Friday, 3rd January, 1992 Issue No. 1

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## Hurricane wreaks havoc as it sweeps across Shetland

# Unhappy New Year as homes are blown apart

By Rob Fogg Alistair Munro and John-Brian Setrice

THE hurricane which hit Shetland on Hogmanay and New Year's Day left a trail of destruction throughout the isles. Houses, caravans, sheds and boats were destroyed, radar domes at RAF Saxa Vord were blown away, part of the Hillhead and Prince Alfred Street in Lerwick had to be closed off when the roof of the Methodist Church began to be ripped off and as The Shetland Times went to press many parts of Shetland were still without electricity.

Gusts of well over 100 miles an hour were recorded in the hurricane force winds at the Lerwick Observatory and meteorological offices at Sella Ness and Sumburgh. Steady 125 mph winds were reported at Muckle Flugga, with gusts reaching around 200 mph. Similar speeds were being reported offshore.

The meteorological office at Sumburgh Airport recorded their highest wind speeds since the office was set up in February 1978. A spokesman said average speeds of over 73 mph, hurricane force 12, were recorded on New Year's morning along with gusts of 108

Lerwick Observatory recorded violent storm force 11 winds in the town. The highest average speed of 70 mph was recorded between 1 am and 2 am on Wednesday, with gusts reaching 100 mph. The wind in Lerwick had died down to an average speed of around 35 mph yesterday morning.

The Sella Ness meteorological office recorded average speeds of 66 mph and gusts of 100 mph early on Wednesday. A spokesman said the winds were force 11 touching hurricane force 12 frequently. He said the forecast for the weekend and next week was for fresh to strong winds reaching gale force at times. He said it would get colder on Saturday and Sunday with more winds expected for next week

Lerwick police were kept busy with storm damage reports.

The Hillhead and Prince Alfred Street were closed to traffic

## **EXTRA SPECIALS**

Sale starts Monday

Reductions both large and small come and pick a bargain.

6th January

Methodist Church. Slates were blown off the roof and a window at the rear was smashed. The organ inside was also damaged.

Electricity cables in Lovers Loan and Hillhead were blown down. A house in Knab Road had its window blown in and a shed was blown against a house in Breiwick Road. The roof of the Old Brevik Hospital was damaged and a large wooden container was blown onto the road at the Sumburgh Social Club. A window at The Hillhead was smashed and a shed at Bigton was blown away. A window at the Wine Shop on Commercial Street was broken and an articulated trailer belonging to P&O Ferries at Holmsgarth was blown over and store doors were blown in.

A bus shelter roof at Swarthool was blown off, and roofs off a shed at North Ness and a house at Gremista were damaged. The roof at the Baltasound Police Station, Unst, was also damaged.

A hydro pole at Gardie House, Bressay, was broken and a workman's store at Kantersted, Sound, was badly damaged.

Houses, workshops, stores and sheds in Unst were damaged during the night, with a roof at RAF Saxa Vord being blown off. The garage doors at Mills Garage, in Baltasound, were damaged and an Unst woman was treated by a local doctor after injuring her

Slates flying off houses in Yell and Whalsay were also reported as well as some sheds blowing away. In Mossbank a car was reported damaged by flying debris and in Brae a house roof was blown off.

There was considerable damage in Dalsetter Wynd at Sumburgh. Slates were being blown off roofs causing damage to parked cars and a garage wall was blown down. Several restaurant windows



A scene of utter devastation . . . what was left of the Annsbrae Caravan Site on Wednesday morning.

cladding at the Sumburgh Airport Terminal was damaged.

The Coastguard helicopter was called out at 6.15 am to airlift 11 crew from the standby vessel Veesea Sapphire, which lost power 110 miles east of Lerwick. The helicopter arrived on scene at 7.05 am but decided to wait on the Ninian Central platform until daylight before attempting the airlift in 77 mph winds. At 9.13 am the Veesea Sapphire regained her power and steering. nearby oil rigs airlifted nine of the Another supply vessel, Kaubturn,

at the Sumburgh Hotel and tow to Bergen, where they arrived tow by the standby vessel Edda at 6 pm. While the Coastguard helicopter was attending to the standby vessel a Sea King rescue helicopter from Lossiemouth was brought up to Shetland to provide back-up.

The Coastguard helicopter was scrambled again at 8.12 pm on Wednesday after another oil supply vessel, Grampian Sprite, began to list at a 15-20 degree angle 225 miles north-east of Lerwick. Bell helicopters from 12 crew and put pumps on board. took the Veesea Sapphire under The boat was then taken under

Fram and the Coastguard helicopter was stood down.

A Liberian tanker, Noga, was being observed by Shetland on Wednesday night and were Coastguard early on Wednesday hoping to get it back on again after reporting steering difficulty in hurrican winds and heavy sea swells 13 miles north of the Gruney Isle Light. The master of the 65,259 tonne tanker, with 30 people on board, later said he was happy with the situation and was making headway.

During the gales the standby vessels Alexandra Tide and Seaboard Support lost power and drifted. The Alexandra Tide later landed two injured men at Lerwick Harbour. Standby vessel Grampian Ouest was towed into destroyed. Lerwick Harbour at 10 am yesterday damaged.

Four oil rigs had reported parting cables and the submersible flotel Safe Supporter was being towed to Norway after two anchor cables had parted and three other lost tension.

In Unst the wind wreaked havoc at RAF Saxa Vord.

Station Commander Nicholas Gordon said the station had suffered a lot of damage and that three of the radar domes which dominate the skyline had been blown away.

Yesterday morning station personnel were hoping to make their first trip up to the domes since the storm. Squadron Leader Gordon said the wind speed had meant it had been impossible until yesterday to actually climb the hill to inspect the damage.

The roof of one barracks had been blown off and a service family had had to be rehoused.

The power in Unst was still off yesterday morning. However, the RAF base was unaffected by this as it has its own generator.

Squadron Leader Gordon said that attempts were being made to link the RAF generator up to the

Photo: Malcolm Younger Hydro system in Unst to try and supply power to other parts of the island. He said they had managed to connect it up for a short time

yesterday. At Northside a replica sixareen, Far Haaf, was destroyed.

The vessel, which was part of Duncan Sandison's collection in his boat museum, was blown along with its trailer over a fence and through nearby fields.

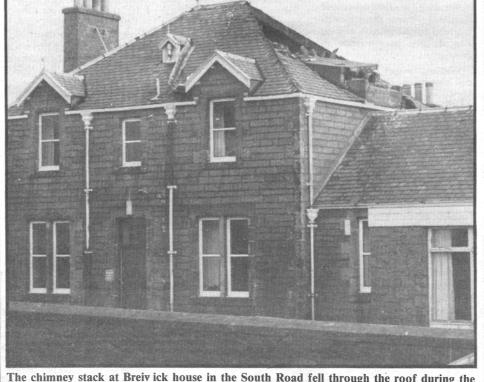
The museum in the old Swedish Kirk has also been flattened. The building was lifted 20 feet in the air as storm force winds ripped through the isle. Other vessels in the museum have also been

As The Shetland Times went to (Continued on page two)

THE council has issued the following emergency numbers: Lerwick 2114, 2995, 5264 and 3516. The housing department, social work department and construction department are working on an emergency only basis today.



Anderson & Co.



The chimney stack at Breivick house in the South Road fell through the roof during the Photo: Malcolm Younger

## Shetland

"The Old Rock"

Lerwick, Friday, 3rd January, 1992

## Efforts appreciated

THERE is no doubt that if Wednesday's weather had struck south of the border it would be national news and almost certainly be declared an emergency. Many people have been hurt, families have been made homeless, and hundreds of buildings have been damaged. Most areas of Shetland look as if someone had opened a giant sack and scattered debris all around. It is remarkable, indeed, that there were so few serious

The extent of the damage is still being assessed but it must be obvious to most people by now that caravans, even in sheltered parks, simply cannot stand up to the elements. The director of housing recently called for an investigation into providing chalets on caravan sites as one way round the problem of homelessness. The council is taking urgent action to help the homeless now but the problem must be addressed immediately at Scottish Office level. If there are those still who do not think the damage has been very bad, the message is simple: "Come here and see for yourselves."

What has been brought home in no uncertain way is our dependence on electricity. As The Shetland Times goes to press, many areas are still without power. At the height of the storms Hydro men were busy repairing damaged cables. Working day and night in the most atrocious conditions, these people are doing a job which all too often goes unsung. Of course they get paid for it, but it is not a job which many people would be willing to do and it must be placed on record that their efforts on behalf of the community are fully appreciated.

## Lucky escape

occupant of a Reawick house when it went on fire early on Monday.

Mr Barry Henry (23), of Seaview, Skeld, was alone in the house sleeping when the fire started at around 1.30 am. "I woke up when there was a bang from what I think was the

"I put on some clothes and climbed out of the window. Then I called the fire brigade."

Fire volunteers at Bixter and Walls were joined by an engine the fire had started from the from the Lerwick Fire Brigade and

breathing aparatus to extinguish

Mr Henry said: "If the bang hadn't gone off I think I would have died. The bang saved my

The living room was destroyed and the rest of the house was badly damaged by smoke.

After examining the living room on Monday, Lerwick Fire Brigade's assistant fire officer Ian Cameron said it was probable that

## STOP TO THINK

"The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last must either be very good or very bad indeed."

Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

## Tide Tables

High water times for Lerwick and Scalloway for the week commencing Friday,

LERWICK		SCALLOWAY			
09 47	22.20	Friday	07.57	20.30	
		Saturday	08.35	21.08	
		Sunday	09.11	21.45	
		Monday	09.46	22.19	
00.09	12.10	Tuesday	10.20	22.54	
00.44	12.44			23.29	
01.19	13.18	Thursday	11.28		
	09.47 10.25 11.01 11.36 00.09 00.44	09.47 22.20 10.25 22.58 11.01 23.35 11.36 — 00.09 12.10 00.44 12.44	09.47 22.20 Friday 10.25 22.58 Saturday 11.01 23.35 Sunday 11.36 — Monday 00.09 12.10 Tuesday 00.44 12.44 Wednesday	09.47         22.20         Friday         07.57           10.25         22.58         Saturday         08.35           11.01         23.35         Sunday         09.11           11.36         —         Monday         09.46           00.09         12.10         Tuesday         10.20           00.44         12.44         Wednesday         10.54	09.47         22.20         Friday         07.57         20.30           10.25         22.58         Saturday         08.35         21.08           11.01         23.35         Sunday         09.11         21.45           11.36         —         Monday         09.46         22.19           00.09         12.10         Tuesday         10.20         22.54           00.44         12.44         Wednesday         10.54         23.29

Tidal predictions for Lerwick and Scalloway have been computed and supplied by The Hydrographer of the Navy and are Crown Copyright

## **WEATHER FORECAST**

From the Met. Office, Sella Ness

General situation: High pressure over southern Europe is declining while low pressure off south-east Iceland moves east towards Norway.

Forecast for today: A few bright intervals between blustery showers. These will gradually turn to sleet and hail later. Getting colder with maximum temperatures of 5°C (41°F) falling to near zero in the wintry showers of hail or snow later tonight. Strong to gale south-east to west winds veering to north-west later.

Outlook for the weekend: Cold with wintry showers on Saturday. Milder air returning on Sunday with some rain and

## Isles still powerless

(Continued from front page)

to help repair the damage.

into Yell had come down, said the long left." spokesman, and until they were made of damage to branch lines in the isle.

He said that Yell, Unst and doubtful that power would be restored until today.

Yesterday much of the West Side was starting its second day without power though there were hopes it might be restored by the end of the day.

The picture in the west was much the same as elsewhere in Shetland with sheds and caravans being blown over and roofs losing tiles. Hillswick in particular had been badly affected.

Workers at the salmon smolt hatchery in Eshaness, which relies on electricity, were working throughout the night with power generators to keep the fish alive.

In Scalloway as well as storm damage to shops and houses, part of Main Street had been flooded and the village lost its power early on New Year's morning. The power in Scalloway came back on on Wednesday afternoon, as did the supplies to Whalsay and Brae.

Former Fetlar shop keeper Nick Baisley outlined the damage caused there.

Starting on the east side of Fetlar and working west, Mr Baisley said a byre roof had been destroyed, a shed had gone, and there were many roofs with sheeting off. "At the east sheep dipper a portable cabin used as an

press yesterday afternoon, Yell, anymore. It just exploded. There's Unst and Fetlar were still without a trail of wreckage leading to the sea and that's it. There's the roof With classic understatement, a of a house, known as the Swanks, spokesman for Hydro-Electric in which has come off and there's Elgin said the company had "quite just about every caravan on extensive problems" in Shetland. Fetlar... I think the nuns had a Eleven extra staff were flown to caravan roll over and there was a Sumburgh by helicopter yesterday caravan used as a lambing house at Aith. It has just imploded and Six poles on the main power line there's not a bit more than a foot

Mr Baisley said that at Houbie back up no assessment could be something had gone through the roof of a new heavy duty asbestos shed he owned, smashing in a section of it and an old house used Fetlar were the worst affected as a shed had lost its roof almost areas of Shetland and he was completely. "A caravan at Houbie was lifted right over a dyke and didn't touch the ground again "We keep finding more until it got to the other side of the problems as we go along," he road," he added. "That's smashed to bits.

"In the centre of the island there's an old house known as The Chapel and the roof on that's just completely gone. It was a derelict house but the point is that it was on a piece of land that an incomer could have bought."

Mr Baisley said the storm two weeks ago had probably weakened many structures but the latest winds had been more violent and people had not had a chance to do any repairs. Many folk had been out in the early hours trying to capture and weigh down stray roof cladding which, if left to blow about could have been potentially lethal.

"I would say that in 20 years here I haven't seen anything quite as bad as this."

Foula resident Councillor Jim Gear said quite a number of outbuildings had been badly damaged or "completely damaged or smashed" and blown away. In addition there was damage to roofs and houses. Part of the concrete skew down the edge of the roof of a house had been torn off and dumped across the roof. "I doubt if anyone has escaped entirely scot-free," he said.

built chalet, had gone completely, and there are windows broken and so on. At one house the householder said that the wind had picked up a stone and blown it into the window on the lee side of the house. Sometimes we get quite considerable damage on what should be the leeward side of a house because of the difference in pressure."

But not only houses and outbuildings had been hit. "One car I saw had been blown from where it was parked and was upside down.

Mr Gear said the island's electricity system was still functioning. However, there had also been extensive of damage to fences and dry stone walls "all over the place"

Asked if it was the worst he had seen in Foula Mr Gear said: "Well, the last hurricane was not dissimilar.'

Skerries appears to have got off relatively lightly, although people there are still assessing the situation. Skerries light boatman Bobby Johnson said: "It was a wild, wild night on New Year's Eve — I think nearly as strong a wind as ever there was. But there's not a lot of damage been done. There have been a few slates blown off various houses and a window broken and a skylight that's all caused through slates coming loose and blowing with the wind."

Mr Johnson added that the island's electricity supply had come back on before 6pm on New Year's Day.

A boat took to the air and flew hundreds of yards in Whalsay during the storm, according to Symbister Junior High School head John Dally. "There was a Shetland Model laid up for the winter which flew about 200 yards and landed just next to the leisure centre," he said. "It was in the last Whalsay Regatta but I don't think it will be this year's."

Mr Dally said one person he "I noticed the porch roof of one had spoken to had counted

office and store is just not there of the chalets, and that's a stone between 40 and 50 houses with slates or tiles off their roofs. "And, apart from that, on New Year's Eve someone was blown over and broke their leg.'

> A spokeswoman at the Gilbert Bain Hospital, Lerwick, said yesterday that the injured woman was "comfortable"

Mr Dally said a shed at Saltness had shifted in the wind and blocked the road, and a portable cabin at Hamister had ended up 'with the roof and the floor swapping places".

He had not heard of any vehicles being damaged but did not rule out the possibility. He said that the electricity supply had had come back on during New Year's morning but it had gone on and off "as they found the faults through the rest of the island" However, by about 5pm the whole isle had its supply restored.

In Yell the New Year roared in like a lion. Community council clerk Derek Rushton described the situation as "devastation". He said he had heard that practically all houses with slate roofs had been damaged, vehicles being turned over and caravans being damaged.

In West Yell a house being built for a couple who plan to marry in the summer had its roof torn off and walls badly damaged. The house was being built for West Yell man George Arthur and Frances Johnson, from Unst, said Mrs Jennifer Odie, who lives at Littlester, Burravoe. Yesterday morning her community councillor husband Laurence was helping them to salvage what they could at the site.

"The walls that are standing are cracked and hanging out," said Mrs Odie

Mrs Odie said that she also had heard that many council houses had lost slates.

There were also reports that a new crab and lobster boat, Ajax, had been blown ashore at

## Shock at scale of disaster

## Convener calls for help from Scottish Office

By John-Brian Setrice

SHETLAND Islands Council convener Edward Thomason will this morning fax a letter to Scottish Office Minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton urging him to come to Shetland immediately to see the damage caused by Tuesday night's storm.

Speaking at the devastated Annshrae Caravan Site vesterday morning Mr Thomason said he was shocked at the scale of destruction.

Stopping to pick up a child's doll lying by one of the caravans, Mr Thomason said that just two days ago it had been a possession in someone's home. Now it lay along with books, kettles and other household items buffeted by

Mr Thomason, who referred to the storm as a disaster for Shetland, said Lord Douglas-Hamilton would have a letter on his desk this morning suggesting he come north within the next few days to see for himself the scale of the havoc wreaked.

"The work has to be done and I believe that the Government must accept a very massive part of the responsibility. I hope to see Lord Douglas-Hamilton here in the next few days."

Councillor for the area Lewis Smith was equally shocked and likened the scene to that of one where a bomb had gone off.

"I could not believe my eyes when I visted the site. "People

have not only lost their homes, in England it would be declared a some cases they have lost absolutely everything."

Mr Smith said the situation clearly showed that caravans were simply not suitable for the Shetland climate and highlighted the severe shortage of accommodation for single people and couples in the isles.

He paid tribute to officials from the housing, construction and social work departments for the 3 am, the height of the storm. speed of the assistance given to the tenants of Annsbrae.

Director of housing Marjorie Bain, who visited the site on New Year's Day just hours after the storm hit, said that representations would be made to the Scottish Office for aid to help deal with the

Ms Bain said the situation was made even worse by the announcement at the end of 1991 that the Scottish Office housing allocation had been £1.7 million less than had been asked for by the council for 1992/93.

"The council has been saying for some time that caravans are not suitable for the Shetland climate. The irony of this is that the new chalet accommodation ordered by the council for Hoofields are being made at the moment and tenants at Annsbrae were to be among the first to be offered accommodation there.

"In the coming weeks I will be making strong representations at officer level to the Scottish Office about the situation.

"We believe that if this was happening in the South-east of

major disaster. We hope and expect a sympathetic ear from the Scottish Office."

Police were called to the site by residents at around 2am on New Year's Day morning and helped them to safety as their possessions and bits of caravan flew about the

Depute director of housing David Jones arrived at the site at

Yesterday Mr Jones said his blood ran cold when he thought about it. He had been blown from his feet like a piece of tumbleweed, he said, and it was a miracle he had not been killed.

Ms Bain said housing department officials spent most of Wednesday accounting for residents to make sure all were safe and arranging emergency accommodation for those who required it.

She said a number of people had arranged temporary accommodation for themselves and that the department were expecting many to make contact today to make arrangements for the longer

On Wednesday a team of construction department workers visited the site, placing much of the debris under large nets to prevent it flying about and causing damage to other properties in the area. At the height of the storm debris smashed into nearby houses with the Glen Orchy guest house having several windows broken.

Ms Bain said that yesterday the site was still considered to be too

dangerous for residents to return but that hopefully today officials and residents could visit the sight to see what could be salvaged.

On Wednesday at lunchtime residents returning to the scene were in a state of shock with several in tears as they viewed the site, said Ms Bain.

Several Annsbrae residents had been taken to the Gilbert Bain Hospital for treatment and yesterday afternoon one man was still being detained in hospital, though his condition was not giving concern.

A special sailing of the Yell ferry yesterday took a party of housing and construction officials to the island to assess the situation.

Ms Bain said that two families were known to be homeless as a result of the storm but that there might be more. It was still impossible yesterday to reach Unst but Ms Bain was hopeful that officials would reach the isle today.

"It will be a day or two before we know the full extent of the damage. We know the North Mainland was badly hit as well."

Another of Lerwick's caravan sites, at Gremista, was also hit, with one family being evacuated and rehoused by the council.

Ms Bain said although there had been reports of widespread damage to windows and roofs she only expected the full extent of the destruction to be known over the next few days as people started to pick up the pieces and contact the housing department.

Founded in 1872

Friday, 10th January, 1992. Issue No. 2

## Hurricane claims two lives in Unst

are the only known fatalities of the New Year hurricane which left a trail of destruction thoughout the isles.

The shoeless body of transmitter engineer Mr David John Caseley (26), Bromsgrove, was found on Sunday a short distance from the site of a bird watching hut at Hermaness on a track leading to the main road. He appeared to have been struck on the head. The body of Ms Mary Catherine Buyers (22), Ontario, Canada, was found the following

The couple were thought to have been in the corrugated iron hut when it was torn apart New Year at the Hermaness Nature Reserve.

Police, RAF personnel and coastguards from Baltasound Coastguard Rescue Company took part in the search for the

Auxiliary coastguards, braving gale force winds and driving rain, used climbing equipment to recover the body of Ms Buyers from the foot of 60ft cliffs at Shorda Helier on Monday. The wreckage of the hut was scattered from its original location half-a-mile from the clifftop to the edge.

Auxiliary coastguard Lowrie Robertson said: "The man was along the track a bit. He for the woman, it's too horrible to think about. But she probably did not know what hit her. It looks like they were in their sleeping bags when it happened."

The first clue that something was wrong came when crofter Peter Sinclair noticed the couple's car had been parked for several days near the nature reserve. He found a note in the vehicle saying that they would be back on New Year's day. He headed for the hut and found the body of the man before alerting emergency services. The Coastguard rescue helicopter took the body to Lerwick later in

The couple had already had a foretaste of the power of the elements in Shetland. On 28th December, the day after they arrived in the islands, they were seen wrestling with a tent near Ronas Hill.

Crofter Drew Ratter of Ollaberry said he thought that the weather was too poor to be camping and offered to let them stay the night in his holiday caravan, an offer which they readily accepted.

He said: "They were a very friendly couple. They spent some time in the house during the evening chatting to us and left early the next day. It was quite a shock to learn later that they were the people killed at Hermaness."

# MP backs damage plea by council

striving for Government help following the New Year hurricane, Scottish Under-Secretary Lord James Douglas Hamilton has not considered a request for him to visit the isles because he is on holiday.

Isles MP Jim Wallace, who is in Shetland for meetings with the council, wrote to Lord James this week to try and get cash for emergency damage work.

The repair bill facing Shetland Islands Council will be at least "several million pounds", according to housing director Marjorie Bain, while the private sector will be faced with a "substantially higher" bill. The department hopes to have an estimate of emergency repair costs today

Earlier SIC convener Edward Thomason wrote to the undersecretary to ask him to visit the islands. He has had no reply yet.

A Government contingency known as the Bellwin Scheme could provide money for repairs and the cost of calling out workers and services over the New Year. It does not cover capital costs such as rebuilding or the purchase of new equipment.

The scheme has only been initiated three times in Scotland, once after a storm in the Hebrides last January. It also provided money for councils in South-east England following the "Great arrangements. Storm" of 1987.

Shetland will get help from the scheme rests with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury David Mellor and first the case must be accepted by Scottish Minister for Local Government Allan Stewart.

SIC chief executive Malcolm Green has ordered reports from each department head on the extent of the damage. These will provide the substance for the

WHILE Shetland's leaders are council's case for help. The social work and the back-up of the work and housing departments are appealing for information from all those affected by the hurricane.

Housing and construction officials and the council's insurers have been touring the isles assessing damage. Workmen have been making temporary repairs with work in Lerwick well under way but they are making slower progress in the remoter areas.

Extra skips are being provided at the request of the communities and people who require large amounts of debris to be removed should contact the environmental health department.

The housing, social work and construction departments have been open to emergency calls since the New Year and the social work department have been counselling those shocked by the loss or damage to their homes.

At least 500 council houses, 20 per cent of stock, were damaged on New Year morning. A continuing survey of the private sector confirms that the worst damage was done in the North

Twenty eight individuals and families — 21 of those at Annsbrae — have been made homeless. Eighteen of them have been placed in emergency accomodation at the Staney Hill Others have made their own a bad risk.

winds. She said: "Given the conditions the response of the council workers was magnificent, particulary those who were hauled out of their beds in the early hours department, my own staff, social for this year.

emergency services and the Hydro board.

"We were particularly pleased with the sympathetic response of the media and grateful to The Shetland Times for stopping their print run and putting in the emergency numbers."

Ms Bain will urge councillors to scrap Annsbrae as a caravan site at a housing meeting next Friday. She will also recommend that former Annsbrae residents be given first choice of the majority of new council chalets to become available at phase two of Hoofields in March. The housing department are considering the long let of holiday accommodation as a temporary solution to the problem.

Residents were given an opportunity identify to possessions salvaged from the debris at St Magnus Church hall last night. At a meeting on Monday they were told that it was the intention to offer them first choice at Hoofields and were issued questionnaires to help sort out matters of ownership and insurance.

Ms Bain added that several caravan dwellers had been uninsured and three of them had been refused insurance by local Hostel or in bed and breakfasts. companies who considered them

Crisis loans are available from Ms Bain praised the work of the DSS but the criteria for awards The decision on whether or not those who turned out to deal with are so narrow that it is feared most the emergency in hurricane force people will be ineligible. Another source of help for those who have extraordinary circumstances of the suffered loss could be the time of year and weather charitable trust via the social work department.

In addition to the extra spending incurred by the hurricane Shetland is facing a 15 per cent cut of New Year's morning. I'd like in revenue support grant and to mention the construction sizeable cuts in housing consent



Even the organ was damaged in Lerwick's Methodist Church on the Hillhead. In the background is the window which blew in, causing damage to the main roof structure. Les Hann, George Anderson and Jimmy Cogle survey the damage. Photo: Malcolm Younger

Men's, ladies' and boys' wear

20% OFF ALL TOPS 10% OFF ALL JEANS

deal with the aftermath of the New done by the Hydro Board." Year hurricane.

Shetland Islands Council on council's lack of concern.

Convener Edward Thomason been out ever since," he said. said: "I have been impressed by

the way that our staff in housing, the council workers, Hydro- construction and social work Electric staff, police and responded to the challenge, and in emergency services who helped particular the work that has been

Yell South councillor Stuart However, at a full meeting of Gray praised the staff of the Direct Labour Wednesday, there was criticism of Organisation. "These boys were the Government for its apparent called out first thing on New Year's morning and they have

Twageos councillor the Rev

Lewis Smith paid tribute to the police and fire services who dealt with the havoc wreaked at the Annsbrae Caravan Site. However, he was less happy with the apparent lack of reaction from the Government to the islands' misfortune. "I can't help but feel if we had been in the South-east there would have been ministerial visits by now," he said.

Unst councillor Joan Easton said that in her area she was

becoming more and more aware of the potential economic problem caused by damage to premises where people made their living.

Yell North and Fetlar councillor Andrew Williamson said a farmer in his area had contacted him to say he had suffered so much damage he could face bankruptcy. "I would make a plea that the full gravity of the situation is appreciated," said Mr Wil-

## **CHILDREN'S SALE TODAY** LADIES' SALE **CONTINUES** (UP TO 50% OFF)

**ANDERSON & CO** 

## Aftermath: time to count

Half the roof tiles disappeared

Anderson. The inside of the house

is also said to be water damaged.

of a croft belonging to Mr Cliff

Whitney were blown away. His

house, workshop and stable was

also damaged. A mobile home

converted into a hen house was

reduced to matchwood and prize

disappeared. He also lost his entire

**Nightmare** 

5am trying to rescue his goats

from debris, said: "It was a

bloody nightmare. I lost almost

everything." In the storm a

fortnight ago a 45ft mobile home

belonging to Mr Whitney was

At Mid Yell Shetland Norse

Fish Farm, which lost part of a

feeding system and around 10,000

1kg fish in the gale before

Christmas, escaped damage after

Mr Whitney, who was out at

inside

simply

bantams

stock of sheep feed.

smashed to pieces.

At Cullivoe several outbuildings

### By Peter Johnson

NINE DAYS after the New Year hurricane the full extent of the destruction wreaked throughout Shetland is becoming apparent.

The North Isles suffered the brunt of the wind and many people were in agreement that they had never seen anything like it. Some of the most incredible damage occurred at the early warning station at RAF Saxa Vord. Hotels, houses, a museum, stores and a medical centre were also ripped apart.

Personnel clearing the remains of three giant "golf ball" radar domes and a 100ft radio tower at the top of the hill this week were hampered by high winds. A 35-40mph safety limit meant only emergency work was being undertaken on Monday morning.

Pieces of the ray-domes are scattered on the hillside beside the station and pose a menace whenever the wind rises. The damage is estimated to cost "into the hundreds of thousands of

Station commander Squadron Leader Nicholas Gordon said that operations had been affected but national security had not been endangered. He would not say if the radars which were inside the domes, which form part of the UK's early warning system, had ceased to function.

He said the domes had been the "best on the market" when they were built, but had been totally incapable of withstanding gusts estimated at up to 200mph. The roof of a married quarters and a spectator shelter at the Astro-turf pitch were also destroyed and most buildings at the station suffered roof damage. In 1960, 170mph gusts demolished a radar at Saxa Vord.

Hagdale Lodge Hotel was destroyed. Owner Tom Ellis's other property, the Baltasound Hotel, was severely damaged. Two wings of the lodge disintegrated and blew into the sea half-a-mile away. The rest of the 60-bed building was punctured by flying wood and glass and will be demolished.

Mr Ellis said: "I would describe it as a disaster. Fortunately everybody was away for Christmas. If that had not been the case there would certainly have been very serious injuries at Hagdale. The pieces of wood that were flying around were just beyond belief."

Temporary repairs were being done to the Baltasound Hotel on



Duncan Sandison, Baltasound, with what was left of his sixareen Far Haaf, which was blown Photo: Malcolm Younger across a field and into the fence.

Tuesday, the first day in which weather permitted work. A 10ft by eight foot section of roof was ripped off the lounge bar exposing it to the elements. Slates disappeared from the public bar roof and part of the flat central roof disappeared. Workmen have been unable to switch on power for safety reasons.

At Baltasound Airport a portable cabin which stored medical and emergency equipment was destroyed. The nearby terminal building was virtually

At the south end of Unst huge roofs were ripped off farm buildings owned by Brian Hunter. The roofs of the silo and byre were spread "in complete smush" for hundreds of yards to the lea of the buildings. Remarkably, none of the cattle in the byre were hurt.

A Sundraquoy woman, Mrs Ella Cluness, had a lucky escape when the chimney stock of her house crashed through the roof and landed on her bed. She was visiting relatives at the time and has since moved in to a new house.

A nineteenth century store at North Side, Baltasound, owned by Alex Sandison & Sons was virtually destroyed. One half of the 150ft long Nissen-style office and store had the roof torn off and a wall collapsed underneath. Now the building will be demolished, leaving a severe

shortage of storage space on the from a new house at Cullivoe belonging to Mr William John island.

Mrs Lexie McMeechan, Midgarth, Baltasound, had to abandon her house after it was damaged by corrugated iron sheets from the North Side building.

The old Swedish church which housed the Baltasound boat museum owned by Duncan Sandison was completely demolished and two of the exhibits were wrecked. The first boat to compete successfully as an unballasted maid, Maid of Thule, built by Mr Sandison, was blown 200 yards from the building and a 30ft sixern travelled 230 yards before landing upside down on top of a straining post. Five other boats escaped relatively undamaged.

### Ruined

Frank and Margaret Peterson, Muness, are fighting a losing battle to keep water from ruining their house after the back of the roof ended up in the sea.

Mr Peterson, who moved into his family home a year ago, said: "Half the house has been ruined by water and we're still assessing the damage. If there is any more wind like that the whole roof will go. We have no power and are living in darkness."

A 12 by seven metre greenhouse built by Mr Peterson last year, which provided his full-time employment, was also devastated. "It looks as if an Exocet hit it. There's just the frame and a heap of twisted pipes in the middle," he

Mrs Mary Peterson, who lives nearby, had a caravan blown away. It also ended up in the sea. Throughout the isle roofs, sheds, cars and other items were wind damaged.

Yell suffered extensive damage with roofs, sheds and portable cabins blown away. At West Yell the complete roof of a newly-built house owned by Mr George Arthur was lifted 50 yards uphill and across the A 968 before dropping to earth. One wall and parts of the gables were destroyed.

Also at West Yell a 10 foot piece of roof was blown from a house built last year by Mr William Williamson. The inside of the house suffered water damage

protected location. Council workmen were sorting

through the rubble of Annsbrae Caravan Site, Lerwick, this week where 21 caravans had to abandoned. One man continues to stay there despite the lack of electricity and official advice to leave.

Eight caravans were thrown through the air or demolished where they stood. Practically all the others were damaged. The workmen have been separating personal possessions from the wreckage as they clear the site.

Only two people received serious injuries. Mr Jeffrey Brooks is still in hospital with chest injuries and another man had a broken leg. Many people abandoned their caravans prior to the peak of the devastation. For others, only luck saved them.

Mr Leslie Barclay was holding a New Year Day party in his uninsured caravan, the lowest on the site when, it was struck by an airborne neighbour.

'About 1.30 am we heard a whistling through the air, then the windows exploded. It sounded like a jumbo jet taking off. We managed to get out after five or 10 minutes and there was a sea of caravans around us.'

Mr Barclay and several of his 14 guests were cut by flying glass and two were concussed and taken to hospital.

He said: "It was a miracle nobody was badly hurt or even killed. No one was facing the window or they would have had a face full of glass. There were small pieces stuck in my back."

He is now staying with friends and is paying back a £13,000 loan for his caravan.

The roof of Lerwick Methodist Church, Hillhead, will almost certainly have to be replaced. The north side of the roof slipped seven inches and the frame was severely damaged. Daylight can now be seen through the peak of the roof. Insurance surveyors were assessing the damage this week. A Telecom van and a nearby window were smashed by slates falling from the church.

The Rev Alan Warrell is hopeful that the organ, worth

cages were moved to a more £80,000, which was badly damaged by a flying window, is repairable.

He said: "It will be business as usual, although we will have to change location. Other churches have been extremely helpful by offering alternative venues for meetings.'

Barriers on the Hillhead were lifted on Tuesday although Prince Alfred Street remains closed to

At Brevik House, South Road, a chimney fell through the roof and came to rest on iron girders supporting a water tank. Workmen dismantling the structure may also demolish the other chimney on the building.

Other houses and buildings in Lerwick had slates and cladding blown off and sheds and portable cabins were destroyed. Windows in several houses were broken by flying objects.

The west coast of Northmavine was also severely hit, although damage was done throughout the whole area. Owner of The Booth Jan Morgan described her pub "as if a bomb had hit it". The car park was washed away and the roofs of the house, cooperage and pub were damaged.

### Struggle

She added that given the age and type of the buildings it was going to be a tremendous struggle to get the pub into a state where it was fit to be opened for the 1992

The St Magnus Bay Hotel, 100 yards up the hill, suffered structural damage estimated at around £350,000. The front wall of the dining room moved out and and the roof of the flat where proprietors Peter and Adrienne Titcombe live shifted. The kitchen and boiler room moved on their foundations and the chimney stalk will have to be demolished. The hotel is still open and only one room is totally unusable.

The roof of a house owned by Mr John Jamieson, Hillswick, lost over 300 tiles. It was also damaged in the gale two weeks ago.

Six wooden salmon cages at Aqua Farms' Hamar Voe site near Hillswick were damaged with the loss of between 5000 to 10,000

## STOP TO THINK

"Honesty is the best policy, but he who acts on that principle is not an honest man."

Archbishop Richard Whately (1787-1863)

10th January. All times are G.M.T.

LERWICK		SCALLOWAY		
54 13 53	Friday	00.04	12.03	
	Saturday	00.41	12.41	
	Sunday	01.22	13.23	
	Monday	02.09	14.14	
	Tuesday	03.08	15.21	
	Wednesday	04.24	16.49	
	Thursday	05.41	18.11	
	.54 13.53 .31 14.31 .12 15.13 .59 16.04 .58 17.11 .14 18.39 .31 20.01	.54 13.53 Friday .31 14.31 Saturday .12 15.13 Sunday .59 16.04 Monday .58 17.11 Tuesday .14 18.39 Wednesday	.54         13.53         Friday         00.04           .31         14.31         Saturday         00.41           .12         15.13         Sunday         01.22           .59         16.04         Monday         02.09           .58         17.11         Tuesday         03.08           .14         18.39         Wednesday         04.24	.54         13.53         Friday         00.04         12.03           .31         14.31         Saturday         00.41         12.41           .12         15.13         Sunday         01.22         13.23           .59         16.04         Monday         02.09         14.14           .58         17.11         Tuesday         03.08         15.21           .14         18.39         Wednesday         04.24         16.49

Tidal predictions for Lerwick and Scalloway have been computed and supplied by The Hydrographer of the Navy and are Crown Copyright

## WEATHER FORECAST

From the Met. Office, Sella Ness

General situation: High pressure extending north-east across Scotland is edging south. This is allowing Atlantic frontal troughs to move into the north of the Shetland area.

Forecast for today: Cloudy with periods of rain and drizzle. heavy at times in the north. Maximum tempertures rising to 7°C (45°F) and not falling much tonight. Strong to gale force south-west winds.

Outlook for the weekend: Milder than normal with clear periods and a few showers but strong south-west winds at times.

armers SALMON farms suffered at least early to say if any of the smaller Whalsay had a food store broken,

in the background exposed to the elements.

equipment, boats and lost fish in the hurricane.

Shetland Salmon Farmers' Association secretary Jimmy Moncrieff estimated that the total would be even higher when the final results of a survey come in from island salmon farms.

He said: "For the companies that have lost fish and cages and had direct financial loss it's very serious. Some of the smaller ones can ill afford it."

He added that it was still too

£500,000 loss in damaged cages, ones would go to the wall as a result of the destruction.

Farms in the Burra area were the worst hit by the south-westerly winds. Cliftlaks Ltd lost six cages and 18,000 smolts and had another three cages damaged. Southern Harvester lost 3400 fish. **Punds Voe Salmon lost four cages** and had others damaged and Shetland Sea Farms had lost and damaged cages.

On the West Side Sandsound Salmon had a workboat destroyed and Hallmark Hatchery in

storage tank destroyed and lost 1000 fish.

Saxa Vord CO Nicholas Gordon holds a piece of the damaged radome which left the radar

Other salmon farm damage is reported in the main hurricane story on these pages.

Mr Moncrieff attributed the "relatively little" damage the Shetland farms had suffered in the extreme seas to sound moorings and added that many in the west coast of Norway had been completely wiped out on New Year's day.

Information on damage to salmon farms and land agriculture

was requested by SIC director of research and development Jack Burgess at a meeting of the salmon farming working group on Tuesday. The report will go with those from other council departments to provide an overview of the damage throughout Shetland.

Photo: Malcolm Younger

Mr Moncrieff said later: "We don't want to be treated in isolation. That would be wrong. The proper way is for us to be coordinated and that would be the right way to approach the Government."

## cost and clear up debris

smolts worth up to £40,000. The

Foula, which in the past has experienced some of the most violent storms in Shetland, also had "by far the worst wind in tractor was left unscathed. Bigton anyone's living memory".

In an isle where houses are built to withstand the buffeting of hurricane-force squalls, byres, barns, and sheds were de-roofed, dykes were blown down and cars rolled over.

The roof of crofter John Holbourn's tiny generator shed was ripped off with five hundredweight of concrete attached. It sailed 50 yards before hitting the ground 10 yards short of his house at the north end of the isle.

### **Traumatic**

Mr Holbourn said: "You literally could not have gone outside or you would have been gone. It was all a bit traumatic but we were very lucky that there was no major damage done to dwelling houses and no injuries.'

At Ham a house owned by Ross Gear had part of the roof ripped off and the roofs of all the outbuildings there disappeared without trace. Just up the road, an imploding window at the Haa narrowly missed Vaila Holbourn when it was struck by airborne debris.

Further to the north-east Papa Stour suffered relatively little damage though farmer Ted Gray and his family came home from first footing to see their caravan rolling downhill to the sea. The wind also lifted and smashed a Shetland Model boat.

Fetlar roofs and outbuildings were damaged and a caravan belonging to Charlie Thomason, Hubie, which was held down by half-a-ton of concrete, was hurled over a wall and the single track road without touching either.

Heavy seas washed infill from behind concrete blocks supporting timberwork at Oddsta ferry terminal and from around the base of the brakewater. According to director of construction Joe Gray the terminal remains fully operational.

Damage in the rest of Shetland was more scattered, though at Weathersta, Brae, a trail of destruction was left as sheds and garages were wrecked. At Busta, Ivor Hay's dog returned home later on New Year's day after having disappeared in its kennel. The porch of the Brae Hotel fell off and a stripped car at the Brae garage was blown across the road.

Loading of tankers at Sullom Voe Oil Terminal was suspended for some time when wind speeds rose above 30 knots. Aside from that ports and harbours department operations were unaffected.

In the terminal itself the power station, already partially denuded by the pre-Christmas gales, had more cladding ripped off. A door o clear un damage

In Reawick a Shetland Model boat broke its moorings and was washed ashore and a car was rolled onto its roof.

At Vaila Sound Salmon, Walls, two wooden cages containing smolts broke in half and around 5000 fish escaped.

A garage at Bigton belonging to cages are thought to be repairable. Mr Johny Morrison was completely destroyed. One of the three cars inside was squashed by a collapsing concrete wall but a farmhouse, a listed building owned by Jim Budge, lost slates from the roof and left a nearby sheep shed looking like a pepper pot. Thirty asbestos sheets and much of the house slates need replacing.

Road turning places at Westing, Unst, and the old Mossbank pier were washed out by the sea. The Westing turning place was totally destroyed and will cost an estimated £15,000 to replace.

Several road huts belonging to the department were overturned and one in Unst vanished entirely. Council plant throughout the islands had windows smashed and various buildings had roof damage. A heavy power screen was blown on its side and damaged at the Scord quarry, Scalloway.

At least 40 street lights were damaged but the tally is not complete. Five cattle grid gates ere destroyed in the north and in Unst the concrete parapets of two grids were flattened. Nineteen road signs have also been reported damaged and 18 bus shelters throughout the isles were damaged or completely blown away.

### Flooded

Most of the fishing fleet was tied up over the festive season, but several standby vessels were damaged. Manager of Malakoff and Moore's shipyard in Lerwick, Allan Gould, said they had repaired five boats: the Grampian Quest was badly damaged - her wheelhouse was stove in and her rescue boat damaged. The repairs were sufficient to allow her to return to Aberdeen. Seaboard Skua had her wheelhouse windows broken; Grampian Sprite had bulwark damage and her survivor accommodation was flooded; Seaboard Snipe lost her mast and Grampian Star had her fast rescue boats damaged.

Manager of HNP John Pottinger said his firm had not had to deal with much storm damage to boats, although Anzac, a two-year-old lobster boat from Yell belonging to Robert Anderson, needed carpentry and engineering work.

### **Blacked** out

A team of 45 Hydro-Electric staff, including 10 linesmen and an engineer flown from the mainland on Thursday morning, battled to reconnect supplies after most of Shetland was blacked out by snapping electricity cables and collapsing poles.

at Saxa Vord. The RAF base generator was connected to the and gave residents a half-hour Yell and Fetlar were reconnected on Saturday afternoon. The West getting the repairs done Side was reconnected the previous back on the 1st and 2nd.

Scottish Hydro-Electric district thousands of pounds. engineer David Hudson said that his men had never seen anything manager George Simpson said the like the destruction caused by the last few days had been "pretty



when winds had eased enough for with claims. linesmen to climb poles.

While revellers staggered around the town streets in the early hours of the new year Hydro men disconnected conductors brought down by flying debris at Annsbrae Caravan Site.

Mr Hudson said: "I thought the last gale, a fortnight ago, was bad enough but this was far far worse. Men were phoning up volunteering to work on New Year's Day and I think we did a pretty good job. The public have been very very patient and helpful in letting us know where the faults were.'

He added that lines in Shetland were built to a higher standard than those in Scotland which were stronger than those in the rest of the UK but there was little more the Hydro could do to prevent hurricane damage.

British Telecom riggers were flown up from Manchester on the 2nd to repair damaged aerial dishes on Scousburgh hill and Bressay. Customer services were not affected, however, as engineers re-routed lines. Lightning also damaged lines in the north Mainland. Again calls were re-routed and services maintained

The building trade is not yet rushed off its feet with repairs. At the moment they are mainly involved in producing estimates.

Quantity surveyor Michael Thomson said on Wednesday there was a lot of paperwork to be Power was cut off for five days completed first. In cases where emergency repairs had to be done. where there was a threat of further Unst supply on New Year's day damage to the property, repairs were going ahead. But if it was a respite from the gloom. It did not case where, for example, tiles had have the power to supply the come off a roof and the underfelt at the main store was blown in and whole island, however, and was was still there, householders extra staff were called to the site disconnected. The rest of Unst, should get approval from their insurance companies first before

Mr Thomson said that his firm day and power in other areas came had dealt with dozens of cases where the work would run into

At the Prudential Insurance,

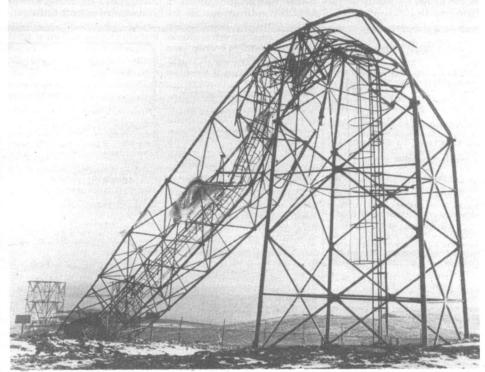
200 mph winds. As well as hectic' with hundreds of claims. extensive damage to cables 15 It was still difficult to assess the flattened. Workers concentrated had been done, he said, and extra on isolating faults on New Year's assessors had been brought in day and began repairs on the 2nd from the mainland to help deal 2178 for advice.

helpline for people generally, so poles on Mainland and Yell were total amount of damage which that anyone who needs assistance, whether or not their insurance is with the firm, can ring Lerwick

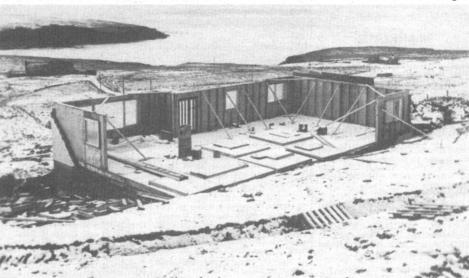
Both Mr Thomson and Mr

Photo: Malcolm Younger

The Prudential has set up a Simpson said they believed most people would be insured against damage apart from those who lived in caravans, which were obviously a bad risk as far as most insurance companies were concerned.



The remains of a communications mast at RAF Saxa Vord. Photo: Malcolm Younger



This house being built in West Yell had its roof blown off and its walls damaged. Photo: Malcolm Younger



Lowrie Robertson takes a look at the extensive damage done to Sandison's building at Photo: Malcolm Younger Baltasound.



The roof of this garage at Bigton fell down flattening a car inside.