

Weel Bressa, Whit News?

Bressay Development Ltd update

BDL's response to Covid-19

BDL has joined a number of 'Community Anchor Organisations' throughout Shetland. We have received a total of £10,100 to help support the Bressay community during the pandemic from the Supporting Communities Fund and the Wellbeing Fund, both set up as a result of Covid-19. As well as using this money to directly help Bressay folk we will also use it to assist other local organisations who are well placed to support families and individuals in Bressay. We have spoken to the Red Cross, Mind Your Head and VAS and along with other Community Anchor Organisations. Our details will be shared with public and third sector organisations so that BDL can be asked to help where we can. So far this has included providing help to Mind Your Head and Shetland Carers.

We hope Bressay bairns have had fun with their new growing packs. We included herb plants, flower and salad seeds – all edible and bee friendly! There was a bee activity pack too so that the bairns can help encourage us all to look after the pollinators in our gardens!

We want to find the best ways to support Bressay folk but we need your help so please do keep your suggestions coming!

BDL has offered the SIC Education Department use of the nursery and / or the big room to help provide space for Bressay bairns during this period of Covid-19 restrictions. The SIC have been considering using community buildings, as one option to provide extra space when the bairns return to school, though the Government guidance on this has recently changed. The Nursery is a purpose-built facility which has remained unchanged since the School closed and so could easily be brought back into service if needed. It is used weekly by the Bressay Under 5's group.

Welcome to our more regular, version of Weel Bressa, Whit News? Everything's changing and news needs updating so regularly just now that we've decided to put out a monthly newsletter in an attempt to keep up. We love sharing your stories, photo and goings on so please send us anything that might interest our readers. Contact us at info@bressay.org

The Speldiburn Office is closed just now but feel free to contact Jackie on 07904445610 or Chris on 07748 926454.

Please contact us if you require help – The pandemic has affected folk in different ways, in some ways wouldn't expect. If you require help with shopping, collections of medications, affording those essentials or help with dealing with the isolation caused by the pandemic please get in touch. We will either try to provide help ourselves or get in touch with an appropriate organisation that can help. All enquires will be treated in complete confidence.

Please contact us if you wish to volunteer – You may have time available to help or access to a service or skill which could benefit others in the community.

Please contact us with ideas or information to share

Please contact us to let us know how you wish to receive information – We all like to receive information different ways – by letter, email, phone call or via Facebook.

To find out more call Jackie 07904 445610, Chris 07748 926454, email bressaydevelopment@gmail.com or message us on Facebook

Our BDL website has information and useful links relating to the pandemic

<https://www.bressay.org/community/coronavirus-pandemic>



Bressay bairns collecting their grow packs. L-R, Auden Riise, Dolly, Pip, Patty and Joanie Mason, Willow and River Tulloch.

Woodlands, polycrubs, farmers markets

Thanks to everyone who has made suggestions for new projects BDL could develop in the coming months and years. Almost all the ideas have involved community growing, supporting local food production and improving our outdoor spaces so we're really keen to begin a project or two which help advance this area. Top on our list of ideas to investigate are a community Polycrub/growing space, increasing and better promoting Bressay produce and a community woodland.

The community woodland idea is quite exciting as it would enable us to provide outdoor space for the community unlike anything available at the moment, with sheltered picnic areas, easy to access walks and opportunities for art and education. We could also increase biodiversity in Bressay by planting native trees but also providing areas where re-wilding could be allowed to happen naturally. The site suggested so far is the area to the west of the Brough loch, below the Gorie track, because its peaceful setting is already popular with walkers, has good road access and parking and suitable terrain for the project. We would love to hear your views and suggestions for any other/additional sites. Keep the ideas coming!

Good As New Shop Drop Off Evenings

We know some of you have been gathering items for the GAN recently so we're delighted to be able to open to receive donations on: -

Wednesday 1st July - 7pm to 8pm

Wednesday 8th July - 7pm to 8pm

A one-way system will be in place, just come in the front door and head straight on into the big room.

Good as New items only please!

Speldiburn Library

Books and puzzles can be ordered from the online [Speldiburn Library](#). We are happy to deliver them free of charge to anyone in Bressay or we can arrange for you to collect them. We've added a couple of examples of the sets you can choose from below but there's plenty more online.



Set 'Summer Reads C'

Set 'Thrillers B'

Ferry timetable changes

On the 29th of June the ferry will return to the regular timetable with the eonly without the late runs. The last run every evening will be at 10pm.

Welcome to Bressay Renzo Spiteri and Gaby Giacchino!



Chris Dyer has been along to visit Gaby and Renzo to find out a bit more about the Curious Pilgrims at North Wart!

Renzo and Gaby both herald from the Mediterranean island of Malta and moved to North Wart from the Yorkshire Dales in October 2019.

A number of you will be familiar with the much appreciated and valuable work Gaby has been undertaking through her role as a freelance pharmacist at Boots, gathering and delivering prescriptions with Renzo, during the pandemic lockdown. Gaby also has a background in arts management and web design.

Renzo is an internationally respected multi-percussion player and drummer, composer, improviser and sound artist who specialises in interdisciplinary and cross-artistic projects, collaborating with contemporary dance choreographers, visual artists, theatre directors, spoken word artists and filmmakers.

Renzo and Gaby have formed Curious Pilgrims - check out their website www.curiouspilgrims.com or [@curiouspilgrims](#) on Instagram and Facebook.

Curious Pilgrims is a not-for-profit community interest company interested in culture and the arts, in the natural world and environment, and the positive effect that these have on the wellbeing of individuals and society. Renzo and Gaby intend to collaborate with individuals and organisations to create a wide-range of projects, events and activities, designed to provide opportunities for public engagement and participation.

The have recently received funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Plunge In! Coasts and Waters Community Fund was established by SNH to help community groups across Scotland support this year's event.

The fund will be used by the organisation for Sonic Outreach Shetland (SO Shetland), a project that "explores, celebrates and promotes Shetland's coastal areas through sound with the use of audio technology and creative strategies". Renzo will work alongside young people from Anderson and Brae High Schools on the project.

We look forward to a future workshop in Bressay!

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 share a word which she heard used in Bressay.

Last issue > Fantin (v) - Fainting with hunger; starving.

This issue > - Sweeri (adj)

Two Archive Photos



We thought we would share some photos from the Heritage Centre archive to celebrate the Mail Shop and and thank Alison for ensuring we all have access to the essentials we need, especially during recent months. The photos show the Mail Shop as some of our (slightly) older readers will remember it. The top photo, taken around 1969, shows Irene Smith, Jeannie Smith, Howard Thomson, Marjory Thomson and Winnafred Sutherland. The 2nd shows Barbara Smith, Hilda Black and Laurence Anderson n 1979.

New Interpretation boards

Bressay History Group has produced new interpretation boards to replace the panels at the Lighthouse and Culliesbrough which became illegible in recent years. The designs and text for the new panels were agreed during the winter but their production and collection from ArtMachine has been delayed by the lockdown. The new panels are really informative giving visitors historical and social information about each site. Culliesbrough is a particularly varied site where thousands of years of human habitation have shaped the landscape of this, now abandoned, but popular to visit beauty spot. Culliesbrough is ideal for walking, with interesting wild flowers, a variety of birds, plus seals and occasional otters to enjoy.



Speldiburn Art Gallery

For Speldiburn Café's second online exhibition of 2020, we are delighted to present the paintings of artist and illustrator Heather Christie

Many of you will already know Heather, as her Linklator roots bring her and her family to Bressay regularly during the school holidays, staying in a caravan at Beosetter or the Marina.

Heather has a Diploma in Botanical Illustration, but the work in this exhibition is contemporary so different from conventional Victorian-style illustrations.

Heather's series of beautifully observed studies of common wildflowers are painted in acrylic on dibond aluminium panels. The exhibition titled 'Peerie Flora' can be seen on our website www.bressay.org/arts-crafts/exhibitions until the end of August.



'Shetland Hawbit' 2019 20x20cm, by Heather Christie.



What's Growing On in Bressay?



Thanks to everyone who's shared their photos of spring time in Bressay. We would love it if you could keep them coming into the summer! You can see them all out on our website but here are a few of our most recent favourites.

Clockwise from top. A gorgeous new calf sent in by Emily Gifford at Grindischool, organic and full of bee friendly flowers, John and Anne Bateson's garden is abuzz just now, the last of the daffodil photos from Roberto at Pettifirth, Damian Loynd repairing stonework at Beosetter, one of Bressay's fabulously floral roadsides, Ella and Magnus Tulloch exploring the 'jungle' at Millagord, Nell the new, and very cute, puppy at Brough.

R.A.M Knitwear - looking great in Bressay and da toon!



"R.A.M" has just launched a brand new website and online shop with a fab new logo! Roisin and Rosie have had a busy time lately; the website is one of a number of achievements this year - R.A.M were awarded 'Made in Scotland' trademark for their products in March and they have a brilliant new shop premises in Commercial Street to add to their studio in the school in Bressay.

Roisin's fun designs and contemporary colour schemes are created using luxury yarns including Merino, Silk and Shetland wool. As she utilises end of season yarns (unloved yarns) her products are both sustainable and unique - as there may only be enough yarn for 2 or 3 pieces. To check out some of her fantastic knitwear visit R.A.M at <https://www.r-a-m-knitwear.co.uk/shop>