



Shetland *arts*

2020 - 2021: Quarter 2

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Trad Big Band, Peter Davis' Watercolour Lessons

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.

Q2 in numbers

- * **Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**
- * **Audience attendances**
- * **Development Sessions**
- * **Participations**

Our regular Youth Groups continued to run online with **Shetland Youth Theatre**, led by **Steph Pagulayan**, and **Film Crew JNR**, led by **Keiba Clubb**, providing weekly development for ages 7-19. Feedback from participants is that these regular sessions provided structure to their week and gave them something to look forward to during the uncertain times of lockdown.

Youth Dance sessions ran throughout the Summer led by Creative Project Manager **Kathryn Spence**, with a special edition workshop being a **Dance Exchange** between ourselves and **Dance North**, an organisation based in Moray. They have a newly formed Youth Dance Company of around the same age as ours, and this session provided the opportunity for the peers to take class together (part delivered by us and part by Dance North) and then to share experiences and create dance together through Zoom.

The first part of our **Trad Big Band Project** took place in July (see Case Study)

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.

Q2 in numbers

- * **Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**
- * **Audience attendances**
- * **Development Sessions**
- * **Participations**

Preparation for the 20/21 academic year continued through July and August with the new students returning to Mareel mid September. A significant change to the education program delivered in partnership with **Shetland College UHI** was the move to a blended (online & in-person) classroom approach which saw the implementation of the UHI's new virtual learning environment BrightSpace.



During this quarter, all existing teaching materials and resources were collated, uploaded and formatted to BrightSpace. This significant undertaking will safeguard the continued delivery of course work and should mean no interruption to classes should Mareel face further lockdown restrictions.

We launched a new '**Skills for Work**' course this academic year entitled '**Creative Enterprise**' - a Scottish Qualification Authority National Progression Award designed to equip candidates with relevant and transferable skills which can be used in any employment setting, including self-employment.

During July and August interviews for Skills for Work, NC and HNC courses were undertaken through video conferences. The final enrolment figures for all courses delivered in Mareel are as follows:

- **Skills for Work Film:** 8
- **Skills For Work Sound:** 10
- **Skills For Work Creative Enterprise:** 13
- **NC Creative Industries:** 8
- **HNC Music:** 2
- **BA Film Contemporary Film Making:** 7

Shetland Arts also hosts students on the **UHI BA Applied Music** and **MA Music and the Environment** course, together with delivering a range of **Creative Industries MA level modules**.

Due to ongoing demand, **Bryan Peterson** continued to host a study group based on the **Ableton Live** music production software which took advantage of the normally expensive software being made available for free during lockdown.

An online **Creative Lab** led by **Grace Barnes** allowed Shetland Arts to partner with **Pitlochry Festival Theatre**. Grace encouraged 6 participants to write short monologues for a theatre setting. These were sent to Pitlochry Theatre who employed actors to read these, producing these into professional recordings that have been shared on our Facebook and social media pages over the summer months

Peter Davis ran a hugely popular **Creative Lab** focussing on **Watercolour Techniques** (see case study).



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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.

Q2 in numbers

- * **Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**
- * **Audience attendances**
- * **Development Sessions**
- * **Participations**

Work has been ongoing for delivery of the **Arts in Care** and **Wellbeing Sessions** with **Shetland Islands Council**: both through Craigielea and Head of Care Services.

The work delivered over the **Summer of Wellbeing Arts at Home** was nominated for the **Achates Prize**, an annual prize that celebrates cultural giving in the UK. Shetland Arts was nominated for the work alongside 15 other Scottish organisations. They were impressed by the creative approach to the work that could not have happened anywhere else.

Shetland Arts worked with artists to make the content relevant to the Shetland community. Films were recorded outdoors with local scenery in the background where possible, and content included local words, and references to local memories and places to help encourage connection. For example, Still Stanes, a video by **Jane Cockayne**, incorporates a range of local languages that are used in the village where she lives, providing local context.

This project stands out for the targeted support it offered every older member of the community in local care homes, and for the local focus of the content created for participants.

Wellbeing Writing with Claire Davenport continued to be popular online. We changed this quarter's delivery to drop-in sessions as opposed to block booking, which encouraged higher numbers at sessions and allowed for a fresh starting point each week.

Wellbeing Choir with leader Suzanne Briggs continued to be popular on Shetland Arts Facebook page, providing a very accessible session that allowed participants to drop in and out as suited them. Many of the past participants were weekly regulars at this, as well as us reaching people from around the world.



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.

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Visual Arts and Crafts Makers Awards (VACMA) for 19/20 have now finalised, with all 4 award recipients having evaluated their projects. This has been done via self evaluation and email as opposed to our staff visiting makers' workspaces. Feedback from artists was that this award has proven invaluable at a time when work such as exhibiting and workshop delivery has been cancelled or postponed due to Coronavirus. Planning is underway for the next round of funding which will be available in November.

We continued to support craft makers through our **Curated Retail** program at the Bonhoga Shop which reopened in August.

In August we received £247,582 from Creative Scotland after applying for support from the **Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund**. The investment will allow us to continue to operate during this period of reduced income and provide freelance and commissioning opportunities to artists. We expect to make these new opportunities available to artists in October.



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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.

Q2 in numbers

- * **Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**
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Due to the impact of Covid-19, the deadline for completion of the **LOCUS public art project** was extended to Sept 2021. Work is currently rescheduled for installation in the first week of April 2021 with a launch event on the weekend of 10/11 April 2021 (the last weekend of the Easter school holidays). Conversations have continued with each of the artists to keep track of progress.

Throughout September a new temporary exhibition space was developed to be installed in the car park at Mareel at the end of the month. **PERIMETER** will offer exhibition opportunities to local artists making new work about these strange times and will provide a safe outdoor space for the public to engage with contemporary art.

Due to the inevitable postponement of the planned **Dorothea Rust** exhibition at The Booth in Scalloway we were able to offer a one-month residency opportunity in the space instead, to create work responding to the current times. After an Open Call for Shetland-based artists the residency was offered to **MAMhouss**, a collective of artists, writers and makers who aim to navigate and combine parenting with creative practice. Their work is driven by dialogue with a wider community, particularly a community underrepresented or an otherwise non-traditional art audience. The resulting work will be exhibited in the PERIMETER space at Mareel.

Film screenings resumed when Mareel reopened on 28 August, with 2m+ distancing measures reducing cinema capacity to around a quarter of what it would normally be. At first we programmed films that had been released before lockdown, that we hadn't previously screened, but in later weeks a lack of major new releases has meant the balance of programming has shifted slightly away from mainstream to more independent films, as smaller distributors are continuing to supply content in a way that the majors aren't. Overall, audience numbers are understandably limited, with family films performing best. Customer feedback has been very positive, with audiences feeling safe in the cinemas and delighted to once again be able to enjoy films on the big screen.

Covid-19 restrictions meant a complete cancellation of all live events in music, drama, literature and dance, and including Folk Frenzy. Where possible, these have been pencilled in the diary for 2021 and beyond.

There were 4 online pre-recordings of **Live@Lunch** delivered this quarter, providing popular online lunchtime performances from local musicians as well as a dialect showcase from **Shetland FirWords**. Shetland FirWords delivered a medley from across the isles: featuring a



range of readings from many people in Shetland dialect. Music performances came courtesy of **Adam Guest, Jenny Henry and Lewie and Erik Peterson.**

StoryTime for under 5s streamed through our Facebook page continued through the Summer welcoming a variety of locals to read their favourite children's stories. These not only engaged with our regular attendees who had previously attended the Mareel sessions, but allowed us to reach many more participants and families all across the isles and beyond.

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.

Q2 in numbers

- * **Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**
- * **Audience attendances**
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- * **Participations**

There was no activity in the recording studio in July and August due to social distancing restrictions.

In September there were a few voiceover sessions for Promote Shetland, and the bulk of the recording was completed on a new album by Ross & Ryan Couper.

Case Study: Trad Big Band

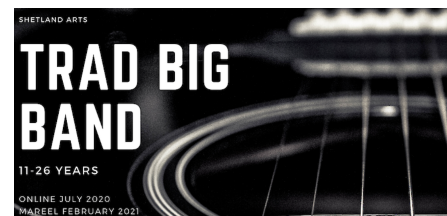
Shetland Arts were delighted to receive funding from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo fund to allow us to deliver a week-long intensive for young musicians in July led by pianist **Harris Playfair** and fiddle player **Margaret Robertson**. This was the first part of an ongoing Trad Big Band project which is planned to culminate in a live-streamed concert in Mareel in February 2021.



Together they challenged participants to create new and exciting ways to approach traditional music. Sessions were delivered online by Margaret and Harris and 3 local support tutors **Norma Wilmore** and **Eamonn Watt** together with music editor and tutor **Renzo Spiteri** and film editor **Vaila Walterson** to produce an online collaborative music and film recording.

The film can be viewed here > www.facebook.com/shetlandarts/videos/649431672658645/

As well as challenging the participants, tutors explored new technologies and methodologies through which to deliver group music making and performance. Firstly, Harris composed a piece of music and recorded a piano track which was uploaded and sent to the tutors. Each tutor then wrote and recorded additional parts which they taught to the participants via Zoom. Finally, all the musicians involved filmed themselves playing individually and sent the recordings to the film editor who spliced everything together to produce the final film.



Case Study: Peter Davis' Watercolour Lessons from the Kitchen Table

Peter Davis delivered a very successful sold out block of 4 workshops looking at different approaches to Experimental Watercolour led from his kitchen table.

Each session was approximately 30 minutes (condensed for Zoom purposes), and set tasks for participants to do in the week ahead. Peter shared different techniques and approaches for using watercolours to represent the Shetland landscape in these Summer months. These were taught to encourage participants to 'take your paints outside with you', and get inspired with weekly tutorials from the master of watercolours.

The first three sessions were fast paced tutorial style covering many different techniques. The final session acted as a 'social and share' event where discussion of approaches and sharing of participants' work was encouraged.

We shared weekly notes with participants as well as a list of places to buy reasonable and economic watercolour paints if participants wanted/needed to buy their own. The sessions were very reasonably priced, allowing for an accessible way to learn a new skill during the height of lockdown. Shetland Arts hosted the sessions and answered technical difficulties and questions from participants, allowing the artist to focus on only the session delivery.

We surveyed participants and 100% said they enjoyed the sessions. Comments included:

- *"It's been super to be able to do this from home - really accessible, great for introverts! I've really learned a lot and feel like my eyes have been opened to the possibilities of watercolour. Great teacher."*
- *"I have enjoyed having these short sessions with just the right amount of info and then being able to just go away and dabble during the week. I'm normally have something on every weeknight and most weekends so with almost everything I normally do on hold for*



the foreseeable, I found it something really calming and enjoyable for a bit of me-time after work (or during lunchbreak!).”

- *“I've fancied art classes for years but just never have the time. The notes have been really handy as well so I will download them for future reference - and it was really good to have lessons with Peter again for the first time in 20+yrs!”*
- *“Peter’s Kitchen Watercolour Class with three sessions.....Starters, Main Course and Desserts followed by post prandial Coffee and mints.....!”*

Indicative 2020/21 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	11	2			13	3944	44			3988	39	21			60	310	155			465
2. Education & Learning	0	0			0	0	0			0	268	133			401	1274	584			1858
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0			0	0	0			0	22	23			45	685	486			1171
4. Development & Support	0	62			62	0	798			798	11	4			15	11	4			15
5. Programming	17	106			123	5288	4108			9396	4	2			6	162	143			305
6. Recording Studio	0	0			0	0	0			0	0	5			5	0	7			7
Programme Total	28	170	0	0	198	9232	4950	0	0	14182	344	188	0	0	532	2442	1379	0	0	3821
SCT Annual Target					4229					161112					2218					20902
% of SCT Target					4.7%					8.8%					24.0%					18.3%