

Fetlar

GARDEN OF SHETLAND



Lamb Hoga on a fine summers day

Welcome to the Summer 2016 edition Fetlar Community Newsletter

Fetlar on TV

Fetlar has again featured on TV as part of the BBC's popular "An island parish" series. While most of the series featured Unst. Episode 2 showed several scenes around Fetlar kirk.

Fetlar Community Association

Fetlar Community Association (Fetlar Hall) were successful in a recent bid to the Climate Challenge Fund. See full report on page 2. The community association are also planning a number of events during the year. Please see page 5 for details or visit www.fetlar.org/whats-on or the Fetlar Halls facebook page for the latest information.

New residents

A warm welcome to a number of new residents including ; Steve and Diana, Beatrice and Roger, Ruth and Graham and our latest arrival Carolyn. We also said goodbye to a number of residents including Beatrice Thomason who we wish well for the future.

Other properties have recently sold and we look forward to welcoming other new residents in the coming weeks and months.

Using renewable energy locally

Fetlar Wind Ltd and Fetlar Developments Ltd held the official opening of the Fetlar Wind turbines and Fetlar Green Energy scheme on the 1st of July. The scheme which is powered by

Fetlar Wind's 2 x 25kw turbines provide heat and power to a small number of nearby properties including Fetlar Primary school on a microgrid. The official opening was performed by Darcy Cook accompanied by principal teacher at Fetlar Primary - Katy Hay (pictured below)



Katy and Darcy with their flowers

Following the opening everyone was treated to a light lunch and cakes at Fetlar Primary school.

Cruise Ship visits

A fantastic weekend of weather showed Fetlar at its best, for the visits of the cruise ships Ocean Nova and Hebridean Sky on consecutive days in May. These are the first cruise ships to have visited Fetlar in many years. The Hebridean Sky is scheduled to return on August 17th, see back page for more details

Climate Challenge fund successful bid

Fetlar Community Association(Fetlar Hall) were successful in a recent bid to the Climate Challenge Fund. They have been awarded a total of £33679.10 for a number of initiatives which will all help reduce the islands carbon emissions.

The award of the grant will:

Enable reductions in energy use within the Fetlar hall and help to provide a sustainable, warm and fit for purpose building. These energy reductions will be achieved by fitting more insulation, low energy lighting, automatic lighting controls, draught proofing and the replacement of some windows in older parts of the building.

Help to reduce fuel poverty within the community through community engagement and energy advice. Helping to reduce household energy consumption and carbon emissions.

A pilot project that will produce 300kg of food in a community growing space at Houbie, supplemented by promotion of home/community composting, cookery courses, demonstrations and training in growing and reducing avoidable food waste.

Encourage consumption of more local seasonal local produce, through composting, food growing and cookery classes focussed on avoidable waste.

Community Growing.....

Following Fetlar Community Association's successful bid to the Climate Challenge Fund and the cooperation of a local crofter there will be space available for community growing this year.

Fetlar Developments Ltd are still working on the purchase of the land with the goal of also providing community polycrubs for people looking to grow more of their own food, allowing them to extend the growing season and also to grow a wider variety of crops.

As part of the pilot we have been kindly given the use of some land free of charge by local crofter Peter Coutts. With the help of crofter Tom Thomason and tractor, the ground was broken in a prepared to a state where it was ready for planting A group of the community growers accompanied by pupils and staff from Fetlar Primary school planted several varieties of seed potatoes in the prepared community area. The plants are now coming on well and there have been several weeding sessions Many community members are involved in the project, whether it be with planting, watering, weeding or harvesting.

Once all the hard work is done and the crop harvested, we hope to have produced at least 300kg of potatoes from the community area, some of which will be used at a community event at harvest time.



Tattie planting !

Leagarth (Part 1)

Leagarth was built for Sir William Watson Cheyne around 1900 and is still in the ownership of the Cheyne family. Sir William perhaps Fetlar's most famous son, was an assistant to Lord Lister in the development of antiseptic surgery and later President of the RCS.



In its heyday it boasted a number of greenhouses heated by steam pipes from a boiler house, allowing tropical and other exotic plants to be grown. It could possibly be described as a 20th century forerunner of Cornwall's Eden Project.



As well as the greenhouses there was an impressive sunken garden. The gardens were often opened to other islanders on Sunday for them to enjoy. A number of staff were retained to look after the house as well as the greenhouses and garden. Some local people who worked at Leagarth also travelled with him to his other properties.

Sir William made available a part of the building which was regularly used by the community as a hall for many years. The community continued to use the building until 1985 when the present Fetlar hall, converted from an old church, was opened.

The family began restoration of the building in 2009. That work and the restoration of both the Peerie house and The lodge, both used originally as staff quarters, was completed in late 2015. The one remaining part of the building to be refurbished is

the area previously used as the community hall. It was used during the restoration as a temporary workshop and is now undergoing refurbishment.

The house is currently used by the extended family who visit Fetlar regularly but mainly during the summer months. The house has previously been opened to the public, during various open days.



Sir William Watson Cheyne in the glazed verandah



Leagarth in its early years.

Part 2 - in our next edition will look at Leagarth post restoration, seeing how the house has been adapted for 21st century life while retaining most of its original features and character

Focus on Tourism

New North Isles Tourism Development Officer appointed.

Kellie Naulls has recently taken up her role with the Unst Partnership, which secured funding for and is managing the post. She is currently working with the three island communities to promote tourism across all three North Isles.

New self catering venues on Fetlar.

The Leagarth Estate as part of their major refurbishment work has recently completed refurbishments on two properties within the estate.

The largest is the three bedroom property "**The Lodge**" which has already been in great demand and has received very positive reviews on Trip Advisor.



The Lodge



The latest one to come to the market is the smaller one bed "**Peerie house**".



Peerie House



Peerie House

Both have been refurbished to a high standard. See www.fetlarlodge.com

Gord B&B, Cafe, Shop and Post Office

The cafe is open 11am to 4pm daily. The B&B rooms are being gradually upgraded and the new owners have ambitious plans for the future. Watch this space !



Fetlar Interpretive Centre

Fetlar Interpretive Centre have implemented a new layout for 2016. For anyone who has visited before please note that our main entrance is now through what was previously the side entrance, which offers disabled access.



A new reception area including visitor information point, craft sales area, hot drinks machine, snacks and sandwiches for sale and small seating area.



We continue to offer card facilities for purchases, which has helped the sales of craft items and is likely to become a permanent service.

We are pleased to have both Jade and Frances working regularly as visitor services assistants and they have recently been joined for 1 day a week by Janet.

Free wifi is available and we are now hosting one of the new Vodafone stations giving 3G coverage to most of the village.

As our part in promoting low carbon transport we have installed an electric vehicle charge point. Which is part of the 'Charge Your Car' network. It is a fast charge unit which can supply 3 phase at 22kW but can also adapt to single phase and lower power ratings. This is currently free to use. But donations are always welcome.

Following on from the visits from the small cruise ships Ocean Nova and Hebridean Sky the first for many years. We are looking forward to the return of Hebridean Sky on the 17th of August. It is likely that we will be staying open later that night to cater for cruise ship passengers.

If you are planning a visit on the 17th we would recommend visiting early as the afternoon could be quite busy.

Summer events and activities

Various events are planned for Fetlar in the coming months. For the latest information please visit <http://www.fetlar.org/whats-on>

Whats on this month

Friday 15th 7pm hall clean up and soup/sandwich making for Saturdays event

This Saturday (16th), sees a visit from the Northmavine Jarls squad and the return of Country Rok to provide the music. Admission is £10 inc supper and Children under 12 are FREE.

late ferry leaving Hamars Ness at 0100 (calling at belmont on request) and ferry leaving Ulsta at 0200. Late ferries should be booked by phoning 01595 745804

Sun 18th 7.30 Clearing up after Saturday event

Whats on in August

Sat 6th 7pm Games night followed by supper

Sat 20th 7pm Summer BBQ at Tresta beach

Whats on in September

Sat 24th 7pm Curry night and Bingo

Hebridean Sky

Length Overall 90.6m
Beam 15.3m
Gross Tonnage 4200
Cabins 59
Flag Bahamas
MMSI 311000253



Ocean Nova

Length Overall 73m
Beam 11m
Gross Tonnage 2183
Cabins 38
Flag - Bahamas
MMSI 309051000



FCA(Hall) - Questionnaire

This community questionnaire has recently been sent out by email and printed copies will be distributed to those without email. A link to the **residents only** survey can be found at <http://www.fetlar.org/fetlar-community-association>

Caravan Hook ups

Fetlar Community Association are currently seeking funding to provide caravan hook ups and to provide shower facilities and 24 access to toilets.



Hebridean Sky at anchor off Houbie



Cruise ship visits

It was a busy weekend preparing first for the arrival of the Ocean Nova on Sunday 22nd May and then the visit of the Hebridean Sky on Monday the 23rd. The weather gods smiled and both days saw lovely weather allowing passengers to embark on walks around the island.

The Ocean Nova arrived without much advance warning, but everyone rallied around and the Interpretive centre and cafe were able to cater for the visitors admirably.

The Hebridean Sky's visit had been planned for some time and as well as the interpretive centre, the public hall was open, with displays of beautiful North Isles crafts, local music and a pop up cafe. We are especially indebted to the Unst music and Dance club who came over to play and to local fiddler Joe Jamieson, a veteran of many a foy, who added a little Fetlar spice to a very pleasant mix. Feedback from the ships visit was excellent and we hope to maintain or improve the experience on their next visit.

Properties Available

There are currently no properties listed for sale in Fetlar that we are aware of.

Do you have a house for sale or rent or a building plot on Fetlar?

Please contact Robert at the Development office for details of advertising for FREE on www.fetlar.org

ROBERT THOMSON
DEVELOPMENT
WORKER
FETLAR DEVELOPMENTS
LTD
FETLAR HALL
TEL 01957 733369
MOB 07760 767433
email robert@fetlar.org
NEWSLETTER NO.21
SUMMER 201