

Folk singer Piras hailed by charity



Elena Piras

A Lerwick folk singer has been praised by a national charity for her performance at a fundraising ceilidh.

Elena Piras, who is partially sighted and has hearing loss, performed at a ceilidh in Aberdeen recently which was held to raise funds for Deafblind Scotland's "Field of Dreams" project.

As a member of the charity, the performance held particular significance for Elena as she thrilled the crowd with a handful of honest, tender songs.

The Sardinian singer, who speaks six languages and recently moved to Shetland from the mainland for the lively folk music scene, was only too happy to make the journey to perform for the charity which hopes to build a learning and development centre for deafblind people.

She said she was invited to perform at the ceilidh by Deafblind Scotland and was very happy to help in any way she could.

"There is an emotional connection," said Elena.

Drena O'Malley, Deafblind Scotland Initiatives Officer, said: "Elena really is a stunning performer.

"Her songs capture listeners immediately and it was a special moment when she performed.

"Elena copes with her sight and hearing loss extremely well but unfortunately this cannot be said for all our members many of whom are reliant on services including those from Deafblind Scotland."

Elena recently performed at a Celtic Festival in Italy and has said she plans to perform again soon in Shetland.