

Spring 2026  
March-May

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kate@northyell.co.uk

# NEWSLETTER



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter, I hope it finds you well and excited for the summer that lies ahead. North Yell Development Council, like many of you, have a few busy months in front of us as we look to steer several projects forward. We would very much appreciate any input on our community shop consultation in the hope that we can continue to develop the services provided and do our best to meet the needs of North Yell.

The renovations to our business units at Sellafirth are making good progress and we look forward to opening that facility a bit later in the year, broadening out what support we can offer local folk and businesses alike. It will also provide a great base for our own staff to carry out their many and wide ranging tasks.

We will also be looking to move forward our ambitious plans for future housing across North Yell. It would be very helpful if as many of you as possible participate in these meetings and consultations. We feel a great weight of responsibility as we try to get this right for everyone and look to secure a more prosperous future for our whole community.

Thank you once again for the part you play and will play in the future of our wonderful community,

Very best wishes,  
Mark

## NORTH YELL CULTURE AND HERITAGE GROUP

If you support the aims and objectives of the North Yell Culture and Heritage group, to record and preserve the heritage of North Yell then you can become a member.

Membership is easy, simply email [kate@northyell.co.uk](mailto:kate@northyell.co.uk) for a membership form.

Once you are member you will be kept up to date with the activities of the group via email and will be invited to attend public meetings should you wish to.

## SOUNDS OF NORTH YELL

NYDC is partnered wi da newly established SCIO NYCHG tae undertak twa new cultural heritage projects in Nort Yell.

Da first een, "Savin wir midder tongue" is part funded bi Museums an Galleries Scotland, wi match fundin fae NYDC. Lairnin fir Sustainability Scotland, Scotland's UN University-recognised Regional Centre o Expertise on Education fir Sustainable Development, ir a project partner wirkin wi dem inaa. Da focus o da "Savin wir midder tongue" project is tae sustain da oral traditions, expressions an language o da community o Nort Yell. A very timely project, wi Shaetlan hivin juist been recognised as a language in its ain right laet last year. Da project will include baith da local community an its diaspora (fok wha hiv spread ir been dispersed fae dir hameland).

Da second een, "Listenin tae Nort Sea Communities" is funded troo da COAST-R Network. Da focus o dis project is tae capture da soonds o da environment o Nort Yell. Project partners fir dis is da University o Aiberdeen an da community o Greyhope Bay.

Baith o dis projects will focus on celebratin an recordin da vibrant intangible cultural heritage o Nort Yell through language an dialect, livin traditions, knowledge, oral traditions an music, as weel as da environment an landscape.

NYDC Director Michael Henderson said "hit's been a priority o wirs tae keep livin da cultur an traditions o Nort Yell, an wir owerly blyde tae be wirkin wi dis noo."

Ower da coorse o da projects da groups ir plannin tae record a number o roond table conversations on topics lik fishin an boat-bigin, makkin, Up Helly Aa, croftin an idder aspects o life in Nort Yell dat will become podcasts. 'Capturin dis voices is essential,' says Barry Nisbet, Chair o da NYCHG, 'wir community members hadd a treasure o stories, heritage an history an wir aafil excited tae be able tae share an record as muckle as possible.'

Translation included at the end of this newsletter

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## NYCS



### Shop Consultation

The NYCS Consultation will run until Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Paper copies can be picked up and returned in the shop and will also be available at community lunches on 24<sup>th</sup> March. You can submit your answers online using this link or QR code.

For clarity the shop is owned and operated by NYCS, i.e. not the North Yell Development Council (NYDC). NYCS is a private company limited by shares. NYDC owns the one share issued by NYCS. However, NYCS is a legal entity in its own right, with a separate company registration and board of Directors. NYCS is viewed as a trading subsidiary of NYDC.

As such, NYCS must remain viable in its own right, i.e. at least break even. This is because a trading subsidiary cannot legally be an ongoing financial drain on the parent charity i.e. NYDC.

<https://forms.gle/Nt4W9FsNumUMQafT6>

## NYDC GRANTS PROGRAMME

In recent months NYDC have provided the following grants to individuals and local groups.

- Education and training- NYDC provided £500 in grant support to individuals for driving lessons and Open University courses.
- NYCS Freezers- NYDC provided match funding for NYCS to get more cost effective and energy efficient freezers.
- Cullivoe Up Helly Aa and 2026 Jarl Squad- NYDC provided entertainment grant support to CUHA and the Jarl Squad so they could put on a fantastic weekend of celebrations.
- TAG Burn's Supper- Entertainment grant was provided to the TAGs for their joint Burn's Supper Fundraiser.

More details of the grants NYDC offers can be found on our website.



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## COST OF LIVING VOUCHERS

This winter NYDC offered a £200 Cost of Living Support Voucher to all permanent residencies in North Yell.

The scheme has been very successful with 99% of eligible houses claiming their grant.

NYDC are pleased to be able to provide a tangible benefit to the community and to support a local business at the same time.



## SELLAFIRTH OFFICE RENOVATIONS

Renovations at Unit 3 and 4 in Sellafirth are well underway and will be completed in early Spring.

The units at Sellafirth represent a great opportunity for NYDC to advance our work and projects.

The renovations are funded through Carbon Neutral Islands grant money. Once completed both offices will be rated as Net Zero. The new insulation, windows and doors, solar panels and air source heating will drastically reduce the carbon consumption in the units that had a previous energy rating of F.

Once renovations are completed the units will become the main base of operations for NYDC. They will also function as a co working space with access to office equipment for anyone looking for a place to work or study.

The units will house a computer suite for education and training, the base of our digital heritage archive, meeting space, private office space, studio space for two crafts people, a small retail space for local crafts and an event and performance space.

We look forward to welcoming you once we open.

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## COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Thank you for bearing with us through the slight disruption to Community Lunches over recent weeks.

We will be back on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and will continue through the Easter Holidays with Mark Lawson taking the reigns in the kitchen .

The plan is to run as normal from then on until the Summer holidays at the end of June.

## WICKED WEDNESDAYS

Wicked Wednesdays will finish for the summer at the end of this school term.

We only run Wicked Wednesdays from the October holidays to the Easter holidays to provide an inside social opportunity for the bairns. As the nights get lighter it is great to see them out and about in the evenings.

## PRESCRIPTIONS AND SHOPPING DELIVERY

Prescriptions and shopping are delivered every Friday in North Yell. If you would like to order a shopping delivery then contact the shop directly on 01957 744348 or shop@northyell.co.uk and ask for the NYDC delivery.

If you have a prescription to collect then email kate@northyell.co.uk or phone 07545389354

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## CULTURAL HERITAGE YARN CULLIVOE HALL 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Representatives from Learning for Sustainability will be present at the hall at 7pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> to have a yarn about what Intangible Cultural Heritage is, what it means for North Yell and how we can best record and preserve it. It will be a interesting, informal meeting. All are welcome. Refreshments provided.

## SOUNDS OF NORTH YELL CLUB ROOM NIGHT CULLIVOE HALL 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

NYDC are launching their heritage project , Sounds of North Yell, with a clubroom night at the hall.

There will be food, music, drams and good times.

All welcome from 7pm.

## EASTER FUN DAY CULLIVOE HALL 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Cullivoe Hall are hosting an Easter Fun Day on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be stalls, food, drinks, live music and easter activities.

If you would like to book a stall you can contact Alice Jamieson or phone 07584417717.

# Sounds of North Yell Club Room Night

FREE  
FOOD

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Cullivoe Hall Club Room from 7pm

Come du fir a dram,  
some sangs, a scar o  
tottie soup and a fine  
yarn!



## North Yell Development Council (NYDC) and the North Yell Culture and Heritage Group (NYCHG) embark on two new Cultural Heritage Projects

16th March 2026

NYDC have partnered with the newly established SCIO NYCHG, to undertake two cultural heritage projects in North Yell.

The first, “Savin wir midder tongue” is part funded by Museums and Galleries Scotland, with match funding from NYDC. Learning for Sustainability Scotland, Scotland’s UN University-recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, are also a project partner. The focus of this project is to sustain the oral traditions, expressions, and language of the community of North Yell. This is very timely given that Shaetlan was recognised as a language in its own right late last year. The project will include both the local community and its diaspora (people who have spread or been dispersed from their homeland).

The second, “Listening to North Sea Communities” is funded through the COAST-R Network. The focus of this project is to capture the sounds of the environment of North Yell. Project partners for this are the University of Aberdeen and the community of Greyhope Bay.

Both projects will focus on celebrating and recording the vibrant intangible cultural heritage of North Yell through language and dialect, living traditions, knowledge, oral traditions and music and the environment and landscape.

NYDC Director Michael Henderson said “it’s been a priority of ours to keep the culture and traditions of North Yell alive and we are excited to be working with this now”

Over the course of the projects the groups plan to record a number of round table conversations on topics such as fishing and boat building, makkin, Up Helly Aa, crofting and other aspects of life in North Yell that will become podcasts.

‘Capturing these voices is essential-’says Barry Nisbet, Chair of the NYCHG, ‘our community members hold a treasure of stories, heritage and history and we’re very excited to be able to share and record as much as possible.’

Sonic postcards - a snapshot of recorded sound to illustrate an aspect of life or the environment in North Yell, will be created and traded with Greyhope Bay.

The projects kick off on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with the Sounds of North Yell club room night at the Cullivoe Hall, a chance to have ‘a dram, some sangs, a scar o tottie soup and a fine yarn’.

The project will culminate in September with an event to celebrate the work of the projects and will encourage attendees online from the diaspora of North Yell all over the world. This will be held at the Sellafirth Community Hub, which is currently being refurbished. Part of this facility will house a digital heritage unit. More information about the heritage projects and all the work NYDC do can be found online at [northyell.co.uk](http://northyell.co.uk) or on NYDCs Facebook page.

If you require additional information about either of these projects, and/or wish to participate please contact [office@northyell.co.uk](mailto:office@northyell.co.uk)