

Film and food feast

Film and food lovers can enjoy a feast of entertainment over the weekend 9th-11th October. The Museum and Archives will host a variety of events during October's Shetland Food Festival.

Hay's Dock Café Restaurant will have daily Shetland specials and there will be a unique evening menu based on the book *Cookery for Northern Wives*.

There will be three food related films showing too – see the What's On Guide for details of the film events.

Also as part of the festival the Archives will be having a Shetland cook book appeal, to help add to their collections. The Archives have a small selection of recipes and are keen to collect more. Cookery and recipe books give an insight into the types of food available at different times, and how people prepared it.

"We have a very small collection of recipe books, and are sure there must be many more out there. We are looking for books which have a clear Shetland connection," said Assistant Archivist Joanne Wishart. "They might have been written by a Shetlander, or published in Shetland, and can be of any age. We also are interested in unpublished recipe books."

If you have a book which might be of interest to the archives, please bring it along or contact the archives; details are on the back page. For more information on the festival visit www.shetlandfoodfestival.com

The Shetland Food Festival, and the cookery book appeal, run from 3rd-12th October.



Chef Mike Skinner will cook up a feast during the Shetland Food Festival.

What's On Guide

September

Until 13th October: Original St Ninian's Isle Treasure on display.

Until 29th September: Exhibition – 'Plastic Beach' by Robert Callender. Plastic collected off remote beaches is recreated by hand to form this unique art installation.

27th: St Ninian's Isle Treasure Fun Day, 11am-4pm, Silver making demonstrations by Shetland Jewellery. Try your hand at being an archaeologist. Have a go at silver embossing, get up close and handle the replica treasure, with a curator on hand to quiz!

October

Big Draw: See local press and our website for details of adult and family events.

4th October-3rd November: Exhibition – 'Energy: North Sea Portraits' by artist Fionna Carlisle. Twenty four portraits of people involved in all aspects the oil industry at a critical moment in its history.

3rd-12th: Cookery book appeal.

9th: Film – Babette's Feast. Doors 7.00pm showing 7.30pm.

11th: Film – Bastinado Salsa. Doors 7.00pm, Directors' introduction 7.30pm, Showing 7.45pm, Directors' Talk/Discussion, 8.30pm, Taste the Movie 9.00pm-10.00pm.

11th-26th: School holiday programme. See local press for details of workshops

12th: Film – Ratatouille. Family lunch showing. Doors 2.00pm showing 2.30pm. Film only or Film & Food tickets available. Lunch sittings at 12pm-1.15pm and 1.15pm-2.00pm.

30th: Tom Henderson Memorial Lecture. Lecture by Professor Jørn Øyrehaugen Sunde, from the University of Bergen.

All events are held at the Shetland Museum and Archives, unless otherwise stated. There may be a charge for some events. For more information, phone 01595 695057 or come in.

Winter Opening Hours

Starting 13th September

Museum:

Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm

Archives opening times:

Monday-Friday 10am-4.30pm, Saturday 10am-1pm, Sunday closed

Hay's Dock Restaurant Café:

Daytime: **Monday-Saturday 10:30am-5pm,**

Sunday 12pm-5pm

Evenings: **Thursday-Saturday 7.00pm-late, last orders 9pm.**

To book, phone 01595 741569

Rare blacksmith's tool discovered

You can only appreciate if an artefact is unusual, if you've seen enough of them to know what a typical one looks like, if you get my drift. But that is harder when dealing with a koli mould, because they are very rare in any form. John Ratter, from Foula, has kindly donated a mould that is different to any other that is known. A koli was the traditional Shetland lamp, a two-piece iron object, comprising an upper and lower pan, with a hook to hang it by. It was a truly indigenous product, and even the tools to make it were home-made. Iron was heated in a forge and tapped into shape in a matrix – the koli mould – shaped like the lamp pan, and made of stone.



Temporary assistant Laurie Goodlad who conserved the koli mould.

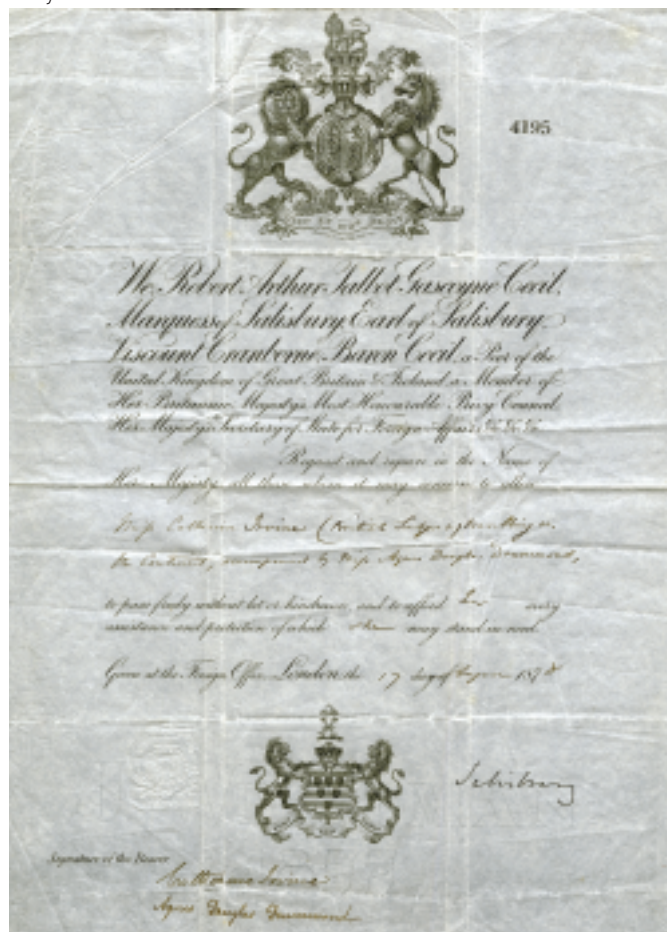
The museum has four of these, all of which is seen on display. This latest mould is iron, being a pan shape, and a billet that fits into it, with a lug for the blacksmith to grip with his tongs. It belonged to Andrew Umphray (1898-1977), but is probably older than his time. It was quite rusty, but now looks perfect after conservation.

Dr Ian Tait
Curator of
Collections

New archives donations

Two new donations to the Archives are diaries by Shetlanders of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Douglas Bain, formerly of Lerwick, kept a detailed journal while at school in the 1950s. He has transcribed, annotated and even indexed it, and has given us the result. It is a vivid account of a young man's life in the town at that date, with copious material about his school career and hobbies, his reading, and even his diet.

The other volumes are diaries of Catherine Irvine (1844-1907), one of Shetland's little-known women intellectuals. Irvine spoke perfect German, and translated various German texts into English. She travelled extensively, and the diaries, from the 1870s, are accounts of her forays abroad.



Catherine Irvine's passport to travel on the Continent, dated 1878.



Give us a clue!

Four female staff members of the inn at Sandwater, Weisdale, had their picture taken outside the premises, sometime in the 1920s.

Do you know who any of the women are?

We would like to add their names to our photographic database: <http://photos.shetland-museum.org.uk/index.php>. If you have any information, please contact Ian Tait or Tommy Watt at the Museum, details are on the back page.

STAFF PROFILE

John Hunter, Exhibitions Officer

John has been with the Museum and Archives for nearly a year. He trained as a sculptor and worked at Edinburgh Art College. John lives in Aith with his partner and two children.

Q. What does your job involve?

A. I'm mainly involved in developing an exhibition programme for Da Gadderie as well as planning Focus Displays. It can take over a year of preparation for a month's exhibition in Da Gadderie.

Q. What aspect of it do you enjoy the most?

A. It's really the diversity and variety that's interesting. On a typical day I can be working on the layout for a Focus Display, designing panels for a temporary

exhibition, meeting an artist about their forthcoming show and at some point, hopefully fitting in a tea break.

Q. What has been the best object that you've worked with so far and why?

A. Having trained as a sculptor I appreciate the tactile qualities of objects. I also have an interest in archaeology and am in a fairly unique position to be able to handle fantastic objects in the Museum collections. Putting together the display for the airport at Sumburgh gave me the opportunity to look closely at a 5000 year old 'Shetland' felsite knife. These are incredibly thin and were made with stone tools. I tried working with a piece of felsite and soon realised many man hours were needed to make one knife.



John in front of the Fisherman's Mission focus display case.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE NEWS

Grand openings abound!

The Papa Stour History Group celebrated the grand opening of the stoba at Da Biggins on Wednesday, 20th August. About 100 people attended the event, including representatives from organisations in Norway who helped with funding and expertise in Norse style reconstruction. The Papa Stour Sword Dance was performed and a huge celebratory buffet lunch was greatly enjoyed by all.

In the same week, the Bressay History Group launched the reconstruction of the Cruester Burnt Mound, now situated next to the Bressay Heritage Centre. The Bronze Age structure had been relocated from its original position further up the coast to save it from eventual erosion. A large number of people attended the day-long event on Saturday, 23rd August, which included pottery-making, spinning, and demonstrations using the burnt mound system, including a turf-hut sauna.

Both reconstructions are outside and may be visited at any time. Information panels are available at the Papa Stour site, and are due for installation at the Bressay site over the winter.

Interpretation Workshop

About 20 people from community heritage groups, the Shetland Museum and Archives and Shetland Amenity Trust attended a one-day workshop on heritage interpretation, organised by Carol Christiansen, Community Museums Officer of Shetland Museum and Archives. John Veverka presented many ideas about displays, object captions, and brochures. Further information can be obtained by visiting Mr. Veverka's website: www.heritageinterp.com. If you have ideas for more workshops, please contact Carol at the Museum; details on the back page.

MGS 2008-2009 Training Programme

Museums Galleries Scotland's new training programme is out now, offering a wide range of courses such as collection care, oral history basics, and copyright issues. Travel bursaries for members of smaller, independent museums are available. See <http://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk> or contact Lucy Adams at 0131 550 4100 for more information.

New SPECTRUM volume

The Collections Trust has published a new guide for collections management called Documentation: a practical guide. It is intended to help museums with the SPECTRUM standard, and includes information on object entry, cataloguing, and other aspects of collections documentation. To view a sample of the book, visit www.collectionstrust.org.uk/books. For more information, contact the Collections Trust on 01223 316028.



Mark Gardiner visits Hagrie's Bød.

Excavation of a 16th century bød at Gunnister Voe

Shetland is famous for its Iron Age and Viking archaeology. But not much attention has been devoted to some other important moments in our past. No one, for instance, has investigated the sites where German merchants conducted and monopolised trade in the islands between 1450 and 1710. That is about to change.

For the past few years Mark Gardiner, from Queen's University Belfast, and Natascha Mehler, of the University of Vienna, have been surveying and excavating German merchants' bases in Iceland. German traders flocked to Iceland and Shetland every year to trade with the inhabitants for fish. In June Mark came to Shetland to lecture on their discoveries, and while here he looked at the scope for further archaeological work.

He visited the site at Gunnister Voe in Northmavine called Hagrie's Bød. It has always been remembered that the small promontory with that name had been the Shetland base of a German merchant, but not many people know how well-documented the site is. In 1582 Earl Robert Stewart gave Simon 'Hagarskale', a gift of 'the port of Gunyesettervo', and the right to trade there. Simon Hagarskale, who appears in other documents as 'Harratstay' and even 'Hagerstay', was a merchant from Hamburg. His unfamiliar name,

Harriestede in German, became 'Hagrie' in Northmavine, and it has stuck to the place where he traded.

Simon came to Gunnister Voe, on and off, for 20 years. He came in a small ship, owned by the Hamburg merchant Hans Meier, with a crew of about ten. In due course his son, also Simon, travelled with him. But Shetlanders kept firm control of the German trade by granting or withholding licences for it, and as the 17th century dawned they noticed that Simon wasn't coming to Gunnister every year. That was bad news for the local community, because people got to depend on the Germans and their trade. So a local court discussed Simon's situation, and on 21 July 1602 they decided to move him from Gunnister Voe to Papa Stour, where they thought he could be more useful, and fill a gap in provision. Simon protested, but in vain.

So we know exactly when Simon and his colleagues were trading at Hagrie's Bød: from 1582 to 1602. Archaeologists don't usually have such precise dates for their sites! At first sight there isn't much of Simon's 'port' left: some rows of stone on a small peninsula. On the adjacent shingly beach, however, there is a semi-circle of large stones, and Ian Tait of the Shetland Museum and Archives has speculated that it may be the remains of a large 'noost', where Simon's customers, bringing him their fish, secured their boats.

We know quite a lot about Shetland's trade with Germany from documents. What we have lacked so far is an archaeological survey and excavation of a booth. We are looking forward to hearing what Mark and Natascha find at Gunnister Voe.

Brian Smith
Shetland Archivist

Mark Gardiner and Natascha Mehler will be pleased to see visitors at Hagrie's Bød on Wednesday, 10th September. The site is on the north side of the voe.



Mark Gardiner with Hagrie's Bød in the background. Is the structure on the beach a large noost?

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. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 10th October. If you would like to stock our newsletter or distribute copies to your group, let us know.

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