



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

### Easter Holidays!

It's the Easter holidays, and we have put together an Easter Holidays Activity booklet, full of ideas of what to get up to. There are walks, scavenger hunts, colouring in, craft ideas and much more that will keep you all busy during the holidays.

There will be a few copies printed in the shops and you can find it online [here](#), this doesn't just have to be for bairns and families, if you'd like to get out and about but don't know where to start this will get you going.



### Da Voar Redd Up 2024

You can now register your group for the annual Voar Redd Up. Da Voar Redd Up - a community clean up scheme - has been running for over 30 years, with groups and individuals gathering bruck from the sides of the road or beaches. As you know Shetland is unique with its scenery, wildlife and weather, and for this reason it is important that we keep our islands clean.

If you'd like to learn more about Da Voar Redd Up, or register yourself as an individual/group/or join an existing group please click [here](#)

Da Voar Redd Up takes place from the **20th - 26th April 2024**, *please remember to drive carefully as there may be groups out along the roads gathering bruck.*



The Northmavine Beach Cleaning Group will have its first beach clean at the West Ayre, Hillswick on Saturday 20th April from 12-2pm followed by tea and tabnabs in the Weaving Shed Gallery. Everyone is welcome to join.



## NCDC Seed Swap & AGM



We held our first ever seed swap this month, there were various varieties of seeds donated from house plants to flowers, and vegetable seeds to herb seeds. We hope that those who came to the seed swap have a successful year with the seeds they took home.

Along with the seed swap in the hall, we had up our presentations for the Community Fridge, Bruckland, Polycrub, Growing Local phase 2 and The Old Urafrith School project.

The Ollaberry Hall provided some lovely soup and bannocks for lunch. James Titcomb from the Da Barn did a talk on 'What to grow, when and where' which proved insightful for the novice gardener. This was followed by our AGM.

Overall there was a good turnout for the day, and we have lots of seeds still available here at NCDC HQ, if you are interested please phone the office on 01806 544 222 email [ncdcoffice@northmavine.com](mailto:ncdcoffice@northmavine.com). We will be at the Living "Well" Hub in the Brae Youth Club on Friday the 5th of April 11am-2pm with all our seeds, come say hello!



## Community Winter Pop-ins: Northmavine

There were 4 scheduled Community Winter Pop-ins so far this year held in the Hillswick Hall and the North Roe & Lochend Hall, they have been run by the Shetland Islands Council & Community Learning & Development. The first one in February which was due to be in Hillswick was cancelled due to the snowy weather at the beginning of the month, since then the remaining 3 have gone ahead. NCDC joined North Mainland Community Worker Lynsey Hall at all 3 and it's been great to meet with members of the community and have a catch up, as well as a few tourists who popped in, who were glad of a warm bowl of soup, a cuppa and a chat. These events **are free and open to everyone** the purpose is to get members of the community out to have a catch up with friends and make new ones.

The Ollaberry Lunch Club, run by Charlotte still proves to be quite popular since the Winter Warmers started last year, with a fair few regulars coming along. The Ollaberry Lunch Club takes place on a Friday once a month, from 12-2pm.

It is hoped that there will be a few more dates added in the coming months so if you fancy a change of scene, or meet other members of the community please do pop by. We would all love to see you!

## Old Urafirth School

Through funding we received from the Scottish Land Fund in 2023, we got a up to date housing assessment for the whole of Northmavine done and also architectural feasibility drawings done showing potential options for the site. You can view both documents on our website. We are now moving into phase 2 of the project. We have an Expression of Interest into the Rural Highland and Islands Fund which we hope to hear back from in the next few weeks.



## NCDC Youth Board

Charlotte met with pupils from the Brae High School earlier this month to discuss developing a Youth Board here in Northmavine. We had 4 students interested and have had our first meeting as a group. The Youth Board are looking to put out a survey to young folk in Northmavine in the coming weeks and are looking to organise a fundraising event in the summer holidays.

If anyone aged 12-18 years old are interested in getting involved, please contact Charlotte at [charlotte.anderson@northmavine.com](mailto:charlotte.anderson@northmavine.com) or phone 01806 544222

## Polycrub for rent

NCDC have been approached to help advertise a 4 x 10 m polycrub which is available to rent for the year. Sylvia is looking for a peppercorn rent and some veggies in return. There are a few established fruit trees in the polycrub already. There is also an outdoor space available too. Tools can be provided.

Sylvia is also looking for a general handyman/gardener to help out hours and pay negotiable.

If you are interested call Sylvia on 01806 544 266 or alternatively email [ncdcoffice@northmavine.com](mailto:ncdcoffice@northmavine.com)



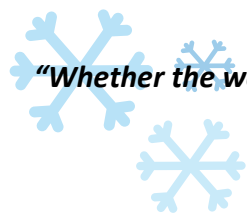


The lighter nights are finally making their come back, it seems its been a very long, dark, wet & windy winter. We seem to have had the odd nice day in between though which helps spur us on in the garden bit by bit. The tidying never stops in the garden, you can tidy up and then the next gale comes along and you're back to square one. Although the better weather is coming, there's still not enough strength in the sun just yet, and there is still plenty of chances for the temperatures to dip to freezing.

For a late July harvest you could plant cabbage, brocolli and cauliflowers at the end of the month, along with peas in various containers like modues, pots or short lengths of rone pipes , ready for planting outside in May.

If you are pruning any hedges or shrubs you can put the cuttings in the wooden containers next to the big polycrub at Bruckland. We plan to use these to make compost. If you want help unloading, please come on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon between 2-5pm.

This year we plan to order compost in bulk like we have done in previous years, if you'd like to order some please get in touch with Charlotte by the **12th April**.



### **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 to7, 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: 1day. Ground frost: 16days. Again some high temperatures for a 24 hour day were in the night, depending on a change in wind direction!



## Ronas Drama Group Success!

Ronas Drama Group are preparing for their local performances in Sullom on the 28th and 29th of March on the back of a successful return to the County drama festival after a 4 year absence. Stalwart of the group Willie Robertson came up with another cracker of a Shetland Comedy called '**Spice Up Your Sandwiches**' for the festival with an experienced cast of Lorraine Peterson, Walter Leask, John Irvine, Ruth Archer, Sandra Manson, Barbara Hall and Ewen Balfour. The play was produced by Margaret Anderson and Gordon Stove.

Willie scooped the award for best writer in the Shetland section, the play was also judged the best Shetland dialect one, there was also an award for most entertaining play and an individual award for Sullom's own Lorraine Peterson - who as the hard pressed waitress in Thelma's refurbished Cafe in which the play is set - pulled off a highly comedic performance to be crowned the best actor in a Shetland play.

Ronas meet over the winter months and are always keen to welcome new members and want to build on the success of this year's festival. Keep your eye out for the first meetings next November! In the meantime please support the group at the Sullom Hall this next Thursday and Friday. Doors open at 7 for a 7.30 start.



## 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](#).



## Shetland Folk Festival

Tickets are now on sale for the public for the annual Shetland Folk Festival, this year, there is concert in the North Roe & Lochend Hall on Friday 3rd May and there are still a few tickets left. The line up includes Kirsten Adamson & The Tanagers, The Hackles, Ross Couper Band and Scott Moncrieff.

For more information or to buy tickets please go to [www.shetlandfolkfestival.com](http://www.shetlandfolkfestival.com)

### What's On:

#### Friday 29th March

The Living Well Hub - Kit's For All 10-3pm, Menopause Shetland North 12-2pm & Life After Loss

Bereavement Group 3-4

*Brae Youth Centre*

Quiz Night - 8pm start, £2 per person, max 5 to a team

*Hillswick Hall*

#### Sunday 31st March

Carvery, 12:30-3pm

St Magnus Bay Hotel, Hillswick

#### Monday 1st April

Hap Class - 7pm

*Ollaberry Hall*

#### Tuesday 2nd April

AGM - St Olaf Community Club - Ollaberry Hall  
7.30pm

#### Saturday 6th April

Curry Night - 5:30 - 7:30pm

*North Roe & Lochend Hall*

#### Sunday 7th April

Carvery, 12:30 - 3 pm

*St Magnus Bay Hotel, Hillswick*

Chinese Takeaway phone 503265

*Hillswick Hall*

#### Saturday 13th April

Beatrice Wishart MSP 10am-11am

*Hillswick Hall*

#### Sunday 14th April

Carvery, 12:30 - 3 pm

*St Magnus Bay Hotel, Hillswick*

#### Tuesday 16th April

Reset Well-Being Therapies 10-6pm

*St Magnus Bay Hotel*

#### Wednesday 17th April

500 and End of Season Prizegiving

*Hillswick Hall*

#### Sunday 28th April

Car Wash & Breakfast Roll Morning 10am-12pm

*Ollaberry Primary School*

#### Friday 3rd May

Shetland Folk Festival Concert 7.30pm - tickets available from Folk Festival [website](#)

*North Roe & Lochend Hall*

#### Saturday 25th May

End of Lambing Dance to Peter Wood Dance Band including supper. 8pm - 1am Over 16s £10, under 16s £5, primary school bairns free.

*Ollaberry Hall*

#### Friday 31st May

Closing date for entries to Shetland Library's Young Writer 2024 + Shetland Dialect Short Story Competition for the Rhoda Bulter Award for more information go to the Shetland Library [website](#).

#### 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 Friday

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

#### Every Sunday

Bruckland open 2-5pm

