

Summer 2026
June- August

www.northyell.co.uk
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NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hi Everyone,

Here we are at the start of another 'summer'. While the rest of the country basks in a heat wave we have the usual cloudy skies and showery weather. It can become quite frustrating at times but when you stop and consider all the many wonderful advantages we have in living in a community like North Yell, then it soon makes up for it.

Plus, the fact that we have too much to be doing at North Yell Development Council to be basking in the sunshine makes things a bit easier too. Over the summer months we have many projects to be taking forward.... We look forward to welcoming you in to our newly renovated offices in Sellafirth, seeing the first of our community polycrubs in Cullivoe kitted out and progress made towards providing more community housing. We look forward to seeing the Gutcher to Cullivoe road progressing at pace and the difference that this key infrastructure will make to our community.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our shop consultation and hope that you will all get involved in our housing consultation as we look forward to building a future that represents the views and opinions of all our members. As I have said before these key decisions way heavy on our directors so it is important that everyone has their say. So please make sure that your become a member of NYDC (See our website for how to do that) and get involved in the conversation.

We would also like to welcome Mr Dean Henderson on to our board of directors, following his election at our AGM in Sellafirth last week.

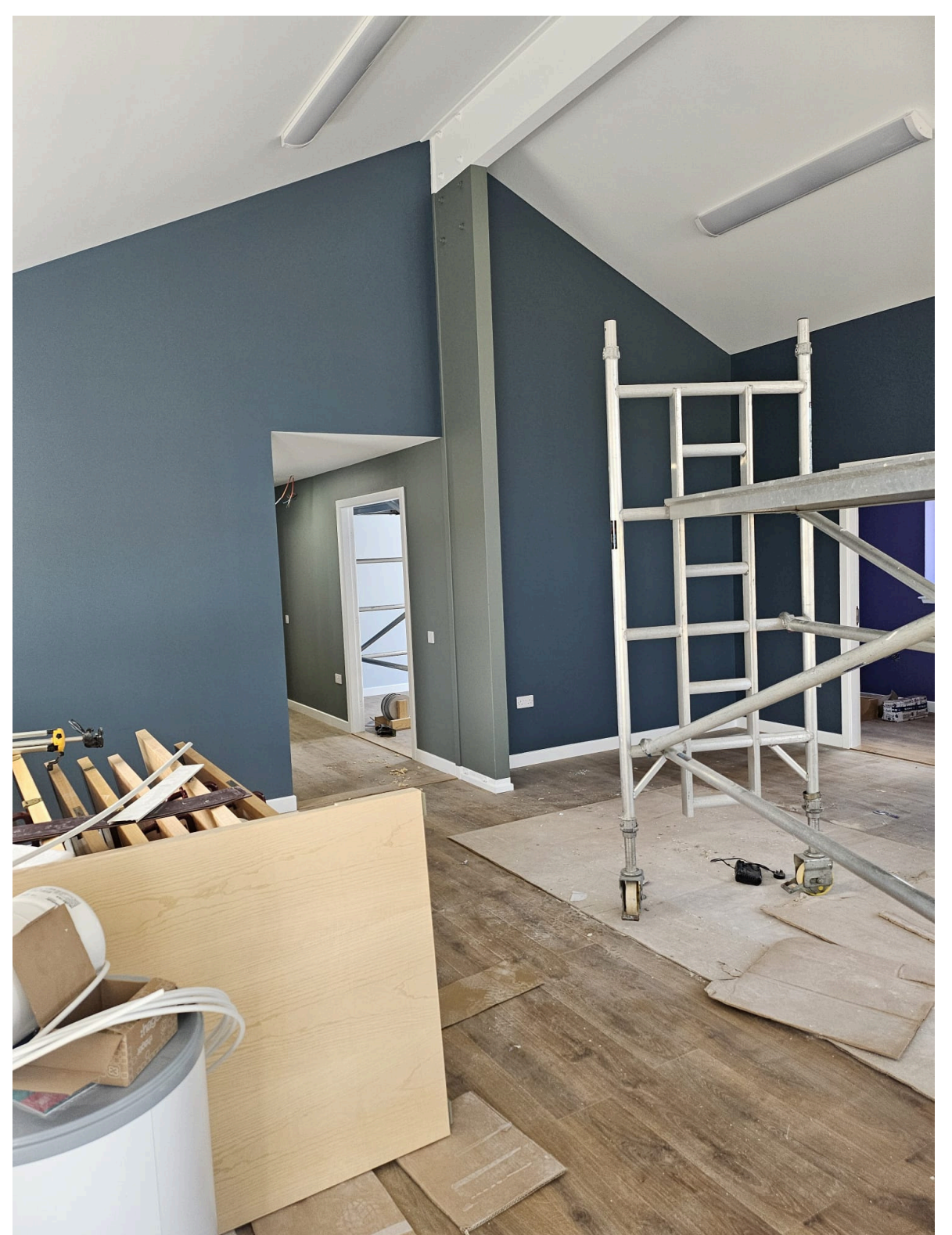
Very best wishes,
Mark

SELLAFIRTH COMMUNITY HUB

The renovations at the Sellafirth Community Hub are still ongoing. We had hoped they would be completed by now but we are hopeful it will be done soon.

Once the Hub is open, not only will it be the base of operations for NYDC, it will also house a digital computer suite for public use, a training and education centre, space for hot desking, business advice and support, recording facilities, event space, studio space for crafts people, small retail space and tourist information and the hub for the Oral and Digital Heritage Archive,

Keep your eyes peeled for our Open Day coming this summer.



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NYCS ran a community consultation earlier this year and the results from the consultation were positive. Based on the consultation there have been some changes in the shop you might have noticed.

You asked for- space for local crafts people to sell their items.

What we did- allocated a set of shelves and invited local crafts people to display and sell their goods.

You asked for- more local Shetland and Orkney products.

What we did- increased the orders from the local suppliers and added in more orkney suppliers.

You asked for- cafe facilities

What we did- NYCS directors visited local shops to assess what would be suitable for implementing in NYCS. Plans have been made for the purchase of self service cafe machines and renovations to the back office for a seating area. We are hoping these changes will start coming in over this year.



NORTH YELL CULTURE AND HERITAGE GROUP

The North Yell Culture and Heritage Group, set up as a charity to protect and promote the cultural heritage of North Yell, will be holding a public meeting in June.

The group was established following public consultation last year and have a trustee board of 6 members of the local community. Based on feedback from questionnaires and members, the group will be looking to begin work on the first in a series of projects to preserve build heritage in the area. This will include maintenance and repair work at the Blee Hut at Gloup, with a work party planned for July to carry out some basic maintenance of the hut, install interpretive signage and hopefully a picnic bench for visitors to enjoy the view.

The group are looking for volunteers to come along and help with this community preservation project and you can sign up at the public meeting on Thursday 11th June, 7.00pm, at the Cullivoe Hall. Come along to hear more about the future plans for the group, including their link with the Shetland Seafarers Research Group to record local stories of merchant seamen.

To sign up as a member, or for more information about the group, email northyellheritage@gmail.com or see the facebook page @North Yell Culture & Heritage Group.

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NEWEST FACE OF NYDC

NYDC were delighted to welcome Dean Henderson as the newest Director for NYDC, he was elected to the board at our AGM on 19th May 2026.

“Dean is a very committed member of the community and will use his voice to keep us old folk in line. We would like to thank Dean for taking on this role and look forward to working with him for many years to come.”- Mark Lawson, Chairperson.



NYDC AGM

NYDC held their AGM on the 19th May 2026, the meeting was well attended by the NYDC Directors, NYDC Members and Community Members.

The AGM is a chance for the membership of NYDC to get updates on the work NYDC have been doing through the year as well as ask questions about current and future projects.

The Year End Report 25/26 can be read on the News section of our website. northyell.co.uk/news.

COMMUNITY SKIP DAY

There will be a skip placed at the NYDC offices in Sellafirth over the weekend 6th and 7th June for community use,

Please only dispose of household and garden waste and furniture. No hazardous materials, agricultural waste or white goods.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND UNIT 2 SELLAFIRTH



NYDC will be having a community consultation in the next few months about Unit 2 in Sellafirth. NYDC are looking to take the building into community ownership. The Unit is currently being used as the sorting office for the Royal Mail, that will continue to be the case, however there is an opportunity to renovate the unused garage space which is what we will be consulting on in the summer.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROJECTS

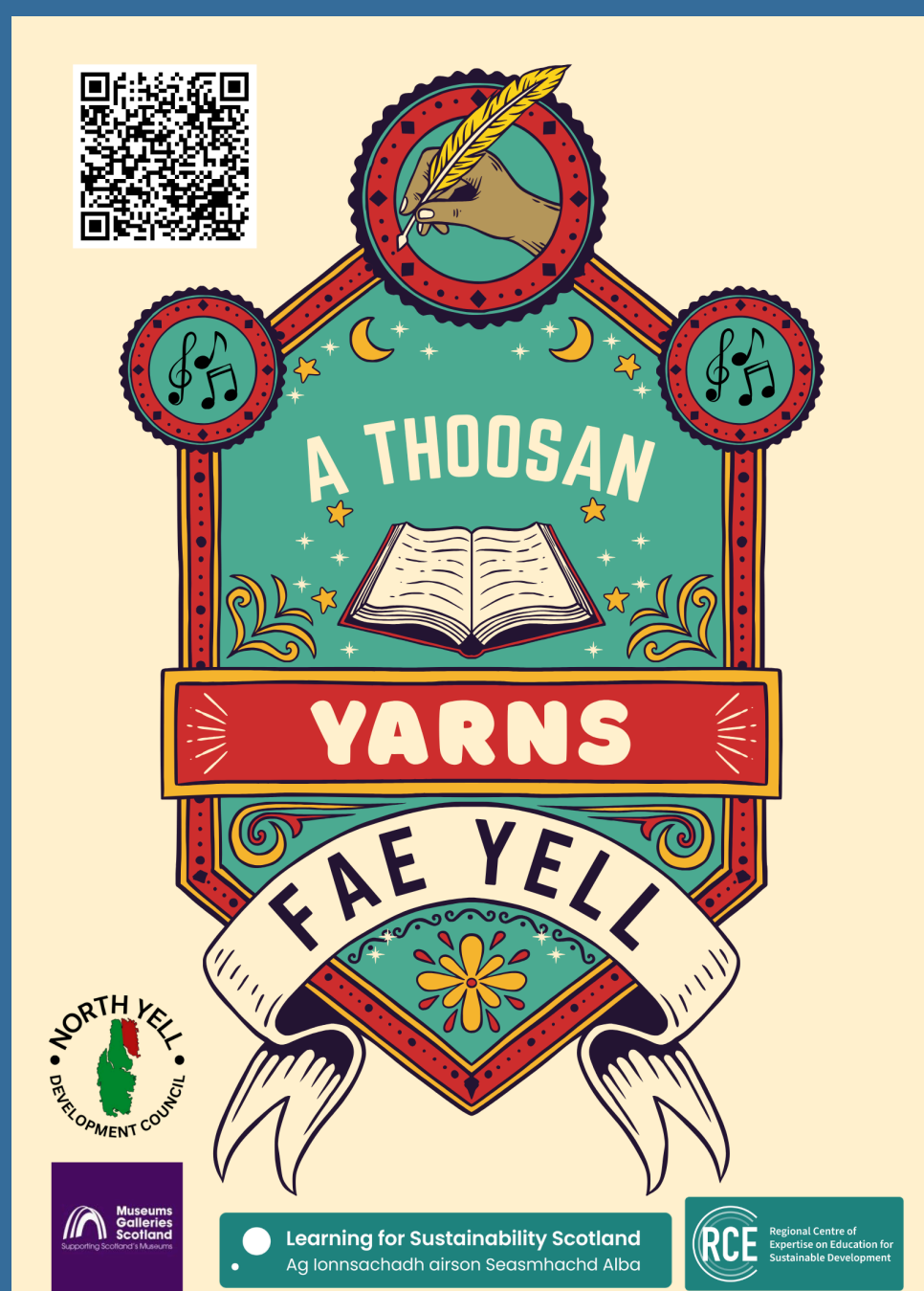
A THOOSAN YARNS FAE YELL

NYDC launched a mapping project aiming to collect 1000 yarns and pin them on a map.

If you have a story you want to share about Yell, Shetland, how you use the Shaetlan language or how the culture of Shetland plays a part in your life we want to hear it.

It is really easy to pin your story, share a link or a photo on our map by scanning the QR code or following the link.

<https://padlet.com/office2762/savin-wir-midder-tongue-1000-yarns-fae-yell-lf26lwt5jsrjoelz>



SAVIN' WIR MIDDER TONGUE

You might already be aware of the project NYDC are a part of focusing on promoting and celebrating Shaetlan as the official language in Shetland.

As part of this project Bruce from Shetland Fir Wirds and Kate ran sessions with the bairns in Cullivoe to help them write poems in Shaetlan. Keep an eye out around North Yell in the Summer for links to read all the poems on our poetry trail.

To spark your interest here is a poem written collaboratively by the Primary 2s

Da fiddle maks a awfaa boannie soond.
I wis dansin we mi freend.
We wir dansin tay da Boston Two Step.
We were wirlin an burlin.

Da fiddle maks a awfaa boannie soond.
I wis dansin we me mam.
I wis aafil blyde ta danse wi her.
We were wirlin an burlin.

The folks were weel-riggitt in der best
claes.
Dey were dansin da Boston Two Step.
Da nicht wis awfaa lichtsome,
By da end, I wis depoopertit.

LISTENING TO NORTH SEA COMMUNITIES

Last month we held workshops with the community and the school to record sounds of the local environment which will be made into Sonic Postcards, little snapshots of the sounds we hear everyday.

More workshops will be held in August if you would like to be a part of the project. Keep a look out for details later in the summer.

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COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Community Lunches are back to usual operation and will be running until the summer holidays with one week off on 16th June.

The last community lunches before the summer holiday break will be on 30th June.

DELIVERIES

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

NYDC and the Youth Cafe will be working with the SIC, SRT and Active Schools to provide activities throughout the summer holidays for the bairns. Full details of the activities on offer will be advertised on Facebook.

All the activity days are free and open to bairns from anywhere in Shetland, not just Yell.



NYDC GRANTS SCHEME

In recent months, NYDC have given education and training grant support to support two individuals with the HGV licences and for a training course in Faroe.

There have also been grants given to support community events such as the 500 drive, the Easter Fun Day,

NYDC can provide grants that cover community groups for small, medium and large scale development as well as individuals and groups for entertainment events, education and training and young people's travel.

Recipients of grants have to demonstrate how their project will benefit North Yell or the residents of North Yell, but do not have to take place in North Yell.

Application forms can be found on the NYDC website or be emailing grants@northyell.co.uk



John Saunders winning the first prizes at the 500 drive, made possible through an entertainment grant from NYDC and Darbo with the inaugural Booby Spoon prize.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADY OF AVENEL- OPEN BOAT AND TUNES- 23RD JUNE

Barry Nisbet will be sailing in on the Tall Ship Lady of Avenel on the 23rd June. If they arrive in time they will be at Community Lunches on the 23rd. They will be welcoming folks aboard the ship in the afternoon for a look around and tunes.

More details on facebook nearer the time.

NORTH YELL REGATTA 6TH AND 7TH JUNE

6th June- Albacore Dingys

7th June- Pico Dingys

This could be subject to change due to weather. Keep an eye on the NYDC and Sail Yell Facebook pages for further details.

TUNNEL EVENT 4TH AND 5TH JULY

The Yell and Unst Tunnel Action Groups put out a Save the Date for a weekend of events at the Cullivoe Pier.

4/5 July 2026

A weekend of fun - activities, games, music and dancing at Cullivoe Pier. More details coming soon.