



# Brora Community Newsletter

Prepared by  
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Development  
Trust

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*Image: Liam Duffus Photography*

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## Message from the Chair

I'm delighted to be able to share with you the latest of our regular community newsletters. One of our greatest challenges as a small local charity is to maintain a steady flow of funding to enable the work we do to continue and to ensure longevity of the Trust. We need to look at revenue generation as a way to support our work as we progress and develop. One way of doing this is through The Otter's Couch, which not only provides earning opportunities for local artists and crafters but acts as a revenue stream to support our work.

One aspect of our work that is thriving and requires ongoing financial input is the youth initiative. The number of young people taking part in weekly drop-in sessions is growing. We are very lucky to have a team of five part time employees who are able to support the delivery of youth work in Brora. The Trust is dedicated to investing in employees and offer training and professional support to our team. We continue to be very proud of our Living Wage accreditation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank all volunteers, members, donors and partners for your ongoing support, without which the work of the Trust would not be possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Gill'.

Tony Gill, Chair of Brora Development Trust

Thanks go to donors and partners including:



## News

– updates on Brora Development Trust work

### BRORA YOUTH INITIATIVE

Brora Youth Room, the name for the youth club run by the Trust, continues to grow and thrive. The number of secondary school aged young people taking part in the twice weekly drop-in sessions and activities has increased steadily since they started in January.

The drop-in sessions provide a friendly and safe space for young people to spend time outside their home and school. There's no membership or entry fee and there is always something to eat too. School leavers up to the age of 18 years old are very welcome to attend.



***The chosen new logo designed created by youth group members***

A wide range of activities are on offer at the club, all of which have been discussed and chosen by members themselves. This fantastic logo was chosen by the group from a number of different creations by members themselves. The logo was designed by Morgan Dent, colour-scheme inspired by Rowan Moseley and then developed further by KSTM Embroidery, Dingwall. The logo will be used on t-shirts for members.



***Big smiles after colour run fun***



Over the school summer holidays Brora Youth Room ran movie nights, book club, lots of sports with Highlife Highland, a paint colour run, a beach afternoon, to name but a few activities.



**A series of sports activities took place with Highlife Highland**

Starting later this month is an Animation Club, which will run over 10 weeks on Mondays from 6-8pm and take place at Brora Learning Zone. Young people will have the opportunity to learn about and develop skills to be able to produce a digital animation. The Club is being delivered in partnership with Brora Gallery social enterprise. It's hoped that if funding allows, this can be continued in the future.

A number of visits have been made to Brora Youth Room from people from other organisations: in August, Claudia from Rotary shared information about the Rotary and its work; and Rhiannon from Youth Highland came to meet members and facilitate a session with them to create 'ground rules and expectations' for the Youth Room. Rhiannon thoroughly enjoyed her visit and commented on what a lovely bunch of youth group members we have here in Brora.

Youth Highland have worked closely with the Development Trust at every stage of this initiative providing advice on governance, policies and providing training. Rhiannon has also delivered an Introduction to Youth Work training course for the Youth Workers here in Brora.



***Isla Campbell's jewellery making session was very popular***

This month Isla Campbell spent time at Brora Youth Room and shared jewellery making skills, with the members getting creative and coming up with their own fantastic pieces of work.

Recent staff changes include Sessional Youth Workers Eilidh Carter and Vikki Massey stepping up to the positions of Lead Youth Workers and Megan Penny moving to a Sessional role. Eilidh and Vikki have hit the ground running and say they are delighted to be organising the sessions, helping create new opportunities and supporting the initiative to grow. They visited Balintore Youth Club in August to learn more about how they operate and plan similar visits to other groups.



***Vikki Massey and Eilidh Carter, Lead Youth Workers***

As part of ongoing staff training and to help ensure best practice in all aspects of our work, Eilidh, Vikki and Development Manager Sarah, joined Engaging with Activity at Brora Hub and Clyne Heritage Society, in a one-day Emergency First Aid at Work. The Youth Worker team are also working through Level 2 Food Safety training.



***The not so sunny summer didn't deter the Brora Youth Room from heading to the beach!***

Drop-in sessions run on Wednesdays 7-9pm and Fridays 5.30-7.30pm during school term time at Brora Community Centre.

Membership forms are available to pick up at youth group sessions or from the Brora Youth Room Facebook page.

## **DISCOVER BRORA**



We are delighted to have Alison Metcalf join us at Brora Development Trust team as Project Officer. Alison brings to the role a great wealth of experience and enthusiasm and will be working to support all community-led tourism and enterprise work the Trust is involved with.

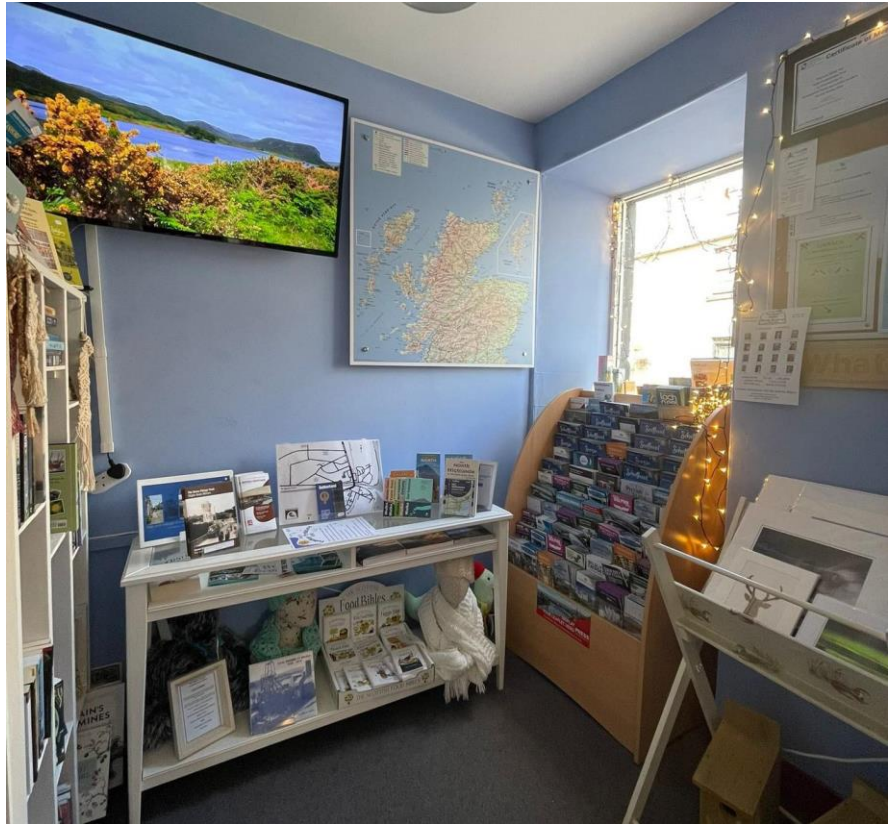


***Alison Metcalfe, Project Officer***

The Trust relies heavily on grant funding for all its work and in the current climate, as grant funding comes under increasing pressure across the country, there is a need to look for other sources of income to help ensure that The Trust can continue to work to support the people of Brora.

One way this can be done is through generating revenue from initiatives such as the 100+ Club, local fundraising, revenue from the Otters Couch arts and crafts shop and visitors information point.

For the last two summers the information point has provided a hire service for Sutherland Adventure Company, for bicycles. Sutherland Adventure Company will no longer be hiring out bikes and recognizing a gap in the market and demand for bike hire, the Trust hope to be able to hire bikes out directly and will do so in partnership with Sam's Bike shed.



### ***Visitor Information Point in The Otter's Couch***

Discover Brora branded t-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies and tote bags are now on sale in The Otter's Couch.

### **HEALTHY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS INITIATIVE**

The Trust's initiative to provide food support over school holidays continued over the summer holidays.



***George Parkin enjoying using a meal starter pack***

Parent and carers with children and young people registered in Early years, primary and secondary education were given the opportunity to pick up breakfast packs and meal starter kits over the 7-week period at different venues in the village. In total 508 breakfast packs and 464 meal starter kits were picked up over 6 distributions. Meal starter packs contained basic key ingredients for a family meal, which can be added to, including a recipe suggestion. Breakfast packs always contained a piece of fruit, cereal, fruit juice and other items which could be used for breakfasts or snacks.



***Meal starter pack***

***Breakfast pack***

The Development Trust ran this initiative two years ago and has received very positive feedback. Provision for forthcoming school holidays will however depend on further funding being secured.

## **BRORA'S RADIO PAST IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Brora Development Trust are embarking on an exciting new initiative, to bring Brora to the airwaves from our very own recording studio which will be set up in Brora.

This community driven initiative will be supported by an experienced Studio Manager who brings a great depth of knowledge and experience of radio.

Whilst the recording studio will be in Brora, there is potential to expanding the station to include Golspie and Helmsdale communities.



A community meeting will be organised over the next couple of months to talk about plans and expectations. In an increasingly digital world, community radio is evolving and adapting to new technologies while maintaining its core purpose: to serve as a voice for local communities.



A community digital radio station will provide a platform for all sectors of the community to come together and work on a joint production which benefits a wide range of interest groups. The initiative will not only be a chance to celebrate local culture it's another way to reach out to people who may feel less engaged in what's going on than other or less able to engage.

There will be opportunities for local musicians, business owners and community interest groups to share stories, promote services and discuss topical issues. There are a wide range of roles that will need to be filled by volunteers and being part of the initiative will provide an opportunity to develop skills and offer work experience. For instance, Brora Youth Room members will have an opportunity to be involved, with representatives on the working group as well as working on the radio station in some capacity or other.

One of the most significant advantages of digital radio is its accessibility. Listeners can tune in from anywhere through smartphones, computers, or tablets. Listeners who might not have access to traditional radio frequencies will be able to engage with the station through the internet.

Above all, it's going to be a lot of fun!

# Community Corner

## SUTHERLAND BEEKEEPERS

It has been a very challenging summer for Highland Beekeepers. Cold spells have kept bees in their hive, not getting out and about to gather pollen and nectar to fill the hive. Sutherland Beekeepers have managed however a healthy turnout at their monthly Apiary Visits, where Beekeepers share and discuss experiences.

Sutherland Beekeepers are finishing the year with a Harvest Fayre on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Fayre will take place at Brora Scout and Guide Hall between 1pm and 4pm. Entry will be £3 and include tea, coffee and cake. There will be a raffle, crafts for sale, honey and more! For more details about Sutherland Beekeepers, please come along to the Fayre or contact Diana: details in poster below.



**SUTHERLAND BEEKEEPERS**

**HARVEST  
FAYRE**

—◆—

**SATURDAY, 26TH  
OCTOBER, 1PM-4PM**

**BRORA SCOUT  
HALL**

**RAFFLE, CRAFTS, HONEY,  
PRODUCE AND MUCH MORE!**

TO BOOK A TABLE CONTACT  
DIANA, 01408 639390, E-MAIL  
DIANA@BALLINREACH.CO.UK

**ENTRY £3, INCLUDES TEA,  
COFFEE AND CAKES**

