

the newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust
Registered Charity Number SC034818; Registered Company Number SC255127.

By the time this goes to print, we'll have held our AGM and handed out our annual report to anyone who'd like a copy.

This year, instead of keeping the report as just a discussion point at the AGM, we decided to produce a printed (or downloadable) version. That way, everyone can have a look in their own time. There are some interesting figures in there if you're curious. It's also available to download from the Shapinsay Development Trust section of our website – shapinsay.org.uk.

September has been a busy month, not only with the AGM but also with my (Lisa-Marie's) final in-person meeting of the Expert Community of Practice on Transport. I'm now working on a mobility plan for Shapinsay, which is due to be finished this month.

We travelled up to Shetland on the Wednesday, heading straight from the airport to the Laxo terminal to catch the Whalsay boat. The Shetland crowd – and breakfast – were waiting for us. The weather was excellent for our Whalsay trip, so we walked up to the school/leisure centre to meet the community bus.

If you don't know Whalsay, it has a population of just over 1,000, with strong fishing roots – around 22 pelagic vessels are registered there, according to *Shetland Focus*. Despite its bustling population and often affluent community, Whalsay faces the

same transport challenges as other islands. Jocelyn, a local, explained how they've tackled this in a slightly different way. Their 15-seater minibus is owned by the Whalsay Minibus Association, but bookings are managed through the leisure centre and is used on a self-drive basis. It mainly transports sports teams to their games but is also available for other groups, with an emphasis on "essential travel."

From there the minibus took us to Whalsay Kirk, pictured in the background of the photo below. The community bought it from the Church of Scotland and has plans to redevelop it as a community space. At the moment, it has no kitchen or toilets, so that's the first priority to make it properly accessible. They also hire out bikes from the Kirk's crypt! Longer-term plans include a purpose-built shelter at the ferry terminal.



Next came a (very large!) lunch at the Auld Manse Hoose before heading back to the ferry.

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We headed straight from the ferry to the Brae Hub where we met the project funders. Peter from CES gave a presentation on the progress of the project. I was asked to speak about the barriers to running an e-bike project on the isles. After coffee and the presentations, we had a tour of the Hub, which is nearing completion. It has been largely funded through Innovate UK as part of the project. It's shaping up to be a brilliant community facility, with a café and flexible spaces for local groups.



left - Braehub nearing completion

Thursday took us back to Hymhus, the Kirk bought by the Bigton Collective and used as a community venue. Last time, we only had a whistle-stop visit on the way to the airport, but this time we had half a day to really see what they do. Alice and Jonathan are the driving force behind it, and they are working hard to make the space warm, welcoming and accessible, with new windows, new heating and insulation all either done or planned! With their musical backgrounds, they run everything from music therapy and piano lessons to concerts. But it's not just about music – there are art activities, a charity shop (no clothes), and a Saturday café, where a fantastic local baker sells his sourdough, pastries and breads. People queue around the Kirk from an hour before it opens!



They even sent us back to our school days,

encouraging us to join in music sessions and take part in an art project based on our visit. It was great fun (pictured below are the groups taking



part in music and art projects).

The afternoon was a little less of the fun stuff – I gave a ten-minute presentation at Isleburgh Town Hall to stakeholders in the CES Community Resource Centre project, talking about what we do here in Shapinsay. While I and a few others were presenting, the rest of the group took part in workshops.

We rounded the trip off with a farewell breakfast, saying goodbye to the Shetland friends we've made along the way – with promises to find ways to keep up the connections. One of the best things to come out of this project, alongside all the knowledge shared, has been the connections we've built between Orkney and Shetland trusts. Hopefully, those communication channels will stay open for years to come!



Shapinsay School October 2025

Primary Learning

The children enjoyed taking part in some Science Festival activities. We had visitors to help us learn about floating and sinking, Orkney birds and the kye at the Ness of Brodgar.



Some of the children had a go at leading an art lesson, where they planned an activity of creating a landscape

with the Northern Lights using pastels.

P6 children and Mrs Armet took part in Outdoor Education Activities in Kirkwall, doing things such as bushcraft, orienteering, canoeing, climbing and raft building.

The children in the Sunshine class have been recording the weather, measuring the rainfall and seeing which direction the wind is coming from. We set up our own weather station in the



class too and have had a go at presenting a weather forecast. We have been learning about energy types and have created energy superhero characters, who are the central characters in this term's writing activities. We have also been learning about food energy and how to have a balanced diet. In PE we have been practicing catching and throwing skills with balloons and balls. We have also been learning the vocabulary for weather in French and Spanish.

The children in the Stars class have been learning how to describe a setting in the story through the 'Talk for

Writing' approach. They have been learning a warning story called 'The Canal', where the two young boys are warned against going down to the old canal, but they decide to do it anyway!

The Talk for Writing is whole class inclusive approach, divided into three parts: imitation, innovation, and independent writing. In the imitation stage, the children learn the text and create a story map, in the innovation, they adapt the text, but still stick closely to the original, and in the independent writing phase, they take everything that they have learned and write their own story.



This is the story map for 'The

Canal', created by the children.

Nursery Learning

It's been a busy first term back in nursery. Lots of enthusiasm and varied interests have kept us learning.

Outdoors digging for worms, then creating our own wormery, noticing butterflies and painting symmetry butterfly prints, capturing spiders' webs and making woolly spider pictures along with the usual digging, water play, bikes and trikes etc. Weather doesn't stop us when we have waterproofs, wellies and umbrellas!

Indoors we have created our own doctor role play area with a visit from the ambulance planned to tell us what they do and show us what it looks like inside.

Lorna came out to run us a book bug session where anyone with under 5s is welcome to join us. The bairns really enjoy going through to sing, action rhymes, story etc with Lorna. We get to play for a peedie while too! Every day is different, every day is learning and every day is lots of fun and chaos!



SHAPINSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Thursday, Nov 20th
6:30pm

- Please send financial request forms and items for discussion to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting
- Further meetings will be held on 5th February and 23rd April 2026

SHAPINSAYCLERK@GMAIL.COM
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES 01856 873535



Mobile Library Shapinsay visit dates 2025



Booky McBookface will be on the island on:

- October 30

It stops at:

- School 10.15am-11am
- North School 11.15am-12.15pm
- Astley 12.30pm-12.45pm
- Helliar 1.30pm-2.15pm
- Balfour Village 2.30pm-3.15pm

REMINDER AGGREGATE SCHEME



If your
application was
approved, please
submit your claim
ASAP

Shapinsay Community Council
shapinsayclerk@gmail.com

Democratic Services
communitycouncils@orkney.gov.uk
01856 873535 extension 2264 or 2237

New opening hours

Now open Tuesdays
2-4pm



WINTER ACTIVITIES
Are you interested
in:



- ✓ **ARCHERY**
- ✓ **CLIMBING**
- ✓ **BUSHCRAFT**





EMAIL BOATHOUSE@SHAPINSAY.ORG.UK

Events to happen in October or November

OR CALL 01856711733

Events to happen on October or November –
dates to follow.

**Warmer
Isles Project**






We have signed up 31
Shapinsay homes so far for
free advice on what grants or
loans are available for
measures to help reduce bills
and make homes warmer

- ✓ Solar
- ✓ Insulation
- ✓ Advice
- ✓ Heating
- ✓ Green energy



The Scottish Government's
Warmer Homes Scotland
programme offers support worth
up to £10,000 or more for eligible
households for energy-saving
home improvements like heating
and insulation to help make your
home warmer and cheaper to
heat.



Contact Us

01856711733

Email: boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-homes-scotland>

**Fireworks
Display**

Wednesday 5th November 2025, 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



Celebrating Volunteers – Shapinsay Lunch Club

I recently sat down with three members of the Lunch Club committee to hear about why they volunteer – and to find out how things are going. One thing became clear right away: while the Lunch Club is thriving in terms of members, it's struggling to find new committee members to help keep it running.

First things first – what is Lunch Club?

Lunch Club began back in 1990 as a place for “old folk” to get together. The idea was simple but important: to promote health and wellbeing for people over 50 and for disabled folk in the community. “When we joined the committee, we were the ‘young ones’ helping the ‘old folk’,” one of the committee members explained with a laugh. “Now we’re the ‘old folk’ ourselves – and we need some younger people to step in, just like we once did.”

How does it work?

We're lucky to have the support of the school kitchen, which provides the meals. Every two weeks, outside school holidays, the club meets in the Clubrooms, and lunch is wheeled through ready to serve. Membership is free, and the cost of lunch club is kept as low as possible – just £7 for two courses. Raffles help cover running costs, so those who can give a bit more, do, and those who can't don't feel pressured. After lunch, there's always an activity – from games to guest speakers or live music, hopefully something to suit everyone. On average, around 20 people come along.

So why do the committee volunteer?

“There's such a clear benefit for the older generation,” they explained. “For some people, this is their only chance to get out in the week, to have a proper meal and a blether with friends. We've been glad to support it all these years – but we're ready to slow down a bit ourselves. Without

new committee members, the Lunch Club simply won't be able to continue.”

What kind of help is needed?

In an ideal world, a new secretary – someone comfortable with computers – would be a huge help. But there are also lots of jobs: organising activities, making tea and coffee, becoming the keyholder for opening up and locking up, helping serve meals, washing dishes, or just mucking in wherever needed.

When's the AGM?

The date hasn't been set yet, but it will likely be around 12th November.

And what would you say to someone thinking about joining?

“We've had so much enjoyment over the years, and we've seen how valuable Lunch Club is for folk in the community. Now we're looking for some new energy, new ideas, and yes – ideally someone a bit more computer literate than us! We need new folk to take on the running of it, or we worry that it won't be able to continue. It might be that we need to change how it runs, but we are open to suggestions on how we move forward.”

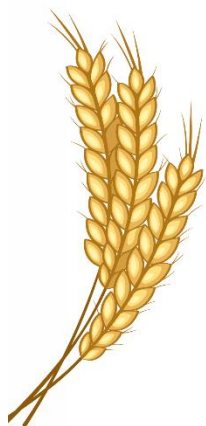
If you'd like to help keep this much-loved Shapinsay group going, why not think about joining the committee? Whether you can take on a regular role or just lend a hand now and again, every bit of help makes a difference. Pop along to a Lunch Club, have a chat with the committee, or come to the AGM in November to find out more – I'm sure you will be made very welcome!

The date of the AGM will be posted on Facebook, posters in the shop and hopefully in next months Shapinsay Sound.



SHAPINSAY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

HARVEST HOME



Saturday 1st November

Meal: Roast Beef & trimmings

(Any dietary requirements please contact Gemma Leslie)

Dance to *Northern Limit*

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*



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SHAPINSAY HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

On Saturday 30th August we held our Annual General Meeting in the Clubrooms. It was well-attended and there were no contentious issues! Helen Jones stood down as Assistant Secretary after two years and was thanked for her contributions during this period. Peter Brown has now taken on this role. All other postholders remain the same; that is, Chair and Assistant Treasurer - Paul Evans; Treasurer – Margaret Eunson and Secretary – Karen Evans.

Following the AGM the Show Trophies were presented as follows:

Shapinsay Agricultural Association trophy for best exhibit in Pot Plants (Class 1). To be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Evelyn Nicolson**

Mrs M Eunson, Shapinsay, trophy for most points in Cut Flowers (Class 2). To be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Edith Tait**

Perpetual Rose Bowl for Best Rose (Class 2) on behalf of the Late Mr Clive Horton: **WINNER: Emma Clements**

Mrs M Eunson, Shapinsay, trophy for most points in Soft Fruit (Class 3). To be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Jean Noble**

Mr P and Mrs K Evans, Shapinsay, trophy for most points in Fruit and Vegetables (Class 3): To be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Karen Evans**

Mr J Rendall, Shapinsay, trophy for most points in Fancy Baking (Class 4). To be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Margaret Eunson**

The Family of the late Mrs E J Wards Floating Challenge trophy for most points in Class 6 (Arts and Crafts): **WINNER: Sue Lawrence**

Mrs M Eunson, Shapinsay, trophy to the competitor gaining most points in all classes of the Show to be won 3 years not necessarily in succession: **WINNER: Margaret Eunson**

Challenge Cup for Most Points in ALL CLASSES in Show presented by the Grandson of Mrs Buchan (Formerly Cissy Shearer): **WINNER: Margaret Eunson**

Well Done to all who won trophies and many thanks to everyone else who put in entries. Without your support there wouldn't be a show.



The final presentation of the afternoon came as a bit of a surprise to the recipient. Jimmy Rendall has been an active committee member of the Flower Show, as it is fondly known, for over sixty years and we felt this deserved to be recognised. Jimmy

was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to the Annual Show over these past sixty years and he assures us that we haven't seen the last of him yet! Thank You Jimmy.

The final event of the afternoon was the Tattie In A Bucket Competition. We had a fantastic entry this year of 30 buckets, the most since the very first year of the competition in 2001 when there were 36 buckets. In addition to the Trophy for the heaviest weight, there were also fun prizes on offer including a bag of potatoes presented to the person with the lowest weight! Results were as follows: -

Adults

1st Charles Hay 3lb 12.4oz
2nd Charles Hay 3lb 10.1oz
3rd Mandy Hay 3lb 7oz

Children

Arella Chaney 14.6oz
Elza Chaney 13.9oz



This is the second year that Charles has won the trophy and I'm sure there'll be spies out and about next year to discover the secret formula that the Hays use to grow their tatties!

Thank you to all who entered this fun event.



Above left – Arella and Elza with their tatties, above right, best exhibit in pot plants – Evelyn Nicolson

For any questions, please contact Karen Evans (07810 262785 or email karen@evanssmallholder.plus.com).



This year we have teamed up with the Smithy to put on a small fundraising event to tie in with the annual Round Shapinsay Yacht Race on Saturday the 4th of October

BACON ROLLS AT THE SMITHY 10.30-11.30AM
Provided by the RNLI for a donation

LOADED FRIES PROVIDED BY THE SMITHY
3.30-6pm

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE 6.30-7.30PM
ADULT ONLY BEETLE DRIVE 8PM

Raffle and 100 square available throughout the day

To book a space at the Beetle drive, please contact Leanne Bews via Facebook, or contact Lisa-Marie at the Boathouse, the beetle drive will only go ahead if there is enough

Autumn Wordsearch



AUTUMN, FALL, LEAVES, GOLDEN, HARVEST,
HALLOWEEN, APPLE, FROST, RIPE, CONKERS,
ACORN, FRUIT, MIST, SEASON,



Your weekend evening lift!

£10 return (up to 6 people)

Pub nights 🍷

Events 🎵

Out-of-hours ferry 🚢

Evenings only – book by Thursday for the weekend

📞 Call / WhatsApp / Text: 07514 568997



Rubbish Collections

01/10/25 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

08/10/25 – Glass and plastic recycling

15/10/25 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

22/10/25 – Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil, aerosols

29/10/25 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

05/11/25 – Glass and plastic recycling

12/11/25 – Black/grey bins, no recycling

19/11/25 – Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil, aerosols

26/11/25- Black/Grey bins, no recycling



Special refuse collections

13 October 2025, 1 December 2025 and 26 January 2026

Call 01856873535 to arrange

Or for more details visit the Orkney Islands Council Website

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/our-services/waste-and-recycling/household-waste-and-recycling/special-refuse-collections-households/>



Burger Specials

Sat 11th Oct 25
5.30 - 8pm

Deluxe Chicken Burger
Stack Beef Burgers
Veggie Burgers
all served with Onion rings and
Fries
£14.95

Pavlova Meringue with Fruit and
Fresh cream
£6.00



October

October Hours
Takeaway or Sit In
4.30 - 7pm every Fri
Bar Open till Midnight
Fri, Sat

Check out FB for Special Opening dates
throughout month



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER
STARTING AT 8PM

VARIOUS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS SET

£5 Entry Per team
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams.

TRIVIA
NIGHT



HALLOWEEN COCKTAIL NIGHT FRI 24 OCT 7PM

HOSTED BY KEIRA AND RHIANNON







Winter Warmers

OCTOBER DATES
THU 9TH OCT
THU 23TH OCT
12pm-3pm

£7 for Islanders £13 for Non-Residents
Max Tables of 4 persons
Two Table sittings of 90minutes
12-1.30pm
Includes Two Courses with Tea or Coffee

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

This meal is subsidised by the Shapinsay Development Trust to ensure everyone can enjoy a warm meal. If you feel you still can't afford this meal, please get in touch on 711733, discretion guaranteed, no one should miss out.

What's On at the Smithy This Winter

As the season winds down, we're planning ahead to keep the Smithy buzzing through the colder months.

- **Winter Warmers** are back! Thanks to Trust subsidy, these cosy gatherings continue every second Thursday.
- Instead of daily café lunches, we'll be hosting **special one-off events with set menus** – less waste, new menu items!

Monthly highlights:

- A **special sit-in evening** on the second Saturday each month.
- A **fun quiz night** on the last Saturday of every month.
- Cocktail nights
- The Smithy is also available for **one-off events** (small fee, subject to availability).





CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

DECEMBER 6TH, 13TH AND 20TH
TO BOOK EMAIL SMITHY@SHAPINSAY.ORG.UK
(MENU WILL BE POSTED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE SOON)

