



Let's take a closer look



Q. How did people make chairs in the past?

1st

THEY FOUND WOOD

Most furniture in Shetland was made from driftwood gathered from the shores. The wood often came from shipwrecks, or cargoes of wood lost from ships. People gathered it and took it back to their homes to turn into furniture and other household items.



2nd

FURNITURE WAS MADE IN THE BARN

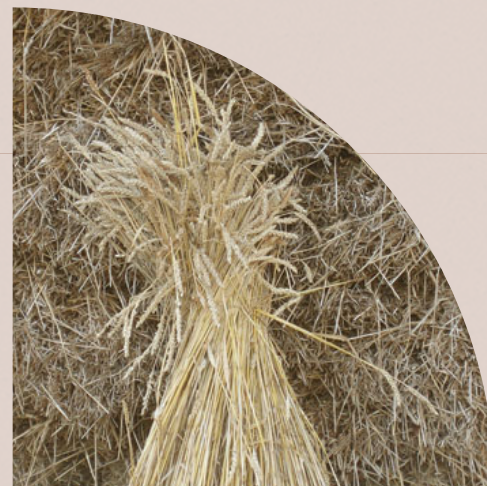
The croft house had four rooms. The house was connected onto a building called the barn. The barn was a workshop and storage area. In the barn the men worked to make items for the house, including chairs. Some people had a machine called a lathe. It was used for turning wood. There was no electricity, so all the machines were operated by hand.



3rd

STRAW WAS USED TOO!

Have you noticed that some of the chairs in the exhibition have straw backs? The crops grown on the croft were used for lots of different things. Oats were grown to be turned in to oatmeal and flour for food. The leftover straw would be used to make lots of useful things; rope, baskets and even backs of chairs. The straw would be tied together to form a back for the chair which was not just beautiful and comfortable, but kept draughts away too.



4th

THE FINISHED RESULT

After a lot of work, a beautiful piece of furniture was crafted. Today most people buy their furniture from shops. The furniture is made in factories using modern machinery.

It is fantastic Eve Eunson has taken the time to research the history into making traditional Fair Isle chairs and learnt the techniques needed to make her own.

↖ Eve used to sit on this chair and listen to stories about shipwrecks in Fair Isle as a peerie lass

↖ This is one of the chairs Eve made

