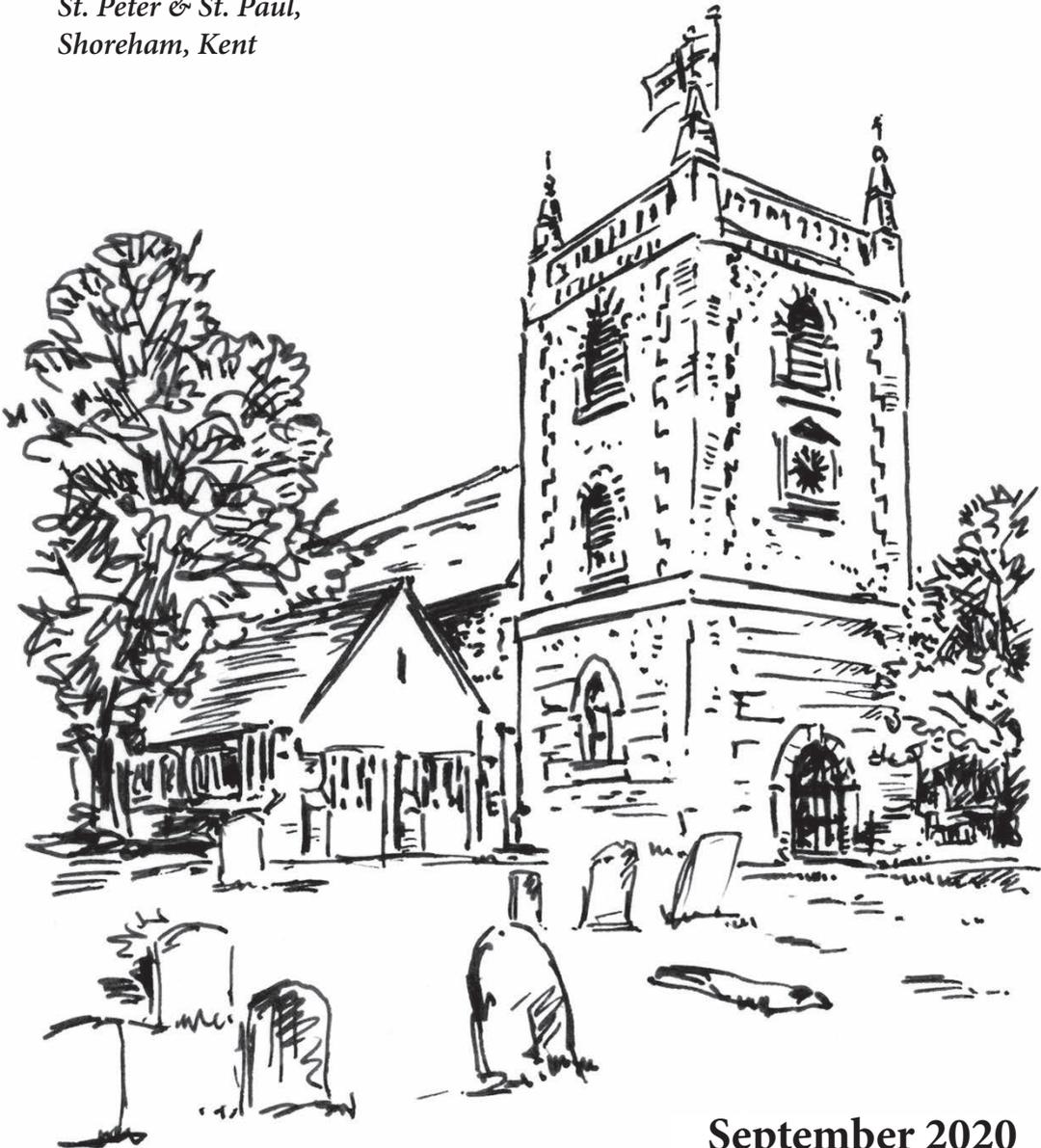


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All major emergencies are dealt with by the emergency services. However, there may be times such as power cuts, snow and ice, flooding or storms where the emergency services are not required. These conditions can make life challenging for more vulnerable 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 7 – SEPTEMBER 2020

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will remain open for private prayer each week on:

Wednesday 10am to 12 noon

Saturday 10am to 2pm

The only exception to this is:

Saturday 26th September

There is a wedding (with restricted numbers) taking place in church on that day.

SERVICES IN CHURCH

The church will occasionally open for funeral services (with restricted numbers).

In addition, the church will open for three services (short 30 minute) during September:

Sunday 13th September 6pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 20th September 6pm Eucharist

Sunday 27th September 6pm Eucharist

We want to include as many people as we can at these services but you will need to **register your attendance**, so we can prepare the seating beforehand and put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you wish to attend one of these services, please contact Bryan, stating whether you are coming on your own, as a couple, or as a group from one household.

We need the name(s), contact details for each person wishing to attend and the date of the service(s) you wish to attend.

You will need to wear a mask inside the church.

Bryan 077 3322 8408 the_harrises@btinternet.com

Zoom services will continue at 10am each Sunday and for Prayers on Friday mornings at 10am.

If you want to be sent details of this service and other church worship and activities, please contact Diane on revdrdi@outlook.com or 01959 522363

Hooray ... as well as private prayer in the church, we are now able to begin to open the church building for services. We are trying to do this as thoughtfully and safely as possible. As well as offering a weekly service in the church building, the PCC has decided to continue with the Zoom services for the time being. These have enabled a wide range of people, of different ages, to take part ... including the young (and the not so young!), those on holiday, those who live further afield and those restricted by health or other reasons, to take part in a church service.

There continue to be significant restrictions on services in the church building (no singing, social distancing, registration of participants, extra cleaning, communion, wearing of masks etc) and the concerns about a second spike in the virus.

We have begun the process of installing WiFi in the church, so that there will be the possibility of "broadcasting" future services.

We want to make the church building and services as inclusive and accessible as possible. If you have any thoughts or ideas, that will help us as we plan for the future, please contact one of the church wardens, or any member of the PCC via my email.

BLESSING

I have just returned from a week in Swansea, fortunate enough to be able to spend time with my mum and my stepfather who was dying. It was an immensely sad time but I came away feeling that I had been blessed. My stepfather was a man of deep faith and as he lay dying I held his hand and asked God to bless him. He pulled his hand out of mine and held it up as if to make the sign of the cross. Apart from a slight turn of the head, it was the only response we witnessed in his final few days. I had blessed him and he in turn had blessed me. It was one of those thin moments when earth and heaven seem to be so close. It was not the first time I had felt that when being with someone close to death.

To be blessed is to become right with the world. It is to be affirmed and loved just as you are. We all need a blessing, especially in our current circumstances. Without an authentic blessing, we look for fake blessings through consumption, power, and control. Blessing involves letting go of self-justification and trusting that there is a power that is on your side and seeks your well-being.

As someone who is paid to pronounce blessings at weddings, baptisms, funerals, and in blessings of rooms, houses, dog poo bins, lych gates, benches, kneelers, candles, over various groups and organisations ... as well as in services ... blessing people, the sick and dying, water, bread, wine, oil, food, I think it is a mistake to conclude that only certain people can bless.

Of course, some bless, for example, by saying grace over a meal, without really thinking about it as a blessing ... and until recently if you were in a queue and you sneezed, you would often receive a 'bless you' from other people waiting with you.

Not many people know this, but both Martin Luther and Julian of Norwich did some of their best thinking on the toilet. This blessing prayer for the bathroom is a perfect compromise between truth and tact: Oh holy God, in the incarnation of your Son our Lord you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that, glorifying you in them, we may confidently await our being clothed upon with spiritual bodies, when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When we start to bless, we will start noticing all kinds of things that we've never noticed before. God has no hands but ours, no bread but the bread we bake, no prayers but the ones we make, whether we know what we are doing or not. Matter matters to God.

So perhaps next time you go for a walk or a drive, look around you and say a blessing for a tree, the ants you see scurrying around, the people you meet along the way, the sun or rain upon your skin, or the siren you hear in the distance. There is nothing magic about it, simply an acknowledgement that all life comes from God, and for that reason alone we may call it blessed, leaving the rest to God.

May God's blessing surround you each day, as you trust him and walk in his way. May his presence within guard and keep you from sin, go in peace, go in joy, go in love. (Cliff Barrows)
Rev Diane



The Revd Dr Diane E. Rees
The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA
revdrdi@outlook.com 01959 522363

From the Church Registers

Burial

14th August Molly Cameron
20th August Donald Haysey

Interment of Ashes

14th August Michael Cameron

FROM THE EDITOR

Life as we know it in Shoreham has still not returned to its normal social rounds of fund raising events, Society meetings and talks which normally fill the pages of the Gazette. Once again we become more of a magazine with interesting articles for you to read and we thank our contributors for those.
Ann Ball

DON HAYSEY

For many years Don was a key part in the network for distribution of the Shoreham Gazette. Not only did he deliver door to door to over thirty households in his area but every month he packed and posted copies to the many ex-residents who wished to maintain contact with Shoreham. In the face of increasing frailty he insisted on helping on the round trip to drop off supplies to the other distributors, this was typical of Don's total commitment in so many ways to the life of the village.
Ken Fowler

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It's the time of the year when we thank our brilliant Gazette distribution team, particularly Ron Mason who has stood down after many years of looking after Forge Way and Palmers Orchard. Shirley Russell has taken on this patch. Garry Weaser is to be thanked for doing Filston Lane and Lynda Alleeson will now be doing this round. Jennie Adams takes on Bowers Road area and our thanks go to Andrew Hibbins for his time delivering on this round. Sylvie Poynter will be doing Don's area. Pat Keenan will be doing Alison Evans round on Church Street; thank you Alison for your past delivering. . To all our other volunteers so many thanks. *Ann Ball*

SEVENOAKS LITERARY FESTIVAL 2020

A SERIES OF VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY 04 OCTOBER

Sevenoaks Literary Festival is going virtual this year. Five top-class events with (genuinely) world-beating contributors will be available on your screen at the touch of a button.

Topics range from music to the nature of friendship and from politics to gardening.

Copies of all the books featuring in the Festival will be available on-line and directly from Sevenoaks Bookshop. Full details of all events will be released over the coming weeks. So do please check out the Festival website.

www.sevlitfest.com

In the meantime here is a clue as to the nature of two of the events in the Festival

What is the connection between 4 and 4 x 4?

Elie Williams

FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Lockdown is easing off and this is a great opportunity for all you bikers, honed by your locked down exercise, to ride Kent's lanes and raise funds for a good cause.

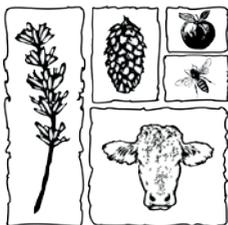
On Saturday 12th September you can have an enjoyable day riding the lanes of Kent calling at some of the lovely Kent country churches and their churchyards.

Dust off those bikes [even all the family bikes] and choose a route – anywhere on the map that takes you past any number of churches and invite your friends and colleagues to sponsor you to meet your target. Half the money you raise goes to The Friends of Kent Churches and half helps meet the running costs of our own parish church, St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham

Contact Ann Ball for the forms you need and a list of the churches taking part. Shoreham Church will have a form in the porch for visiting cyclists to sign in

Ann Ball 07531669204

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BUS NEWS – go2 TAXIBUS SERVICE

Some buses are now running a limited service, including the Sevenoaks-Otford-Shoreham station - Eynsford-Swanley service which has two buses a day. However, an exciting development is the “go2” taxibus service. You can call a bus to take you to anywhere in the Sevenoaks area. You phone up or use a smartphone app to summon the bus. You’ll be told how soon the bus will take to come. If you have a smartphone, you can follow the progress of the bus as it approaches. The buses are very clean, and social distancing rules are strictly enforced, but quite often you’ll be the only person on the bus. The fares are similar to existing bus fares and concessionary passes can be used. If you use the app, the fare is charged to your credit card.

I’ve tried the service and it works well. It will normally only pick you up and set down at existing bus stops. In Shoreham, the bus will come to the Filston Lane car park or bus shelter. It’s available from 6am to 7.30pm Monday-Friday and 7am to 7pm on Saturdays.

You can get more information by calling Go-Coach on 01732 463964, or on the web at <http://www.go2now.co.uk/>. Email: office@go2now.co.uk . Look for “go2 Sevenoaks” on the app store.

John Saynor

MEMORIES, MUSINGS AND MORE BY FRANK HITCHCOCK

Shoreham village had thirteen babies born in 1931, all boys except one, Cecily Mc Lenning. I was one of the boys born in January. I have some early memories; my Father kept cows, had a milk round and supplied the village with milk, dairy products and eggs. He served just about every house in the village with the milk in bottles delivered to the *back* door of all the houses. The Roundsman started early with a pony and milk float and was at the end of the round near the George by about 8am. If he was late there were grumbles, “My husband had to go to work with no milk in his tea flask”.

My father was quite progressive. With the help of William Alexander (the present William Alexander’s Grandfather) he had his cows tested for tuberculosis. All the three bovine animals on the farm including calves and the bull were tested. There were several reactors which had to be sold, I think, for slaughter. This then became an *attested* herd which was one of the first of twenty or so in Kent. This meant the cows were free of tuberculosis and were tested every year so the milk was much safer to drink. At that time all the school children had 1/3 pint of free milk each day.

I started school in 1936 at Shoreham Infant’s School in the building behind George Bell’s shop at the T junction, probably remembered as the school canteen by many Shoreham residents. We had a big stove burning coke etc. with a safety fence around it to keep children well away from danger. We were taught by Mrs. Boyce, a lovely lady who had a wonderful way with children.

I remember all the School were walked down to the entrance of Shoreham Place and lined the drive to see King George V arrive to visit Lord Mildmay at Shoreham Place in 1936. I have checked with George DeDecker to make sure I have got it right. At that time all children went to school aged five until fourteen, then most had to start work or become an apprentice. A few went on to further tuition at Technical School. I was

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fortunate to go on to Sevenoaks School at eleven and then on to the Kent Farm Institute at sixteen for a further year.

The war years were quite different. My brother and I were on holiday with our grandparents in Somerset when war was declared. It was thought to be sensible to stay there as it might well be safer. We missed the first fifteen months and the Battle of Britain, but there was still a lot going on. The school was enlarged with many evacuees. We had extra teachers and the Village Hall was used for classrooms. We children found much of the war exciting but terrifying at times, despite the danger. I remember picking up bits of shrapnel and anti-aircraft shells etc. on the way to school. We had a huge number of bombs in the parish including a few timebombs and literally thousands of incendiaries, at least half of which didn't explode. They came down in canisters of 700 bombs which were supposed to open a few hundred feet from the ground, but a large number failed to open and so the bombs didn't explode. There were three main types, Tame ones, A's, and B's. The Tame ones simply burnt to start a bigger fire. The A's had a powerful charge in the top which exploded when it had been burning for a few minutes, hoping to injure or kill anyone trying to put it out. The B's came later and they had a heavy steel base with a very big charge which blew the bomb as much as 30yds after it had been burning for several minutes.

My father took on the tenancy of Timberden Farm in 1941 and I have clear memories of Sunday walks around the farm, picking up perhaps five or ten incendiary bombs as we walked. My Dad would then sort them out and then throw a Tame one onto a big flint to start it. He then piled the rest onto it, retreated to a safe distance, counting the bangs to make sure they had all gone off!

We were ploughing them up for years after the war, we just put them in the tractor toolbox to get them home. They were quite safe if they were not hit very hard on the base. Some people took the detonator out of a Tame one, took out the gunpowder then made a table lamp out of it.

I remember Mr. Ron Hillier coming into the Yard at Oxbourne Farm with a big pickup truck piled high with incendiary bombs. Dad said "What are you going to do with that lot?" He replied "I'm going to take them up to Shepherds Barn and put them on the bonfire". They were clearing the steep fields there to grow grass and cereal crops. Sadly it has all been left for many years and is now more overgrown than ever which seems all wrong to me.

Frank Hitchcock

SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS - JANE STEVENS.

Many of you will know by now that, to our great sadness, Jane Stevens died in June. During her years in Shoreham Jane made a significant contribution to the Players. She took many and varied parts on stage, from the somewhat insignificant – Cinderella's stand-in for the transformation scene, the back end of the camel in Aladdin – to chorus parts in musicals and pantomimes and more dramatic roles in plays by Shakespeare, Ayckbourn and others. Perhaps most memorable was her leading role as the somewhat lachrymose heroine, Fanny, in *The Clandestine Marriage* in which her clandestine



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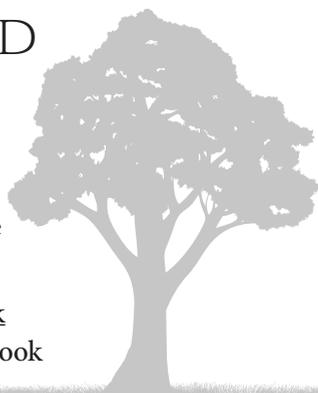
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husband was played by Matthew Stevens. After moving to Sevenoaks Jane and Matthew, remained loyal to the Players and came back to take part in several more productions. Sheila Wilson, who directed Jane in several plays, says: “Jane was always a joy to work with and her enthusiasm for the characters she played shone through.”

Jane was for some years the very efficient and reliable Secretary of the Players, and later Chairman. She often took on the thankless task of assistant director and directed a new and quite challenging play, *Nasty Neighbours*. Jane exemplified what is best about amateur dramatics: a willingness to take on any task, a strong team spirit, and cheerfulness in the face of the myriad minor disasters and annoyances which typify the amdram experience. Our sympathies go to Matthew, Katie, William and Tamsin.

Kate Britten

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SHOREHAM SOCIETY - OUR AMAZING WILD PLACES

There's still seems little prospect of our being able to arrange public events in the near future. But the valley is still here to be explored, and it struck me how we are surrounded by wild places that are not just stunningly beautiful but are also scientifically important.

Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) – which is well-worth joining, by the way - has two nature reserves in Shoreham. To get to Polhill Bank reserve, go up the hill to the lower Terrace, turn left and keep going through the field and the woods on the far side. The other reserve is Fackenden Down, which is off Fackenden Lane. Check the KWT website for details.

If you have a smartphone, I'd recommend the Ordnance Survey “OSMaps” app, which marks every footpath and the reserves. Both sites preserve very valuable chalk grassland, which supports a great diversity of plant and insect species. You can (if you're lucky) find Common Lizards at Polhill, and rare butterflies at both. There are also Roadside Nature Reserves alongside the A225.

But that's not all. A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a nationally important site of great value for nature conservation, designated by Natural England. In Shoreham, we're surrounded by them! Much of the hillside on the east side of the valley is part of



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the Otford and Shoreham Downs SSSI, and Magpie Bottom SSSI is nearby. The orchids on this side of the valley are stunning in late spring/early summer.

Across the valley, a large part of Lullingstone Park is designated an SSSI. Lullingstone is internationally known for its ancient trees, including oak, beech, ash, hornbeam and sweet chestnut, some of which are thought to be over 800 years old. It's especially valuable as it has been a park for over 400 years, which has helped to preserve its ecosystem.

(Note that you don't have any right to enter reserves or SSSIs unless a footpath crosses them, but Lullingstone Park is open to the public.)

We've been keenly supporting the Parish Council's campaign for a 40mph speed limit on the A225 through Shoreham. Drivers go too fast on what is a local road connecting the villages. Long distance traffic has the M25, after all. The road is dangerous for motorists – especially when turning in or out of the village - for cyclists and especially for walkers using the many paths that cross the road.

Please join us! The Shoreham Society is your local amenity group that is here to help preserve and enhance our beautiful village. If you aren't a member already, please email Jenny Walkling, whose email is jenny.walkling@btinternet.com. It costs only £5 per household per year, or £3 for one person. *John Saynor*

ROGUES - ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY

I am happy to report that we managed our July outing to the course attached to the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel, Maidstone. It is set in mature parkland and is a very pleasant environment. The weather was sweltering all day so it was especially pleasing to find the bar open at the end of the round. It was a welcome get together, even with socially distanced tables.

David Smith was the day's winner with a total of 40 points, 28 of which were scored on the front nine. He wisely reigned in his scoring on the back nine otherwise the handicap committee would surely have met. David Hepburn was second with 36 points, and John McQuillen third with 34 points.

August outing was to Sweetwoods Park Golf Club This is a very fair but quite testing course at the best of times. In the teeth of a strong wind it was even more testing. Those who triumphed were Mike Fitzgerald (39 points), Tony Trew (36 points), and - on countback - Ralph Abbott (35 points).

September's fixture is at the Wildernesse Golf Club in Sevenoaks on Friday September 18th.

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A reminder that the Rogues is a very inclusive, friendly group, open to all: men and women, young and old. If you would like to join us please get in touch. The joining fee is only £20 and thereafter you play the courses that we select at a discounted rate.

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WEST KENT BADGER GROUP

Shoreham has a well-deserved reputation for being caring towards wildlife. Many of you have been helping wild animals over the summer by keeping water bowls topped up during dry periods. The West Kent Badger Group works hard across West Kent to promote the welfare of badgers, who are often victims of persecution in spite of their protected species status. If you would like to become a member of the group, you would be very welcome. Your £10 annual membership fee helps with our work and in return you receive regular newsletters. In ‘normal’ times, regular events and training workshops are also held.

Sheila Birkin (chairman WKBG)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW

It is with a heavy heart that the committee has decided to cancel the Autumn Show. It is pretty obvious really as the show’s main attraction, apart from the exhibits, is the friendly socialising. We find it difficult to imagine that we could comply with the guidelines, even if they will be relaxed further in September. Furthermore we would be asking too much of the Village Hall committee ensuring cleanliness. Let’s look forward to the spring, here’s hoping!

Jasper Dale Chair

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

My name is Thusyanthan Nadarajah, and I am delighted to be the new leaseholder at the Shoreham Village Stores. First of all, everyone should know that they can use a shorter version of my name – Raj.

In July, I took over the lease from Kannan and Chitra, who have begun a new life in Bristol after three excellent years at the Stores and steering the shop through the difficult period of lockdown. I own a shop at Hoo, near Rochester, which is to be sold so that I can move with my family to the Darent Valley and put all my energies into the shop here in Shoreham. My brother-in-law Deshkanth (Desh) is living above the shop at present and helping out.

You may have noticed a few changes already – a greater range of fresh fruit and vegetables, and a better layout for easier access to essential items. More changes will follow, step by step. We want reliability, availability and good service to be the watchwords as we move forward. Lorna and Prasanth are, of course, continuing in their roles, and we very much want to hear feedback and suggestions from customers. Please continue to support your shop in the beautiful and peaceful village of Shoreham!

Raj, Desh, Lorna and Prasanth

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TALES FROM THE HILL

Thumbing through an old history of Meopham, by Golding Bird, I noticed that during the 18th and 19th centuries there was a brisk trade in pulpits, fonts and lecterns. The pulpit in Meopham church came from St Margaret's Westminster, the pulpit at Trottscliffe church is an outcast from Westminster Abbey. As we know the pulpit in Shoreham church also came from The Abbey. I do not think that these pulpits were all gifted certainly the one in Meopham Church cost £7.15.2d. There must have been an element of prestige associated with these acquisitions, maybe even a suggestion that in the mind of the preacher this new decorative platform would inspire greater and more profound rhetoric. Golding Bird in this history written in 1916 says it is thought that Shoreham Church was the last church where the Rood Loft was still used to read the Gospel and Epistle. In more recent times Danny Kingshill has used the Loft to delight the congregation. Golding Bird also uncovered old vestry books and church warden accounts that I am sure would have much in common with many parishes, including Shoreham-----

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| Mr Buggs 5 ringing days and 5 beer pots | £1.13.8d | |
| Pd Bread & Wine & washing of surplice 4 times at Easter | £0. 7. 4d | |
| Pd Mr Southerden's bill for bell rope & oil | £1. 9. 0d | |
| Pd for 24 doz Sparrow | £0. 0. 6d | |
| Pd for 1 Fox Head | £0 1. 0d | |
| Pd for my Journey to ye visitation Sevenoaks | £0. 5. 0d | |
| Pd for 6 Badgers Heads | £0. 6. 0d | |
| Pd Shovel & Spade for ye Churchyard | £0. 7 0d | |
| Pd 3 Hedge Hogs | £0. 0 1d | |
| Pd 2 doz Hassocks | £2. 0 4d | 4 th April 1773 |

As you can see there are disturbing entries regarding dead animals. The original function of Churchwardens was to administer poor relief, but their responsibilities over the years had grown and by 1773 included vermin control. The money for this came out of The Church Rate. Another added expense, although not listed, was to have a "Dog - Whipper" whose function was to keep dogs out of the church. Most sinister of all was "The Sluggard -Walker" a man who would patrol the area where the children sat and employ his cane to demand their full attention to the service!

John Bovington

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 a 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 also 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, including many new residents. 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 the Clerk, Sarah Moon email shorehamalmshouses@outlook.com

AND FINALLY A GRAVE MATTER



I recently contacted Anthony Mildmay White, son of Helen Mildmay White and senior member of the Mildmay family, to tell him of the wonderful “History of the Cross on the hill” that James Saynor has written for the Shoreham Historical Society. At the same time I sent a photograph of his ancestors graves up in the north east corner of the churchyard that were in a rather sad and ivy covered state. Fortunately he is churchwarden at his local church at Holebton and has very willingly paid to have this group of graves restored

Henry Mildmay wanted to be buried in a quiet corner of the church yard and the cross memorial is for Georgiana wife of Henry Bingham Mildmay of Shoreham Place born September 20 1834 died July 2 1899 and Henry born June 19 1828 died Nov 1 1905. The smaller grave is for their 3 children who died very young.

Ann Ball

SHOREHAM GAZETTE INFORMATION

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|-----------------|---|--------------|
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