



Brora Community Newsletter

December 2024

Prepared by **Brora Development Trust**



info@broravillage.scot



07535622755



www.discoverbrora.scot



Message from the Chair

It has been a very productive few months for the Brora Development Trust team with 2025 looking equally busy.

The youth initiative continues to thrive, with a steady increase in the number of young people attending drop-in sessions and membership increasing. The Otter's Couch shop has had an increase in the number of volunteers, without whom we would not be able to run the shop. Exciting new project will launch in 2025, with an information session about digital community radio taking place on Tuesday 10th December at Brora Village Hub. Anyone with an interest in radio is encouraged to come along.

The Trust are looking for volunteer Trustees to join the management team and welcome enquiries.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank all volunteers, members, donors and partners for your ongoing support and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Kind regards,

Tony Gill, *Chair of Brora Development Trust*

NEWS

BRORA YOUTH INITIATIVE



Brora Youth Room is name given by members of the youth initiative run by Brora Development Trust.

Drop-in sessions run on Wednesdays from 7pm to 8.45pm and on Fridays from 5.30pm to 7.30pm during school term time, at Brora Community Centre. There is a dedicated room at the Community Centre for Brora Youth Room.

The number of young people living in Brora regularly attending the drop-in sessions has increased steadily since the initiative began in January this year, with 35 members, representing just over one third of the number of young people living in Brora attending Golspie High School. An average of 24 young people on average coming along to each drop-in session. In

the last quarter of this year an Animation Club ran for 10 weeks, in partnership with Brora Gallery Social Enterprise and delivered by a professional digital animator. The Animation Club was funded by SSE Gordonbush. This was attended by 12 young people who thoroughly enjoyed the 2-hour sessions every Monday, during which they learnt to create incredible animations digitally. We are now exploring ways we can share these animations with a wider audience, to share the work of the young animators.



Animation Club well underway



Creating animations using digital technology

Following extremely positive feedback from participants and all those involved, the Development Trust are seeking funding to continue the Animation Club in 2025 and take the young people's learning to the next level.

Other highlights for Brora Youth Room over the last few months included visits from a number of special guests. Faye Macleod of Maisie's Daisies who very kindly spent the evening making beautiful wreaths with our young members who are keen to do more floristry with Faye!



Festive wreath making with Faye

Other visitors to Brora Youth Room this quarter have been volunteers from the community organisation Fèis Chataibh. The group, based in Sutherland, aim to promote Gaelic language and culture. Plans to work with the Feis group again next year are underway.



The music session with Feis volunteers was very popular and ended in an impromptu ceilidh



Clair and Rhiannon from Youth Highland

Continuing with the creative theme, Clair Nichols and Rhiannon Dunlop from the fantastic charity Youth Highland have spent a number of sessions with Brora Youth Room. Both professional youth workers with years of experience between them, the duo worked alongside our own team of Youth Workers to support the young people to discuss and establish ground

rules for the Youth Room. Following on from this, Clair and Rhiannon made more visits to share skills and support the members to creating fantastic works of art using graffiti techniques.

These creations capture key words or phrases that reflect what Brora Youth Room means to the young people. The canvases will be displayed on the walls of the youth room in the community centre. Plans are being made to create a larger piece of outdoor graffiti artwork.



Some of Brora's young artists at work

Since plans for the youth initiative began in 2023, Brora Development Trust has received incredible support from the community of Brora. Several donations of equipment have been received from local people as well as funding from The Thrift Shop in Brora. A very special donation has come from Lesley Beaney, who very kindly donated a snooker table which had belonged to her late husband. Brora

Youth Room is extremely grateful for the snooker table and were delighted when Lesley spent a session with them to teach them how to play. Chair of the Development Trust, Tony Gill, also came along to share his skills.



Lesley playing snooker with Youth Room members

Youth Room members also work hard to raise funds themselves. A recent bake sale and coffee morning raised just under £180 for the youth room, which has been used to buy sports equipment at the request of the members.



A bake sale run by the members to raise funds

HEALTHY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Trust's initiative to provide food support to parents and carers of children and young people over school holidays continues for the Christmas period.

Meal starter packs will be made available week beginning Monday 16th December, with packs available to collect from Brora Primary School from 2.45pm on Monday 16th December and from 7pm at Brora Community Centre on Wednesday 18th December.

Funding has been kindly given by The Volant Charitable Trust Small Grants Programme, administered by Foundation Scotland.

THE OTTER'S COUCH

The Otter's Couch was just one of the shops in Brora which opened its doors on Brora's Christmas shopping evening on 30th November.



The Otter's Couch looking festive!

Festive treats and a warm welcome across Brora village centre, were enjoyed by all. This was the first year that the shopping evening had taken place on a Saturday and participating retailers reported a steady trade of festive shoppers.



Highland Wildlife 2025 Calendar

The Otter's Couch is fully stocked with gifts for Christmas including Highland Wildlife 2025 calendars and these great Brora Rangers mugs!



Brora Rangers mugs on sale

GOING LIVE IN 2025 !

A very exciting initiative will be kicking off 2025! Brora Development have come together with Golspie and Helmsdale Development Trusts and Brora Village Hub, to take forward plans to launch a digital community radio station. The recording studio will be set up at Brora Village Hub and volunteers from

Brora, Helmsdale and Golspie will be invited to come together to be part of the radio station which can be listened to anywhere in the world through internet access. This will be a great way of sharing local music, news events and information, steered by local volunteers. The initiative offers a fantastic opportunity for skills sharing and learning new skills too.

A community meeting will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 10th December at Brora Village Hub and anyone interested or keen to find out more is encouraged to come along.

Anyone living in Helmsdale, Brora and Golspie who is interested in finding out more about digital community radio or has an interest, is encouraged to come along.

**DO YOU LIVE IN HELMSDALE, BRORA OR GOLSPIE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF AN EXCITING NEW
COMMUNITY DIGITAL RADIO STATION?**



GOING LIVE IN 2025 !

**Interested in radio, sharing skills,
having new experiences?
A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
on TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER
at 5.30-6.30PM
in BRORA VILLAGE HUB
PLEASE COME ALONG!**

**Contact:
Sarah at Brora
Development Trust
info@broravillage.scot
07535622755**

A partnership initiative between
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations
Helmsdale, Brora and Golspie Development Trust



SC043078



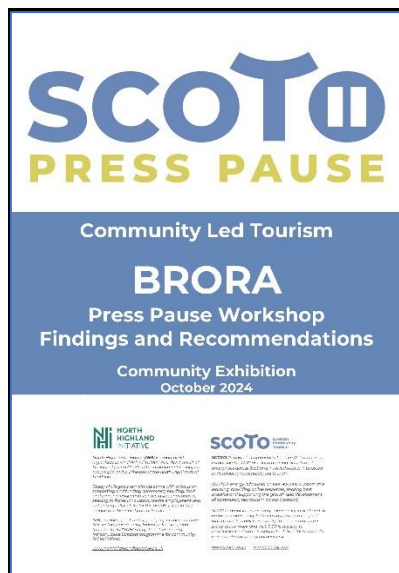
SC043968



SC046438

DISCOVER BRORA

A community exhibition was held at Brora Library in November to present the key findings from the Press Pause workshops and recommendations for the short and longer term. Comment forms were available to fill in at the library and online. The full Brora Press Pause report is available to read at Brora Library and online at: <https://discoverbrora.com/about-brora-development-trust/>



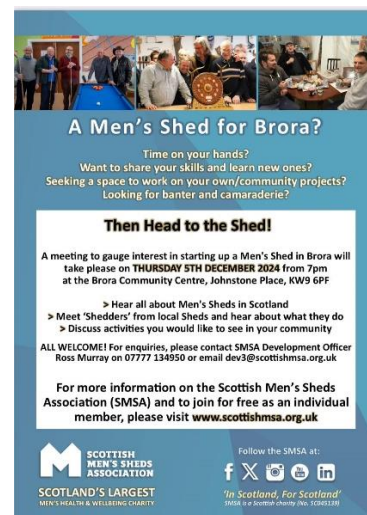
Brora Development Trust have been working with local volunteers to develop a local map and also making plans to renovate the Millenium Mural which is between Harry Gow's and The Red Dragon. These were some of the actions identified through the Press Pause workshops held this year in Brora.

Brora Development Trust continue to work with the Scottish Community Tourism network and having completed SCOTO's Press Pause programme, Brora Development Trust is further developing The Otter's Couch Brora to maximise revenue-generating opportunities and help fund activities and projects that benefit Brora.

COMMUNITY CORNER

A MEN'S SHED FOR BRORA?

At the start of December, a meeting took place at Brora Community Centre to gauge local interest in setting up a Men's Shed for Brora. Ross Murray from the charity, Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) attended the meeting and shared information about Men's Sheds and answered questions. The meeting was very well attended. Brora Development Trust look wish the Scottish Men's Shed Association all the very best with the next steps.



INTERESTED IN BEING A VOLUNTEER TRUSTEE?

Brora Development Trust are looking for volunteers Trustees! Trustees who meet once a month to discuss and make strategic decisions about the Development Trust. Meetings are usually evenings however these now alternate with afternoons. Anyone interested in being part of the management team should contact Tony Gill, Chair, either by email, text or phone.



The work of Brora Development Trust is a charitable organisation and would not be possible without the support of members, volunteers, partners and donors, for which we are very grateful. Brora Development Trust's work also benefits from membership of a number of professional organisations: Development Trusts Association, Youth Scotland, North Highlands Climate Hub and Scottish Community Tourism (SCOTO) network.

