

# Weel Bressa, Whit News?

## **Bressay Development Ltd update**

### **BDL's response to Covid-19**

#### **Sanitiser**

BDL has hand sanitiser available to top up folks bottles so please get in touch if this would be useful to you. We will be extending this service to include pre-filled bottles and supplies for community buildings.

#### **Art packs**

We've sent out 39 art packs to Bressay bairns and teenagers this month each containing age specific materials, suggestions and instructions to help them get creative.

#### **Sport and Play**

We've added new equipment to the store in the multi court, including an assortment of tennis rackets for all ages, balls, skipping ropes and hula hoops.

#### **Going virtual**

For anyone with access to the Internet please check out our Facebook, website and You Tube channel as we have lots going on the web this year. Our 3rd online art exhibition has gone live, the brilliant 'What's Growing On' photos have been hugely popular and there are crafts to view and buy and books to borrow. For those who don't go online then we've shared some of our favourite photos and artwork here in the newsletter.

#### **Bringing Bressay To You**

BDL has a new You Tube channel! Chris Dyer has been out making short videos of some of Bressay's most interesting and scenic spots. So far this has included the Lighthouse, Culliesbrough, Aith and the Bard. We hope this will encourage more of us to explore our island whilst also allowing those further afield to enjoy the sights and sounds. We are adding videos weekly and sharing them on Facebook too. You can find us by typing Bressay into the You Tube search bar. We hope you enjoy!

**Welcome** this summer's Weel Bressa, Whit News?

Contact us at [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org) if you have any photos or stories which could be included in the next edition.

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



Above. New equipment for use in the multi court.

### **Help us help our community**

As a Community Anchor Organisation BDL has received money to help support the Bressay community. We would welcome suggestions as to how we can best help those in our community most affected by Covid-19. Please let us know if you or any of your family or neighbours requires any sort of assistance or you think an organisation currently supporting folk in Bressay could do with extra help.

Call Jackie 07904 445610, Chris 07748 926454, email [bressaydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto: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>



Benji Wills having fun with his art pack and the art packs ready to send out round Bressay.



## Bressay Hall AGM

**Thursday 13th August 7.30pm, by Zoom.**

The Bressay Public Hall AGM will be taking place via Zoom this year. The committee know that this won't suit everyone who might like to attend but they are happy to share information on the past year's developments and finances, and to answer questions. Please please get in touch with Roddy or Chris if you would like any information. The committee would also be delighted to welcome new members and volunteers so please let them know if you'd like to be more involved.

Meeting ID: 820 2056 8461

Passcode: Leirna

For help or information contact: -

Chris (kyoab@outlook.com 07880590331) or

Roddy (roddych@gmail.com 07793151359)

## Bressay Community Council meeting

**Thursday 6th August from 7-9pm via Zoom.**

Public are welcome to attend.

Meeting ID: 863 9256 0569

Password: Leirna

## Speldiburn Online Exhibition



Speldiburn Cafe is delighted to hold an online exhibition by illustrator and designer GillyB. 'Designs From Shetland' features a collection of Gilly's papercuts and mixed media pieces which capture transient moments and delightful details of island life.

Aimee Labourne spoke to GillyB to find out more about her eye-catching work, how walking brings her best ideas and what drew her to Shetland. The full interview can be viewed along with GillyB's exhibition at [www.bressay.org/arts-crafts](http://www.bressay.org/arts-crafts). A lovely range of GillyB's papercut and mixed media greetings cards can also be seen on our website.

## 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 > Sweeri (adj) - Lazy.

This issue > Lippen (v)

## Keeping Bressay Clean

BDL are encouraging bairns to design posters to help keep Bressay clean. Photos of the completed posters can be sent to [info@bressay.org](mailto:info@bressay.org) or our facebook page until the end of August and then we will display them around Bressay. We are really proud to share the first two posters by Patty Mason (top) and Mariette Lowe. What fantastic works of art and a great message to put across.



## Art in the Garden

**Saturday 15th August, 2-5pm**

Join us for an afternoon's drawing and sketching in a beautiful Bressay garden!

Gardens are inspirational places, where we can observe many kinds of natural forms and wildlife in just one place. Whether you are interested in colour, botanical shapes and structures, or simply wish to spend time in nature, enjoying its calm and ever-changing effects, this class is for you!

Suitable for all levels of drawing ability. Please dress appropriately for the weather, bringing extra layers should the day turn cold. Also bring a drink if you wish, and something comfortable to sit on for working outdoors.

All materials are provided, but you are welcome to bring any art materials that you like to use.

Places are limited, so please contact Jackie on 07904445610 or email [bressaydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:bressaydevelopment@gmail.com) to book.

Current social distancing guidelines will be followed throughout.



## Danadays

Jonathan Wills is custodian of a fantastic collection of photos taken at Gorie and Noss. Margaret Findlay, niece of Jessie and Tammie Laurenson of Gorie, has kindly agreed he can share these wonderful glimpses of past times with us.

In this picture from the Mainland Collection, probably taken by Tammie o'Gorie when he was home on leave from Salvesens in 1937, we see Jessie and her father-in-law, Aald Tammie, with a sheepdog on the briggistanes at Gorie. Note the freshly-tarred roof and the new stove pipe on the south gable, while the north one still has a wooden lum.



In June 1933 the Dutch photographer Jan Strijbos visited Noss, where he took this picture of Jessie Jamieson (daughter of Jimmy and Joan Mary Jamieson, remembered now as Jessie o' Gorie, wife of Tammie Laurenson). Jessie and her sisters were renowned oarswomen and here Jessie is seen launching the Noss boat from the old noost at Gungstie. Jan Strijbos later became a well-known film maker. He survived the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and after the war kept in touch with Jessie, sending her some of the pictures he took, which are now in the Mainland family collection. Photo reproduced by courtesy of Mrs Margaret Findlay.

## History Group busy at Culliesbrough.

There's been a lot of activity at Culliesbrough over the past month – it's a great place to visit and walk the banks in Summer with so much active wildlife and human history.

You may remember from the last newsletter that the Bressay History Group has produced a new interpretation panel to replace the faded one in the kirkyard. This has now been installed and takes you through a 4000 year tour of Bressay History, from Bronze Age burnt mounds to Iron Age brochs, Viking houses, croft and fishing station remains.

One of the most fascinating pieces of history at Culliesbrough is the story behind the Bressay Stone. The stone was found buried near the graveyard of St. Mary's in 1852 and was given to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1864, now the National Museum of Scotland.

The Bressay Stone is a Pictish cross-slab dating from 8th-9th centuries AD. It is a Christian monument and indicates that Culliesbrough was a significant holy place in early Christian Shetland.

The sides of the slab have ogham inscriptions which include words and names that are Gaelic and Norse indicating that a Christian community of mixed cultures was living here in Bressay in the 9th century after the Viking settlement.

In 2000 a replica of the Bressay Stone was installed within the kirkyard. Over the past 20 years, the lichen has covered the ornate carved depictions of people, animals and Pictish artwork. The Bressay History Group spent an afternoon gently removing the lichen (*Ramalina siliquosa* lichen for those who are interested!) to restore and put on view to all the full detail of the Bressay Stone.

The group are also working on a new panel dedicated to telling the story of the Bressay Stone. This is presently with the designers and it is hoped that this can be in place through August.



Images. John & Chris from the Bressay History Group. Images showing the intricate Christian, Pictish and Norse carvings.



## What's Growing On in Bressay?



Things are warming up on our 'What's Growing On In Bressay' web page. It's lovely to see folk reaping the rewards that summer brings! You can see them all at [www.bressay.org](http://www.bressay.org) but here are a few of our favourites. Top. Hannah Bateson's Gunnista allotment packed with vegetables and flowers, Babbie's croft - Elizabeth Edwards's veg in the foreground, tomatoes in the new Fairview planticrub. Middle. The glorious honeysuckle in full bloom in John and Anne Bateson's garden at Hunchibanks, Fiona and Peter Gray's homegrown veggies, a colourful park of bird seed flower mix growing at Brough. Bottom. Mariette Lowe at da Knowes with a tray full of courgettes, Emily Gifford and a calf at Grindischool, Ella Tulloch in a park of corn.



We love these photos of bairns out enjoying the Bressay sunshine. Pip Mason, River Tulloch, Patty Mason and Mariette Lowe show off the very pinchy crabs they caught at the Mail. Benji Wills and his cousins Cleo and Robin Gifford exploring the tree house and rope swings that have appeared in the wood that the late Tom Mainland planted at Gorie some 30 years ago. Dean Gifford, Struan Macdonald, Mariette Lowe, Magnus Tulloch, Alfie Tulloch and Breagha MacDonald enjoying a hay day.