

### Development Trust Update

#### Expert Community of Practice Shetland trip

The Orcadian contingent of the ECOP set off for Shetland last month.

The first night a few of us went to Bressay, which, although not officially part of the ECOP trip, turned out to be a real highlight.

In Bressay, which is probably the closest equivalent to Shapinsay in Shetland, we attended a public meeting on the benefits of community-owned renewable energy and housing.

Along with North Yell Development Company, we all shared our own experiences. The Bressay community seemed genuinely enthused and the atmosphere in the room had a real buzz.

The next day, we headed first for Scalloway which has a feel similar to Stromness with narrow streets and a cozy seaside charm.



The Scalloway trust gave us a bit of their history, outlining their achievements so far and their ambitious future plans to add sea defenses. This will open up opportunities for expanding their towns infrastructure which is currently constrained by narrow roads and limited space.

A huge challenge they are about to face is that UHI have decided to close their Lerwick campus and focus on Scalloway, which is currently not equipped to handle that level of transport or parking, so these possible changes are a big priority for them.

We were also shown their 5-star campsite at the edge of town, complete with all the amenities.

While they originally hoped for more, financial constraints limited them to two pods, with potential for expansion in the future.

After Scalloway, we headed to Northmavine, where Charlotte welcomed us and showed us around Bruckland (pictured).



I'd visited before, but they've expanded since then. Now they have portacabins/containers filled with various goods. They have one skip for metals, which they sell for scrap value, and another for general items. Anything reusable is set aside for donation, items suitable for firewood are broken up, and the rest is sent to the dump.

This is much simpler for NCDC as they are a mainland-based development company!

After Northmavine, we set off for North Yell. The journey involved a drive to the ferry and then a smooth, luxurious ferry ride over to Yell where we saw a peedie pod of dolphins as we arrived at the harbour.



Once there, we were picked up by a bus that took us up to North Yell, where we

were invited into their recently acquired community space - Sellafirth.

The North Yell team treated us to a wonderful spread of soup, sandwiches, cakes, and plenty of tea and coffee.

Alice talked us through their exciting plans for Sellafirth, where they aim to create a multi-use community space with offices and a training area, especially needed since UHI discontinued its outreach

programs.

Alice also shared insights about their community turbines—they have five of them— which we caught sight of on our way to the marina, the income from that is a real boost, enabling to take on large projects the impressive marina and bustling industrial estate, both of which are thriving. They also showed us a newly acquired house, the start of their journey to provide affordable housing in North Yell.

Afterward, we all headed back toward Lerwick and all met up again for a bite to eat at night.

**Thursday** brought minging windy, rainy weather, which made it easy to settle inside at the Isleburgh Community Centre, where we were joined by representatives from Community Energy Scotland (CES) and ZetTrans (Shetland's equivalent of HiTrans). Thursday's focus was mainly on strategy and updates from the Orkney teams.

On **Friday**, those of us catching the flight at midday detoured on the way to the airport to visit Bigton. Bigton also has an impressive community project housed in their local kirk. The community recently purchased the kirk, where they run various programs. It's a community venue with a stage for events, pews transformed into booth seating, so that on Saturdays,



when a local baker sells his bread and pastries, it adds to the cosy café atmosphere in the kirk. It's a multi-use space.

They also run a small charity shop, they don't accept clothes, if they do get clothes donations, they pass them over to the Salvation Army.

The kirk has become a vibrant hub for community events, art classes, straw-making classes, and after-school clubs.

It's clear that the community has a deep connection to the project; Many had a deep connections with the space having been married, baptised etc there and got involved from the start, raising funds to purchase and renovate. There was a feeling of strong support for the space and up to 200 people will visit the space on a Saturday morning and actively use the space.

Overall, it was an insightful and inspiring trip, with plenty to take back to our own communities!

**Back home on Shapinsay we still have a fair bit going on too!**

**Balfour Cottages:** You might have heard on the radio that we were awarded planning permission for Balfour Cottage at last! We are awaiting the list of conditions before we can move forward with the funding proposal, we hope to get that in before the Rural Housing Fund closes in 2025. After that fund closes there will be no more funding for community housing for the time-being, which is a devastating blow to many community trusts.

**Solar Panels:** You may have noticed that we now have solar panels on the Boathouse, we applied for Funding in August this year and were awarded funding from HIE and CES to cover most of the costs, leaving around £3000 for SDT to pay. The process was really quick from start to finish, including getting planning permission through and Deviate were able to fit the panels and an off-grid battery really quickly, before the weather broke! The off-grid battery will allow us to have a switchover option if we get a power outage, allowing us to have a space that will be warm and in which we can boil kettles to fill flasks if need be!

**Community Ebikes:** Unfortunately, the fund that provided grants for ebikes has closed, so we are looking into other possible sources of funding for more bikes for short and long-term hire on the island. Unfortunately, we haven't found anything yet as so many funds have closed for the time being. The first long-term hire period for bikes is almost over, finishing in January 2025, with phase 2 being a year behind! Remember you can hire an ebike for up to a week for £20 if you are a member of the trust, or for £5 per day from now through until the end of March. Just pop past the office to book it.

**Car service:** Car service continues to be run on a donation only basis, you just need to be a member (of the service or the trust) and pay £1 per annum. This allows us to run under a section 19 certificate, which allows us to pick up more than one passenger at a time and allows us to apply for the OIC Community Transport Grant, which could give us up to £10,000 annually towards the (ever increasing) costs of running the service.

**Smithy:** The Smithy will be closed for Jan/ Feb apart from Winter Warmers on alternative Thursdays, takeaways on a Friday night and the bar on a Friday/ Saturday night, we also hope to do a Burns night at the end of January, keep an eye on Facebook and posters for more details nearer the time.

### Money: course from the Church

In the UK today, 20 million adults admit to having struggled with their finances – *that's about one in every 3 of us.*

So how do we stay in control of our money in a world that wants to control it for us?

**Kirkwall Council of Churches** is partnering with **CAP (Christians Against Poverty)** to deliver the **CAP Money** course across Orkney.

CAP is a national organisation that has been working to support people in managing their finances for over 3 decades. The "Poverty" in the charity's title could be misleading in this case as this course is for **ANYONE** and **EVERYONE**. It's a **FREE** 4-session course that equips people with new skills to better manage their money, live well, and avoid falling into unmanageable debt. You'll learn how to create a budget, use credit wisely, reduce any debts and build up savings for the future.

Whatever it is you're trying to achieve with your money, whether it's getting on top of debt, understanding your spending or learning to have a healthier relationship with money, our free coaching can help. As a coach, I am offering to run a course in Shapinsay.

Please come and chat with me (JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk, 874789/711275) or Alison McDougall if you would like more information – if you're interested in coming along, please let us know what format would work for you: we could do mornings, afternoons, or evenings, two half-days or a whole-day workshop. Let us know what days and times would be best for you!



### Community Christmas Carol Singing at the Shapinsay Kirk

**Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 4 pm**

With participation of Shapinsay's own Shapinsay Music Group and Shapinsay School bairns

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 a Christingle service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December at 12 noon and a Christmas Day short family service at 11 am – both with Rev Julia Meason. Everyone is welcome to either or both.*

**Merry Christmas**

## Shapinsay School - December 2024

### Children in Need

We had a very successful fundraiser for Children in Need, with £323.41 being raised. Over £300 was raised through the change snake, so thank you to all who donated – every penny really does count! The children and staff came to school in pyjamas, learned about how Children in Need use the money raised, and did some fun activities in the morning. Val made Children in Need buns for everyone too!

### Rights Respecting Schools Award

We have been working towards our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award for a while now, and we are delighted to announce that we were awarded the Silver Award on 5th November. The assessors spoke with the children, parents and staff and made sure that our whole school community was working together.

We will be working towards our Gold Award over the next couple of years, and look forward to sharing our work with you all. When our Silver banner arrives we will be proudly displaying it!

### Christmas events

We will be performing at the tree lighting on Friday, 6th December, and would like to invite everyone to our end of term Christmas assembly on Wednesday 18th December at 1.30pm.

### Primary news

The primary class have been learning about **France in Social Studies**. They have each chosen a place to research and present in a way of their choosing. The role play area is a French café and the children have been learning the vocabulary for French food and drink, and been practicing ordering their food.

As we move into December we will be learning how Christmas is celebrated in France, and we are also learning the French carol “Il est ne le divin enfant”.

Our **science focus** for this term is light, sounds, and senses. We have been experimenting with light and shadows and have explored our senses a little. We are looking forward to testing our sense of taste!

**In PE** we have been learning some badminton skills and exploring pathways and balance in gymnastics.

**Art this term** is focussing on weaving and textiles, we are exploring different warps and wefts and techniques for weaving, we will of course also be making some Christmas decorations.

**In Spanish**, we have been learning how to greet others and have a simple conversation where we introduce ourselves and ask some questions about another person.



### Nursery news

The nursery children have had lots of fun exploring pumpkins. They used them for printing and then made vegetable soup. They also made pancakes and enjoyed them for snack. The children have been enjoying block play and making up stories. Playing with the marble run has been very popular. As the children have been interested in climbing, they have been exploring the gym equipment and creating courses. As we move into December, the children are starting to make their own puppets



Shapinsay Community Association  
are hosting the



## CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY



Sunday 15th December 2024  
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!**

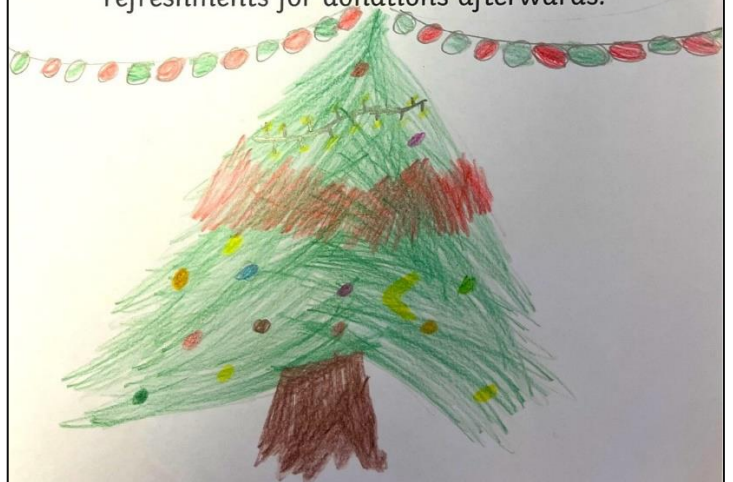


## Shapinsay School Christmas Assembly

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
1.30pm in the School Hall

**All welcome!**

Parent Council are providing a raffle and refreshments for donations afterwards.



## SHAPINSAY HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

By the time you read this, we will have just held our last event for this year, a presentation by **Prem and Gina Fojtu** showing how they created their lovely garden in Toab.

**Greens Garden** is described as a garden *“Created from nothing by a couple of amateurs, using mostly found and reclaimed materials including driftwood. Now it is full of life and colours all year round.”*

The garden is constantly evolving and you can follow its progress on the ‘Greens Garden’ Facebook page.

It’s always interesting to see how other people make their gardens and we can all use a bit of inspiration sometimes to try something a bit different.

We hope to arrange a visit to **Greens Garden** next summer, so watch this space!

Our next event will be held on Wednesday, 29th January, 2025, and will be a competition and display of your photographs.

This will be peer-judged with winners being those that receive the most votes on the night.

There will be prizes for 1st in each category plus photo with the most votes overall. The three categories are:

- Seed Heads
- Garden in Winter
- Flower in Winter (indoor or outdoor)

There will also be a category for children under 16 years - **Garden in Winter**.

All photos must be taken in Shapinsay, be a maximum printed size of 5ins x 7ins and unframed.

A maximum of two entries per person in each category. Please write your name on the back of the photo and your age if under 16yrs.

Also on the night will be a **Seed Swap** and a short talk about which seeds can be sown early in the year to get a head start and the best way to sow them. Further details will appear in the next edition of The Shapinsay Sound.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and after a short break, we look forward to a new gardening season filled with optimism and possibilities.



Friday 6th  
December  
7pm

# TREE LIGHTING

Meet in front of school for the tree lighting.  
Followed by refreshments and carols with  
the Salvation Army Band in the hall.

Organised by Shapinsay Community Council, Shapinsay  
Community Association and Shapinsay Development Trust



**Do you have a THTC meter?  
Are you looking for advice about smart meters?**

**Contact THAW Orkney for free local energy advice:  
Call—01856 878388  
Email—[info@thaworkney.co.uk](mailto:info@thaworkney.co.uk)**

THAW Orkney is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation—SC045272

## Join the Shapinsay Men's Shed



### Upcoming dates:

December 5: 3-5pm, Clubrooms  
December 12: 7-9pm, Clubrooms  
December 19: 3-5pm, Clubrooms  
December 21: 2pm, The Smithy (Christmas Lunch)

## Christmas Cheer Knitting Workshop



4  
DECEMBER

WITH DARN GOOD YARN  
LOCATION: MUSIC ROOM  
1:00 TO 3:00 PM

Sheila Garson will guide us to knit  
peedie Christmas trees.



## Shapinsay Community Council

# WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

**A Clerk (part-time, paid,  
administrative support)**

**New members (voluntary)**

For more information, contact Leanne Bews  
(Chair) or Democratic Services

Democratic Services  
[communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk)  
01856 873535 ext. 2264 or 2237

### Cast Affs News

Cast Affs has been running for nearly **five months** and has raised an impressive £2,551.11 in total!

- £736.18 has been generated through raffles and baking, going directly to community groups.
- £710.37 has been donated to community groups from the sale of goods.

The rest goes back into Cast Affs sustainability

### Trialing a New Approach

We've tried pricing and carefully labelling all items, but now we're starting a new trial: **no fixed pricing!** Instead, suggested donation amounts will be available, but pay what you can!

This approach aims to:

- Make goods more accessible regardless of income.
- Encourage more items to find new homes.
- Reduce the time spent preparing and labelling items for display.

Items will still be colour-coded to track how long they've been on display. Any unsold goods will be passed on to charity shops in Kirkwall or donated to the **Blytheswood Trust**, with transport kindly provided by **McAdie and Reeve**.

### Looking Ahead

If community groups would like to get involved next year, we're ready to create a new list!

This time, we hope groups will take a more active role by:

- Stocking shelves and rails during their allotted period, but this could be done outwith the opening hours at a time that suits the group.
- Taking and sharing pictures of items for promotion if possible.
- If possible, helping with day-to-day running during their week/fortnight/month, but this could be done by the employee if time is freed up from stocking shelves

### A Huge Thank You to Sally

Sally has worked tirelessly to bring Cast Affs to where it is today. She's now looking to take a step back from her role. If anyone is interested in taking on the role, or a job-share arrangement, Sally is happy to continue supporting on a shared basis.

This role is flexible and could be:

- 2-4 sessions per month.
- 6-8 sessions per month.
- or the full 12 sessions per month, with a relief option for cover when needed.

**Interested?** Get in touch to learn more and help keep Cast Affs thriving!



The Shapinsay Agricultural Society held its Harvest Home on Saturday, 9th November. The presentation of trophies from this year's Shapinsay Show took place and a fantastic meal was provided by The Smithy. The society would like to say a huge thanks to The Smithy's staff. The guest speaker was Hamish Maclean and attendees danced the night away to the Kirkjuvagr Ceilidh Band.



The Boathouse will be closed for the festive season from **21st of December**.



It will reopen on **Monday, 6th of January**



## Festive Opening Dates

Cast Offs will be closed from Saturday, 21 December, and reopens on Thursday, 9th January.

## Car Service Festive Opening Dates



**Closed 25th & 26th December  
and 1st & 2nd January**

Open as normal for the rest of the Xmas and New Year season!

Please book by 5pm on the 24th December if you would like the car service on the 27th December and by 5pm on 31st January if you would like the car service on 3rd January.



## The Smithy - December opening hours

- After our final Winter Warmers on Dec 5th: closed Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs
- Friday Takeaways - 4pm-7pm
- Saturday & Sunday open from 11am for Xmas meals (enquire about remaining spaces!)
- Bar Open Fri/Sat until Midnight

Closed for Xmas and New year from December 23rd

## Community Council News

### **Zero Emission Vessel Infrastructure (ZEVI)**

We have received the following update from OIC's Marine Services and Transportation Department: *"The project has experienced a slight delay therefore crew training will be taking place in Belfast during the week commencing 16th December. This will be a mix of simulator training and on vessel training."* To coincide with this, an online/paper survey will be drafted by the Transportation Service to establish demand and key timing points.

It is anticipated that the survey will go live from the week commencing 16th December and will run until the end of January 2025.

The **EF-12 'ZEVI' vessel** is booked to be delivered to Orkney in **January 2025**. During January to March, the vessel will be tested by local crew in Orkney waters to help establish what can be achieved from a timetable perspective. Following consideration of the survey responses and vessel testing, a draft timetable will be circulated for further consideration by the communities. It is anticipated that the vessel will come into service on **1 April 2025**. As this is a trial service, it should be noted that there will be no impact to the existing scheduled service during the project period. The **Electric Orkney project** will provide additional services to the community over the trial period. Continuation of the service beyond the trial period will be subject to demand, proof of concept and budget.

### **Transportation**

We have received an update on the process for setting air and ferry timetables as well as the expected process for community feedback. If you have any questions on this or requests for changes e.g. for a specific event, please contact Esther (Community Council Transport Rep) as the Transportation Department prefer us to collate community feedback/requests rather than being contacted by individuals.

### **Election**

We will be holding an election early in 2025. If you

are interested in volunteering to become a member of the Community Council please contact current members or Democratic Services.

### **Clerk**

We still have a vacancy for a part-time clerk. Please contact Democratic Services for more information on this paid position (see page 7)

### **Correspondence Deadline**

If there is anything you would like us to discuss at our next meeting, including grant applications (to be made on the applications form), please contact the interim clerk.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held in January or February 2025 (date to be confirmed).

### **Members**

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

### **Contact Details**

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

## Refuse Collection

**4/12/2024** – Glass and plastic recycling

**11/12/2024** – Black/grey bins, no recycling

**18/12/2024** – Paper / thin card and metal cans, foil aerosols

**01/01/2025** – no recycling collection

**08/01/2025** – Black/grey bins



## SHAPINSAY CHRISTMAS CHEER

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year, our Christmas Cheer initiative is growing to reach every household in our community! Thanks to your incredible support during our two weeks in Cast Affs, we raised £137 to help make this happen—thank you!

We're excited to be collaborating with talented residents and local groups to celebrate the season with creativity and care. From activities like card-making at the Winter Market and the Peedie Tree knitting workshop on December 4 (1-3 pm) to small acts of kindness, we aim to spread joy and brighten the festive season for everyone.

**We're looking for volunteers** who can help with baking, writing cards, or delivering gifts by car. If you have some time to spare or would like to learn more, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

Rev Julia Meason  
(874789/711275)

Alison McDougall (07867  
622814)

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

This is a collaboration between the Shapinsay Church, the Island Wellbeing Project, SDT and many other kind humans in our community.

*Together, we can make this Christmas a season of love and kindness.*

## Wishing you all a merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the staff and board members at the  
Shapinsay Development Trust

