

Caring for Shetland's heritage

heritage Shetland culture

Annual Review 2021/22

Despite Covid-19 still being dominant in 2021/22 everyone involved with the Trust - staff, partners, volunteers and Trustees - embraced the need to work differently and keep everything going.

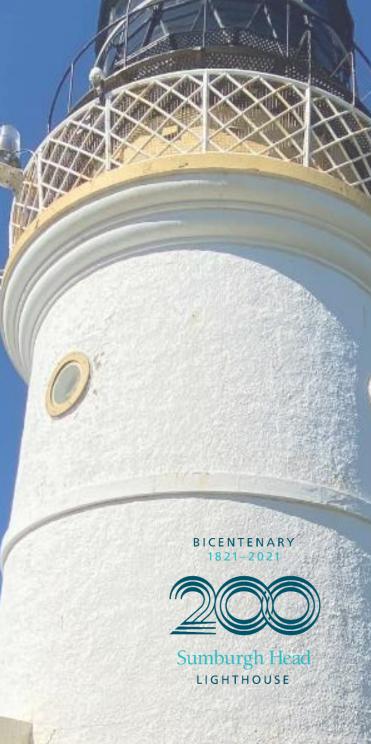
My passion and enthusiasm for Shetland's heritage and culture is kept alight by the fantastic achievements of the team. However, we are not alone and I strongly believe that through fostering partnerships with other groups and the wider Shetland community, the Trust can deliver even more for us, and for future generations. Something we, in our Shetland way, can be quietly but fiercely proud of.

In 2021 we were honoured to celebrate 200 years since the building of Sumburgh Head Lighthouse, which thrives as a community asset celebrating heritage buildings, social history and the natural surroundings.

The Board is committed to securing a healthy financial future for the Trust and that meant we had to take some difficult decisions during the year, where we could no longer afford to do all that we want to. This allowed us, however, to invest in new staff and to develop some of our key services.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us as we strive to adapt and thrive in an ever changing world.

Alison Moncrieff
Chair



Built Heritage

The Crofthouse Museum Roof was re-thatched using traditional 'Black Oats' - the first time this material has been used in many years.

Despite delays caused by the global pandemic, unsuitable weather and difficulty in sourcing the straw we were delighted with the finished result.

We secured funding from the Historic Environment Recovery Fund to support a range of Covid recovery activities at Sumburgh Head.

This included funding to paint the entire Lighthouse Complex and foghorn. This huge task commenced in 2021 and was completed in spring of 2022.

We have undertaken a review of our varied portfolio of properties and have started to explore, with local community groups, opportunities to get some unused assets back into public use.



Cultural Heritage

The Lace Assessment Project, funded by Museums Galleries Scotland's Development Fund for Recognised Collections, has enabled us to catalogue and explore our outstanding lace collection with a new display cabinet unveiled earlier this year.

In 2021, we published Laughton Johnson's biography of Tom Henderson. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, Henderson - a seaman, and founder of the Shetland Museum – was the go-to Shetlander for information on almost any aspect of the islands' history.

The 12th Shetland Wool Week took place in September, our second virtual event. With funding support from HIE we attracted thousands of participants from all over the world.

Trustees reviewed a range of options for the site at Old Scatness. A way forward is now being developed to help secure the future of the site.



Natural Heritage

We have been nurturing Gingko Trees, grown from seeds gifted to Shetland Islands Council (SIC), as part of the Mayors for Peace initiative. This year, along with representatives of the SIC, we planted a single tree in the Jubilee Flower Park to mark the 76th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Thanks to HIE we were able to take on a Graduate to help us expand our woodlands operations and support a range of planting schemes. We continue to work with the Woodlands Trust to facilitate the MoreWoods scheme locally.

With support from NatureScot, we have worked on two major Peatland Restoration projects this year and delivered a number of events to engage people in the hidden values of peat bogs.

The Shetland Biological Records Centre continues to grow with over 100 new volunteers contributing this year. A programme of events and activities was delivered to engage visitors and locals in Shetland's natural heritage.

Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark

We collaborated with VisitScotland and other UNESCO sites to develop and promote Scotland's UNESCO Trail, which was launched in 2021. We continue to work with a range of stakeholders to raise the profile of the Geopark in and outside Shetland.

We have been working closely with SIC to ensure that sites of geological interest in Shetland are adequately protected.

An up-to-date geological map of Shetland and a new Devonian geology trail have been developed and are being prepared for publication.

As our management of the Geopark is not core funded, we have been working with partners to find creative ways to fund the core costs of UNESCO Global Geopark status, whilst ensuring we can deliver key activities and initiatives.



Our Organisation

In 2021/22 we concentrated on how we work as an organisation. We committed to a 5-Year Business Plan to secure the Trust's long-term future by modernising our management arrangements and establishing a clearer purpose. It is an ambitious change programme, which will take several years to deliver. As part of this we started the process of putting in place a new management structure.

The work is backed by a strong financial plan, to get the Trust back onto a healthy financial footing. We aim to redress the underlying financial deficit position and 2021/22 shows a small in year deficit of £75,436, which is about half the deficit recorded in the previous financial year.

In collaboration with Shetland Islands Council, we reviewed the arrangements for delivering museum and archives services for the community.

With the support of Highlands and Islands Enterprise we undertook a Fair Work self-assessment to help improve our practices as an employer and build on already positive work we have done in this area.

We signed up to the Climate Hub Climate Pledge, committing to Net Zero by 2040 or sooner and have begun our work to measure and improve our environmental impact as an organisation.

We are excited for, and positive about, what the future holds for Shetland Amenity Trust. It is a unique and special organisation, which exists with the generous support of Shetland Charitable Trust.

We are committed to working with all our partners to do the best we can to support the preservation, protection and celebration of Shetland's unique cultural and natural heritage.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work.

Thank you to our funding partners













