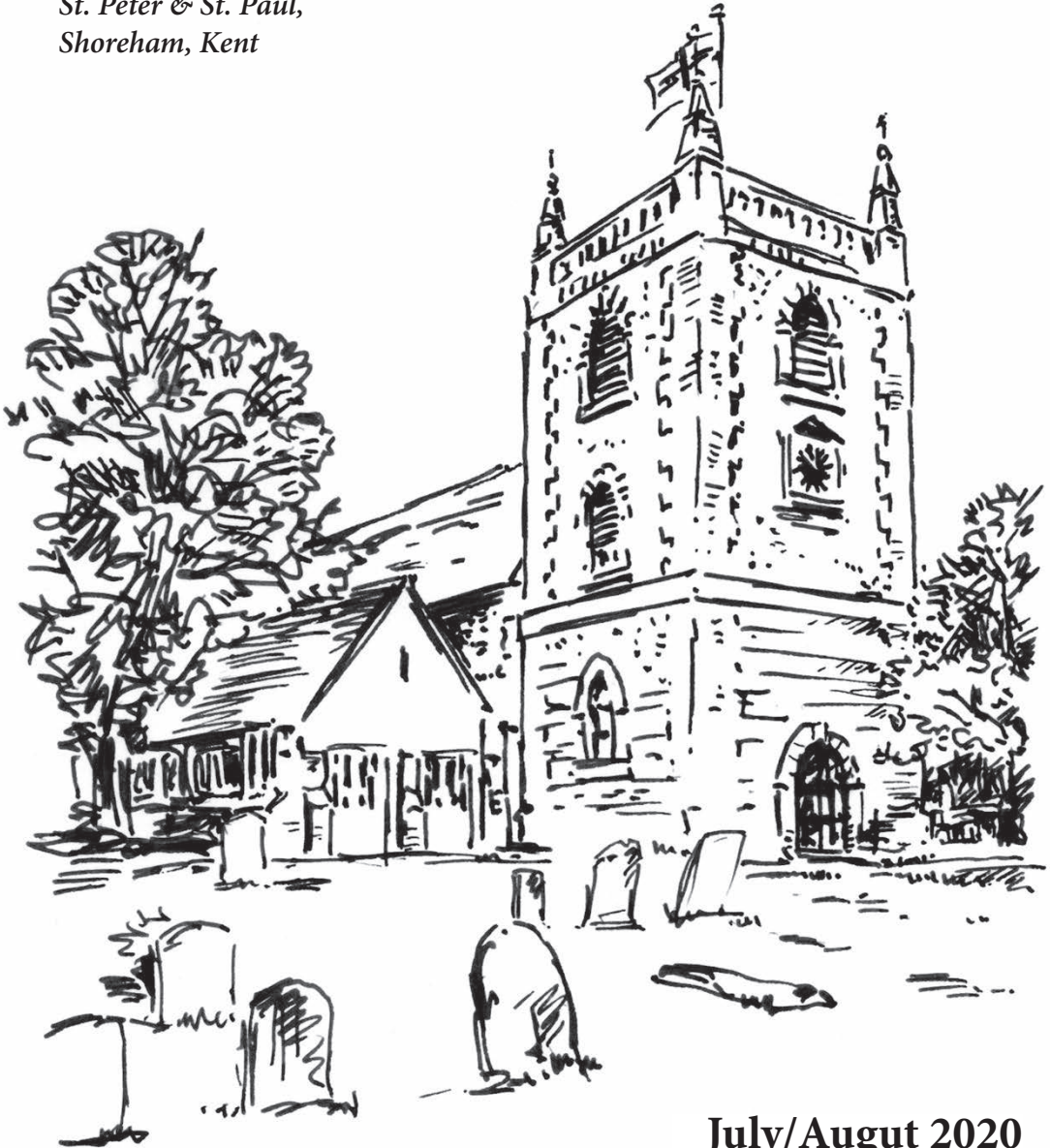


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All major emergencies are dealt with by the emergency services. However, there may be times such as power cuts, snow and ice, flooding or storms where the emergency services are not required. These conditions can make life challenging for more vulnerable people such as the elderly, infirm, disabled, sick or even someone who maybe heavily pregnant or with young children.

If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Sarah Moon, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission and agreement.

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VOLUME 52 SHOREHAM GAZETTE

NUMBER 6 – JULY AUGUST 2020

THE PSALMS: POETRY FOR THE SOUL

I don't know how you're feeling in this current phase of COVID-19. It feels to me like those early weeks of lockdown, when every day seems to bring a new announcement about what we can do.

As a church community, we are feeling our way into re-opening the church building, initially for private prayer and then, in due course, hopefully for services too, although I think we will be following a hybrid model of services, (people in the church building and Zoom) for some time yet.

Some of us might be looking forward to spending face to face time with others, even if 2m or 1m apart. I am looking forward to seeing my mum, who lives in Swansea, when we are once again allowed, 'over the border' into Wales! Others of us will be looking forward to visiting shops, gardens, restaurants, travelling to places further afield or getting our hair cut.

Some of us, who need to stay isolated for some reason, may find the lifting of restrictions serves as a reminder of a lack of connection. Then there will be some of us who are fearful about job security, worried about money, mourning the loss of a loved one, concerned about the well-being of our children, or just plain weary, living with the uncertainty that is our everyday experience.

The Psalms are poems, which perhaps, like our forebears, we may find a useful resource during these times. For in them we find the expression of every human emotion from despair, anger, sadness, fear to joy, hope, relief, gratitude ... and everything in between. But the Psalms don't just describe where we are now, nor do they deny the challenges. They give us the words that matter in helping express things we find hard to say, enabling us to move through the different seasons and experiences of life.

Psalms 23 is one of the most well-known Psalms, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... God restores my soul'. In times of pandemic and protest, it grounds us in God's faithfulness, as well as God's inspiration to play our part in healing the world. It recognises that God is present in the darkness as well as light. It reminds us that even in our dark valley, we are not alone. God is with us.

So ... however you may be feeling ... I commend the Psalms to you and pray that you may find the wisdom you need for these times.

Revd Diane



The Revd Dr Diane E. Rees

The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA

revdrdi@outlook.com 01959 522363

THE CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

SATURDAY 10am - 2pm
WEDNESDAY 10am – Noon

At present the church is open during these times but this will change as in line with current Church of England and Government guidance.

Please see the website for up to date details.

- www.shorehamchurchkent.org

We have aimed to make the church as clean and safe as possible and ask you to help all visitors to stay safe by observing the following:

- Respect appropriate social distancing guidelines
- Use the hand sanitiser provided
- Avoid touching surfaces where possible
- Please feel free to:
 - Light a candle or leave a prayer on the prayer board in the porch
 - Sit in one of the pews at the front
 - Purchase a card or church guide
 - Keep in touch via our website www.shorehamchurchkent.org
 - Visit our beautiful churchyard and follow the trail leaflet (in the porch)

Donations are welcome

- Our income and our ability to contribute to the community and diocese to which we belong has been considerably impacted by the pandemic. Any help is gratefully received.

SERVICES ARE SUNDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 10AM VIA ZOOM

From the Church Register

Burial

22nd June

Tracey Carter

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING CHURCH REPAIRS

Good news! Thanks to a very generous contribution from one of our major donors, we are now able to undertake some important repairs to the damaged (and potentially dangerous) brickwork on the church tower, as well as overhauling the gutters and drainpipes to ensure the newly painted interior remains as damp-free as possible... Inevitably this will affect anyone who has the ashes of family, friends or loved ones in plots close to the church walls as scaffolding will need to be erected. Obviously, the memorial stones will be protected, but access to them will not be possible from time to time.

The scaffolding is due to go up on Monday 29th June with the work commencing shortly thereafter and should last about six weeks... It will not be possible to guarantee the safety of any pots or vases around the area, so we are advising the removal of these objects prior to the 29th and thank you for your help with this.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but rest assured the work is essential.

Parochial Church Council

REX TOPHAM

Rex and Kay moved to Shoreham in 1958, setting up home in 4 The Terrace, with Rex adding an extension to create space for their three children: Fiona and Nicola born in 1959 and Kathryn in 1964. As an architect, Rex was to go on to extend many local homes in Shoreham and beyond, including the design of the 'new' vicarage in 1968. Rex sat on the Walnut Tree Trust and the Shoreham Almshouse Trust. He was a committed Christian, attending 8am services up until the month before he died. He was a church warden and reader and cared deeply about the preservation of the building. He and Kay left their home in the heart of the village in 1970 as Rex had designed his own house along the Shoreham Road. Rex gave of his time and architectural expertise continually well into his late eighties. The friendships he and Kay made in Shoreham were of enormous importance to them both.

When Fiona was killed tragically in 1977, the village and the many families within it, were a huge support. Rex is now buried with Fiona in the churchyard. He and Kay left to live in the Middle East for ten years where Rex's architectural career flourished but it was always to Shoreham they returned with great devotion. Rex came from a family steeped in art, with ancestors who had painted and etched for a living. It was thus very fitting that he and Kay had chosen to make their first Shoreham home at The Terrace opposite the Samuel Palmer School of Art. His work led him to visit much of the world and he was very aware of how lucky he had been. He and Kay travelled extensively. He died at home on 7th May, aged 90, looking out to the Shoreham hills, which he loved so dearly.

Nicola Apps and Kathryn Dymoke (nee Topham)

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GUEST EDITOR

It's that time of year when we invite you to become guest Editor of the Gazette for the month of September. You will need to be around from 18th August to receive the copy and send the pdf to James Skinner our wonderful printer.

Replies to shorehamgazette@gmail.com or 07531669204

TALES FROM THE HILL

“Margaret, Becky and Susan went off to the fields to pick cowslips for the time had come to make cowslip wine. It was a cowslip day, too, a day of scents and pale gold colours, of glittering budded trees and little winds which clasped their skirts and tickled their ankles.”

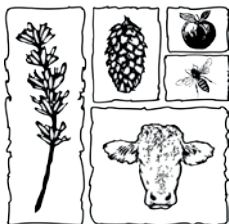
It was on such a day that I took my usual walk from Magpie up the Pig & Whistle path, past the ruins, now hardly visible, then through the little valley where for generations cattle have rubbed against old ash, oak and hawthorns smoothing the bark and distorting their growth. Then through Dunstall farmyard where I pause to admire the condition of the cattle and see how the winter feed has lasted. Occasionally I bump into the farm manager Dave, we chat about the weather or cattle prices. On a busy day I may encounter Bert or Cyril Higgins, we chat about the weather or the soil condition. I then make my way across the field now planted with barley. It was impossible to sow wheat last autumn because of the saturated soil. I then take the track to Warren Farm and walk along the top of the escarpment, where I can see the silver thread of the Darent snaking its way through to Shoreham.

Taking the track past the mast I look down on Otford, Sevenoaks and beyond. I abstain from resting on the rather splendid bench in memory of a gentleman who also enjoyed the view. Although perhaps I should have lingered. I continue on the track leading to Row Dow Lane past the pond that sometimes dries up in the summer. Then down through Great Wood along the path my young niece named as ‘Nice Path John’ while swooshing through autumn leaves. Nice path John then leads back to Magpie Bottom where the high sided cowslip banks take the unsuspecting by surprise.

Nothing much different on this day apart for a brief time where I had forgotten the troubles of the world, yes the birds seemed to sing louder and the air felt cleaner and the cowslips stood high and bent in the little wind.

John Bovington & Alison Uttley

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CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

We enjoy the churchyard as a haven from the busy world and there has been a huge showing of wildflowers of all description, together with many birds and bats fly around as the sun goes down. The PCC manages this area with a view to it being a peaceful place for our bereaved families, a haven to walk around for everyone and a playground for children. I would like to pay a huge tribute to Sarah Parkes who has done so much to ensure our wild flowers thrive and for the general well being of the area. The grassing over of the graves is an ongoing project I watch over, this is making life much easier for Sit and our wonderful volunteers: Neil and Jasper to cut the grass without being hit by stones and flints

Ann Ball

SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Since the re-opening of the tennis court a month or so ago, we have been very pleased to see so many people making use of this village facility.

Unfortunately however, very few people have been paying the suggested donation of £5 to the Village Shop despite there being a notice on the fence and despite previous requests in the Gazette. We are not looking to make a profit from the tennis court but we do need to consider the annual maintenance costs which amount to around £500 per year. It was hoped that income received from donations would cover this but this has been far from the case. We have therefore decided to introduce a booking system and an annual subscription of £20 per household for residents of Shoreham.

The new system should work as follows:

- Contact the Clerk to obtain an annual subscription at a cost of £20. On receipt of payment, you will be issued with a membership card which can be used by any member of your household.
- Check availability of the court at the village shop and book your chosen time. Please ensure that you show your membership card at the time of booking as proof of payment.
- If you do not wish to take up an annual subscription, then the cost of hiring the court will be £5 per hour. The court should be booked in the same way as above and the £5 paid directly to the shop. The £5 charge will apply to non –residents.

It is hoped that this will both increase our revenue as well as ensure fair use of play. During lockdown, many people from neighbouring towns and villages have been coming to Shoreham to make use of our ‘free’ facility and have been occupying the court for long stretches of time, preventing other people from using it. Signs will be put up on the gate explaining how to book so hopefully this system will ensure this doesn’t happen again.

An element of honesty is still required as at this stage as we do not wish to lock the court – previous experience of locking the tennis court has resulted in extensive damage to the fences as well as padlocks and keys constantly going missing. Can I therefore please ask that all residents who wish to use the court, adhere to the new system as this way, we can ensure that this great parish facility remains with us for many years to come.

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk 07912 611048, clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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A NEW FUTURE FOR PRESTON FARM

In autumn last year, I moved to Preston Farm in the Darent Valley, just north-east of Shoreham. I feel incredibly lucky to now call it home, along with my wife, Jesse, and our three kids, Tabitha, Eliza and Bo.

It's been a busy first 9 months for us here at the farm... We have refurbished Dairy House, and are now tackling the much bigger project of the old Farmhouse. We have welcomed some new family members - Luna the dog and two colonies of honey bees - and we've been investing in our passion for the environment and conservation, working with The Woodland Trust, the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership and Kent Wildlife Trust on a number of projects that we hope will turn Preston Farm into a haven for wildlife.

Over the past few months, I have been working with a small team of consultants to explore the potential to develop our old farmyard into a 'work hub' to support small businesses and provide local people with an alternative to working from home, or commuting into the City. I would like to invite you all to consider this idea and to provide your feedback on our emerging plans.

We had hoped to organise and invite you to a drop-in session at Shoreham Village Hall to discuss our proposal with you in person, but due to lockdown restrictions and not wanting to put anyone at unnecessary risk, doing this 'virtually' felt like the most sensible option. An outline of our proposal and some early-stage thinking on designs can be found at www.prestonfarmshoreham.co.uk, which will be available to access from approximately 24 June until 31 July. We would be very grateful if you would take the time to visit our website, consider our ideas and provide us with comments using the form at the bottom of the webpage.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you in and around Shoreham in the near future.

Will Bax

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

Following government advice and a great deal of planning we have been able to safely open the school to certain year groups and pupils of key workers. It has been a real joy to have children back in the building and we are taking great advantage of our wonderful outdoor space and enjoying Spellers Woods. The allotment is flourishing under Mrs Desmond's care and there are a number of exciting fruits and vegetables ripening beautifully. We continue to offer virtual opportunities for education to children that are unable to come into school, as well as regular communication, support and fun. This has been a challenge and we are all adjusting to a new way of working but where better to develop new skills and go on a learning journey than a school!

As we come to the end of our academic year, I can honestly say that this year has been like no other. The summer term is when all the 'finishing-off' activities take place, like Sports Day, the Cameron Class residential and the whole school play. Unfortunately, these events have not happened but we do have some exciting plans for a Leavers



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Assembly and last day at school for Year 6. We have had the opportunity to take part in lots of virtual PE challenges that have been organised by the Sevenoaks Partnership: district sports, hockey, cricket and tennis to name a few.

We say goodbye to our Year 6 children as they move on to the next steps of their education and look forward to welcoming all the new reception pupils in Barton class. I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and restful summer.

Mrs Gillian Lovatt-Young, Headteacher

THE SHOREHAM SOCIETY

Another month has gone by with little seeming to happen. However, in Shoreham there is plenty going on behind the scenes. Our wonderful volunteers are continuing to support those who must self isolate. Others are looking after our wildlife particularly in the hot weather No wonder Shoreham is special! Here's another walk for you to try.

The Crinkle Crankle Walk

From the High Street, go past The Crown pub and turn left up the Millennium Path, just opposite Mill Lane. Go through the kissing gate and turn right up to the second five bar gate where you turn left on to The Terrace. After 75yards by the green barrier take the right fork towards Pilots Wood. After about a mile, there is a junction where you take the left fork. (The right turn goes towards the pedestrian bridge over the motorway.)

Follow left down the steps, keeping to the fence until you reach the open ground of the "Polhill Bank "nature reserve. Keep to the right as you go down the hill and you will arrive at some steps down to Filston Lane. Cross the road and take the footpath which will take you behind Sepham Farm. And here is the Crinkle Crankle Wall! Why was it built like a snake?

At the footpath junction, turn left and follow the path to Filston Farm, following on to Filston Lane. Here you can choose, depending on how tired you are! Back up the Sound of Music Hill, right along the Terrace, with a right turn down to the Recreation Ground through the Tony Whitworth gate or turn right down Water Lane to follow the walk through the cricket ground and golf course OR straight back along Filston Lane for an ice cream from the Village Shop!

Trash or Treasure?

Your trash might be treasure for me! The lock down has been a great opportunity for clearing out and already things are being given away on our Facebook page. Charity shops might be overwhelmed so why not have a giveaway weekend? **11th and 12th July** put out your unwanted 'stuff' and wander around the Village to find some more! (I am sure we can all observe whatever distancing rules will be applying at that time.)

Chris Euman Co-chair, Shoreham Society



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LYCH GATE



To pass into the churchyard you go through the lych gate where traditionally coffins were rested and the pall bearers would shelter. The gate was built by George Wood in 1863 when he was parish clerk and a renowned craftsman in wood.

The gold lettering was restored by the late John Allen of Shoreham Place more than 25 years ago and has stood the test of time. The church street entrance wording is “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord” and from the Church side “I am the Resurrection saith the Lord”.

The present gates were restored using a bequest to the Church by Joy Saynor, great village historian and co-author of “Shoreham a Village in Kent”. Her name is on one of the gates.

The gates were made as an exact replica of the old ones by Ian Potter of Valley View Joinery of Eynsford and all the existing ironwork, to the top of the gates and hinges were rubbed down cleaned and repainted and used on the new gates, the bolts to the gate posts were remade by Rhys Harlin from Darenth Valley Forge.

Ann Ball



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Anybody who bought tickets for the VE Concert on May 8th and hasn't been refunded...please e.mail Henry Desmond on admin@henrydesmondorchestra.co.uk and he will organise that for you. Or call me on 01959 525772 and I will pass you message on to him. We were all very disappointed that the Concert had to be cancelled....but, hopefully...next year.....

EASTBOURNE TRIP

The annual trip to Eastbourne on July 4th has sadly been cancelled.....even though a lot of places should be open....it is impossible to 'social distance' on a coach. However, we have already re-booked for July 3rd 2021. Hope you can join us then. Thanks.

Lorna Robinson.

ROGUES - ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY

As I write, we are one day away from our opening event of the year, the April and May fixtures having been lost to the lockdown. It will not be a typical Society day, because catering facilities are closed and so there will be no gathering for morning coffee, no post-game refreshments, and no dinner. Nonetheless, 29 Rogues, desperate for some golf, are signed up for the socially-distanced outing.

There will be some unfamiliar rules because of Covid, and a new addition to the golfer's lexicon:

A Dominic – a long drive, out of bounds, with no penalty.

Last month, I wrote that individual Rogues were asked to donate some of the money they had saved (by not playing golf) to the Friends for Families charity in Sevenoaks. I am pleased to report that, with gift aid, the donations received were worth over £1,000 to Friends for Families, and we sincerely hope that that has made some difference to some families in need. (Go to the Friends for Families website if you would like to learn more about their work and how to support them).

Friday July 17th fixture is due to be at Marriott Tudor Park Country Club near Maidstone, we shall hope to get some more golf in then, depending on how the world goes in the interim.

A reminder that the Rogues is a very inclusive, friendly group, open to all. If you would like to join us please get in touch.

Wyn Melville-Jones - Captain

wyn.mj@btinternet.com 01959 52424

SHOREHAM GARDENS WEB SITE

As there are no Flower Shows until September we feel that we should do something and we are certain that the gardens in the village are looking brilliant. What we are asking is that you send pictures of your gardens or vegetable plots as they emerge from spring. Please send your pictures by email to shorehamhortsoc@gmail.com This is not a competition but a celebration.

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As it will be open to view by anyone, although only promoted in the village, we will offer various levels of security or anonymity. The site can be found at www.shorehamkentgardens.com – early stages yet but we hope you will populate it with wonderful content! Thank You

Jasper Dale

VACANCY FOR TRUSTEE TO THE SHOREHAM ALMSHOUSES – VOLUNTARY ROLE

The Almshouses in Filston Lane are among the oldest buildings in Shoreham and an important part of the village's history, providing safe and secure homes for their residents. They are managed by a small charity which looks after the buildings and ensures their long-term sustainability.

The charity is run by great group of volunteer Trustees and a recently appointed Clerk, who between them bring a range of skills and experience to our work, ensuring we get everything done as we should. We are members of the national Almshouses Association, with access to all their guidance, support and training.

We currently meet four times a year, and keep in contact via email in between – so it's not a huge commitment in terms of time, but it is a commitment; our job as Trustees is all about looking out for our people, our buildings and our history. As a charity in the heart of the village, we know we have some fantastic people living and working in Shoreham. If one of you would like to join us as a Trustee, we'd very much like to hear from you.

So, if you'd like to get involved, or would like some more information, please contact:-

Chair, Sharon Longworth (email s.longworth3@gmail.com), or the Clerk, Sarah Moon (email shorehamalmshouses@outlook.com)

SAMARITANS

Samaritans is a charity with 201 branches across the UK with a vision that fewer people die by suicide, as every life lost to suicide is a tragedy. People in need contact Samaritans primarily by telephone, but via email or in person, and the organisation answers a call for help every 6 seconds. Our mission is to make sure that there is someone there for anyone who needs someone. Giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets a fundamental emotional need and reduces distress and despair. Do you have a few hours to spare?

Samaritans set up a new hub in Sevenoaks in autumn 2019 and we're recruiting and training remotely. Listening volunteers are crucial to our service, but there are lots of other ways to get involved with Samaritans. We're looking for volunteers to join the friendly and enthusiastic team who run our branch so, if you're interested in helping with

administration, fundraising, marketing, recruitment or social media, or if there's any other way you think you can help us, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch on Sevenoaks.recruitment@samaritans.org or on 07388 179760

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

Summer might not be as carefree as usual, but it hasn't stopped altogether, and the Stores are stocked with most of your favourite summer items – from fishing nets to Pimm's, from barbecue charcoal to Ben & Jerry's ice cream. For learning more about the neighbourhood, don't forget our local guides, books and maps.

It's great to have Lorna back in the shop, and our thanks to Torben and John for the excellent new screen on the counter. Please remember to follow our social distancing rules posted on the door.

Stop Press: There may be important and exciting news about the Stores before the next edition of the *Gazette*. Keep your eye on the village Facebook page, and look out for announcements in the shop.

Santhosh, Kannan, Chitra, Lorna and Prasanth

And Finally

From September 1892 Parish Magazine edited by Rev R Ashington Bullen

Parochial School Treat

By the kindness of *Sir Henry James and Miss James, the children and teachers were entertained at Shoreham Place on August 8th. More than 200 were present, marching to the grounds from the School led by the Drum and Fife Band.

Ranged before the south terrace, on which sat Sir Henry, Mrs James and Miss James, Mr P. Rogers and the Vicar, the children, under the conduct of Mr Steane, sang several school songs very sweetly. After ample justice had been done to the tea, the children dispersed for games. Prizes were distributed at 7.45pm as well as goodies of various kinds and the happy day ended. [*Sir Henry was renting Shoreham Place from the Mildmays]

SHOREHAM GAZETTE INFORMATION

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