

# The Shapinsay Sound

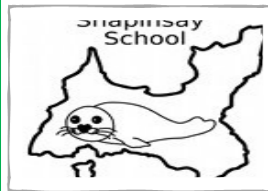


LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.  
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**Nursery** children have been getting ready for the Shapinsay picnic, they have been practicing for the egg and spoon race, high jump and the throwing events, foam javelins, balls and wellies.

**P1-3 pupils** are doing a topic on toys. Looking at the way toys move and exploring forces. They will also be looking at toys and games from the past. If anyone has any old toys or games we would love to see or hear about them.

**P4-7 pupils** in science and technology lessons, P4-7 have been learning about forces. They have carried out a range of investigations involving static electricity, gravity and pressure. They have produced artwork using warm and cool colours and have made plates and bowls out of papier mache. When learning about the features of myths, they listened to radio plays before writing their own. In French, they have been playing games to help them learn vocabulary to do with family and weather.



## Lagganlia Trip

Lisa, Erin and Miss Clements went to Lagganlia for 5 days. Lagganlia is an outdoor adventure centre near Aviemore.

We went with 5 other schools from Orkney (St Andrews, Hope, Burray, Rousay and Papay) and Papdale School were also there at the same time so we even got to meet some of them as well.

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SHAPINSAY  
DEVELOPMENT  
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# The Shapinsay Sound

June 2018

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ISSUE

## BIG HIT



Following the official opening of the pioneering Building Innovative Green Hydrogen Systems in an Isolated Territory (BIG HIT) project, which took place in Kirkwall, on Tuesday 15th May over 50 delegates visited Shapinsay on the morning of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May to see the project on the ground. Representatives from ITM Power were on hand to explain the process and equipment required to turn the curtailed energy from our turbine into hydrogen.

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The visitors from Denmark, France, Italy, Malta, Spain and the UK represented the 12 participants in this collaborative project funded by the EU. Orkney was chosen for this development because of our need to store excess renewable energy and utilise the stored energy locally for transport and heat. For us on Shapinsay it will provide a way of using the curtailed energy from the turbine thus maximizing the community benefit from the turbine.

On the day Orkney Islands Council brought over two of their fleet of five electric vans, which have each been fitted with a BIG HIT - funded hydrogen fuel cell, giving them twice their normal operational range. One of the specially fitted lorries which will be used to transport the hydrogen also made the trip.



## Shapinsay Picnic

### The Shapinsay Picnic

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018.**

Sports events start at 1pm for all ages, toddlers, nursery, school children and adults. Picnic tea is served, usually around 4pm, but this depends on the finishing time of the sporting events. Children's prize giving is straight after tea then it's time for the Tug of War competition.

There is no charge for the picnic tea or taking part in the sports events but donations are very welcome. Please place your donation in the envelope provided with this month's Shapinsay Sound. Envelopes are being collected in the shop, the school office or you can hand them to any of the Picnic committee members. The evening dance starts at 8.30pm and adults prize giving will be at 9pm.

**The charge for the dance is £5 for adults and under 16's are free.**



## Shapinsay Heritage Arts and Crafts

### Knitting Workshop

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2 -4 pm**

**in the Heritage Centre.**

**Open to all, beginners and experienced knitters.**



Come along to learn basic knitting skills, as well as more advanced skills and, for the more experienced knitter, help others master knitting skills.

Bring your current projects, or yarn, needles and a pattern, either to start a new project, learn to knit, practice or extend your skills.

There will be some needles and yarn available for use on the day.

No booking needed, just drop in during the afternoon to knit, relax and learn and/or share your knitting skills.

Contact **Mary Horgan** or **Jean Coomber** if you would like any further information.

**Advance notice; we are planning to have two more workshops afternoons on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, to concentrate on learning and extending sewing skills. More details to follow next month.**

# RNLI

## RNLI Presentation by Mike Cooper( RNLI Safety Officer)



### Fun Quiz



#### How well do you know your parents?

Those willing to take part please let us know in advance

Roll the coin at the Bottle - Roll the coin at the sweets

Informal Social Event - bring your own refreshments. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Saturday June 9th at 7.30pm at the Hall

Tenders are invited for the Bar at the RNLI Fete/ Barbecue on Saturday 25th August

Please give your tenders to Glynis before 16th June

## Shapinsay School Part 2

The weather was fantastic for our trip. We stayed in small lodges where we had our breakfast, made packed lunches and had supper. Our lodge was just us and 2 other children and we think we had the best lodge by far (although we didn't get to use the hot tub sadly).

During the days the children were divided into activity groups of roughly 9 children and 1 teacher with 1 or 2 instructors. These groups were mixed up with all the schools so we got to know the others in our group really well. Some of the activities on offer were skiing, snowboarding (on a dry slope), gorge walking, hill walking, mountain biking, canoeing, sailing, climbing, abseiling, archery, orienteering and many more.

**Lisa's** favourite day was the Wednesday when her group went climbing and then did the Feshie Gorge Walk. **Erin's** favourite activity was the snowboarding. Both girls found it hard to choose though as they really enjoyed everything!

In the evenings the children got to have some free time together as part of the aim of the trip was to make new friends. Some of the other evening activities included a quiz round the grounds, a scavenger hunt and a night time ropes course.

We had a great time and would like to thank the **Parent Council**, the **Shapinsay Development Trust**, the **Community Council** and everyone who supported our fundraising for this and the Hoy Trip. You will be able to read about the Hoy trip next month.

## Garden Notes from Old School

There are particular events which occur each year that indicate a change in the seasons. I know that summer is on its way because the swallows are nesting and the grass needs cutting every week but mainly because the 13.5 tog duvet has now been replaced with the 9 tog version. Yes we'll still get wet dreary days from time to time but at this time of year, they are days spent in the greenhouse working with plants that are actively growing rather than days spent in front of a fire reading about beautiful gardens.

As I write this, the Chelsea Flower Show is in full swing and the Chelsea Plant of the Year has just been announced as a hybrid Hydrangea Runaway Bride 'Snow White'. I particularly like the white-flowered hydrangeas and this has lacecap flowers right the way down the side branches instead of just at the ends. Last year I planted H. paniculata Grandiflora in a sheltered spot behind the greenhouse where it also gets some shade from a fuchsia hedge and would love to try 'Snow White' in this same spot. So I find it annoying that this plant won't be propagated in volume for garden centres until next year and it may be 2020 before it's widely available to you and me.

We have of course, had our own Garden Festival recently, a week earlier than usual and a little disappointing this year in terms of numbers of nurseries present but nonetheless I managed to find some treasures to bring home. A spreading geranium growing to only 6ins high called G. Blushing Turtle with pink flowers and dark magenta veining; Cirsium rivulare Trevor's Blue Wonder, maybe not exactly blue but certainly darker than the more wine-coloured C. atropurpureum, a robust plant with thistle-like flowers adored by bees and butterflies, and finally Persicaria amplexicaulis White Eastfield which is a type of knotweed (but not the dreaded Japanese variety) which should complement the pale and dark pink varieties I grow already. All these plants are happiest in soil that doesn't dry out during the summer, so perfect for this garden.



Someone told me recently that they had not had any luck with growing clematis – that after the first year they died down in the winter and never came back. I suspect that it was the large-flowered sorts that had been tried and maybe they just don't do well here, but as always, there's usually an alternative.

## Garden Notes Part 2

All clematis need some shelter from severe wind but there are some that are hardier than others. At present I have only planted two and they are both types of Clematis montana; C. montanawilsonii planted in 2016 and C. Miss Christine planted in 2014. So far they are both doing well and are covered in buds again this year. Miss Christine climbs through the old branches of a flowering currant which inexplicably died one year. Other types of clematis to try would be varieties of C. alpina and C. tangutica both of which are very hardy and have smaller, more subtle flowers.



Following this last very wet winter, the Marsh Marigolds and Lady's Smock are looking superb in the ditches and on the roadsides. A couple of years ago, a large patch of double-flowered Lady's Smock suddenly appeared but there is none this year. I know that it is a favoured food plant for the Orange Tip butterfly, does anyone know if we're likely to see those in Shapinsay? Ligularias also like damp conditions. I've planted a couple that I grew from seed at the pond margin, hoping that it won't dry out too much in the summer. The following link tells you a bit more about Ligularias and shows that they cope well with very wet seasonal conditions:-

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-grow-ligularias/>

In the veg garden, parsnip seeds seem to take forever to germinate but I'm sure they'll appear eventually. Small carrots, Early Nantes 5, have been sown in the greenhouse with the maincrop outside and this will need protecting to stop the carrot root fly causing havoc. Lettuces and cabbages have been planted outside and in, to give more of a crop succession and as an experiment this year, I'm trying a runner bean 'Moonlight', outside. It has the RHS Award of Garden Merit and is supposed to store and freeze well. Whether the crop ever gets that far, only time will tell. If you see a couple of cane wigwams flying your way in the autumn, you'll know where they've come from!

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

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## Shapinsay Wildlife Matters

by Paul Hollinrake

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, the Orkney Native Wildlife Project received a report of stoat sightings on Shapinsay. We managed to speak to the person who made the report on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May and were convinced that the description sounded like a stoat. Because the sighting was reported so promptly, we were in a much better position to launch an Incursion Response. On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, we installed 12 traps in the area of the sightings along road verges and on RSPB Scotland land, and on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, another 12 traps were deployed. These traps will be checked weekly. We hope to get further traps and cameras out and would love landowners to get in touch to help support this.

Stoats are not native to Orkney, though they are widespread on the mainland UK. Stoats have been present on the Orkney Mainland, and the connected isles, since 2010 and were likely introduced intentionally or accidentally in straw or hay bales. They have few natural predators on Orkney and pose a significant threat to Orkney's native wildlife particularly the Orkney vole, hen harrier, short-eared owl and other ground nesting birds such as red-throated divers, Arctic terns and curlews for which Orkney is internationally important and upon which Orkney's thriving wildlife tourism industry relies.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and RSPB Scotland are working together to develop a major project to deliver a range of benefits to Orkney's native wildlife, including the removal of stoats. Any evidence of stoats on islands that we thought were stoat free, such as Shapinsay, is not good. If allowed to colonise, this will substantially increase the threat to Orkney's native wildlife, as well as increase the costs and complexity of the project to remove them.

Traps deployed on Shapinsay are called DOC traps and are housed in wooden boxes (see photo). Please do not touch the traps as they are very powerful.



Thank you to the members of the Shapinsay community that have reported further possible sightings. Please continue reporting sightings, as soon as possible, to the RSPB Orkney office on 01856 850 176 or to SNH in Kirkwall on 01856 875 302.

From the end of May, project staff members Rebecca and Carmen will start door-knocking across the island to ask for permission for traps and cameras to be placed on land as well as checking the traps and trail cameras. The only way to be certain that stoats are not present though is to use specially trained conservation detection dogs to sniff for signs of stoats. We hope to get one of these stoat "sniffer" dogs and its expert handler out on the island later this summer to confirm

stoat presence/absence and, if present, how widespread they are. We'd be very grateful if landowners would be able to grant us access for these purposes.



In the meantime, you can keep up to date with the Project on the [Stoat Snippet blog](#) or at [www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject](https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyNativeWildlifeProject).

And please don't hesitate to get in touch with questions to the numbers above.