

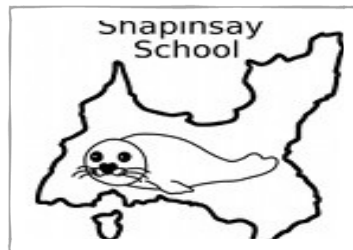
The Shapinsay Sound



The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.
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The weather at the end of term has been rather wet and miserable, but we have nevertheless managed to cram in a lot!

P4 - 6 children went to Hoy, and you can read more about that in Matthew's article. The P7 children were soaked in our usual end of year tradition, this time during a game of "Hide and Seek"!

P1 - 3 children went on a few more last trips as part of their "Made in Orkney" topic, visiting Ivan's with Sam Marcus and Ivan to find out about boats, going to Mark's to learn about bees and learning how to make bannocks with Claire. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us with the topics this term, it really helped the learning come to life.

The Nursery children have been busy baking in their new kitchen, and we are delighted that Laura is joining the staff team permanently from August.

The new term starts on **August 20th**, and we will let you know in the next issue about our new curriculum, and about our whole school targets for the next session.



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SHAPINSAY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST

The Shapinsay Sound

Shapinsay Development Trust



August 2019

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

Shapinsay Development Trust	1
Shapinsay Development Trust My Trip to Hoy	2
Elwick Bookwrights Literary Trip to Wyre	3
Elwick Bookwrights Literary Trip to Wyre Part2	4
Kirk	
Birding and Wildlife Tour of Estonia Spring 2019	5
Shapinsay Community Council RNLI	6
Almost the Full Cinema Experience	7
First Foal at Ostoft	
Orkney Native Wildlife Project	
Shapinsay School	8

Since the chair's message in the July edition of the Shapinsay Sound, and the feedback received since, we as a board feel that as the result of the consultation on housing was too close to call – 27 residents voting 'YES' for housing and 24 residents voting 'NO'.

These figures represent only about a fifth of the population of Shapinsay – we should seek the views of the rest of the residents. We need to show a clear mandate to satisfy the funding bodies. While SDT has a mandate to pursue the housing project from previous community consultations and developments plans, it is essential to show current data on funding applications.

To this end we shall be issuing a separate 'Housing' edition of the Shapinsay Sound in the next two weeks. In this special issue we shall be publishing an anonymous letter we received from an alleged resident, outlining the argument against the further development of housing on Shapinsay, and letters of support from community stakeholders outlining the need for the development of housing.

Within this special edition will also be a voting slip which can be returned to the Boathouse.

We hope that by putting forward the cases for and against the development of housing, and by sending voting slips to every household, we will get a better understanding of how residents feel about this issue.

Shapinsay Development Trust

Shapinsay Development Trust General Fund FINANCIAL STATEMENT - June 19

	Annual Forecast	Year to Date	% of Annual Forecast
Income			
Gift Aid Receipts (SRL)	97,000.00	97,000.00	100%
Office Rental (SRL)	6,000.00	0	0%
Wellbeing Post Funding	13,608.00	10,206.00	75%
Leases (SRL)	28,139.00	0	0%
Subordinate Loan - (SRL)	9,350.00	0	0%
Charges/Donations	1,500.00	160	11%
Totals	155,597.00	107,366.00	69%
Expenditure			
Salaries & Contracts	60,000.00	16,028.00	27%
Leases	28,139.00	0	0%
Boathouse/SDT Running Costs	14,000.00	2,010.00	14%
Shapinsay Sound Costs	4,000.00	904	23%
Transport Costs	28,158.00	5,965.00	21%
Swap	10,000.00	2,475.00	25%
Memb & Prof Fees	9,500.00	4,370.00	46%
Travel	1,800.00	572	32%
Totals	155,597.00	32,324.00	21%

My Trip to Hoy 2019



On Monday 24th June, P4-7 pupils from Shapinsay School went to Hoy for a residential trip. First we got on the boat from Shapinsay. Then we got on to on to the bus and then headed for Stromness to get the boat over to Hoy. After the twenty minute boat ride, we got to Hoy where we met our instructors Chris, Jack and Rachel. Then we put our luggage in the back of a trailer for Chris to take to the Hoy Centre while we walked up the hill

Our first activity was coasteering. First we got told what to get. After a while, we got into our wetsuits, we got in the bus and went to the site where we got the rest of our kit which included a buoyancy aid, helmet, gloves and a hat for wetsuiting. When we had walked down to the sea, we were told all the rules then we got to go in the sea and got used to the water temperature. After that we jumped from some high rocks and some low rocks. I found the high rock more fun.

The Old Man of Hoy is roughly a 2 mile walk from Rackwick. I thought it was really worth it when we got there because we got to see the Old Man of Hoy as well as St John's Head. St John's Head is the highest cliff in the UK roughly 500 feet high and it is right next to the Old Man of Hoy. After the Old Man of Hoy we did canoeing which is also in Rackwick. What you have to do is paddle down a burn in a 2 or 3 person canoe. I did it with a three person one as there was three boys and three girls and an instructor. The girls capsized but we didn't (luckily). At the end we all got to jump in the burn but I didn't. The other group climbed up Ward Hill and then went to the Dwarfie Stane.



The next day we got a choice of three options: bushcraft, Tryolean traverse or archery. I chose bushcraft. Only the three of us chose bushcraft which made it more fun as we all got to make our own fires and have more hot chocolate (yay). When we all had a good fire, we combined them. Then we got to roast marshmallows (mine fell off) and drink hot chocolate. The other group went to do the Tyrolean Traverse. When we were traveling back we got onto a boat to Stromness. We met our mini-bus to take us to Kirkwall. Where we then got on the Shapinsay boat home, all got picked up by our parents and taken home.

By Mathew



Almost the Full Cinema Experience



Thanks to the generous SWAP grant from the Shapinsay Development Trust, Soond Cinema-goers experienced the full cinema experience (almost!) during our July movie nights, when our eagerly awaited black-out curtains were finally put through their paces. Expertly custom made by Jean Coomber and her magic needles, the thick fire-resistant black-out material is so efficient we now need a torch to show people to their seats once the Boathouse lights are down!

Soond Cinema is currently half way through its *Home Grown* season, showcasing movies by British Directors which have been recommended by Shapinsay folk who come along to the film nights. So far the Home Grown season has shown the creations of Alexander MacKendrick, Nicholas Hytner, Richard Eyre, Ken Loach, James Hawes, Jack Couffer, Stephen Frears, Christopher Nolan and Mike Leigh with many more great films yet to come.

Anyone interested in finding out which films are being shown by Soond Cinema, should email Carole opheliaparkle@yahoo.com or Lynne lynnecollinson3@gmail.com or leave their contact details at the Boathouse office. Due to the conditions of the trust's MPLC umbrella charity licence we are not permitted to publicly advertise any films which is why you need to be on the Soond Cinema 'list' for us to be able to give you more information. Don't forget to bring your torch!

First foal at Ostoft



Does anyone know when there was a pony or ponies at Ostoft and if they worked the ground etc.

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

The Orkney Native Wildlife Project (ONWP) is now up and running in its efforts to eradicate stoats from Orkney. Stoats arrived on Orkney Mainland around 2010, and are a major threat to our native wildlife. They are now well established across Orkney Mainland and the linked isles.

Following a reported stoat sighting on Shapinsay in 2018, the ONWP partners have been busy searching for stoat sign, with no further evidence turning up so far. While it would seem that there are no stoats on the island for the moment, future arrivals are highly likely.

Keen-eyed residents may have already spotted one or more of our biosecurity traps on Shapinsay, designed to intercept a newly arrived stoat before it can cause damage to native wildlife or begin breeding. ONWP are especially grateful to Shapinsay landowners for giving their permission to place traps on their land.

If you are interested in helping keep Shapinsay stoat free we'd love to hear from you. Whether reporting in any sightings, or becoming a volunteer trap checker, please contact me through the details below!

As biosecurity officer for the Orkney Native Wildlife Project I'll be co-ordinating the biosecurity effort to prevent the spread of stoats to the islands, and I hope to meet most of you personally on regular visits to the island. If you have any queries at all regarding stoats, the project or trapping, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Chris Bell (Biosecurity Officer, Orkney Native Wildlife Project)

Tel: 01856881448

Email: chris.bell@rspb.org.uk



Shapinsay Community Council— Road Scheme 2019

Shapinsay Community Council has again allocated funds towards road improvement costs.

Island residents can apply for financial assistance towards the cost of road materials, by applying in writing to the Interim Clerk, Shapinsay Community Council, c/o Democratic Services, Orkney Islands Council, Council Offices, Kirkwall, or emailing shapinsayclerk@gmail.com by Monday, **26 August 2019**.

Applications will be discussed at the next meeting of Shapinsay Community Council, the date of which is to be confirmed.

RNLI

We will have a Table at the Shapinsay Show on Tuesday 6th August with Souvenirs and a Raffle including Highland Park Full Volume Whisky donated by the Distillery

**RNLI Fete & Barbecue
Around Shapinsay Yacht Race**

Saturday 24th August

Yachts muster at Shapinsay pier at 10am and set off from the pier at 11am

Quoits - Ladies - Gents Names in by 3.30pm

Bar 3pm until late at the Hall - Live Music - Local and visiting Musicians including - Jennifer Wrigley and the Reel Fiddlers and Shapinsay Music Group

Souvenirs - Raffle - Rolling the coin

Donations from Orkney Gin, Orkney Distillery and Deerness Distillery also Scapa Distillery

Fancy Dress parade from the Pier to the Playing Field 3pm along with Stromness Pipe Band

Theme Historic Events

Individual and group prizes - with or without transport



Visit from Kirkwall Lifeboat **2.30pm** and Stormy Stan the RNLI mascot will pay a visit Please go down and say hello and see aboard the Lifeboat

Any Group who would like to do fundraising stalls on this day for their own organisation are welcome

The **RNLI** is principally funded by legacies and donations, and most of the members **its lifeboat crews are unpaid volunteers.**

Elwick Bookwrights: Literary Outing to Wyre



At 10.00 am on Saturday, 1 June 2019, ten Shapinsay residents plus two five-year-olds (Thomas Hall and Agnes Mellor) set off with Captain Harvey Groat in the Charles-Ann for a day trip to Wyre.

Apart from Elwick Bookwrights (myself and Richard Lawrence), there were members of Shapinsay Heritage, Arts and Crafts (SHAC) Robert Grainger, Sue Lawrence, Jan Buchanan, Lenka Mellor, and Jenny and Bethany Hall – as well as the new occupants of Pictou, Mark Gleed and Nadia Charlamow.

Harvey took us north, past Taing Skerry, and along the east coast of the Hen of Gairsay. We crossed Russness Bay and slipped between Sweyn Holm and Gairsay. A large cormorant colony on the west side of Sweyn Holm had stained the hillside with guano. After crossing Gairsay Sound, we went up the east coast of Wyre, past the Point of Hellia, the Point of the Wart, and the Ayre of Skersie, and so into Wyre Sound. At 11 o'clock, we disembarked at Wyre pier.

Although Wyre's highest point is just 32 metres (105 feet) above sea level, the island appears surprisingly hilly. We walked up the single-track road to Wyre Heritage Centre, which was closed for repairs, and made our way past it and across the field to St Mary's Chapel. This Romanesque building dates from the second half of the twelfth century.



In 1933, the corroded remains of iron mail armour decorated with brass rings were found in the nave. It is possible that this armour may have belonged to the chieftain Kolbein Hruga himself.

Kolbein Hruga was born in Norway but settled in Orkney in the 1140s and was responsible for building the stronghold on Wyre that is now known as Cubbie Roo's Castle.

His farmstead was on the site of the present-day Bu farm, close to the chapel and castle. His wife was called Herborg. Their son, Bjarni, was probably born on Wyre around 1155. Bjarni Kolbeinsson, who presumably prayed in St Mary's Chapel, went on to become Bishop of Orkney from 1188 until his death in 1223. Around 1200 he founded a cathedral school in Kirkwall (it is likely this continued as the 'sang school' that later developed into Kirkwall Grammar School).

Bjarni Kolbeinsson also wrote Old Norse poetry, including the Jömsvingadrápa (Poem of the Jomvikings), which was a tribute to the fallen Viking mercenaries at the sea battle of Hjörungavágr (off Norway) in about 986. Here is an excerpt:

The frosty bows battered icy billows,
the sea roared cool on the planked
hull, the storm tested the crew.

Over 700 years after young Bjarni played in the meadows at the Bu, another poet-to-be, young Edwin, spent part of his early childhood at the same idyllic spot. Edwin Muir (1887-1959) was born in Deerness, but lived on Wyre in the early 1890s before his family moved away (he spent his teenage years in Glasgow – quite a contrast). Later in life, Muir wrote a poem called *Childhood*. The first stanza reads:

Long time he lay upon the sunny hill,
To his father's house below securely bound.
Far off the silent, changing sound was still,
With the black islands lying thick around.

From the chapel, we could see that it was a short walk up to the hill fort. To leave the churchyard, we climbed over a well-made wide stone stile. This is a superb example of local stone used to create a livestock barrier that is *also* designed to be climbed over: without barbed wire, it was completely people-friendly. Whoever built that fine stile had foresight and consideration. Shapinsay landowners take note!

While walking up the hill, I told young Thomas, 'Cubbie Roo's Castle is over 800 years old!' 'One million?' suggested Thomas. 'Not quite that old,' I assured him. After scrambling over the ruins, folk settled down to have their picnic lunches at the castle or in the sheltered churchyard at St Mary's. Jan and I sat out of the west wind, by the old stone oven at the castle, although the heat from the last meal cooked in it had long since dissipated.

Elwick Bookwrights: Literary Outing to Wyre Part 2

After lunch, a group continued west, while the rest of us returned to the pier, where there was a spotlessly clean toilet. The latter group spent the last hour of our stay on Wyre walking south-west along the shore towards the Point of Hallbreck. Alas, we discovered that the upper parts of the beach were strewn with plastic rubbish – at every step there were bottles, nets, twine, containers and sacks (including one salmon-feed sack that had clearly come from a fish farm – the feed had been manufactured in Essex). There was a skip at the pier where we dumped the rubbish we collected.

Recently, Caroline Delday from Wyre told me that there were just “five or six” residents left on Wyre now. This explains why the island has an air of neglect, with tattered black plastic sacks blowing from barbed-wire fences and the shoreline badly littered with rubbish.



At 3 o'clock we assembled back on the *Charles-Ann*. Harvey took us across to look at Rousay pier before going west towards Eynhallow until we had cleared the Wyre Skerries. We then turned south-east and, after passing Tingwall, we had a fine view of Langskail on Gairsay when we passed between Gairsay and Rendall.

Returning to Balfour Village at 4.00 pm, we hoped to see the pod of pilot whales leaving Kirkwall Bay, but the thirteen whales remained near Kirkwall Harbour for another day before being herded safely up the String and Shapinsay Sound, and out into the North Sea. We had barely stepped on to the pier when it began to rain – a well-timed first shower of the day.

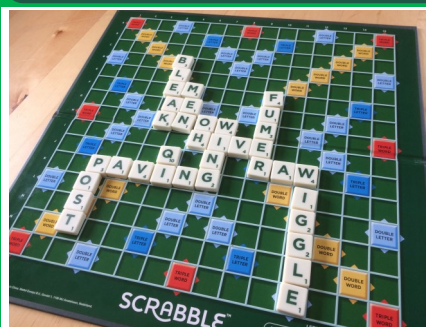
Wyre is a gem of an island, with a fascinating history. We brought home happy memories of the low Bu farmhouse (nestling between wind sculpted trees and shrubs to the east and stone outbuildings to the west), the picturesque lichen-covered stonework and arched doorways of the chapel, the ramparts and ruins of the castle. (However, the serious issue of plastic litter on the island is something that needs to be addressed because that is one memory we could do without.) The outing provided much inspiration for Shapinsay's writers, artists and crafters.

The trip to Wyre was advertised to Elwick Bookwrights, SHAC, and Stromness Writing Group members, on the Shapinsay Facebook page, and by word of mouth. If you are disappointed because you somehow did not hear about the trip and would be interested in joining future outings, please let me know on 711704 now, so that I can contact you about similar trips. There are many islands to choose from for future outings, with Egilsay being of particular interest; a round-Shapinsay boat trip is another possibility.

The Elwick Bookwrights next meet at 10.15 am on Saturday, 7 September 2019, when there will be a Renga Workshop with the poet Yvonne Gray (followed by a buffet lunch) in the Boathouse. This event is free for members; for non-members there is a fee of £10. Annual membership of Elwick Bookwrights costs £20. For news, follow our Facebook page.

Kate Fereday Eshete
Secretary, Elwick Bookwrights

Kirk



In August there are at least three things I'd like to draw your attention to. On the 4th August there will be no service in Shapinsay as we're going to visit the Peedie Kirk in town – it's the annual feature of our congregational life. Feel free to join us and, if you can, please let Caroline or myself know that you're coming. Peedie Kirk already have a wonderful spread of food ready for us for after the service it will help them cater if they know how many people are coming.

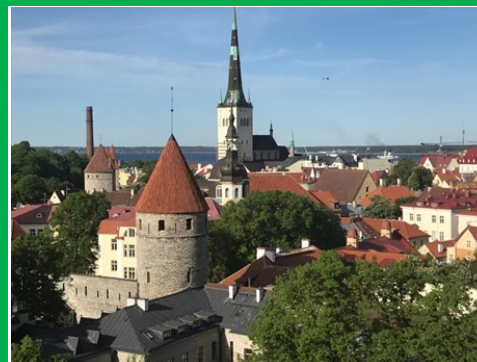
On the **11th August** we're going to have a service with communion at 12 noon. Please do come along whatever denomination you are – you'll be made most welcome. Equally, if for any reason you can't come to the service, please get in touch and I'll happily provide home communion for you.

On the **15th August** we'll hold another games afternoon – we'll have word games again but this time Orcadian words will be allowed! Many spellings, many opportunities... **a refereee needed???** Do come along and play with us! There will also be other games available – we're happy to each any games or indeed learn a game with you. Feel free to browse and borrow any games too – you can have them for a month at a time.

With best wishes,

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

Birding and Wildlife Tour of Estonia Spring 2019



Part of the 13th Century old walled town of Tallinn

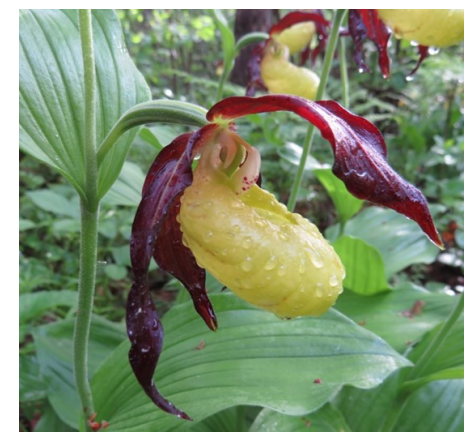
I was lucky enough to visit Estonia on the east side of the Baltic Sea due south of Finland this spring. Its capital Tallinn has within it a beautiful medieval walled town which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, which I enjoyed exploring. The country is at the same latitude as Orkney, 59 degrees north, but it often freezes solid in winter with frozen seas and has temperatures in the 30s in summer. There are only just over a million people in the whole country, so the roads and villages were extremely quiet.

The main purpose of my trip was to look at the birds and other wildlife, but it was also fascinating to see and experience Estonian culture. The most exciting bird we came across was a bird I've always wanted to see, and I was not disappointed. It's a large owl species called the Ural owl. We went to a site in a conifer forest where they were known to be nesting. We saw an adult hunting, preening in a tree and taking prey to youngsters in its nest.



An adult Ural owl

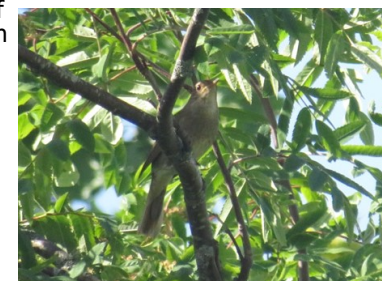
A wonderful daily feature was hearing the musical melody of thrush nightingales. They are the northern equivalent of the common nightingale and were widespread in Estonia in woodland and scrubby areas. They are drab to look at but their song is lovely



Lady's Slipper Orchid



Typical thatched cottages of Estonia.



Thrush Nightingale singing

One day we took a 25 minute ferry journey to Muhu a small island off the east coast. Here we explored a mixed woodland filled with bird song in the early morning, with the added delight of finding huge numbers of the most spectacular orchid I'd ever seen. It's called Lady's Slipper which grew up to half a metre high. It had been raining so the petals and leaves looked especially smart and glistening with rain drops.



Smoked Gar fish being gutted ready to eat

A feature of the trip which always pleases me was the food. It was delicious. One lunch stop saw us roll up at a beautiful reed thatched house. Within, the owner showed us how to take out the backbone of gar fish that she'd smoked for us to eat. Gar fish are caught locally in the spring. Their bones are bright electric green, so easy to see and if you followed her instructions carefully, quite easy to remove.

We saw a great array of different birds in peaceful wetlands, vast deciduous and coniferous forests, riverine habitats, the sea and open country. In addition we saw some Elk, wild boar, roe deer, beavers and wolf tracks, plus numerous insects including many dragonflies such as this four spot chaser. Estonia was a delight to explore.

By Paul Hollinrake.



A four spot chaser dragonfly