

Frequently Asked Questions

How is the SFHS organised:

We have a group of 12 Trustees and around 800 members worldwide. There are no paid appointments in the SFHS and we run on goodwill and enthusiasm from all our members.

Membership fees:

We are a registered charity and currently have a small grant from the Shetland Amenity Trust.

The Trustees reluctantly had to increase the membership fees in July 2021. They had been static for many years. We also took the opportunity to streamline the postal categories. Due to covid we have needed to outsource postage and packing as we can't meet together to do some of this work ourselves. Please consider electronics membership to reduce our costs and help the environment. If you have any problems or need any help with joining us contact

membership@shetland-fhs.org.uk

Research:

We research free for members of the SFHS. For non-members we charge £25. There are many benefits of becoming a member and connecting with others all around the world. If you send us any details before your visit, we can carry out some research ahead of the time. We occasionally can put you in touch with cousins, but this will need a little time to comply with data protection (and if they are home!) We hold sets of Monumental Inscription books that cover all the graveyards in Shetland that also might assist you in planning your visit. See our website for the parish areas.

If you would like any research help contact

research@shetland-fhs.org.uk

Coontin Kin:

We encourage articles with a Shetland connection. Please send to

editor@shetland-fhs.org.uk

Volunteering:

We welcome anyone who can spare a couple of hours each week to come and help in the office contact

chair@shetland-fhs.org.uk

Tips on Travel to Shetland:

With a latitude of 60 degrees north and halfway to Norway we are a long way from mainland Britain. We are either an overnight ferry crossing from Aberdeen or a 1–2-hour flight from Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Connecting flights from London are also available.

Shetland is long and thin. Travel takes much longer to drive around than people imagine. We have our SFHS office in the capital Lerwick, on the Mainland of Shetland. Loganair (<https://www.loganair.co.uk>) flies to Shetland from Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. We are 35 minutes' drive from the airport (no reliable airport bus service so hire car is essential). Northlink ferry service (northlinkferries.co.uk) docks in Lerwick at 7.30 in the morning from Aberdeen. Most populated outer islands have a 'roll on roll off' car and passenger ferry that needs to be booked during the summer months (01595745804

If you want to travel around the islands, bus services are limited, and a car is very necessary. Bolts Car Hire is a local firm which advertises in our quarterly journal and has reasonable rates. Our roads are not busy. We have many single-track roads so take plenty of time to get around to all corners that you want to visit.

The Shetland Tourist Office is in the centre of Lerwick, Commercial Street. They can help with accommodation and places of interest. They also have a selection of Shetland maps and booklets.

Weather! A very difficult subject to describe in a sentence. Bring wet weather coats and good waterproof shoes. Shetlanders say if you don't like the weather just wait a moment it's all very changeable. A visit in the midsummer can be magical with the very light nights. Winters are not especially cold but very windy!

We hope to see you very soon.

Information correct at the time of going to press, August 2021.