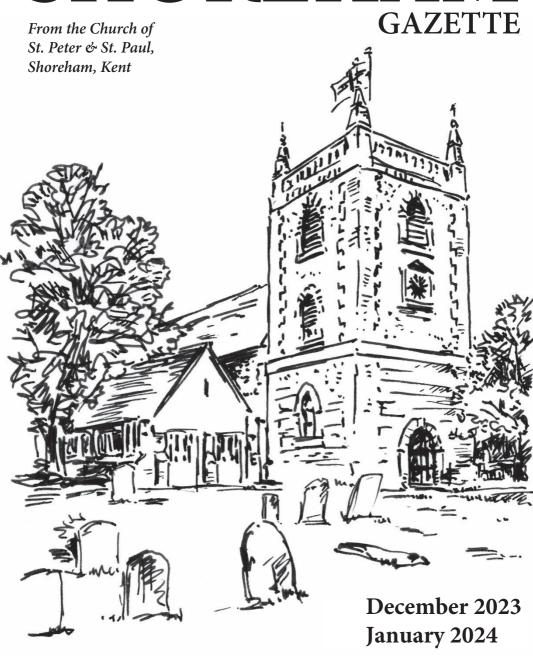
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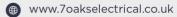
If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission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



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VOLUME 55 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 10 DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

Despite the buts ...

There are a number of angels in the Christmas story. There are also a number of people who say 'but'.*

We start with Zechariah, a priest in the temple in Jerusalem. One day when he is working there, he encounters an angel, who announces to the elderly Zechariah, that he is going to have a son named John, who would help people to get ready for the Lord. And, so we get the first 'but'. 'But I am too old', he explains, and adds, 'so is my wife Elizabeth'. (She has a rather different reaction ...)

Next we get Joseph. He is engaged to Mary who finds out that she is going to have a baby. Joseph not wanting to disgrace Mary publicly, makes plans to break the engagement privately. 'But what will people think', he ponders, before an angel appears to him in a dream and tells Joseph not to be afraid of what others think and to take Mary as his wife.

Then we come to the innkeeper. A character who doesn't actually appear in either of the Bible accounts but whose existence is confirmed by the words telling us that, Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

The innkeeper, a man preoccupied with so many things. <u>'But I'm too busy,</u> there is no room here for Jesus', he exclaims.

Moving on, we come to the sages, the magi or the wisemen. They have been looking at the skies for a long time, before finding a special star. A star that indicates the birth of a new king. So they travel large distances bringing gifts, assuming that this new king will be born in Jerusalem. Intelligent and thoughtful men, they may be, never expecting that the Son of God would be born in a stable, in a small insignificant town. 'But this isn't the God I expected', they say to each other.

Four 'buts', so far. But what about those who don't say but? There's Elizabeth ... and Mary. A young girl, unexpectedly pregnant, not yet married, dealing with the misunderstanding of her community and caught up in something far bigger than she can imagine or comprehend. She too has a visit from an angel; although frightened, questioning and thoughtful, her overwhelming reaction is to praise God for choosing and using her, in a song of gratitude we call the Magnificat.

And, of course, we mustn't forget the shepherds. Regarded as unclean and unimportant by most people. Yet after their visit from an angel, there are no buts. But rather, they want to go and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told them about; telling people excitedly about what they have seen and heard.

So where do we fit into the Christmas story? What buts do we have? At the heart of the Christmas story is Emmanuel, God is with us - a God who found a way to be with us despite our buts.

Revd Diane

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*Thank you to Sam Wells in his book, *The Moment of Truth* for pointing this out. You can read the Christmas story in the Bible, in the first 2 chapters of Matthew (Joseph, Wise Men) and Luke (Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Shepherds).

SERVICES

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 3rd December - Advent Sunday 9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

10th December - Advent 2

9am Communion (BCP) 10am Morning Worship

17th December - Advent 3

10am Morning Worship for Advent with Communion 6pm CAROL SERVICE - Readings, Poems and Carols for Christmas

19th December - Wednesday - 5.30pm Meet at Crown - Carol Singing Village 21st December - Thursday - 5.30pm Meet at Church - Carol Singing Shoreham Place

** Both followed by mulled wine in the Church Room afterwards **

24th December - Christmas Eve

4pm CHRISTINGLE 11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th December - Christmas Day 10am CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

31st December - 1st Sunday of Christmas

10am Christmas Worship with Communion

7th January 2024 - Epiphany

9am Breakfast@Church 6pm Communion

14th January 2024 - Epiphany 2

9am Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Worship for Epiphany

21st January 2024 - Epiphany 3

10am Morning Worship for Epiphany with Communion 4pm Service

28th January 2024 - Candlemas

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(Usual parish days Friday to Monday)

COFFEE AND CHAT - FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER

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!

THE CHURCH REGISTER

Thanksgiving service and burial in the churchyard

6 October Glyn Martin

Memorial service

9 October William Douie

Interment of ashes

2 October Christine Maybank

24 October Lorna Lee

STAY AND PLAY

We finish this term with a service in church on Monday 11 December at 10am. There will be a treasure hunt, songs and the Christmas story with participation from all, some crown making and of course seasonal refreshments. Do join us, young and old. Stay and Play starts up in 2024 on Monday January 8th at 9.30 am in the village hall.

RINGING A PEAL

On **Monday 4 December** we have a visiting band of highly proficient ringers attempting to ring a full peal. This happens very rarely so we are fortunate to be the chosen tower. To be recognised by the *Central Council of Church Bell Ringers* a full peal must consist of sufficient numerical sequences, between 5,000 and 5,280 "changes" or permutations, depending on the method and the number of bells being rung.

The ringers are coming from various churches in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Their aim is to ring a full peal of all 8 bells. They will start ringing at 11am. (The length of time it takes to ring a peal depends on the method used and the weight of the bells). At Shoreham the estimated time is 2 hours and 45 minutes. That is continuous unbroken ringing!!!

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in <i>The Ringing World</i> . Some of these are:				
	Every bell must sound at every row throughout the peal			
	No row shall be struck more than once before the next change is made			
	Each bell must be rung continuously by the same person			
	The use of physical aids to memory in conducting and ringing is not permitted			
	No assistance of any kind shall be given to any ringer by any person not ringing			
	in the peal			

There are a number of conditions that must be met for a successful peal to be recorded

We wish them luck and hope that you enjoy hearing this special event.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring with us please just come along when you hear the bells! Practice is usually on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm. You will be made very welcome

Alison Collins Shoreham Bell Ringers

SAMUEL PALMER EXHIBITION

At Darent Valley Landscape Partnership we are very excited to announce our "Samuel Palmer Returns" Exhibition, which will open on Friday 12 January at the Kaleidoscope Gallery in Sevenoaks. It will be free of charge and will remain in situ until the second week of March, when it will relocate to the Sir Peter Blake Gallery in Dartford until the beginning of May. 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 will show ten high quality Palmer prints, which have been carefully chosen due to their connection with the landscape of the Darent Valley. We have also 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 including talks from Colin Harrison, Senior Curator of European Art at the Ashmolean Museum and highly respected Palmer expert, Victoria Threlfall, the artist who helped devise the Samuel Palmer Trail and Kit Boyd, the artist responsible for the wonderful prints of the Darent Valley Stations, which many of you will be familiar with. A full programme of events will be made available nearer the time so please watch out for our social media and check our website www.darent-valley.org.uk.

Local school children have been engaged and their contributions will also be on display. We shall be inviting the children to their own private view, where they will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun art based activities and workshops.

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.

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Ofsted, April 2019

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE: THREAT OF FLOODING HEAVY SNOW STORM POWER CUTS

January 2014, the most recent date when there were flood warnings for the vulnerable parts of the village, is not within the memory of many living in those homes now. It seemed a good idea to focus attention on this so, as well as plans to update our Emergency Resilience Plan, this is a reminder to those who live within the 1 in 100 years of flood risk to check that they are aware of plans they should make and precautions to take "just in case". Information and advice on how and what to do can be found on: www.kentprepared.org.uk/preparing-for-an-emergency. It is sensible to register for alerts and warnings on Floodline 0345 988 1188 and make your Personal flood plan: this might include having non-return valves fitted to waste water pipes, purchasing a Pan Seal to insert in ground floor toilets to prevent sewage entering your home as well as purchasing flood sacs (preferable to sand bags) to place outside your property. The parish council does not have a stock of sandbags or sacs, neither is it able to provide them.

More Help Please: In emergency situations village residents have always been responsive. However it would be useful to have more names of folk (particularly those younger and more able) who can be called on. The salt bins that are numbered are supplied and stocked by K.C.C. There are a few other bins that are owned and stocked by the Parish Council, which does not have transport. When it is necessary to refill these, it is essential that this is done by volunteers. I would welcome your offer of help when required. I will respond to any enquiries for further information and have a small selection of sample flood resilience products which I am happy to show anyone concerned or to have them available for inspection at the next Parish Council Meeting on 4th December, 7.30 p.m. in the village hall. Lesley Spence lesleyspence@aol.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Darent Valley Branch of the Labour Party would like to thank the many residents of Shoreham who supported our Autumn Quiz on 28th October in the Village Hall. We raised £600 for our two foodbanks: Swanley Trussell Trust and the Community Cupboard in West Kingsdown. We are sending £300 to each foodbank which will be a big help. We also had lots of fun, so many thanks for attending and being so generous. Our next fundraising event will be a Table Top Sale in the Spring.

Anne Deane

TALES FROM THE HILL

You can open your car door with it, you can see whose passing your front door while you on holiday. You can, if you're very clever pay the parking metre. You can annoy a number people if you try and pack your shopping trolley one handed whilst sending a text with the other. You can, and some do, watch a complete match at Wimbledon through a screen measuring 50mm x 90 mm. You can switch your central heating on from the comfort of your train seat and if you really really want to you can close your sitting room curtains from ice station Zebra in the Antarctic.

Of course there are some jolly good things it can do such as, sending your GP a picture of your ingrowing toe nails instead of spoiling your day waiting on the line listening to

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Kent Barn, Filston Farm, Filston Lane Shoreham Kent TN14 5JU Bach played on a comb and lavatory paper. And occasionally being told you are 18th in the queue.

There are some really excellent uses, as we have seen on the box. You know the RNLI programme Saving Lives at Sea where some poor chap stranded on a rock in the middle of the North Sea in a force 8 gale discovers he can get a signal whereas back home in Catford he can't. Another good use is that children can let their parents know if they are being held in detention. Now I think I owe a word of explanation to any younger reader out there, if you wrap a piece of the old fashioned shiny loo paper round a comb and blow it makes a similar noise to the Brandenburg Concerto on your telephone.

Yes, I have a mobile phone, it's not very smart. I have it just in case I fall over on a country path One of the numerous surveys that emerged recently was that only 3% of children regularly have a book on the go.

So young people switch off your phone, pick up that book that Aunty Pauline gave you last Christmas, you might be surprised and have a Happy one.

Father Christmas. (John Bovington)

SHOREHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our December WI meeting will be our Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 5 December, which we are all very much looking forward to at The Crown. The last Community Coffee morning of 2023 will be on Thursday 14 December, in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. There will be a festive atmosphere, and maybe even some festive cakes! The cost is only £2 for tea/coffee and cake and we would love to welcome everyone to this lovely community event.

Our January WI meeting has been moved to **Tuesday 9 January** (from the 2) and will take place, with lunch, in the Village Hall. Please send any enquiries to shoreham@wkfwi.org.uk. Finally, our January Community Coffee morning will be held on Thursday 11 January, from 10am to 12pm, in the Village Hall. Start the year as you mean to go on – keeping in touch with old friends, as well as making new ones, in this sociable and warm-hearted environment. All welcome. WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AND VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Shoreham WI

SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS 1924-2024!

The Players are very proud to be amongst the relatively small number of amateur dramatic societies to have reached their hundredth year. Following the initial production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we have put on an extraordinarily eclectic mix of productions to a very high standard - and we plan on doing the same for the next 100 years.

For our centenary year we present three very different plays:

TWO by Jim Cartwright

21-23 March. A slice of life set in a village pub. The landlord and landlady and their customers give us insights into their lives: funny, vicious, happy and tragic, with a

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JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice

6-8 June. Shoreham Church provides the ideal space for this vibrant show, with a live band and a colourful and diverse cast of twenty-plus characters. We're very excited about this major production, directed by Henry Desmond and Lonnie Christophers who are looking for talented and committed performers aged from 8 up, with some cross-gender casting possible. All characters sing, and some dance.

Auditions will be held on 4 and 5 January at 7.30 in the village church. For details go to https://shorehamplayers.wixsite.com/shorehamplayers or ring 01959 523765.

ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS by Richard Bean

21-23 September. A brilliant, hilarious adaptation of Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters*. How to fulfil obligations to two employers without either suspecting the existence of the other, one of whom is not who s/he says s/he is!

Kate Britten, President, Shoreham Village Players

SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS Fund-raising

So much has changed in one hundred years, but interestingly much remains the same, particularly the need to keep up to date with technology.

For that first production in the brand-new Village Hall special acetylene apparatus was installed to provide lighting (Shoreham had no electricity at the time). In 2024 we are mounting a major fund-raising effort to replace our long-serving but now technically obsolete sound and lighting equipment. Investing in up-to-date technology including low energy LED lighting would give us the utmost in flexibility and durability for an estimated cost of £16,000, and could well last us another hundred years!

Back in 1924 (Dame) Edith Evans supported the nascent Players with a £5 gift (around £750 in today's money). In 2024 we shall be dependent on many donations, large and small, to help us reach our target. We hope we can count on you.

Wyn Melville-Jones, Chairman, Shoreham Village Players

OVER 60S

You are very welcome to join the Over 60s in the village hall for their winter programme

- Wednesday 10 January at 2pm Annual General Meeting
- Wednesday 24 January at 2pm Talk on Nursing Sarah and Suna

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SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 1 November 2023 and Members were pleased to welcome so many residents to the meeting. The meeting was preceded with a vote of thanks and presentation to Malcolm Folland who is retiring as Chairman and Membership Secretary of the Shoreham Allotment Association. Members and the Clerk would like to thank Malcolm for his enormous contribution to the Parish Council through his tireless work for the Allotment Association.

- A225 Shoreham Road –. The Parish Council continues to work with KCC to finalise the speed reduction scheme.
- Parking Survey Members would like to thank all those that took the time to
 respond to the parking survey. There were 91 responses and a summary of the
 responses is included with the minutes. Members agreed to appoint a company
 to carry out an independent survey of the parking situation in Shoreham.
 Members also met to discuss ways in which the parking situation could be eased
 doing things such as cutting back hedges and looking at sites where additional
 parking may be possible.
- Remembrance Sunday Members would like to thank Jeremy and Vannessa for their excellent efforts in cleaning the cross before Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Roy Blamey laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and the Council has made a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- Grit Bins New grit bins have been placed in Romney Street and at the bottom
 of Mesne Way in Filston Lane. If you find a grit bin empty, please report it to
 KCC Highways using their report online system.
- Coronation Bench A new bench commemorating the coronation of HM King Charles III has been placed outside the village shop in the High Street.
- Refuse Freighter the Parish Council has renewed the contract with Sevenoaks
 District Council for the Saturday refuse freighter and as soon as the new
 schedule is published, it will be made available.

A full pack of information supporting each meeting is available for residents to download from the website. Before every planning meeting, the planning log is uploaded which includes information on past and current applications. The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday 24 January 2024. www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Members and Clerk of Shoreham Parish Council would like to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Amanda Barlow 07912 611048 clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

It feels Autumnal in the village now and the children have enjoyed being creative with the fallen leaves at playtimes; some of their designs would give outdoor artist Andrew Goldsworthy, a run for his money! At this time of year, we are proud to send two pupils to represent the school at the village Remembrance Service. Luican and Poppy read beautiful, descriptive and emotive poems that they had written and then laid the school wreath at the war memorial; we have received many compliments about their contribution to this important community event.

There have been a number of class trips this term with our youngest pupils, Barton Class, visiting Lullingstone Country Park and spending a somewhat wet morning with the ranger creating art work and enjoying a campfire. Meanwhile, on the same soggy day, Moore Class pupils ventured up to London to think about 'settlements' and compare and contrast city life to village life in Shoreham. They boarded the London Eye to gain a good view of London and its landmarks and then took a river boat down the Thames to see the impact of the river on where people choose to settle.

Early in November, a mixed Year 3/4 team took part in the Hockey Tournament at Sevenoaks Hockey Club. Our team tried really hard, especially against some exceptionally skilled pupils from other schools. They played six matches and showed excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and determination. Overall, they were placed fifth out of 12 schools taking part and it was clear to the spectators and umpire how much their skills and understanding of the game developed whilst they were playing. The Head Umpire of Sevenoaks Hockey Club said she would give them 1st place for their determination and improvement. Well done Team Shoreham!

If you would like to support the school further, we are always happy to hear from people who would be interested in volunteering to work with the pupils to hear readers or run a club, or for those who could bring skills to the Governing Body that will help to lead the school strategically to further improve. If you would like to find out more about how you can help your village school in this way, please contact me via the school office; all volunteers are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check and go through an induction and training programme.

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

Glyn Martin

On behalf of myself and my family I'd like to thank everyone for their kindness shown over the sad passing of my Dad, Glyn Martin. For the cards and the kind words and for those who attended he's funeral. It really is hugely appreciated.

Dad loved Shoreham, there was only one place he called home. Now he is at peace and asleep there, forever more.

Jenny Day-Winter

SHOREHAM SOCIETY

Father Christmas

Father Christmas loves coming to Shoreham on Christmas Eve and he has, once again, agreed to stop at the Samuel Palmer at 5pm before he travels the World. He likes to hear a few songs and carols before he goes, so do practise your Christmas songs. There's a free mulled wine for parents, while it lasts! You can contact his elves if you have any questions. (shorehamsociety@gmail.com).

What exactly is The Shoreham Society and what does it do?

The Shoreham Society was formed in the early 1960s by residents who loved the village and its rural environment and who wanted to protect it from threats. Following plans to extract gravel next to Filston Lane would have involved 100s of Lorries trundling daily through the village and blighted the beauty of the landscape. Fundraising by the Shoreham Society - which brought the village together for a common purpose - raised sufficient funds for a barrister to be employed to lead the campaign in court and we won. This campaigning carried on to ensure that the M25 was routed to cause the least environmental damage to Shoreham.

Since then, the Society has been involved in a range of campaigns when our environment has been threatened. However, the Society is certainly not averse to change and is always interested in supporting initiatives which enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

An important part of the work of the Shoreham Society is to celebrate the beauty of our area. In the past 15 years, it has regularly organised village clear up days, walks and talks relating to the village and the Darenth valley. The Society aims to work with all village clubs and residents. It has worked with the Historical Society (which was originally a branch of the Shoreham Society) on projects and it welcomes a representative from the parish council on its committee.

The village fete was originally organised by the Shoreham Society and, of course, the annual Shoreham Society Duck Race, established in the mid-1980s to highlight the importance of protecting our precious environment, is one of the most popular events on the village calendar.

In its early years, the committee consisted of representatives from each of the village societies. It still welcomes these reps but also needs general committee members who can help with ideas and events. We meet about 6 times a year in the village hall. New committee members are very welcome, so please contact us (shorehamsociety@gmail.com) if you are interested in knowing more.

Your New Year resolution: Join the Shoreham Society and discuss joining the committee with us!

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At our November meeting, Rod Shelton gave a fascinating talk unravelling some of the mysteries of Eynsford Castle, before describing the meticulous techniques he uses to make models of historic sites along the Darent Valley, the Castle among them. The building dates from not long after the Norman Conquest and there may have been a Saxon fortified settlement there originally. Rod's model can be seen at Lullingstone Castle.

Our meeting on December 15 will be a Social with a light buffet provided by the Society, commencing at the earlier time of 7.30. Looking further ahead to 2024 when on 19 January our speaker Toni Mount will talk on Medieval Medicine, we have previously had excellent talks by her.

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Keep up to date with our website https:/shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2023

Friday 1	Coffee and Chat	Church Room	from 10.30am
Saturday 2	Crown Road lights turn on	6pm	
Tuesday 5	Shoreham Women's Institute	Christmas lunch	
Wednesday 13	Over 60s	Christmas lunch	
Thursday 14	Shoreham Community Coffee	Village Hall	10 to12 noon
Friday 15	Shoreham Historical Society Social	l Village Hall	7.30
January 2024			
Tuesday 9	Shoreham Women's Institute	Village Hall	lunch
Wednesday 10	Over 60s AGM	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 11	Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10-12 noon
Wednesday 24	Over 60s talk by Sarah Parkes and Suna Keates		2pm
Wednesday 24	Shoreham Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30pm

GAZETTE COPY

Copy for **FEBRUARY 2024** should be send to shorehamgazette@gmail.com by 19 JANUARY 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 Vie	w TN14 7TP	07531669204
Distribution	Ken Fowler 79 High Street	TN14 7TB	01959 522365
Advertising	Julie Carder julieshoreham@	gmail.com	07415 209432
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Postal Gazettes Pauline Clark <u>paulineshoreham@gmail.com</u>



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RHIANNON - FLEETWOOD MAC SHOW 18TH DEC SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS PANTOMIME:

PETER PAN 25TH - 28TH JAN

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