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- ◆ Communities Housing Trust
- ◆ Community HeartBeat Trust
- ◆ Companies House
- ◆ D and H Law
- ◆ Dalgleish Associates Ltd
- ◆ Daniel Marcus Construction
- ◆ Developing Strathclyde Limited
- ◆ Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS)
- ◆ Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- ◆ Celia Waring, CCLA
- ◆ Highland & Islands Climate Hub
- ◆ Highlands & Islands Enterprise Hubhub
- ◆ L.L Fraser Ltd
- ◆ National Lottery
- ◆ North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS)
- ◆ Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)
- ◆ Orkney Surveying Services
- ◆ Orkney Island's Council (OIC)
- ◆ RM Computing
- ◆ Rural Community Solutions Ltd
- ◆ Rural Housing Fund
- ◆ Scholes Chartered Accountants
- ◆ Scottish Government
- ◆ Scottish Islands Federation
- ◆ Scottish Land Fund
- ◆ Social Farms and Gardens
- ◆ The Prince's Trust
- ◆ Triodos
- ◆ Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO)
- ◆ Westray Community Council
- ◆ Westray Renewable Energy Ltd.

Thanks to all WDT Staff & Project Team who have worked for WDT in 2024/2025

- ◆ Gina Rendall (Operations Manager)
- ◆ Margo Makin (AFO & Youth Support)
- ◆ Mhairi Noble (Administration Assistant, now Bookkeeper)
- ◆ Sarah Cowe (Administration Assistant, Now Administration Assistant and Grants Officer)
- ◆ Erika Pottinger (Wellbeing Coordinator)
- ◆ John Fordyce (Lead Gardener)
- ◆ Benny Norquoy (Assistant Gardener)
- ◆ Edith Costie, Nick Wood, Maggie Drever (Youth Support)
- ◆ Suzanne Stout, Amanda Rose, Sophie Paterson, Christine Sandison (Here to Help)
- ◆ Thank you to everyone in the community for your support.

Many thanks to all volunteer Directors who have worked with us in 2024/2025 who were elected to represent the Westray Community in WDT's work.

- ◆ George Thomson
- ◆ Peter White
- ◆ Douglas Leslie
- ◆ Gill McEwen
- ◆ Anne Burgher
- ◆ David Stephenson
- ◆ Coilla Drake
- ◆ Margaret Rendall
- ◆ David Seatter
- ◆ Kirsty Sinclair
- ◆ Louis Pottinger

If you are interested in joining our Board please contact a current Director.



Agenda for the AGM 7pm 21st January 2026

- 1. Welcome and Apologies—George Thomson (WDT Chair)**
- 2. Minutes of AGM on 3rd December 2024**
- 3. Accounts Presentation and Adoption**
- 4. Appointment of Auditors**
- 5. Election of Directors**
- 6. A Year in review—Operations Manager**
- 7. Questions**
- 8. AOCB**

Westray Development Trust

Quarry Road, Pierowall, Westray, Orkney KW17 2DA

Telephone: 01857 677858

Email: admin@westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk

www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk



Annual Report

July 2024–June 2025



www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk

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Financial Report

Based on the position reported in the audited accounts, Westray Development Trust remains in a strong financial position. At the balance sheet date, the Trust had total reserves of £5.11m, which includes £3.1m of designated funds and £907k of restricted funds.

The Trust's financial results for the year to 30 June 2025 are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£,000	£,000
Incoming resources	801	538
Total expenditure	464	480
Net gain/(loss) on investments	(6)	181
Surplus	332	239

Income from charitable activities, which included home help, room hire, the growing project and rental income, increased from £12k last year to £21k, primarily because of higher rental income from Bayview. Trading income (represented by the income taken from the Kalisgarth and Hofn turbines) decreased from £11k last year to £3.5k due to the Hofn turbine not being operational for the majority of 2025. The donations received from WRE amounted to £605k in 2025, compared to £425k in 2024. Other investment income was £26k lower than last year at £35k, due to lower rates of return on the investment portfolio in comparison to 2024.

The Trust's expenditure was slightly lower than in the previous period:

	2025	2024
	£,000	£,000
Staff costs	142	132
Charitable expenditure –	62	69
other costs		
Grants payable to institutions	28	56
Grants payable to individuals	124	109
Depreciation	16	25

Staff costs increased compared to the previous year because of the national insurance contribution rate increase and higher headcount.

On the balance sheet:

	2025	2024
	£,000	£,000
Fixed assets	1,504	1,328
CCLA + unlisted investments	1,669	1,675
Concessionary loans	266	289
Current assets (debtors and bank)	1,711	1,551
Current liabilities (creditors)	43	68
Net assets	5,107	4,776

The Trust reported a £6k loss on the revaluation of investments during the year in the CIOF Ethical Investment Fund. The increase in the book value of fixed assets reflects the acquisition of Westray Community Hall and Jerusalem. The balance of the concessionary loans continued to fall, in line with the repayments. The Trust continues to hold a significant cash reserve, in addition to the investments.

Westray Renewable Energy Limited

Westray Renewable Energy Limited, the wholly owned subsidiary of the Trust remained a significant source of the Trust's income in the year. In the company's own accounts, it reported a pre-tax profit of £171k on turnover of £341k. 2025 was a difficult year operationally, with the wind turbine temporarily ceasing operation in December 2024 due to the failure of a major component. Replacement work has been delayed until the start of 2026.



Westray Renewable Energy

Production by the community wind turbine this year, July 2024 to June 2025, was 1,263,202KWh total power exported to the national grid, this is way down compared to 2,532,825KWh for the previous year. This production gives a total gross income of approximately £316k. The period saw the turbine suffer from a significant breakdown in December 2024, investigations by Enercon led to the conclusion that a new generator was needed. The procurement process for this major component meant that one wasn't sourced until May 2025. Enercon then carried out a tender process to identify a crane operator who was able to fulfil the

logistical requirements of the repair. This repair was initially scheduled for mid-August 2025, unfortunately, due to problems with the logistics, this had to be postponed, and a revised schedule is being finalised. This major breakdown has had significant consequences for WRE that are likely to be felt by both organisations over the coming periods.

Despite the turbine breakdown, WRE was able to make gift aid payments to WDT of £605,345 for the 2023-2024 period.

During 2024 the turbine's availability was 92.73%, the

guaranteed availability under our maintenance agreement is 95% so this resulted in a small amount of compensation being owed by Enercon which is used to offset our maintenance contract fees for 2025.

Current Board members are Wullie Bain (Chair), Philip Bews, Andrew Seatter, Jeemie Stout, Geordie Thomson and David Seatter. Clare Walker is secretary for the company and provides Administration and Finance services. We thank Peter White for his service to the WRE Board during his time as Director.



Message from the Chair

Translating my thoughts into written form moving them from the keypad to the hard drive is probably the least favourite part of my responsibilities as chairperson. However, it is an important opportunity to share my perspective and to reflect on the year gone by.

In last year's report, I chose to organise my reflections under three distinct headings: the past, the present, and the future of the trust. The past and present generally reveal themselves quite naturally, but the future often brings with it unique challenges and unexpected developments. It is within this forward-looking perspective that we must be adaptable and focused.

One such unforeseen event has been the turbine being out of service for over twelve months now. This situation has certainly been a curve ball, and its impact on our financial resources is considerable. The breakdown does not just affect our income; it also means that WRE must shoulder much of the expense for crane hire and the various logistical costs involved in the repair process.

Although these circumstances are challenging, they have prompted us to reflect on our reliance on the turbine. It is now clear that we must avoid placing all our eggs in one basket and ensure that the

trust is not overly dependent on a single asset. This experience has confirmed the importance of diversifying our resources to safeguard our future.

Despite these significant challenges, we have also managed to make important progress. We have embarked on new projects, built upon existing ones, and continued to expand services that directly benefit the most vulnerable members of our community. These achievements will become even more apparent as you read through the remainder of this annual report.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all the directors of WDT and WRE. Your willingness to dedicate your time and share your expertise is deeply valued. Although there may be occasions when opinions differ, it is commendable that decisions are always reached through mutual agreement and respectful discussion. Your collective commitment is essential to the success and effective governance of our organisations.

A special word of thanks must also go to all our staff, whose unwavering dedication and positive, can-do attitude are the backbone of WDT and WRE. The effort you put in and always going above and beyond ensures that

both organisations continue to operate to the high standards we have all come to expect. Without your enthusiasm and hard work, our achievements would simply not be possible.

I am aware that, at times, some individuals may feel frustrated by the decisions made by the trust. However, it is important to remember that such frustrations should never be directed towards our staff. I would urge everyone to treat others with the same respect and consideration with which they would wish to be treated themselves.

And finally in the words of Franklin D Roosevelt:

'There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still.'

Regards

Geordie Thomson

Friends of Kalisgarth Update

Kalisgarth has been celebrating its 20th birthday this year and remains at the heart of Westray, providing a focal point for care, support and wellbeing in the community.

Since the last report there have been many events and occasions, some upfront, and others more behind the scenes.

November saw residents and day care attenders learning the skills of glass making at a workshop led by Liz Rickard from Orkney Glass Hut.



The Christmas tree lighting was attended by something around 150 people and was ably led by Westray's primary pupils. We're hoping for a repeat of similar good weather this year on Saturday 6th December when we'll have the welcome return of Kirkwall's Salvation Army band to boost the music, in an event supported by the Community Council.

23rd July saw the weird and wonderful "Peedie Show", with nothing peedie about it. Huge credit is due to Val Thomson for coming up with the idea and taking on so much of the planning. A large crowd, including many kids, enjoyed a splendid summer day with bouncy castles, live music, games and stalls, teas, photo boards, ice cream, fancy

dress parade, farm machinery and an assortment of particularly docile animals! It was a terrific occasion and is surely destined to take over from the County Show in due course!



The return of the Westray Connections festival in August was welcomed by the entire community, including the large number who attended the Saturday morning concert at Kalisgarth, with lively music to enjoy both inside and outdoors in the sunshine.

Primary School pupils joined in with the birthday celebration on 29th September as they sang in the morning on a day of celebrations. The afternoon highlight was a tea party with music provided by the talented Papay band. School pupils also designed and made programmes for the event which was enjoyed by residents, day care attenders and a happy host of invited family and friends.



We continue to fund an Auk Talk subscription for residents and have been pleased to support some Day Care outings throughout the year. A number of smaller items including foot stools, cushions and reading lamps have been purchased and the all-terrain-wheelchair, the purchase of which was generously supported by WDT, is another very welcome asset. The third phase of the garden development is still very much on the agenda and we hope to progress this further in the coming year.

We also want to record our grateful thanks to the late Mary Paterson, who very kindly remembered the work of FoK in her will.

We're grateful to WDT for ongoing support, including the Feed-in-Tariff income from the Kalisgarth wind turbine, though we recognise that the future of this is in question as the turbine moves ever nearer its own 20th birthday. We also value the opportunities to participate in the Bargain Box rota and thank everyone who supports our efforts that way. But most of all we're very grateful to the Kalisgarth management, staff and to Westray residents (and others) who continue to so generously support fundraising ventures, ensuring that Westray remains a place where care needs are met and people are valued, in what is now Kalisgarth's third decade – HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE!

Iain MacDonald
Friends of Kalisgarth

from OIC at the Orkney Matters conversations in Westray we proposed a funding package which helped the Westray Community Association secure external funding for the much needed and long overdue refurbishment of the community room. Networking has its good points.

Due to other pressures the full development plan has taken longer than we hoped but we have been able to have all the feedback from the conference in our minds since then so when projects have come up we can immediately assess if they are meeting the needs of Westray or not.

Looking forward my hopes for 2025/2026 would be all four flats at Bayview full, Jerusalem complete which means five homes providing the opportunity to retain or attract people to be part of our community. To have the Hall building with planning permission and a good chunk of funding secured would be ideal. As we are being optimistic, maybe an increase in membership and future plans at the next stage of development.

This year with changes in staffing, new procedures to implement and trying to keep ahead of ourselves it's felt like we have been in the community less. I look forward now that things are well established that the team can be more focused on the next lot of projects like

securing a permanent premises for the Bargain Box. We also will keep running the services we have while looking for ways to secure them in the future.

I think I'm going to dip in to my faith for this years quote and use the words of Erma Bombeck. I had it pinned up in the Nursery when I worked there and I have it pinned in my office now.

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'"

If you apply this to Westray, if we

use everything we have been given, all of our talents, all of our experience, knowledge and courage then we can achieve more. We still have more to do, we might not ever complete it but I don't think we would be trying our best if we sat back and thought we were done. Let's not give anyone the chance to say that we stopped trying to use every single bit of talent we have.

Gina Rendall

Operations Manager



Operations Report—Looking to the future

As our year begins in July this one started with a longer than planned time out of the office. A month in complex orthopaedics taught me patience, and yes, I still have a bit to learn. It also reminded me that sometimes a good outcome takes time. Good outcomes also require a team of good people and a need for change! I certainly felt that there was need for change and I am thankful to the team of good people who supported me in many ways. Keeping me out of the office until September (ish!) being a big achievement! I don't even have the words to explain how life changing my new knee has been for me and my family. We will be forever grateful and thankful for your patience as I got back underway.

This year has yet again seen changes in our staff team. In August our Admin and Finance Officer, Margo Makin, was poorly and as much as she hoped she would get back to work before her move to Shapinsay that wasn't to be. Margo resigned from her post in December 2024. Margo had been with WDT since 2018 and was the longest serving staff member in our office so this left a large void to fill. Mhairi Noble and Sarah Cowe stepped up during this period and covered finance as well as all

+their administration duties which we were all very grateful for.

With a planned review of staffing to be carried out during the year anyway Mhairi and Sarah covered Margo's job until this was complete. From this review and after discussions with both of them, changes were made to job descriptions and titles. The AFO post was effectively split three ways with myself, Mhairi and Sarah all taking on elements of the role. Mhairi took on the role of Bookkeeper and Sarah our Administration and Grants officer. Both Mhairi and Sarah have worked tirelessly covering their previous post and getting to grips with new roles. We have also improved our procedures which means that we are in a really good position moving forward.

Erika Pottinger continues in her role as wellbeing coordinator which is always evolving to meet the needs of the community. This is, as expected, a very varied role from travel cards, community fridge, podiatry appointments or first aid classes, anything is a possibility! The Wellbeing role can at times be tricky trying to fit things or not duplicate events in such a vibrant and busy community.

There were also changes to the

board. At the 2024 AGM we were delighted when Kirsty Sinclair put herself forward again and was voted onto the board. There were no changes to our office bearers. During the year David Stephenson chose to step down for health reasons. David has been a driving force in our future planning group and has been missed by us all.

One of my favourite moments from this year was the phone call from Morven who had been our advisor from SLF on the two applications for the purchase money for Jerusalem and The Old Hall. She was always supportive and very realistic about applying for two projects together. We thought we might get one and not the other. To have both successful was a really exciting and positive time.

Networking is one of those buzz words that might make you cringe but if you can stand it, it works. We have been able to find out about projects, funding sources and lots more through networking opportunities this year. These are mainly online but there can be trips away, this year saw us attend the Winter Conference in Kirkwall where we heard from other Island Development Trusts from Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles.

Liaising with representatives

Project Progress Report

Affordable Housing - Bayview

Bayview, the former harbour master's house, which was purchased and renovated into 4 self-contained flats, was completed in December 2023. The first tenants moved in January 2024, occupying two flats. In August 2024, NHS Orkney secured a lease so that locum staff could occupy the flat. After one flat was vacated, as of June 2025, there are two flats available at Bayview.

Our letting agent DandH Law are no longer providing this type of service. As of June 2025, WDT are exploring options with other agencies.

Jerusalem



After clear support from the community at our Housing workshop during the Westray Conference 2023, we pushed forward with plans. With the success of an SLF stage 1 application, the board were able to carry out the feasibility on a housing project. This had taken place in Spring 2024 and included a housing needs analysis. From this, it was clear that providing high specification, family homes for

social rent were needed. along with exploring ways to help families purchase properties.

Jerusalem, a two-bedroom house along with 5 acres of land, was offered to WDT by the late Doris Ewing's family. With the potential to renovate and extend the existing house into a two bedroom family home, then develop the land into affordable sites, or new builds for rent or sale, it was decided to look for funding.

A second application with the support of Davie Campbell, Rural Community Solutions Ltd, was made to the Scottish Land Fund for 50% of the valuation cost, which was successful, and WDT were awarded £75,000 in August 2024. Planning permission for the renovation was submitted in September 2024, approved in November 2024. Tenders were sent out the same month, with a contractor appointed in January 2025. The conveyancing took longer on this purchase, but was completed in February 2025. An application for £150,000 was submitted to The Rural Housing Fund in March 2025 and approved in June 2025. An application for a further £50,000 from the Orkney Island Council Housing Fund was also made.

As of June 2025, the contractors are on site and have started work with Spring 2026 as the hoped completion date.

Hofn Youth Centre

Our Youth Support team have seen some changes. Margo Makin left her role in December 2024,

followed by Edith Costie in 2025. Edith has been involved in youth work for well over 25 years in Westray and was presented with gifts from WDT and the young folk. Nick Wood and Maggie Drever are now joined by Hayley Robinson and Sarah Fergus on the support team, and Suzanne Stout takes care of our cleaning.

The young folk all turned up for our annual clean of the Hofn. The centre was decluttered, cleaned top to bottom inside and out, followed by sausages in a roll for supper. The young folk also had a move around to make the building more user-friendly for them. A pool table was purchased after the group's fundraising efforts, as well as a Bluetooth speaker and other bits and bobs to make the centre feel more welcoming.



The Hofn continues to be a busy place and in demand for hires from local groups and businesses, as well as people travelling to the island. In fact, at times we have had to turn folk away.

Bargain Box – Westray Community Fundraising Shop

Thanks to Westray Community Association for renting us the snooker room space for the bargain box. We are into our second year in the space, and it's been a smooth

Project Progress Report

process. The Bargain Box raised £13,593.07 in shop sales and £5,144.80 in raffles and baking this year, as well as recycling and repurposing, so a big tick for circular economy and environmentally friendly practices.

Thank you to the groups who take over the shop, to everyone who donates and to everyone who nips in and buys a few things. Without you then the shop wouldn't work as well as it does. Thanks to Anne Burgher and her team, who keep us all right.

Renting the snooker room was a temporary solution, and now, as it's coming up to its 2nd year and changed plans, finding a new home for the bargain box will be a priority for the Trust

Westray Fuel Grant

As a response to the higher cost of living recorded in the North Isles and, in particular, high fuel bills, the Westray Fuel Grant was established, with the grant being made available for all full-time Westray Households, therefore reducing the stigma and ensuring the money reaches the whole of Westray. This year was the 6th year of the Westray Fuel Grant, and the board agreed to set the grant at £250 per household this year.

We had a shorter period to apply, which perhaps took people by surprise. This was in response to feedback from the community over the years, that the money earlier would be more beneficial. Almost all payments were made in December and January. 255 Households applied, an increase once again.

Home Help Service

Our Here 2 Help service continues to grow steadily. This service is for household chores and errands and does not include personal care.

Suzanne Stout, Amanda Rose and Sophie Paterson have been joined by Christine Paterson as demand outweighs hours available.

As the Wellbeing Coordinator, Erika Pottinger coordinates the service, dealing with new service users and organising cover when needed.

If you or a family member are interested in finding out more about the Here to Help service, then please contact Erika, our Wellbeing Coordinator, for more information.

Westray Community Fridge- Waste not Want not



Our Community Fridge has now been open for over a year and continues to be well-used. With

the emphasis on food waste, we encourage people to only take what they need and can use. Food can be donated from households, businesses or gardeners.

The original idea was to help deal with a glut of vegetables we may have in the garden. The project grew, and we have been supported by many local businesses.

We joined Fare Share, which has a very robust membership process to make sure that our project aligned with their objectives. Fare Share gathers surplus food and shares it with projects across the UK.

The only downside is that we have little control over the goods that come, but we can prioritise things like store cupboard items, rather than fresh. This sometimes works and sometimes doesn't so this year's trial has been very helpful ironing out some of the issues.

The pallet is shipped from Aberdeen to Kirkwall via Northlink and then from Kirkwall to Westray with Robert Rendall and Co.

From July 2024 to June 2025, the Community Fridge figures were as follows:

1,892 people used the Community Fridge. **6,094.3 kg** of food waste was saved through the fridge.

In June 2025, we carried out a consultation to see if the fridge is something the community wants to keep, how they use it and if they would like changes. The results of this will be collated and used to improve the Community Fridge.

Grants Awarded 2024-2025

Sponsorships

Westray Junior High School Trip

Westray Junior High School asked if we would sponsor the S2 and S3 pupils to travel to Kirkwall to visit the Nav School in Stromness and UHI Orkney. This was to allow them to find out more about opportunities within Orkney and build upon the Developing the Young Workforce experiences they've already had.

Funding awarded £100.30

Westray Sailing Club

Westray Sailing Club asked us if we would consider sponsoring their first Regatta Sunday fun day. This consisted of a BBQ/picnic style event with some live music. It was hoped that this would entertain members of the community and visitors. A fun day to bring the community together and finish off a fantastic weekend of events.

Funding awarded £500



Litter Pickers Event

We match funded a grant received from the Highlands and Islands Climate Festival for a planned beach clean and BBQ.

We helped to pay for some new equipment and food for their BBQ. The BBQ was organised as a thankyou to all the volunteers that helped to pick up litter and keep our beaches clean.

Funding awarded £150

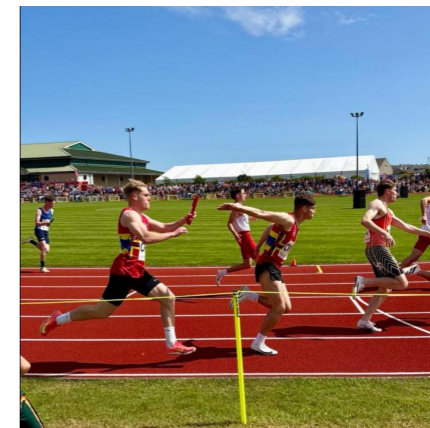
Athletics Sponsorship

Bobby and Connor Harcus asked if it was possible to get sponsorship towards traveling to Orkney to compete in athletics competitions.

The sponsorship helped them with travel costs they incurred coming to Orkney for competitions and back to Aberdeen in time for College classes. The competitions were crucial for their training and official times. Both of them made it into the Island Games 2025 Orkney Athletics team. which Orkney were hosting this year.

Connor competed in the 100m, 200m and both relays and Bobby competed in the 400m and both relays.

Funding awarded £272.97



Kit Sponsorship

Bobby and Connor Harcus came back to us, when they were successful and secured their places on the Orkney Team, to ask for sponsorship from Westray Development Trust to assist with the costs of their Athletics and Orkney kits to wear during the Island Games Competition.

We were delighted to sponsor them and wished them both the best of luck for the week's competing.

Funding awarded £180.60



Grants Awarded 2024-2025

which was agreed.

Funding awarded £2,400 for 3 years



“It has been a huge success this year again. Some evenings we’ve had around 30 young people! We get lots of good feedback and they keep coming back so must be enjoying it! We have had a Blue Light Night, we visited the fire station, coast guards, ambulance, had first aid & defib training. We are very grateful for this grant, it ensures all young people are able to attend. Thank you!” Helen Bain

Roadside daffodils for Westray

Sandy McEwen asked for a rolling grant for the next 3 years to support the planting of roadside daffodils in Westray. This is a scheme that has been working for several years which Westray Development Trust have supported. The planting and growing of the daffodils add to the feel good feeling at the beginning of spring after the dark winter, more daffodils will further enhance this.

Funding Awarded £432 for 3 years

“It seems by the positive comments, when the bulbs arrive and when the

daffodils are flowering, many people enjoy them and are very enthusiastic that the project continues.” Sandy McEwen



Island Christmas Cards

This was year 3 of our rolling grant to help the churches with costs of producing a Christmas card which is delivered to every household in Westray. This card gives details of all church services which take place over December and early January in both churches. It also gives details of related events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting and Children’s Christmas Party.

Funding awarded: £350

“The grant system is fantastic for projects like this. The Interkirk funds aren’t huge, and the grant makes it possible to continue to produce and distribute the info for a variety of Kirk and community over the Christmas and new year” Karen Penn

2nd year Swimming Pool Financial Assistance

Currently Westray Community

Association pay lifeguards out of their own funds, leaving them with little funds to invest in maintenance and improvements. They asked WDT for assistance to ease the financial pressure from the swimming pool and hopefully enable the community association to focus on improving their other facilities which they are hopeful would lead to an increase in hires. This was the final year of their grant.

Funding awarded: £8,851.20

Auk Club Annual Activities

Westray Auk Club aim to provide a safe environment for the lonely, isolated or elderly of Westray to enable them to meet and socialise with others. They meet every Thursday in the Community Room and Hall at the School, where a selection of activities are undertaken including indoor bowls. Once a fortnight they go for lunch at the Café or Hotel.

Funding Awarded £3,000

“The grant enabled the organisers of the club to continue to provide social entertainment and stimulation for the elderly of Westray. It also enabled those who live alone or who are isolated to meet up with folk thus helping their wellbeing and assisting with wellbeing and social skills.”

Jan Stephenson

Project Progress Report

The Old Hall

When the Old Community Hall went on the market, we were approached by the community to take it back into community ownership. Initially, the Board were cautious, but with backing at the 2023 conference and with other options being looked at for a more multi purpose space after the Bargain Box/Office options appraisal, the decision was made to take a look.

In February 2024, we secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund to carry out a feasibility study, including a business plan and concept drawings. A Stage 2 Scottish Land Fund application, which, if successful, will support the purchase of the site, was made in May 2024. That meant two applications into SLF from WDT, so realistically, we thought one might be successful.



In August 2024, when we were informed that both applications had been successful, we were delighted.

The purchase was completed on the 1st of November 2024. Planning Permission is now being worked on, and we hope to have it with the council this summer.

If successful, the plan would be to build a building on the site with office space, community spaces, smaller private meeting rooms and a kitchen for catering.

Westray Community Garden

This is the ninth year of the community garden, which is hard to believe. John Fordyce joined as Lead Gardener, Benny Norquoy, Assistant Gardener, and a great team of volunteers have worked extremely hard in the garden.

The word for spring/summer 2024 was perhaps “rushed”; there were many jobs and a shortage of time, so we tried to just concentrate on bedding plants and strawberries.

We had so much more than that. We had a huge variety of vegetables as well as an excellent crop of strawberries and tomatoes. There were painted doors and windows, benches, flowers and a new honesty fridge to try out.



The winter months were busy too, as the group got to work in the shed, clearing and painting the inside. There was also a decision to

help make the poly tunnel more accessible to all, so we decided we would build raised beds.



Thanks to the Men's Shed for building the raised beds and the team for burrowing in tons of compost. The raised beds were ready to use this year.

The raised beds are built to be accessible; you could wheel a wheelchair in and look around, and there are lower beds if you wanted to plant anything.

The outside beds were also worked on. Couch grass is our nemesis, but now it feels more manageable. This was where strawberries and most of the vegetables are planted. This season, there were adaptations made to variety and quantity depending on yield and sales.

June 2025 sees us with strawberries, raspberries, pak choi, salad leaves, tomatoes, courgettes and aubergines as well as a beautiful bed of nasturtiums and a wall of sweet peas in the Polly tunnel. Outside there are strawberries, kale, Shetland kale, onions, carrots, garlic, broad beans, leeks, parsnips, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and keel. So far, the weather has been

Project Progress Report

exceptional, and that's half the battle.

John and Benny make a great team and are well supported by our team of faithful volunteers. The garden has done what it should: produced bedding plants, fruit and vegetables, and it is a space that, we hope, is inviting.

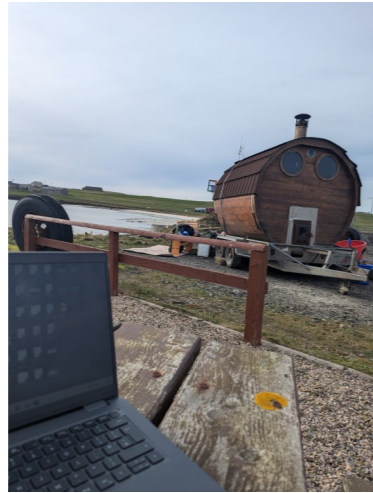
A successful year in many ways and lots of lessons learnt, and one of our favourite parts is the social side. This is a group that really supports each other in the garden and out with, and that's an outcome that is hard to measure.

Westray Wellbeing

The Wellbeing coordinator role was made permanent in September 2024. Erika Pottinger is able to support groups or individuals on the island, as well as encourage new groups and signpost people to relevant help.

The one-to-one support given steadily increases. This can be anything from help making appointments, arranging transport, loading travel tickets onto your app, to setting up IT for you to have a NHS online near me appointment. It's always a good idea to ask Erika if she can help; if it's something we can't do, she may well have an alternative contact for you.

The Westray Wellness classes' funding came to an end this year, but we were delighted that all three were able to continue, proving to be very popular and well-supported. We were able to bring the Sauna to Westray with this funding too, providing free sessions for people over a week. We received very



positive feedback from this experience and hope to bring it back again.

Erika has also supported a digital drop in on the island with huge thanks to Liz Dudley who has offered her time to this, arranged an Age Concern Scotland Visit to the island as well as podiatry appointments and sharing lots of information from other agencies or groups who get in touch with us weekly to share information.



Erika also checks our de-fibs and organised an opportunity to learn

how to carry out basic first aid and use a de-fib.

Over the past year Erika has supported **531** people.

Westray Golf Course - Golf Club/ Men's Shed

Westray Golf Club and Westray Men's Shed approached us to help with the feasibility stage of a potential new project.

The two groups have joined forces to look at options into building a facility that would provide the Golf Club with a much needed Club House and the Men's Shed with a larger purpose built space.



A grant from the Community Led Local Development Fund was secured to hire a team to give the groups concept drawings and a business plan. This was completed in the Spring of 2025.

Moving forward, funding for planning permission and building warrant will be looked for so that the next stage in their project can be carried out.

display which included information on the history of the Sailing Club and people who have been involved in the past, this will be displayed at the Westray Heritage Centre and then moved to the new Sailing Club as a permanent display once the heritage centre's summer hours have finished.

It was a fantastic weekend and enjoyed by locals and visitors.

Funding awarded £7,000



Westray Connections

The format of the festival remained largely the same as last year with a sit down concert on the Friday night and an invitation for artists to participate in a jam session in the evening. Saturday had taster sessions at venues in the village with a parade from the Kirkwall City Pipe Band. That evening there was

a concert session followed by a dance and then finally on Sunday an outdoor concert with food provided by local businesses.

Funding awarded £4,500

S.W.I. Industrial Show

The S.W.I. asked for help with costs of their annual industrial show.

This is a lovely social event and a chance for locals to show off their crafting, growing and baking skills.

Funding awarded £875



Development/ Investment Grants and Ongoing Grants

These are large grants, some of which span multiple years of ongoing support. We also provide the option for Community grants to be awarded on a rolling grant basis for annual grants that change little from year to year. This saves groups having to submit the same application every year.

Purchase of Greens Equipment

Westray Golf Club asked for help with purchasing greens equipment over a 3 year period. They have never had the equipment to improve the condition of their greens to the same standard as other local courses. They have

been hiring greens equipment from other local clubs but can only acquire these if they are available and can only afford to hire once a year. Ideally the greens need to be aerated and scarified at least 5 times over the growing season which would greatly improve the condition. They have a fantastic facility at the Westray Golf Club, which has 50 adult and 20 junior members. There are more visitors, both individuals and groups visiting the club year on year.

It was agreed to award Westray Golf Club £3000 in year 1, £3000 in year 2 and £4000 for year 3

Total Funding awarded £10,000

Youth Group Sessions

Westray Parish Kirk Youth Group asked for financial assistance for the running costs of their Youth Group. They provide a social group for young people, secondary age up until about age 18. They do a range of different activities throughout the year which can include crafts, games nights and film nights ending with a bit of supper and reflection. This year they had a "Blue Light Night" which saw them going around the Fire Station, Coastguards and Doctors/ambulance to get demonstrations, hear what is involved and use some of the equipment. These nights are provided free of charge and are very popular in the winter months with the teenagers.

They asked if this would be considered for a 3 year rolling grant

Grants Awarded 2024-2025

Westray Nursery Learning and Development

Westray Nursery were looking for help to develop their outdoor space to allow play and learning to flow effectively as it does inside. The items they were looking to purchase for their outdoor space were art resources, wooden blocks, loose parts, maths and literacy items and messy play equipment.

Funding Awarded £1,800

School Jumpers

Westray Parent Council asked for help to cover some of the costs of providing a new school jumper for every child enrolled at Westray Junior High School for the new school year. It was hoped it would take pressure off parents to have to fund a school top given the current cost of living.

Funding awarded £800

Community Room Upgrade

Westray Community Association asked for a grant that would help them make the necessary upgrades to make the Community Room more functional and modernised. The plans included the purchase of tables that are easier for the community to move, so that the community room was as flexible a community space as possible.

- Modernise and extend the kitchen to increase its functionality.

- Upgrading the lighting in the community room to modernise and refresh the feeling/ atmosphere of the space.
- Upgrading the flooring in both ends of the rooms to a less slippery surface to prevent slips, trips, and falls.
- Increase the amount of plug sockets available to make the room more user friendly.
- Purchase modern cleaning equipment to make cleaning easier/ encourage groups to leave the room as they found it/ take pride in their community space.

By improving the lighting and flooring, they hoped to create a more flexible community space.

Funding awarded £12,579.33

“Westray Community Association had an opening night in the form of a Games Night, with members of the community invited to come see what the finished project looked like, have a cuppa and take part in some games.”



This is a very good way of helping the community when any of the groups need a bit of help to cover expenses for an event or for taking on larger community projects which benefit the whole community.” Edith Costie

Westray Playpark Improvements

Friends of Westray Playpark asked for a grant to help with improvements to the playpark, this is a popular place for both locals and visitors and is in need of repair and safety work.

They hoped to complete: replacement of the zip line, remove the grey spinning disc, including foundations and replace with new tractor play equipment, replace toddler climbing frame with similar equipment, remove existing ground fixings from previous spring seesaw and replace with new wooden one, install interactive sensory boards to make the playpark more inclusive and provide seating, as well as contractor costs, paint and cleaning materials.

Funding awarded £38,979.10

Westray Sailing Club 100th Anniversary

Westray Sailing Club wanted to put on a fantastic Regatta weekend to celebrate their 100 year anniversary. This included Thursday Curry Night, Friday Yacht Race, Saturday Regatta and dance and a Sunday Island Fun Day.

They also put together a 100 years

Grants Awarded 2024-2025

The Community Turbine Fund

We had another successful grant period with £99,819.22 being paid out of the Community Turbine Fund and into the Westray community. This went towards projects, events, sponsorships, travel and training. We are delighted that the Community Turbine Fund can provide this funding.

Young Persons Travel Grants

Another successful year for applications from bairns with £861.60 being paid out for them to attend athletics training and competitions, bouldering courses, swimming lessons, instrumental courses, college classes, rugby and football training. What a fantastic variety of activities the Westray bairns have been taking part in this year!

Education and Training Grants

The Training and Education grants remain popular this year with 51 grants, totalling £5,211.32. It's been great to see so many people taking us up on this, we love to encourage personal development and have some fantastic reviews.

“Its good to have the grant there because it helps to get you on the course if you're struggling with the

Callum Paterson	Sheep Shearing Course	£120.00
Dean Shearer	Orkney Driving Academy -Fast track driving course	£345.00
Hannah Wilson	Orkney Driving Academy -Fast track driving course	£345.00
Alison Drever	Piano Lessons	£72.00
Harry White	Learn to Swim lesson at Picky	£22.40
George White	Learn to Swim lesson at Picky	£22.40
Jack Seatter	Orkney Athletics and Running Club	£67.80
Rowana Pickering	Learn to Swim lesson at Picky	£22.40
Willow Pickering	Piano Lessons	£77.00
Arun Summers	Piano Lessons (Full Year)	£192.00
Mia Pottinger	Piano Lessons	£72.00
Tanna Groat	Piano Lessons and exam	£94.50
Chris Steindorff	BDMLR Maritime Mammal Medic Course	£57.50
Ailsa Seatter	Court, Kirk and Burgh module for HNC	£152.50
Willow Pickering	Instrumental Course	£10.00
Jack Paterson	OOW Orals Prep	£345.00
Charlotte Harvey	Singing Group	£20.00
Beki Hooper	Singing Group	£20.00
Joe Wilde	Singing Group	£20.00
Jack Owen	Driving Theory, Lessons & Test	£267.50
Gill McEwen	Sing Westray Sing	£20.00
Tanna Groat	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Willow Pickering	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Louis Rendall	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Mia Pottinger	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Alison Drever	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Gill McEwen	Singing Group	£32.00
Jennifer McKnight	Driving Theory, Lessons & Test	£341.75
Charlotte Harvey	Singing Group	£32.00
Joseph Wilde	Singing Group	£32.00
Beki Hooper	Singing Group	£32.00
Paul Weitzen	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Ros Bryant	Singing Facilitation	£254.57
Kay Edwards	Singing Group	£32.00
Coilla Drake	REC Outdoor First Aid	£40.00

financial situation and it also gives you motivation to go and do it if there's help to pay for it. I was grateful when I got accepted for the grant as the course isn't that cheap.” Callum Paterson

“I am very grateful for WDT's Education and Training Grant. I don't think I would have undertaken this course without grant funding.” Ailsa Seatter

“It was lovely to meet each week and sing a range of different types

Grants Awarded 2024-2025

Coilla Drake	HNC Horticulture	£258.00
Mia Pottinger	Piano Exam	£26.50
Alison Drever	Piano Lessons	£66.00
Yvonne Rorie	Reiki 1st Degree Class	£100
Elsie Hutchison	Driving lessons, Theory and Test	£260.00
Willow Pickering	Piano Lessons	£48.00
Louis Rendall	Piano Lessons	£48.00
Mia Pottinger	Piano Lessons	£48.00
Tanna Groat	Piano Lessons	£48.00
Sue Chilvers	Reiki 1st Degree Class	£100.00
Bev Tulloch	Reiki 1st Degree Class	£100.00
Callum Paterson	Machine Shearing	£132.00
Arun Summers	Piano Exam	£30.50
Erika Pottinger	Ophthalmic and Intravitreal courses	£362.50
Willow Pickering	Piano Exam	£26.50

of music together. “ **Beki Hooper**

“Louis has been involved in a mini piano performance, he has performed in school concerts, and this is great for future skills and confidence. Very useful financial aid. Easy to apply for. Removes barriers to education outside of school for many. Thank you.”

Ros Rendall

“The knowledge from this course is far more than in a normal first aid at work course. It will be useful in my kayaking pursuits, work, day to day and in the community if the need arises.



Very grateful for the help towards the cost, thank you.” **Coilla Drake**

“An excellent initiative for those wishing to improve their skills and be an asset to Westray.”

Chris Steindorff



“Both boys enjoyed the course, their confidence in the water has increased. Funding was very helpful towards travel & lessons so Thank You WDT!” **Eve White**

Entertainment Grants

Westray Regatta Dance 2024

Westray Sailing Club asked for

assistance for their yearly Regatta Dance. The Regatta brings lots of visitors to the Island and is a well attended social event for all ages.

Funding awarded £700

Bairns Christmas Party

The kirks have run a children’s party together for many years, open to all primary aged children and below, which provides an afternoon of fun, games, food and a visit from Santa who brings each child a present.

Funding awarded £700

Burns Supper Dance

Westray Sailing Club and Westray Golf Club held a joint Burns Supper which included a 2 course meal, speeches and a dance. It was hoped that not only would it be a night of celebrating Robbie Burns but a lovely social event to cheer up a dreary January.

Funding Awarded £700

Games Nights

Westray Community Association planned some good old fashioned fun in the form of some Games Nights for the winter months, there were physical games like duster hockey but also board games, ping pong and quizzes. Also on offer they had tea/coffee and biscuits. Great fun for all ages!

Funding Awarded £200

Curry and Quiz Night

Westray Junior Golf Club held a Curry and Quiz Night, there hasn’t

been a night like this in a while so they thought it would be a great way for folk to socialise, unwind and raise some funds for the Junior Golfers. It was well attended and a great event.

Funding Awarded £700

Kalisgarth Peedie County Show

Westray’s first Peedie Show, this was a day providing outdoor entertainment with activities for all ages, refreshments were served and live music was provided. Animals and vehicles were on show. This was a day for the whole community to enjoy including Kalisgarth residents who got to come out into the sunshine to watch the Kirkjuvagr Dancers and judge the dog show. Much fun was had by all and was a huge success, well done to all involved.

Funding Awarded £700



“Folk are still talking about it and how much fun was had and if we are doing it again next year – so I think that measures the success of the day. Thanks again to the support of WDT for helping to make the community in Westray what it is!” **Val Thomson**



Community Grants

Replacement Projector

This was a grant asking for help towards buying a replacement projector for the Westray Parish Kirk. The projector is used by various groups throughout the year.

Funding awarded £2,779.00

Annual Trip to Mainland Orkney

The Knitting Group asked for help with their annual trip, they had costs for bus hire, ferry travel and entry fees. A lovely day was had by all and they went visits to Barony Mill, Kirbuster Farm Museum, Birsary Books, Brough of Birsay, coffee at the Orkney Distillery and lunch at The Birsay Tea Room.

Funding awarded £536.80



The Westray Hub

The Westray Hub meets weekly from November to March. It runs from 10.30-2.30 and offers hot and cold beverages and biscuits, from 12 noon –2pm hot soup and home baked bread is available. There are a range of activities on offer each week. There is also an activity area for parents and toddlers. This is set up at the Baptist Kirk as it’s a nice central area that folk can access easily.

Funding awarded £960.00



“We could not have run the Hub so successfully without WDT funding. Our WDT grant paid for our entertainment package for the whole winter - things such as artists’ workshops, card-making kits and mini-massage treatments. We could have run the Hub without these as we had other grants to cover all food costs, but it would have felt very depleted without the additional activities, which drew folk in that didn’t normally come. The WDT grant enriched the whole Hub experience for our users.”

Ailsa Seatter