



Shetland *arts*

2019 - 2020: Quarter 1 (April to June)

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Arts in Care, START Bonhoga Education Programme Yr4

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

68 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
4,302 Audience attendances
16 Development Sessions
111 Participations

Creativity Club Craft presented an exhibition in Mareel for 30 days, with audience attendances of 2094. This was a piece of felt made up of bright colours and participant's favourite things.

Creativity Club Dance took place in June, where participants learnt a performance piece to share with their parents and grown ups. **Creativity Club Film** also took place in June, where participants made a short film of their own.

The **Shetland Young Promoters Group** met regularly to plan their forthcoming trip to the XpoNorth conference in July.



There was a **Zootropes Youth Arts Intensive** delivered by Dr Mariane McAra from Glasgow School of Art with 4 development sessions and 16 participations. Feedback from participants was extremely positive and we are looking at engaging with Mariane when she is back in Shetland. These sessions explored heritage and feedback will be recorded as part of her PHD studies.

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

41 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
2,606 Audience attendances
377 Development Sessions
2,566 Participations

Q1 included the end of the academic year, and we were delighted with the achievements of the students on all the courses we deliver in partnership with Shetland College UHI.

24 **Vocational Pathway** students who are in S3 at school and study part-time in Mareel, successfully completed the SQA **Creative Industries National Progression Award**; eight



students completed the **NC Creative Industries** course with specialisms in Film or Music; and four students were successful in completing the **HNC Music** award, all of whom gained an A grade for their final graded unit portfolios.

Student recruitment and retention have remained high for next year's **BA Contemporary Film Making**, **BA Applied Music** and the **MA Music In The Environment** courses, delivered across the UHI network by video conference with elements delivered by Shetland Arts. We are also developing a suite of optional modules for UHI Masters level programmes which will be available in August 2019.

The NC in Creative Industries course received a very positive external Scottish Qualifications Authority quality assessment.

As an end of year celebration, students organised their **Student Showcase** event in Mareel on June 6th. The night started with a screening in the cinema of short films created by Vocational Pathway, NC and BA students followed by a concert in the auditorium.

The **START Bonhoga Education Programme** continued into this quarter with electric paint workshops in each of the five participating schools and culminated with the closing exhibition, events and a film of the project, **Collection & Archive** (see Case Study).

To coincide with the **Sixteen** touring exhibition (see Exhibitions) photographer Craig Easton visited Shetland to deliver workshops to S3 pupils at Anderson High School and a Creative Lab at Mareel. He worked to explore basic principles of portrait photography and to experiment with ideas and subjects. All workshops were well received and the AHS works was pasted up alongside the exhibition on King Harald St.

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

3 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

61 Audience attendances

58 Development Sessions

524 Participations



We launched new **Arts in Care** sessions with local artists: **Ann Marie Anderson** aka **Peerie Ooricks** taught felting techniques alongside dialect storytelling at Fernlea, **Raman Mundair** delivered craft sessions at Wastview, singing with **Suzanne Briggs** at Walter Joan Gray, weaving with **Vivian Ross-Smith** with Annsbrae Group at Isleburgh Community Centre, Filmmaking with **Keiba Clubb** at Edward Taing House, Craft with **Jane Cockayne** at Overton Lea, Drama sessions delivered by **Stephenie Pagulayan** with the Gold Group at Newcraigielea as well as one-off film nights with **Maya Darrell-Hewins** showing Archive Film from Shetland, encouraging memories and discussions with drams and nibbles.

Most sessions worked with small groups of care-experienced participants, however we also expanded our Arts in Care offer to 121 sessions where participants worked alongside a craft practitioner to make keepsake boxes.

There were six **Wellbeing Choir** sessions with 90 participations. These have proved incredibly popular and we are looking forward to these starting up again in the Autumn. There were six **Wellbeing Craft** sessions with 96 participations.

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

125 Concerts/ Screenings/ Exhibition days
7,984 Audience attendances
6 Development Sessions
24 Participations

We offered feedback and advice sessions for two artists in response to their **Visual Arts and Crafts Award** (VACMA) applications. Two freelance artists were engaged with the VACMA panel which acted as CPD for them as well as providing Shetland Arts with an impartial judgement of applications. The panel also consisted of three Shetland Arts employees and an Officer from Creative Scotland.

At Bonhoga, the quarter began with a **ShetlandMade** contemporary applied art and craft showcase in the main gallery, with this showcase being the first of three to run through summer 2019, and the second of a three-year programme. The showcases are part of a wider programme of activity, which sees a focus on applied art and craft now that the contemporary visual art exhibition programme has moved off site. This has enabled Shetland Arts to establish a platform for the exhibition and retail of contemporary craft at Bonhoga, thus celebrating and supporting the local sector and its role in Shetland's culture and economy.



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The first showcase ran for seven weeks and featured work from **Yala Jewellery, Sharon McGeady, Joan Fraser, Morwenna Garrick and Jayne Kelly**. Sales figures were good and feedback positive. The second showcase of the summer opened at the end of May and will run until mid July. Current sales figures are excellent and the showcase is proving very popular with growing tourist visitor numbers. The second showcase features the work of **Helen Robertson, GillyB, Bill Brown, RoLo, Margaret Hamilton and Just Shetland**.

The showcases provide a unique opportunity for the makers to sell within an exhibition context, thus allowing visitors to engage with craft at a closer level, and discover what it is that inspires local designers and makers to create their amazing pieces. All work featured in the showcases is for sale, providing a unique opportunity for both visitors and locals alike to purchase from a large and diverse collection of high quality, contemporary applied art and craft and consequently support our local craft sector.

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 shared an insight into their practice, the inspiration behind 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 is a highly successful marketing tool.

In the Lower Gallery the **Art to Go** space featured the work of local emerging artist **Keira Jem Thomson** and photography from Irish photographer **Aaron Dickson**. The **Curated Retail** offer in the shop continues to prove successful with timely provision of contemporary local and UK craft and stock appropriate to the season.

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

775 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
36,318 Audience attendances
8 Development Sessions
1,150 Participations

Film

The poor weather we've been having so far this summer has been good for something, as cinema attendances are up 18.5% on Q1 18/19 and 28% on Q1 17/18! The star of the show was **Avengers: Endgame** (which has just beaten Avatar's record to become the highest-grossing film of all time), which screened for two weeks to more than 3000 people.

Other big sellers included the usual family fare, with **The Secret Life of Pets 2** doing particularly well and Disney's live-action remakes of **Dumbo** and **Aladdin** holding their own. Cornish-set comedy **Fisherman's Friends** turned out to be a popular crowdpleaser, and **Rocketman**, the enjoyable Elton John biopic, did respectable business, though not as well as



Bohemian Rhapsody last year (the fact that it was a 15 certificate to **Bohemian Rhapsody**'s 12A was probably a factor).

There were several big-budget disappointments at the box office, including **Godzilla: King of the Monsters**, **Men In Black International** and **X-Men: Dark Phoenix**, but our horror audience seems to be growing, with both the chilling **Us** and the remake of Stephen King's **Pet Sematary** doing well.

A thrilling documentary with a local connection was another success. **Last Breath**, which tells the extraordinary story of a 2012 diving accident in the North Sea, features Shetlander Stuart Anderson, and audiences flocked to see it, particularly to one screening which was followed by a Skype Q&A with the filmmakers and the people in the film.

Visual Art

Beyond Bonhoga continued into its second successful year of off-site exhibitions in unusual locations around Shetland. **Sixteen**, a UK-wide touring photographic exhibition was shown on the temporary hoarding surrounding the Hjalmland Housing development on King Harald St. in Lerwick throughout May, asking "what it's like to be sixteen years old now".

Documentary photographer **Craig Easton** conceived this ambitious project following his engagement with sixteen-year olds at the time of the Scottish Referendum. It was the first, and as yet only, time that these young people were given the vote in the UK. Building on the success of that work he invited 16 of the UK's foremost documentary portrait photographers to collaborate with young people across the country to make a visual vox pop on what it means to be 16 now. Including images taken in Shetland during the summer of 2018 the exhibition of large scale outdoor poster prints was a striking and moving insight into the lives of teenagers across the UK and was well received by the diverse audience it attracted in its very public setting. It was supported by an audio-visual display in Mareel that gave additional context and acted as a waymarker for the show. We were delighted that Craig was able to be in Shetland to deliver workshops at Mareel, Anderson High School and care homes around the Isles around the opening of the exhibition (see Education & Learning).

In June this year's **START Schools Education Programme** culminated with an exhibition of work by all 307 participants in the project (see Case Study). **These Favourite Things** will be on show in the Upper Cafe Bar at Mareel until mid-2020.

Live Performance

We started Q1 with the popular **Young Fiddler of the Year** competition. As ever, an astounding amount of highly talented performers took part across the two-day event.

Performance artist **Bill Drummond** visited Unst with his fascinating show **Imagine Waking Up Tomorrow And All Music Has Disappeared**.

The **Shetland Folk Festival** filled the venue with six events for audiences from babes in arms to OAPs.



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The Garrison Theatre hosted the **Shetland Forwards Variety Concert** and the **Accordion & Fiddle Summer Concert**, both very well received.

Touring tribute shows **What the Floyd, Elvis** and **Cash** were extremely popular as was our local covers band **First Foot Soldiers**.

Contemporary folk trio **Lau** ended their UK tour here in June and at the beginning of July we had theatre company **Birds of Paradise** immersed in Brae working with local community members and performing their show **Brae Is Where The Heart Is**.

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

34 Development Sessions
91 Participations

Q1 was a fairly busy and varied quarter at **Mareel Recording Studio**. **Haltadans** sessions continued, with tracking completed in April/May and a move into the mixing phase in June. New projects were initiated by **Jack Sandison** and **Sven McCalpine**, whilst **Kris Drever** recorded a mini-LP in three days to be released ahead of his national tour in May. Further recording took place on **Gemma Anderson's** album project, and work was completed on the **Andrea Fox** recordings.

Student and Education-related activity included the **AHS** and **Sandwick Schools' Activities** days in May and June respectively. **Battle Of The Bands** winner **Erin Goudie** cashed in her prize of a day in **Mareel Recording Studio**, recording one track to completion with her band. There were various film and voiceover sessions, including some mastering for **Keiba Film**, and the soundtrack for a promotional video for **Balphamast**. Raman Mundair recorded a sound piece for **Refugee Week** in Glasgow, and Steven Robertson provided the voiceover for *Foul Play*, a short film in support of the **Shetland Pension Justice Group**.



Case Study: Arts in Care

Visiting portrait photographer **Craig Easton** also delivered sessions in different care homes presenting his work that explored 'Fisherwomen' through the ages and across the country. These were incredibly popular and spurred on memory from many a participant. Easton had taken a portrait of a fisherwoman who was originally from Whalsay but had lived in Inver for a number of years. He showed this portrait to those in Fernlea Care Home, Whalsay, and many of the participants could remember being at school with the lady in the portrait. This was a joyous moment.



Craig engaged well with participants and staff and even recorded text and images from a participant to be included in his latest work.

We have been delighted with the engagement from all of our care homes with the expansion of our Arts in Care project.

Not only have sessions been delivered to participants as groups, but we have expanded our provision to include 1-2-1 sessions. This allows the practitioner to work more closely to individual's needs, thus making art sessions more accessible to all.



These 1-2-1 sessions were often delivered by the bedside and develop motor skills and allow social interaction for those bedbound.

We are introducing more art forms to the sessions, including storytelling, sing-a-long and drama sessions, providing a varied approach to the work delivered.

For example, Stephenie Pagulayan used picture collage to inspire Gold Group participants' imaginations, allowing them to go on a journey incorporating many drama and theatre skills with the occasional ceilidh dance thrown in for good measure.



Case Study: START Bonhoga Education Programme Yr4, COLLECTION & ARCHIVE

This has been the final year of the START Bonhoga Education Programme supported by Children & The Arts. The project has run for four years and engaged over 300 pupils each year from five local schools: Whalsay, Brae, Aith, Sandwick and Fetlar.

The aim has been to deliver high-quality engagement with contemporary art with a programme built around two gallery visits, two CPD events for teachers, two school workshops with artists and a final event and/or exhibition involving all pupils.

This year we've been exploring the work of artists Gordon Douglas and Andy Holden and how their exhibitions use unconventional spaces and we've been thinking about ways in which our own creative archive can live on in Shetland and beyond. We've been thinking about what a collection means, why people collect things and we've discovered what our friends like to collect at home. This year's project has been called COLLECTION & ARCHIVE.

Exhibition visits

Each of the five target schools had a visit from the Travelling Gallery in September 2018, with the exhibition *Black Box Take Stock* by Gordon Douglas, a Glasgow-based performance artist. All classes were able to visit the show and have an information session with the Travelling Gallery education team.

Their second gallery visit was to the Artangel exhibition *Natural Selection* by Andy Holden & Peter Holden, staged in a disused high school in Lerwick from January to March 2019. As part of this visit each group had a tour of the show and an accompanying workshop on collecting and beachcombing by nature writer Sally Huband. Back in school, each pupil worked on a drawing or model of their favourite thing, something they treasure.





Workshops

We delivered two separate rounds of school workshops with visiting artists to all participants in the project. At the end of March Gordon Douglas returned to Shetland for a week to deliver a 'found poetry' workshops in each school. He explained to the pupils that he collects words and introduced the idea of poetry as a way of displaying collected or favourite words. He also explained that rap was a route into poetry from him and inspired a love of words. The sessions were based on the work of Scottish poet Nan Shepherd and involved disassembling her poems, collecting favourite words or phrases from them and then using them to create new picture poems which were then performed in class.

We also took advantage of our studio facilities to record Gordon reading aloud some of Nan Shepherd's poems and a selection of those created during the workshops, for use in our final celebration event.



At the end of April artist Jono Sandilands spent a week in Shetland delivering the next round of workshops in each school. An artist and graphic designer originally from Shetland (now based in Bristol) Jono worked with each class to learn about basic circuitry and then introduced making work with conductive paint. Pupils used their favourite thing drawing/model as reference material and each produced their own electric painting that was then wired up to a communal circuit board so that each picture triggered a word or phrase from the Nan Shepherd poems, spoken by Gordon. This was a great way to engage the pupils and make links from one element of the project to the other. All ages had great fun creating new poems referencing both their (visual) object and the (spoken) words and phrases.



Using footage filmed during the workshops, along with film, images and sound recordings relating to the exhibitions and workshops over the course of the year we put together a film to act as both showcase and archive. This 12-minute film represents all the hard work that has been invested in the programme and its success, despite reduced funding. The film can be viewed on the [project page of our website](#)

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2019/20 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	68				68	4302				4302	16				16	111				111
2. Education & Learning	41				41	2606				2606	377				377	2566				2566
3. Arts & Well-being	3				3	61				61	58				58	524				524
4. Development & Support	125				125	7984				7984	6				6	24				24
5. Programming	775				775	36318				36318	8				8	1150				1150
6. Recording Studio	0				0	0				0	34				34	91				91
Programme Total	1012	0	0	0	1012	51271	0	0	0	51271	499	0	0	0	499	4466	0	0	0	4466
SCT Annual Target					3000					160000					1300					9000
% of SCT Target					33.7%					32.0%					38.4%					49.6%