

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2025

WISHING OUR MEMBERS AND
STAFF A FANTASTIC START TO 2025

FROM :



Shapinsay
Development Trust

Silver eco-congregation award for the church

Shapinsay Church, Orkney Islands Church of Scotland, has received a Silver eco-congregation award.

150 eco-congregations have already gained an eco-award in recognition of the 'care for creation.' Shapinsay got its last award in 2016.

Under the original award scheme, until 2017 congregations could apply for a new award every 3 years. Applications are now made at bronze, silver or gold level.

In Shapinsay, we have been working on this for a long time and have tackled different aspects over the years. Everything we do has an environmental aspect to it – it is embedded in who we are and what we do in terms of our mission and ministry. Following church restoration in 2012, with the installation of air-to-air heating and insulation in the revamped building, we have now installed a bank of solar panels.

We hope that the battery storage will allow us to use the church heating more economically. We have a site area on which ground-fitted solar panels are installed. We are converting the rest of the area into a Reflective Space, which already has the renga platform installed and will in the future include a wildflower meadow, and bee friendly beds. Also, the Shapinsay Community Council have offered to fund the purchase of a bench for the space, the same as they have supplied in other areas of Shapinsay (recycled plastic from Marmax). We're working on this venture together with the Remembering Together project, Men's Group, the Shapinsay Wellbeing Coordinator and local farmers.

We also published Shapinsay Reflective Routes booklet (see <https://shapinsay.org.uk/visiting-shapinsay/reflective-routes/>), which is a selection of routes around the island, bringing us closer with God's creation. Environmental issues are discussed during worship and members are encouraged to consider the implications for their own lives. Many have installed their own environmentally friendly heating systems. Some members have solar panels on their roofs already and households recycle everything they can through the local authority scheme. Our congregation members use e-bikes, e-cars, and share lifts with one another to reduce travel impact on the planet. All light bulbs are energy-saving. No electrical equipment is left on standby, and lights and heating are always switched off after use.

Water outlets are well maintained as is the internal plumbing system. We use environment friendly cleaning materials.

We have developed a Fair-Trade policy and became a Fairtrade church. We use local supplies where possible.

We provide Fair trade tea and coffee as well as sugar.

We were assessed on the 29th of November and then got an email from our assessors congratulating us on our achievements.



The assessors particularly commended us for our application being spiritual as well as practical. They wrote: "The use of 'waste' ground to convert to a reflective space was novel and imaginative, and involves others such as artists and the separately funded Shapinsay Wellbeing Co-ordinator in the design and use of the space. The ambition to encourage others from further afield to come and use this for reflection is an example of the spiritual focus of the application."

The assessors also appreciated us having taken the opportunity to take some practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint.

We're delighted with the news and very grateful to all who contributed to this accomplishment!

RNLI Fundraising Race Night



Saturday, 8th February, 2025

More details in the next month's newsletter

Spreading Christmas Cheer

The Christmas Cheer initiative, co-organised by Alison McDougall and Rev. Julia Meason continued to bring kindness and connection to our community.

Together with the community, we worked to ensure we reached all 156 households, with each receiving a beautiful Christmas card designed by 8-year-old Elza Chaney.

With a budget of £700, funded by Shapinsay Development Trust, Scottish Sea Farms, Shapinsay Church, and donations from activities like the Community Café and Cast Affs.

We were proud to spend £430 within the local community.



This year's highlights included:

Knitting Workshop: In partnership with Darn Good Yarn group and led by Sheila Garson, bringing experts and novices together. Margaret Eunson impressed everyone by finishing her tree by the end of the workshop!



Baking & Deliveries:

Naturally sweetened bakery boxes were baked by Rhiannon Bird, Keira Moncrieff and delivered to those unable to attend the Winter Market. David and Freda Mowat were instrumental in the community cafe kitchen, preparing refreshments and ensuring everyone felt welcome.

Card Writing: Volunteers Jean Noble, and Jenny Hall showed up to lend a hand and The Shapinsay Choir were corralled into the clubrooms after practice to write Christmas cards.

Elf Post: The Shapinsay Agricultural Association delivered 80 cards.

Thoughtful Gifts: Curated items such as books, journals, and plants were gathered and gifted, offering simple joys.

Community Donations & Partnerships: With Tesco's support, tangerines and biscuits were delivered to many households. Generous contributions from the community, including Sheila's novel collection, Marie Dunnet's Christmas decorations, Margaret Eunson's scones and Glynis' homemade jam. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and generosity to make this possible!



Winter Warmers
Returns for 2025
on January 16th and 30th!

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

SHAPINSAY HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Unfortunately, our last event scheduled for November had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

We will rearrange a date for Prem and Gina from Greens Garden to come and speak to us, hopefully in April.

Our next event is a Photographic Competition and Seed Swap.

This will be held on **Wednesday 29th January 2025, at 7pm in the Clubrooms.**

There will be a display and competition of your photographs which will be peer-judged with winners being those that receive the most votes. There will be prizes for 1st in each category and for the photo with most votes overall. Categories are:

- Seed Head/s
- Garden in Winter
- Flower in Winter (indoor or outdoor)
- Under 16yrs – 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.

Just bring your photos along on the night and we will do the rest.

Also on the night will be a Seed Swap with the opportunity to bring along any spare seed to swap or take some home for a small donation.

There will be a short presentation about which seeds can be sown early in the year to get a head start and the best way to sow them.

As usual, there will be delicious refreshments and a raffle.

We look forward to seeing you and your photographs!

Shapinsay Horticultural Association presents...

A Photographic Competition and Seed Swap.

Wednesday 29th January 2025,
7pm.
In the Clubrooms.

Saturday 11th
January



Families
welcome!

Let's get together for a fun cuppa & a serious blether

Shapinsay Community Hall

Join us

In the Shapinsay Community Hall from 1:30pm – 4pm where we're delighted to bring our next Parish Cuppa to!

- Raffle
- Homebakes
- Our 'famous' pancakes
- Bairn's colouring books

Our committee member Dr Richard Brunt will host an informal chat as well as a Q&A session as we try to raise more all important awareness within Orkney's community

Christmas fun at Shapinsay School

In December, we had all been preparing for Christmas and enjoying some fun end of term activities.

The corridors are festooned with lights, Nursery has a lovely Christmas corner and the primary classrooms are decorated with many home made decorations. The children decorated the Christmas tree with so many decorations that the tree was barely visible!

Thank you so much to Thomas Sinclair shop for the tree. The P7 children switched on the Christmas lights on 6th December, and we hope that the audience enjoyed the children's singing.



Everyone enjoyed Christmas lunch on the 11th December, which, again, was shared with Lunch Club.

On 17th December, the primary children met with the children from Rousay school at the Pickaquoy Centre where the children all played together on the inflatables and then watched the movie 'Paddington in Peru' at the cinema. On the same day, the Nursery children went on a trip to Wellpark to play in the soft play there. Many thanks to the Community Council and the Parent Council for funding these trips.

We rounded up the term with the end of term assembly on 18th December. This saw the children performing on instruments as well as singing. It was also the world premiere of Mousativity, starring the mice from the Kirk. The children dressed the mice up as the cast of the Nativity story and we used stop-motion animation to create a short film. The children wrote the script and each child voiced one of the characters. We hope that everyone enjoyed it, and huge thanks to Jason for his technical skills with editing it all together!

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year from all at the



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



Art Competition: Get Creative Over the Holidays!

Looking for a project to work on during your Christmas holidays? Get a head start on our upcoming art competition!

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 – paint, drawing, photography, wool, clay, recycled materials, or mixed media. 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**, showcasing your talent to the wider community.
- This competition is part of a larger **North Isles Climate Action Plan Network** art contest, with exciting prizes for winners at the next stage!

Stay tuned – more details, including how to submit your work, will be announced in January. In the meantime, let your imagination run wild and start creating!



Community Council News

Tree Lighting

Thank you to all involved in the Tree Lighting last month. We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas lights, carols and refreshments.

Zero Emission Vessel Infrastructure (ZEVI)

Orkney Islands Council have launched their own survey to help draft a timetable for their electric vessels project. Residents and visitors to Shapinsay, Rousay, Egilsay, and Wyre are encouraged to respond. The survey is open until the end of January. Please do respond to help shape this boat service:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CJ6USE/>

OIC Budget Consultation

Orkney Islands Council recently launched a survey to gather local views before their budget setting process. If you would like to have your say regarding services provided by OIC please complete the survey before 12th January.
Visit: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AA8ROT/>

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

We will be holding an election at our first meeting of 2025. Apologies for the delay in confirming this. If you are interested in volunteering to become a member of the Community Council, please contact current members or Democratic Services as soon as possible for further information. We will be looking to elect two new members.

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. You can report issues via telephone 01856 873535 or OIC's website
<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/online/report-it/>

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.

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 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 on **6th February 2025**.

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 or call 01856 873535 extension 2264 or 2237. You can also email the interim clerk via shapinsayclerk@gmail.com

REFUSE COLLECTION

15/01/2025 – Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil and aerosols

22/01/2025 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

29/01/2025 – Glass and plastic

05/02/2025 – 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

Wellbeing : Write about it!


Take a moment for yourself today. Grab a piece of paper, pick up a pen or pencil, and spend at least 20 minutes writing your thoughts.

Don't worry about grammar or spelling — just let your words flow freely.

Whether you reflect, dream, or process, this is your space to write and explore.

Take inspiration from the writing prompts and let your thoughts (and pen) wander!

ALWAYS EVOLVING



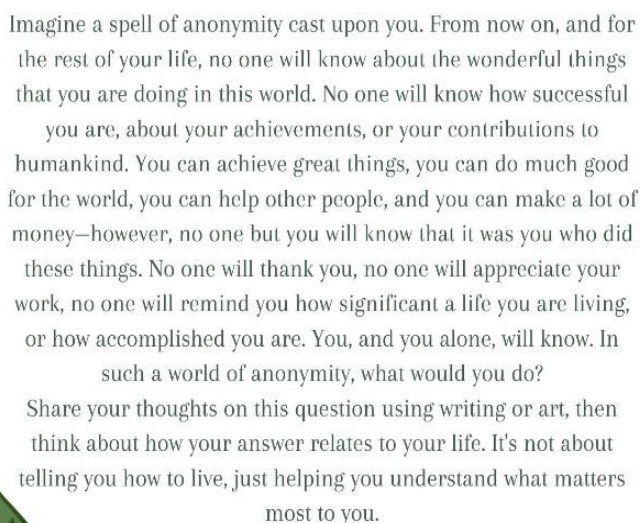
Think of one thing in your life that you would like to improve on. For example, you may want to become more confident and assertive or calmer and less anxious or more motivated and hardworking. What would a typical day look like and feel like if you were doing better in the area that you picked for improvement? Write about a day in your life as if you had already improved, as if you were more confident or calmer or more motivated.

GRATITUDE

Write a letter to a person you care about and who cares about you—a friend, family member, colleague or other. In the letter express gratitude for the things that the person did for you—how they contributed or continue to contribute to your life, and so on. Spend around 20 minutes writing. Once you're done, you can choose to read the letter to the person, send it to them, or keep it to yourself. Regardless of what you do with it, there is much value in appreciating and writing.



SPELL OF ANONYMITY



Imagine a spell of anonymity cast upon you. From now on, and for the rest of your life, no one will know about the wonderful things that you are doing in this world. No one will know how successful you are, about your achievements, or your contributions to humankind. You can achieve great things, you can do much good for the world, you can help other people, and you can make a lot of money—however, no one but you will know that it was you who did these things. No one will thank you, no one will appreciate your work, no one will remind you how significant a life you are living, or how accomplished you are. You, and you alone, will know. In such a world of anonymity, what would you do? Share your thoughts on this question using writing or art, then think about how your answer relates to your life. It's not about telling you how to live, just helping you understand what matters most to you.

A healing chicken soup to wash away the January blues!

Rosol is a Polish chicken soup with healing power. It comes highly recommended by our lead chef at The Smithy, Joanna Sosnowska.

Ingredients:

Chicken pieces on the bone
1 small piece of beef bone
4 or 5 carrots 1 or 2 Parsnips
Celery root A leek
2 yellow onions 1/4 of cabbage head
Parsley Allspice berries
1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
2 or 3 bay leaves Salt & Pepper
8 cups water
250g noodles per serving

Step 1: Peel the carrots, parsnip, and celery. Clean and trim your leek and wash your parsley. Heat up a skillet and add the unpeeled onions in to get some burn marks to get some color for the broth.


Step 2: Place chicken pieces, beef bone, allspice, and bay leaves into a large pot then add vegetables and fill the pot with water. Add vinegar and 1- 2 tablespoons of salt.

Step 3: Set on medium to low heat and simmer for two hours. Skim off anything that accumulates on the surface.

Step 4: Boil the noodles separately and rinse once cooked. Add them to a bowl. Remove a carrot and piece of chicken from the broth, cut it up, and add it to your bowl. Ladle the broth into your bowl; passing it through a meshed strainer. Add chopped parsley and enjoy!



OUT OF HOURS FERRY




NOTICE OF FARE INCREASE

CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY FIRST

ADULTS ⚓ **£10.00**

12-18 ⚓ **£3.00**



Burns Night

**At The Smithy
Saturday, January 25th**



Sittings at 5pm and 6.30pm
Two courses - main & pudding
Please book to avoid disappointment
Burns takeaway on Friday 24th / Bar open until midnight

Opening hours January 2025



Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur & Sun - Closed
Friday Takeaways 4pm - 7pm
Bar Open Fri & Sat - 6pm to Midnight



January at Cast Affs

Cast Affs will re-open on **Thursday, January 16th**

We are looking for community clubs and organisation to come forward and book slots for 2025!

Get in touch to book a slot!