

INITIATIVE AT THE EDGE

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Aug 2006

Issue 4

Northmavine Development Company Newsletter

Community Computer Gift



LORNA SANDISON

Scott Lobban, Andy Sandison, Alex Purbrick, Kelly Goodlad and Pat Christie check out the new computer

Northmavine Development Company were recently gifted a computer for the office from Train Shetland (Vocational Training).

The computer was originally given as a prize to

Train Shetland last November at the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) annual awards ceremony. The organisation, won the Gold Award for providing access to Vocational Training to small and rural businesses.

Winning the award meant that Train Shetland could place the computer in a more remote area and Northmavine was chosen due to its *Initiative at the Edge* status.

To enhance the package for public use, internet access and a printer are being provided by the Northmavine Development Company. The computer is available for use by any member of the public with only a small charge for paper. Ac-

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www.northmavine Launch

Northmavine's new community website is to be launched in August.

Fiona Cope and a small group of volunteers have been working on this over the past months and now have the basis of an excellent site ready to roll!

The content includes some short personal statements about the five main settlements in Northmavine, photographs and details of local businesses.

The launch will take place at North Roe Hall



LORNA SANDISON

Fiona Cope and Charlotte Stevens at work on the new website

on the afternoon of Saturday 26th August. You will be able to view the site and or-

Website Launch

Saturday 26th August

North Roe Hall

Northmavine Community Needs Survey



This project is funded through Community Scotland's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) scheme. One strategic outcome of this scheme is to help communities to think in terms of local health and general well being.

To this end the Northmavine Development Company (NDC) are conducting a survey to look at various social and well being issues within the Northmavine community. The questions posed in the questionnaire have arisen through research and discussion with several Northmavine groups, organisations and individuals. NDC partner agencies such as the Shetland Islands Council, and NHS Health Promotion have contributed to the wealth of infor-

mation gathered so far.

The main aim of this survey is to look at how facilities within the local community could be improved. So far various issues have been raised ranging from public transport, the concerns of elderly folk in the community to improving social activities for the bairns.

A copy of the questionnaire accompanies this newsletter and we would urge you to take a moment to complete and return it. A stamp addressed envelope has been provided.

Your assistance in this is very much appreciated and the informa-



PAT CHRISTIE

STEP Student — Mark Ratter

Digital Mapping Project

Northmavine Development Company have employed a STEP student over the summer months to carry out an investigation into the potential uses for digital mapping in the area.

The STEP programme is a project-based placement for undergraduates and we were fortunate to get Mark Ratter from Lerwick who is currently studying Tourism at Stirling University.

The NDC currently see Digital Mapping as a very useful tool for promoting Northmavine within Shetland and potentially world wide. The ultimate aim of this research is to consider whether a project could be funded to look at designing virtual tours of the area which include walks and amenities. Such an innovative

The Happy Hour Club

Pat Christie was delighted to be invited to meet with the Happy Hour Club when it met recently at the Sullom Hall.

This club for local senior citizens has been running for many years and has recently gained a number of new members. Traditionally the club has met every fortnight at a different local hall on each occasion.

As well as chatting to friends over a cup of tea, members can relax over a game of cards or listen to the occasional guest speaker.



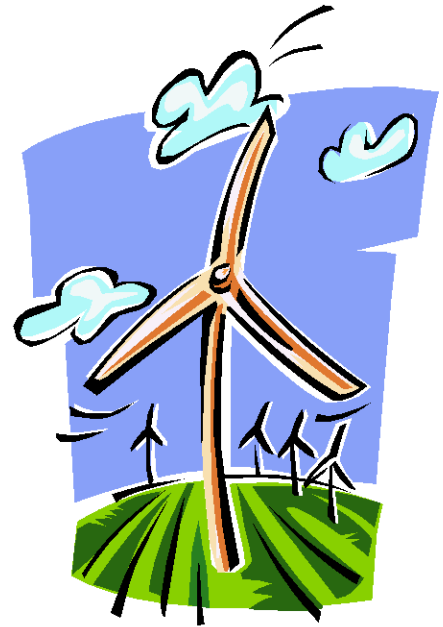
LORNA SANDISON

Renewable Energy Audit

How can the Northmavine community benefit from renewable energy generation?

The potential was recognised in the Northmavine Development Plan launched last year, so we have engaged a team of experts to help us come up with some answers. Daniel Aklil and Northmavine's own Robin Duncan from PURE Energy are working with Patrick Ross-Smith of the North Isles Renewable Energy Partnership to understand how to get the best out of the projects already happening in Northmavine, and to identify future projects which might benefit the community.

Enclosed is a questionnaire which we hope you will take 5 minutes to fill in and send back to us in the stamped addressed envelope accompanying this newsletter, so your views and ideas can be taken into account. Later this year we'll let you know what suggestions have been put forward in their final report.



Tourism

The NDC are pleased to inform readers that Alan MacDonald of North Roe recently took up the role of *Support Worker* for the NDC Tourism sub group.

Funding for this post was secured through Community Scotland's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) scheme. The particular aim of this part of the funding being to help commu-

nity groups secure well-paid job opportunities in fields such as tourism.

The tourism group is now well established and with Alan's help they intend to look closely at what amenities are currently in the area. From there they will try to identify gaps in provision and look at possible opportunities to develop sustainable tourism pro-

What are WRVS doing at the moment in Northmavine?

WRVS is a national organisation that aims to cover all the United Kingdom. The Lerwick office is tasked with covering only the Whole of Shetland; this of course includes the Northmavine area. Our stated mission is "to help people maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities particularly in later life". So what is WRVS doing at the moment?

WRVS is currently investigating setting up a *Luncheon Club* in the Northmavine area. In order to do this we will require volunteers. Luncheon clubs are normally monthly events and require at least three disclosure-checked volunteers with essential food hygiene certificates. A paid cook would be employed by WRVS to prepare the food with the volunteers concentrating on serving and providing transport. The disclosure checks will take at least 6 weeks and the club cannot start until they are in place. Therefore if you would like to volunteer please apply now.



The WRVS are also looking for volunteers for other schemes including *Good Neighbours* which arranges for volunteers to come to people's homes in order to complete small tasks, such as changing the curtains, light gardening and shopping. *Accessible Transport* which for some reason is more popular than other schemes with male vol-

unteers. Drivers use their own car to take clients to various locations such as the local shops, into town or the doctors. Volunteers need to have a clean licence and a suitable car in addition to being disclosure checked. There is only a small charge to the service user. *Telephone Contact* aims to get regular contact to people who would otherwise not be able have social contact. The

service users of this scheme may be in a remote location or not want to have people in their home. It is surprising how a phone call can lift someone's day.

WRVS service users may need our assistance because of: age, illness or special needs.

LEADER + Visit

LORNA SANDISON



Members of the national LEADER + funding programme are pictured here taking a stroll at Eshaness cliffs after eating excellent Shetland cuisine at the café nearby. They enjoyed their visit and were interested to hear of the various activities being carried out by *IatE* in Northmavine and in the North Isles.

Eshaness Business Units

The possibility of building workshops in Eshaness could move a step closer, if potential businesses submit a viable business plan to Shetland Enterprise by early 2007. Hjaltland Housing Association (HHA) could project manage construction of the units, in conjunction with the “unplugged” houses scheme. The units would be owned by Northmavine Development Company and leased to tenants, with any profit being ploughed back into community projects.

HHA hope to finalise building plans for the “unplugged” scheme by Spring 2007, so potential tenants have until then to be ready to get their business idea off the ground. As we have said in previous newsletters, Shetland Enterprise are happy to help with business plans and marketing strategies to give folk a head start.

Mavis Grind

In our community consultation, Mavis Grind was identified as the “gateway” to Northmavine and folk felt more could be made of the area. Plans are already underway to install a “Welcome to Northmavine” sign near to the Virdins quarry to help make visitors aware they are entering the district.

Plans are also afoot for a “redd-up” of the large area used by the SIC to store machinery and plant. Since this idea was mentioned in our last newsletter, many ideas on how to develop the area have come forward. Initial ideas are to erect a fence or bund to contain SIC equipment at the South end of Mavis Grind, improving the amenity of that area. Car parking facilities, leading to a viewpoint, could also be provided at the North end with interpretation boards and orientation boards to give information on

places of interest in Northmavine. Finally the no-mans-land in the middle could be planted with grass and flowers or shrubbery to brighten things up.

Folk have also submitted ideas on the type of interpretation which could be displayed at Mavis Grind. This includes explanations of our Northmavine place names, information on how the isthmus has been used by seafarers over the centuries. The tank traps were also something folk felt warranted explanation as well as the Neolithic house.

Outline plans and sketches of the initial ideas will be available for folk to see at the Web-site launch in North Roe. Please

Core Paths

SIC have secured £12,500 to be made available for Core Paths and Access in Northmavine. This money could help add to our existing walks, such as the walk from Eshaness light to da Grind O Da Navir, by funding the installation of stiles or self-closing gates and signs. This could help in both the preservation of fences and directing where folk walk. This money can also be used in conjunction with funding crofters may receive for Core paths from the Land Management Scheme.

SIC funding has to be spent fairly soon, so if you have an idea for a walk within Northmavine please contact Pat at the office or Roger Tait, SIC Planning – 01595 744832. Maps of the district will also be available at the Northmaven community Council zoning meeting and our Web-site launch for folk to mark areas they would like to see included in the scheme.

Northmavine Development Company AGM

The NDC AGM will take place in October. We will be contacting everyone who expressed an interest in becoming a director on the St Magnus Bay registration of interest document in the next few weeks. If you are interested in becoming

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