



The Shed & The Barn AGM 2026



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY



The Shed & The Barn

STORY OF THE SHED

THE SHED PROJECT BEGAN IN 2014 WITH A SIMPLE VISION - TO CREATE A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE COULD COME AS THEY ARE AND FIND SUPPORT, CONNECTION, AND HOPE. STARTING WITH JUST TWO MEMBERS OF STAFF, THE SHED WAS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS, COMPASSION, AND A BELIEF THAT EVERY PERSON MATTERS.

OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS, THAT VISION HAS GROWN INTO A VIBRANT, MULTI-FACETED CHARITY SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ACROSS THE WESTERN ISLES. THROUGH YOUTH WORK, SCHOOL MENTORING, INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMES, FAMILY SUPPORT, AND RECOVERY SERVICES, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A WHOLE-FAMILY, TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH - RECOGNISING THAT LASTING CHANGE HAPPENS THROUGH TRUST, CONSISTENCY, AND CARE.

AS OUR COMMUNITY HAS GROWN, SO TOO HAS OUR IMPACT. OUR TEAM, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PROGRAMMES HAVE EXPANDED TO MEET INCREASING NEED, CREATING SPACES WHERE PEOPLE CAN BELONG, REBUILD CONFIDENCE, AND MOVE FORWARD WITH PURPOSE. 2025 MARKED A SIGNIFICANT NEW CHAPTER WITH THE OPENING OF THE BARN FAMILY CENTRE - A DEDICATED HOME FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK AND A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH VISION, FAITH, AND PARTNERSHIP. ALONGSIDE THIS, WE CONTINUE TO SEE GROWING DEMAND ACROSS OUR YOUTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES, WHERE LIVES ARE BEING SUPPORTED WITH DIGNITY, COMPASSION, AND HOPE.

THE STORY OF THE SHED IS, AT ITS HEART, A STORY OF PEOPLE - OF COMMUNITY, RESILIENCE, AND TRANSFORMATION. AS WE LOOK AHEAD, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY, CREATING SPACES WHERE EVERYONE IS SEEN, HEARD, AND VALUED.



2014-2024

2014

Royal Opening

- The Shed building is complete.
- Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh formally open The Shed.
- 2 Staff Employed (Manager & Youth Worker).
- Launch of Youth Club, The Well and Little Stars Group



2015

The Work begins to be recognised

- Engagement with young people in the community.
- Winner of the Christian Funding Forum in London.



2016

The Shed Develops

- Launch of The Ark Women's Group.
- The first Well Trip to the Recovery Walk in Falkirk.
- Soccerena Youth Outreach



2017

Youth Work Thriving!

- Youth & Schools Worker Hired
- The Shed begins its partnership with the Nicolson Institute.
- P7 Club running in Stornoway Primary & Laxdale School.



2018

The Shed Services Growing

- Mentoring support growing and developing in the Nicolson.
- Friday Night Life Adult Group.
- Josephs Storehouse providing food parcels for the community.



2019

The Shed reaching the community

- The first annual Shed Family Fun Day.
- Staffing numbers reached 10 employees.



2020

The Shed adaptive & active

- COVID adaptations & activities.
- Online Youth Work, Mentoring & Services providing daily content and engagement for young people.
- Distributing Wellbeing Boxes to those in need in the community
- Hired Youth & Schools Worker

2021

The Shed active online

- Pilot Project launched and running for S6 Pupils in the Nicolson.
- Matthew's Half Marathon fundraiser raising £10,000 for The Shed Youth Work.
- Hired a Youth Support Worker.

2022

New Services & Staff Launched

- Partnership with Bethany Christian Trust in employing another Community Worker.
- Partnership with Safe Families.
- Launch of Safe Families Western Isles.

2023

The Work Keeps Growing!

- Hired an Intergenerational Worker in partnership with CNES.
- Successfully attaining the Promise Bid in partnership with CNES.
- Launch of The Shed Cafe.
- Staff increased to 15 employed to The Shed.

2025 onwards

upcoming and future plans

- The Barn Family Centre 2025 launch.
- Working in ongoing partnership with local agencies.
- The Shed services continuing to develop and benefit the community.
- Need to secure long term core funding





2025 Highlights

Summary of August 2025- October 2025

- Partnership Dinner with Sir Brian Souter- 22nd August
- Fun Day at The Barn- 23rd August
- Completion of Barn Family Centre- OMAC
- Midge Biters fundraiser for The Shed
- Volunteers Evening in the Barn
- Max Smart training – mentoring, looking at universal growth needs, in order to gain holistic understanding of young people
- Challenge Poverty Event – partnership working- Thursday 9th October
- CRAFT Training (Community Reinforcement & Family Training) with George Charleton -13th & 14th October
- Participation in, HMIe joint inspections of services for children & young people subject to CSOs (compulsory supervision orders) living at home with their parents
- Sharepoint development



Summary of October 2025- January 2026

- Progress with moving resources across to the Barn. Great to have the store full of Little Stars resources!
- Catch-up at the Shed- making connections
- Excellent Safe Families training- especially Safeguarding
- Involvement in SW Care Inspectorate inspection- good to have a closer look at our own practice
- Christmas Staff 'Get together' with Onboard Hebrides
- SFWI trip to Barra- November 10th – making links with the Castlebay School and the community
- Breakfast event for referrers- 18th November. Good discussions
- Lunch & Learn – Western Isles, Violence against Women Partnership- 27th November
- Alasdair Allan visit to The Barn- December 1st
- Redecorating of the Shed through Midge Biters fundraising
- Planning for Cothrom visit
- Addition of termly whole staff worship times with Martin's Ministry Team



Summary of January 2026- April 2026

- Completion of the Shed refurbishment, including kitchen
- Barn kitchen was used for meals as part of the Alpha course
- Visit to Cothrom in Uist & subsequent planning
- Visit to Barn by Adam Keltie, Manager of Cothrom
- Scottish Government & Education Scotland Visit- partnership working
- Tours of the Barn for Elected members, Lord Lieutenant etc
- Sharing the story of The Barn with the Guild, 2nd March
- Visit by Kerry Coleman & Colum Durka, Director of Public Health
- Shed Café- Updated and extended menu
- Visit by North West Migrants Forum/ link with Wee Studio
- Partnership meeting with CLD
- Partnership meeting with UHI (Horticulture)
- World Café Conversation on Ageing Well & diverse perspectives on supporting fulfilling healthy connected later lives in the Western Isles
- Expansion of Little Stars employed staff & planning for Intergenerational project 'Parenting Matters'





Youth work

"What a phenomenal year we have had in the Youth Work of The Shed. From increasing our team with 3 new members of staff to seeing exponential growth across our services, we are knowing a remarkable development across the attendance, engagement and effect of our Youth Work. We are now functioning as a Youth Staff Team of 7 and delivering 10 varied services engaging with an average of 225 young people on a monthly basis. Throughout all the work delivered from our staff, we are continually grateful for the increasingly strengthened relationships with the schools, local authority and partnering agencies who are contributing to the positive impact we are able to have on young people in our community. With monthly reviews and vision sessions, feedback gathered from young people and continually providing new initiatives in our youth work, we are grateful to provide such opportunities for engagement with various young people. It's been a remarkable year for many reasons, but this only motivates our desire to develop all aspects of our work so that we can enhance the support provided to young people and see increasing positive results in and through the lives of the young people as we continue to "support our community to the best of our ability."



Youth Nights

Thursday evenings are a great opportunity to have young people come into The Shed and have a bit of relaxation time towards the end of the school week. We have a core group of young people ranging from S1 to S6 who come every week which is great to see and usually see up to 30 plus young people on a Thursday evening.

Friday Drop In

From after school until 4pm, The Shed is open as a space to have lunch with friends, play games and chat to our youth team. Most Fridays we are joined by PC Steele who is a familiar face to many, working alongside the school and other local agencies to support our young people. We hope to introduce Cafe Meal Deals in the coming weeks during Youth Nights and Drop In to provide hot food and drinks for young people afterschool.

Saturday P7 Club

P7 Club provides a unique opportunity for Primary 7s to meet new people and build friendships before they join the Nicolson for S1. This has been proven over the years to be a valued space for new relationships to form and confidence to be built during a pupil's final year of primary education.



Youthwork



70

P7s taking part in Game Changers School sessions

50

Young people on average attending Youth Nights and Drop Ins each week

35

Young people on average attending P7 Club each Saturday

11

S6 pupils taking part in this years Pilot Project

40

Young people on average receiving Mentoring this year.

Pilot Project

The Pilot Project is a group of S6 pupils from The Nicolson Institute, with 11 students taking part to help support their transition from secondary school to university, work, or other future paths.

Throughout the year, the group has heard from a range of speakers and explored useful topics. Claire Smith delivered sessions on interview skills and what employers look for, while other sessions focused on independent living, study tips, and stress management. Iline from Body and Soul also led an engaging session on skincare, the effects of stress, and shared her inspiring business journey. We hope to end the term with a visit to Wee Studio with Keith Morrison to learn about his success story! Pilot Project has been a positive and enjoyable experience, giving pupils the chance to learn new skills, build confidence, and prepare for the future together. Everyone involved should feel proud of their commitment and the progress they've made—these experiences will help them take their next steps with confidence.

Game Changers

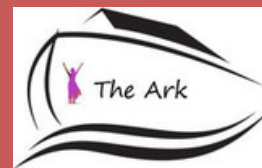
At The Shed, we are committed to coming alongside Primary 7 pupils and supporting them through their transition into Secondary School. Our Shed Youth Team works alongside teachers to provide in-class, curriculum based sessions every fortnight. These sessions create a space for pupils to grow in confidence, explore new life skills and bring any concerns they may have.

Mentoring

Our Youth Team are currently meeting with around 40 young people every month for mentoring. Alison, our pupil Mentoring Co-ordinator does a fantastic job arranging and assigning pupils to workers. Our team work closely alongside Senior Management in both the primary and secondary schools to ensure we are providing the best support possible for the young people.



Community



The Well

The Well continues to operate as a vital weekly drop-in service. Over the year, it has recorded a footfall of 140 attendees across 138 sessions.

The Well offers a welcoming and supportive environment where individuals can engage in recovery-focused support alongside informal recreational activities such as pool, board games, and shared refreshments. These activities help to foster connection, reduce isolation, and encourage positive engagement within a safe and inclusive space.

The service is heavily reliant on the commitment of dedicated volunteers, who work alongside attendees to provide friendship, encouragement, and a sense of belonging. We are extremely grateful for their continued support and contribution to the success of The Well. In addition to the weekly drop-in sessions, participants have also enjoyed a range of outings and activities throughout the year, including trips bowling, fishing, and movie nights.



The Ark

The Ark is our women-only drop-in service, which meets on Friday mornings. Over the course of the year, the Ark welcomed between 15–20 attending weekly, across 52 sessions.

The Ark provides a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment specifically for women on their recovery journey. Activities include crocheting, painting, chair yoga, and other creative and wellbeing-focused sessions, offering opportunities for relaxation, expression, and peer support. The Ark is run by a team of dedicated and highly skilled volunteers who ensure the space remains safe, welcoming, and responsive to the needs of those who attend. Their commitment and compassion are central to the success of the service.

As with The Well, participants also benefit from occasional outings and shared activities beyond the drop-in setting, helping to strengthen relationships and build community.



Community

Recovery Events

A key highlight this year was participation in the Scottish Recovery Consortium's annual Recovery Walk, held in Stirling. The Ark has long been a regular participant in this event, and once again attended in strong numbers. This year, they were joined by participants from The Well and Hebrides Alpha Coll. The walk was both a poignant and celebratory occasion, bringing together recovery communities from across Scotland. It was a valuable opportunity to stand together, share experiences, and represent the Western Isles community.



The Shed Café

The Shed Café has continued to grow and thrive throughout the year, with an average of 35 people attending each week across Tuesday and Thursday sessions. The café is increasingly shaped and led by its volunteers, who have taken real ownership of its development over the past two years.

In response to the increasing demand and activity within the café, it became clear that additional staffing support was required to ensure long-term sustainability. As a result, we recruited Graeme, who had previously volunteered within the café. As a trained chef, Graeme is now working on expanding the menu and developing a wider range of offerings, further enhancing the café experience for all who attend.



Been There Worn T-Shirt – Lived and Living Experience Panel

Been There Worn T-Shirt is the lived and living experience panel for the Western Isles, delivered in partnership with the Outer Hebrides Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Established in January 2025, the group meets bi-monthly with the aim of ensuring that people with lived or living experience of drug and alcohol use have a meaningful voice in shaping and informing local policy, services, and practice. The panel provides a safe and supportive space for participants to share their experiences and influence change at a local level. Current areas of focus include the impact of stigma, the language used in relation to recovery, and how both can affect engagement with services and individuals' recovery journeys. This work is contributing to the development of a local awareness campaign, which the ADP is planning to deliver across the Western Isles. The group currently has an average attendance of around 8 participants per session. Ongoing work is underway to broaden engagement and ensure stronger representation from across all communities within the Western Isles, reflecting the geographical spread and diversity of lived experience throughout the islands.

Safe Families

Safe Families Western Isles began accepting referrals in January 2023 and, since inception, has received 52 referrals and supported 32 families.

Support is delivered through a trained and carefully vetted volunteer "Family Friend" model, whereby volunteers journey alongside families for a period of approximately 3–9 months. This relationship-based approach focuses on agreed goals designed to empower families, strengthen resilience, and enable parents to make informed and positive decisions for themselves and their children.

The project continues to demonstrate strong volunteer engagement, and presently has 40 active volunteers. This level of volunteer involvement reflects strong community commitment to supporting local families and our volunteers are greatly valued.

The mission of Safe Families Western Isles extends across the entire geographical area and in line with this, the team has undertaken several outreach visits to Uist and Barra to explore need, raise awareness, and strengthen engagement with both potential families and volunteers. These visits have consistently highlighted significant demand for family support across the wider Western Isles.

Community engagement has also been strengthened through the delivery of key events. In May, a Family Fun Day was held in partnership with Cothrom in South Uist, attended by 23 adults and 26 children and in August, the annual The Shed Project Family Fun Day was held in Stornoway, attracting 308 attendees. The events provided free, inclusive community activities and were delivered in partnership with local organisations, whose support and hospitality were greatly valued.

There have also been changes within the staff team as Anne Campbell joined the organisation in late 2024, working alongside Jo Macleod prior to Jo's maternity leave. Anne has since integrated effectively into the team and now serves as Family Support Manager alongside Fiona Douglas.

During the year, Rochelle MacLeod also moved on to pursue new opportunities. The organisation extends its sincere gratitude for her contribution to Safe Families Western Isles and wishes her every success for the future.





Intergenerational

Our Intergenerational Work programme delivered a highly active and impactful year throughout 2025. Little Stars provides a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment for parents and young children, in The Barn Family Centre. 85 families engaged with the programme across the year, supported by our two Intergenerational Workers, Sandra and Rosie, alongside a dedicated team of volunteers.

The Barn setting has strengthened the quality of engagement and allowed for more structured and responsive session planning.

Little Stars is carefully designed to meet the developmental, sensory, and emotional needs of early years children. This approach supports early development, strengthens parent-child bonding, and contributes to improved confidence and wellbeing among participating families.

Little Stars is recognised as a vital early intervention offer, providing both social support and developmental enrichment for families who may otherwise experience isolation. It plays a key role in strengthening community connection, parental confidence, and early childhood development outcomes.

Looking ahead, the programme will expand to include targeted parenting support initiatives. These include structured parenting classes, which will build on existing engagement to enhance parental knowledge, confidence, and capacity.

Who Let The Coves Out, our provision for male guardians and their children has gone from strength to strength with an increase in numbers since the transition to The Barn Family Centre. The set up is the same as that of Little Stars and as it grows we hope to welcome more dads and male guardians along.





Partnerships

North West Migrants Forum Visit (Thursday 19th February 2026)

The Shed Project and Barn Family Centre were delighted recently, to welcome senior leaders from North West Migrants Forum (NWMF) who are based in Derry, Northern Ireland, as part of their visit to explore best practice in community-led support. The North West Migrants Forum is a well-established charity supporting migrant communities across Northern Ireland. During their visit to The Shed Project, colleagues shared their vision and practice in delivering whole-family, trauma-informed support to some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Lilian Seenoi - Barr (Chief Executive Officer) and Dominic Nartey (Welfare and Integration Officer) of the NWMF team met with: The Little Stars Intergenerational Team, The Shed Café and Community Recovery Team, Safe Families Western Isles Team, The Youth and Schools Team and colleagues from local School Management teams. The visit reinforced the value of collaboration between community charities - learning from one another, celebrating innovation, exploring partnership with statutory services and continually improving how support is delivered to those who need it most.



Visit to Cothrom Learning Centre, Ormiclate, South Uist (26 -27th February 2026)

Cothrom is an organisation/enterprise which is fully committed to the community it serves. They aim to improve environmental practices within the organisation and the wider community. They run adult community classes in a range of skills. A special feature of Cothrom's work is the Adult Basic Skills programme, which provides a stepping-stone for adults who wish to return to education or find employment.

Fiona & Iain Douglas, Lawrence Devenney and I were particularly interested in their support work with people affected by substance misuse and their families, their gardening project and their Food Share projects, including cookery classes. Engagement with the team at Cothrom was hugely beneficial. We were also given a tour of their facility, including their Restore Shop, which also provides opportunities for volunteering, learning and personal development.

Additionally, we were able to visit the Walled Gardens at St Peter's Church, with Sue Macdonald, Horticulture Tutor. As a result of our visit to Cothrom, we are now planning a Growing project which will engage us in close partnership with Hebrides Alpha Project at Coll and with UHI North West & Hebrides. Projects at both those centres are being meticulously planned and we look forward to the benefits across our service. An additional and very positive, outcome of our visit is that our attendees of The Well, The Ark, Hebrides Alpha and Cothrom Learning Centre, are invited to a joint Activities Day, in Harris. We look forward to this opportunity for friendship and mutual support.

Celtic Music at Martins- 14th July 2026

We are currently working with singers and musicians in our community, to run an evening of Celtic Music at Martin's. This event is planned for the Tuesday of the Hebridean Celtic Festival week, with proceeds going to The Shed Project. We welcome this opportunity to work with community partners and with visitors to our island. It should be an excellent opportunity to showcase our island music and culture.



Testimonials



YOUTH

"Mentoring through the Shed has provided me with a lot of support, through challenging situations, by providing me with a safe space to share how I am feeling and be given helpful advice. I don't know how I would have managed the last few years without it!" - **Mentoring**



COMMUNITY

'Giving me confidence and meeting new people as well as helping me to stay sober" - **The Well**

"The Ark really helped me stop drinking. It was an event that gave my week structure and purpose; something to look forward to" - **The Ark**



INTERGENERATIONAL

'Great atmosphere! Plenty of space for kids and plenty of toys and activities to do. People are great, easy to chat to and always looking for new ideas for the kids.' - **Little Stars**



SAFE FAMILIES

"As a volunteer with SFWI, being able to see families grow in confidence, feel love and regain a sense of hope is an amazing and humbling experience. Thank you SFWI!" - **SFWI Volunteer**

"Support has been really good and made a difference! My volunteer's encouragements have led me to get out more and make good choices for myself." - **A Mum who has received support from SFWI.**



Our Funders



We couldn't do what we do without funders! Listed are a handful of partners who support the work of The Shed and The Barn.

Would you like to support our work? Check out our Sponsorship and Volunteer Packages below. For more info visit: www.theshedproject.org.uk



Eileanan Siar Western Isles

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION



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Sponsorship & Volunteer Packages

BRONZE
Community Friend

£250 or
10 Volunteer hours

- Social media feature
- Thank-you wall feature

SILVER
HOPE PARTNER

£1,000 or
20 Volunteer hours

- Social media feature
- Thank-you wall feature
- Logo on newsletter
- Staff Tour Invite
- Impact Story

GOLD
Barn Builder

£5,000 or a
3 month project

- Social media feature
- Thank-you wall feature
- Logo on newsletter
- Staff Tour Invite
- Impact Story
- Named room or space
- PR Feature
- Tailored CSR project

Email claire@theshedproject.org.uk and check out our website to find out more about how you could get involved to impact our wonderful community!