



Wild Skies Shetland

Annual Report,

April 2024 - March 2025

Since March 2020 Wild Skies Shetland (WSS) has been a registered charity – technically a SCIO, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Our charity number is SC050009.

Our objectives

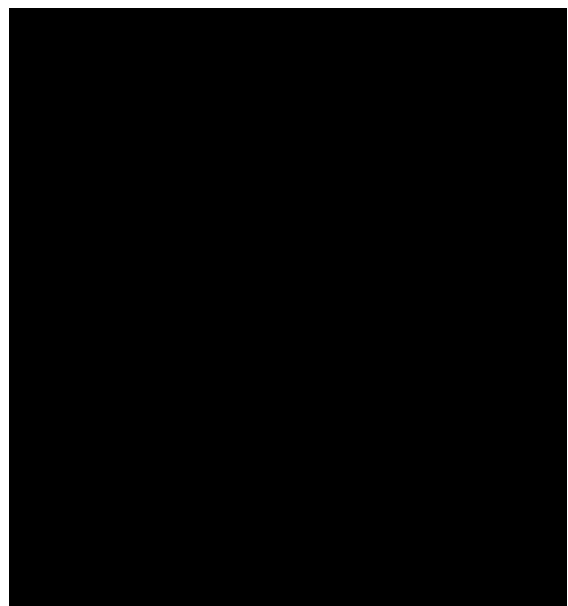
The purpose of Wild Skies Shetland is to benefit the Unst community by promoting the local natural environment, with a focus on the skies. This has aspects of advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science by providing opportunities for people to experience and understand the constantly changing skies. The benefits to the people of Unst are through increased visitor numbers and local availability of educational and recreational activities related to the sky.

Our activities in 2024/2025

Once again Wild Skies Shetland has had a very busy year.

Award winners

The first few months of the year were boosted by us being announced as winners of the **SURF Creative Regeneration Award** at a fabulous awards dinner in Glasgow in December 2023. This incredible recognition reflects the importance of community in the Wild Skies Shetland project.



The judging panel was particularly impressed with our focus on local language, culture, and heritage, as well as the positive impact of our activities on the island's economy, wellbeing, education, and community engagement. This award is a testament to the dedication of our community, whose participation played a key role in our success.

Being the winner of this prestigious award has elevated Wild Skies Shetland's profile, opening doors to funding, support, and increased visibility among visitors and tour operators.

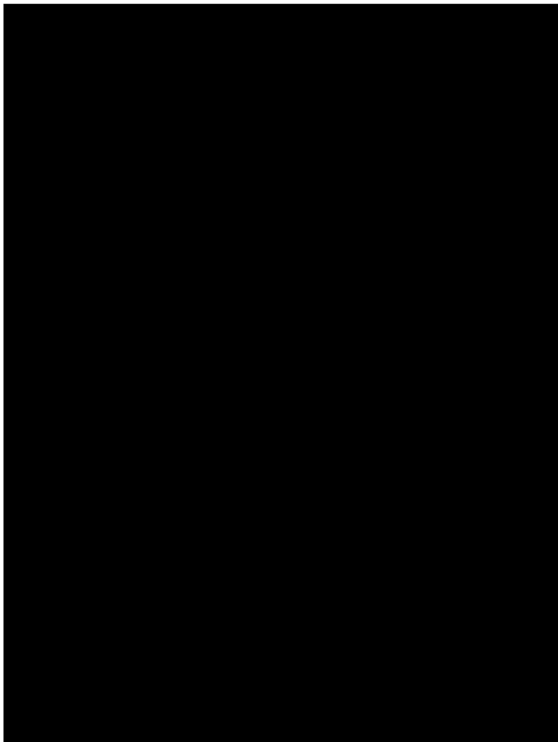
Influential visitors

We have welcomed a lot of visitors, tour guides, journalists and social media influencers throughout the year.

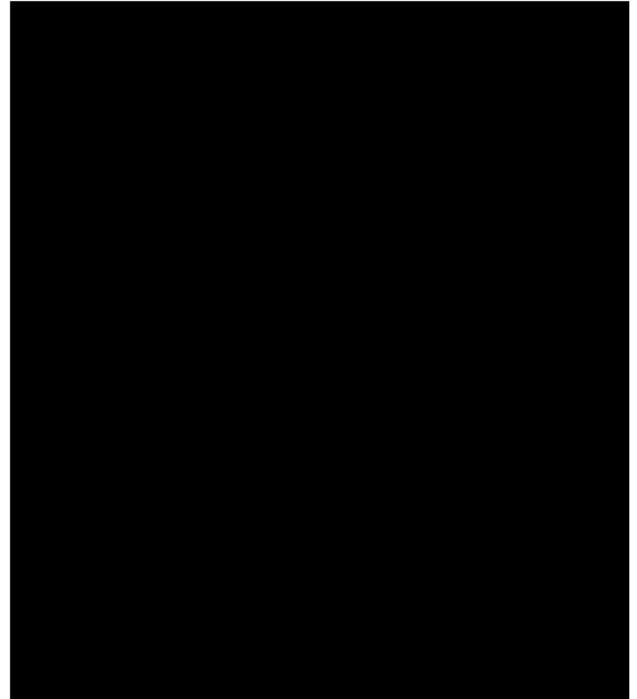
The first visitor we hosted was our MSP [REDACTED] who was delighted to meet some of the trustees and go on a tour of some of the sky stops on our newly-opened Sky Trail.

We were the subject of a parliamentary motion when we were short-listed for the SURF award. Recognition of getting that far and winning was a fantastic achievement! You can read the Parliamentary Motion [HERE](#).

Here's Wild Skies Trustee [REDACTED] showing [REDACTED] our virtual reality headsets, which are available to use throughout the winter at the Unst Leisure Centre and during the spring and summer at the Unst Heritage Centre.



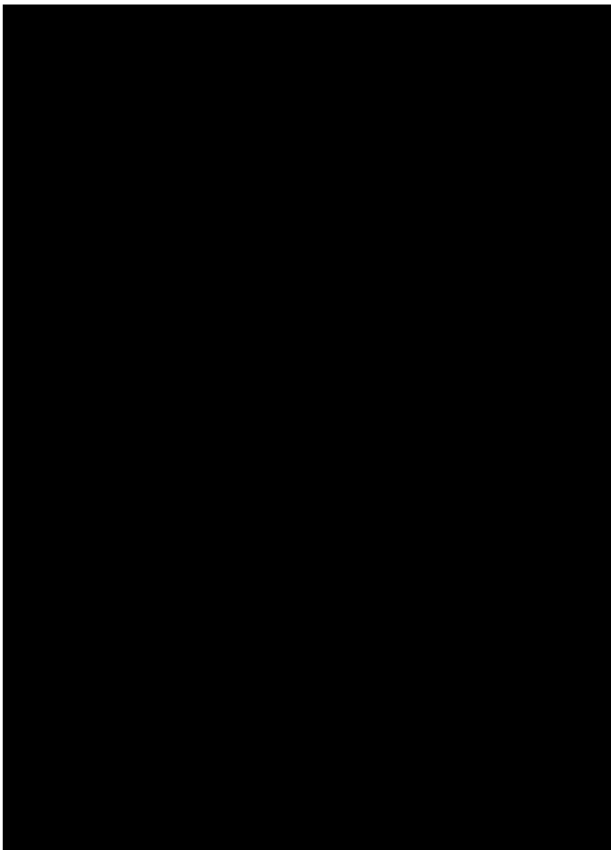
Another early visitor was a commissioning editor from the Rough Guide [REDACTED] who visited in April and not only saw Unst at its most beautiful in the spring but spent an unforgettable acoustic evening at the Shetland Folk Festival concert in the Baltasound Hall during a power cut, an experience that will live on in Shetland Folk Festival folklore for many years to come!



The power cut in Baltasound Hall did not dampen anyone's spirits and the musicians carried on without electricity making it truly a night to remember.

In June 2024, Instagram influencer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as guided around Unst by two of our Trustees. Despite poor weather she enjoyed her visit and saw the film 'An Asteroid called Unst'.

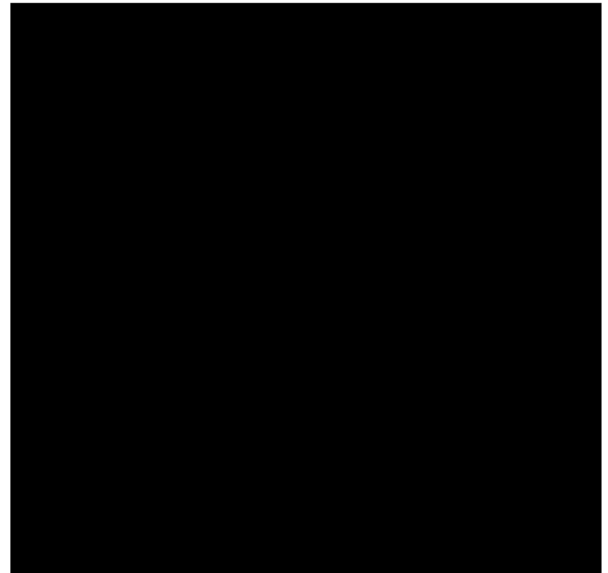




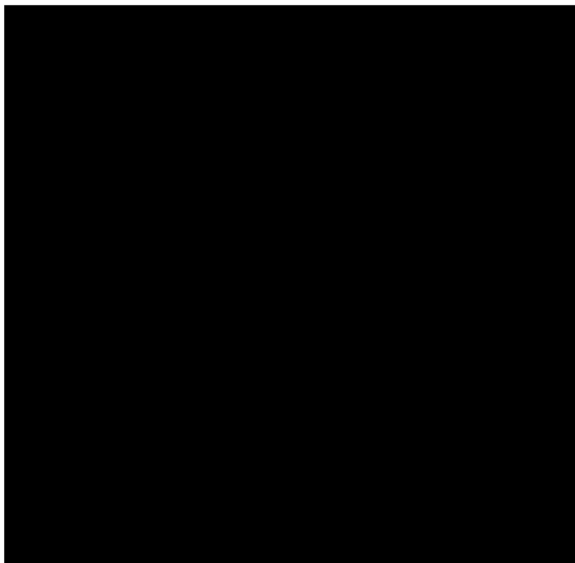
visited Unst once again in the summertime, along with nature expert they led a group of wildlife- watching guests. Whilst some of the group went to Hermaness NNR others stayed behind and were fed and entertained by Wild Skies trustees with tales of Norse mythology, local dialect and astronomical phenomena.

We hope that some of guests will come back again and visit us next year.

Various picnics were hosted on the Viking Longship including one with Rough Guide freelance journalist



In January 2025 we were delighted to meet up with the television broadcaster and journalist and her Up Helly Aa tour group who had come to Shetland to experience the Lerwick Up Helly Aa. They had a fantastic day in Unst and met WSS Trustee who told them all about Wild Skies Shetland and what we do.

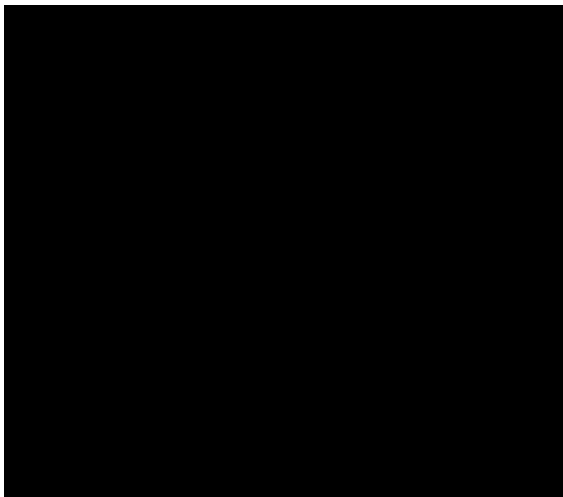


...and relaxing on the Skidbladner Viking longship replica.

Other highlights

For the first time Wild Skies Shetland played a small part in the successful **Shetland Wool Week!** Local expert fine lace knitter and tutor [REDACTED] hosted a class during Wool Week where her students knitted a piece of fine lace inspired by a shooting star i.e. a meteor.

[REDACTED] as invited to talk to the students about the sky and meteorites. We really hope this is something we can do again next year.



We re-installed the **Planetary Trail** on Saxa Vord over the summer months. As part of UnstFest [REDACTED] led a Planetary Trail Walk which was great fun and was well-attended by solar system enthusiasts young and old!



Other events and activities

Wild Skies Shetland's photographic exhibition '*Wonders of the Shetland Skies*' was once again hosted by the Unst Heritage Centre during the busy summer visitor season, as were the virtual reality headsets. The headsets mean that visitors can see the aurora in all its glory whilst sitting in the Centre if their visit doesn't coincide with the 'real thing'.

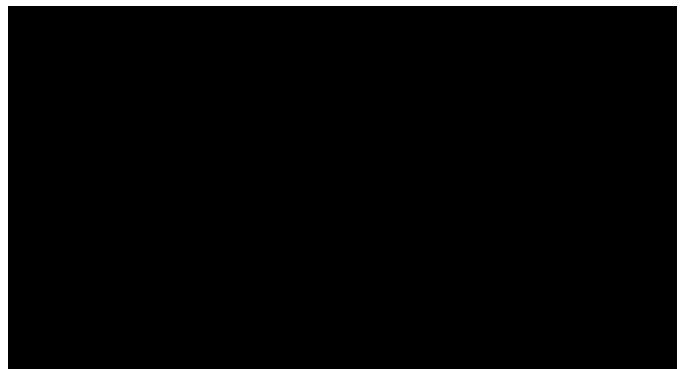
Pinterest workshop

Wild Skies Shetland's social media officer Melanie Mouat ran a free learning session '**Boost your business with Pinterest**' to help local businesses in Unst learn how to use Pinterest to attract more customers and grow their tourism or service business

As part of this, WSS set up a legally compliant database of supporters to help manage the 'Friends of Wild Skies Shetland' scheme that we are planning to launch next year.

Solar eclipse 29th March

Wild Skies Shetland put together a special Solar Eclipse Viewing Pack for people to watch the magical solar eclipse The packs were made available in local shops and outlets in Unst and other parts of Shetland with guidance on how to enjoy this sky event safely.





Communications

In December 2024 we began issuing monthly **Newsletters** to everyone on our mailing list. This is a fabulous new way for us to stay in touch with our supporters and keep them abreast of happenings, both in the sky and events that we organise on the ground in Unst. We continue to grow interest in our activities and are adding new names to the database each week.

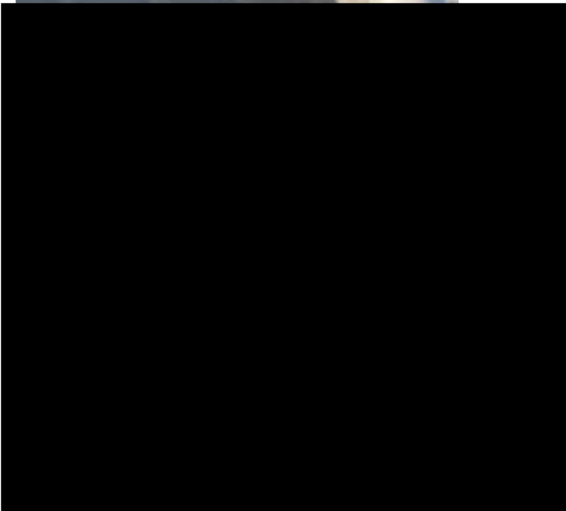
Funding success

We were delighted to end the year securing two major funding sources to support our future sustainability.

CLLD Funding (formerly known as LEADER) allowed us to continue promoting Wild Skies Shetland through social media, newsletters, and blogs.

We also received a grant from the SIC Coastal Communities Fund and Economic Development Unit to recruit a part-time **Project Development Officer** for the next 3 years.

Interviews were conducted in conjunction with Visit Scotland in February 2025 and resulted in the appointment of Sharyn Emslie, who has many years of experience in heritage interpretation. [REDACTED] led the team from CMC Associates that produced the Sky Trail so she is very familiar with Wild Skies and its work. She accepted her appointment and started her contract in April 2025.



[REDACTED] *brings a wealth of experience and a huge love of Shetland and Unst to the role of WSS Project Development Officer.*

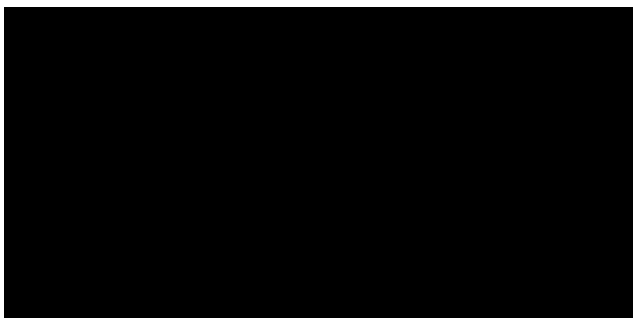
[REDACTED] *will be focusing on developing new opportunities, building partnerships and helping us share the magic of Shetland's skies with even more people. This is an exciting step forward to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Wild Skies Shetland.*

Our Board

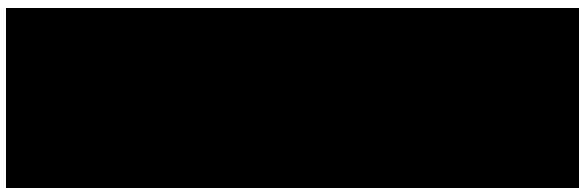
Wild Skies Shetland is run by volunteers and 2 part-time workers.

Wild Skies Shetland has an active Board of 7 Trustees, who meet regularly.

Our trustees are:



Our Workers are:



*Wild Skies Shetland, Little Hamar,
Baltasound, Unst ZE2 9D2*



Wild Skies Shetland

SC050009



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01.04.24

to

31.03.05

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	3,020				3,020	413
Legacies						
Grants	3,000				3,000	
Receipts from fundraising activities	1,748				1,748	3,239
Gross trading receipts						
Income from investments other than land and buildings						
Rents from land & buildings						
Gross receipts from other charitable activities						
A1 Sub total	7,768	-	-	-	7,768	3,652
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						
Proceeds from sale of investments						
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,768	-	-	-	7,768	3,652
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	133				133	
Gross trading payments						
Investment management costs						
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	6,137				6,137	14,119
Grants and donations						
Governance costs:						
Audit / independent examination						
Preparation of annual accounts						
Legal costs						
Other						
A3 Sub total	6,270	-	-	-	6,270	14,119
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets						
Purchase of investments						
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,270	-	-	-	6,270	14,119
Net receipts / (payments)	1,498	-00	-00	-00	(1,498) -	(10,467) -
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-00	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,498	-00	-00	-00	1,498	(10,467) -

APPENDIX 3



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Report to the
trustees/members of

Charity name

WILD SKIES SHETLAND

Registered charity
number

SC050009

On the accounts of the
charity for the period

Period start date

Day Month Year
01 04 2024

to

Period end date

Day Month Year
31 03 2025

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page
numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's
statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~[other than that disclosed on the attached page²]~~

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

Date:

20th November 2025

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose