

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

Registered Charity Number SC034818; Registered Company Number SC255127.



## Shapinsay School Sept 2026

### Primary Learning

This term's topics for the Primary classes are "Made in Orkney", materials and Christian values.

In the sunshine class we are learning about products that are made in Orkney. We are also practicing our formal letter writing skills, writing to producers to ask to go on some visits to see how products are made. We are particularly looking forward to visiting Glynis's jam factory! We might even sample some foods made in Orkney, our top suggestions are fudge, jam and honey. They have also been busy making things using different materials. In PE we are learning some rugby skills and are exploring "Up and Over!"



In the Stars classroom, the children have been learning about shape in Maths. They have been

learning  
how to  
build  
suspense  
in Talk for



Writing. They did a group challenge to build the tallest tower possible with spaghetti and marshmallows.

In PE we are learning rugby and basketball skills.

### Nursery Learning

The nursery children have been out on some walks to the woods and have enjoyed learning more about nature. They have also been drawing self portraits.

Welcome to Fiona who has joined the Nursery staff team.

### Rights

The primary children have been drawing up class charters, thinking about which rights are most important in a classroom setting.

## WE'RE HIRING!



**Join Our Team - we are looking for a motivated individual to:**

- 
Clean windows at the Boathouse (once per month)
- 
Wash 2 cars plus hoover and wipe down inside where necessary (once per month)
- 
Wash 6-8 ebikes once per month, could be more often in the summer
- 

**What We Provide:**  
 All equipment and insurance  
 Living Wage paid to everyone aged 16+  
 Around 5 hours of flexible employment per month

**Requirements:** reasonable level of fitness and self motivation  
 Email [Boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:Boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk) to apply or for more information

The Shapinsay Picnic, a long-standing island tradition, was held on Saturday 27th June this year. The afternoon combined sports, 'picnic' tea of sandwiches and cakes, children's prize giving and tug of war. Then in the evening prizes were awarded to teenagers and adults that participated in the earlier sporting events, followed by a dance with music from The Gablos. Over a hundred residents attended with sporting activities for everyone from pre-school age to adults and a variety of volunteering opportunities. Those not wishing to participate in sports were invited to spectate, come down for tea, join in with the dancing or sit and enjoy the music at this well-loved and supported island event. Our thanks to Shapinsay Heritage Arts and Crafts for providing a display of photographs taken during previous Shapinsay Picnics.

The sporting events were varied and saw the return of high jump, long jump, egg and spoon, sack race, javelin, hammer, cricket ball throw and multiple running races ranging from 30m to the mile. This year saw the introduction of a sit-on tractor race for the pre-school children which was definitely a highlight - might need more tractors next year!

After tea the children were delighted to receive their certificates and prize money from Councillor Heather Woodbridge, accompanied by Tim Ross who did an excellent job announcing each child's sporting achievements to all the proud parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbours gathered around the hall. Amongst the primary aged children, all four of last year's champions and runner's up retained their titles with Elza Chaney and Finn Gilbert declared the Girl's and Boy's Champions again, whilst Aine Leslie and her older brother Evan were the two runners up.

During the evening prize giving, Maisie Leslie was crowned the under-16 Girl's Champion with Lucy Moore the runner up. For the under-16 Boys, Alfie Leslie was declared the Champion with Magnus Bews the runner up. Jennifer Meason received the Champion's shield, with Marie Dunnett the runner up. Sean Dunnett was crowned the Men's Champion and Christopher Diamond the runner up.

As always it provided an opportunity for multiple generations across the community to come together and to volunteer their time and skills. A huge 'Thank You' to the Shapinsay Picnic Committee for their dedication in planning and preparing for all aspects of the events,

volunteering throughout the day and evening, as well as returning to do all the clear up on Sunday morning. We are grateful to all those who have been volunteering year after year to make the Shapinsay Picnic a success - to those that are handing over the baton and moving on: thank you once again, you will be missed.

*A heartfelt thank you goes to Rev Julia Meason for the grace; to Cllr Heather Woodbridge and Tim Ross for presenting the children's prizes, & drawing the raffle; and to The Gablos entertaining us all until well past midnight. We are grateful to Shapinsay Development Trust, Shapinsay Community Council and Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund for financial donations towards the costs of running the events. Thank you to Tesco for donations of water and bananas for all those taking part in the sports. Thanks also to Grooves Toys, Orkney Ferries, The Orcadian Bookshop and committee members for donating raffle prizes, and to everyone that bought tickets - your support helps keep the Shapinsay Picnic going year after year. Thank you to everyone who pitched in on the day to hold a finish line, keep track of scores, pass round a tray of sandwiches or help tidy up. If you would like to get involved with preparing for next year's Shapinsay Picnic it's never too early to let us know! Please do speak to the current chair, vice-chair or secretary (Esther Chaney, Emma Clements and Leanne Bews).*



Photos:  
L-R: Aine Leslie (Primary Girl's Runner-Up); Elza Chaney (Primary Girl's Champion); Finn Gilbert (Primary Boy's Champion); Evan Leslie (Primary Boy's Runner-Up).

Photos E. Chaney



L-R: Marie Dunnet (Ladies' Runner-Up, holding the Men's Champion Shield that was awarded to her son Sean); Christopher Diamond (Men's Runner-Up);

Jennifer Meason (Ladies' Champion); Lucy Moore (Under-16 Girl's Runner-Up); Maisie Leslie (Under-16 Girl's Champion); Alfie Leslie (Under-16 Boy's Champion); Magnus Bews (Under-16 Boy's Runner-Up).



Piece Place ☺☺☺  
**COFFEE**  
*Afternoon*

 **TUESDAY**  
**8<sup>th</sup> September**

 **2-4PM**

 **IN THE CLUBROOMS**

*All welcome*

Donations towards costs gratefully received as it helps to cover the costs of future events.




Shapinsay  
Development Trust

## Short Term Electric Bike Hire

### 2 Electric bikes for Shapinsay residents only

If you are a resident and a member of the trust you can hire a bike for short term use, just call 711733 or email [ebike@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:ebike@shapinsay.org.uk) to arrange.

*We just ask for a small donation to cover maintenance and charging costs.....*



# CREATIVE PRACTICE

10/10/2026

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY: REAL VOICES. REAL CHANGE

8 - 11 PM

£5 (adult) £2 (child)



Clubrooms



Non-alcoholic  
bevs + snacks

drop by to share\*  
and/or listen

\*music, poetry, storytelling,  
personal experience,  
improv....



Contact Alison  
[alison@regrow.life](mailto:alison@regrow.life)  
07835 042659

**REGROW**



02/09/26 - Black/Grey bins, no recycling

09/09/26 - Glass and Plastic

16/09/26 - Black/Grey bins, no recycling

23/09/26 - Paper/thin card and metal cans, foil, aerosols

30/09/26 - Black/Grey bins, no recycling

## Shapinsay Development Trust update.

Just a very short update this month as I've run out of room!

We are looking for a couple of new directors to join the board at the AGM, if you would like to find out more about what's involved, pop past the Boathouse Monday-Wednesday any week.

Our AGM is booked in for the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and we will be sending out all the relevant paperwork in the coming days.

Our Be Safe Be Seen campaign has started now the nights are drawing in. We will be going past the school with some high vis equipment, but there will also be an opportunity for others to access some free high vis – see poster.

MEMBERS PLEASE ACCEPT THIS INVITE

# SHAPINSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 7PM



Company limited by  
guarantee Registered in  
Scotland No. 255127

Registered Charity SCO34818



## JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Help shape the future  
of Shapinsay



### WHY JOIN?

- MAKE A REAL IMPACT**  
Help shape projects and initiatives that benefit Shapinsay today and for generations to come.
- INFLUENCE OUR FUTURE**  
Have a say in the decisions that support a thriving, sustainable island community.
- WORK WITH GREAT PEOPLE**  
Join a committed and friendly team of volunteers who care deeply about Shapinsay.
- GIVE SOMETHING BACK**  
Share your skills, experience and ideas to help your island flourish.

### COULD YOU BE WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

- ☒ Do you know Shapinsay inside out?
- ☒ Do you have experience running a business or managing projects or budgets?
- ☒ Do you have a passion for your island and its people?
- ☒ Are you a good listener, a team player and ready to contribute ideas?
- ☒ Do you have the time and commitment to help guide our work?

**DIVERSE SKILLS. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE. SHARED PASSION.**  
*Together we can achieve more for Shapinsay.*

**INTERESTED?**  
We'd love to hear from you!  
Get in touch to find out more.

Email: [boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk](mailto:boathouse@shapinsay.org.uk)  
Or speak to any current board member.  
**YOUR ISLAND. YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE.**

# Cast Affs

Opening  
hours  
—  
Tuesdays  
2-4pm



Shapinsay's Charity Shop



## Shapinsay Surgery

September is Suicide Prevention Month.

It is estimated that up to 1 person in 20 is thinking about suicide at any one time. The good news is that you can help prevent suicide by engaging with the person.

Are you concerned that somebody you know is thinking about suicide?  
The most important thing you can do to help is ask them.

**“Are you thinking about suicide?”**

**No**

Explain why you were worried and listen to what the person has to say.

You might want to suggest that they speak to their GP about how they're feeling, or look at other sources of support.

The person now knows they can speak to you about suicide in the future.

**Yes**

Listen to what the person has to say, how they are feeling and why. Remain calm.

Try not to judge the person. Treat what they say seriously and sensitively.

Discuss how they can keep safe and where you can find help together.

Agree how to contact the person's GP or call NHS 24.

Please feel free to pop into the surgery during office hours to pick up our range of supportive information which you might find useful.

## BE SAFE, BE SEEN

### SHAPINSAY WINTER ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN



Shapinsay Primary School

With funding from HITRANS, we have purchased a range of high-visibility items to help improve the visibility of pedestrians and cyclists on our roads. From arm and cross-body bands to keyrings, lights and hats, these items are designed to help you stand out and be seen, as darker winter months approach. Pick up your free high-visibility item at the AGM, the School, Boathouse, Piece Place or from Cast Affs and help make every journey a safer one.

### Road Safety Tips

- Always walk on the right hand side of the road facing oncoming traffic
- Cycle on the left hand side of the road, moving with car traffic
- Wear light coloured clothing
- Wear reflective clothing/bands
- When walking in the dark, step up onto the verge when traffic approaches
- Carry a torch
- Don't assume a driver has seen you, when crossing a road, wait till traffic has stopped

## Thank you!

On August 4, members of the Shapinsay Men's Shed and Alison from Regrow ran the community cafe at the Shapinsay Show. We had a big pot of leek and tattie soup made by Margaret Eunson, fresh bread, and plenty of homebakes to share with everyone who stopped by. We're so grateful for the donations, which helped raise £500. Alison will be putting Regrow's share toward the Shapinsay sauna project.

REGROW



## We Salute Them All

Six members of the Shapinsay Men's Shed made the trip across to Hoy to visit the Scapa Flow Museum at Lyness and the Longhope Lifeboat Museum. It was a long day, but the kind of day that stays with you.

We caught the 7:30 ferry to Kirkwall, then did some sightseeing on the way to Houton, where we caught the ferry across to Lyness.

The Scapa Flow Museum tells the story of Orkney's role



in both World Wars, when these quiet waters held one of the largest naval bases

in the world.

Standing in that place moved the group in ways that were hard to put into words. As one of our members put it:

"It makes me feel proud to be stood on the ground that hundreds of servicemen and women stood, so we can have the lives we have now. The sacrifice they gave for the life we have now. I salute them all."

"It made me feel very humbled and grateful to the thousands of people who fought and sacrificed their lives to let me live this life. Being disabled is nothing compared to the pain and suffering those people endured for us. I thank them every day. I'm not very good at words, but I can't imagine how people endured in those times, and still do now."

From the war museum, we went on to the Longhope Lifeboat Museum, which several of us found every bit as powerful as the first. It's a reminder that sacrifice and service aren't only history. They're happening still, in the volunteers who crew the lifeboats around these islands day in and day out.

"I thank the many who still support us in lifeboats. Coming back, I feel it even more, now that I've seen a little of what those volunteers endure. It puts it in perspective how insignificant the problems we think are bad."



"Attie was the best tour guide!"

"John got to reunite with his cousin via photos

and memories."

We stayed the night at the Stromabank Hotel in Longhope. We had the whole place to ourselves, including the pool table and enjoyed a top notch meal.



We saw what we came to see, we

connected as a group and we came home with memories and feelings of gratitude for those who sacrificed their lives, and still serve today, in service of others.

Member shout out: Happy Birthday (Aug 8) to Grahame Fish! One of our lovely board members. He is kind, stands up for fairness, writes/speaks his truth, and enjoys sharing stories. We hope you enjoyed a slow weekend doing what interests you.

If you're curious about joining the Shapinsay Men's Shed, sharing ideas for future trips or projects, we'd love to hear from you. All welcome, Thursday meeting: 3-5pm, pool, tea/coffee and cake. You can also send us an email: [shapinsaymensgroup@gmail.com](mailto:shapinsaymensgroup@gmail.com).

Photos credit: CJ Battye



Shapinsay Show 2026 was not the Sunny hot day we all hoped for but despite the weather the show still had to go on. Many thanks to Harry Brown, Iain Laird & Sonja and David Marwick for braving the weather and coming across to judge our Cattle, Sheep, Horse & Dog sections, they all did a fantastic job. We had many people through the gate and lots of stands for them to see, and we have them to thank for our shelter during the worst of the showers. It is so nice to see so many young exhibitors keen as they are the future of our Show, thanks to MLM & Linklater Engineering for sponsoring the Sheep Young Handlers and Leask Engineering for their sponsorship in the Cattle Section. Thank you to all who helped make this event possible and to all the exhibitors we couldn't do it without you. Results are as follows



Overall Cattle: F Leslie, Odinstone - 17 month old Limousin Bull



Overall Sheep: F Leslie, Odinstone - Blue Texel Gimmer



Overall Horse: J&J Booth, Ostoft - 3 year old Filly



Overall Goat: A&V More, Veantro - 5 month old Daisy  
Overall Dog: G Leslie,



Quoymorhouse - Vara, 19 month old German Shorthaired Pointer

(Continued overleaf)





## DRY STONE DYKING

### WORKSHOP

What to expect:

- We'll be fixing a section of dyke at Inkerman
- Hands-on guidance from Ian Eunson
- Teamwork and moderate physical activity
- Gloves provided. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing
- No experience necessary
- For ages 16+
- Rain or shine
- Coffee/Tea + cake included

Suggested donation: £15 All donations go toward the Shapinsay Men's Shed who funded this workshop.

**SEPTEMBER 27 | 1-4 PM**

INKERMAN, SHAPINSAY

Contact Alison to join  
alison@regrow.life  
07835 042659



Sheep Young Handler - Aine Leslie (7)

Photos credit (G Leslie)

REGROW



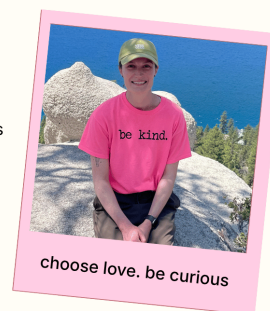
MEGUMI  
BARRINGTON  
UENOYAMA

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

LINO FABRIC PRINTING WORKSHOP

Cost:  
£30 Adult (18+)  
£15 Youth (12-17)  
£10 Child  
£65 Family (2 adults  
+ 2 children)

no/low income  
pricing available



Limited spaces  
available

Sign up:  
picktime.com/regrow

Contact:  
alison@regrow.life

DATE: SAT, OCT 10, 2026

TIME: 12:00 - 4:00 PM

LOCATION: SHAPINSAY, CLUBROOMS

Bring a t-shirt, tote bag, or other plain cotton/linen item to print on. All tools, ink and lino blocks provided.

Lunch included.