



Shapinsay Development Trust update

Charity Shop

Cast Affs recently advertised an 8-hour position (4 hours twice a week, ideally Wednesday and Saturday) but received no interest. Consequently, the shop will initially rely solely on volunteers while alternative solutions are explored. Lisa-Marie embarked on a fact-finding mission to Westray to learn how their charity shop operates and learned a few new ideas and pitfalls to avoid. A working group is being established, consisting of community members selected for their experience in running charity shops, organising fundraising events, and their knowledge of community groups.

Boat

Unfortunately at the time of printing there is still no update on the boat, which remains in Kirkwall for servicing. We are currently awaiting the coding checks and information of the necessary requirements to ensure it is seaworthy. The situation remains out of our hands for now.

Wellbeing

Alison is currently taking some time off and will resume all wellbeing activities in June. The men's shed continues to be well-supported, and we have secured funding for the group to visit Westray to learn about their shed operations, they met with VAO recently to find out about what is required to set up their own SCIO. Additionally, funding has been obtained for a monthly meal for members. If you have any wellbeing-based ideas for the island, please reach out to Alison.

Smithy

Starting in June, the Smithy will transition to summer opening hours, initially opening 6 days a week. A decision on whether to open 7 days a week will be

made closer to July, depending on staff availability. We extend our gratitude for the continued support during the winter and to our dedicated staff for continuing to work all year round, for committing to extra training and in anticipation of a busy season ahead.

We are excited that it's finally weather to have our marquee up in the garden, allowing us to accommodate more customers, including our canine friends. There is a bowl of water for dogs at the door of the Smithy.

Please check out the Smithys facebook page for more details on opening hours, menu, takeaways etc.

Smithy residents discount

Residents can bring proof of residence (not all staff know all residents) to collect a voucher from the Smithy staff to receive a 15% discount on the lunch menu.

Please present your voucher at the time of ordering to receive the discount, as orders are otherwise charged at full price at the time of ordering.

SWAP (Shapinsay's Way Ahead Programme)

We continue to support the community with Educational & equipment grants of up to 60% of any costs up to £600, community group grants and various other activities – check out Shapinsay.org.uk for more information (under the heading SDT and SWAP guidance). We have updated our application forms to make things easier.

Due to increased driving lesson costs, the amount available to claim for 10 driving lessons has been raised to £400. In May, two more SWAPS were awarded:

- C. Muir received £400 for driving lessons.
- C. Moore received £108 for training.

Community Council News

Do you want to become a member?

We have a ***vacancy for one person to join Shapinsay Community Council***. If you are interested, please speak to one of the current members or contact Democratic Services. ***The election will take place at the start of our next meeting (22nd August, 6:45pm).***

Tender for Kirkyard Grass Cutting

We are still looking for someone to cut the grass at the Kirkyard. If you would like to submit a tender, please contact the interim clerk ASAP.

Quiet Routes – walking & cycling

The council's 2021 Orkney Matters consultation identified a strong community aspiration to walk and cycle more. Therefore, they are considering various locations to introduce Quiet Routes as a way of delivering active travel network connections in rural areas, where segregated path infrastructure is not feasible or would be cost-prohibitive. The council are currently ***collecting data to understand the volume and speed of vehicles as well as number of pedestrians and cyclists at specific locations***. You may have noticed the bollards either side of the B9059 between Hilton and Manse Road – they are being used to collect information on traffic use.



Community Council members have asked for the results of the data collection to be shared with the community, and for ***further engagement before any decision is made on whether to advertise a Quiet Route in Shapinsay***. If you would like more information, or have any comments, please contact any of the members.

Fire Service Questionnaire

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are asking the public to reflect on what role

they should have in the years to come. Specifically, "to think about the broad needs of our families, friend and neighbours and how we can better respond to all in a time of need". ***To ensure that the voices of island residents are heard, the Shapinsay fire crew would appreciate it if you completed the survey before 30th June via:***

<https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/planning-and-performance/shaping-our-future-service-your-say/>

Grant Funding

Please remember that individuals and constituted community organisations applying for small grants should ***submit their requests on the application form by 12th August***. This allows all documents to be collated and circulated to members in advance of the meeting. ***Contact Democratic Services for application forms.***

Are you looking for a part-time job?

Shapinsay Community Council need someone to receive and pass on correspondence, take minutes and provide other administrative support. To find out more about this ***part-time, paid position*** contact Jenny McGrath or Jackie Montgomery at Democratic Services.

Correspondence Deadline

If there is anything you would like us to discuss at our next meeting, including grant applications (to be made on the new form), please ***contact the interim clerk BEFORE 5pm, Monday 12th August***.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on ***Thursday 22nd August, 6:45pm (Clubrooms)***. This will be a public meeting to elect a new member.

Members

Leanne Bews (Chair & Health Rep), Esther Chaney, Colin Leslie (Vice-Chair & Planning Rep), Darren Muir (Transport Rep), Jean Noble and Eileen Philips.

Contact Details

You can contact Democratic Services via email communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk or call 01856 873535 extension 2264 or 2237. You can also email the interim clerk via shapinsayclerk@gmail.com

Shapinsay Picnic – 29th June 2024



The Shapinsay Picnic takes place on Saturday 29th June. For anyone who isn't aware of what the Shapinsay Picnic is, it is the island sports day, with a picnic tea and a dance in the evening. There will be sporting events for all, with events for pre-schoolers, primary aged children, under 16s, men and women. Events take place on the field, with the picnic either on the field or in the hall.

During tea we hold the children's prize giving, then the tug of war will take place. This is mixed teams of 8, North v South. There will also be an opportunity for the Under 16s and primary children to have a go at the tug of war.

Events are free to enter, with the dance costing £5 for over 16s (payable at the door). The Shapinsay Music Group will be providing the music for the dance, and the Smithy are providing the catering for the tea and the bar at the dance.



Raffles will be at both the afternoon and evening events (prize donations welcome - a box will be at the shop). Donations also encouraged towards the cost of the Picnic. An envelope for donations has been enclosed with the Shapinsay Sound. Donations can be left at the shop, given to a member of the Picnic Committee either on the day or before. You are also welcome to donate directly to the Picnic Fund using the following details: Shapinsay Sports Committee, Virgin Money, 82-66-02, 70028709.

Timings for the day will be as follows:

1pm: Events start, spectators encouraged.

4:30pm (approx): Picnic tea, provided by the Picnic Committee and helpers.

Children's prizegiving

Tug of War



8:30pm: Doors open for the dance

9:00pm - midnight: Under 16 and Adults prizegiving, followed by the dance.

We hope to see as many folk there as possible – all welcome! If you are able to help in any way on the day, we would really welcome your help. Please speak to any member of the Picnic Committee if you are able to help.

Shapinsay Picnic Committee - Emma Clements, Leanne Bews, Simon Meason, Sue Brown, Ian Brown, John Dunnett, Alanna Leslie, Barry Moncrieff, Chris Moore, Colin Leslie, Esther Chaney, Graham Rendall, Ian Eunson and Caroline Bird.



Business support where and when you need it

Running a business or looking to start one? Business Gateway Orkney can help you plan, adapt, grow and upskill.

- Free 1:1 advice
- Local expertise
- Webinars
- Online resources

Contact us at
orkney@bgateway.com
01856 886666



business gateway
Orkney

Business Gateway

If you are an existing business, or looking to start a new one business gateway can give you 1-2-1 help and advice, they also offer financial support through a range of grant funding from up to £15,000 to start up a business to up to £40,000 grants *up to 30% of eligible costs* for the Farm diversification scheme. If you would like to find out more, please visit: <https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/orkney/local-support> or call Orkney islands council 873535 ext 2513

Shapinsay Nature by Tim Wootton

It was a mixed bag of weather to start the spring off and a couple of early swallows were seen around the harbour by Sandy and Cat. Unfortunately the old adage 'One swallow does not a summer make' was evident as Spring took its time getting sprung. Of course, cold weather barely affects sea creatures and the local



Moncrieff)

'Orca-Whisperer' (Carol) again struck it lucky finding the pod known as 'The 27s' hunting around the Veantro fish farm on 27th April. She got the news out quickly and almost everyone, including Ella, got to see these magnificent animals. Except me! Definitely the one that got away.

(photo of Ella & Orca – credit Carol

Watching birds in the garden is a popular hobby and the ups and downs of enjoying this was illustrated a few weeks ago. A moorhen (pictured below, photo courtesy of Christine),



an unusual garden visitor, turned up in Christine & Colin's garden, and Tash & Mark had a great tit coming to their feeders. Astonishingly,

this was the second time in four years that they'd had this locally rare species in the garden.

On the downside there was an outbreak of *Trichomonosis* across the island – an infectious disease mainly affecting some finch species. This is a deadly disease and the only way to prevent contamination is to stop feeding garden birds immediately. Sadly a number of greenfinches and a goldfinch perished. Hopefully that disease has now gone and I have at least one pair of healthy greenfinches breeding in my garden.

Eventually though, the weather did start to warm up and insect life proliferated. The first Red Admiral butterflies awoke from winter hibernation and migrant moths started to move north. Sheila found a 'Silver Y' moth and this heralded the beginning of an invasion of them from the continent. They usually arrive here later in the year so this early influx was interesting and provided valuable food for the local and migrating birds. Angle Shades are distinct and very smart looking



moths – Karen found one in her greenhouse and there was one in Sue & Richard's polytunnel. There was a Painted Lady butterfly here at Edmonstone last week too – another migrant from

Africa.

(photo of Angle Shades – credit Karen Evans).

Birds that migrate here in the summer depend on the masses of insects that thrive across our farms and moors, none more so than the hirundines, and swallows and sand martin number started to rise through April. Birds began to arrive at the small sand martin colony at Ness – this is always an uplifting sight,

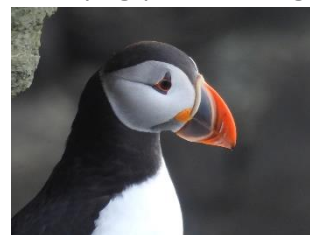


– credit Tim Wootton)

knowing these tiny birds are returning home following a winter in Africa and several thousand miles of flight.

(photo of sand martin

Also at the coast the Mallimacks (Fulmar) have been coming and going around the cliffs since December. They're sometimes known as 'Christmas Gulls' as they often return to their breeding cliffs in time for Christmas but they don't actually lay their single egg until May/June. And, of course, they aren't gulls at all, but members of the petrel family (like albatrosses). The small colonies of auks have been very slow to build although there have been the usual few puffins on the east-side cliffs. Razorbills and guillemots are often seen flying past in strings but they seem reticent to



come to the breeding colony just yet. Hopefully over the next week or so that will be rectified.

(photo of puffin – credit Lisa-Marie Muir)

There is quite simply nowhere better to see long-tailed ducks in the winter and early spring than Orkney. The Peedie Sea in Kirkwall regularly has several hundred but here on Shapinsay we might lay-claim to hosting the largest single assemblage of these fabulous wee arctic-ducks at Laird Water. Paul reported up to 1200 Caloo (long-tailed ducks) there a few weeks ago which led us to discuss how long these ducks have been using Laird Water. If anyone has any recollections of when they began

gathering at this site that would be great to hear about. Of course, they may have been coming here since before living memory which would be fascinating to learn.

Arctic (and a few Common) terns started to arrive back on the isle a couple of weeks ago, adhering to Orkney folklore that the terns arrive with the 'First-fog of May'. They'll be setting up territories along parts of the coast very soon especially along the Ayre and other suitable shingle beaches. They always make a walk by the seaside wonderful – and sometimes challenging if you happen to get a tad too close to their nests. But two Little Terns catching fish at Elwick which were seen by Paul was a very interesting observation. These tiny seabirds are very rare breeders in the UK. There is a long-established colony of several pairs at the Fourth Barrier which is the most northerly colony of little terns in the whole of the UK. It would be nice to think we could have some breeding on Shapinsay one day - we'd have the record then!

Hen harriers and Short-eared owls are often seen here during the shorter months but this year sightings of shorties continue right up to today. Short-eared owls aren't thought to breed on the island so the one Tash filmed at Mill Dam and the one Carol photographed near Whitecleat are most likely migrant birds heading to Scandinavia or visiting birds from the moors on Mainland or Eday. There is just a chance though that they might try and breed here – if anyone thinks they may have noticed breeding behaviour I'd be delighted to hear from them.



(photo short-eared owl – credit Carol Moncreiff)

Finally, one of the most dramatic ornithological events of recent years occurred this month. Red-backed Shrikes are tiny but voracious predators, smaller than a starling. In the 20-odd years I've lived in Orkney I've seen only a handful of these wee beauties and never on Shapinsay. However, on 16th and 17th of May, dozens of red-backed shrikes arrived in the Northern Isles and the following couple of days fifty or more sites across Orkney and Shetland had shrikes. It's thought the total number of this species to have passed through the Northern Isles could be as many as 150. But still none had landed on Shapinsay! I admit to feeling just a little bit cheated that seemingly everywhere else in the county folk had seen them and now the birds were filtering through to Shetland

meaning they had flown straight over our beautiful little island. That was until today! A quick glance out of the (soon-to-be) kitchen window and I caught sight of an intriguing bird flitting through the shrubs. A quick scan around with the binoculars and then into view, the unmistakable silhouette of a red-backed shrike. Finally, I'd seen one, and finally I'd seen one on Shapinsay. Even better – it was in our own garden. Birds migrating north try to stock up whenever they can to fuel their onward journey to their breeding sites and this little bird was spending much of its time catching and eating Silver 'Y' moths – possibly even one of Sheila's!



(photo Red-backed shrike – credit Tim Wootton)

* Did you know?

There's a WhatsApp Group set up specifically

for sightings, news and discussion about all types of nature on Shapinsay. If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining the group (it's just text messages – no boring meetings) then please contact Lisa-Marie or email me directly at: tim.wootton@tiscali.co.uk or phone me 07812 483123.



Bookbug Session

with the Early Years Team

Free **story**, **song** and **rhyme** sessions for everyone under 5 years and their families

When: Wednesday 12th June

Where: Shapinsay community centre

Time: 10:30am onwards

Everyone is welcome!

scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug



Shapinsay School June 2024

Nursery

In nursery we have all helped to set up a grocery shop as the role play area. We went on a walk to Thomas Sinclair to buy fresh fruit and veg to sell in our shop and have made fruit salad and are going to make vegetable soup using our purchases.

The bairns have planted sunflower seeds, which are growing by the day.

There are duck eggs in Claire's incubator (in the nursery) and we are excited to see if the ducklings hatch, we are counting down the days!

We are enjoying lots of outdoor play in this better weather too.

Primary trip to Kirkwall

On Friday 17th June the primary children had a day in Kirkwall, with several visits. We certainly had good weather for it!

We started with a tour of the Kirkwall lifeboat. The tour included all areas of the boat, and learning about staying safe at sea. We heard about what it's like to be a crew member, and all the different roles people have.



Next we walked to the Earl's and Bishop's Palaces where we met with the children from Eday and Papay schools for a tour, given by the P6 children from Glaitness School. They did an amazing job of showing us round, in character, and telling us about life in the palaces.

Having heard the music from the Parade, we then watched some of the speeches for Norwegian Constitution Day. We had even brought some flags with us to wave.

We then walked to KGS where we had lunch, before a playtime at Papdale Primary School.

The final activity was meeting Hope the humpback whale at KGS. We learned about whales and dolphins, about plastic pollution and the effect it has on whales, and even got to go inside Hope!

A poster for Orkney 2025 Volunteer Sign Up Sessions. The poster has a blue background with a red banner at the top that says "Volunteer Sign Up Sessions". Below the banner, it says "Be a part of history: Volunteer for the International Island Games 2025". It then provides information about the event, including the dates (12-18 July) and the need for 700 volunteers. It also provides a website link for the application form: www.orkney2025.com/volunteer. It mentions that if you don't like completing forms, you can pop along to their office at 2 West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall, and they will complete it for you. It also states that sign up is at their office from 10am-2pm, on the first Friday of every month. A list of dates is provided: Friday 1st March, Friday 5th April, Friday 3rd May, Friday 7th June, and Friday 5th July. At the bottom, there is a red megaphone icon and a QR code with the text "Ready to be a part of something incredible?" and "Scan Here".

ORKNEY 2025

Volunteer Sign Up Sessions

Be a part of history: Volunteer for the International Island Games 2025

The International Island Games is coming to Orkney next year from 12 - 18 July and we need 700 volunteers to make it happen!

If you'd like to join us and volunteer at this fantastic event, you can find the application form on our website: www.orkney2025.com/volunteer

Don't like completing forms? Pop along to our office at 2 West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall and we'll complete it for you.

Sign up at our office from 10am-2pm, on the first Friday of every month:

- Friday 1st March
- Friday 5th April
- Friday 3rd May
- Friday 7th June
- Friday 5th July

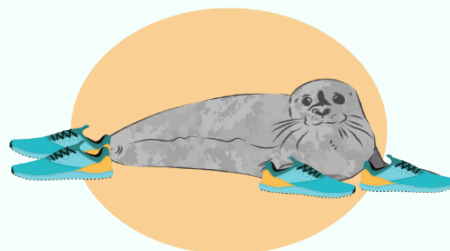
Ready to be a part of something incredible?



Scan Here



**SAT
JUN
22**



ORKNEY ATHLETIC AND RUNNING CLUB PRESENTS THE FIRST

SHAPINSAY 10K

Saturday, 22 June, race starts at 11am, registration 10:15 – 10:45 in Shapinsay Community School. Take the 9:45 ferry from Kirkwall arriving 10:10 in Shapinsay (booking in advance advisable).

Play park and sports box for kids to enjoy. Short, family friendly circular walk starting just after the 10k run. Refreshments, crafts and games available from 11:30am (cash donations welcome for Shapinsay Island Wellbeing Project).

RNLI Raffle – Heritage Arts & Crafts Centre open 12–3pm

£10 per runner: registration closes on Saturday 15th June



Enter at:
[entrycentral.com/Shapinsay10k](https://www.entrycentral.com/Shapinsay10k)



Introducing the Shapinsay 10k

Keen runner, Shapinsay resident and Orkney Athletic and Running Club trustee Joel Chaney, alongside his wife Esther, have been working with OARC to introduce the Shapinsay 10k. They would like to encourage Shapinsay residents to get involved - whether that be signing up to run the 10k, volunteering for a couple of hours as a marshal (so runners know which way to go at junctions), or coming down to the Community Hall to wave the runners off at the start and cheer as they cross the finish line. There will be goody bags for all runners plus prizes for the winners, including first-placed male and female Shapinsay residents. Many thanks to Orkney Isles Preserves and Shapinsay Development Trust for donating prizes, and the First Responders for agreeing to be the First Aiders.

The Shapinsay Island Wellbeing Project are partnering with us, so even if running is not your thing, you are very welcome to come down to the Community Hall on Saturday 22nd June to enjoy the refreshments, crafts and games, or join Alison McDougall for a short, circular walk - all ages welcome. The Smithy Cafe will be preparing hot food to be served in the hall after the prize giving (pre-order details coming soon). There will also be a raffle to support the RNLI (if you would like to donate a prize, please give it to Emma Clements by 20th June).

If you would like to take part in the 10k run, please sign up now via <https://www.entrycentral.com/Shapinsay10k>

If you would like to volunteer please speak to Joel and Esther before 10th June.

SHAPINSAY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



Stock Judging Competition

Prizes for
Men/Women
individual, Junior,
Teams of 3
& Valuation
(you don't have to be
in a team to judge!)



Bar
Opens
2pm

Saturday 8th June 2024
12pm at Shapinsay Community Centre
(Boat leaving Kirkwall 11.30am)

Raffle

All Welcome

£5 Entry (includes Lunch)

Contact for any info:
Gemma Leslie 07776 010 225