

# The Shapinsay Sound

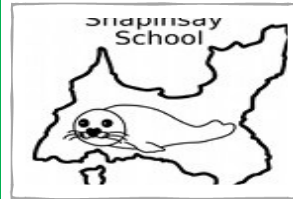


LOCAL

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.  
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## Pirates Versus Mermaids

Thank you to all those who came to watch the pantomime – we hope you all enjoyed it. We were proud of all the children, who did well with all their lines and delivered them with great gusto! Thanks to all those who helped us well; from costumes, hair and make up to scaffolding for the projector. A big well done especially to Leanne Bews who did a lot of work with the script and also the rehearsals with the children.

There are DVDs available of the panto if anyone would like to buy one – the cost is £5 and the money goes into School Fund for the benefit of the children.



## School Sale – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April the P7s will be running a sale in the school hall from 1.45 – 3pm. There will be various stalls, refreshments and a raffle.

The P7s have written to local businesses and have got some really good prizes such as vouchers, art work, models, glasses and much more. If you aren't able to come to the sale but would like to buy some raffle tickets please pop into the school (or email / phone us) or see any of the P7 pupils.

If you have any things which we can sell at the sale (such as books, toys, bric-a-brac) please drop them by the school from the 11<sup>th</sup> April (anything not sold will be taken to the charity shops in Kirkwall afterwards). If you would like to have a table yourself at the sale in return for a donation to the P7 fundraising please contact the school by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

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SHAPINSAY  
DEVELOPMENT  
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# The Shapinsay Sound

April 2016

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## From the Chair

by Sheila Garson



I'm sure you are wondering when the Boathouse will open. We just need the tarmac laid in the parking area to complete the building and hope the contractor will be on site in early April. Once that's finished we plan to hold a joint opening event and launch of the new Island plan.

Following on from last month's look at what the Trust has achieved I thought it might be useful for island residents old and new to give a bit of a resume of how the Trust come about.

Shapinsay Development Trust grew out of the Shapinsay Development Group, which was formed in 2002. The

island was very involved in the formation of this original Group and the decision to do this was taken at a well attended public meeting. The main driver was to ensure the sustainability of our island community into the future.

To undertake the kind of projects needed to make a real difference the Group became Shapinsay Development Trust in 2003. SDT is a company limited by guarantee, which limits the liability of its member to £1 should the Trust become insolvent. It's also a registered charity, which gives us access to a much wider range of funding sources. What SDT can do is set out in our Memorandum and Articles. This governing document is basically the rules governing the activities it can undertake, the structure of how it is to be managed and the rights and responsibilities of directors and members. Anyone over the age of 18, resident on the island, can be a member and the Trusts directors are elected by and from this membership.

The aim of the Trust has not changed over the years and remains to work to ensure the sustainability of our community. If this is something you care about, please show your support by becoming a member or if you're already a member why not consider joining the Board.





## LALDIE HAANS – The Orkney Craft Festival

### Friday 29 April – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016

Festival Director, ceramic artist Elaine Henderson, and a small group of supporters have been working hard at developing a programme of talks, tours and workshops throughout the county to highlight the skills of local folk and to encourage people to experience craft making for themselves. A number of crafters from other parts of Britain have also been invited to share their knowledge and skills. The bulk of events will be held at the Standing Stones Hotel, however, a number of workshops have been organised on Stronsay, Rousay, Papa Westray, Westray, Hoy and Shapinsay.

Half day workshop £20, full day workshop £40 Four workshops will be held on Shapinsay. The times are slightly different from those on the mainland in order to accommodate the ferry timetable.

### Full day workshops 10.30 -4.00 with a break for lunch

**Chimene Taylor – Mosaic Glass, Elwickbank House.** At the end of this workshop participants will have crafted their own small glass mosaic.

**Sandra Rodwell – Ragwork, The Boat House.** This workshop will explore different techniques and materials used to hook rugs and wall hangings. Participants will have access to enough material to create a small wall hanging or rug.

### Half day workshops Pat Hazzeldine – Needle felting: with beach combing finds, Elwickbank

**House.** This will be a half day workshop, 10.30 – 12.30. At the end of the session participants will have their own small wall hanging. Pat will provide a selection of materials. **Jenny Hall – Art Journaling, The Church Hall,** This half day workshop will be held 2.00 – 4.00. Jenny will share ideas and tips for creating and keeping an art journal. As well as sampling different aspects of the creative process, participants will leave with a book, acrylic paint and craft papers. **Chimene's Taylors glass workshop** will also be open to visitors on Sunday from 10.00am – 1.00pm.

For more information about all of the workshops contact Elaine at

[laldiehaans@gmail.com](mailto:laldiehaans@gmail.com) or visit <http://southronaldsaycrafts.co.uk/laldie-haans-craft-festival-2016>

Brochures with a full programme of events will be available in libraries, cafes and other venues at the end of March. Places may be booked through the Orkney Craft Association online shop.

## Marine Life Rescue

You may recall a very positive story in the local press last summer about the successful rescue of a stranded Pilot Whale on Dingieshowe beach by a small team of volunteers. Many of those involved in the rescue had undertaken a short course with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue Group - a national organisation who offer training in the rescue of marine animals and operate an alert system when an animal has stranded.

In recent times, live strandings in Orkney have been relatively uncommon. However, from time to time incidents do occur – notably, back in the 1980s and 1990s both Eday and Sanday experienced mass strandings of whales. In the event of future strandings on any of the islands, having a resident trained BDMLR medic would be very beneficial - being able to assess the animal's condition, attend to its immediate needs and help co-ordinate a rescue attempt.

**The BDMLR group** are organising a one day course on June Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and are interested in hearing from people who would like to take part. The cost of the course is £90 and funding may be available for one person through the Shapinsay Development Trust. If you are interested, please contact...

**Nic Thake @ Shapinsay Development Trust 711733**

[sdtsm@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:sdtsm@shapinsay.org.uk)

## Poem

by HL Davis

### The Sycamore Bowl

I remember my leaves widespread,  
Grazing the sky with open hand,  
Giving strength like blood transfusing  
Into the naked earth beneath.



Stripped of bark, I turn again;  
Knots worn smooth by craft and touch.  
My hollowed self cradles different fruit.  
Grain of my heart made manifest.



## Shapinsay School

## Part 2

### Sport Relief

The children all took part in running or walking at least a mile on the 18<sup>th</sup> March for Sport Relief. They have raised lots of money (please take a look at the school website for details).

Thanks to all the parents and other helpers who supervised the mile, and well done to all the children who took part. The money raised will be used by Sports Relief to help other people in this country and abroad

### Summer Term

Next term is a really busy term for the school. As well as the learning in class we have lots going on. Some of the Nursery children will start getting ready for P1 while the P7s prepare to move on to Kirkwall Grammar

**School. P4 – 6** children will be going to Hoy for 2 nights and the P7s will be going to Lagganlia for 4 nights.

We will be growing more in the polytunnel and hopefully be starting to develop the new outside area. We also hope to take part in Bag the Bruck. Ian and the other staff will be helping the children with Bikeability training and the children will be preparing for the Shapinsay Picnic.

We have visits planned from the Coastguard and will hopefully be taking part in some other trips to help with learning in class.

### Contact us

You can always find out what's going on in school via the website

[www.shapinsayschool.org](http://www.shapinsayschool.org) .

You can phone us on 711218 or email

[admin.shapinsay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk](mailto:admin.shapinsay@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk)



## Shapinsay stitching

by Lynne Collinson



### Shapinsay stitching is SEW much fun!

Many hands have been making light work of an ambitious project to create a unique set of floor cushions for the new community Boathouse. The idea came from Glasgow based artist Deirdre Nelson who was 'sew' impressed when she saw an aerial view of where we live! "I noticed the greenness of the island and the way the fields were all sectioned off" she says "and just knew it had to be printed onto material and embroidered".

The SDT were approached and the idea was put to local crafters who agreed it was a great project! So Deirdre was invited to lead two workshops back in February

to get the stitching off to a flying start.

Since then, sessions have continued at weekends with around 30 people of all ages involved so far. "Everyone's been very game to give things a go" says Deirdre who is keeping in touch with our progress.

Amongst those putting their best stitch forward is local artist Pat Hazzledine who says "embroidery is not something that I'd normally sit down and do but I like that it's about our island and that we're all doing it together".

Grace Aldis, a visitor to the Island from Derbyshire came to one session and got stuck in right away, "I love that it's a community project" she said, "and that you can just join in and add your own style".

Other comments included "it gets people on the island working together" and "it's something everyone can benefit from because anyone will be able to use the Boathouse".



**The P1-7** children at Shapinsay School have also been adding their own special touches. Head Teacher Emma Clements said "they were keen to find something important to them such as their house and we had some interesting discussions which included how they might one day show their children and grandchildren the bits they did". The project fits well with the Art and Design and Social Studies parts of their school curriculum. The Nursery youngsters have been taking part as well - doing pictures for the adults to stitch round for them.



When laid out together on the floor the cushions will make up the map of our island and can be used in all sorts of imaginative ways - such as for storytelling or even taken off island for an event. As one contributor observed, "no one else will have anything like it" and that's what makes it so special to be a part of! Everyone is welcome to get involved - just come along to a session or you can even borrow a square to work on at home - Tel 711755 for more details.



## Garden Notes from Old School

We've had some lovely warm, sunny days through March and everything is really getting going in the garden. I love this time of year because although there's not the full-on colour that comes later on, the new emerging growth is such a welcome sight and full of promise.

In early spring, shrubs and trees are still not in full leaf so there is plenty of light at ground level.

Last autumn I started to create a mini spinney and planted several alder and some hazel.

This will be a spring garden so there'll be primroses, sweet violets, a white brunnera and blue Spanish bluebells. I'm also trying Euphorbia Whistleberry Garnet, a hybrid with E. robbiae as one of its parents; this means that it will hopefully be happy in a damper and semi-shaded position. Aquilegias and Leucojum, the Summer Snowflake, will also be added later.

**Wisebuys** have shelves full of tempting summer-flowering bulbs to plant this next month. Last year, I was given some beautiful dark red dahlias and I'm tempted to try some more varieties this year.

I grew them in pots and took them into the greenhouse to dry off over winter but now is the time to get them started into growth again so the compost will be refreshed and I'll begin watering them carefully. Even in the greenhouse, slugs seem to hunt out Dahlias so they will need protecting.



There are organic slug pellets which are completely safe to pets and wildlife or you could try sharp grit, crushed egg shells or wool pellets.

Begonias can also be started into growth now; I usually place the tubers in a shallow tray of moist compost, just enough for them to get their roots into, then as soon as they have sprouted they can be potted up.

The recent spell of drier weather has made the soil in my veg garden workable so I'll soon be planting out onion sets.

**Shearers** have a good selection and I have chosen Red Baron which seems to grow well here and will

keep for a reasonable time.

Broad beans, peas and early cabbage are growing in modules in the greenhouse and will gradually be hardened off outside on decent days during April ready to plant out at the end of the month.

If the soil stays reasonable, many veg varieties can be sown direct into the ground during April. I usually receive a Thompson & Morgan catalogue through the post but I've discovered that on their website, you'll find lots of seeds at 99p a packet which just aren't listed in the catalogue so I've ordered a few different things to try this year.



## Garden Notes from Old School

## Part 2

Plant of the Month for April is the Euphorbia. A gravelly spot in full sun would be perfect for Euphorbia polychroma with acid yellow flowers that last for ages and often fade to a bronzy colour. It grows 12-15ins tall and looks fantastic with blue bells or blue forget-me-nots. The miniature E. cyparissias 'Fens Ruby' at 6ins, emerges like miniature conifer seedlings of a copper colour with maroon tops before it produces its yellow/lime green flowers. It can be a bit of a spreader but it is so delicate I really don't mind it popping up in unexpected places! If you decide to pull out unwanted plantlets, use gloves and don't touch your eyes because the sap can be a severe skin irritant.

Both Euphorbia amygdaloides 'Rubra' and E. dulcis 'Chameleon' have lovely beetroot red new growth and will tolerate a slightly damper soil and then there is E. griffithii 'Dixter' which grows to about 3ft, likes a sunny but damp situation and has a streak of red on the back of the leaves and flame-red flowers.

Incidentally, if areas of your garden are pretty damp all year round, like mine, there is a lovely book called Beth Chatto's Damp Garden that is full of ideas for planting with beautiful photos to inspire; try dropping a few subtle hints if you have a birthday coming up!

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](mailto:karen@evanssmallholder.plus.com)



## Shapinsay Cubs Beavers Rainbows Brownies

Hello,

The Brownies have been working on their agility badge. We did some exercises in the gym.

Also, we have our world thinking day badge and our snap it outdoors badge.

We also go into town every second Monday to join another unit.

Thanks to Alison for that and to Louise for showing us around the gym.

By Lisa Bady.

Picture of all the groups including the Shapinsay Guides at the Kirk for the Thinking and Founders Day



## Shapinsay Wildlife Matters

by Paul Hollinrake

### Frogs & Toads

Around the middle of March this year frogs were seen crossing the road between Chapel Brae and Valhalla on Shapinsay. They are heading for the quarries to lay their spawn if they manage to avoid the traffic. Frogs have very long, strong legs designed of course for hopping and the webbed feet for swimming. Frogs have wet, smooth and slimy skin and lay their eggs in clusters of spawn.

Toads on the other hand have shorter legs designed to walk and not hop, have dry warty skin and lay their eggs in strings. Frogs spend 95% of their lives in and around water, whereas toads only need water to lay their eggs, and spend most of their time in damp areas.

Frogs actually have small conical teeth in their upper jaw, which help the frog cling to its insect prey. Toads don't have teeth, but have a poison gland behind their eyes, which means they don't taste very good to predators.



Toad



Frog

Frogs have been known on Shapinsay for many years and were probably first introduced as spawn from south or from Mainland Orkney. Toads are thought to be native and occur in Orkney naturally. However, toads are now very rare in Orkney and probably only now exist on Hoy. Keep looking though, as there are unconfirmed historical records of toads at Mill Dam on Shapinsay.

Frogs can absorb oxygen through their skin as well as their lungs, and spend the winter hibernating at the bottom of ponds. Toads tend to hibernate under boulders and amongst leaf litter.

Throughout the spring and summer if you are lucky enough to find spawn, you can watch the tadpoles hatch, and then start to grow limbs, lose their tails and become mini froglets by August.

And finally, what do frogs do with paper? Rip-it! Oh and what did the frog order at MacDonald's? French flies and a diet croak