



# - Meet The - **Experts**

Dr Val Turner

**HELLO  
THERE!**

I'm Val Turner, the Regional Archaeologist. My job involves recording and looking after Shetland's archaeology. If anyone wants to build in Shetland, from a house to a Gas Plant, I check to make sure no archaeology would be harmed. I also manage excavation sites. Have you visited Old Scatness or Viking Unst?

We interviewed Val about the St Ninian's Isle Treasure. Here are her answers!

Chapels were considered to be safe places in times of trouble - the thinking was that no one would violate God's house. Of course, the Vikings played by different rules

**Why do you think the treasure was buried?**

**What happened to the people who hid the treasure? Why did they not dig it up again?**

**IT DOES SUGGEST THAT WHOEVER THEY WERE AFRAID OF OVERTOOK THEM AND THEY WERE NEVER IN A POSITION TO GO BACK FOR IT. PERHAPS THEY WERE KILLED, OR CAPTURED AS SLAVES?**

**Who do you think owned the treasure?**

It was probably a local, well-to-do family, as the treasure is a collection of different pieces of different styles from as far afield as Southern England and Ireland. Also it's not ecclesiastical stuff - so unlikely to belong to the Church - unless it was an offering I guess.



**Well- it could have been the Vikings!**

**Who do you think they were hiding it from?**



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