



SHETLAND HAMEFARIN 2010

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Shetland in Stats

- Shetland's economy has bucked the national trend as one of only two Scottish areas to see an increase of business start-ups in 2008. Shetland showed an increase of 27% in business start-ups, against an overall Scottish decline of 20%.
- British Summer Time begins at the end of March, and Shetland in particular sees a change in daylight hours, from less than four at midwinter to as much as nineteen in midsummer.



A BOOK OF EMIGRATION

Writer Laughton Johnston was commissioned by the Shetland Hamefarin 2010 Committee to write a book examining the experiences of those who left Shetland. This book will be launched at the Hamefarin in 2010. Here he tells us about his fascinating research and some of the stories he has uncovered:

"The project to produce a book on Shetland emigration began a year ago and has a year to run. In such a short time it is not possible to write a definitive account, so I have sought instead to concentrate on the stories of as many emigrants as possible. To illustrate the very personal experience of emigration, the book will include letters, poems and photographs ... of the individuals and families, of the home departed, the journey, destination and the struggle of the new beginning.

Through publicity on the Hamefarin website and Radio Shetland, in the Shetland Times and Coontin Kin, I have been contacted by over 150 email correspondents and had

many letters, from Shetland and around the world. Every emigrant and family, whose story is told, has been recorded on a database which will be an appendix to the book; this has now reached over 600 individuals. As many thousands emigrated it is clear that the book can only encompass a selection. However, it is hoped that this selection will be representative of all of Shetland, of most of the destinations and cover the principal periods of emigration.

The bulk of the stories come from the second half of the 19th century which was the peak of emigration, but there are a number from both the 18th and 20th centuries. Since the book is to mark the anniversary of the first Hamefarin in 1960 that is likely where it will draw a line.

The stories are fascinating and widely diverse, from tragedy to comedy and from penury to fortune. They include, to mention only a few: death in the sandalwood islands; the accidental discovery of the

largest goldfield in Australia; ethnography in British Columbia; pleading letters to loved ones with the Hudson Bay Company; fishing in New Zealand; shipwrecks; rescue; banking and fish canning in Monterey; a logging company in Denver; a forge company in Chicago; mariners in Liverpool; politicians and academics everywhere; knitting with the Salish; the making of films and the writing of books; and last, but far from least, the reasons for leaving and the struggle to establish a new home and raise a family.

There are many good stories, but there is room for more. If you have one, particularly pre-1800 or post-1900, of emigrants from the smaller islands, or to South Africa, the Far East or Europe, please contact me at:

shetland.emigrants@googlemail.com
or:
Muckle Boustia,
Sandness,
Shetland ZE2 9PL
(01595 870 266).

Laughton Johnston"

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION NEWS

The Hamefarin Committee have reserved a number of berths on the Northlink ferries for the Aberdeen-Lerwick sailings on 11-13 June 2010, and for the Lerwick-Aberdeen sailings on 27-29 June 2010.

Northlink Ferries Ltd have kindly granted a **30% honorary islander discount** to all passengers and cars travelling to Shetland for the Hamefarin.

This discount applies to the cost of passage for

passengers and cars and not to the cost of booking cabins.

Details of how to book these reserved berths and claim the discount will be made available by e-mail as soon as it is available, as well as on www.shetlandhamefarin.com and in subsequent newsletters.

Local travel agency John Leask & Son are acting as official accommodation agents for the Shetland

Hamefarin 2010. They will be dealing with all bookings and enquiries relating to accommodation for the event, and will also help to arrange travel to and within Shetland.

Details of accommodation providers are available at www.shetlandhamefarin.com/accommodation.php.

We would strongly recommend that Hamefariners book their accommodation well in advance.



**SHETLAND
HAMEFARIN 2010**

**MONDAY 14
JUNE –**

SUNDAY 27 JUNE

2010

TAMMY ANDERSON TRIBUTE CONCERT

One of the highlights of the Hamefarin 2010 schedule will be the Tammy Anderson Tribute Concert, to be held at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick on Friday 18 June 2010.

Organised by the Shetland Folk Festival Society, the concert will pay tribute to one of the most important figures in Shetland's cultural history through music, video and stories.

Born in 1910 in Eshaness in the north mainland of Shetland, Tom 'Tammy' Anderson was a talented fiddler, and an insurance agent by trade. It was in his travels in this capacity that he amassed a large archive of Shetland music on an old Grundig recorder.

His passion for traditional Shetland fiddle music led him to become a renowned musical mentor to a younger generation of local musicians, among them Aly Bain and Catriona MacDonald, who have gone

on to careers of considerable fame and renown.

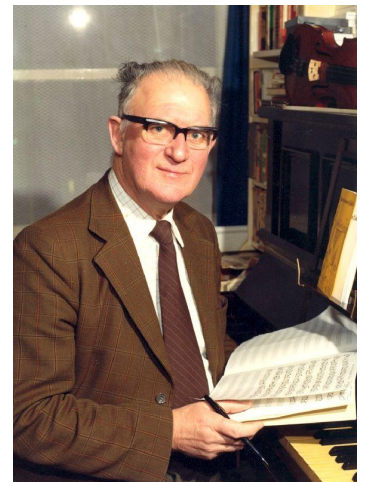
Tom's life as a musical mentor took off in earnest upon his retirement in the early 1970s when he began teaching fiddle playing in Shetland schools, his devotion to this earning him an MBE in 1977 and an honorary doctorate from Stirling University in 1981. It was here he conducted his famous 'Heritage of Scotland' Summer Schools.

Tom passed away in 1991, and years later his influence on Shetland music is still keenly felt, with hundreds of young local musicians having benefited from his campaign to have traditional music taught in schools (many from his direct tuition). He was also instrumental in establishing the Young Fiddler of the Year competition in 1982 and the Shetland Folk Festival in 1981, which is now a key date in the international folk music calendar.

A full line-up for the

concert is yet to be confirmed, but it is expected that local traditional musicians will be joined by friends from Norway, and that the concert will incorporate language, stories and song.

Full details will be confirmed in future newsletters and at www.shetlandhamefarin.com



Dr. Tom 'Tammy' Anderson

CLASS REUNION

One group looking forward to a memorable Hamefarin in 2010 is the 'Class of 1960' from the Lerwick Central Public School, now the Anderson High School. The class first reunited in 1985.

Organiser Martin Smith says, "Back in 1984 we decided to have a reunion to celebrate 21 years since we left the school and also to coincide with the Hamefarin in 1985.."

The class held another reunion in 1994 to mark 30 years since leaving the school. In 2010 it will be 50 years since these pupils began their senior education, and the reunion will happily coincide with the latest Hamefarin.

Of the 121 original pupils, 11 have sadly passed on. Of the remaining 110, Martin and his fellow organisers have remarkably tracked down 108.

The Shetland Hamefarin Committee wishes the Class of 1960 all the best for their upcoming reunion.



'Class of 1960' at their 1994 reunion

HAMEFARIN QUILT

The Hamefarin Quilt was launched at the Town Hall on Thursday 9th October 2008 by Sandy Cluness, Convener of Shetland Islands Council and Ann Hill, a keen quilter, who was born in Shetland and now lives in Dumfries. Ann is looking forward to coming home for the Hamefarin in June.

Ann came up with the idea of Hamefarers bringing something home to Shetland with them as a gift to the people of Shetland. The quilt has been started with blocks being provided by Ann and three other Shetland exiles: Aly Bain, Alan Beattie and Lesley Bloomer. They have each provided a quilt block depicting what Shetland means to them.

If you know anyone who is coming home in June 2010 to take part in the celebrations please ask them to consider getting a square made for the Hamefarers quilt. Contributors will be

required to provide a block which is no larger than 10" square and should be made from 100% cotton fabric.

Updating the progress of the quilt recently Ann said "It has been an eventful few months with much interest shown in the quilt project.

"I started off on my journey around the quilt groups in various countries and throughout the region of Dumfries and Galloway and I have to say that there has been real interest from every quarter.



Lesley Kavi Ahangeri with Catriona Hill and Ann with the quilt outside Sydney opera house. Lesley's sister stayed in Shetland in the late 1970's.

"Ideas for blocks are arriving regularly and we are now up to about 20 blocks. It may be necessary to produce 2 quilts!!

"All is going well so far but more blocks are needed. I am also gathering peerie stories about why they have chosen to make a particular block design and what their connection with Shetland is. Perhaps we will get enough interest and photographs to produce a book about the quilt as well....."

Ann Hill can be contacted on 01387 830638 or you can write to her at: Mouswald House, Mouswald, Dumfries, DG1 4LT.

Her email address is dmhill@btinternet.com. Ann's mother is Violet Laurenson of 39 Cairnfield Road, Lerwick and letters can also be passed on through her.



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STRONG INTEREST FROM NZ

The Shetland Hamefarin Committee is delighted with the level of interest currently being shown from potential Hamefarers far and wide.

The Shetland Society of Wellington has recently confirmed that 90 of it's members will be travelling to Shetland next June.

The number of registrations on www.shetlandhamefarin.com has reached over 500, including registrations from as far afield as Hong Kong and Panama. The Committee is very confident that the 2010 event will see a big turnout of Hamefarers, either those returning to the isles or those seeing Shetland for the first time keen to discover their roots.

To register interest in the Hamefarin please visit the website.

LOCAL EVENTS TAKE SHAPE

With the commencement of the Shetland Hamefarin 2010 fast approaching, all involved are making preparations: concerts are being scheduled, buses hired, hotel rooms and travel tickets booked.

In the communities of Shetland, plans are being put in place to treat Hamefarers to some unforgettable experiences when they arrive in Shetland.

Community Councils, local history groups and other community groups are working

on programmes of events to entertain, inform and enlighten those who take time to visit them.

Proposals currently put forward include trout fishing and golfing in Whalsay, a supper-dance in Unst, guided walks in the South Mainland, a Bobby Tulloch tribute concert in Yell and visits to some of Shetland's most significant landmarks, such as Sumburgh Head, Scalloway Castle and the Shetland Bus Memorial.



Scalloway Castle

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Committee

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following is the schedule of events as it stands at the moment. More details will be available soon, and any changes will be updated on www.shetlandhamefarin.com and in the newsletter. All venues are to be confirmed, and details are subject to change.

Sunday 13th June

Arrive in Shetland.

Monday 14th June

Hamefarers will be welcomed to Shetland with a special function.

Tuesday 15th-Friday 18th June

Hamefarers will be able to take part in bus trips and events in various parts of Shetland.

Wednesday 16th June

Tammy Anderson Tribute Concert at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick.

Friday 18th-Monday 21st

Flavour of Shetland: a Shetland showcase event celebrating the best of local crafts, culture, music and

food and drink.

Friday 18th-Sunday 20th June

Skeld Festival of the Sea—celebration of Skeld's historical links with the fishing industry. Live entertainment, barbecue, refreshments, displays and much more.

Monday 21st-Thursday 24th June

More local trips and events as hamefarers can sample plenty more sights, sounds and tastes of Shetland.

Friday 25th June

Hamefarin Dance at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick.

Saturday 26th June

Final Fling at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick. This will include a Viking parade, culminating in the burning of a galley on Clickimin Loch.

Sunday 27th June

Depart Shetland.



A packed entertainment tent at Flavour of Shetland

MEANWHILE IN SHETLAND...

The programme for the **29th Shetland Folk Festival** has been published and tickets are being sold. This year's festival will run from Thursday 30 April to Sunday 3 May 2009, and will take in concerts in Baltasound, Cullivoe, Sandwick and Walls among others.

This year's line-up includes folk heroes Shooglenifty, Irish singer Cara Dillon and Danish band Zar. Other performers are arriving from Scandinavia, Australia and the USA to feature alongside the usual wealth of local artistes.

For more information visit www.shetlandfolkfestival.com.

The senior Shetland football calendar is underway, beginning with the Highland Fuels Cup which kicks off on Tuesday 24 March 2009. This competition is a warm-up tournament for the Shetland Football Association's Premier League which begins in April. Delting FC will be defending both titles. See www.leaguewebsite.co.uk/shetlandfa for more details.

Plans are underway to incorporate a new **Up-Helly-Aa** event into the Shetland winter calendar. The Sooth Mainland Up-Helly-Aa will bring the number of fire festivals up to ten as of 2010. Local notables are drawing up strategies for hall

rotation and, of course, who will be Guizer Jarl.

The current Up-Helly-Aa season begins in January with the Scalloway Fire Festival and ends in March with the Brae Up-Helly-Aa.

The **Simmer Dim Rally**, the most northerly bikers rally in Britain, takes place in June. Based in Vidlin, the rally has been held almost every year since 1982 and, as the name suggests, is timed to coincide with the longest day.