

Shetland *arts*
presents



For further information about workshops or to book a place email:
fiddle.frenzy@shetlandarts.org

8 - 15 August, 2010

Unique island experience
with world class tutors.

www.shetlandarts.org

Fiddle Frenzy 8 - 15 August 2010

Take part in a unique artistic islands experience

Musicians, Writers, Knitters, Painters



Workshops available this year

Fiddle Playing - taught by ear, you will learn Shetland tunes and style from the best tutors and players

Guitar Accompaniment – unique Shetland style as practised by Peerie Willie Johnson

Creative Writing with Jen Hadfield, poet and winner of the T.S. Elliot Prize 2008

Painting and Drawing with Blue Sky Studios. Artists Amy Fisher and Eve Eunson will take you out on location across the islands

Textiles and knitting techniques with Jennie Bradley

Each day will be filled through to the early hours of the following morning.

Workshop times may vary with artistic subject; these are the basic core times of events. Opportunities will also be created for additional sessions



As cultural festivals go Fiddle Frenzy has established itself as one of the best in Scotland - summer schools, concerts and festival club. However, not everyone wishes to learn the fiddle and so an increasing number of visitors come to take part in a variety of artistic activities while taking in all the other experiences our festival has to offer.



Participation in the festival promises an insight into our island environment and how it continues to inspire Shetland artists, makers, musicians, writers, storytellers and the thriving communities living and working here. Our tutors are all experts in their artistic fields; discover from them how this strong sense of place has influenced them and share with them the way these influences can inspire your work. Later sit



back and enjoy concerts or join with our communities at dances and get a real taste of Shetland as you mix with other festival goers.

Although the festival base is in Shetland's capital Lerwick, the daily cultural trips will give you a chance to visit other parts of Shetland with interesting stories, scenery, people and industries all hosted by Storytellers Davy Cooper and Elma Johnson. The whole festival - workshops, concerts and all - will move to Cullivoe on the Island of Yell on Wednesday 11th August and to Hillswick in Northmavine (North mainland) on Friday 13th August.

How does the Fiddle Frenzy week run?

Sunday 8 August Lerwick

1.30pm

Registration

2pm

Welcome and workshops

4pm

Mix with fellow students

7pm - 9.30pm

"Get to know your fellow students" dance & learn some Shetland dances you will experience over the week

9.30pm - 1am

Festival Club

Monday 9 August Lerwick

10.30am - 12.30pm

Workshops

2pm - 4pm

Further workshops or Cultural trip

7.30pm - 10pm

Showcase concert
Garrison Theatre

10pm - 1am

Festival club

"I felt I had been made an honorary Shetlander"

"It's the best week of the year, I am more refreshed and musically energised by this holiday than all my holidays put together"

" the trips and visits are wide ranging, interesting and give an insight into the culture and ethos of the islands.. storytellers add an extra dimension."

" I am not musical, however you provided more than enough things to make this an interesting trip"

"I had an absolutely fantastic time and didn't want to leave..it was a wonderful opportunity to be taught by such experienced knitters and we very much enjoyed their company"

"Anything that would improve the whole experience?... a little more sleep"

Tuesday 10 August

Lerwick

10.30am - 12.30pm

Workshops

2pm - 4pm

Further workshops
or Cultural trip

7.30pm - 10pm

Showcase concert
Garrison Theatre

10pm - 1am

Festival club

Wednesday 11 August

Cullivoe - Bus + food provided

11.00am - 1.00pm

Workshops

2pm - 4pm

Further workshops
or Cultural trip

7.30pm - 1am

Cullivoe Showcase Concert
and Dance, Cullivoe Hall

7.30pm - 12am

Alternative Concert and Dance
Lerwick

Thursday 12 August

Lerwick

10.30am - 12.30pm

Workshops

2pm - 4pm

Further workshops
or Cultural trip

7.30pm - 10pm

Showcase concert
Garrison Theatre

10pm - 1am

Festival club

Friday 13 August

Hillswick - Bus + food provided

11.00am - 1.00pm

Workshops

2pm - 4pm

Further workshops
or Cultural trip

7.30pm - 1am

Hillswick Showcase Concert
and Dance, Hillswick Hall

7.30pm - 12am

Alternative Concert and Dance
Lerwick

Saturday 14 August

Lerwick

Afternoon

Historical lecture on Shetland
Fiddling by Peter Cooke

7.30pm - 10pm

Showcase concert
Garrison Theatre

10pm - 1am

Festival club with
Final Fling Celebration

Sunday 15 August

Lerwick

4pm til late

The unofficial
survivors session

The Fiddle Frenzy Creative Writing Workshops

If you've always wanted to do a bit more writing, have a story to tell, or a poem you just have to write; if you've been struggling to get to grips with your new manuscript, or enjoy giving and receiving feedback in a supportive group of other writers, this course is for you.

You will discover Shetland's extraordinary landscape, culture and community in a week of workshops, island excursions and social/music events. And write, of course; exploring the idea of place in one of Scotland's most exotic and extreme environments.

You'll have the opportunity to explore your own ideas with tutor Jen Hadfield. The workshops are an instant mutually supportive writing community – you'll have opportunities to share works in progress, offer feedback and encourage each other at the Fiddle Frenzy Club.

The workshops will help writers of all levels.



This year we're delighted to offer a chance to extend your stay experiencing a mini-writing retreat in the Bird Observatory's new accommodation on Shetland's most remote Island, Fair Isle. Situated in the midst of some of Shetland's most extreme and lovely land and seascapes, you'll get three days of peace, access to wonderful walking/birding terrain, and the chance to discuss your writing in one-to-ones with the tutor. There are only a limited number of places for this exciting addition to the course so book early!

Jen Hadfield made her first visit to Shetland in 2002 thanks to a Scottish Arts Council bursary, which enabled her to spend a month in Northmavine, writing her first collection, *Almanacs*.

An Eric Gregory Award in 2003 for *Almanacs*, published by Bloodaxe in 2005, was used to explore her Canadian citizenship, travelling from Nova Scotia to the West Coast, and up into the Arctic Circle on an epic roadtrip; a journey

that launched her second collection about geographic and emotional badlands – *Nigh-No-Place*.

She returned to Shetland for a writer's residency in 2005/6, and never left.

Shetland's landscape and language continue to influence Jen's poetry and visual art, and the Shetland community to support her emotionally, socially and professionally.

Nigh-No-Place was short-listed for the Forward Prize in 2007 and won the T.S. Eliot Prize for poetry in 2008.

Ramona Kirkness, freelance writer, experienced Jen's course in 2009 and wrote an article for *Fiddle On Magazine* about the festival experience. To download a PDF of this article go to:
www.shetlandarts.org/fiddle-on

The Fiddle Frenzy Fiddle and Guitar Workshops



Fiddle Frenzy offers students the opportunity to learn and immerse themselves in fiddle music Shetland style with some of our best tutors and musicians. We offer courses suited to beginners, through to the more experienced players.

You can opt to simply learn the tunes or take part in more advanced workshops that include bowing techniques and additional skills; alternatively join in the cultural trips each afternoon.

We aim to teach by ear and ask students to grade themselves on speed of learning in advance, beginner, slow to medium, medium to fast or fast. On the first afternoon you will split into these classes and experience the speed of learning that the tutors will be working at for the rest of the week. The opportunity is there all afternoon for you to reassess yourself and change to the class you feel most at ease with for your personal skill level.

We advise students to bring a recording device with them to help refresh memories once you have left Shetland. Written music is handed out at the end of the week to cover tunes taught. We give Fiddle Frenzy Students the opportunity to play as a group in the Saturday night concert. The tunes for the concert are sent out in written and recorded forms in advance and are rehearsed before or after scheduled workshops each day.

Guitar tuition will be provided by Ryan Couper who will teach the techniques pioneered by local musicians including the late Peerie Willie Johnson.

This year's tutors include:

Bryan Gear
with Violet Tulloch
Jenna Reid
Eunice Henderson
Bernadette Porter
Bethany Reid
Jim Leask
Ross Couper
Margaret Scollay
Kaela Jamieson

Guitar Tutor
Ryan Couper

The Fiddle Frenzy Visual Arts Workshops

Tutors Amy Fisher and Eve Eunson have created an exciting opportunity to get out and about in Shetland (mini bus provided) and experience a mixed media, sketchbook led, art workshop suitable for all abilities and interests. The emphasis will be on appreciating our surroundings, making friends and having fun. Subject matter will include Shetland's fantastic natural land-sea-sky-scapes, historic built environments and figurative studies from life. Students will receive their own sketchbook to fill with drawings, notes and curiosities as memories of their week in Shetland. Along with the sketchbook they will also come away with several large-scale drawings and finished paintings.





Eve Eunson

Eve was hand-reared on a croft in Fair Isle - Britain's most isolated, inhabited island. With an early interest in graphic drawing, Eve spent her first year studying art and design at Grays School of Art before moving on to study architecture at the Scott Sutherland School. Here she further developed her bold, proportion-conscious drawing and composition style. Since beginning her studies in 1999 drawing projects have included: a series of book illustrations, regular magazine strip and album covers, not to mention numerous architectural designs and presentations. Eve most recently co-ordinated, and exhibited in Almost Instant - a collaborative photographic project involving artists from Shetland and Montana.

Amy Fisher

Graduated in 2005 with a BA(Hons) Degree in Painting from Grays School of Art, RGU. Since returning home to Shetland she has been involved in a range of creative projects including leading workshops in mixed media, drawing, painting and printmaking. Part-time lecturing at the local College and a workshop in Copenhagen. Amy is a member of the Veer North art group, exhibiting locally and overseas on the UK Mainland, Copenhagen and Spain. Amy has recently exhibited work at the Shetland Museum as part of the Veer North group exhibition Crossing Waater.



The Fiddle Frenzy Textile Workshops



Shetland's contemporary textile culture has grown from the continuous creative development of our Shetland knitting techniques. Attend workshops to learn the basic structures of knitted Shetland lace and colourful Fair Isle and their applications for creative textiles. No previous knitting experience is necessary and each student will be able to work at the level and direction of their choice. The workshops are led by Jennie Bradley, a life-long knitter with experience in teaching contemporary Shetland knitting. All equipment and materials will be provided.



The Fiddle Frenzy Concerts and Dances

"Get to Know Your Fellow Students" Dance

Sunday 8 August, 7.00pm – 9.30pm

Room 16, Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

This informal evening is your first chance to mix with your fellow students and is opened by one of our Storytellers. It is also a great chance to learn some Shetland dances. Maria Leask, Shetland Arts' Traditional Dance officer, will be on hand to teach the popular dances seen at Shetland country halls and social evenings. Dance to the ever popular Jim Halcrow Dance Band.



Showcase Concert

Monday 9 August, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Garrison Theatre, Lerwick

Dr Tom Anderson fought long and hard to get Shetland traditional fiddle taught in the formal school situation.

The first half of this concert will highlight a group of talented young Shetland musicians, who will perform for the first time after completing an intensive course led by Harris Playfair.

This will be followed an opportunity to see your Fiddle Frenzy tutors on stage together.

The second half of the concert will focus on the group Dr Tom Anderson established, Young Heritage now The Heritage Fiddlers.

Showcase Concert

Tuesday 10 August, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Garrison Theatre, Lerwick

Featuring:

Bryan Gear and Violet Tulloch

Linda, Pauline and Caroline Irvine from Whalsay with Margaret Scollay.

Kollifirbolli - Astryd and Kaela Jamieson & Mary Rutherford.

Cullivoe Showcase Concert & Dance

Wednesday 11 August, 7.30pm – 1.00am

Cullivoe Hall, Yell

Hear some of the tales behind the tunes and the performers' experiences...

Brian Nicolson and Maggie Adamson.

The Cullivoe Fiddlers.

Followed by a dance with the Cullivoe Dance Band.

Alternative Concert & Dance Lerwick

Wednesday 11 August, 7.30pm – 12.00am

Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

Dance band to be confirmed.

Showcase Concert

Thursday 12 August, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Garrison Theatre, Lerwick

Jenna and Bethany Reid's Shetland Bus.*

Shetland Young Traditional Fiddler of the Year.

Ross Couper with Harris Playfair.

* The Shetland Bus was a secret World War II operation transporting resistance agents, armaments, equipment and refugees between Shetland and Nazi-occupied Norway. Inspired by the remarkable story of Jan Baalsrud, one of the campaign's heroes, Shetland sisters Jenna and Bethany Reid (fiddles/piano) present a brand-new suite of original music commemorating these perilous missions, with a line-up also featuring pipes, flute, double bass and percussion.

Hillswick Showcase Concert & Dance

Friday 13 August, 7.30pm – 1.00am

Hillswick Hall, Northmavine

Focusing on The Shetland Fiddlers who celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

Dance to Leeshinaat.

Alternative Concert & Dance Lerwick

Friday 13 August, 7.30pm – 12.00am

Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick

Dance to Alan Nicolson Dance Band.

Showcase Concert

Saturday 14 August, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Garrison Theatre, Lerwick

Catriona MacDonald.

Filiska.

Fiddle Frenzy Students.

Shetland Young Fiddler of the Year.



Note: This programme may be subject to change.

The Fiddle Frenzy Cultural Trips



Our storytellers take you out into the places where many of their tales come from. You may discover the trows that live in the Shetland landscape, be told of shipwrecks, ancient sites and peoples and those of more recent history and interest.

You will get also get a flavour of contemporary Shetland as well as the historical and mythical past. Locations can include fish farms, working artist studios, jewellery workshops, rural museums. This year's programme is still to be confirmed. Join our storytellers on trips around our beautiful islands.

The Fiddle Frenzy Storytellers



A sense of place! Storytelling is engrained in Shetland culture, from tales told round the peat fire to contemporary yarning. Shetland has a great wealth of stories, old and new, that are firmly rooted in its landscape, society and what it means to be part of a remote island community.

From mythical creatures to legendary characters' escapades, these tales have grown from a very distinctive environment. Our Storytellers, Davie Cooper and Elma Johnson, host concerts, trips in the various parts of the islands and in our Festival Club.

The Fiddle Frenzy Festival Club

Held back stage the Garrison Theatre, the club has several dedicated areas. Everyone is welcome to circulate and socialise with your fellow festival goers. The stage area is where the greatest numbers of musicians gather to share tunes, Dressing Room 1 has a slower controlled session for those of you who prefer a more sedate music session and Dressing Room 2 is hosted by the storytellers - a chance for anyone to enjoy stories or share their poems and writings - or just chat in the bar area and prop room.

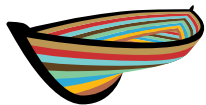
There will also be an exhibition of the work created by the visual arts workshops. The Club will run Sunday 8th, Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Saturday 14th. Information Correct at going to press. Shetland Arts reserve the right to change programmes.



Notes

Fiddle Frenzy is on Facebook!

Search Fiddle Frenzy for the group to get the latest information about Fiddle Frenzy.



Shetland *arts*

Shetland Arts

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