



Northmavine Community Development Company

Happy New Year!

We are busy getting back to normality again after the festive period. We have our usual monthly newsletter continuing this year along with a weekly round of 'What's On' on our social media pages. If you'd like to receive the newsletter through email or if you would prefer to receive it in the post, please get in touch and we can arrange that for you.

Email: ncdcoffice@northmavine.com or phone 01806 544222, or just nip into the office if you are passing by.

The NCDC Board are looking for anyone in the community interested in joining. Like usual we have several exciting projects in the pipeline, and we are busy making plans for our 20th Birthday! If you'd like to join the NCDC Board, come along to our AGM, we intend for this to be held on the *3rd March 2023*, we will confirm this nearer the time.

January Vouchers

Hopefully the January vouchers haven't made it in the dumping pile after the Christmas clear up, but just a reminder to spend the January voucher in the shops by the 31st of January.



Shetland Kye Research Project

Do you know about Shetland kye? If you raise Shetland kye, or grew up in a family that did, we would like to talk with you. A UHI Shetland Northern Institute research study is gathering information about the breed.

The study is exploring the relevance of Shetland kye in today's market through examination of the breed's significance in Shetland culture, and its potential for contribution to future Shetland cultural heritage and economic sustainability. Debs Reichman, herself a long-time cattle producer, and now a graduate student at UHI Shetland, is conducting the study.

Please give Debs a call or send a note to let her know you'll help, and she'll get right back to you.

Telephone: 07833 586208;

Email: 22017346@uhi.ac.uk





Polycrub ran their Festive Crub competition and after counting up all the votes the winner was Mandy Robertson, with runners up, Lorraine in Orphir and the Wastview Care Centre in Waas.



Mandy's Stavaness Crub



Lorraine in Orphir



Wastview Care Centre's
Christmas Grotto Crub



New Year, New You, New Membership!

We'll be sending out reminders for Bruckland memberships in due course, if you would like to become a member at Bruckland please get in touch with us. We are looking for volunteers to work 4 hours a month, this will in turn reduce your membership by 50% so please give it a thought.



By the time you're reading this there will have no doubt been another storm, over the recent weeks we've had Gerrit, Henk, Isha & Jocelyn all causing havoc in various ways across Shetland, we hope everything is still holding together beside you.

Something to start this year is planning your growing year, what you will grow, where and when. Two things to consider if you haven't already are succession planting and companion planting. Succession Planting is when you plant your crops a few weeks apart so that you're not left with a huge crop to use in one go. Companion Planting is an organic method of maintaining a natural balance in your garden by growing plants together that are mutually beneficial.



Highlands & Islands Enterprise Webinar

- An introduction to growing vegetable crops in controlled environments for small producers - 30 January, 3-4pm.

The webinar will provide an introduction to controlled environment agriculture (CEA), also known as protected cultivation or growing. Our guest speakers will provide an overview of different forms of CEA, share trends and innovations and explain where the challenges opportunities lie.



We will hear from Prof Derek Stewart, Director of the Advanced Plant Growth Centre at James Hutton Institute in Invergowrie and Jo Hunt, Owner of Knockfarrel Produce, who offers a local veg box scheme near Strathpeffer.

The people we expect to join are:

- small existing growers/producers e.g. crofters, community groups, social enterprises, market gardens
- people/groups/organisations who are thinking about setting up their own growing operations.

If you'd like to sign up for the online event click on the link or type in www.hie.co.uk/event-and-training

Beat those January Blues

January can often be a lonely time of year, having just had Christmas & New Year where your social calendar has been at its busiest. Getting out and about for even just 2 hours a week has considerable benefits. Northmavine has some of Shetland's most beautiful scenery, a walk along the beach at Stenness, or Heylor or a wander through the trees at Swinister is just a few ideas. There are various walking challenges that you can focus on too, such as the Land's End to John O' Groats challenge, by noting down how far you've walked and uploading it to their website or app you can track your progress. Make your own walking challenge, get a map of Shetland and highlight the routes you have walk, you'll soon find yourself setting new routes to walk to.

Crafts and hobbies are other ways to reduce your stress, boost your mood, and your cognitive function. Crafts like crocheting and knitting are very popular, go along to the weekly gatherings in Sullom on a Thursday night or the fortnightly class in North Roe on a Tuesday night or monthly hap night on a Monday night in Ollaberry. All the groups are welcoming and willing to help and share tips for anyone wanting to learn or improve their skill. There is also tea and tabnabs!

Interested in music or learning to dance? The Northmavine Fiddle & Accordion group meet every Tuesday in the Hillswick Haa and are joined by dancers every second week.

If local history piques your interest, come along Tangwick Haa on Monday evenings and join the Northmavine History Group to help set up the exhibition for 2024.

Interested in gardening or growing your own vegetables, start small with planting up a few pots. Watching what you've grown yourself can be a great boost to your confidence in gardening, and finally sampling what you've grown - even better!

Finally if your new years resolution is to get moving you can head to the Ollaberry Hall on Mondays from 6.30pm or Sullom & Gunnister Hall on Wednesdays from 6pm for circuit based exercises.



Annual Weather Report Ollaberry for 2023 By Joy French

"Whether the weather be Cold, or whether the weather be hot

We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not"

January 2023 began and ended with January and December matching each other with just over 200mm (8 inches) rainfall, 120% Of 30year average. Regarding temperature, the mean for January was +0.5 deg C. different from the average, while December was -0.5 deg. C.

February - usually a bright month, had only half its sunshine hours, but was wetter and less cold. This heralded a change in pattern of the months through the whole year.

March - the 5th began 2 weeks of snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures. Snow depths reached almost 3 feet (87cm). Winds blew the snow back in, where it had been cleared, and schools were closed for 2 weeks. Not conducive for planting potatoes!

April - at last sunshine hours rose to 154hours, which was 6 hours above the norm! It was also a dry month (55% of Average) which was very welcome, but soil temperatures were reluctant to rise after the long snow period in March, so any sown seeds sat in the ground waiting for warmth.

May - usually our best month of the year, did not help. It was a dry month but plagued with cloudy days (14) colder than usual, and 5 days with humidity at 99%.

June - usually a dull, misty month was the best of the year: driest with only 37mm rainfall (65%): wind-speed 5.7mph (lowest since 2004): 7 days calm: hottest day of any month this year at 23.6 deg. C. : and most sunshine hours 208 hours (145%) in 2023.

July - Towards the end of the month Shetland hosted the "Tall Ships Race" for a few days before it moved on to Norway. Immediately following their departure thick mist came down and lasted to the month end, drizzle, rain – 2 days had humidity 100%. Had this been a few days earlier we would not have seen a single ship!

August - had none of its usual heavy rain days, and so had half its normal rainfall total. At the end of the month the blue moon was seen at its best as it rose about 21.30 pm. At times it was obscured by cloud as it moved across the sky, and sometimes seen into the next morning hours – spectacular.

September - seemed to have taken on August style weather – heavier rain fell, warmer temperatures, a difference from average of + 0.9 deg. C., and a maximum daily temperature of 21.1 deg. C, a sunny month.

October - seems to have slid into November type weather, cooler, wetter, less sunshine, and 4 gale days with all the usual disruption to ferries, flights and empty supermarket shelves as there were no mainland boats.

November - During the first few evenings aurora borealis was seen in Shetland in different places depending on shifting cloud cover.

December - Each day of the first week there were white frosts, lasting all day, even out of the shade, and keeping to sub-zero temperatures. This was also a week of completely calm days, hardly a stir, virtually unknown in Shetland. On 21st & 22nd all schools closed owing to gale and snow lying, following day all snow gone due to heavy rain and rise in temperature.

Then WHAM! For the first time in any December since 2004, there were 9 gale days, which brought all the usual disruptions once again to airline traffic and ferries, both local and mainland, including 5 consecutive days up to New Year's Eve. On 27th Storm Gerrett blew part of the roof off of the Shetland Hotel, opposite the Ferry Terminal in 80 + mph winds. Quite an exit for 2023!



© Charlotte Anderson



Successful Family Bingo Night

There was a successful night in the Ollaberry Hall for the Christmas Family Bingo night. £460 was raised for the hall.

Special prizes were given out to Christine Duncan for best Christmas Jumper and the Robertson's for best dressed family.

The hall committee would like to thank everyone who came along and made it a lightsome night.



Sandison's Spaegie Tonic World Invitation Darts Tournament

The annual world renowned Sandison Spaegie Tonic darts returned to the Voe Side Area in Hillswick last weekend and had a record number of competitors. Spectators were kept entertained by a duo nearly as famous as Laurel and Hardy, Colin Williamson and Ivor Duncan. Some folk may have thought they were having deja vu with Julie Keith and Yvette Adamson in the women's final for a second year. However, it was Yvette's turn to take home the trophy and the glory. The men's final saw James Haa take on Stuart Paul and after a tense Stuart was crowned the champion. A special prize was also given to Brydon Anderson who had the highest check out at 95.



Northmaven Community Council Local Grants

Applications are invited from local groups and organisations who wish to apply for grant aid from Northmaven Community Council

Forms are available from:

NCDC, Ollaberry Hall, Ollaberry, ZE2 9RT

Telephone: 01806 544222

E-mail northmavencc@gmail.com

Forms should be returned by: Wednesday, 31st January 2024.






NCDC Youth Board

Are you passionate about making positive changes to the lives of children and young people in Northmavine. With an initial pot of £500, NCDC looking for young people aged 12-18 years old to set up a Youth Board to make sure the voices of young folk are heard.

Volunteer at Bruckland!

If you're aged 18 and over you could volunteer at Bruckland for just 4 hours a month!

Both the Youth Board & volunteer hours can go towards the  as well as being noted on you CV, university and college applications



If you think your child would be interested please get in touch with us at ncdcoffice@northmavine.com.

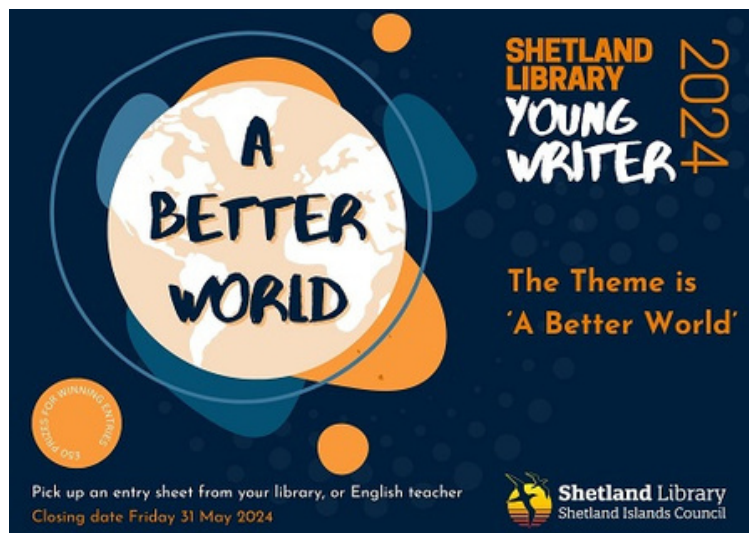
Shetland Library Young Writer Competition 2024

The Shetland Library is running their Shetland Library Young Writer Competition again this year, their theme this year is 'A Better World.' They have 3 separate categories: age 7 - 9, age 10 - 12 and 13 - 18.

They are looking for either an original poem or an original short story (750 words max.) written in English or Shetland Dialect and you could win £50!

You can pick up an entry sheet from the Shetland Library or your English teacher.

You can find more information [here](#) about the competition



What's On

Thursday 1st February

Family Beetle Drive 6-8pm - *Urafirth Primary School*

Friday 2nd February

Ollaberry Lunch Club 12-2pm – *Ollaberry club room*, all welcome

Mass meeting of guizers (see Shetland Times for start time) *Hillswick Hall* bar open afterwards & food available.

Sunday 4th February

Up Helly Aa ticket sales (usually 2pm) Halls open for 2024 are Hillswick, Sullom & Gunnister and Ollaberry.

Ronas Drama Group, *Sullom & Gunnister Hall* 4:30pm

Tuesday 6th February

Winter Warm Space 12-2pm - *Hillswick Hall*

Tuesday 16th February

Maakin & Yarnin Night - *North Roe Methodist Kirk* 7.30pm

Thursday 15th February

Annual pre Up Helly Aa Soirée 8.30pm - *Hillswick Hall* - musicians most welcome

Friday 16th February

Northmavine Up Helly Aa

Up Helly Aa Programmes will available at both shops.

Saturday 17th February

Sullom & Gunnister Hall Hop Day Session
Hop Dance, *North Roe & Lochend Hall*
more info to follow.

Wednesday 21st February

500 7:30pm - *Hillswick Hall*

Tuesday 27th February

Winter Warm Space 12-2pm - *North Roe & Lochend Hall*

Every Monday

Bruckland open 2pm -5pm

Ollaberry Fitness Group - Ollaberry Hall
6.30pm

The Living Well Hub Brae Youth Centre 10am - 2pm

Every Tuesday

Bruckland open 2-5pm

Northmavine Fiddle and Accordion Club
Hillswick Hall 7.30pm start

Every Wednesday

Sullom Fitness Group - Sullom & Gunnister Hall
6pm

Every Thursday

Makk & Yakk- Sullom & Gunnister Hall 7pm

Every Friday

Northmavine Under 5's Ollaberry Hall 1.30pm - 2.45pm. During term time

The Living Well Hub Brae Youth Centre 10am- 4pm

Every Sunday

Bruckland open 2-5pm

