

# Fetlar

GARDEN OF SHETLAND



## Welcome to the May 2012 Fetlar Community Newsletter

### **Fetlar Interpretive Centre** - opening event

To mark their new revamped look for 2012 and to launch their new gift shop featuring crafts handmade in Fetlar, everyone is invited to an open evening on Saturday 5th May 4 - 6pm. There is no entry charge, but donations are welcome. Complimentary refreshments will be available.

### **Electric Community minibus**

After several years of working towards this project, we have finally managed to get all the funding together to order the minibus. It is being made by Smith Electric in Newcastle, based on a Ford transit. Once completed it will travel up to Gleneagles, where it will be converted to allow disabled access, with space for two wheelchair passengers along with conventional seating. The minibus will be able to carry eight passengers in total along with the driver.



*The minibus will be similar to the one pictured*

### **Pier and Breakwater**

Work is progressing steadily. Latest estimate is for completion around the end of June.



### **Fetlar Cafe**

For 2012 the cafe is to be run from the original cafe premises at the shop. New Fetlar residents Kyle & Claire Sylvester in association with shop proprietor Nic Boxall will be starting the service later this month. It is hoped that shop hours will also be extended. More details will be available soon. We wish them the very best in making their new venture a great success.

### **Zumba**

This modern, energetic, dance based fitness program has found its way to Fetlar! Sessions have started at the hall at 6pm each Friday evening.

### **New Fetlar Houses**

For the first time in many years a new house is being built in Fetlar and another two are being actively planned. See page 3.

## Clubs & Activities

### Zumba

Every Friday night at the hall from 6pm. Suitable for most, just take it at your own pace. cost £1 per session

### Get Crafty

At Fetlar Interpretive Centre every Sunday from 12.30 - 4pm. No charge just bring along some materials and join in. Biscuits always welcome !

### Badminton Club

Every Wednesday night from 7pm. Small charge to cover hall hire.

### Book Group

meet monthly to discuss, books, plays, poetry and other literature. Please contact Katy on 733784 for details of next meeting.

### Saturday Night Social

Every Saturday the hall, including the bar, is open from 9pm. Bring along your instrument for a tune. Pool and darts available

## Campsite

There is local interest in acquiring and developing the campsite from SLAP the current owners. We hope to have a feature on this in our next edition.



## Sign up for a free farmland bird survey

Farmers and crofters in Fetlar are invited to find out more about what birds are on their land, courtesy of a free, confidential, no-strings attached survey.

This year is the final year of the RSPB Scotland Volunteer and Farmer Alliance project and the priority will be to deliver more surveys in Shetland, in particular in the North Isles.

The project is open to all land managers and participation is free. A trained volunteer will visit the farm or croft to survey the species of birds present during the breeding season. Participants will then receive a map of the birds recorded on their land and advice to help them target their management to benefit wildlife. The data collected can be very helpful in guiding and supporting Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) Rural Priorities applications. It is also a chance for those already in agri-environment schemes to see how their management is impacting on birds.

Surveys depend on finding local volunteers. The RSPB is therefore looking for surveyors in the North Isles with bird identification skills who are willing to spare three mornings during the breeding season to survey a local croft or farm. No survey experience is required and training will be provided. This is a great opportunity to use your bird identification skills to promote farmland birds and wildlife conservation amongst your local community.

For more information, to sign up for a survey, or to volunteer to carry out surveys, contact Nathalie Pion on [nathalie.pion@rspb.org.uk](mailto:nathalie.pion@rspb.org.uk) or 01950 460800 or visit the Volunteer & Farmer Alliance webpage at [www.rspb.org.uk/vandfa](http://www.rspb.org.uk/vandfa).



### First new house in Fetlar for many years

Colin and Bridgette Thomason's new house is quickly taking shape, with the concrete floor slab in place the builders came onsite with the house kit on Tuesday the 10th April, by late morning the sidewalls were up and by Thursday the trusses were on and the roof partly clad. The photo, left, taken on Tuesday 1st May shows the rapid progress made in just three weeks, cladding now partly on and windows just arriving on site. it should not be long till the housewarming at this rate !

### Island Dynamics conference

On the 19th of April delegates attending the Island Dynamics Conference - Investing in Small Island Recovery: Archipelagic approaches to Sustainable Living, visited Fetlar for a day. The conference was organised by Adam Grydehoj, who is no stranger to Fetlar, having stayed with Kenny and Jane Ritchie while researching and writing a paper a few years ago. The delegates were given a tour of the island and visited the Shop and the Fetlar Interpretive Centre. Delegates & islanders gathered at the hall for a delicious lunch and the opportunity to discuss the challenges of island living. Following lunch presentations were made to the delegates firstly By Tommy Coutts from the SIC who was unable to attend in person but was able to make use of Fetlar's excellent video conference facilities to both give his presentation and host a Q&A session. The day was completed by a presentation from the Development Worker on the work done by the Community in redeveloping the island.



Delegate power to the rescue ! - photo Adam Grydehoj

## Properties Available

### Gord, Houbie



A rare chance to purchase an established business as a going concern.

Incorporating a house, B&B, Shop and Post office, with potential for a cafe.

For details please contact the vendor direct. Tel 01957 733227

### West Manse, Tresta



Only a few minutes walk from the beautiful Tresta beach this large, listed, period property offers significant potential. It has in the past operated as a B&B.

Tel 07810 653275

or email [sallymcivor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallymcivor@hotmail.co.uk)

For further details on these and any newly available properties visit [www.fetlar.org](http://www.fetlar.org)

For social rented properties, please contact the Shetland Islands Council Housing Department. In order to be considered for housing you must have completed an application form and be accepted on to the housing waiting list.

Full details available at

[www.shetland.gov.uk/housing](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/housing)

# FETLAR MAKERS' GROUP

*Get crafty each Sunday at Fetlar Interpretive Centre 12.30 - 4pm*

***First meeting is Sunday 6th May***

**All very welcome – bring along something to work on\***

A fun and informal way for artists, crafts people & anyone who enjoys making things to get together!

*...knitters, stitchers, spinners, weavers, painters, jewellers, artists, carvers, quilters, sculptors, artists, card-makers...*

**\*Cakes or biscuits are always welcome too...**

**Annie May Robertson**, Fetlar's oldest resident, sadly passed away recently, only days after her 95th birthday. She is survived by her son in law Alex, grand daughter Marianne and husband Robert, great granddaughters Lisa and Debbie and great grandson Brydon. Born in 1917 Annie May, who was nothing less than a Fetlar institution, was brought up at Baela along with her sister Helen and brother Jeemie. She initially entered service with Rev Campbell at a very young age before moving to Edinburgh to take up a housekeepers post at a doctors house. Carrie Jamieson her lifelong friend was also in Edinburgh at the same time studying nursing. Later Annie returned to Fetlar and married John Robertson, they had one daughter Eileen. After her return to Fetlar she undertook a vast amount of voluntary work in the community, along with John, assisting many community organisations. She also provided care to a number of her own and her husbands family. Annie had a tremendous memory and could personally remember when the island had a population of well over 200. She told many stories of her experiences which were a delight to listen to, and she was delighted when people would come along for a yarn. She will be sadly missed by everyone.



Pictured here on Easter Sunday, Fetlars oldest and youngest residents

## Fetlar Developments Ltd - membership

Membership of FDL is open to anyone resident on Fetlar. There is no charge for membership. By joining you will be showing your support for the work of FDL and as a member you will be entitled to put yourself forward as a Director. membership forms and further information are available from the Development Office.

ROBERT THOMSON  
DEVELOPMENT WORKER  
FETLAR DEVELOPMENTS LTD  
FETLAR HALL  
TEL 01957 733369  
MOB 07760 767433  
email [robert@fetlar.org](mailto:robert@fetlar.org)