

Sanday Development Trust

enhancing quality of life



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# Sanday Development Trust Annual trustees report

*For the year ending 31 March 2016*



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## Letter from the chair, Steve Ray:

Another year on from my last report and time to reflect on the work of the Trust, the successes and failures, and its achievements over a busy twelve months. Let's look first at the ongoing services and benefits the Trust brings to Sanday, benefits embedded in the daily lives of the residents that may go unnoticed, but require a lot of time, money, and effort to maintain.

Our new Ranger has been in post for a while now and I am pleased to report that we have recently secured continued financial support from Scottish Natural Heritage. My thanks for their continued commitment towards a very important and much loved aspect of Sanday life. Emma has fully embraced her role, introduced new elements through her interest in Marine ecology, and provided a very high level of engagement with locals and visitors, to maintain the superb level of service established by her predecessor.

The Heritage Centre continues to expand and develop under the guidance of its custodian and the Heritage Group. Thanks are due to the Sanday Community Council for its financial assistance towards this project. 2016 saw the commemoration of the Battle of Jutland, with Sanday playing an important role thanks to the efforts of the Heritage Group. We also learnt recently that the Appiehouse Stone is to be returned to Sanday and displayed in the Heritage Centre, close to where it was found and belongs.

Skills for Sanday commenced and proved to be an enormous success with an extraordinary number of residents taking advantage of the training provided. We hope to continue the project in to the future and have applied for further funding. Let us hope we are able to continue providing training opportunities right here on Sanday, enabling residents to gain skills without the time and financial burdens of travelling to mainland Orkney or beyond.



Youth work continues with increasing numbers attending the weekly drop-in sessions. This is a very important aspect of Sanday life and it is really encouraging to see more and more of the islands younger residents making use of their centre. The Trust is voting at the AGM to amend its constitution to reduce the age of membership to 16. We hope that this might encourage more representation from younger people, with the possibility of one joining the Board as a Director.

Heilsa Fjold remains a popular resource for the whole community with a wide range of activities taking place throughout the year. Visitors to the island find it a warm and welcoming sanctuary, whilst residents benefit from wi-fi, social interaction, and organised events.

So what lies ahead? Our plans to revitalise Kettletoft are progressing well despite there being little obvious evidence for people to see. We secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund to appoint consultants to carry out a feasibility study and draw up a full business plan, required for a stage two funding application. This consultation is now in progress and some of you may have already had discussions with representatives of SKS, the appointed social enterprise company. We hope to be in a position to submit the stage two application for funds to acquire assets by the end of this year. Discussions are also ongoing with Orkney Islands Council's North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, in the hope of bringing further funding to Sanday to develop the village. Such an ambitious project does not happen overnight, and many more months will pass before any obvious development work starts. I urge you to be patient and contribute your thoughts at every opportunity. We will achieve our goals, but they will require sustained ambition, optimism, and effort over a long period of time.

We hope shortly to be able to announce another project aimed at encouraging social inclusion through the medium of protected gardening. We see this as an opportunity for residents to come together whilst enjoying a popular activity, and in the process gain new skills through instruction and practical experience. Look out for announcements as the project develops.

Keeping all the existing services going whilst developing new projects is not an easy task. Our Projects and Grants Officer is responsible for juggling all the different work streams, and is the public face of the Trust. Imogen is always keen to hear of new ideas and initiatives, so speak to her or any Director if you have any constructive comments on the work of the Trust. We face multiple challenges, the greatest of which is reducing support from public budgets. We are facing a future in which services such as the Sanday Ranger and Skills for Sanday will have to become more self-sustaining, either through recovery of costs or commercial enterprise. The Board cannot find solutions to all these challenges without your support. As a member of the Trust we welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to how we fund projects going forward. If you are reading this and are not a member, then I urge you to join. All you need to do is fill in a membership form obtainable from Heilsa Fjold, or downloadable from the Trust website. Liability is restricted to £1, whilst becoming a member offers benefits to your community by demonstrating support, enhancing future funding applications.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on the 9th November when you can find out more about the work of the Trust.

Steve Ray, Chairman of Sanday Development Trust



## Summary of main activities undertaken in the year from April 2015 to March 2016

**1. Consultations** were held to discuss future priorities for the Trust. Considerable effort was expended to maximise access to the consultation process and ensure that the outcome was representative of the majority of residents' wishes.

**2. The Ranger Service** was continued. This included regular, scheduled, guided walks and talks, eg rock pooling and birdwatching, school and children's group activities, coordinating bag the bruck, regular newsletters, an updated website,



sealcam and a new underwater camera. Films were streamed to the heritage centre to allow viewing in all conditions and with minimal interference to the natural environment. The ranger also provided a contact on the island for partners with environmental concerns.

**3. Heilsa Fjold** continued to develop as a **centre for youth and community use**, providing free wifi and use of laptops, audio visual and gaming equipment. Opening hours were extended to enable members of the community and visitors to make full use of the facilities.

Space was available for private hire and was used for many purposes, eg veterinary consultations, political surgeries, OIC

meetings, yoga, parties and other meetings.

Space was also available for just dropping in.

Supervised youth drop in sessions were held twice a week, one at weekends and one during the week. These were open to all and were frequently used by visitors as well as residents.

The café was very popular and able to open throughout the year on a seasonal basis.

New activities were initiated to stimulate use of the facilities eg 'Cuppa cake and crossword', strength and balance training, farmers markets, and a 'swishing shed'. 'Ready, Steady, Cook' and a games evening were introduced in the winter.

**4. The Heritage Centre** at Lady Village was active for its second full year of exhibitions, displays and events including a display of the 'Sanday Knitters' cottage industry and a revamped World War 1 exhibition.

The long process of working towards museum accreditation was started and the custodian was supported in attending a museum studies course.

Volunteers continued to support the heritage centre in all aspects of its work and in fund raising to help towards running costs.

**5. The Reuse Centre** continued to operate in one of the business units in Lady Village. Volunteers continued to collect and redistribute useable unwanted goods, and raised funds to help towards the work of the trust.

**6. The second business unit** was rented to a small bicycle hire and repair service.



**7. Skills for Sanday** was a new project, set up initially for twelve months, with three main objectives: To provide a learning experience for 60 individuals to increase their skills and confidence; to enable three individuals to gain some form of employment as a result of their training and to assist one person in setting up a new business in Sanday

**8. The Sanday Soulka** continued as in previous years, running three weekend mini festivals during the summer months, celebrating island life, arts, crafts, and industry.

**9. Small donations** were made available to local groups carrying out activities in line with the Trust's objectives.

**10. The Bus Service**, run by the trust's subsidiary company, Sanday Enterprises Community Interest Company, continued to run, offering a daily service to meet all ferries, a once weekly route around the island to include shops and banks and a weekly 'Sanday Experience' tour for visitors in the summer.



**10. Sanday Renewables Community Interest Company** supported the Trust by contributing to the cost of infrastructure and assisting with cash flow to enable research, feasibility studies and retrospectively funded projects to go ahead.

## Summary of the main achievements:

**i. The Consultation** found that the majority of respondents were in favour of purchase of the unused buildings in Kettletoft Village and redevelopment of the village. It was therefore established that this should become a major focus for the Trust (Objects 1, 5 and 10). Other priorities were also established including development of very sheltered housing/twenty four hour care (Objects 6, 8 and 11), development of use of Heilsa Fjold (Object 2) and continued development of the Ranger service (Object 5).

**ii. The Ranger Service** provided a focus for the consideration of environmental issues (Object 1), enabled residents and visitors to access the natural heritage of the island (Object 2) and to learn more about it (Object 3). Provision of the ranger service entailed a part time employed post (Object 7).

**iii. Heilsa Fjold** provided an attractive and well-resourced social venue available for a variety of purposes for all members of the community and visitors to the island. The centre was used extensively throughout the year as a result of the wide range of activities and events and the longer opening hours (Object 2).

**iv.** Heilsa Fjold hosted a number of events and training courses, including 'Our digital zone' computer training and informal get togethers for sharing computing experience (Object 8).



**v.** Heilsa Fjold was also the location of the 'swishing shed', for the sharing of second hand clothes (Object 7).

**vi.** Regular, supervised youth drop-in sessions at Heilsa Fjold enabled children to meet up in a safe, secure environment outside of school (Object 2). This led to the development of unsupervised drop-in times, in addition, which further increased opportunities for socialising and for accessing the equipment and facilities at Heilsa Fjold (Objects 2 and

3). A young person working towards the Duke of Edinburgh award helped voluntarily at the youth drop-ins for part of the year (Object 9).

**vii.** Management of Heilsa Fjold and running supervised youth drop-in sessions entailed two part time employed posts (Object 7).

Comments from visitors to Heilsa Fjold included:

*'Great place to chill'*

*'Sheltering from a wee gale. Lovely place. Made very welcome...'*

*'...great facilities and the café is excellent...'*

*'First time on Sanday. A great service...a good lunch...wifi and coffee'*

*'Lovely building and friendly welcome'*

*'Friendly staff and lovely views'*

*'Facilities excellent for... work on computer and not having to sit in car to do it'*



**viii. The Heritage Centre** provided a rich leisure time resource and hosted a number of social and community events (Object 2). It also provided extensive informational and educational material (Object 3).

**ix.** The heritage centre, croft and burnt mound reconstruction formed a heritage hub, enriching the environment of Lady Village for both the community and visitors (Objects 5 and 10).

**x.** A part time employed post of custodian increased employment on the island (Object 7).

**xi.** The heritage centre hosted a display of art by J Sloan from the book 'Faraway world' by W Towrie Cutt about his childhood in Sanday in the early twentieth century (Object 4).

**xii** A team of volunteers enabled the heritage centre to be open through the summer season and at weekends and by arrangement during the winter months. Volunteers raised approximately £2500 from donations and charitable activities and about £1330 from shop sales for continuing work at the heritage centre (Object 9).

Comments from visitors to the heritage centre included:

*'Simply wonderful, loved it'; 'A wonderful treasure trove and a great asset to the island',*

*'Brought back many memories of a great community'*

*'Excellent, wanted to stay all day!'*

*'Lovely to see all the artefacts of daily life and the natural history that has shaped Sanday'*

*'Wonderful range of information - invaluable reference'*

*'A wonderful resource'*

*'An excellent addition to an already wonderful place. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work'*

**xiii. The reuse shop** provided opportunities for volunteering (Object 9) and assisted the community by making available a variety of useful items at low cost (Object 7). The reuse and recycling group raised £2728 through the shop for the work of the trust.

**xiv. Skills for Sanday** got underway with some monthly training courses including 'Saturday Morning Kitchen' and 'Birdwatching for Beginners'. Other courses included; Understanding accounts; Using binoculars and Birdwatching (Objects 3 and 8) and Health and wellbeing (Objects 3, 8 and 11).

**xv.** A part time employed post was created to run the project (Object 7).

**xvi. The Sanday Soulka** enriched the calendar of social events on the island (Object 2) and drew residents and visitors together with featured music, arts, crafts and local produce (Object 4). The Soulka was delivered almost entirely by volunteers (Object 9).

**xvii.** A small bicycle hire and repair business was assisted through the opportunity to rent of one of the business units (Objects 2 and 7)

**xviii.** Administration and management of the trust entailed two part time employed posts (Object 7).

**xix.** The new Sanday Surgery Fund was set up but no activity related to this fund took place during the year (Object 11).

**xx.** A number of groups benefited from a financial contribution towards their activities through the Trust's new small donations policy (Object 13).



## Financial information:

Funding information and accounts balance sheet are included below. The Trust are grateful for financial support received.

The Sanday Ranger was supported by Scottish Natural Heritage, SSE/Sanday Community Council, and unrestricted Trust funds including funds generated from Ranger activities.

The Reuse Centre was supported by funds raised at the shop and contributed to a pot of designated funds.

Heilsa Fjold activities, including supervised youth drop-in and open drop-in sessions plus other organized activities, were supported by funds raised from activities at Heilsa Fjold and from the Trust's unrestricted funds.

The Heritage Centre was supported by funds raised by the heritage group at the Heritage Centre and from other fund raising activities and from the Trust's unrestricted funds. Grant funding was also received from Orkney Islands Council.

Skills for Sanday was supported by funding from the Royal Bank of Scotland, SSE/Sanday Community Council and by course fees.

Sanday Soulka activities were funded by income generated from Soulka activities.

Small donations were given to various groups from the Trust's unrestricted funds.

Sanday Enterprises bus service was supported by funding from Orkney Islands Council and the Scottish government as well as from fares and tour income. Sanday Enterprises is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the Trust but is an independent company run independently of the Trust's charitable funding.

## Legal and administrative information:

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**Trustees:**

S Ray; P Allan; A Binnie; E Brown; U Clackson; H Collinson; R Gilholm; C Leslie; J Mitchell; A Muir; M Stockton; S Towrie;  
J Walker

**Charity number** SC035495

**Company number** SC263577

**Registered office** Heilsa Fjold, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BN

**Independent examiner** A J B Scholes Ltd, 8 AlbertStreet, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HP