



Shapinsay Development Trust Update

Welcome to the February edition of the *Shapinsay Sound*! Since we didn't provide an update in January, there's plenty to catch up on this month.

Housing Projects:

Rullinvoe: We're thrilled to announce that the Rullinvoe project is now complete, following the final adjustments to the porch, which required additional planning and tendering. Huge thanks to Darren Muir and Damien Sutherland for their hard work in completing this project. We'll host an open house during the 16th of February, 3pm-4pm, so everyone can take a look around.

Balfour Cottage: We've made progress on the Balfour Cottage project now that planning permissions and conditions were approved in January. However, with upcoming elections in 2026, funding sources like the Scottish Land Fund and Rural Housing Fund are being suspended and awarded funds must be fully utilised by March 2026.



This tight deadline means we'll be moving quickly to issue tenders, begin demolition, and start the rebuild as soon as possible.

Spion Brae Project: After delays due to managing two housing projects, we're beginning feasibility studies for the Spion Brae project this year. Given current funding

challenges, we may need to phase the project, but we'll keep you updated as plans develop.

Climate Action:

We've been hard at work developing a Climate Action Plan for Shapinsay in collaboration with a dedicated development officer from Community Energy Scotland. A draft plan for the island is underway, and we're excited to share it with you soon. We will be looking to you, the community for input with some community engagement sessions in February

Last year, we were awarded funding to become a Community Resource Centre for Net Zero. This initiative will help educate the community about Scotland's carbon-neutral goals for 2045 and how we can contribute. Through the Community Energy Hubs Expert Community of Practice, I, Lisa-Marie will attend events in Stronsay and Sanday this month, hopefully I will update in the March sound after the events. An Orkney conference will be held in February too, planned to coincide with Shetland representatives visiting Orkney, it will bring together board members and development officers for some shared learning.

Transport:

Vehicle Update: You may have noticed that we're now operating with two vehicles. Shapinsay Renewables Ltd. replaced the white car and blue car with a combi-van, which retains a seven-seat option.

Evening Event Transport Trial: Based on public demand, we'll trial evening transport services for The Smithy or other weekend events. This service will run on a pre-booked, set-price basis (not part of the "pay-what-you-can" donation system) from March to August. If it's well-used, we'll explore making it a long-term option, provided it covers costs.

Elwick Bay Boat

We bought the boat as we received an acceptable quote and a promise of a quick turnaround for the work. After we bought the boat and handed it over to the contractor, it became apparent that the boat wasn't being worked on, this was due to a particularly windy winter.

The contractor then told us that they were not going to undertake the work as promised.

The upgrades are essential for passenger comfort and reliability of operation.

We approached another contractor who quoted us almost what we paid for the boat for the upgrade work, making the project unfeasible.

This seems to be a problem across Orkney, lack of skilled tradesmen who can undertake this type of work. We are expecting to sell the boat for a similar price to what we purchased it for. We intend to monitor the progress of the Zevvi project, which could help cover much of the transportation load with fewer costs for SDT.

If there are gaps in service, we may consider purchasing another passenger boat that meets our needs and is ready for immediate use.

The boat was not bought with any grant funding; however, we did receive a cost-of-living crisis fund to help with the spiraling costs, which helped us to be able to justify the initial spend on the boat.

Cast Affs:

As you will know by now, Sally has stepped back from the project, although continues in her capacity as transport coordinator, so we are moving forward with a pool of people to run the shop on a 'job share' basis.

This puts less pressure on one individual to be available every weekend.

If you would be interested in helping out as a volunteer or an occasional paid capacity, please get in touch. We are looking for someone who is good with the public and able to handle cash and cashing up at the end of the day.

5-year plan:

The 5-year plan is ready to be published, come along to the community café on the 10th of February between 11am and 1pm for a first look.

Climate Action Plan

For an opportunity to learn more and feed into the Climate Action Plan for Shapinsay, pop along to the community Café between 11am and 1pm where there will be more information on what a climate action plan is.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR SHAPINSAY SHOW DAY: **SHAPINSAY PHOTO COMPETITION**

Categories:

You can submit up to 2 in each category

Black and white
Seasons
Sky
Reflections
Animals



Submit your printed photos to the Boothouse by the 25th of July.

Winning photos will be displayed in a tent at the Shapinsay Show.



Photos must be the work of the person entering, must be no larger than 5x7" & not have been previously entered. Names should be in an envelope fixed to the rear of the photo, with the subject written on the envelope

Shapinsay Lifeboat Guild RNLI Fundraising Race Night



Saturday, 8th February
Shapinsay Community Centre Hall
Doors open at 7pm / first race at 7.30pm
Races on the big screen with bets £1 each
Bring your own refreshments
There will also be a raffle



Shapinsay School February 2025

We are delighted that our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award banner has arrived. We hope that it will soon be on display. Next step Gold!

Primary Learning – This term the primary children are learning about David Balfour. As part of this topic, they will be finding out more about his life and the impact he had on Shapinsay.

They will also be learning about the Victorian era and what life was like for the Victorians. If anyone has any knowledge about Shapinsay in Victorian times, or about David Balfour, we would love for you to come and talk to the children about it. Please get in touch with the school if you are able to help.

In science, the children are learning about forces. So far, the children have learned that a force is a push or a pull to start or something moving. The older primary children will be learning about air and water resistance, friction and gravity. We will be doing several experiments as part of this learning.

In French, the children are learning about transport and travel. In Spanish, the children are learning about family members.

PE this term focuses on rugby skills and movement to music. Art is focusing on water colour painting, with a focus on sketches

Nursery Learning – The nursery role play area is now a post office. The children have been posting letters and are finding out more about letters and parcels. They have been learning about 2D shapes and doing matching and sorting activities.



The school bairns with the newly arrived Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award banner

Silver eco-congregation award

As you already know, Shapinsay Church, Orkney Islands Church of Scotland, has received a Silver eco-congregation award – very well done to the Shapinsay folk. We plan to mark the achievement during the communion service and shared lunch on the **2nd of February at 12 noon**.

We will have Rev David Coleman, the Eco-Congregation Chaplain, record a video for the occasion with congratulations. It's something to concentrate on maintaining or building on rather than to bask in some sort of "glory" – we're not "prize" winners but folk who've now set themselves standards that must now be lived up to and that we don't want to slip. Also, it's an **Eco Congregation** award, not Eco Group, minister or Leadership Team or whatever but we all must engage and change our mindset and behaviour.

We hope you will consider joining us as we get focused again and celebrate what we've achieved so far.

Rev Julia Meason (JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk, 874789/711275)

ART COMPETITION

OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

AGE CATEGORIES

AGE 5 AND UNDER

AGE 6-11

AGE 12-15

AGE 16 AND OVER

PRIZES TO BE WON



Theme: "Our Changing Environment"

Express your creativity and share your perspective on how the world around us is transforming.

Guidelines:

- **Size:** All artwork should be displayed on A4-sized paper or smaller.
- **Medium:** Any medium can be used! If your artwork is 3D or made from unconventional materials, simply photograph it and print the photo in A4 size for submission.
- **Original Work:** All submissions must be your own original creation. The physical piece must be available for viewing or display if required.

Prizes and Recognition:

- The winning artwork will be displayed in the **Orkney Library**
- This competition is part of a larger **North Isles Climate Action Plan Network** art contest, with exciting prizes for winners at the next stage!

Entries should be handed in to The Boathouse or the School by February 20, with a note attached with the entrant's name and the age category you are entering.

Celebrating volunteers!

We have been thinking a lot about “Volunteering” recently and what it means to be a volunteer. When we think of volunteering, we often think of visible roles such as working in charity shops, foodbanks, befriending projects etc. But you might be surprised to learn how many people volunteer here on Shapinsay.

So, we thought we’d run a mini-series in the Shapinsay Sound to celebrate those that do volunteer roles on Shapinsay. We’ll start you off with the **Shapinsay Lifeboat Guild**.

The Shapinsay Lifeboat Guild is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to supporting the vital work of the RNLI. Led by Emma Clements, the team includes Leanne Bews as secretary, Lisa-Marie and Darren Muir as treasurers (who will be stepping down this year—thank you both for your invaluable contributions!), and Jean Coomber, who manages souvenirs and Christmas cards. Other members include Lenka Mellor, Louise Hollinrake, Val and Andy More, and the ever-enthusiastic Glynis Leslie, who has been part of the team for over 20 years and has played a key role in organising countless island events. The guild traditionally hosts two events each year: a Burns Night and ceilidh in January or February. Last year marked the 50th anniversary of Shapinsay’s Lifeboat Guild and, possibly, the final Burns Night due to the challenge of finding enough volunteers to run it.

In August, the guild usually holds an event to coincide with the Round Shapinsay Yacht Race. Over the years, these events have featured daft raft races, float competitions, quoits tournaments, music, and stalls.

While floats and rafts have been shelved for now due to declining participation, the guild remains hopeful about revisiting these in the future.

The guild also raises funds through souvenirs and raffles at various events throughout the year. The time commitment is minimal, with only a couple of planning meetings annually and a day or so dedicated to organising and running each event.

Why do we do it? Living on an island surrounded by the sea, we are acutely aware of how much we rely on lifeboat crews. These brave volunteers risk their lives to assist those in need, and it’s our way of giving back. Did you know that if the ferry can’t operate due to rough weather, it’s the coastguard helicopter or lifeboat that steps in?

One memorable example of an RNLI rescue, is the story of a young Ella Moncrieff. On a stormy night, right before Christmas, at less than two-years-old, Ella became gravely ill. The ferry couldn’t sail, so the lifeboat and coastguard stepped in, medevacing Ella and her (heavily pregnant) mum and dad to Kirkwall for urgent medical care. Thanks to their swift actions, Ella received the life-saving treatment she needed. Emma Clements says “I joined the lifeboat guild after I, myself was in receipt of their fantastic service when I was medevaced off the island and I wanted to give something back”

Volunteering for the Lifeboat Guild is not only meaningful but can also be fun. It brings the community together, provides entertainment for residents and visitors, and raises much-needed funds for a lifesaving cause. If you’d like to join the guild and help bring back larger-scale events, please contact Emma Clements. We’d love to have you on board!



The guild’s volunteers celebrating the 200 year anniversary of the RNLI in August for the “One Crew” day.

Job Title: Event driver (Casual)



Main Purpose: To drive people to and from events on Friday and Saturday evenings using Shapinsay Development Trust's vehicles, ensuring safe and reliable transportation for community members.

Place of Work:

You will collect and return the car to the Boathouse at the start and end of each shift.

Main Duties:

- Drive community members safely to and from events, ensuring they are returned home afterward.
- Manage bookings, including scheduling and confirming pick-ups and drop-offs.
- Conduct daily vehicle checks to ensure roadworthiness and safety.
- Maintain accurate records of trips, takings, and any incidents during shifts.
- Handle fare collection and record takings for each shift.
- Report any vehicle issues or concerns promptly to the manager.

Working Hours: Friday and Saturday evenings, including unsociable hours up to around 1am.

Rate of Pay: £15 per hour

Person Specification

Essential:

- Full, clean driving license.
- Friendly, professional demeanor with excellent interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work late evenings.
- Reliable and punctual.
- Basic record-keeping skills and attention to detail.
- Knowledge of Shapinsay and its local routes.
- Be physically fit
- Be over 25
- Be willing to undergo a medical if requested by the board

Desirable:

- Previous experience in a driving or customer-facing role.
- Awareness of health and safety requirements related to driving.
- First Aid certification (or willingness to undertake training if requested).

We hope to create a pool of drivers so no one driver is expected to be on shift every single weekend. This is being run as a trial, if it is well used, we may extend the trial period.

By providing safe and dependable evening transport, the Relief Driver plays a crucial role in supporting the community and enabling access to local events.

Send your CV or letter of application to boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk

Mobile Library Shapinsay visit dates 2025



The bus will be on the island on:

- February 8
- April 4
- May 30
- July 25
- September 19
- November 14

Stops at:

- School 10.15-11am
- North School 11.15am-12.15
- Astle Cottage 12.30-12.45
- Helliar View carpark 1.30pm-2.15
- The Shapinsay Slip line-up 2.30pm-3.15

Parish Food Cup

Made in the Parish is set to be at the KGS, 17th May.

In previous years the sections included baking, wine, preserves, a kids bun decorating and a display. With Shapinsay winning prizes in the wine, cheese, shortbread and Bannock sections.

This year's theme is Picnic table.



For Shapinsay to be able to enter in this competition we need someone to lead this and help form a group of entries. Is this something that would interest you? Get in touch with Alanna Leslie (alanna.leslie@live.co.uk or messenger) by Friday 7th February if you are interested.



Community Council News

Orkney Ferries Booking

Orkney Ferries recently announced that you can now cancel or amend bookings online, if the original booking was made online. For all other amendments or cancellations please email or telephone Orkney Ferries. They continue to work on upgrading the online system e.g. to enable passengers with books of tickets to book online.

Election

An election will be held on **Thursday, 6th February, at 6:30pm** in the Clubrooms. Everyone on the Register of Electors for Shapinsay has the right to vote and is invited to attend. Candidates wishing to be considered for election must be on the current published Register of Electors for Shapinsay and either present at the meeting or, in advance, submit a written request indicating that they wish to stand. There are two vacancies. For further information please speak to any of the current members or contact Democratic Services. There are also posters in public places around Shapinsay and on the ferry.

Aggregate Scheme

Recipients of the Aggregate Scheme are reminded to submit their claims to Democratic Services as soon as possible so they can be processed in this financial year.

Reporting Roads Issues

If you notice an issue with the roads e.g. potholes or flooding, please report these directly to Orkney Islands Council to keep them alerted to these issues. There is no roads representative in Shapinsay anymore and therefore all issues must be reported by residents. You can report issues via telephone 01856 873535 or OIC's website: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/online/report-it/>

Clerk

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

Correspondence Deadline

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

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **6th February 2025**.

Members

Leanne Bews (Chair & Health Rep), Esther Chaney (Transport Rep), Colin Leslie (Vice-Chair & Planning 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



REFUSE COLLECTION

5/02/2025 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

12/02/2025 – Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil and aerosols

19/02/2025 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

26/02/2025 – Glass and plastic

5/03/2025 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

12/03/2025 – Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil and aerosols

19/03/2025 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

26/03/2025 – Glass and plastic

Shapinsay Wellbeing Library

We're excited to announce the launch of the Shapinsay Wellbeing Library, now with 20 books to support your journey toward health, happiness, and balance. From mindfulness and resilience to nutrition and self-discovery. A big thank you to the Shapinsay Men's Shed for donating funds that enabled us to purchase six of these fantastic books. Visit our Goodreads library online by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or contacting Alison McDougall to learn more. (wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk or 07867 622814).

Shapinsay Wellbeing Library

Explore books to support your health, happiness, and growth.

Contact Alison McDougall to borrow/return/share a book

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view the full list on Goodreads!



wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk
or 07867 622814.



Mobile Sauna on Shapinsay

February 12-18, 2025

Location: Sands and Skenstoft

Session cost (up to 6 people): £30/hr or £15/30 minutes*

Contact Alison McDougall for more info.

(wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk or 07867 622814)

***if cost is a barrier please pay what you can**

community C A F E



Join us for our monthly drop-in community café, featuring soup, homebakes, and a selection of drinks. You'll also have the opportunity to view the latest 5-year plan from SDT.

Monday, 10th February, 12 pm - 2 pm

Community Centre Clubrooms

Cost: free or by donation



SOUL RETREAT

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2 - 4:30PM



In celebration of International Women's Day, we are delighted to partner with Anita Moar of Soul Design to host a private, women-only day retreat exclusively for Shapinsay residents at her stunning seaside space in Finstown. An opportunity to feed the mind, body, and soul.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Ferry transportation to/from Shapinsay to Kirkwall
- Bring your own car or taxi hire
- 50 minutes of yoga (all levels)
- Rebalancing reiki practice
- Refreshments and healthy snacks
- Guided meditation

This retreat is subsidized by the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, reducing the full cost of £55 to just **£20 per person**. Your contribution helps us fund similar activities in the future. **7 spots available**. Sign up by February 7 and receive **20% off**.

To sign up, contact Alison McDougall:
wellbeing@shapinsay.org.uk
07867 622814



Valentine's at



The Smithy
-CAFE RESTAURANT-

Friday, February 14th
TWO COURSES - £30 PER PERSON

Glass of prosecco on arrival

MAIN DISH
Orkney sirloin steak with selection of sauces, chips, and onion rings
Veg option: Portobello mushroom steak with chips, tomatoes & asparagus

DESSERT
Black cherry pavlova

Seatings at 5pm and 6.30pm
Please book by the Monday before, Feb 10!



Winter Warmers

This month's Winter Warmer dates are February 13th & 27th

Two courses plus choice of tea or coffee

12pm-2.30pm
£6 for Islanders £12 for Non-Residents
Include

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