

Shapinsay's Turbine – what's it for?

It's good to see so many new people and especially families on the island. Many have asked about the Trust and particularly about how income from Whirly the turbine is used by the Trust. So as such, it seems a good time to explain more about the Trust and the role that Whirly plays to help fund it, and how Whirly is managed.

Shapinsay development trust (SDT) is a charity and a limited company. SDT owns a trading subsidiary which operates the wind turbine – Shapinsay Renewables LTD (SRL), which is also a limited company. For SDT to maintain its charitable status the wind turbine needs to be run separately from the development trust. Each company has to have separate boards and directors and SRL has to be solely managed by the renewables board. The boards of both are made up of volunteers from within the community.

SDT is the sole shareholder in SRL and has two nominated SDT directors sitting on the SRL board. SRL is set up with one purpose – to maximise the income from the turbine to pass across to SDT.

So why do we have such a complicated set up?

Our tax advisors recommended this set up to us, and it's very common for charities to be run this way. They have a registered charity and a subsidiary commercial trading company to maximise tax savings and grant funding. This means we have the best of two worlds and can deliver the most benefit and money to the island this way.

By having this set up, SDT can apply for grant funding for projects to reduce the spending of their own money, as they are a registered charity. SRL, as a trading limited company cannot apply for these grants,



similar to a normal trading business. SDT as a charity would find it problematic and less tax efficient to borrow money, but SRL, as a trading company can raise funds through borrowing. Also, SDT, as a charity must be non-profit, whereas SRL can make a profit. SDT's charitable status is also key in allowing the maximum gift aid between the companies, as SRL manages the profit from Whirly and gifts it to SDT on an annual basis. The community took out loans in order to purchase and erect the turbine and these loans are still being repaid today. SRL is responsible for paying back the loans and the ongoing costs associated with running the turbine, for example leases, insurance costs, maintenance and decommissioning costs.

The turbine was erected in 2011 and started generating in October of that year. The land around the turbine and access to the turbine is leased from local

landowners. The turbine is an Enercon 900 Kw, which means it can generate 900 kilowatts per hour if the wind is strong enough. Enercon provide servicing and repairs to the turbine. Enercon told us that we could expect fifteen years of continuous operation due to the level of wind in Orkney.

SDT has a yearly AGM that incorporates both companies but is mainly focused on the Trust and its projects.

Directors/ trustees are voted onto the SDT board by the members of the Trust at the AGM. Any island resident can be a member of the Trust. SRL directors are appointed and approved by the directors of SDT. SDT also has two directors who sit on the SRL board and feedback to the SDT board. There are different skills and requirements for both boards. SDT need a wide range of different people from all backgrounds and ages from the community. They focus on what the island needs to develop and move forwards towards completion of the SDT five-year plan. The SRL board requires more technical skills and a large amount of business experience. All of the directors on the SRL board have run their own businesses and held senior positions in organisations. This level of experience is key when having to make the right business decisions.

SDT regularly holds board meetings and the minutes of these can be read online. Some parts of the minutes have to be censored as they contain sensitive information that cannot be published, for example staff information or lease payments to landowners.

SRL has regular board meetings, and information is sent regularly to the SDT directors. As a commercial company, SRL has a large number of non-disclosure agreements and commercially sensitive data. Many companies that SRL deal with require them to sign these agreements. SRL has sensitive data and information that is valuable and regularly offered to the renewables sector for a price. With this in mind, SRL only provides feedback to the trust board not to the general public.

As SDT is a charity with a trading arm, they are regularly audited and the trustees need to demonstrate that the

charity has the correct financial controls in place. This incorporates both the Trust and renewables company. SDT and SRL have been fully audited twice in the last two years and four times in the last five.

SRL also has extra financial controls in place as they need to provide quarterly management information to their lender. Any unusual or large expenditure has to be agreed by their lender in advance. This allows the lender to monitor the company throughout the year. This is normal practice for these types of charities with companies, as it protects community money.

So, who looks after the turbine day to day?

SDT employs many staff to deliver its services to the community. SRL has only one staff member - Adrian Bird, the turbine manager. The turbine manager manages the company and deals with the many suppliers, regulators and public side of the business. To mitigate the losses from the turbine in 2020-2021, sadly, SRL had to make the responders redundant earlier this year. The directors now volunteer to help out with the turbine as and when required.



For Conditions of Carriage of Passengers and Cargo, see Notices
Exhibited in Company's Vessels, Offices and Premises

EXCURSION to SHAPINSAY on Tuesday 9 August 2022 (Shapinsay Show)

*Unless prevented by any unforeseen occurrence m.v. Shapinsay
sailings in connection with the above will be as follows:*

<u>From Shapinsay</u>	<u>From Kirkwall</u>
0730	0815
0900	0945
1030	1115
1150	1230
1330	1415
1515	1600
1645	1730
1900	2000

All bookings must be made and paid for in advance for this event

Ferry Services, Shore Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LG.
Telephone (01856) 872044 Fax (01856) 872921

THE SHOWS ARE BACK!

Shapinsay Agricultural Association

Tuesday 9th August 2018



Dance to

Northern Limit

Stalls, Agricultural Stands, Beer Tent

There will be a Burger van for food through the day

The Orkney Dairy and many more stalls

Show Admission £5 Adult

Children Free

(Members wristbands available from Gemma Leslie £4)

Shapinsay Horticultural Association

Annual Show 2022

Saturday 6th August

Doors open 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Admission: Free

Schedule: 50p available from

Thomas Sinclair shop

Classes for: - Window and Greenhouse Plants; Cut Flowers;
Fruit and Vegetables; Dairy Produce and Preserves; Bakery;
Industrial Work; Arts and Crafts; Photographs and School
Children.

Special Prize for best exhibit in each class.

Refreshments provided by The Piece Place

from 2.00pm in the Clubrooms



The Shapinsay Horticultural Association
would like to wish everyone
an enjoyable and successful show.

Shapinsay Development Trust Electric Vehicles news

Continuing the theme of letting new folk know... Here's a bit about how the EV's work and an update for existing users

Shapinsay Development Trust run a car service for all islanders. This operates Monday to Friday, from the morning (to meet the 9am ferry) until the 6pm ferry (to meet the last ferry). This is not a taxi service as we do not charge fares but donations are encouraged. A donation as little as a pound each time helps towards the running costs of the EV.

Some of you will be aware of a few changes with the car service in the last few weeks.

Firstly, a little about the why: The Trust have been reviewing procedures, policies, staff contracts and health & safety. Through this process we have looked at the car service and how it operates. We are looking at ways of making the car service more sustainable long term and providing a more effective working pattern for the drivers. Lately there is an increased demand by people who phone up and request a lift immediately. We are unable to continue this "on demand" part of the service. It makes it very difficult to plan staffing and it doesn't allow us to ensure our driver gets adequate breaks.

As a result of the overhaul, we are going to introduce some new policies such as:

- All bookings must be made in advance, ideally at least 24 hours in advance. If you know your travel plans or have regular travel requirements, you can book up to a month in advance! By booking in advance, we can plan in advance. We can book a relief driver and ensure that no driver goes over their driver hours.
- For morning bookings, you will need to book by 5pm the night before.
- For afternoon bookings you will need to book by the morning of travel at the latest. (We cannot offer a daily service for the same

passengers. Schoolchildren need to use the school bus service provided by OIC)

- All passengers must wear a seatbelt while travelling in the EVs, unless medically exempt. Failure to do so may result in travel being refused.
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
- SDT reserve the right to charge for any extra cleaning required after usage by messy passengers
- No charges are made for the service at this time, but donations are encouraged as we work towards making all trust projects sustainable in the long term.

To book the car service call or text 07798570439 or email the **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS** cars@shapinsay.org.uk

Mobile Library visits



Thursday 25th August
Thursday 20th October
Wednesday 16th November
Thursday 15th December

Shapinsay		
School	10.15	- 11
North School	11.15	- 12.15
Astley	12.30	- 12.45
Helliar	1.30	- 2.15
Balfour Village	2.30	- 3.15

[If you would like a digital version of the newsletter, please email \[boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk\]\(mailto:boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk\)](#)

RNLI



Fete - Barbecue - Quoits

Around Island Yacht Race - Fancy Dress Parade

Saturday 20th August 2.30pm at the pier.

The Parade will then be piped to the Hall

As 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of Kirkwall Lifeboat Station

the theme is anything 1970's

Decorate boats in the harbour, tractors, trailers, any vehicle,

bikes, prams or just yourselves!

We are keen to make this a special event, post-covid, and all money raised will go directly to the new Kirkwall Lifeboat - due to arrive 2023

We hope to have a visit of the present Lifeboat

The yachts will muster here in the morning for bacon rolls

Darts Club will provide the Bar at the Hall

Names in for the Quoits by 3.30pm

Trophies for Ladies, Gents and under 16's

Hot food from 3.30pm (Approx)

Music by Shapinsay Music Group in the hall from around 3.30pm

Souvenirs for sale and Raffle (Donations welcome)

We will also be having a stand at the Shapinsay Show 9th August

Any new helpers welcome

The Play Piece

free to attend

Thursdays 4th & 11th August

all children welcome

Shapinsay community centre

Drop in from 2-4:30pm

Come along for some fun, games and activities



crafts

snack provided

games

For children under 12 years but they must be accompanied by a parent/guardian over 16 years. Any questions contact Alison 07867622814

activities



The Piece Place
Wednesday 24th August
2-4pm
in the clubrooms
All welcome
Come along for a cuppa and homebake.



Health Walks

Tuesdays 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th August

2pm from the boathouse

During the summer months we try to explore more of the island so please keep an eye on Facebook in case of change of starting venue. All welcome to come along

Any queries contact Alison 07867622814



The Piece Place

will be at the
the Shapinsay Horticultural Association Show in the community hall
on Saturday 6th August
come along for a cuppa and homebakes and to see the show entries

Refreshments available from 2-4:30pm



SHAC^{Shapinsay}

Heritage Arts and Crafts

The SHAC AGM was held on 22nd June in the Community rooms and several exciting current and future projects were discussed by Chair Lenka Mellor, assisted by Anne Bignall from the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS), after the admin had been completed.

The refurbishment of the Smithy, and the Heritage Centre space in particular, is becoming more of a reality and the extra storage facilities and IT and admin spaces will make a huge improvement to the accessibility of resources to users. The work is on schedule to be completed in time for the 2023 season when SHAC will finally be able to reopen its doors in its new incarnation. In the meantime, SHAC's involvement in NILPS projects promises to continue with the offer from Anne of support and help with wildlife recording (for example there have been seaweed foraging days and snorkeling events) and heritage activities (for example new heritage signage around Shapinsay is in the final stages of planning and there is a proposal to enhance the waiting facilities at the pier with information boards). A short film of a dive conducted in Shapinsay waters shown to the meeting highlighted a different perspective on the exploration of the ecosystem of the island. Keep an eye out for new signs appearing and for meetings organised to ask for resident feedback and participation in future activities! Anne was keen to organise what residents would really like to happen.

A beautiful short film, made by Mark Jenkins and sponsored by NILPS, of local boatbuilder John Leslie explaining his boat-building techniques and skills was also shown and much enjoyed by the meeting. It was an extract of a much longer film which will be available for screening in the Smithy, along with others connected to Shapinsay's heritage. And the winter will see the launch of an excellent book written by Sheila Garson and

subsidised by NILPS on behalf of SHAC 'Shapinsay A to Z' that will be available to buy at the Smithy.

The meeting concluded with a lively discussion over afternoon tea with a truly scrumptious selection of homebakes.

Maritime cultural landscapes



This is a community research project that goes on all around the north isles of Orkney. Wessex Archaeology and North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme have combined to bring island communities together to reminisce, gather materials and old photos to delve into the relevant local archives. All of the research will then be collated into a brochure that will become widely available. Our heritage centre will also benefit as the new display will be themed around a similar topic of maritime history.

Shapinsay research sessions: Wednesday 10th August and Wednesday 31st August 7pm in the clubrooms.

If you have an interest in the maritime history of Shapinsay, like to reminisce and/or pore over historical maps, please come and join these very informal sessions. Tea, coffee and biscuits included.

Advanced notice: The Shapinsay Development Trust AGM will be held on the 3rd of October in the Hall, more details to follow in due course.

If you would like to become a member before then, please call past the Boathouse to find out more.