



Shetland *arts*

2020 - 2021: Quarter 1

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Youth Arts Online, SCVO Wellbeing Fund

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

11 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
3944 Audience attendances
39 Development Sessions
310 Participations

Our continuing work with Shetland Arts' Youth Companies forms one of this quarter's Case Studies (below)

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

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
0 Audience attendances
268 Development Sessions
1274 Participations

Q1 was a very challenging period for students and the education team due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

A week of teaching was lost whilst the team distributed equipment, such as audio recorders, computers and video cameras, to students who were required to complete their coursework at home. The team then had to quickly move all teaching online. Most teaching materials were already stored in a digital format but staff still had to adjust existing content to suit the new delivery method. The team had regular meetings to review progress and to discuss any assessment issues that arose due to online delivery.

Staff made a series of instructional videos to guide **Vocational Pathway Film** and **Music** students through the remainder of their course outcomes. These were uploaded at weekly intervals and allowed students to work through linked worksheets. 23 students successfully achieved the award.

As always, Q1 was a busy period for the **NC Creative Industries** students. This year the staff had to factor in additional pastoral activities to support students and help them to establish new working from home practices. Unfortunately not all the students coped and one NC student dropped out. Despite this, 4 students successfully achieved the full NC group award.



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The **HNC Music** students also had to navigate new systems and establish new working practices at very short notice. Staff had regular VCs and used the Virtual Learning Environment to facilitate this difficult transition period. During this quarter students completed, amongst other activities: their Graded Unit (online digital portfolio); compositions (including an in depth analysis of composition techniques); audio recordings; and research reports based on the UK creative industries. 2 students successfully completed all the group award outcomes.

Digital Audio Workstations Discovery is a new **BA Applied Music** module which has been delivered from Mareel for the first time during the 19/20 academic year. During this quarter submissions were marked and results were returned to the students. There was a 100% success rate with 7 students completing the course with a pass.

In addition to the DAWs Discovery module, 4 students were registered through Shetland College to study on the **BA Applied Music** course. The course is delivered remotely through video conference by the UHI. Students access Mareel for support, equipment and rehearsal spaces. During the COVID lockdown period the students received additional help and pastoral support. All 4 Shetland based students achieved sufficient grades to progress onto their next year of study.

Shetland Arts had 1 Masters student studying **Digital Music Production** on the **Music in The Environment** course. The student applied for an extension and is expected to complete by the 6th of August.

BA Contemporary Film students continued with their studies during lockdown and had the advantage that their course was already primarily delivered online. Several students faced challenges with access equipment and location filming, but all 8 Shetland based students either completed their qualification or have progressed to further study.

We have one student enrolled on our **Film and Creative Practice Masters module** who received an extension and is continuing with her studies.

We have continued to promote the courses, and the work of the students, through regular social media engagement including streaming a short film by **Neil Hunter** [The Last Day \(2020\) by Neil Hunter](#) and testimonial interviews with previous students.

As part of experimenting with Shetland Arts new digital and online formats, we have experimented with a variety of **Creative Lab** formats.

Local artist **Gilly B** recorded videos of her sketching in the landscape. These were small, digestible videos that encouraged people to enjoy the landscape and try a new simple sketching process that could inspire your work. Gilly recorded 4 videos with an outstanding amount of online views.



Bryan Peterson hosted a 6 week course on **Ableton Live** music production software which took advantage of the normally expensive software being made available for free during lockdown.

We will look at continuing delivering online Creative Labs and have found feedback from participants a crucial part of the process of experimenting with new online formats.

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

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

0 Audience attendances

22 Development Sessions

685 Participations

Arts at Home has been a substantial new project that started in May. The project had two main aims: to continue our connection with local care homes, which was proving incredibly difficult due to Coronavirus, and to continue to provide income and support for artists. The project was funded by **SCVO's Wellbeing Fund**.

Shetland Arts worked with 10 local artists to help them digitise their work. Many of the projects were a collaboration however some artists worked solo on their contributions to the project. The project funded tablets and devices for care homes around Shetland. **Shetland Islands Council** pulled resources to obtain a high number of these that could then work in a library system for 4 different care services. The art created was in the form of audio and video recordings which featured craft, musical meditation and dialogue poems. This project provided substantial income to local artists, many of whom have lost income due to Coronavirus. It has also allowed us to continue our relationship with the care community of Shetland, and build new relationships within it. Local artists **Jane Cockayne** and **Helen Robertson** made and sent arts activity packs to each care home in Shetland. [Arts at Home](#)

Shetland Arts has delivered a large number of Wellbeing projects since lockdown began. There have been a number of our regular sessions that we have moved to regular online sessions. **Wellbeing Writing** and **Wellbeing Craft** moved to Zoom, with Writing proving more successful. We believe that this is due to everyone having access to pen and paper. Craft moved online using materials that could be found around the home, but not everyone has what you may expect. Both were successful, but Writing continued all through the Summer.

Wellbeing Choir was delivered via Facebook Live which proved very popular, with the sessions regular attendees singing along as well as newcomers. The sessions reached international



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audiences and choir leader **Suzanne Briggs** did a marvelous job in moving the sessions online, continually responding to the needs and feedback of ourselves and participants.

We added an additional **Wellbeing Writing** group which was open to a small number of participants and free to take part in. This group was led by **Grace Barnes** and was a collaboration between Shetland Arts and **Pitlochry Festival Theatre**. Through these 6 sessions the writers created short stories that could be shared as part of Pitlochry's #LightHopeJoy online nationwide event. These have been released through Pitlochry and our Social media and Website and will continue to be released until October 2020. [HOME - a mini series of writing from Shetland.](#)

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

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

0 Audience attendances

11 Development Sessions

11 Participations

Shetland Arts are currently supporting 4 freelance artists in their **Visual Arts and Crafts Makers Awards** projects. Shetland Arts has been continuing to engage with **Creative Scotland**, lead funders of the project which are exploring how best to support artists moving forward in light of Coronavirus. We hope to deliver the full scheme again in the coming quarters. The two artists of the previous round have completed their projects. In particular it has proven very beneficial for Shetland Arts to build a relationships with these artists

VACMA interviews

- [VACMA: Instructions for Time Travel with West Burra Quartz](#)
- [VACMA: 27 shades of Shetland blues](#)

A series of free **One-to-one Advice Surgeries** were offered by qualified coach, **Bush Hartshorn**, in May. Head of Catalyst at Dance Base in Edinburgh, these sessions were open to Shetland based artists and art workers or those with strong connections to Shetland, regardless of the forms they are working in. These benefitted 8 Shetland based artists, with 3 requesting additional sessions with him. [Positive vibes: Reflections on one-to-one artist advice surgeries](#)

We promoted the work of local artists through our Tabnab Time interviews:

- [Tabnab Time: Stephenie Pagulayan](#)
- [Tabnab Time: Rhoda Meek](#)



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- [Tabnab Time: James Dade](#)

Much of the support for artists has been focussed on [providing information](#) and planning future activity relevant to the impacts of Coronavirus, ensuring that we can still provide freelance income and opportunity to Shetland based artists.

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

17 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
5288 Audience attendances
4 Development Sessions
162 Participations

The COVID-19 situation meant our buildings have been closed for the duration of this quarter, with significant impact to our programming activities.

Story Time for Under 5s moved itself online in partnership with Shetland Library. We engaged with locals to record and present a new story each week. This provided the opportunity for us to stay connected to our regular Story Time audience and to work in partnership with Shetland Library. [Storytime for under 5s](#)

Let's Circus were scheduled to be in Shetland this summer, offering workshops and performances across the isles. As this was not possible, they created videos from their performance, which were filmed around the world as postcards to Shetland. These postcards are available here and we got in touch with SIC Education department to share these with headteachers as projects for schools during the home schooling term.

The **Shetland Unlocked** Festival, which was launched in April, was positively received locally and nationally. Applications have been made to participate across all genres including national companies looking to bring their work to Shetland. [Shetland Unlocked](#)

Having planned to bring her music into care homes and schools across Shetland as part of Live Music Now in 2020, harpist **Sophie Rocks** had been continuing to take her music to national and international stages until the outbreak of COVID-19. The Shetlander – who is currently based in Glasgow – brought **Saturday Night at the Movies** as a live stream to audiences on Mareel's Facebook page in May, playing a string of well-known pieces from film soundtracks. [Saturday Night at the Movies](#)

We streamed a recording of **A Shetlandic version of Cinderella** written and directed by **Jaqueline Clark** for our **Soup and a Show** program and performed in Mareel in December 2019. [Cinderella \(2019\)](#)



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We moved **Playlist Friday** online, a curated selection of music from a range of musicians, artists and performers which usually took place once a month at Mareel. [Playlist Fridays](#)

There have been 7 performances as part of our **Live@Lunch** programme. These are half hour slots where local artists present their work through video recordings. Featured artists have been **Jenny Henry** from Shetland Mandolin Band, **Isaac Webb**, **Freda Leask**, **Adam Guest** and **Arthur Nicholson**.

We curated a series of **Instabitions** - footage/photographs from past Shetland Arts Exhibitions shared on Instagram including **Finger Symbols**, **Blowup**, **ShetlandMade 2020**, **The Art of Ping Pong** and **27 Shades of Shetland Blues**.

The ever popular **Mareel Film Quiz** made a comeback online for two sessions hosted on Zoom.

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
0 Development Sessions
0 Participations

There was no activity in the recording studio this quarter due to social distancing restrictions.



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Case Study: Youth Arts Online

We have been delighted with the success of moving our Youth Companies online. This has allowed us to stay in regular contact with around 30 young people, and to provide them with continuous routine during lockdown as well as new opportunities.

Shetland Arts **Youth Companies** continued to meet weekly through lockdown in Quarter 1, with 18 weekly sessions from **Shetland Youth Dance Company** and 19 from **Shetland Youth Theatre Company**.

Feedback from these sessions from participants included:

- *A chance to socialise with our friends - we don't see each other or talk to each other outwith the Zoom sessions*
- *A good start to the week*
- *Structure to the week*
- *They've provided routine and normality through lockdown'*

Sessions were all led via Zoom and most of the regular participants attended each session. Each company made a short video for our social media channels.

Shetland Youth Theatre Company have been working on a new piece, made by the participants about their experiences through lockdown. It is hoped that this will be performed at Shetland Unlocked.

Shetland Youth Dance Company took part in an online youth exchange session with **Dance North**, a Findhorn based company. Their Youth company is similarly new like ours and it gives the young people an opportunity to connect with others who are using Zoom as a medium of connection and dance class delivery. We hope to build on this connection.



Film Crew and Film Crew JNR had 8 sessions run by **Keiba Club**. These sessions provided an introduction with a number of do-at-home activities, which were pre-recorded by Keiba. They then came together at the end of the session sharing how they had explored these themselves. A lot of the students here were of the younger age group and it became apparent that supervision was more required as well as input from adults. They have made a film ([JFC - Zombie Pirates](#)) which we are looking forward to releasing on social media shortly.

They have also continued to provide regular income for freelance artists, many of whom lost income during the pandemic. Moving their work online has been a progression for them, providing opportunities for them to develop their work.

Featured on the previous page is an image of the online Youth Dance Exchange, which provided an opportunity that would not be possible without the use of the internet. The concept behind this really allowed us to make the most out of the online situation, delivering sessions that increased participation and connection between youth company members across Scotland. This is something that we would not have been able to do in person, and therefore celebrated the new online world that we have found ourselves in.

The Youth Dance company also saw the release of the film made during the Scottish Dance Theatre intensive which took part at Mareel in February this year.

'Dancing on the islands' was a film made by Rachel Bunce of Rural Touring Dance Initiative.

[Dancing on the Islands](#)



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Case Study: SCVO Wellbeing Fund

Shetland Arts was delighted to be a recipient of SCVO's Wellbeing Fund.

Arts activity packages were posted to each care home in Shetland, allowing us to reach each individual at each centre: something we have never been able to before. These packages were created by Helen Robertson and Jane Cockayne and featured a variety of craft materials and instructions for activities that could be varied appropriate to participants' skill set and ability.

For making the films, artists got the use of Shetland Arts' camera equipment, mentored through this by Keiba Club, who would then do the editing for them. This allowed them to develop their skills and practice new ways of working, which will be beneficial moving forward in this newly digital world.

'It was a real joy to be asked to take part in the Wellbeing Fund project. I had been running Arts in Care sessions in the Care Homes prior to Lockdown and had thought often of the residents and the staff and of how they would be coping with the Covid restrictions. I decided to try and bring them colour and texture through fabric and to bring them 'outside' with me so designed beach and landscape themed activities and filmed the activities outside' (Keiba Clubb, local artist)

On a business level, as a freelance designer and Workshop Organiser, all my face to face work for the year was cancelled so this project gave me welcome income and hope. As I am moving my workshops online, the experience of working with Keiba Film gave me more confidence to move this ahead more quickly by engaging her services for the first of my films.

"Thank you so much for letting me be part of this fabulous project." (Helen Robertson, local artist)



“As a freelance artist I am not based in one workplace but have the privilege of working in many settings where I meet many wonderful people from all walks of life. During lockdown this has meant that I have not been connected to a particular setting or group of colleagues and therefore I am very thankful that Shetland Arts has continued to offer me projects which have kept me in touch with people and introduced me to new artists. During this time of social isolation it has been special to have been collaborating with Keiba Clubb (local film maker) and Helen Robertson (Craft artist) on Shetland Arts' Wellbeing film project. Being given the opportunity to collaborate with other artists at this time has been inspirational and much appreciated for my own creativity and wellbeing!” (Jane Cockayne, local artist)



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				11	3944				3944	39				39	310				310
2. Education & Learning	0				0	0				0	268				268	1274				1274
3. Arts & Well-being	0				0	0				0	22				22	685				685
4. Development & Support	0				0	0				0	11				11	11				11
5. Programming	17				17	5288				5288	4				4	162				162
6. Recording Studio	0				0	0				0	0				0	0				0
Programme Total	28	0	0	0	28	9232	0	0	0	9232	344	0	0	0	344	2442	0	0	0	2442
SCT Annual Target					4229					161112					2218					20902
% of SCT Target					0.7%					5.7%					15.5%					11.7%