



**NORTH ISLES**

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

# EDUCATION & LEARNING PROGRAMME

END OF PROJECT REPORT



**Katy Firth**

December  
2024



ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA



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# Introduction

This report summarises the Education and Learning programme which was delivered across the North Isles of Orkney during 2022-24, as part of the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme. The programme was delivered within primary and secondary education, but also out with schools in youth clubs and holiday activity sessions.





## Multi-island activities

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# Papdale Halls of Residence

## Heritage Skills sessions

Papdale Halls of Residence provides term-time week day accommodation for North and South isles pupils at Kirkwall Grammar School. Four blocks of hands-on opt-in activities were delivered, relating to North Isles heritage skills. During the consultation and scoping phase the pupils identified cookery and pottery as skills they would like to learn. Local practitioners were contracted who had teaching experience and were specialists in their area.

**Dynamic Youth Awards** were undertaken on an opt-in basis by the pupils. This is an awards scheme accredited by SQA and overseen in Orkney by Community Learning & Development at Orkney Islands Council.

At time of writing 5 pupils have received their Dynamic Youth Award at SCQF Level 3.

Half-way through the project the residents were re-surveyed and this time suggested bushcraft and jewellery making as activities they'd like to do.



Rope making with Mark Shiner, UHI Nav school

Giving pupils ownership to suggest and select their activities led to good buy-in and uptake by the pupils





## Pottery & Ceramics

Kerrianne Flett, Stromness

**6 workshops**

**6 participants**

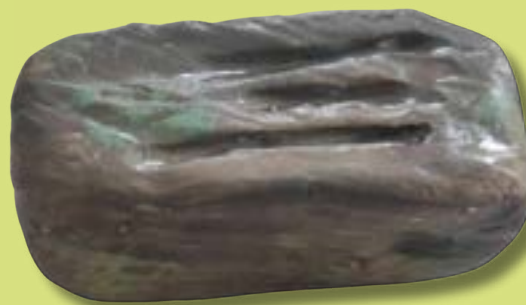
Kerrianne taught the residents ceramic skills such as turning on the wheel and hand building. For those not using the wheel they could sculpt free-standing models and decorative items inspired by their island's heritage. After painting or glazing, Kerrianne took the items to her workshop to be fired in the kiln.

*"It was really fun and I enjoyed it lots. It was a bit longer than I was expecting but still fun!!!"*

(Participant quote)

### The Hogboon of Hellihowe

Subject of a Sanday folktale by Walter Traill  
Dennison



### Devil's Claw-marked stone

Ladykirk, Sanday

*"The Minister ran for his life until he reached the sanctuary of the church, and shut the door on the Devil, who was left raging outside and clawing at the stonework. And there you can see the marks of his six sharp claws to this very day."*

(Story retold from: Tom Muir, Orkney Folk Tales.)

## Papdale Halls of Residence

*"Pottery was fun. It gave me something to do on Thursdays and I really liked making a bowl, a plate and more"*

(Participant quote)

*"It is fun to make stuff"*

(Participant quote)

*"I found it really fun and I learned a lot about making things and doing stuff on the wheel!"*

(Participant quote)

*"Fun. Learned how to turn, shape the clays. I like smoothing down the clay cups/plates/bowls"*

(Participant quote)





# Traditional cookery

Marion Tait, Stenness

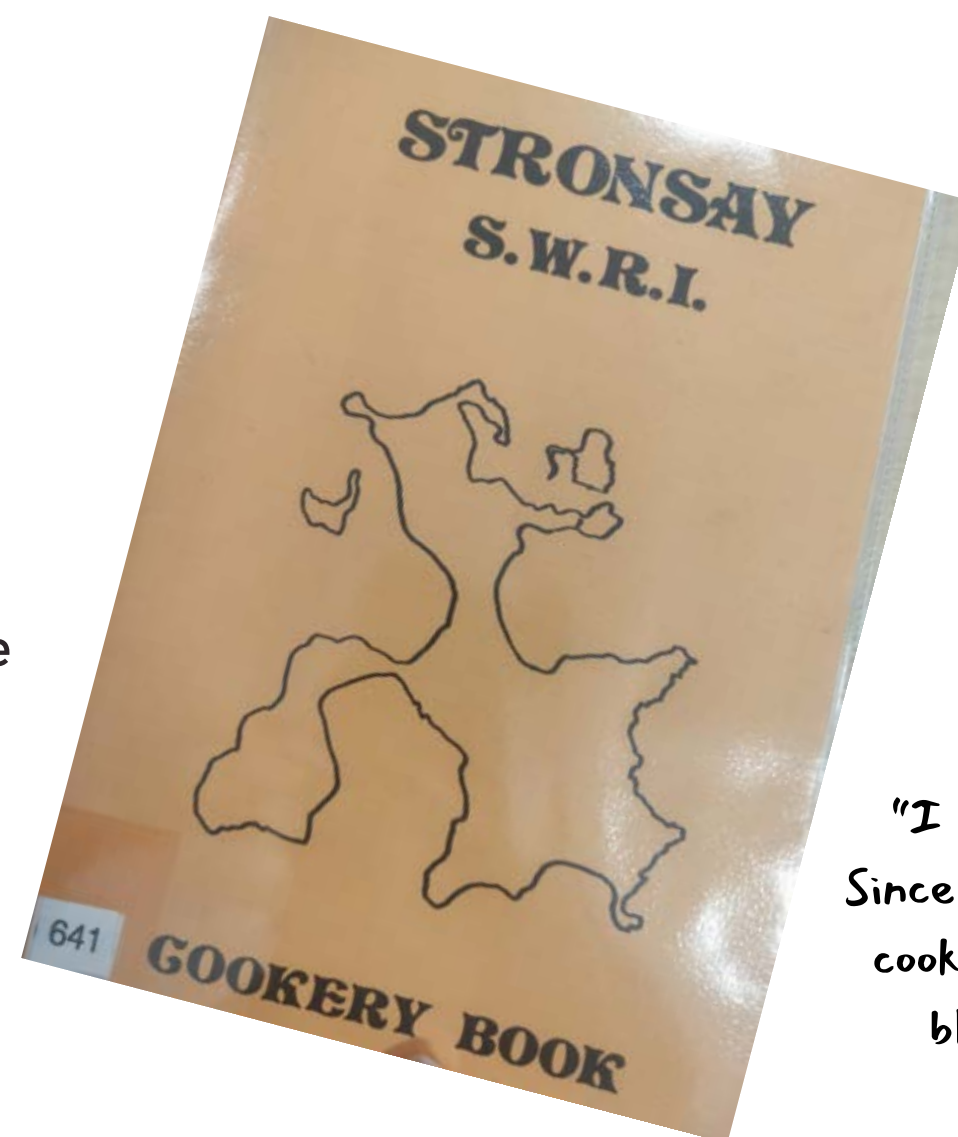
6 workshops

6 participants

Caterer Marion Tait firstly asked the pupils to choose between baking or cookery. Following this, the young people chose recipes ranging from cheese making and meatloaf to fudge. A home-economics room at Kirkwall Grammar School was hired for purposes of these workshops.



Meatloaf coming out of the oven.



Recipe books produced by North-isles groups such as the SWRI were consulted by the young people when selecting their recipe choices.

"I absolutely loved the cooking and hope I can do this again some time soon. It was a great thing to look forward to every Wednesday. I loved everything

"Cooking was fun,  
I really enjoyed it"  
(Participant quote)

"I really liked cooking!  
Since I don't do that much  
cooking at home it was a  
blast! Thank you!"  
(Participant quote)

"I have really enjoyed  
cooking/baking the cookies  
and will use this recipe  
always from now on."  
(Participant quote)

## Papdale Halls of Residence



Marion supervises a pupil preparing a muslin to make soft cheese.



## Jewellery Making

Marion Miller, Stronsay

**5 workshops**

**6 participants**

The fact that Marion was based in Stronsay was an advantage in that she already knew some of the residents at the hostel and it was inspiring for the young people to learn new skills from a successful north-isles based businesswoman.

Marion encouraged the residents to take inspiration from their home island landscapes in colours and patterns, for instance in their rockpool themed pendants. A particularly memorable design took inspiration from the Westray carved Neolithic stone.



*"I enjoyed making the rings. Very fun"*  
(Participant quote)

*"I found it very inspiring as well as fun. I have not been able to do workshops like this before so I found it a good opportunity. I would definately recommend it to other people. I very much enjoyed the ring making and enamelling"*  
(Participant quote)

*"Very fascinating to see the processes at each stage. Informative"*  
(Participant quote)

*"Overall it has been enjoyable, however the time of year it has been happening in makes it difficult with exams"*  
(Participant quote)

*"Very enjoyable. Perhaps more on wearable pieces. It's nice to have a ring, necklace, chain or other made by myself"*  
(Participant quote)





*"Rope making session was a most enjoyable session!  
also knot tying – learned several useful ones"*  
(Participant quote)



## Bushcraft

Ron Bulmer and Mark  
Shiner, UHI Nav School,  
Stromness

**7 workshops**  
**6 participants**

Taking inspiration from everyday skills in the past, such as knot tying and fire-lighting, the Nav school staff have delivered a set of workshops tailored to the interests of the group. One participant has been asking the staff about future college courses offered by the Nav school, so this taster of activity block might lead to further study for that young person.



*"I've done some bush skills in the past  
with my Dad, so this consolidated what I  
already know"*  
(Participant quote)

## Papdale Halls of Residence

*"Learned lots of skills I can use throughout my life"*  
(Participant quote)



The bushcraft has suited some of the older age-group and it has been good to see them engaging with the activities, whereas the previous blocks had been attended mainly by younger pupils.



**MY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Has completing your Challenge made any difference to you? Tick one box for each statement.

|  | A LOT                               | A LITTLE                            | THE SAME                 | WORSE                    |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I have a better, more positive, view of myself       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am better at solving problems and making decisions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am better at working with others to achieve a task | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I have better skills in listening and talking        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am better at making friends and trusting others    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I feel more valued as a member of my community       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Personal Development

These personal development sections of the pupils’ Dynamic Youth Award portfolios indicate that the activities led to wider benefits for the pupils, for example feeling more valued members of the community. The degrees of difference varied from participant to participant.

Lessons Learned

Although designed to be undertaken alongside existing activities, the project facilitator found that the awards administration took up a significant amount of time and it was decided not to undertake the awards for the final two activity blocks.

Papdale Halls of Residence

Dynamic Youth Awards

**MY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Has completing your Challenge made any difference to you? Tick one box for each statement.

|  | A LOT                    | A LITTLE                            | THE SAME                            | WORSE                    |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| I have a better, more positive, view of myself       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| I feel more valued as a member of my community       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |



## Multi-island activities

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# Outdoor Landscape Adventure Sessions

What better way to appreciate your local island landscape than being outdoors experiencing it through fun adventurous activities? During the consultation phase various island community members suggested the need for adventurous activities which could be enjoyed by older children. A partnership was set up with Orkney Islands Council Outdoor Learning team to provide activities for the North Isles children age 8-18 during their holiday periods.

Since the activities across five islands worked well in 2023, we offered targeted additional activities in Westray and Sanday 2024.



*"It was really fun. I  
liked the water stuff"*  
(Participant quote)



## Multi-island activities

# Outdoor Landscape Adventure Sessions

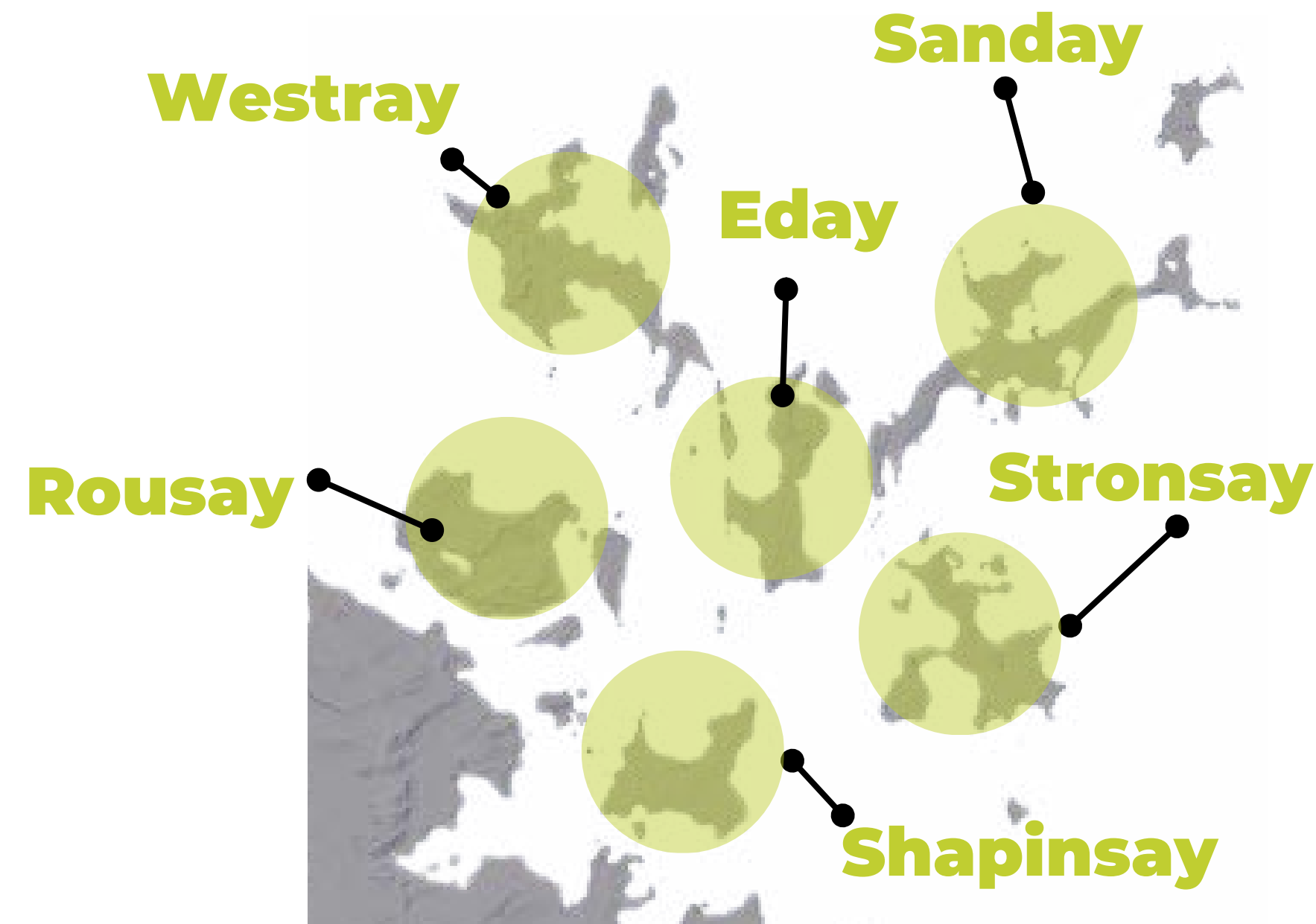
A key element to these sessions was the contracting of local landscape adventure guides, adding value to the professional outdoor learning instructors. The local guides were people based in the North Isles who had in-depth knowledge of the cultural and natural heritage there.

Each local guide was different and the coordinator worked with them to devise activities which suited their skill sets and locations.

Archery and bushcraft fitted well with learning about prehistoric inhabitants of the North Isles. A handling kit was used by the guides to help make a connection with archaeological evidence for flint arrow tips and other tools. Likewise water-based activities lent themselves nicely for learning about shoreline and marine wildlife.

### Lessons Learned

During 2024 we asked the local Landscape Guides to also provide the administrative function of collecting in forms etc. This worked a lot better than the previous year when it was centrally organised.





A group of people wearing red helmets and blue jackets with orange life vests are sitting in yellow and blue kayaks on a body of water. They are near a stone wall. One person is standing in a kayak, facing the group. The kayakers are holding paddles. The water is calm, and the sky is not visible.

Outdoor Landscape Adventure

 **Shapinsay**

“The island guides did an excellent job of rallying support to get the numbers which turned up, and feedback from instructors was that they were a great addition / support and tag-team for all activities which we hosted together for all sessions.”

Chris Jex - Outdoor Learning Manager - Orkney Islands Council

**1 day (2023)**

**7 participants**

**Landscape Guide: James Wilson**



Outdoor Landscape Adventure



1 day (2023)  
2 sessions  
23 participants  
Landscape Guide: Liam Holly



1 day (2024)  
14 participants  
Landscape Guide: Liam Holly

Liam's activities included seaweed gathering to link to sea-monster folklore and to highlight the kelp industry; and seed-bombing to curb the growth of invasive plant species. Liam is a Support for Learning Assistant at the school and his experience was a real asset in helping those participants who needed extra help to be able to join in.





1 day (2023)  
10 participants  
Landscape Guide: Marion Miller



Marion has experience in foraging and wild cooking, which she shared with the children. She also provided a beach scavenger hunt and an art activity





## Outdoor Landscape Adventure

"Thanks for the opportunity. I learned a lot about working with kids and hopefully shared some of my knowledge with them"

(Landscape Guide quote)



## Rousay

**1 day (2023)**

**7 participants**

**Landscape Guide: James Wilson**

James was working as RSPB Warden in Papa Westray in 2023. He shared his knowledge of marine wildlife with the participants.





**1 day (2023)**

**6 participants**

**Landscape Guide: Ashley Wakeling**

Ashley was working as a school teacher in Eday during 2023. Knowing the children as well as the location was a great help for the instructors.



The community in Eday got behind the day, with one resident applying for funding to provide lunch for all the children and adults involved.





During the Covid-19 pandemic, Westray Youth Club built some wooden canoes, and they were delighted that these activity days gave them a safe opportunity to get them on the water.

*"I really enjoyed the canoes and the team building"*  
(Participant quote)

Karen and Andy run a tour company 'Westraak'. They used their knowledge of traditional skills to provide activities such as net knitting. Karen was keen to impart seamanship knowledge, so the group experimented with tracking a buoy released into the incoming tide to see how tides affect boats at sea. Karen also runs the local youth club and her familiarity with the children was of great help.

**Outdoor Landscape Adventure**



**2 days (2024)**  
**19 participants**  
Landscape Guides: Karen & Andy Penn

*"Very good, especially the part where it was really rough and we were coming into the pier in the canoes"*  
(Participant quote)







Photo: Startpoint media



## Multi-island activities

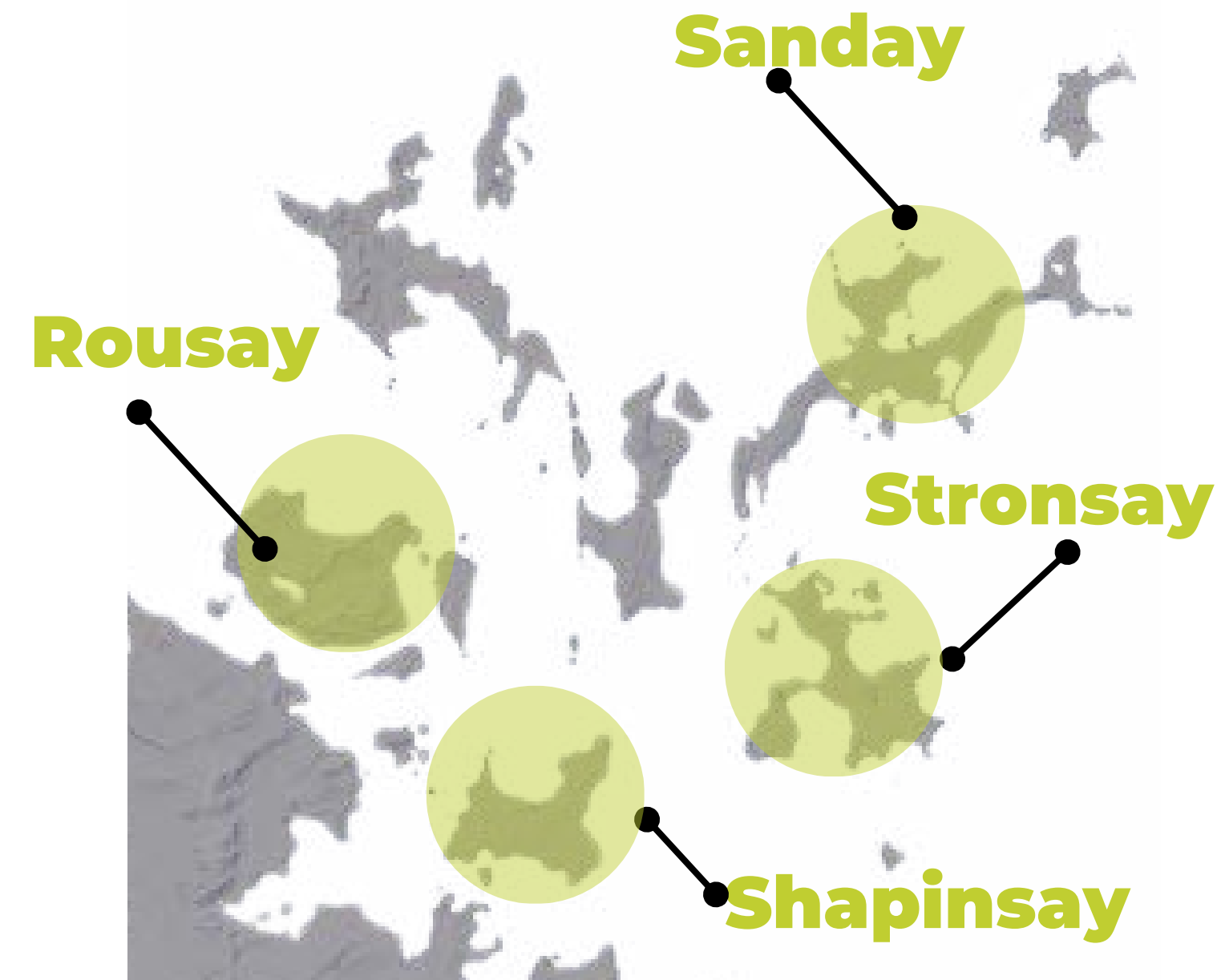
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# Heritage Youth Workers Project

A project to re-kindle youth clubs in several of the North Isles was identified as a significant need during the consultation phase.

The Development Trusts on each island were hugely supportive of this work, which aligned to their own priorities of enhancing youth provision. Each island had its own unique circumstances, for example, Sanday Development Trust already employed a Youth Worker to deliver youth drop-in.

For other islands, the coordinator provided support to recruit and train new Youth Workers. New staff from Shapinsay and Rousay attended Orkney Islands Councils Community Learning & Development 'Ready for Youth-work' Training in October 2022. The coordinator offered specific advice on making heritage the central pillar of the youth clubs with activity and project suggestions. She also created a handbook, specifically for the North Isles youth workers, using OIC's handbook as a template. The new staff had much experience in delivering activities for young people and were able to hit the ground running to re-start their island youth clubs.







61 sessions  
8 participants

The Youth Club sessions were led by Alice Mainland with voluntary assistance from her mother Alison. Alison had been a head teacher in Rousay for many years. The Development Trust employed Alice for the duration of the project and made it twice as long as intended, due to only having to pay one youth worker. Alice has now stepped down from the role, but the Development Trust have been granted more funding to continue the post and they now have a new youth worker in Rousay.

Alice delivered both junior and senior heritage youth club sessions. She also invited many members of the local community have come along to share their skills with the children. This included a visit to Braes Woodland, with Ann Chapman, learning rope skills with Stuart Williams, an overview of First Aid with Ian Donaldson and Nurse Practitioner Maggie Drosso and an oral history recording session with Ellen Grieve and Mark & Rebecca from Kolekto. All these sessions were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the children.

Throughout May 2023, both groups wrote short paragraphs of information about various sites on Rousay (e.g. Midhowe Broch and Cairn, the shop, The Brinian Playpark) that would appeal to visiting children. The older children created Rousay-themed wordsearches and a Youth Club logo to go on this leaflet, which brought it to life. This information was formatted into an A4 folded leaflet, as a 'kids guide' for visitors to Rousay, which proved popular over the summer.

## Heritage Youth Workers

Why not try our Rousay-themed wordsearches?

W A S B I S T E R E K  
A C L G B R I N I A N  
Y H I U A D Y Z F S O  
R S O U R I N P M D W  
R V F E T N R X J R E  
E H I L L S E B L O O  
F R O T O F T R W U Y  
I Q H W A J O T Q S A  
M I O H O W E K V A R  
K G M P S N O U B Y S  
E Y N H A L L O W C O

Brinian  
Rousay  
Hills  
Sourin  
Frotoft  
Wabaster  
Midhowe  
Ferry  
Knowe o' Yerso  
Eyeballow

Sourin  
Rousay  
Blackhammer  
Peedie Water  
Muckle Water  
Brinian  
Taversoe  
Wester  
Midhowe  
Frotoft

S O M U M O R R A B C  
O J K E O S R E V A T  
U T R O C B J M N Q S  
R E T S E W F M Q U V  
I N A R O U S A Y I B  
N A I N I R B H Z O P  
R E T A W E L K C U M  
A X M F W D E C R G H  
P E E D I E W A T E R  
F R O T O F T L Y B Q  
E W O H D I M B M R T

Visit  
Rousay  
Kids'  
Edition

6 Facts about Rousay

1. Rousay comes from the Old Norse Hrólfs-ey meaning Rolf's isle.
2. The main road around Rousay is 13.1 miles or 21km long.
3. Stones show where each district in Rousay starts. Tick the boxes below when you find them.
4. The steepest roads are the Sourin Brae + the Leean in Wabaster.
5. The highest hill is Blotchrieft which is 250m high.
6. Over 200 people live on Rousay.

The Brinian ☐ Frotoft ☐ Wester (Wabaster) ☐  
Sourin ☐

Some of Youth Club's Favourite Jokes!

Knock Knock.  
Who's there? A little old lady.  
A little old lady who?  
I didn't know you could yodel!

Why was 6 afraid of 7?  
A: Because 7, 8, 9!

How do all the oceans say hello to each other? They wave!

If you want to explore and walk further, here are 3 more places to see...

- Knowe of Yerso (Chambered Cairn)
- The Hole of the Horses (cliff views)
- Eleanor Barr Heart of Rousay Boardwalk

Don't miss our Top 10 Places of Interest!

Iron Hamilton Finlay's Stone and Viewpoint  
At the top of the Sourin Brae, there is a huge rectangular stone laid flat, saying "Gods of the Earth, Gods of the Sea". The viewpoint is amazing - you can see the sea crashing on the cliffs and many other Orkney islands: Westray, Eday, Gairsay...

Seaviskall Beach  
It is a sandy beach and a good spot for a picnic and a stroll. You might see sunbathing seals and if you're lucky, you might see some otters!

Midhowe Broch  
It was built during the Iron Age as a fortified residence. The Broch is very close to the sea.

Midhowe Chambered Cairn  
It is a massive stalled burial chamber, divided into 12 compartments. The remains of 25 people were found on the floor of the cairn.

Blackhammer Chambered Cairn  
Blackhammer is a stalled cairn and the inside is divided into 7 compartments. It was excavated in 1936, when human and animal remains were found. It is close to the main road and clearly signposted.

Taversoe Tuick  
It is Orkney's only two-storey cairn, with two separate chambers. It was discovered in 1898 and fully excavated in 1937.

James Leonard's Stone  
This memorial stone is near the top of the Sourin Brae, below the house of Digro. It was placed in 2001 in memory of James Leonard, who was evicted because of evidence he gave to the Napier Commission in 1883.

The Shop  
The shop has good food - fruit, vegetables, chocolate, ice cream - and also sells petrol and diesel. It is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 2 to 5pm, and Sunday 2 to 4pm.

Heritage Centre, Waiting Room and Toilets  
The Heritage Centre has historical information about Rousay. The waiting room is always open and the toilets are free for anyone to use.

The Brinian Playpark  
It is open to everyone under 13 years. It has: a basket net, swings, slide and climbing frame, a seating area and a witch's hat.

and another 3!  
- Quendale and Tefts (cleared district)  
- Faroclett Head Walk + Yetnasteen stone  
Muckle Water (peat track / loch)



## Heritage Youth Workers



"I think without the *NILPS* funding to start the youth clubs back in 2022, it wouldn't have happened. The guidance from *NILPS* and yourself enabled the *Development Trust* to continue running the Youth Clubs, after *NILPS* funding stopped, which was a great benefit for the children of Rousay. They thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and got to partake in a range of different things, while learning new skills. Thank you for enabling me to work on the island and use my history degree to interest the younger generation in their local history."

Alice Mainland - Rousay Youth Worker





**28 sessions**

**8 participants**

Shapinsay Development Trust recruited new youth workers to undertake this project, with support from the coordinator. This was a large commitment from the Trust and involved training up a board member as a safeguarding officer etc. This extra investment will be useful if the Trust wish to expand youth activity in the future.

The community felt strongly that the youth club should be secondary age children only, as there was nothing available to them after school.

Dynamic Youth Awards done on an individual basis within youth club time was the approach taken by the youth workers to incorporate local heritage into the sessions. This included following traditional recipes from a local SWRI cookbook, as well as building a ship model from lego.

*"The feedback from those that didn't stay for the duration was that they just want to come to youth club, talk to friends and kick a ball around...The bairns that stayed thoroughly enjoyed the project and the day out at the end."*  
Shapinsay Youth Worker

### Lessons Learned:

The heritage focus and the focus on completing Dynamic Youth Awards seemed to put some participants off coming, as they wanted more of a traditional youth club.

### Heritage Youth Workers



The coordinator attended the inaugural meeting in Shapinsay and provided an animation activity as an example of an activity they might want to develop.



The model of the ferry the Shapinsay in the Heritage Centre, created during Youth Club sessions.





Photo courtesy of Heilsa Fjold Youth Drop in Facebook page

## Sanday

**3 sessions**

**34 participants**

Initially Sanday Development Trust planned to recruit youth-workers to deliver this project. However, after some consideration, their existing Youth-worker developed a series of youth-focused events around heritage themes, which would be delivered over the course of a year.

Two halloween themed events were held, as well as quiz night which centered mainly on Sanday's rich folklore heritage, as the birthplace of Walter Traill Dennison.

However, the majority of the planned 'Big Weekends' did not manage to go ahead due to staff ill-health and the majority of the grant has been left un-claimed.

The grant provided an opportunity for the Development Trust to join Youth Scotland and access safeguarding training and cover the costs of PVG membership for youth workers. which greatly assists with capacity building within the organisation.

## Heritage Youth Workers

*"I enjoyed making a stoorworm puppet with Assipattle in his mouth. That's how Orkney was made."*

(Participant quote)

*"Parents also enjoyed the crafting activities with their children"*

(Youth leader quote)

### Lessons Learned:

Small island communities which rely on a finite number of staff suffer most when staff illness occurs. It is much harder to find replacement staff to take over.



22 sessions

12 participants

Initially Stronsay Development Trust were planning to recruit youth workers to undertake this project directly. However, due to various circumstances the plan changed and the Trust decided to sub-contract the work to a locally based self employed practitioner at Aurora Waves Shani Hall. Shani is also employed as the Trust's Wellbeing Coordinator.

Shani employed Assistant Youth workers to help her deliver sessions. She developed a term of sessions running twice per week on a Viking theme. Initially the older children had a separate session, though due to dwindling numbers the junior group was given two sessions per week and the remaining senior pupil joined in as a peer helper.

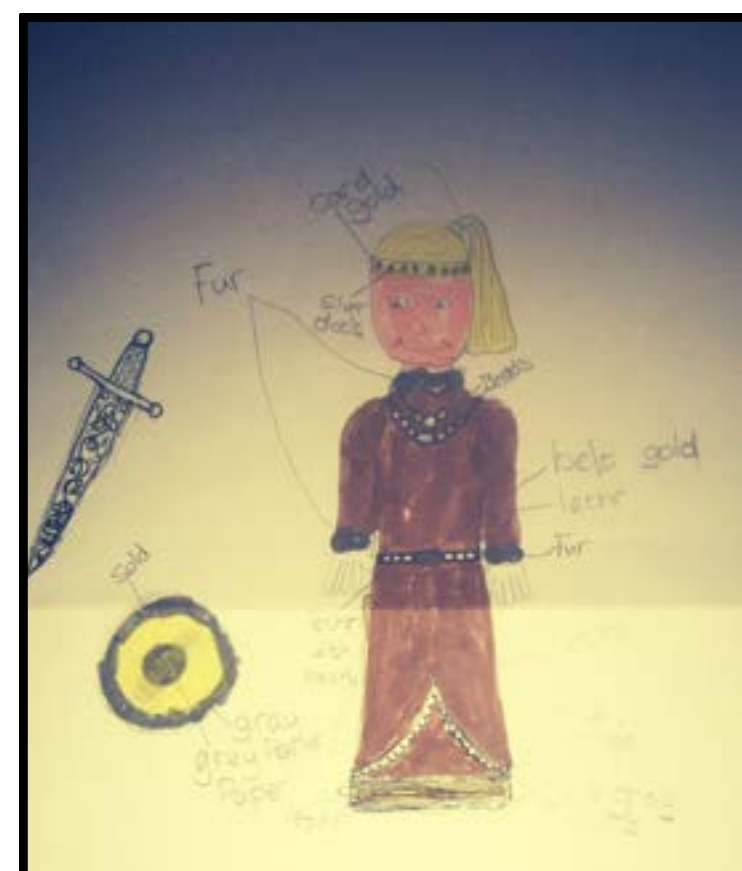
## Lessons Learned:

Additional support needs - some children required 1:1 attention, which isn't supported by traditional youth work ratios.

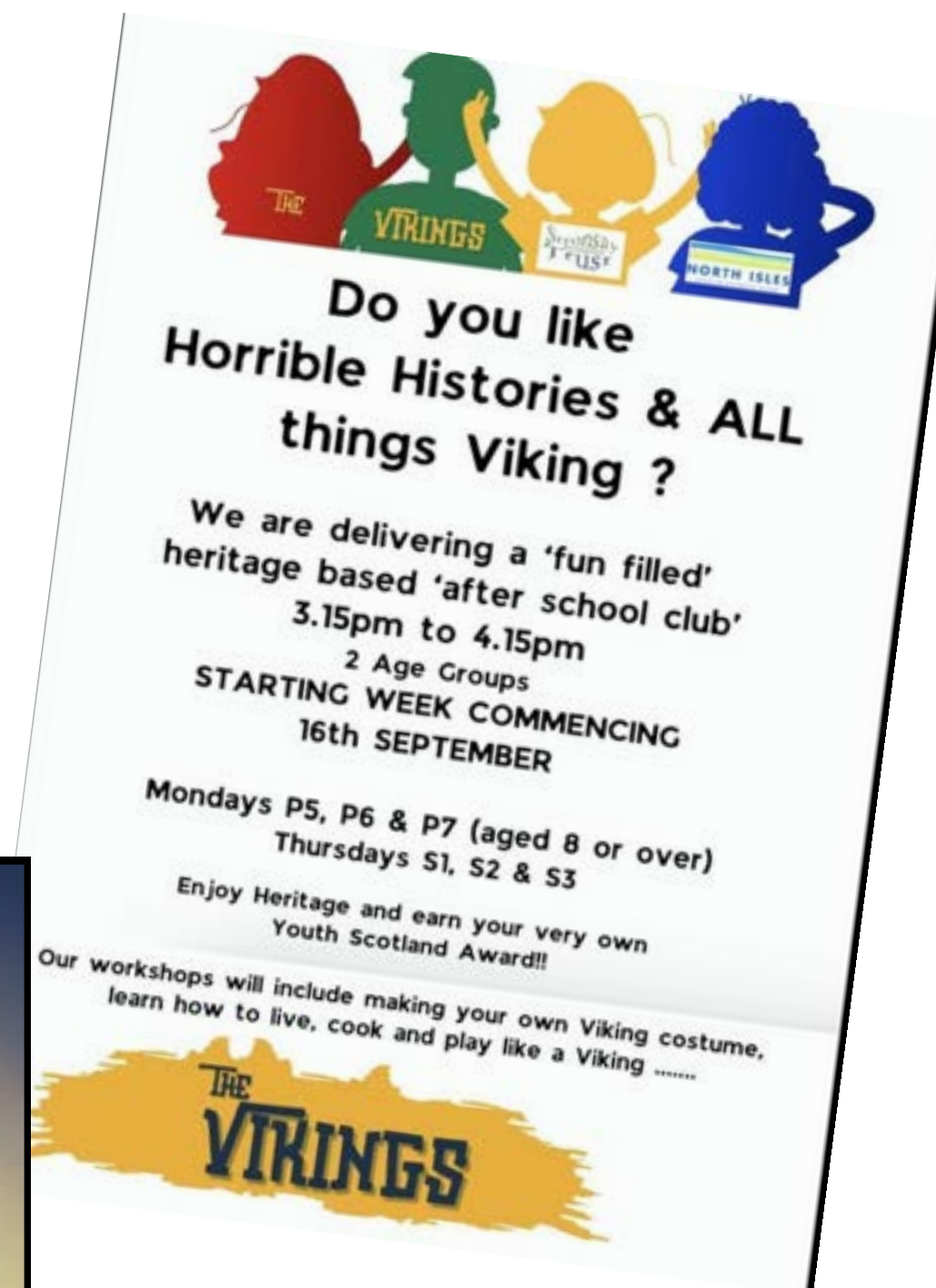
The limited pool of available adults to help deliver sessions meant that inevitably adults who know the children as their teachers also become youth workers, giving fewer opportunities to learn from a variety of educators than would be possible in a larger population.

"This gives him confidence to help with the younger ones"

Parent of senior youth club member



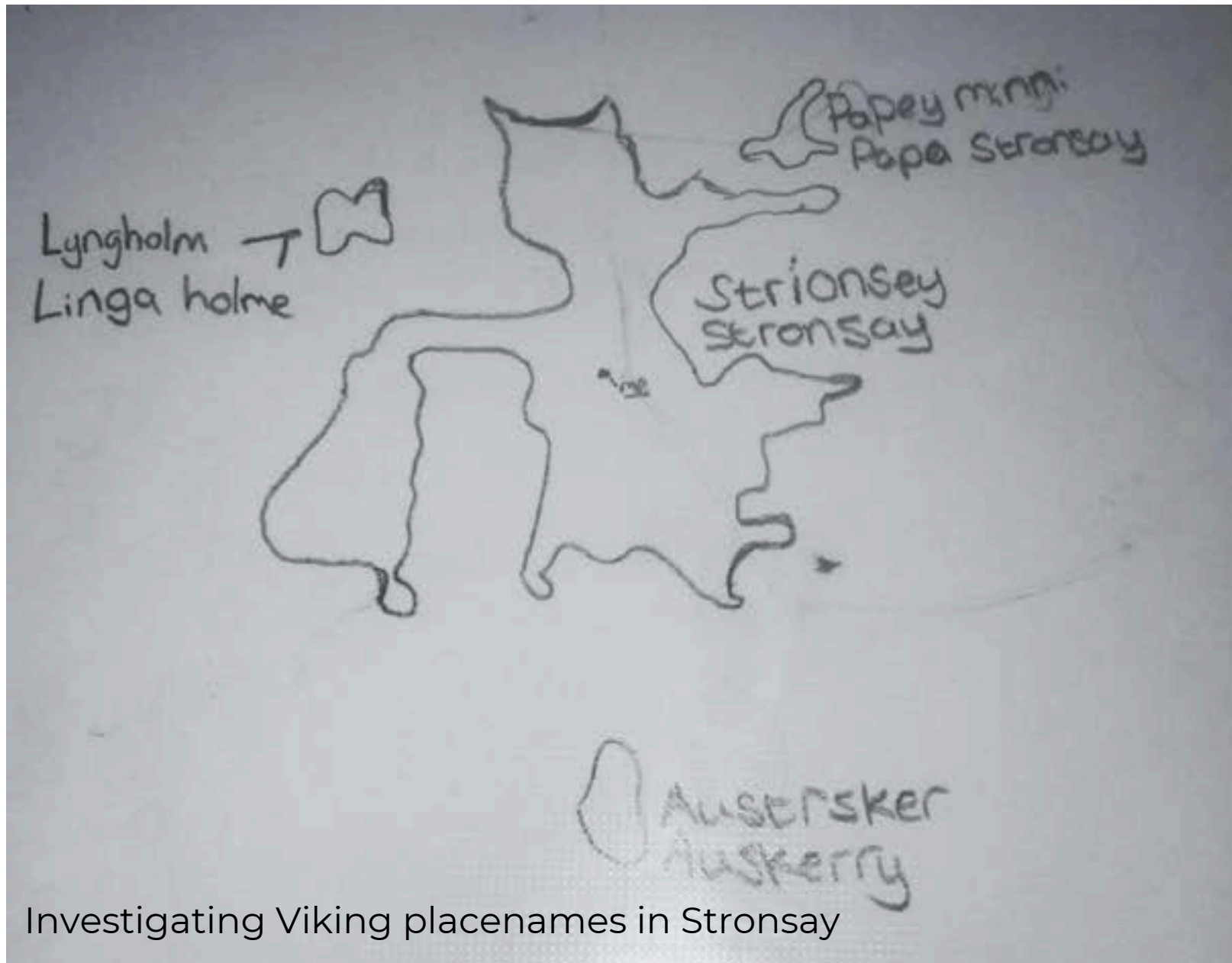
## Heritage Youth Workers



"I've thoroughly enjoyed watching where they go with it."

Shani Hall Youth Club Leader





Investigating Viking placenames in Stronsay

Although all based on a Viking theme, the sessions have been child led. 12 children have undertaken their **Youth Scotland Hi5 awards** and a performance for parents at the end of term 2024.

The club is run in close collaboration with the school as an after-school club. The head teacher wishes to continue the after-school club into the future, and that is a tangible legacy of this project.

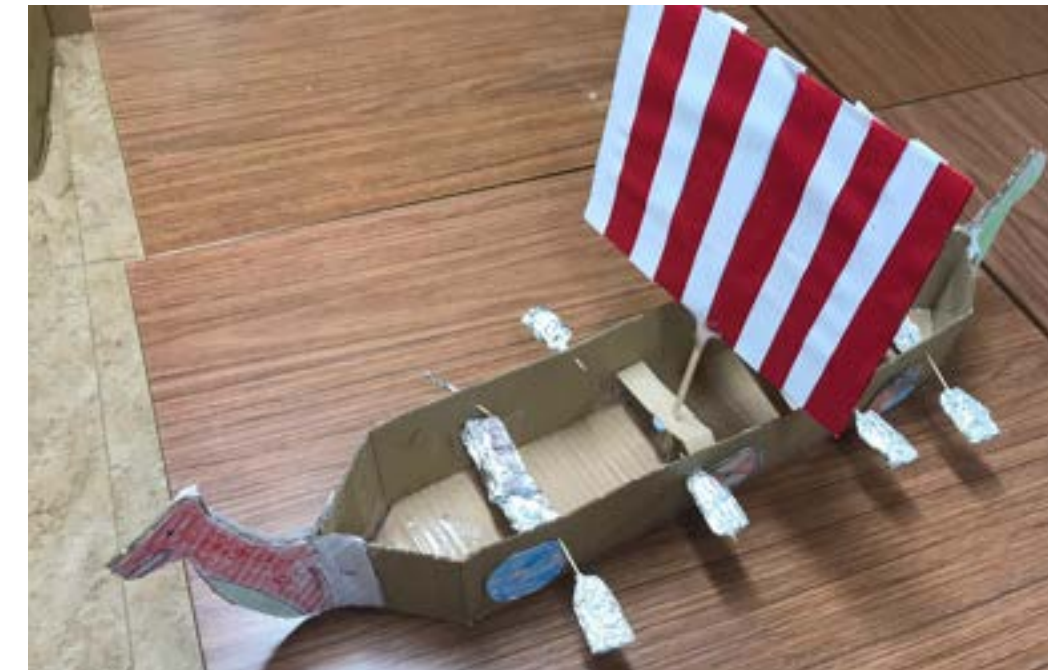
Due to this project, the Development Trust is in a better position to partner with Orkney Islands Council on recruiting youth workers in the future to be co-funded by both organisations.



### Viking themes covered during Youth Club

- Language
- Runes
- Placenames
- Myths
- Clothing & Costume
- Weapons
- Longships
- Artefacts
- Food
- Animals
- Orkneyinga Saga

## Heritage Youth Workers





## Multi-island activities

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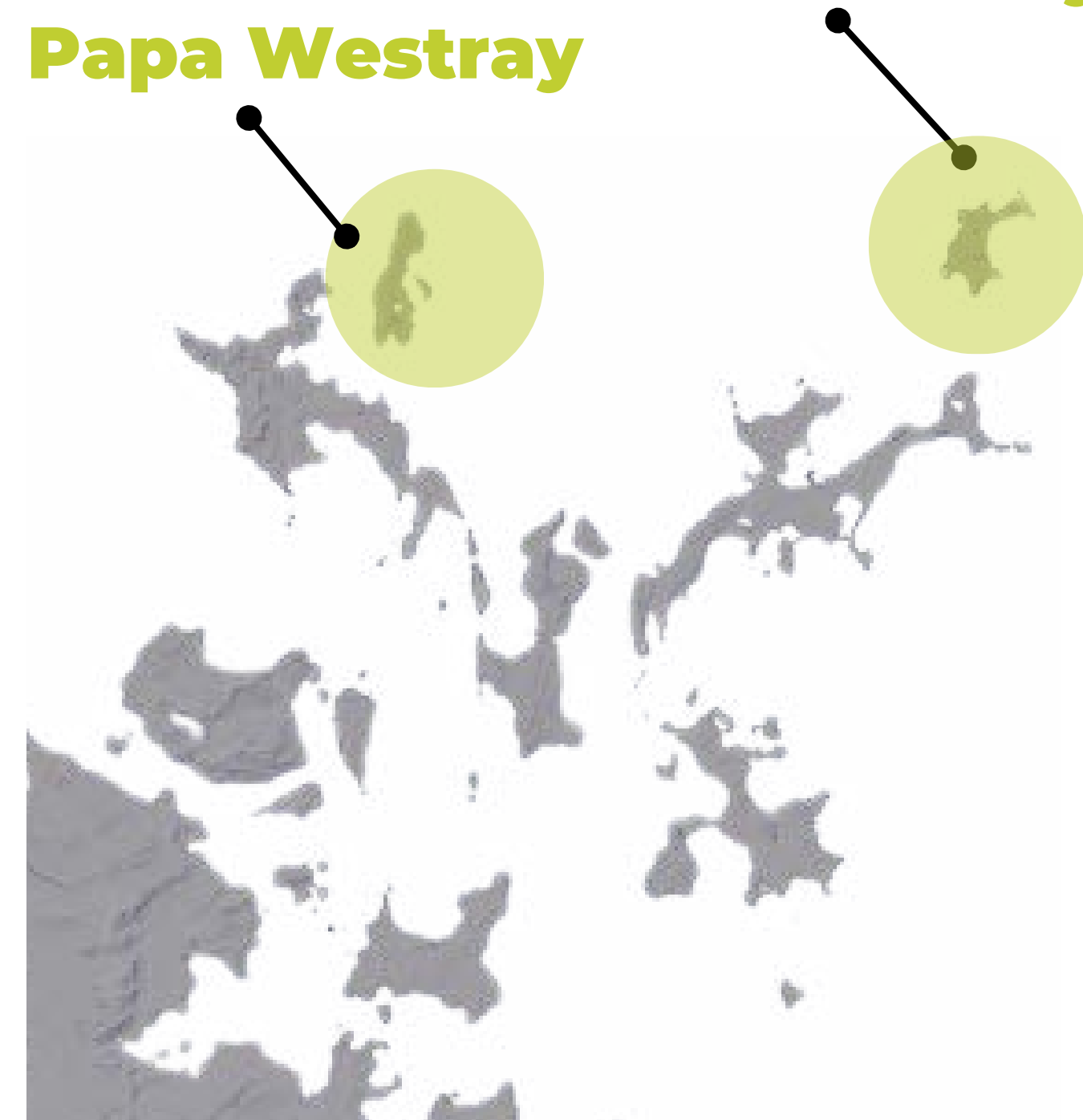
A film was made of the project and shown at the Orkney International Science Festival in 2022.

## Exploring Island Coasts

This project was devised by the two head teachers of North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray schools and funded under the Education & Learning programme. The project fitted very well into the aims and objectives of the programme overall. It centred around linking the two small outer islands by engaging all pupils in the heritage of the cassie sea wall in Papa Westray and the sheep dyke in North Ronaldsay. The schools worked with the Swan Trust to undertake a sailing trip and local musicians Jennifer Austin & Erik Linklater to musically express how they felt about the project.

See report from North Ronaldsay school for further information.

**North Ronaldsay**  
**Papa Westray**







The Papay school premiere of the film, which went on to be shown at Orkney International Science Festival.



Mal Grieve and Anna-Lisa Jenear at the Papay School premiere.

# Peedie Island

## Big World

The idea for this project came from residents of Papa Westray who further developed the idea in conversations with the project coordinator. Screen-writing workshops were held with the primary school and secondary age children, led by Anna-Lisa Jenear who lives on the island. The shadow puppets were created with the primary school and the wider community, aged 2-80 with direction by Orkney artist and puppet-maker Mal Grieve. Local residents provided voice-overs and the local RSPB warden created the musical score.



## Papa Westray





# Stronsay School

## Heritage Project

**10** workshops and field trips

**32** Pupils

Marion Miller facilitated this project, which was developed in discussions with the coordinator and the primary and secondary teachers.

The project involved the whole school. Lower primary planted heritage crops, harvested them and made oatcakes. They also did some willow planting.

They did felting workshops (and involved the upper primary in this) with textile specialist Helen Galland from North Ronaldsay. This has resulted in a wall hanging for the Heritage Centre.

The secondary age children went on 2 field trips: one archaeology walk with the SCAPE trust to look at coastal erosion and the second with Ian Cooper from the heritage society to the heritage centre and Whitehall village. Many of the children had never been to the heritage centre.

*"The felt wall hanging is leaving a legacy behind to inspire people in the future and it will be a historical thing in years to come"*

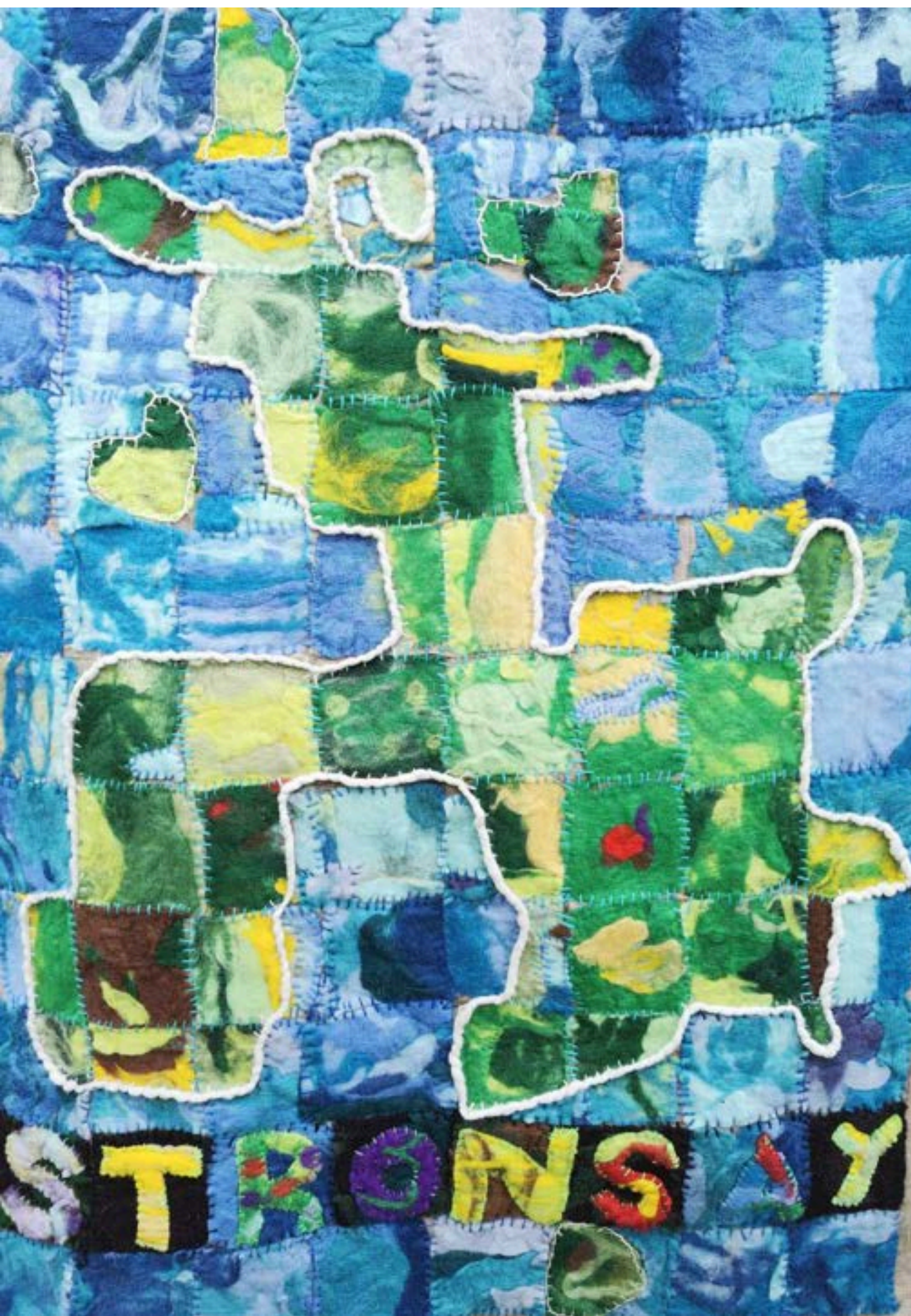
Marion Miller, project facilitator



Planting oats to make oat cakes







"It will be great to have a big display for tourists when visiting our island."

S1 pupil comment

"The felting was superb! I'd love to do it again! I learned lots doing it. The final product was amazing, and it was a fabulous experience! The lady who did it with us (Helen) was friendly, helpful and explained everything clearly and well."

Pupil comment

"The felting was really fun. I learned a bit more about Stronsay"

Pupil comment



"It was a very fun experience and I would 100% do it again some time very soon"

Pupil comment

"I've had a lot of fun and I would do it again. I liked the felted Stronsay because of the landscapes, tractors and wildlife"

Pupil comment

"I've liked the good experience. Wished I could do more"

Pupil comment



"I enjoyed the village walk because I learned about more local heritage. I wish Whitehall was as lively as it used to be."

S2 Pupil comment

"The walk was fun & interesting. I enjoyed learning about how Stronsay was a big part of herring fishing"

S2 Pupil comment

"I learned more about the history of the village that I did not know."

S2 Pupil comment

"Walking with Ian was fun, it helped me get the topic for my S2 Local History Project."

S2 Pupil comment



An opportune collaboration with the SCAPE trust, meant that the S1 could go on a field trip as part of this project to look at some of the industrial archaeology in Stronsay. Here are the pupils marking out the future line of the coast, when the sea will have eroded the kelpworking areas.



*"The walk to see the fairy Mounds with Dan Lee were best, it was a long walk but so much fun, I wish we could learn more and get lots of outings"*

Pupil comment

## Rousay in the Victorian Age

**7** workshops, events and field trips

**13** Pupils

This was a wide-ranging project which was devised by the coordinator in collaboration with the primary school, taking into account their desired activities. It was inspired by Lady Eliza Burroughs, the wife of the infamous Rousay Laird Sir Frederick William Traill-Burroughs. Eliza is little known or talked about, however an archaeology researcher Nela Scholma-Mason has been looking into Eliza's life, which included many accomplishments including spinning, painting and archaeological excavation. Eliza had a special link to the Rousay school and this project sought to rekindle that.



Nela Scholma-Mason has developed a digital education resource on Eliza Burroughs which can be used by Rousay teachers in the future.

**Rousay**

The project gave the opportunity to get the children out of doors and visit some of the clearance crofts which Traill-Burroughs is famous for evicting tenants from. Archaeologist Dan Lee led this visit. Ingrid Grieve, landscape painter accompanied the children.





Mabel Besant lives in Hoy but specialises in teaching Scottish Country Dancing. As part of this project to provide a traditional tea dance, Mabel visited to teach traditional dances, and even wrote a new dance especially for the school pupils. The tea dance provided a great intergenerational social occasion with members of the triangle club.



"I liked dancing with Mable"  
Pupil comment



### Mabel's Tribute to Rousay School

Longwise set for any number of couples

Gent has left hand towards the band with his partner opposite

#### Bars

- 1 – 8 Everyone turns partner by right hand & back to place, followed by a right shoulder dos-e-do
- 9 – 16 Everyone turns partner by left hand & back to place, followed by a left shoulder dos-e-do
- 17 – 24 Top couple only join hands and slip down the set for 4 and back to the top for 4, cast behind own side while all the set join hands with partners. Top couple join set at the bottom with hands joined
- 25 – 32 EVERYONE gallops down the hall (or around in a curve if needed) for 8 and back for 8. There is now a new top couple ready to begin again over again.

8 x 32 bar jigs

Written for Rousay School 2023 by Mabel j Besant

Photos courtesy of Rousay School Facebook page

"It was such an honour to work with the bairns in Rousay Primary School and pass on my love of dancing, especially with my Rousay heritage. My granny was born in a peedie cottage, in the valley behind where the school is sited, on 8th August 1882! Dancing is an important part of our Orcadian heritage and it is super to see that it is alive in Rousay! Thank you for putting the proposition to me so that I became part of their North Isles Partnership project. Especially seeing I live in the South Isles! (Hoy)"

Mabel Besant



"I loved learning about old stuff with Dan he brought lots of cool stuff,  
we saw peat cutters and hide and seek at the Broch of Gurness was brill."

Pupil Comment

"I was really good at the water colours I liked that"

Pupil comment



"My granny taught us how to paint"

Pupil Comment





*"I even dreamed about seagrass!"*

pupil comment

*"Great work! Our boy loved spending time doing science on the beach."*

parent comment

*"I loved going to the beach to find seagrass."*

pupil comment

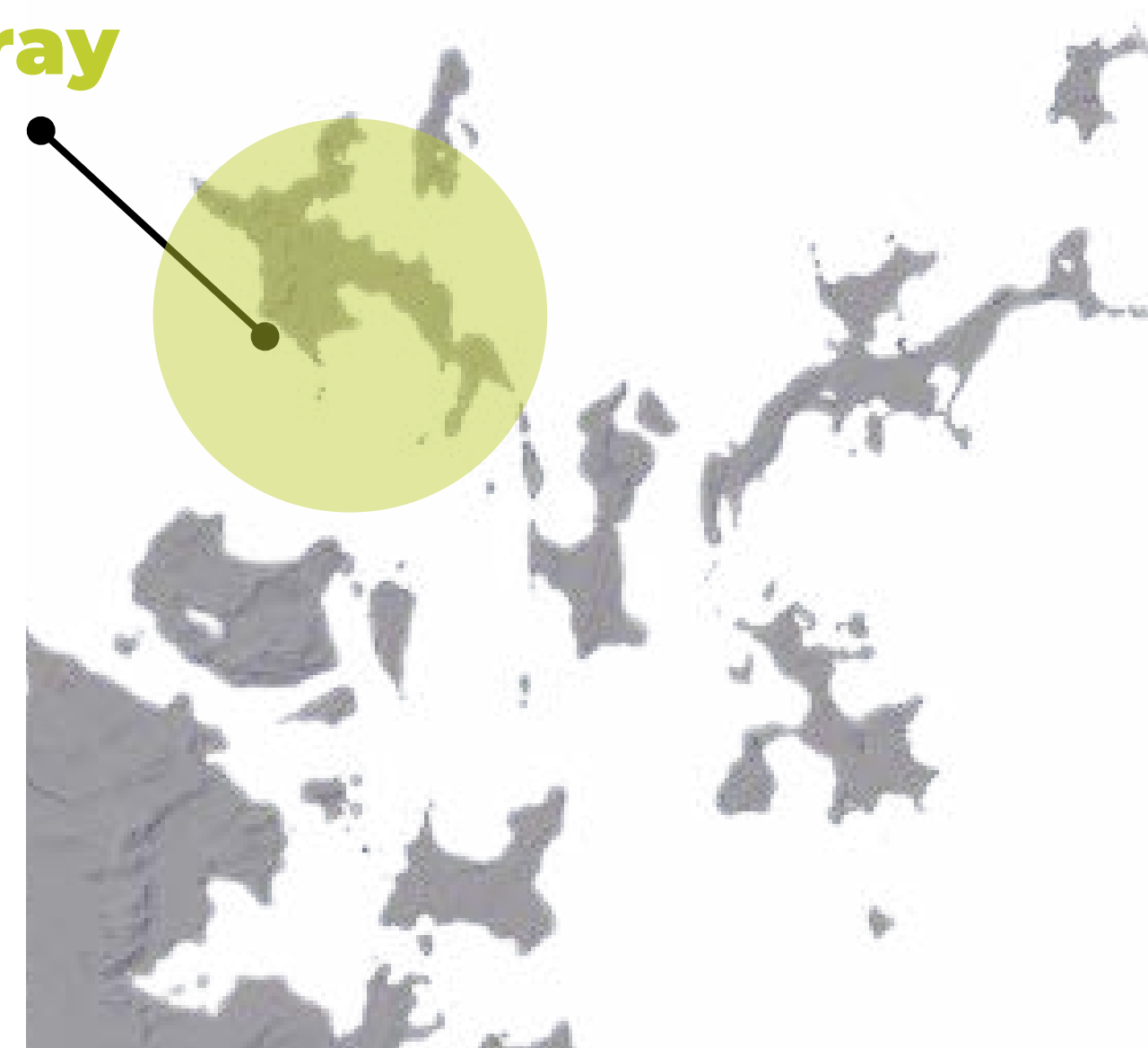
## Westray Primary School Seagrass Project

This project worked with Westray Primary School, lower primary class. We contracted Katy Waring, who had just completed her MSc at Heriot Watt in Marine Science to work in partnership with the school. Katy W had previous primary teaching experience and developed a suite of workshops and activities themed specifically on Westray's seagrass for the pupils. The school really got behind this project, doing a lot of work out with the workshops. The project included an art element, so we contracted retired art teacher Angie Stout to create artwork to use in newly designed seagrass interpretation panels for Westray Heritage Centre.

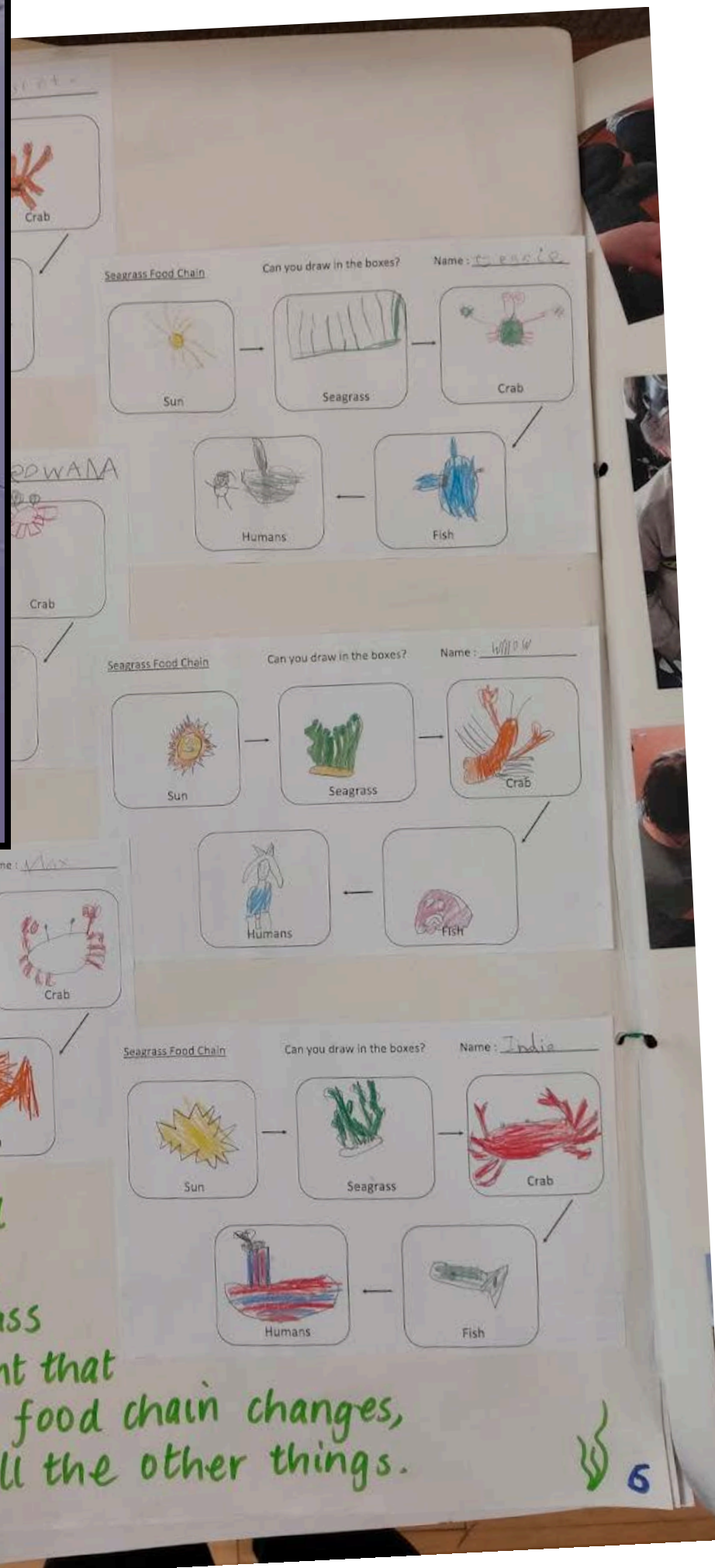
**7** workshops, events and field trips

**15** Pupils

**Westray**







Katy taught us all about food chains, especially the seagrass food chain. We learnt that if anything in the food chain changes, it would impact all the other things.

"Very interesting project!! L has loved doing this and learning about seagrass"  
Parent comment

"J has loved the seagrass project. We learned lots of things too. She enjoyed sharing all the new things that she had learnt about it and we went on our own trip to the beach to find seafingers!"  
Parent comment

"I didn't think I would learn so much. Brilliant!"  
Parent comment

"R has spoken a lot about her project at home. She has really enjoyed it and loved the trip to the beach."  
Parent comment

"Great project! Really engaging."  
Parent comment

"B has been very interested in the seagrass project! He says it has been so much fun!"  
Parent comment



"My son has really enjoyed telling us about his seagrass project and looks forward to the days that the 'Katys' are coming in – he's remembered lots of facts about the sea and it has been lovely to listen to him speaking about his new learned knowledge"

Parent comment

"My daughter has spoken loads about this project! I think I've learned lots from her too. She enjoys telling me all about it at home. Being able to come into school to see it all has been amazing! Thank you for the opportunity to join in too!"

Parent comment

"C has really loved this project and we've heard lots about it at home. She was also really excited to have me and her brother come into school to see what they've been doing."

Parent comment

"I enjoyed learning about the seagrass and seeing the animals."

Pupil comment







The trio of panels are now proudly displayed in Westray Heritage Centre. The children attended an opening event with their families. Orkney designer Iain Ashman created the panels using the childrens' artwork.

"Encouraging the interest of youngsters in the local environment and heritage is important to our aims in the Centre, so it was particularly special to welcome an enthusiastic group of pupils, their teachers and parents to the opening of the display. Young people are the potential future of the Heritage Centre."

Chair of Westray Heritage Centre



This project was used as a casestudy on Scotland's Enterprising Schools website



# Sanday Community School

## Junior Tour Guides

**18+** workshops & fieldtrips  
**12** pupils

This project worked with S1 age pupils and their social subjects teacher. The children worked with a Sanday-based tour guide Ute Clackson to choose local sites to include in a tour and research these. They learned about tour guiding skills via a trip to Skara Brae with Ute.

The pupils had 2 sessions with film-maker Mark Jenkins to learn scriptwriting and film-making skills. Over two filming trips they gathered footage for their film. They worked with their drama teacher to perfect their delivery style. They recorded their own audio voiceovers, with help from another pupil at the school.

The 12 pupils received their Silver level Heritage Hero Award in recognition of their work.



*"BRAVO – absolutely brilliant! I'm going to share this with my guests I'm sure they'll find it fascinating."*

Local accomodation provider

**Sanday**





The school have included this project in their improvement plan, which shows it has become part of delivering the school's current objectives of encouraging a sense of community and belonging through respecting rights.

 Film on Youtube

*" I absolutely loved this experience and I'm so glad we had an opportunity like this, after all it's not everyday you get to do this."*

Pupil Comment

*" I enjoyed going to different sites and looking at them for extended periods of time."*

Pupil Comment

*" I enjoyed the lovely landscape and I had a fun time filming and recording my voiceover. I also learnt about the lighthouse."*

Pupil Comment

*"I learnt lots of new things and enjoyed filming the film. I also liked going out to all the places."*

Pupil Comment

#### Lessons Learned:

The teacher commented that the project was a lot more work than she initially envisaged, although she was very proud of the outcome. She said if she were to undertake a similar project she would reach out sooner to the wider community for their knowledge and help, which they were more than happy to be asked for. In the initial plan, a drama teacher wasn't involved, but she was brought in for necessary expertise in how to coach pupils in confidently delivering their information.



*"I was nervous through the entire thing but I'm glad I did it".*

Pupil comment



# Eday Primary School

## Minecraft Project

8 workshops & events

11 pupils

This project worked with P1-P7 age pupils. The children selected sites they wanted to visit which were special to them. Two fieldtrips were undertaken with the former Eday Ranger Kate Townsend to visit the sites. A local expert geologist visited the school to help the children learn about Eday's special rock-types, which they had the opportunity to use in their models.

Orkney-based minecraft map maker Adam Clark delivered three workshops to build their chosen sites within a Minecraft map of Eday. One of the parents, Neil Hearn shared his existing Eday minecraft map, which Adam adapted and the children used as the base for their minecraft world.

The sites the children chose were:

- The Open Hydro turbine, significant as the first grid-connected tidal turbine in the UK
- The war memorial
- United Presbyterian Church ruin
- The SYHA Hostel, a wartime canteen from Hoy originally
- The airport
- A Chicken coop

"It was a break from my usual stuff"  
(Participant quote)

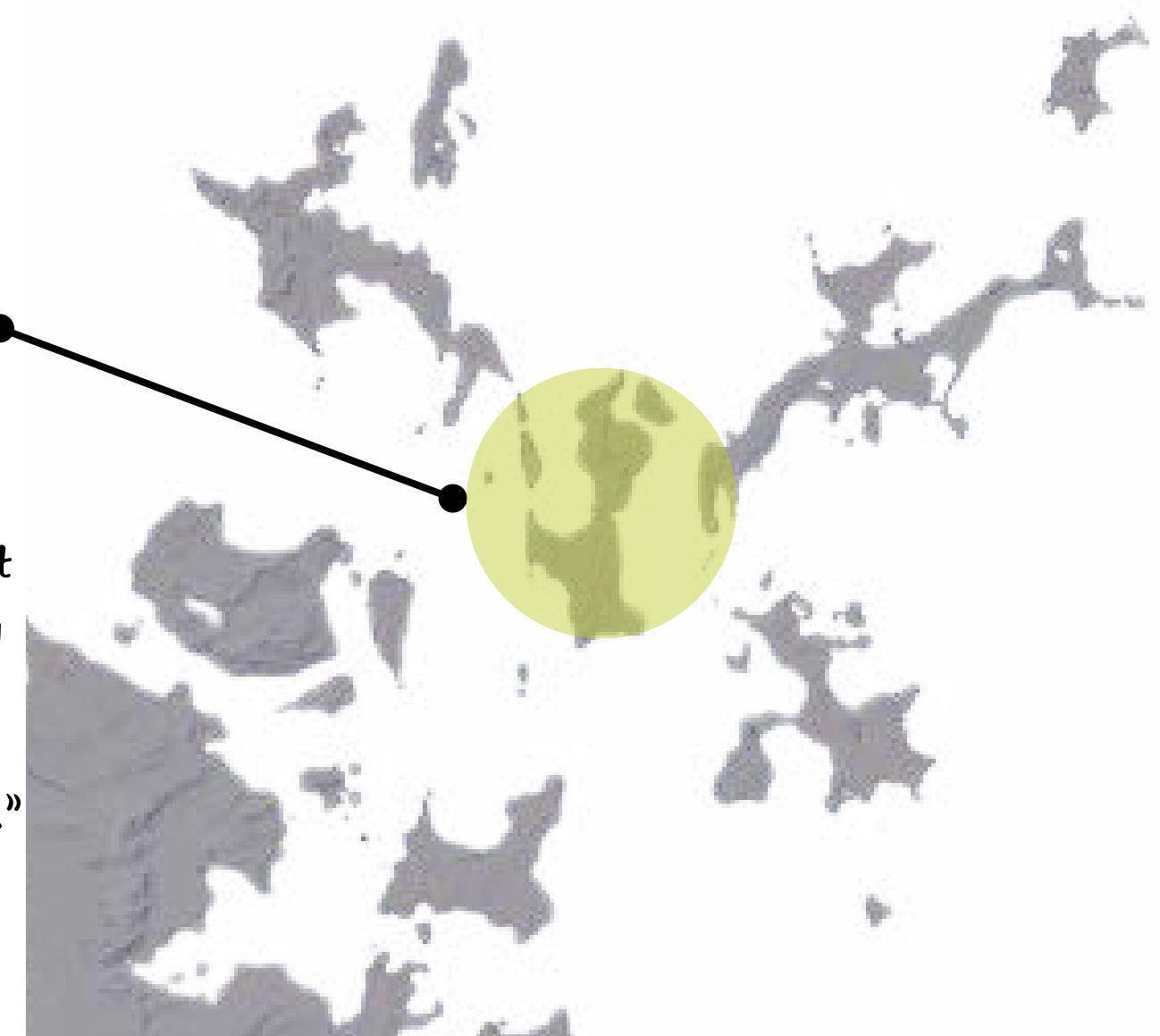
"I really liked it with Toby. He helped me with all the stuff that we needed to do for minecraft"  
(Participant quote)

"I really enjoyed the fact that I got to see my Dad at school and it was fun making the build and going to see old parts of Eday's history and it was nice to have walks up to the buildings."  
(Participant quote)

"I really liked working with the Wizard Keen and you and I liked the class process"  
(Participant quote)

"I liked the minecraft, because it was fun to build stuff about Eday and it was my first time ever playing minecraft. I enjoyed building the chicken coop the most."  
(Participant quote)

Eday





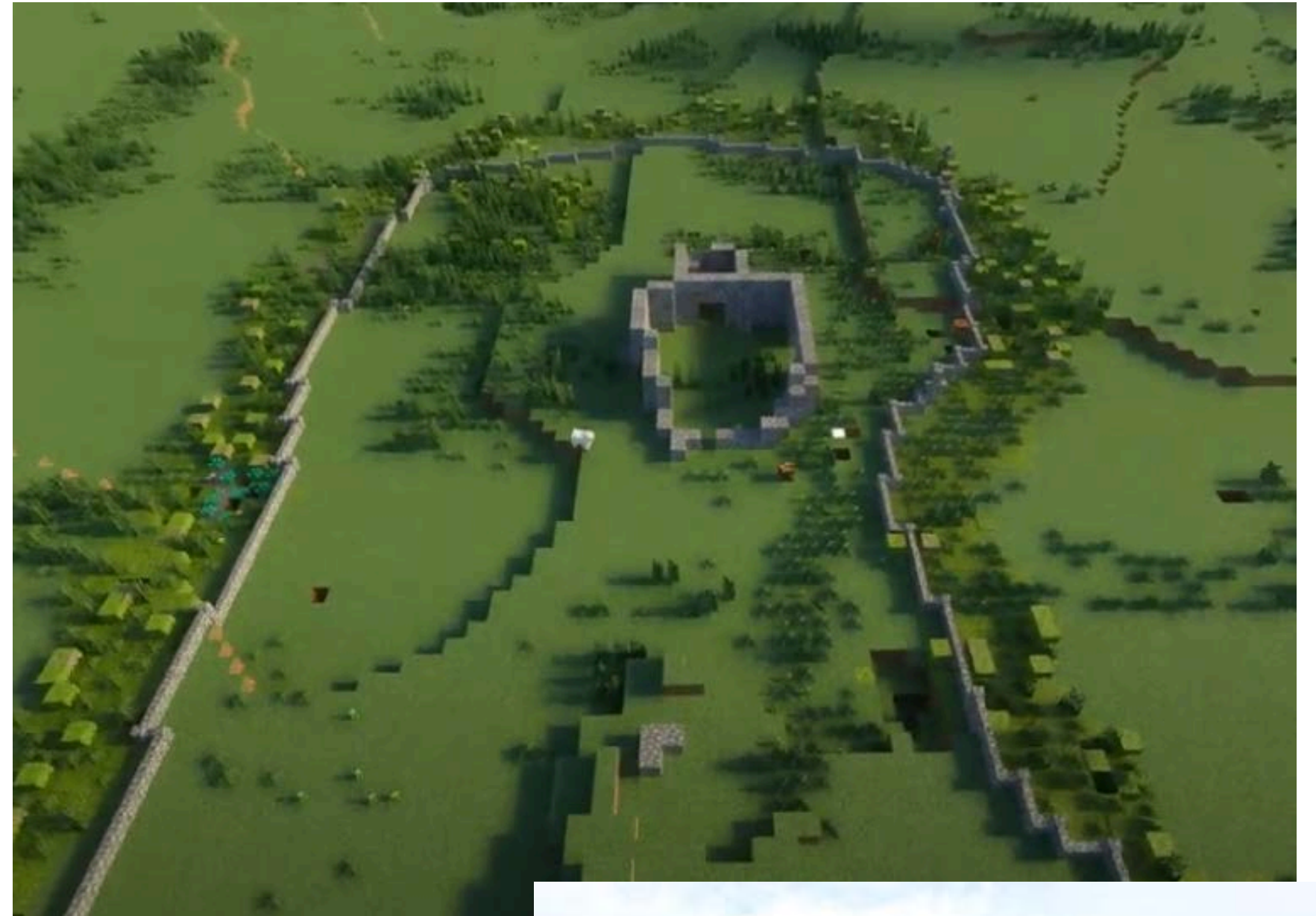


Photo: Tommy Kirkpatrick

## The Open Hydro Turbine

### Lessons Learned:

The head teacher commented on how beneficial it was to have help with a digital learning project, as she wouldn't have had the confidence to undertake it otherwise. The digital element brought challenges and additional work however. For instance it took over a whole day (12 hours with travel) to install the software onto the school devices, with various issues requiring troubleshooting.

The United Presbyterian Church. A site none of the children had visited before.

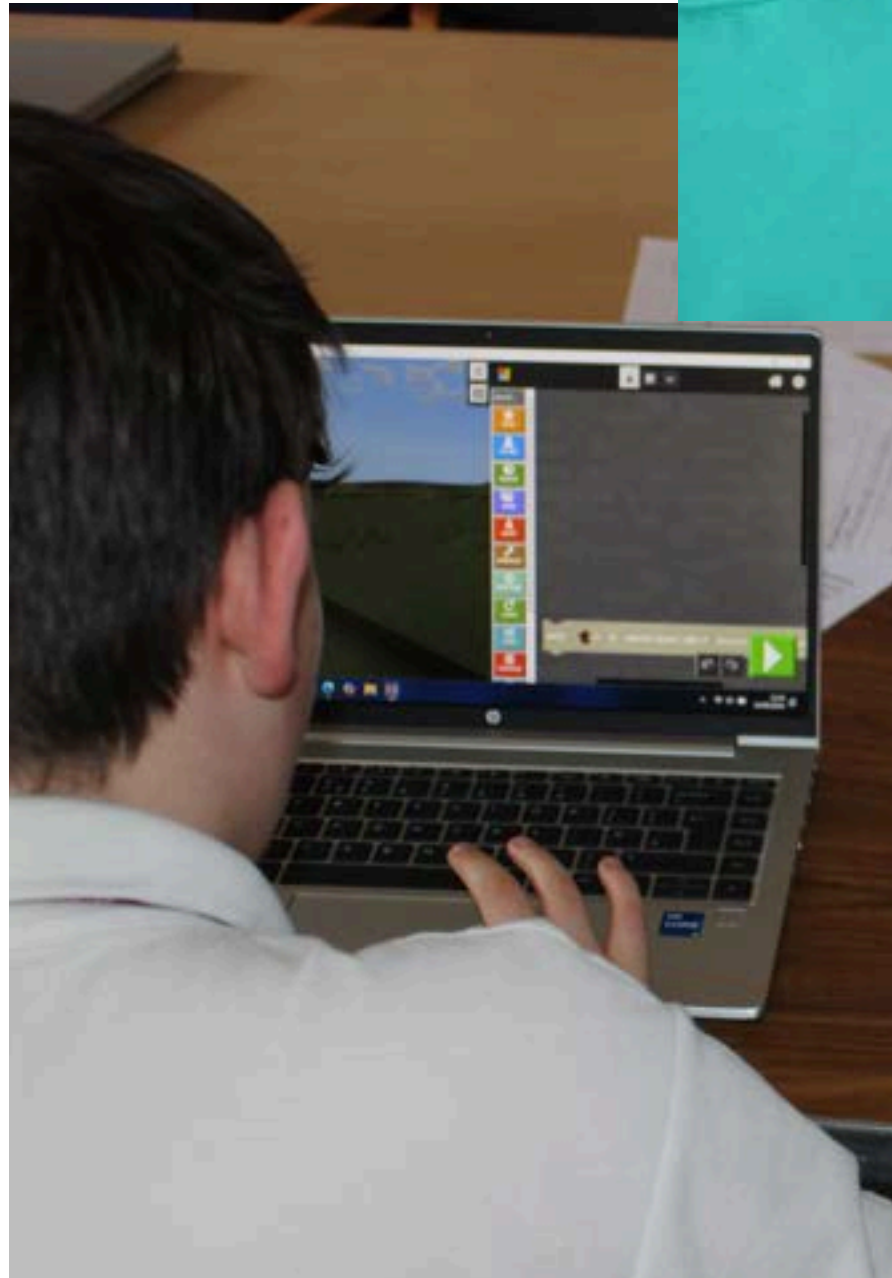


Youtube Fly through





Using Minecraft Education Edition to build their models



Visiting sites with Kate Townsend

The children have received **Heritage Hero Awards** for their work on exploring Eday's heritage sites.

They they have also set up Eday's first **Geocache** as a legacy of their project. They collaborated on the decision for which Geocache container to buy and went on a field trip to choose its hidden location. This allowed the pupils to learn about grid references and GPS systems.



Gavin Lindsay, Wartime heritage education specialist has produced 2 teaching videos which were used by the school to put Eday's Youth Hostel in its wartime heritage context. The children (and staff) enjoyed watching them.



# Iron Age Broch

## Handling Box

Shapinsay school regularly undertake topic work on Skara Brae. In order to encourage connection with a more local historic site, an Iron Age handling box was suggested by the coordinator, which would help put their local Burroughston Broch in context and provide hands-on learning opportunities.

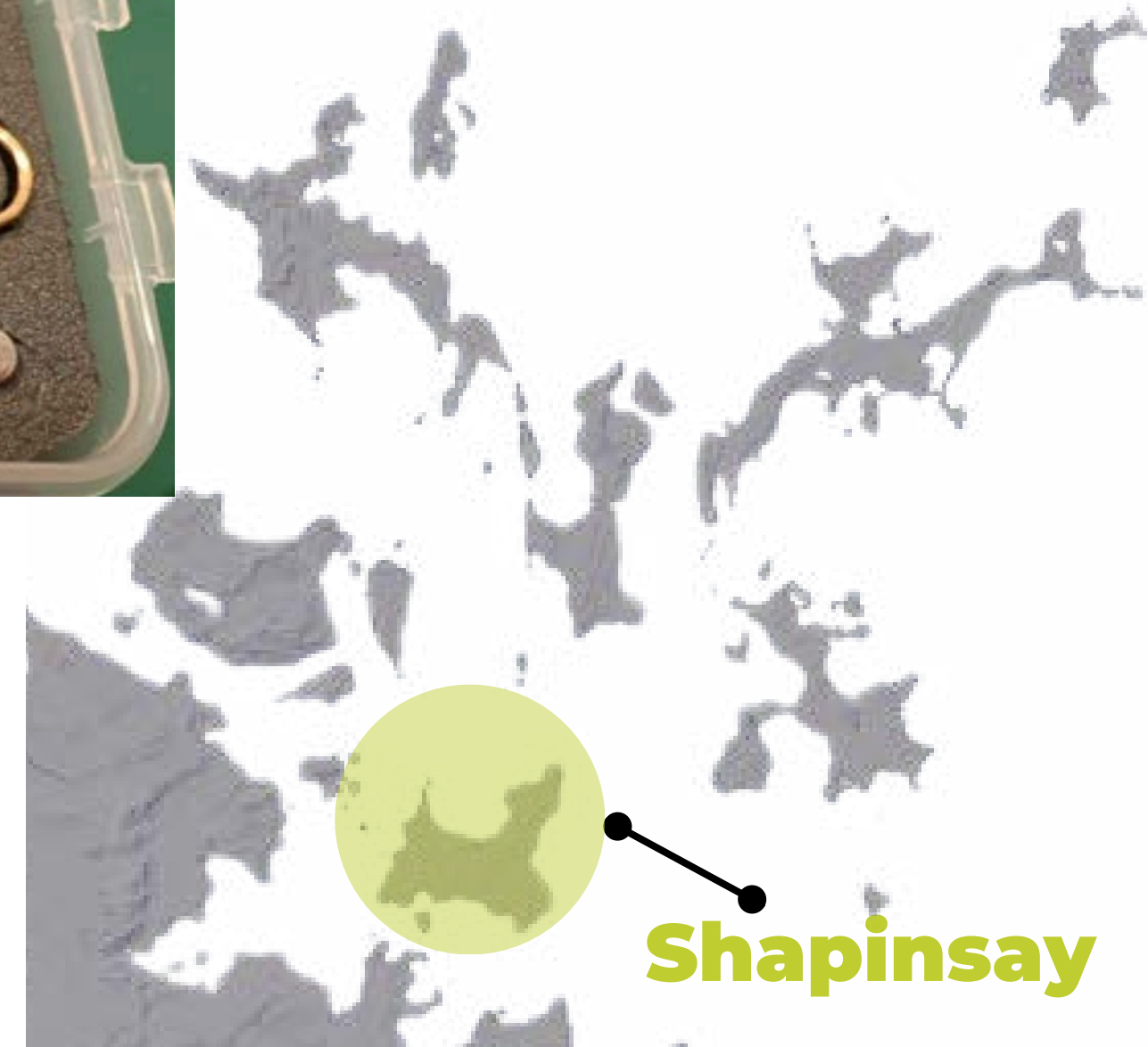
The box has been designed and created by Sheila Garson, Shapinsay resident and retired Museum Curator. Sheila has an excellent knowledge of Shapinsay and Orkney's archaeology more broadly.

Sheila sourced locally made products where at all possible. Many of them have North-Isles origins.

A Farm in the North, Stronsay based metalwork company has produced these beautiful replica pins and brooch for the box.



Burroughston Broch, Shapinsay





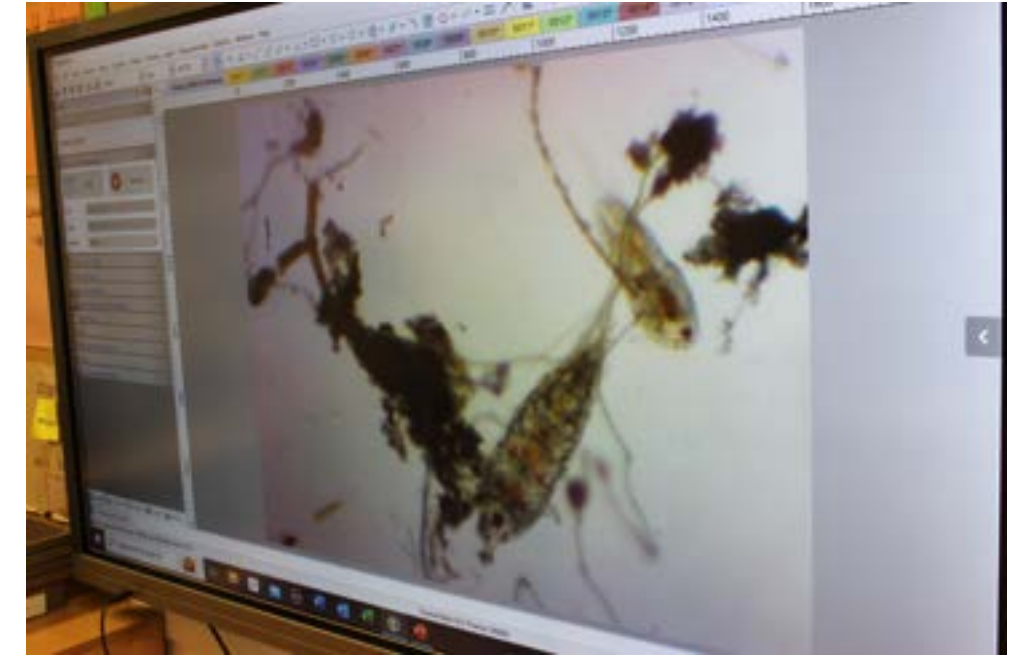
# Plankton Day

## Shapinsay School

1 session

6 participants

Due to a chance conversation at Orkney International Science Festival in 2023 with the Upper Primary teacher at Shapinsay school, the project coordinator visited the school to spend the day with the upper primary children looking at plankton collected by them at the Shapinsay pier.



"I enjoyed going to the pier and catching some plankton...I learned that there are hundreds of types of plankton."

Pupil Comment



**Shapinsay**



# Education & Learning Programme



## In numbers



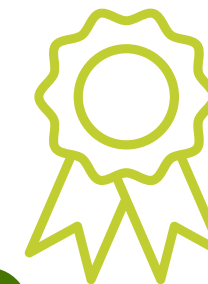
**8** Islands



**11** Projects



**30** Months



**40** Awards



**261** Participants



**206** Sessions



# Reflections

## From the coordinator

This project has been personally a very rewarding one to work on. The variety of different places, landscapes and people I have worked with has been fantastic. I feel very fortunate, having a fairly niche line of work in heritage education, to have found employment on this landscape partnership scheme. I think it has been of benefit to utilise the talent we have in our Orkney communities to make this project a success, particularly keeping employment opportunities within the North Isles where possible.

Looking back on this project, it may have been more time/cost effective to do some more 'blanket' projects across multiple islands, however I feel that although more time and cost consuming, the bespoke approach of island-by-island projects has definitely led to higher quality work and better buy-in from the communities I have worked with.

In some of the projects where there were more challenges, I think the more fragile nature of some of our island communities was brought to the fore. With limited people power available, projects have got to be agile and adaptable to make things work. This sometimes took a lot of extra un-planned time and negotiation.



# Thank you for reading

Katy Firth

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