The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
Viking Torch-Lit Parade, Saturday 22nd June, Loch Soay, 7pm for 7.30pm start

We’re really excited about the Viking Torch-Lit Parade and hope you’re looking forward to taking part! We’ve put together some helpful advice as we reckon it’s unlikely you have been part of a Viking procession before!

- You may smell of smoke after the Parade. Therefore, we advise you wear old clothes or a boiler suit, or even better, come along with your squad in fancy dress just like the Shetlanders do!
- You might wish to wear gloves for comfort of carrying the wooden torch
- Wear sensible shoes for walking along the route
- A hat is advisable (especially if you’ve not got much thatch on top!) as there will be a bit of heat from the torch. We’d love it if you came along in a Viking hat if you have one! (No, Viking hats didn’t have horns, contrary to popular belief!)
- You are welcome to make and bring a holster for propping the torch to help bear the weight while you hold it. This is entirely up to you and to your own design and requirements. (A clean tin can on rope works well!)
- Prior to the Parade, you’ll be briefed on how to hold the torch. Please follow this advice for your own comfort and safety, and that of others. 1 person per torch only
- At the end of the procession you will throw your torch into the wooden boat for burning, please follow direction and be aware of those around you
- Please follow any instructions by the stewards and listen carefully to the brief prior to commencement of the Parade
- Family and friends are welcome to come and watch the Parade from a safe distance
- And lastly, enjoy the experience of carrying an original Lerwick Up Helly Aa torch, we doubt it’s something you may do often, if ever again!

Test A Torch
We have a Viking torch in the Festival Ticket & Information Office on Seafield Street, Portsoy (opposite the Coop). You are welcome to go in and lift the torch and check it out before the Parade. Torches can also be reserved here, £10 each. Over 16s only.

Sing A Song!
We’d love you to learn the Up Helly Aa songs to join in with the Vikings as we make our way through the town. Find them here: https://youtu.be/Unl4Io8EuBg No obligations though!