



The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.

Registered Charity Number SC034818; Registered Company Number SC255127

As the year comes to a close, we, like many, take the time to reflect on 2023. It was a big year for the trust, we started the year running with the works beginning on the Smithy. Thanks to Steven Bews and his team for working so hard to get it up and running by the summer, it wasn't without its hurdles or headaches! Possibly a bit naively, we thought that the worst of the headaches would be over when we finally got the doors open to the public! But running a busy café comes with new headaches, and busy it certainly was! We opened in peak summer season, so we had to hit the ground running, so just kept it simple with a nice simple lunch menu, with the plan to create a bar menu once we were able. Unfortunately, due to how busy the summer was and with staffing changes and staff holidays, we never felt that we were in a position to introduce bar meals until summer was over. Thank you so much to all the staff who went the extra miles this summer to keep the place open, I think we only closed one day all summer, which was no mean feat! We have now introduced take aways, bar meals, winter warmers, Sunday roasts and Sunday brunches as trials throughout the winter months. If it works and is used, we'll keep it, if it doesn't, we'll try something else!

Not to be put off by big challenges, in February we were awarded a grant from Scottish Land Fund and completed the purchase of Balfour Cottage. The plan was to create 3x2 bedroom units and 1x1 bedroom unit. The plans were drawn, and various

options were put to the board. When we started to look into it fully, the suggestion of rebuilding Balfour Cottage with the same frontage was mooted. The board were initially hesitant, but when the facts and figures were explained (how much extra space would be created, how many builders aren't keen to take on a large renovation project as they can grow arms and legs and be very costly and time consuming, how we can save on VAT, how we can create 4 x 2-bedroom units in the same space, the efficiency created and much more), it was decided to take the idea to the public. We had 2 open days at Balfour Cottage and a stand at the Shapinsay show where overwhelmingly the vote was for knocking the building down, as long as the replacement was in keeping with the look of the old building. So, planning has gone in last month for the option of knocking down and rebuilding, we wait now to see what the Council say.

Later in 2023, we had an unexpected bonus when a member of the public approached us to offer us the opportunity to purchase their home. We got to work quickly and put in a grant application to the Scottish Land Fund, we hope to hear some news on that front early December, so watch this space. The plan with Rullinvoe is to create a family home to attract a working family to the island so that we can bolster the future of the Primary school, which once again, is on the brink of losing a teacher. We realise that many cannot see any benefit from the Trust continuing to purchase or build houses, but we see the benefits as 3 fold – 1. A Community without children and families is not a thriving

community. 2. A community with a shortage of working age people is not a thriving community. 3. The income from rent from these properties will help us to be able to continue to provide at least some of our services when the turbines life comes to an end, meaning it fits 2 parts of our development plan “housing for all” and “sustainability”. Sustainability has to be built in to all of our projects long term, the funding for property might not always be so easy for us to access, so we need to grab these opportunities when they arise.

Another big step in 2023 was the purchase of our peedie out of hours ferry, we would like to take this opportunity to explain some of the rationale! Unfortunately, due change in provider and cost increases, the whole service cost the trust around £70,000 last year, due to this we had to make the really difficult decision to halve the service offered. We continued to keep the costs to passengers low, while costs increased as we felt it important to continue to subsidise it or it will become too expensive, creating inequality where those that couldn't afford it, would no longer be able to use the valuable service. We realise that many islanders don't use this service so don't feel it is of any benefit, but feedback over the years is that the only reason many people stay on Shapinsay, or choose to live on Shapinsay, is because of our small boat service, that is a benefit to island as a whole.

It has been in the back of our minds for a while now, what would we do if Harvey ever retired? Options were mooted, do we buy a boat? Do we put it out to tender and hope someone out there has the desire to run the service? Do we give up altogether and hope that someday Orkney Ferries will take the slack? It's too important a service to the island for us to take option 3, so we went back to the other options and hope to run the service as

long as we can/need to. We are hugely grateful to Northerly Marine for stepping in to run the service while Harvey was unable, they have continued to do so after his retirement. They have been quite happy to do that, but have always indicated that this was not a long-term project for them, they are often tied up elsewhere and can't guarantee providing this service forever, so after many discussions with Northerly Marine and extensive advice on costs of running a boat etc, the board sat around the table to discuss whether buying a boat was the right option. We were made aware of a peedie boat that would fit the bill – the Linnhe Venture (now the Elwick Bay), with some alterations, she would be perfect for the job, so we made some enquiries, we spoke to some local skippers, we put the question out there, who's willing crew it? The boat cost £30,000, half of what the service cost to run last year, and the boat will hopefully hold her value if we look after her well enough, so there's no huge losses. The alterations will be around £6-10,000 depending on whether we decide all of them are necessary. With all the relevant information to hand, the board made the decision that buying a boat and employing local crew, was the best, most viable option, for future proofing our service.

During 2023 we also, on the back of a public consultation, with grant funding, purchased the lower bit of land at Standpretty – (which will now be named the Spyran Brae site for the duration of the project). There are many things planned for that site, if you haven't seen the plan, check out our website where you will find details of all of our projects. Due to Balfour Cottage and Rullinvoe unexpectedly being offered for purchase this year, we've pushed back Spyran for a year, we are still working on it, looking at options for funding etc, but there will be little happening there for the next year.

We ran a youth club from October 2022-June 2023 (thank you to Leanne and Jan for all their hard work with that project). The funding ended for the project in the summer time and we are looking into ways to run some sort of youth club in the future. There is funding we can tap into, but it needs to be youth led, so if there are any youths out there willing to join/create a youth forum to decide what type of youth project you would like on Shapinsay, please get in touch! In the meantime, there is a vacancy with the Orkney islands council for a youth club worker for Shapinsay, so if you have an interest in seeing youth club start up again, consider applying!

Wellbeing project – Alison Meason ended her role as wellbeing coordinator earlier this year, thanks again to Alison for all her hard work. Alison McDougal picked up the baton last month, so we look forward to seeing what projects she tackles.

Charity shop – Cast Affs closed its doors in 2022, since then we've been looking at various options, with the long-term plan being to open a permanent building in the enterprise zone at the Spyan Brae site. As we may have to wait a few years before that opens, we are looking into funding for a portacabin, which would house the charity shop in the interim and be able to move up to Spyan when we are ready for it. This is funding

dependent, but we hope to open something in 2024!

We continue to support crossroads care on the island by subsidising 50% of crossroads care costs on the island, this enables the carers to provide more support than would otherwise be available. We do realise however that there is a gap in carers at the moment, but hopefully this will be resolved soon.

We have a £12000 SWAP budget towards various activities including driving lessons, education grants, community groups, accommodation etc – for more guidance, download the guidance notes from the website. The types of things we have funded this year are: Driving lessons, swimming, dancing, judo lessons. Adult education, community association and picnic to help with running costs, darts group for lights and much more.

In January we were able to help 10 more people receive an electric bike for health and wellbeing, with the help of a grant from the energy savings trust, this brings the total number of bikes on long term hire up to 21!

For Christmas this year we have put £1000 towards The Community Councils Christmas lights to bring some Christmas cheer and we're providing free catering for the Salvation Army.



Harvest Home 2023



The Agricultural Association would like to thank everyone who came along to the Harvest Home on Saturday 18th November.

We would like to say a special thanks to Paul for the meal and to Joy for making the pudding.

Also to everyone who helped make it such a success. All of the people who set up the hall, the tattie peelers, servers, bar staff and not to forget the cleaners! We couldn't have done it without you.

The Dance was sponsored by Scottish Seafarms Ltd and the band was David Bowen Scottish Dance band who played great music to keep us all dancing.

Hope to see you all there again next year.



Shapinsay over 50's Lunch Club will meet at the club rooms on Wednesday 29th November.

On the menu will be roast beef and all the trimmings followed by rice pudding.

Vegetarian Gluten and Dairy free options will be available.

If anyone 50 or over would like to join Lunch Club in the New Year please contact us.



Shapinsay over 50's Lunch Club will be hosting their annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 13th December, meeting in the club rooms followed by lunch in the school hall.

Entertainment will follow lunch in the club rooms including a raffle. All current members are invited along. The car service will be booked as normal.

This will be the last Lunch Club of 2023 and we will resume in January 2024.



Community Christmas Carol Singing at the Shapinsay Kirk

Sunday the 24th of December 4 pm

With participation of Shapinsay's own Shapinsay Music Group

Please stay for mulled wine (non-alcoholic punch available too!) and mince pies after the event

Donations will be gratefully received for the benefit of the Orkney Charitable Trust.

There will be services on Christmas Eve at 12 noon with Rev Andy Braunston and a Christmas Day short family service at 11 am. Everyone is welcome to either or both.

Merry Christmas

Shapinsay Community Council News



You have probably noticed that the **Christmas Lights** have been installed on lampposts in the village. We are grateful to Shapinsay Development Trust and the Heart of Community Fund (Scottish Sea Farms) for their contributions towards the costs of the lights.

A survey is being conducted into **how services impact the lives of island residents**. Please do fill it in to make your voices heard. You do not need to be familiar with the National Islands Plan to take part - all current and former isles' residents are invited to participate. **You can access the survey online:** <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/uhi/nip-population-survey>



Tenders are invited for grass cutting at Shapinsay Kirkyard, Burroughston Broch and the amenity areas. Interested parties should contact Democratic Services, Orkney Islands Council to request a copy of the tender documents: email communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk or phone 01856 873535 ext 2264.

Shapinsay Community Council has a **vacancy for a Clerk**. For further information please contact Jenny McGrath at Democratic Services on 01856 873535 ext 2264 or email jenny.mcgrath@orkney.gov.uk



Shapinsay Community Council Members: Leanne Bews (Chair & Health Rep), Esther Chaney, Colin Leslie (Vice-Chair & Planning Rep), Val More, Darren Muir (Transport Rep), Jean Noble and Eileen Philips.

Our **next meeting** will be held on **Thursday 15th February, 6:45pm (Clubrooms)**. If there is anything you would like us to discuss at that meeting, including travel grant requests, please **submit correspondence BEFORE 5pm, Monday 5th February** to shapinsayclerk@gmail.com



SHAPINSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLERK

We are looking for someone to provide part-time clerking cover for Shapinsay Community Council, who generally hold 5 meetings per year.

This is an ideal opportunity to be involved in the community, assist in local democracy, and undertake independent administrative work from home. There may be the opportunity to assist with projects, and work in conjunction with other local groups to provide events that benefit the whole community.

You should have good communication and organisational skills and be computer literate, preferably with experience of Microsoft Word, Excel and Teams. A laptop and other necessary equipment can be provided if required.

Remuneration is relative to the number of meetings held in a year, and full training will be provided to the successful candidate.

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

Mrs Jenny McGrath
Community Council Liaison Officer
Democratic Services
Orkney Islands Council
Kirkwall
KW15 1NY
E-mail: jenny.mcgrath@orkney.gov.uk or telephone 873535 ext 2264

Shapinsay Community Council and Shapinsay Community Association

are hosting the



SHAPINSAY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



on

Friday 1st December 2023 at 7pm

Spectators are asked to stand in front of the school, outside the fence.

Following the tree lighting, there will be refreshments in the hall and entertainment from the school bairns and the Salvation Army.

There will also be a raffle for a hamper, kindly provided by Thomas Sinclair Shop, Shapinsay.

Shapinsay Community Association

are hosting the



CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY

on



Sunday 17th December 2023

3:00- 5:30pm

The party will take place in the school hall.

Parents / carers must remain with their children.

**There will be games, tea
and a visit from Santa!**

SHAPINSAY HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWS



On 1st November the Shapinsay Horticultural Association held its first social event and we were delighted to see so many people on what was a horribly wet and windy evening. 'Planting Bulbs for Spring Colour' started with a presentation looking at some of the many different types of flowers that can be grown from bulbs, then looked at different ways in which they can be planted. We talked about planting outside in borders, naturalising in grass, planting in outdoor tubs and in smaller pots to bring indoors. This was followed by a demonstration of some of those methods including a small pot of miniature iris, a bowl of hyacinths and a large pot of tulips, narcissus and hyacinths together using the 'lasagne' or layer method.

Afterwards, while enjoying refreshments, packets of bulbs were available to buy and the raffle was drawn with prizes being the pots of bulbs that were planted earlier.

Thank you to everyone who supported us and for all your suggestions for other events in the future.

Our next event will be 'The Garden in Winter' on Wednesday 17th January at 7pm when we will talk about what can be done in the garden during winter months and look at different plants that can provide interest and colour at what can be a dreary time of year. There will also be a Seed Table where any seed, which could be left over from last year or

saved from your own garden, can be placed and offered to anyone for a small donation.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.

Scottish
Book Trust
inspiring readers and writers



Christmas Book bug Session

with the Early Years Team

Free **story**, **song** and **rhyme** sessions for babies, toddlers, pre-school children and their families

When: Thursday 14th December

Where: Shapinsay Community Room

Time: 1.45pm to 2.45pm

Everyone is welcome!
scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug



December Rubbish Collections

6th December - glass & plastic
13th December - black/grey bins
20th December - paper & tin
27th December - black/grey bins

***note - OIC are no longer delivering
black bin liners.**

Shapinsay School December 2023

Nursery

We talked about bonfire night and fireworks and made some firework pictures with lots of glitter.

We noticed some birds in the bushes outside and have made some bird cakes and have watched a Robin, some blackbirds and sparrows come to eat the seeds.

We have a cardboard gingerbread house we have been decorating and have looked at gingerbread stories including Hansel and Gretel and The Gingerbread Man. We had gingerbread playdough and have made our own gingerbread too.

P1 – 4

P1 -4 have been learning about Australia. So far they have found where Australia is, and have talked about where it is in relation to Orkney. They have found out about the weather in Australia, and why their seasons are at the opposite time of the year to the UK. They have also been researching native Australian animals and finding out about the habitats that they live in. Later on in the term they will be going on to find out about the Aboriginal Australian culture and about significant events in Australia's history.

In French the children have been learning about the names for countries (including Australia). In Spanish the children have been learning about weather, and are using this to compare the weather in Orkney and Australia.

P5 – 7

In science this term, the P5-7 children are learning about the systems of the human body. So far, they've learned about the parts of the skeletal system and the respiratory system, how they work and how to keep them healthy.

Their social studies topic is World War 2. They've been learning about the outbreak of war and what evacuation was like for children. Part of this work involved listening to Carrie's War.

In English, they've been learning about figurative language such as simile, metaphor and personification.

In Spanish lessons they learned about *el Dia de los Muertos* and in French they've been focusing on describing the weather.

Planetarium Visit

The planetarium from Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh came to the school in November. Nursery children had a story session in the planetarium and the older children (including some parents) had 2 sessions learning about the planets, constellations and about the work of the James Webb telescope. It was awesome to experience this; if you're ever visiting Dynamic Earth we would highly recommend a visit to the planetarium!



Children in Need

Pupil Council once again organised our Children in Need fundraising. Everyone came in dressed in rainbow colours and brought in change to make a change snake. Once again we managed to make a line of change all the way from the school library and into the hall. The primary children all helped to count the money and we raised an amazing £165.96.

Over the week everyone took part in the "bearpees" challenge to do 1000 burpees. We smashed that and managed 2200 bearpees altogether.

Thank you to the parents who came in to do face painting and to everyone who donated money to Children in Need.

"Darn Good Yarn"

Shapinsay Heritage Centre

(above Smithy Café)

1 -3pm

Saturday 9th and 23rd
December

All welcome

Bring knitting, crochet or
other projects.

Community Wellbeing



Knit to Carry

Date & Time: December 4, 2 PM - 4 PM

Location: Clubrooms

Led by the talented Chris Perry, this workshop invites you to transform old jumpers into stylish and eco-friendly bags. If you have an old jumper, give it a new life! Simply wash it in hot water to shrink the fibres, then bring it along to the workshop. We'll also have a few extra jumpers available if you don't have one of your own.

We're Here To Support You

If you or someone you know could use support in keeping their home warm this winter, stocking up on food essentials, or seeking an in-person visit, please reach out to our Wellbeing Coordinator, Alison McDougall who will do her best to connect you with the right support.
wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk | 07867 622814

Men's Shed

The Men's Shed Concept aims to address mental health challenges that men often face. It's a hub where men can share, talk, and work on projects collectively. Join us in this exciting venture by sharing your ideas through our survey, open until **December 8**. Scan the QR code with your smartphone to complete the survey online or visit us at the boathouse to pick up a paper copy. Your participation is appreciated!
Next step: a visit to the Men's Shed in Stromness for ideas and inspiration.



Community Wellbeing



Play Piece

Date & Time: January 4, 2024, 2 PM - 4 PM

Location: Clubrooms

Hey Shapinsay families! The much-loved "Play Piece" event is back, and this time, it's not just hosted by one Alison but TWO! Join us for another delightful afternoon of activities, healthy snacks and bonding during the holiday season. Parents are invited to stay and participate in all the activities with their children.

Volunteer For Wellbeing

Are you passionate about helping others and contributing to your community? Studies show that volunteering is not only good for others but also positively impacts your mental and emotional wellbeing. Contact Alison for more information.

CONTACT

Alison McDougall
Email: wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk
Phone/text: 07867 622814



NEED A HELPING HAND?
SALLY ARMITAGE IS
HERE TO HELP

Cleaning

- ✓ One off spring cleans
- ✓ General House cleaning
- ✓ Window Washing (ground floor)
- ✓ Resident & Commercial
- ✓ Clothes Folding
- ✓ Weeding
- ✓ Changing beds
- ✓ Shopping, picking up prescriptions and more

Contact Sally for more information

 01856711283  07447181940





The Smithy
CAFE RESTAURANT

Winter Warmers

Tuesday 5th December

12-4pm

£5.00 for islanders £10 for non-residents

**Mince & Tatties with a
beetroot mash (GF)**

**Vegetarian option: 3 bean
chilli**

**pudding: Apple Pie with
cream or ice-cream**

GF Apple pie available

with a Choice of A cup of coffee or Tea

Smithy Christmas menu.

Book your table by the 7th of December if you would like a Christmas meal in the Smithy.
Email Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk or call 711733 to find out availability

Christmas Menu



Starters

Fried Scallops and chorizo	£11.95
served on a bed of rocket	
Deep fried Grimbister cheese	£6.95
Served with cranberry dip	
Roasted parsnip soup	£5.95
Served with croutons	

Deserts

Sticky toffee pudding	£6.25
Served with toffee sauce and orkney ice cream	
Hot Brownie	£4.95
Served with cream or orkney ice cream	
Salted caramel pound cake	£6.25
Served with cream or orkney ice cream	
Ice cream sundae	£5.25
Christmas trifle	£4.95



Please ask your server about our allergy information and inform them of any allergies or dietary requirements

The Smithy

Mains

Roast Turkey or Beef with all the trimmings	£16.95
Served with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire puddings, stuffing, carrots, Parsnips, sprouts & Gravy	
Veggie nut roast With all the trimmings	£14.95
Served with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire puddings, stuffing, carrots, Parsnips, sprouts & Gravy	
Balfour burger & Chips	£11.95
Freshly made Orkney Beef & Pork burger, Served with salad, cheese and freshly made burger sauce & a side of skin on chips	
Lasagne	£12.95
Made with fresh Orkney beef mince and served with a side salad	

Bairns' Menu for Peedie folk

Starters

Peedie Roasted parsnip soup	£3.95
Served with croutons or Choice of bread	
Peedie Grimbister cheese	£4.75
Served with cranberry dip or ketchup	
Peedie Roast Dinner with choice of Turkey, Beef or Veggie nut roast	£9.95
Served with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire puddings, stuffing, carrots, Parsnips, sprouts & Gravy	
Fish goujons and chips	£5.75
Peedie pizza	£4.25
Peedie chicken burger	£4.95
Peedie lasagne	£5.75



Taking bookings now.




The Smithy
CAFE RESTAURANT

Winter Warmers

Wednesday 20th December
12-4pm

£5.00 for islanders £10 for non-residents

**Turkey Stronganoff with rice
(GF)**

Vegetarian option: To be confirmed, see posters

Pudding: Festive Bread and Butter Pudding (GF/DF option available)

with a Choice of A cup of coffee or Tea

Takeaways available every Friday night
except Friday the 15th December



The Smithy
-CAFE RESTAURANT-

Takeaway Menu

Chips £2.00
Chips With topping (curry sauce or cheese) £2.50

Fish and chips £8.00
Sausage and chips £4.50
Veggie Sausage and chips £4.00
Battered Sausage and chips £5.00
Veggie Battered Sausage and chips £4.50
Pattie and chips £3.50
Beef or Chicken Burger and chips £7.00
Veggie Burger and chips £7.00
Chicken Nuggets and chips £6.00
Battered smoked sausage and chips £4.50

Cheeseburger £5.00
Chicken burger £5.00

Pattie £1.50
Battered Fish £6.00
Battered Sausage £3.00
Sausage £2.50
Battered Smoked sausage £2.50
Chicken Nuggets £4.00
Extra Toppings 50p

Please ask your server about our allergy information and inform them of any allergies or dietary requirements

Gluten free options available on Request



The Smithy will be closed except for Christmas
bookings for most of December. There will be 2
bar meal afternoons: the 2nd & 16th of December.



The Smithy
-CAFE RESTAURANT-

Bar Menu

Starters:

Deep fried Grimbister cheese with chilli jam dip £6.95
Battered mushrooms with garlic dip £4.95 (GF, V)
Soup of the day £5.75 (V)

Mains:

Battered Haddock & chips £10.95
12" Pizza - Margarita/salami/vegetarian (GF) £11.95/12.95
Beef burger with chips & Coleslaw £11.95 (GF)
Chicken or Veggie burger with chips
& Coleslaw £11.95 (GF)

Desserts:

Cheesecake of the day £4.50
Sticky Chocolate Brownie served with Ice-cream
& Chocolate Sauce £4.50
Balfour Sundae £4.50 (GF)

GF=Gluten free option available V =Vegetarian option available,
for other allergens please enquire with staff



Saturday 30th December
Loaded Fries from 7-10pm
Cocktails and mocktails 7pm-12am

