



# SHETLAND HAMEFARIN 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Travel News	1
Hamefarin Quilt	2
Shetland Cattle	3
Meanwhile...	3
Events Schedule	4
Other News	4
Useful Contacts	4

## Shetland in Stats

- Livestock exports in Shetland take place in early autumn. In the last few years an average of 90,000 sheep and 1,800 cattle have been exported from Shetland every year.
- The Shetland Museum is the most visited attraction in Shetland, having seen 82,349 visitors in it's first full year of opening (2008).



## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION NEWS

**Loganair** has announced that extra flights are to be introduced next summer to coincide with the Shetland Hamefarin 2010 in June. Details of this have yet to be confirmed, but any information received will be shared with Hamefariners via [www.shetlandhamefarin.com](http://www.shetlandhamefarin.com) and the newsletters

The company will also enhance its service from Shetland to Edinburgh, with new midday flights on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 23 May until the end of October.

In the Summer 2009 newsletter it was announced that the Hamefarin Committee reserved a number of berths on the Northlink ferries for the Aberdeen-Lerwick sailings immediately before and after the Shetland Hamefarin 2010.

Northlink Ferries Ltd have kindly granted a **30%**

**honorary islander discount** to all those travelling to Shetland for the Hamefarin.

This discount applies to the cost of passage and cars however does not apply to the cost of booking cabins.

Remember to quote reservation code **N10VST-01** when booking.

To make sponsorship reservations with NorthLink, please call the reservations line on **+44 (0) 845 6000 449** and quote the reservation code above. This will enable Hamefariners to access the specially discounted fare of Honorary Islander rates of 30% discount on passenger and vehicle fares.

Please note, all passengers aged 16 years and over travelling with NorthLink must be in possession of photographic ID at check-in. Examples of acceptable ID include: NorthLink ID card with

verified colour picture on reverse, photo driving licence, passport and national identity card. Please see [www.northlinkferries.co.uk](http://www.northlinkferries.co.uk) for further information.

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. Travel arrangements made through John Leask & Son may be subject to a small booking fee.

Details of accommodation providers are available at [www.shetlandhamefarin.com/accommodation.php](http://www.shetlandhamefarin.com/accommodation.php).

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



**SHETLAND  
HAMEFARIN 2010**

**MONDAY 14 JUNE**

**TO**

**SUNDAY 27 JUNE**

**2010**

## HAMEFARIN QUILT UPDATE



**Ann Hill with John Winston Leask and his contribution to the quilt**

The Hamefarin Quilt project is gathering momentum as the Shetland Hamefarin 2010 gets closer. Exiles from all over the world are providing Ann Hill in Dumfries with their own personal blocks representing their interests and connections with Shetland. Ann is putting the blocks together to form a quilt which will be presented to the people of Shetland at a ceremony during the Hamefarin.

Ann said "This is proving to be a really popular project. I assumed that I might get a dozen 10" blocks and that I would make it into a decent sized wallhanging. It is going to be a lot bigger than that. Folks from all over the world are sending me blocks and some are just turning up on the doorstep with them and course being a Shetlander they are met with "you'll be staying for your tea" so I am making lots of new friends and renewing some acquaintances."

John Winston Leask was one of the visitors to Ann's home in Dumfries to deliver his square for the quilt personally. He said "I come from a family who, for many generations, have been fishermen. The block represents almost half a century of evolving progress in fishing vessels and methods last century. The four boats depicted were owned and skippered by my late father (John William Leask) over that period."

Ann has kindly sent us examples of contributors to the quilt. These are reproduced below:

### **Deborah Chapman, Washington, USA**

"My great-grandfather was a Hunter, born in Shetland, who came to America a little over a hundred years ago. He and his wife brought with them a tied baby quilt, filled with beautiful soft curls of Shetland fleece. No one knows how old it already was at that time, but the quilt has continued to be passed down from one generation to the next, having undergone a number of re-coverings along the way—not to mention multiple openings of the seam so the little ones can see and feel the wool, look at the old picture postcard with the "X" on the house where Da was born and hear tales of the Hunter family and the Shetland Islands. It is that little quilt that keeps the story of our family's heritage alive."

### **Margaret Pitt, Wellington New Zealand**

This block represents the Wellington Shetland Society members, the idea coming from a brochure which was produced in the late 1950's to advertise the first Hamefarin. The paua shell fabric gives the impression on movement with the seas and land between New Zealand and Shetland, the vast miles that separate the two.

### **Lesley Stuart-Gammie**

'The Three Nornes' - the silvercraft brooch given to her as a baby born in the Gilbert Bain, her father a junior registrar (Dr

John Bloomer). The brooch was given to her at birth and she will be home for the Hamefarin for the first time in almost 30 years.

### **Kenny Brown**

Midbrake, North Yell originally belonged to the Spence family in the 16<sup>th</sup> C and, when George Spence became the last of the male line, it was passed to his daughter, Barbara who married James Dunbar of Weathersta. Their daughter, Mary married Thomas Irvine on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1745. Mary and Thomas built the present Haa, and it is their Coat of Arms which was above the door, and can now be seen in the museum in Burravoe on Yell and is depicted on the Hamefarin quilt. The grandson of Thomas and Mary, also Thomas, (1790-1877) was the last laird of Midbrake. Thomas never married but had a daughter, Susanna who married Bruce Sutherland in 1852. Kenny Brown, is the great-great grandson of Thomas.

Ann continued - "The stories are fascinating and very diverse. Hopefully we will get them put together for a book to accompany the quilt. I know that many of those contributing are really looking forward to coming home and enjoying themselves during the two week festival - I know I am!"

Anyone who wishes to take part in the project should have their 10" quilt block to Ann Hill, Mouswald House, Mouswald, Dumfries, DG1 4LT, by 30 November 2009. Instructions can be found on Ann's website at [www.annhillquilter.co.uk](http://www.annhillquilter.co.uk) or on the Shetland Hamefarin website.



**Contributions from all over the world for the Hamefarin Quilt**



## SHETLAND CATTLE HERD BOOK SOCIETY

The Shetland Hamefarin 2010 will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the original Hamefarin, but one organisation in Shetland will be celebrating an even more momentous milestone.

Originally constituted in 1910, the Shetland Cattle Herd Book Society is an organisation dedicated to maintaining the purity of the Shetland breed.

The Society originally published annual registrations from 1912 to 1921. Although the Society remained active, it was not until 1981 that the Herd Book was resurrected, when it became apparent that the breed faced the possibility of extinction.

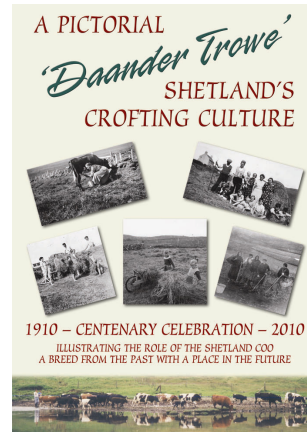
Shetland Cattle have been present on the isles for around 3,000 years, and are noted for their 'qualities of thriftiness, productivity and hardiness', which have been gained through generations of adapting to the rigours of the Shetland environment.

It is estimated that the stock of purebred Shetland 'kye' reached 20,000 in the 19th Century, but this dwindled to around 50 pedigree cattle in the mid-to-late 20th Century. It is thought that this was due to the establishment of shipping lines allowing for the export of cattle, which meant that crofters could import bulls of mainland breeds, which produced larger calves.

Shetland Cattle are comparatively small, but well-proportioned. On average a mature cow weighs 8.5cwt (431kg) and a grown bull weighs 12cwt (610kg).

The Herd Book was re-established after work done by the Rare Breed Survival Trust in the 1970s. Currently the Shetland breed is on the 'At Risk' designation of the RBST.

To commemorate the centenary, the Breeders Group have produced *A Pictorial Daander Trowe Shetland's Crofting Culture*, a hardback book compiling stories and chronicles from the 100-year history of the Society, illustrated by over 500 photographs. The book is a chronicle of crofting life and the dependence of Shetland crofters on the precious Shetland kye. A foreword to the book has been penned by HRH Prince Charles.



The Society are also preparing a Centenary Celebration to give all attendees a real flavour of Shetland and its heritage and how Shetland Cattle were central to family life in the country. This is planned for 11-14 August 2010. For more information, or to purchase the book, contact [fogrigarth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fogrigarth@yahoo.co.uk) or visit [www.schbs.co.uk](http://www.schbs.co.uk).



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## AS THE NIGHTS DRAW IN...

Mirrie Dancers launched their **Mirrie Lights** project on 22 October 2009. This innovative arts project is to light up Shetland over the winter months with a selection of light installations designed to mimic the Northern Lights. Utilising low energy LEDs powered by wind turbines, the first of the displays was launched at Lower Voe, and from October through to February displays will appear at various locations on the mainland, Unst, Yell and Bressay.

For more information visit [www.mirriedancers.com](http://www.mirriedancers.com).

BBC camera crews returned to Shetland seeking out stars for their seasonal series **Autumnwatch**. The stars in question were killer whales off the coast of the isles, and presenter Gordon Buchanan accompanied the Whalsay-based trawler *Charisma* to view the whales, which have been known to approach boats when mackerel catches are hauled in. These shows are available on the BBC iPlayer.

The second **Shetland Food Festival** took place from Friday 2 to Sunday 11 October.

Highlighting the best of Shetland produce, the festival featured a number of events throughout the isles, including a producer's markets, music and storytelling sessions and cookery workshops, plus a special Shetland version of the BBC show *Ready, Steady, Cook*.

For more information visit [www.shetlandfoodfestival.co.uk](http://www.shetlandfoodfestival.co.uk).

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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. Changes will be updated on [www.shetlandhamefarin.com](http://www.shetlandhamefarin.com) and in the newsletter. All venues are to be confirmed, and details are subject to change.

#### Sunday 13 June

Arrive in Shetland.

#### Monday 14 June

Hamefarers will be welcomed to Shetland with a special function.

#### Tuesday 15 June

Local trips and events—North Isles (Fetlar, Unst and Yell).

#### Wednesday 16 June

Local trips and events—Westside

Tammy Anderson Tribute  
Concert at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick.

#### Thursday 17 June

Local trips and events—North Mainland

#### Friday 18th June

Local trips and events—



Whalsay and Skerries.

#### Friday 18-Monday 21 June

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

#### Friday 18-Sunday 20 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 21 June

Local trips and events—Lerwick.

#### Tuesday 22 June

Local trips and events—South Mainland.

#### Wednesday 23 June

Local trips and events—Nesting and Vidlin.

#### Thursday 24 June

Local trips and events—Scalloway, Burra and Tingwall.

#### Friday 25 June

Hamefarin Dance at the Clickimin Centre in Lerwick.

#### Saturday 26 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 27 June

Depart Shetland.

## HITCHING FROM NZ?

Jim and Rose Coutts contacted us to say they are organising a party of Hamefarers travelling from New Zealand to Shetland for next year's event.

Hamefarers will be travelling from Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington to Sydney, stopping off in Singapore before journeying to the UK.

Jim and Rose have kindly extended an invitation to any other Hamefarers travelling from NZ or Australia to join their group.

Anyone wishing to get in touch can contact them at: [coutts.jim-rose@xtra.co.nz](mailto:coutts.jim-rose@xtra.co.nz).

## COMMUNITY MEETING

The Shetland Hamefarin 2010 Committee are to meet with representatives from local community and history groups on Monday 23 November 2009.

On the agenda will be local activities planned for the Hamefarin fortnight. The Committee hope to gather ideas from local communities and to assist in bringing plans forward to help make the Hamefarin summer one to remember.

Local communities are planning a wide range of activities, including walking tours, dances, sightseeing and sports.

## SHETLAND MARATHON

The third Shetland Simmer Dim Half Marathon is due to take place next year in the midst of the Hamefarin.

The target date for the race is 20 June 2010. The race is organised by the Shetland Amateur Athletic Club and is recognised by Scottish Athletics. Runners from all over the UK have travelled to Shetland to take part in previous events.

For more info contact Paul Woods at [simmerdimhalf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:simmerdimhalf@hotmail.co.uk), or visit [www.shetlandaac.co.uk](http://www.shetlandaac.co.uk).