



The Shapinsay Sound



LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.
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We hope you all enjoyed Dragon Days! We were all so proud of the children, who did a fabulous job learning all their lines and acting so well. You can read more about it in Phoebe's review.

Many thanks also to all the adults who helped; we really couldn't do it without you. We do have DVDs for sale at the school. They cost £5 each and all money raised will go towards the residential trips and outdoor learning.

At the time of writing we are fundraising for Sports Relief. The **P7** Young Leaders have planned lots of different sporting activities, including a run round the Balfour Mains Track.

Nursery children are very excited as they have a brand new easel in their room (Sue is also delighted with this!). Some of the best things to play with though have been the empty boxes and the children have had great fun playing with them!

P1 - 3 went on a visit to Balfour Castle and found out more about David Balfour and the castle. Thanks to Elodie for showing us round and to Sheila for coming with us.

P4 - 7 have been designing their own posters. They are in the style of World War Two propaganda posters, but with modern messages. We've all been enjoying getting outside when the weather allows as well and are delighted with the cable reels that the builders have given us.

Our fundraising horse racing evening and sale have been postponed. **The horse racing evening** will take place on **Saturday 21st April** and the **sale will be from 12 - 3.30pm on Sunday 22nd April**. If you still have anything which the children would be able to sell please can this come into school before the 20th April. All money raised will go to the residential trips and outdoor learning. Please watch out for more information about both events nearer the time.

We are very nearly at the **Easter holidays**. Next term will be a busy one with a rugby trip, Bag the Bruck, trips to Hoy and Lagganlia, a music course for some of the older children and more.



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The Shapinsay Sound

Shapinsay Development Trust

April 2018

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HAPPY EASTER



FROM

ALL AT THE BOATHOUSE



Review of Dragon Days

by Phoebe Dunnett

Looking back, plays were the best times of the year for me at school. I have such fond memories of dressing up as angels in the Nativity, or as a princess in Snow White and the Seven Jockeys, dancing around on the stage and getting out of class to sing songs and learn lines. Watching Dragon Days this year brought back all that nostalgia, and I can honestly say I wish I had been in it.

Dragon Days is a story about a small village named Stumbledorf and its clumsy inhabitants, all terrified of the mysterious dragon that visits once a year. Each month, they offer food to the dragon in exchange for not being eaten, but when the ancient prophecy suddenly comes true – Tommy Rumble is here to save the day the villagers decide to finally take on the fierce dragon. It was directed expertly by Leanne Bews, who did an amazing job with the staging, and made sure everybody said the right lines so that every joke landed and made the audience laugh. The story is accompanied by colourful characters; such as Gilda the Goat-herder played by Calleigh Muir, the leader of the jealous Fatburn group played by Charlotte Diamond, the Alpine story teller Helga played by Jennifer Meason and the hero himself Tommy Rumble played by Lisa Bady. The amazing costuming done by Sue made the story come to life even more with Gilda's flicked out plaits and rosy cheeks, Nicky Harbour's hilarious Dame costume and Leilah Muir's teacher outfit complete with a grey wig and wrinkles.

The songs in the play were catchy and amazingly sung. There were several spectacular solos in this play, such as Erin Boyd's, who played the dragon Gawaine, in the song 'A Dragon's Life'. As the play takes a climactic turn and the villagers are stuck up a mountain in a blizzard, they sing the song 'No Way Down', which with its ominous stomping of feet and sheets flapped about to look extra dramatic, the song for me had strong echoes of Les Miserables – not something you expect from a primary school panto, but was as entertaining and interesting as it was surprising.

What I think was my favourite thing about Dragon Days, what truly made it special, was the message behind it. Gawaine the dragon is feared throughout the village, but as Gilda and Tommy and the rest of the villagers soon find out – there was nothing to be afraid of and Gawaine has a kind heart. The play ends on a positive note with the song 'Don't Judge', and the dragon and the villagers are friends.

As always, the school children's singing and acting brought a smile to the audience's faces, and I know they will remember it for the rest of their lives. I would like to say a big thank you to the school kids for their incredible job and the teachers and everyone involved as well.



New Community film group on Shapinsay



A film group is being started by Shapinsay's newest resident Carole Atkins who has just moved into Balfour Village after leaving the small and remote coastal community of Diamond Harbour in the Canterbury region of New Zealand for a new life in Orkney.

Born in the UK, Carole has lived in New Zealand and Australia for the past 25 years and is a qualified teacher and speech and language therapist.

After coming over to work for 6 months in Orkney in 2015 she loved it so much that she decided to make Orkney home. Carole has recently re-joined the speech and language therapy department here and works with pupils in schools on the mainland and in the North Isles, "I love working with children" she says "because they keep you so grounded and down to earth and I like that."

It was within the context of the Canterbury region being hit by the Darfield 7.1 earthquake on 4th September in 2010 and the Christchurch 6.3 earthquake on 22nd February 2011, which sadly

took the lives of 184 people, that Carole became involved with the film club in her own community. "With many of the theatres and cinemas in the area totally destroyed or out of action due to extensive damage as well as the logistics involved in travelling anywhere due to the ongoing aftershocks and continuing threat of landslides" she explains "folk began to look at what they could provide in their own local area when previously they would have just driven or taken the ferry into town."

"Community became vitally important in the chaos and uncertainty following the earthquakes", Carole shares, "the Diamond Harbour film club provided a chance for us all to escape from our daily challenges and to do something 'normal'. What I liked about the film club was being exposed to films I wouldn't have chosen myself and watching them alongside other people in the community".



The Shapinsay film club will be held in the Boathouse monthly on a Thursday night and Carole plans to kick things off with a Kiwi season. Prior to leaving Diamond Harbour, Carole asked friends and neighbours to recommend a favourite Kiwi film which they thought folk in Orkney might enjoy. "I didn't quite expect the avalanche of recommendations which had me running around like a headless chook trying to find them all before my freight left for Orkney", she laughs.

The Kiwi season will include a wide variety of Kiwi classics from documentaries to comedy, fantasy to drama, history, sci-fi and the odd thriller. "Kiwi films have a different flavour", Carole reveals, "they're often low budget but with a raw quality and quirky, endearing spirit which embraces the Kiwi cultural 'take' on things."

Anyone interested in being alerted to which films are being shown and when should let Carole know by emailing her at opheliasparkle@yahoo.com or by leaving their contact details at the Boathouse office.

You will need to be on 'the list' to see if there's anything that you'd like to come along to as due to our charity licence restrictions we are not able to advertise any films.
The first movie night will be Thursday April 12th at 7pm

Kirk News

Happy Easter! Hope you have a good start to the month

If you've been to our website recently (<http://www.shapinsaykirk.info/>), you might have noticed under the heading 'About us' that we've worked out a vision statement. It happened during the Vision evening facilitated by Richard Lloyd last month. It says: 'Our vision is to be Christ-centred and rooted in the community. By our Gospel-based worship and faithful prayer the Spirit will transform us as well as others through and with us. We will honour the past and embrace challenge, while remaining relevant, friendly, warm, approachable and inclusive.' We feel it explains well what we are about – the practical outworking of which you can see below and by coming to worship with us every Sunday at 12 noon (unless otherwise advertised here).

A number of things to highlight – first of all, on the 13th April (Friday this time!!) we're going to hold another coffee afternoon at the Boathouse. It will have a Messy Easter station for the creative folk and it will also be a fundraiser for the Handbells Group who are hoping to purchase a set of tone chimes. They will have a number of fundraising activities (our share of Bag the Bruck money will hopefully go towards that cause too see below) but this coming coffee afternoon is one of them. There will be a raffle – prize donations most welcome! Don't miss it!

Secondly the Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after the service on the 22nd April. It never takes long and yet is a good opportunity for the congregation to ask any questions and raise issues if there are any. That's also the time when we look at the accounts and get to ask questions about the financial affairs of the church.

This year again we're going to participate in Bag the Bruck. We're meeting at the harbour at 3 pm on the 29th April and we'll work our way to the Boathouse. We're aiming at finishing at about 5 pm and there will be a hot cup of tea or coffee waiting for us at the Boathouse. Join us on the day and help us to look after our island!

Also many of you have been asking about our stint at the Blue Door – thank you for all the interest and pledges of support! The Blue Door dates are 17th to 22nd September. We'll be very grateful for any donations! Thank you and see you soon!

Julia

Contact me at: Rev Julia Meason, 874789, JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk

Elwick Bookwrights



Pam Beasant (centre) with Sheila Garson (left) and Kate Fereday Eshete

At our meeting on 3 March, Carole Atkins, who is a group member, introduced us to Sound Poetry, whose meaning is transmitted solely by sound. Of particular interest was *The Loch Ness Monster's Song* by Edwin Morgan (1920-2010), which the poet himself reads at www.poetryarchive.org/poet/edwin-morgan and which is sure to entertain children – so let them hear it. Another classic sound poem is Les Murray's *Bats' Ultrasound*.

The Sound Poetry session inspired our convener, Sheila Garson, to write a super sound poem inspired by Shapinsay place names, which she recited at our meeting on 17 March when we met for a Poetry Workshop run by Pam Beasant.

Pam introduced us to the poet Norman MacCaig and also taught us about writing cinquains (five-line poems with 2, 4, 6, 8 and 2 syllables). We each supplied lines for a group poem, which Pam is going to put together for us. The Elwick Bookwrights meet at 10.15 on two Saturday mornings each month in the Boathouse. This month our meeting dates are 7 and 21 April. Visitors and new members are welcome to come along. For news, follow our Facebook page.

Kate Fereday Eshete, Secretary

Garden Notes from Old School

A new series of Gardeners World has started so it must be time to get outside and start gardening again. It's hard to ignore Monty's enthusiasm for long.

Early spring is an exciting time in the garden; each sunny day sees new shoots pushing up from the soil and new leaves appearing on shrubs and trees. Often this new growth has a depth of colour which mellows as the season progresses but early on, it is almost as though it has to make a statement that the winter is over and 'here I am again'!



New leaf growth on *Spiraea Goldflake*



Emerging leaves of *Euphorbia*

April is a mad month. The equinox in March tells us that it is now officially spring and it's a mad rush to get seeds sown to give the maximum amount of growing time. The weather above ground may not be balmy but the soil temperature now is warm enough for seeds of most hardy plants to germinate. Once you can see weed seeds germinating or tiny seedlings of flowers that have self-sown from the previous year then you know the time is right.

As early as the beginning of March I noticed some tiny seedlings surrounding the mature Hellebore plants. Most of these will probably end up as a muddy pink colour, nothing spectacular, but you never know so I will retrieve them and grow them on in their own pots so that I can monitor them.

Cucumbers and chilli peppers sown last month are now ready to be potted into individual pots to give them more room and less competition for food. Peppers in particular really don't like the cold so they need to be kept in a warm environment with plenty of light; water them with tepid water so their roots don't get a nasty shock.

Buddleja shrubs are putting on new leaves now so it's time to prune them back to a low framework from which they can put on lots of new growth and produce a mass of flowers. They are such an easy shrub to grow and if they can be placed in a sunny spot out of the worst of the wind, they will attract numerous butterflies through the summer and into autumn.

There are lower growing varieties available now such as B. 'Blue Chip' (pictured below) or the 'Buzz' series, which are perhaps easier to manage as they can be grown in pots and moved when the weather becomes too fierce.

Garden Notes

Part 2



Courtesy of urbanbutterflygarden.co.uk

If you have limited space to grow vegetables choose varieties that you most like to eat and sow little and often. It's so easy to sow half a packet of lettuce seeds and end up with far too many all maturing at the same time which end up being wasted. Far better to sow half a dozen every two weeks so that there is a constant supply throughout the summer months. Bear in mind also that if the variety chosen is an F1 hybrid, then they will all mature at the same time whereas plants from open pollinated seed are more likely to mature at different rates.

Hardy annual (HA) and half-hardy (HHA) flower seed can also be sown now. Each seed catalogue that arrives through the letter box brings so many tempting varieties to choose from that I find it quite impossible to make a decision on what to grow. Should I choose the wonderful new variety that has such glowing recommendations or play safe and stick with what I know?

Several catalogues now group their seed into either colour co-ordinated groups or varieties that make good cut flower combinations. This is clever marketing of course because we all think we can re-create the wonderful effects that are reproduced in the catalogue and therefore have to order a packet of seed of each variety.

Having said all that, when faced with so much choice, if like me, you find it hard to make a decision, it's sometimes helpful to have someone else make it for you!

If you have any garden tips that you would like to share or any special plants that you would like to tell others about please let me know and I will include them next month.

Karen Evans, Old School, Shapinsay

karen@evanssmallholder.plus.com



Shapinsay Community Council

OPPORTUNITY FOR SUB-LET OF SMITHY CAFÉ/RESTAURANT

Balfour Village
Shapinsay

Shapinsay Community Council is seeking a sub-tenant to operate this vital community café/restaurant facility in the heart of Balfour Village. The sub-lease would start as soon as possible, initially for the summer period, with a longer lease being negotiable thereafter.

For further details, please contact:-

Mr Colin Leslie, Tel: (01856) 711382, Email: cottonhill@btinternet.com

Or

Mr Scott Garson, Tel: (01856) 711223, Email: scottg81@hotmail.co.uk

A letter of interest should be sent to

Mrs Kate Fereday Eshete,
Clerk, Shapinsay Community Council, 4 Millbank, Shapinsay KW17 2DU
Email: shapinsayclerk@gmail.com

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
DEADLINE OF MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018**

Shapinsay Cubs and Beavers



The Cubs and Beavers had a fun trip to the Picky in March.

Sadly there had been a double booking so we couldn't play bubble football (we are hoping to rearrange this) but Ash arranged for the boys to play squash instead.

For most of the boys this was their first time playing squash and they all enjoyed it. One of the boys commented that he felt inspired, so we may have a budding squash champion among us!

Thank you to the Development Trust and the Community Council for helping us to fund these trips.