

The Shapinsay Sound



LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.
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We're all settling into the new term at school. The whole school is having a focus on Orcadian this term, and we would really like any native Orcadians who would be willing to come and speak with the children to get in touch with the school (**711218** or admin.shapinsay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk).



The children will also be looking at Orkney words, so if anyone knows any interesting ones please let us know!

Nursery children will be learning through play and exploring the home corner and other areas of the classroom. They will also be playing outside as much as possible.

P1 – 3 children will be exploring the topic "Ourselves", learning about the human body. They will also be finding out about keeping fit, healthy diets and teeth as well as parts of the body.

P4 – 7 children will be learning about animals. They will also be swimming at the Picky Centre each week this term.



This term we will also be forming our new Pupil Council and will be holding elections soon.

Our School Improvement targets this year are looking at improving Maths (along with all schools in Orkney), Languages (starting to learn Spanish), Science & Technologies and aiming for our Gold Sports Award.

SHAPINSAY
DEVELOPMENT
TRUST

The Shapinsay Sound

September 2017

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Shapinsay Development Trust



We were pleased to see so many Shapinsay residents at the recent AGM in spite of the poor weather conditions that evening.

We were delighted to have with us Gail Anderson from VAO who chaired the meeting along with David Campbell presenting the accounts, Luke Fraser, Housing Manager, Orkney Island Council (OIC) and Adele Lidderdale (OIC Hydrogen Project) So a huge thank you to those people who came over from mainland Orkney and gave up their time to provide a clearer picture of the position of current SDT projects.

The AGM got off to a prompt start and Gail quickly moved us through the obligatory points that are necessary for any AGM. This gave way to the process of electing a board of directors and it was agreed by those present that the current members Jean Baptiste Bady, Steven Bews and Andrew More remain in post. In addition John Phillips and Jean Coomber were elected as directors and so we have the minimum number of directors once again. Incidentally, whilst five directors are sufficient to satisfy the constitution we would welcome a representative from each of the three Shapinsay groups, that is: Shapinsay Heritage Arts and Crafts, Shapinsay Community Association and Shapinsay Community Council to join us.

Following this J Bady, as acting chairperson, gave a short but informative report on the progress the trust had made over the year singling out the continuing success of the out of hours (OOH) ferry, the continued increase in successful SWAP applications, the island transport, and the increased use of the boat house as a community hub.

David Campbell provided an in depth analysis of the accounts which, we hope, gave all those present a deeper understanding of our finances and feel sure there was a good degree of clarity.

Luke Fraser was given the task of untangling the many miss-understandings that have unfortunately arisen concerning the "news" that the SDT were to develop the parcel of ground known as Helliard View and a lively discussion followed.

To summarise Shapinsay Development Trust was approached by OIC to ask if they would potentially be interested in purchasing the land below Helliard View or the School House. At no point did Shapinsay Development Trust enter into an agreement to purchase either of these sites. An agreement in principle was made, that should either of these pieces of land become available the SDT be offered first refusal. As no correspondence was received from OIC before the announcement in the press, and SDT is still yet to receive any such correspondence, SDT was unprepared for the fall out that came from this announcement. Due to the nature of the opposition to the announcement, and resulting resignation, the SDT board ceased to be quorate and as such until new board members came forward the Trust was unable to have a meeting to discuss the best way to respond to the whispers. We are aware that this lack of communication did not help in alleviating the anxieties that ensued within the Community. Unfortunately however these circumstances were beyond our control and we can only apologise for any angst this may have caused.

Shapinsay Development Trust

Part 2

To make it clear this land, owned currently by the council, was merely an example used to move forward an application for a grant which is currently available. There is no current proposal to use either this land or any other parcel of land for development, in fact, the survey which all of you received recently, concerning housing needs on the island will become very much the acid test in deciding if housing is needed on the island. It is expected that the results of this survey will be available shortly and we plan to hold a public meeting to discuss the findings.

Adele Lidderdale then provided a very welcome finale to the evening with her analysis of the hydrogen project. She assured us the hydrogen project is very much alive and will soon be solving the problem we have with curtailment. What is curtailment? you may well ask the answer is in the detail. The revenue generated from the wind turbine, when the wind blows, sadly that does not always result in receipts for the island because sometimes this "excess electricity" is not wanted, but thankfully, due to scientific progress and engineering advancements, we can instead convert the electrical energy to liquid hydrogen which can be stored safely in containers, transported and used as needed. In short the energy and the income provided by the turbine will be maximised.

So thank you for those who battled with the elements to be at the meeting and we hope you went away feeling that the evening was not wasted but what have we learned from this experience?

Shapinsay Development Trust is a body which is in place to further the interests of the Community and have always tried to ensure the lines of communication are very much open and that decisions taken are with the full backing and support of the community. In this instance the Trust were not able to communicate fully with the community as a whole due to the lack of information received from OIC, but had there been direct contact from the concerned individuals from within the community we could have alleviated concerns before the issue snowballed.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind the community that the Boathouse doors are always open and if you have any concerns in future please get in touch.

The Directors are all volunteers from within the community, who have all taken on this role as they all want what is best for the community, but we do only meet on a 6 weekly basis. However, we have employees within the boathouse who can discuss any concerns with you, pass on any concerns you may have or direct you to someone to talk to.

The telephone number is **711733** or you can pop in and have a chat in person, or if you would rather have your communication in writing the Email address is: boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk or a letter can be sent to the Boathouse addressed to the Board

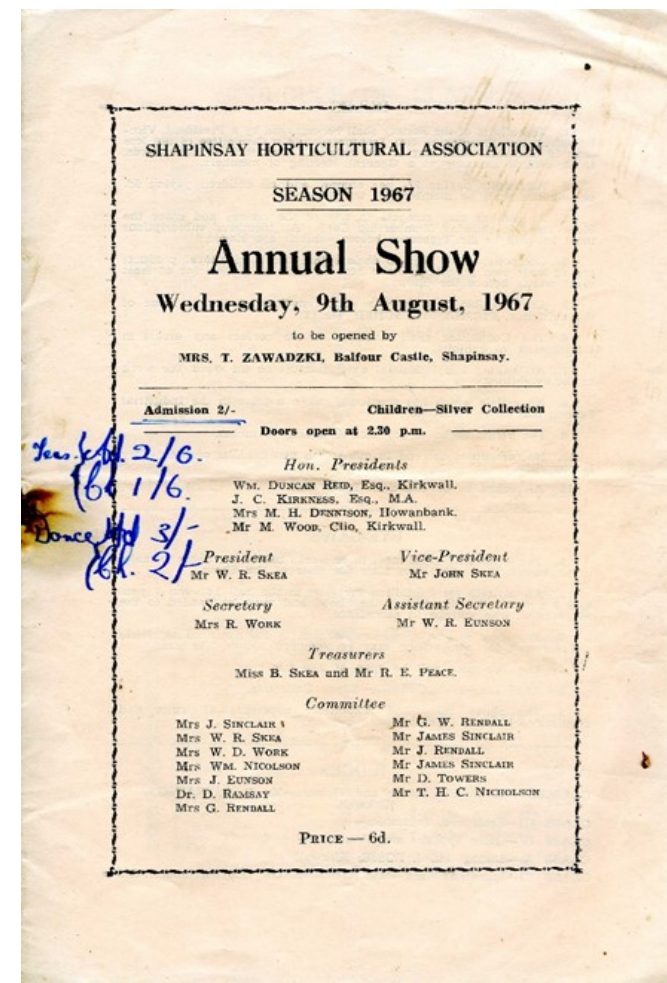


Garden Notes from Old School

Part 2

At the back of the schedule there is an advert for Amateur Gardening magazine; did they sponsor the show at that time by providing prize cards or other prizes?

There were many Special Prizes to be won as now; some of those people or businesses are still around but others have now gone: Geo. Leonard, Bookseller; Messrs. Scott & Miller, Seedsman; Mr John Sclater, Draper; Mrs M H Dennison, Howanbank; Messrs. G Leitch & Son; Mrs Zawadzki; Messrs. J M Croy Ltd, Drapers; Scott's Fish Shop; Messrs. Flett & Sons; Mr J W Sinclair, Post Office Shapinsay; Dr D Ramsay, Shapinsay; Cumming & Spence; Messrs. Wm Shearer, Seedsman; Mr J C Kirkness M.A. and Nurse Lister, Shapinsay.



I hope this has brought back some memories from the past and maybe provided some thoughts for the future!

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

Garden Notes from Old School

Annual Show

Wednesday 9th August 1967

With another show season having just come to an end I thought I would take a walk down Memory Lane and have a look at the schedule for the Horticultural Show 50 years ago, back in 1967.

There have been some changes of course, the most obvious being that the show was held on a Wednesday at a time when the flower show and the cattle show were on separate days. In 1967, Mrs T Zawadski officially opened the show which ran from 2.30 until 5.30; admission 2/- for adults and 'silver collection' for children, though as now, members were admitted free.

Membership at that time was 2/- for adults and 6d for children. The cost of the schedule was 6d (interestingly, in the following year it doubled in price to 1/-!) and was printed by The Orcadian at their office in Victoria Street. Teas cost 2/6 for adults and 1/6 for children and the dance that followed cost 3/- for adults and 2/- for children. It must have been some rush to get organised for the dance as exhibits were not allowed to be removed until 5.30.

The President in that year was Mr W R Skea with Mr John Skea as Vice-President. Mrs R Work was Secretary being assisted by Mr W R Eunson and the two Treasurers were Miss B Skea and Mr R E Peace. Today we have a committee of not less than fourteen but in 1967 it was sixteen "consisting of two members from each of the eight wards....." and in that year it consisted of Mrs J Sinclair, Mrs W R Skea, Mrs W D Work, Mrs Wm Nicolson, Mrs J Eunson, Dr D Ramsay, Mrs G Rendall, Mr G W Rendall, Mr James Sinclair, Mr J Rendall, Mr James Sinclair, Mr D Towers and Mr T H C Nicholson.

There were only six classes at that time, no Arts and Crafts, Photographs or separate School Children's section. Children could enter Queen Cakes and Oven Scones in the Bakery class, Knitting or Sewing in Industrial Work or, also scheduled under Industrial, a Vase of Garden Flowers, 4 Vegetables or Art: Drawing – under 12 - "A Jungle Scene" or over 12 – "First Men on the Moon". I wonder how many people thought then that in only two years' time, men actually would walk on the Moon.

Looking more closely at individual categories, we have Lily of the Nile, Mesembryanthemums, Mignonette and Myrtle in 'Window and Greenhouse Plants'; how many people still have these plants on their windowsills today I wonder? I was told that Mesembryanthemums or Livingstone Daisies were a nightmare to exhibit as they would close up the minute the sun went behind a cloud! Under 'Cut Flowers' most of the categories were the same as today except that whereas now we ask for three or four of a variety, back then many of the categories called for six specimens. Also, Asters, Mimulus, Pansies and Violas all called for distinct varieties. This would have been much more of a challenge for gardeners to grow four different varieties of each of these flowers to conform to the schedule.

In 'Fruit and Vegetables' many categories were the same but it does seem that people grew an awful lot of turnips! I was amused to read that not only were there potato categories for long white, kidney, long coloured, round white and round coloured, there was also a category for '6 Potatoes (boiled)'. I wonder how this was judged. A category for '6 Pods Beans' doesn't state what type – would it have been Runner Beans? Today we don't have runners, instead we have Broad or French Beans. We also have additional classes which perhaps reflect the change in our eating habits; Cucumbers, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery, Radishes and Kohl Rabi would not have been everyday vegetables as they are now. And of course there was no 'Tattie' In A Bucket competition – I doubt this would have been considered 'proper' gardening!

Another change in our eating habits is reflected in 'Dairy Produce and Preserves'. Many of us will freeze our surplus produce today but in 1967 there were categories for 'Gooseberries (bottled)' and 'Plums (bottled)'. I certainly remember bottled fruit in the pantry which was used during winter as a pudding with custard or made into pies.

'Shapinsay Speaks' project gathers pace

by Lynne Collinson



Sisters Margaret Groat and Dorothy Laird are amongst the latest interviewees to take part in the 'Shapinsay Speaks' oral history project – seen here recording their memories with volunteer Heritage Reporter Valerie Ashworth More. But it's not only folks living on the island but those who used to live here in times past who we are also interested in hearing from to give a range of material about our island's past so do please put us in touch with anyone who you think might be interested. Shapinsay has found its way into the hearts of many people, even those here on work assignments.

One lady such lady is health professional Linda Scott. Living on the Orkney mainland now, Linda came over as relief nurse for 2 days and ended up working in Shapinsay for 3 years on and off living on the Island for ten days at a time. Says Linda.

"Shapinsay will always have a place in my heart. Although I was there in a professional role I was made welcome by all the people and treated as part of the family".

Linda's husband Chris comes from Shapinsay and was born at Housebay, "I enjoyed exploring and learning about my in-laws' family history. I also helped with the Lunch Club and ended up serving and even dancing! She was also involved in a health project with local children and loved being very much part of the community.

"You have to respect that each island is unique and respect the people" says Linda "and you need to think out of the box if there's an emergency situation and have several strategies. I can't praise the fire, ambulance, ferry, lifeboat and helicopter crews enough who can be called upon at any time of the day and night".

"The nursing challenges of an island environment calls for a good all-rounder with life experience to draw upon and Linda fitted the bill. "I found it a very fulfilling role and rewarding, especially when I saw people doing well and thriving after coming over a serious illness".



In her spare time Linda beachcombed a lot "I felt safe on the Island - two hours would just fly past – I'd get lost in the beauty – I loved finding groatie buckies and heart-shaped stones and even a fish-eggs heart near Burroughston Broch".

Amazingly, she once found a Shapinsay-shaped stone on North Beach and later used it as nameplate for a house which she and her husband called after the Island.

"I never thought I'd be a nurse on Shapinsay", she says, "at one time I didn't even know where it was so it's funny I ended up working on the Island – but I'm glad I did – it was a very precious time".



Anyone interested in doing some oral history interviews as a volunteer or who would like to be interviewed should email cao@shapinsay.org.uk or phone 711733

Shapinsay Community Council

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Community Council elections are held every four or five years following Local Government elections.

The Community Councils help to administer Orkney Islands Council funds at a local level. These funds are used to support community projects, voluntary groups, tourism ventures, kirkyard maintenance and community halls.

The Orkney Community Council system has been recognised by the Scottish Government as a model of best practice in community empowerment within Scotland for the way that Community Councils are involved in decision-making and this success is due to the dedication of the individuals involved.

Any individual aged 16 and over may stand for election for the Community Council representing their home address, providing they are on the Electoral Register.

The Nomination Form can be obtained from the Community Council Clerk or downloaded from <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Elections/CC-Election-2017/Community-Council-Nomination-Form-2017.pdf>

Candidates need to complete and return the nomination form by **5pm on Monday 4 September 2017**.

The election is carried out by postal ballot with ballot papers due to be issued on Monday, 11 September 2017 and returned no later than **5pm on Monday, 25 September 2017**.

It is hoped that members consider standing for re-election and feel free to share nomination forms with any individuals who are also interested in standing for election.

The Scheme of Orkney Community Council – 2007 and the Code of Conduct for Orkney Community Councillors can be found on the following links:

<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Community-Councils/Scheme for Orkney Community Councils.pdf>
<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Democratic-Services/Code of Conduct April 2012.pdf>

Shapinsay's Elwick Bookwright



Great news! Shapinsay's Elwick Bookwrights writing group has just become the most northerly affiliated member of the Scottish Association of Writers (SAW). The Association, which has been promoting writing in Scotland for almost half a century, offers help on the craft of writing, provides useful resources for writers (on, for example, research, copyright, and the public lending rights), and gives advice on club administration (such as charitable status, fundraising and developing a constitution). It runs competitions and holds workshops and an annual conference. Members of Elwick Bookwrights are now eligible to enter SAW's competitions and to join in events. As part of SAW's outreach programme, a representative from SAW will visit the Elwick Bookwrights at the Boathouse within the next few months.

At the next fortnightly meeting of the Elwick Bookwrights, on Saturday, 9 September, there will be two guest speakers, sisters Babs and Kathleen Stevenson. Babs (of Quoyloo) is the author of 'The Organist' (2016). Babs and Kathleen (who lives near Perth) worked together on the Neolithic Whodunnit, 'Maeshowe Murders', which was published earlier this year. So come along and hear Babs and Kathleen discuss their writing craft and their experience of having books published.
We meet at 10.15 am in the Boathouse.



Shapinsay Fire Department

Recruitment

When applying for the role of Firefighter – candidates should:

- Be eligible to work in the UK and be 18 years of age or over (no upper limit)
- Live or work within a reasonable proximity of Shapinsay Fire Station. Contact the Orkney District Office (details below) if more details are required.
- Be willing to commit to the full recruitment process, including practical selection tests such as confined spaces - full details of these can be found in our [Recruitment Information Pack](#) or by contacting the District Office
- Be willing respond to emergency calls via a pager from home or your place of work at any time of the day or night
- Have the express permission of your primary employer to become an RDS Firefighter
- Be committed to providing an important emergency service within your community
 - Be committed to attend a 2-3 hour training session at your local fire station one night per week and be available to attend a two-week training course designed to provide you with the basic training needed to start your role as an RDS Firefighter. **This course will, if there are sufficient numbers, be run exclusively on Orkney.**
- Your ongoing training and development will be provided at your local fire station

As an Equal Opportunities employer, we are striving to ensure that our workforce represents the community in which we work, and as such welcome applications from females as well as male recruits.

Should any females require further information, you can contact the District Office, or contact in confidence one of the following female members of staff who will offer advice and mentoring.

Kirsten.Glue@firescotland.gov.uk

Leona.Gordon@firescotland.gov.uk

Zoe.Flaws@firescotland.gov.uk

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality, including ensuring our recruitment is targeted to all of Scotland's diverse communities. This includes targeting people who may not have previously considered a career in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

District Office 01856 875428.