



# ANNUAL REPORT 2004-5

## Report from the two Chairmen

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

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

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

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

### DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

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

### WESTRAY'S APPROACH

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



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

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

### FUTURE FUNDING

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

The Trust is now committed to generating its own revenue.

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



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