

# Gunnister Man, a life reconstructed

## Conference: 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009



### Shetland Museum & Archives Hay's Dock, Lerwick, Shetland

The Shetland Museum and Archives is pleased to announce a Conference and Exhibition on the Gunnister Man finds, on loan from National Museums Scotland.

On 12 May 1951, while digging peat near Gunnister, two Northmavine men discovered cloth and human hair. Upon further investigation it was revealed that a man from the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century had been buried there. The grave contained a complete woollen suit in remarkable condition, as well as a number of wooden and horn artefacts. Soon after discovery the finds were sent to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. For the first time in almost 60 years, the Gunnister Man artefacts will return to Shetland for an exhibition, from 12 September to 1 November 2009.

There has been much speculation about who the Gunnister Man was, how he died, and why he was buried in an unmarked grave in the peat moor. The Conference aims to explore the questions surrounding this remarkable find, illuminate the period in which he lived, and provide evidence from similar burials elsewhere in Scotland.

To accompany the exhibition, the Shetland Museum and Archives has carefully reconstructed the garments and implements for permanent display in the galleries. The research undertaken to recreate these artefacts has provided a fresh opportunity to review the physical evidence. New information about the original finds, based on this research, will be presented during the conference.

The loan of the Gunnister Man artefacts, and the detailed study undertaken on them, has been made possible through a partnership agreement between Shetland Amenity Trust and National Museums Scotland.

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## Programme and Booking Form

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009

7.00pm – Opening reception, hosted by Shetland Islands Council

7.45pm - Lecture by Professor T.C. Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland, *The Economy and Society of Scotland and Northern Europe, 1680-1720*

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009

9.00am - Registration

9.30am - Introduction

9.40am – Ruby Brown, Shetland, *The Discovery of the Gunnister Man's Grave*

10.00am – Carol Christiansen, Shetland Museum and Archives, *The Grave Finds*

10.25am - *Coffee*

10.50am – Trevor Cowie, National Museums Scotland, *Dead Interesting: Bog Bodies from Scotland*

11.40pm – Ewen Balfour, Shetland, *Another Burial in Gunnister?*

12.00pm – Discussion of morning session

12.15 – *Lunch*

1:45pm - Hance Smith, University of Cardiff, on The economy of 18<sup>th</sup> century Shetland

2.30pm - Alastair Dawson, University of Aberdeen, *Weather and climate in Shetland during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century*

3:15pm - *Coffee*

3.40pm – Carol Christiansen, Shetland Museum and Archives, *Reconstructing the Textiles*

4:05pm - Ian Tait, Shetland Museum and Archives, *The Reconstructed Implements: better than the originals?*

4.30pm – Discussion + Summary

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**BOOKING FORM:** (If completing this form by hand please use BLOCK capitals). Please return along with the payment form to: Gena Garson at the address below.

### SECTION 1 – PERSONAL DETAILS

Title:	Forename:	Surname:
Address:		Institution (if approp)
		Job Title:
		Telephone:
		E-mail:
Post Code:		

### SECTION 2 – CONFERENCE BOOKING

Please tick appropriate box

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September  
Reception and Lecture  
(Free – but booking essential)

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September  
Day Conference £5   
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Please specify any special access requirements:  
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**Please note that lunch is NOT provided. If you wish to eat at Hay's Dock Café Restaurant, you are advised to book in advance – Tel. 01595 741569. There also are a number of eateries within walking distance of the Museum and Archives.**

### IMPORTANT NOTES

**DEADLINE FOR BOOKINGS – All forms must be received no later than 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009.**

Bookings will be accepted and confirmed only when full payment has been received. Invoices can be produced if necessary.

Unless specified, the name given will be used for the delegate badges and attendees list. If you **do not** wish your name and affiliation to appear in the list, please tick this box.

On receipt of your booking form and payment we will send you an e-mail to confirm your registration.

### SECTION 3 – YOUR PAYMENT

Please complete the Payment Form overleaf.

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### PAYMENT FORM

Delegate name:
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Total to Pay: £ _____	Method of Payment: Cheque/ Card* (delete as applicable) Please do not send cash by post.
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I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (payable to Shetland Amenity Trust).
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Or
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Please charge my debit / credit card No: (NB We do not accept American Express)
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Card Start Date (MM/YY)	Issue No. (Switch cards)
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Card Expiry Date (MM/YY)	Card Security Code (This is the last 3 numbers on the signature strip)
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Signed:	Date:
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**If you require an invoice, please complete the details below:**

Name of Organisation :	
Finance Contact Name:	
Invoice Address:	
Telephone No:	Fax No:
Purchase Order Number: (if applicable)	

Please return your completed booking form, this form and any payment to Gena Garson at the address below.

**Deadline for receipt of booking forms is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009**