

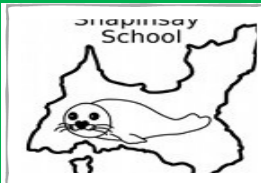
# The Shapinsay Sound



The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.  
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## Aladdin

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to support the children at the pantomime. A big thanks to all the staff who did a great job at technical support, scenery, costumes, music and stage direction. All the children did really well (we are all hugely proud of them all), and you can read Lynne's review elsewhere in the Shapinsay Sound. Thank you to Parent Council for all their hard work as well in organising the refreshments and raffles. If you would like to buy a copy of the DVD then please contact us at the school – they cost **£5** and the money raised will go towards the residential trips.



## Learning

Nursery children are growing tomatoes and cress. They have also been working on their music area, and trying to include print in that area as well. Some of the children have been using the letter cubes to spell words too.

**P1 – 3** have been continuing with their learning about Ancient Egypt. By the time you read this they will have been on their trip to Skara Brae and Maes Howe (thanks to Parent Council and the SDT for helping us with the trip) to compare Ancient Egypt and Ancient Orkney. They have been learning about the story of Moses from the Old Testament and had fun making the crossing of the Red Sea in Lego and creating their own animation.

In Art they made their own Nefertiti heads and sarcophagi.

**P4 – 7** have been making some fabulous and very colourful 3D birds from cardboard. Some of the children have also been great in helping to clean out the guinea pigs (voluntarily) so thank you to them.

## School Sale / Red Nose Day

We will hopefully have had a successful school sale to raise money for the residential trips and Comic Relief by the time you read this. This is organised by the Pupil Council, so well done to them. Thank you to Parent Council who organised the refreshments for us.



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SHAPINSAY  
DEVELOPMENT  
TRUST

# The Shapinsay Sound

## From the Chair

by Sheila Garson

April 2017

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE

Chair	1
Shapinsay Development Trust	2
Wanted	
New Role	3
Sailing into a bright future	
An important Choice	4
Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts	
Shapinsay Wildlife	5
Garden Notes	6
Aladdin Trouble	7
Shapinsay Healthy Living Centre	
Shapinsay School Part 2	
Shapinsay School	8

In the run up to the new financial year the trust has been setting budgets and I'm delighted to let you know that we have increased the SWAP budget for 2017/18 to £6,000. We've been able to do this thanks to additional funds from the turbine.

For those of you who don't know what SWAP is it's the Shapinsay Way Ahead Programme ('the SWAP') and is open to all residents, groups, organisations, or businesses based on Shapinsay. To apply for financial support, projects must provide clear benefit to the wider community of Shapinsay. If you'd like to apply you can start the process right away by speaking to one of the Trust's staff.

Over the years, we have supported many school projects, helped the uniformed organisations, given funds towards equipment for a variety of local organisations and funded training for groups and individuals (there's a feature further on in the newsletter looking at this.)

Of course SWAP cannot support every idea for a project that is presented to it, but we are more than happy to guide you through the process. The Trust has drawn up a list of eligibility criteria to help applicants understand what kind of projects are most likely to be supported. These are based on our charitable aims and on consultation with the community. You'll find more information on our website or pop into the Boathouse and speak to Rachel.

Another exciting new strand of funding introduced is a discretionary budget for the Boathouse. This is designed to enable small events, workshops, talks, films, and almost any other idea which you can think of, to take place at the Boathouse without folk having to apply for funds elsewhere.

So, if you have an idea for a Boathouse event which needs a small sum of money to make it happen please mention it to Rachel, or to Lynne to start things off. Remember though, it must benefit of our community and take place at the Boathouse!



# Shapinsay Development Trust

## Shapinsay Development Trust FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 10 Months to Jan 2017

	Annual Forecast	Year to Date	% of Annual Forecast
<b>Income</b>			
Monies Received (SRL)	126,963.44	127,046.44	100%
Potential from SDT Reserves	8,658.46	8,658.46	100%
BIG HIT Grant	41,621.95	41,621.95	100%
SHEPD	6,998.00	6,998.00	100%
Charges/Donations	2,500.00	2,286.00	91%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>186,741.85</b>	<b>186,610.85</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries & Contracts	60,648.00	49,171.89	81%
Rents	23,232.00	22,784.00	98%
SDT Boathouse Budget	7,741.90	4,802.89	62%
Running Costs & Utilities	18,000.00	18,560.35	103%
Transport Costs	23,500.00	19,741.83	84%
SHEPD - Project Costs	6,998.00	0.00	0%
BIG HIT - Project Costs	41,621.95	239.00	1%
SWAP	3,000.00	1,864.09	62%
Here to Help	1,000.00	0.00	0%
Misc	1,000.00	130.00	13%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>186,741.85</b>	<b>117,294.05</b>	<b>63%</b>

Note: SRL Monies Currently Based on Last Financial Year's figures.

Note: Accounts to be Published on a Quarterly Basis

## Wanted – Shapinsay Heritage Reporters!



The 'Shapinsay Speaks' Oral History project which won funding at the recent 'Your Island Your Choice' event is about to get underway!

Headed up by Kenny Meason, the idea is to record interviews with Shapinsay folk who would like to share their memories on different aspects of life on our island over the years - for current and future generations to enjoy.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to carry out or assist in making some of the recordings should get in touch now and also people who would like to be interviewed. SDT will be processing and archiving the collected material and making it available to the public.

Contact Lynne Collinson [cao@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:cao@shapinsay.org.uk) for more details.

## Aladdin Trouble - Shapinsay School panto

by Lynne Collinson

A magnificent effort by all 29 pupils from Shapinsay School supported by talented members of staff and parents gave us a fast paced pantomime that was thrilling from start to finish! Everyone involved showed star quality in the two performances of this entertaining and lively production at Shapinsay Community School Hall in which there was never a dull moment!



"it was just brilliant – the kids were so dedicated to doing it well", "the singing was outstanding – it blew me away" and "great show, really enjoyed it" were amongst the comments from those attending who enthusiastically booed, hissed and cheered in all the right places thanks to appropriately waved cue cards by Head Teacher Emma Clements. Witty references to public figures like Donald Trump and Shapinsay relevant one-liners had us laughing and an impressive 11 catchy songs helped unfold the story with all its twists and turns. Princess Jasmine was elegantly played by Keira Moncrieff who, unimpressed by a line-up of hilariously unsuitable suitors, longs to marry someone she can fall in love with. Incognito in her quest to experience life as an 'ordinary person' she meets Aladdin confidently played

by Gavin Rendall and the rest, of course, is pantomime history! Bethany Hall was a wonderfully convincing 'baddie' as the "great and mighty Abanazar". Lisa Bady and Erin Boyd carried off bold performances as the Genie taking turns for the role in each show – and Lewis Moncrieff excelled as Widow Twanky. This was a touching, funny, ambitious production and the youngsters did a great job with advance publicity creating their own colourful posters. Director and costume designer Leanne Bews was amongst the many behind the scenes folk who helped make the events such a success. So many lines to learn and so much hard work from all involved really paid off. "We hope you're glad you came" sang the cast in their final number at the end of the show". "Oh yes we are!" was the heartfelt response of all who attended.



## Shapinsay Healthy Living Centre

Now that we are a month into the new timetable, it would be great to get some feedback on the new times, any feedback gratefully received. If you like it, we need to know so we can keep it! If you don't like it, we need to know so we can change it! If you preferred the old times, we need to know...you get where it's going please let us know! We've had an excellent start to the year with very good user numbers and we'd really like to keep this up!

## Shapinsay School Part 2

### Collecting used stamps

We are collecting used stamps (it doesn't matter where they are from) to send money to a guinea pig charity in the Channel Islands. If anyone has any used stamps we'd really appreciate them at the school and we'll send them on. Thank you!

## Garden Notes from Old School

Spring is sprung! The birds and the insects are telling us this although there have been a number of times when we've had all four seasons in one day!

As the garden here develops and changes over time, new opportunities present themselves for planting. Sometimes I can walk past an area every day, and all I see is how it is now, then one day, I will suddenly see it differently and an idea pops into my head. I love Bergenias (elephant's ears) but they struggle here because the wind shreds their beautiful leathery leaves. I'm going to try a new white variety in the Dragonfly series, 'Angel Kiss', under the hedge in the new spinney I planted last year; Bergenias like sun but will tolerate some shade so hopefully it will enjoy this spot. I have B. 'Bressingham Ruby' in a different part of the garden and it's just starting to flower so I'm hoping that a nearby prostrate juniper will give it enough protection. This variety is grown for its lovely dark red leaves over winter as well as the deep pinky red flowers in spring.

I've noticed primroses and primulas in the shops now and they will really brighten up a shady spot as long as it's not too dry. Existing clumps can be split up and re-planted after flowering to keep the plants vigorous; they will flower better next year and continue for years to come. I used to visit the Alpine Garden Society's spring show every year in either Stirling or Perth and it was amazing to see the huge number of different types of primulas and the range of conditions in which they grow. Many of us grow the drumstick and candelabra primulas that enjoy the cool damp conditions here but I also have one called 'Linda Pope' which looks a bit more like an auricular. It can be grown outside with decent drainage but the rain washes away the powdery farina that coats the leaves and petals, and the wind blows the scent away before it can be enjoyed, so as soon as the pots of miniature iris have finished in the greenhouse they get moved outside and Linda Pope comes inside where she can be appreciated.



Another plant that I love and which also gets this preferential treatment is the wallflower. There are the bedding sorts which are grown as biennials then discarded at the end of the season, or the more permanent, though short-lived border varieties or erysimums. I have a variety called Devon Sunset which I have had for a while and take cuttings every few years to keep it going and now I also have a deep velvety red one which I acquired as cuttings from my son's garden in Cambridge last year. They are all in pots because they like hot and very well-drained conditions which are simply out of the question here. They have been moved around the garden into various positions but are still struggling so now they are in a well-ventilated spot in the greenhouse where I can enjoy their wonderful scent whenever I walk in.

The dahlia tubers have now been potted up into fresh compost and it shouldn't be too long before new shoots can be seen. I'll harden them off gradually before placing the pots outside for the summer. In this way I can easily place them wherever they are needed to fill a gap in the border later in the season when other plants have finished. Pelargoniums which have been kept on the dry side over winter are now gradually receiving more water and soon I'll also add some liquid feed; they have been pruned to stop them getting too tall and leggy and to create a nice rounded, bushy shape.

The greenhouse and coldframe are both gradually filling now with seed trays of sweet peas, broad beans, peas, cabbage, kale, beetroot and swede with plenty more to follow over the next few weeks. If the ground is dry enough, the early potatoes will also go in soon. A bit of dry weather is what we all need now so that we can crack on and make the most of this short but very busy season.

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](mailto:karen@evanssmallholder.plus.com)

## New role for Stuart on Shapinsay

by Lynne Collinson



There is such a wealth of experience amongst the population of Shapinsay and the most recent addition to the SDT Board with his role of Treasurer, Stuart Roy McIvor, is no exception. Stuart has lived on our island for over three years and his previous 'hats' worn in life include being a beat police officer in central London, a Scotland Yard Courts Inspector and working in Royalty Protection based at Buckingham Palace which he says even involved driving Princess Diana to her Mayfair hairdresser on a couple of occasions! Retiring from the police in 1994 he settled on Sanday in a house he'd been doing up during leave time over the years and was the first Chair of the then newly created Sanday Development Trust. He also worked on a creel boat, as

a bus and haulage driver, special constable, and was a life guard at the island's swimming pool. Originally from Edinburgh Stuart returned there for a time, getting involved in the tourist trade acting as a driver and guide for Highlands back-packer trips. He was also on Edinburgh City Council for a number of years but eventually returned to Orkney.

Why Shapinsay? "I liked the idea of being on an island but also close to town" he says, "and I like the fact that it's in the centre of the other isles – it's also compact and there's a serenity here". 'Islandness' he says is in his blood, his family roots being in the Western Isles and it was a trip to the North Isles by boat which first attracted him to Orkney.

As for what motivated him to get involved with Shapinsay Development Trust, Stuart says he likes the fact that the Trust can help the community in practical ways such as with the out of hours boat service. He's also impressed by the collaboration which SDT has with some of the other island trusts for taking projects forward. Outgoing and with a keen sense of humour Stuart is also serious about the things important to him – such as sheltered housing, tackling fuel poverty or improved social care and employment. Supporting SDT to explore tangible solutions on behalf of the island in these and other areas will, he believes, make his role a rewarding one.

## Sailing into a bright future!



Brogen Moffat is one of the most recent people to benefit from our Shapinsay Way Ahead Programme and says she's delighted at the opportunity it's given her. 17 year old KGS pupil Brogen will be going to university in Glasgow later this year to study Media and wanted to get some training under her belt with a view to future options. Her love of boats and the sea made training for a possible career on the ocean waves a natural choice and so she applied to SDT for SWAP funding and was successful.

The grant has allowed her to do basic seafarers training with courses on fire-fighting, first aid, personal survival techniques, personal safety and social responsibility. "My Dad who works on the Shapinsay ferry encouraged me to apply" says Brogen "and I'm so glad that I did – I've really enjoyed the courses and it's given me more confidence". She

hopes to get seasonal work on the North Isles boat as a part time stewardess for the holidays outside of term time and says her new qualifications may also stand her in good stead for working on a yacht or cruise liner for the future, even travelling abroad.

"I couldn't have afforded this training myself and it's a real opportunity because it opens doors for so many other things. I would encourage other people to look at going for SWAP funding – it's such a great opportunity for people on our island and you never know where it might lead!"

Shapinsay's Way Ahead Programme (SWAP) is open to all residents, groups, organisations, or businesses based in Shapinsay. If anyone would like to apply they can start the process right away by speaking to one of the Trust's staff on 711733 or email Lynne Collinson [cao@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:cao@shapinsay.org.uk).

## The importance of CHOICE in Care and Wellbeing on Shapinsay

In last month's Shapinsay Sound we 'started a conversation' in our community about the important topics of health, social care and wellbeing on our island both now and for the future. We brought you news of how Shapinsay Development Trust has joined forces with other islands to pursue a Housing Needs Assessment to apply for capital funds to create a supported housing project here.

If an application for such funds were successful work could start to create new build sheltered housing on Shapinsay as early as next summer which would allow people who need this type of easier to manage accommodation as they age - to stay close to their existing social networks and families – and at an affordable rent.

Sadly, at present some people have no option but to leave our island to find care in their later years so this would create an attractive alternative. The new sheltered units might also be used for respite care, for short stays for folks coming out of hospital and possibly for housing care workers.

Shapinsay Development Trust is also looking at what sort of enhanced care package might be needed both for these new units and to better help people stay in their own homes if possible despite age, health or mobility related issues, if that is their preferred choice.

To that end, we are currently meeting with Voluntary Action Orkney, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other island representatives to pursue joint funding to look at constructing new models which might address this need. This collaborative approach will bring together all the information on what support's already available and help us investigate new ways of providing the extra support needed beyond that.

The challenges of the situation we find ourselves in presents an opportunity for islands to play a greater role in delivering healthcare in a more innovative way than the NHS can in this financial climate. Setting up of community interest companies or social enterprises to run services in the community are routes that some areas have gone down and are worth us exploring. Could this be a way that home carers might be offered extra and complimentary employment working with well-being strategies for their clients?

Appointing local area link officers to direct people to existing resources plus developing new ones with volunteer input is another idea. We are also looking at what already exists outwith Orkney and even outwith the UK as examples which might help inform us of possible ways forward.

So, do please journey with us in this conversation as we explore imaginative and sustainable ways to expand the range of choices on offer to benefit our island. Any thoughts to contribute? Contact Lynne Collinson [cao@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:cao@shapinsay.org.uk)

## Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts

### 2017 Exhibition - Artistic Reflections: Crafting Past and Present

The theme of the exhibition this year is to celebrate the tradition of Shapinsay Arts and Crafts over the ages. The scope is wide ranging, from drama, music, writing and painting through to all kinds of handiwork, such as embroidery, spinning, knitting, toy making and so on.

Some crafting will have been purely for pleasure, such as model boat making and some will have been for practical purposes, such as making patchwork quilts, rugs and cubbies.

If you have any items you would be happy for us to display, stories to tell or other information you could share with us to help with the exhibition this year, please contact any member of the exhibition sub-group, Edith and Ian Tait, Jean Wallace, Kenny Meason, Paul and Karen Evans. We will be delighted to hear from you.

We will be meeting at 7:30pm at the Smithy every Wednesday from 29<sup>th</sup> March until the exhibition opens in May to set up the exhibition. If you would like to join us, please come along. You will be very welcome.

Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation no. SCO30206

## Shapinsay Wildlife Matters

by Paul Hollinrake

### Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus*

The sight of any bird of prey can be at once baffling and exciting. They are notoriously difficult to identify, and views are often fleeting. Nevertheless, any sighting can be a great thrill. Shapinsay is a good place to see one of our most iconic birds of prey in winter and several hunt around the island. One of the best places to watch them is from the RSPB bird hide at Mill Dam.



Male Hen Harrier is pale grey with black wing tips

Spending half an hour or so sitting quietly can reap rewards. Look out for the other birds rising up suddenly as a flock. The wigeon ducks for example, graze on grass, but if a harrier flies near they fly up and land on the water seeking sanctuary.

Then you may be lucky to see a harrier quartering low over the ground, typically with wings held in a shallow V. They are looking for a weak or perhaps injured bird



Female hen harrier is brown with a barred tail and a white patch at the base of its tail.



A composite picture of a male hen harrier sky dancing.

Harriers do not breed on Shapinsay, as they require large areas of heather moorland. However, a trip to the Birsay Moors areas of Mainland in April is where to look for birds displaying. I recommend walking up to the Cottasgarth hide in Rendall, sit patiently in comfort, look and watch. The RSPB holds a sky dancing walk on Mainland on Saturday 15th April. Phone 01856 850176 for details.