



The sun is low in the sky at anytime of day at this time of year in Fetlar

Welcome to the Fetlar Community Newsletter Christmas 2014 edition

Electric minibus

Our electric minibus features in a new publication "Community Power Scotland" published by Friends of the Earth Scotland. A copy is available to view/borrow at the development office.

Fun day and Commonwealth celebration event

An action packed and fun filled week of activities during the last week of July. Culmination with a fantastic celebration event. The event was supported by the Lottery Celebrate fund and FCC. More details are available on page 5 & 6.

Minibus service to Surgery in Midyell

FDL are now running a regular service the first Wednesday of each month to the Surgery in Midyell. Both the GP and dental practices have promised to keep 3 slots for Fetlar residents on these days until the Monday of that week. After that they will be released to general demand. The minibus must be booked **no later than 4pm** on the Tuesday night with the Development office. Early booking is greatly appreciated. For the time being the only charges for this service are an individual's own ferry fares (where applicable).

Priority will be given to those attending the surgery, people looking to access other services or facilities are welcome to use the service.

Please note that dental appointments in January are conditional on a dentist being in post.

Fetlar's new ambulance

Fetlar recently took delivery of a new dedicated ambulance. See story and photo's on page 2.

Fetlar Green Energy

Work will begin in the new year on the scheme to supply power and heat locally from 2 wind turbines.

A new building which will double as a control systems building and garage/charge point for the minibus is incorporated.

Fetlar Wind

A new Industrial and Provident Society for Community benefit is being set up to build the turbines to provide power for the Fetlar Green Energy project. The project will be funded by a community share offer. You can register your interest in receiving a prospectus, when they are available, by contacting the development office.

Electric vehicle charging point

Fetlar Interpretive Centre now has a dual station electric vehicle charging point. At present this is the only one we are aware of outside Lerwick. We hope that more companies and organisations will make use of grants available to widen the network of points available.

Insulation grants available.

The SIC can potentially offer grants of up to £7500 to properties in band A-C, for more details please contact the SIC on 01595 744850 or environmentandenergy@shetland.gov.uk

Peter Kelly

The island lost a great ambassador and true gentleman with the recent passing of Peter Kelly in November. Peter was a doyen of modern Hnefatafl and very worthy Grand Master of the game. His work with Fetlar Hnefatafl Panel gained national and international recognition, with interviews on both Radio Shetland and Radio 2 as well as his appearance on the Shetland edition of Countryfile in 2013. He was invited on several occasions to give demonstrations of the game and the "Fetlar Rules". He helped raise Fetlar's profile by the hosting of several world championships. Peter was also an elder of the kirk for many years and provided regular religious instruction at the school. He was also one of the original members of the Fetlar Development Group, which turned into the present FDL. Peter will also be greatly missed for his interest in all things astronomical and for his sense of humour.



Di Mortimer

Di first came to Fetlar in Spring 1993 and took up a wide variety of work including such diverse skills as dressmaking alterations, hair dressing, interior decorating and working in the shop. Di was also a member of the BAR club and referred to herself as the, "Token Female," on the committee. While she did not get out and about much in recent years, Di still had a keen interest in community affairs. She supported many Fetlar groups, especially the school, by recording many parts in various Christmas plays. Di also had a great love of animals, especially cats. Throughout the spring and summer she, and her cats, would often be found pottering around the beautiful sheltered garden at the Potting Shed or in her greenhouse where she grew many plants from seed.

Di passed away in December after a long illness.



Fetlar takes delivery of new dedicated Ambulance for the island



Fetlar's Nurse and first responders with the new ambulance

both by the SAS and NHS to Fetlar. It will be a great benefit to our resident medical professional and volunteers. Allowing them to provide an increased level of service to the local community. The days of transporting casualties to the airstrip for evacuation in the back of a van, are thankfully now over."

Fetlar has recently taken delivery of its own dedicated ambulance. The resident nurse and recently recruited team of first responders now have a modern, well equipped, ambulance based permanently on the island. Supplied by the Scottish Ambulance Service and supported by the local NHS, this new ambulance will significantly improve the first line medical services available to the community. Robert Thomson, Fetlar Development Worker commented on the news " This investment in a new ambulance is very welcome. It shows a significant commitment



Businesses for sale as a going concern



This is an excellent opportunity to purchase an established and heavily relied upon business which occupies a prominent trading position in the heart of Fetlar. Situated less than 4 miles from the ferry and a mile from the school.

The business at **Gord**, which includes owners accommodation, comprises a 3 Star B&B, Shop, Post Office and cafe. the B&B has three letting rooms all of which are en-suite.

B&B on trip adviser here http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g4187533-d4153558-Reviews-Gord_B_B-Fetlar_Shetland_Islands_Scotland.html



More details are available on the website of Bruce and Co by using the link. <http://www.bruceandco.co.uk/business-for-sale?ref=42407>

United World College students visit Fetlar



The students and their tutors pose with the electric minibus outside Fetlar hall

In August Fetlar received a visit from a party of UWC students from all over the world who were attending a short course entitled "Youth for community". They were given a tour of the island followed by lunch at the hall. They received a presentation on projects taking place on Fetlar with a question and answer session following.

Church News

On Christmas Eve there will be a service at the Kirk with Carols, The Christmas Story and Mince pies at 5.30pm
On Sunday 11th of January there will be a special service at Noon to unite the Parishes of Unst and Fetlar. the Rev David Cooper will be inducted to the new charge. It is expected that people will be traveling from Unst and further afield to the service. It will be followed by Soup and Sandwiches at the Fetlar hall.

Properties Available

For further details on these and any newly available properties visit www.fetlar.org

St Sunniva Skete



Offering stunning panoramic sea views, the house comprises large living room, kitchen-diner, 3/4 bedrooms one of which includes a kitchenette, 2 bathrooms with an extra toilet, 3 porches, studio/ office with multi-fuel stove, store-room and garage. There is over 1/3 acre of de-crofted land and parking for around six cars. Although originally built as a croft house, it has recently been used as a monastic retreat house where two bedrooms have been converted to a chapel (non-consecrated) that could easily be returned to bedroom or other use.

Various crofts and building plots for sale

Midhouse croft approx. 14 acres, tenanted.

Aith croft approx. 11 acres with portal frame building, tenanted.

Gibb House croft approx. 24 acres, stone byre, tenanted.

The Ness croft approx. 40 acres, owner occupied.

For further details on the crofts please visit the website.

<http://www.fetlar.org/various-crofts-and-building-plots>

Should you wish to advertise your property here. Please contact the Development office. There is no charge for this service.

Hnefatafl Grandmaster Peter Kelly (right) with 2010 Junior champion Dean Thomason and 2010 Senior Champion Tim Millar. Tim a glass sculptor, presented Fetlar Hnefatafl Panel with an impressive Trophy for the annual competition. (The following article appeared on <http://tafl.cynningstan.com/>)



Peter Kelly, one of the most active proponents of hnefatafl, has passed away aged 75 after a long illness. A resident of Fetlar, one of the Shetland Islands of Scotland, Peter promoted the game and the island, making both better known around the world.

Peter's hnefatafl project was begun in 2007, with the formation of the Fetlar Hnefatafl Panel. Their objective was to create a standard set of rules for competition play, and to publicize them worldwide. This was achieved, and as Peter acknowledged, "people from Australia to Norway and the USA to England have adopted the FHP rules."

Most famously the rules were used on Fetlar itself, for the annual "World Quick play Hnefatafl Championship". The success of this tournament in its first three years inspired other tournaments, including the English Regional Hnefatafl Tournament which has run for two years so far.

Peter was very active in promoting, encouraging and publicizing hnefatafl play. After getting much of the population of Fetlar hooked on the game, he travelled around the Shetlands holding events to promote the game among children of all ages. And through the web he passed his enthusiasm on to a worldwide audience. In 2013 he helped to bring the game to UK television screens, when the BBC programme Countryfile visited Fetlar.

Peter has left behind a game more popular and well-known than he found it. His example, of organising on an island of fifty people a tournament that has become familiar to players around the world, has inspired others in more accessible locations to do the same. They are helped by the rules he has created and publicised. His efforts in have earned him the gratitude of hnefatafl players everywhere, and the well-deserved title of Grandmaster.

Fetlar Interpretive Centre

2014 Has been a challenging year for Fetlar Interpretive Centre. Due to a variety of factors including the inaccurate fares information on the online ferry booking system coupled with the reduced frequency of runs and lower capacity on some key services, numbers are well down on last year.

After initial trials we have continued with the provision of card facilities which continues to help the sales of craft items. It will continue to be evaluated on a year by year basis. However given the move towards this type of transaction the facility is likely to be here to stay.

We now have a dual point electric vehicle charge station in place. The facility can charge at up to 22kw but can also be used with vehicles with lesser charging requirements. The points are registered with "charge my car". We have guest tags available for anyone who does not already have one.

During the period when the Interpretive Centre is closed, please contact the development office if you need assistance.

The points are currently free to use and available 24/7. However charges may be introduced in the future.

After the success of last year we held another Christmas craft fair event to coincide with lunches being available at the hall. Again local craft workers sold a substantial amount of produce. It is hoped this may now become an annual event.

The Fetlar Museum Trust which runs the Interpretive centre is also currently looking into an upgraded website with an online sales capability. All going well this should be live in 2015.

We would like to wish all our visitors and customers a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.



Celebrate
LOTTERY FUNDED



Commonwealth Celebration event and Fetlar Fun day

Fetlar Fun Day started the week of activities. In the morning the RSPB guided walk exploring the best of Fetlar's wildlife attracted a healthy number of people who were treated to an informative walk under the expert guidance of local RSPB staff. The fun run, which was the first event of the celebrate event, started at the shop and followed a course around the Tresta loop road. Despite the misty morning 17 people entered. The first runners were back in under 1/2 an hour, some others took a little longer.

After lunch there were fun and games at Tresta beach organised by the RSPB while in the hall, Fetlar makers group put on demonstrations of local craft making, with opportunities to try your hand at various activities including spinning and weaving. Suppers were available at the hall in the evening and the event was rounded of with a splendid evening with entertainment from Country Rok

On Monday the 29th the celebrations got into full swing. Each day of the week we featured a different Commonwealth Country or Territory and offered a chance for people to try the National dish of the featured country. We had photo slide shows on multimedia displays and displays of information and in some cases articles from the country. Our aim was also to make contact with at least one individual or group in each country by video link. We had specially commissioned jigsaws which would be built each day and then framed to form a legacy of the event. Due to a problem with delivery these only arrived on Thursday, but we had secured some alternatives for the first few days.



Fetlar school put in a massive effort and produced an amazing amount and quality of information for the event. Including a sketch of their tapestry which was on show at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. On the big screen at the hall the Glasgow

games were shown live for the whole event. We also had a number of outdoor activities planned. The main one was a week long treasure hunt/ geocaching event, which involved placing boxes of flags from every Commonwealth games participating country all around the island, in their approx. relative positions. Medal badges were awarded for all activities.

On Monday it was Canada which was the featured country, with "Poutine" the dish on offer. We did manage to make contact by Skype with a lady originally from Yell now living in Ontario who had gone to some effort for the occasion with Canadian flags on the wall and sporting an impressive Canadian hat ! Unfortunately our Seabird Safari was abandoned because of the poor weather. Special thanks to Michael Coutts and family for helping out with the exhibits.



On Tuesday it was the turn of Jamaica to be the featured country. Jamaica was a favourite of the school children because of a certain Usain Bolt! The national dish of Ackee and Saltfish was well received. We did not manage to get a video link in place but we did find a live streaming radio station, which played all day. Again poor weather hindered any outdoor activities, for anyone but the most hardy !



On Wednesday we featured the British overseas territory of St. Helena. We had amazing support from many people on St. Helena. The radio station even produced a special feature about the creation of their community radio station which was streamed live on the day. We had a very interesting video conference with a group of people from the island and we hope that there will be further developments following that. The national dish served was

St.Helena fish cakes with pilau rice which was enjoyed by everyone.



A St Helena day selfie !

On Thursday the featured country was Ghana. We were glad to be able to work with existing links established through teacher exchanges between Ghana and the North isles. A Ghanaian teacher Francis Christian, who had to contend with a very tenuous wifi signal, took us on a live video tour through a Ghanaian village, showing us where people lived and worked and showing us examples of the vegetables used in the Fufu which we were serving as the National dish.

Thankfully the weather was now good enough to encourage more teams to take part in the treasure hunt. We also managed to run our Commonwealth duck race which was a massive success with lots of people taking part.

Our final featured country was Malaysia, with the better weather most people taking part were all dashing around the island on the treasure hunt to the exclusion of any of the other offered activities. We had live streaming from a radio station, but due mainly to time difference issues we didn't manage a video link. The national dish of Nasi Lemak was available to try. While parts of the dish were lovely, some were definitely an acquired taste!



The Malaysian flag flies outside Fetlar Hall

Saturday was the final day of the celebrations, with teams doing last minute searches to add to their treasure hunt flag tallies. In the evening we held our final celebration event. Featuring tremendous music from Fetlar and around the Commonwealth and a fantastic commonwealth inspired buffet. The night and the Celebrate event was rounded off by dancing to the Bluemelts.

More information and pictures are planned for the website in the new year.

A year of brilliant music concerts

2014 has been a great year for music. As well as the excellent celebration event we had the North Atlantic sessions in July. This was an event which saw new and interesting collaborations between local and a smattering of guest artistes. Just earlier this month there was "Davy Henderson's peerie christmas spree". Brought back after Davy's untimely death by his son Kevin, who plays fiddle with headlining band "The Boys of the Lough". They were most ably supported by Megan and Lauren from Yell and Haltadans, whose name is derived from a well known stone circle on Fetlar associated with the trows.



North Atlantic Sessions

What to look out for in forthcoming issues..

- A special feature on the refurbishment of Leagarth house
- More wildlife focused articles
- Updates on FDL projects.

Please note the Development office will be closed from Friday 19th December reopening on Tuesday the 6th January. The Directors and staff at Fetlar Developments Ltd would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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