





# Brora Community Newsletter

## Winter 2025

Prepared by **Brora Development Trust**

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# NEWS

## RADIO SUTHERLAND

Our community radio project has taken several exciting steps forward over the past few months, thanks to dedicated volunteers and growing local partnerships. With support from North Highlands Initiative, Brora Development Trust were able to invite experienced radio presenter and technician, Joshua Taylor to provide technical support. Joshua, Assistant Studio Manager at Wester Ross Radio, has worked closely with our team to configure equipment, install software, and ensure the technical foundations of the station are sound.



Joshua is extraordinarily talented and has been nominated for a prestigious international award. He is the only Scottish entrant to make it through to the top 20 finalists of the International Radio Star Competition.

Please join us in voting for Joshua Taylor and help him get the award he so very much deserves! To vote go to: [www.onaircoach.net/radiostar](http://www.onaircoach.net/radiostar)

We have also received a generous donation of a full music library from Now Radio. Looking ahead, we are aiming for a soft launch in the first half of 2026.

Brora Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043968)

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# Highland Broadband Community Boost



**Exclusive Offer for Radio Sutherland!**  
**Get 1Gbps for only £39.99/month.**

Call **0330 236 9900** quoting code: **RSU001**  
to redeem this offer.

\*T&C's apply, see website for details

Highland Broadband  
Built for speed

You may already know about Brora Development Trust's Community Boost partnership with Highland Broadband: for every new customer who signs up to Highland Broadband using our code **RSU001**, Highland Broadband will donate up to £125 to Brora Development Trust and the customer will receive the same amount in gift vouchers!

For more information and to sign up, call Highland Broadband on 0330 236 9900, quote **RSU001**.

If you're currently tied to another provider, Highland Broadband say they will handle the switch for you, including cancelling your old contract.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, expertise, and enthusiasm this year. The momentum is

building and our vision for a community-run radio station is becoming a reality!

# BRORA YOUTH INITIATIVE

## *Friends, Families and Supporters Evening*



To celebrate the end of the second year of Brora Youth Room, families, friends and supporters were invited to an open evening early in December. At the well attended event, young people who have achieved a Dynamic Youth Award were congratulated for all their hard work: Charlie Roberts, Kieran Walker, Morgan Dent, Lachlan Ritchie and Max Ainsworth. Thanks was given to all those who have been involved and helped make Brora Youth Room what it is today.

Everyone then enjoyed the premier screening of incredible animated movies created by participants of the digital animation club which ran this year. After the screening, young leaders then ran a bingo session for everyone present.

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*Image: From left, Charlie Roberts, Kieran Walker, Morgan Dent, Lachlan Ritchie and Max Ainsworth, who achieved a Dynamic Youth Award*

## **Brora Youth Room Christmas Trip**



*Image: Brora Youth Room members and Brora Development Trust staff, at The Clay Studio*

Taking young people on trips offers far more than just a day out: it helps build confidence, independence, and social skills while giving them opportunities to explore new environments and learning. Our recent Brora Youth Room youth club trip was a wonderful example of how meaningful and memorable these experiences can be. Most importantly, they create lasting memories and a sense of belonging.

At the end of November, members of the Brora Youth Room had the opportunity to enjoy a day of activities in Inverness. The trip began with a lively session and lunch at Hollywood Bowling, where young people cheered each other on, shared plenty of laughs, and bonded over friendly competition.

In the afternoon, the group visited The Clay Studio where they spent time clay painting. The Studio is a creative space run by a local charity which is also a member of the Voluntary Youth Network, run by Brora Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043968)

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Youth Highland. This hands-on activity allowed the young people to express themselves creatively, try something new, and take home a unique reminder of their day.

This outing was made possible through generous community support and the contributions of the young people themselves. Funding came from money raised at the Brora Youth Room family and friends bingo held earlier this year—organised by the Brora Youth Development Team—along with support from the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund.

A special thank you goes to Peter at GoGolspie Development Trust for kindly driving the minibus and helping make the day run smoothly.

## ***Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Award***



Congratulations and thank you from everyone at Brora Development Trust, to Jacob Rickaby, Daniel Mackenzie, Angus Masson, Seb Lee, Riley Smith and Harry Gibbs, who won this year's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Award at Golspie High School. The winning group chose Brora Development Trust as the beneficiary of their project.

*Image: From left, Seb Lee, Daniel Mackenzie, Jacob Rickaby, Angus Masson, Harry Gibbs and Riley Smith*

The young people worked hard to research, prepare and deliver a presentation, which highlights the benefits of Brora Development Trust's Healthy Holiday project and Brora Youth Room, youth work initiative.

During the finals, groups in S3 at Golspie High School, shared presentations to showcase their chosen charity's work. The winning group, who include Brora Youth Room members, have secured £3,000 in prize money for Brora Development Trust. This money will be shared between the Brora Youth Room initiative for trips and special events and the Healthy Holiday project: which makes meal starter kits available to families of young people enrolled in Early Years education, primary and secondary schools, living in Brora, for school holidays.

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Since it was introduced to Scotland in 2008 by The Wood Foundation, the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative has engaged more than 390,000 young people who have taken responsibility for £8.5m of charitable giving. YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3,000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition.

## ***Highlights of 2025***

Here's a quick roundup of this year's highlights at Brora Youth Room in 2025!!!

- A trip to Rokzkool Academy, Inverness
- Summer bingo fundraiser organised by young leaders, raising over £240
- London Development Trust: visit by a team of researchers carrying out work to gain a better understanding of the role of spaces, services and structures in communities & what that means to young people. Brora Youth Room hosted young people from Alness, Tain & Golspie youth clubs
- Young Leader training with Youth Highland which led to the creation of Brora Youth Development Team
- Network Rail visit to talk about career opportunities
- Summer BBQ at Dornoch beach
- Artist Julia Tryon visited and supported a creative session
- Animation Club with Brora Gallery Social Enterprise
- Fèis Chataibh jamming session
- Training for Youth Workes on bike maintenance and provision of bike lights for members
- Bike maintenance sessions with Youth Worker Tom
- Dynamic Youth Award achievements for five young people
- Numerous fun sports sessions with the team at Highlife Highland
- Visit from Disability Sport Highland
- Christmas trip to Hollywood Bowling and The Clay Studio, Inverness
- Being a chosen charity for the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, winning £3,000

# **Meet the Groups Event**

A Meet the Groups event, organised by Brora Development Trust, took place in October in the Scout and Guide Hall, in Brora. The event was an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak

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with group representatives, for groups to promote volunteering opportunities, attract new members and for people new to the area to have the opportunity to get involved in the local community.

Whilst the turnout of members of the public was low, feedback from participating groups was positive in that they found it a useful networking event and a valuable opportunity to meet representatives of Voluntary Groups Sutherland, Highland Third Sector Interface, Kilbraur Wind Farm Community Benefit Trust and SSE Gordonbush. The majority of representatives said they would like the opportunity to take part in similar networking events in the future.

# The Otter's Couch

The Otter's Couch shop, run by Brora Development Trust, will be closing for the festive season, from 4pm on Wednesday December 24th, and opening again at 10am on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

The Board of Trustees of Brora Development Trust would like to extend thanks to Ellen Lindsay, who has volunteered for over 6 years with The Otter's Couch shop, both behind the scenes as project manager and working in the shop. Ellen is stepping down from her role at the end of this year.

Thanks goes too, to the whole team of volunteers, customers, supporters, crafters and artists. We look forward to seeing you all in 2026!



# DISCOVER BRORA

Brora Development Trust official charity merchandise is now available to purchase online through our trusted supplier *KSTM Embroidery*. Working closely with *KSTM Embroidery*, we've created a range of high-quality items featuring bespoke designs for Discover Brora and Brora Youth Room. Every purchase helps to raise vital funds for Brora Development Trust, whose work directly benefits people living in Brora, making a real difference to those we support. A selection of these items is available to purchase in store at The Otter's Couch. To shop the full collection, go to: <https://discoverbrora.com/shop/>



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The Discover Brora logo was chosen by community volunteers to represent the community led tourism work taking place here in Brora.

Credit goes to Morgan Dennett, a young leader at Brora Youth Room, for designing the youth club logo, which was chosen by youth club members.

*Images: A selection of Discover Brora merchandise*

# Volunteering Opportunities

If you are passionate about community radio, music, local arts and crafts, supporting local producers or wanting to share your love of Brora, have you considered volunteering?

Brora Development Trust is looking for enthusiastic people to join the lovely team of volunteers at Radio Sutherland and The Otter's Couch shop.

By volunteering in The Otter's Couch shop, you'll be helping provide a vibrant, welcoming space for local crafters and artists to showcase and sell their work. You will also be supporting the visitor information point, which includes sharing information to visitors about Brora, including where to eat, sleep and what to do. Radio Sutherland is looking for volunteer presenters, studio assistants, advertising sales and radio technicians.

Whether you can spare a few hours a week or occasionally, we'd be delighted to have you on board! If you're interested in volunteering, or know someone who might be, please contact Sarah Morrison (details below).

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



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