

# Shetland *arts*

## 2018 - 2019: Quarter 1

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: SYPG XpoNorth trip; Amanda Welch's Conditions exhibition

Interim Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)



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## Priority Area: Youth Arts

Shetland has a vibrant Youth Arts scene provided by a range of individuals and groups. We will support and contribute to this provision, create and sustain engagement, and nurture creativity and talent through an annual programme of access-level cross-artform workshops, artform specific “intensives”, high-quality music and drama productions and subsidised access to events and activities.

### Q1 in numbers

**2 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**328 Audience attendances**  
**36 Development Sessions**  
**417 Participations**

**Shetland Youth Theatre** had a very successful trip to Eden Court in Inverness in April for the bi-annual **Connections** festival. They took part in workshops, met other young people with similar interests, and worked through a very contagious sick bug to perform *The Free 9* to a sold out crowd! Most interesting for the group was the opportunity to see other shows, and be exposed to the work of other youth theatres.

Members of **Shetland Young Promoters Group** attended **XpoNorth** in Inverness (see Case Study below) and started work on booking performers for the Big Takeover event scheduled to take place in venues around Lerwick in September 2018.

## Priority Area: Education & Learning

Our Education & Learning programme is diverse and offers provision at all levels. From the highly successful schools outreach work run from Bonhoga, through to our formal education programme delivered under contract and in partnership with Shetland College UHI, and informal opportunities such as regular cross-artform workshops, business development, masterclasses and Creative Insight events.

### Q1 in numbers

**9 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**149 Audience attendances**  
**450 Development Sessions**  
**2714 Participations**

The 17/18 academic year ended in quarter one with a particularly high success rates with 48 students completing their **Music and Film courses delivered in partnership with Shetland College UHI** and a 97% pass rate.

As an end of year celebration, students held a **Student Showcase** event in the Mareel Auditorium and Screen one. The night started with an hour long screening of short films created by Skills for Work, NC and BA students followed by a musical showcase in the Mareel Auditorium.



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Number of students who completed their studies:

- Skills for Work: Audio Engineering - 9
- Skills for Work: Film - 10
- NC Creative Industries: Music - 3
- NC Creative Industries: Film - 5
- HNC Music - 6
- BA Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands - 6
- BA Applied Music - 4
- Music Recording and Production (Masters level module) - 5

Pupils from the Anderson High and Sandwick Junior High Schools enjoyed three days working with technicians in the Mareel Recording Studio as part of **School Activities Week**. Pupils were given the chance to record, under supervision of Mareel technicians, songs and music they had been working on during the year. The aim of the activity was to give the students an insight into how a typical studio session would be run. Over the three days 30 participants recorded three pieces of music.

The first quarter was exceptionally busy for the **Start Bonhoga Schools Education Programme**, with work from the five participating schools curated and collated into the final exhibition **Unexpected Sites** in Mareel's auditorium from 23-29 May. Pupils from Fetlar, Aith, Whalsay, Sandwick and Brae had started work last August by exploring their surroundings, first by walking and drawing, then expanding these sketches and ideas into 3D work over the year for the final exhibition, with lead artist Amy Gear.

The resulting show was a huge installation of drawing, sculpture and film work exploring ideas of journey and mapping, coinciding with the exhibition **Conditions**, on the same theme, by Amanda Welch at Bressay Lighthouse.

As part of the final celebration for this year's project all the pupils visited their show in Mareel, were able to visit the Museum and Archives to see the Holbein portrait on loan from National Gallery, and also travel out to Bressay Lighthouse to visit **Conditions** (no mean logistical feat in terms of buses, ferries and the school timetable). **Amanda Welch** was there to meet nearly all of the groups and to give a personal introduction to her work. The pupils also took part in an outdoor drawing workshop, either with artist **Amy Gear** or **Aimee Labourne**, a wonderful combined opportunity for all the youngsters involved. The Start Bonhoga Education will continue into the new academic year for its final year of funding from **Children & the Arts**.

Author **Martin Stewart** visited Shetland to take part in a **Creative Writing and Storytelling Residency** run in partnership with **SIC Creative Links**, and with support from **The Scottish Book Trust Live Literature Funding** scheme. Martin visited 5 school sessions and hosted a public session at Shetland Library to discuss the creative process, how he got published and what it is like to be a published author.



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## Priority Area: Arts & Well-being

The value of arts to personal and community development is becoming increasingly recognised in Shetland. We will continue to develop our Arts & Wellbeing work through the support of groups which use the arts as a vehicle to wellbeing, providing activities for individuals in care settings and providing free access to events or activities for individuals who have been referred by medical, care or support professionals.

### Q1 in numbers

**1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**60 Audience attendances**  
**30 Development Sessions**  
**166 Participations**

**Wellbeing Choir** continued after the Easter Holidays up to the end of the summer term. Attendee numbers tend to drop when the weather improves, but the participants that attended during this period got a lot out of the sessions. The Wellbeing Choir takes a break for Summer, but will be back in September.

We continued to partner with **Alzheimer Scotland**, to facilitate 'Tak Your Makkin', our knitting group for people with Alzheimer's and their carers, and provided meeting rooms for the **space2face Restorative Justice** project.

## Priority Area: Development & support

The development and support of individuals and groups, along with the promotion of excellence and experimentation, is integral to our work. This includes the provision of funding both directly and through signposting, access to equipment and facilities, paid work placements, volunteering opportunities, commissioning productions and providing support and training to allow creatives to access new markets. We will continue to provide numerous paid opportunities for freelance artists, education staff and performers.

### Q1 in numbers

**92 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**5270 Audience attendances**  
**26 Development Sessions**  
**346 Participations**

This quarter has seen some significant changes to the programme of activity at **Bonhoga**. The contemporary visual art exhibition programme has moved off site and is being delivered from a diverse range of spaces around Shetland, enabling Bonhoga to celebrate applied art and craft and its role in Shetland's culture and economy.

The first and second of a trio of Shetland applied art and craft showcases entitled **Shetland Made** was delivered in the main gallery at Bonhoga and will continue to run through to September. Each showcase has featured 5-6 local designer/makers, and has included current ranges, new work and one off exhibition pieces.

This is a unique opportunity for each designer/maker to sell their work within an exhibition context allowing a deeper level of engagement from the visitor. Included in the offer to makers was the creation of an online feature, fully tailored to them, from which they received full marketing support. Each maker delivered an insight into their practice, the inspiration behind



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their work and the realities of running a creative business in Shetland. This activity helps to develop audience awareness of local craft practices and an understanding of the value of 'handmade'. As well as a development opportunity this became a highly successful marketing tool. Sales were strong for the first showcase, exceeding the projected income figure.

We are very excited about this new opportunity for Shetland makers. We recognise Craft is an art form as well as a creative industry and makers play a key role in the local creative community. With an increase in demand for local work, we are keen to increase our support of this sector by establishing a retail and exhibition platform for craft at Bonhoga. All feedback has been positive which is a great indicator to the success of a craft exhibition/retail model like this going forward.

In the Lower Gallery we exhibited the work of emerging local artists **Julie Wilmore** and **Avril Thomson**, Julie's dramatic Shetland landscapes and Avril meticulous pencil drawings of Lerwick were both very positively received. Avril complemented her exhibition with a range of prints in the shop reproduced from her original paintings, and a range of hand painted accessories, these continue to sell well.

**Life Drawing** continued into April with a popular block of sessions led by model Jay. These sessions gave artists the opportunity to draw a nude model in a calm and supportive environment.

**Community Film Project** finished off with a screening for the community groups and their supporters. Each representative of the groups spoke about the filming process, what they had learned, and what they were going to do next.

In Quarter 1 we were pleased to facilitate the Shetland contribution to **Processions**. The Processions project, created by 14-18 Now and administered by Artichoke, invited women (including anyone identifying as a woman) to work together to create an artwork which would commemorate the 100 year anniversary of some women receiving the vote in the UK. We engaged young artist **Christina Inkster** to facilitate a series of workshops, which resulted in a colourful patchwork banner incorporating all participant ideas. Four of the participants and the artist then took the banner to Edinburgh in June, to take part in the Processions procession! They displayed their banner and marched with thousands of women in Edinburgh, while simultaneous marches occurred in London, Cardiff and Belfast. The banner then returned to Shetland, and is currently exhibited in the Feature Space at Mareel.

Shetland Arts worked with **Diane Legget** and **Francesca Leyland** to facilitate a series of **Musical Theatre Masterclasses** for all ages in the Mareel Auditorium. Covering sessions on acting, singing and dance, using musicals from many different eras, these sessions proved very popular with all ages. We plan to continue this partnership in the future.

We continued to work with the **Friends of the Garrison** group and provided volunteer training to several members.



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# Priority Area: Programming

We offer a varied and engaging programme of events, exhibitions, screenings and festivals across a range of artforms, including film, music, drama, literature, visual art, craft, dance and digital. We also provide spaces and support for other promoters and groups to stage their shows.

## Q1 in numbers

**1134 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**44394 Audience attendances**

**37 Development Sessions**

**321 Participations**

## Film

Despite some spectacularly fine weather, particularly in May, cinema attendances were up 8% on this quarter last year, and 23% on the previous year.

There were a few disappointments at the box office, such as **Tomb Raider**, **Rampage**, **Sherlock Gnomes** and **A Wrinkle in Time**, but blockbusters such as **Avengers: Infinity War**, **Deadpool 2**, **Solo: A Star Wars Story** and **Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom** all performed well.

**Peter Rabbit**, a new animated family film based (somewhat loosely!) on Beatrix Potter's books and featuring the voice of James Corden, was extremely busy, and was brought back for a second run – as was charming wartime drama **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**.

Helping to fulfil our remit to show a wide range of film, our **Screen Horizons** strand features arthouse and foreign language titles alongside low-budget independents and documentaries. Our selection was particularly diverse this quarter, showcasing films from Australia, Egypt, Austria, Sweden, Japan, France, Indonesia and Canada, as well as the UK and USA – truly world cinema!

## Music

In April Mareel welcomed back to Shetland the popular Swedish folk trio, **Vasen**, who played to a very appreciative Friday night audience. This gig was followed in May by Irish “folk miscreants” Lankum on their debut visit to the isles.

Also in April the ever-popular charity fundraiser, **Shetland's Got Talent** returned to Mareel, featuring performances from many talented locals.

**Young Fiddler of the Year** was also very well-attended with classes on the Thursday and Friday and the winner's Gala Concert on the final Saturday night.

The beginning of May saw the return of the **Shetland Folk Festival** to Mareel - with a variety of events including a performance for nursery children, a family concert, evening performances and as one of three venues for the massie Foy concert, featuring all of the visiting artists.

Later in the month local promoters **Ragged Wood** presented US based Americana group, **Birds of Chicago**.



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In June we rounded off the 2017/18 Classical Season with a performance and workshops from **The Wallace Collection**, an international brass quintet. This was complimented by a performance later in the month from **Trio HLK**, Scotland's leading young jazz trio, currently touring with Evelyn Glennie.

In June we saw a number of hires, with **Rageed Wood** returning with **Gretchen Peters & Kim Richey** followed by a another outing for the popular **BBC Ten Pieces** project. **Fred MacAulay** visited on his "30 Years On" tour and local group **First Foot Soldiers** performed to a sell-out standing audience.

## Drama

In May we welcomed two productions for our younger audience to Mareel. **Imagine**, Scotland's Theatre Festival for Young People, along with **Windmill Theatre Company**, visited with a new version of the Russian folktale, **Baba Yaga**.

Later in the same week, audiences were delighted by the **National Theatre of Scotland's** co-production with **Catherine Wheels Theatre Company**; **Eddie & The Slumber Sisters**.

Both productions had very busy school sessions, organised in partnership with **SIC Creative Links** followed by public sessions in the early evening.

May was a busy month for the **Garrison Theatre**, kicking off with a hiring for comedian **Mark Ritchie** with his Edinburgh Fringe show **God Only Knows** followed by well-attended variety fund-raisers for local groups **Shetland Forwards**, **Shetland Aid** and the **Thomas Fraser Festival**.

## Visual Art

The off-site exhibition programme in the first quarter of this year was dominated by **Conditions** by **Amanda Welch** at Bressay Lighthouse (see Case Study) and **Unexpected Sites** at Mareel (see Education & Learning). This continued our programme of exhibitions in new and unusual locations across Shetland and tied in with our Start schools education programme funded by Children & the Arts with support from SIC.

Within Mareel our exhibition spaces continued to show work by emerging and established practitioners, **Jeremy Sutton Hibbert** (Klondykers on the Long Wall) and **Liam Henderson** (Portraits in the Feature Space).

Full event listings can be found at <http://issuu.com/shetlandarts>



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# Priority Area: Mareel Recording Studio

Maximising Mareel's digital production facilities (principally for music and video recording and broadcast), we will provide opportunities for musicians and producers to generate revenue and Intellectual Property.

## Q1 in numbers

**0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**0 Audience attendances**

**66 Development Sessions**

**117 Participations**

Work continued on recording projects by local songwriters **Gemma Anderson** and **Carol Jamieson**, and **Isaac Webb and the Zets** recorded a mini-LP of their own material in a single day, playing live together in Mareel's Green Room. There was some voiceover work for a **French TV** company, in Shetland for a week in June to make a nature documentary, as well as full production of a soundtrack for a web advert in conjunction with local film-maker **Keiba Clubb**.

In May we hosted **Speak Unique**, an Edinburgh-based group working on an innovative project developing speech simulation software to help patients who lose the ability to speak and need to communicate through a device. We offered spaces and technical support to facilitate the recording of 50 Shetland dialect speakers over 2 days in order to form a template of the Shetland accent.

We participated once again in **Schools' Activities Week** (see Education & Learning section for more details)

There were clients looking to edit and assemble interview material for radio broadcast, along with further requests for CD duplication and archiving of material from reel-to-reel. In June we embarked on an exciting project, digitising the audio collection of Shetland filmmaker **Jenny Gilbertson** on behalf of **Shetland Museum and Archives**. The work involves the digital transfer of a significant quantity of audio reels recorded with portable equipment on her many trips to the Arctic, and offers a fascinating glimpse into an extraordinary life.



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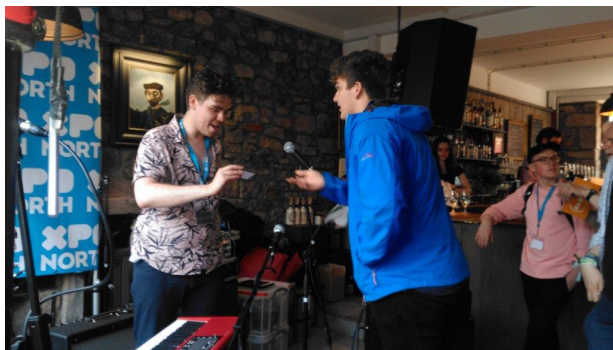
# Case Study: SYPG XpoNorth trip

On the 27th and 28th of June, 12 members of Shetland Young Promoters Group (SYPG) accompanied by Shetland Arts and Youth Services employees attended the annual XpoNorth Creative Industries conference and festival in Inverness. The festival covered crafts, fashion and textiles; writing and publishing; screen and broadcast; digital and technology and music.

The participants took part in a series of fundraising events to help pay for their trip to the festival.



This included sponsored beach cleaning and busking events. Several members of the group were also successful in securing funding from the UHI Student Fund.



The [festival programme](#) consisted of a series of workshops, seminars, technology demonstrations and a music programme of bands playing in a series of venues during the evenings. The SYPG found the evenings particularly useful as an opportunity to network and “scout” for bands that could travel to Shetland for future events. SYPG member Chris Coles Said “ I knew beforehand that there would be plenty of opportunities to see new bands but I hadn’t really considered the scale of the event and just how many quality acts we would be seeing in such a short space of time. It turned out to be very fruitful for the SYPG and we made a lot of interesting new contacts.”

# Case Study: Amanda Welch, Conditions

Bressay Lighthouse,  
5 May - 24 June 2018



As part of **Beyond Bonhoga** - the ongoing programme of off-site exhibitions across Shetland - Bressay Lighthouse was the venue throughout May and June for *Conditions*, a solo exhibition by London-based artist Amanda Welch.

Amanda had submitted an exhibition proposal to Shetland Arts after visiting Bonhoga on a visit to Shetland but her work was too big for the gallery space. It was decided it would suit the Amenity Trust's space at Bressay very well, providing a great focus for work exploring Shetland's landscape.

As well as offering a new and engaging location in which to encounter contemporary art it also supported two paid residencies, one for Amanda throughout May and an open call for an artist to respond to Amanda's work and the location throughout June. Through a selection process from over 120 applicants the latter was awarded to Glasgow-based artist Vicki Fleck. Her practice considers ideas about the natural world and the human response to landscape and nature.



Amanda Welch's work mixes painting, drawing, sculpture and mixed media installation and assemblage to explore place relationships with landscape. She first visited Shetland in 2005. An experience while walking to the Culswick Broch was the germ for the Shetland works which formed a large part of *Conditions*. The exhibition was installed in three rooms in the old lighthouse keepers' accommodation at Bressay Lighthouse.

During exhibition opening hours (Wed, Fri-Sun each week) each artist was required to be on duty and staff the exhibition. Amanda explains, "During May I lived there, looking after the exhibition, talking to visitors (some came on purpose, others I snatched off the cliff when they were innocently trying to go for a walk or look at

the lighthouse, only one said he just wanted to use the toilet) & in between visitors working in the studio space.”

The exhibition rooms adjoin the live/work space so this proved easy and successful. Outwith opening hours each artist was able to work and explore freely. The benefit to having a

creative/personal guide for visitors to the exhibition was enormously positive, providing direct engagement with the work, its concepts and the process of its creation.

In addition to the creative insight for all visitors throughout May Amanda delivered an informal gallery talk at the opening event (5 May) in which she explained her influences and creative approach to her work. At the close of the exhibition (24 June) both artists were present to speak about their work together.

Nearly 400 visitors came to the exhibition over the 30 days of the show (throughout May and June) plus nearly 200 school children from five schools across Shetland who visited the exhibition and took part in gallery and drawing workshops as part of the START Bonhoga Education Programme.

The response to the show was extremely positive and the residency model worked excellently from the point of view of interpretation and creative insight for visitors, especially those not naturally engaged with contemporary art.

The feedback from Bressay residents was particularly favourable in terms of the show's location and as an opportunity to support more visitors to Bressay and the amenities on offer. We would certainly consider using this space again in the future.



#### Comments

Very interesting, fascinating talks.  
interesting

Seeing Shetland from a different perspective  
Very interesting. Thank you.

Beautiful exhibition, and lovely to  
hear all the stories behind the work.  
Very interesting and colorful.

Absolutely brilliant - loved the look  
of Shetland. Real pleasure to meet  
Amanda - thank you.

Really lovely - Thank you  
Very interesting - Newcastle.

Q1 18-19 KPIs	Concerts, Screenings, Exhibition Days					Audience attendances					Development Sessions					Participations				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
1. Youth Arts	2	-	-	-	2	328	-	-	-	328	36	-	-	-	36	417	-	-	-	417
2. Education & Learning	9	-	-	-	9	149	-	-	-	149	450	-	-	-	450	2714	-	-	-	2714
3. Arts & Well-being	1	-	-	-	1	60	-	-	-	60	30	-	-	-	30	166	-	-	-	166
4. Development & Support	92	-	-	-	92	5270	-	-	-	5270	26	-	-	-	26	346	-	-	-	346
5. Programming	1134	-	-	-	1134	44394	-	-	-	44394	37	-	-	-	37	321	-	-	-	321
6. Recording Studio	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	66	-	-	-	66	117	-	-	-	117
Programme Total	1238	0	0	0	1238	50201	0	0	0	50201	645	0	0	0	645	4081	0	0	0	4081
SCT Annual Target					3000	160000				160000					1300					9000
% of Annual Target					41.27%	31.38%				31.38%					49.62%					45.34%