

VOLUME 56 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 1
FEBRUARY 2024

Haikus and Candlemas

In the church year, the beginning of February marks the festival of Candlemas. Forty days after his birth, Jesus' parents take him to the Temple to be presented to God. There Mary and Joseph meet, and are recognised, by the elderly Simeon and Anna. Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas season and from the following Sunday we count down the weeks before Lent. It is a turning from the Crib to the Cross and marks one of the pivotal points in the year.

It is a lovely, inclusive festival, coming in the winter season, as we await the first signs of spring. There are several traditions associated with Candlemas, including reference to snowdrops as 'Candlemas Bells'. However, for many it is the idea of Jesus-as-light bringer that is uppermost on this day. Candles are lit, blessed and processed, reminding us that Jesus is often described as the "light of the world".

To take us on the journey from the crib to the cross, we offer you these four Haiku poems - written by Wendy, Richard, Ann W and myself one stormy afternoon in January.

*star illuminates
shepherds follow.wisemen too
baby in the crib*

*star in the bright sky
Mary ponders in her heart
manger.love is born*

*Jesus crucified
consequence of showing up
dark before the light*

*morning has broken
resurrection.light is born
life.love never dies*

This year we are celebrating Candlemas as one of our newish **CHURCH for ALL** services. These services are where there is an activity running alongside; which feeds into the main service. There will be something for everyone, at these services, whatever age you are or feel. We plan to have about 6 per year. There have been three so far. During one we made an Easter Tree. At Harvest we made and baked bread rolls. Then during Candlemas we constructed light catchers.

The next two are 10th March Mothering Sunday and 31st March Easter Day ... other dates to follow in May, June and October.

Lent begins this year on February 14th. We mark the start of Lent with a service at 6pm on Ash Wednesday. During Lent we plan to follow *The Romans Course*, which

tackles some big themes found in the book of Romans which are key to understanding the Christian faith. This includes questions such as: What's wrong with the world? What's so amazing about grace? How can we find rest in a stressful world? How can we live together in love?

The sessions will be held on Zoom at 6pm on Sunday evenings as follows: 18th, 25th February and 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March, with possibly a couple of further sessions after Easter.

If you would be interested in joining these please email Revd Diane at **revdrdi@outlook.com** (or 522363 if you would like to join but don't have access to Zoom).

Services

4th February - 2 before Lent

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

11th February - Sunday before Lent

9am BCP Communion

10am Morning Worship

14th February - Ash Wednesday

6pm Communion with Imposition of Ashes

18th February - Lent 1

10am Morning Worship with Communion

6pm The Romans Course - Session 1 on Zoom

25th February - Lent 2

10am Communion with the Choir

6pm The Romans Course - Session 2 on Zoom

3rd March - Lent 3 (please note change to usual 1st Sunday pattern)

9am Breakfast@Church

4pm Communion

6pm The Romans Course - Session 3 on Zoom



The Rev Dr Diane Rees

The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA

revdrdi@outlook.com 01959 522363

(Usual parish days Friday to Monday)

COFFEE AND CHAT – FRIDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

Do treat yourself to a healthy walk up to the Church Room for a convivial cup of coffee (or tea) and a chance to pass the time of day with village friends. The first Friday of each month, 10.30am - 12.00noon everyone welcome - no previous experience or religious knowledge required!

STAY AND PLAY

We run every Monday in term time from 9.30am to 11.30am. £3 per family. We use the large spacious village hall and have a variety of toys for all ages, messy play, and craft. Refreshments (everyone) and singing/story.

Email shorehamchurchstayand play@gmail.com if you want to find out more.

SAMUEL PALMER EXHIBITION

At Darent Valley Landscape Partnership we are very excited to announce that our “Samuel Palmer Returns” Exhibition, is now at the Sevenoaks Library in Kaleidoscope Gallery. It is free of charge and will remain open until the second week of March, Please check the Sevenoaks library website for opening hours.

Samuel Palmer was a Victorian artist of international renown, who lived and worked for many years in Shoreham, where it is generally accepted that he created some of his most important works. Our exhibition shows ten high quality Palmer prints, which have been carefully chosen due to their connection with the landscape of the Darent Valley. We have engaged artists, who live in the area, and they have produced some amazing responses to the Palmer works and these will also be on display.

In addition to this, there will be a series of events to accompany the exhibition so check our website www.darent-valley.org.uk.

Local school children have been engaged and their contributions are on display. With just a year left to run of DVLPS, the exhibition will serve as a culmination of much of the work we have undertaken to date and we hope that as many of you as possible will come and visit.

Sarah Moon DVLPS

SHOREHAM OVER 60S PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2pm with tea and cakes

Wednesday 14th February

Barbara New [who exhibits her fantastic photographs of birds on the Shoreham Village Facebook] will be talking about Nature and how she got interested in wildlife and working in photo, art and textiles. Her work will be for sale

Wednesday 28th February

Kent Police and crime commissioner talk.

CITIZENS ADVICE

The cost of living crisis is becoming very evident amongst many of our clients, and is only going to get worse. We can check whether you are receiving the financial help government is targeting on certain groups, or help you to access other emergency funds and ways of reducing energy bills. You can ring us on the freephone number 0808 278 7810 (10am-3pm, Monday-Friday – be prepared to hang on, as we are getting a hugely increased number of calls) or email advice@nwkent.cab.org.uk and ask for an appointment. There is also extensive up-to-date information on many other issues on the Citizens Advice public website. www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

HISTORY NOTE - SHOREHAM'S DOG DESTROYER

Pet-lovers of Shoreham, look away now. The headline in the *Sevenoaks Chronicle* of 9th December 1949 was stark: “Shoreham’s Maniac Dog Destroyer”. Villager Mr J. R. St John had been woken by a knock on his door late at night, and on his driveway was a sack containing the body of a young black dog. It was, Mr St John told the paper, “the first really tangible clue we have had. It indicates either a maniac or the work of some unbalanced person who has a phobia against dogs.”

Mr St John was likely targeted as the very public head of a new “vigilance committee” formed to sleuth the alleged killer of numerous village pets – cats as well as dogs. It had been set up two weeks before at a meeting in the Crown attended by dozens of people, many of whom had suddenly lost their animals. Mr St John’s own boxer dog, Stevie, had come home from romping on the hill near the Cross desperately sick. A vet diagnosed strychnine poisoning. The pet survived – as it had earlier when it came back suffering from 20 to 25 gunshot pellets in its side “from his head to his tail”. People who lost animals – many of which had simply disappeared – included the landlord at the Crown and café owner Mrs Hare.

The events were covered in national newspapers and “shoals of letters” arrived from animal lovers across Britain, along with sums of money. Fifty pounds was collected as a reward for information on the pet-killer, and the vigilance committee roamed the western hill looking for evidence. They found pieces of rabbit which had likely been infused with the strychnine, but it seems that no culprit was found

The local hysteria, however, was slammed by an article in the parish magazine. “To judge from reports in the national Press and local Press,” it read, “Shoreham this last month has been a place where a lunatic is at large, maiming, mangling and murdering any dog he can find. But there is always a heavy handicap in any inquest without a body, and the sight of some of the dogs which were said to have been slain still strolling in the village streets makes one wonder whether Press and public have not been considerably misled over the matter.”

James Saylor

SHOREHAM SOCIETY

The **White Hill** is one of Shoreham's top sites for nature, and I (John) recently spent an enjoyable couple of days doing conservation work there. It is made up of valuable chalk grassland which has sadly become partly covered in scrub and trees. A great deal of work still needs to be done to restore what was once an open field. In summer, there are many orchids, but it is also important for rare butterflies, such as the Chalkhill Blue. It turns out that butterflies don't like draughts, so it's necessary to create areas that provide shelter from the north wind, with which Shoreham gardeners will be very familiar! The White Hill is also important for reptiles, including snakes. Members of the Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) carry out regular surveys and provide spots for snakes to keep warm. We weren't fortunate enough to see an adder though! If you are interested in doing conservation work, check out <https://nwkcpc.org/> or the Kent Wildlife Trust; however, a lot of the tasks take place on working days.

Advance notice! It's **Shoreham Shine time next month, on Saturday 9th March, 9am - 4pm**. It's the village bi-annual litter pick and general village clean-up. Tea, coffee and cake provided. Please let us know of any areas of the village or the surrounding lanes that would benefit from some TLC.

We are pleased to report that appeals for more villagers to help run the Society have borne fruit. We have welcomed new Committee members, including our new Secretary, Rachel French. She replaces Vanessa Hills, who has done an amazing job over the last few years, and who will continue to organise Shoreham Shine.

Do please join the Shoreham Society as an ordinary member - you'll get notice of our events and other happenings, and you'll help to strengthen us for when we need to fight a big campaign. To join, please contact our membership secretary, Jenny Walkling, jenny.walkling@btinternet.com.

One such campaign is coming up - **the proposed development of 2,500 homes on Pedham Place golf course, near the M25/A20 junction**. It's a real threat to our beautiful Darent Valley - for example, the lighting will be visible at night from Shoreham. It proposes, in effect, a new town linking up Eynsford and Farningham. Many local residents and Parish Councils are already lining up to oppose the scheme. If you just google 'Pedham Place development', you can find out what people are saying.

Did you know that most of Shoreham village is a '**Conservation Area**'? This means that you need planning permission for changes to your house (and for felling trees) that would not otherwise be needed. It is designed to preserve the appearance and attractiveness of the village, and you can find out more by googling 'Shoreham Kent conservation area'. On Sevenoaks District Council website you'll find an informative guide that describes different aspects of Shoreham and its architecture and explains why the Conservation Area is important.

Plans are being made for refurbishment and opening up of **Shoreham Station**, to provide a waiting room and somewhere welcoming for people leaving or arriving in the village. There is also a large room that could be used for all sorts of purposes and we are looking for ideas for its use - it could be a meeting room or used by a small business. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions.

Our contact email is saynor9@gmail.com *John Saynor and Chris Euman, Co-Chairs*

SHOREHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our next WI meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 February at 12.45 for a 1.00pm lunch in the Village Hall. We will be delighted to welcome the Kent Chairman of the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, who will bring at least one of his Rescue Dogs with him and tell us about their work. NSARDA Search Dogs are used to search for many different types of missing people such as hill walkers, climbers, elderly and/or confused people who may be suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia, children, and sometimes victims of crime. Please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

The next Community Coffee morning will be held on Thursday 8 February in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. The cost is only £2 for tea/coffee and cake and we would love to welcome everyone to this lovely monthly community event. Ashleigh Wilson, our local Police Constable, came to our January coffee morning and was pleased to chat with residents about their concerns and ongoing issues in the area. She also hopes to come to the February event.

Shoreham WI

TALES FROM THE HILL (Revisited)

Peter Warlock was our greatest local composer who lived, loved, drank and composed next door to Mr Munn's the grocer's shop in Eynsford from 1925- 1928. He was the source not only of wonderful music but numerous wild tales. One typical Warlockian escapade started with a visit to The Two Brewers in Shoreham, where Warlock was a regular customer. Opposite the pub was a row of cottages, fronted by a green (Walnut Tree Cottages) and in one of them lived a poor girl who became friendly with the Eynsford group, her landlady was rich and of a type that Warlock despised.

Warlock heard from the publican that the landlady was going to auction the girl's belongings as she could not pay the rent. Warlock devised a plan to disrupt the auction.

The day of the auction arrived (it was to be held on the green.) Warlock and Moeran the composer drove over in a hired car driven by a chauffeur. Warlock was wearing an enormously large black hat that belonged to Augustus John. Constant Lambert, one of

the gang, had a false nose painted red and a black beard. Barbara Peache looked like a twelve year old in a very short full skirt with a large bow in her hair.

Some villagers, anticipating trouble telegraphed the police. As soon as the auctioneer started to speak Warlock sprang forward and started to make a speech his friends applauded whenever the auctioneer protested he was greeted with whistles and catcalls, some of the locals joining in.

It was a pathetic sale of a few household goods, plus four or five rather ill – conditioned Sealyham Terriers which the girl bred, and these were bought by Robert the publican. When Warlock thought the auctioneer had had enough they made a mad dash for their cars – just as the police entered the village.

The Spirit and memory’ of Warlocks short life is kept alive by an active and somewhat flamboyant Warlock Society, new members always welcome.

Next Christmas when you are listening to Warlock’s Bethlehem Down remember his outrageous visit to Shoreham, to see justice done in true Warlockian style

John Bovington

Thanks to Gwen McIntyre for the bones of the story.]

TEMENOS CHAMBER CHOIR

Saturday 2 March, 7.30 in St Mary’s, Riverhead TN13 2BS.

Rachmaninov Vespers, a contemplative setting of the Russian Orthodox services of Vespers, Matins and The First Hour, more properly called the All-Night Vigil. A magnificent, moving work, not to be missed.

Tickets £15.00, students £7.00, from ticketsource.co.uk; Sevenoaks bookshop (personal callers only); or ring 01959 523765.



FRONDS AND FOLKTALES

Take a stroll through a peaceful churchyard or cemetery, and you'll likely encounter a fascinating group of plants that have graced the Earth for millions of years—ferns.

In the cool and damp environment of the UK's climate, 64 fern species flourish. These remarkable plants can be found on walls, especially those facing west or north, and in the sheltered, shaded nooks of burial grounds and under trees. Once they find a home,

they can even thrive in drier spots like walls. Here you may spot the delicate spleenwort, the charming wall rue, the vivid rusty back, and the elegant shield fern. Venture under the canopy of trees, and you might encounter the graceful lady fern, the stately male fern, and the regal royal fern. If the soil has lime, you might be lucky enough to discover hart's-tongue fern or, even more rarely, adder's-tongue fern.

Unlike flowering plants that reproduce through seeds, ferns reproduce via spores. These tiny, dust-like structures contain the genetic material needed to grow into a new fern plant. Spore reproduction is a primitive and efficient method that has contributed to ferns' ability to colonize diverse environments.

In some cultures, ferns are considered protective plants. Folklore suggests that carrying a fern seed or a piece of fern would grant protection against evil spirits, witches, and misfortune. Ferns were sometimes worn as charms or incorporated into talismans to ward off negative energies. So, next time you're in a churchyard, take a closer look at these green companions that have been part of human folklore and Earth's story for a very, very long time!

Andrea Gilpin andrea@cfga.org.uk

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Note we have some very nice ferns in the gully round the foot of the church on the south side.

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our January meeting was the venue for our annual Lothian Lecture, given in memory of our former president, Dr Bill Lothian. There was a good turnout to hear Toni Mount speak on the trial and error of medieval medicine, which was illustrated with pages from medical texts of the time. In an excellent talk, Toni looked at the division of labour between early physicians, surgeons and “wise women”, and surveyed their remedies ranging from the outlandish to the surprisingly successful.

On 16th February Rod LeGear will talk on The Story of Chislehurst Caves
Remember to view the website <https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com/> for news & views.

SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A full pack of information supporting each meeting is available for residents to download from the website. www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Before every planning meeting, the planning log is uploaded which includes information on past and current applications.

The next Full Council meeting will be on Wednesday 7 February at 7.30pm with Amenities and Planning on Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm if required.

.Amanda Barlow 07912 611048 clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Tickets for our next production, a play called TWO, go on sale on 1st February. Our last few productions have sold out, and this one has a smaller audience than usual, so don't delay in booking at www.shorehamvillageplayers.co.uk or from the village shop. Performances are at 8pm on 21st-23rd March. Tickets cost £12. The bar opens at 7pm. We are suggesting an age limit of 16 as there is some content unsuitable for a younger audience.

TWO (originally written for two actors, hence the name) tells the story a night in the pub, where all of life comes through the doors. Weaving together rich stories full of human emotion, this dark-comedy gives an intimate insight into a variety of characters and will make you laugh, and cry, in equal measure.

TALES FROM THE STAGE – 100 YEARS OF SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

How it all began...

Since moving to Shoreham H. R. Barbour had had an idea, one that might seem ambitious, but it gripped him and wouldn't let go.

He worked as a theatre critic for the *Daily Telegraph* and the American stage paper, *Billboard*. He then started to write his own plays, staging them in the West End with stars of the day, including Dame Edith Evans, best remembered now for her infamous delivery of the line "A handbag?" from *The Importance of Being Ernest*.

As he settled into life living in Friars he watched the building of the new village hall opposite and this seed of an idea took root. As he got to know his neighbours: the farmers, bakers, butchers, teachers and artists that made up his new community; he started to cast them as kings and queens, fairies, fools and lovers. And the Shoreham Village Players started to come together around a production of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

He soon got to know local artist Harold Copping who enthusiastically came on board as the first Chair. They found support from Lord Dunsany, Lady Gregory and Lady Cohen. Together they organised gathering on 17th June 1924 to see what interest there was; and found 60 eager villagers keen to be enrolled as members.

Edith Evans donated £5 (worth nearly £400 today) to get the fledgling enterprise off the ground. She had a great passion for supporting rural drama groups. But her help wasn't purely financial, she also came here to watch the Player's progress.

H.R. soon found he had created such a lot of interest that he could form 2 casts. Soon Shakespeare's lines could be heard all around the village as the cast learned their lines in the butcher's shop, working in the fields or serving in the pub.

Another artist, Franklin White, broke off from his work at the Slade School of Art, to create stunning scenery. Mrs Copping and Mrs Steane got busy with the costumes and a healthy rivalry started between the two casts.

As the rehearsals progressed more and more of the village got involved and, when tickets went on sale, they sold out so fast that it became apparent the new hall couldn't accommodate everyone who wanted to see the performances, so the run was extended to give everyone a chance to see it.

The cast were unaware that critics from the national press The Daily News and The Daily Mail were in the audience and later published enthusiastic congratulatory notices.

The Players were stunned by the stir they had caused, all this just 5 years after The British Drama League had been established to encourage amateur groups. And now through the imagination and enthusiasm of H. R. Barbour, which was embraced by the villagers, we became amongst the first amateur groups in the country.

Elie William

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

In exciting news, Cameron Class art has been included in the Samuel Palmer exhibition at the Kaleidoscope Gallery in Sevenoaks Library. During Term 1, Cameron learned about perspective and participated in a workshop at The National Gallery in London. On return to school, and over the course of a few weeks, they created painted landscapes of Shoreham Village, focusing on colour mixing, colour choice to represent mood, perspective and the application of paint using different styles. We will be visiting the gallery at the end of this month to view their landscapes and we hope you might also pop along if you are in Sevenoaks to see them too.

As a small school, we always try to provide our pupils with big opportunities and early in January we were able to take 16 pupils to The Nutcracker ballet at the Coliseum, performed the English National Ballet. It was such a joy to watch the children's faces, fully focused on the stage, absorbing every detail and exclaiming in wonder at the 'skating' in the snow, the Christmas tree growing and the magical and expressive dancing. What a wonderful and rich experience it was for staff and pupils – one that will always be treasured.

Before Christmas, four pupils from Moore Class took part in a Boccia Tournament at Sevenoaks School. The team had to play the game sitting down and use communication amongst themselves to decide who would have the best shot at the 'jack ball' to decide who would throw next. Having had just a few practices in school beforehand, the team played brilliantly, winning all their play-off matches and putting them straight through to the gold medal match. It was neck and neck through-out this match against the experts

from Valence and on the last ball it came down to a tie. It was decided that both teams would win the gold.

In other sporting news, a team of eight girls, from Cameron and Moore, took part in the Sevenoaks Schools Girls' Football Tournament at Knole Academy. They played four matches against Lady Boswells, Chevening, St Edmunds and Crockham Hill, winning three matches and drawing one. There was some brilliant attacking and defending all round and our team came in an amazing FIRST place, winning the Shield.

We still have some limited spaces for pupils available in some year groups, so if you know anyone who is looking for a small friendly school with high standards and lots of lovely outdoor space, please ask them to call us to arrange a tour. Phone: 01959 522228 or email: office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk Gillian Lovatt-Young Headteacher

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Friday 2	Coffee and Chat	Church Room	from 10.30am
Tuesday 6	Shoreham Women's Institute	lunch in Hall	12.45
Wednesday 7	Full Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30
Thursday 8	Shoreham Community Coffee	Village Hall	10 to 12 noon
Wednesday 14	Over 60s Nature talk	Village Hall	at 2pm
Friday 16	Historical Society	Village Hall	8pm
Wednesday 28	Over 60s	Village Hall	2pm

MARCH

Saturday 2	Temenos	St Marys Church Riverhead	7.30
Saturday 9	Shoreham Shine Day		
21 st to 23 rd	Shoreham Village Players "TWO"		8pm

GAZETTE COPY

Copy for **MARCH 2024** should be send to shorehamgazette@gmail.com by **19 FEBRUARY** as a word attachment in Times New Roman 10 and single spacing.

SHOREHAM GAZETTE INFORMATION

Donations are very welcome either to Ken Fowler who arranges distribution or bank transfer to SHOREHAM P C C

Sort code 090155 account number 00193703. Reference your name and gazette

Editor	Ann Ball BEM Oxbourne View TN14 7TP	07531669204
Distribution	Ken Fowler 79 High Street TN14 7TB	01959 522365
Advertising	Julie Carder julieshoreham@gmail.com	07415 209432
Postal Gazettes	Pauline Clark paulineshoreham@gmail.com	