

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

**Annual General Meeting** - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 1830 hrs, Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

**Present:** Linda Richardson, Secretary  
Eric Semple, Interim Chair  
Ingrid Gall, Note Taker  
Michelle Bundy  
Janet Nisbet  
Inga Scott  
Stephen Gordon  
Stroma Ruddock  
Helen Laurenson  
Sarah Kay  
Elaine Skinley  
Jill Owen  
Keith Lobban

**Apologies:** Andrea Abernethy  
Fiona Hargreaves  
Julie Williamson  
Jennie Gunn  
Kathy Coull  
Liz Stark  
Sharon McGeady  
Helen Hart  
Elaine Nicolson  
Wendy Hand, Temporary Treasurer  
Anne Barron  
Esme Wilcock  
Louise Henderson  
Karen Ridland  
Heather Wilson  
Shereen Friedlander

## 1. Welcome

Eric Semple, sitting as Interim Chair from November 2025, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Linda Richardson proposed and Michelle Bundy seconded.

## 3. Chair's Report

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

## **SACA Chairpersons Report for the year – For the 2026 AGM**

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending this evening.

2025 was a busy year with four successful craft fairs. Clickimin had the introduction of a people's Choice award where the public voted using a QR code. This was well received.

The pop in members' day held on 3rd August gave members a chance to put views, ideas and questions to the committee. Input was made online via email too.

This resulted in the decision to put out a vote as to whether food and drink producers should be part of our association. The poll made it clear not to include them. Detailed information for this is available on the website.

Regarding the website, it is old and creaking at the seams. It has been a challenge to make necessary improvements but we are working with the new website company that took over in February/March.

Ideally, we want to provide a website where both members and public can find up to date information. Members should be able to login to book stands, download forms, see information and read what is happening on the events page.

Market Place ceased at the end of 2025. This was set up during Covid. We hope members will give full details on their member's page to help promote their own websites.

Time allowed, we hope to expand this to show more products of the individual makers.

Committee members came and went during 2025. As a new committee taking over from a secretary and chairman of over 20 years we have been feeling our way. After the last AGM a year ago the role of chairperson and treasurer were taken. Linda officially became secretary, having dealt with emails since November. During our first year two office bearers and three members have stepped down.

I took over as interim chairperson and at present we have a temporary treasurer.

The issue of membership dates for new members, those applying to go from associate to full and the annual renewals have seen the dates brought forward.

Registration of membership was changed to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November – 15<sup>th</sup> December for new members only. We tried for everybody to register at the same time but there were issues on the website where registration for existing members had to run until 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The early registration was for new and associate members to apply for quality assessment to get the information in early.

From 2026 all registration will expire on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. New registrations will then begin on the 10<sup>th</sup> November until the 15<sup>th</sup> December. This allows more time for QA to be done, followed by relevant details put to the printers for the craft trail booklet by the end of February.

We appreciate Christmas is a busy time for us all. It is hoped that new members, associates applying for full membership and existing full members could all register and pay by 15th December. This is a period of 5 weeks.

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

I have brought in a system of asking committee members who are doing work for the SACA to document what they are doing so it can be put into a step-by-step procedure. It should help with any new committee members to see how things are done and give a timeline.

Quality assessment for new full members went ahead, however reassessment for existing members was cancelled due to workload issues.

## Going Forward as a committee

We would like more members on the committee that can bring something to the table.

- The website needs sorting as more information should be on there and less emailing out from the secretary saving admin time.
- Finances should be audited as good practice every 3 to 5 years
- QA – Does this continue as it is? If at all?

Any problems, questions or queries we try to answer through the secretary or chairperson.

We are volunteers and try our best to promote an association that showcases the best of Shetland arts and crafts.

Since taking over as Interim Chair in November he has seen the creation of a Procedures Manual, which is a dynamic document, so that anyone undertaking a role, either on the Committee or an event, has a procedure to follow.

Eric stated that if he was elected Chair in future, he would like to look at a one tier membership, with the view of it being more inclusive and a lot less work than the current set up. The website desperately needs revamped / renewed. Also to look at a revamp of the QA process, which could be online and how to streamline the process for the Craft Trail Booklet.

## 4. Financial Report

A new bank account has been opened with Virgin. The Treasurer has only just managed to get access to Stripe Account in the last few days.

It is proposed to have the accounts audited every three to five years, which would be needed, for instance, if applying for funding in future.

The financial statement is available to SACA members only and by request to the secretary.

## Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

### 5. Election of Committee Members

The current Committee stood down.

Chair - Linda Richardson proposed Eric Semple, Michelle Bundy seconded. Eric accepted.

Treasurer – Wendy Hand has said she is willing to stand. Proposed by Ingrid Gall and seconded Inga Scott.

Secretary – Inga Scott proposed Linda Richardson. Eric Semple seconded. Linda accepted saying she was happy to do it for another year.

Note Taker – Linda Richardson proposed Ingrid Gall and Eric Semple seconded

The election of non-office bearers was proposed. Louise Henderson had intimated to the Secretary that she would like to continue to be part of the Committee.

Michelle Bundy, who currently fields the social media aspects.

Linda Richardson advised that Esme Wilcock willing to come on Committee but not as an office bearer.

Elaine Skinley, stated she could help with administration.

Stroma Ruddock

Keith Lobban

Committee Meetings have been arranged for the next six months, roughly every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

### 6. Any Other Business

Eric Semple stated that the plastic water bottles given out at the Clickimin Craft Fair were not environmentally friendly. He proposed re-usable re-fillable water bottles with the SACA logo be purchased and distributed at the Craft Fair. One per member. This was agreed.

People's choice for the best stand using a QR code. There were approximately 900 votes, 550 of which were for one stall. Propose, in future, only be able to win once. Trophy winner this year will get to keep the trophy. Create a new trophy with no engraving. Winners will be given a Certificate to keep. This was agreed.

QA – looking at ways to make this more inclusive. New full members have been assessed this year. Assessors will not be members of SACA. They will be completely independent.

## Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

Photographer costs, three photos comes to £52.50. £45 for membership, so it is costing SACA to assess. Now they can get one photograph.

### Linda Richardson – Secretary’s Statement

*“Thank you to all who have helped throughout 2025 to make the craft fairs happen. Clickimin was well received. The craft trail booklet had a lot of good comments from members and public alike. There is much to be applauded.*

*These are my thoughts on the running of the Association and how we might move forward. Having done the Secretary’s job for just over a year I see first hand what the members are asking and their concerns. I know what the committee has to do to achieve everything that makes our Association a success.*

*At present we have a two tier membership. Currently combined membership is 128 comprising of 69 Full and 59 Associate.*

*Numbers have increased over the last couple of years as more Associates sign up.*

*There are always disappointed members when craft fair spaces are sold out. We have 34 spaces at Mareel and 90 spaces at Clickimin.*

*Many members tell me the main reason for paying their membership is to take part in the Christmas Craft Fair at Clickimin. Good for sales and socialising, it is an event many are keen to attend. Already I have members asking for the dates for this year so they can make arrangements well in advance.*

*Personally speaking, I would create a one tier membership.*

- *Everyone pays the same, with quality assessment for all.*
- *This would mean a change to how QA procedure is done. Standards need to be kept high and how crafters meet the criteria set down is important.*
- *Reassessments for Full members are done every three years.*
- *Due to workloads and time pressure we have postponed re-assessment for 2026.*

*We should be inclusive, whether a full time professional or a hobbyist producing well crafted items because it is their passion. How all this can be achieved will require careful application.*

*Getting a timeline for everything to flow from renewals to QA applications, assessments to booklet entries has had problems. There are a lot of strands that need to be brought together.*

*We need to change to make the workload manageable. I appreciate there is no easy answer. We need committee members who can step up and help.*

*It will be my 70th birthday this year. I will continue as Secretary as before unless anyone else wants the job. Contact through emails is good but hope the website will be a ‘go to’ for members and public alike. I hope I am not standing here reading out something similar in a year’s time.”*

So many members, 128, only 90 stands at Clickimin.

Christmas Craft Fair, stagger sign up times, some folk are working. Make it more fair.

Newsletter of new committee members.

## Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

Committee minutes, not available to members. The AGM is where Members have a chance to have more of a say. Encourage better attendance at the AGM.

Craft Trail Booklet – everyone can have an entry. The members who have signed up for the Craft Trail Booklet will continue to pay for inclusion, with high quality photographs and details. Need to get information from the new printers for guidance on photograph quality for Craft Trail Booklet.

Booklets as there are is a lot of information to gather together. Print run is 6000 booklets, there is a list of where the booklets are distributed to. Need to create a spreadsheet for how the booklets are distributed.

GDPR – pictures and details going to the printers, you will have to agree / not agree when applying.

Elaine Skinley, can anything be done about the internet connectivity at Clickimin and Mareel? The Committee members had spoken to both venues but there is nothing to be done as the Council is their supplier. The Council also hosts SICGuest at no cost.

Lighting at the back of Clickimin at the end of Craft Fair in 2025. Very dark and a lot of people and vehicles moving around. This was raised with Clickimin following the 2025 event.

Disabled parking at the AHS – access is blocked after 5pm on Friday.

Sarah Kay, Craft Trail Booklet, there are regulations and planning consent requirements, rules, signs, and possible change of use for buildings. Public liability could be void. Need something from Planning to say its okay? Signage on Public roads, needs permission from Roads. What are the guidelines? Find out what is required.

Sarah Kay, will there be a market place on the new website? No, not at the moment. It was created during covid and generates a lot of queries for the Secretary which should be directed to the individual members. There are other options out there, i.e., Isles20, Etsy, Mademe.

Clickimin is booked 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Summer Craft Fair, Wool Week and UHA. A survey of the recent UHA Craft Fair stall holders asked which day was busier, the Sunday or the Monday. Of the responses, most stated Monday but that could be subjective because of the weather, lack of boats and flights – and – no cruise ship.

Suggest that a Group/s to do the doors at Clickimin for a donation to their funds. Would ease the reliance on friends and relatives.

Publicise Christmas Craft Fair on the mainland more. Promote Shetland.

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

Online Vote Results 08-09-25:

## Online Vote Results 8/9/2025

1. Should food and drink organisations be included as members? Attend craft fairs?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		16.46%	13
2	No		83.54%	66
			answered	79
			skipped	1

### Invitation to Drop-In

3<sup>rd</sup> August at Market House from 12-4pm

All members emailed 30/6/2025

Comments were also emailed in from those that could not make the drop-in

### Online Survey Date & Times

All members emailed a voting link

Vote was open 12 pm 2/9/2025 – 12 pm 8/9/2025

### Membership at the time of the vote

Combined membership – 145

65 Full and 80 Associate

79 voted which is a 54.5% turnout

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

Following the Food & Drink vote this is the letter that was emailed to all members and was posted on the SACA website under the news heading

## Letter from Shetland Arts & Crafts Association to all members and non-members

Over the years we have had several members who have produced gin, chocolates, macaroons, teas, dog biscuits, fancies, cordials and other similar items and all have been a valued part of our community.

Some time ago we were approached by several members of our association who asked us why food and drink producers were part of the arts and crafts group when the Taste of Shetland food association specifically supports this sector, hosting their own website, fairs and local events. Members had raised the issue, so the Committee was required to take it further.

The Committee decided that the matter needed to be thought about by each and every one of our Arts and Crafts members and not just us.

We arranged an open day at Market House (3<sup>rd</sup> August) where members had the opportunity to come and talk to us. All members were emailed with questions such as 'What is the definition of Arts and Crafts?', 'Who should be part of the Shetland Arts and Crafts Association?' and 'Who should decide what is an art or craft?'. These are complex issues. We had some members come along to the open day personally and others who emailed the secretary with their thoughts and there was a lot of interesting debate. All the notes and replies were gathered and it was clear that many members independently felt that makers of food and drink would be better served by Taste of Shetland and not the Shetland Arts and Crafts Association. This was such a big change that we felt as a committee that it was not our place to make the change without the full understanding of the members, so we put it to the vote. All members were contacted and 83.54% those who voted clearly said that they felt the food and drink sector did not meet their definition of and 'art and craft'.

The Committee has an obligation to take our members views into account. It is certainly not a personal decision against any our valued members, but a response to our membership.

We have a member who is a herbalist. Further advice will be sought to whether herbalism is an art and craft or not. We will be contacting professional bodies for herbalism and also trading standards to ask their opinion and we will trust their judgment.

All our members are precious, and this journey has not been easy. However, neither has it been rushed. Time was taken for full discussion.

Any issue raised by our membership will receive our full attention and due process will be done to resolve any concerns.

We hope this explains our actions.

Warmest wishes,  
Shetland Arts and Crafts Association Committee

Online Vote Results – this process worked well. There may be more in future.

# Shetland Arts and Crafts Association

## Summary of Members Consultation 2025

### Summary of Members Consultation 2025

- Clickimin still best venue
    - Use 60/40 and Anderson
    - Multi use room for stand
    - Food pop ups around bowls hall
    - Mareel with bus between and wrist band
  - Run twice a year – one for full members and other for associates
  - Rotate who gets a stand
  - No workshops
  - Share stands
  - Stands too cheap
  - Orkney have a semi-permanent craft fair throughout the summer
  - Full members first choice for stands
  - Over-subscribed so share stands
  - No large stands just medium and small
  - Artist area rather than individual stands
  - Volunteer voucher
  - Peoples award for stand
  - Asking crafters to work on-site to interest people (knitters etc.)
  - No food stands
  - Use of squash courts for stands
  - Squash courts for food/café
  - Encourage crafters to set up own fairs throughout the year
  - More notice to book to allow to make for the fair if you get a stand
  - If someone has a shop they should not need craft fair
  - More regular makers markets
- 
- Associates have a clear path to full membership
  - Limit membership numbers
  - Full members only linked to QA
  - People may want to remain associates but quality needed
  - Vetting all members whether associates or full
  - Support to become full member show the process
  - Video for members on setting up a stand and membership
  - Assist other to run fairs maybe a crib sheet/template
  - Buddy /mentor system to encourage new folk
  - No associates just full members
- 
- Utilise more social media platforms.
  - Become more involved with tourist platforms
  - Have a Shetland brand
  - Use local media to highlight the craft group or individual members
  - Resources on website for new business and support
  - Drop in days for unexperienced members to get support
  - Quality assessment important
  - Open studio week/weekend/moth for some that cannot commit to the Craft Trail
  - Open weekend for artist to open studios
- 
- Website committee
  - Cut out the shop
  - Link to members website/shop etc.
  - Everyone gets a page on the website
  - Develop market place charge extra or commission
  - Axe market place
  - Website should be just SACA not selling too messy
- 
- Anything handmade is a craft including baking
  - Must be designed and created with originality. Things assembled from items purchased via Amazon are not craft
  - Anything that is created with work, effort and thought put into a product
  - Music is arts and crafts
  - Sticking glitter to something doesn't make it handmade
- 
- Quarterly newsletter
  - Publish AGM minutes
  - Full time member of staff
  - Courses for members
  - List of helpers for events
  - Become a charity
  - Funding for staff and office bearers etc.

### Highlighted actioned

Open day – those marked in green are done. Not that many attended, although a few emailed suggestions.