



# - Meet The - **Experts**

Dr Ian Tait

**Weel  
Hello!**

Hi, I'm Ian Tait, Curator of the Shetland Museum. I'm sure you've been to the museum loads and seen lots of displays that tell us about life in the past. I look after the historic objects and photos we have. It's exciting to make new discoveries and make exhibitions for people to enjoy.

We interviewed Ian about the St Ninian's Isle Treasure. Here are his answers!

## **WHAT SORT OF THINGS ARE IN THE TREASURE?**

There are lots of brooches to fasten clothes. The biggest items are the bowls, and my favourite thing is the spoon. There are even parts of a sword. Plus, there's some mystery objects: nobody is sure what the cones were for. You guess!

**DID MONKS OWN THE TREASURE?**

Probably not! If the treasure had belonged to holy men, it would have included crosses and other religious objects. Some of the items have religious designs, but that could mean the owner was a Christian



**Where was the treasure made?**

The art design gives us a clue about who made the treasure. Most of the things were made in northern Scotland. The bowl for hanging-up was made in northern England, and the swords came from central England. None of it was made in Shetland.

## **How was the treasure hidden?**



All the treasure is silver except one thing. The porpoise jawbone seems an odd thing to include. However, jawbones were often used as scoops, so whoever buried the treasure probably dug the hole in the sandy floor of the church with this bone.

