



# Shetland *arts*

## 2016 - 2017: Quarter 1

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: The Art World, Scottish Ensemble Residency

Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)



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# Priority Area 1: Youth Arts

*This includes the groundbreaking work we do with Shetland Youth Theatre and the support of groups such as Maddrim Media and the Shetland Young Promoters Group. It will include innovative projects designed to increase the engagement of young people in the arts, such as Youth Arts Panels, and exchange programmes with organisations outwith Shetland, encouraging Shetland youth to engage with and help shape cultural events in Shetland.*

## Q1 in numbers

**2 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**238 Audience attendances**

**14 Development Sessions**

**117 Participations**

Shetland Young Promoters Group have been busy rehearsing and fundraising through busking sessions on Commercial Street for a musical exchange trip to Norway. The SYPG have booked the Swan to travel across to Sund in Norway to participate in music workshops and cultural tours.

Maddrim Media have been working hard to put together their 'Homemade' films for Screenplay 2016.

We held a six week block of Stage 1 Drama sessions for 7-11 year olds, culminating in a short performance for family and friends on the theme of 'Selkies'. John Haswell ran the workshops, and we provided Steph Pagulayan with the chance to shadow the sessions and receive some mentorship, as she is keen to get involved in youth drama projects. The sessions were busy and well-received, with more scheduled for Autumn.

# Priority Area 2: Education & Learning

*Programme of activities aimed at skills development for creative industries practitioners as well as evening classes aimed at increasing accessibility and participation in creative activities. The Gallery Education Programme will work with schools to encourage access to and engagement with our exhibition programme. We will also facilitate peer review and support by and for practitioners at all levels of participation and a range of formal learning opportunities in partnership with UHI.*

## Q1 in numbers

**226 Development Sessions**

**2463 Participations**

This quarter was particularly busy for the Shetland College music and film students as they completed their final submission and organised their year end Showcase performances. This year the two hour concert and film screening had an audience attendance of 120 and generated a lot of social media activity and interest from local press.

The culmination of the pilot year of the Start/Bonhoga Education Programme made this first quarter exceptionally busy. The project, entitled The Art World, final exhibition was brought together at Bonhoga by lead artist Amy Gear and all 300 participants of the project from five



schools across Shetland visited the show and took part in a final workshop. The project is now in the evaluation stage and planning for the next academic year. See Case Study below.

## Priority Area 3: Arts & Well-being

*We will continue to lead in our partnership work in space2face, the restorative justice and arts programme. We will continue to advocate and support the provision of arts and cultural activities for older people in care settings, in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, local and national arts professionals and Shetland Island Council's Social Care staff. This work will be in line with, and contributing to, international research in these areas.*

### Q1 in numbers

**1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**15 Audience attendances**

**57 Development Sessions**

**150 Participations**

The Arts in Care 16/17 programme started with a fantastic series of workshops by Genevieve White, Lead Artist for the project. She worked with a group at Annsbrae House to write, perform and edit a short film, which was premiered at Islesburgh Community Centre - red carpet and all! Genevieve also led an excellent training day with the new Arts in Care Delivery Artists and volunteers for the project, covering aspects such as workshop planning, problem solving and workshop delivery in specific care settings. Plans are coming together for each of the workshop series, which will begin in September in care settings across Shetland.

Shetland Arts continued to support the delivery of workshops for the space2face restorative justice project.

## Priority Area 4: Development & support

*The support of individuals and groups is integral to our work and includes arts practitioners and creative industries micro businesses, audience development and our formal and informal education work. It also includes staff and volunteer development.*

### Q1 in numbers

**1 Development Session**

**651 Participations**

The quarter saw the continuation of work in support of individual artists, creative groups and Creative Industry businesses, in terms of creative practice, funding, training and financial advice, and providing freelance and performance opportunities.

In particular, we are proud to have offered support for rehearsals and logistics for the “We’re here because we’re here” project conceived by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller which marked the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme - a project in which thousands of volunteers dressed in First World War uniform appeared unexpectedly in locations across the UK on Friday 1 July 2016.



# Priority Area 5: Programme, Commissioning & Curation

*This will include the programming of our cinema (in partnership with City Screen), gallery, theatre and auditorium (a range of local, national and international promoters including Shetland Folk Festival, and DF concerts); Wordplay and Screenplay, our highly successful book and film festivals; the Shetland International Guitar Festival, curated by Martin Taylor; and Fiddle Frenzy, curated by Bethany and Jenna Reid. We will also develop creative residencies in partnership with local and national bodies (including Scottish Chamber Orchestra, National Theatre of Scotland, Scottish Book Trust) and extend our regional, national and international reach through the development of a variety of festivals and events, including a Northern Isles Book Festival, in collaboration with key partners in Orkney and Shetland and the hosting of a one off Nordic/Tartan Crime Noir Conference in November 2015.*

## Q1 in numbers

**1114 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**43577 Audience attendances**  
**42 Development Sessions**  
**693 Participations**

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

We are proud to have hosted prominent events in Shetland's annual music calendar at Mareel, including two days of competition of the 30th Shetland's Young Fiddler of the Year competition in April and five events within the Shetland Folk Festival. Shetland Arts have worked in partnership with these voluntary committee groups to provide sponsorship deals that have enabled them to use Mareel as their venue. All Folk Festival events were sold out, hosting artists from all over the world, and included a 'Peerie Spang' standing event for children. Local promoters such as Ragged Wood and The Bashies have programmed successful nights of music at Mareel. Shetland Country Club have hosted Philomena Begley at the Garrison. Other local nights include Shetland's Got Talent, Shetland Classic Car Show Variety Concert.

We hosted our first wedding at Mareel, which included the wedding ceremony itself on the auditorium stage! The success of the event is evident from the number of wedding enquiries since, an area we are keen to build new business in. Scottish Ensemble visited for a four day residency, the culmination of an extensive planning process with them, sponsored by Inkster's solicitors (see Case Study below). Other significant events included Lerwick - Bergen race prizegiving reception, cruise passengers classical performance and 'Imagine' children's show for children for school children from around Shetland.

Bonhoga broke new ground in the first quarter of 16/17 with a partnership that crossed artforms, styles and geographies, building relationships between local and national



practitioners. Unst-based sculptor Tony Humbleyard and Glasgow-based dancer and choreographer Jack Webb were brought together for a Shetland Arts residency at Jack's studio in Unst for a week in April, culminating in a live dance performance at Bonhoga. The combined exhibition Bone & Shadow was a hugely positive, developmental and valuable experience for both artists and the exhibition was very well received. The Art World, following on from this, is detailed in the Case Study (see below).

Planning is ongoing for our annual festivals - the Screenplay guests and programme are almost finalised. Wordplay is high on the agenda and we have been liaising with the Shetland Library (SIC), Creative Links (SIC) and Shetland ForWirds to bring an exciting week of literary fun to Shetland in November.

## Priority Area 6: Recording, Broadcast and Intellectual Property

*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. Shetland Arts will continue to create, protect and monetise its own Intellectual Property assets in partnership with Shetland Arts Intellectual Property Community Interest Company.*

### Q1 in numbers

**53 Development Sessions**  
**399 Participations**

Q1 has been extremely busy for Mareel Recording Studio. We have undergone rebranding, and as part of a new marketing campaign we have launched a standalone FaceBook page, consolidated our hire charges and commissioned a promo film to advertise more widely the range of services on offer.

April saw the conclusion of sessions for the new LP by local folk-rockers The Revellers, and in May there was some exciting new music created in various genres. Heavy-metal outfit Quantana have embarked on an album project; Big Time Quell recorded and mixed their debut EP, and 20 students from the Anderson High School spent two days in the studio as part of their activities week, recording and mixing two songs to completion. BBC's *The Voice* contender Lisa Ward recorded a full-length album, having recorded her debut EP at Mareel last year. Battle Of The Bands winners Satire Division cashed in their prize of one day in the studio, recording three tracks to be released in August. The massed fiddles of Hjaltibonhoga have also recorded their debut album, due for release in the autumn.



# Case Study: THE ART WORLD

Amy Gear and 300 artists from 5 Shetland schools

Bonhoga Education Programme and Exhibition, 2016



THE ART WORLD is the first project in a four-year gallery education programme supported by national organisation Children & The Arts, delivered by Shetland Arts in partnership with SIC Creative Links. The project was managed by Jane Matthews, Exhibition Manager (SADA) with input from Noelle Henderson, Creative Links Officer (SIC). It was led this year by artist Amy Gear who returned to Shetland after completing her Masters at Royal College of Art in London in 2015.

The project involved approximately 300 pupils from 5-16 years of age, from five schools in Shetland: Sandwick Junior High School, Aith Junior High School, Fetlar Primary School, Baltasound Junior High School and Whalsay School.





Between January and June 2016 Amy and the groups from each school explored The Art World through school workshops and gallery visits. Starting with the David Mach exhibition at Bonhoga in January they questioned what it is to be a contemporary artist, asking What is The Art World? How do artists think? Why and how do they make work? Why do they have exhibitions? What is the point of a gallery?

*Amy: The Art World is a mysterious place even if you are an artist, living right in the middle of it. When I was in London, I was so aware of all the hierarchies and rules that existed within the art industry – it's a very intimidating place which can really put a cap on creativity. For this project I wanted to use the Art World as a theme, I used elements of the art industry like 'Painting' and 'Audio Guide' and 'Sculpture Park'. With the bairns and teachers, we tore apart the art industry's rule book and stuck it back together again and in doing so, it was completely transformed. I absolutely love how the bairns and teachers interpreted the tasks we set and have made these very honest artworks. They have been a joy to collaborate with - the bairn's fresh viewpoint of the art Industry has transformed it, like a bit of printer paper, into an origami swan.*



The project was designed to be collaborative: work from one school became the source material in the next school, much like a giant game of consequences. At each stage there was a transformation from one medium to another, for example, pupils in P6/7 at Sandwick created and recorded soundscapes using as inspiration the long monoprint made in a previous workshop in all schools.



The resulting exhibition at Bonhoga in June/July was the culmination of this year's project; an installation comprising sculpture (including an outdoor Sculpture Park), painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, music, stop-frame animation and the spoken word. Amy curated and assembled the final work, creating a collaborative piece recognised as a contemporary artwork in itself.



The response to the project and resulting show was outstanding.

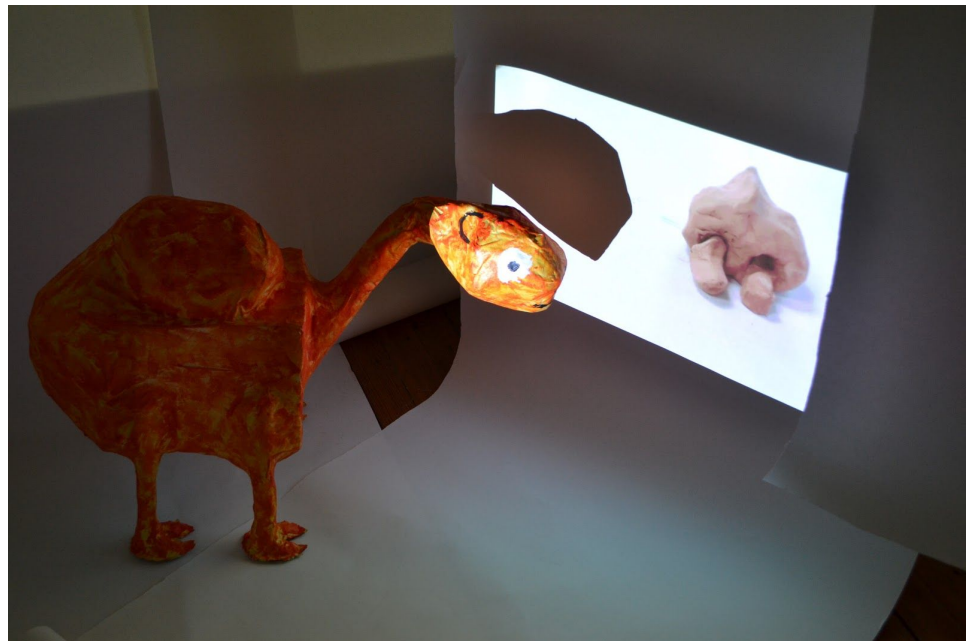
Paul Bloomer, in his review for The Shetland Times: *The imaginative power of this exhibition reminds us what we have lost when imagination is repressed, neglected and unvalued. This show turns this on its head by celebrating the joy, wonder and amazement that is unleashed when imagination is set free and for the participants and viewers this is an invaluable and enriching experience that could be the beginning of a creative journey that could lead anywhere.*

Wendy Tulloch, in her review for Creative Scotland: *Witnessing the reaction from the school pupils seeing all their hard work culminating in one really incredible exhibition was truly heart-warming. I loved how so many pupils explained that they had taken their parents to the launch event at Bonhoga to see their work and for many of the parents this was their first visit to the gallery and in fact their first ever visit to any art gallery so this in itself is a huge achievement.*

Wendy McMurdo, in her review for Creative Scotland: *Gear has produced a sensitive and intelligent installation which both synthesises the learning included in the first year of the project and also helps children to understand the function of art in our society.*

Emma Campbell, in her review for Creative Scotland: *The young people had grasped concept of collaboration and gave their own definition as “using different ideas from different people”....Explores sophisticated ideas with a playful and questioning spirit – imaginative, witty and unexpected.... Opportunities to add layers of interpretation and re-interpretation have been carefully considered, to create a rich project where visitors can trace the evolution of creative ideas*

The project will be built upon in the next phase of the project; THE FUTURE for which funding has been confirmed from Children & the Arts. Jane Matthews will continue to manage the project, with input from Noelle Henderson at SIC Creative Links, and will be delivered by Amy.



# Case Study: Scottish Ensemble Residency

We were delighted to welcome the Scottish Ensemble to Shetland for a residency from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th June, where these incredible musicians worked with locals, visited schools and care centres across the islands, and of course performed some spellbinding music.

The June residency marked the culmination of the Scottish Ensemble's Shetland Season of string concerts in previous months. As with the 2013 mini residency, this year's Scottish Ensemble events were sponsored by Inksters Solicitors.



The Ensemble arrived in Shetland on Wednesday morning, where tourists and locals alike were delighted by a [pop up performance](#) at Sumburgh Airport to announce the beginning of the residency. Elaine Craig, project manager, said: "We're very much looking forward to our time in Shetland. We always enjoy our residencies as they give us a chance to get out and about and to take our music out of the concert hall setting."





The group then travelled to Carnegie Hall in Sandwick, where they rehearsed repertoire with local musicians from the Shetland Community Orchestra. Once the musicians were ready for the evening, the group bonded over cooking a fantastic meal for the audience, instructed by award-winning Shetland cookery writer Marian Armitage. The Ensemble and SCO members served up some excellent fish pie and Whalsay 'clatch' and worked together to perform a varied programme of classical pieces; both food and music delighted the audience.



Some of the Scottish Ensemble members then retired to the Lounge, where they took part in a session with local musicians, learning traditional tunes and performing some impromptu classical pieces - a great way to end a wonderful day of sharing.

Thursday saw three groups of musicians travel to different areas of Shetland for a day of workshops and rural performances. The first group travelled to Yell, where they performed for all the pupils at Burravoe Primary School and hosted a pop up performance at the Old Haa museum.

The second group travelled north to Brae, where they worked with string pupils at the Brae High School, and created a joint performance for the rest of the secondary pupils. The group then visited Northaven Care Centre for an informal performance and discussion with the residents.



The third group travelled

West to Aith, where they worked with a small group of enthusiastic pupils at Aith Junior High School. The pupils tried out a variety of classical pieces, and also shared some traditional Shetland music with the Ensemble members, before performing for the upper



primary pupils. The musicians then moved to Wastview Care Centre, where they conducted a short informal performance and discussion with the residents.

Friday saw members of the Ensemble tutor a large group of students at the Anderson High School, who had requested to work on a selection of pieces. After the workshop pupils shared their work with family and friends, and then they were transported to Tesco for a pop up performance with the Scottish Ensemble, which attracted a huge crowd of excited onlookers.



The residency culminated on the Saturday with two performances by the Scottish Ensemble at Mareel. The first was Harmony Quest, an hour long play for primary age children brought to life by the music of the Ensemble. Young and old alike were captivated by this tale of adventure and friendship. The evening performance, En Reve, was a glorious concert of French music (Ravel, Debussy, Faure) from the turn of the century. Alex Garrick-Wright, reviewing for Shetland News, said: “[T]he playing was skilled, impeccably synchronised, and musically flawless... The music was a selection-box of arrangements that incurred raucous applause from an extremely engaged audience... That the Scottish Ensemble plays sublimely is almost not worth commenting on.”

Over their four-day visit, the Scottish Ensemble tutored around 75 local musicians and performed for over 700 Shetland residents across the isles. When they arrived home, the Scottish



Ensemble said: “We’ve returned windswept and exhilarated from four days on Shetland, during which we really did travel the length and breadth of this intriguing archipelago, dropped into the middle of an endless sea. Taking music with us to everywhere we went, we were rewarded with incredible views, warm Shetland welcomes and – every musician’s dream – enthusiastic, willing, curious participants.”



# SADA Q1 16-17 KPI Summary

Key Performance Indicators 15/16	Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days etc				Audience attendances				Development Sessions				Participations			
	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q1
Priority Area of Activity																
1. Youth Arts	0	0	2	2	0	0	238	238	0	4	10	14	0	49	68	117
2. Education & Learning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	89	75	226	671	782	1010	2463
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	15	18	19	20	57	63	52	35	150
4. Development & Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	157	265	229	651
5. Programme, Commissioning & Curation	347	383	384	1114	15108	14235	14234	43577	9	11	22	42	144	169	380	693
6. Broadcast, Recording & IP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	28	14	53	77	163	159	399
Programme Total	347	383	387	1117	15108	14235	14487	43830	100	151	142	393	1112	1480	1881	4473
SCT Annual Target KPI				3,000				160,000				1,300				9,000