



BUSY SUMMER FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Lerwick Harbour is set for a seasonal surge in passenger traffic, with a resumed international service by Smyril Line, increased sleeping accommodation on NorthLink's ferries and more cruise ships all contributing.

Almost 160,000 passengers used the port last year, with around two-thirds of them sailing in the peak season, from May to September.

Port Authority Deputy Chief Executive, Sandra Laurenson, said: "While there is an understandable emphasis on attracting visitors to Shetland, with significant benefits for the economy, the scheduled services also provide opportunities for islanders to travel.

"That makes the return of Smyril's *Norrona*, with its international connections, all the more welcome."

International service again



Norronea timetable

Late spring

	Lerwick	Schedule
Bergen-Lerwick-Torshavn	Sundays 1600-1630	20 May to 10 June
Torshavn-Lerwick-Bergen	Fridays 0500-0530	25 May to 15 June

Summer

Hanstholm-Lerwick-Torshavn	Every second Sunday 1600-1630	17 June to 26 August
Torshavn-Lerwick-Hanstholm	Every second Friday 2100-2130	22 June to 17 August

Autumn

Torshavn-Lerwick-Bergen	Fridays 0500-0530	7 to 28 September
Bergen-Lerwick-Torshavn	Sundays 1600-1630	9 to 23 September

The timetable is available at

www.smyril-line.com/SAILING_SCHEDULE/CALENDAR.aspx

Smyril heading for Lerwick

Smyril Line will resume services via Lerwick in May, with a schedule which continues through to late September.

Its passenger/freight ferry, *Norronea*, has Lerwick as a port-of-call on routes between the North Sea and the North Atlantic, in a network with Bergen, Norway; Torshavn in the Faroe Islands; and Hanstholm in Denmark.

The purpose-built vessel's passenger facilities are to a high standard, including accommodation for almost 1,500 passengers.



Upgrading mainland links

NorthLink Ferries operates two passenger ferries, *Hjalmland* and *Hrossey*, year-round between Lerwick and

Aberdeen, with overnight sailings in both directions seven times a week. The schedule for the specially-built passenger/freight ferries includes seven calls at Kirkwall, in Orkney, each week, during summer.

A £3 million upgrade of both vessels means increased cabins and significantly more berths from spring this year.

Full information on services is available on www.northlinkferries.co.uk Bookings can be made direct to NorthLink by telephone: 0845 6000 449; online; at its Lerwick office and at travel agents.



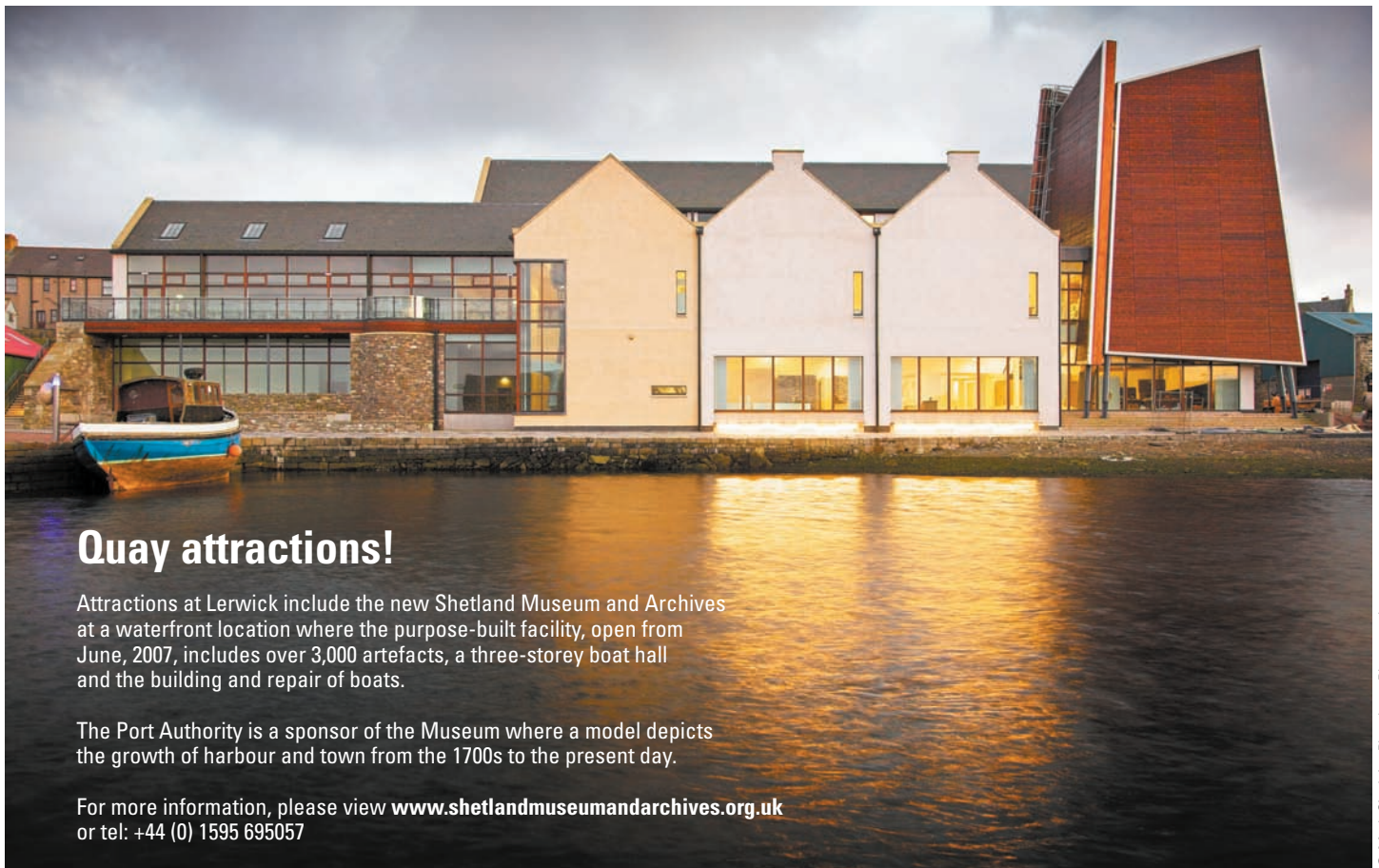
International hub port

Lerwick Harbour is ideally located as a midway port and offers opportunities to sail between Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Denmark and the Scottish mainland.

Full information on *Norronea's* freight service is available on www.smyrilbluewater.com or contact Smyril Blue Water direct by telephone: +298 309600.

Between mid-June and end-August, the *Norronea's* schedule includes a fortnightly round-trip between Torshavn and Scrabster, on Scotland's north coast, and Bergen, calling at Scrabster on alternate Mondays and alternate Wednesdays.

Passenger bookings for the *Norronea* can be made at local travel agents, online at www.smyril.co.uk or direct at Smyril Line by telephone: +298 345900 or at www.smyril-line.com



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Quay attractions!

Attractions at Lerwick include the new Shetland Museum and Archives at a waterfront location where the purpose-built facility, open from June, 2007, includes over 3,000 artefacts, a three-storey boat hall and the building and repair of boats.

The Port Authority is a sponsor of the Museum where a model depicts the growth of harbour and town from the 1700s to the present day.

For more information, please view www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk or tel: +44 (0) 1595 695057

An eventful summer

Main events at the port this summer include:

21 – 24 June: Annual Shetland-Bergen Races for yachts, incorporating a new 1,000 mile yacht race from Ijmuiden, in the Netherlands.

21 – 24 June: *Flavour of Shetland* event on Victoria Pier – includes culture, music and crafts and is part of the islands wide *Johnsmas Foy* festival (15 – 24 June).

Among other events in-and-around the harbour are:

Local sailing regattas

Visits by tall ships

A strongman competition on Victoria Pier

Additional Johnsmas Foy activities

Lifeboat Day.

A full list is available at www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/pdfs/events.pdf
Events connected with the Harbour can be listed by contacting the Port Authority.



Cruise ships are regular visitors to Lerwick during summer and around 50, with over 20,000 passengers, are expected between May and September this year.

The full 2007 schedule is listed at www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/pdfs/cruiseshiplist.pdf

Sailing to Shetland

Yachts are arriving at Lerwick in increasing numbers. A welcome pack for crews gives relevant information on all the services. The pack can be downloaded at www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/pdfs/yachtpack.pdf

