

## **Shapinsay Development Trust Update**

October was an incredibly busy month at Shapinsay Development Trust! Our Climate Action and Wellbeing month was a great success, and we'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated whether by volunteering or by coming along and making the events worthwhile doing. Alison did a fantastic job coordinating the event calendar, and after her hard work, she's now taking a well-deserved break.

We also launched two key surveys during the month—the Transport Survey, which received 53 responses, and the 5-Year Plan Survey, which had 56, which equates to around 1/3 of all households taking part. We're still working through the data and will share more insights soon. The feedback on the Out-of-Hours Ferry service has already been passed on to the community council to inform their discussions on the Hydrofoil project.

At a recent meeting in Kirkwall with other Community Development Officers (CDOs), we were joined by Laura Cromarty, Facilities Manager for Transport at OIC/Harbours. It was refreshing to hear some potentially positive news regarding the isles' ferries, particularly after years of cautious updates. It seems like the ferry replacement programme is moving closer to becoming a reality, which is encouraging for all of us, even though Shapinsay is last in the list for replacements, hopefully it at least means we'll be able to keep the Shapinsay for ourselves!

As part of our Climate and Wellbeing month, we hosted a coffee afternoon with representatives from THAW, Warmworks, Citizens Advice, Scam Action Orkney, and the Remembering Together project. This

event was a fantastic opportunity for locals to learn about pension benefits and fuel grants while enjoying a bowl of soup, some tea or coffee and cake. We hope some of you were able to benefit from these services before the upcoming deadline for fuel grants.

We also ran a couple of community events in October that were well-received. Our beach clean at Elwick Bay saw six people lifting an impressive 85kg of rubbish from the shoreline, making a real difference to our environment. Our upcycling workshop drew in 25 participants, who made beautiful candles out of old teacups and saucers and lanterns from coffee jars. It was a creative and enjoyable way to encourage sustainability, and everyone went home with something special.

Our AGM was held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and was attended by over 30 people. We reviewed what SDT has achieved from the previous 5-year plan, discussed areas where progress hasn't been what we'd hoped, and began looking at what our goals for the next phase might be. We held group discussions to gather more ideas, focusing on three key areas: Care in the Community, Youth Provision, and other community priorities. The feedback we received will help guide our future projects and plans. If anyone hasn't had the chance to feed into the surveys but would like the opportunity to chat through things, please feel free to drop past the office, I don't need an excuse to put the kettle on, but it's good to have one!

We also hosted a youth event on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and although it was after the newsletter's deadline, we're hopeful it was well-attended. Feedback from adults in the survey stressed the need for youth services, but we only had one response from someone under 25. We're eager to hear more directly from young people to ensure we're addressing their needs too.

In terms of board developments, we're delighted to welcome Christine Leslie as a fully elected director after a two-month trial period didn't scare her off. Toby Diamond also joined the board, bringing in fresh



perspectives and youthful energy. We're excited about the diversity they bring to the team, which will strengthen our planning and future strategies.

Looking forward, we're excited to see what the next few months hold as we continue working with the community and pulling data from the surveys and make decisions over what comes next.

**Smithy update:** we've decided to cut back to one evening per week for food, you will be able to get your takeaway on a Friday night or eat. You will have to pre-book your meal the same as if you are having a takeaway, but can have it as a sit in meal. This is just to allow staff time to re-group and prepare for the Christmas season coming up. We are booking up fast for Christmas meals, so if you would like a Christmas meal on a specific date, booking is advised.

**Transport Update:** We've officially moved over to the winter timetable at the end of last September. While Northerly Marine are not keen to offer a regular Sunday sailing due to various factors, they are still open to providing occasional runs for those returning from trips away. The timing for these trips will vary depending on transport being met, but is generally expected to be between 6:30 and 8:30 pm, please try to book *at least* a week in advance. If there is a sailing in the calendar, of course anyone is welcome to book themselves on to it.

We continue to closely monitoring the service's usage, and during our recent evaluation, the community expressed strong support for its continuation, despite it costing around £60,000 a year to operate. It remains an important service, and is seen as a good use of the Trust's resources.

Looking ahead, we're hopeful that the introduction of the Hydrofoil will help reduce some of the pressure on SDT to provide all services and offer more convenient travel options for islanders. In the meantime, we continue to explore potential options for our own boat service. While plans to extend the cabin on the Elwick Bay and other aspects faced challenges with rising costs, we're still considering other solutions. We'll keep you updated as we move forward!

## Car update

The car service continues to operate five days a week, and we're currently reviewing it following feedback from our recent transport survey. Interestingly the consultation revealed that many residents are not fully aware of what the car service actually offers! So, here's a quick overview:

The car service is made up of electric vehicles (currently three, although we're currently trying to reduce this to two) provided by Shapinsay Renewables (SRL). These vehicles are leased to the Trust for a nominal fee of £5, purchase is cost-neutral for SRL due to tax benefits—making it a practical solution for both parties. The fleet currently consists of one 7-seater car, one wheelchair-accessible vehicle (which is underused), and a lower-seated car that we added based on feedback from users with less mobility, who found it difficult to enter and exit the two higher vehicles.

The service operates on a donation basis, meaning there's no set fee for locals—just contribute what you can. While the vehicles themselves are cost-neutral, the running costs, including wages, electric charging, and maintenance, add up to around £25,000 per year. Currently, the turbine income covers the expenses for all transport services, but as we look ahead to our post-turbine era, we need to start thinking about how to make these services more sustainable long-term.

To use the service, all you need to do is sign up as a Trust member or, if you prefer, as a member of the car service only. The annual membership fee is just £1. We are in the process of setting up an app so you can do all your bookings on the app, but in the mean time you can book from 9-5 Monday to Friday by calling, texting or WhatsApping 07798570439. Bookings should be made at least half a day in advance e.g. the night before for the following morning or at least the morning of travel for the afternoon. You can use the car to get to 9am boat till the 4.30pm boat, if the driver is not over their hours, they may be able to pick you up from the last boat, but this will need to be booked in advance. We currently don't offer a daily commuter service (i.e. same person, same time, every day, 5 days a week, due to the need for the vehicle to

be available for others that need it, but this is something we are looking into). If you would like more information about the service, call Eileen on the above number and she will tell you anything you need to know.

**Bikes:** The bikes were available to islanders for free during the climate action/wellbeing month and were used by a few folk. The decision was made that for the winter months, we will reduce the price for Trust member to £5 for up 24 hours, this helps with ongoing maintenance and insurance costs.

Our biggest costs as an organisation are the boat service, the car service, subsidising the Smithy (for events like winter warmers and keeping it open during quieter winter months to provide a space for residents), and staffing. For some context: the Community Development Officer (CDO) post is currently subsidised, the Wellbeing post is funded for 14 hours per week, and the Expert Community of Practice role, which I (Lisa-Marie) am fulfilling, is subsidised for another year. This support enabled us to bring on someone to help with the management side of things.

We also aim to cover much of the wages for the charity shop staff through the shop's own income. Currently, 50% of all shop revenue goes directly toward running costs. On weeks when we don't have a community group running the shop, 100% of the funds will support the service, helping us keep it operational while continuing to provide a service for the community.

By carefully managing these resources and looking for opportunities to make our services more sustainable, we aim to keep providing the valuable support and programs that Shapinsay relies on.

### **Shapinsay School November 2024**

It feels like there haven't been many days where the primary children were in school and didn't have visitors!

We had visits to the kirk, the fire station, Cast Affs, the Heritage Centre and the shop.

Visitors to school included Stephen Clackson and Mellissa Thompson to talk about their role as North

Isles Councillors, Liam McArthur to talk about being an MSP, Esther Chaney came in to talk about her role on the Community Council, Jason and Leanne brought the ambulance to school and talked with us about being a first responder, Adrian and Lisa-Marie came to talk to the children about the work of the SDT and the turbine and Sallianne Smales came in to share her Smoozles books.



It's been a great project working with the children on what

makes Shapinsay and its community a great place to live, and we hope that we can share the map we have been making and our leaflets about Shapinsay.

When we return after the October holidays the primary children will be learning about Light, Sound and Senses in Science, about France in Social Studies and will be using textiles in Art.

We will also be starting to think about preparations for Christmas events.



The nursery have been continuing to play outside, enjoying the sunny weather when possible! The children have been exploring sensory paint, singing lots of songs and have been playing counting games. After the holidays they are looking forward to lots of play and learning around the autumnal and winter festivals.

Are you a parent or carer of young children or teens?

Please join us for an online safety workshop and meet the Youth & Family Engagement Team

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER  
10AM IN THE MUSIC ROOM

An opportunity for all parents of children and/or teens to meet OIC's Youth & Family Engagement Team:

- Learn how to keep our children safe online
- Explore how the team can support families e.g. emotional wellbeing, social inclusion, personal growth, pupil attendance and adult and pupil attainment.

Refreshments provided by Shapinsay Parent Council and toys available for pre-school children



All welcome to embrace the season's spirit and discover a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts and preloved items; support local charities and enjoy some home baking.

Sunday 24th November

2 - 4 PM  
Community Hall

Organised by Shapinsay Parent Council  
Refreshments in collaboration with the Island Wellbeing Community Cafe

Contact Esther to book a table

## SHAPINSAY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION HARVEST HOME



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Meal by The Smithy: Roast Beef & trimmings  
(Any dietary requirements please contact Gemma Leslie)

Dance to *Kirkjuvagr Ceilidh Band*

Adults £15  
13-16 years £7.50  
5-12 years £5  
Under 5 years Free (please collect ticket for numbers)

Tickets will be available from Thomas Sinclair Shop see Facebook or posters for when they are on Sale

# CREATIVE PRACTICE

28/11/2024

SHAPINSAY SESSIONS X MEN'S SHED

7 - 10 PM  
free or by donation



Clubrooms



Non-alcoholic  
bevs + snacks

drop by to play\*  
or listen

\*music, poetry, storytelling,  
comedy, dance, improv...



Contact Alison  
wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk  
07867 622814



## Community Wellbeing



Wellbeing & Climate Festival served as a reminder of the importance of supporting each other, creating safe

spaces to be ourselves, and nurturing our wellbeing and the environment. Through shared interests and passions, we fostered meaningful connections, sparked creativity, and explored new experiences.

A huge thank you to our local partners, volunteers, and workshop leaders whose collaboration made this festival possible. Without their dedication, the event wouldn't have been nearly as successful-or as fun. By coming together and sharing our strengths and passions, we've shown how collaboration can create a healthier, more connected community-one that nurtures personal growth while caring for our environment.

**Weekly Walks:** from our wildflower seed harvest, where Sheila Garson and Karen Evans guided us in collecting seeds for the future Reflective Space, to the silent saunter led by Lynne Collinson, participants experienced how nature can nurture both inner peace and social bonding. The photography walk with Chris Leslie gave residents a chance to see the familiar landscapes of our village, woods, and harbour through a new lens, while Julia and Kenny's heather hopping adventure combined learning and a unique perspective of Shapinsay's natural beauty.

In partnership with the Men's Shed and our wonderful host Chris Perry, we held a Creative Practice session where members shared music, stories, and poems. The pop- up Macmillan bakery raised £117 in donations, thanks to our volunteer bakers who contributed wholesome, delicious treats.

Steve Adams' woodturning workshop saw participants go from nervous beginners to empowered creators, making everything from light pulls to mini rolling pins, thanks to John Leslie sharing his shed space. David McNeish and James Groat's performance of music and poetry at Shapinsay Church touched hearts, reminding us of the deep connection between our emotions and the natural world. The dry-stone dyke workshop led by Ian Eunson and Ivan Hourston restored a section of Ivan's dyke, bringing together 14 participants to share and preserve this traditional craft.

Our Active Movers were pleased to welcome Donna from Orkney Dance & Fitness for a live session. Rebecca Reid encouraged younger community members to develop their badminton skills while promoting teamwork and active lifestyles.

We value your feedback! Please scan the QR code or email Alison for a link to the survey



[wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk) |  
07867 622814

## Community Wellbeing



## Kirk News

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October this year, Shapinsay Church of Scotland, together with 16 other Church of Scotland congregations across Orkney, formed the Orkney Islands Church of Scotland.

This is an important administrative change but our congregational life on the island will continue uninterrupted.

Hence here's some news as to what's going on:

We're gathering items about the old Kirk and the new Kirk for the Heritage Archive. If you have an old hymnbook, notices, pictures that you would like held there and made available to folks who visit, could you share them with me or the elders in the first instance please?

We're then going to choose the best items (we suspect, for example, that a good number of old hymnbooks are going to be found in folks' drawers!) and give them as a bundle. It would be great to see what you might have that would be worth preserving!

November means Remembrance and, as always, we will hold the war memorial service at 10.50 am on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, followed by a service at the kirk at 11.30 am.

All our other Sunday services, which take place every Sunday, begin at 12 noon. All are welcome to come along!

Also, as many begin to plan for Christmas (yikes!), it's heads up about two separate events. Firstly, together with the Wellbeing Project we're going to be in the Cast Affs the weeks of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of November to fundraise for our Christmas Cheer Bags. We're looking for volunteers, donations, baking, raffle prizes and customers so if you can help in any of those ways, please get in touch with Alison or me.

Then in December we will hold the annual carol signing event at the Kirk on Christmas Eve at 4 pm with participation of Shapinsay's own Shapinsay Music Group and the Shapinsay School bairns. Pop that date in the diary!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Rev Julia Meason,  
[JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk), 874789/711275



Shapinsay Community Council

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

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

**One more member (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



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## HELP US SPREAD CHEER THIS CHRISTMAS

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As part of our annual Christmas Cheer initiative, we are seeking volunteer bakers to provide delicious homemade treats & drivers to assist with the gift deliveries, Alison & Julia will be at Cast Affs on November 14, 16, 21 & 23 to help fund this initiative.

If you would like to get involved, please contact:

Rev Julia Meason 874789/711275	This is a collaboration between Shapinsay Church and the SDT island Wellbeing project
Alison McDougall 07867622814	

Together we can make Christmas a Season of Love & Giving

## Community Council News

### Orkney Ferries – New Booking System

Orkney Ferries' new booking system is now live. We have been in contact with them to check a few questions that residents had. There is now **an updated FAQ page on their website** to answer such questions.

The main points to note are:

- If you book online you have to pay to confirm your booking
- If you have pre-paid paper tickets or an account you can book in advance via email or phone call (not online)
- You can continue to turn up without a booking and pay on the day but booking in advance guarantees a space and means you will get direct notification of any changes to the sailing.

### Aggregate Scheme

For details of this year's **aggregate scheme** please contact Democratic Services. **Names to be submitted ASAP** for consideration.

## 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 before 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held **on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:45pm.**

### 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)

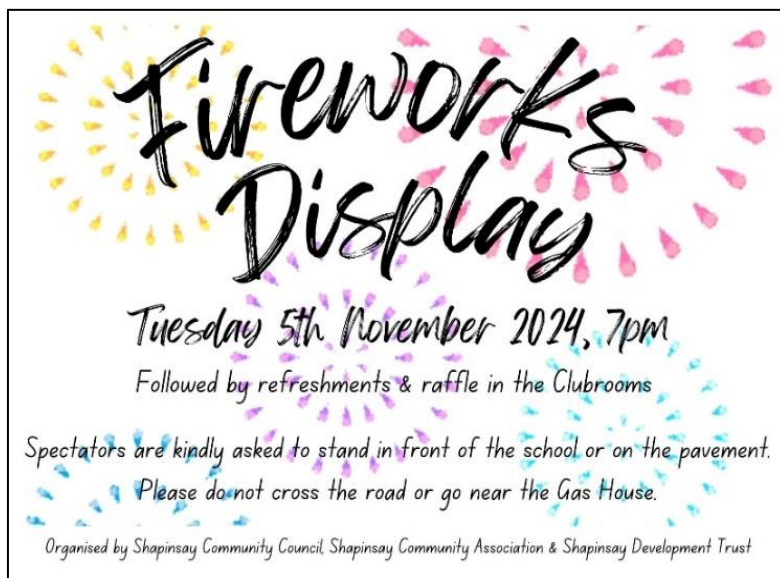
### Fireworks

The fireworks will be set off from the Gas House this year (not the Boathouse). Spectators are

kindly requested to watch from outside the school or along the pavement. Please do not cross the road or stand on the shore side.

### Members

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



**Fireworks Display**  
Tuesday 5th November 2024, 7pm  
Followed by refreshments & raffle in the Clubrooms  
Spectators are kindly asked to stand in front of the school or on the pavement.  
Please do not cross the road or go near the Gas House.  
Organised by Shapinsay Community Council, Shapinsay Community Association & Shapinsay Development Trust

## Refuse Collection

**30/10/2024** - Black/grey bins, no recycling

**06/11/2024** - Please present a bin/container with glass in one and plastic bottles in the other

**13/11/2024** - Black/grey bins, no recycling

**20/11/2024** - Please present a bin or container with paper/thin card in one and metal cans, foil, and aerosols in the other

**27/11/2024** - Black/grey bins, no recycling

## Christmas MENU



The Smithy  
-CAFE RESTAURANT

### STARTERS

Traditional prawn cocktail £6.95

Pan-fried Orkney scallops in a garlic, chilli, and white wine sauce £11.95

Christmas roast vegetable and Stilton soup £5.95

Deep-fried Grimbister cheese with a homemade plum chutney £6.95

### MAIN DISHES

Turkey, honey-glazed carrot and parsnip, sprouts, pigs in blankets, oatmeal stuffing, creamy mashed potato and gravy £18.95

Monkfish goujons with skin-on fries and tartar sauce £15.95

Sirloin steak, skin-on fries, peppercorn sauce and onion rings £23.95

Roast cauliflower, harissa humous, vegan skirlie & Christmas veg £14.95

### DESSERTS

Festive sticky toffee pudding £6.95

Baileys cheesecake £ 6.95

Chocolate profiteroles £6.95

Cheese board with biscuits  
and chutney £9.95

Please book to avoid disappointment, via messenger, 711243 or  
Smithy@shapinsay.org .uk

Please let us know of any dietary Requirements