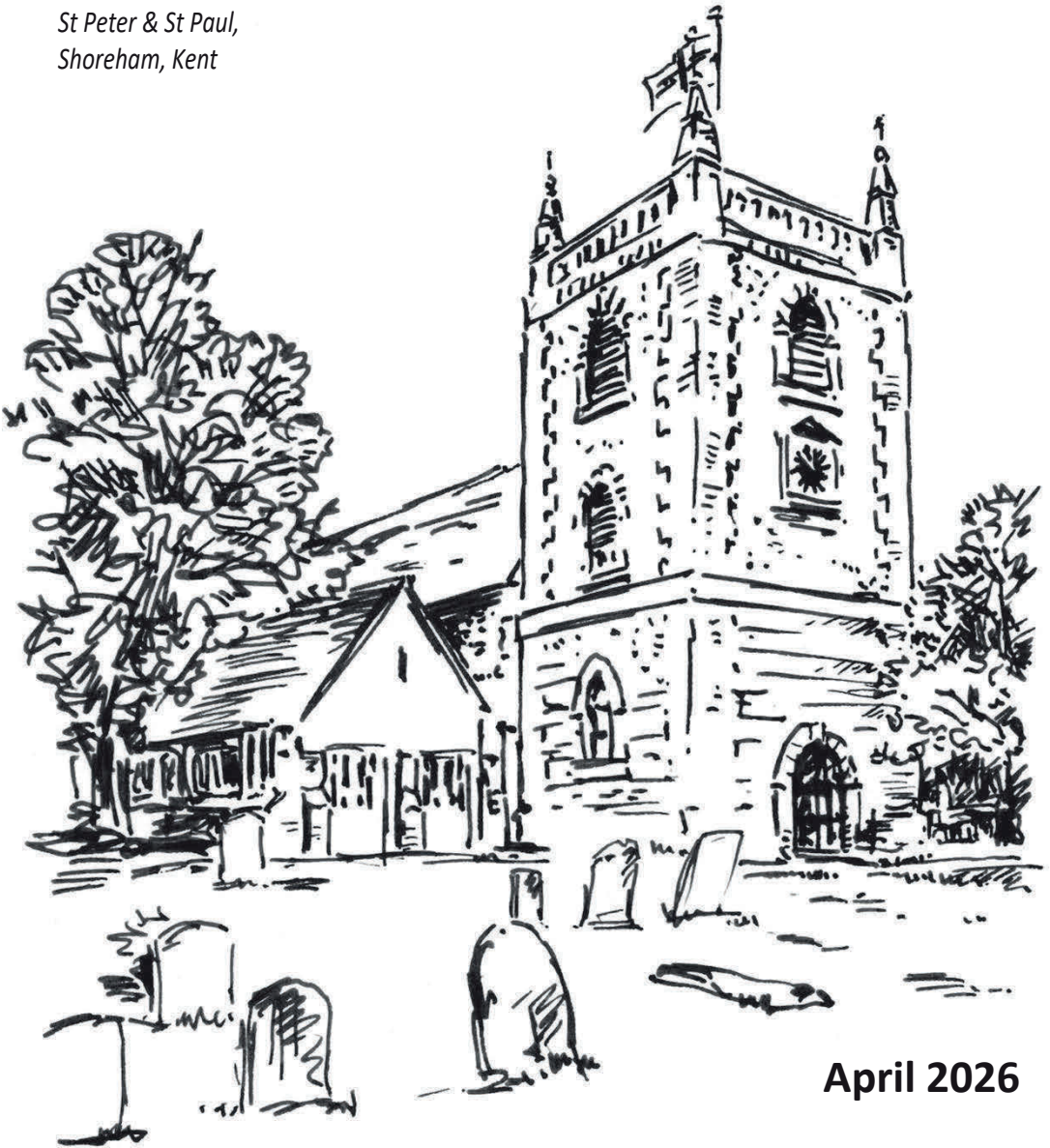


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**April 2026**

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### Shoreham Emergency Plan

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 Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at [clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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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### **Waterproofs & brollies!**

Who remembers the Disney film *Bambi*? If you haven't seen it, you're missing out! Consider it an educational classic; a wonderfully drawn and animated film from 1942 about a young fawn finding his feet in the world and overcoming difficulties along the way. It is a must see, like a rite-of-passage, almost. At this time of year with some of the wet weather around, I often recall a tune from the film that goes, 'Drip, drip drop little April showers, beating a tune as you fall all around. Drip, drip drop

little April showers what can compare with your beautiful sound?' (courtesy of [www.disney.fandom.com](http://www.disney.fandom.com))

Although a charming song, personally, I'm not that keen on being wet and cold, preferring instead the warmer weather when it's dry, sunny and bright as it lightens the mood and makes you feel almost anything is possible. But I acknowledge that it isn't always like this. There are times in our lives when the sun is definitely shining and other times we feel in the dark depths of winter still and other seasons when it's just, well rainy, I guess. But even though it may be raining a lot, we realise that there is life all around us, budding, blossoming, buzzing and billowing from every corner of this fair land. And that without the rain, it would all get very thirsty and parched; the wildlife and nature around us needs the water to grow and flourish into the summer months. Often we are trying to avoid the rain though so as not to get soaked to the bone. In the book of Isaiah, chapter 55, verses 1-13, amongst many other great things it says,

*'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,*

*so is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'*

This passage indicates that when God speaks, things come into being. But not only that, God's Word is transformational, it can bring comfort, it can convict our conscience and create growth in the soil of our hearts. For people reading the Bible and talking with God in prayer, this scripture shows that God's Word provides both nourishment for the soul and resources to multiply its effectiveness, like a crop in the field. It also suggests that even if the results of our prayers are seemingly not answered immediately, God's promises work over time, just as the rain brings a future harvest, we will see his provision.

Rain can also represent a time of refreshment or cleansing, a fresh start.

I'm reminded of another verse from the book of Lamentations, chapter 3, verses 22-23: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is His faithfulness'.*

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 [tom\\_housden2k8@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tom_housden2k8@yahoo.co.uk)



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In this month typically associated with wet weather, I wonder what God is refreshing in your life? Where is he bringing restoration and new life? Maybe a renewed friendship or a time of new beginnings?

Finally, the great thing about wet weather when the sun does shine, is that you are more likely to see rainbows. And rainbows remind us of God's promises towards us and give us hope that beauty does still exist in the world. I wonder if you will be surprised by God today or indeed challenged to engage with Him?

Looking ahead, key dates for your diary:

**3<sup>rd</sup> April (Good Friday)** A mini Messy Church will be for the Good Friday Family Hour between **12-1pm** during which we shall make Easter Gardens to take home. You are welcome also to stay for the time of reflection and service afterwards between the hours of **1-2pm** and **2-3pm**. Come for as little or as much as you like during these times.

**4<sup>th</sup> April (Holy Saturday)** between **9am-1pm** I will be at the lych gate available for prayer and a chat.

**5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday** and D-Day for Chocolate lovers! You can join us **6.30am up by the Cross** on the hillside or at **10am at church**, but bring some fresh flowers!

For all general enquiries and if you would like to find out more or get involved, then we would love to hear from you, please email [shorehamparish@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamparish@gmail.com)

God bless you always, Revd Caz

*Revd Caz, [vicar.shoreham@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.shoreham@gmail.com)*

### **SPRING SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL**

#### **Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday**

9:45am Process with donkey - starting outside of Shoreham Village School

10:00am Morning worship with Holy Communion

6:00pm Compline - night prayer

#### **Monday 30th March**

6:00pm Compline - night prayer

#### **Tuesday 31st March**

6:00pm Compline - night prayer

#### **Wednesday 1st April**

6:00pm Compline - night prayer

#### **Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday**

8:00pm Holy Communion with stripping the altar

#### **Friday 3rd April - Good Friday**

12:00pm Good Friday family service

1:00pm Reflection

2:00pm Good Friday service

7:00pm Praise evening at Vine Evangelical Church, Hatch Lane TN13 3AT

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**Saturday 4th April - Holy Saturday**

9.00am – 1.00pm Prayer available at the Lych Gate

**Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday**

6.30am Dawn Service at the Cross on the Hill

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

**Sunday 12th April - Easter 1**

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Morning Worship

**Sunday 19th April - Easter 2**

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

11.30am APCM

**Sunday 26th April - Easter 3**

10.00am Holy Communion with Choir

*Every termtime Monday, Wednesday and Saturday - Morning Prayer at 9.00am*

**STAY AND PLAY**

Every Monday in term time - 9.30-11.30 in the Village Hall. ALL pre-school aged children WELCOME (accompanied by a parent or carer).

**MORNING PRAYER**

Everyone is welcome to join in with Morning Prayer, held in the Mildmay Chapel and gathering at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during term time.

If you would like to join us, it is advisable to download the 'Daily Prayer' App on your phone in advance, as we will use this for our framework. This is a simple service with an opportunity to explore the day's Bible passages and offer up prayers for the day and its tasks. Do please join us if you are able, we look forward to seeing you.

**SEVENOAKS LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK**

The families needing the help of foodbanks continues to grow. Please consider whether you could add something for our local foodbank to your weekly shop. Boxes for donations are at the back of the church.

<https://www.shorehamchurchkent.org>

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**DARENT VALLEY CHOIR MAY CONCERT** Patrons: Sarah Hart Dyke and Rupert Bond  
St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham at 7.30 pm on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> **“Spring into Song”**



Do join us to celebrate May's arrival at our concert in St Peter and St Paul's, Shoreham, on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Programme attractions include the haunting 'Panis Angelicus' and much-loved standards such as 'Summertime' and 'Puttin' on the Ritz'. Also, our star surprise musician will delight you. We are so lucky to live in such a musical valley. Admission is £12 and

*under 18s are free.* Bar available (donations). Tickets will be on sale on the door and from our singers. You can also email: [darentvc@gmail.com](mailto:darentvc@gmail.com)

Do tell your family and friends about the Darent Valley Choir – singers are very welcome to join us.

*“The only truth is music.” — Jack Kerouac*

**A big Thank You** to the 38 dedicated, enthusiastic and very hard-working volunteers, including four teenagers, who attended the Shoreham Shine event on Saturday 14th March. You have made such a positive difference to our village and surrounding area. Hopefully, you saw the massive haul at the Village Hall!

So much was achieved, including:

- CLEARING RUBBISH FROM Shacklands Road, Castle Farm Road, Cockerhurst Lane, Station Road including the footpath and woodland, the Graveyard, footpath alongside the golf course and Home Farm to the left of the footpath, Filston Lane, High Street to the triangle, the river path, the Cross and the Terrace
- WEEDING the pavement in front of the Walnut Tree Cottages and the Village Hall and its surrounding paths
- CUTTING and CLEARING VEGETATION around the Village Hall, the Recreation Ground and the Centenary Wood
- CUTTING DOWN two small dead trees
- CLEARING LEAVES and DEBRIS in the MUGA and tennis court
- REMOVING tree guards in the woods that remained from planting after the great storm of 1987
- REMOVING staples, drawing pins and posters from telegraph poles and fences
- WASHING signs
- COLLECTING the hauls of rubbish with a car, a Studebaker and a wheelbarrow
- SOCIALISING as we worked and whilst chatting over some much needed drinks and delicious treats.

And another big thank you to the unsung volunteers who hedge-cut, tidy and tend flowers throughout the year around the Village Hall.

And a really big thank you also to the people who regularly litter pick in the village throughout the year! It is because of you that more outlying lanes and now, sadly, the Terrace can be litter picked during Shoreham Shine.

And finally, we must thank Vanessa Hills, who sets up and runs the event and makes it all happen.

**See you at the next Shoreham Shine on October 10<sup>th</sup>** when we hope to add daffodil planting to our repertoire!

\*\*\*Please remember to keep the pavements in front of your house clear of plants to enable ease of access for everyone\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Duck Race is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**. If you can help on the day, please email [shorehamsociety@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamsociety@gmail.com) There are jobs for everyone, young and old.

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We are continuing our campaign to persuade Sevenoaks District Council to modify its new rubbish and recycling scheme to meet the needs of people – such as Crown Road residents – who don't have space for the multiple rubbish/recycling bins outside their houses. Bins may end up permanently blocking the pavement.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here is the map of defibrillator locations in Shoreham:



*John Saynor, Chair, The Shoreham Society, [shorehamsociety@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamsociety@gmail.com)*

**SHOREHAM WI**

Our next WI meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7 April, when we will be hosting a ‘fashion show’ that is being provided by Lottie’s Loft in Seal. A few of our members will be modelling the clothes and there will be an opportunity to try on and purchase clothing and accessories should anyone wish to. The evening will start at 7.00pm with a welcome drink, and the show will begin at 7.30pm. We have had a great response to our previous announcement but if you have not yet contacted us and wish to come, we could squeeze a few more people in (at a cost of £5 per guest, which includes a welcome drink and more refreshments later in the evening). Please contact [Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk) if you would like to come as we will not be selling tickets at the door because we need to know numbers before the event.



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## **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING**

The next Community Coffee morning will be held on Thursday 9 April in the Village Hall, as usual from 10am to 12pm. Just walk in and you will be made very welcome at this monthly community event where people from Shoreham and beyond meet up with old friends and make new ones, or simply pop in for refreshments. The cost is only £2 for tea/coffee and delicious home-made cake.

Shoreham WI

## **SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Shoreham used to have its own fire station. It was an outbuilding next to Walnut Tree Cottages and inside was a Coventry Climax fire trailer, with a petrol engine to pump water – if necessary, out of the river. On **17 April** in the Village Hall, **Jo Livingston** will tell us about the days of the **Volunteer Fire Brigade** in this part of Kent. The meeting starts at 8pm, with refreshments from 7.30. Non-members are, of course, always welcome for £3.

In March, we celebrated three decades of the Historical Society. More than 30 founder members signed up in 1996, several of whom are still involved with the Society today. Since then – across hundreds of meetings, dozens of days out, scores of publications, many hours of archiving and major undertakings such as the Shoreham at War project – we’ve tried to keep Shoreham history alive. Don’t forget that much of our research is easy to find on our website. The News section, under the Home tab, has information about our latest discoveries.

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

*James Saynor*

## **OVER 60'S**

The Shoreham Over 60's Club meets regularly once a month, usually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

The dates and subjects each month until June are as follows:-

22<sup>nd</sup> April            “The John Lewis Partnership Experiment”.    Given by Johnny Aisher

27<sup>th</sup> May              “Talk on my time being a London Guide”      Given by Liz Scott

24<sup>th</sup> June              Trip to Falconhurst Gardens , Edenbridge,

with afternoon tea and talk from Nicola Talbot, the owner

Travel is by car share. Meet in Shoreham Car Park at 2.00pm.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 2.00pm and include Refreshments of Tea, Coffee, homemade and shop bought cakes, mixed in with friendly chatting and gossip.

New Members, and day visitors, are always warmly welcomed. A day visitor's Fee is £3.00 and a Membership Fee for the year is £5.00, if they choose to join.

*Terry Clark, [terryshoreham@gmail.com](mailto:terryshoreham@gmail.com)*

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Tues 7<sup>th</sup> April ~ Sip & Paint @ The SP  
Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> April ~ Beach Bag Crafting  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May ~ Pilates in the tipi  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> May ~ Charlotte Tilbury  
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### **VILLAGE HALL QUIZ 11 APRIL**

Shoreham Village Hall's Quiz Night 2026 is nearly here and promises to be a great community event, and all profits from tickets and the bar will go towards our fundraising goal (more information below).

**When:** Saturday 11 April 2026

**Where:** Shoreham Village Hall

**Time:** Bar Opens 7pm Quiz from 7.30pm

Tables of up to 8 available or come and join a team.

**Tickets:** £8 available from the shop (cash only) or from [ralph.abbott@gmx.com](mailto:ralph.abbott@gmx.com)

We'd love to see village societies book tables and enjoy pitting their wits against fellow societies.

### **Fundraising – more information:**

The committee that manages the charitable trust that owns the village hall needs to balance its books against higher operating costs and pay for various repairs, while keeping hire charges affordable. Last year we had some generous donations from individuals and from groups, plus some welcome support from the Shoreham Parish Council. We are therefore in an overall sound position financially and, with additional fund raising during this coming year, we shall be able to make the necessary repairs and cover our operating deficit. We are also working to increase bookings to income, rather than risking sharp hire charge rises.

*Mary Gee*

### **NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL – MARCH 2026**

Firstly, I am very pleased to announce that our new Head of School has been appointed. Mrs Sheraton, who is currently our Deputy Head, will be taking on the role. Mrs Sheraton has been part of our school community for over 12 years and knows the children, staff and families incredibly well. Her dedication, experience and care for the school make her an excellent choice and we look forward to this exciting next chapter under her leadership.

A huge well done to all the children who prepared a piece for the Eisteddfod Festival. We were so proud of the effort, creativity and courage shown by everyone who took part. Our school is full of talented children and it was wonderful to see them shine in areas that we do not always see in the classroom.

Special congratulations also go to Palmer and Barton Classes for their fantastic assemblies. They showed us just how much they have learned and it was a real pleasure to see their growing confidence and resilience. Their wonderful characters and senses of humour make them an absolute joy to teach and we were very proud of their performances.

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Moore Class have been thoroughly enjoying their lacrosse lessons and are making great progress each week. They are very fortunate to be learning such an interesting and exciting sport. In addition, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently took part in a Boccia tournament at Valence School and represented our school wonderfully well.

Moore Class also had a thoroughly fascinating visit to the Natural History Museum as part of their "Mountains and Earthquakes" topic. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

As a school at the heart of our community, we are always grateful for the generosity of our volunteers. If you are local and would be interested in volunteering in school to support our children with reading, we would be delighted to hear from you. Listening to readers makes a tremendous difference to children's confidence and progress. Please note that all volunteers are required to undergo the appropriate DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and safeguarding procedures.

We would also like to share that there are currently a few limited places available in some year groups. If you know of any families who may be interested in joining our welcoming and nurturing school community, please encourage them to contact the school office for further information. We would be very pleased to arrange a visit and share all that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Phone: 01959 522228 or email: [office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk)

*Gillian Lovatt-Young, Head Teacher*



### **SHOREHAM AND OTFORD CRICKET CLUB**

Hi everyone,

We've made it to spring and that can only mean two things, Easter is nearby and the beginning of the cricket season is now more than just wishful thinking!

To get us up and running this year we have a family easter egg hunt on at the Shoreham pavilion with face painting and other activities.



<https://club.spond.com/landing/courses/shorehotfordcc/1D2C635F40924159A538DCB3F2CCB5E3>

Our first 'Faces of Shoreham and Otford Cricket Club' couldn't be more appropriate, Introducing **Ru Harris**...



I'm thankful to have called the village of Shoreham my home whilst growing up and love the community, in which the cricket club plays an important role.

I played my first senior game for Shoreham aged 12. After stints of playing cricket elsewhere and living in Leeds, I returned to the newly formed Shoreham and Otford in 2021. In 2022 and 2023 I was part of the 1st XI which won the division 2 & 3 titles. In 2025 I became 1st team captain, after years of great work by Harry Stacey.



The 1st XI won our first-ever top division title in the same year. This was an extremely proud moment for me and the club. It's undoubtedly the best moment in my cricketing career. I'd like to extend our warmest welcome to everyone in Shoreham this summer. Our newly functioning bar area will add to our atmosphere as a friendly club, and I really hope to see you all there!

*Ru Harris, SOCC 1st XI Captain*



### WOMEN'S

The Prosocco's, our women's team training begins 13 May at Shoreham ground between 6-8pm. We can't wait to welcome you.

### LITTLE SOCC'S

We're starting them young this season! Bring your little ones along to our kids' coaching sessions.



Leanne [niceynz@gmail.com](mailto:niceynz@gmail.com);  
Nick [nickstroudley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nickstroudley@hotmail.co.uk)



## **LOVE YOUR BURIAL GROUND WEEK WITH CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE 2026**

Registrations are open on the Caring for God's Acre website for Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature, our annual initiative to celebrate and monitor the wildlife to be found in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries across the UK. The dates this year are Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th June.

It is promoted by Caring for God's Acre in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. It coincides with National Cemeteries Week, hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, as well as with the Great Big Green Week run by the Climate Coalition.

Burial Ground managers, PCCs and Friends groups are encouraged to get together with congregations and local residents to run events observing and recording wildlife, whether hosted by a local expert, as a fun activity for families, or any number of options in between.

Feedback from 2025 was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of participating groups giving either a 4-star or 5-star rating. A fantastic 58% said that attendees included people from outside their usual community, indicating that running an event helped to bring in new people to appreciate the wildlife treasures to be found. When asked to describe the highlight, quotes sent in by participating groups included "Finding hedgehog poo in our city centre churchyard!" and "A lovely evening looking for nature at its best."

Records can be submitted to CfGA via the iNaturalist app, an enjoyable and straightforward way to document findings that also assists in species identification, enhancing wildlife encounters. Simply visit the CfGA website to find out how to join the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project within the app and start submitting your records.

In 2026 we are specifically focusing on swifts, and the first 500 to sign up can request a booklet supplied by Action on Swifts, as well as the option to request copies of our Starter Guide to Burial Ground Heritage and Wildlife, plus a Guide to the Wildlife of Burial Grounds specially produced for us by the Field Studies Council.

*Prue Dakin, Caring for God's Acre, [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)*

## SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR APRIL 2026

|              |                                                                                 |                |              |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Monday 6     | SOCC Easter Egg Hunt                                                            | Cricket Ground | 1pm          |
| Tuesday 7    | WI Fashion Show                                                                 | Village Hall   | 7 for 7.30pm |
| Thursday 9   | WI Community Coffee Morning                                                     | Village Hall   | 10am         |
| Saturday 11  | Village Hall Quiz                                                               | Village Hall   | 7.30pm       |
| Friday 17    | Historical Society talk on the local Volunteer Fire Brigade<br>by Jo Livingston | Village Hall   | 8pm          |
| Wednesday 22 | Over 60s talk "The John Lewis Partnership Experiment"<br>given by Johnny Aisher | Village Hall   | 2pm          |
| Friday 1 May | SOCC Kids' Cricket Coaching starts                                              | Cricket Ground | 5pm          |

## HOUSE TO HOUSE

A while ago, a Shoreham Society entry commented on the number of Shoreham residents who move house within the village. It seems that few of us can bear to leave our lovely village and I myself have lived in three different residences here. If you have upsized or downsized or just moved for the sake of it within the village do send in your reminiscences of life in a former or current home.

*Anna Fischel*

## SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a look at our adverts for local services. Some of them are updated every month with their latest events and productions.

Donations are welcome to Ken Fowler, who heads the distribution team, or by bank transfer to SHOREHAM P C C Sort code 090155 Account number 00193703. Please reference your name and the Gazette.

Copy for May Gazette by **18<sup>th</sup> April** to [shorehamgazette@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamgazette@gmail.com)

Word attachment in Calibri 10 and single spacing, please. Images as **jpgs**, please

|                   |                                |                                                                          |
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| Distribution      | Ken Fowler                     | 79 High Street TN14 7TB 01959 522365                                     |
| Advertising       | Julie Carder                   | <a href="mailto:julieshoreham@gmail.com">julieshoreham@gmail.com</a>     |
| Postal Gazettes   | Terry Clark                    | <a href="mailto:terryshoreham@gmail.com">terryshoreham@gmail.com</a>     |
| Printing & Design | Lakeside Printing & Design Ltd | 01732 358815                                                             |



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