



DUNROSSNESS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Spring 2009 Newsletter

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COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
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Dunrossness Community Council News **www.dunrossnesscc.shetland.gov.uk**

Dunrossness Community Council currently have two vacancies, one for the Quendale Ward and one for the Levenwick Ward. If you are interested in joining the Community Council and representing the residents of either area, and the wider Dunrossness community, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Our current members, and the wards they represent are:

Donald Robertson, Chairman : Exnaboe West

Iain Garrick, Vice Chairman : Levenwick

Winnie Kay : Exnaboe East

Fiona Mitchell : Fair Isle

Raymond Mainland : Quendale

Edna Mainland : Quendale

Sherri Malcolmson : Scatness

Carole Laignel : Boddam

John Sinclair : Bigton

Rick Nickerson : Bigton (SIC Cllr & Community Cllr)

Cllr Jim Budge (ex officio)

Cllr Allison Duncan (ex officio)

WIN A SHETLAND TIMES BOOKSHOP VOUCHER

See pages 19 and 20 for a chance to win a Shetland Times Bookshop Voucher. All the answers to the adult competition can be found in this Newsletter and entries to both the adult and children's competitions should be returned to the Clerk by 31 July 2009. Correct entries will be placed in a 'hat' and the winners drawn by Dunrossness Community Council Chairman Donald Robertson at our meeting on 31 August 2009. Good Luck!

DUNROSSNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS by Lesley Simpson



Things never stand still in education and this is very true in Dunrossness Primary School. What a busy year we have had and it's not over yet! As well as the three R's, there's a huge variety in the work we do. This is an exciting time to be in school as we work on developing a new way of learning in Scotland through the Curriculum for Excellence. This focuses not just on imparting knowledge but on developing skills, promoting values such as respect, equality and fairness, relating what we do in school to real life and trying to personalise learning for each individual child helping them enjoy their time in school and take a leading role in their learning. We've outlined below a couple of the projects we're working on this term.

Links across the Pond.

The most exciting thing we are working on just now is the beginnings of a link with a school in the USA; Montgomery Middle School in New Jersey. As I write this, Ms Gina Scanlan, our Principal Teacher and one of our Primary 7 pupils, Yasmin Lawrence, are in America meeting our new learning partners, doing a little sight-seeing and making friends with the families hosting them during their visit. The most important bit of their trip though, is the work they will do with the school over there in planning our project – 'Our Country in a Global Society.' In the days before Yasmin left, she and her Primary 7 classmates made a DVD with contributions from all classes to show the American pupils what life in Da Ness is like. They've taken across a variety of items to leave with our new friends such as school fleeces, Shetland music cds, literature and knitwear. We are looking forward to hearing all about their trip and taking the next steps in our joint project.

Bird Friendly School Status.

We are working towards gaining the Shetland equivalent of the RSPBs award for schools that helps promote education about and conservation of birds. To gain this award we have to do a variety of tasks promoting our knowledge about the environment, birdlife in Shetland and playing our part in conserving habitats and species. We have a curriculum rich in environmental science, some particular work on habitats around the school, planting of trees and shrubs to promote birdlife, work on identification of species and providing food sources in the winter. During the last month we have installed a web cam into a well-used nesting hole in the school grounds and have a live link to what is going on in the nest – our very own Spring Watch! We are currently awaiting the first residents with eager anticipation.

Work on the School Grounds.

One of the things that the pupil population of the school really want to change is the 'Grassy Area', a piece of very boggy grassland on the east of the school. This bit of ground is so wet we can only use it in the end of summer term. Currently our Pupil Council, Eco-school Committee and a group of parents and school staff have been meeting to work on plans to improve the area for the bairns. Jack Smith and Andrew Leslie in Primary 5 carried out a school-wide consultation to see what the pupils wanted and have taken this information to the meetings to make sure their ideas are taken on board. We have a massive fundraising job to do if we are to fulfil the bairns' wishes and would be delighted if anyone in the local community felt they were able to help either in kind by helping with earth-moving or in helping provide some materials for the works, including drainage, plants, building materials, etc. If you think this is a project you or your company would like to get involved in, we would be delighted to hear from you.

We are very keen for the community to be involved in the school and for the school to be involved in community projects and so if you have an idea of something you'll like to develop, if you have skills or interests you think we could benefit from or even if there's something you think we can do for you, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Lesley Simpson at the school on 01950 460488 or by email at dunrossness@shetland.gov.uk

OLD SCATNESS - SUMMER 2009

If you haven't been at Old Scatness recently now is your chance to see how the site is developing. We will re-open to visitors in May until the end of September, Sunday to Thursday, 10am – 5pm. Closed Friday and Saturday. Admission prices remain the same with adult tickets £4.00 and children £3.00 for a single ticket which lasts all season. Groups, family, and discount tickets also available. In addition to the guided tours around this remarkable site and our usual Living History demonstrations, we will have local and international craftspeople visiting the site throughout the summer. Contact Old Scatness Visitor Centre 01950 461869 for more details.



NESS BOATING CLUB by Theresa Wadley



The Ness Boating Club is currently making a few changes. The main function hall is being renovated to make the hall more appealing and warmer for those who regularly use the club for Pilates, dancing and bowls and for those who may want to hire the hall for functions, dances, birthday parties etc. If you wish to book the hall you can call Theresa Wadley on 01950 460208. We are also awaiting the arrival of a jukebox for the public bar - listen to the music you want while in the bar!

If you'd like to become a member of the club you can contact Margaret Birrell on 01950 460189 or by email on maggiepants@scatness.plus.com or pick up a membership application form from the club on a Friday or Saturday night. Remember there is still the darts and pool available for any members and children, if accompanied by an adult, to use on Friday and Saturday nights.

We look forward to seeing current and new members in the club.

NESS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

The 2009 season is due to start shortly and the club is busy making preparations to start competition in earnest. The senior A and B sides have seen a few changes; Kenny Malcolmson has joined the management team along with fitness coach Iain Smith. The reserve league will start on the 15th of April and the first Premier league game for Ness United A is on the 20th of April.

Kieran Malcolmson has taken over as under 16's manager for the 2009 season, and younger brother Kyle has become involved at under 10 level assisting John Smith. Hansen Black and Ian Leslie are coaching the under 8's assisted by Daniel Mainland. The management teams at Under 14's and under 12's remain the same with Pete Ellis and Paul Harvey continuing with

the under 14's, and Marshall Henderson assisted by James Mainland working with the under 12's. Ness United under 18's are still looking for a manager/coach to run them in the 2009 season and anyone interested in doing so should contact the club secretary through the website.

The club hosted a successful awards night in December of 2008 with a good attendance from players, coaches and parents. Ness United under 14's deservedly won team of the year and their managers Pete Ellis and Paul Harvey won the managers of the year award. The club will be holding this event again at the end of the season around September hopefully.

Ness United continue to work towards gaining the Scottish Football Association Quality Mark award and through this

initiative have seen an increase in the number of coaching and committee volunteers from ten to twenty-four, though there is room for more, both in the coaching and management roles as well as the fundraising committee and club committee. If anyone wishes to help volunteer then they should use the contact us facility on the Ness United website at www.nessunitedfc.org.uk where you can also catch up on fixture and results news on the clubs teams, the venues for each team's training and home matches will also be available on the website.

The club would like to thank all the members of the community who have helped support it throughout the past season and we hope to see you at matches and club events again this year, hopefully with some success on the pitch to celebrate as well.



NESS LEARNING CENTRE

Did you know that at the Ness Learning Centre you can now do courses from basic through to degree level in a variety of subjects? Qualifications and progression are available in IT, Digital Photography, Numeracy and Communications. As part of the UHI (University of the Highlands & Islands) network we can offer HN and Degree courses in a variety of subjects including Culture Studies, Environment and Heritage, Scottish History and Psychology. Access to the internet, video conferencing and tutor support are available at the Learning Centre which limits the need to travel into Lerwick for lectures and classes.

Shetland College is offering a **free** short course for crofters and community groups who are interested in applying for SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) funding. This course will help

you become familiar with the SRDP website; learn how to navigate through it and develop the basic IT skills needed to submit the first stage of your application for assistance to the SRDP.

The Learning Centre recently held a 'Celebration of Learning' evening to recognise the efforts and achievements of our students. Certificates were presented to students who have recently completed ECDL, Communications and Word Processing. The event was well attended by students, their families and friends who enjoyed an informal evening with music and refreshments.

Over the past year we have been offering a programme of Family Learning in partnership with Dunrossness Primary school to encourage parents to become more involved in their children's

education. These Saturday morning workshops have included bird-watching with the RSPB, rock-pooling at Boddam and making your own musical instruments from junk. A recent HMI inspection highlighted this programme as an example of good practice within the learning community.

As always the Learning Centre offers a programme of interest-based courses including digital photography, digital stories, digital family trees, buying and selling on E-bay, Scrapbooking and Creative Writing.

If you have any ideas for other courses you would like to see on offer please drop in or give us a call and we will do our best to meet your requirements.

Contact us on **01950 460901** and ask for **Shirley Jones** or **Hazel Bairnson**.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Community Council are currently having their website redesigned. On our website at present are our contact details, dates of our monthly meetings, minutes of our meetings, grant application forms, local attractions, local amenities, a selection of photos and various links to other useful websites. We would like to hear, however, what sort of information/topics you consider should feature on our new site which would be helpful and of interest to both the local community and the wider public. Also, if you are involved with a local group and would like a link put in place to your own website, please let us know.

So, log on, have a look and then get in touch with your suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you.

SOME THINGS TO SEE & DO IN DUNROSSNESS

Baptist Church Youth Club - The Youth Club is for children from P4 and up and meets every second Saturday in the Baptist Church from 7pm - 9pm. For further information, contact James Tait on 01950 422208 or e-mail bigtontait@googlemail.com

Ness Junior Youth Club - The youth club is held on Thursdays from 6pm - 8pm during school term times. For further details, contact Nikki Lowe, 6 Horseshoe Close on 01950 460443

Bigton Youth Club - The Bigton Youth Club is now closed for the Summer, reopening in October. For further details contact Helen Budge (422397) or Dunese Fullerton (422336)

Jarlshoff - The site is open from 1st April - 30th September, Monday - Sunday 9:30am to 5.30pm and during October from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Entry fees are £4.70 for adults, £2.35 for children and £3.70 for concessions.

Old Scatness Broch & Iron Age Village - Old Scatness is opening for the season from May until the end of September. Admission prices are £4 for adults and £3 for children for a single ticket which lasts all season. For further information, see the Old Scatness article on page 3.

Quendale Mill - The Mill is now open daily from 10am to 5pm through until 11 October. Besides the obvious interest for people interested in local history they also have scavenger hunts designed to keep the children occupied while you browse.

Rowing - Training begins at the end of April/beginning of May - weather depending! There are categories for under 16, under 21, mens, womens, veteran men (40+) and veteran women (40+). The rowing club are very keen to welcome new members so, if you are interested, telephone Nicola Sinclair 01950 422292, Magnie Mouat 460873 or visit their website at www.bigtonrowingclub.co.uk for further information.

Junior Football - Weekly training sessions are held throughout the year for the under 8s to under 18s. Various games and tournament matches are held during the summer. For further information, see the Ness United Football article on page 4.

South Mainland Community Association Senior Citizens - The group meet every month from April to December for socialising with entertainment or a programme provided on most occasions (often free of charge). Transport is provided from the various districts. Two tours are arranged (with meals) normally during June and July. For further information, contact Robert Leslie on 01950 461858.

Toddlers Groups - Toddlers groups meet weekly on Tuesday mornings in the Bruce Memorial Youth & Community Centre and on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons in the Bigton Community Hall.

Dunrossness Girls Brigade (2nd Shetland Company)



Celebrating our 40th Anniversary in September 2009!

The Girls Brigade has just completed another successful year with a total of 42 girls registered this session. We meet every Wednesday evening during school terms in the Dunrossness Primary School from 6.30pm – 8.00pm and welcome girls from P1 to S6.

Girls Brigade provides a fun time for girls to meet together learning new skills and activities. This session included a visit to the Pantomime, playing games, making crafts, group singing & fun parties! The older girls also have opportunities of leadership training.

We closed with our Annual Display and Presentation of Awards just before the Easter holidays and resume again in September.

Next session will be a very special time for Dunrossness Girls Brigade when we celebrate our 40th Anniversary!

We are planning a reunion of past members, helpers and officers on Saturday 5th September and a special Joint Dedication Service with the Boys Brigade on Sunday 6th September. If you have had any connection with the Girls Brigade over the last 40 years we would love you to join with us to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary. To register your interest, please contact:

Captain Aileen Brown – 460809 or medzet@aol.com

Or

Edna Mainland – 460466 or ednamainland@btinternet.com

Are you interested in becoming a Girls' Brigade helper?

Each session we have a good attendance of enthusiastic girls and to maintain this we urgently require more help. Please get in touch even if you only have a few hours to spare over the winter months, we are sure you will find the time spent at girls brigade very rewarding.

If you would like further information please contact Captain Aileen Brown and please let us know as soon as possible if you would be interested in being part of our special weekend in September.

SUMBURGH AIRPORT

Despite the present economic climate, passenger numbers at the airport have held up quite well this past year, and Loganair have shown commitment by increasing their flights to Edinburgh with a third rotation being added on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They have also added to their popular Bergen route which will operate 3 days a week this summer. Details of all flights can be found on the Flybe website www.flybe.com

We had a busy week in December when Flightline, the fixed wing operator for the oil industry, went into administration and the Scatsta operation suddenly moved down here in its entirety. They remained here for several days until the Eastern Airways pilots were trained on flying approaches into Scatsta. Thanks to the staff here, the airport was

able to cope with the sudden influx of customers.

We are gradually trying to brighten the main concourse in our Terminal building. Some of you will already have seen what we hope you will think are improvements. Phases 1 and 2 of the Gateway project are complete with Phase 3 due to be installed soon (the Shetland words being a nice touch), the Museum Display case with artefacts which will be changed at least annually and our new tables and chairs both at the Café area and the Arrivals area. We are also looking into getting live flight information made available on the HIAL website. This should be a great benefit to our customers.

The airport has also started more recycling initiatives and environmental measures including recycling glass,

batteries and cans and we have put sensors on some of the lighting in areas of the Terminal which are not often used. This and other steps resulted in the airport being given a Silver Award from the Tidy Business Scheme.

Our main capital project this last year has been the replacement of our Airfield Ground Lighting System on our North/South Runway. This brings our airfield lighting bang up-to-date as the lighting on the East/West Runway was changed when the runway extension was done.

Finally, for those of you interested in plane spotting, the most unusual aircraft we have had in during the last year have been a Danish Air Force Hercules, a US Army Beech 200 and a Swiss Air Force Cessna Citation.



SOUTH MAINLAND AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

South Mainland Amateur Swimming Club provides the opportunity for swimmers over 6 years in age to develop and improve their abilities and to take part in competitions.

Members attend the club session on a Sunday at South Mainland Pool and take part in further coaching and training sessions at Sandwick and at the Clickimin – up to 6 times per week, and of course those at Dunrossness Primary benefit from weekly swimming lessons from PE teacher Joan Smith. Several members of the club live in the Dunrossness area. Enthusiastic 7 year olds Dylan Black and Jasmin Smith have just joined so as yet haven't been entered in competitions. Henry Oldbury, 7, is just starting out in taking part in local competitions and older brother Edward, 9, achieved success as a medal winner at the Shetland Junior Championships. 8 year olds Sophie Black and Seumas Mackay also had brilliant swims and were amongst the medallists. By May this year, those over 8 years will have had the chance to swim in at least one competition south. Another medal winner and Shetland Development squad swimmer, Curstaidh Mackay, 10, has been demonstrating all round

improvement and has gained valuable experience of competing in different venues south. Progressing very well, class mate Cara Steven has recently gained a place in the Shetland Development squad. Eddie Price, 10, has won medals at home and south and was the youngest competitor to qualify for the North District Age Group Meet last December where he set a Shetland Age Group record in 200m freestyle. Big brother Donnie, 12, has had a tremendously successful year winning medals in every competition entered and has broken numerous Shetland Age Group records. In March at the North District Age Group Championships, he won the trophy for top boy age 10-12 years. A month later he became the first swimmer ever from South Mainland to win a Scottish

Age Group Champion medal with a fantastic swim in the boys 10-12 years 1500m freestyle, a race that is the equivalent of 90 lengths at South Mainland Pool. Demonstrating that swimming is a sport not just for the young, assistant coach Jan Price marked her 50th birthday by swimming 50 miles in the month leading up to her birthday, raising funds for the Shetland Island Games Team. She also competes in local competitions, happily lining up against far younger swimmers, but also has had medal success competing in her own age group at the Scottish Masters. South Mainland ASC are very grateful for financial support received in the past year from Dunrossness Community Council.



Swimmers from Dunrossness 2009

Jan Price

SOUTH MAINLAND UP HELLY AA

Meetings have been held, elections completed, and plans for the first South Mainland Up Helly Aa are well under way.

David Smith from Maywick was elected to be the first Guizer Jarl and will lead the procession through Bigton on March 12th next year.

Plans are being made to have a sea-burning of the galley possibly from the beach at St Ninian's Isle which should be as spectacular a setting as is possible.

24 squads have confirmed their interest in participating, visiting four halls during the evening.

It is hoped that the first year venues will be The Ness Boating Club, Bigton Hall, Sandwick Social Club and Quarff Hall with the Guizers Hop planned for Cunningsburgh Hall the following evening.

Following years will see Brydon Robertson from da Ness as Guizer Jarl in 2011 and Cunningsburgh's Kevin Adamson in 2012.

The committee hopes to have candidates from Sandwick and Gulberwick/Quarff making up the first 5 years complement of Jarls and these will be decided at further mass meetings.

Other South Mainland halls will be invited to host for subsequent festivals on a rota basis. There are no plans as yet to increase the number of halls open in any one year but so much depends on the level of interest of the whole South Mainland community.

The committee views this event as a wonderful opportunity to bring the whole of the South Mainland together in a fun-packed weekend of song, dance, theatre and feasting.

The Committee are interested to hear from people who would be willing to help organise and run this event, from all aspects of its organisation from torch making to helping hall committees run the venues.

For further information or you are interested in volunteering to help please contact the Committee Secretary.

Committee Office Bearers and Area Representative Office Bearers:

Chairman : David Smith, Maywick, Bigton 01950 422279

Vice Chair : Brydon Robertson, 13 Dalsetter Wynd, Dunrossness 01950 461975

Treasurer : Ross Smith, Kelowna, Setter, Sandwick 01950 431437

Secretary : Dale Smith, Old Post Office, Stove, Sandwick 01950 431419

Area Reps:

Gulberwick and Quarff : Liam Mullay, Hillside Gulberwick 07825 214 989

Cunningsburgh : Robert Halcrow, Gorfield, Cunningsburgh 01950 477271

Sandwick : Ross Smith, Kelowna, Setter, Sandwick 01950 431437

Levenwick and Bigton : Ewen Johnson, Vakkerøy, Ireland, Bigton 01950 422215

Ness : Scott Lobban, Ringesta, Quendale 01950 460105

HAMEFARIN 2010 - www.shetlandhamefarin.com

Monday 14th – Sunday 27th JuneHamefarin 2010

Shetland hosts the 50th Anniversary Hamefarin next summer. This is a welcoming home, from all around the world, of Shetlanders and ex islanders. Although there has been general discussion around what the South Mainland will provide as their host day on Tuesday 22nd June, there is still time to 'fine-tune' the plans.

The local history groups of Cunningsburgh, Sandwick and South Mainland were asked to co-ordinate local arrangements; and together give our visitors a day to remember.

We met back in March 2008, when June 2010 looked a long way ahead. In April 2009 we are all gearing up for this years tourist season ... thoughts of 'real' Hamefarin arrangements will hit in the next few months.

Suggestions to date for the fortnight –

- Make use of the existing tourist venues throughout the fortnight.
- History Groups to develop a specific theme – at the South Mainland Community History Group we hope to have a display about the 'Clearances of Garth in the 1870's', linked in with the local genealogy of the time.
- Promote local events eg Sandwick Regatta; and the local nature & scenery by planning special events.

Suggestions for 22nd June –

- Guided bus tour down the east side of the South Mainland, and back along the west side.
- Stop-offs (weather dependant), at Hoswick Visitor centre, Croft house Museum, Sumburgh Head, and Quendale Mill & Craft Shop
- Several smaller vehicles available at a central point, for smaller trips to go to places of interest around the Ness possibly starting from the Dunrossness Hall
- Lunch at a venue in the 'Laech Ness'
- Evening entertainment in a venue such as the Cunningsburgh Hall possibly in the form of a variety concert/dance/supper.

For all of this to come together we need folk living locally to come forward with their ideas, talents and time. Together we could give the visitors a 'Day to Remember at Da Ness'. Please let us know of your interest by contacting us at the Quendale Mill – open 10am to 5 pm daily, or e-mailing us on info@quendalemill.shetland.co.uk

SUMBURGH HEAD RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Since purchasing Sumburgh Lighthouse in 2002, Shetland Amenity Trust and its partners have been developing plans for its restoration and development. We hope this article will give the Dunrossness community a flavour of this exciting development.

Resource

Sumburgh Head Lighthouse is an iconic local landmark and is the first building to be seen by visitors arriving in Shetland by air or sea. Below the high cliffs the Atlantic meets the North Sea and the unique action of tides and weather promote a wealth of biodiversity of which seabirds, seals, whales and dolphins are first to catch the eye. The seabird colony is among the most accessible in Britain and an RSPB Reserve. Sumburgh Head was classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Union Birds Directive in 1995 and it is also designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Sumburgh currently receives 25,000-30,000 visitors annually, making it the most popular outdoor attraction in Shetland. The limited existing facilities and services do not do justice to such an outstanding heritage site. Many visitors leave without truly experiencing its wildlife and the lighthouse buildings remain closed to the public.

Project Development

In the late twentieth century all of Scotland's lighthouses were automated and the lighthouse at Sumburgh became fully automated in 1991. Shortly afterwards it was sold on the open market and purchased by a private buyer. An RSPB Reserve was established by agreement at Sumburgh Head in 1994 and the RSPB relocated its Shetland office to the site in 1996.

The Dunrossness community were quick to realise that the combination of such an important piece of architectural heritage and one of the most accessible seabird colonies in Britain presented a unique tourism and heritage opportunity. When the Ness 2000 initiative was set up by the Dunrossness Community Council, the community identified Sumburgh Head as a key site for development as a visitor attraction. In late 2002, with such strong community support Shetland Amenity Trust purchased Sumburgh Head and the buildings associated with the lighthouse.

The Trust's aspiration is to refurbish the Lighthouse buildings to a standard consistent with their listed status and in so doing create a first-class visitor attraction at this spectacular location.

The Trust has been busy working with the RSPB and other partners to develop this aspiration. In 2004, the Historic Scotland architectural report and the conservation management reports were developed. During 2005 and 2006, various surveys and workshops were undertaken and reports prepared covering access, interpretation and audience development. In 2007, following the finalisation of the plans for the proposed development the process of applying for funding began.

The Project

The Trust intends to conserve and safeguard one of Scotland's finest pieces of surviving early nineteenth century architecture, the first Stevenson lighthouse to be built in Shetland. In so doing the Trust proposes to utilise the buildings to raise awareness, and increase understanding, of Shetland's rich marine environment, the historical significance of the site and its maritime heritage.

The project will also improve access to the site for all potential users, and open the lighthouse and some of the associated buildings to the public for the first time. In a wider context the Trust hopes this project will complement the range of other heritage projects in the south Mainland and contribute to the socio-economic well-being of the Dunrossness area.

The key elements of this projects are to:

- Undertake a faithful restoration of the A-Listed Historic Buildings.
- Improve access to the site for all user groups, including the provision of disabled car parking within the lighthouse complex itself.
- Increase the area of the existing car park and provide adequate parking and turning areas for buses.
- Construct at the car park a gateway to the site in the form of a small orientation building utilising a former Northern Lighthouse Board minor light.
- Convert the West House to high quality self-catering visitor accommodation.
- Convert the East House to an innovative interpretive centre.
- Convert the Principal Keeper's Cottage to offices for use by the RSPB.
- Refurbish the Engine Room and use it to interpret the Lighthouse story (history, service & technological advances).
- Convert the Temporary Keeper's Accommodation to provide basic accommodation for volunteers. The Smithy will be retained and used to provide further interpretation of the Lighthouse story.
- Construct a purpose built education room and public toilets on the site of the derelict garages.
- Refurbish the Radar Stations and utilise one to interpret Sumburgh Head and the surrounding area during WWII and other for storage.
- Make use of other infrastructure e.g. safe viewing areas will be created on the current water tank roof and at the former foghorn tower.
- Improve footpaths, viewing points and interpretation, and provide seating for resting, in the area from the lower car park to the lighthouse compound and within the compound itself.

The West House was originally a residential block and is not currently in use. It will be refurbished to a high standard retaining most of its original interior fittings and finishes and will replace the present self catering accommodation currently contained in the Principal Keeper's Cottage.

The East House currently use by the RSPB as offices will be modified and adapted to provide an innovative interpretive centre to interpret the environment. The lower floor will interpret the undersea environment and its flora and fauna, and the upper floor those animals that spend most of their lives on, or above, the sea surface. A stair and disabled lift will connect the two.

The Principal Keeper's Accommodation currently used as visitor accommodation will be refurbished to house the relocated RSPB offices. This new relocated position will make the RSPB offices easier to find and provide a good location for staff to engage with visitors.

Existing access and car-parking facilities at Sumburgh Head have been shown to be inadequate and a series of recommendations which were agreed at the multi agency workshop held in Lerwick in April 2005 will be implemented, including:

- Creation of disabled parking within the lighthouse compound, along with spaces for office staff and those using the accommodation, and a turning point for emergency vehicles.
- Expansion of the existing car park to accommodate a turning point and parking space for buses.
- Create two passing places on the road between the car park and the Lighthouse compound.
- Re-route a short (100 m) section of the road in the vicinity of the cliff-fall to ensure the long term survival of the access road.

The proposed exhibits and displays at Sumburgh will provoke, excite, engage and inform visitors using an appropriate mix of high and low technologies. The environmental exhibition will be spectacular and unique displays will bring the largely unknown sub-sea environment to the attention of the visitor. The journey will be through magnified microscopic plankton and kelp forests and then accompanied by shoaling fish and a sandeel sculpture ascend to the sea surface to witness a feeding frenzy of seabirds and sea mammals. Visitors will discover the pressures upon, and fragility of, this food chain. If technology and the Puffins permit, CCTV cameras will show Puffins incubating and rearing chicks in their underground burrows.

In contrast, current plans for the Engine Room and Smithy will rely on refurbished equipment to provide a period feel to tell the story of the Stevenson lighthouse, the light keepers and their families and the influence of changing technology on the lighthouse service. Finally, it is hoped the old Radar station will portray Sumburgh's strategic importance during World War II.

The purpose built education room will be a huge asset and demonstrates the Trust's commitment to learning in both the formal and informal education sector. In partnership with the RSPB, the Trust is considering how the many facets of Sumburgh Head can link with school curricula to ensure that the full educational potential of Sumburgh Head is realised.

Under the current proposals, Sumburgh Head will remain open all year but the education and interpretive centre will be a seasonal attraction from April to September. The complex will be open daily and manned by up to two seasonal staff. A nominal entrance fee will be made for entry to the education and interpretive centre. It is planned to open the lighthouse column at weekends when an attendant will conduct guided tours. The external area will be managed in partnership with the RSPB who will have up to three additional seasonal staff and volunteers on site to engage with visitors to ensure they get the best from their visit.

Subject to all funding being in place, the Trust plans to commence work on this development in 2010 and to open to the public in 2013.

As part of the development of the project the Trust is very keen for the community to become involved and is particularly interested to hear from anyone with information regarding the role of the lighthouse during WWII, the operation of the lighthouse and its keepers. If you would like to become involved, have information about the history of the site or wish to know more about the project, please contact Shetland Amenity Trust on 01595 694688.



On the previous page and below are artists impressions of the Lighthouse following completion of the proposed restoration and development project.



SEASIDE AWARDS UPDATE

As you may know, in 2007 St. Ninians Beach was awarded a Keep Scotland Beautiful Seaside Award and in 2008, again with the assistance of Shetland Islands Council and local groups, we successfully gained the same award for Westvoe Beach. In order to retain these awards, the beaches must be cleaned regularly throughout the summer season, something we depend greatly upon local groups to help us with. In return for their efforts in cleaning one of the beaches, each group is offered a donation. We already have a number of groups down to carry out a 'clean-up' this season but there are still a few dates available so, if your group would like to take part and earn some money in the process, please contact the Clerk, Shirley Leslie, who will include you on the 'clean-up' rota.



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HALLS

Our local halls are available for you to hire at very reasonable rates.

BIGTON COMMUNITY HALL

Chairperson/Bookings : Mary Andreas, Hayhoull, Bigton. Tel. 422206

Secretary : Les Andreas, Hayhoull, Bigton. Tel. 422206

Treasurer : Mike Canter, Brinna House, Bigton. Tel. 422237

DUNROSSNESS CENTRAL PUBLIC HALL

Chairman : Ian Hay, Magherabeg, Scousburgh. Tel. 460717

Secretary : Hazel Bairnson, 6 Toabsgeo, Toab, Virkie. Tel. 461954

Treasurer : Dave Ellis, Montalembert, Scousburgh. Tel. 460741

Bookings : Steve Jones, 17 Dalsetter Wynd. Tel. 460606

LEVENWICK COMMUNITY HALL

Chairman/Bookings : John Jamieson, Taingview, Levenwick. Tel. 422207

Treasurer : Barbara Dinnage, Daisy Cottage, Levenwick. Tel. 422313

BRUCE MEMORIAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY HALL

Chairperson/Secretary : Lyn Scoals, North Town, Exnaboe. Tel. 460272

Treasurer/Bookings : Scott Lobban, Ringesta, Quendale. Tel. 460105

South Mainland Local Service Delivery Group – What's it all about?

What on earth is a 'Local Service Delivery Group'?

It's a group of people who work for different organisations who provide services to the public in our area and who meet together regularly. So, it includes people from the Doctor's surgery, health centre, community nursing, social work, community work, schools, housing, transport and environment, Police, voluntary groups, Community Councillors and SIC Councillors. What they all have in common is an interest in improving public services for everyone who lives in the South Mainland. You could say it's a getting together of a **Group** of people who **Deliver Services Locally**.

What's it meant to do?

To influence how local services are provided and to help plan future services, such as health and social care.

And how does it do this?

We meet together every three months to look at how to provide better services for the people who live in our area.

Why was it set up?

In 2004, the Shetland Community Health Partnership set up seven local areas to cover Shetland following legislation from the Scottish Government. The seven areas are linked to the SIC multi-member wards.

What has it achieved so far?

A couple of examples include the bus timetable problems last year, especially the problems of folk from Sandwick getting to the Levenwick Health centre, and the campaign to stop the Levenwick Post office closure.

Don't Community Council's do this already?

Partly. One of the differences is that this group is a chance for people who provide services to meet with each other. Community Councillors and SIC Councillors all together to share ideas and ways of improving how services are provided for the benefit of everyone in the community. Also, this group covers all three Community Councils so it can support and work with each of them in their efforts to influence issues that affect them all.

Didn't Ness 2000 do something similar?

Yes, for the Ness area and at the time achieved a number of successes – like the Ness Learning Centre and the Dunrossness Out-of-School Club. The idea is that this group will build on these successes.

The future – Shetland South Vision 2009

Over the next few months the group are holding a number of meetings in Community Halls throughout the area – from Quarff to Fair Isle. These are giving people a chance to talk about local services, both now and in the future. The first meetings have taken place with plenty of ideas coming forward. The next meetings are scheduled for 13 June in Bigton, 21 August in Fair Isle, 5 September in Levenwick and 19 September in the Dunrossness Hall. Watch out for details in the paper and in local shops.

Want to find out more?

Have a look at: <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/LSDGSouth.asp> or contact

Jonathan Emptage, Chairperson, on Lerwick 744898 or Pat Christie, Co-ordinator on Sandwick 431439.

JOHNSMAS FOY

As part of the Johnsmas Foy celebrations - which this year have a Viking theme - on Friday 19 June at Dunrossness Hall there will be an evening of Feasting and entertainment featuring storytelling, live music and an exclusive appearance by the Walhalla Vikings all the way from Poland. Tickets are priced at £22.00 and are available from Old Scatness, Shetland Amenity Trust office and the Museum. For more information, contact Old Scatness on 461869 or look out for local posters.



OPEN DAY AT WINDYBRAE, DUNROSSNESS ON SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2PM - 4PM.

Please come and visit the newly refurbished Windybrae. Teas and coffees will be provided and staff will be on hand to show you around and talk to you about how SIC Children's Services plan to use the house.

SOUTH MAINLAND & FAIR ISLE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Community Office in Sandwick School is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 till 1 and at other times by arrangement.

We can give your community group or youth organisation, information and the necessary support on:

- Grants and constitutions
- Activities in the area
- Development & learning opportunities for individuals or groups planning events

Do you or your organisation need to advertise upcoming events or meetings? We can offer:

- A colour photocopying service at very reasonable rates
- A poster/flyer design service to suit your requirements
- Help with Newsletters, leaflets, etc
- A Laminate Service

Contact Pat Christie, Community Learning & Development Officer or Sheila Fowlie, Clerical Assistant, for more information, or pop in and see us at the Community Office in the Sandwick School. We might even manage a cup of coffee!

Tel: 01950 431439; Fax: 01950 431570 or E mail: cw.sandwick@sic.shetland.gov.uk

COMPETITION PAGE - FILL IN YOUR ANSWERS & RETURN BY 31ST JULY

Q1. Which school in America is Dunrossness Primary School forming a link with?

A.

Q2. What has been Sumburgh Airport's main capital project this past year?

A.

Q3. What date is the first South Mainland Up Helly Aa scheduled to take place on?

A.

Q4. Which area of the Ness Boating Club is being refurbished?

A.

Q5. Who is Ness United under 16's manager for the 2009 season?

A.

Q6. Which anniversary is Dunrossness Girls Brigade celebrating in September?

A.

Q7. In Swimming, who was the youngest competitor to qualify for the North District Age Group Meet last December?

A.

Q8. Which date is the South Mainland's 'host day' during the Hamefarin 2010 celebrations?

A.

Q9. In which year was an RSPB Reserve established at Sumburgh Head?

A.

Q10. Subject to all funding being in place, when does Shetland Amenity Trust plan to commence work on the Sumburgh Head restoration and development project?

A.

Q11. Other than St. Ninian's, which beach in the South Mainland holds a Seaside Award?

A.

Q12. When is the open day at Windybrae to be held?

A.

NAME :

ADDRESS :

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JUNIOR COMPETITION

Spot the 12 differences, fill in your name and then return to Shirley Leslie by 31st July for a chance to win a £10 gift voucher from The Shetland Times Bookshop



NAME :

AGE :

ADDRESS :

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