

INITIATIVE AT THE EDGE

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August 2007

Issue 6

Northmavine Development Company Newsletter

Hellos and Goodbyes - by Maree Hay

The last couple of months have seen changes to the office staff at Greenbrae.

Pat Christie moved on to take up an appointment as Community Learning and Development Officer with the SIC at the south end. This means Pat now works a lot closer to her home in Cunningburgh and is getting reacquainted with her husband! Over the past two and a half years Pat has been an integral part of the Northmavine Development Company (NDC) and we thank her for all her work and wish her well in her new post.

Although Alex Purbrick left her post as office admin over a year ago to have baby Ronan, Alex spent her maternity leave and the first few months of motherhood completing her work on the Health & Wellbeing Report for Northmavine. The result is a valuable resource for the community and we thank Alex for all her work.

Pam Abernethy who stays in Brae now carries out office administration. Pam is originally from Walls and will be related in-law to the Queyfirth folk when she marries one of Meenie's grandsons next year! Pam comes with a variety of office-based experience and looks forward to working with the Northmavine community. She is proving to be a capable member of staff and no doubt her tasks and responsibilities will change and increase as the months go on!

I am now into my third week as project worker for the NDC and am beginning to find my feet. Although I am originally from Brae, I have lived in Sullom for 15 years. Family crofts in both Sullom and Leon meant I spent a lot of my childhood in Northmavine – usually running up a steep hill after a stubborn ewe!

Two years ago I became involved with the NDC as a director. I was at times a bit frustrated in the beginning by the seeming slowness of progress, but I came to see the importance of finding out exactly what the folk of Northmavine wanted in terms of development and the essential need to look at the facilities and amenities we have in Northmavine. The reports now published offer a wealth of information for us as a community to build upon. The momentum is beginning to build, with projects such as the redevelopment at Mavis Grind nearing completion, and there's a real feeling we're moving forward.



Pam Abernethy & Maree Hay at Greenbrae

Pam and I joined the NDC at a time of change. Initiative at the Edge status only lasts for 3 years and at present the funding we receive to run the office and pay the wages will run out in March 2008. In terms of community development, 3 years passes very quickly and we are now looking for ways of continuing the process that has been started.

A large part of my time initially will be spent putting in place further funding for the NDC, including looking at ways of generating community income. The NDC is a community company so this means any surplus monies made by the company will be ploughed back into the community.

Looking for sustainable ideas, setting up companies or becoming profitable does not happen overnight, so we will continue to look for financial support from the SIC and our local agencies as we move along the path to sustainability. At the end of the day Northmavine, like other areas, has an increasingly ageing population. We need to find new ways of keeping our young folk in the area through affordable, available housing, training opportunities and employment. I feel passionate that the folk of Northmavine have the capacity to reverse the trend of rural decline and I look forward to the challenge of playing my part.

If we can help with any advice or information or if you have any ideas you'd like to discuss, please contact me at the office.

Abridged guide to the NDC

Who and what is the NDC?

The NDC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It was a dormant company taken over by the local development group, Initiative at the Edge, in August 2004. It aims to help the people living in Northmavine to take forward projects that will have social, economic and environmental benefits for the community. At present the NDC has applied for charitable status and now awaits a decision.

How does the NDC work?

The rules under which the NDC operates are set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The memorandum sets out what the company will do – areas of operation, aims, objectives and powers and the articles set out how this will be done – rules for electing membership, electing directors, meetings etc. The company has members and directors – the members elect directors who then manage the company on their behalf. The members “own” the company in that they and the directors control any capital the company generates.

What happens to any profits made by the NDC?

All profits are re-invested to further the aims and objectives of the company and to benefit the local community.

Who can become a member of the NDC?

Anyone over the age of 18 who has their main residence in Northmavine and supports the aims and objectives of the company can become a member.

Why should I become a member of the NDC?

A high level of membership from the local community will ensure that the company, its activities and how any profits are invested are controlled by the community as a whole. The key message is that if you want to have your say, you should become a member.

How much will it cost and what are the financial risks?

There is no membership subscription for the NDC. The Memorandum of Association of the NDC restricts liability of each member to £1 towards the company's debt if it goes into liquidation.

We'd love to hear from folk interested in becoming new members, so membership forms have been included with this edition of the newsletter. If you require further copies, please contact the office.

SITUATIONS VACANT

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A POST WITH -

No Pay — No Pension — No Company Car

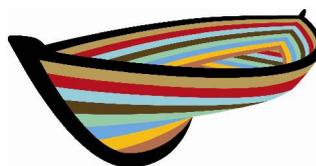
The pay and company perks may be poor, but you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome with a chance to help make a difference within your community – and as much tea as you can drink!!

JOB DESCRIPTION

To help people living in Northmavine to take forward projects that will have social, economic and environmental benefits for the community

Becoming a director of Northmavine Development Company will give you the opportunity to play an active part in running a community-owned company that exists to help people in your community. It is a challenging position and comes with some responsibilities, but directors are involved in the day-to-day operation of Northmavine Development Company, taking decisions on behalf of the community and taking forward projects to regenerate the area.

At present we have 2 spaces on our board of directors, so if you'd like to join us we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Maree at the office.



Shetland arts

Young people from 12 to under 18, who live in Northmavine and enjoy making things and being creative, will enjoy the Shetland Arts – **Design for Fashion** workshop in design, weaving and knitting, in the Hillswick Hall on Saturday and Sunday the 22nd and 23rd of September, 9.30am-5.30pm.

With young designers Emma Blain and Claire Henry they can learn to have fun designing textiles. In the two days they can design, develop and make their own piece of textile art, or a funky bag, or a fantastic cushion, or even an amazing and fashionable garment..... At the beginning Emma and Claire will show how they work as designers, then help to source and explore ideas, colours and materials. Emma is from Burra, Claire is from Brae, and they both studied design at Glasgow School of Art, specializing in Weaving for Fashion and for Interiors.

Places are limited so must be booked in advance. The price is £10.00 including materials, for the complete two day workshop. For more information and to book a place, call Hazel Hughson at Shetland Arts 01595 74 3843.

Hillswick Hotel

There's been a lot happening with the hotel since our last newsletter, as you've no doubt seen from the press. Back in early summer the then-owners, Canterbury Travel, had a change of heart and expressed a willingness to sell the hotel. We had previously been on the point of having a survey done when they withdrew their permission, but this time they confirmed we could go ahead. We got quotes and had just secured funding for a survey, when it became public that they had found a buyer.

The new owner, Andrea Manson, has said that it will re-open soon, and that she is looking to restore it to its former glory over time. This is good news for Northmavine, with the prospect of job opportunities and enhanced facilities for local folk and tourists. We wish her every success with her plans, and particularly hope that this will see an increase in tourist beds available in the area.

Since we have started down the road of registering an interest in community purchase of the hotel, we will continue with that process, so that if in future the hotel is again on the market, we will have that option open to us, should the community wish to pursue it.

In the meantime, we're looking forward to a decent bar supper in Hillswick once again.

Ronas Voe Factory

We are hearing bad news that the Ronas factory is facing closure, due we understand to a lack of fish now available to process. By the time this newsletter comes out, the situation will be clearer, however we have initiated discussions with SIC and others, to see if we can assist in finding a viable future for the factory. We'll let you know how we get on.

WWW (Work With Website)

As www.northmavine.com enters its second year, funding from ROA (Regeneration Outcome Agreement) is available to enable the NDC to offer a contract to find ways of developing and marketing the website to help make it sustainable.

The funding has to be spent within a fairly tight timescale, so we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in this contract.

Join "Da Young Eens"

Da Young Eens fae Nort are back up and running again after the summer holidays. The group have started looking at ways to raise awareness of themselves in Northmavine and Shetland. Over the next few months the group hope to hold a few events from a gig in one of the local halls to a treasure hunt, keep your eye out in the local press for details.

Remember there are still opportunities for more young people to be involved, if you want to have a say in helping develop Northmavine for the present and future get in touch with the NDC Office or Daniel Robertson at daniel@youngshetland.info we'd be very happy to hear from you.

Ready for a Pow-wow in Northmavine?

Anybody hearing that Magnus and Christina Nicolson at Braewick were planning to build a wigwam or two in Eshaness could be forgiven for thinking that long hours in the café had taken their toll.....but no.

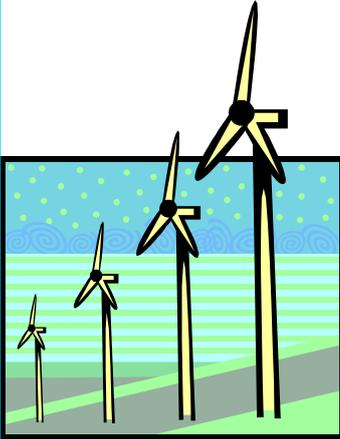
A Wigwam is constructed from Pre-stressed timber and sits on concrete block foundations. The building is wrapped in a breathable 'skin' and clad with boards cut from Larch or Fir. The wigwam is fully insulated to ensure a cosy environment as the ultimate in camping cabins. It provides a low cost accommodation unit, which offers a range of potential applications including, bunkhouse, camping cabin or alternative annex accommodation.

wigwamholidays.com



wigwamholidays.com is in the process of establishing a national network of wigwam sites, which are proving highly popular with visitors throughout the U.K. Magnus and Christina plan to add Eshaness to the network. Wigwams are usually delivered on-site fully constructed, but due to logistics, Magnus plans to bring them to Shetland in kit form and use the joinery skills of his son, George Magnus, to erect them. Magnus is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining the network. Telephone 503202

Renewables.



A major part of the Northmavine Development Plan is the increased use of renewable energy in Northmavine.

A renewables audit has been carried out and a report published. This report identifies a large potential in Northmavine for the successful instillation and use of renewable energy sources to reduce cost of living, environmental impact and create jobs within the community.

A report in itself won't do anything, so we are in the process of setting up a sub-group. The purpose of this group is to transform the ideas of the report into something solid. Be it more of the wind to heat projects you may have seen in the North Roe and Sullom halls, small scale hydro-electric generators powering byres to tidal generators producing hydrogen for use in vehicles.

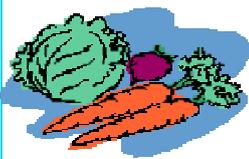
The potential is there for Northmavine to become self sufficient, with respect to energy, in the long term. In the shorter term the goal will be to help the local community to begin this process. To join the Renewables Group please contact the NDC office at Greenbrae.

Interpretation Nort (IN) by Maureen Cumming

Interpretation is about taking a story or subject and relating it in such a way that it will leave a lasting impression on the listener. That is what the group Interpretation Nort hopes to do for Northmavine. The long term aim is to have a purpose built building that would provide information and displays on subjects that are unique to Northmavine such as the rare plants on Ronas Hill, the crofting year and our rich fishing history. Visitors have commented that they would like to see visual displays on the more inaccessible parts of Northmavine as many of them are unable to walk long distances. In addition, it is hoped to offer workshops on traditional baking, kishie making, knitting and spinning. Demonstrations of kirning and the opportunity for the hands on experience of peat casting may be included. Visitors may wish to go on guided walks to discover the traditional way of life and hear the living memory experiences of local residents. Local trows Peesterleatie, Terrymittens and Truncherface will introduce visitors to their way of life and their fantastic fiddle playing.

Over the winter months it is hoped to put together some of the ideas to have a pilot scheme next year that will run for three months starting in June. If you have any ideas that you would like considered or would like to help in any way call the Secretary, Maureen Cumming on 01806 544 217 or e-mail - blackcat2006@btintmet.com

Community Needs



The Community Needs survey carried out in Northmavine has resulted in a wealth of information and ideas, many of which informed the "Sustaining a Healthy Community for Northmavine" report published earlier this year. Copies of the report are available from the office and ideas are already beginning to stem from it.

Healthy eating and the availability of local produce are important issues for folk in Northmavine. The NDC is in the process of setting up a project with a local youth group to look at these issues, where young folk will plan and produce a healthy meal for invited guests at the Ollaberry hall. Local produce will be used wherever possible, so this will help give an insight into how readily available our products are. A display will also be set up in the hall to help highlight the information gathered.

In conjunction with the healthy eating display, young folk taking part in the **Design for Fashion** weekend will also be given a chance to showcase the items and garments they have created during the weekend workshop at the Hillswick Hall. For details of the Textiles workshop, please see the separate article in this newsletter.

The need for childcare in Northmavine was an issue raised by some folk in the results of the survey. Childcare presents many challenges and opportunities given the geographical spread within Northmavine and the number of bairns. A host of solutions could be looked at from childminding in your own home to a day nursery run in a local building. If enough demand for childcare can be established we could look at various options for solutions. To help us build up a clearer picture, please contact the office if you could either benefit from childcare services or would be interested in providing a service.

Happy 1st Birthday www.northmavine.com!!

The original aims of the website were - "A project to benefit our community and let others experience the quality of life our community has to offer." *Alan MacDonald.*

www.northmavine.com will celebrate its first birthday on 28th August this year and is fulfilling those aims nicely. To date almost 22,000 folk worldwide have visited the website from Northmavine to North America.

Website content hasn't stood still in the past year thanks to Fiona Cope and a team of contributors. Folk in Northmavine can now read the minutes from both the NDC and the Northmaven Community Council meeting, check when the next skip will be in the area, find business details of local companies or look for a local social event in the What's On section.

Sections are also devoted to HEARD, the Big Bannock, Up Helly Aa, local history and tourist information on the area. There's also a terrific photo gallery compiled by local folk and at the end of the year the "Afore Da Doors" archive, featuring local families, will be available on the website.

Local businesses each receive a mention in the business directory, but many businesses took up our request for sponsorship last year, resulting in a more comprehensive coverage in the directory. This year we have re-issued our appeal for sponsorship to help pay for website maintenance, so if you'd like to sponsor your entry please get in touch. Please also let us know if your business needs to be added or removed from the list.

Tourism Action

The NDC tourism group has played a key role in the development of the Tourism Action Plan, published in March. First year ROA funding enabled the group to contract Ingrid Laurensen to compile the report using information and data from the community and beyond. Ingrid also went on to develop a visitor survey to help give a better understanding of how and why visitors come to the area and identify any gaps in visitor provision.

Second year ROA funding, through SIC, now means the group can look forward to developing projects identified by the Action Plan and evaluate the results from the visitor survey, due at the end of the tourist season. Funding also means the tourism group is in a position to contract a worker for this post, creating some part-time work in the area. The NDC would be delighted if this position could be filled by a person within Northmavine, so if you'd like to be considered for the work, please contact the office at Greenbrae.

The tourism group is a small but dedicated bunch who would welcome new members with an interest in helping to develop visitor facilities, so if you'd like to join please contact the chair, Christina Nicolson, at the Breiwick Café – 503345 or the NDC office.



Afore Da Doors

The aim of the "Afore Da Doors" project is to create a photo archive of Northmavine folk at home as a historical record. The project drew a terrific response from the community and local photographer, Lorna Sandison, will be contacting folk soon to arrange a suitable time to visit. Folk can also add any information they would like to record to accompany the photo. The pictures and any information will be uploaded to www.northmavine.com as an on-line archive. It's still not too late have your picture added to the archive, so please contact the office at Greenbrae if you'd like to be part of the project.



Northmavine Transport

SULLOM AREA

A Dial a Ride Shopper Service to the Brae Shops and Health Centre is available every Friday at 0930

Bookings should be made to the central booking office in Lerwick – **01595 745745**

OLLABERRY AREA

Following discussions with Zetland Transport Partnership (ZetTrans) , Northmaven Community Council has secured additional transport services from Ollaberry to Hillswick Surgery as of Monday 2nd July 2007.

The Dial a Ride extra service, which will operate on a booking only basis, will be available from 0930 to 1230 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Bookings must be made through the central booking office in Lerwick – **01595 745745**

A Dial a Ride Shopper Service to the Ollaberry Shop is available for Ollaberry & Gluss every Friday from 1030 to 1200.

Bookings should be made to the central booking office in Lerwick – **01595 745745**

COLLAFIRTH AREA – INCLUDING LEON

A Dial a Ride Shopper Service to the Ollaberry Shop is available every Friday.

Bookings should be made to the central booking office in Lerwick – **01595 745745**

NORTH ROE & LOCHEND AREA

A Dial a Ride Shopper Service to the Ollaberry Shop is available every Friday from 1030 to 1300

A Dial a Ride Service to the Hillswick Surgery is available on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Bookings should be made to the central booking office in Lerwick – **01595 745745**

ZetTrans are also looking into the feasibility of a late night feeder service from Brae on Saturday nights. This service would connect with the late service leaving Lerwick at 2230.

Equipment Bank - The Greenbrae office has a computer for public use with internet access. A printer, a laminator, a binding machine and a set of display boards all available to the public at a small charge. Please feel free to contact us at anytime.

Up coming events

28/08 Sunday Teas - Hillswick Hall

September

02/09 Sunday Teas - Ollaberry Hall

07/09 Storytelling & Curry Night - North Roe & Lochend Hall

09/09 Sunday Teas - North Roe & Lochend Hall

15/09 Fish n Chips – Mystery Booze Cruise - Ollaberry Hall

16/09 HEARD Sunday Teas - Hillswick Hall

19/09 500 Drive - Hillswick Hall

21/09 Country Music Festival - Ollaberry Hall

23/09 Sunday Teas - Ollaberry Hall

29/09 Fun Night - Hillswick Hall

October

06/10 Sale o Wark + Card Night - Ollaberry Hall

13/10 Fish n Chips - Ollaberry Hall

17/10 500 Drive - Hillswick Hall

25/10 Whaling memories - North Roe & Lochend Hall

27/10 Halloween fancy dress disco - Hillswick Hall

Squad Doo - Sullom Hall

28/10 Sunday Teas - Ollaberry Hall

November

02/11 Bairns Halloween Party & Bonfire Night - Ollaberry Hall

03/11 Sale o Wark - Sullom Hall

14/11 500 Drive - Hillswick Hall

17/11 Jarl Hanks Squad Doo - Hillswick Hall

24/11 Fun Day – Fish n Chips - Ollaberry Hall

December

08/12 Dance – Ollaberry Hall

12/12 500 Drive – Hillswick Hall

21/12 Bairns Christmas Party – Ollaberry Hall

28/12 Christmas Dance – Ollaberry Hall

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Funded By:

