

The Shapinsay Sound



LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.
Registered Charity Number: SD034818; Registered Company Number: SC255127.

Contact Information : Email: SDTOffice@shapinsay.org.uk

Telephone: 01856 711733.

Useful contacts

Orkney Citizens Advice Bureau

Tel 01856 490129 or 01856 871568

Email: bureau@orkneycab.casonline.org.uk

Relationship Scotland Orkney

Tel 01856 877750

Email: enquiries@rsorkney.org.uk

Vital Talk Orkney Counselling Service

Tel 07510 927444

Women's Aid Orkney

Tel 01856 877900 (mon – Fri) or 07538 786885

Voluntary Action Orkney

Tel 01856 872897

Web : <http://vaorkney.org.uk/information/orkney-information>

General information regarding the coronavirus from the NHS

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

THAW- support if having a struggle to pay for electricity

Tel 01856 878388

Email: info@thaworkney.co.uk

Orkney Coronavirus Community Support Hub

A team of staff and volunteers, from various agencies throughout the county – including Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Health and Care, NHS Orkney and the Third Sector – are based at the Pickaquoy Centre in Kirkwall and available to provide vital assistance to those most in need.

The **Orkney Coronavirus Community Support Hub** isn't open to the public but is staffed to answer telephone calls on **0800 111 4000 (Option 8)**, seven days a week, from 9am-5pm. A dedicated email address is also available at coronavirussupporthub@orkney.gov.uk

SHAPINSAY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST

The Shapinsay Sound

June 2020



Shapinsay Development Trust

After a short break, we thought it was about time to put together another issue of the Shapinsay Sound, with updates and information about ongoing activities during lockdown.

Firstly though, I want to thank everyone who has respected the coronavirus guidance and restrictions during lockdown, stayed at home and resisted the temptation to travel to Kirkwall and beyond, unless necessary for essential reasons such as work, health etc. It's not easy, frustrating at times, not to be able to move about freely, but it has helped to keep our community safe, especially for those who are more at risk.

I also want to acknowledge all those in the community who have continued to work in difficult circumstances, to deliver to all of us the essential services and deliveries needed to try to keep life as normal as we can. Also, those who have volunteered to help in various areas, often unseen in the background. A huge thank you to all of you, your work, time and commitment is much appreciated. I'm not going to name anyone, I would be sure to leave someone out and we (and you) all know who you are.

When I took on the post of Chair last year, I knew I was going to have to learn a lot very quickly, but I never envisaged going through a pandemic. For me and SDT, this has been a fast learning curve in many areas, often challenging, sometimes frustrating with some low times but the good times outweigh these, especially when you begin to see results and receive positive feedback.

Jean Coomber, SDT Chair

Shapinsay Development Trust



At the Development Trust, although the Boathouse has been closed, we have continued to progress with various projects, as well as adapting Wellbeing activities to be relevant in the current situation.

The Boathouse has been shut during the whole of this period, with most of us working from home (and trying to master on-line meetings). From June 1st, Rachel has returned to working in the Boathouse, but it is still closed to visitors.

The office hours are currently different, with Rachel working flexible hours over 3 days a week. If you phone the office when she isn't there, please leave a message. We will review this regularly and only open the office to visitors when the restrictions allow and it is safe to do so.

Transport – with current regulations and advice, we are still unable to operate the electric car service or the Out of Hours boat. Again, we will review this regularly and resume services as soon as it's safe to do so.

Wellbeing – an update on current activities and wellbeing information is included on pages 3,4 and 6

5 year Development plan - The public consultation for this was during February/March. The organisation doing this work for us is now putting together the final document and plan. This has been delayed slightly, again because of the coronavirus restrictions. Thank you to all who forwarded photographs for the final copy.

Housing - We have been progressing with this during the last couple of months and have now submitted funding applications for the purchase and renovation works. As of Saturday 13th June we have formally been notified that we have been successful in our Scottish Land Fund Stage 2 Application and have been awarded **£237,125** which is to purchase 2 Houses on the Island as well as cover the legal fees and appoint a Project Manager. The decision around the grant funding towards the renovation costs of these houses is expected Week commencing 15th June from the Rural Housing Fund. We plan to issue another newsletter in a few weeks time focusing on the housing project.

E-bikes – In March 2020 we received £18337.80 from the Energy Saving Trust to purchase a fleet of Electric Bikes for the Island. This consists of 6 Adult E-bikes, 2 Youth E-bikes, 1 E-Trike and safety equipment (Helmets, High Vis Jackets & Locks) The E bikes have been purchased and are we are awaiting delivery. These bikes will be available for free for residents to get around the island, assist in the ongoing wellbeing project in Shapinsay, assist with any appointments etc needed on the Orkney Mainland and hopefully will be used to attract visitors to the Island. More news to follow soon.

Wellbeing Project & COVID Funding: On top of the Ebike and SLF funding we have also been successful in the following grant applications. £39,224 Supporting Communities fund, £2,000 Corra Foundation (through VAO) and £10,000 OIC (SG Business Support Grant) These funds have helped us support projects such as the Grocery Box & Ready meals which we have been distributing for several weeks now and has been greatly appreciated by the community.

We also received funding for our Wellbeing Project of £31,872 which will fund our Wellbeing Co-ordinator for another 2 years, SDT have agreed to fund an additional day a week so we can continue to build on the great work to date. Since March 2020 we have been successful in attracting over **£340,000** of external funding to Shapinsay to continue to support the local community.

Shapinsay Sound - we are exploring the possibility of producing this electronically for those that would like to receive it this way. We would still post it to those that prefer a paper copy. To give us an indication of preference, please can you let us know which option you would prefer to receive. Email boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk or phone 711733, if no-one is available to answer, please leave a message with your name and preference for the way you would like to receive this.

Thaw



THAW have received additional funding from Foundation Scotland: Community Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund and the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund, to support people in the Orkney community with electricity payments during COVID 19. If eligible your household would receive £50 towards electricity costs.

This fund is specifically for more vulnerable groups of people within the local community. This includes, but is not exclusive to, older people, people experiencing physical/mental ill health, low income families, unemployed, furloughed employees etc.

If you struggling to pay for electricity please contact us on 01856 878388 or email info@thaworkney.co.uk.



Shapinsay Community Association

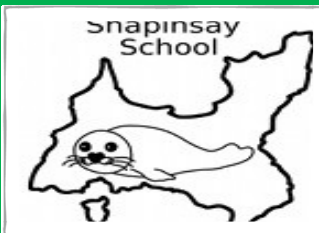
Shapinsay Community Association are looking forward to opening the community centre again once we move into phase 3, hopefully in August.

We will be guided by government and local authority guidelines for opening and then for the safe use of the building in light of social distancing and cleaning. Until then sadly, our doors and the playpark remain closed.

Stay safe and take care!

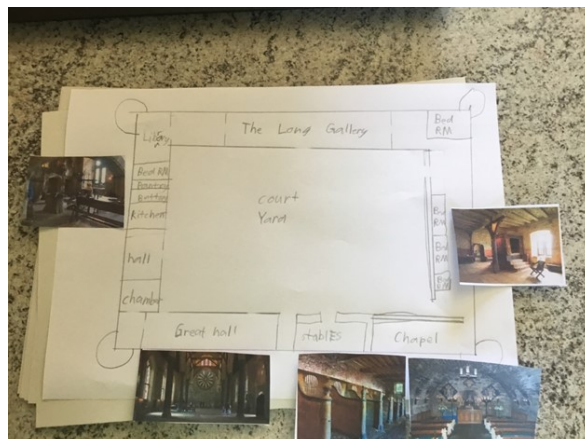
Annette Kirkpatrick
Chair
Shapinsay Community Association

Shapinsay School



Since March 20th, we have been experiencing school in a totally new way, much like most other areas of life at the moment.

The children have all been receiving lessons at home, and have been really good at staying in touch with the staff. Everyone has been using email and video meetings to keep in touch, and it's been great to see what the children have been up to. You can see some photos of "learning in lockdown" on the school website www.shapinsayschool.org under the latest news tab.



The staff have been very busy, planning and sending learning activities to the children each day. Behind the scenes there has been a lot of work going on; communicating with parents, working with other staff in Orkney and Orkney Islands Council to make this new way of learning as smooth as possible.

Ian has been very busy continuing the work planned to make our front garden area even better.

I'm sure that you will have seen on the news that the First Minister has announced that schools will be reopening from August 11th. We cannot confirm at this stage exactly what that will look like, but we are in communication with parents as we know more.

Huge thanks to the pupils, parents and staff for adapting so well to a difficult set of circumstances.



Shapinsay Wellbeing Part 3

Radio Orkney

Radio Orkney 93.7fm has a daily programme Monday to Friday 0730 to 0800am which is very useful for getting local news and updates.

Radio Orkney weekly on Sunday afternoons at 3pm air **Radio Church** which is services from ministers in Orkney and at 3:30pm **Orkney Talking Newspaper** reads out interesting news and articles from that week's 'The Orcadian' newspaper.

Shapinsay Church of Scotland

You can access weekly worship on <https://www.facebook.com/kirkwalleastlinkedwithshapinsay/>. You do not have to log in or have a Facebook account to be able to see it. Just google 'Kirkwall East linked with Shapinsay' and you will find the Facebook page with all the videos and posts there.

Please do get in touch if you feel there is something we might be able to help with which is non-medical. Alison Meason tel 711 261

Email wellbeing.shapinsay@gmail.com

Or Facebook 'Enhancing Wellbeing Shapinsay'

Shapinsay Wellbeing Part 1



Shapinsay Development Trust was awarded funding from Scottish Governments Supporting Communities Fund to help the island's 300 residents during the pandemic. The trust has been working with volunteers to distribute freshly prepared ready meals and food parcels in Shapinsay each week, making sure that young children, those who are self-isolating and people on low income are all supported.

Ready meals (supplied by Williamsons butchers) and fresh fruit or a box of groceries containing basic food items (all sourced from our local shop and suppliers) are delivered by volunteer Craig for those staying at home, with the other grocery boxes ready for collection on Wednesdays. All social distancing is adhered to and we are grateful to everyone for respecting the rules.

The uptake and feedback from those receiving the boxes and meals has been very positive.

Some quotes

"Much appreciated. Grateful and delighted"

"Very pleased, all the items came in useful"

"A godsend, highlight of my week!"

"Fantastic and made a real difference during lockdown"

"A real lifeline, look forward to seeing what is in my box"

"Scheme is really helping the community"



This project will continue as long as the funding allows and/or depending on the opening up of the island/how the lockdown progresses etc

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes each week and it wouldn't be possible to do this project without the hard work and dedication of those helping to make this project possible. Grateful thanks are expressed to all those involved.

If you receive groceries in your box which you won't use or find you have too much, drop it off at the hall on Tuesday or Wednesdays or give to Craig when you see him deliver. We will pass it onto someone who can make use of it. Thank you



Shapinsays Got it covered' Face Masks Are you interested in sewing? Do you have some spare time? Can you donate clean 100% cotton material or buttons or elastic? Can you help with delivering materials? Would you like to volunteer to help? As well as making masks we need volunteers to: cut out masks from material, wash and iron masks, admin on Facebook page, package masks, deliver/collect where necessary etc.

This is to be an island based project making washable facemasks for everyone on the island who would like one.. We hope as many of you will join this short term project and be involved in whatever way you can supporting our community.

If you are at all interested in getting involved in any way with this project please can you let Alison Meason Tel 711261 or email wellbeing.shapinsay@gmail.com or Leanne Bews email leannebews@gmail.com or keep an eye on Enhancing wellbeing Facebook page for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean



Shapinsay Wellbeing

Part 2

Wellbeing Groups

BALL group, health walks, Darn good Yarn – Currently we are unable to meet under the present government restrictions. It may be possible for us to restart our health walks in the near future when more lockdown restrictions are lifted as these take place outside and we can bring our own cup and have our cuppa outside and have a socially distant chat. No group meet ups until lockdown is lifted though, and further updates from the government.

Orkney library

Orkney library will not be able to open until Phase 3 along with other leisure facilities such as museums, libraries, cinemas and gyms subject to guidelines. We have no further update on any of the Orkney library services or when they might resume.



If you have some books which you are finished with from your own private collections from home and you are willing to donate them for others to enjoy please either bring to the hall on Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings where we will leave a box for you to put them in quarantine for a few days. Children's and adult books welcome. Similarly if you have any new craft materials/ veg/ garden plants or anything new which you don't have a use for but others may be able to use it during this time please bring it to the hall side doors or let **Alison Meason Tel 711 261** know and we can arrange collection.

If you are isolating or housebound and would like 'things to do' please do get in touch also and we will see what we can find for you!

Black bin bags and recycling From Orkney.gov.uk

"At this present time waste services are working behind the scenes to see how they can begin to re-introduce services, whilst still offering the same protection to the staff and complying with National guidance that is constantly being updated at a National level. In these more challenging hygiene times please also make sure your bin handles are cleaned with warm soapy water, alcohol-based wipes or Anti-Bac spray – our operatives are wearing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) but they are pulling out thousands of bins every week and don't have the opportunity to do a 20 second handwash between each bin removal. Please keep your bins clean. Every bit helps.

Shapinsay waste collection will continue meantime with black binbags every fortnight with the next collections due **12th and 26th June**. Please continue to put out your wheelie bins and remember to wipe those handles. There is no update on when recycling will resume at the moment. If you have space please hang onto your recycling and look out for updates.

From Orkney ferries

During Phase One, there will be no changes to the current timetables for local bus, ferry and inter-island air services.

For Orkney Ferries, the aim is to help protect residents in the isles from the risk of infection – along with the crews who operate the service – and to ensure that the ferries can continue to run and deliver freight and other essential supplies.

Essential travel only, seats are marked for people to sit in to keep 2 meters apart and therefore number of passengers are reduced. Please use sanitizer and protect our islanders and crew, adhere to social distancing and only travel if essential.

Pat in Lockdown

