**Unst Partnership – Company Report, April 2022 - March 2023**

The Partnership continues to run a secondhand shop, skip scheme, news column and provide tourism support.

**Recycling Centre**

Our Development manager Peter Sandison worked with Malcolmson Architects until May 22 to complete the recycling centre feasibility study. We wanted to build a larger shop, with solar panel heating; a community laundry; a “Changing Places” toilet; a repair workshop; and a meeting/social area, with polycrubs or raised beds in a larger parking area. However, construction costs were over £2M and even a cut down version of the centre was coming in at £1Million. After public consultation, Directors decided not to proceed at present but to look for existing premises on the island that could be converted. We have the land at Hagdale still available until 2028.

**Secondhand Shop**

The shop traded well despite the closure periods with numbers visiting and overall spend continuing to do well. In our fifth year of trading, income from the Shop from April 2022 until March 2023 was £13,613 with 5,191 people through the door. Congratulations to all the volunteers involved and our Shop Manager, Kathleen Johnson.

Over the course of four and a half years, including online sales through our Facebook page, the shop has taken in approximately £1,130 per month which, along with our other activities, allows us to be sustainable. We continue to sell locally made jams, marmalade and chutneys and Traidcraft items, although Traidcraft went into receivership in December 2022. We continue to receive local donations of bannocks, plants and firewood to sell.

**Community Skip scheme**

The Community Skip schemecontinued to be well supportedin 2022-23 with six Skip Saturdays taking place and 50 residents taking out an annual Skip Membership at £60, and around 20 “occasional users” paying £25 a time. It cost over £700 for Skip Hire each Saturday and this would not have been possible without the support of the community. It still made a loss which we subsidised from grant aid from the Shetland Spaceport.

Many thanks to Garriock Bros. Ltd, who bring our skips; and to the Shetland Amenity Trust who take the metal and white goods away. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the local volunteers who have turned out to support the Directors at these events and to Sandisons Unst Ltd. for allowing us to use the Pierhead area for drop-off.

**Other Projects**

### We continue to write the “Isles Views” Shetland Times column and it has brought in a useful additional income stream. The “Unst Walkers are Welcome” website continues, with information on walks in Unst and Fetlar. We produced a paper copy of our tourist map in 2022 and put an online version on the “Unst Partnership” website.

### Other income is obtained through our 6Kw Wind Turbine, trailer hire, photocopying & printing.

**NTS properties**

Work on the house at Halligarth has stopped at present but the National Trust for Scotland continues to pay UP for a contract for grass-cutting in the woods and surrounding area. We also arrange with this contractor to make Halligarth safe as well as to check on Roselea, the house to the north, the house at Houlland and the Laggans cottage up near Loch of Cliff.

Nothing as yet has come of the NTS plans to develop a “Citizen Science” visitor centre in the grounds of Halligarth but in March 2023 they advertised for a development manager to oversee the various properties, land and artefacts that are make up the Joy Sandison bequest to NTS. It is now 25 years since the property and land was handed over to NTS. The post is an 18 month contract and it is hoped that some progress will be made as a result of this.

### As usual, our thanks go to all our Directors and staff, as well as to Bon Accord Accountancy/Thyme Ltd for assisting with our payroll and compiling our annual accounts.

### *Gordon Thomson, Chairman and Directors*

### *May 2023*