

# Weel Bressa, Whit News?

## Bressay Development Update

### Meet our new Development Officers!

In July, Aimee Labourne and Heather Christie began their three year post, sharing the DO role. The post is funded by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise. They will be looking at development ideas for BDL and Bressay, including assessing the island's housing needs and seeking funding for alterations and improvements to Speldiburn. Meet them on page 2.

### Lighthouse Update.

We are delighted to say that BDL has been selected as one of the preferred proposals for use of the lighthouse. We wish to ensure the building's future brings the most benefit to the community, and so we are still welcoming thoughts and ideas while the SAT continue to consider submissions.

### NHS Clinic update.

Humza Yusaf, the Scottish Government Secretary for Health and Social Care visited Speldiburn's new clinic as part of his recent tour of Shetland. The NHS is piloting a new model of health care in Shetland, where professionals visit the islands for certain appointments and procedures, and money that would have been used for a nurse is reinvested.



Humza Yusaf in the refurbished GP room at Speldiburn

### Thank you Marion!

We wish to say a big thank you to Marion Scollay, who stood down as a Director in July. Marion has been a long-standing and active volunteer, initially as a BCDA committee member. We are very glad (relieved!) to say that she will continue her involvement as a volunteer.

### Get involved!

Would you like to get involved in our many activities and projects? As well as new directors, we're always seeking new members and volunteers. There's a form enclosed in this issue for membership, or simply email [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org) if you wish to volunteer. Read all about our many volunteering opportunities in this issue!

Please contact us with your comments, suggestions, views and questions regarding any of the projects in this issue. Contact our new Development Officers, Heather and Aimee - their working days usually cover Monday afternoons, Tues to Friday 9 - 5, and Friday mornings. Look up [www.bressay.org](http://www.bressay.org), email [development@bressay.org](mailto:development@bressay.org) or call 01595 820 706

### Community markets are back!



Above: Mariette Lowe and Danni enjoying market day!

Visit our Community Market where you'll find freshly picked island veg, flowers, eggs and more. Our next markets are **Sunday 11th September** and **Sunday 9th October, 2- 4 pm**. Speldiburn Cafe will be open for tea and homebakes, so make an afternoon of it - shop local, have a cuppa and a yarn!

**Why not sell some of your own produce, homebakes, jams, arts or crafts? Get in touch to book a table - £2.00 each.**

### Wool Week is just around the corner!

We look forward to welcoming Wool Week visitors at the end of the month and would love your help! We would like to showcase Bressay made items, new and old. Do you have something to add to our existing displays of wool, knitting and weaving for sale? Or an heirloom that we can exhibit for the week? Would you like to bring your needles/wheel/loom to the cafe and chat with visitors about your process - with a cuppa of course! Additional volunteers in the cafe are also needed.



**What a show!**  
Read all about the return of the Bressay Garden and Produce Show on page 4.

# What's On

**Bressay Community Market.** 2 - 4pm, 11<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October. Buy and sell your produce, and chat with local growers. Tea and cake in the cafe. Tables are still available, just contact [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org).

**Speldiburn cafe.** We are currently open Tuesday till Saturday, 11am- 3pm. Look out for winter opening times towards October.

**Tidy Up Day.** 2 - 4pm, 11<sup>th</sup> September at Speldiburn. We'll be sprucing up outside Speldiburn this Sunday - all welcome to help with general tidying, and don't forget the cafe is open too.

**#Second Hand September** Second Hand September is a campaign initiated by Oxfam to encourage people to buy only second hand items that month - and the Good As New Shop is here to help! For the month of September, all of our clothes are half price. Ask at the office or cafe for a browse during cafe opening hours

**The GAN cannot run without the help of our brilliant volunteers - but we're always looking for more help, both working behind the scenes or welcoming customers. If you can spare some time, please get in contact!**

**Bressay Under 5s.**

Friday mornings from 10.30 and 12.30. £2 per family, all welcome.

**Badminton at the Hall** Badminton is back at Bressay Hall! Monday evenings from 7.00pm. Equipment is provided, or feel free to bring your own. No need to book, just come along.

**Parkrun.** Still every Saturday! Starting at the Maryfield Car park, and turn up around 9.15am for a 9.30 start.

**Wool Week at Speldiburn.** Wool Week makes a welcome return, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct! As well as welcoming visitors, there will be special displays and local makers to chat too. See opposite for full details.

**Big Draw Comes to Bressay.** This October, Aimee Labourne of Aert Workshops will be holding a series of events for both bairns and adults as part of the Big Draw Festival, an international celebration of drawing. Keep a look out for posters and online updates with details soon!

**Winter Workshops.** We are currently planning a winter programme of varied workshops - watch this space!

See our new online calendar for updates - visit [www.bressay.org/whats-on](http://www.bressay.org/whats-on) and follow the link.



## Meet the new development officers

### Aimee

After being brought up in Lincolnshire and studying Fine Art at Falmouth University, Cornwall, I moved to Bressay in 2016. It's been lovely to have a studio at the school all this time, and to hold drawing workshops at Speldiburn, most recently as 'Aert Workshops'. I was also involved in the cafe in its early days, organised the craft sales and exhibitions and been a Director. I hope I can bring this varied experience to this new role.



### Heather

My paternal family are Bressay folk, and we moved here from Dunbar last August. For the past 20 years I have run my own business as a designer and illustrator. In my younger days I worked in community education, helped manage a cafe and was a hairdresser when I left school! I am a painter too, but it often takes a back seat to looking after my family. I



hope to bring all my skills to BDL (perhaps except the hairdressing!)

BDL Would like to say a big thanks to Claire Davenport who's temporary development post was to look at ways for BDL to continue to work towards Net Zero. Her report will be taken forward by Heather and Aimee.

## Share a skill

Are you an artist, a crafter, a photographer, or perhaps you are multilingual - or do you have another skill that you would like to share? Speldiburn is the perfect place to hold a workshop or classes, especially now that the nights are getting darker. Do get in touch if you'd like to hire a room for your class or workshop.

## A message from the Sports Club

The Sports Club would like to thank the community of Bressay for helping them to raise funds for the new sit-on mower, along with Community Council and SIC grant funding. It has made such a difference in the short time we have had it so far.



Kenny and Mark with the new mower

## Woodland Group

Our new community woodland at Brough is thriving. The old crub towards the south end has been rebuilt and the group has just had a maintenance session to ensure the tree guards would withstand winter. We'll be thinking about next year's planting sessions soon.

**The woodland group are always looking for new volunteers, please get in touch via [www.bressay.org](http://www.bressay.org).**



## Shepherd's Song

The Celtic Neighbours Development Project 'Shepherd's Song' gave BDL a hansom of some beautiful art prints by the Welsh artist Luned Rhys Parri and a small amount of funding. This led to a day where Speldiburn celebrated the old crofthouses and settlements of Bressay. We displayed the prints, folk brought in old photographs from around the island and bairns created their own crofthouses. It was a popular and fascinating afternoon, with requests to do something similar again, so watch this space.



Our well attended afternoon produced much discussion and creativity

## Bressay History Group at the Soutterain

This summer members of Bressay History Group walked out to the Wadbister souterrain on Bressay's glorious east side. Nothing is known about the history or use of Wadbister's underground structure but souterrains were generally iron age and common to the north of Scotland, with others scattered in Ireland, Denmark and northern France. Their varied size and shape suggest there was no single common use but a cold store for food or a place for ritual or custom are generally suggested. They may have offered refuge, and it has been suggested that locally, they were used in the 1800's as a hiding place from the Naval Press Gang.

The Wadbister souterrain is entered by a very narrow opening just to the north of the township. Only large enough to slide in on one's stomach, dark and damp, entry is not for the faint hearted! Originally the entry tunnel was certainly longer than present as records exist to show that locals successfully sought permission to remove a section of the tunnel for lintel stones (between 1910-1930). Once inside, the end chamber is kidney shaped, roofed with flat stones and large enough for a few of us to sit comfortably. The stonework is well built. Intriguingly, a large trough quern has been used as one of the base stones.



## Bressay Public Hall AGM

The Hall now boasts a beautifully refurbished floor and will soon have new heating too. To hear more about the committee does come to the hall AGM on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, everyone welcome.

To book the hall call 820 200 or email [bressaypublichall@yahoo.com](mailto:bressaypublichall@yahoo.com)

### Bressay Community Market

Sunday 11th September  
Sunday 9th October

2pm - 4pm

Speldiburn

Producers can book a table by emailing [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org)



The Bean Shop Coffee • Art & Craft • Wi-Fi

### Wool Week

24th September to 2nd Oct



- See Bressay Crafters at Work
- Special Displays of Bressay Knitting and Craft
- RAM Open Studios
- Makkin and Yakkin
- Cafe Open for Lunches, Teas, Coffee and Cake





Sat 24th	- 11 - 3	Good As New Shop Open Ask at the office or in the cafe for a browse
Tues 27th to Sat 1st	- 11 - 3	
Sundays and Mondays	- CLOSED	



# Bressay Garden and Produce Show

BDL were delighted to hold the annual Bressay Garden & Produce Show again this year. The day was a fantastic celebration of Bressay's talented producers! There were stunning displays of variety and quality, including flowers, vegetables, photos, junior art, home baking and jams. It was lovely to see such a great turn out of folk during the afternoon.

As well as the exhibits, tea and delicious homebakes were enjoyed by all, a raffle was held, and a Plant Sale in aid of the IRC Ukraine Appeal Instantter raised a fantastic total of £156.00. The Tattie in a Bucket Competition provided great fun outside in the sunshine, and the winners unearthed amazing crops.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who took time and such care in entering. Your entries together made a stunning show which was full of colour and skill.

We would also like to thank the judges, Ian Smith (fruit & Veg), Ali Mason (food), Karen Baxter (floral) and Alex Boak (photography) for their time & diligence. Thank you also to the many people who helped out on the day to make such a lovely show.



## Trophy

Best Pot Plant  
Bruntland Rose Cup  
Best Floral Arrangement  
Best Cut Flower  
Best Junior Floral Exhibit  
Hillton Fruit Cup  
Basket of Vegetables  
Anderson Best Vegetable Exhibit  
Tattie Cup  
Food Trophy  
Photography Cup  
Junior Shield (any exhibit)  
Best In Show (any exhibit)

## Winner

Elizabeth Edwards  
Sheila Tulloch  
Beatrice Lowe  
Sheila Tulloch  
Lee Smith  
Susan Manson  
Christine Skene  
Jonathan Wills  
Lyle Tulloch  
Aimee Labourne  
Malcolm Innes  
Lee Smith  
Beatrice Lowe



*Clockwise from top:* Ella Tulloch with her miniature garden.  
Lee Smith with his trophies after his many brilliant entries amazed the judges amazing.  
A crowd assembles for the excitement of the raffle!  
Elizabeth Edwards with her trophy amongst the lovely display of flowers and plants.  
Jonathan Wills with his Anderson Best Vegetable Exhibit Trophy  
There was a fantastic display of carefully grown fruit and veg - despite this years challenging growing conditions!

