



ANNUAL REPORT 2004-5

Report from the two Chairmen

THE WESTRAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST is evolving. This will probably mean change, but not for the sake of it.

The Westray Development Group started early in 1998 with major aspirations, no money and no paid workers. That initial public meeting called by the Community Council effectively set the agenda for the Group (later changed to Trust). Depopulation and falling school roles were identified as symptoms of a situation where young families, for a variety of reasons, were not staying in the island.

Taking the initiative and tackling our own problems ourselves, not just complaining and expecting assistance was probably typical of Westray. It is not typical elsewhere but it was just what the government was seeking, for regeneration in the fragile, remoter areas around the edge of Scotland.

Inclusion in the government's Initiative at the Edge project in early summer that year gave the island a new and valuable status. It did not directly bring any money but it did bring an onus on the agencies to listen and work with us. In most respects that worked very well.



WILLIE AND THE SEED PRESS

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Westray had to fight hard to get the funding for an LDO. We appointed Sam Marcus and he has been in post since. He has worked tirelessly on a multitude of tasks laid at his door.

WESTRAY'S APPROACH

The Westray Development Trust approached the end of funding situation differently. As a Trust we have never had core operating revenue to cover the day to day expenses. We have acquired bits and pieces of funding from wherever we could to cover costs. We have hosted training and conferences, run



GEORDIE ENJOYING HIS 15 MINUTES OF FAME ON THE FRONT COVER OF THE GUARDIAN'S G2 MAGAZINE

projects with a built in management fee etc. We have made bits of profit along the way to keep going. We tendered for and got a 9 month contract to deliver the SCHRI across Orkney for Highlands and Islands Enterprise. (Please see the Renewables Report page 8 for more details).

FUTURE FUNDING

Public funding does not continue endlessly and it would not be reasonable to expect it to.

The Trust is now committed to generating its own revenue.

No other area is attempting to do this, but they are not Westray. In simple

MORE OVERLEAF





terms the Trust must make enough money or it will shrink, or even disappear.

In the light of our clear determination, ongoing and proposed projects, and their business plans, we have persuaded OIC and Orkney Enterprise to take the exceptional step of giving us 2/3 of the funding for another year for the Local Development Officer (LDO) post.

That will take us to June 2006. We must be generating enough revenue by then if we are to retain our paid workers and cover the £2-3000 per year that day to day expenses cost the Trust.

importantly to create jobs and wealth in the island.

The Trust has been awarded another 6 months contract for delivering the SCHRI across Orkney and then we hope to be able to tender for it again. This gives us some revenue in the meantime.

The major Renewables projects are the big Wind Turbine and the Anaerobic Digester plant. If they are successfully brought to fruition the Trust's future will be secured financially and there will be the revenue to invest in other job creating projects.

If the investment model we are exploring works, local people can

houses being renovated, often from not much more than a rumble of stones. The Trust may have had some small part to play in this.

LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

We are very conscious in the Trust that we are elected to serve the interests of the island, not just the Trust. We inevitably make some mistakes and we try to learn from them.

You have ideas, opinions and suggestions. These are wasted as moans, pleeps and girns in the pub etc. etc.. We welcome your constructive input and invite you to come to the AGM on 20th April and to consider standing for the board of directors.

At this stage, it is essential to get the Westray Renewable Energy Company structure right. No-one said this would be easy but the end result has to work both commercially and financially and be what most people in Westray want.

The project development group is working hard on this, taking professional, financial and legal advice and receiving help and encouragement from both Highlands and Island Enterprise and OIC.

During this year both Geordie Drever and Willie McEwen have shared the Chairmanship of the Trust.

Sharing the responsibility and work has been well worthwhile as these changes are so significant.

This next year 2005/6 will be the last year on the Trust for both of us.

**Geordie Drever, Willie McEwen
Joint Chairmen**

CARE CENTRE SET TO OPEN ITS DOORS FOR THE FIRST TIME



KALISGARTH PICTURED FROM THE EAST

THE CREATION of a Care Centre has been a key goal for the Development Trust from its outset. We are delighted the vision is now nearing fruition in the shape of "Kalisgarth".

Like many large capital projects it has taken longer than hoped for but the standard of the facility will be well worth the wait, providing high quality residential and day care in excellent surroundings.

The Trust's Directors expressed disappointment to the Council that there was no community input in the staff selection process following earlier understandings that there would be.

Since then sub-group members have continued to work with Council representatives and are currently examining options to formalise ongoing community involvement, probably through a "Friends of Kalisgarth" type of body.

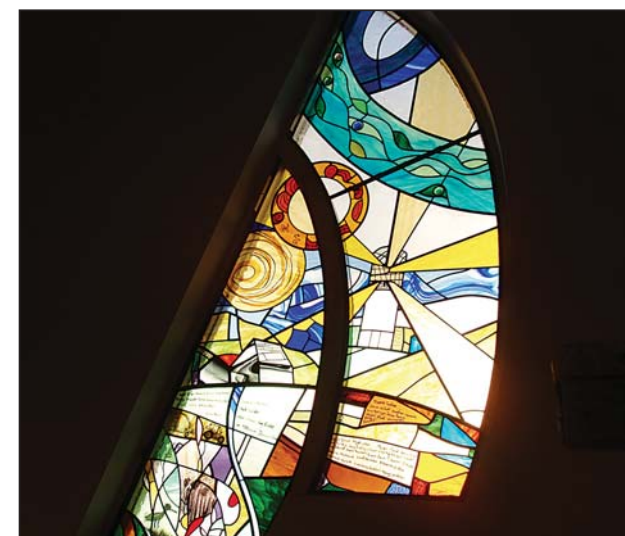
We are also planning an open day for everyone to see around the building and will be involved in the official opening later in the year.

The Trust is also committed to watching the residential uptake on an ongoing basis and continuing to monitor Westray's Care needs. The building has been designed so that it can be extended if need is demonstrated over time. It has taken 7 long years to reach this stage but the end result is one that will serve the people of Westray well for many years to come.

Congratulations to Norman Cooper for coming up with the imaginative and memorable name of "Kalisgarth". Particular thanks are due to Dawn Sherwood (Project Manager, OIC) and to Cllr. Keith Johnson (Chair of Social Services & Housing) for sharing the vision and pushing it forward.

SUB GROUP

*Chair: Iain MacDonald
Linda Hagan,
Stephen Hagan,
Alison Hutchison,
Alena Tulloch.*



2



THE HOFN WINDMILL

DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT TRUST ARE VOLUNTEERS AND ARE NOT PAID.

We already had the aspiration to "generate as much energy from Community owned and operated Renewable Energy Projects as we use in total in Westray by 2012".

We are now actively pursuing this route to fund the Trust, but more

become shareholders in the Wind Turbine, get their dividend, and the income coming directly into the Westray economy will be considerable.

The Trust was started when the population was falling rapidly; the school roll was dropping and projected to drop faster. The population is now slightly up, the school roll is slightly up and no-one can fail to notice the number of private

3

HERITAGE SUB GROUP LOOKS AT LANGSKAILL, SKEA, AND QUOYGREW



PICTURED LEFT: THE DIG AT KNOWE OF SKEA 2004 © SIGURD TOWRIE

ONCE AGAIN we were fortunate to have archaeologists Dr. James Barrett from York University working at Quooygrew and Hazel Moore and Graham Wilson from EASE Archaeology, Edinburgh working at the Knowe of Skea and Langskail Farm.

2005 revealed much more information from the dig at Quooygrew, which now needs funding to consolidate the site for the future. In addition, Dr Barrett hopes to secure a new tranche of funding to enable his team to continue to work here at Quooygrew over the next decade.

Langskail dig points to brutal Viking invasion of the isles

REPORT AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIGURD TOWRIE

FURTHER INVESTIGATION of the hole which appeared at Langskail 40 years ago, appears to show that all evidence of pre-Norse culture disappears abruptly with the arrival of the Scandinavian settlers, fuelling speculation that the islands were taken by force. Archaeologists say their work has also thrown new light on Orkney's earth houses.

The results of the six-week archaeological dig look set to resurrect the debate on how the Norse took over Orkney.

For decades, scholars have argued about the manner in which the Norsemen settled in the Northern Isles. Did they drive away, enslave or slaughter Orkney's Pictish inhabitants, or settle and integrate peacefully with them? The preliminary results from Langskail seem to hint at the former. There, the archaeology shows that the use of a centuries old settlement and cemetery coincided with the arrival of Scandinavian settlers. In effect, the pre-Norse culture appears to vanish entirely from the area. The dig, which drew to a close in October, uncovered remains dating from the early Iron Age right through to the 14th century AD – a period of use of almost 2,000 years.

SUB GROUP

Chair: Peter Needham
Douglas Leslie, Jenna Hume, Sandy MacEwen, Linda Hagan, David Stephenson, Allan Forrester, Jim Corse, Maggie Drever.



PICTURED ABOVE: QUOYGREW 2004 © SIGURD TOWRIE

"Quooygrew is a Viking Age, medieval and post-medieval rural settlement. It covers an area of about 1 hectare and includes a coastal fish midden, multi-phase buildings (partly eroding into the sea) with undisturbed ash floors, a 'farm mound' of kitchen midden and a plaggan infield. All appear to date between the 9th and 16th centuries.

The purpose of the project is to rescue this important site from coastal erosion and, concurrently, to answer fundamental research questions regarding sites which span the gradual transition in northern Scotland from being Norse to being Scottish in influence and identity.

The site is also particularly critical to our understanding of the intensification in the use of marine resources (especially deep sea fishing for cod) which seems to underpin this Viking Age - medieval transition."

...Quoted from the Historic Scotland web site.

AMERICAN VISITORS TO TAKE FORWARD GENEALOGY PROJECT

VISITING PROFESSORS Jim Wood and Pat Johnson from Pennsylvania State University spent three months here in summer 2004, along with their students who stayed at The Barn. They spent much of their time surveying the buildings of South Hammer, plotting dykes on survey maps of the island and looking into the history and genealogy of buildings and people of Westray. One afternoon the students gave an excellent presentation to Council officials in the main debating chamber at the Council Offices in Kirkwall. The presentation outlined their ideas of how it would be possible to rescue the buildings of South Hammer and make it a viable visitor resource in the future.

Much of the team's work involves genealogy, and to that end their database of Westray residents and buildings is growing steadily. There has been a great deal of work and consultation done over the past eighteen months in an attempt to integrate Sam's genealogical database into a toolkit to take forward plans to put Westray's genealogy online, create a part-time job and raise revenue for the heritage centre. Unfortunately due to lack of support from those consulted, this project will be shelved, and a similar type of project is now likely to be taken forward by another island. The good news is that the Americans plan to hand over their database to the Heritage Centre on its completion.

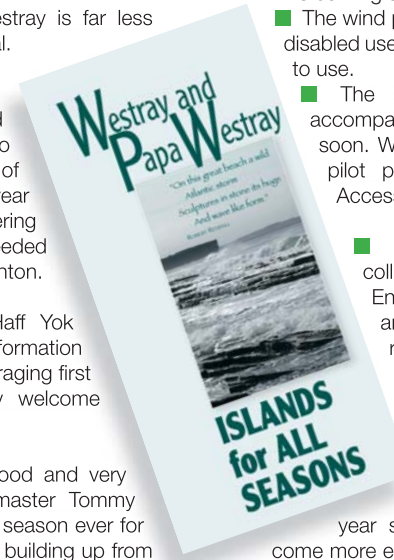
TOURISM

Tourism in Orkney is undergoing great change, and at the moment great uncertainty. Orkney Tourist Board will cease on April 1st, and Visit Orkney will be under the umbrella of Visit Scotland. It, hopefully, is all for the good.

The Tourist Association web site www.westrayandpapawestray.com has been upgraded and as soon as the BBC "Voices" tape is edited will also have ten 30 sec. snatches of Westray voices.

The visitor scene in Westray is far less stressful and controversial.

The wide range of accommodation and attractions continues to increase and to be of excellent quality. This year there are six new self catering homes and a much needed extra B&B at No.1 Broughton.



Westraak Tours, The Haff Yok café and the Tourist Information point have had an encouraging first year and are extremely welcome additions to the island.

Shops again report a good and very busy summer. Harbourmaster Tommy says 2004 was the best season ever for yachts. The numbers are building up from 42 in 1999, 96 in 2001 (the first year of the pontoons) to 150 in 2004.

The yachts have come from all over the world, eg. America, New Zealand, France, Holland. A yacht from Mississippi was sent from Shetland to use the drying out pad. The owner and his wife stayed nearly a week and declared it "the best grid ever".

Hopefully, as the word is spread, the Marina and the Northern Isles will become more and more popular with yacht owners.

The new leaflet "Westray and Papa Westray, Islands for all Seasons" aims for a lengthening visitor season. The promotion Westray Winter Warmers was on offer again this winter.



This coming season promises:

- The wind powered electric car converted for disabled use and available for visitors and locals to use.
- The new circular walks, with an accompanying leaflet, are to be opened soon. Westray, Papay and Sanday were a pilot project for core paths under the new Access to the Countryside code.

The Tourist Association, in collaboration with the reformed Environmental Sub Group of the Trust and ECO, are trying to organise a really good clear up of the island through Bag the Bruck on April 16th and 17th.

The annual Dance Weekend is May 27th & 28th. We hope for better weather at that time of year so that dancers from Papay can come more easily. A large number of visitors are already booked and enthusiastic about joining the classes and coming to the family Dance.

Smart new signs detailing local places of interest supplied by the Community Council will be fitted at piers, airport and in the centre of Pierowall village near to the hotel.

A film maker, Jamie Doran, is planning to film three 50 minute films on Westray throughout the seasons for German TV, then it will be offered to 40 + other countries. He wondered if we could cope with the visitors, who, he assured us, would come after the films were shown.

We will see – but at the moment it is looking promising for the future.

WESTRAY'S RENEWABLE ENERGY

This is a very active, busy and exciting time in the Renewable Energy scene in Westray. The Trust is working towards our declared goal of:

"The generation / production from Community Owned Renewable Energy projects of the equivalent amount of energy to all we currently use from all sources by 2012".

We have now had Colin Risbridger in post as Renewable Energy worker for about a year. His remit is to bring forward projects that will take us towards this goal and at the same time generate income sufficient for two full time posts.

Two companies have been set up to take these projects forward: Westray Renewable Energy Ltd for the big projects and Orkney Biofuels Ltd for the biofuels. Turnover in this company can be kept small enough to be below the VAT threshold, so you can get cheaper fuel.

Current projects are: The big Wind Turbine, the Anaerobic Digester plant, the electric car, biofuels and "wind to heat". **The fundamental purpose behind all these projects is the strengthening of the Westray economy and the creation of local jobs.**

BIOFUELS

Biofuels are fuels derived from crops or other biomass. Their importance is that they put no new carbon into the atmosphere. In displacing fossil fuels they make a positive contribution to reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions and the resultant global warming. Biodiesel exhaust is also 90% less carcinogenic. We are licensed to produce fuel and pay Customs and Excise duty on all fuel produced.



The Trust is taking a three pronged approach to producing fuel:

- Biodiesel from used cooking oil collected all around Orkney. Folk in Westray are familiar with the gentle deep fried chips smell coming from the maroon Vauxhall Astra. It has now done about 18,000 miles, almost entirely on 100% Westray produced biodiesel. Fuel consumption, tested recently, is little different from regular diesel. Torque at low speed is better, and performance at top revs is not quite so good.

We have deliberately used 100% biodiesel to really test the long term effects. When it goes on the market, we will probably be recommending a mix, maybe 50 – 80% biodiesel. There is no problem mixing the two fuels or going from one to the other.

- Biodiesel from crops. Highlands and Islands Enterprise has grant aided this project. Orkney College grew plots of oil seed rape, linseed and turnip rape for us. The oil seed and turnip rape were successfully grown and harvested. The linseed was grown successfully but the college was unable to harvest it in last autumn's weather. It is ready a little later than the rape crops. We have a special press, imported from Sweden, set up to extract the oil once the crop has been further dried and will then be making

biodiesel fuel from the oil. This will have its own set of challenges as raw oil is somewhat different chemically from used cooking oil.

- Bioethanol from crops. Part of the same HIE grant aided project is to produce ethanol for fuel from a crop of sugar beet (again grown by the College for us). The crop did not do particularly well, but from the trials, we do have enough sugar beet to work with.

First stage is to ferment the sugar in the beet to produce a simple beer like product. For this stage a "micro-brewery" will shortly arrive in Westray. This re-engineered food grade equipment is typically used elsewhere to produce local ales. There is obvious potential for this equipment when not producing fuel.

Second stage is to distill the "beer" to get 96% alcohol. We are currently building an electronically temperature controlled copper still to do this. The bioethanol produced will be blended with petrol.

The Trust is actively looking for alternative crops to utilise land that is no longer required for cattle grazing if cow numbers drop as predicted. There is considerable potential for neeps, potatoes even grass and tangles ending up as bioethanol fuel if this project proves economically sound.

MORE OVERLEAF

THE ELECTRIC CAR – POWERED FROM A WIND TURBINE

Pupils at the school did the original research and carried out the public survey for this in autumn 2003.

We put our bid into the competition for this early in 2004 and although we were told unofficially in the summer that we had won the bid, we did not get the go ahead until autumn 2004.

We had to do all the technical research, design work and purchasing of materials by the end of March 2005. Our bid included a technically innovative Lithium ion battery system.

We have chosen to do the actual conversion work here as it was difficult to find a company South that we had



confidence in and it was also going to be very expensive to have it done elsewhere.

Furthermore having done it we will be able to maintain it and possibly do more electric car conversions in the future.

Removal of the petrol engine fuel tank etc is complete and fitting the 144 volt DC electric motor, control system, batteries etc starts soon.

This, almost fully grant funded, project is

attracting considerable interest outwith Orkney and will attract visitors as well as, hopefully, proving a useful and worthwhile asset here.

There will be a "user group" set up to operate the vehicle. Its main running cost will be insurance as:

- The "fuel" is free
- Road Tax is zero for an electric car
- Maintenance will be carried out on the island
- The batteries should last ten years
- The wind turbines will still generate electricity and therefore revenue when not charging the car

Grant money we have sourced for these projects would have gone elsewhere if we had not gone out to get it and successfully brought it to Westray. Grant money usually buys equipment or pays someone else.

Our input as a Trust is mostly in the form of time, effort and work.

Trust directors are all volunteers and are not paid.

MORE OVERLEAF



THE ANAEROBIC DIGESTER PLANT

This project will take in slurry from farms, fish waste from Orkney Salmon and household green and food waste. The material is digested in the absence of air in large concrete tanks with fibreglass lids.



Methane is produced, cleaned up and then used in a modified diesel generator plant. The electricity is fed into the grid and provides the income to make it all possible. The slurry becomes a much improved product in the process.

The fibre is all taken out for use as plant feed/compost enhancer while the liquid can now be spread with rain guns, trickle systems etc. It can go on the land earlier in the spring and give more benefit.

The overall benefit to the farmer is that far less Nitrogen is lost so less needs to be bought in future years.

Some estimates suggest a 70% saving on Nitrogen purchase. All material passing through the system is pasteurised so harmful bacteria etc are killed and disease in the herd is reduced.

We have sourced grants from ERDF, Transforming Waste, HIE, OIC, OE, SCEDS etc and achieved a remarkable 82% grant funding level.

The remainder will be borrowed by the trading subsidiary Westray Renewable Energy Limited.

This project is close to going out to tender for the civil engineering, electrical and mechanical works.

It will, of course, generate jobs and income within Westray.

THE COMMUNITY WIND TURBINE PROJECT

Financially, this is the big, important project. Budget costs for the whole project are approaching £1M but it has the potential to bring between £80,000 and £200,000 per year into the Westray economy.

The Trust has to have a majority shareholding for the public funders to support us. They are providing essential pre-construction start up grants and then the offer of equity that we must buy out in a few years.

The Trust is currently exploring, with the help of various financial advisors, alternative ways to fund this project.

The public funders have now made it clear that they will welcome widely spread private local investment.



THIS IS A COMPUTER SIMULATION OF A POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE WINDMILL

Local investment means local ownership and more of the income remains in Westray. The less we have to borrow from Social Investment Banks, the less income is lost outside Westray in paying them interest.

This project only makes sense if it really is a local community owned turbine.

We hope to have exact site, access and related issues cleared up soon but commercial confidentiality has, up to now, prevented us from holding the public meeting we hoped would be possible in January.

RENEWABLES IN THE CARE CENTRE

It was always a declared goal to have a significant Renewable Energy theme to the Care Centre design and Leslie Burgher worked with enthusiasm to achieve this.



The heating is by Ground Source Heat pumps, there are solar panels on part of the roof and the Trust is putting up a 6Kw wind turbine to contribute to the electricity load.

SCHRI CONTRACT

The Westray Development Trust has built up a considerable experience in the field of renewable energy projects and we were successful in bidding for the contract to deliver the Scottish Community and Household Renewable Initiative across all of Orkney on behalf of HIE for a 9 month period finishing now (March 2005). This has just been renewed for a further 6 months until the Community Energy Company takes over responsibility for this from HIE. We hope to get the opportunity to bid for this contract again then.

Willie McEwen

MONEY MATTERS

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR has seen the Trust grow in size, two new employees have joined the payroll, we have also received funding from several new funding bodies and changed our accountant.

Our new accountants are the Long Partnership.

Funding was received for our Local Development Officer, Sam Harcus, up until June 2005, from Orkney Enterprise, Orkney Islands Council, The Crofters Commission and Communities Scotland.

Colin Risbridger joined the payroll in May as Renewable Energy Worker. His post is funded through the Energy Saving Trust and is a two year post.

Lorna Brown, Youth Development Worker is funded until March 2005. The Höfn only has funding to cover its running costs until October 2004 from the BBC Children in Need.

Funding was received from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland as well as money from the Orkney Health Board for other

Equipment. The Höfn bus has funding secured until March 2005 from the Rural Communities Transport Initiative and the Community Council.

Funding was also received from the Development Trusts Association Scotland towards the new development plan which was launched on 6th of October.

Several Renewable projects have secured funding from the Energy Saving Trust, Orkney Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Scottish Clean Energy Demonstration Scheme.

A consultancy contract on behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise to deliver the Scottish Community & Householder Renewable Initiative (SCHRI) service in Orkney, has allowed for extra income for the Trust.

To enable both this post and the LDO activities to be carried out we have paid for additional services from Sam Harcus, Gina Rendall, Janette Rendall and Yvonne Rorie. This year the Trust has again received a loan from the Community Council to help manage cashflow with student placements.

In total throughout the year the Trust have received funding from:

The Westray Community Council, Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Clean Energy Demonstration Scheme, Social Inclusion Partnership Fund, Rural Communities Transport Initiative, BBC Children in Need, Scottish National Heritage, Crofters Commission, Communities Scotland, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, Orkney Health Board, Hire of the Höfn and bus fares.

Janette Rendall

SUB GROUP

Chair: Janette Rendall
Sam Harcus
Robbie Rendall
Colin Risbridger
Jan Stephenson

	Operations (LDO and support)	Höfn Bus	Höfn Centre	Höfn Turbine	Development Plan	Renewables (Total)	Social Inclusion Projects	Roadmire Vantage Point	Archaeological	WCWA	Aquaculture	Sundry Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income													
Grants Received													
OIC	7500.00	234.20				300.00	4760.74	742.69			529.85		14067.48
Orkney Enterprise	23966.47					3838.00		2568.00			223.00		30595.47
Community Council			500.00										500.00
Other	3000.00	2341.28	5300.00		2711.00	54550.60		2469.00				116.00	70487.88
Earned Income													
Sales, Hires & Fees		380.00	1049.35							449.00		66.48	1944.83
Consultancy						116.00							116.00
Total Income	34466.47	2955.48	6849.35	0.00	2711.00	58804.60	4760.74	5779.69	0.00	449.00	752.85	182.48	117711.06
Expenditure													
Costs of Generating Funds													
Bus Operating Expenses		4306.00											4306.00
Höfn Centre Overheads			3951.15										3951.15
Renewables													
Salaries						17983.85							17983.85
Staff expenses						4021.64							4021.64
Professional Services (Plans, Reports etc)						29307.25							29307.25
Other Costs				151.27									151.27
Westray Dev Plan					1314.18								1314.18
Archaeological Project									4500.00				4500.00
Social Inclusion Projects							3015.68						3015.68
Management and Administration													0.00
Development Officer	24927.74												24927.74
Development Officer's expenses	4753.14												4753.14
Other staff costs	3727.17												3727.17
Other office expenses	359.69												359.69
Other Costs								6171.10		235.10	92.55	2216.43	8715.18
Total Expenditure	33767.14	4306.00	3951.15	151.27	1314.18	51312.74	3015.68	6171.10	4500.00	235.10	92.55	2216.43	111033.34
Surplus / -ve deficit for year before Depreciation For the Year	699.33	-1350.52	2898.20	-151.27	1396.82	7491.86	1745.06	-391.41	-4500.00	213.90	660.30	-2033.95	6678.32

A grant of £4,000 was received in the 2003 accounts

Our youth, Westray's future

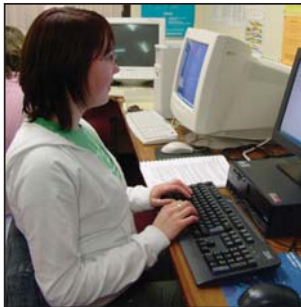
THE HOFN

We have secured funding for Höfn this year from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland. It has also been painted and some new furniture added. A big thanks to Ikea for the two sofas.

A Höfn leaflet has also been produced which tells how Höfn started, what the rules are and other information. If you would like a copy contact one of our young members (Edgar Thomson, Paul Tulloch, Ingrid Stout, Loretta Paterson or Hannah Drever). These young folk will be leading plans for ongoing funding locally for Höfn.

There have also been Arty Farty Nights at which 15 young folk get together to make rag rugs, yarn and drink coffee. These started after Britt Harcus worked with us during her summer placement and it was enjoyed so much we kept it going.

Thank you to Bessie Drever who taught us how to make rag rugs, Peter Needham for his help with the Höfn leaflet, Alan Drever for caretaker duties and bus driving, Yvonne Rorie for organising the rotas and to all the parents who helped by being willing to be on call.



YOUNG ROOTS

A group of 8 young folk have put in a bid for funding from The Heritage Lottery (Young Roots Fund for 13-20 year old).

They plan to make an interactive DVD with a map of Westray and Papa Westray which will have all house, field and shoreline names with a local voice saying the name and its meaning. If they get funding they will need help from folk of all ages. If you want to get involved contact Deborah Sandison or Caroline Eunson.



DRIVING IN ABERDEEN

A group of 5 young women were going to travel to Aberdeen for a driving lesson and college visit. Two students already south were to meet us for the fun, but Northlink cancelled and we didn't make it. This will be rescheduled.

I have also just heard that my post is to be funded for another 2 years so now I can begin to plan for after the end of March.

SUB GROUP

Chair: Lorna Brown
Edith Costie
Liz Drever
Gina Rendall

Janette Rendall
Alena Tulloch

SAM'S KEEPING BUSY!!!

It is hard to take in that we are at the AGM time again it seems so short a time since the last one, but at the same time the year has been so busy, it also seems a distant memory.

This past year has seen a relatively big change in my work as Alan Aim's departure meant I took on the full role of the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (SCHRI) contract with Highlands & Islands Enterprise Ltd. to promote Renewable Energy projects Orkney wide, as well as co-ordinating the LDO role and following up various ongoing projects. I am also grateful that the WDT took on Gina Rendall as capable admin assistant.

It was a conscious decision for the WDT, from the last AGM, to concentrate on Renewable Energy, which will provide revenue for the island and the Trust in the future. We are extremely fortunate

to have the very capable and enthusiastic Colin Risbridger employed to work specifically on Renewable Energy (RE) projects, but due to the fact he is so enthusiastic there is so much going on it has not meant less work for me. The work we have been doing in the RE sector has



THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN

moved ahead considerably over the last year and this coming year will see projects in place.

During the last year we were able to publish the latest Development Plan. The title of the previous Plan was "Turning the Tide" so it was gratifying to agree the title of the new one as "The Tide is Turning".

Alan Caldwell, an independent friend of Westray, was very much involved in the compilation of both Plans and is currently investigating the possibility of us setting up a "Re-Investment Trust" which will hopefully be the investment vehicle for the community to benefit from the activity of the WDT and "keep the £ local".

On a wider picture WDT has been highlighted as an excellent model

to follow in the field of local development and has been asked to make presentations at various events in Orkney and further afield. We were part of a large Orkney delegation who went down to Inverness in August where we spoke about our experience and why the current focus is on RE at the Development Trust Association Scotland AGM (of which WDT is a founder member and I sit on the board). This must have been well received as we have been asked to do similar (either in person or by virtual presence) at the DTA (UK) event in September 2005.

It is good to see another four Orkney Islands in the Initiative-at-the-Edge (IatE); we had representatives from those islands as well as representatives from IatE, Orkney Enterprise and OIC in Westray for a couple of days in early February for an induction event.

We look forward to working with them both in an exchange of experiences and raising common issues.

A recurring comment by visitors, or on visits, is that other areas and communities are envious of both our sense of community and how we have all pulled together to make the positive impact we have. I hope we can rely on your much-needed support in the future.

Sam Harcus



GINA RENDALL

ENVIRONMENT

As new environmental issues take priority within the Trust and new sub-groups evolve e.g. Renewables, we as the Environment Sub-Group regularly re-assess our aims and objectives.

Though there is little to report to date, our aims, as a group remain constant. We want to increase awareness of the importance and potential of our local environment.

We recognise the quality of our environment as a priceless resource. Ongoing initiatives such as Bag the Bruck remain a priority. We are grateful to all who help to make this a success. This year, in conjunction with the Tourist Association, we are looking to expand this project to a wider Westray clean up.

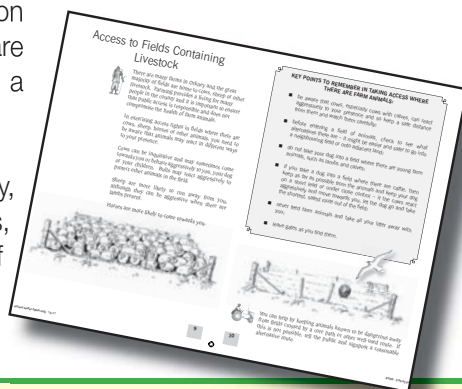
We are carrying out a feasibility study, liaising with environmental bodies, and locals, to pursue a variety of creative initiatives to tackle everyday environmental issues.

SUB-GROUP

Alena Tulloch (Chair)
Liz Drever
Jenna Hume
Sandy McEwen
Willie Bain

A new access guide to the countryside has been written with an Orkney emphasis, and produced by SNH in Kirkwall, and will shortly be available from the SNH offices, TICs and other places throughout Orkney. It was written after much local consultation, and superbly illustrated by our own Westray artist Edwin Rendall. It's worth owning a copy just for Edwin's illustrations alone.

As a group we always welcome local help, enthusiasm and ideas.



TRANSPORT UPDATE

Orkney Islands Council have made their representation to the Scottish Executive regarding a funding package to enable them to progress the improvement of the inter isles ferries and services.

The proposals for the 3 replacement ships for the outer North Isles are to have accommodation on board to enable the crew to stay on the ship which would give the opportunity for the ships to be based in the islands.

MONITORING THE FIGURES

Transport figures are increasing steadily on both the sea and air routes. The air service still retains its importance in service provision.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has agreed to a year's monitoring of the helicopter Air Ambulance starting in April 2005. We will be looking for your thoughts on the service as the year progresses.

All transport issues are addressed through the Community Council.

12



AGM Wednesday 20th April

The AGM is open to all. As directors of the Trust we work away in the sub-groups of the Trust and also meet regularly as a board of directors, but we need constructive feedback from you.

Come along on the 20th April and tell us what you think of what we are doing, good and bad.

If you are not already a member of the Trust we invite you to join on the evening, by signing your name as you come in.

There is no membership fee, but we are a Company Limited by Guarantee, and should we ever go into liquidation, you would be asked for the princely sum of £1.

Our constitution ensures a rolling membership of directors so no-one

gets stuck in a post and fresh people with fresh ideas come in.

Some directors step down each year, this year there will be four doing so. As well as the election of directors, there will be short updates from some sub-groups, a financial report, and ample opportunity for you to raise concerns and make suggestions.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the evening. We look forward to seeing you in the Parish Kirk on Wednesday 20th April.

DIRECTORS

Geordie Drever (Joint Chairman)
Willie McEwen (Joint Chairman)
Janette Rendall (Treasurer)
Ally Sangster (Secretary)
Liz Drever
Jenna Hume
Elaine Langford
Iain MacDonald
Peter Needham
Robbie Rendall
John Talbott
Alena Tulloch

drever@trenabie.fsnet.co.uk
william@millwestray.com
JRoakleigh@aol.com
ally.sangster@orkneyschools.org
jenna.hume@btinternet.com
e.langford@watermill.clara.co.uk
ian@rapnessmanse.freezone.co.uk
peter@seabridge.org
robbie@rendall.fsbusiness.co.uk
whitelettcards1@btopenworld.com
alenatulloch@btopenworld.com

Sam Harcus, Development Officer
Gina Rendall, Assistant Development Officer
Colin Risbridger, Renewables Officer
Lorna Brown, Youth Development Worker
Yvonne Rorie, Clerk to the Trust

sam.harcus@orkney.com
christopher.gina@btinternet.com
colin@crisenergy.co.uk
lornabrown@btopenworld.com
westray-devtrust@orkney.com

If you would like more copies of this report, please contact Sam Harcus: 01857 677790

The production of this report was part funded by Westray Community Council. Designed and produced by Seabridge and printed by Highland Printers.