



The 'Gutter's huts' at the North Ness – from once being an embarrassing eyesore upon Lerwick's waterfront and a highly inconvenient/inappropriate store for the library's surplus stock, they have now been transformed into smart new office accommodation in the North Ness Business Park. The gable behind was a North Eastern Farmer's store and two Nissen Huts, one of which was used as a garage for the Bank of Scotland's van, once occupied the foundations in the foreground.





Photograph, courtesy of Mr Caleb Marwick.

Above is another view of the gutter's huts prior to their being taken in hand along with the rest of the area. The old Nissen hut is clearly visible on the right and the general scruffiness of the area can be appreciated through the presence of an old car door (far right), next to that an old abandoned lobster



Photograph, courtesy of Mr Caleb Marwick.

creel and in front of the shabby hut (with yellow door) are various discarded plastic containers and fishboxes. Caleb Marwick's other interesting picture (left) shows the remains of what were thought to be a row of primitive long drop toilet cubicles. Built on the pier's edge with the 'seat' overhanging, these ingenious conveniences were a source of great fascination and mirth to a generation of youngsters. The remains of an old iron container is tucked away behind the 'Lime Box'. Here again was another source of

entertainment. At various times a lime-filled reefer would tie up at the nearby pier and discharge a cargo of lime to be distributed locally. Latterly the gates of the 'Lime Box' became rusted to

ineffectiveness thus providing youngsters with access to what was effectively an oversized sand pit in which to play.



Of course if getting one's trainers filled with lime did not appeal, this albeit fairly scruffy area of the town had a certain rustic charm, particularly on a fine night. Bathed in a yellowy evening glow, one could often find a comfortable spot to watch harbour traffic pass lazily by or observe the sun finding rest over Holmsgarth.



Photograph courtesy of Mr Mike Forbes

In the days to come the newly completed walkway with comfortable benches will ensure that these pleasures can be enjoyed by everyone, and not only those predisposed or indeed willing, to take their repose atop a pile of pallets. Of course for the ultimate in maritime-related leisure activities it is often much more enjoyable to find oneself *on* the water rather than merely gazing longingly at it. As Mike Forbes's contemporary picture illustrates, given the right weather conditions even a miniscule craft can potentially provide its owner with hours of high quality entertainment. Indeed increasing numbers of people are enjoying the freedom and sense of release that these pursuits afford as Shetland's marina facilities improve and become ever more numerous.