



# Annual Report

## 2019-2020



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## Message from the Chair

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First of all, I'd like to address the elephant in the room. This has been an incredibly tough year for the community, as was the case for the whole country. Covid-19 has affected almost everyone on the island, whether that be due to work reasons, visiting family and friends, access to services, or just usual day to day life. Back in March, we took part in a community meeting regarding the pandemic and the threats it posed, and during that meeting we offered to be a community hub for issues that Covid-19 may create. Within days we were inundated with offers from members of the community. We were blown away by this response, and it really highlighted how much this island pulls together when folk may be in need. Thankfully, very few of these offers needed to be taken up, as fortunately the number of positive cases in Westray, and Orkney, were kept very low. A large reason for this was the community following the guidelines set out, and trying their best to keep others safe.

It was also very clear this year how lucky we are to have the businesses we do, many businesses going above and beyond to provide services that they didn't have to, at a personal cost, to ensure that those shielding, or those just trying to minimise their outings, could still get access to services. It is regrettable that, due to charity law and regulations, we cannot provide the support we'd like for affected businesses.

Not surprisingly, the NHS and care staff on the island also carried out a fantastic job during lockdown. Whether this be in

their usual caring roles, or assisting the Trust with information regarding best practices, what we could be helping with more, or any other invaluable help they provided.

The Trusts activities were also affected, larger projects such as Bayview, Bargain box and Quarry were all delayed in some way, whether that be waiting for funding, the inability to have site visits, the closing of the building trade, or the general difficulties that arise with many folk we work with, and ourselves, learning to work from home for the first time.

Thankfully, we're starting to see progress now. As the accounts for 2019/2020 show, we're in a very healthy position financially, but its worth remembering that these projects will see a lot of money being spent this coming year. The Bargain box project is moving forward once again. We are also trying to push on with Broadband solutions for the island and talks are ongoing to find the best option.

Due to personal reasons, Julian Barnett stepped down from the operations manager position, and we thank him for his time with the trust, both as a director and manager. This led to a slight reshuffle in our office. Isobel

stepped up from project officer to the operations manager position, Clare took on more hours to assist Isobel with some of the project work, and Margo and Janice took on extra responsibilities in their roles. It hasn't been easy for staff to carry out duties as they normally would, or for the usual interaction with board members, but we are getting through it the best we can, and we are well set up for the future.

The 2 buildings next to the office that we're so used to seeing in regular action, both had to close over summer. The Hofn has been open for over 2 decades, and the Bargain Box has been a huge hit since it started. It was very hard for us to have to close them, but we had no option. The Bargain Box is now open again, not quite as the social hub it was before, but it's a step in the right direction. We will continue to monitor regulations regarding youth centres in the hope of opening the Hofn again soon.

The AGM will feel strange this year without meeting in the kirk, and sharing some tea and coffee afterwards, but as her majesty said, we will meet again.

**Andrew Seatter**



# Westray Renewable Energy

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Production by the community wind turbine this year, July 2019 to June 2020, was up on the same period last year with 3,345,001MWh total power exported to the national grid, compared to 3,123,248MWh for the previous year. This production gives a total gross income (including weighted average) of £468,300.

October 2019 saw the 10th anniversary of the turbine being commissioned. During those 10 years, Westray Renewable Energy Ltd has donated a total of £3,188,692 to Westray

Development Trust. As well as donating all operating profits to Westray Development Trust, WRE also makes payment for land rent, management services and loan repayments. The loan should be repaid early next year.

All operating profits are transferred to Westray Development trust as the sole shareholder. The Gift Aid payment for 2018-2019 was £470,000 and a similar payment is expected to be made for this financial year.

Sam Marcus stepped down from

the Board of WRE in February after several years' service as a Director and even more years' service as an employee previous to that. We want to thank Sam very much for his service to the company and wish him all the very best for the future.

Current Board members are Wullie Bain (Chair), Philip Bews, David Hutchison, Andrew Seatter, Jeemie Stout and Louis Pottinger. Elizabeth Drever is secretary for the company.

**Willie Bain**  
**WRE Chair**

## Friends of Kalisgarth Update

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*Pictured: Pottery Class at Kalisgarth (Courtesy of Jo MacDonald)*

**Every year WDT donates the turbine recharging payments it receives for the Kalisgarth turbine to the Friends of Kalisgarth for their use.**

Like most other groups, Friends of Kalisgarth have had a much quieter few months due to the lockdown and the fundraising programme for the year has been seriously curtailed as a result. The past year did however see a coffee afternoon, silent auction, and a few turns at the Bargain Box. We were also very grateful to the Clydesdale Bank staff in Kirkwall who launched their own fundraising venture for Kalisgarth. Anne Cooper was elected as Chair, following the completion of June Marcus' tenure.

The outdoor Christmas tree looked great and the lighting ceremony with the Salvation Army band was a fine community event. However we were disappointed that the lights and some of the



branches didn't stand up to the Westray gales. The manufacturer / supplier has been closed due to lockdown but is now getting back to work and we are working to reach a resolution to this problem. It is still the group's longer-term hope to complete Phase 3 of the community garden but no timescale is set. A badly needed storage shed has now been bought and erected and there are plans to add a small shelter at the rear of the building.

Throughout the year, the group have been pleased to help with

support for craft activities, local outings and trips, garden plants, fresh flowers, magazine subscriptions, decorations and things like Christmas gifts for residents, etc.

The interactive activity table continues to be well used by residents and day care attenders, providing a valuable outside link through the Wi-fi connection. Residents and staff have faced significant extra difficulties during the lockdown period but have risen to the challenge of isolation in creative and committed ways with the care of residents always being their top priority. The lockdown has seriously disrupted community activities and visits to Kalisgarth and will continue to do so until these things are safe to resume. Until then Friends of Kalisgarth will continue to provide what help they can to normalise an abnormal situation.

**Iain MacDonald**  
**Friends of Kalisgarth**

# Project Progress Report

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## **BAYVIEW - WESTRAY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Key development themes; Housing, Industry & Business, Youth and Children.**

Scottish Land Fund funding was successfully secured to purchase Bayview from Orkney Island Council and the property was brought into community ownership in July 2019. Both planning permission and the building warrant have been awarded by Orkney Island Council and after the tendering exercise, Westray-based company, Daniel Marcus Construction was chosen for the renovation work at Bayview. The application for funding to the Rural & Island Housing Fund was submitted and

at the time of this report WDT is awaiting the results. Once funding is confirmed work can begin. This project will see Bayview, the former Harbour Master's house, converted into 4x 1-2-bedroom flats which will be available for rent. The affordable flats will contribute to diversifying the housing options available in Westray.

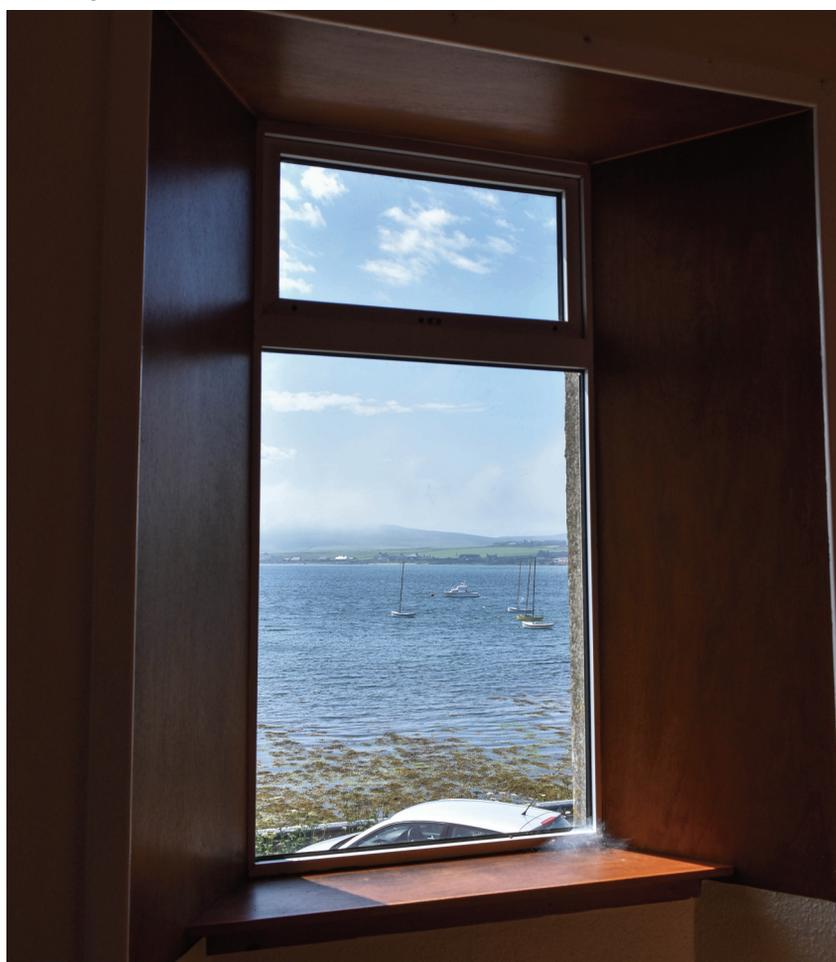
## **WESTRAY COMMUNITY QUARRY**

**Key development themes; Industry & Business, Housing.**

The Community Quarry project has stalled several times due to staffing changes within Westray Development Trust and low interest from external contractors,

meaning that it has been difficult to receive viable quotes for the project as part of feasibility investigations. The quotes WDT has received have quoted higher than anticipated. This combined with the difficulty in engaging the interest of a qualified contractor to develop and manage the Quarry challenges the viability of the project. Investigations by the Quarry Sub-Group to try and find ways to reduce these costs have been unsuccessful.

A complete feasibility report will be compiled to be present to the WDT Membership.



*Pictured: View of Gill Bay from the window of Bayview*

## **DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

WDT began to explore means by which the island's broadband infrastructure could be strengthened to provide better internet speeds for Westray. BT's quote of £2,813,386.00 to lay fibre cables was not a feasible option or the charity. Therefore, WDT began researching options with various potential partners. However, this work was placed on hold under advice that the Scottish Government's R100 Programme, a programme aiming to provide 100% of Scotland with next generation broadband by 2021, was due to make an announcement soon. The anticipated announcement is expected to open the R100 voucher scheme, funding which will grant access to technologies prior to the R100 launch.

# Project Progress Report

## WESTRAY COMMUNITY GARDEN - FOOD MILES TO FOOD SMILES

**Key development themes; Environment, Health & Care, Education.**

The community garden has had another successful growing season despite some delays in planting caused by COVID-19.

Unfortunately, the impacts of the pandemic also meant that not all the outdoor beds were able to be planted up in time. However, the strawberries proved very popular locally and were the success we had hoped they would be, as were our bedding plants which were another first for 2020.

The ongoing aim of this project is to supply fresh nutritional produce to our community, reducing the

to supply fresh nutritional produce to our community, reducing the food miles and carbon-footprint of the fruit and vegetables consumed in Westray. Discussions on potential further development for the project were affected by staffing changes and an increased demand from other projects. Nevertheless, our aim to grow delicious food as environmentally and economically sustainably as we possibly can is continually being pursued. For example, thanks to the work and experimentation of the gardeners we have been able to dramatically cut down the amount of compost we need to import and are able to produce enough of our own to supply the project.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

**Key development themes; Housing, Health & Care.**

Our Home Help Service has continued to bring benefit to Westray's older folk with the cleaning service offering that extra helping hand at home to those in need. Home Help supported 5 Westray homes in 2019/20, however this project was unfortunately temporarily paused in 2020 due to COVID-19.



Pictured: (Left) Garden Project outdoor beds in Pierowall. (Right) Row of cucumber plants in the large polytunnel, (Below Right) New Höfn Colours.

## Höfn Youth Centre

**Key development themes; Youth & Children, Recreation, leisure & voluntary groups.**

Before the Höfn was temporarily closed in March due to COVID-19 it was running well. The centre continues to provide a safe environment for the island's youth to gather. With Wi-Fi, a pool/ air hockey table, PS4, X-box, projector & screen, kitchen area

and quiet room the Höfn is a great place for the island's youth to spend evenings. The Höfn was repainted this year with colours chosen by the Höfn youth. Outside of Youth Sessions the youth centre is available for other groups to use. Before its temporary closure it was a popular venue for coffee mornings, community fundraisers and informal meetings.



# Project Progress Report

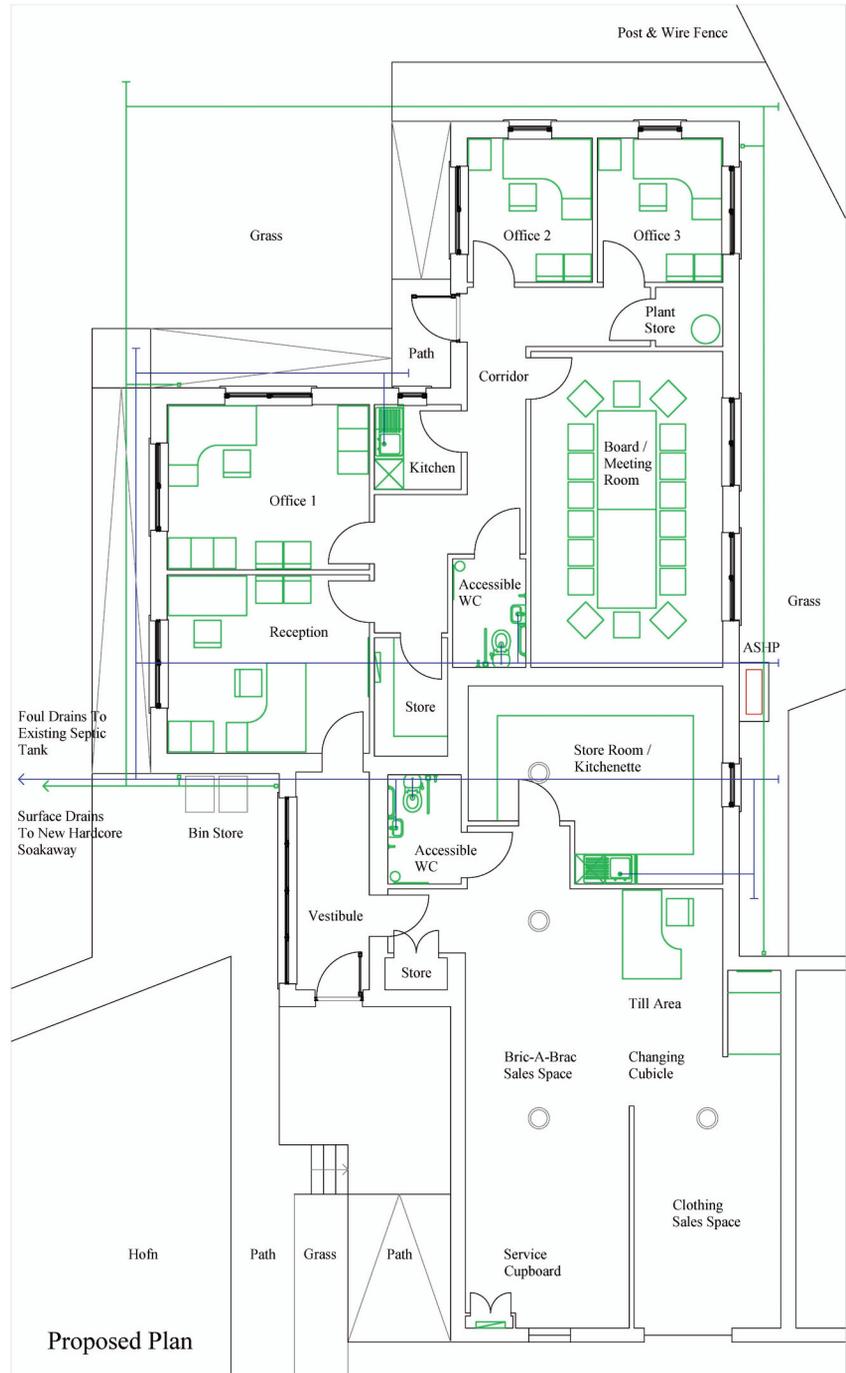
## THE BARGAIN BOX - WESTRAY COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING SHOP

**Key development themes; Recreation, leisure & voluntary groups, Environment.**

Despite the temporary closure of the Bargain Box from mid-March due to COVID-19 it has still been another great year for the Westray Bargain Box with 10 different community groups fundraising a fantastic £6,097.87 between themselves between July 2019 and February 2020 for their own community work. £989.11 of which was raised through baking and raffle ticket sales.

The Bargain Box has also helped reduce the amount Westray is putting to landfill with many clothes, books, nic nacs and electrical items getting a second life through the shop.

The Bargain Box has become such a key part of Westray life in such a short space of time that we're now pursuing a permanent build for the fundraising shop. The new build will incorporate the WDT office and the Bargain Box into the same building. This means the shop will not move from its ideal village location, will expand in size with a bigger sales space and storage space, as well as gain a toilet and changing room. The current Bargain Box cabins have been moved to make room for the new extension, planning permission has been granted for the project and our architect was preparing the building warrant application when COVID-19 hit, meaning that the needed surveys could not go ahead. At the time of this report the restrictions were beginning to ease allowing the needed Topographical Survey to be undertaken.



Pictured: (Left) Hofn Youth Centre and Westray Bargain Box. (Right)

## COMMUNITY BEACH CLEANS

**Key development themes; Environment, Recreation, Leisure & Voluntary groups.**

This year WDT partnered with the UK charity Surfers Against Sewage and was prepared to lead a series of Westray community beach

cleans in 2020 and then the COVID-19 crisis struck. While the pandemic delayed the start of the community beach clean plans, with strong safety guidance in place it is hoped these can begin later in 2020.

# Project Progress Report

## I HEART WESTRAY - WESTRAY PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR NETWORK

**Key development themes; Health & Care, Education.**

This project in partnership with the Community Heart Beat Trust, saw 5x new public access defibrillators installed across Westray at the Westray Airfield, Gill Pier Waiting Rooms, Westray Parish Kirk, Peter Miller's Shop (Skello Shop) and the Rapness Pier Waiting Rooms. A further defibrillator is planned for the Westside Red Telephone Kiosk which has been adopted from BT. Delays caused by the adoption process, tendering process, poor weather (including flooding around the box) and COVID-19 delayed the needed repair work

of the Kiosk. However, at the time of this report the needed replacement parts had arrived, including telephone box red paint donated by British Coatings, and so the repair work has begun. The Telephone Kiosk renovation work is being funded with the support of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme.

As part of this project, CPR & defibrillator training were arranged for the community. Westray Development Trust is grateful to Dr Jutta Meiwald for volunteering her time to deliver 3 training sessions in early 2020 before COVID-19 forced WDT and Dr Meiwald to put further training on hold. CPR & Training Sessions were held for Secondary students at Westray Junior High School and Westray Processors.

There was also an open-training session for anyone in the community to attend which was held at the Höfn. This resulted in a total of 28 Westray individuals trained in CPR & defibrillator use, giving them the confidence and skills to act in an emergency. Training is essential to grant our community the skills to respond in an emergency. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the U.K. When a cardiac arrest occurs speedy access to defibrillation is crucial for survival, chances of survival fall around 7-10% every minute defibrillation is delayed.

WDT's CPR dummy & defibrillator training kit is available for any community group or business to borrow for their first aid training sessions for free.



Pictured: (Left) Rapness Pier Defibrillator, (Right) Peter Miller Shop Defibrillator.

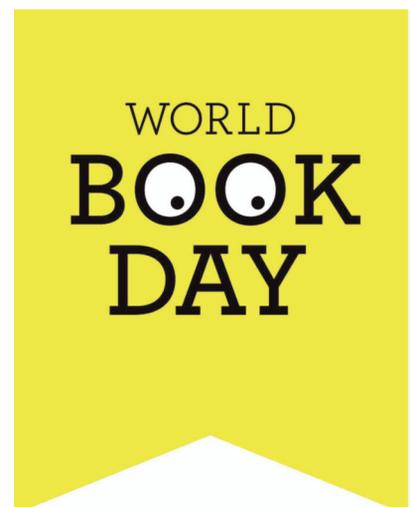
## TRANSPORT

WDT continues to support the principle of affordable and accessible transport in Westray and is open to work with any presenting authorities/organisations to improve current services.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

WDT are always looking for new ways to enable to children of Westray to flourish by enhancing the learning experience. World Book Day looks to bring the magic of reading to every child, an ambition very much shared by us. WDT donated £1,000 to Westray Junior High School for them to expand the school library's book collection.

**Isobel Thompson**  
Project Officer



# Westray Learning Centre

*Pictured: Orkney Straw Working course 2020. (Hazel Moore)*

The start of the year 2019 – 20 was a busy one for Westray Learning Centre. The broadband equipment has been finally and successfully sorted out (thanks to UHI and OIC). This new digital equipment, including laptops, an iPad and a digital projector have been purchased with the help of a WDT grant.

The 2019 -20 programme has included both short courses and evening events, alongside individual learning and training assistance. The focus this year has been on developing and facilitating local tutors to deliver courses on Westray and to liaise with external bodies to offer a wider range of Mainland based and online opportunities to Westray residents.

In October we had an illustrated evening lecture from Rebecca Marr, a well-known film maker and photographer based in Stromness. Entitled 'Orkney Photographica', this was an enjoyable and educational look at how Orkney has been depicted on film over the decades.

Rebecca also delivered a digital storytelling workshop. The course took in how to script a short audio story, the use of digital equipment and software (supplied through Orkney Library) and how to edit and upload completed pieces.

A First Aid at Work certificated course was held in late October and January.

Between November and January pottery classes with Robin Palmer got underway again, with sessions held at both Westray Learning Centre and for the residents and Day visitors at Kalisgarth Care Home. These classes have proved very popular for the past three years. With many more folk

expressing an interest in taking up a class, preparations were underway when lockdown struck- hopefully this will resume again when it is safe to do so.

In November there was an evening lecture at the Graand Owld Byre by Prof. Mark Edmonds, UHI, on the Prehistory of Orkney. Attended by 30 people, this included a wide-ranging discussion of the recent exciting archaeological discoveries both Mainland and on Westray.

In January the Learning Centre hosted a 5 week course on Tapestry Weaving, delivered privately by local Tutor, Louise Martin. Other activities hosted in the centre during the year have included Sewing and Patchwork group meetings and Beading classes and the board meetings of various community groups.

In February professional story teller, Daniel Allison, the author of a recent book set in Westray, provided an enjoyable evening for an audience of 14 people around the fire at the Graand Owld Byre.

The first of four courses held by LC with assistance from the North Isles thoughtfully provided special 'lockdown' packs for folk to work on applique projects at home

(available through LC). Landscape Partnership (NILPS) got going in February. 'Orkney Straw Working', taught by Edith Costie saw participants learn how to clean and prepare straw and to begin the process of making an Orkney Straw Chair. Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions curtailed this course- it is hoped that it will be possible to resume it in some form later on.

A second NILPS assisted course on patch working and quilting scheduled for Summer 2020 has had to be postponed, In the meantime tutor Corinne Curtis has thoughtfully provided special 'lockdown' packs for folk to work at home (available through LC).

Two further NILPS assisted courses (drystone dyking, wool/textiles), which were under discussion, have been shelved for the present time but will be revisited in the future. The LC has assisted a local (private) piano tuition for adults and children – through fundraising and the purchase of a piano for practice. Sponsored by Cooke Aquaculture, the 'Community Piano' will be available as soon as restrictions make it possible. Meanwhile, tutor Ros Bryant continues to provide online lessons by appointment.

**Hazel Moore**  
**Learning Centre Coorindator**



# Grant Awards 2019/20

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## THE COMMUNITY TURBINE FUND

Despite a large portion of the financial year being blighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions which have affected the entire community, we still had a successful grant period with over £35,000 being paid out of the Community Turbine Fund and into the Westray community. The changes we made last year to the entertainment and community grants and the way the grants are budgeted for worked very well.

## ENTERTAINMENT GRANTS

Westray Sailing Club – Regatta Dance 2019  
 Westray Heritage Trust – Open Day at Brough  
 Screen Machine – Visit to Westray Community Association – Harvest Home  
 Hofn Youth – Firework Display  
 Drama Club – Pantomime  
 Friends of Kalisgarth – Christmas Tree Assembly  
 GoWestray – Story telling event  
**'Having the option to have an event underwritten by a WDT grant ...makes it possible to for an event to happen which otherwise wouldn't be financially viable'** Hazel Moore, Story-telling event

## EDUCATION GRANTS

We thought last year was a good year for the educations grants with 32 awarded, well this year we surpassed that record again, awarding a bumper crop of 51 education and training grants! It has been great to see so many people taking us up on this. We love to encourage personal development and we feel really positive about the number of grants awarded.

Education Grant	Course	Awarded
Anna Drever	Driving Lessons	£145
Loretta Patterson	Driving Lessons	£117.50
Hazel Moore	First Aid Course	£50
Gill McEwen	AAT Foundation in Accounting	£421
Alex Costie	Pottery Course	£60
Robert Barlow	Pottery Course	£60
Debbie Brunton	Pottery Course	£60
Mary Weitzen	Pottery Course	£60
Paul Weitzen	Pottery Course	£60
Learning Centre	Kalisgarth Pottery Course	£150
Hazel Moore	Pottery Course	£60
Ros Bryant	Pottery Course	£60
Sophie Makin	Piano Lessons	£60
Ewan Makin	Piano Lessons	£60
Isobel Thompson	Piano Lessons	£105
Ailidh Rendall	Piano Lessons	£60
Uka Summers	Piano Lessons	£60
Libby Rendall	Piano Lessons	£75
Graeme Wilson	Piano Lessons	£60
Milos Wilson	Piano Lessons	£60
Mia Pottinger	Piano Lessons	£105
Erika Pottinger	Piano Lessons	£60
Caleb McEwen	Piano Lessons	£105
Ivy McEwen	Piano Lessons	£105
Jackie Benjamin	Tapestry Weaving Course	£75
Aida McEwen	Piano Lessons	£60
Violet McEwen	Piano Lessons	£60
Erin Scott	Driving Lessons	£175
David Ryder	Straw Weaving Course	£50
Jenna Hume	Piano Lessons	£60
Louise Martin	Straw Weaving Course	£50
Kyle Dixon	STCW Personal Survival Techniques	£80
Magnus Risbridger	STCW Personal Survival Techniques	£80
Stuart Baird	Straw Weaving Course	£50
Stewart McNab	Short Range Radio Course	£97
Kieran Bews	Safe Use of Pesticides	£183
Maghan McEwen	Making Environmental Decisions	£500
Davy Hutchison	Piano Lessons	£45
Ailsa Seatter	Piano Lessons	£45
Ailsa Seatter	Christian Contemplation	£45
Ailsa Seatter	Certificate of Christian Mindfulness	£110

# Grant Awards 2019/20

<sup>1</sup>  
Pictured: 'Shops and Vans in Westray' Book (Left), Senior Citizens Evening (Centre), Kalisgarth Tree Lighting (Right).

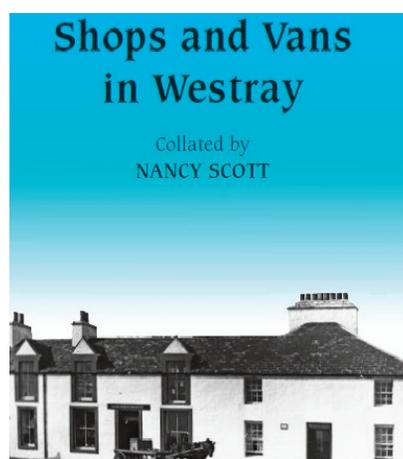
## COMMUNITY GRANTS

We awarded 7 community grants this year, this is quite a bit less than last year but this is to be expected after lockdown meant community groups could not be active for several months.

### Westray Heritage Trust – Printing of the book 'Westray Shops and Vans'

Funding was awarded towards the cost of printing this interesting book documenting the history of Westray's shops right back to 1843. Creating an enduring record of this important aspect of the islands history means it will be preserved for future generations. 'The book sold well...this directly helped with the running costs of Westray Heritage Centre' Nancy Scott.

**Award - £500.**



### Community Council – Events and Information Co-ordinator Post

This post has come to the end of its two year trial which saw clear benefit from having a dedicated, paid person administering the island diary and room booking system. With this in mind the Community Council felt that it was necessary to keep the post going forward and we agreed!

**Award £1,000.**

### Senior Citizens Evening

The organisers of the annual senior citizens evening approached WDT for funding to hold this event which is an integral and much loved feature on the Westray calendar, '...the number of folk who attend every year proves how much it's appreciated' Elizabeth Drever.

**Award - £133.**



### Westray Sailing Club – New Sailing Club Shed

WDT has been working closely with the Sailing Club to assist them with their project to create a new, purpose built shed to replace the small, old shed which is no longer fit for purpose. Sailing has been a big part of Westray life for generations and the annual Regatta attracts people from far and wide to enjoy this traditional pastime. The project has taken time to formulate and has encountered its share of pitfalls but we hope to see the sailing club achieve it's goal in the very near future. We have provided the land on which the sailing club shed will be built and have awarded a grant to provide the club with a contingency fund should they need it for the building process.

**Award - £19,415.**

### Westray Auk Club – Auk Club Meals

This project was awarded just before lockdown and has, therefore, been unable to be implemented but we really hope to see the Auk Club benefit from this award once it is able to do so. WDT's decision to fund the fortnightly meal for the club members will allow further fundraising to be used towards enhancing the members experience through day trips, activities, guest speakers and much more. **Award - £2,000.**

### Community Council – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The annual tree lighting ceremony was held at Kalisgarth for the first time this year, this allowed the event to be enjoyed by both the community and care home residents. The grant from WDT enabled the Community Council to maintain the tradition of inviting a brass band to attend as well as providing refreshments. Entertainment was also provided by the school children of Westray which is always a joy to hear!

**Awarded - £636.**



# Grant Awards 2019/20

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## Westray Junior High School – Additional Laptops

As we all know, many groups, organisations and businesses have been affected by the impact of COVID-19 and our local school was no exception. The school has seen a lot of changes take place and parents, teachers and children alike have all had to adapt and make the best of the current situation. In order to make the school as safe as possible and to adhere to guidelines, the school was required to provide each pupil with their own individual laptop. WDT are fully aware of the very limited budget the school is awarded each year to purchase equipment and we were delighted to be able to provide the funding for the new laptops. **Award £3,820.**



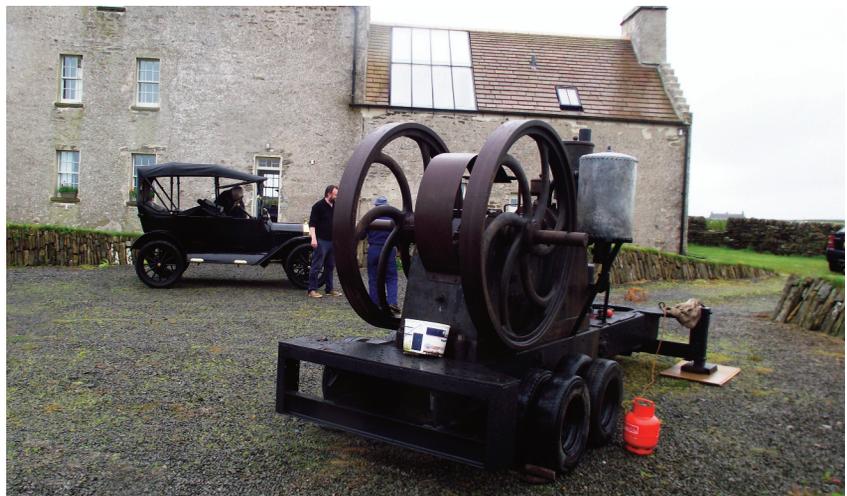
## DEVELOPMENT/ INVESTMENT GRANTS AND ONGOING GRANTS

These are large grants, some of which span multiple-years of ongoing support. We also provide the option for grants to be awarded on a three year rolling basis for projects that have an annual element that changes little from year to year. This saves groups having to submit the same application year after year.

## Westray Heritage Trust - Maintenance

WDT also have a grant agreement with Westray Heritage Trust to assist with maintenance and running costs of the Heritage Centre as it strives to be sustainable. The Heritage Trust hosts Westray's archives, gift/craft shop and several Westray artifacts including the infamous 'Westray Wife'. They run various activities through the year including exhibitions and when possible the Brough Open-Day.

**Award - £6,174**



## Westray Golf Club - Year 5 funding of 5 Year Plan

WDT have a 5 year grant plan with the Golf Club to support site improvements and maintenance costs as the Golf Club strive to make management of the Golf Course sustainable. Golf has become a popular island activity with the course open for all to use, there are also youth training activities with the school and various locally sponsored competitions. The Golf Course also attracts visitors to the island to the benefit of local businesses and other sites & attractions.

**Award - £8,000**

## Nursery Healthy Snack

We all know the value of healthy eating and good nutrition and WDT continue to promote and facilitate these principles by funding healthy snacks for the island's nursery children.

**Award - £734.16**

## Inter-Kirk Christmas Card

WDT continues to support the Annual Inter-kirk Christmas Card, providing seasons greetings as well as information about the services over the Christmas period.

**Award - £250**

## Westray Film Club

The film club holds regular film evenings at the Grand Owlde Byre catering to a range of tastes across all the genres. They also put on special screenings for Westray children, although this has been hampered this year by Covid-19, it is hoped that the big screen will be back soon!

**Award - £500**

# Covid-19 - Community Response

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None of us could have predicted what 2020 would bring to our community. The coronavirus crisis (COVID-19) moved swiftly across the globe and has impacted everyone in some way. Westray was one of the quickest to prepare in Orkney for the growing threat of coronavirus. The Westray COVID-19 Action Group was one of the first formed at the prompting of the Westray Surgery before the lockdown occurred. As a result, the community was able to hit the ground running with its response. For example, shops offered free grocery deliveries to those shielding/isolating, posties delivered medical prescriptions and newsletters and the hotels offered a takeaway meal service with free delivery.

## **WDT also played an important role in Westray's COVID-19 response, The Trust;**

- Acted as a communication hub, dedicating a portion of its website to community COVID-19 news and updates. The Trust also printed any essential updates from the Action Group members for the community. This newsletter, at first weekly while change was rapid, was kindly distributed by Westray's posties. Between May and July WDT also supported the printing and free distribution of the Westray Heritage Trust's 'Happy Talk' to every Westray household thanks to funding from the Supporting Communities Fund.
- Reported any community issues because of COVID-19 directly to the Scottish Government's Islands Team

and worked with the Westray Community Council who reported directly to Orkney Islands Council to share any updates.

- Launched an additional Fuel Grant to support Westray households during a time of financial pressure. The Fuel Grant of £200 was available to eligible Westray households. This grant supported 233 Westray households.
- Established the Bargain Box grant to support community groups with ongoing costs affected by the temporary closure of the fundraising shop.
- Supporting community wellbeing by sharing daily 'reasons to smile' on social media which included positive Westray news stories, for example, many photos of the rainbows of hope made by Westray's young folk. WDT with a team of volunteers also worked to establish the island community podcast Wireless Westray. A fortnightly podcast sharing community news and 'lightsome listening' to help keep the community connected, boost morale and act as a snapshot in time chronicling this period in our island's history.
- Teamed up with the Orkney Scrubs Group and acted as a collection/donation point in Westray for materials and completed scrub sets made by Westray creators. Any scrub sets donated were passed onto the Kalisgarth Care Centre or Westray Surgery.
- Investigated establishing a Westray COVID-19 Business Support Grant. However due to restrictions in charitable law this was not possible. Therefore, WDT signposted businesses to

to where support was available from groups such as Orkney Islands Council, Business Gateway and Isles 20.

- Applied for a Supporting Communities Grant to support community activities in response to the pandemic. This funding from the Scottish Government, facilitated by Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) funded newsletter printing costs for Westray Parish Kirk's 'Kirk Link' and the Heritage Trust's 'Happy Talk'. It also funded, microphone sets for Wireless Westray volunteers, Zoom subscriptions for Westray Baptist Kirk and Westray Development Trust as well as volunteer fuel expenses for those assisting with grocery deliveries for those shielding/isolating. At the end of June (time of this report) a second application was submitted for funding for additional activities, including Auk Club meals and wellbeing activity boxes, Friends of Kalisgarth activity boxes for the residents and funding for the Church of Scotland Youth Club to fund activity boxes to support youth wellbeing during this difficult time.

Westray Development Trust is continuing to work to identify community need in light of the impacts from the COVID-19 crisis and do what it can to help. Whether that is advocating for more support from external organisations, supporting community groups in their own work or establishing and funding Trust-led projects.

**Isobel Thompson**

# Operations Report - Looking to the future

It has been another year full of change at Westray Development Trust. Firstly, we have had a few staffing changes with Julian Barnett joining us in August 2019 as Operations Manager before sadly leaving us in June 2020. We thank Julian for his time at WDT during which he was part of pushing forward several ongoing community projects and launching the first Westray Fuel Grant.

Going forward I, Isobel Thompson, will be taking on the role of Manager at WDT. I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to do more for the Westray community and to support others in the staff team and board of trustees. Moving up from Project Officer to Manager was the perfect opportunity for us all to relook at our structure as a team. As a result, we have reshuffled things so that the work distribution plays to the strengths of each individual during a 6-month trial. We are pleased that Margo and Janice have taken on additional responsibility in their respective roles as WDT and WRE Finance and Admin Officers. It is also good news that Clare's role as Admin Assistant has also been expanded so she is able to assist more with project work.

Going back to operational changes during the past year, a key change I am happy to have been part of was developing the 2020 WDT Wellbeing Strategy with staff and Trustees. This strategy lists the steps WDT is already doing and planned to do to best support the wellbeing of its staff and volunteers. For example, one key step was becoming an accredited real

Living Wage Employer. This is a voluntary commitment by WDT that we will pay at least £9.30 per hour (current rate) to all employees. The real Living Wage is independently calculated by the Real Living Wage Foundation every year and is the only rate based on the cost of living (national average). This applies to all workers over 18, in recognition that young people face the same living costs as everyone else. Committing to pay a wage that is enough to live on is good for the individual, for WDT, and for the community. The current national, UK Government set, minimum wage is currently £6.45 for 18-20-year olds, £8.20 per hour for 21-24-year olds and £8.72 (also known as the 'national living wage') for over 25s. Other steps which have been delayed by the impacts of COVID-19 include training in first aid and mental health first aid, again this is not only beneficial for the individual and WDT but also for the community. If we at WDT are in a good position ourselves in terms of wellbeing

support, we are in a much stronger position to support the health & wellbeing of the Westray community in the future.

Looking ahead there is so much potential for Westray, for the community and for the development trust. In 2020 we had planned to host another Westray Conference to bring the community together to discuss our collective vision for the future of our island and our community. This would have covered a range of topics including health and wellbeing, the environment, transport, education, housing, business and industry, heritage and culture, digital connectivity and more. As we continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 crisis we sadly have had to put those plans on hold until a time we can gather as a community again. On that note, thank you members who completed our conference survey, we will use the information and ideas you shared until a conference can be arranged.

**Isobel Thompson**



# Financial report

## WESTRAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

This has been another successful year for the Trust. Financially it is healthy and the income from its trading subsidiary, Westray Renewable Energy Limited seems to be rising gradually year on year.

The accounts we prepare for the Trust are consolidated accounts meaning that as well as the performance of the Trust alone, we prepare calculations showing what the finances would be like if the two companies traded as a single entity.

We also audit the accounts annually. This is because the turnover in the consolidated accounts exceeds the statutory threshold, currently £500,000 and the Trust is a charity. If the Trust was not a charity, tax would be payable on the profits in WRE and in the last year this would have amounted to in excess of £100,000. It is therefore well worth the Trust being a charity just for that.

Westray Development Trust  
The Statement of Financial Activities (basically the P&L of the charity) shows the following:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>Less: Overheads</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>284</b>

The income was higher in 2019 due to more grants being sourced for projects being undertaken by the Trust such as the development of Bayview.

In 2020, the absence of any large grants has been compensated by the increase in the payment from WRE.

The main income in both years is the contribution received from WRE which in recent years has been as follows:

<b>2020</b>	<b>£470,000</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>£370,000</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>£350,000</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>£350,000</b>

This payment represents the taxable profit in WRE. In WRE this is a charitable donation and attracts tax relief. The total tax saved in this way since the turbine commenced operations has been considerable.

However, these payments from WRE are only part of the picture as WRE is also paying WDT for the following:

- Rent of the land for the turbine
- Management charges for WDT staff looking after the WRE admin and finances
- Repayment of the loan made by WDT to WRE to help finance the installation of the turbine.

All of these contribute to the cash resources within WDT.

The overheads are higher in 2020 and this is due in part to the increase in grants paid out by WDT and in particular the Fuel Grants. Otherwise the overheads within WDT are quite modest considering the income generated.

The balance sheet of WDT is strong with good cash reserves. It shows total net assets of £3,204K (2019 £3,010K). The principal assets are cash, loans made and also land and property in Westray. The Trust has virtually no liabilities.

## WESTRAY RENEWABLE ENERGY LTD

WRE is a wholly owned subsidiary of WDT. It only has one asset and that is the turbine which is basically "a printing press for money".

The accounts of WRE show the following:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>608</b>
<b>Less: Paid to WDT</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>370</b>
<b>Other Overheads</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>92</b>

Costs include annual turbine servicing, insurance and the management charge paid to WDT.

The balance sheet of WRE shows total net assets of £908K (2019 £863K) and this is made up of the net book value of the turbine, together with electricity sales and FiTs not yet received at the year end, together with some cash reserves awaiting payment to WDT. Like WDT, WRE has few liabilities with the loans received to pay for the turbine having been virtually repaid.

Another successful year.

**Alan Long**  
**The Long Partnership**  
**Kirkwall.**

**Thanks go to the following funders and partners who have supported the Westray Development Trust this year:**

- Alan Flint, Bank of Scotland
- Billy Groundwater - Orkney Surveying Services
- Burness Paul LLP
- Colin McAndrew – Adhoc HR
- Communities Housing Trust
- Community HeartBeat Trust
- Companies House
- Dagleish Associates Ltd
- Developing Strathclyde Limited
- Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS)
- Di Grieve – Breck Designs
- Go Westray CIC
- Francesca Couperwhite – Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- Heather Lamont - CCLA
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- Luke Fraser - Orkney Islands Council (OIC)
- National Lottery
- North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Office of Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)
- Orkney Island's Council (OIC)
- Orkney LEADER Programme
- RM Computing
- Scottish Communities Finance
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Islands Federation
- Scottish Land Fund
- Scottish Rural Housing
- Shane M Scott Ltd
- Social Enterprise
- Social Farms & Gardens
- The Long Partnership
- The Prince's Trust
- Triodos
- Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO)
- Westray Renewable Energy Ltd.

**Thank you Daniel Harcus & George Drever for your advice with the Quarry Project.**

**Thank you to Orkney's Community Development Trusts. The ongoing work and collaboration of these organisations is invaluable.**

#### **WDT Staff & Project Team**

- Julian Barnett (Ops Manager)
- Margo Makin (WDT AFO & Youth Support)
- Janice Kirkness (WRE AFO)
- Isobel Thompson (Project Officer)
- Clare Lucas (Admin Assistant & Assistant Gardener & Youth Support)
- Mark Dickinson (Lead Gardener)
- Benny Norquoy (Assistant Gardener)
- Edith Costie (Youth Support)
- Lena Pottinger (Youth Support)
- Sally Dickinson (Youth Support)
- Theresa Sandison (Youth Support)
- Angela Muir (Home Help)

Thank you to everyone in community for your support.

**Many thanks to all the volunteer Trustees who have worked with us in 2019/20 who were elected to represent the Westray Community in WDT's work.**

- Andrew Seatter
- Douglas Leslie
- Louis Pottinger
- Philip Bews
- Anne Burgher
- Gill McEwen
- Helen Bain
- William Turnbull
- Julian Barnett

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

## **Agenda for the AGM Tuesday 5th December 2020**

- 1 Welcome and Apologies - Andrew Seatter (WDT Chair)**
- 2 Minutes of AGM on 5th November 2019**
- 3 Accounts Presentation and Adoption**
- 4 Appointment of Auditors**
- 5 Election of Directors**
- 6 A Year in Review - Project Team**
- 7 Questions**
- 9 AOCB**

### **Westray Development Trust**

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