

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.

BDL Update

Bressay Development have been working with Malcomson Architects throughout the winter on our redesign project for Speldiburn, this is the 2nd part of the project which started in 2021 and has now progressed far enough for us to submit a planning application. We have aimed to improve Speldiburn's entrance, toilets and disabled access and increase exhibition space and the number of studios we can offer. We believe the new plans do just that. We have left much of the building unaltered as some areas are working well in their current form, this saves money and keep the feel of the original school building, something many of us are keen to preserve. Iain Malcomson's trickiest task was to devise a staging plan which will allow Speldiburn to remain open while most of the building work takes place. Our work to date has been possible through grant funding from Coastal Communities: The next stage of the project is a much bigger one and will require a large amount of grant funding. The SIC has applied on our behalf to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the majority of the £1,261,620 required. Even if successful we will require several other funding sources to allow us to proceed. Our full plans can be viewed on the SIC's website.

The Brough Woodland: Thank you to all those who helped at our planting day in April - another 400 trees were added! The woodland is open all year, has beautiful views and wheelchair accessible seating area - perfect for a picnic!

Bressay Hall Plant Sale

The Annual Bressay Plant Sale took place on Sunday the 18th of May and raised a fantastic £1,055 for the Red Cross Refugee Fund. Bressay's gardeners donated a huge and varied selection of vegetable, indoor and flowering garden plants, herbs and tree cuttings with some unusual and rare finds - like Himalayan Poppies. A real treat for green fingered shoppers!



Volunteers, Elaine Morris, John Bateson and Hannah Bateson, with their stalls before the shopping starts.



Inside, a new open and airy feeling exhibition space.



A view of our proposed new entrance. Plans for this area include a 24 hour accessible toilet and shower and washing facilities for folk staying in caravans at the Marina.



What’s On?

BRESSAY HALL
New Bands Music Night Friday 18th July, 8pm - midnight
Ella’s Park Teas Sunday 3rd August
Bressay Garden Show Sunday 31st August
Cards (500) Wednesdays 7:15pm, all welcome
Mobile Library Van At the Hall Car Park. Wednesdays 1:45 to 2:45pm: 9th July, 20th August, 1st October & 12th November.

SPELDIBURN
Bressay Garden Show Meeting 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!
Living Well Hub In the NHS room. Visit for advice or a chat, and look out for notices of visiting services, such as sensory impairment, social security and oral health - look out for adverts for these visits. You can also get in touch through livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk or by calling 01595 74 4120.
RNID now also have new session starting alongside the Living Well Hub team, from 9:30am – 11:15am with the first one to commence on 28th May, then 6th August, 12th November, 4th February and 13th May 2026. They will be offering information on hearing loss, maintenance of NHS hearing aids and free hearing checks.
Bressay Under 5s Friday mornings 10:30am - 12:30pm. Suggested donation of £3 per family, all welcome.
Parkrun Saturdays: Meet outside the Heritage Centre by 9:15am for 9:30am start.
Check www.facebook.com/bressayparkrun for updates.
Keep a look out on notice boards, social media, our website and online calendar for updates.

Sports Club Updates

The Bressay Sharks recently celebrated a brilliant win in the Shetland Parish Cup Quarter Final, with the final score of Bressay 5 Yell 4. Shetland Amenity Trust has also provided 230 young trees to give shelter for the sports pitch. Improvements to the car parking area and entrance with be made over the summer. New chairs and picnic benches will be added, to make an even more enjoyable experience for spectators. There is already a small camping area on site, but future aims are to improve amenities by providing changing facilities, toilets and water for campers.



Wednesday Social Afternoon

The Speldiburn Wednesday Social has continued throughout the year and we’ve been delighted to welcome several new members. There’s always lots of interesting activities to try, with more being arranged all the time - look out for adverts. Everyone is welcome to come along and transport can be arranged if required. Please let us know if you or someone you know might be interested.



Marina Black making felted bees with the group

Made in Bressay



Originally from Sweden, Estelle and her husband moved to Shetland two years ago, drawn in no small part by the knitting culture. Her company, Midwinter Yarns, was born some 12 years ago from a love of natural fibre yarns and materials. The Midwinter Studio at Speldiburn features hand-dyed wool from a single flock in Wales, beautiful linen yarn from Lithuania, and knitting bags and needle keepers made from vintage and reclaimed materials right on the premises. There are also Fair Isle inspired needle point kits, and a small range of hand-dyed Shetland wool that Estelle hopes to expand on in the coming months. Estelle’s studio is open by appointment - please just message via social media to arrange.
Instagram: @midwinteryarns
Facebook: Midwinter Yarns

Bressay defibrillator locations

- Speldiburn - outside the front entrance
- Bressay Ferry - onboard the Leirna
- Pelagia fish factory - outside the canteen door

Bressay History Group News

Hazel and Beatrice attended a Visitor Information event in the Town Hall back in March. There were informative presentations from Visit Scotland and Promote Shetland and interesting discussions on donations versus entrance fees, card reader systems and income generation opportunities. Maintaining a Heritage Centre anywhere in Shetland is a challenge. Carol Christiansen gave a presentation on Museum accreditation, there are now seven accredited museums and Heritage Centres in Shetland. Unfortunately, the route to becoming accredited is very time consuming – the same process is required regardless of museum size, and this is something that BHG volunteers would currently be unable to do. The downside for us is that accredited museums can no longer loan items to unaccredited venues, so we cannot take out on loan any Bressay items stored in the Shetland Museum. The museum staff have offered to come over with items for a day, should that be useful.

BHG are still working to bring the Bressay Stone home to Shetland, unfortunately we had a setback earlier this year, when the Shetland Museum didn’t receive the funding they hoped to use for the project. They will reapply and BHG will apply to the Heritage Lottery. We are now hoping the stone will return in late summer 2026. As part of this project we are working with the UHI to design a new exhibition within the Heritage Centre which will incorporate a new full sized artist’s recreation of the original stone. This will allow us to share the stone and its story, and continue to explore ideas about the people who created it long after the original has returned to Edinburgh.

On Sunday the 25th of May BHG members joined Theo Smith to pump out a quarry pool in the Silver Valley. Stories exist of interesting items hidden in the bottom of Bressay’s numerous quarries. Rumor had it that this particular quarry, on the way to Globa hid an old crane hidden beneath its seven foot of water. At 4pm, after 5 hours of pumping items started to emerge near the quarry’s bottom, by 7.30pm the water was low enough to be sure of the contents. Three legs of the crane - a block and tackle pulley arrangement which would have stood up above the quarry - was well preserved though covered by later ‘bruck’, an Iron Horse, complete with a plough, a double fly wheel engine, coils and coils of fence wire and several hundred red cans. Hopefully you get a good idea from the photos attached.

Bressay Heritage Centre is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10am - 4pm until the end of September. If you’d like to get involved with any of our activities then please pop in along.



Congratulations to Selene and Jonathan

Selene and Jonathan were married on Saturday 31st May with their evening dance held in the Town Hall followed by a more relaxed afternoon at the Maryfield. Thanks to Selene for letting us share these photos. We particularly love the this one of Carly, Billie and Selene!

light lunches *homebakes* *crafts* *art exhibitions*



Speldiburn Cafe
Summer Hours

Tues - Fri	11am-3pm <i>lunches & cakes</i>
Saturday	9.30 -11am <i>breakfast rolls & cakes</i>
	12-3pm <i>lunches & cakes</i>

Good As New Shop open during cafe hours

Speldiburn Open Exhibition

Now on display! Artworks are being shown across several rooms in Speldiburn - in the Cafe Gallery, the Big Room and an installation in the Good As New Shop. The Wellbeing Hub Room also has a fantastic display of bairns' artwork - thank you very much to our young artists for their amazing work!

The idea for holding an open exhibition was by members of Bressay's monthly Art & Craft Night group, aiming to celebrate the creativity of the island's residents and those with a strong Bressay connection. The amazing range, creativity and skill of submissions that have come in has been delightful to see.

Entries were judged anonymously by a panel of local artists, Jane Cockayne, Katie Leask and Helen Robertson. Three winning pieces were selected, and these were by Estelle Hughes, David Sjoberg, and Aimee Labourne, with winners announced on Saturday the 10th of May. Thank you so much and congratulations to everyone who submitted their work, the judges and to those who helped make the exhibition happen. The judges had a very difficult task and were delighted to see such an amazing display and variety of work! A huge thank you also to Coop Lerwick for their very generous support of the exhibition and bairns' prizes.

Please do pop along for a look at the exhibition, up all throughout the summer! Some of the works are for sale.



Top: Anne Bateson with her entry, the wonderful 'Chickpea the emotional support chicken'! Above: David Sjoberg next to his winning piece 'Leviathan', Elisa Wills, Estelle Hughes with her winning jumper entitled 'My New Home'.

A huge thank you to Kathy and Noel

It has been more than seven years since the first Bressay Parkrun and Kathy and Noel have been responsible for the now famous breakfasts from the start. However, last Saturday was their final. We know Noel and Kathy have enjoyed their years volunteering in the kitchen but they are due a huge thank you from us here at BDL. Their devotion to providing a welcoming end point for all the runners and volunteers has been a big part of Bressay Parkrun's success. We hope their Saturday mornings will be more leisurely from now on! Although there will be some changes, Speldiburn Cafe will still provide rolls and drinks on Saturday mornings.



Recent talks at Speldiburn

In May, we were delighted to host two brilliant talks at Speldiburn.

The first, by Isabel Quiroz, was all about seaweed and its uses as a healthy edible. It was fascinating to hear about the properties of this plentiful natural resource, rich in vitamins, minerals and omega 3. We also enjoyed tasting samples, both baked and pickled - including 'seaweed spaghetti'! All the samples were collected on Bressay.

Jonathan Wills also gave a wonderful talk on his gardens at Sundside and Gorie. It was so interesting to learn about his crop rotations and ways of refreshing the soil. A discussion about supporting Bressay growers followed - if you're interested in growing and gardening, please do get in touch and we'll add you to our 'Growing Group' mailing list.

Thank you to Isabel and Jonathan, and if you have a passion or specialism that you'd be willing to share, we're always keen to facilitate talks at Speldiburn. We have a projector, laptop, screen and speakers to use.



Isabel and Benji Wills tucking in to a seaweed meal