

The Shapinsay Sound

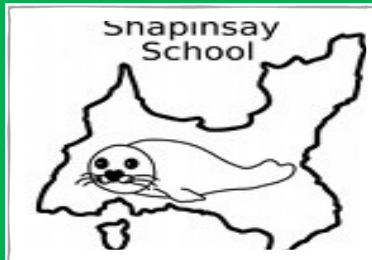


LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.
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The Nursery children have been moving around a bit lately, as a new kitchen is being fitted into the Nursery playroom. It's nearly done, and looking great. Some of the children went to Kirkwall library where they took part in the book bug activity with Elaine.

The **P1 - 3** children have been busy writing letters to lots of people, as part of their Made in Orkney topic. So far visits are planned to Barony Mills, the kirk, the jam factory, Ivan's boat shed and to the Smithy. We have several visitors coming to school too. Once the Nursery kitchen is finished we plan to do lots of baking too. The role play area is a cafe and we have been learning about which foods are produced in Orkney, and trying to make local menus.

The **P4 - 7** children have been learning the Spanish words for fruit, explanation writing in English and have learned a lot about Europe (please see Erland's report on the Euroquiz). They have also started to learn about micro-organisms in Science.

At the time of writing, the **P7** children are preparing to go on their residential trip to Lagganlia. We will do a report on this trip next month. The **P4 - 6** children are going to Hoy in June.

Many thanks to the Community Council, the Shapinsay Development Trust and the Parent Council for helping to fund these trips.



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SHAPINSAY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST

The Shapinsay Sound

June 2019



Shapinsay Development Trust

HOUSING SITE CONSULTATION

Thank you very much to all those that took the time to attend and comment on the housing site consultation that was run at the Boathouse 27th April - 4th May.

This consultation was mainly about the suitability of five sites that had been offered for purchase to the Development Trust for the purpose of housing development.

The results of the consultation have been analysed and are outlined below:

Numbers attending **67**

Consultation sheets handed out **85**

GENERAL COMMENTS (TOP) SHEET

Do you think there is a need for affordable housing in Shapinsay?

YES	27
NO	24
UNDECIDED/NOT FILLED IN	9

If you do, who should this housing be available to?

There were 2 main themes coming from this question:

Housing for elderly/adapted housing/care worker
Family housing/need to attract families/school numbers

And of these 2 themes the housing should be for local people or employed people

SPECIFIC SITES

Of the five potential sites, people were asked about whether they had a preferred site, would like a site in conjunction with one of the other sites, or whether they didn't want any development on a particular site. The results are outlined below:

SITE 1 (By the old telephone exchange)

Preferred site	4
In conjunction with another site	5
Don't want any development	29

Shapinsay Development Trust Part 2

SITE 2 (on brae between Hillcrest and Veniver)

Preferred site	0
In conjunction with another site	4
Don't want any development	33

SITE 3 (in front of Helliar View)

Preferred site	2
In conjunction with another site	0
Don't want any development	50

SITE 4 (above Millbank)

Preferred site	27
In conjunction with another site	8
Don't want any development	13

SITE 5 (behind Helliar View)

Preferred site	2
In conjunction with another site	8
Don't want any development	27

Quite clearly, for those that took part in this consultation, there is only one site deemed suitable – above Millbank. All the other sites were clearly felt to be unsuitable.

WHAT NEXT?

From the initial question, "Do you think there is a need for affordable housing in Shapinsay?" and the numbers responding, the board has decided that there is no mandate from members to pursue the purchase of land for housing purposes.

If, at some point in the future, residents feel that circumstances have changed and there is a majority wanting the Development Trust to revisit the housing agenda, then this consultation might initially inform how the Trust progresses.

Shapinsay Community Council

PART-TIME CLERK REQUIRED

This is an ideal opportunity to be involved in the community and undertake part-time administrative work from home. The post involves providing services for Shapinsay Community Council, who hold between 4 and 8 meetings per annum. You should have good communication and organisational skills and be computer literate, preferably with experience of Microsoft Word and Excel. Computer and equipment can be provided.

Annual earnings will be in region of £1,000.

For an application pack and/or further information please contact:-

Mrs Jenny McGrath
Community Council Liaison Officer
Democratic Services
Orkney Islands Council
Kirkwall
Orkney
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Closing Date: Sunday, 2 June 2019

Interviews are expected to be held week beginning Monday, 10 June 2019

Shapinsay's very own Spiderman.



Scottish youth boulder competition Sean travelled to Eden Rock in Edinburgh to compete at the national bouldering competition.

It was a tough competition with competitors from across Europe. Sean completed 20 boulder problems in 3 hours. He managed to reach the top of 15 and in the bonus zone of 17. This placed him 12th.

Thank you to the Shapinsay Development Trust and Community council for your ongoing support.



Shapinsay Picnic

The annual Shapinsay Picnic takes place on Saturday 15th June. All are welcome to come along, to take part or to cheer the competitors on! The races start at **1pm**, with events for all ages. Tea and the children's prize giving will take place at some point between **4 - 5pm**, depending on when the events finish. The dance opens at **8.30pm**, with the adults and under 16s prize giving at **9pm**.

The afternoon events are free. Admission for adults to the dance is **£5**, with under 16s free. There will be raffles at both the tea and the dance. Please bring your own bottles for the dance.

Enclosed with this edition of the Shapinsay Sound is an envelope for donations towards the Picnic. Envelopes can be returned to the shop, the school or brought along on the day of the Picnic.

The Picnic takes a lot of organising, both before and on the day. Many thanks to those on the committee who give up so much of their own time to help this event take place. We can always do with more helpers on the day, so if you are able to help with measuring, recording or timing please let one of the committee know on the day (we will be the ones scoring the events!).

Fingers crossed for sunny weather on the 15th!

Sticky Gingerbread

by Jean Coomber

One of my family's handed down recipes, easy to make, enjoyed by everyone who likes ginger and cake.

250gms plain flour
4 level teaspoons ground ginger
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
125gms butter
125gms soft dark brown sugar
125gms black treacle
125gms golden syrup
150 mls milk
1 egg
3-4 chopped stem ginger or 2 tablespoons chopped crystallised ginger (optional)

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees C.
Grease a 7inch square cake tin and line with baking parchment.
Sieve the flour, ginger and bicarbonate of soda together into a large mixing bowl.
Melt the butter with the sugar, black treacle, syrup and milk in a small saucepan over a gentle heat, stirring all the time. Leave to cool a little.
Beat the egg.
Add the cooled liquid mixture together with the egg to the dry ingredients. Mix well then beat for 5 minutes. It should be a thickish, pourable liquid.
Add the chopped ginger, mix well.
Pour into the prepared tin. Tilt the tin to even out the mix.
Place in oven (160 degrees) for about 1 hour, until springy and leaving the sides of the tin.
Leave to cool in the tin. When cool, remove paper.
When completely cold, wrap in new baking parchment and foil. Place in an airtight tin for 2 days (if you can wait that long) to allow it to become sticky.

Freezes well.

Instead of using half treacle and half golden syrup, it can be made with 250gms of golden syrup or black treacle. This depends on how dark and sticky you want it.

SDT, SRL and H2

As a result of the recent housing consultation we have become more aware of some other areas of the Development Trust role that need clarifying, particularly for the benefit of new arrivals to Shapinsay, so we have decided to trial a monthly question and answer section.

The continuation of this will depend on you asking the questions.

Please send your questions concerning the Development Trust, our transport, projects etc. to us, either by letter, e-mail (boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk) or call into the Boathouse during office hours (10am - 2pm Monday to Friday). We will do our best to answer these as soon as we can, but depending on the number we have, it may be in a later issue of the Sound.

We start this month looking at the relationship of the Development Trust with Shapinsay Renewables, and the Hydrogen project.

As we have many new people who have moved to the island in the last 18 months, it's worth explaining more about how the Development Trust and Shapinsay Renewables works as well as explaining more about the hydrogen project currently under construction next to the turbine.

Many of you are aware that the community operates two companies, Shapinsay Development Trust, which is a charitable trust, and Shapinsay Renewables LTD, which is the trading company of the trust and a limited company.

So what is a charitable trust?

It is a trust that is set up for the benefit of a charity and for charitable purposes. The trust needs to meet a lot of rules and regulations and it reports to the charity commission instead of Companies House. A charitable trust also enjoys a degree of tax benefits compared to a normal company. One of the rules to maintain charitable trust status is to have separate boards of directors for both companies and both companies are run independently of each other without interference. Or to put it simply, the trust board cannot tell the renewables board what to do. All directors on both boards are volunteers and it's really important to have a wide range of directors from all over the island.

When the wind turbine was bought and erected back in 2011 Shapinsay Renewables borrowed almost two million pounds to fund the project. The bank loan currently is over one million pounds as we speak today and we will have repaid everything in 2026. Renewable energy is a high risk business in the world of finance. One of my jobs is to provide our bank with wind data and financial information every 12 weeks. This is in order to continue our loans with the bank. We need to pass tests to show we can continue to repay the loans. One of these tests covers our reserves or the amount of money in our bank accounts, which why it's important to have a healthy bank balance. If we fail our quarterly tests then the bank will discontinue our loans.

So why is that a problem? Can't we just move banks?

1. There are not many banks who will lend us money and the ones who will, will charge us considerably higher Interest rates.
2. If we fail our tests, we default our loans, which means we would have to pay an exit fee, which is over **£100,000**
3. The legal costs of moving to a new lender have been estimated at close to **£200,000**

Like many of you we also need to have money for emergencies. Unlike a personal budget, our emergencies can be very expensive. Whirly is eight years old and only has another ten years left to operate according to the manufacturer. As I write, no E44 wind turbine has made it to the full eighteen years and the manufacturer warranty ends after twelve years, so we potentially have six years exposure to repair bills. New blades are 400,000 euros plus delivery, fitting and commissioning. A new control box is 120,000 euros plus delivery, fitting and commissioning. These are current faults on Orkney turbines that turbine owners are dealing with.

SDT, SRL and H2 Part 2

Aren't we insured?

Yes we are fully insured but most simple claims take around eighteen months to pay out with more complicated claims lasting years. Our cash flow has to cover any shortfall in income until we get that payment.

Everyone is frustrated that we need to keep money in the bank but it really important to maintain our funds. We need to think with our business heads on and plan for all eventualities. If the turbine isn't working for twenty weeks, what are we going to do money? If we approached the banks today we would not get funding for another turbine. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We will have difficult decisions to make in the future but one thing is for certain. Any new turbine we want to buy will have to be bought with our money. Why are we involved in a risky experimental hydrogen project then?

Firstly it's worth pointing out that this is not our project, we are just one of twenty two partners. This is why Shapinsay Development Trust has not spent any money on this project, it is a zero cost project to Shapinsay. Shapinsay Renewables has had to pay for technical reports and some legal work because the turbine is involved in the project.

So what is our commitment?

The wind turbine doesn't export all of the available wind power to the national grid because of capacity issues with the grid. You might have seen the turbine stopped or running slowly on a windy day, this is because of the grid. Our commitment to the project is to give the wasted power that can't go into the grid to the hydrogen project. They will then turn that power into hydrogen.

What is the benefit to us?

We receive two payments for the power the turbine generates.

1. Export - We get paid by the hydro for every KW that we send into the grid
2. We receive a subsidy payment from the government called Feed In Tariff for all power the turbine creates. We will earn Feed In Tariff payments on all power that goes towards making Hydrogen. This will increase our income and means we can still make money when the grid is at capacity. On average the grid is switched off to us about 20% of the time, so if we can send the power to make hydrogen during this time we will still get some income instead of getting nothing.

Why is it taking so long to build the hydrogen site and produce hydrogen?

The lead partner who is driving the project is ITM power. You might have seen their vans on the quay. Delays with this type of project are common and it is worth mentioning that this is an experimental project and highly complex. All of the expertise with hydrogen is in England and has to travel to Orkney to support the project. Hopefully at some point over the summer, hydrogen will be produced and we will start to earn some money. We will not own or have access to any of the hydrogen as this will be owed by other people in the partnership.

North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme Part 2

Habitat survey and restoration project

Habitat surveys will be undertaken at sites across the North Isles. Where possible, places will be identified where work can be undertaken to restore them to support biodiversity. This project also includes a wild flower seed collection and propagation training course.

Seas of the Isles

The importance of seafaring to the North Isles will be explored in a multi-faceted project that will include workshops on subjects such as maritime art, shipwrecks and pre-historic seafaring.

Heritage Buildings

A number of small scale built heritage projects have been identified across the North Isles and for Shapinsay funding has been secured to sympathetically renovate a building to become a farm museum and interpretation point.

If you'd like to find out more, please visit www.nilps.co.uk
email NILPS@orkney.gov.uk or phone 01856 879076 to speak to a member of the project team.



North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme



The North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme has funding to undertake works to the infrastructure on some of the routes within the existing footpath network in Shapinsay.

The plan within the scheme includes updating interpretation boards, repair to gates and improved signage. Some heritage locations along the road network are also included with the aim of creating a signed cycle trail, linking footpaths.

A consultation for the work was carried out back in 2016 – some time ago now. The NILPS team would therefore like to show the community the plan before proceeding any further. The budget is fixed, but there is room for some small changes and decisions need to be made about preferred materials – for example recycled plastic or stone for interpretation board plinths.

If you would like to be involved in finalising the plan of works, please come along to a meeting to be held at:

7.00pm Tuesday 4th June at the Community Room

All welcome

Please note: This meeting is to put forward thoughts that will help finalise the plan of works. However, no work will be undertaken without the consent of landowners and if this is not given the plan will be revised accordingly.

North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme



The North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to preserve, enhance and promote the built, cultural and natural heritage of the North Isles. Some projects will be undertaken on multiple islands, whilst others are specific to Shapinsay. The following list gives a summary of some of the activities included in the scheme and the NILPS team will be working with island groups and local residents to take them forward over the next 4 years

Shapinsay Projects

Traditional Skills

Opportunities to learn traditional crafts and skills through courses and workshops. Examples include stone dry stone dyke work and knitting but we will be looking at other possibilities too.

Shapinsay walking routes

There will be improvements to the infrastructure along some of Shapinsay's walking trails and at other key sites. These include new signage, interpretation and access gates.

Oral History project

This project will build on the work already carried out in the islands, creating a record of the spoken word and dialect throughout the North Isles.

Small grants scheme

Grants of up to £2000 are available for community projects that focus on the natural, cultural or built heritage of Shapinsay. Please contact the NILPS team for more information.

Red Phone boxes

The traditional red phone box was once an invaluable communication resource and it is part of the social history of the islands. Boxes across the North Isles will be restored – perhaps with an imaginative future use?

Tombs of the Isles

This project will offer training in archaeological techniques. Tombs throughout the North Isles will be researched and feature in a 'North Isles landscapes of the dead' trail.

Education and Learning

Opportunities for young folk to learn more about their island's history, heritage and culture. A Youth Ranger Scheme & Storytelling workshops are examples of the activity outlined in this project.

Industrial heritage of the Isles

This project will enable residents to learn more about the industrial past of their islands and ways of recording this element of history. Farming, fishing, the kelp industry and peat extraction are among the activities that will be researched.

Shapinsay Heritage Centre

Small upgrades and improvements to centres, archives and presentations.

Wildlife recording activities

Shapinsay is an excellent place to see wildlife – having important wetland and moorland sites as well as a varied coastline and dynamic offshore environment. This project aims to encourage recording and learning more about wildlife across the isles, including the marine environment.

Euro Quiz

We [primary 6] have recently gone to Edinburgh to participate in the 2019 Euro quiz in the parliament building.



On Sunday we went to Kirkwall on the 7:00pm boat. When we got to the other side, we walked to the Papdale halls of residence because we had to take a bus to the airport to catch the 7:30am plane to Edinburgh.

When we got to Edinburgh, we took a very nice bus to Dynamic Earth. We got a tour of Dynamic Earth. In Dynamic Earth there was a big ice block where you had to try and make a hand print on it. This was hard because it was extremely cold! **Thank you to the Shapinsay Development Trust** for paying for our entry tickets to Dynamic Earth.

After lunch at Dynamic Earth we walked to the Scottish Parliament building. It took 5 minutes. When we got there, we were given Event Guest lanyards. We were taken up to the Chamber where **Erland, Paul, Joey and Lewis** took their positions as the official Shapinsay Euro quiz team. **Sean and Cameron** were the reserves and took their place in the gallery.

The quiz took about 3 hours and consisted of some very hard questions. If you would like to see the quiz you can find it at <https://www.scottishparliament.tv> and look under the video archive section. The quiz is labelled as the SEET Euro quiz Final and took place on 13th May. Liam McArthur MSP came along to support us and was in the gallery watching. The Shapinsay team got 47 questions right out of 60 but sadly this wasn't quite enough to reach the finals.

We then came back to the airport and back to Shapinsay with Harvey. Big thanks to Miss Angier and Mrs McManus for going with us to the quiz and to Liam McArthur for all his support.

By Erland



Shapinsay Youth Club

Shapinsay Youth Club Participants are given a 'Hi5'

The Hi5 Award is an exciting award for young people age 5 plus that records and recognises wider achievement. The award which is administered by Youth Scotland is credit rated on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) where they sit at level 2.

To gain a Hi5 Award, young people choose a challenge, complete a minimum of 5 hours of activity, think about and comment on their achievements, and gather evidence of their participation.

Young people in Shapinsay Youth Club have recently received their first Hi5 Award. The young people decided their own challenges, set their targets and gathered and presented their evidence. Their youth worker Laura Wishart said "They have all worked really hard to gain their award and I'm very proud to present them with their certificates. Parents reported the young people were all very motivated to complete their challenges, and they are already working towards their next award."

The young people presented were Rowan, who's challenge was reading, Leilah, who's challenge was football and Matthew whose challenge was gardening. They are pictured here with their Youth Worker's Phoebe Dunnett and Laura Wishart.



Made in the Parish.

By Jan Buchanan

Orkney Food and Drink

On Saturday 11th May Shapinsay joined 9 other Parishes at Kirkwall Grammar School to compete in this biennial event. There were 50 people at the event, with about another 160 members of the public who came from midday until 2pm, they then had the chance to vote for their favourite table. There are 13 categories to enter, and all the Parishes strive to enter all of them.



Richard Best home brew in Orkney.

Shapinsay's table was the last one to be set up as we couldn't get there until 9.40am....happily the judges waited for us!

After the categories are judged then samples of the food or drink are put onto tasting tables and we visit each other's tables to eat, drink and be merry! Although it is taken extremely seriously and the judging is very strict, there is a wonderful atmosphere and camaraderie amongst us all.

I would like to thank all of the bakers, makers and assemblers, brewers and bairn(s) Special thank you from the Sanday table to Jennifer....." your gold cupcake will cheer up my poorly little one"

Our Table! (check out the FB Shapinsay page for the video)

Many congratulations to Richard who won First in the home brew section. Congratulation as well to Joy who got a Second for her delicious chutney. Well done to everyone else who entered food and drinks.

Any offers for 2021?

