



Weel Bressa, Whit News?

Seasons greetings! welcome to our December issue. Please get in touch if you think there may be a way BDL can help you or a neighbour during these strange times. The Speldiburn Office is closed just now but feel free to contact Jackie on 07904445610 or Chris on 07748 926454. Or email us at info@bressay.org

Bressay Development update

The school is ours!

We are absolutely delighted to report our community ownership triumph! The SIC have agreed the transfer of the school, yard, sheds and multicourt to BDL.

Speldiburn has become a great success and a fantastic asset, the result of passion, help and hard work by so many folk. We would like to thank everyone who's played a part in this longstanding project and to the wider community for their encouragement and for their patience, especially in the early days when the vision sometimes seemed unobtainable.

For BDL there is plenty more to do and our next plans will hopefully include a green energy upgrade and refurbishments to make better use of the space inside and out. We want the Speldiburn to be warm, even more welcoming and able to provide as much benefit to the community as possible.



Speldiburn Christmas Lunch Friday 11th & Saturday 12th

We would love you to join us for a festive lunch.

Starter

Pate and homemade oatcakes or fresh fruit medley

Main

Turkey with trimmings or roast veg pie

Dessert

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or trifle

£12 per person

**To book please call 820706 (Fri/Sat)
or message us on facebook**



Handmade in Bressay! Christmas treats all available from the Speldiburn Cafe. Hot chocolate and sweet treats by Bev's bakes, fantastically festive woven stockings, scarves and shawls by Fjon Fibres, Charming Christmas decorations by Rozanne's crafts. We have other Bressay made items including a lovely range of items by R.A.M Knitwear, colourful gifts by Made in Bressay and new 2021 year planners by A Day In The Year.

A unique community Woodland

We think this is a really exciting project which will lend itself to whatever social distancing rules we find in place during the coming months. We are really keen to hear the Bressay folks' views on the plans so far and any ideas that might be added to the project.

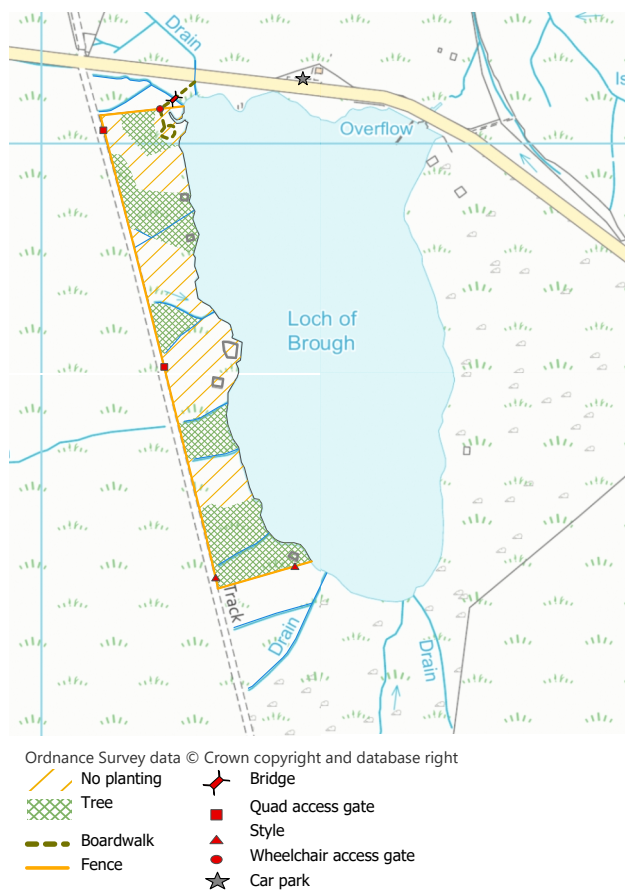
Along with a few members of the community, BDL have been working with John Scott (land owner), RSPB, Shetland Amenity Trust's Woodland Team, Bressay Grazings Committee during the past few months to agree the site and the main project aims and objectives.

Our site plan has been produced with the help of local experts who have surveyed the land and provided a species list of plants currently on site and birds known in the area. We hope to plant 3000 trees, a mix of low growing willow, birch, alders on the site, 1000 to be planted in year 1.

We hope this project will: -

- Provide a new kind of recreation space in Bressay, open to the public year-round and providing sheltered picnic spots and social, volunteering and educational opportunities.
- Be planted only with historically native species as per the species listed in Unst Professor, David Spence's book, 'Shetland's Living Landscape, A Study Of Island Plant Ecology'.
- Include areas without tree cover to allow natural re-wilding to take place, whilst other areas will be planted with native flower and plant species.
- Provide a unique opportunity to recreate Shetland's once wide spread scrub habitat, allowing long-term biodiversity changes free from sheep & rabbits.
- Include plenty of community participation through tree planting and annual arbor days. Bairns' involvement is particularly important and will be encouraged from the start.
- Include a path to provide disabled access to the main seating area. Paths through the woodland will be simple trampled tracks with unobtrusive wooden signs to indicate main routes.
- Not obstruct access round the loch to the model yacht sailors or cause an obstacle to crofters caain sheep.
- Provide outdoor space for creative opportunities – art, sculpture, poetry, soundscapes.
- Provide outdoor education and play space for bairns and nurture an interest in nature and the local environment which has been more widespread during lockdown.
- Include panels and leaflets to provide information on Shetland's historic scrub woodland, BDL's community woodland aims and encourage interest in wild flowers.

The site runs along the west shore of the Brough Loch and will require a new fence following along the east side of the Gorie track. BDL have been in discussion with The Garth Estate about a 20 year lease of the site for a community woodland.



Areas in green are illustrative only as a planting plan is still to be agreed.

Inspiration here in Bressay

It takes time for trees to grow, especially here in Shetland, but it can be done. Below are photos from two small privately owned woodlands here in Bressay. One established at Gorie 30 years ago by Tom Mainland and one established at Gardie by John and Wendy Scott.



Danadays



This photo of the Noss peat stack from about 1933 gives some idea of the massive labour required in the old days to keep warm in winter. Putting the final touches to the huge stack were Joan Mary Jamieson (right) and her daughter Maisie.



In the summer of that year the Dutch photographer Jan Strijbos took this picture of Maisie and her sister Jessie (Jessie o' Gorie) leading a cartload of peats home from the bank, which was a mile away, above the deserted house at Setter of Noss. Both photos courtesy of Mrs Margaret Findlay.

Covid-19

BDL still have some peerie bottles of hand sanitiser at Speldiburn and please remember we are happy to offer a top up service, we have gel and fluid available.

Desk space

Anyone struggling to work from home? BDL can offer desk space within one of Speldiburn's multi purpose rooms, all have fast wifi connections. Printing facilities are available too.

Maryfield Festive Menu

Maryfield's Festive Menu runs from the 4th December until 30th December and includes the traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings as well as scrumptious sounding 'slow braised beef cheeks' and 'creamy four cheese baked butternut squash'. An extra special menu will be available on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Blythswood shoeboxes



Thanks to everyone who donated a shoe box of gifts to the Blytheswood appeal. The boxes were collected at Speldiburn on Saturday the 6th and we had a great response. The boxes will be heading to eastern Europe and contain essentials as well as treats, aimed to bring some happiness to people living in poverty at Christmastime. We know some of you ran out of time to make up a box so we hope to do this a bit earlier next year.

Card payment on the ferry

A new card payment machine is in operation on the Bressay Ferry. This means Bressay ferry customers now have the option to pay by debit or credit card.

Christmas Card delivery

Here's a note from Alison

"Due to Covid and the usual group being unable to deliver Christmas cards this year, it has been decided that the Mail Shop will take on the delivery of local cards. All cards will be kept in a safe place for 72 hours then delivered. This will be done on a rolling basis, not all at once as usual. The same price as last year will stand (35p per card) and the funds raised will still be going to help the Bressay bairn's Christmas party. The box will be in the shop from Monday and I look forward to receiving them from you. Thank you all for your support during this difficult time."

visit us at www.bressay.org for community information, online art exhibitions and photos

The Speldiburn Good As New Shop is ready for Christmas

We have a fantastic range of Christmas decorations in stock as well as our usual great selection of homewear, books, clothes and toys. We add new stock every week and please ask if there's something you're looking for as we have stock stored away too. We're open every Friday and Saturday lunchtime and by appointment to suit. The 18th & 19th of December will be our last weekend before Christmas but if you'd like to visit during the festive please message us on facebook or email info@bressay.org.



Spooky sights at Speldiburn



Some spooky visitors braved the ghastly weather on Halloween Saturday to visit the Speldiburn Cafe. They were rewarded with prizes for the best costume, lantern or ghoulish art work. Here are a few photos, clockwise from top left: - Cousins Freya Paton, Ella & Magnus Tulloch and Astrid Paton. Artwork by Danni and Mariette, Guisers Patty Mason, Mariette Lowe, Dolly Mason, Danni Manson and Pip Mason, Freya Paton's winning pumkin, Cleo Gifford's super spiderman rigoot!