

## Inviting all Mootie Mice

When everyone has gone home for the day and night begins to fall, the Museum galleries echo to the scratch and scamper of a scurrying mouse. This mouse is not an unwelcome visitor, but a very special new member of the Museum and Archives staff. With a twitch of his nose and a flick of his whiskers, our very own Mootie Moose sniffs out the all best adventures and stories.

From February 2010, when he can be tempted out of his hiding place, he will be the mascot of our new sessions for pre-school children. All bairns, from birth to school age, are invited to come along and

become one of his peerie moose friends. Every session will feature a different theme – the first one is *Pirates and Mermaids* – and children will be able to join in with lots of activities, including craft, storytelling and music.

The free sessions will run monthly and will last an hour. There is no cost but numbers are limited so early booking is recommended. For further details and to book please contact Museum Reception on 69 5057. See the What's On Guide below for date and time of the first session.

Mootie Moose looks forward to meeting his new mice friends, and sharing all his tales!



### Opening Hours

#### Museum

**Monday-Saturday** 10am-5pm;

**Sunday** 12pm-5pm

#### Archives

**Monday-Friday** 10am-4.30pm;

**Saturday** 10am-1pm; **Sunday** closed

#### Hay's Dock Café Restaurant

Daytime **Monday-Saturday** 10.30am-

4pm; **Sunday** 12-5pm;

Evenings **Thursday-Saturday** 7-9pm

Please phone 01595 741569  
to book a table.

### What's On Guide

#### January

**16th Jan-19th Feb:** **Up Helly Aa** – get with the programme! A selection of rare Up Helly Aa programme covers from the private collection of Chris Sim, Foyer corridor.

**18th Jan-15th Feb:** **Two photographic exhibitions:** Iain Stewart – Bothy. Paul Read – Foula, Da Gadderie.

**24th-27th:** **Gallery talk: The origins of Up Helly Aa**, daily 3pm, lasts 20 mins, free, drop in.

**23rd & 24th:** **Up Helly Aa shields workshop**, paint your own wooden shield for Up Helly Aa, 2.30-3.30pm, P1-7, £5, booking essential.

**27th:** **Thor's hammer workshop**, find out about the Viking god Thor and make a Thor's hammer clay pendant, 2.30-3.15pm, P1-7, £3, booking essential.

#### February

**11th:** **Shetland's Fallen Heroes: Thomas Manson's Roll of Honour and Roll of Service**, illustrated talk by Linda Riddell, 7.30-9.00pm, doors open 7pm, free, drop in.

**20th Feb-22nd March:** **Paintings by Mike Finnie and Anne Bain**, Da Gadderie.

**25th:** **Mootie Mice – Pirates and Mermaids**, craft activities, storytelling and music designed for under 5's. Children must be accompanied by an adult, 10.30-11.30am & 2-3pm, free, booking essential.

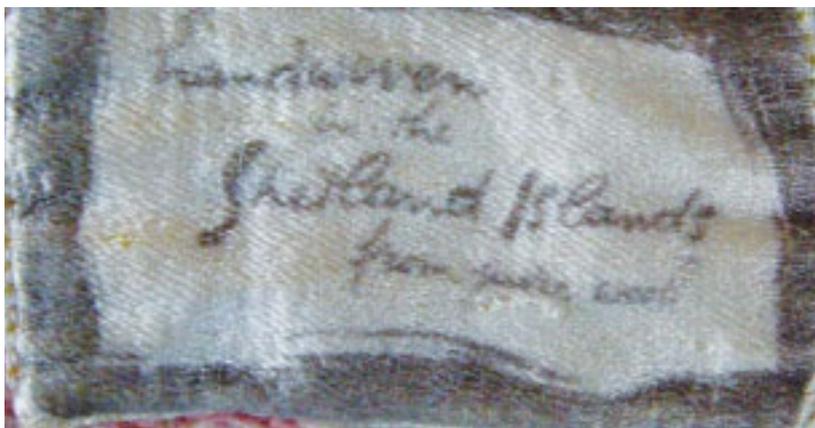
All events are held at the Shetland Museum and Archives and are free, unless otherwise stated. To book call 01595 695057. No booking is necessary for drop-in events.

# Cot blanket query



A member of the public contacted us recently about the origin of two cot blankets (now sewn together). Both have a label reading 'handwoven in the Shetland Islands from pure wool'. The label is woven, but the words appear to be handwritten in black ink. The cot blankets

were purchased by the woman's mother during WW2, while working as a nurse in London. Do you recognise the labels, or know who the weaver was? Please contact Carol Christiansen at 74-1560 or [carol@shetland-museum.org.uk](mailto:carol@shetland-museum.org.uk) if you have any information.



## Changes at Hay's Dock

Hay's Dock Café Restaurant is starting 2010 with a fresh look, a newly appointed customer services manager, and plans for special events over the coming months.

Custom-made blinds, woven in 100% Shetland wool, were designed by weaver Angharad McLaren. They are inspired by traditional patterns from the Museum and Archives collection and use distinctive colours of the Shetland landscape. Acoustic panels have been fitted to the ceiling to lessen background noise and create a more relaxed ambience for diners. Mark Anderson has been appointed Customer Services Manager and is looking at ways to enhance the lunch and evening service. Chef Manager Mike Skinner has planned a variety of new dishes and events for 2010. February 7th will see the launch of Sunday lunch specials, with special wine tasting evenings and steak nights planned for March. For further details please visit the café restaurant website: [www.haysdock.co.uk](http://www.haysdock.co.uk).

## Memorial lecture booklet available

The text of the 2009 Museum and Archives memorial lecture, held in honour of the late John Graham, is now available for purchase. The lecture '40 tea chests' by Professor Michael Schmidt of Carcanet Press and Glasgow University, focuses on the work and reputation of Scottish poet and former Whalsay resident Hugh MacDiarmid. In addition to Professor Schmidt's text, the booklet includes MacDiarmid's own essay 'Life in the Shetland Islands', a brilliant but little known piece written soon after MacDiarmid arrived in Whalsay and last published in 1968. The



**Drawing of Hugh MacDiarmid by Jo Anderson**

booklet is priced £4.50 and can be found in the Museum and Archives shop.

## “Aye a new aald thing tae wirk on!”



Museum Attendant Sonny Morrison retired on 19 January, after exactly 4 years in the post. The Attendant's job is varied, although few visitors to the Museum and Archives are aware of such important work going on behind the scenes.

Sonny started his post when we were developing the new building and service. His exceptional carpentry skills were essential to getting artefacts into display condition and to make plinths and brackets. Most displays include his handiwork in some way, most recently the Gunnister exhibition. Sonny has repaired things as diverse as an iron horse, spinning wheels and guns. His most recent project was the renovation of a gig. The project involved rebuilding the wheels, requiring him to learn wheelwright work. Having spent a lifetime in the building trade, Sonny was pleased to have new puzzlers to test him! We wish him well for his retirement.

## Colourful history of Anderhill Tower

*Lol Anderson has kindly sent us a brief history of Anderhill tower. A more detailed version can be obtained from Bressay Heritage Centre.*

In 1910 the Garth Estate granted the Admiralty a 21-year lease to erect a 'War Signal Station' on Anderhill. Construction began the following year.

Little is known about the tower's early role or personnel because secrecy surrounded such installations – especially in time of war. It was used until 1926 when the Admiralty renounced the lease.

In 1932 a 21-year lease was granted to H.M. Commissioner of Works (Coastguard) for use as a watch tower. The Telephone and Signal Log Book for Feb 1932 to Jan 1937 is still available – having been kept by watchman Frankie Anderson,

Hillside. His assistants were William Wiseman, Mail, John Sutherland, Sildries, and Tammie Nelson, Knowes.

The log records the weather, when watches were set, and shipping activity in the area. The men investigated and reported wreckage coming ashore, and reported the landing of sea-driven wood to H.M. Customs. Frankie reported daily to Lerwick Coastguard by telephone (when it worked). Having served in the Royal Navy, he always spoke and wrote in Services language, using 'Sir' and referring to his workmates by their surnames only.

The lease was renewed in 1953 and watches were kept until 1969 when the building was abandoned. Since then it has fallen into ruin, although still standing.



Photo courtesy of Bressay History Group



Wesleyan Chapel and Manse, Lerwick; Shetland District Synod, Sept. 1890

## Records of the Methodist Church of Shetland

The impact of Methodism in Shetland was greater than elsewhere in Scotland. Samuel Dunn and John Raby, under the tutelage of Adam Clarke (President of the Wesleyan Conference), arrived in Lerwick on 3rd October, 1822. By 1827 Clarke could state that the Shetland mission was "the most important and successful of all missions, either foreign or domestic, yet established among us...". Methodism could, according to Harold Bowes, boast of 1,435 members out of a population of 30,000 in 1831. In 1866 2/5ths of the Scottish Methodist population was located in Shetland. Therefore, Shetland and Methodism are heavily intertwined in memory and history.

Records of the Methodist Church of Shetland are now available in the Archives, after much work to preserve the collection. They include:

Minute Books, 1839-1990  
Accounts, Cash Books and Ledgers, 1851-1995  
Collection Books, 1911-1991  
Class Books and Roll Books, 1883-1989

Pulpit Notice, 1932-1990  
Schedules, 1843-1986  
Order of Services, 1934-1994  
Directories and Reports, 1946-1980  
Miscellaneous Papers, 1832-1986

For family historians, the register of Baptisms provides a fascinating resource. You can look at roll and class books, Sunday School attendance registers, account books that register donations made to the poor's fund, for example, or pew rental account books.

One element of the Methodist Church was its use of ordinary members for various functions within the Church. Laymen became trustees, stewards, class leaders and local preachers. The records generated from these activities document social and religious history within Shetland.

There are also numerous commentaries about the trials and tribulations of seeking to practice and preach in Shetland. Rev. Clement writes about Burra Isle on the 6th December, 1948:

"I was planned for the harvest services ten weeks

ago. I arranged an 8pm service so as to be able to take the Scalloway choir with me following the 6pm service at Scalloway. The Choir rallied round, but after a lovely day the weather broke, a gale with snow and sleet blew up, and the boatman refused to take us. At the same time a telephone message arrived to tell us that owing to the weather there could be no service. I planned for the next Sunday, but almost the same thing happened...This went on for nine weeks".

The Methodist Church in Shetland has preached amongst the people, walked the narrow roads and crossed the seas, has been a part of the history and the memories of the Shetland population. For these reasons this collection of records plays a vital role in the continuing narrative, memory and history of the Shetland Isles and its citizens.

Craig Gauld  
Assistant Archivist

This page is dedicated to research on all aspects of Shetland's history and heritage. Contributions are welcome.

## Get in touch

We are keen to include contributions from anyone who has something interesting to share about Shetland's heritage.

If you would like to stock our newsletter or distribute copies to your group, let us know.

Email: [info@shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk](mailto:info@shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk) Telephone: 01595 695057 Fax: 01595 696729

Post: Newsletter, Shetland Museum and Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0WP

heritage  
Shetland  
culture

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2010**