



# Westray Development Trust Annual Report 2015-2016



Construction of the Labyrinth at Kalisgarth

Photo © Graeme Wilson, Ease Archaeology

## **Our vision...**

*To develop the economic, social and cultural sustainability of our community by harnessing the quality of our resources, people and island environment.*

## Chairman's Report

Westray Development Trust's Board this year consisted of five longer serving members and five who were newly elected at AGM, their appointments somewhat refreshed the whole organisation. Their positive and active approach, both verbally and in their decision making, has assisted moving things along. I would suggest that their assumed steep learning curve may not have been as steep as they thought. At the time of writing we have the space for an additional 5 directors, so would encourage anyone with any thoughts of becoming a director to put their names forward.

That being said, Trust directorship requires a high degree of responsibility. There are not only the legal requirements of the post, but the morality and ethics play a significant part. What is also vital to the existence of the Trust is the attitudes of its members. The Trust needs its members to be challenging decisions, asking questions, making statements and observations.

As you will see from the Treasurer's report a significant amount of funding has been allocated to the island this year. In all honesty this level of grant funding is not sustainable, as we must look to the future. We are mindful that the Trust has become a fund provider which has led to it being not as active at



obtaining external funding as it once was and equally, not encouraging groups to look further afield too. We do not want to be in a position, in 15-20 years' time, where we find that the Trust can no longer operate.

WDT, as any organisation, can and does make mistakes. We are certainly not perfect and possibly never will be. We are constantly working towards achieving the best that we can, to address mistakes and make improvements. It takes a whole lot of volunteers to do this though. Currently we have 18 volunteers who put in their time to drive the Trust forward, often with little or no thanks. I wish to personally address this and thank them all for that they do.

Looking to the future, we need to develop a balance between the levels of grant funding and putting away funds that accumulate an income for when the grid connection expires. Of similar importance is developing sustainable services such as a stone aggregate quarry. This particular item seems to have been on the Trust agenda for almost 20 years. Hopefully we will soon be in a position to make a decision on the viability of it. It will never be a huge income generator as the costs of producing stone here on the island will be more than stone produced on the mainland. However, we will of course

be hoping to offset this by removing the haulage cost element.

Projects, such as the quarry, do not happen overnight. Another project which we hoped to have achieved this year was the fundraising shop. Early in the new year, in response to growing community requests and acting on an offer of a piece of land, the Trust instructed their solicitor to formally make enquiries and, subject to valuation, make an offer on it. Due to circumstances beyond Trust control, the purchase is still to be finalised. Once concluded, the Trust hopes to set up the shop as a priority.

There have been lots of other developments over the year, such as the proactive budget we created with the school and parent council. On the back of this trial we have accepted a request from the school to consider extending the proactive approach for a further 12 months.

**George Drever**  
**Chairman 2015-2016**

## Accountant's Report

All of the bookkeeping is done in house and we are provided with a comprehensive and well maintained set of records. From these records we prepare accounts for WDT and WRE, we then consolidate these to show the results of both companies as if they were undertaken by a single entity which is the required form of disclosure for Companies House. We perform an audit, assist with submissions to OSCR and Companies House and also calculate and advise on payments of profit from WRE to WDT to minimise payments of Corporation Tax.

On the basis of our audit work this year we were able to report to the respective boards of WDT and WRE that there were no significant matters to be brought to their attention.

There are currently only two companies left in the group. Westray Enterprise CIC was struck off. The remaining companies are Westray Development Trust (a charity, generally exempt from tax) and Westray Renewable Energy Ltd (a trading company subject to Corporation Tax).

WDT still attracts some grants but the real source of revenue for the group is the income generated by WRE from the wind turbine. The source will continue for a number of years but eventually will come to an end.

The income generated by WRE was down from £572,257 in 2015 to £533,678 in 2016. Electricity generated was similar to last year but there has been a reduction in the money earned per unit of production including the end of the LEC payments. WRE does not have any significant overheads and so the surplus available (i.e. the profit) before making a donation to WDT was £386,116 (2015 - £416,858).

The importance of WRE as a source of funds for WDT can be seen in the following table which shows all the payments made by WRE to WDT in the last two years.

*\* The donation of profits from one year is made in the following year. The exact amount is calculated using the taxable profits, which are different from the accounting profits.*



DESCRIPTION	2016 £	2015 £
Loan interest	23,966	28,124
Loan repayments	75,862	71,704
Rent of turbine site	2,400	2,400
Management charges	5,827	7,691
Donation of profits*	352,692	339,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£460,747</b>	<b>£448,919</b>

While the annual donation of profits from WRE is by far the largest item, there are still some significant other payments.

The loan repayments and interest will continue for a few more years. This loan was originally funded through grants to WDT but as the loan is repaid, the funds fall back into WDT to be used as the Trustees decide. The remaining balance on this loan at 30 June 2016 was £382,953 (2015 - £458,815).

Arising from this inflow of funds to WDT, there are two fundamental questions. Firstly, how much of this should be used in the short term either for the benefit of the community generally or to support local businesses? Secondly, how much should be squirrelled away for the day that the turbine stops generating power?

This a perennial question that we see exercising the collective intellects in various development trusts. There is no right answer and so that is why it is so important to have the right people

on the Boards of your two companies, and it has been good to see there is a mixture of experienced board members as well as new members who bring fresh perspectives to any discussion.

Westray Development Trust has a reputation around Scotland for both innovation and professionalism. We have seen this again this year in the approach being adopted to support local businesses with loans at favourable rates. These innovative finance arrangements will bring considerable benefits to the island but as always, the approach has been fully researched and legal advice taken where necessary. Charity law is complex and it would be very easy get something wrong.

The overall financial position of both companies is strong with healthy reserves financed by the cash generated by the turbine. However, we see that there is still much work to be done to maximise the legacy from the turbine.

*Alan Long*

## Treasurer's Report

It is one year since I was elected to the Board of the Westray Development Trust (WDT). At the following WDT Board meeting I was appointed treasurer with the full support of the directors.

The board currently has 10 volunteer directors.

The duties of all directors are greatly eased by the support provided by the WDT full-time staff. As Treasurer I gratefully acknowledge the key role of Janice Rendall (Finance & Administrative Officer at WDT) who ensures that the myriad of day-to-day financial matters are professionally managed and Andy Makin (Operations Manager WDT) who ensures that requests for grants and loans are encouraged and assembled to give them the best opportunity for success.

I also acknowledge the substantial time and effort donated by the 6 members of the Project Evaluation Group (PEG) who assess all submissions for project funding submitted to WDT.

Based on guidelines, approved by the WDT board, PEG makes a summary recommendation to the board on each submission.

Last but not least, on behalf of the membership and board, I acknowledge the major financial contribution that Westray Renewable Energy Ltd (WRE) continues to make to WDT and that underpins the operation of WDT.

The details of the WDT financials are provided elsewhere in this report but to give an insight I include the following overview of projects supported by the WDT in the last 5 years:



YEAR	# OF AWARDS	OVERALL VALUE	OBSERVATIONS
2015-2016	72	£535,000	included 2 loans
2014-2015	46	£114,000	no loans
2013-2014	31	£36,000	no loans
2012-2013	18	£74,000	no loans
2011-2012	12	£147,000	included 1 loan

*Ian W. Ricketts*  
Treasurer WDT

## Westray Renewable Energy Ltd

Production by the community wind turbine this year, July 2015 to June 2016, was slightly down on the same period last year with 3,421.710MWh total power exported into the national grid compared with 3,534.700MWh last year. This production gives a total gross income (including weighted average) of £479,038.

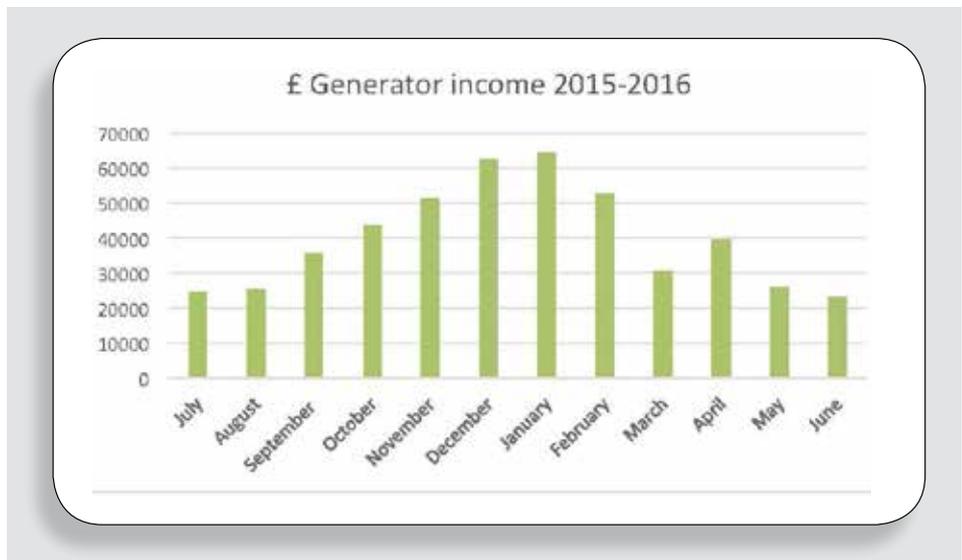
There were no major outages this year, unlike last year where the turbine was shut down for over a week due to lightning strikes; so the lower production would indicate that the wind didn't blow quite as hard as it did for the same period last year!

We are now in the seventh year of production as the turbine was commissioned in October 2009. During the first six years, over £1.6m was gift aided to Westray Development Trust in addition to loan repayments, ground rent and management charges.

All operating profits are transferred to Westray Development Trust as the sole shareholder. Audited accounts have been submitted indicating payments of over £460,000 to WDT (including gift donations, intercompany loan repayments and ground rent).

Current board members are Wullie Bain, Sam Harcus, Philip Bews, Jeemie Stout, David Hutchison and Andrew Seatter. Elizabeth Drever is Secretary for the company.

*Wullie Bain, Chairman*



# Operations Manager's Report

The 2015 AGM gave the Trust Board and Staff team some clear indications and decisions on how the Membership wanted the year ahead to go.

The development of a Westray quarry was discussed during the AGM and the feedback continued to come in afterwards too. The Membership generally felt that they needed more information on which to base a decision, which is exactly where the Trust board and staff were too. More money was needed to explore the potential and the Board wanted to put this by the membership in the first instance.

The Membership duly approved the costs of exploring the quarry and we have been working on getting the information to assist with your decision making.

To date we have identified that Westray is geologically rich with vast resources of high quality stone below our feet. We already knew this and didn't need a geological survey to tell us. However, if the outcome was going to be a commercial quarry, the planners would insist on one.

Specifically the survey has shown two sites with the right stone, at the right angle, without too much overburden. The stone has been tested and can be closely compared with any of the imported stone to Westray.

On the strength of this report, we contacted the land owners and neighbours of the two sites to ascertain their continued willingness to progress with the quarry proposal. As a result only one land

owner is content to progress.

Our next step was to engage with a quarry designer, who will take us through the whole planning permission process. At the end of which we will have a fully designed and costed quarry



Rock formations sampled for the quarry project

proposal with a decision on planning. This work is ongoing and I hope to have something more tangible to present to you at the AGM.

There are several other elements that we need to work on too. How will the quarrying be initially funded? What kind of business/incorporation structure should the quarry operate under? Will



Potential quarry site

the operation include delivery/haulage and finally do we limit our market to Westray, or consider exporting too?

Another question raised by the membership was that of the ethical nature of any future Trust investments. The Trust therefore developed a policy statement that necessitates ethical considerations are made.

The Trust has therefore made a decision

to invest with CCLA, specialists in managing investments for Churches, Charities and Local Authorities. Specifically the Trust has opted to invest in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund which has a higher level of ethical screening than most other funds.

You can find out more information at [www.ccla.co.uk/investment-solutions/fund/coif-charities-ethical-investment-fund](http://www.ccla.co.uk/investment-solutions/fund/coif-charities-ethical-investment-fund).

Other projects such as the Housing Survey continue to progress albeit at a slow pace. The Trust is very mindful that it needs all of the information at hand before making any decisions about developments.

In general, it seems on the face of it that not much has been achieved this year. I set out with wanting to see something real, something physical, something actually being developed, but for a variety of reasons things have not progressed as quickly as I had imagined they would at the turn of the year.

I hope to see you at the AGM where I will go into more detail about:

- The Quarry
- The Fund Raising Shop
- The Fruit and Veg Project

- The Hofn
- The Grant system and how each performed
- Housing Study
- The Home Help Service
- Uses of Community Benefit Funds
- Members' thoughts for future projects

Thank you for all your input this year. It really does help determine what the Trust does.



Rock formations sampled for the quarry project

**Andy Makin**

# Grants awarded in the financial year July 2015-June 2016

## Westray Community Turbine Fund – 2015/16

This financial year saw the implementation of the percentage based budgeting system which has worked well albeit with a few teething problems. The overall budget for the financial year of July 2015 to June 2016 was based on the actual income in July 2013 to June 2014 which was £306,700. This figure was then broken down into the Essential Expenditure budget (EEB) of £98,000 and the Net Budget (NB) of £208,700. The NB was then broken down further into the following categories: Community Grants (CG), Development Grants (DG), Education & Training Grants (ETG), Entertainment Grants (EG) and Investment Budget (IB).

Under the new guidelines, the staff team can assess and approve ETG and EG and aim to give applicants a response within 10 days of application receipt. We moved to quarterly Project Evaluation Group meetings which sees the assessment of CG, DG and IB. A grant scoring matrix was introduced with applications being assessed on five criteria and given a score of between -1 and 3. The five criteria are: meet with Trust objectives, need, impact, achievability and costs.

2015/16 saw an enormous amount of applications to the fund and along with two loans that were processed, the total funding awarded was £535,711.89. This includes Trust run projects, the funding of which comes from the IB.

**Community Grants** – this fund is 20% of the net budget and for 2015/16 the budget was £41,740. There were 25 applications to this fund, 23 of which were approved, 1 withdrawn by the applicant and 1 referral back for further information.

Friends of Kalisgarth was awarded £480 towards costs of the 10 year anniversary celebrations of the care centre opening. Westray Water Fitness asked for £294 to assist with costs of replacing equipment and this application was approved.

The Inter-kirk group was granted £209 to help with the costs of sending round the annual Christmas card which details the kirk services over the Christmas period.

Westray Swim Club were awarded two grants; one to cover some of the costs of the Harvest Home (£360) and one to assist with the costs of replacing equipment at the pool, this award was £1,563.66.

needing to replace some games and equipment and were awarded £549.60 to cover some of the costs.

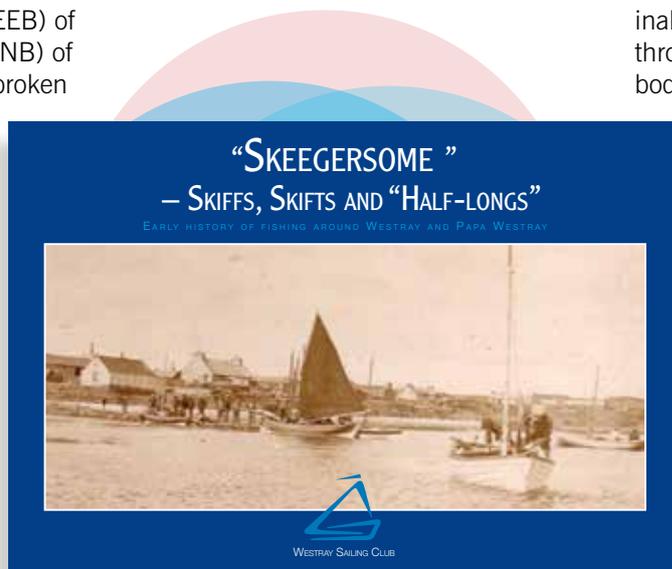
Hazel Moore and Corinne Curtis have set up a Community Interest Company called Go Westray. The initiative for this setup arises from the identification of opportunities and potential for a variety of creative pursuits by the Westray Learning Centre and Westray Tourism Development Office, coupled with an inability to develop these ideas further through the existing structures of those bodies. Go Westray will enable such

projects to be supported, developed and implemented in-house. It will also undertake projects in partnership with other community groups and it will offer project consultancy and facilitation services to such groups and also to local businesses. The CIC structure will allow income to be generated which can then be re-invested in future projects. Hazel and Corinne were awarded £900 to assist with the costs of setting up this company.

The Tourism Development Officer made two applications to this fund this year; one for £800 towards costs of a project on Vikings which will be run alongside the exhibition at the Heritage Centre and the other application was for £180 to assist with the costs of the craft workshop that was held early in the summer. Both applications were approved.

2015/16 saw the revival of Westray Rugby Football Club which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the club and this meant a celebration. The club was awarded £870 towards the costs of the day and evening of celebrations held in April and as well as this, its application for £1,137 to assist with purchasing new rugby posts was also approved.

Another sporting event which Westray was involved in this year was the Parish Cup Darts final. Because of the timing of the event, the competitors couldn't make a return journey from Kirkwall on the evening ferry and so they hired a small boat to take them back after the final finished. WDT supported them with the costs of this by granting £288.



Westray Sailing Club and Westray Heritage Trust put in a joint bid for funding to cover the costs of producing the book 'Skeegersome'. The amount awarded was £3,339 with £1,000 of this being a grant and the remaining £2,339 will be repaid when funds have been recovered through the sale of the book.

2016 saw Westray host the North Isles Sports and the Westray Sports Club put on a dance in the evening to Genuine Draft. The group applied for funding of £590 to cover travel, hire and accommodation costs for the band. The actual amount they claimed was £548.60.

Westray Fairtrade Group applied for funding to cover the costs of window stickers for supporters of the group and were awarded £86.56.

The Senior and Junior Youth Clubs were

## Grants awarded in the financial year July 2015-June 2016 continued

To reduce the costs of replacing the rigging on the clubs boats and training craft, the Westray Sailing Club wanted to purchase a hand crimping tool along with rigging wire. WDT funded the cost of the hand crimping tool by 80% and awarded the club £267.44.



*New Kitchen renovation for wheelchair access*

Westray Community Council was awarded £3,600 to assist with the costs of improving the access road and increasing the area of the car parking space at the Rapness kirk yard. The bi-annual Bisegeos Run/Walk takes place in September and the organising committee applied for funding to assist with the costs of putting on the event. The Trust awarded them £1,375.

First Westray Brownies attended a County Campfire in June and WDT granted the group £177.68 to help with the travel costs.

Ruth Hagan, on behalf of a group of Westray young folk, applied for funding to help with the costs of attending the Soul Survivor conference in Kinross which is a 6 day Christian conference. There were 4 young folk and 2 supporters from Westray. This group was awarded £909.73 to cover some of the travel and accommodation costs.

There were a few individual applications to this fund. A couple of them were under the Trust objective of assisting those in need by reason of disability. One came from Corinne Curtis who

asked for some financial assistance towards purchasing a lightweight wheelchair which would allow her to be more mobile whilst carrying out her duties for the learning centre and in her day to day life. She was awarded £495.

Eric and Catherine Rendall were awarded £848 to assist with the costs of renovating their kitchen and making access to their home easier for Catherine who is wheelchair mobile.

Matthew Harcus travelled to Zimbabwe on a learning and development trip which saw him working alongside Julie Hagan and the women involved in GoGo Olive. The Trust granted him £341.42 which covered some of the costs his trip.

The total funding awarded and claimed/waiting to be claimed for the year in this fund totalled

£19,619.69 with expected returned funds to be £2,339.

**Development Grants** – this fund is 33% of the net budget and for 2015/16 the budget was £68,871.

As well as the funding already committed, there were 7 applications to this fund; 2 of which were rejected and one was withdrawn.

Trust projects already committed from this fund at the start of the year were Hofn running costs of £6,800, Learning centre costs of £11,800.88, Here2Help (which changed to WDT Home Help project in April) £5,000 and the Tourism Development Officer project £8,787.50. Other projects with funding committed from previous years applications were the Westray Playgroup play leader funding of £1,000 and the Westray Heritage Trust museum accreditation project £10,000.

The Trust, working in partnership with the school and the parent council submitted an application for £6,320 for proactive budgeting which was to cover costs of various things that are not covered by the local authority. The actual amount they claimed was £2,923.50.

Friends of Kalisgarth took on responsibility for an application for funding to assist with installing an access road to the new houses at Kalisgarth. The Trust will fund this project to a total of £2,402.

Westray Golf Club submitted an application for funding for the next five years to enable them to put in place measures to become more self-funding in future. The Trust agreed to fund the first year at £10,485 but will require yearly reviews to assess where the club is in relation to its plans.

Another project on a similar basis to that of the Golf Club, is funding for an events and information coordinator applied for by the Community Association.

The Trust agreed to fund this for the first year at a cost of £923.20 which includes the setup of a new island diary and the project will be reviewed annually.

Total funding awarded/committed in the financial year was £63,518.58 with actual claimed/waiting to be claimed at £60,122.08.



*Lightweight wheelchair*

## Grants awarded in the financial year July 2015-June 2016 continued

**Education & Training grants** – this fund is 5% of the net budget and for 2015/16 the budget was £10,435.

There was a total of 25 applications to this fund, all of which were approved.

Three people applied for funding for UKCC Level 1 Teaching Aquatics course costs; Colin Risbridger, Jonathan McEwen and Theresa Sandison. All three successfully secured £150 each.

Adam Baird successfully applied for £57.50 to help with costs of Sage Instant Accounts training books.

Jade Sumner and Matthew Harcus both applied for the maximum funding available under the driving lessons scheme and both were awarded the funding. Matthew claimed £75 of the £150 awarded and Jade has yet to submit a claim.

Yvonne Rorie and Margaret Rendall were both awarded £500 to cover some of the costs of SVQ3 Social Services and health care course.

Andy Makin requested £480 towards course costs for Access to Christian Theology with UHI. He was awarded this amount.

Adam Sharp submitted an application for assistance towards costs of an Oftec engineering course and was awarded £362.50.

William Turnbull was awarded £85 to cover 50% of the costs of a PGA Level 1 (Junior coaching) course.

The Mindfulness course that has been made available by Simon Tarry attracted a few applications; Simon himself applied for funding to do the teaching course and was awarded £449.50.

Corinne Curtis and Samantha Wood both applied for funding to attend the course and were awarded £40 each. As well as this course, Samantha was awarded £17.50 to cover 50% of the costs of an Elementary Food Hygiene course.



Torchlight parade

The learning centre

coordinator managed to secure a photography workshop with Mana Meadows from Zimbabwe which saw a good attendance. There were 10 applications for grants to cover 50% of the costs of this course and the following awards were made:

Graham Wilson, Kirsty Stout, Kayleigh Seatter, Janice Rendall and Christine Harcus were all awarded £15; Elizabeth Drever, Margo Makin, Emily Bain and Julie Hagan all received £22.50 and Hannah Harcus was awarded £7.50.

Total funding awarded in this financial year was £3,454.50 with the actual amount claimed/waiting to be claimed at £3,379.50.

As you can see, this fund was a little underused this year.

**Entertainment Grants** – this fund is 2% of the net budget and for 2015/16 the budget was £4,174.

There were 10 applications to this fund with 1 being withdrawn and 1 that wasn't required.

Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association submitted three applications to this fund; the torch parade following the regatta in July 2015 was funded by WDT to the sum of £737.29 (application for £800), Westray Connections 2015 received the maximum amount of funding available under this fund at the time which was £1,000 and the group were awarded up to a maximum of £400 towards the Westray Connections Presents event involving Saltfish Forty but only claimed £126.10.

Westray Community Association applied for £500 funding to purchase the fireworks for the community bonfire in November. The total claimed was £499.99.

Jan Stephenson and Liz Drever organised a fundraising event involving the 'Orkney Rocks!' choir and asked for underwriting to a maximum of £1,000. The actual claim came in at £665.10.



Colour chaos at Soul Survivor

With the budget being almost totally used up early on in the year, the WDT Board

reviewed the policy. Previously, applicants could request up to £1,000 to help with the costs of bringing acts to Westray or taking equipment across but it was realised that this policy meant that there would be the potential that only 4 events could benefit and that the budget could essentially be used up in one quarter. So, the policy was changed

## Grants awarded in the financial year July 2015-June 2016 continued

so that applications could be for a maximum of £300 only to cover travel and accommodation costs. If the event was bigger and required more funding, then the applicant should apply under the community grants scheme and the application would be assessed alongside all other applications to that fund for that quarter.

Westray Swim Club applied for funding to assist in taking the Eastie Boys to



Westray for the Harvest Home and were awarded £117. (Note, with the change of policy, the club then submitted an application to the Community Grants fund for other costs).

Westray Community Council were awarded £558.60 to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the Salvation Army who were coming to Westray for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Unfortunately, the weather at that time was terrible and they didn't get to Westray, so this grant was not required.

West Manse & Brochie applied for £56.10 to cover travel for a visiting juggling teacher. They secured the funding.

Westray Baptist Church hosted the Dayspring Gospel Choir from the Mainland and applied for £300 to cover costs which WDT awarded.

Total funding awarded in this financial year was £4,731.70 but total actually claimed was £3,501.58.

**Investment Budget** – this fund is 40% of the net budget and for 2015/16 the budget was £83,480. Any funds not used from the previous year's projects which were carried forward was added to this budget figure. Total incoming to the fund was £12,759.15.

There was one application to this fund this year and that came from the Friends of Kalisgarth for the community garden project which has been in the

pipeline for a little while. The Trust agreed to fund this project to a total of £83,674.50 which as you will note is more than the budget figure for the year.

Therefore, the project will be split over two financial years with funding being paid upon production of invoices from the supplier.

As well as this project, the Trust also had three projects that fell into this fund. The quarry project, a budget for which was approved by the membership at the AGM in 2015, was one of these projects and is progressing well. The budget for this was £25,000. The housing consultation was another Trust project approved in this year and a budget of £9,000 was allocated with a grant expected from HIE for £5,000. And lastly, the shed and fence at the golf course were in need of repair and, as it is a Trust asset, it was agreed that WDT

would fund this. A budget of £8,019 was set with income from Historic Environment Scotland of £604.46 expected.

So, with the total funds available in the year (including returned/unused funds) at £96,239.15 and total funding committed/awarded at £120,089.04, you can see that this is the most utilised fund for the year.

**Loans** - As well as all these Trust projects and grants awarded, there were two loan applications processed within the year. Ken & Uka Summers took over Peter Miller's shop in August 2015 and Stewart & Marian Groat took ownership of WI Rendall's in July 2016 (the loan funds were transferred to Developing Strathclyde Limited in June 2016).

The Trust is very pleased to have been able to help these couples in pursuit of owning their own businesses and also to have been part of ensuring that two well established local businesses continue. Total loan funding is £329,000 which will give a return of approximately £108,000 less loan management fees.



**Review** - The financial sub group carried out a review of the processes early in 2016 and proposed to the Board that the gross budget be capped at £310,000 per year and that any funds received over and above that amount could be used for Trust projects (this allowing the investment budget to be used for applications from Westray groups) or for financial investments. The Board accepted this and this was implemented from 1st July 2016.

## Grants awarded in the financial year July 2015-June 2016 continued

**2016/17 Budget** – The total income for the year 2014/15 was £454,023 with the gross budget for July 2016 to June 2017 being set at £310,000. The EEB (Trust running costs) is £98,000 and that leaves a NB of £212,000. The remaining £144,023 will be used for Trust projects or for investing in financial returns.



### The budget levels for each fund are as follows:

Community Grants (CG)	<b>£42,400</b>
Entertainment Grants (EG)	<b>£4,240</b>
Education & Training Grants (ETG)	<b>£10,600</b>
Development Grants (DG)	<b>£69,960</b>

with the following already committed at the start of the year:

- Learning Centre co-ordinator £12,930.88;
- Hofn £6,800;
- Westray Playgroup Play Leader funding £1,000;
- WDT Home Help project £5,000;
- Tourism Development Officer £4,393.75;

leaving a balance of

**£39,835.37.**

Local Investment Fund (IB)

£84,800.00

of which £43,714.50 is committed for the Kalisgarth Garden project,

leaving a balance of

**£41,085.50.**



*Construction of the Labyrinth at Kalisgarth*

# Progress on key themes

## Theme 1 – Housing:

As a result of the work undertaken with Orkney Islands Council (OIC) and Orkney Housing Association Ltd (OHAL) in 2014 the Trust secured a grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to part fund a consultation.

After three expressions of interest were received, only one, Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT), actually tendered.

The following key tasks form the structure of what HSCHT were being asked to provide:

- A report of the land availability, currently marketed or otherwise
- An options appraisal for each area of identified land, detailing the potential of developing a range of both domestic and commercial properties
- A report of funding opportunities for; land purchase, domestic and commercial property development and revenue costs of developing these.
- An appraisal of the current and future employment needs of the main employment providers and their attitude towards supporting a housing project.
- A comparative study of the current market values of a broad range of commercial and domestic properties on Westray, in Orkney and nationally
- The delivery of and a report of community engagement exercises, exploring local people’s attitudes towards a housing development project



*Ivan Rendall hands over to Stewart and Marian Groat*

- A report, including running costs, of organisations with the ability to manage the lettings and maintenance of the domestic and commercial properties

- An exploration of emerging opportunities to link with any local and national projects, maximising the benefit of developing housing and commercial properties.
- Identification of areas of land where the potential exists to use legislation to transfer ownership, for the purposes of building development, to the “community”

Predicting a potential need for housing to be developed WDT commenced an application to the Scottish Land Fund.

This work is ongoing.

**Future plans:** The findings of HSCHT consultation will be presented to the members at AGM from which WDT will develop any future plans on this key theme.

## Theme 2 – Industry and Business:

Two business loans were completed in this financial year, totalling £329,000 and ensuring that two local shops continued to trade.

The restrictions imposed upon WDT by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) were explored with representatives from OSCR, Burness Paull (charity law specialists) and Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS). As a result WDT is now clearer on the implications of the public/private benefit elements of charity law or basically what the Trust can and cannot financially support.

Grants to support commercial activity are in the “Amber Zone” of charitable activity. It’s not illegal but certainly has challenges. If it can be proved, without doubt, that a grant is vital to support a critical economic activity in a clearly defined fragile community and the public benefit far outweighs the private benefit, then a grant could be considered.



*Ken and Uka Summers take over the Skello Shop*

However the potential risk to charitable status and substantial tax implications exist if OSCR/HMRC cannot be satisfied that the grant meets charitable purposes.

## Progress on key themes continued

Our Education and Training Grant scheme appears to fit perfectly with charitable purposes. We are very correct in saying that we cannot support training that is a role requirement and would ordinarily be paid for by the employer. However, if that training is transferrable such as Basic Food Hygiene then the training, although perhaps linked with the current role, could be seen to be transferrable and could therefore be allowed.

The Trust continued to look into developing a quarry and gained the approval of its members at the 2014/15 AGM to budget for the relevant and necessary studies. As a result the British Geological Survey were contracted to carry out assessments on the Rapness quarry, any other existing but currently redundant quarry sites and any new potential sites.

The survey identified that the Rapness quarry, in its current state, would cost far too much and require extensive workings to produce a sub-standard stone product (there being the presence of significant shale deposits). The Rapness site has therefore been ruled out of any further Trust considerations. Two sites, new to Westray, were reported on as having high quality stone, in plentiful supply with relatively easy access.

### Future plans:

#### Quarry:

- Engage with quarry design company and gain relevant permissions
- Engage with quarry contractor
- Assess haulage/delivery/distribution requirements
- Present findings to the membership

#### Loans:

- Review loan policy and assessment/management systems.

### Fruit and Vegetable Growing

- Commence a study into the commercial growing of fruit and vegetables on Westray



The van de Graaf machine

### Theme 3 – Youth and children

Proactive budgeting: To support the activities of the school and parent council, a proactive budget was developed, assessed by PEG and approved by the board.

*'I am writing on behalf of pupils and staff at Westray Junior High to say a very heartfelt thank you to Westray Development Trust for the funding we have received over the past school year. The money that we receive from WDT goes towards items that we would otherwise struggle to afford. Pupils at the school have had a greatly enhanced educational experience this year, thanks to WDT funding.'*

*The van de Graaf machine was put into use as soon as it arrived, as P4-7's project for the Autumn Term was electricity. The Secondary pupils also used it for their National 5 exam course. We have some great photos of pupils with very electrified hair! S1/2 pupils have been learning to program the Raspberry pi computers. All pupils have benefitted from the 2 extra laptops.*

*The weather recording equipment was*

*put to the test during Terms 2 and 3. We are particularly pleased to have a digital maximum/minimum thermometer.*

*I am very grateful that we have a Development Trust that is willing to invest in the education of all the young people at Westray Junior High. I frequently sing your praises to fellow Headteachers who are very envious!'*

**Ailsa Seatter, Head teacher**

Fundraising shop: The Peedie Development Trust conducted a survey to gauge the community's thoughts on a 'Blue Door' style fundraising shop, the result of which was an overwhelming amount of support. As a result WDT approved a two year trial of a recycling/upcycling/second-hand facility and as such looked for suitable premises. With no suitable premises available on the island, it was decided to look into purchasing prefab units and several options were identified with the eventual purchase of two pre-used cabins from Orkney Mainland. Whilst this process was going on, the purchase of land was also taking place but unfortunately has yet to be completed due to circumstances beyond our control.



The Westray darts team

An open meeting was arranged with representatives of local groups who jointly developed the following operating structure:

Westray based groups whose benefit is mainly for Westray will be invited to register for a time allocation in the new shop. The frequency of allocations will be dependent on how many groups

## Progress on key themes continued

register and the number that can be slotted in on a weekly basis over the initial 6 months and will be drawn by way of a lottery.

To ensure groups are not overly advantaged or disadvantaged with seasonal fluctuations the



PopUp café at the Höfn

following income structure is proposed. Weekly residences will run Monday to Sunday and any takings that week will be split as follows:

- 50% immediately retained by the resident group of that week
- 45% retained by Trust for 6 months and together with any interest will be shared on a pro-rata basis
- 5% retained by the Trust to cover operating costs and shop refreshments etc.

Groups will be expected to open the shop every Wednesday from 10:00 to 4:00, every Saturday from 10:00 to 1:00 and at any other time that they want to do so, providing that their additional opening hours have been publicised in advance. The Trust will coordinate with the groups and publish any additional opening hours.

A pool of unattached volunteers will be developed to assist groups who cannot fully meet the standard opening times. Donated items will be accepted at any time during the working week and are to

be gifted to the shop and not a particular group, charity or fund raising cause. It is hoped that all donations of clothing etc would be washed prior to being donated.

Groups will be expected to sort, price and rotate old stock during their week of residence. A common pricing guide and stock rotation process will be developed to assist groups.

Subject to the Trust obtaining the appropriate license, groups may run a raffle during their week of residence, retaining 100% of the income from it.

Hofn: The Trust was approached by two members of the community involved in catering regarding using the Hofn as a pop-up café. A review of legislation, the requirements of food business operators and the building insurance showed that the use of the Hofn for this purpose was entirely possible. The Trust therefore

approved this venture and provided some assistance with start-up costs. This money will be repaid and the operators will be making a substantial donation towards a planned interior refurbishment.

The Trust approved the installation of Wi-Fi in the Hofn which will not only benefit the Hofn users but also the

customers of the café.

### Future plans:

Consider the budget for the internal refurbishment of the Hofn.

Develop the fundraising shop.

### Theme 4 – Health and Care:

Here2Help: Following a review of the Here2Help service provided by Age Concern Orkney, it became clear that they were unable to provide the service, as per the agreed Service Level Agreement. Specifically they could not guarantee that they would continue to use Westray based care workers and on occasion they would supply workers, at additional cost to the Trust, from the Mainland.

Exploring alternatives, it became clear that the Trust had the structure and resources to provide a similar home support service. WDT therefore discontinued to part fund the Here2Help service.

The Trust Home Help Service can offer anyone normally living on Westray assistance with:

- Household cleaning such as dusting, vacuuming, mopping, changing bedding etc.
- Local shopping and Pension collecting and/or accompanying the service user whilst shopping or collecting pensions etc
- Light household maintenance such as washing paintwork, cleaning cupboards etc
- Laundry and Ironing
- Food preparation and/or cooking
- Outdoor maintenance such as gardening, path clearing, etc.



Chapel of Rest

**Chapel of Rest:** The Trust supported the development of the Auk Club bus garage with a grant to develop it into a Chapel of Rest.

**New Surgery:** Very early discussions have taken place between NHS, the

## Progress on key themes continued

Westray Surgery team and WDT to explore a community initiative to replace the current surgery.

Grant Requests: Two applications from individual members of the community were considered to assist with health and care related costs.

Joint Emergency Service Building: Discussions on this project have stalled owing to wider world political implications, Brexit and the uncertainty of funding.

### Future plans:

Continue exploring the possibility of a joint emergency services building and/or new GP surgery looking at operational needs, locations, partners and funders.

### Theme 5 – Environment

Along with the reuse/recycle ethics of the fundraising shop, broader considerations are being given to exploring what else could be developed to protect the environment. Issues such as the storage and uplifting of bulky items are being discussed with OIC.

The Trust is also looking at what waste or natural products are available on the island which could be used to extract nutrients and/or supply fuel to heat the growing structures for fruit and vegetable growing project.

The Trust was approached by the Community Council with a request to support them identifying funds to develop a footpath from Chalmersquoy to the School. As part of this WDT has conducted a survey to inform and future funding applications.

In the late summer of 2015 two representatives of the Trust visited several organisations in the Western

Isles and Highlands exploring various projects including a fruit and vegetable producer. Since, the Trust has been exploring the idea of

developing a 2 year study project to see what can be grown in a variety of mediums, such as soil or

hydroponic based growing systems.

### Future plans:

Continue to explore broader recycling on the island with an emphasis on domestic items and nutrition extraction.

Continued commitment to support the Community Council to develop a footpath through the village.

Continue to explore a commercial fruit and vegetable growing project.

### Theme 6 - Recreation & Leisure and Voluntary groups

Aspects of the Community Grant Scheme and the Entertainment Grant Scheme were used to support a variety of activities on and off the island.

The Trust is delighted to be able to support almost every aspect of life on the island from the very youngest to those of more mature age. It was

especially delighted to award the Friends of Kalisgarth £83,674.50 which constituted approx. 80% of the Kalisgarth Garden Project which will benefit the whole community for many years.

A full breakdown of all those groups benefitting from the grants can be found on page 6.

### Future plans:

WDT will continue to be both proactive and reactive to activities within this theme.

The Trust plans to develop a review of the grant policy and process as it is mindful that if a balance is not identified it could create a counter-productive, grant dependant culture on the island. The Trust will inform the membership and community as these changes develop.

With the additional of a very welcome donation of £1500 from the Pop-Up Café, the Hofn will be internally refurbished, replacing the kindly donated furniture and opening up the usable space.

Various elements of work were completed with the Westray Golf Club including assisting with the development of a an action plan, aiming at complete financial autonomy in 5 years and working with funders to obtain

additional funds for essential repairs. Permission also had to be sought from Historic Environment Scotland to repair the rabbit proof fencing and being the land owner this responsibility fell to the Trust.

A Big Lottery Grant was obtained by the Trust to pay for the new Heritage Centre printer which has made the production of the What's On and other printing jobs much easier.



Golf Club equipment store renovation



Photocopier in the Heritage Centre

## Progress on key themes continued

### Theme 7: Transport

WDT continues to support in principle the small boat access at Rapness and is awaiting further information on costs and siting etc.

#### Future plans:

To work with any presenting authorities/organisations to improve the ferry service.

### Theme 8: Education & training

The Learning Centre coordinator project has now been fully funded by the Trust for over 18 months and it continues to support this activity with a further 12 month contract. A full report can be found on page 18.

The training grants scheme set up by WDT is proving to be hugely popular and very successful.

#### Future plans:

WDT will continue to monitor the development of the Learning Centre, reviewing it in December 2016.



#### Other Areas:

**Broadband:** The Trust continues to liaise with the Government agency (HIE) and the contractor (BT and BT Openreach) to explore the roll out and any future opportunities for improving the broadband service for the whole island. However, until such times that BT and BT Openreach have fulfilled their contractual obligations, the Trust cannot commit to any additional improvements,

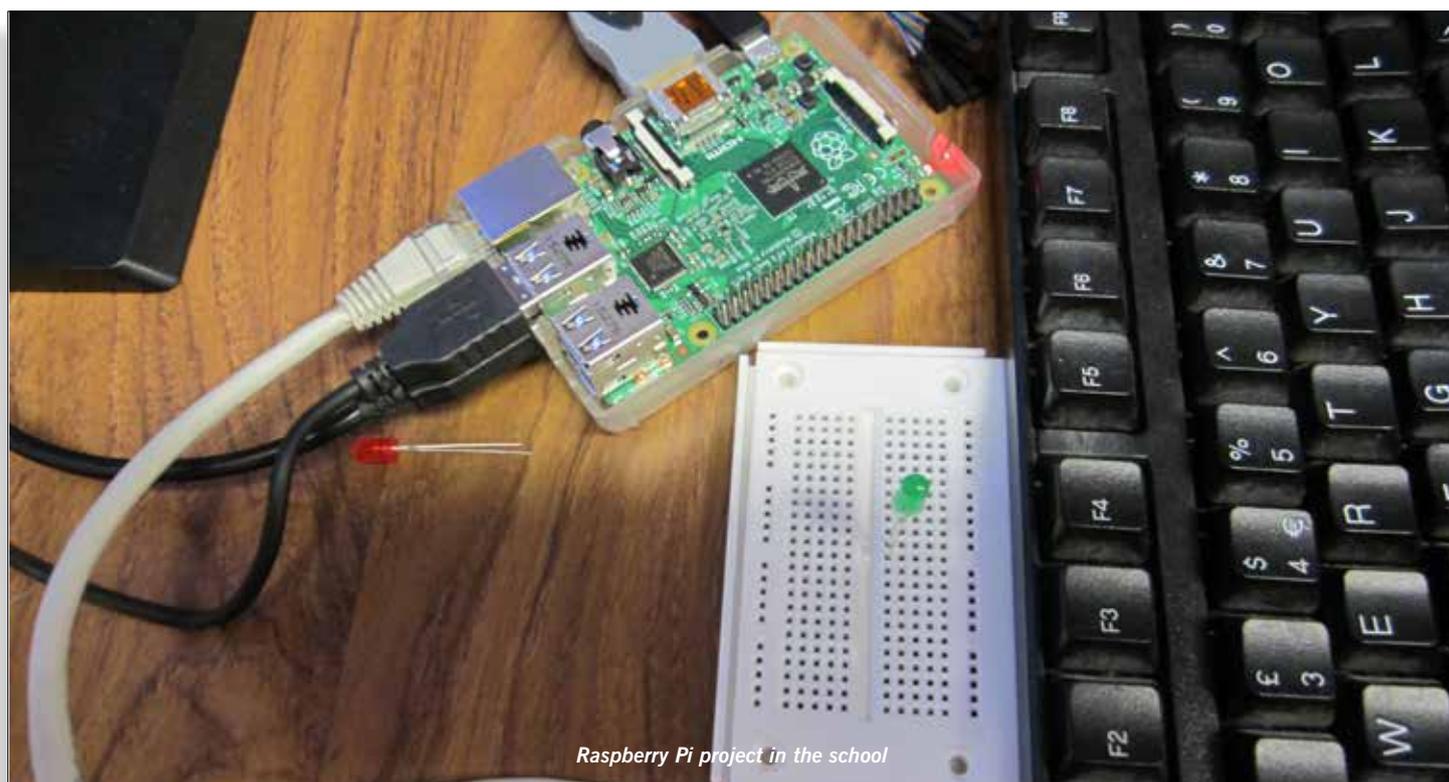
as this may preclude the island from any future funded/adopted broadband solutions.

Concurrently the Trust continues to work with the main Mobile Operators, such as Vodafone, O2 and EE to support the arrival of improved mobile coverage and the introduction of 3G and 4G to the island.

Liaison continues with the North Isles Landscape Partnership with a view of supporting funding activities that benefit Westray and the other North Isles.

The Trust has been approached by several of its members to explore ways that the community could take on the lead role with maintaining the Sports Field and the adopted walks. We are a long way off being able to report on the progress in these two areas but the Trust will keep you informed.

The Trust was approached by HIE with a request that Westray be represented in the Joint Resourcing Plan - Healthy and Sustainable Communities Partnership Delivery Group (PDG). The Operations Manager was nominated to attend and to use video conferencing as much as possible to do this.



# Tourism Development report

## Tourism Development Office

The Tourism Development post was set up as pilot programme to run over two years (January 2015 - January 2017). Funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Westray Development Trust and Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association, the project aim is to work with local groups and businesses to develop the local tourism industry. The agenda was developed in consultation with the Tourist Association, with office and administrative services provided by Westray Development Trust.

## Website & Guidebook

During Year 2 work included the completion of a Westray website and a new digital

guidebook, both to be launched in the near future.

The website will host an updated version of the island diary, together with news and information on a wide range of topics of interest

to visitors and locals alike. It is designed to form a 'first stop' for digital visitors with links to all the relevant online information- from business and local interest websites to social media pages and sources of information.

The Westray Guidebook will be available to download and is full of useful information, stories and pictures. It has been compiled from material provided by many local sources and has been beautifully produced by Peter Needham. A paper version is also currently under discussion.

## Tourism promotion

Throughout the year opportunities for tourism promotion has encompassed writing articles for inclusion in the Islander magazine, Historic Scotland's magazine, Orkney.com and a range of newspapers and other publications as well as providing information to visiting documentary makers, artists, writers, bloggers and journalists. This included the BBC filming at Links of Nollland. Their programme, Operation Orkney,

is set to be screened in December and features presenter Neill Oliver.

## Digital Tourism

My work has covered the analysis of market research to assess opportunities for local tourism development. Working through the findings, I have sought to identify and share information with local tourism businesses and groups. This included taking part in a series of webinars (online seminars) on themes relating to the use of digital platforms- such as video, social media, online booking. Hosted at the Learning Centre, these sessions were open to Tourist Association members.

At the Orkney Tourism Group Conference (November 2015) the success of online booking in increasing visitor numbers and out of season visits was highlighted. Following on from this, we invited Kirsty Sinclair- a successful B&B owner and user of online booking, to come and talk to local business owners.

A number of members subsequently expressed interest in exploring this option for themselves. In a series of sessions, assisted by Phill Hellewell and VisitScotland advisors, several local accommodation providers took the leap and joined up to online booking services.

develop our tourist 'offer' and it is hoped that the success of the online pioneers will encourage others to follow in this direction.

## Tourism and Events

The Tourism Development Office assisted with the organisation and/ or fundraising for a number of events, aimed at visitors and locals alike. These included a concert by The Chair, collaboration with the Learning Centre on the Working Hands Craft Festival and the organisation of a Westray food event at the St. Magnus Festival in Kirkwall.

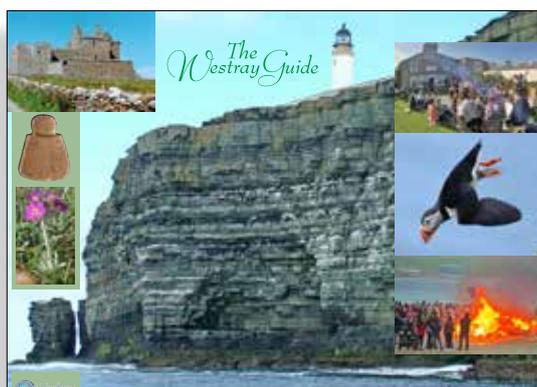
The Craft Festival, which showcased the work of many local crafts people and artists, is detailed more fully by Corinne Curtis in this report. As the first event organised by Go Westray CIC, it was encouraging to see several voluntary groups and individuals working together, providing a great day out and, at the same time, raising funds for local good causes. Hopefully this will act as a template for future events.

The St. Magnus festival food event, organised by Orkney Food and Drink, provided an opportunity to showcase some of Westray's finest fare in Kirkwall. The 'Westray lunchbox' contained bakery goods, cheese and chutneys for sale. In addition to a brisk trade, the event also provided an opportunity to speak to a wide range of people about Westray and to distribute promotional

literature for local businesses. Held on a busy Saturday, the event attracted continental visitors and cruise liner passengers who were very keen to try local produce. The event highlighted the opportunities for promotion to a Mainland visitor audience, many of whom may not have otherwise known of Westray or considered a holiday here. It also indicates the potential for sales of local goods and produce to the cruise liner market on a more regular basis- especially through the Hatston market.

## Tourism and Heritage

In collaboration with Peter Needham, the Tourism Development Office undertook the production of a special Viking exhibition for Westray Heritage Trust. This project was successful in attracting financial support from the Culture



Despite some teething problems, the early results appear to be positive and visitor numbers for these businesses are up. With the evidence showing that the majority of people now prefer to book their holidays online and to get their information via smartphones and tablets, it is vital that we continue to adapt and

### The Establishment of the Earldom and Norse Society

The Earldom of Orkney was created around AD 980 when the Norwegian King Harald Harfagre (Fairhair) claimed authority over Orkney and Shetland. The main source of information about these events comes from the Orkneyinga Saga. Written in Iceland around A.D. 1200, some 200 years after the events it describes, it opens the doors of the Norse world to us – and describes people and events associated with Westray and Papa.

The Saga tells that King Harald wanted to subdue unruly Vikings who used Orkney as a base for raiding the coast and occasionally with the evidence, however, since most of the Vikings in the islands at that time appear to have been settled farmers, fishermen and hunters. It seems more likely that Harald's motive was to extend his influence and to establish opposition to his own power – consolidated by people who had been forced from their Norwegian homeland.

Harald bestowed the title of Earl of Orkney to his son, Ragnvald, Earl of Mann in Norway. Willing to return home, however, Ragnvald passed the earldom to his brother, Sigurd Erlendsson and it was he who became the first Earl. Harald's enemies are said to have fled Orkney to form new colonies in Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

In the centuries which followed, Orkney underwent a period of sustained economic growth under the Earl's rule with contacts and trading networks which extended across the North Sea. By AD 1000 Orkney had become a well developed and advanced society for its remote location. Many towns have been excavated and evidence for a range of buildings, including a large hall and a church, has been found. It was to this period of prosperity that the name 'Papa' is thought to refer. The name 'Papa' is thought to refer to the papal bull issued in 1046, which granted the right of burial in the graveyard at St. Boniface Church in Orkney to those who had been buried there, although they may have been a later addition, since it dates to the 12th century.

All Pictish sites are said to be despoiled from Thelric Flott, the Norseman Flott (meaning 'Raft'), who was given to him on one of his expeditions and he was the great-grandfather of the name Flott as well. The name Flott was eventually shortened to Flot. An alternative explanation is that Flot derives from the Old Norse word 'flot' meaning 'raft'.

By the 1200s, Westray had been carved up into three separate parts. The first, which was described as rich and fertile, was bound most firmly to the main part of Orkney and was a man of status and wealth.

In the battle between Earl Paul and his children, Earl Thorvald and Ragnvald, the man of Westray initially pledged allegiance to Earl Paul – Thelric Flott even providing a fully equipped ship to assist him in battle. Later, they were to side with his rival, Ragnvald, on Westray from the start of the Orkney campaign on Friday 4 April 1136. Ragnvald was victorious by High sea and Thelric Flott being removed away on the Stormy sea. Following a meeting of the islanders, Ragnvald was accepted as their overlord. On the following Sunday, Ragnvald attended church in Plover and there were fifteen boats headed and unnamed men. There may have been monks (poor), possibly from the monastery on Papa Westray.

Of West, we hear no more. Earl of Ragnvald was subsequently involved in a plot against Ragnvald and was forced to flee Orkney with his life. It has been suggested, however, that Ragnvald may have fled to Papa Westray, where he may have had a church. Thelric Flott, meanwhile, met with a fatal end – he was burnt alive inside his house on Stormy by his enemies, Helson, Helle, and under Earl Paul and later Earl Ragnvald, taking part in sea campaigns in the Western Isles and Caithness and possibly even going on crusade to Jerusalem. He may have been the builder of the fine hall found during excavations at Plover and perhaps also responsible for the construction of Oles Nirk, both of which date to around 1100.

In the 12th century, Orkney was hit by severe economic decline which affected the entire island and which was exacerbated by a devastating impact of the Black Death in the mid-14th century. The castle of Orkney and Orkney by Christian of Denmark and Norway to Scotland as a dowry payment for his daughter, Princess Margaret, but eventually to the island becoming part of the Kingdom of Scotland.

While direct links with Scandinavia were severed, the Northern Isles continued to be part of the Norse and Gaelic world. The language of the islands, however, shifted to Gaelic and the Scots Gaelic language was used in the 15th century with many words surviving into the present.



the period.

A grant from the special WW1 Culture Fund is currently enabling research on Westray's Home Front to be undertaken. The aim of this project is to collect together information about locations and buildings which were directly involved with the war effort. The results will be uploaded onto the national Home Front database.

The process of evaluating the potential for development of the Links of Nolthland site has continued this year. Fieldwork on the site has been extended for another year and this has provided additional time for consultation and the preparation of a feasibility study. The initial soundings are positive and it is hoped that some of the prehistoric remains can be opened permanently.

### Tourism and Walks

The final stage of the Tourism Development contract will be dedicated to a study of walks and an audit of Westray heritage sites. The study will run alongside a WDT project concerned with infrastructure improvements, such as car parking and improving access and opportunities arising from recent community empowerment legislation.

The aim will be to identify the potential for improvement and development of the core path network of walks and heritage sites on Westray. Topics to be examined will include signage, interpretative information, maintenance, infrastructure and access. The product will be a report with proposals prepared for public consultation. The finding of this work will also inform project planning within the North Isles Landscape Partnership (NILP).

### Where Next?

The Tourism Development project is now approaching completion. It has helped to define the aspirations and requirements of our local tourism industry, to extend and develop our promotions network, to build 'synergy' within the local voluntary sector and to begin to set out an agenda for future development. It has also, however, revealed limitations inherent in working at 'island' scale – namely the repeated reliance on small groups of local volunteers to undertake the hard work involved in fundraising, organising and shouldering responsibility and, more broadly, the difficulties in maintaining consistency and forward planning with so many unknowns to contend with.

The Go Westray Community Interest Organisation has been set up in response to this situation. This not-for-profit organisation, unlike the Tourism Development Office or Learning Centre, can generate income from its activities and will also be eligible to bid for funding from a wide range of institutions (see also Operation Managers Report). It is anticipated that income generated through Go Westray projects will also enable a number of the projects set up under the Tourism Development Office to be continued and expanded in the future.

In conclusion, then, the Tourism Development Office 'experiment' may be deemed a success in that it has pointed the way to a permanent and self-sustaining organisation. The support and encouragement of Westray Development Trust, Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are warmly acknowledged.

Hazel Moore

Fund and is currently on display at Westray Heritage Centre. The exhibition investigates a key part of Westray's past using information gleaned from local excavation and researches. It includes a series of themed and illustrated posters which can be hung as a group or separately and which can be loaned to other institutions for display in the future. In addition, a collection of Viking period artefacts from recent excavations at Langskail are on temporary display. The exhibition is scheduled to continue into 2017.

A programme of events based around the theme of 'Vikings' was granted funding by Westray Development Trust. To date, these have included a programme of children's crafting events held at the Heritage Centre by Sam Wood. It is anticipated that future events will include an evening of storytelling and a visit from living history Vikings who will demonstrate crafts and skills of



Young Vikings in the Heritage Centre

# Learning Centre report

Westray Development Trust has continued to support the Westray Learning Centre, renewing the contract with Corinne Curtis for a further year to provide a variety of support features to meet the Trust's charitable goal *"to advance education and in particular to promote opportunities for learning for the benefit of the general public"*.

The pilot project started in January 2014 and was based on an average of one day a week of coordinator time. Since 1st July 2015 the contract has been based on an average of two days per week, which provides a realistic level of service. The key objectives remain as follows:

- Facilitate a range of training courses that meets the current and emerging training and educational needs of Westray.
- Liaise with Orkney College and other training providers to meet the identified need.
- Test the market to ensure best price and value for money is achieved.
- Promotes the availability of the Westray Learning Centre in a range of mediums, ensuring maximum participation
- To promote digital inclusion through accessing a range of projects
- Provide a written monthly report to each Westray Development Trust board meeting.
- Attend quarterly service delivery and budget management meetings with the [WDT] Operations Manager

This year the Westray Learning Centre has enjoyed a very similar level of success to the previous year, with once again a very high proportion of our community taking part in one or more learning sessions over a wide range of subjects throughout the year. In total, 104 different people have attended 190 learning sessions. The range of training courses included Orkney College short courses, craft and leisure activities, digital inclusion and social media, and general interest events.

## Training delivered in Westray this year includes:

### Work related training:

Orkney College: Elementary Food Hygiene (two courses, total 31 people, included senior school pupils and 6 who used Polish language course materials); Ladder and Stepladder safety (3 people); First Aid course booked for later in the year.

### Other Providers:

Tourism webinars (HIEDigital 2 series, 5 different people); Scottish Fire Service (online training); Social Media Strategy Workshop – an extremely useful and full workshop



(12 people) with the added benefit of now having a good support link with Tuminds Social Media (and with having Westray featured in their blogs).

Speakers were arranged for the Auk Club (NHS Dietician, Simon Tarry on Wellness) and also Dementia Awareness in February at Kalisgarth. This was an extremely well attended (21 people) film and discussion session, led by psychologist Miriam Landor. Following this one of the recommended books was purchased for the Learning Centre ("Contented Dementia" by Oliver James). This has been made available for loan via Kalisgarth, who will also be gathering together further books and videos for lending.

### Third sector training:

Board Health Check (WDT). Board Good Governance sessions booked. Craft Association factfinding visit to Rousay Craft Hub. Home Care Assistant training (one person)

### Craft and Leisure:

A sewing skills group (6 people) was started at the Learning Centre after participants from an independently organised sewing course expressed an interest in an ongoing group. There is now a regular Genealogy session at the Heritage Centre, where a number of people have been given one to one assistance in using the internet for genealogy. Although numbers were small (up to three people) it did provide a regular event at the Heritage Centre over winter, so was seen as worthwhile continuing.

Three more advanced beadweaving day workshops were held (7 people). We were also very lucky to have Mana Meadows (a professional photographer from Zimbabwe) offer to run three workshops in June (a total of 16 different people attending).

The Working Hands Craft Event was a very successful day of craft demonstrations and taster sessions, organised in conjunction with the Laldie Haans Orkney Craft Festival.

There were opportunities to try stone carving, tapestry weaving, beading, wood turning, knitting, spinning, sewing, kids crafts. This event also benefited the Westray Heritage Trust (£400 from teas), Kalisgarth Garden Fund (£161 from craft materials sale) and the new GO Westray CIC (£51) who provided the organisational umbrella for the event. I have since been involved in the feedback and planning for next year to build on the skills development opportunities available at Westray events associated with this festival.

Digital inclusion: at least 8 older adults have been supported in using ipads. I attended a Digital Resilience meeting in Kirkwall to discuss options for continuing and increasing the type of support that came from the Citizensonline and Get

## Learning Centre report continued

IT Together projects for digital inclusion. This was followed by a OneDigital training session in Kirkwall, and their online Digital Champion training and resources that will be used for sessions in the next year.

minutes. This project is being picked up again at the beginning of the next year of activity.

### Coordinator liaison:

I had a very productive and useful meeting with Orkney College Principal and Vice Principal who remain interested in what is happening with the Westray learning Centre and keen to support in any way they can. Once the internet service to Westray improves, we will be looking further at innovative ways to get college courses delivered on Westray, including using internet/VC. Orkney College has also said they will do an analysis of student origins to try and identify whether there are any courses that Westray students attend that could be delivered on Westray, and look at which courses might be appropriate to deliver remotely.

I have also delivered a presentation on the Learning Centre to the HIE Project Managers meeting on 8th December, and provided information to another

development trust beginning their own learning project.

### Links with GO Westray Community Interest Company

GO Westray CIC was formally registered on 16th April 2016, SC533006. This company was created by myself and Hazel Moore (Tourism Development) to allow the potential to support enterprising projects with social and community benefit. GO Westray CIC was successfully used as a pilot to manage funding for the Working Hands Craft Event on 30th April.

### Future plans:

The Learning Centre Project was recently reviewed and the contract has been renewed at the same level of service for a further year. Already there are courses booked and planned for the first few months of the new financial year that include: First Aid; a Youth Skills project; several Craft workshops; further practical Digital Skills development. These will continue to be advertised in shop windows, on the Westray Facebook group and by word of mouth.

**Corinne Curtis**  
**Westray Learning Centre**



*Demonstrating the craft of spinning*

A total of at least 41 people were involved in Immersive Minds (Minecraft computer gaming in education) sessions over three days.

A youth session was held at Westray Heritage Centre – looking at how to “build” from photos. Then followed a full day of curriculum based sessions at the school.

The final Heritage and Archaeology day was not as well attended as expected (several people sent apologies), however eight people in total took part in discussion sessions or skills development during the day, with discussion on how to proceed with using Minecraft as a 3-D virtual mapping tool for the promotion of Westray’s heritage, archaeology and tourism.

One of the additional pieces of learning for me was a very graphic demonstration of the uses of social media (in particular Twitter) to promote both the Minecraft project and Westray, with Stephen’s Westray-focussed tweets picked up by various archaeology and heritage organisations and “re-tweeted” within



*Kids Crafts at Working Hands*

## Funders and associates 2015/6

Thanks go to the following funders and associates who have supported Westray Development Trust and its activities in 2015/16:

Adam & Company  
Ann Marwick  
British Geological Survey  
Burness Paull LLP  
CCLA  
Community Development Fund  
Community Energy Scotland  
Community Power Orkney  
Companies House  
Corinne Curtis, Learning Centre Coordinator  
Daniel Marcus Construction  
Developing Strathclyde Limited  
Development Trust Association Scotland  
EASE Archaeology  
Energy Action Westray  
Highlands & Islands Enterprise  
Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust  
Historic Environment Scotland  
Lows Orkney  
Mable Kent and May Paterson  
Nick Coward  
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator  
Orkney Islands Council  
Orkney Renewable Energy Forum  
Sorton Partners  
The Long Partnership  
Tradelink Solutions  
Voluntary Action Orkney  
Westray Community Council  
Westray Golf Club (Open)  
Westray & Papa Westray Tourist Association  
Westray Renewable Energy Ltd

## Agenda for the Annual General Meeting Tuesday 1st November 2016, 7pm in the Westray Parish Church

**Welcome and Apologies**  
**Adoption of AGM 2015 minutes**  
**Finance including presentation from Alan Long,**  
**adoption of accounts Year end June 2016**  
**and appointment of auditors**  
**Election of Directors**  
**Sort break for refreshments**  
**Results of election**  
**Operations Manager's presentation**  
**AOCB**



### **Westray Development Trust**

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