

Our youth, Westray's future

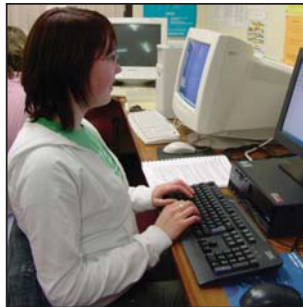
THE HOFN

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

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

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

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



YOUNG ROOTS

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

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



DRIVING IN ABERDEEN

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

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

SUB GROUP

Chair: Lorna Brown
Edith Costie
Liz Drever
Gina Rendall

Janette Rendall
Alena Tulloch

SAM'S KEEPING BUSY!!!

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

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

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

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



THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sam Harcus



GINA RENDALL