

## ***Bards in the Bog* book launched on World Toilet Day**

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Shetland Library.



Bards in the Bog, the Shetland project that has been displaying original poems in public toilets, is to be celebrated in print. A book of 24 of the best Bards in the Bog poems has been published by Shetland Library, and will be launched in the Library at noon on World Toilet Day, the 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

The project attracted entries from all over the world. The selection was made by Jen Hadfield as part of the Poet Partner scheme, and has resulted in a collection of high quality and great variety. There are six Shetland poems among the 24, including several dialect ones. Some of the poets have previously published their own collections.

All profits from the book are to be donated to the World Toilet Organisation, an international campaigning body for worldwide sanitation. 2.5 billion people worldwide are without access to proper sanitation, which risks their health, strips their dignity, and kills 1.8 million people a year.

Chair of Services Committee, Gussie Angus said "this low-cost project has had far-reaching effects, with many people reading poetry for the first time in many years and hopefully being encouraged to visit the library and extend their interest. I am also delighted that others are going to benefit from the sale of the Bards in the Bog book".

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November the launch of the book will be celebrated at a gala evening of poetry at Shetland Library. All 24 poems will be read aloud, some by local poets who feature in the book: Jim Mainland, James Sinclair and Susan Pearson. There will also be toilet-themed music, refreshments and a chance to buy the book, which costs £5. Entry is free and all are welcome.

The book will be on sale from the Library and mobile libraries from 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Ends (see page 2 for notes)

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**Notes:**

The *World Toilet Organization* is a global non-profit organization committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide. WTO is also one of the few organizations to focus on toilets instead of water, which receives more attention and resources under the common subject of sanitation. Founded in 2001 with 15 members, it now has 215 member organizations in 57 countries working towards eliminating the toilet taboo and delivering sustainable sanitation.

The *Poet Partner* project teamed poets with Libraries across Scotland. It was sponsored by The Scottish Poetry Library and the Paul Hamlyn Trust, and locally by Shetland Library and Shetland Arts.

**World Toilet Organisation website:** [www.worldtoilet.org](http://www.worldtoilet.org)

**Bards in the Bog web page:** [www.shetland-library.gov.uk/BardsintheBog.htm](http://www.shetland-library.gov.uk/BardsintheBog.htm)

