



Bards on da Street

Meeting in a Wast Highland Cemetery (*William McDonald died 1799 age 86*)

Dat's ower twa hunder year fae syne.
I winder why dy daeth especially sood touch me,
Da speerit o a stranger traivel doon life's gaet
Ta meet me here, a casual veesitor?
I see mair tragic names on stanes
Tings a bairns fantit, twa teenage bridders drooned,
A generation on da Waar memorial,
An yet *du* comes sae veeve across time's void.
Dy faimly croodin, quiet, aroond dy bed
Waitin - murnin - kennin -
Dan dat last clear blaze a recognition
Just fur me.

Barbara Fraser

To celebrate the 2014 Year of Dialect, Shetland Library, Living Lerwick and Shetland ForWirds ran a special dialect poetry competition. This is one of 12 chosen poems.

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