

Orkney Norway Friendship Association Newsletter Spring 2009



Members of the Orkney West Mainland Strathspey & Reel Society enjoying a memorable day with Norwegian friends from Sotra during the Society's visit to Bergen in July 2008

Chairman's Letter



2009 Chairman
Ishbel Borland

Dear Members,

I was very honoured to be elected Chairman of ONFA in January this year and hope that I can carry on the strong leadership shown by my predecessors. Since this is my first time as chairman I should say a little about myself. I am a retired Geography teacher, most recently having taught in Stronsay & Westray, and having taken pupils on several trips to Norway over the past 10 years or so. These trips have been greatly helped by members of both ONFA and VNO, and by the OIC as well as the Hordaland Fylke, and the value of the friendship links between our two regions can not be overstated. Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed an excellent Tree-Lighting Ceremony and Buffet Dance, and in February we celebrated our 30th Anniversary. We were touched by the number of friends from Norway who made the trip to share our celebration, and

by the number of messages we received from those unable to attend. We also received some beautiful gifts to mark the occasion and for these we are deeply appreciative.

It was humbling for me as a new chairman to listen to the many fond (and funny) memories that guests had of ONFA events in the past, and it has made me determined that despite rather an ageing committee and membership we will continue to promote the aims of ONFA in encouraging friendship, helping travel and visits to Norway and supporting cultural exchanges.

As always we hope to have an interesting programme of events for the coming year, and started off with an "ONFA INFO" night which was much enjoyed by those who attended. Next is a trip to Westray on April 24th, and details of this and other events will be well publicised so we hope to welcome you to some if not all of our functions. With my thanks for your support over the years, and with my good wishes for the coming year.

Ishbel