



We hope this newsletter finds you well, and you've recovered from the Northmavine Up Helly Aa. We hope the Jarl Alan Doull and his family enjoyed their weekend.

### **NCDC Soup & Bannocks, Seed Swap & AGM**

We will be holding our first ever seed swap on Sunday 3rd March 2024, from 1:30pm in the Ollaberry Hall. There will be soup and bannocks available, along with a talk from James & Carol from Da Barn at 2.30pm.

#### **How a seed swap works**

Do you have some plant and veg seeds that you would like to trade and swap? Pop along to this free event and bring along any seeds you want to trade / swap. We will have envelopes and pens available to take something new away with you.

#### **AGM**

Our AGM will be at 3pm. We are voting on changes to our Articles of Association this year so it is really important to have at least 20 members to vote in the changes. The changes to our Articles of Association will allow us to access different types of funding. If you would like to vote but are unable to attend, you can nominate Charlotte as your proxy. Just send an email to [ncdcoffice@northmavine.com](mailto:ncdcoffice@northmavine.com) to say you are happy for that to happen. We will have information about the Old Urafirth School, the Community Fridge and Growing Local phase 2.



This is the time of year to start cutting back your plants/bushes ready for the spring, keep your cuttings and take them to our new composting machine at Bruckland. We have two wooden stores down near the big polycrub where you can leave cuttings. If you need help, please come Monday or Tuesday between 2-5pm.

As we're still prone to the cold temperatures and frost just now, it's best to delay another month and sow seeds in pots, or trays for starting off in the windowsill/airing cupboard.

Get early leeks, aubergines, chillies, celery, celeriac, sown now to make sure they have a long enough growing season. Other vegetables that you can get sowed for planting out in March & April are pak choi, spinach, chard, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli.

Make sure to continue to ventilate your uncovering growing spaces, even if the temperatures are low or it's snowing outside.



## 10 Questions we Jarl Alan Doull

### 1. What made you want tae be a Jarl?

I've been oot in squads before, and thought I wanted tae do it, I aye thought about doing it and geein it a go ann see whit laek it is.

### 2. How many Jarl squads have you been in?

I've been in 5 for Northmavine, an 3 for Delting.

### 3. Whit's de favourite thing tae do?

I lik hockin oot an about we odds n sods, building stuff, workin we cars. Anything dats hands on, I lik keenin dat I've made it or fixed it.

### 4. When du wiz peerie, whit did du want tae do when du grew up?

I wanted tae be a brickie, and den a sparkie, but I aye fell back on fixin stuff, an hust always wanted tae be a mechanic, I enjoyed hockin we dad fixin stuff at Islesburgh.

### 5. Whit's de favourite meal?

I lik a good curry, and probably went through da maest of da menu at da Brae Indian. I like steak, lasagna but lamb chops is probably da ultimate craving.

### 6. Whit's de youngest memory?

I mind aye goin tae da Houbans, in Sullom, rattling up n doon da Mangaster Straights in Dad's old transit van, listening tae Box Car Willie, we Dad, Neil & Euan, and going back along da dump at da Sullom junction, and findin something dat we could fix up back at Islesburgh.

### 7. If you didna hae Walking On The Waves, what wid de ider squad song have been?

I did winder about Best of All Possible Worlds by Kris Kristofferson, but didna fit in. Dir wiz a Luke Combs sang – When It Rains It Pours dat I also windered about. I'd half decided on Walking on The Waves afor da Tall Ships, but seeing aabody enjoyin dat sang when Tidelines played it, I kent dan I should keep it for da squad song – I just didna expect tae perform it on da stage at da hop in da North Roe hall!

### 8. Whit wiz du looking forward tae da most?

It wid likely be da procession, and watching da galley going doon. Annider thing wiz hoping aabody wid hae a good weekend.

### 9. Whit is a standoot moment for de fae da weekend?

Da procession, and going up da ranks. How da squad all gelled tagider, an how da weekend went, dir wiz all da age groups oot havin a good weekend. Da weekend afor when we got wir photos taken, I wiz getting my photos done, but shouting da rest o da squad doon tae come an get dir photos it wiz an overwhelming moment watching dim comin doon ower da hill, all rigget in dir suits. It wiz da first time we aa had wir gear on, and seeing da finished look.

### 10. Does du hae any advice for da future Jarls?

Start ordering early, anything you really want tae hae, get it ordered. Get a good squad o boys dat can get on we da makkin o it aa and enjoy it aa, whitiver contribution dey can mak big or smaa its appreciated. An dinna worry, it'll aa come right, you joost have tae go we da flow, and tak in as much as you can.



## Weather Report for January 2024 by Joy French, Ollaberry

*"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"*



Some winter weather to start the New Year! We'll start with wind and snow.

Wind first, when the highest gust of the month was on the last day, 31st and reached 68mph, Storm force 11. The wind blew from the early hours, continuously through the day at Force 8 and more, till it eased in the evening to Force 6 to 7, gusts 8 to 10 – big deal.

There were 5 other days with gusts over 50 mph, plus a further 11 days with gusts over 40mph. (Officially to MET Office standards we had 9 gale days.)

This left a quieter spell ... Yes ... when it snowed from 14th to 20th, and schools closed, and many work places too. Here the accumulative snow reached 24 cm (10 inches), but where it blew in, much more – a job for the diggers.

Now to Sunshine, or absence of sunshine hours. There were 16 totally sunless days, and the remaining number of days reached the total of 13.3 hours (30.2% of 30 year average). Now to a worrying thought. Is this a January trend when looking at the last 4 years?

2023 – 17.17hr: 2022 – 7.6hr: 2021 – normal: 2020 – 13.9hr. Is this telling us something? Hopefully not!

Temperatures. The daily maximum was 10.0deg C on 28th: daily minimum -3.4deg C on 17th: lowest grass -5.8deg C on 16, 17th: and overall Mean Temperature was 4.0deg C. (January average = 4.4deg C.) Air frost: 1 day. Ground frost: 16 days. Again some high temperatures for a 24 hour day were in the night, depending on a change in wind direction!

### Northmavine Beach Clean Group

Do you enjoy walking along some of the beautiful beaches here in Northmavine? Would you be interested in joining a beach cleaning group? Northmavine has some of Shetland's best beaches, both sandy and stoney. Shetland's location in the North Sea, doesn't help with the amount of litter and bruck that appears on them, we must keep our beaches clean, for our wildlife and for ourselves.

We have been speaking with the Scottish Island Federation who are keen to get some regular data from Shetland about what types of marine litter are being found on our beaches. You can find out more about the project [here](#).

We are looking for anyone who would be interested in forming a beach cleaning group that will meet once a month. If you would like to get involved, email [charlotte.anderson@northmavine.com](mailto:charlotte.anderson@northmavine.com) or phone the office 01806 544 222. We plan to have our first beach clean during Da Voar Redd Up. More details to follow.



## Athlete Travel Award Scheme

Round 1 of the Athlete Travel Award Scheme closes on Friday 1st March 2024. For more information please click [here](#)



## The Braewick Café

The Braewick Café will be opening for the season from Friday 8th March, and will be taking bookings for Mother's Day on Sunday the 10th. The cafe will be open Thursday - Sunday, with a view to opening more later in the season

## Ronas Drama Group

The Shetland County Drama Festival starts on Monday 11th March at the Garrison Theatre in Lerwick. The tickets are on sale now online [here](#) or simply go to [shetlandarts.org](http://shetlandarts.org) and click on the 'Drama & Dance' button.

The Ronas Drama Group's play '*Spice Up Your Sandwiches!*' is an original Shetland Comedy piece written by Willie Robertson. Their performance is on Wednesday the 13th March.



## Good Food Nation Consultation

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act passed into law in 2022. Under this new legislation, Scotland will be the first UK nation to have a "National Food Plan".

The Scottish Government published its draft Plan on 24 January 2024. The public consultation process is open and is inviting responses to:

- the outcomes outlined in the plan;
- its ways of measuring progress (indicators & targets);
- how different groups envision life in a Good Food Nation.

## TAKING PART IN THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Anyone can share their response to this draft GFN National Plan before it is submitted to parliament.

To share your response:

- READ the draft Good Food Nation Plan (download the full document from the Scottish Government's website [here](#), or you can access the "Easy Read" version [here](#)). You may also find our background briefing useful, as it provides useful context on the both the GFN Act and draft Plan, and their development.
- RESPOND to the consultation by 22 April via CitizenSpace Scotland

Public Consultation Events are also taking place across Scotland between February and April. To see the full list of all in-person and online events click [here](#).



## What's On

### Friday 1st March

World Day of Prayer- Ollaberry Church - 7.30pm -  
*Service has been prepared by the women of Palestine*

### Saturday 2nd March

Soup & Sweet - Urafirth Primary School, 12-2pm  
Northmavine Up Helly Aa Guizers Return - Sullom & Gunnister Hall, , 8:30pm

### Sunday 3rd March

NCDC, Soup & Bannocks, Seed Swap & talk from Da Barn - Ollaberry Hall, 1.30pm  
NCDC AGM - Ollaberry Hall - 3pm - *new board members welcome*  
Chinese Takeaway - Hillswick Hall, 4-8pm

### Monday 4th March

Hap Class - Ollaberry Hall, 7pm

### Tuesday 5th March

Winter Warm Spaces Coffee Morning - Hillswick Hall, 12-2pm  
Sullom & Gunnister Hall AGM - Sullom & Gunnister Hall, 7:30pm - *new committee members welcome*

### Friday 8th March

Ollaberry Lunch Club - Ollaberry Hall, 12-2pm

### Saturday 9th March

Chip Suppers - North Roe & Lochend Hall, 5-7:30pm

### Wednesday 13th March

Music evening with Natalie Cairns-Ratter - Ollaberry Hall - *more details to follow*

### Thursday 14th March

Chinese Takeaway - Ollaberry Hall, 4-8pm

### Saturday 16th March

Kirk Hall Sale - Ollaberry Hall, *more details to follow*

### Tuesday 19th March

Winter Warm Spaces Coffee Morning - North Roe & Lochend Hall, 12-2pm

### Wednesday 20th March

500 night - Hillswick Hall, 7:30pm

### Friday 29th March

Quiz night - Hillswick Hall, more details to follow

### Every Monday

Bruckland open 2pm -5pm  
The Living Well Hub Brae Youth Centre 10am - 2pm  
Northmavine History Group, Tangwick Haa Museum, 7:30pm

### Every Tuesday

Bruckland open 2-5pm  
Northmavine Fiddle and Accordion Club Hillswick Hall 7.30pm start  
Makkin & Yarnin, North Roe Methodist Kirk, 7:30pm, *(Fortnightly from 12th March)*

### 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

