

The newsletter for the island of Shapinsay produced by the Shapinsay Development Trust.

Registered Charity Number SC034818; Registered Company Number SC255127.



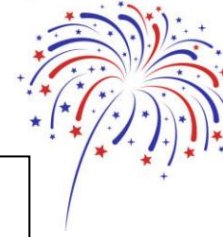
## Shapinsay Development Trust update

We held our AGM at the end of September and had a great turnout where members had the opportunity to feed into the Wellbeing projects future.

There was also an opportunity to pick up an annual report for 2024-25. They are now available to download from our website, or you can pick up a hard copy from the boat, the charity shop or the Boathouse.

**Wellbeing** – Keep an eye on Facebook, our website and posters in the usual places, for updates on how you can feed into the next stage. I am going to post the feedback so far, onto the website (there's too much of it to include in the newsletter) and there will be feedback forms available to download, collect from the Boathouse, charity shop, shop, portacabin and the community centre, please take one and fill it in and return it to the Boathouse (postbox outside if the office is closed). The purpose of this stage is to take the feedback so far and narrow down to what is practical and what enough people are interested in, to be able to run. If there is no feedback, we won't be able to push ahead with any activities. (Please read through the feedback first because it states why some things are not possible and what has been tried already etc)

**CES** - the ECOP for transport project has almost come to an end, with a draft transport plan almost ready for publication. We continue to work with Community Energy Scotland (CES) on the community resource centre project, which should see us with a set of resources available to the community to help with the work towards net zero.



**Tourism** – it's not the time of year where folk have much thought towards tourism, but it is the time of year we should be starting to gear up for next year! So if anyone has an interest in community tourism, get in touch as it would be great to set up a working group.

**Cast Affs** continues to be open on a Tuesday, although you can pop in during office hours (9-1pm Monday-Thursday). We haven't had community groups in for a while, so if you are part of a community group looking to do fundraising, let us know and we can organise a time for you to have access for a week or 2. If you would like the opportunity to volunteer so we can have it open more than once per week, please get in touch.



**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

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**IN THE CLUBROOMS**

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**TO BOOK PLEASE EMAIL  
BOATHOUSE@SHAPINSAY.ORG.UK OR CALL  
01856711733 OR WHATSAPP 07341119323**

## LUNCH CLUB AGM

Please accept this invitation  
to the  
Shapinsay Lunch Club AGM

which will be held on the the  
26th November 2025.

The meeting will take place  
after lunch at approximately  
2pm in the Clubrooms.



Age 12+

Suggested donation £15 per head or pay what you  
can. 12 spaces available, book now by calling  
711733 or email [boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk)  
*Subsidised through the mental health and wellbeing fund*

To be held at the Smithy on Saturday 6th, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

## CHRISTMAS MENU

### STARTERS

Traditional Prawn Cocktail £8.50  
Roasted Winter Veg Soup £6.50

### MAIN COURSES

Juicy Traditional Turkey Dinner £19.50  
Sirloin Steak with Peppercorn Sauce,  
Chips and Onion Rings £26.95  
Roasted Butternut Squash  
with all the trimmings (Veg Option)  
£16.25

### DESSERTS

Sticky Toffee Pudding £8.25  
Baileys Cheesecake £8.25  
Trio of Sorbets £6.50  
Cheeseboard £10.50

Please Book to avoid disappointment via messenger,  
711243 or [Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk)



MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT

## Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ) Service

Let's talk about what matters to  
**you**

Our Improving the Cancer Journey Link  
Workers are here to listen and support

To find out more or self-refer into the service, contact us via:



01856 888084 (Public Health Department)



[ork.icj@nhs.scot](mailto:ork.icj@nhs.scot)





  
The Smithy  
-CAFE RESTAURANT-

## Winter Warmers

**NOVEMBER DATES**  
**THU 6TH NOV**  
**THU 20TH NOV**  
**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](mailto:Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk)



  
The Smithy  
-CAFE RESTAURANT-

## Winter Warmers

**Thu 6th Nov**  
**12pm - 3pm**

Sausage, Mash + Peas  
Sticky Toffee Pudding + Cream  
Tea or Coffee  
**£7 Residents £13 Non Residents**

**Max Booking Tables of 4**  
**90 mins table turnaround**  
**12-1.30 Booking slots**

Please Book to avoid disappointment via  
messenger,  
or [Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk)

### Shapinsay School November 2025

#### Primary Learning

The children from P2 – P7 are now working in Pupil Committees. Each committee has set their own targets and are working on these staff and volunteers.

Pupil Council are leading the charity fundraising (we will be creating a change snake again for Children in Need, so if you have loose change you would like to donate please drop off at the school from 29<sup>th</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> November). They will also be leading the school's work towards the Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award.



The  
Junior  
Road  
Safety

Officers are helping to keep everyone safe on the roads, whether walking, cycling or travelling in a vehicle. They have had their first training session and have made sure all the children have a reflective jacket to wear. They'd like to remind everyone that now it's getting darker that it's hard to see people on the roads so please wear one too!

The Library Group are planning activities to promote books for Book Week Scotland in November, and will be leading World Book Day in March. They are also hoping to do some fundraising for some new books.

The Eco Group are working on designing the revamp of the middle courtyard, and will be planning what to do in the polytunnel. They are

also encouraging everyone to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The Sports Committee are planning Active Shapinsay Week for February, so if you have any



skills and could run an activity please get in touch. They are also

looking after our resources and keeping the Sports Box and PE cupboard organised. On days when the children don't have PE they are helping to make sure we plan in some physical fitness.

#### Nursery Learning



Nursery children enjoyed a visit to Freddie's farm. They looked in the sheds

and byres, at the animals and what they ate. They enjoyed the tractors. They even went to the Jam Factory! The children have also been role playing hospitals, and enjoyed a visit from the ambulance to school.





### Uist Visit – Rural Energy Hubs Community Resource Centre Project

In early October, I (Lisa-Marie) travelled to Uist as part of the Rural Energy Hubs Community Resource Centre Project. I was meant to be joined by a small group from Shetland in Glasgow, but thanks to *Storm Amy*, they didn't make it down — so it was just me and Community Energy Scotland (CES)!



It was quite a trek: I left Kirkwall at 10am, arrived in Glasgow about an hour later, then had a long wait for my next flight — scheduled for 3:15pm but delayed until sometime after 5pm! I eventually arrived in Benbecula later than planned but just in time to join the CES team and Uist Council of

Voluntary (above Uist from the air) Organisations (UCVO) for tea.

**Day One:** We started the first day at UCVO's offices in Balivanich. These buildings were originally part of the old MOD complex and now house several third sector organisations. We first heard about a fantastic growing project that began around ten years ago, which culminated in the creation of the *Uist Growers' Almanac*, which is now available in the Boathouse Community Resource Centre.



Before lunch, we squeezed in a visit to Tagsa Uibhist Community Gardens. It's an incredible project, with everything

from bedding plants and a tree nursery to spring, summer, and winter vegetables. The gardens employ two staff but rely heavily on passionate volunteers, who water and tend the plants almost daily.



families, featuring colourful recycled-plastic boards, some made from rubbish collected from local beaches.

(above is one of the recycled plastic display boards showing the sizes of some of the birds in Uist and right is the statue of the Hercules the bear who lived in Uist till 2001, and famously escaped in 1980 and lived wild for 3 weeks!)



We rounded off the day with visits to Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre and the Old Lochmaddy School, where we saw how they've used funding to create fantastic geology displays (left), interactive videos, and microscopes. By then, I was frozen to the bone, so I headed back to the hotel to warm up and catch up on emails before meeting everyone again for tea.



**Day Two:** The CES team had an early start, setting out around 7am to drive down to Eriskay for the ferry to Barra. Thankfully, the SCVO ladies offered to take me so we could catch a later boat — meaning I could enjoy a leisurely breakfast before setting off around 9am for the long, winding drive south.

If you've never been to Uist, the islands are all connected by causeways. Most of the roads are single-track with passing places — and plenty of sheep! — so it made for an interesting journey.



The ferry to Barra felt like home from home, with ramp loading just like ours, except it had ramps on *both* ends (no reversing required!). It was an old boat though — it made the MV *Shapinsay* look like a young slip of a thing!

Once on Barra, we headed to the UHI building to hear about the dune restoration projects on Sanday and Barra and Vatersay. While CES went to visit the dunes, the SCVO ladies took me instead to Bùth Bharraigh, the community shop to see what they have achieved so far. It was worth the visit, it's full of refillables, local crafts, and even a small café corner. They then treated me to a scenic drive around the east side of Barra, which was stunning.

Lunch was at Garadh a' Bhàgh a Tuath, another inspiring community-run enterprise combining a training café and community garden. The garden supplies the café, and both offer volunteering, training, and employment opportunities for locals.

No visit to Barra would be complete without seeing the famous beach landing at Barra Airport, so the SCVO team whisked me off to watch the plane come in — and CES agreed the detour was well worth it and came to join us!



After catching the return ferry, we landed back on Eriskay. Becky from CES was thrilled to spot the island's wild

ponies, and we were lucky — they obligingly came right down the road to greet us as we got off the boat!

We made a quick stop at the Eriskay community shop for some much-needed caffeine and sugar before heading next door to learn about Eriskay's ambitious project - Comann Eachdraidh Eirisgeidh (CEE), the Eriskay Historical Society.

### Eriskay's Big Project

A bit of background: Eriskay was linked to South Uist by a causeway in the 1990s. When the local school closed and was put up for sale, the community stepped in. The Historical Society needed offices and a museum space, so they asked residents what they wanted the building to become — and the result is an incredible community hub project now taking shape. They've secured over £2 million of a £5–6 million project. The project,



(Above the initial part of the project — the museum which is

underway) designed by a young architect, aims to be as close to net zero as possible. Alongside the museum and offices, they plan to include a community café, four wellbeing spaces for overnight stays (to provide income), and a community laundry, shared working spaces and more!

One of my favourite details was their creative fundraising — they raised £26,000 for a new roof by selling roof tiles! People could buy a tile, paint or write a message on it, and it would be fitted into the roof. Many former pupils and folk far and wide who felt ties to Eriskay took part.

After a bite to eat in Eriskay, we wrapped up the trip and got ready to begin the long journey home on Friday.






Friday 5th  
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's Community Council, Community  
Association, Development Trust, and School



## 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

# Fireworks Display

Wednesday 5th November 2025  
7pm

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.

Followed by refreshments & raffle in the Clubrooms

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

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

SHAPINSAYCLERK@GMAIL.COM  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES 01856 873535





## SHAPINSAY WINTER MARKET

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.

*Saturday 15th November*

**2:30 - 4:30 PM**  
**Community Hall**

Organised by Shapinsay Parent Council

Refreshments in collaboration with  
Shapinsay Men's Shed

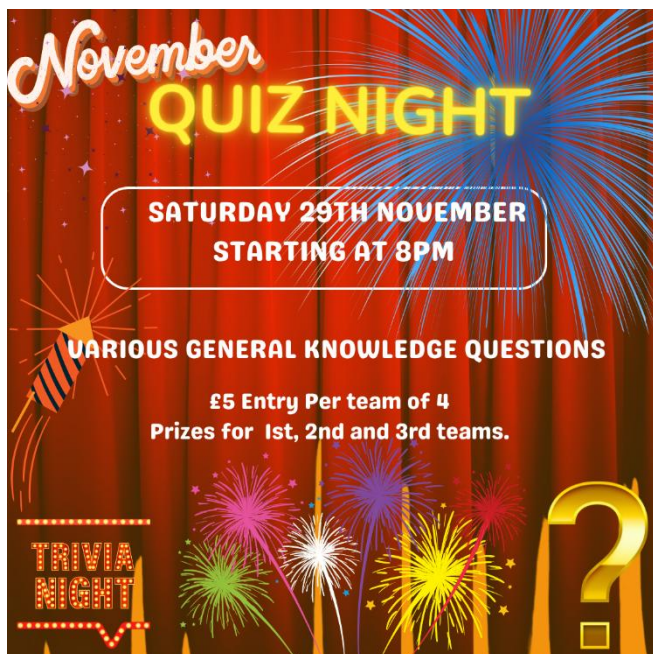


*Would you like to sell something at  
Shapinsay's Winter Market?*

BOOK A STALL VIA  
[SHAPINSAYPARENTCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SHAPINSAYPARENTCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM)

*£5 per table + raffle prize to support  
Shapinsay Parent Council*

ALL STALLS TO BE BOOKED BY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOV



## November QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**  
**STARTING AT 8PM**

**VARIOUS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS**

**£5 Entry Per team of 4**  
**Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams.**

TRIVIA  
NIGHT



## BURGER SPECIALS

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**12-3pm**

**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**

Please Book to avoid disappointment via  
messenger,  
or [Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:Smithy@shapinsay.org.uk)