



Item: 11

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 5 June 2024.

Leisure and Culture Annual Impact Reports.

Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Overview

- 1.1. The Leisure and Culture Service is required to report against a number of service areas and indicators across a range of local and national bodies including, sportscotland, National Accreditations, Scottish Library and Information Council, Adventures Activities Licencing Authority, Royal Lifesaving Society and Visit Scotland.
- 1.2. The statistical and performance information in relation to the Leisure and Culture service for 2022/23, attached as Appendices 1 to 4 to this report, highlight the significant impact of the Leisure and Culture service including:
 - Increased visitor numbers to Orkney’s Museums, Libraries and Archive.
 - Increase external funding sourced across the Leisure and Culture Service
 - Increased donations following the introduction of donation stations in the Orkney Museum, St Magnus Cathedral, Scapa Flow Museum and the Orkney Library and Archive.
 - 106,400 followers of the Orkney Library and Archives social media sites and 822,134 engagements.
 - 83,477 physical book issues and 8,903 digital issues.
 - Increased participation across Active Schools, Community Sport and Outdoor Education.
 - 30% increase in volunteers delivering Active Schools Activities.
 - 123 Primary 5–7 pupils trained as Young Leaders.
 - Supporting 12.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
 - i. Scrutinise the performance and impact information, as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 attached to this report, in order to obtain assurance regarding the impact that the Council’s Leisure and Culture Service has across Orkney.

For Further Information please contact:

Garry Burton, Service Manager (Leisure and Culture), extension 2440, email garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk.

Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
2. **Legal:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
3. **Corporate Governance:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
4. **Human Resources:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
5. **Equalities:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - Growing our economy.
 - Strengthening our Communities.
 - Developing our Infrastructure.
 - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - Cost of Living.
 - Sustainable Development.
 - Local Equality.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
10. **Risk:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
11. **Procurement:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
12. **Health and Safety:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
13. **Property and Assets:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
14. **Information Technology:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.
15. **Cost of Living:** None directly relating to the recommendations in this report.

List of Background Papers

None.

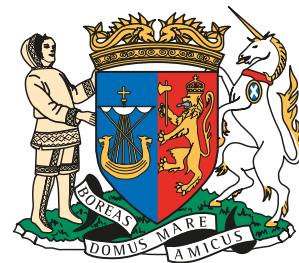
Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Arts, Museums and Heritage Annual Impact Report.

Appendix 2 – Libraries and Archive Annual Impact Report.

Appendix 3 – Outdoor Education Annual Impact Report.

Appendix 4 – Active Schools and Community Sports Annual Impact Report.



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

2023

Leisure and Culture Service Arts, Museums and Heritage Annual Impact Report





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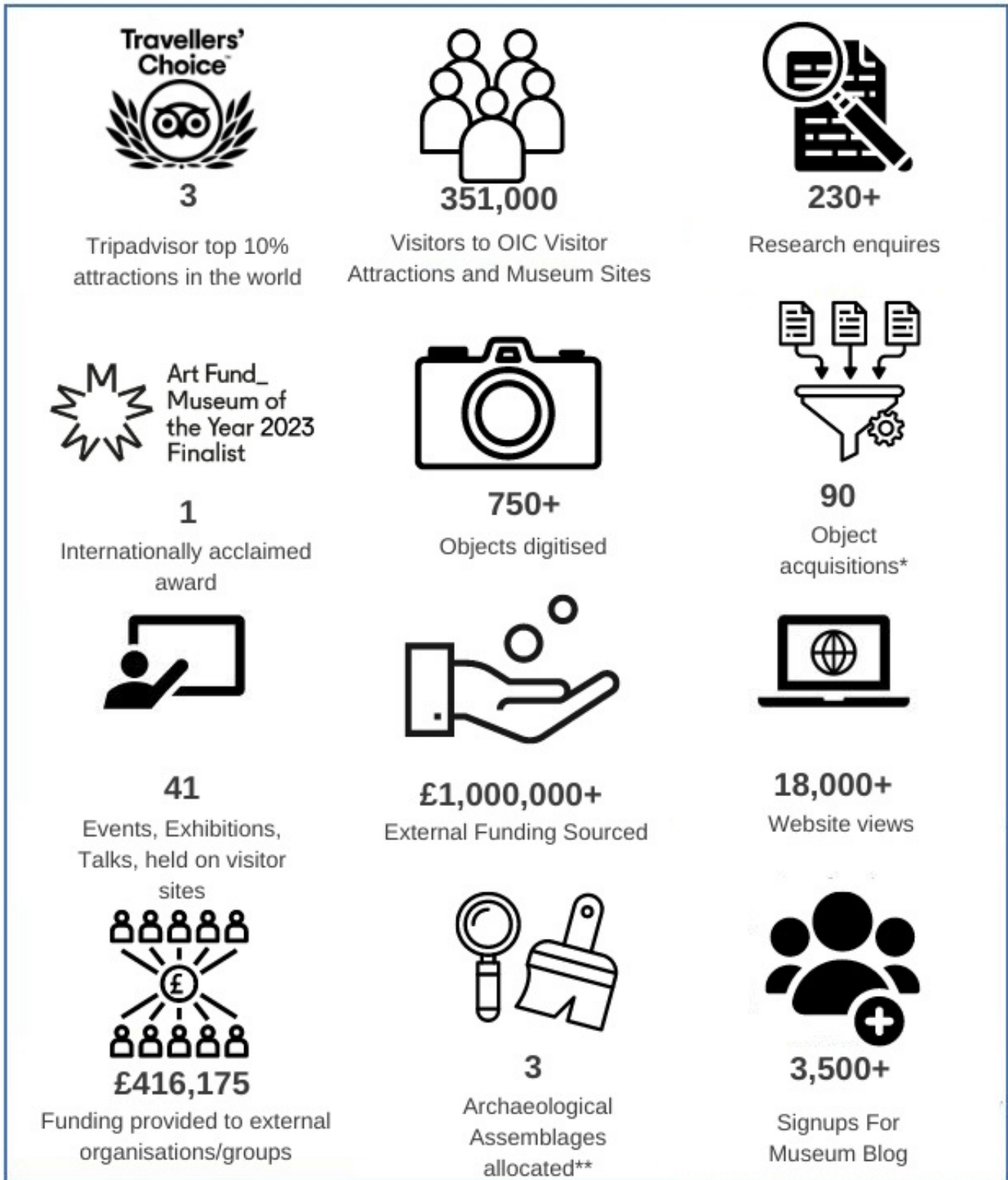
Manager's Statement

Nick Hewitt, Team Manager (Culture)

Given the relatively small size of the Culture Service it would be easy for its accomplishments to get lost, but because every single member of this team gives 150%, every day, always going the extra mile, nobody can fail to notice the work it does! Reflecting back as I have prepared my various contributions to this report, I can't quite believe how much we achieved in 2022-3, thanks to a lot of hard work and dedication, and I am incredibly grateful to, and very proud of, my fantastic colleagues who made it all happen.



Arts, Museums & Heritage Snapshot



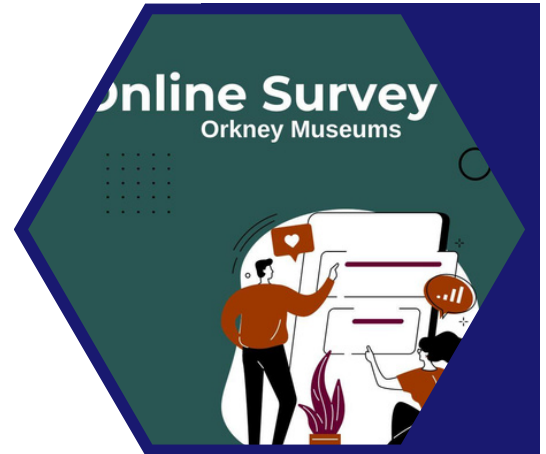
*A donation can be a single object or group of objects. E.g. one donation this year contained over twenty-plus unique objects, this is not including paper records that were passed to archives.

**An archaeological assemblage can contain anything between ten to several thousand artefacts known as small finds. Assemblages are allocated by the Treasure Trove process. More information is available on request.

Key service points

SERVICE REVIEW

There is no doubt that the next few years will remain very challenging for all services including Culture, with local authority budgets under extraordinary pressure across Scotland and the UK. To help withstand this turbulence, the Council has commissioned a consultant-led review of the Service, focusing on opportunities for fund-raising, income generation, and building a sustainable future. This process will be completed in 2024.



Service Review Survey Poster



Tripadvisor's Travellers Choice Award

MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR YET

Despite the small size of the museums team, it has managed to achieve its most successful year yet. One internationally recognised achievement, 3 Trip Advisor Traveller's Choice awards, 18,000 website visits, 3,500 newsletter sign up, and 351,000 visits to OIC visitor attractions have shown the importance of the service to the people of Orkney and those who visit.

NEW WEBSITE AND DIGITAL HERITAGE OFFICER

At the beginning of 2023 grant funding secured from the Scottish Islands Plan has enabled the recruitment of an 'Islands Digital Collection and Heritage Officer' whose focus is to make Orkney Islands Council's collection of over 130,000 objects more accessible, the main thrust of this being through digitisation of the collection.

The first major step towards this was the development and launch of a new website which has been a huge success, with 18,000 unique visits in the 7 months that it has been live and 3,500 newsletter sign-ups. The website is constantly being developed and in 2024, a new portal will allow the entire collection to be searched.



New OIC museum's website home page

Museum Of the Year

Art Fund's Museum of the Year award is the world's largest museum prize, with a £120,000 prize for the winner and £15,000 for the runners-up. In early 2023 the museums team applied for the prize, which involved a complex application to be long-listed and then a presentation to be shortlisted. The team found out in early March that Scapa Flow Museum had been shortlisted alongside giants in the museum sector including The Burrell Collection, Natural History Museum, Leighton House, and The MAC in Belfast.



Scapa Flow Museum Project Team at the award ceremony in The British Museum London.

The shortlist was announced on the 23rd of May 2023 and the winner was announced on July 12th. Over the course of the award campaign, a huge amount of work went into various media campaigns, interviews, and hosting multiple guest visits, including judges, Art Fund staff, and MSPs. It is estimated that over the duration of the campaign, the PR had a total estimated reach of **130,000,000** people and an extraordinary level of exposure for Scapa Flow Museum and Orkney. Shortlisting for Museum of The Year is akin to winning an Olympic medal in the museum world.



Art Fund_
Museum of
the Year 2023
Finalist





Orkney Museum

MAINTENANCE PERIOD

Orkney Museum closed to the public for the entirety of January 2023 for an extremely successful maintenance period. It allowed the museums team to address any maintenance concerns, care for collections, and re-organise our collection stores ready for visitors, researchers and guests for the coming year



Freshly polished floors



Local visitors to Orkney Museum

BUSIEST YEAR YET

It has been Orkney Museum's busiest year yet, even when compared to pre-pandemic years, with approximately 80,500 visits to the museum itself. The busiest day being Friday the 9th of June with 2440 visitors in one day!

The extremely successful exhibition programme included a preview of finds from the Ness of Brodgar with a larger show to follow in 2024.

Orkney Museum also saw the successful introduction of contactless donation stations, details of which can be read on p.24.

ORKNEY MUSEUM FACTS

Most popular shop item:

- Book: Orkneyinga Saga - A historical guide
- Westray wife figurine
- Puffin Bookmarks

Currencies found in donation boxes:

Mexican Pesos, Guernsey Pound, Isle of Man pound, Swiss Francs, Indian Rupees, Canadian Dollar, Norwegian Kroner, Danish kroner, Icelandic Kroner, US Dollar, Euros, French Pacific Colonies franc

Quirky visitor comments:

Multiple visits of Selkies who were descended from Fife Selkies.
The insistence that Orcadians eat Puffin...
Five-plus reports of Paranormal Activity by staff/visitors.



Westray Wife figures



KIRBUSTER FARM MUSEUM

Kirbuster Farm Museum

REPAIRS AT KIRBUSTER

Kirbuster has had a busy year with repair work. After identifying that the work was urgently needed, OIC, Museums and the Historic Buildings Conservation team sourced £70,000 of funding from Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS). This work primarily consisted of repointing the externals of the historic living quarters with lime, fitting period-appropriate guttering, and refinishing the Victorian parlor. This has put the building on a good footing for standing up to the elements in its exposed location. However, this is the first phase in a series of works for which the service hopes to source external funding for in the coming years.



New pointing and guttering

EVENTS

Kirbuster has great potential as a destination venue for local events. The museum hosted a wedding in the Spring in the Victorian Garden (see right) which proved to be a great success. It is hoped that this will be a continuing theme and the site will continue to develop as an exciting venue for weddings, festivals, and family days out!



Kirbuster farm Museum Victorian Garden



Top: Firehoose and peat fuelled fire
Middle: Ariel view of Kirbuster Farm Museum and grounds
Bottom: Hybrid North Ronaldsay sheep at Kirbuster

Growing numbers

Continuing the trend of growing visitor numbers, Kirbuster has a total of 6,077 in 2023. The service hopes this number will continue to rise with increased visibility via its new website as well as a social media presence.

OFFICIAL OPENING

After opening its doors to the public in July 2022, Scapa Flow Museum was officially opened by Sir Chris Hoy on April 29th, 2023. It was a hugely successful day that saw over 300 people make the journey to take part in the opening, community events, and cycling events over the island, and showcased Hoy & Walls at its best!



Sir Chris Hoy officially opening Scapa Flow Museum



Art Fund
Museum of
the Year 2023
Finalist

MUSEUM OF THE YEAR

Scapa Flow Museum was shortlisted for the world's largest museum prize! Despite not winning, the museum has gained huge exposure which has driven visitor numbers, opened doors to opportunities that otherwise would be closed, and helped develop working partnerships that help improve the service into the future.

SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS

As part of the reporting process for the National Heritage Lottery Fund funded re-development project, a target was set of 17,000 visitors per year by the 5th year after re-opening but in 2023 a whopping **20,000** came through its doors! Given its location this is a huge number that the service hopes will continue to grow over time, bringing thousands of people to Hoy who may not have made the journey otherwise.



Orkney Tour Guides Visit Scapa Flow Museum for guided tour by Nick Hewitt

RESTORATION OF SMS BREMSE GUN

The iconic German Fleet Gun from SMS Bremse welcomed many a visitor, standing proud on a pedestal at the entrance to the museum site. However, as part of the re-development, in 2021, it was dismantled and put in storage until winter 2022 when released contingency allowed for it to be sent for restoration. In February 2023 it returned in fantastic condition, securing its future as one of five German Fleet Guns known to survive above water in Britain, and again being accessible to the public.



Restored SMS Bremse Gun, Start Point Media

COLLECTIONS REORGANISED

The Romney hut refurbishment was initially part of the redevelopment of the SFM but was excluded as part of a value engineering exercise. Fortunately, the Neighbourhood and Infrastructure Service identified additional funding through the Islands Infrastructure Fund allowing the hut to be restored and re-clad. Further to this, in August 2023 museum staff with assistance moved the stored collections at Lyness so that they're accessible in the Romney hut on purpose-built storage racking. This ultimately has expanded the museum's offering and gives much-added value to visitors and reasons for repeat visits.



Re-clad Romney Hut and collection being moved into it.

CONTINUED GALLERY DEVELOPMENT

Scapa Flow Museum opened on July 22nd, 2022 and since there have been an influx of offers of donations and loans. So much so, that multiple objects were added to galleries in spring 2023 and a recent acquisition display case has been added so that donors can see their donations on display. Further to this, plans have been established to add to the main exhibition areas over winter 2023/24 to expand and enhance the story told at the museum.

It has been humbling to have people entrust their treasures to the care of the museum and hear the stories that accompany them.



New acquisitions case at Scapa Flow Museum

ECO-RESPONSIBILITY

Scapa Flow Museum is situated in a historic fuel oil pumphouse which itself is situated on the footprint of a former naval base, HMS Proserpine. The history of the site has been intertwined with fossil fuels during its existence, so the service must tell that story in the museum particularly as it is still relevant to Orkney today. That being said the service has a duty to be as ecologically conscious as we can be. To that end, it will be helping offset the museum's carbon footprint by partnering with the Islands Carbon Neutral Project and planting 100 trees around the museum site.



Carbon Neutral Islands Project poster



Crew of HMS Mersey presenting crest to Museum VSO, David Edmond

INTERESTING FACTS

Cafe:

- 13, 000 cups of tea sold
- 3,500 hot-filled rolls sold

Shop:

- Sailor ducks are the most popular seller alongside SFM Mug

Interesting Guests:

- Crew of HMS Mersey,
- 3 People with the surname 'Lyness'
- St Magnus Festival Cellist, Finlay Spence
- Visitor from Lord Howe Island (same pop. as Hoy)

Donation Stations

This year, Scapa Flow Museum saw the successful introduction of contactless donation stations, details of which can be read on p.24.



HMS Royal Oak modelled acquired through funding from The National Fund for Acquisition



ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL

St Magnus Cathedral

A BUMPER YEAR

St Magnus Cathedral welcomed nearly **250,000** visitors this year, a record for the building. It's been so popular that Trip Advisor has marked it as a top 10% attraction in the world, alongside Orkney Museum and Scapa Flow Museum. The cathedral's busiest day this year saw 3,909 people.

There has also been a huge uptake on paid upper-level tours, with 1,007 partaking.

The Cathedral also saw the hugely successful introduction of contactless donation stations, details of which can be read on p.24.



Upper level Tour Guide Ross Flett with group



The Sun, Orkney International science festival

PREMIER EVENT LOCATION

St Magnus Cathedral continues to be at the heart of the community, hosting many events throughout the year. In 2023 it hosted nineteen events plus eleven St Magnus International Festival concerts, a Flower Festival, and the unforgettable SUN an art installation by artist Alex Rinsler and solar physicist Prof. Robert Walsh, which brought 17,000 in to see it during its duration, many of them local families.

It is important to remember the cathedral also hosts private wedding ceremonies and funerals placing it at the heart of Orkney community life,

A NEW CURATOR

The service is grateful to The Society of The Friends of St Magnus Cathedral, who have generously funded a curator's post for St Magnus Cathedral for a duration of 3 years. This is in addition to the seasonal Visitor Services Assistant and Stonemason roles which the Friends have supported for several years. Former Visitor Services Officer Fran Hollinrake will be working to develop the offerings, reach, and partnerships of St Magnus Cathedral over the following years.

She states "This is a fantastic opportunity for the cathedral, and I am looking forward to delving into the archives, exploring objects in our collection, and researching and writing in order to share information about our wonderful building with the world".



Fran Hollinrake, Cathedral Curator



Corrigall Farm Museum

CLOSED

Due to continued resource constraints, Corrigall Farm Museum will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Maintenance of the site and collections care for objects held on-site will continue.



Corrigall Farm Museum Stable, Barn and Kiln



Ness Battery

PROMOTING NESS BATTERY

OIC owns Ness Gun battery but it is operated under a service level agreement by an independent contractor, Stromness Tours Ltd, which conducts paid guided tours that generated just under £2,000 for the service in 2022/23.

To our mutual benefit, the service will be adding Ness Battery as a visitor attraction on its website so that more traffic is generated which will translate into more visits.



Battery Observation Post

Temporary Exhibitions

The service has had a busy year of successful exhibitions at Orkney Museum. Work on the 2024 schedule is well underway.

- 14th February – 25th March. The year started with 'Art in Orkney: A Private Collection', which featured artwork by the likes of Stanley Cursiter, Sylvia Wishart, and Erlend Brown, to name just a few. This was generously lent by former Orkney Museums Officer, Bryce Wilson. The exhibition ended with an informal talk from Bryce, hosted by Engagement & Exhibitions Officer, Tom Muir. It was well attended and much enjoyed.
- 8th – 29th April. Sarah McFadyen had a selling exhibition of paintings, 'The People of the Sea', inspired by a book of selkie tales of the same name by Douglas Thomson. It opened with Sarah playing music and talking about her work, hosted by Tom Muir, who also told some of the selkie stories that were in Thomson's book.
- 13th May – 14th October. The summer exhibition this year was 'The Scottish Bestiary', prints by some of the leading Scottish artists from 1984, with text by George Mackay Brown. This was to replace the planned exhibition on the Ness of Brodgar, which had to be postponed due to funding issues. It was also kept on a bit longer due to Covid 19 (see below). The exhibition ended with a storytelling session by Tom on the final day, who used folk tales about the featured creatures, both real and imagined.
- 13th May – 30th September. As the cancellation of the large exhibition happened at short notice, it was decided to offer the Ness of Brodgar Trust a small display area on the ground floor. This featured some of the finest artefacts from the excavation, which delighted visitors, as the fame of the site has gone global.
- 13th May – 30th September. Samantha Gray also had a small selling exhibition on the ground floor, in association with the NoB display. 'Dowsing at Brodgar' combined art with her passion for dowsing around these sacred sites. She gave a talk to a limited number of people on 23rd September, followed by a chance to do some dowsing in Tankerness House Gardens.
- 7th – 28th October. This was supposed to be a selling exhibition of photographs of gravestones by Lorainne Evans called 'Symbols of Mortality'. Unfortunately, it had to be cancelled the week before it was due to be set up as the artist contracted Covid 19 and not all the pieces were at the museum. It has been rescheduled for February 2024.
- 4th November – 16th December. A selling collection of paintings and drawings of St Magnus Cathedral by Russell Gilmour called 'Atmospheres'. This exhibition is unique in the museum's history, as it allows people to buy and remove pieces immediately, which are then replaced by other works for sale.



Exhibition and engagement officer, Tom Muir



Museums Technician, Mark Scadding



Orkney Museum, Broad Street, Kirkcaldy

Art in Orkney: A Private Collection



Ness of Brodgar Exhibition

Collections Team

Overview

It's not just been the visitor services staff who have had a busy year. The collections team consisting of Ellen Pesci, Siobhan Cooke-Miller, Tom Muir, and Chris Andrews along with assistance from Team Manager, Nick Hewitt has been hard at work. From dealing with donations, research inquiries, community engagement, organizing collection moves, and documentation there's been no time to spare. All this has significantly improved the reach of the service, and the quality of offerings at the museums and boosted their reputations locally and nationally.

It's important to remember that the collections team are responsible for the care of over 130,000 objects which includes the museum sites in which they're displayed and stored. They ensure, if time allows, that people can access the collection and help share the stories that the objects and artefacts tell.

The team have been supported by regular volunteers Alison Turner-Rugg and Lindsay Bailey.

Key points

- The upgrade of the service's collections management software (CMS), moving from the old software of Axiell CALM to Axiell Collections in conjunction with Orkney Archives Service, will allow for more efficiency in caring for and recording the collection as it grows.
- This upgrade allows the service to integrate the CMS onto our website and exponentially grow the collections offering, to the extent that from early February 2024 anyone from anywhere in the world will be able to search what we hold. It represents a huge leap forward for the service.
- Over 230 research inquiries for archaeology and Social history combined.
- Exciting new permanent exhibitions are being worked on for 2024.
- Digitisation of the collection is progressing at a steady pace.
- In addition to the recruitment of several volunteers, we also hosted an eight-week post-graduate student placement from the UHI Archaeology Institute.



Top: Online Collections offering currently on OIC museums website
Middle: Stock photo of dig at Cairns excavation
Bottom: Screenshot of some digitised objects in museum collection

Collections - Archaeology

Overview

This year has seen the collection continue to grow, with some notable acquisitions. The collection continues to be an important resource for archaeological research, as shown by the numerous and high-profile research projects being undertaken. We have been working closely with our partners in cultural heritage and archaeology including the Archaeology Institute UHI, The Ness of Brodgar Trust, Treasure Trove Unit and National Museums Scotland to name just a few. We are working closely and building strong relationships with community heritage groups and stakeholders to care for and interpret our past.

Key points

- Orkney Museum is a partner in Quantifying the Use of Archaeological Collections, a project being carried out by the Society for Museum Archaeology, to measure the access and use of archaeological collections held within museums and other organisations.
- Cairns excavation – Siobhan spent some time this year back out in the field, working with the team excavating the Iron Age settlement at The Cairns, South Ronaldsay. She worked with Finds Supervisor Kevin recording and processing finds and advising on the preparation of finds for museum deposition.
- Community engagement: Myself, Tom and Nick attended the Ness of Brodgar open day on 30th July 2023. As well as tours and activities taking place on the dig site, the Ness of Brodgar Trust also hosted activities and refreshments in the Stenness Hall. Orkney Museum had a table at the event and took artefacts out of the museum. Visitors had the opportunity to get hands-on with the collection and learn about different Neolithic artefacts. It was a busy day with approximately 500 visitors to the hall.
- The year has seen a number of significant acquisitions into the archaeology collection. Orkney Museum was also recently allocated the excavation assemblage from the Viking Age settlements at Bay of Skail, including Snusgar. Last year Orkney Museum was allocated the assemblage from the Isbister tomb following the closure of the Tomb of the Eagles Visitor Centre. A new purpose-built case was installed in Room 3 in December, showcasing some of the artefacts from this huge assemblage. Display cases and plinths were expertly designed and built by our technician Mark Scadding.
- There have been over 80 research enquiries this year relating to the Archaeology Collection at Orkney Museum.
- A significant research project is the Newark Project – a project led by the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, and funded by Historic Environment Scotland. Human remains cared for by Orkney Museum from Newark have been sampled for radiocarbon dating and ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis.
- The LIFTE (Looking in From the Edge) Project are researching trade in the Early Modern Period. The project is funded by AHRC and the DFG. This is adding to the understanding of trade in Orkney during the Early Modern Period. Orkney Museum has provided pottery samples for research as well as loaned objects to Stromness Museum for a special exhibition.



Dr. Siobhan Cooke-Miller, Archaeology Curator



Left: Post-Graduate placement student, Lois Combs, and their curated exhibition.



Right: Sneak peak of the Isbister (Tomb of the Eagles) exhibition

Collections - Social History

Overview

Orkney Museums have seen a huge increase in the amount of items delivered since Scapa Flow Museum opened in July 2022. Firstly this was because there was no relevant museum open to donate them to, and the fear was that they'd go straight into storage and never be seen again. Seeing the new museum open instilled new faith in our donors. Secondly, the sheer volume of visitors meant that connections were being made all over the country, and more and more items were being donated from families whose relatives were stationed here.



Ellen Pesci, Social History Curator

Key points

- Between April 2022 and December 2023 Ellen received donations from 89 donors, some of which were multiple items from one donor. Of that 89, 54 pertain to Wartime Orkney. When you consider that Scapa Flow Museum has approximately 250 objects on display, 54 new acquisitions is pretty impressive!
- She has handled in excess of 150 social history enquiries, not including those offering donations. Often these are war-related, with families of those stationed here enquiring about or offering information about their time here. Many others are enquiring about places in Orkney or about items we have in our collection often involving requests to access the collection for research, and many are people writing about a topic who need permission to use or photograph items from the museum.
- My most unusual request was for the ashes of a donor to be put next to the object they donated.....fortunately, the Museum Code of Ethics saved me in this instance!
- The New Year takes us through to plans for new items to be added to our displayed collections in Scapa Flow Museum, with a focus on the Salvage industry thanks to an abundance of high-quality donations dating from the 1920s to the 1960s salvage period.
- The service will also be taking on a new volunteer in January. Evie is an adult with additional support needs and loves the museum and art. She will be helping me every Tuesday to audit our prints and drawings collection.



Left: Signatures from survivors of the Royal Oak, gathered and written on handkerchief.



Right: Sculpted Norse God Ægir, god of the sea, found on lid of salvaged punchbowl from the German High Seas Fleet.

Collections - Digital

Overview

I joined the museum's team at the start of 2023, funded by the Scottish Islands Plans team, my focus is on making the museum's collection more accessible. The main thrust of this is through digitisation. Initially, I helped develop our new website as a foundation for putting our collection online, which has been received well. I also assist the curators for any tasks they need to complete.



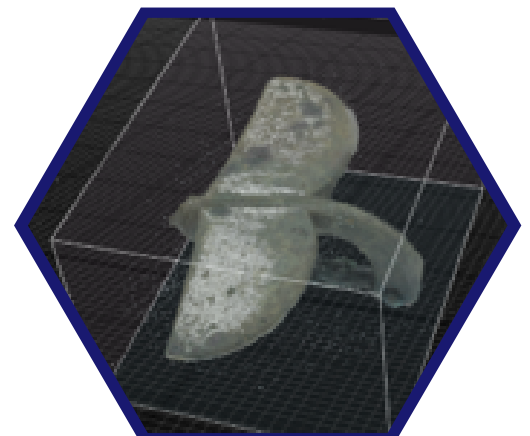
Chris Andrews, Islands Digital Collections and Heritage Officer

Key points

- Helped develop a new website for Orkney Museums (<https://www.orkneymuseums.co.uk/>) which has had 18,000 unique visitors this year, after a successful launch in May which has led to increased engagement, enquiries, and site visits.
- Have successfully added the initial collection to the website for everyone to view.
- Consolidated current digital asset holdings as well as digitising approx 750 objects in the collection. This work will be constantly ongoing throughout the term of my post.
- Started to create 3D models of some objects in the collection, making them available online as well as 3D printing scale reproductions of these objects.
- Sourced grant funding for £10,000 of software, hardware, and specialist equipment for digitising the collection.
- Organized professional photography of council visitor attractions for website, marketing, and general use. Funded by grants.
- I am the lead on transitioning our collections management system from Axiell CALM to Axiell Collections, this involves data mapping, migration, and final approval. From this, the catalogue will be made fully accessible online through a dedicated collections portal on our website.
- I have started a social media campaign to raise the museum service's profile to increase engagement. this will be taking the form of regular posts and a video series with colleagues and guests talking about objects and their roles.



Left: Initial online collection offering on website.



Right: 3D render of 1800 year old insect shaped brooch from archaeological dig at Howe.

Arts Development

Overview

The creatives we have in Orkney do an astonishing amount with modest resources, and it has been another year of recovery for this tenacious sector. It was a particular highlight to be able to share this work with the Scottish Government's Participatory Arts Committee Team and see Orkney written solidly into their report. Right across a scale that spans a Junior Curator workshop for a cohort of 20 to the magnificence of the SUN installation in St Magnus Cathedral that reached thousands, this work brings a significant quality of life to our Isles and shows Orkney punching way above it's weight in 2023. I can't wait to see what we have in store for 2024!

Keypoints

- **Creative Learning Network** -North Walls for My School, My Heritage portrait photography project. Artist Martin Laird worked with pupils to train them in portrait photography skills and the group produced a series of portraits of members of the Hoy Community that had been to the school and currently work in the local community.
- Dounby are currently working on Head Space: Twinning and Mentoring programme. This year the school twinned with Allan's Primary School, Stirling to share approaches to creative learning in the curriculum. Dounby School is currently displaying a Your Art World piece at the National Gallery in Edinburgh and worked on a further project based on their school mascot 'Bob'. Both staff and pupils presented and ran a practical modeling workshop at the recent Creative Learning Network Event in Aberdeen in October. Currently, the school is twinned with Eday School and staff are working on the development of creative learning strategies across the two schools.
- **Community Touring Pilot** - This September saw a pilot national touring show My Doric Diary being promoted for the first time in community halls in Stenness, Burray, South Ronaldsay, Flotta and Egilsay. This experience has left those halls wanting more touring into the County. A presentation of the pilot at the annual Community Halls meeting in September hopefully will attract even more halls to take a 'punt' and have a go at promoting. There is no cost for the shows and halls are able to keep 80% of the box office takings. The next round of shows available will be known in early December.
- **Touring Gallery** - The touring gallery returned to Orkney after the enforced break due to COVID-19. The Gallery will now tour here every other year. This year we were able to site the gallery in the Broad Street carpark, as well as touring to Dounby school and to an outer isle, and it experienced a considerable uplift of footfall including students from UHI attending the exhibitions.
- **Junior Curators at Scapa Flow Museum** - This year the Junior Curators (the cohort of North Walls school, Hoy) have worked on writing interpretation labels for the large object collection held in the Romney hut at the Museum. They also devised a treasure hunt-style leaflet for children visiting the Museum, and are working with graphic designer Kerry Cooper to design and test the flyer. A new project to 3D model objects for a handling collection for the Education Space will take place in the new year.



Emma Gee, Arts Officer



Touring Gallery Bus



North Walls School, Junior Curators

Arts Development

Key Points

- **Events and Festivals Sector Report and Development** - This year Arts Development and Economic Development worked together to publish a report on the Events and Festivals Sector, by the Sector, from Eyland Skyn. The Sector identified six key areas of required development: Data Capture and Marketing, Volunteering, Venues and Resources, Wider Infrastructure, Funding Opportunities and Future Potential Growth. It is intended to hold a Sector Event to look at the first four key topic areas in early 2024.
- **PACT Visit and Report** - In June this year, Orkney played host to a Parliamentary Participation and Communities consultation visit. This builds on the publication of The Culture Strategy for Scotland and had a particular focus on 'place-based' cultural policy. The visit included guided tours of the Stromness Museum, The WASPS studios and Solisquoy Printmakers and The Pier. A day of round-table conversations with Parliamentary representatives, local cultural organisations, local community representatives and Orkney Island Council Councillors and cultural managers took place at Stromness Community Centre. The subsequent report was recently published: [Culture in Communities: The challenges and opportunities in delivering a place-based approach | Scottish Parliament](#)
- **Remembering Together** - The national programme designed to memorialise the nation's experiences of COVID-19 entered its second year this year. Community liaison artists Emma Ainsley and John Phillips have worked with five local communities who wished to create community spaces in Orkney, this includes North Ronaldsay, Flotta, Shapinsay, Sanday and East Mainland. These communities are currently being linked up with artists who will support the communities to realise their plans in 2024.
- **Island Games** - Early conversations with the Island Games Trust have taken place and in development, there are programmes of events for both Stromness, centred around Northlight Gallery, and Kirkwall, centred around St Magnus Cathedral. Currently, there is an application to The Art Funds Commission Fund in process.



Orkney Island Games Logo



Emma Ainsley and John Phillips,
'Remembering together'

Funding Awarded



Culture Fund

£176,175 was awarded to local Arts, Culture and Heritage organisations through the OIC Culture Fund in 2022-23 and the same amount in 2023-24. Of this, £153,175 was distributed amongst the Key Clients: St Magnus International Festival; the Pier Arts Centre, Orkney Folk Festival, Stromness Museum and Birsay Heritage Trust. The remaining £23,000 was distributed through the Open Pot, which is decided each year by a competitive process and a review panel consisting of OIC Officers, Elected Members and representatives from stakeholder organisations including Creative Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland and Voluntary Action Orkney. In 2023-24 the Open Pot awards went to the following:

Round I	
Friends of Hoy Kirk	£1,010
George Mackay Brown Fellowship	£2,000.00
Holm Community Heritage at St Nicholas Kirk	£3,000
Orkney Arts Society	£2,000.00
Orkney Traditional Music	£2,500.00
The Connect Project, VAO	£3,000.00
Westside Cinema	£560.00
Round II	
Westray Connections	£2,000
Eday Community Enterprises	£500
North Ronaldsay Community Association	£975.00
Orcadian Story Trust	£3,000.00
Soulisquoy Printmakers	£2,500

Funding Awarded



Covid Recovery Fund for Culture:

This year saw the launch of the one-off Covid Recovery Fund for Culture. The aim of the fund is to support the sustainability of the cultural infrastructure within Orkney and to help stimulate activity to pre-pandemic levels – whether that be arts, heritage, or language (i.e. Orkney dialect). There was a pot of £240,000 for dispersal.

The deadline for applications was early June 2023 and 21 applications were received of which 20 were successful. The following organisations were funded:

Friends of Hoy Kirk (Hoy Heritage Centre)	£7,240.00
Kirkwall City Pipe Band	£18,000.00
The Orcadian Story Trust	£11,800.00
Orkney Agricultural Discussion Society	£4,437
Orkney Blues Festival	£2,500.00
Orkney Folk Festival	£5,000.00
Orkney Heritage Society	£7,577.00
Orkney International Science Festival	£37,300.00
Orkney Japan Association	£3,000.00
Orkney Music and Culture	£2,250.00
Orkney Pilgrimage	£2,000.00
Orphir Community Council	£8,100.00
Soulisquoy Printmakers	16,135
South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council	£1,040.00
St Mary's Preservation Trust	£3,000.00
St Magnus International Festival	£44,292
Stromness Drama Club	£18,968
Orkney Natural History Society Museum	£11,160.00
Orkney Traditional Music Project	£3,366.00
The Pier Arts Centre	£44,292

Funding Sourced



External Funding

During the reporting period well over £1 million of additional external funding has been brought into the Culture Service, including:

Total sourced (£)	Funder and use of funding
398,000	Groundwater Estate – Left to the service from the estate of James Groundwater of Queensland, Australia, to support the development of a new Viking Gallery in the Orkney Museum, and related works.
355,000	The Scottish Government's Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy: Islands Infrastructure Fund - Fund for the restoration of the historic Romney Hut at Scapa Flow Museum (via the Development and Infrastructure Team)
107,000	Orkney Islands Council & National Lottery Heritage Fund - £107,000 of Scapa Flow Museum contingency released.
75,000	The Scottish Government's Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy: Rural and Island Futures – Islands Policy Unit - Funding split over two years to fully fund the Islands Digital Collections & Heritage Officer role and pay for the development of a new Museums web site.
70,000	Museums Galleries Scotland – To support urgent repairs at Kirbuster Farm Museum
67,000	Friends of St Magnus Cathedral – Funded three years to support a new Curator (St Magnus Cathedral) full-time role. They also fund yearly a permanent seasonal visitor services assistant post, full time April-September and 1 day a week the remainder of the year.
15,000-20,000	Orkney Harbour Authority – Annual provision to support cost of additional staff in St Magnus Cathedral and The Orkney Museum on cruise ship visit days in high season.
25,000	European Regional Development Fund through NatureScot – Additional funding for digital works, including hardware, site photography and further website upgrades.
12,000	Museums Galleries Scotland - To support upgrade of service's Collections Management System and related schools outreach work.
3,659	National Fund for Acquisitions – To insure and move the SMS Aegir German Fleet silver punch bowl and associated objects.
2,500	National Fund for Acquisitions - For purchase of locally made, exhibition-quality Royal Oak model.

Funding Sourced



External Funding

This year the service saw the introduction of contactless donation points, which have proved to be hugely successful. Not only in increasing the number of donations but also in the total value donated. Anecdotally it hasn't reduced cash donations which shows that they have tapped into previously untouched funding.

The 'Donation Stations' were procured from a company named 'Good With Devices' who provides ongoing software and hardware support. They also, as part of the contract take a small percentage of each donation, even with this, the total has been significant. The service hopes that with this new year and staff training we it can continue to improve totals.

Figures relating to donations via contactless donation stations in 2023.

Visitor site	Number of donations	Total Donated (£)**	Average donation (£)
St Magnus Cathedral	3,466	22,179	6.39
Scapa Flow Museum	1,165	9,858	8.46
Orkney Museum*	538	3,532	6.57
Overall Total	5169	35,569	6.88***

*Orkney Museum had teething issues with connectivity so the donation station wasn't up and running until later in the year

**Total donations once the transaction fee has been deducted

*** Average of overall totals from 'Number of Donations' and ' Total Donated' columns. Not Average of 'Average Donation' column figures

Partnerships

Partnership working is at the core of museums and arts services throughout the world. The museums service work hard to maintain and develop current and future relationships so that we can share knowledge and resources. In Orkney, that means continuing to work with other heritage attractions and artists, supporting them, and providing advice where possible. In November 2023, it has had initial discussions of a possible partnership with Imperial War Museums, which has the potential to be an exciting venture.

In January 2023, following a visit to Orkney by the Director-General of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Professor Dominic Tweddle, the previous August, the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, recognising our shared aim to 'develop awareness and understanding of naval heritage, whether locally, nationally or internationally.' This brought immediate benefits, with NMRN providing advice and guidance on fund raising and the procurement of our new Axiell collections management system, hosting curator Ellen Pesci in Portsmouth for a week-long secondment in March, and both teams promoting and celebrating each other's activities through social media. There is no doubt this partnership is an excellent fit for the Museums service, given Orkney's unique 20th century naval heritage, and we are all looking forward to working with NMRN in the future.



Ellen Pesci (middle) visit to NMRN in knowledge exchange.

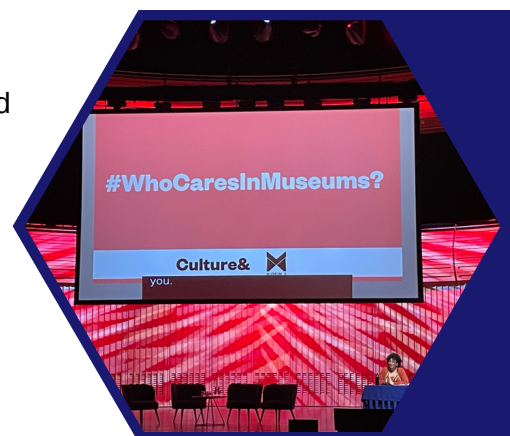


Glasgow Museums Resources Centre

In October 2023, Team Manager Nick Hewitt and Digital Collections Officer Chris Andrews traveled to Glasgow to visit sites under Glasgow Life's remit. This was an opportunity that arose from the Museum of The Year competition which has encouraged working partnerships between the 2023 cohort of finalists. During their time in Glasgow, they visited The Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums Resources Centre, Kelvinbridge Bridge, Kelvingrove, and The Riverside Museum. They learned how Glasgow Life approached capital projects, including The Burrell Collection re-development, and how they incorporated community projects, as well as their approach to digital display and how to make them accessible to everyone. Glasgow Life is at the cutting edge on this front, winning several awards for their work, including Museum of the Year 2023.

Glasgow's stores were also of great interest, as it was a great opportunity to efficiently and effectively store, care, and share a collection in a modern purpose-built building. We hope to put lessons learned to use in future projects, both capital and short term.

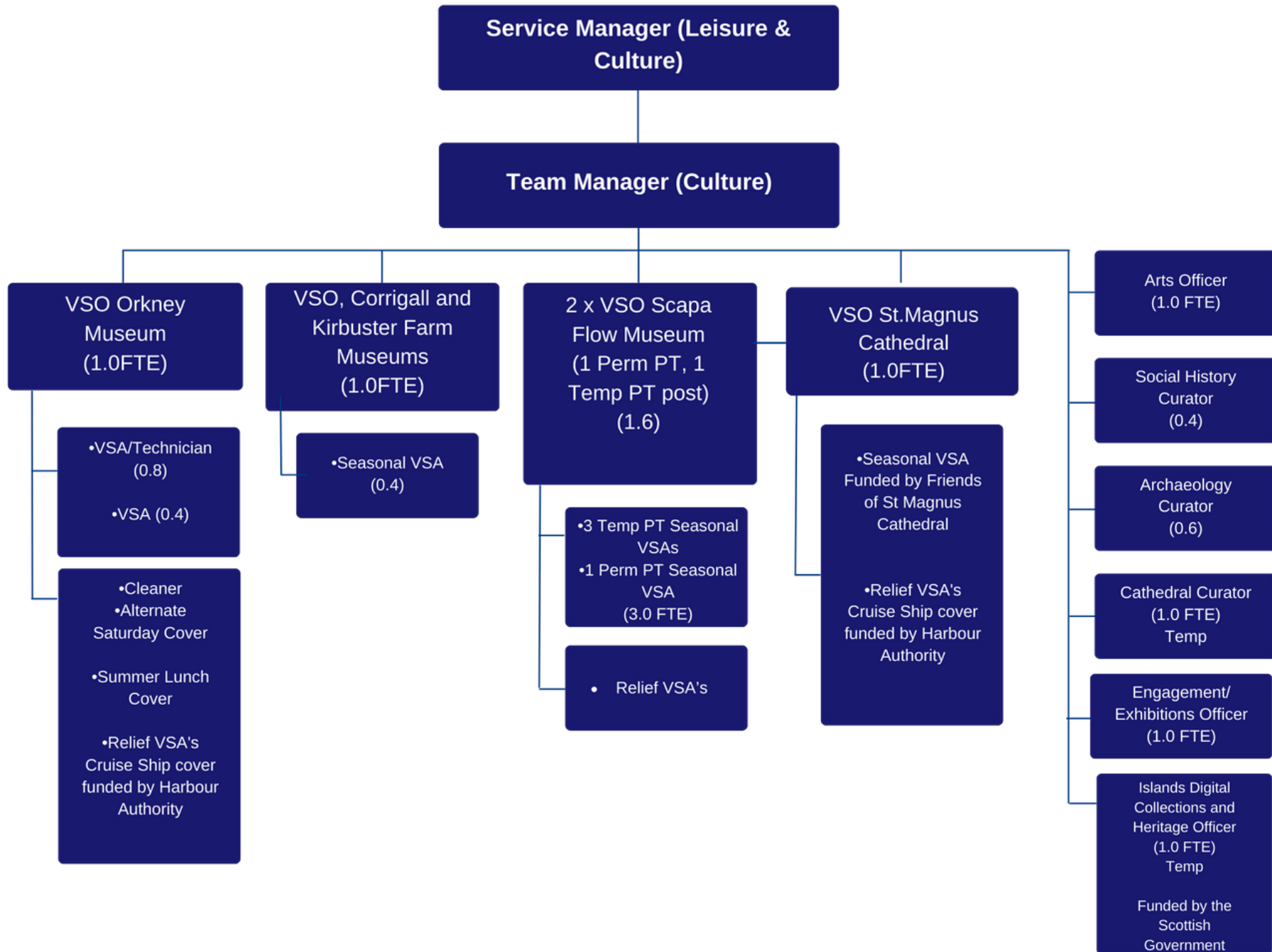
On 8 November, the Team Manager for Culture took part in a panel discussion at the 2023 Museums Association conference, which looked at the very difficult situation facing civic (local authority) museums in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Despite the early hour – the session started at 0800, the morning after the conference party at the Great North Museum – it was well attended, and the debate was lively. Although there is no disguising the challenges, there was a great deal of optimism, and everyone taking part derived a lot of comfort and reassurance from the fact that everyone is 'in the same boat', and broadly everyone saw the key to surviving and thriving as being working together and collaborating as much as possible.



Museums association Presentation stage

Orkney Arts, Museums and Heritage Staffing Structure 2023

Key:
 VSO=Visitor Services Officer
 VSA= Visitor Services Assitant





Contact Us



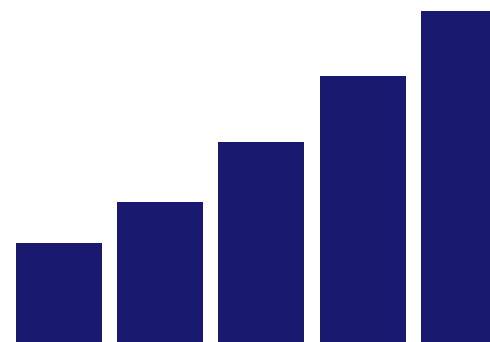
museum@orkney.gov.uk

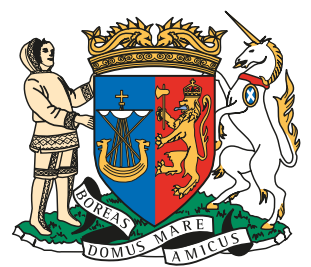


<https://www.orkneymuseums.co.uk>



OrkneyArtsMuseumsandHeritage





ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

2023

Leisure and Culture Service Orkney Libraries & Archive Annual Impact Report





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Manager's Statement

Vikki Kerr, Team Manager (Libraries & Archive)

Over the course of 2023 the library and the archive service has seen an increase in people physically visiting the buildings again after the COVID-19 pandemic, with both services being involved in very exciting, innovative, and rewarding projects.

People no longer think about libraries as just being a place to borrow books. Libraries are at the heart of community life; and for those who cannot make it into a branch library at Kirkwall or Stromness, there are the vital services of the home library and mobile library van, as well as sending book boxes to our Isles customers and to our schools.

2023 proved to be a year of big achievements for the library and archive teams. The archive team worked incredibly hard to make sure everything was ready for reapplying for Accredited status. Archive Accreditation is the UK quality standard that recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. A two-day inspection of the archive took place in October and the panel reported that the archive had retained its Accredited status in November. Achieving Accredited status demonstrates that Orkney Archive has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing, collections care and meeting the needs of all stakeholders. There are only eight other archival repositories in Scotland that have achieved Accredited status so far, so this accomplishment for Orkney Archive is very impressive.

There was also recognition of the hard work put in by all the library staff when in October the service was shortlisted for the Scottish Library and Information Council's Project Excellence Award. The awards recognise the outstanding levels of commitment, creativity and value libraries offer people and the communities they serve. Orkney Library was one of just six of Scotland's library service providers shortlisted. The service was recognised for its Digital and Sensory Experiences for All project, and showcased how sympathetic and imaginative use of technology can bring benefits to everyone within a local library community. While the service was not an overall winner, being shortlisted was a great achievement for a library service as small as Orkney's and highlighted nationally the range of services on offer within the library.

The library and archive team have also been selected as OIC VIP Award finalists under the Creativity category. This again reflects the amazing hard work that the teams put into their work each and every day and acknowledges the different ways in which everyone is working to deliver services to our communities at a time when resources are stretched.

In an effort to increase income, contactless donation stations were introduced into the library and archive in April of 2023, and a total of £220 was donated by the end of the year. This income adds to the cash donations that the library and archive receive.

Libraries and archives play a key role in contributing to peoples' mental health and well-being. I would like to thank all the staff for their incredible hard work, and I look forward to seeing all that is achieved over the next twelve months.

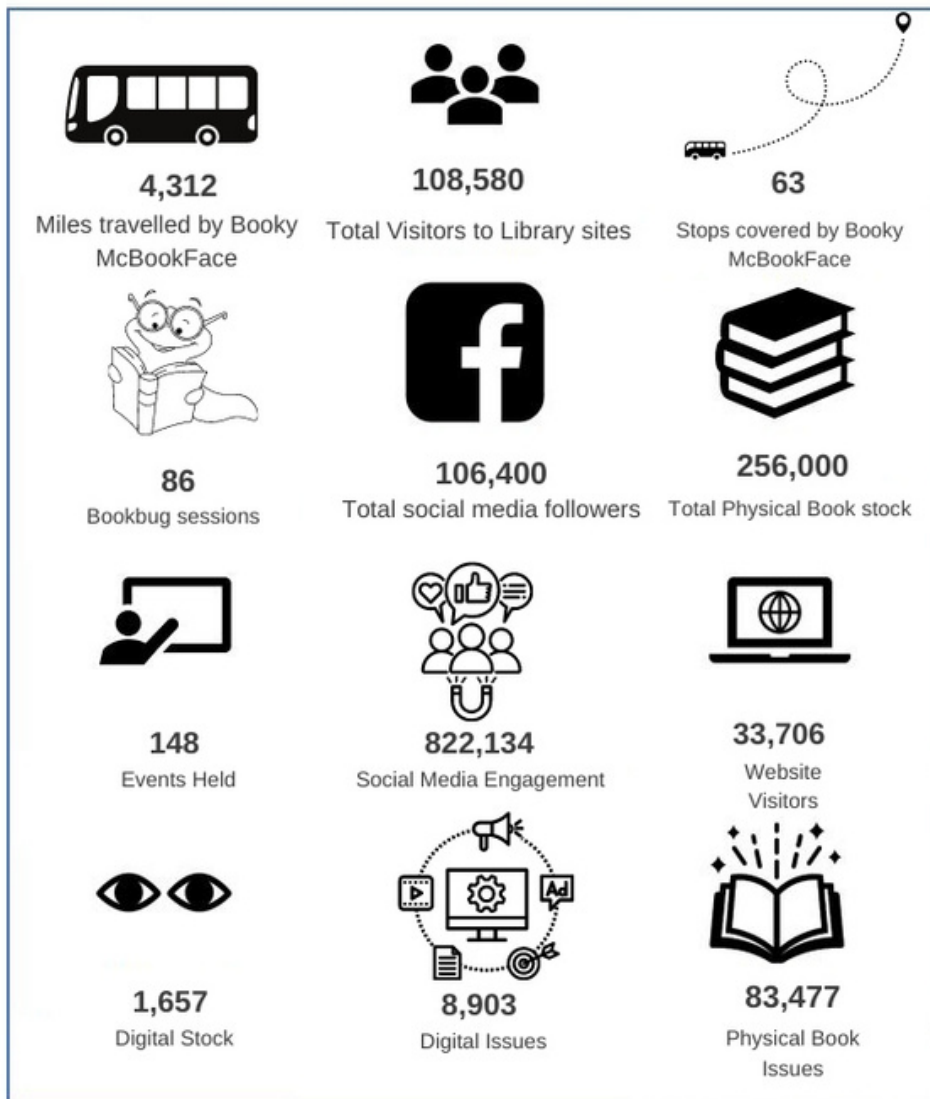


Library Facts and Figures



Statistics are gathered from the Orkney Library in Kirkwall, Stromness Library in the Warehouse Buildings, the Mobile and Home Library services.

There are over 256,000 resources available for library members to borrow, and the total number of items issued from the library service includes a vast range of books (with large print options available), audio books, CDs and DVDs, as well as puzzles, games, project resources and activity kits.



Breakdown of totals

	Kirkwall	Stromness	Mobile/Home Library
Members	4,717	619	644
Issues	64,785	7,933	10,759
Visitors	73,845	31,635	3,100

Library Survey 2023



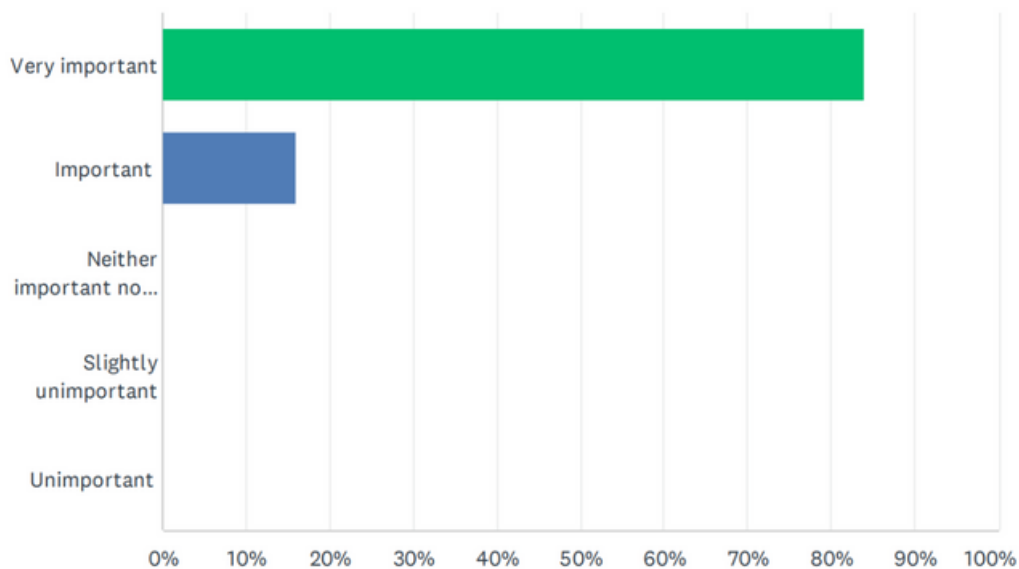
2023 was the first year running the new Scottish Public Library Survey, with the intention of measuring the impact of local library service provision across Scotland.

The survey ran for three weeks during October and gave people across Orkney the opportunity to have their say on how they feel their library services are performing and what impact the services have on them.

There was a total of 136 responses, which was above the 75-response rate target set by the Scottish Library and Information Council. Some of the key findings were:

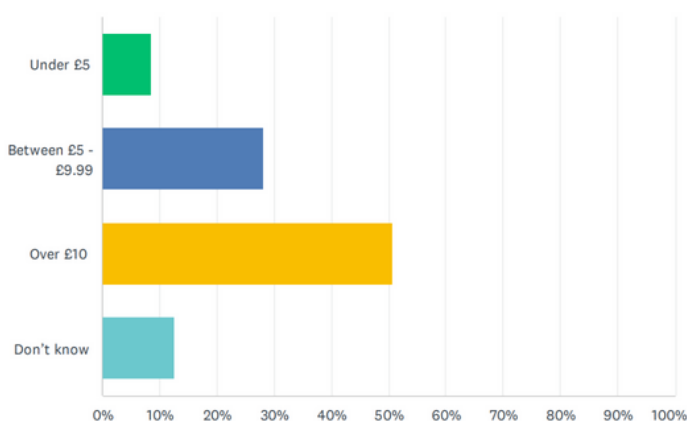
How important would you say the library is to you?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 4



When asked how much money their trip to the library had saved them that day:

Answered: 128 Skipped: 8

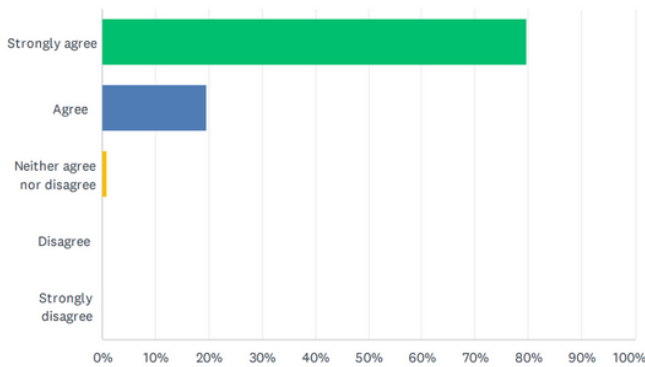


“The library van comes to our island and brings me books I have reserved online and the staff that come are wonderful...would be lost with out this service”

Library Survey 2023

To what extent do you agree with the following sentence? Using the library service improves my quality of life.

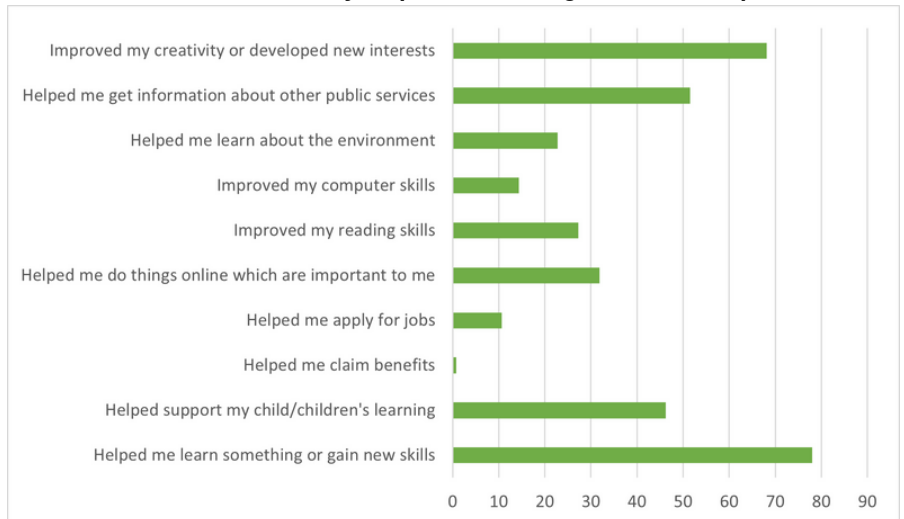
Answered: 133 Skipped: 3



Great in person, great on social media, great online /audio books too - Orkney Library is part of our community every day, not just on one occasion "

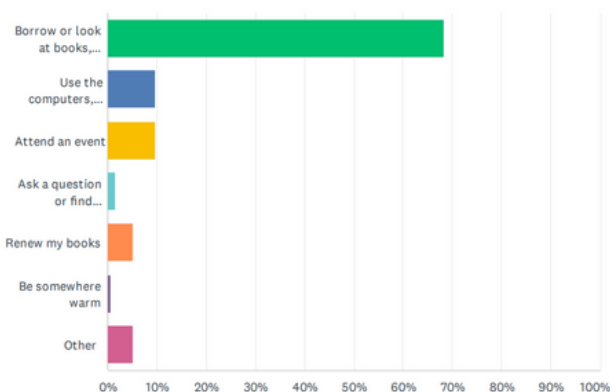
Having moved to this area a few years ago, I was finding it difficult getting to know folk. Joining a knitting group organised by the library helped in this respect as everyone was very friendly

When asked what the library helped with during their visit, responses were:



Why did you use the library service today (or, the last time you used it)?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 1



The results of the survey show how highly valued the library services in Orkney are by our local communities, and 85 respondents added individual comments at the end of the survey outlining specific examples of how the library has had a positive impact on their life. This drives the library staff to continue providing the best customer service possible and provides inspiration to continue to grow and develop services further within the library.

Library Events 2023



There has been a total of 148 events held in Orkney Library over the course of 2023. Events have ranged from author visits, crafting and sewing sessions, sensory and VR headsets sessions, book clubs, and partnership events with council and external colleagues across Orkney.



Bookbug Stromness

BOOKBUG

Over the course of 2023 there were a total of 86 Bookbug sessions held in Kirkwall and Stromness Libraries, as well as two intergenerational sessions out in the community. These fun, interactive classes are held mid-week as well as on alternate Saturdays, with 2410 children with accompanying adults attending.

YAP AND YARN

In 2023 we held 12 Yap & Yarn sessions, with 164 people coming along to work on individual and group knitting/crafting projects. These sessions take place fortnightly on a Monday afternoon during the winter months and is a great way for people to get together. Anyone is free to join in.



Dungeons and dragons poster

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

4 Dungeons and Dragons gaming sessions were held in the latter half of 2023 and are always booked up very quickly. These gaming sessions are always very lively, bringing together a mix of ages and gaming abilities. The volunteers who run these events are very enthusiastic and the library is filled with the sounds of mythical story-telling in action.

Library Events 2023



Lego Challenge

LEND AND MEND

Our Lend and Mend Hub sewing classes and mending events have proved very popular since they were introduced in June 2023. Between June and December, there have been 24 sewing sessions, with 133 attendees. More are planned in 2024 with waiting lists ready to go.



Lend and mend hub

AUTHOR VISITS

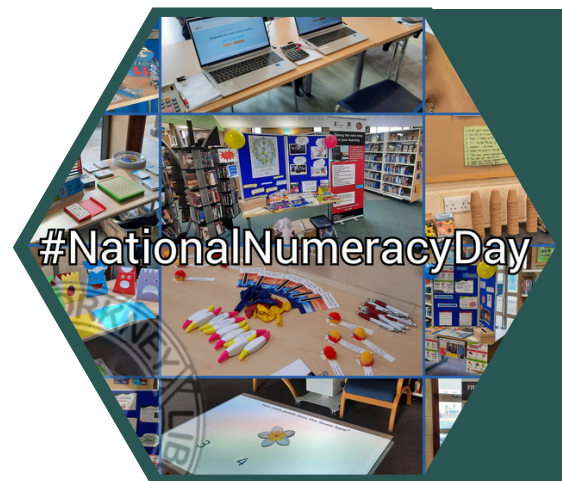
2023 also saw the return of many more in-person author visits and events. In May the UK's Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, came to the Kirkwall Library to give a dynamic poetry and illustrative event to children from Shapinsay and Stenness primary schools. Philip Paris, Lynn Johnson, Victoria Bennet, Britt Marcus, and Sean Gardner also gave their time to host events in the library which many enjoyed coming along to during the likes of Libraries Week and Book Week Scotland.



Joseph Coelho, Children's laureate Visit

PARTNER EVENTS

2023 was also a successful year for the library working in partnership with colleagues from the Learning Link, hosting a session in the library for National Numeracy Day in May, as well drop-in sessions in Kirkwall and Stromness for Get Online Week during October. This joined-up working allowed the library to reach new audiences, and to ensure resources are being used effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of our communities.



National Numeracy day

Library Projects 2023

While there are always projects going on across the library service (such as displays, home library and book boxes, crafting and event planning, and taking part in national campaigns and ensuring stock management is kept up to date etc), there have been two big projects taking place throughout 2023 which have taken considerable effort to get up and running by library staff, especially our Senior Library Assistants who have taken the lead on both projects.

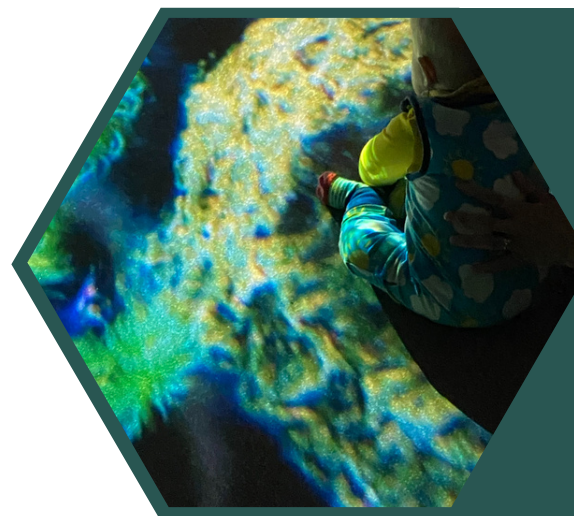
INTERACTIVE FLOOR DISPLAY

With the success of the VR headsets sessions working with partnership organisation across Orkney, the library decided to apply to the Public Library Improvement Fund late in 2022 to allow the purchase of an interactive digital floor projector, as well as sensory light tubes and tactile toys under a project title of Sensory Exploration in Orkney. The vision was to be able to create a dedicated sensory space within the library that would improve the health and well-being of our community members, of all ages, whereby the library could become a safe and welcoming calm space for everyone.



Interactive floor display

The funding was granted, and the digital floor projector and sensory room has been up and running since April 2023 with amazing results. There have been weekly dedicated sessions for use by Glaitness Primary School who have brought along children with additional support needs. The room is also generally open to anybody who wishes to make use of it through the week and has proved very popular with families on a Saturday. The main users have so far been children, but it is hoped that in the near future focus sessions can include older members of our communities. It has also shown that there is a place for partnership working to provide resources that help during times when budgets are coming under increasing pressure.



Interactive floor display

Library Projects 2023

LEND AND MEND

The other large-scale project that kicked off in the summer of 2023 was the Lend and Mend Hub. The library in Kirkwall was one of only 9 libraries throughout Scotland to be selected to be involved in this Scottish Library and Information Council funded initiative. The money to set up the Hubs came from the John Lewis Circular Future Fund, and it provides free access to equipment and opportunities to learn new skills to repair, re-use and recycle everyday items.

The Lend and Mend hub has 8 sewing machines, a digital embroidery machine and an overlocker that people can access for free. There is also a range of other equipment and working spaces to allow people to work on projects within the Hub.

There has been a lot to organise to make sure health and safety needs are being met within the space, staff learning how to use the equipment safely, and creating an induction programme for customers to attend before they can work in the Hub.

Thanks to excellent organisation and communication of staff, local tutors, and volunteers, there has been 24 Lend and Mend sessions taking place in the Hub since it opened, with 133 people enjoying learning how to sew, demonstrations of how the embroidery machine works, as well as drop-in mending sessions and Christmas sewing classes.

The next ventures for the Lend and Mend Hub are to expand on the non-traditional lending collections so that people can borrow equipment and supplies from the library that they might not be able to access any other way or have the need to purchase if only using occasionally. There will be more development on this during 2024.



Lend and mend hub



Lend and mend hub

Chamber and committees

Submitted by: Liam McArthur, Orkney Islands, Scottish Liberal Democrats.
Date lodged: Wednesday, 15 March 2023
Motion reference: S6M-08246

That the Parliament congratulates Orkney Library & Archive on being selected as one of the first sites in Scotland to host a Lend and Mend Hub, as part of a pilot project helping to tackle the cost of living crisis; understands that the initiative is funded by the John Lewis Partnership's Circular Future Fund and seeks to establish a network of circular community hubs across the country, which provide free access to repair, reuse, rent and upcycle everyday items; further understands that the initiative will provide the introduction of training sessions and educational workshops to allow people to gain skills and develop knowledge to help promote the environmental benefits of a circular economy; acknowledges what it sees as the many brilliant circular economy initiatives already taking place in Orkney, including by ReStart Orkney, Kirsteen Stewart and Orkney ZeroWaste; commends the award-winning and internationally-acclaimed Orkney Library & Archive for its ongoing innovative efforts to raise awareness of what local libraries and archives have to offer and to open up new ways of accessing these services, and wishes everyone involved all the very best in launching their Lend and Mend Hub later in 2023.

Supported by: Karen Adam, Clare Adamson, Jeremy Balfour, Colin Beattie, Miles Briggs, Stephanie Callaghan, Donald Cameron, Maggie Chapman, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Sharon Dowey, Annabelle Ewing, Meghan Gallacher, Pam Gosal, Stephen Kerr, Bill Kidd, Douglas Lumsden, Ruth Maguire, Gillian Martin, Stuart McMillan, Edward Mountain, Audrey Nicoll, Paul O'Kane, Emma Roddick, Douglas Ross, Paul Sweeney

Liam McArthur motion in Holyrood, congratulating Orkney Library And Archive for being one of the first sites to host a Lend&Mend hub

Archive Facts and Figures



Statistics are gathered monthly from researchers visiting the archive search room, what collections have been accessed and any copying/digitisation services utilised. There are also figures collated from the remote enquiries that the service receives every day, as well as the information being recorded from new deposits and cataloguing entries.



Archive Survey 2023



In June to July 2023 the Archive conducted a user consultation to establish how well the service was meeting to user and customer expectations.

There were 40 respondents from researchers who had been in visiting the archive searchroom during this period and the results will be used to help determine future objectives and goals for the service over the coming few years when the Archive Management Scheme is updated later in 2024/25.

Respondents were asked questions on the purpose of their visit to the Archive, to rate the services on offer, how representative the archival collections are, what other services would they like to see, and offer any other comments on the archive service in general.

Why are you visiting this archive today? (Please select all options which apply)			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	School/Academic research	28.21%	11
2	Architectural/ building / site research	5.13%	2
3	Family History	30.77%	12
4	Military History	2.56%	1
5	Social History	33.33%	13
6	General Browsing/ familiarising myself with the archive	15.38%	6
7	To find evidence relating to rights and entitlements	0.00%	0
8	To find information or evidence relating to my work or for the organisation I volunteer for	12.82%	5
9	To gather information for a talk/ publication/ presentation	25.64%	10
10	To volunteer	17.95%	7
11	Other (please specify):	5.13%	2

Archive Survey 2023



How satisfied are you with the following:						
Answer Choices	Very Satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Don't know/not applicable	Response Total
Opening hours	65.00% 26	30.00% 12	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.00% 2	40
Ease with which you found us	89.74% 35	5.13% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.13% 2	39
Appearance /upkeep of the building	87.50% 35	10.00% 4	2.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40
Access to the building	92.50% 37	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40
Ease of movement within building	92.50% 37	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40
Lockers	40.00% 16	10.00% 4	2.50% 1	0.00% 0	47.50% 19	40
Toilets	70.00% 28	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22.50% 9	40
Refreshment/rest areas	27.50% 11	22.50% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 20	40
Welcome/Reception	85.00% 34	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.50% 3	40
Booking system	47.50% 19	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	45.00% 18	40

I value the archive as a really important local resource. In future I intend to interrogate it regarding the history of my particular property and the surrounding locale...

Please rate how satisfied you are with the following services.						
Answer Choices	Very Satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied	Don't know/Not applicable	Response Total
Availability of seating	80.00% 32	12.50% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7.50% 3	40
Quality of our paper catalogues	42.50% 17	22.50% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35.00% 14	40
Quality of our other paper resources	59.46% 22	18.92% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	21.62% 8	37
Document ordering system	62.50% 25	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30.00% 12	40
Microfilm and microfiche facilities	40.00% 16	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	52.50% 21	40
Our copy services	43.59% 17	10.26% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	46.15% 18	39

This is a brilliant archive service. So much information and really helpful staff.

Archive Survey 2023



Overall, how would you rate this archive out of 10, with 10 being the highest score and 1 being the lowest?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	1	0.00%	0
2	2	0.00%	0
3	3	0.00%	0
4	4	0.00%	0
5	5	0.00%	0
6	6	0.00%	0
7	7	5.00%	2
8	8	5.00%	2
9	9	20.00%	8
10	10	70.00%	28

The staff go above and beyond to help all archive users and their genuine enthusiasm is infectious!

Do you feel that the archive collections are representative of our local communities?			
Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree	87.18%	34
2	Disagree	0.00%	0
3	Don't Know	12.82%	5

I am a freelance design consultant specialising in heritage interpretation. The Orkney Library and Archive are an invaluable source of information and images for my business.

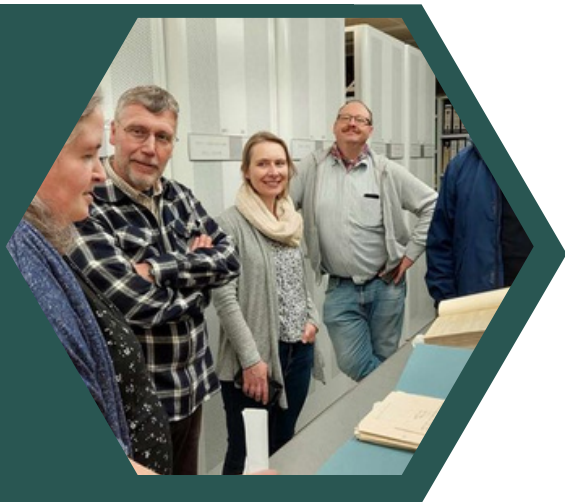
The responses were very encouraging and show a positive response to the archive service as a whole. There is a broad range of researcher types accessing the collections who feel that the collections are representative. The most requested improvement was to provide an online catalogue to the archival collections, which is something that is currently being worked on, and should be available within the first half of 2024.

Archive Events 2023



There was a total of 32 events involving the Archive during 2023, with over 300 people attending talks, workshops, exhibitions, palaeography sessions and tours of the archive.

Learning events - Internal



Swedish Defence University Visit

PALAEOGRAPHY GROUP SESSIONS

The Palaeography group meets fortnightly on a Monday night from 5.45pm – 6.45pm in the Archive searchroom with, members from other islands, who can attend online. Each week a piece of writing is selected for the group to transcribe, trying to decipher it word by word or even letter by letter depending on how difficult it is. Participants all learn from each other and improve their skills while also creating useful new transcriptions from old documents in the Archive.

EARLY MODERN ARCHIVE WORKSHOP

The Archivist took part in a workshop entitled 'The Orkney and Shetland Islands During the Early Modern Period: New Research Perspectives at UHI' and provided a presentation and a tour of the archive to the 13 people attending. The workshop was hosted by Kathrin Zickermann, who is a Lecturer for the Centre for History at UHI. The workshop strengthened the partnership working between the archive and UHI, highlighting relevant archival collections to ongoing research.



Kathrin Zickermann

ORKNEY BLIDE TRUST PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

Rebecca Marr who runs the BTPG used the Gunnie Moberg Archive of photos to curate an exhibition of photos in collaboration with the Pier Arts Centre. The group chose their favourite images from existing prints and then created their own photos using the inspiration gained from Gunnie's photos.

The Archivist and archive staff helped with advice on the collection, the selection of prints and framed images and the loan of the items to the Pier Arts Centre. None of the group had been to the Archive before.



Gunnie Moberg Archive/BTPG Display at Pier Arts Centre



Learning events - External



Royal Visits display by Orkney Archive

ORKNEY VINTAGE CLUB RALLY

The Archive staff attend this event every year and provides a display of old photos relative to the theme set for the event each year. The theme for 2023 was Royalty as it was a coronation year and therefore the display was of Royal visits to Orkney. Archive staff also took along unidentified photographs to ask people if they recognised anyone in them, resulting in information being provided for 167 photographs which is fantastic.

ST MAGNUS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

For the second year running the Archivist gave a talk on a specific collection or interesting document in the Archive. The talk entitled "Mystery Iron Box of Jewels" told the story of the Palaeography Group and its transcription and investigation of a document dated 1654 in which a box of jewellery consisting of diamonds, pearls, gold, and blood beads was opened and listed by some of Oliver Cromwell's men in Kirkwall. The event was well attended by 33 members of the group, and the archivist received good feedback on the talk, with an invitation to return in 2024.



Talk to friendship group -Iron Box of Jewels poster



Orkney Vintage Club Rally

EXHIBITIONS - INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL

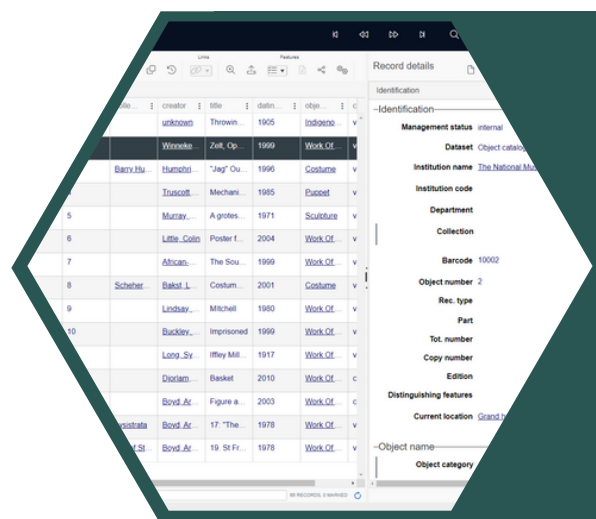
- A selection of Nature Archive and books to coincide with the Orkney Nature Festival
- Archival Sources of Medical History
- Display of Royal Visit Photographs
- Display of Christmas Cards from the Archive
- Display of Royal Visit Photographs, Orkney Vintage Rally
- Gunnie Moberg Archive prints in Things I want to look at a little longer
- Stromness Museum Winter Exhibition: Looking in from the Edge (LIFTE)

Archive Projects 2023

The archive team have been busy working on various projects throughout 2023, including cataloguing, storage, and preservation work, as well as research for social media posts and outreach work. This project work is in addition to running the public searchroom and assisting with researchers' queries and answering all the remote enquiries that come in every day. There are some projects which have taken a lot of time and effort to achieve and so are worth highlighting in their own right.

AXIELL COLLECTIONS

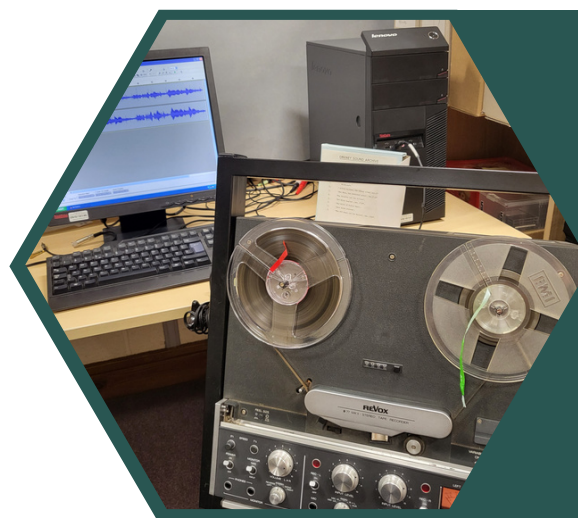
The archive is currently in the process of migrating all of its catalogued data, alongside Museums, into a new system called Axiell Collections, which will allow for the better management of collections going forward, as well as being able to offer an online catalogue to customers for the first time. There has been a lot of preparation work involved in making sure the data was ready for the migration process and working with colleagues in Museums to ensure that the new system will be fit for purpose. This work should be completed by the summer of 2024.



Screenshot of Axiell test environment

DIGITISATION AND DIGITAL PRESERVATION

The new Digital Archivist Trainee has also been hard at work ensuring the archive is moving forward with digital preservation and that our digital collections are appropriately stored and backed up to make sure we are compliant with how we manage these collections in the future. This has involved liaising with IT and Information Governance colleagues, as well as being part of a country-wide archive professional digital preservation group looking at consistent approaches to this area. There has also been a lot of ongoing work to continue digitising the archive's extensive sound and photographic collections to ensure they remain accessible to researchers over the coming years.



Sounds digitisation

LIFTE (LOOKING IN THE FROM THE EDGE) PROJECT:

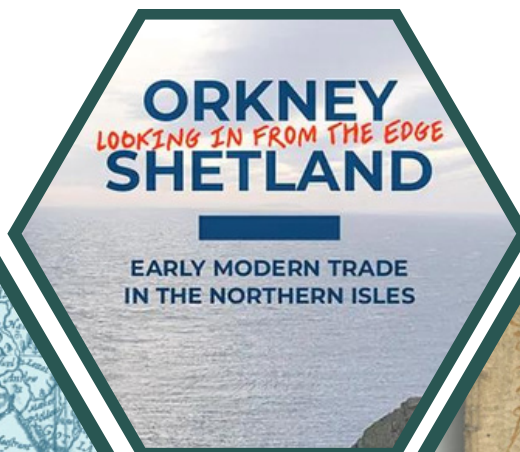
The contribution by the archive to the LIFTE project has been ongoing throughout 2023. The Palaeography Group has taken part in the LIFTE Project by transcribing documents which relate to Orkney's trade with other countries around the North Sea and also Ireland. LIFTE is a three-year programme involving the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute, the University of Lincoln and the German Maritime Museum, in Bremerhaven. The archive connection with the LIFTE project has raised the profile of the Early Modern 17th century records held in the archive, and this has generated a lot of interest in collections that are largely unstudied as of yet.



Palaeography- Obligation PW from William Middleton 1677



LIFTE Stromness Museum exhibition poster



LIFTE booklet cover. Available to download online.



Palaeography- Baikie books

Library and Archive Volunteers



Without the dedication and commitment from those in our communities who volunteer in the library and archive, there would be a big gap in the project work and events that take place within the service.

The Library and Archive volunteers, young and old, dedicate their time each week to producing valuable research resources, as well as generally helping us keep the library tidy, producing displays, helping run events and activities and giving us ideas for future projects.

All of the volunteers are recruited via Voluntary Action Orkney, and this partnership is invaluable. Not only do we help some of our volunteers achieve credits towards the likes of the Saltire Aware, we also know that our volunteers find it beneficial to their health and mental wellbeing when they are spending time here in the library and archive.

We held a special thank you party for them all during Volunteers Week in June 2023 as a small way of showing our appreciation to all those who come in to help, and we look forward to seeing what projects our volunteers get up to in 2024.

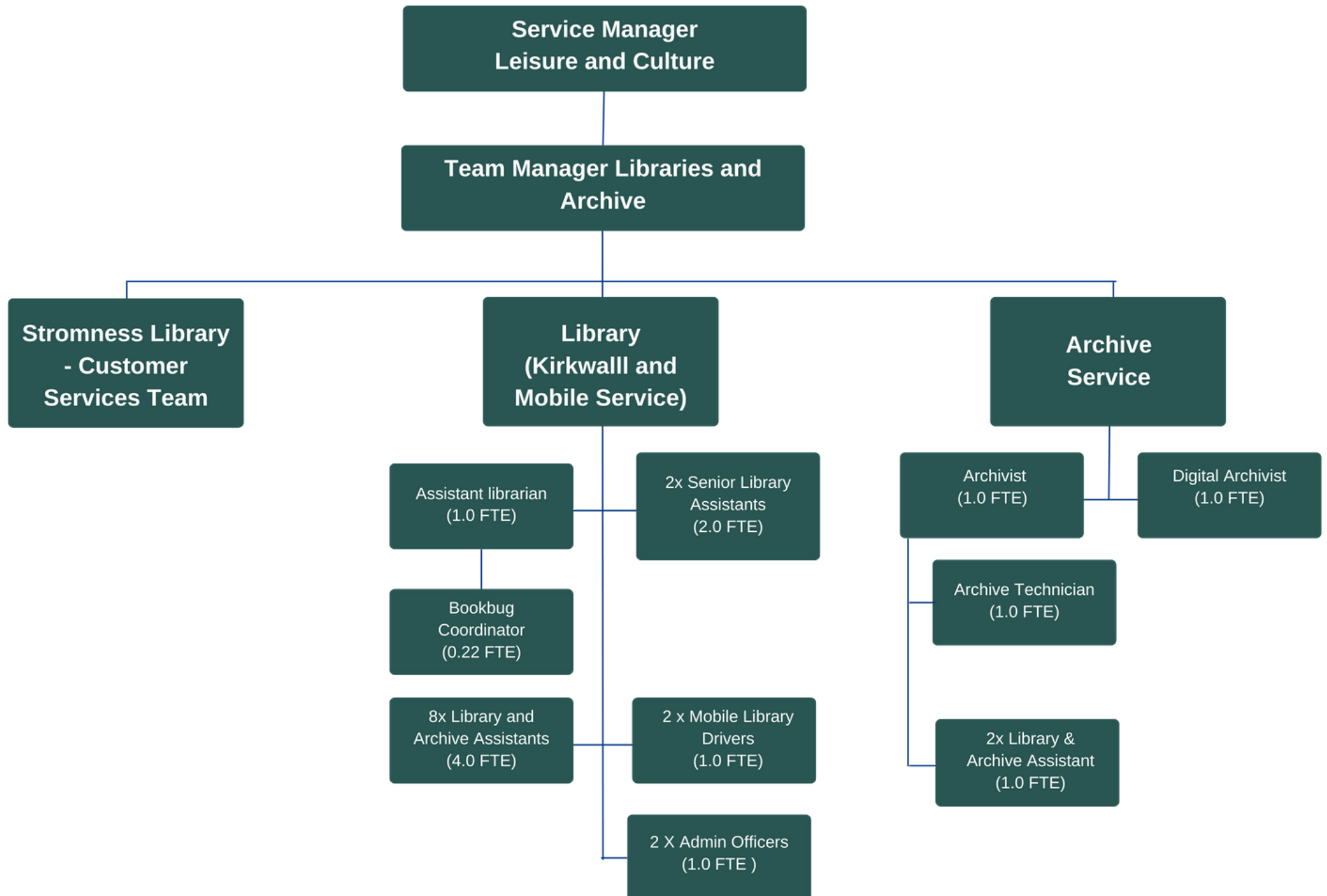


Photographic archive



Volunteers at work

Libraries and Archive Staffing Structure 2023





Contact Us



library@orkney.gov.uk



Archives@orkney.gov.uk



<https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/>



01856 873166

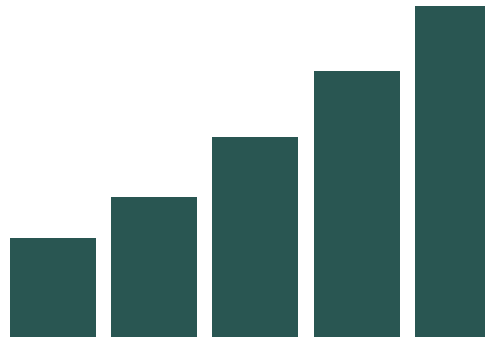


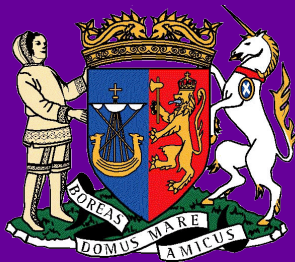
<https://www.facebook.com/orkneylibraryandarchive>



[@OrkneyLibrary](https://twitter.com/OrkneyLibrary)

Orkney Library and Archive , 44 Junction Road ,Kirkwall ,KW15 1AG





ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL

LEISURE & CULTURE SERVICE



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2023

'Learning Through Adventure'





OUTDOOR EDUCATION REPORT 2023



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OVERVIEW

Outdoor Education Advisor Planning Checklist

- Update new programme information for schools, leaders and parents.
- Finalise costs and dates.
- Book and chair 28 pre-programme meetings.
- Update Risk Assessments, Safety Guidelines and Staff Handbook.
- Complete a full inventory of outdoor equipment.
- Test and log all safety equipment checks.
- Manage minibus and trailer servicing.
- Book instructor allocation, accommodation and Hoy Centre use.
- Oversee Visit Policy staff training and update EVOLVE software



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2023

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Planning for the 2023 Outdoor Education Programme started in mid-October 2022 to coincide with the time when schools request information and dates for next year's programmes.

The short but focussed period of time (between the end of the primary 6 Outdoor Education Programme and the start of the Autumn half term), offered limited time for the Outdoor Education Advisor to plan, update, and produce the 2023 programme information including a calendar of proposed dates and programme costs. This information was sent out to all schools and shared with parents during the autumn half term break.

In December 2022 schools were sent leader information packs and confirmed booking dates. In total 27 pre-programme planning meetings were booked at the end of 2022, and completed during February to March 2023. This year there were a number of school strike days which unfortunately clashed with meeting dates. This caused a delay in 6 planned meetings which were rescheduled at a later date.

Additional activity programme planning was also completed with a representative of the Northern Isles Landscape Project who wished to fund and offer an additional 5 days of activity during the summer school holiday period.

It was important to ensure all programme planning was completed by the end of March 2023, as after this time, the Outdoor Education Advisor was fully focussed and involved in the Hoy Centre set up, instructor inductions and the safety management of the Hoy residential programmes from mid-April.

WINTER MAINTENANCE & CHECKLISTS

Between October 2022 and April 2023 the Outdoor Education Advisor continued to work in the Education offices, at Unit 4, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall and at the Hoy Centre. Work included a variety of office and outdoor based tasks including managing minibus and trailer maintenance; updating a full inventory of outdoor equipment; servicing all bikes and testing safety equipment; collating pupil and staff feedback; producing the annual report; overseeing the Visit Policy EVOLVE staff training and preparing instructor training documentation for the upcoming year.

The winter period also incorporated the Outdoor Education Advisor taking annual leave and any Time off in lieu accumulated during the activity programme period.

OVERVIEW

Equipment Management, Minibuses and Trailers

- All equipment stored in Hoy Centre Containers.
- Equipment cleaned and safety checked annually



- 3 minibuses serviced
- 7 equipment trailers serviced



MINIBUSES AND TRAILERS

The 2023 programmes made regular use of all 3 minibuses and the 7 equipment trailers available. All vehicles had a 3 monthly safety check and were annually serviced.

All 7 trailers were inspected and serviced by Orkney Motors.

It is to be noted (as in previous annual reports) that Outdoor Education only has allocation for 2 passenger carrying vehicles and yet (when at full centre and programme capacity, 82 % of time) regularly using 3 vehicles to transport passengers, outdoor equipment and to tow a range of trailers to the various outdoor venues and schools visited throughout Orkney during the April to October period.

It is anticipated that in 2024 there will be 2 minibuses taken off the road but only replaced with 1 new vehicle, unless an agreement by senior management can be made to increase the allocation of vehicles required or keep a current older vehicle in the fleet.

VISIT POLICY

The Visit Policy continued to be updated and managed by the Outdoor Education Advisor, the Team Leader (Resources) and a Senior administration Officer member throughout 2023.

Responsibilities within the Education Service team in relation to the Visit Policy management have been refreshed, and this will hopefully reduce some of the workload originally completed by the Outdoor Education Advisor into the future.

The Visit Policy has had minor updates to some of the user documents which required an updated GDPR statement change. Other changes to EVOLVE included reducing wording in the Visit Form explanation boxes and on the home-pages.

Training for practitioners, leaders, teachers, and headteachers has been ongoing throughout the year on a request basis and via the You-Tube training video within EVOLVE. The 1 hour training video was produced in 2021 by the Outdoor Education Advisor for new users.

The inclusion of the new EVOLVE-Go mobile application is now available for users who have access to an OIC mobile device. The web based application allows EVOLVE users to input 'Local Area Visit' data whilst away from an OIC desk based computer. The mobile application additionally offers the user important links to emergency contact numbers and a set of safety management procedures.

OVERVIEW

Programmes Offered in 2023

Secondary 2 Hoy Residential

- 2.5 day activity programme, 2 half day activities, 1 full day journeying and overnight camp.



Primary 6 In-School Activities

- 3 day activity programme, up to 6 half day activities.



Primary 7 Hoy Residential

- 4-5 day activity programme, up to 9 half day activities.



OUTDOOR PROGRAMMES OFFERED

The focus and goal of Outdoor Education is to offer all primary 6 and secondary 2 aged pupils the opportunity to take part in a variety of outdoor education learning, activities, and experiences. Between 2019 and 2022 through consultation with headteachers, the range of outdoor education programmes being offered have gone through an important period of refresh, update, catch-up and change. This transition period was also important so as to ensure no pupil was left without an opportunity to take part in an outdoor education experience during the pandemic period.

In 2023 we were in a position to offer two core outdoor education programmes for primary 6 and secondary 2 pupils, with an optional 4 to 5 day residential programme for primary 7 pupils.

- **Secondary 2 Hoy Residential Outdoor Education Programme**

The 3 day residential programme based at the Hoy Centre was an opportunity for secondary 2 aged pupils to take part in a focused adventure activity programme which offered pupils a choice of age relevant half day activities, plus a full day activity involving a group journey on water or land. The second night, following on from the full day journey, involved an evening and overnight camp. This gave pupils the opportunity to learn and practise new campcraft skills giving pupils an insight into the skills required for the Expedition section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award offered to pupils at secondary 3 age.

- **Primary 6 In-School Outdoor Education Programme**

The 3 day programme based in each participating school was offered to all primary 6 aged pupils in the 2023 / 24 academic year during the autumn term. The activity programme consisted of up to 6 half day activities on land and water. The programme aimed to offer new experiences; develop and nurture physical and emotional skills; promote personal wellbeing, and encourage a healthy lifestyle. A wide range of transferable skills were incorporated into each activity. The programme was offered within the normal school day in familiar local surroundings. For smaller schools there was the added opportunity to work together with another schools when taking part in a joint programme.

OVERVIEW

■ NORTHERN ISLES LANDSCAPE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

■ Islands Visited:

SANDAY
STRONSAY
EDAY
SHAPINSAY
ROUSAY



■ Activities Offered:

PADDLEBOARDING
KAYAKING
ARCHERY
BUSHCRAFT
RAFT-BUILDING
BEACH SCULPTURES



OUTDOOR PROGRAMMES OFFERED Cont'd.

• (Optional) Primary 7 Outdoor Education Hoy Residential Programme

The 4 or 5 day residential programme for primary 7 aged pupils was based at the Hoy Centre. This year was the first time we have offered the programme to all primary schools. Due to the high up-take and in order to include all interested schools, many smaller schools joined together and shared their programme and the Hoy Centre. The programme included a wide range of up to 9 adventurous half day activities on both land and water within the Hoy environment. Pupils were given the unique opportunity to live and work together in a residential setting and work together as a social group. The longer residential programme enabled pupils to settle into a busy but positive routine, enabling more time for activity, learning and review including making friends with peers from other schools.

All pupils were offered activity review sheets and were involved in group feedback and reflection sessions led by instructors. All pupils were awarded a certificate on completion of the programme completed.

OTHER ACTIVITY OFFERED

Funding was offered by the Northern Isles Landscape Project (N.I.L.P.) to deliver 5 consecutive days of activity on 5 different islands. The offer of 2 activities per day on each island involved 2 instructors working alongside a local learning tutor. The aim was to offer exciting outdoor based activity which also encouraged local island children to interpret the island landscape around them.

Other activities offered in March 2023 included indoor archery with the Blide-Trust and pupils from Dounby Primary School.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITIONS

Support for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions within Orkney in 2023 included the Outdoor Education Advisor offering leader skills training as part of an Expeditions Supervisor training weekend during the 2023 winter period.

An ongoing dialogue between the Outdoor Education Advisor and the new Orkney Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager has continued throughout 2023 with a focus on providing Expedition Supervisor and Assessor skills training and update workshops.

OVERVIEW

Activities Offered

- 16 different activities available during the Outdoor Education Programmes on Hoy in 2023
- Up to 9 activities were offered to Primary Schools during the Primary 6 in-school Programme.



ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

A wide range of outdoor adventure activities on land and water were offered throughout the April to October period.

With all outdoor equipment being based at the Hoy Centre during the residential programmes, Instructors could be flexible in their choice of activities to suit the group's learning aims and outcomes and also match the environmental conditions each day.

Activities offered during the primary 6 in-school Activity Programmes were chosen on the basis of them being easily set up, stored, managed and efficiently transported between schools using the trailers and minibuses available.

The following activities were available to residential programmes based from the Hoy Centre between April to July:

Abseiling

Tyrolean Traverse

Hill / Coastal Walking

Orienteering

Bushcraft

Problem Solving / Team Games

Archery

Camping

Gorge Walking

Cycling

Canoeing

Kayaking (sit on / In)

Raft Building

Coasteering

Snorkelling

Paddleboarding

The following activities were available to the Primary 6 in-school Activity Programmes between August and October (including visits to outer isles schools):

Archery

Climbing Tower

Bushcraft

Problem Solving / Team Games

Canoeing

Kayak (sit-on)

Raft Building

Paddleboarding

Orienteering

OVERVIEW

Instructors and Staffing

- A 3 Year Instructor Contract awarded to Adelong Training.
- 101 Days of Activity Instruction with 279 instructor work days.
- Maximum of 3 Contract Instructors plus the Out Ed Advisor on each Programme.
- 13 Contract Instructors worked on programmes in 2023.
- 11 Instructor Induction Days were offered by Outdoor Education Advisor in 2023.



INSTRUCTORS AND STAFFING

Having high quality instructors who possess the relevant qualifications and experience, are a major key to the success of the pupil's outdoor learning and a positive outcome for each programme offered to schools.

In order to maintain and ensure a high level of instruction is offered to all schools, the model chosen this year (as in the past 9 years) was to source suitable instructors through a tender contract agreement. In January 2023 a 3-year contract for staffing was awarded to Adelong Training.

The contract in 2023 included up to 3 instructors working throughout the programme. Each instructor was required to work a minimum of 15 days and possess suitable experience and qualifications to deliver activities, including a 'B' or 'D1' type driving licence. Each instructor received 2 days of staff training and induction at the start of their contract period.

The staffing contract included accommodation in either the Rackwick Outdoor Centre when working with Hoy residential based programmes (April to July), or at Birsay Outdoor Centre whilst working in schools (August to October). Self-catering accommodation was used whilst visiting ferry linked Outer Isles schools.

Between April to October there were 7 male and 6 female contract instructors employed for 101 activity days in 2023. Of these, there were 7 returning instructors from past years work. Staff worked 5 days per week, up to 8.5 hours per day, plus any additional overnight camps during the secondary 2 programmes. There was a total of 279 instructor work days in 2023.

On a day to day basis, the Outdoor Education Advisor managed, trained and actively supported the contract instructor team. This included leading staff meetings, managing equipment overseeing transport logistics and producing activity programmes.

Additional requirements (to comply with licensing requirements) included completing staff observation reports, overseeing In-house training / assessments and ensuring all operating procedures / risk assessments were up-to-date. There were 11 staff training days and 20 staff observation days completed.

Other staff involved in the efficient running of the Outdoor Education Programmes in 2023 included the Centre Wardens based at the Hoy Centre and Birsay Outdoor Centre, the office administration and finance staff based in council offices in Kirkwall and the catering team at Stromness Academy.

OVERVIEW

AALA Licensing and 'Orkney Outdoor Education' Facebook Page

- 18 month Licence Awarded to OIC in 2023.
- Next Licence Inspector Visit in May 2024.
- The 'Orkney Outdoor Education' Facebook Page included a daily diary and pictures added each day.



- 1297 Facebook Page followers.



ADVENTURE ACTIVITY LICENCE AUTHORITY

An 18 month Adventure Activity Licence was awarded to the Council in October 2022 covering all outdoor adventure activity offered by Outdoor Education including all Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions through until April 2024.

The longer duration of licence (Normally 12 months) is to allow the Licence Inspector to visit Orkney during the Hoy Residential Outdoor education Programme in May 2024.

This allows the inspector to see all aspects of the provision offered by Orkney Islands Council at different times of the year.

It is anticipated that the formal licence renewal application will begin in January 2024 and an inspection will take place in June 2024.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Relevant activity pictures, news and information was added to the 'Orkney Outdoor Education' Facebook page on a daily basis by the Outdoor Education Advisor throughout the activity period.

Each daily post showed a summary of the activities offered, the school attending and activity photographs of participants taking part.

To keep track of the activities days offered, each daily post was numbered numerically (1-90) for each day that information was added.

In 2023 there were 90 daily activity posts added. To date there are 54 organisations and 1297 individuals following the Orkney Outdoor Education page.

There was a highest daily single peak of 756 people who interacted, looked at, or received at least one or more of the day's posts.

There were a total of 586 individual people between April and October who engaged with the page via a comment or like.

Many of the people engaged and following (77% female, 23% male) were generally Orkney based and linked to pupils or staff who have previously or currently attended a Programme.

In 2024 we plan to look to use other web-based platforms for sharing pictures and a daily diary of events which can be easily and safely accessed by participants and leaders.

OVERVIEW

Participating Schools & Groups

- ◆ Secondary 2 Hoy Residential Programme: 4 Schools



- ◆ Primary 7 Residential Programme: 19 Schools



- ◆ Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme: 18 Schools
- ◆ N.I.L.P. Activity Days: 5 Islands



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND GROUPS

The following schools and groups participated in a variety of Outdoor Education and Activity programmes during 2023:

Secondary 2 Hoy Residential Programme, 23 days (May-June)

Stromness Academy (3 Groups) Westray Junior High School
Kirkwall Grammar School (4 Groups) Sanday Junior High School

Primary 7 Hoy Residential Programme, 38 days (April-June)

Dounby Primary School Evie Primary School
St Andrews Primary Sanday Junior High School
Westray Junior High School Stronsay Junior High School
Orphir Primary School Stenness Primary School
Glaitness Primary School Papdale Primary School
Firth Primary School Stromness Primary School
Shapinsay Primary School Rousay Primary School
North Walls Primary School Eday Primary School
Burray Primary School Hope Primary School
North Ronaldsay Primary School

Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme, 3 days (June),

North Walls Primary School

Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme, 35 days (August-October)

Hope Primary School Burray Primary School
St Andrews Primary Shapinsay Primary School
Papdale Primary School (3 group) Glaitness Primary School
Firth Primary School Orphir Primary School
Stromness Primary School Stenness Primary School
Dounby Primary School Evie Primary School
Rousay Primary School Sanday Junior High School
Westray Junior High School Papa Westray Primary School
Stronsay Junior High School

Northern Isles Landscape Project, 5 days (July)

Sanday, Eday, Stronsay, Shapinsay & Rousay

Duke Of Edinburgh Expeditions

Sanday, D of E Award Group
KGS, D of E Award Group
Stromness Academy, D of E Award Group

Other Groups

Blide Trust
Dounby Primary School

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF 2023



Total activity days completed:	101 Days
Total activity day places used:	1679 Day Places
Participant day places unused / not filled :	228 Day Places
Total individual participants offered activity:	567 Participants
<i>Comprising:</i>	
<i>Primary 7 aged participants engaged:</i>	<i>136 Participants</i>
<i>Secondary 2 aged participants engaged:</i>	<i>189 Participants</i>
<i>Primary 6 aged participants engaged:</i>	<i>242 Participants</i>
Total visiting staff, residential programme:	58 Visiting Staff
Total visiting staff on in-school programme:	9 School Staff
Total islands visited (in-school programme):	4 Outer Islands
Total number of overnight camping nights:	9 Nights
Total Hoy Residential nights completed:	39 Nights
Maximum staff / instructors on programme:	4 Staff
Total instructor induction / training days:	11 Days
Total number of Instructor work days:	278 Days
Maximum number of groups per day:	3 groups
% of programme requiring 3 instructors:	82 %
Total vehicles / minibuses on programme:	3 Vehicles
Total number of trailers used on programme:	7 Trailers

APPENDIX 1.1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

S2 HOY 3 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

There was a total of **187 responses** to the Questionnaire offered to **secondary 2 aged participants** at the end of their Hoy residential programme.

The first 8 questions required them to circle the most appropriate answer.

1) Never 2) Some of The Time 3) Most of The Time 4) A Lot of The Time 5) All The Time

The participant responses are given in percentages:

Q1. I looked forward to trying new activities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	3%	19%	46%	32%

Q2. I enjoyed spending time outdoors

1	2	3	4	5
0%	4%	18%	39%	39%

Q3. The instructors were friendly and helpful

1	2	3	4	5
0%	3%	9%	29%	59%

Q4. I felt safe and able to trust others

1	2	3	4	5
2%	4%	14%	37%	43%

Q5. I learnt new skills whilst taking part

1	2	3	4	5
0%	6%	18%	36%	40%

Q6. I worked with others and solved simple problems

1	2	3	4	5
1%	2%	12%	40%	45%

Q7. I was able to share my opinion or feelings

1	2	3	4	5
0%	4%	16%	42%	38%

Q8. I would like to take part in more new activities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	2%	13%	35%	50%

APPENDIX 1.2

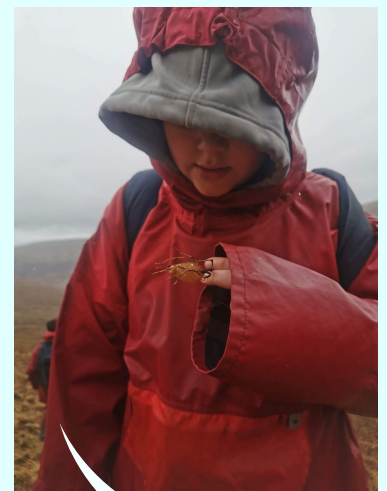
PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED S2 HOY 3 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

Question 9 asked secondary 2 aged participants which was their favourite, or most enjoyable activity.

The **top 3 activities are highlighted in red** with the number to the right, relating to % of Participants.

Secondary 2 Favourite / Most Enjoyable Activity

	%
Kayaking (sit on)	20
Raft Building	16
Gorge Walking	15
Hill / Coastal Walking	14
Abseiling	13
Tyrolean	7
Canoeing	4
Overnight Camp	4
Archery	3
Bushcraft	2
Orienteering	1
Cycling	1



APPENDIX 1.3

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED S2 HOY 3 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

Question 10 required **secondary 2 aged participants** to describe their outdoor experience in 3 words.

The following is a selection of their responses:

COLD	EXCITING	FUN
EDUCATIONAL	FUN	COMPETITIVE
EXCITING	TIRING	BEAUTIFUL
INSPIRING	FANTASTIC	TEAMWORK
GROUP HUG	THRILLING	LEARNT LOADS
ACTIVE	PHYSICAL	REWARDING
SMILES	RESPECT	FRIENDS
RESPONSIBILITY	INTERESTING	ENCOURAGING
NERVOUS	FRIENDLY	BUSY
INTERESTING	ENERGETIC	PEACEFUL
SOCIAL	RELAXED	ADVENTURE
UNCOMFORTABLE	AIR	SUN
WINDY	HAPPY	FOCUSSED
BRILLIANT	THANKYOU	MEMORABLE
EXHAUSTING	CHILLED	SORE
BLISTERS	GRATEFUL	RELIEVED
THANKFUL	SLEEPY	UNFIT
TRUSTED	EMOTIONAL	SCARED



APPENDIX 2.1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

PRIMARY 7 HOY 4 or 5 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

There was a total of **104 responses** to the Questionnaire offered to **primary 7 aged participants** at the end of their Hoy residential programme.

The first 7 questions required them to circle the most appropriate answer.

1) Never 2) Some of The Time 3) Most of The Time 4) A Lot of The Time 5) All The Time

The participant responses are given in percentages:

Q1. I enjoyed taking part in the activities and being outdoors

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	1%	10%	89%

Q2. I feel more confident about myself and my abilities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	2%	4%	19%	75%

Q3. The instructors were friendly, helpful and encouraged me

1	2	3	4	5
0%	1%	0%	9%	90%

Q4. I worked well with others and solved simple problems

1	2	3	4	5
0%	1%	3%	23%	73%

Q5. I listened to, and followed, the safety instructions

1	2	3	4	5
0%	1%	0%	10%	89%

Q6. I had the opportunity to offer my ideas and share my opinion

1	2	3	4	5
0%	1%	2%	17%	80%

Q7. I would happily take part in outdoor activities in future

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	1%	10%	89%

APPENDIX 2.2

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED PRIMARY 7 HOY 4 or 5 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

Question 8 asked primary 7 aged participants which was their favourite, or most enjoyable activity.

The **top 3 activities are highlighted in red** with number to the right relating to the % of Participants.

Primary 7 Favourite / Most Enjoyable Activity

	%
Coasteering	34
Kayaking (sit on)	25
Tyrolean	15
Bushcraft	7
Raft Building	7
Archery	5
Gorge Walking	4
Paddleboarding	3
Abseiling	0
Canoeing	0
Hill / Coastal Walk	0
Orienteering	0



APPENDIX 2.3

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED PRIMARY 7 HOY 4 or 5 DAY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

Question 9 required the primary 7 aged participants to describe their outdoor experience in 3 words.

The following is a selection of their responses:

FUN

ENJOYABLE

CHALLENGING

SCORCHING

SUNNY

BEAUTIFUL

INDEPENDENCE

SOUL-FOOD

WOBBLY

TIRING

COOL

ENCOURAGED

THRILLING

EXHAUSTING

CONTENT

HILLARIOUS

CREATIVE

SALTY

EXCITING

HAPPY

ADCTIVE

SURPRISING

PROUD

WILD

NERVEWRACKING

CALMING

ONE-OFF



APPENDIX 3.1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK PRIMARY 6 IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

There were over **1700 individual activity sheets** completed during the Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme by all participants that took part..

At the end of each 3 day activity programme, up to 6 different activity sheets (for each participant) were collated, combined and stapled together by the instructor.

The sheets were kept by the school for potential follow up activities in the classroom, by the teacher or for participants to take home along with their National Outdoor Learning Award Certificate.

At the bottom of each activity sheet there was an identical review section to complete.

The activity review statements included the following statements:

- I enjoyed taking part in the activity
- I feel more confident about myself
- I solved problems and worked well with others in the group
- I listened to all safety instructions given by the instructor
- I would happily do the activity again

The statements were answered by circling the appropriate face, as shown below:



Information completed by the participant was reviewed by the instructors with the group and formed part of an instructor led review.

The activity review data completed by participants for each activity was not collated, as it was personal to each individual and not intended to be used for public feedback.

A final Activity Programme Review Sheet was completed by each participant. The Results of this are shown within Appendix 3.2 to 3.4.



APPENDIX 3.2

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

PRIMARY 6 3 DAY IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

There was a total of **220 responses** to the Questionnaire offered to **primary 6 aged participants** at the end of their activity programme.

The first 7 questions required them to circle the most appropriate answer.

1) Never 2) Some of The Time 3) Most of The Time 4) A Lot of The Time 5) All The Time

The participant responses are given in percentages:

Q1. I enjoyed taking part in the activities and being outdoors

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	2%	8%	90%

Q2. I feel more confident about myself and my abilities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	2%	6%	19%	73%

Q3. The instructors were friendly, helpful and encouraged me

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	1%	14%	85%

Q4. I worked well with others and solved simple problems

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	5%	21%	74%

Q5. I listened to, and followed, the safety instructions

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	2%	14%	84%

Q6. I had the opportunity to offer my ideas and share my opinion

1	2	3	4	5
0%	2%	6%	21%	71%

Q7. I would happily take part in outdoor activities in future

1	2	3	4	5
0%	0%	1%	6%	93%

APPENDIX 3.3

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED PRIMARY 6 3 DAY IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Question 8 asked primary 6 aged participants which was their favourite, or most enjoyable activity.

The **top 3 activities are highlighted in red** with the number to the right relating to % of Participants

Primary 6 Favourite / Most Enjoyable Activity

	%
Kayaking (sit on)	22
Climbing Wall	20
Raft Building	18
Archery	17
Canoeing	13
Bushcraft	10
Paddleboarding	0
Orienteering	0
Problem Solving / Team Games	0



APPENDIX 3.4

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED PRIMARY 6 3 DAY IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Question 9 required the primary 6 aged participants to describe their outdoor experience in 3 words.

The following is a selection of their responses:

FUN	EXCITING	COOL
CHALLENGING	SUPER	COLD
BEST	ADVENTUROUS	SOGGY
HELPFUL	MORE	AMAZING
SUNNY	BRILLIANT	LEARNING
FRIENDS	TIRING	ACTIVE
YAY	TEAMWORK	RESILIENCE
ENVIRONMENT	SURVIVAL	ENTHUSIASTIC
ENJOYABLE	UNBELIEVABLE	WONDERFUL
AGAIN	EXTREME	SCARY
BREATH TAKING	ENTERTAINING	THRILLING
DEN-BUILDING	FIRE	PLAYING
NERVOUS	HAPPY	CONFIDENT
SMILING	LOVELY	MEMORIES
SAFE	LAUGHING	CONCENTRATION
BULLSEYE	EDUCATIONAL	FOCUSSED
PATIENCE	HAPPY	RELAXED
REWARDING	NERVOUS	



APPENDIX 4.1

VISITING TEACHER / LEADER FEEDBACK

There were a total of 14 feedback forms completed by teachers and leaders.

The following 4 questions were asked:

1) Please rate the following 13 areas, relating to the Outdoor Programme offered to your school?

	<u>TOPIC AREAS</u>	<u>% RANGE</u>	<u>AVERAGE SCORE</u>
1	Activity Time Offered to School	59-100	89
2	Dates Offered to School	33-100	77
3	Pre-Activity Meeting with Outdoor Ed. Advisor	20-100	79
4	Selection of Activities Offered	39-100	85
5	Instructor Safety & Professionalism	54-100	90
6	Management of Activity Equipment & Logistics	78-100	94
7	Pupil Engagement in Activities	53-100	88
8	Activity Relevance to Curriculum / Pupil Learning	21-100	83
9	Activity Outcomes & Benefit to Pupils	46-100	92
10	Evidence of Learning & Success by Pupils	15-100	78
11	Pupil Engagement & Enjoyment	69-100	93
12	Post Activity Follow Up & Feedback	15-100	74
13	Overall Cost Effectiveness	24-100	76



APPENDIX 4.2

VISITING TEACHER / LEADER FEEDBACK 2023

2) What were the most **POSITIVE** elements of the Outdoor Education Programme offered to you?

- ◆ Activities that **challenge and let the children learn how to approach the unfamiliar.**
- ◆ **Interactions** between pupils from different feeder schools to the Academy support transition.
- ◆ seeing children develop their **social skills, such as interacting, being supportive, helping others, motivating others and working as a team** in different situations (from helping each other down the tricky part of the gorge walk, to working together to wash the dishes).
- ◆ It was also great to see children in a different environment away from school, where they can take part in **new experiences and thrive.**
- ◆ Going as a group of schools also gave the children (and staff) a chance to **get to know other children** of their age.
- ◆ The leaders were all amazing!! They had such **positive influences on all children and staff.** Can not thank them enough.
- ◆ The instructor **professionalism.**
- ◆ Activities were **well managed.**
- ◆ Great instructors, activities were good, **well organised** throughout
- ◆ A break from classroom based learning.
- ◆ **Pupils always love going to Hoy**
- ◆ Opportunity to **try new things.**
- ◆ **Transition** for the Peedie schools
- ◆ Excellent activities-**safe and professional.**
- ◆ Achievements and **independence gained** by pupils and **resilience** for new situation
- ◆ The number of small schools taking part so that the children could meet others of the same age before going up to secondary.
- ◆ **Flexibility** by instructors as we were glad that alternative solutions could be found to weather and location variations.



APPENDIX 4.3

VISITING TEACHER / LEADER FEEDBACK 2023

3) If this programme was offered to the school again, what could be IMPROVED or INCLUDED in future years?

- ◆ **Less financial burden to parents** so as to be **more inclusive**.
- ◆ Dates could have been earlier in the term.
- ◆ We would like a **P6 Residential option** in future.
- ◆ P7 activity programme to happen before KGS transition days.
- ◆ **Leaders to have a better understanding of their joint responsibility** (when other schools join together for the same programme).
- ◆ A **pre programme talk by the Outdoor Education Advisor** with pupils before arrival. This would start pupils talking about the experience and what their expectations are and what they are looking forward to.
- ◆ The **instructors were excellent**—there is no improvement needed in this area.
- ◆ The **food was fantastic**. Clearer understanding of what is being sent each day (after the initial food arriving on day 1)
- ◆ Instructors having a broader range of qualifications may have **widened the range of activities** being offered.
- ◆ **Schools need to communicate better with Outdoor Education** when pupil numbers change in order for the instructors to adjust activity / group numbers before arrival.
- ◆ **Leader Induction day** (like in past years)
- ◆ Easy **access to janitorial supplies** by leaders after instructors have departed.
- ◆ **More engagement** with school leaders before the programme date to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities.
- ◆ Huge thanks to you and the team for making this happen for our pupils. They had a **fantastic experience** and everyone is extremely grateful. We really hope that this will be something we can schedule in as a regular event in future years.
- ◆ **Parent feedback:** I wanted to get in touch to thank the brilliant team of instructors and a lovely collie dog on the recent residential in Hoy with Hope Primary school. My son was encouraged to **face his fears and did things he never thought he would manage**. He really seems to **have thrived** from being there and received special mention at the P7 leavers assembly in school, I may or may not have been a little tearful with **pride** hearing how well he applied himself. He came home with an outdoor education t-shirt which is already packed for us heading back out to Rackwick as a family for a few days now the holidays are here. **Great work and thanks where thanks is most certainly due!**



APPENDIX 4.4

LEADER FEEDBACK 2023

4) Please feel free to add any other Comments, Feedback or Suggestions to help us provide an Improved Service in future years?

- ◆ 'The lead instructor and his team provided a week of **well-planned and varied activities**'
- ◆ 'The children were occupied and - more importantly - **engaged each day**'
- ◆ 'Most will have come away **more confident** as a result, with the added bonus of having a broader spread of familiar faces once they join S1 after the summer. Thank you to all involved'
- ◆ 'Thank you for a brilliant 4 days. **Our group really enjoyed ourselves**, staff and pupils alike'
- ◆ 'The instructors were amazing. All very **friendly, patient and informative**'
- ◆ 'Thanks to Chris and his team for making everything so enjoyable. The children were absolutely full of it on our way home - chatting about the activities, the friends they'd made, the food and the instructors!'
- ◆ 'Thanks for such a **well-organised and jam-packed trip!**'
- ◆ 'The **water pipes and pump** in the roof above the accommodation was quite noisy from about 5am onwards?'
- ◆ 'Nothing to change, thank you for giving the participants a **challenging, enjoyable educational experience.**'
- ◆ '**An amazing experience yet again this year.** Thankyou to Chris and the instructors and great to see the service coming back after the pandemic, stronger than ever'
- ◆ 'The **outdoor equipment storage area is very exposed to the wind and rain** and could do with an overhaul to make it better suited to kitting up the pupils'
- ◆ 'It was my first time going on a residential as a member of staff and **I came home from this one absolutely buzzing, as did the children!**'
- ◆ '**The Hoy Centre was clean tidy and suitable for the group on arrival and throughout our stay**'



OVERVIEW

Future Plans

- 3 different Outdoor Education Programmes Offered.
- 3 contract Instructors and the Outdoor Education Advisor.
- Use of Hoy Centre for all Residential Outdoor Education Programmes.
- Use of Rackwick and Birsay Centres for Instructor Accommodation.
- In 2024 we will aim to offer over 90 activity days to 575 participants
- We will offer up to 1903 participant activity day places, over the 7 months.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

The 2024 Outdoor Education programme will continue to support Orkney schools and build upon the success of 2023 by offering 2 Core and 1 optional Outdoor Education Programme.

Secondary 2 (Academic Year 2023/24)

2.5 to 3 Day - Hoy Residential Programme

Primary 7 (Academic Year 2023/24)

4-5 Day - Hoy Residential Programme (Optional)

Primary 6 (Academic Year 2024/25)

3 Day - On-Site Activity Programme

All programmes will be staffed by up to 3 external Contract instructors alongside the Outdoor Education Advisor.

The use of the Hoy Centre for all residential programmes will continue to offer highly rated and excellent facilities for all programmes including overnight residential accommodation. Using this facility also makes the most out of Hoy's unique location in conjunction with a wide variety of (and exclusive) activity locations and Outdoor Education activities on offer.

The in-school activity programmes offered within the Orkney Mainland and Outer Isles will make best use of both primary and secondary school locations and the local outdoor surroundings for pupil activity and learning.

The use of both Rackwick Hostel and Birsay Hostel for instructor accommodation will continue to enhance and compliment the Outdoor Education programmes during 2024.

In 2024 we plan to offer at least 90 activity days to more than 575 participants totalling over 1903 activity day places.

'All participants will be given the opportunity to learn new skills, discover new friendships and find a sense of belonging and place, whilst learning in the unique Orkney outdoor environment.'

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SUMMARY 2023

2023 was the 25th year of successfully and safely offering outdoor education programmes to Orkney schools.

It has been our busiest year to date with activity being offered to a wider age range and larger number of participants than ever before. The new optional primary 7 programmes were highly praised and well received by all schools.

The primary 6 in-school activity programme is logistically complex, but successful. It offers more activity time for participants, a reduction in school teacher commitment and has lowered the over-all participant cost (per day). The primary 6 in-school activity programme will be further developed and embedded as part of the 'Core Provision'.

Contract instructors were highly motivated and of high quality, with many returning from last year to work. 82% of activity days required 3 instructors working with maximum group sizes. The contract for next year's instructors will be on a similar basis.

Thankyou to all who have been a part of the 2023 Outdoor Education Programme. We are highly motivated and look forward to our 26th year of offering quality Outdoor Education in Orkney.



Orkney Outdoor Education - 'Learning Through Adventure'

For Further Information please Contact:

Chris Jex, Outdoor Education Advisor

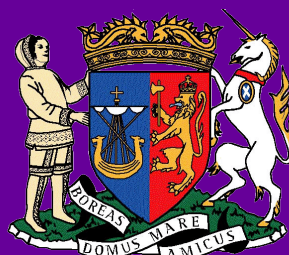
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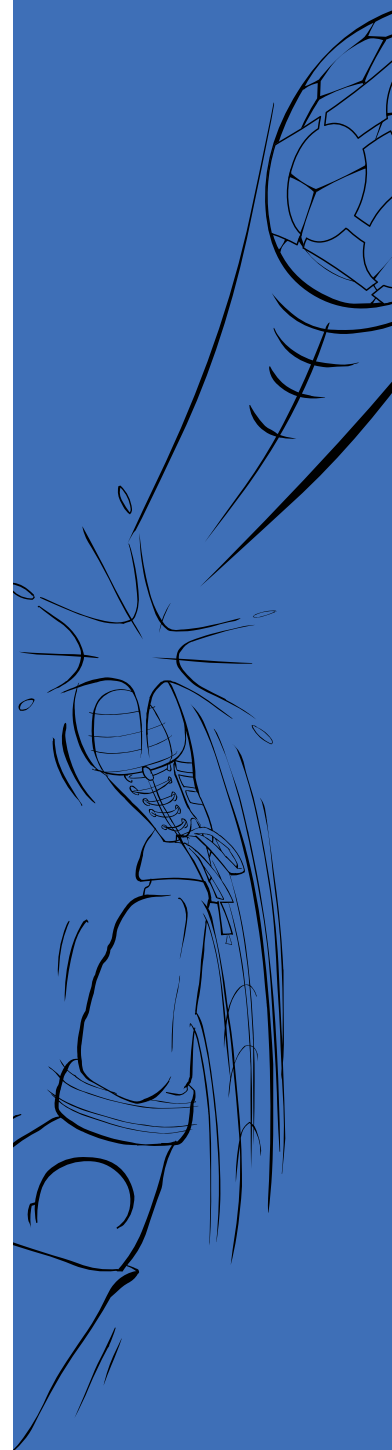
ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL'S LEISURE AND CULTURE ACTIVE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SPORTS TEAM ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022- 2023



sportscotland
the national agency for sport

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Manager's Report

This year saw the signing of a new four-year partnership agreement between Orkney Islands Council and sportscotland, ensuring the continuation of high-quality opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity in Orkney until 2027. The Active Schools team's work in developing partnerships, recruiting, and developing volunteers, and providing a breadth of physical activity options has a deep and lasting impact on the lives of Orkney's young people.

A key focus in 2022-23 was on developing the curricular physical activity offer with a bigger than ever Bikeability programme, and supporting the Young Ambassador, Sports Leaders UK, and Young Leaders programmes. A continued focus this year on recruiting and supporting the volunteers who are the backbone to Orkney's high participation levels saw many coaching and volunteering CPD sessions delivered by Active Schools in partnership with Community Sports Officer with fantastic uptake.

The Community Sports Officer delivered a series of initiatives to support opportunities for Orkney's children, young people and talented athletes to access sporting opportunities and reduce barriers to participation. The delivery of the Parasport Festival, administration of the Athlete Travel Award Scheme, and the growth of the support offered to Performance Development Programme athletes to include performance Lifestyle and Nutrition support are a few examples of the support that the Community Sport Officer provides to the Orkney community.

It is truly heartening to see our Active Schools and Community Sports Hub team making positive impacts on our communities, with our children, young people and adults thriving from the opportunities that they have so enthusiastically participated in.

The Annual Report demonstrates the strong partnerships that our Active Schools and Community Sports team has with our schools, community groups and sports clubs, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Active Schools team and Community Sports for all their continued hard work.

Active Schools and Community Sports Team

Consists of a Service Manager, a Team Manager, one full-time and three part-time coordinators as well as one Community Sport Officer .

Service Manager

Garry Burton

Team Manager

Sarah Johnston

Active Schools Coordinators:

Each co-ordinator is allocated a cluster of schools which they work in partnership with to increase physical activity amongst the pupils. Listed below are the clusters for each co-ordinator:

Stromness Academy, Stromness Primary School, Dounby Primary School, Stenness Primary School, Firth Primary School, Evie Primary School

Michael Swanney

North Ronaldsay Primary School, Hope Primary School, Burray Primary School, St Andrews Primary School, Sanday Junior High School, Stronsay Junior High School, Westray Junior High School

Catherine Johnson

North Walls Community School, Eday Primary School, Papa Westray Primary School, Shapinsay Primary School, Rousay Primary School

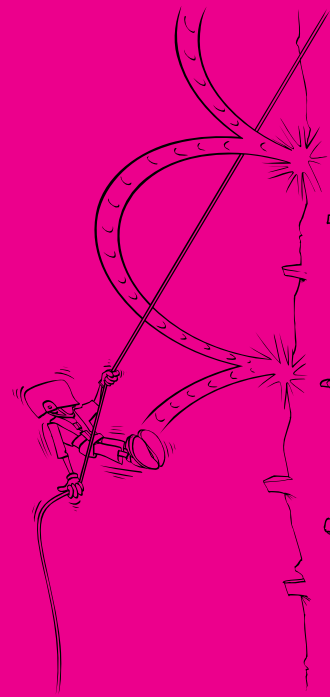
Kirsty Spence

Kirkwall Grammar School, Papdale Primary School, Flotta Primary School, Glaitness Primary School, Orphir Primary School

Carolynn Leslie

Community Sports Officer:

Elaine Harcus



Sarah Johnston
Team Manager
Sport & Leisure

sportscotland Corporate Strategy

Sport For Life, is sportscotland's corporate strategy, it outlines their vision, mission and assets and the approach they will take. Below is an extract from Sport for Life.

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/sport-for-life/>

Our vision

An active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport.

Our mission

To help the people of Scotland get the most from the sporting system.

- Making an impact together
- Making sport more accessible
- Progressing to your level
- Contributing to an active Scotland
- Celebrating the benefits of sport

Our assets

From talented people to fantastic facilities and an exceptional natural environment, Scotland's assets enable people to get active and involved in sport.

Our approach

To help us deliver the many benefits of sport to everyone in Scotland, we're guided by six key principles.

- Inclusive
- Accountable
- Responsive
- Person Centred
- Collaborative
- World Class

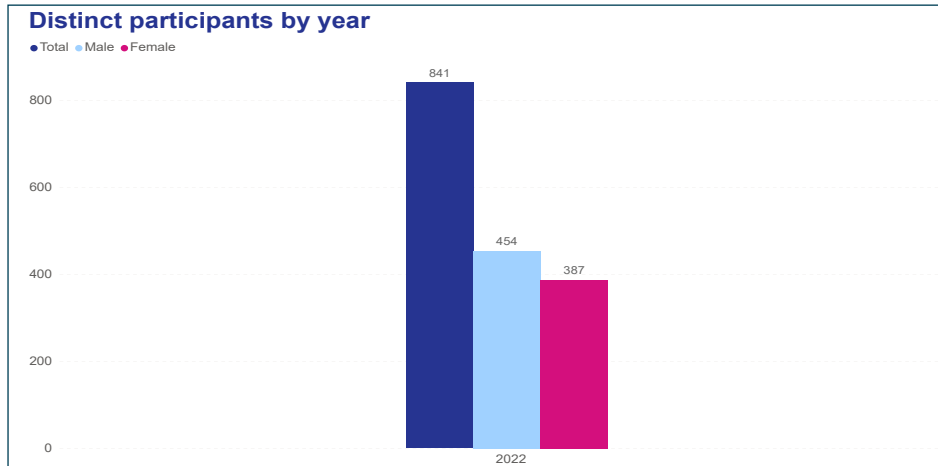
Our commitment to inclusion underpins everything we do.



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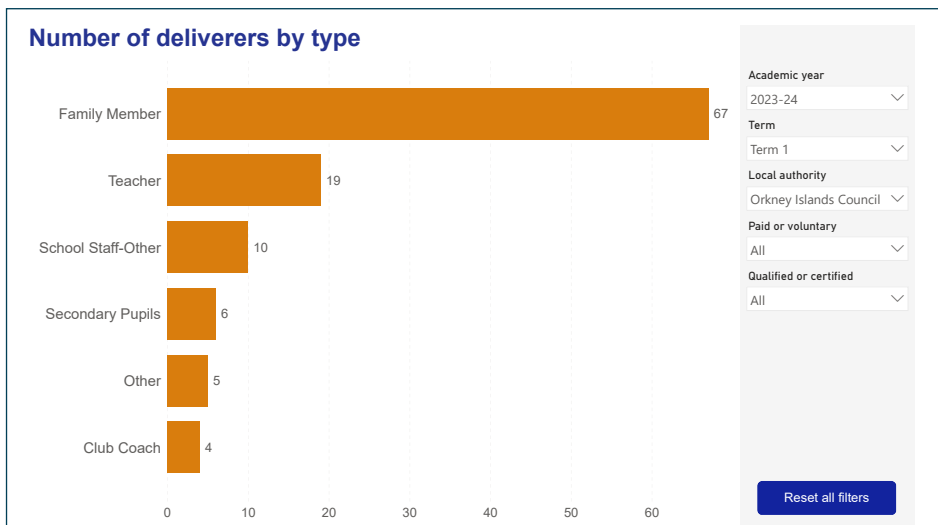
Active Schools Monitoring Data (ASMO)

During the academic year 2022-23, the Active Schools Team monitored extra-curricular activities in schools. Active Schools Monitoring Online (ASMO) is a robust monitoring system which gathers, analyses, and presents data that looks at pupils' participation in extracurricular activities. The graph below shows the distinct participants that participated in extra-curricular activity during the school year.



Source: My Sport sportscotlands online data service

Whilst completing sportscotland ASMO the coordinators also record the number of volunteers helping in schools. The graph below shows the number and types of volunteers delivering this year's activities. Volunteers are the backbone of afterschool clubs and during 2022-23, the number of volunteers delivering in schools increased by approximately 30%, as shown in the tables below.



Source: My Sport sportscotlands online data service

Active Schools Orkney Islands

Academic year 2022/23

Number of visits	20,153	Number of sessions	1,322
Number of participants	841	Number of deliverers	119
Percentage of school roll	30%	Percentage of whom are voluntary	100%

Partnership Working

Over the course of 2022-23, the Active Schools and Community Sports Team worked alongside all primary and secondary schools in Orkney to increase activity amongst pupils. As well as schools the Team worked with several other partners which are listed below.

- Community Learning Development
- Orkney Youth Forum
- Child Healthy Weight Steering Group
- Physical Activity and Well-Being Strategy partners
- National Health Service Orkney,
- Stromness Golf Club
- Sportscotland
- Scottish Disability Sport
- Inclusive Orkney
- Orkney Islands Council Road Safety Officer
- Pickaquoy Centre
- Scottish Governing Bodies
- Outdoor Education
- Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH)
- Orkney 2025
- Orkney Island Games Association
- Stagecoach
- Local Sports Clubs

Active Schools Coordinators and the Community Sports Officer support a variety of programmes including Bikeability, Parasport Festival and North Isles Sports day.

Winter Bookings

The Community Sports Officer worked with OIC facility management and staff from the Pickaquoy Centre on winter bookings for KGS Sports Centre. With demand being high, a large amount of time was spent liaising with clubs and ensuring alternative times/facilities were offered where required to accommodate clubs as well as possible.

Funding

Guernsey Island Games 2023

The Community Sports Officer worked closely with Orkney Athletic and Running Club, the Island Games Golf Team Manager, Orkney Badminton Association and Orkney Gymnastics Club to obtain funding from the International Island Games Association, to support the costs associated with coach development, travel to competitions on the Scottish mainland and development of athletes competing in the Guernsey 2023 Island Games.



Funding cont.

Orkney Island Games 2025

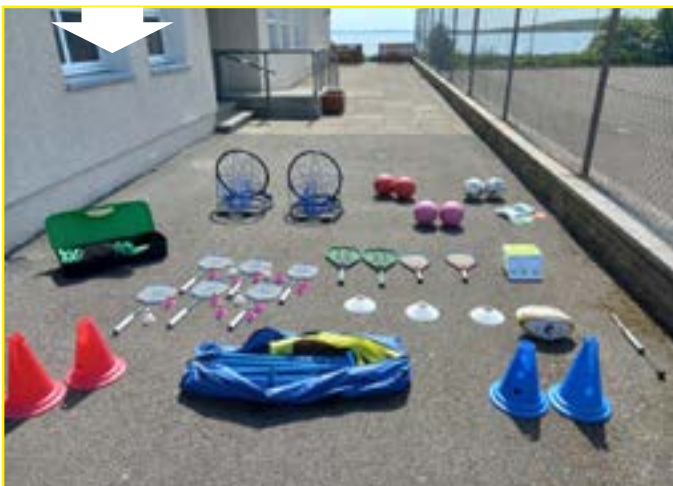
In addition to supporting local sports in obtaining funding for sports development, coach development and travel assistance in the run up to the Guernsey 2023 games, the Community Sports Officer worked on a coach and official development project in August, which will be developed over the coming months and will be delivered up to July 2025 and beyond. This project will support the sports which will make up the 2025 Island Games, in formal coach education, CPD for coaches and official courses.

Cyclocross

The Community Sports Officer also worked with the Orkney Cycling Club to gain funding through the Community Cycling Development fund. This fund is being used to develop the sport of cyclo-cross in Orkney, by covering the cost of equipment, facility hire, promotion, CPD and development weekends.

Shapinsay Community Box

Shapinsay's Active Schools Coordinator supported Shapinsay's School Sport Committee with applications for funding from Scottish Sea Farms Community Fund and the Shapinsay Development Trust. The applications were for equipment for the wider community to use outside of school hours in the school's playground and playpark. Many of the pupils come to the school grounds to play but do not have access to equipment. The committee decided to apply for funding to provide a community box full of equipment for everyone.



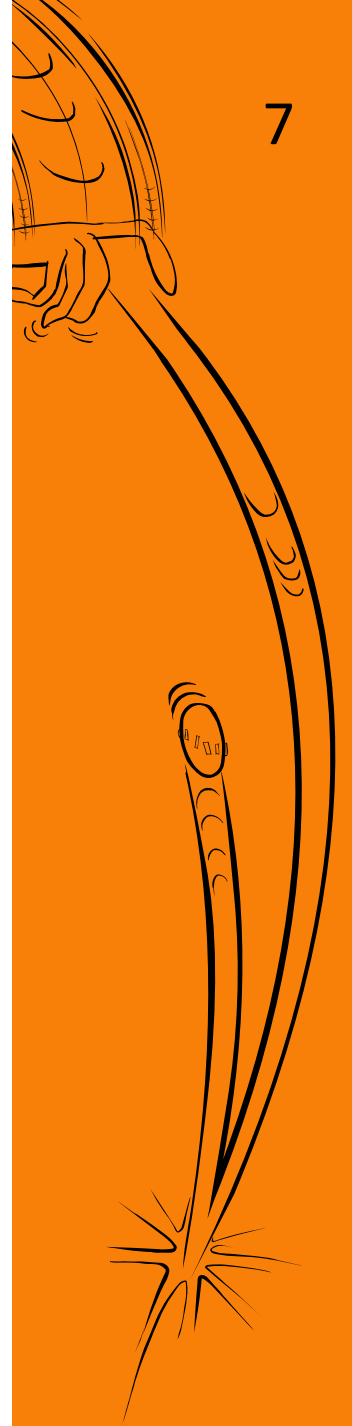
Extra-Curricular Activities

Evie Primary School Activity Club

Every Thursday in term 3, the Evie Primary Schools sports committee organised fun activities for their pupils. The committee organised lots of fun activities including fun games, football, basketball and low- level gymnastics. Most of the pupils attended these sessions, with the Under 8's getting a session week and then the Over 8's getting a session the next week. The sports committee took responsibility for planning and delivering these sessions.

Participant's Parent
"How fab is this".

Participant's Parent
"Looks fantastic, well done the sports committee".



Boccia Lunchtime Clubs

It was identified that some pupils from Kirkwall Grammar and Papdale Primary School, felt socially isolated during break and lunchtime. In partnership with the Pupil Engagement team, Boccia clubs were formed at the schools during lunchtime to give pupils a safe and fun environment to 'hang out,' while taking part in an extracurricular sports club.

Boccia is an indoor target sport, which promotes itself for being all inclusive. The activity requires incredible precision and skilful play, mixed with intriguing tactics. Due to its nature, Boccia makes for a competitive and exciting sport.

The sessions began with a variety of fun games, to encourage target practice and to progress pupils' skills. The group soon progressed to full Boccia games, prompting individual and team-work, while promoting sportsmanship.

Most importantly, pupils expressed that the Boccia club enhanced their mood and was often 'the best part of their day.' These sessions were aimed at school engagement and attainment.



Burray Primary School Netball Club

With Burray Primary School Netball Club for primary 6-7 pupils being so popular, there was a desire for a primary 4-5 group session. Burray's primary 6-7 teacher volunteered along with a parent to set up these sessions. These sessions proved popular with the pupils, and more are planned for the academic session 2023-24.



Primary School Netball and Football Leagues

Orkney Youth Development Group and Netball Orkney run Primary Football and Netball Leagues from October through to March. Thirteen Primary Schools take part in these leagues, with some schools entering more than one team. Active Schools coordinators support all school clubs and club volunteers offering resources, training, advice, and support where needed.



Cycling Programmes



School	Number of pupils receiving Bikeability Level 1	Number of pupils receiving Bikeability Level 2
Burray		13
Dounby		14
Eday		4
Evie	17	
Firth	14	13
Glaitness		27
Hope		10
North Walls	7	4
North Ronaldsay	1	
Orphir	6	3
Papa Westray		3
Papdale		48
Rousay	2	2
Sanday	7	14
St Andrews		26
Stenness	6	7
Stromness		25
Stronsay	1	5
Westray		14
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	61	232



Active Schools Coordinators have delivered cycle training to primary six pupils for several years, and this year’s programme was bigger than ever. The course teaches procedures and signals, while allowing pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of hazard perception and decision making.

Pupils gained confidence and skills to enable them to safely cycle on the road, while integrating with traffic.

Sessions were delivered by Active Schools Coordinators, as well as school staff, who hold the ‘Bikeability Scotland Instructor’ qualification. In some instances, school staff shadowed Coordinators or received mentorship, to enable them to deliver on behalf of their schools in the future.

Two hundred and thirty-two participants received a Bikeability Level 2 certificate during the academic year, from sixteen different schools: both mainland and isles.



Sanday Bikeability level 1.

Bikeability Complete

19 Schools

***61 participants* through Bikeability Level 1**

***232 participants* completed Bikeability Level 2**

***AND*, Four tired Active Schools Coordinators**

In addition, sixty-one participants completed playground cycle training, also known as Bikeability Level 1. The traffic-free course allows pupils to learn the fundamentals of riding, which will enhance pupils' knowledge and cycling skills. Cyclists who receive Level 1 training in Primary five, tend to feel more confident as they take to the roads, to complete Bikeability Level 2 the following year.

www.bikeability.org.uk/get-cycling/cycle-training-for-children/bikeability-level-1/

www.bikeability.org.uk/get-cycling/cycle-training-for-children/bikeability-level-2/



Participant's Parent

"Brilliant Effort once again folks. Thank You!"

Stromness Primary School teacher

"We had a fantastic morning. Thanks so much to everyone".

Bikeability
Level 2
participants.



'Play on Pedals' is an initiative aimed at nursery and preschool aged children. It aims to help children learn to ride a bike through a series of fun and imaginative activities. Children are helped to develop their balance and control skills. They often use a pedal-less balance bike which helps them transition to pedal bikes more smoothly. Play on Pedals also has strong links to the curriculum for excellence.

Play on Pedals instructor training equips nursery staff with the knowledge to plan and deliver the Play on Pedals programme. In March 23, ten nursery staff from various schools in Orkney attended training run through Active Schools to become instructors of Play on Pedals.

[Play on Pedals - Training - Our Programmes - Cycling Scotland](#)

Learn to Ride

It was identified that a large numbers of older primary pupils, in Orkney, are unable to cycle a bike. Active Schools Coordinators in partnership with the Engagement Team, delivered Learn to Ride sessions at Papdale Primary School.

Learning to ride can be a daunting task however, pupils improved their balance, striding and braking quickly, progressing onto using pedals, cornering, and building confidence on the bike.

Before the sessions began, one pupil explained,

"I didn't think I'd manage to put my feet on the pedals"
(Participant, Primary 5).

On the first week, the pupil struggled to control the bike while walking to the venue, a short distance away and pedals had to be removed from the bike to allow her to stride, practicing balance and control. However, at her last session, she highlighted,

"I'm really proud of myself and feel good. I've learnt how to pedal really well and I'm more confident on my bike. I'm going to keep practicing over the holidays" (Participant, Primary 5).

Due to interest and demand, Learn to Ride sessions were integrated into the Summer Holiday Programme.





Chris Hoy presents Bikeability Level 2 certificates to **North Walls** pupils

In June pupils from North Walls Community School on Hoy had a visit from one of Scotland's all-time great Sportsperson, Sir Chris Hoy. Scapa Flow Muesum which is located on the island of Hoy was officially opened in June 2023 by Sir Chris Hoy. The museum is located at Lyness on the Island of Hoy, Orkney, Scotland. It tells the story of Scapa Flow and Orkney's role during the two World Wars. Whilst on Hoy, Sir Chris Hoy took the opportunity to meet and present the pupils of North Walls Community School with their Bikeability level 1 and 2 certificates.

[Scapa Flow Museum - Orkney Museums](https://www.orkney.gov.scot/museums/scapa-flow-museum)



Leadership

Young Ambassadors

Orkneys Young Ambassador's (YA's) attended the Young Ambassadors Conference at Inverness on Thursday 8 September 2022. Pupils from all of Orkney's secondary schools were represented at this event. The day started with presentations from past YA's and Olympian & Commonwealth Volleyball player, Lynne Beattie. The YAs were then put into groups and attended workshops covering various topics which supports them in their role on their return to their respective school

The YA's role when they return is to be active in promoting and supporting the delivery of activity and afterschool clubs as well as be a positive role model within their schools.



[Young Ambassadors - sportscotland the national agency for sport in Scotland](#)



Orkney Young Ambassadors with Commonwealth Athlete, Lynne Beattie



Sports Leaders UK

Sports Leaders Courses

Secondary schools within Orkney have the option of offering their secondary pupils Sports Leaders courses. Some of these courses are certified and some are run as short- course options within the schools. The uptake on these courses depends upon each school and the uptake / interest from pupils.

Examples of courses on offer include:

- I Can Lead – short course.
- Level 5 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership.



Sports Leaders Courses cont.

Unit content covered within these courses include:

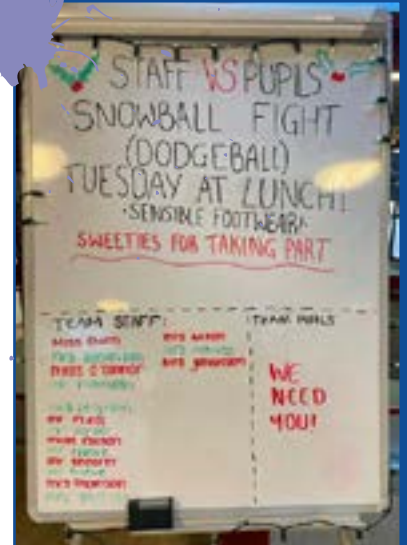
- Building leadership skills.
- Plan, lead, and evaluate sport / activity.
- Assist in the planning and leading of a sport / activity event.
- Lead activities which promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Lead sport or activity within the community.

During 2022-23, Stromness Academy delivered a Level 5 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership.

A total of 9 pupils took part in this course.

As part of their leadership course, the participating pupils organised a Christmas themed dodgeball game for staff vs pupils during December. This was a popular activity for the school with a large number of pupils and teachers taking part.

www.sportsleaders.org/



Christmas Staff V Pupils Dodgeball

**Stromness
Academy staff –
Sarah Thomson**

*“It was a brilliant
fun day for us staff
and the kids.”*

Young Leaders

Active Schools Young Leaders training is delivered to Primary 5 -7 pupils throughout the academic year. The training aims to teach pupils about the skills and qualities of Leadership through the medium of 'sport and activity' Pupils have the opportunity to learn using drills and games as well as delivering sessions to other year groups in the school.



Shapinsay Young Leaders delivering to their classmates

Pupils from North Walls Primary School preparing their session plans picture

YOUNG LEADER DELIVERY 2022-23	
Primary School	No. of participants
Burray	13
Dounby	20
Eday	2
Evie	7
North Walls	4
Sanday	6
Shapinsay	8
St Andrew	26
Hope	14
Stromness	16
Stromsay	7
TOTAL	123



Shapinsay Activity Week

As part of their Leadership experience, Active Schools supported the Shapinsay school sport committee in organising and running an Active Week in March to cater for the whole community. Over the course of the week the committee arranged a mixture of taster sessions that were delivered by clubs and parent volunteers from the island. The sessions included dancing, health walks, cycling, football, netball, athletics, racket skills, basketball, and rugby.



#ActiveGirls' Day

Active Girls Day is an annual initiative which celebrates the amazing work going into girls' sport, the progress around girls' participation, and the role models making it happen. Schools and clubs choose their own date to celebrate 'Active Girls Day' throughout the month of October.

Young Ambassadors and Sports Leaders from Stromness Academy organised a fun, come and try, lunch time slot of activity, which formed part of their #activegirls events during October. The girls who attended enjoyed some crash mat rounders and then ultimate dodgeball.

Westray's Young Ambassadors, with support from their Physical Education teacher, also organised sessions for Active Girls' Day during October. Pupils from P7, S1, S2, S3, and S4 were all invited to take part in Dodgeball sessions.

Sanday Young Ambassadors also organised Girls' Only Dodgeball for Active Girl's Day which ran in the format of a round robin competition which ran over three days.

All sessions were hailed as a huge success.

[Active Girls Day - sportscotland the national agency for sport in Scotland](#)

#ACTIVE GIRLS



Stromness Academy participants who attended the Active Girls' Day sessions



Westray Active Girls Day participants take part in Dodgeball

Westray participants with Young Ambassadors - Active Girls Day



School Sport Competition

North Isles Sports

North Isles Sports is an annual competition between Junior High Schools and Senior North Isles Teams. It is hosted each year by a different island on rotation. The Active Schools team supports and helps coordinate the event alongside the hosting island. The Coordinators recruit volunteer officials who travel to the hosting island to help officiate the events. The 2023 event took place on the island of Stronsay and was extremely well attended by participants from all three Junior High Schools. Pupils competed in Athletics, Netball and Football. Participants from Papa Westray, Westray, Stronsay & Sanday all took part. Results for the school's competition are below.



CUP WINNERS

CUP	WINNER	1 ST	2 ND , 3 RD & 4 TH
MILLENIUM CUP (combines both senior and schools' results)	WESTRAY	95	Sanday 68, Stronsay 67
SCHOOL CUP	WESTRAY	50	Stronsay 38, Sanday 26.

CHAMPIONS

GIRLS	MILLIE DENNISON	STRONSAY
BOYS	RUARI TOWRIE	SANDAY

SCHOOL RELAY	
1 ST	WESTRAY – Quaich Winners
2 ND	SANDAY
3 RD	STRONSAY



SCHOOL NETBALL	
1 ST	STRONSAY – Cup Winners
2 ND	WESTRAY
3 RD	SANDAY



SCHOOL FOOTBALL	
1 ST	WESTRAY – Cup Winners
2 ND	SANDAY
3 RD	STRONSAY



Interschool Activities

During the academic year, Active Schools Coordinators support the running of inter-school activities between secondary schools by organising transport and accompanying travelling schools, as well as coordinating officials and equipment, and officiating on the day.

During 2022-23 academic year Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School took part in various competition days.

Term 1	Basketball at Stromness Academy Volleyball at Kirkwall Grammar School
Term 2	Netball at Stromness Academy Netball at Kirkwall Grammar School Rugby at Stromness Academy
Term 3	Rugby at Kirkwall Grammar School
Term 4	Netball at Kirkwall Grammar School Football and Netball at Stromness Academy Higher P.E at Kirkwall Grammar School



Stromness Academy Senior Team



Kirkwall Grammar School Team



Stromness Academy team huddle during the Stromness Academy V Kirkwall Grammar School Interschool Competition





Stromness Academy V Kirkwall Grammar School - Interschool Competition

Scottish Schools Cup Netball

Kirkwall Grammar School (K.G.S.) and Stromness Academy (S.A.) entered Netball Scotland's Scottish Schools Cup Competition during the academic year 2022-23. Kirkwall Grammar School entered an Open team (S4-6) and an S3 team. Stromness Academy also entered an open team.

The format of the competition sees a local competition take place for the first round which saw K.G.S. take on S.A. in a home and away fixture. K.G.S. came out the winners which placed them into the Gold section of the competition with S.A. going into the Silver section. Both teams then took on teams from Shetland and the North of Scotland. S.A. reached the final 16 and were knocked out by a team from Albyn Independent School in a very close competition with only 1 goal in it.

The S3 K.G.S. team also took on various schools in the north of Scotland to reach the semi-finals of the S3 section. They eventually lost out to a strong James Gillespie High School who went on to become S3 Scottish Schools champions.

All the girls involved were absolutely delighted to be part of the Scottish cup experience and have a 'normal' year with no covid restrictions on extra-curricular sport.



Kirkwall Grammar School Scottish Schools Cup S3 Team



Stromness Academy Goal Shooter marks the Brae Junior High School Goal Keeper at a back line pass during the Scottish Schools Cup game



Stromness Academy Open Scottish Cup team that travelled to Shetland



Scottish Schools Cup final score

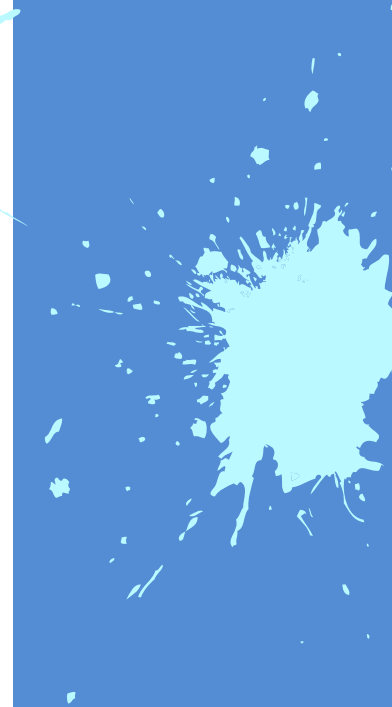
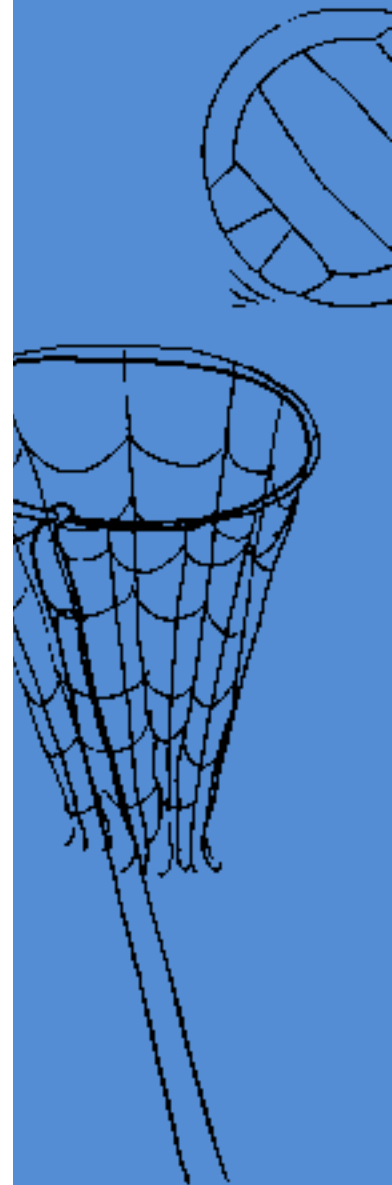


Kirkwall Grammar School Goal Attack taking a shot at the goal in the final of the Scottish Schools Cup



Kirkwall Grammar School Scottish Schools Cup Champions

[Orkney Netball Scottish Schools Cup Victory: A Kirkwall Grammar Triumph - Netball Scotland](#)



Rugby

Active Schools worked in partnership with Orkney Rugby Football Club (ORFC) to organise and deliver rugby sessions for secondary-aged pupils at Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School during December, and again in March.

In December Kirkwall Grammar School pupils travelled to Stromness Academy to take part in rugby sessions which consisted of drills and skills finishing with small-sided games. This session was delivered by Orkney Rugby Club's Development Officer and supported by Active Schools and P.E. Staff. A total of 75 girls and boys took part in this inter-school activity day.

On the second of the ORFC rugby sessions in March, Kirkwall Grammar School played host to Stromness Academy S1-3 boys and girls. After a brisk warm up and some skill related drills the rest of the session was dedicated to match play with a focus on receiving and passing.

Orkney Rugby Football Club supported these sessions by providing funding for buses so that schools could travel to the host schools, ORFC volunteer coaches helped by delivering the coaching and refereeing matches allowing this inter-school opportunity to happen for the secondary pupils.

www.orkneyrffc.co.uk



Secondary 1 participants taking part in small sided games



Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School girls' taking part in small sided games



Stromness Academy and Kirkwall Grammar School pupils who took part in the Interschool Rugby Day at Stromness



Orkney Rugby Club Coach

"Super bunch of kids with bags of enthusiasm".

School to Club Links



Golf

A strong school to club link between Stromness Golf club and Active Schools supports the provision of opportunities for school-aged children to take part in golf sessions at the Stromness Golf Club.

Community Sessions



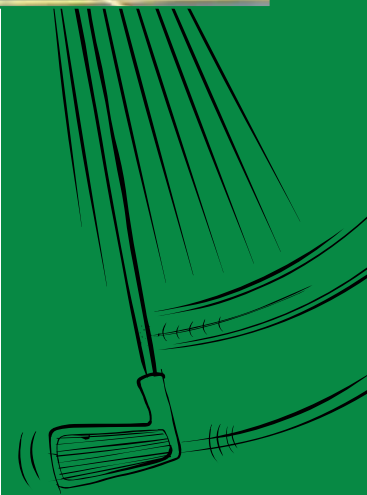
Stromness Golf Club community Clubgolf session March 2023

The community of Stromness had open sessions for all ages on Sunday 19 March. Twelve children and their accompanying adults enjoyed taking part in some putting and chipping activities. The group then moved on to try ¾ length clubs.

Stromness Golf club – taster sessions with Mel Douglas

West Mainland Schools who received clubgolf sessions were also invited to sign up to a coaching session with Mel Douglas, the visiting professional from Inverness Golf club. Pupils from Stromness and Stenness Primary Schools attended these sessions and enjoyed the opportunity to experience playing golf on an actual golf course with authentic golf clubs and golf balls.

[Home - Stromness Golf Club \(stromnessgc.co.uk\)](http://stromnessgc.co.uk)



Stromness Golf sessions with Mel Douglas



Clubgolf taster sessions

Active Schools in partnership with Stromness Golf club, provided six West Mainland schools with clubgolf taster sessions. Stromness Golf club volunteers went into schools to provide the P5-7 children with a taster of clubgolf. All pupils who participated in the sessions were invited to Stromness Golf Club's Open Day.



Clubgolf session at **Firth** Primary school



Stromness Golf Club taster session participants



Clubgolf session at **Stenness** Primary School



Stromness Transition Sport

Transition Sport is an event where primary pupils transitioning to secondary school, visit their new school and take part in various activities they may experience once they move. As part of the P7 transition days at Stromness Academy, Active Schools Coordinators along with P.E staff, supported Young Ambassadors and Sports Leaders with organising a programme of activities, which may include badminton, team challenges, rugby, and ultimate dodgeball. This gives pupils the opportunity to meet pupils from other schools and their new teachers with the purpose being to ease the transition from primary to secondary.

Pupils take part in a variety of sports during the morning session, before having lunch together and then attending other subject lessons during the afternoon. After these days, meeting new teachers and being introduced to new subjects, it is hoped that the pupils will feel less anxious about moving on to secondary school.



Stromness Academy Transition Sport Leaders



Primary School pupils taking part in Badminton activities during **Stromness** Academy's Transition Sport



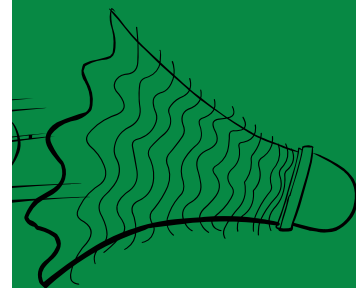
Primary School pupils taking part in fun activities during **Stromness** Academy's Transition Sport



Primary School pupils taking part in warm up activities during **Stromness** Academy's Transition Sport



Rugby session during **Stromness** Academy's Transition Sport



Orkney Sports Awards

25

ORKNEY SPORTS
AWARDS 2022

The annual Orkney Sports Awards brought the community together on Friday 27 January 2023, to celebrate the achievements of an outstanding year in sport. Organised by Active Schools and the Community Sport Officer, the audience at Orkney Theatre, were treated to narratives of current successes from local to national performances, volunteering, and officiating.

Hosts Liam McArthur and Robbie Fraser oversaw the evening, highlighting sponsors and welcoming guest speakers. Local talents took to the stage to inspire the next generation of athletes in the audience, providing local knowledge on overcoming barriers to progressing in sport and juggling other commitments.

Additionally, guest speaker Lusia Steele, a professional Scottish Cycling sprinter, took the spotlight during a question-and-answer session. Steele, detailed her pathway from grassroots to her professional career in cycling, showing of her medals and giving encouragement to inspiring Orkney athletes.

The evening saw a high calibre of winners from a variety of sports.

Facebook Comments

Northlink Ferries

“Delighted to sponsor Volunteer of the Year Award. Looking forward to the Orkney Sports awards and would like to wish all the finalists congratulations and all the best for Friday evening!” #Proud sponsors

Member of the public

“Wow! Any of these finalists would be a worthy winner! We really should be proud to have such talent from Orkney. Good Luck”



Lusia Steele GB and Commonwealth Games Athlete

Category	Winners	Sport
Sportsperson of the Year	Sarah Macphail	Netball
Young Sportsperson of the Year	Angus Robertson	Weightlifting
Team of the Year	Moira Nicolson and Elaine Gray	Badminton
Young Team of the Year	U17 Sirens District Squad	Netball
Volunteer of the Year	Inga Linklater	Athletics
Young Volunteer of the Year	Megan Clouston	Football
Coach of the Year	Gary Skea	Women's Football
Official of the Year	Stewart Spence	Rugby
School Sport Volunteer of the Year	David Scarth	Football
Performance of the Year	Taylah Paterson	Athletics



ORKNEY SPORTS



School Sport Volunteer of the Year

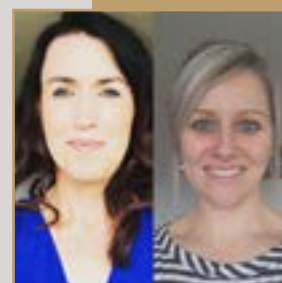
This year's Orkney Sports Awards category was sponsored by Cycle Orkney. School volunteers are a very important part of the delivery of afterschool activities, and Active Schools promote the celebration of school volunteers. This year's finalists were four volunteers that have put a great deal of time into volunteering in their schools. Marie Drever coaches the Firth Primary School Netball Team running 2 sessions a week as well as attending the local Primary League from October through to March with her team. David Scarth has been coaching at Dounby Primary School for several years on a Monday morning before school. He organises and attends the local Primary Football League with 3 teams on a Saturday evening over the autumn and winter terms. Mairi Fleet and Loren Groat have restarted the Burray Primary School netball club after 20+ years without a club in the school. They entered 2 teams into the local Primary League and attended Saturday league days.



Marie
Drever



David Scarth



Mairi Fleet and
Loren Groat

Service to Sport

In addition to the annual awards, this year saw two well-known volunteers receive a prestigious award, for their long running services to sport. Belinda Morrison, a PE Teacher and keen sporting volunteer, who has gone above and beyond to develop Volleyball, locally. James Leask was also awarded for his long running contributions to Football refereeing.

Orkney's Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame was introduced to celebrate and pay tribute to Orkney's most iconic sportspeople, with the aim of inspiring future generations. Since its production in 2020, nine people have been inducted. During the Orkney Sports Awards 2022, Rae Slater became the tenth member to be highlighted, for his participation in Badminton, Football, and his incredible voluntary career in photographing memorable sporting moments. Rae's award was an incredibly emotional part of the evening, due to his recent passing. It was a special moment for his family and friends who attended the event, seeing how highly thought of Rae was to the sporting community in Orkney. An incredible life and service celebrated through sport.

[Hall of Fame \(orkney.gov.uk\)](http://orkney.gov.uk)



Hall of Fame &
Service to Sport
recipients

Sponsorship

Without continued sponsorship from generous local partners, Active Schools and Community Sports Team would be unable to deliver an event with such quality for Orkney's local sporting community. It is with gratitude to local businesses for their representation at the event and their donations, which support the purchase of trophies.

[Orkney Sports Awards](#)



Athlete School Visits

During Lusía Steele's visit to Orkney for the Sports Awards, two Primary Schools were lucky to receive a visit from Lusía and hear about her journey from grass roots sport through to performance sport and the Commonwealth Games. St Andrews Primary School P7 pupils and Dounby Primary Schools P6-7 pupils heard a very informative and interesting talk from Lusía and had the opportunity to ask questions, as well as look at her medal collection.



Dounby primary School Pupils enthralled in Lusía Steels presentation

Dounby Primary School pupils with Lusía Steele



St Andrews Primary School pupils with Lusía Steele

Inclusion

Parasport Festival

Orkney's second Parasport Festival took place on Friday 17 March 2023 at the Pickaquoy Centre. The festival provides opportunities for school-aged young people with physical, visual or hearing impairment or Down Syndrome, to try new exciting sports and learn more about the pathways that are available in the local community. The festival was planned and coordinated by the Council's Community Sport Officer, with support from Scottish Disability Sport, the Pickaquoy Centre, Active Schools Coordinators and volunteers from several local sports clubs.

Thirteen young people took part on the day, in Rugby, Athletics, Climbing, Swimming and Badminton. Some participants were trying new sports for the first time, and everyone enjoyed the experience.



Boccia Event

In March 2023, a full day of Boccia taster sessions took place at the Pickaquoy Centre. The event was arranged by Orkney Islands Council and supported by Ability Shetland. Three local schools, Picky's Over 50s group, the Lifestyles Centre, St Colms Day Centre and the Active Blide group from the Orkney Blide Trust all came along and tried out the sport. There was also a 'come and try Boccia' session in the evening. Throughout the day, there was a fantastic turnout of over 70 people.

Boccia is a fully inclusive sport which can be played by anyone regardless of age, gender, ability, or disability. It is played indoors with soft leather balls, and requires skill, precision, and tactics.

[About Boccia \(scottishdisabilitysport.com\)](http://scottishdisabilitysport.com)



Parasport participants

"I loved the climbing and the swimming".

"It was awesome! The best was swimming because I love being in the water."

"My favourite was climbing. I thought it was scary, but the more I did it the more fun it got."

Boccia taster session at the Pickaquoy Centre

Pupils in Orkney were treated to an eight-week Summer Holiday during 2023. To provide opportunities for children to remain active, Active Schools and our Community Sports Officer worked with partners to deliver a seven-and-a-half-week inclusive programme, to engage pupils in various sport and physical activity sessions. To ensure the programme was accessible to families, all activities were free of charge, and delivered by Coordinators and community volunteers.

Sessions were delivered on the Orkney mainland, in East and West locations, to prevent barriers to travel. These areas received cycling activities such as, Cyclo-cross, Additional Support Needs Cycling, Play on Pedals, Learn to Ride and Bikeability Level 1.

The team also worked in partnership with several local organisations and sports clubs, including the Pickaquooy Centre, Orkney Rugby FC and Netball Orkney, to coordinate and plan a range of sports camps, taster sessions and activities for the Summer 2023 programme. Thanks to funding received from the Scottish Government in the days leading up to the summer term, additional activities were added to the existing holiday programme. This included Learn to Swim sessions in North Walls, Stronsay and Westray; Additional Support Needs Swimming and Climbing, 'Hilltoft Peedie Pony' visits for Inclusive Orkney; and Project Hop in partnership with Move Orkney. Sessions attracted 785 participants over the seven and a half week programme. Participation numbers for the activities are as follows:

Activity	Location	Number of Participants
Cyclocross	Kirkwall	59 (6 x sessions)
Play on pedals	Kirkwall Stromness	6 (1 session) 5 (1 x session)
Learn to ride	Kirkwall Stromness	2 (1 session) 1 (1 x session)
Level 1	Kirkwall Stromness	22 (1 x session) 6 (1 x session)
Rugby	Kirkwall	131 (9 x sessions)
Inclusive Orkney Water Walkerz	Kirkwall	39 (4 x sessions)
Inclusive Orkney Hilltoft Peedie Ponies	Burray	12 (2 x sessions)
Move Orkney – Project Hop	Stronsay, Sanday/Eday, Hoy/Flotta, Westray/Papa Westray, Shapinsay and Rousay/Egilsay/Wyre	75 (3 x sessions per Island)
Learn to Swim	Westray, Stronsay and North Walls	64 (3-4 x sessions per Island)
Generation Pound	Kirkwall Stromness Dounby Hope	74 (6 x classes) 12 (2 x classes) 18 (3 x classes) 18 (1 x class)
Netball Orkney	Kirkwall	241 (12 x sessions)
Total number of Participants 785		

ORKNEY RFC



Hilltoft Peedie Ponies



netballorkney



Play on Pedals instructor helping a participant transition from a balance bike to a pedal bike



Bikeability, Learn to Ride and Play on Pedals participants



Bikeability Level 1 participants practising their skills



Level 1 Participants who attended the Holiday sessions at Padpale



Primary 1-2 participants who attended the Netball summer sessions



Primary 3-4 participants who attended the Netball summer sessions

P5 Bikeability Participant's Parent

"Malachi had so much fun yesterday he wishes it was on every day haha.

He's also excited for netball next week. Thank you for setting these activities up to keep the kiddies entertained and the parents sane during the holidays."

Participant's Parent

"Thanks very much for having Molly. She was telling me all about it."

Participant's Parent

"Thank you! The kids had a great time and thank you for letting Hallie join in at the end."

Netball Participant's Parent

"The girls had a ball."



Primary 5-6 participants who attended the Netball summer sessions



Primary 7 participants who attended the Netball summer sessions



Cyclocross participants at the start of the Cyclocross course

**Rugby
Participant's
Parent**

"The summer camp was great; once a week was great for breaking up the holidays! Hope it makes a return."



Cyclocross session participants listen to instruction from their coach



**Cyclocross
Participant's Parent**

"Thanks for having Molly. She had a great time."

Sportscotland Development and Support Programmes

Performance Development Programme

The Performance Development Programme (PDP) provides support to developing performance pathway athletes in the Highlands and Islands. Local athletes are provided with a programme of support which includes physical preparation, performance lifestyle support and physio. They are also offered a range of educational workshops, on topics such as Performance Profiling, Managing Minor Aches and Pains and Growth mindset.

At the end of the 22-23 academic year, 12 athletes were part of the PDP from athletics, swimming, badminton, and netball. During this period, two new Physical Preparation Coaches were signed off and all athletes were offered two supervised gym sessions per week.

Athletes received a series of Nutrition workshops, delivered by a local dietician who was in her second year of the International Olympic Committee Sports Nutrition diploma course, and Performance Lifestyle support was provided by PE and Guidance staff from the Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy.

The PDP athletes had a hugely successful year, with highlights including Shannon Leslie and Gemma Foulis being selected to represent Scotland in the U17 European Badminton Championships in Lithuania; Max Linklater, Jamie Sutherland, and Lucy Kenyon, all from Orkney Athletic and Running Club, being selected to represent Scotland in the International Track and Field Meet; and Parys Hamilton being selected as part of the National U19 Netball Scotland Squad.



Personal Development Programme Athletes after a competition at Grangemouth



Personal Development Programme Badminton Athletes flying the flag for Scotland

Testing and Monitoring

In May 2023, staff from Sport Science in UHI travelled to Orkney to perform formal testing and monitoring on the current PDP athletes, and to upskill the Community Sports Officer and Physical Prep coach to allow for a regular testing schedule on island. The tests capture data covering a range of areas such as strength, speed, power and conditioning with equipment such as light gates and light strips to give more accurate detail. The results are analysed and reported, and this detail can influence training prescription moving forwards to target specific areas of physical development as athletes progress towards key competitions.

The equipment required to carry out the testing locally was purchased by the Pickaquoey Centre, and the Community Sports Officer developed a Performance Development Programme two-year plan, which includes athlete testing 3 times per year.



Testing & Monitoring Athletes during a sportscotland Instructors visit

Athlete Travel Award Scheme

The Athlete Travel Award Scheme (ATAS) is aimed at improving opportunities for Highland and Island athletes to participate, progress and achieve in their sport by supporting travel costs associated with accessing competitive and developmental opportunities on the Scottish mainland. The ATAS is administered by the Community Sports Officer at the Council, and is funded by **sportscotland**, Orkney Islands Council and Stagecoach.

For the April 2022 to March 2023 period, 11 athletes from athletics, badminton, climbing, squash, swimming, and weightlifting received up to £1500 each towards travel costs. Stand out performances from ATAS recipients during this period include weightlifter Angus Robertson, competing in his first senior competition at the age of 15, finishing in third place and improving on his previously set Scottish U15 and U16 records; squash player Finlay Scott representing Scotland at the WSF World Junior Men's Team Championships 2022 in France; sprinter Taylah Spence setting a new Scottish record as part of the 4 x 100m relay team at Diamond League and then competing for Team Scotland in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham; and Ross Sinclair being selected as one of the 'Achieve Programme' participants for the Commonwealth Games.

[Athlete Travel Award Scheme \(orkney.gov.uk\)](https://orkney.gov.uk)



Athlete Travel Award Scheme recipients with Stagecoach representatives, Service Manager Garry Burton (left Photo) and Team Manager Sarah Johnston (right photo)

Community Sports Hub

Local sports clubs were invited to attend Community Sports Hub meetings in September and November 2022, and March and June 2023. All clubs provided an update to the group, and relevant topics for all such as generic training opportunities, funding and facilities were discussed.

[Community Sports \(orkney.gov.uk\)](https://orkney.gov.uk)



Young Persons Sports Panel

The Young Persons Sports Panel creates a national platform for young voices to be heard across Scotland, to help shape, influence and raise the profile of the future of sport. This year the first representative from Orkney was invited to sit on this panel.

Ex Kirkwall Grammar School pupil, Megan Clouston applied to become part of the **sportscotland** Young Peoples Sports Panel in August 2022. Megan then underwent a vigorous selection process and was successful in securing a place on the panel along with 19 other candidates from all over Scotland.

Megan started her journey as a Sports Leader at Kirkwall Grammar School. Through her positive impact as a sports leader during S3, she was invited to become a **sportscotland** Young Ambassador in S4. Planning, promoting, and delivering activities to her peers, Megan became a voice for young people in her school. Megan has and continues to take every opportunity to develop her skills, gaining national qualifications in sports coaching, as well as completing a qualification as a fitness coach, for Orkney Dance and Fitness.

Megan's new role means she will regularly attend meetings online and travel to development days and residentials on the mainland where she will be one of the young person's voices which will help shape the future of sport in Scotland.

[YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPORT PANEL NO.6 \(sportscotland.org.uk\)](https://sportscotland.org.uk)



Megan Clouston

Sports Club Workshops and Courses

A range of generic training opportunities were offered to local sports club volunteers from August 2022 to July 2023, coordinated by the Community Sports Officer. The Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport workshops are delivered by our Active Schools tutor. Workshop details are listed below:

Course	Date	Participants
Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport	26/10/2022	13
Emergency First Aid at Work	05/11/2022	8
Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport	23/11/2022	6
Coach Connect - Growth & Maturation	19/01/2023	15
UK Disability Inclusion Training	09/02/2023	21
Coach Connect - Coordination & Control	16/02/2023	10
Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport	24/03/2023	14
Emergency First Aid at Work	10/06/2023	7
Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport	20/06/2023	12
Child Wellbeing & Protection in Sport	27/06/2023	13
Emergency First Aid at Work	29/07/2023	4

Continuing Lifelong Professional Learning

The Active Schools Coordinators and Community Sports Officer continually strive to improve the service they provide by attending and completing a variety of workshops each year. Although ongoing restrictions during this academic year, restricted face to face training the team managed to complete several opportunities to improve their skills.

- Orkney Islands council - I Learn online training
- Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) training
- Child Protection Guidance training,
- Various **sportscotland** Hot Topics Workshops
- Midas – Minibus assessment
- Child Wellbeing & Protection (CWPS) tutor training

[Scottish Action for Mental Health - samh.org.uk](https://www.samh.org.uk)

The logo for Sports Scotland Active Schools Orkney. It includes a stylized graphic of a person in motion on the left, followed by the text "sports scotland" in a smaller font, "activeschools" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "ORKNEY" in a smaller, all-caps font below it.

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