surgery etc. - is your project running?	1
How many training sessions where skills and/or information were passed on – e.g. composting training, cooking workshops, etc. – has your project has held.	22
How many events did your project hold, e.g. information fairs, open days, etc.? Do not include events held by other organisations which you have attended.	2
How many people are actively involved in your project – attending groups & workshops, using the project facilities etc.?	100
How many people volunteer their time and energy to keeping the project going – don't forget the members of your management committee or board.	18
How many community-owned buildings have been refurbished?	1
How many households installed green energy generation measures – photovoltaic panels, solar thermal panels, air or ground source heat pumps, wood fuelled heating systems etc – as a result of your project?	1
How many miles of car journeys have been reduced through the activities of your project?	0
How many square metres (m²) of community growing space (allotments, poly-tunnels, raised beds, community gardens) has your project brought into use?	10
How many tonnes of waste have been diverted from landfill because of the activities of your project?	0.668.

- 40 individuals attended events and classes held as part of the Skills for Sustainability project. There are no records of names kept for those individuals using the GAN shop or the recycling facilities provided at the school.

BD Ltd directors

Hazel Anderson, Marion Scollay, Moira Smith, Sheila Tulloch, Robina Barton, Alison Reid, Beatrice Lowe.
Environment Sub-group committee also included; Afra Skene, Robert Millar, Anne & John Bateson,
Sharon Anderson (BD Ltd development worker).

Report author

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