



SHETLAND HAMEFARIN 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hamefarin Club	2-3
Move It!	2
Local Coach Trips	4

Tickets

The Shetland Hamefarin 2010 Committee would like to encourage all Hamefarers who are interested in attending Hamefarin events to book tickets as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment. Please see the website for further information.

Travel News

Hamefarers are strongly advised to book their travel to Shetland as soon as possible, in particular if they intend to travel by boat.

NorthLink Ferries released a number of berths, which were specifically held for Hamefarers, for public sale on 12 April 2010. Hamefarers will of course still be able to qualify for the 30% Islander Discount but availability will be on a first-come first-serve basis. **Remember to quote reference N10VST-01 to qualify for the discount.**

Accommodation

Accommodation places are being booked up very quickly. As this summer will be an exceptionally busy time for hotels, B&Bs and guest houses, Hamefarers who have not booked accommodation are urged to do so **as soon as possible**. Bedspaces are likely to be very limited, and booking is essential. A list of accommodation providers can be found at www.shetlandhamefarin.com/accommodation.

BRIGHT PEBBLES

To commemorate the Shetland Hamefarin 2010, and to celebrate the richness and variety of Shetland dialect and culture, this year will see the release of a new anthology of stories, poems, prose and recollections. **Bright Pebbles**, selected and edited by Mary Blance and Laureen Johnson of Shetland ForWirds, will be published by the Economic Development Unit of Shetland Islands Council.

Laureen Johnson said "This anthology brings together the words, experiences and insights of fifty writers, in dialect and in English. The works we've selected reflect Shetland as it is now, and as it was in the most recent past: the land, the sea, the seasons, the people, the music and lightness, the ways of making a living."

Amplified with artwork and photographs, the book is also accompanied by a CD, upon which is a selection of the best poems, in a rich mixture of contrasting Shetland voices, with songs and music from award-winning musicians all combining to make a wonderful listen.

Mary Blance said "This anthology will be published for the Hamefarin, but we expect this to be something that will be treasured for many years to come, and to have a place in every Shetland home."

Bright Pebbles will be launched at Islesburgh Community Centre on **Thursday 17 June, at 5.30pm (time tbc)**, and will be available to buy from The Shetland Times Bookshop and Shetland Museum and



Gyaun Aff by Paolo Dante, one of the selected artworks depicting life, work and culture in Shetland

Archives.

The following is an extract from **Bright Pebbles**, taken from the writings of a Shetland whaler, followed by selected extracts from the works of Shetland poets:

"There was no sound save the swish from our bow and the gasp and sob of the steam engine at half speed. You wished the moment would last forever. Almost everyone was on deck and some of the old hands had a tear in their eye. This was the final farewell to a place that some of them had known for most of their working lives."

- Jimmy Smith, on leaving

Leith Harbour, South Georgia

"A day stown oot o a year, a boat on a simmer tide - wis, an da isle ta wirsels, saand an sea, da wide lift ta wirsels, we kent what luck, what life meant..." - extract from **Sang** by Stella Sutherland

"I drive da oil road nort fae Gott: October hills ir cled in moorit, in dowed pinks an gowld; paet hags in Shetland black drittle doon da broos lik slippit loops..." - extract from **Aa Change** by Christine de Luca



SHETLAND HAMEFARIN CLUB

Islesburgh Community Centre is home to the [Hamefarin Club](#) which will be open every day. Hamefarers can drop in to relax, chat and dip into all aspects of Shetland life and culture. There will be workshops, music, dancing and presentations as well as communication facilities for Hamefarers.

The organisers of the Hamefarin will be based at the Club for the duration of the event and will be on hand to answer any queries. Hamefarers can pick up their packs and name badges here too.

Knitters and spinners will hold daily sessions from Tuesday – Friday, showing the skills which has made Shetland knitwear world famous – a place to watch, and maybe learn to knit the



Islesburgh Community Centre, King Harald Street, Lerwick

Shetland way.

Hamefarers can meet with Shetland Family History Society to help find out about their Shetland ancestors and maybe find some modern relatives. Volunteers will be on hand at the Club to give

advice on how to trace families in Shetland, as well as at the Society's premises at 6 Hillhead, Lerwick.

An itinerary for events at the Club can be found on page 3.

**SHETLAND
HAMEFARIN 2010**

MONDAY 14 JUNE

TO

**SATURDAY 26
JUNE**

2010

moveit

In February 2010 NHS Shetland's Health Improvement Department launched the [Move It](#) initiative, encouraging Shetland adults to partake in enough physical exercise to cover the equivalent distance from New Zealand to Shetland.

The goal is to cover enough miles to reach Shetland from New Zealand before the Shetland Hamefarin 2010 in June.

Health Improvement Practitioner Nicola Blance said "We are looking for more people to join in to help us get back in time. Participants are issued a Move It chart to follow progress on their journey. They are randomly assigned to teams and will be given the chance to meet other team members as part of the Hamefarin celebrations."

It is well known that being active is good for everyone.

Although it is important for those who are already active to maintain, or in some cases increase, their physical activity levels the National Strategy for physical activity points out that "the greatest health benefits occur when the least active people become moderately active."

With the Hamefarin approaching, the Move It team are keen to get local people participating so that they can emulate the journey many Hamefarers will be making.

The diagram below shows the route of the 'journey' - so far those participating have managed the equivalent of Wellington, New Zealand to Bangkok, Thailand, so there's still a distance to go!

Participants in the initiative are free to choose the type of activity they do, and the Move It initiative stresses the importance of all kinds of

physical activity in terms of improving health: active living, recreational activity, exercise, sport, play and dance.

The Move It team are keen for participants to enjoy the experience as much as possible, and are encouraging activities such as 'dance-a-thons' using special dance mats purchased by Shetland Islands Council Active Schools unit.

The minimal recommendation for adults is at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least 5 days a week (activity can be done in blocks of at least 10 minutes). It is therefore critical to get those who are doing little or no activity to become more active.

For more information on the initiative please contact the Health Improvement Team on 01595 74 3084.



Quite a trek: the Move It route to trace the journey from NZ to Auld Rock

HAMEFARIN CLUB PROGRAMME

Below is the proposed timetable of events for the Shetland Hamefarin Club. This list is not exhaustive, and new events will be added. Please check the website for further details.

The Club will be open from 8.00am Sunday 13–Saturday 26 June. Hamefarers will be able to collect their packs and name badges at any time.

Tuesday 15 June

10.00-1.00

Shetland ForWirds

Explore place names and the Shetland dialect.

10.00-12.00

Knitters, Spinners and Dyers Guild

Demonstrations of knitting and spinning and the chance to knit the Shetland way.

11.00-12.00

Sullom Voe – Past, Present and Future

A lecture by Captain George Sutherland and Mr Jim Dixon gives the history of the rise of the oil industry in Shetland, the impact on the community, and discusses the way forward for the Isles.

3.30-4.30

Dance Practice with Diane Watt

Learn the basic steps or refresh your memory of popular Shetland and Scottish dances. Perfect for those taking the floor at the Hamefarin Dance.

7.30-9.30

300 years of Shetland Fiddling

Charlie Simpson traces the history of the craft, with examples of tunes over the ages.

Wednesday 16 June

10.00-3.00

Quilting with Friends with Ann Hill

Quilters can make Shetland Silvercraft's Three Nornes cushion or wall-hanging from packs provided.

2.00-3.00

John Walker's Shetland, Factor of the Garth Estate

Dip into the Garth Estate with Wendy Gear and Dr Jonathan Wills as they discuss the evictions carried out by John Walker, "this hated man" which formed the basis of Mrs Gear's book *John Walker's Shetland*.

2.00-3.30

Islesburgh Knitters and Spinners Group

Demonstrations of knitting and spinning and the chance to knit the Shetland way.

Thursday 17 June

10.00-11.00

Fishing

An illustrated talk by Bobby Gear about Shetland's most important traditional industry from the herring fishing days.

2.00-3.30

Knitters, Spinners and Dyers Guild

As 15 June.

3.00-4.30

Shetland Family History Society Meeting

Local and visiting SFHS members can meet and hear Dr Alan Beattie speak about the new edition of his book *Shetland Surnames*.

5.30 (tbc)

Launch of Shetland ForWirds Poetry Book *Bright Pebbles*

An anthology of poetry and prose in both Shetland dialect and English. With music and readings from the book.

Friday 18 June

10.00-12.00

Islesburgh Knitters and Spinners Group

As 16 June.

10.30-11.30

Taking Stock

Alastair Hamilton reviews the last four decades and peers into the next one.

2.00-5.00

Shetland ForWirds

As 15 June.

Saturday 19 June

8.00-10.00pm

Shetland Birds

An informal illustrated talk by warden Helen Moncrieff of RSPB about the exciting bird life in Shetland.

Sunday 20 June

2.00-3.30

Hnefatafl (Viking Chess) with Peter Kelly

Watch and learn this fascinating board game which would have been popular many years ago. A full explanation and demonstration will be given and you can try your

hand at a quick-play competition.

7.30-9.00

An evening of song

Enjoy an evening of Shetland singing with at least five local choirs who will present a wide repertoire of songs in both Shetland dialect and English.

Monday 21 June

10.00-12.00

Hnefatafl (Viking Chess) with Peter Kelly

As 20 June.

11.00-12.00

Aquaculture – Shetland's new traditional industry

David Sandison explains how aquaculture has grown from nothing to become the single biggest economic success story in Shetland over the past 25 years.

3.00-5.00

Kishie Makkin'

Join Ewan Balfour for a demonstration of this long established craft, an essential wintertime undertaking for Shetland crofters. Put the demonstration to use in trying to craft a kishie with the traditional techniques.

7.30-9.30

Quilting Show and Tell

Quilters are invited to bring up to three pieces of their work to show and tell all about them.

Tuesday 22 June

10.00-12.00

Knitters, Spinners and Dyers Guild

As 15 June.

2.00-3.00

Mackerel at Midnight

Join cookbook author and syndicated food journalist, Ethel Hoffman, as she gives an insight into her book about growing up in the only Jewish family in Shetland.

3.00-4.30

Shetland Family History Society Meeting

As 17 June.

7.30-9.30

Kiwi Night

A social evening for New Zealanders and their hosts.

Wednesday 23 June

10.00-3.00

Quilting with Friends with Ann Hill

Quilters can make a Fair Isle table runner or wall-hanging from packs provided.

10.00-1.00

Shetland ForWirds

As 15 June.

2.00-3.30

Islesburgh Knitters and Spinners Group

As 16 June.

7.30-9.00

Shetland Dance Night

Come and join the Shetland Dance Night where the Shetland Fiddlers' Society will play and both Shetland Folk Dance and the Papa Stour Sword Dance Group will perform.

Thursday 24 June

2.00-3.30

Knitters, Spinners and Dyers Guild

As 15 June.

10.30-11.30

Archaeology in Shetland

Join local archaeologist Val Turner and hear about the many discovered, and undiscovered, archaeological sites in Shetland.

2.00-3.00

1862 Fair Isles Clearances

Talk by Anne Sinclair on the Fair Isle Clearances.

7.30-9.00

Dance Practice with Diane Watt

As 15 June.

Friday 25 June

10.00-12.00

Islesburgh Knitters and Spinners Group

As 16 June.

10.00-11.00

History of Fair Isle Knitting

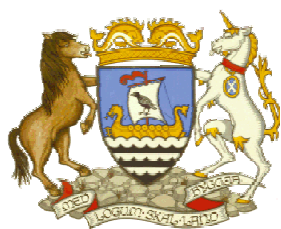
Fair Isle knitwear is known the world over. Anne Sinclair of Fair Isle talks about the history of the craft.

With the exception of Quilting with Friends, all activities at the Club are free of charge.

April 2010 Newsletter
Produced by the Shetland Hamefarin 2010
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LOCAL AREA BUS TRIPS

The return of ex-pats and those with close connections to Shetland will be an exciting experience, and many will want to seek out information on Shetland relatives and visit ancestral homes. To that end, local history groups, in collaboration with the Committee, have organised a series of bus trips to take Hamefarers out to all areas of Shetland, where local groups will lay on exhibitions and events for their much-anticipated visitors.

The trips begin on Tuesday 15 June, with a visit to **the North Isles of Yell, Unst and Fetlar**. Logistical concerns regarding buses and ferries mean that this will be a staged trip, with Unst and Yell covered consecutively, and a separate trip into Fetlar. In Yell, Hamefarers will be treated to exhibitions on emigration and natural history at the wonderful Old Haa museum, while in Unst the Heritage Centre and the Unst Boat Haven will be the centre of activities. In Fetlar, visitors can find out about ancestors at the Interpretive Centre, and maybe even look for the world-famous red-necked phalarope at the Funzie Loch.

The **West Mainland** is the destination on Wednesday 16 June, with a number of different trips laid on, including visits to the islands of Papa Stour and Foula. Those remaining on the mainland will have the chance to see displays of knitting and spinning of Shetland wool, and will see a demonstration of local peat-casting.

On Thursday 17 June the **North Mainland** will welcome Hamefarers with a programme of events, taking in trips to Hillswick, Ollaberry and Brae, including a visit to the Tangwick Haa Museum and discussions with local history groups. Hamefarers will also have an opportunity to see the spectacular Eshaness cliffs and find out how the area has coped since the development of Sullom Voe Oil Terminal.

A trip to the island of **Whalsay** is laid on for Friday 18 June. Visitors to Whalsay will enjoy a visit to the local heritage centre, a tour of the



isle and a visit to the historic Hanseatic Booth, before a visit to the cookhouse where the afternoon's mutton supper will be prepared. Angling, golf and guided walks will also be available, as well as musical entertainment and craft displays.

Hamefarers will have plenty to see and do on Tuesday 22 June as they visit the **South Mainland**, taking in the Hoswick Visitor Centre, the Crofthouse Museum and the Quendale Water Mill, not to mention visits to the archaeologically important sites of Old Scatness and stopping off for a view of the glorious St. Ninian's Isle.

Vidlin and Nesting will play host on Wednesday 24 June, with displays and exhibitions at the Vidlin Hall, and the opportunity to talk to the Lunnasting History Group. Also planned are visits to the Cabin Museum and Lunna House, and an exhibition on crofting life prepared by the Nesting History Group.

Two trips are planned on Thursday 25 June to cover the **Central Mainland** – one visiting Tingwall, Weisdale and Scalloway, the other calling at

Burra, Trondra and Scalloway again. Visitors to Tingwall and Weisdale will have the chance to see Shetland ponies at Gott Farm and see an exhibition from the Tingwall Agricultural Museum. Those calling at Burra and Trondra will visit Mary and Tommy Isbister at the Burland Croft and visit the local heritage centre. Both trips will culminate in Scalloway, Shetland's ancient capital, where Hamefarers will be able to visit Scalloway Castle, the Shetland Bus Memorial and Norway House with local historians.

Lunches and refreshments will be provided on all bus trips. Places are limited so Hamefarers are strongly advised to book places ahead of time.

Hamefarers who are looking to research particular relatives or places are advised to contact us in good time ahead of their favoured trip, so that groups have time to look through local records.

Details of activities may be subject to change.