

PRESS RELEASE

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VUNK FEST

Shetland Charitable Trust is putting its financial weight behind a three day festival of non-traditional arts and music that kicks off on Friday.

The second Vunk Fest has already more than doubled in size from its small beginnings last summer.

The festival promotes types of music, predominantly hard rock, that are rarely heard in the isles and provides a platform for musicians and visual artists to interact creatively with visiting bands from Holland, England, Northern Ireland, mainland Scotland and Orkney.

This year's festival consists of four main events:

- A dry bar concert for over 14 year olds in the Voe Hall on 9 July starting at 6.30pm. Featuring some of Shetland's most promising young rock musicians, the concert is headlined by The Dangerfields from Belfast.
- A concert for over 18s at the Norscot Angling Club on 10 July starting at 6.30pm with A Thousand Lies, from Newcastle; Deafening and Monstertone, from Holland; local bands Ten Tonne Dozer, Bitumen River and Poison Popcorn, as well as Inverness band Stolen Order.
- A three day exhibition of art works from Shetland, Orkney and Australian contributors, including Jono Sandilands, Co:Lab, Tirval Scott and the Orkney Movie Group, held in the Shetland Museum between Friday 9 July and Sunday 11 July.
- A film showcase and live music by Aafrugg, Poison Popcorn and The Xylophone Race, with the chance to meet members of the bands in an informal setting, held at the Shetland Museum on Sunday between 1pm and 5pm.

Secretary of the Vunk Fest committee Karen Bruce said the idea behind the not-for-profit event was to provide a festival of art forms that were not so well catered for in Shetland.

“It is a festival with brand new content, and will be challenging for the people who come to listen to the music and come to see the art work. This is about finding a niche in a very small island to provide something new and different.

“We are gently moving the border at the moment and it would be nice to be more experimental as the festival develops over the years.

“It also provides opportunities to hear bands that have never before played in Shetland, as well as supporting and highlighting the talents of some of our own local musicians and artists.”

She added that the financial support from Shetland Charitable Trust had been crucial to grow the festival after its success last year.

Vunk Fest has received a grant of £2,769 to help with sound engineering, concert recording, travel, venue and transport hire, security and musician’s remuneration. The trust’s contribution covers for more than 40 per cent of these costs.

SCT’s Chairman Bill Manson said: “The charitable trust has always strived to support a wide range of cultural activity in Shetland, which is why we were more than happy to step in to help a group of people who clearly feel they are under represented in these islands.”

Tickets for the two concerts are £10 each and are available from High Level Music, Shetland Drums, Clive’s Record Shop and the Shetland Box Office on 01595 745 555.

There is no admission charge for the visual art exhibitions and the film event at the Shetland Museum and Archives.

Ms Bruce said she wanted to thank all their sponsors and the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the festival happen.

Further info at: www.myspace.com/vunkventures

Ends

Notes for editors:-

Shetland Charitable Trust is an independent organisation set up in 1976 to manage income from Sullom Voe oil terminal on behalf of the community.

Its funds are currently worth around £200m, with £170m invested on the world markets and £30m in the local economy.

Each year it distributes around £10m to local groups and projects, including Shetland Recreational Trust, Shetland Amenity Trust, Shetland Arts Development Agency, the rural care centres, and 17 voluntary groups.

It owns Shetland Leasing and Property Developments Ltd (SLAP), Shetland Heat Energy and Power Ltd (SHEAP) and 90% of Viking Energy Ltd.

SCT's policy is to pass on the oil funds to future generations by investing them in a self sustaining way.

More details about Shetland Charitable Trust can be found at www.shetlandcharitabletrust.co.uk