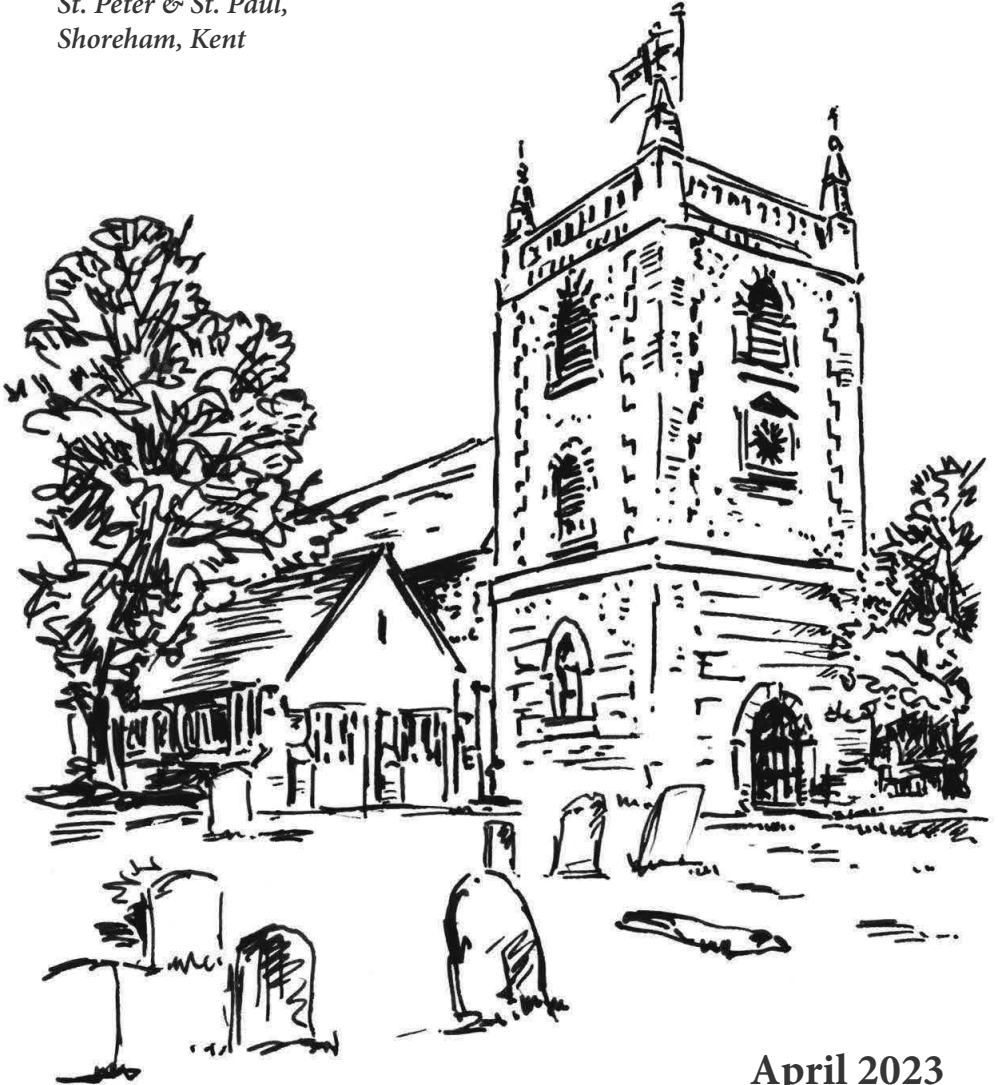


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk . If you are giving the details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




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VOLUME 55 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 3

APRIL 2023

FROM CROSS TO CROWN

My article this month is going to end at the coronation of Charles III but it begins with Elliot, the donkey, who, on Palm Sunday, reminds us of another very different king, as he rode into Jerusalem. The contrast of that articulated so well in this song:

Meekness and Majesty, manhood and deity
in perfect harmony - the man who is God:
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Then ... just a few little bits about coronations, with more next month. Did you know: The sermon for Queen Victoria's Coronation Service on 28th June 1838, when she was just 19, was preached from the pulpit in Shoreham Church ... although it was located in Westminster Abbey at the time! Her coronation service lasted for 5 hours and suffered, 'from a lack of preparation'. Queen Elizabeth II's coronation, on 2nd June 1953, only lasted 3 hours. We look forward to seeing what Saturday 6th May holds.

2nd April Palm Sunday 8.45am - meet outside SVS and process to church for Breakfast@Church, which starts at 9am with breakfast (bacon rolls, croissants, hot and cold drinks) ... then a short service with an activity, reading, prayer and song.

6th April Maundy Thursday 6pm - a short reflective service

7th April Good Friday 10am - (hopefully) outside - journey through Holy Week with some readings, activities and songs - then inside to make an Easter Tree, other activities and Hot Cross buns. For all ages.

9th April Easter Sunday 10am - Festival Communion with the choir ... but before then, if you're feeling brave (or wake up early) ...

6am meet outside the Aircraft Museum to walk to the Cross. Greet Easter Day with a short sunrise service at 6.18am (and some chocolate Easter eggs) - breakfast in the Church Room afterwards.

23rd April Sunday 10am - 3rd Sunday of the Easter season - Sunday Worship with Communion - 10.45am Refreshments - leading into the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) starting at 11am - come and find out about some of the exciting things the PCC would like to share and discuss with you.

And, so to the coronation weekend ...

CORONATION

7th May Sunday 11am - Coronation Celebration Service - which will finish in time for us all to head over for an afternoon and evening of picnic, music and fun

8th May Bank Holiday Monday 11am onwards - Big Help Out Day - come and help do some jobs in the church and churchyard, to make it all shine - everyone welcome - followed by a (free) lunch (there's no such thing as a free lunch!)

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Another exciting thing which we're planning to do, starting at the coronation weekend:

5th May Friday 10.00 to 11.30am - We look forward to welcoming you!

Following on from the success of the Warm Spaces initiative in the Church Rooms during January and February, your village church will be offering a place of welcome on the first Friday of every month. What will be on offer? Tea, coffee and biscuits, a friendly face and good conversation. Sometimes we will host a guest who is there to talk about topics of general interest. There is a national network of 'places of welcome' which we're considering joining: for more information look up those three words online.

Rev Diane

SERVICES IN APRIL

2nd April – Palm Sunday

8.45am Breakfast@Church, meet outside Shoreham Village Hall to process to church with Elliot the donkey. *Thank you to his proud owners Clive and Jacqui.*

6pm Communion

6th April - Maundy Thursday

6pm Communion service with stripping of the altar

7th April - Good Friday

10am A Journey through Holy Week

9th April – Easter Day

6.18am Sunrise Service at the Cross

10am Festival Communion with the Choir

16th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

10am Sunday Worship with Communion

4pm Songs of Praise

23rd April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

10am Sunday Worship with Communion

11am APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

30th April – 4th Sunday of Easter

10am Communion with the Choir

Evening Prayer; Iona Evening Worship or Compline.



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The only people who need to fill in a 2023 application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church or reached the age of 16 or have decided they would like to be on the Electoral Roll so that they can take a full part in the life and running of the church, including the Annual Parish Church Meeting on Sunday 23rd April Forms can be found in the back of the Church or by applying to shorehamchurch7@gmail.com

If you have any problems please contact the Electoral Roll Officer Ann Ball who will be pleased to help you. shorehamchurch7@gmail.com The form to be returned by Saturday 9th April 2023 by email shorehamchurch7@gmail.com or deliver to Ann Ball at Oxbourne View, Mill Lane, TN14 7TP

FRIENDS OF SHOREHAM CHURCH WHO ARE WE?

The Friends of Shoreham Church is a registered charity (number 278750) formed in 1979 for the improvement, restoration, repair and upkeep of the fabric of our amazing Shoreham Church, its contents, churchyard and boundary gates and fences.

We do not fundraise for the PCC Church organisation or Church of England.

As an example of our fundraising, we raised £16,000 to restore the Church path which was badly in need of repair. It is enjoyed by the whole community.

Our committee has twelve members from the village, past and present and we meet three or four times a year. We hold events to raise money which are for the village community, churchgoers or not. We share a common bond to preserve a very special place which is important to us all, especially to hatch, match and dispatch!

This year we are planning a Strawberry Tea (July), Advent Market (Saturday 25th November) and a Burns Supper (27th January 2024).

In the Autumn we hold a Harvest supper for the whole community which is not profit making but a fun evening for everyone. We look forward to seeing you at our next event. For further information please contact Agneta Edwards (07936 432700)

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com/>

The March meeting of the Historical Society & the AGM occur after the closing copy date for the April Gazette, so a report on these will be in the May Gazette.

At the 21st April meeting Amanda Doran will talk on The Hidden Jewish History of Ightham Mote. At the April meeting the new programme for 2023/24 will be available when the Annual Subscription of £8 is paid. There are some very interesting speakers and proposed outing to look forward to. I also remind you to look at the website.

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TALES FROM THE HILL

I am afraid that I feel compelled to return to the subject of ash dieback in Magpie Bottom, where large numbers of ash trees have been cut down under the auspices of Kent Wildlife Trust.

As I mentioned in my February Tale KWT say they are obliged to fell trees that might cause a danger to the public.

Those who have seen the devastation, not only to the woodland, but also the damage to the soil structure that supports many rare orchids and chalk loving plants, have expressed their surprise and horror at what they have seen.

Does this mean that every organization, public body, highway authority and farmer will have to fell ash trees that border a road or footpath?

The actual advice from DEFRA and Highway Authority is woolly. "They will do everything possible to preserve the biodiversity of our soft estate." [meaning the road verges and specific areas of land under the control of The Highway Authority]. In reality they realize that to fell all trees that have, or might have, ash dieback is an impossible task. It is my belief that bodies like KWT have jumped the gun and failed to consult with concerned bodies, such as Parish Councils.

It is too late now. One can only hope that no further damage is done to Magpie Bottom.

John Bovington the.bovs@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL, APRIL 2023

Our World Book Day celebrations and annual Eisteddfod Festival happened at the beginning of March. We were able to parade our World Book Day costumes alongside the Pre-school which was great fun and a lovely way to connect with our future pupils. Throughout the day, various book related activities took place in school and we finished off by watching the performances of our Class Champions, chosen by each class to represent them at the Eisteddfod. Pupils throughout the school had prepared their talents to show and we were very impressed with the range of performances, which included card tricks, roller skating, sharing art work and books that had been written and illustrated by pupils. All entrants received a certificate and the 'Class Champion' winners received an Amazon token. What a wonderful way to celebrate our pupils' talents and skills!

The Early Years playground works commenced last month, and as families arrived on the playground one Tuesday they were greeted with the sight of an almost completely cleared Early Years play area, with the work team dismantling the existing fences and play equipment. As the week progressed, we saw the new area start to take shape with the ground surfacing work and new play equipment being built. The works finished within a week and we were delighted to have welcomed the Mayor of Sevenoaks to officially open the area at the end of March. This project has been in the making for a long time, with FOSS contributing to the funding through fundraising activities such as the amazing circus that was hosted here in 2019.

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Ofsted, April 2019

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Our oldest pupils made us very proud during a visit to the school by author Tola Okogwu, whose book 'The Rise of the Rebels' about a Nigerian superhero is currently being made into a Netflix film. After talking to us about her journey to becoming a journalist and writer, Tola invited questions from the pupils, who asked her some fantastic questions, including, "if you could ask any character in a book a question, which character would it be and what question would you ask?"

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. If you would like to find out more, please contact me via the school office; all volunteers are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check with the police and go through an induction and training programme

Gillian Lovatt-Young Headteacher

DARENT VALLEY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The DVLPS Team has been busy over the past few months delivering projects that have benefitted from European funding, the end of which occurs 31/3/2023. These projects include the resurfacing of the path through the lavender fields at Castle Farm and the creation of a new path from Shoreham Station, soon to be finished off by the installation of new gates to the churchyard. We have also been working on a suite of seventeen 'Rail Trails' – walks from various stations around the valley – several of which start and/or finish at Shoreham. The leaflets will soon be printed and available at a variety of locations but they will also be available digitally both on our website and on the Darent Valley Trail app.

Conservation work on the restoration of the early 18th century Grade II listed Ice House and Queen Anne Bathhouse at Lullingstone Castle is now complete with just a couple of interpretation panels left to be installed and we are also funding some of the restoration work at the Archbishops Palace at Otford, where May Day celebrations will see the reintroduction of maypole dancing for the first time in 70 years.

And last but by no means least, we have some exciting events planned for the coming Spring/Summer starting with a Half a String's 'Breathe' puppet show at the Village Hall on April 22nd. The show tells the story of a journey through the forest from the perspective of an acorn and is underscored by a blend of drum and base and ethereal folk songs. It is suitable for ages 5 – 100 and costs just £2 per child (adults go free). Please see our website for details of how to book as well as for information about our other events around Shoreham such as the Samuel Palmer drawing workshop and the guided Orchid Walk at Fackenden Down.

Sarah Moon





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SHOREHAM OVER 60S

12th April Wednesday 2pm in the Village Hall

Musical entertainment with tea and cakes

26th April Wednesday 2pm in the Village Hall

The history of the Over 60s by Georgina Hopkins

Suna Keates

SHOREHAM SOCIETY

The Shoreham Shine village clean-up was a great success - as evidenced by the fine row of black bags decorating the wall outside the Village Hall afterwards!

One of the shiny jobs took us to the woods above the village, to collect old plastic tree guards. These are a relic of the tree planting that was done in the years following the great storm of 1987 - and a great amount of plastic remains. We were in the area above the eastern lower terrace, and this revealed some sad sights: dead and dying ash trees, including many that were planted in tree guards. The cause is Ash dieback fungus (see the Woodland Trust website for an explanation). This is also why you'll see cut timber beside the path, as trees have to be felled in case they fall on people. On the positive side, other trees are doing well. Yew trees are really strong and clearly thrive on our hills – bursting out of their old tree guards. Young beech trees are also doing well, and nature will undoubtedly recover in time. Incidentally, you may have been concerned about the felling of some beech trees in the area above the Cross. This is being done to open up the beech plantations to allow the trees to spread their branches and to allow more light into the woodland floor for the benefit of the wild flowers.

We'll be back out on the streets and in the woods again in the Autumn, so do join us then. In the meantime, thanks to all those who go out litter picking on their own in the lanes around the village.

All of you with (and without) children will be looking forward to the Duck Race, which is on Sunday 14th May. Proceeds will go to the Darent River Preservation Society (DRiPS) and the School. It is never too early to start designing your own unique duck. Remember that most of the awards are for style, so the more inventive the better. Running the Duck Race and controlling the crowds is a big job - please get in touch if you can help. We need duck registrars, duck launchers, duck catchers, duck runners, duck sellers – to name but a few! (christineuman@yahoo.co.uk).

Coming up on 10th June is an Orchid Walk at Magpie Bottom, and we have various other events planned for the summer. The Shoreham Society isn't organising a Coronation Party, but one is planned and we will make a contribution to its costs.

To make it easier for you to join the Shoreham Society, you'll find a membership form in this copy of the Gazette. Cost £5 single or £10 per household) you can email us at: shorehamsociety@gmail.com

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SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS “TALL TALES” REVIEW

Elie Williams and the Junior Village Players (now re-christened The Hamsters) gave us a wonderful evening of drama and entertainment. The youthful cast of 14, aged 9 to 15, acted out nine folk and fairy tales from eight different countries, all written and directed by Elie. The company was word perfect and acted with huge aplomb and enthusiasm, equally at home whether they were animals and goblins or storytellers. The production was enhanced by wonderfully imagined sets and lighting, and the usual dazzling display of costumes and effects. A triumph all round, promising a great future for the Players, which celebrate their centenary in 2024. Magic indeed.

Jill Webster

BIG CORONATION LUNCH – SUNDAY MAY 7

Plans are being drawn up so the village can celebrate together to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Bring your friends, family, and neighbours to the Recreation Ground on Sunday May 7 from 12pm for entertainment for all the family with live music through into the evening. As more plans are made please keep an eye on social media and posters which will be going up around the village soon.

If you would like to help in any way, please email henry.desmond@live.com to show your interest.

Coronation Lunch Team

SAVE THE DATE – SHOREHAM SINGERS CONCERT

The Shoreham Singers are back with their first concert post Covid. Join us at the Village Hall on Sunday 2nd July at 2pm. Tickets will be going on sale in early May so watch this space for more information. *Henry Desmond – Musical Director – Shoreham Singers*

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. The Trustees have a legal responsibility to manage and maintain the Almshouses so that they can be viable for many years to come and continue to provide safe and secure homes for their residents.

We have a great group of volunteer Trustees who bring a wide range of skills and experience, and we would now like to find an additional person to join the team. We usually meet four times a year, currently in the evenings for no longer than 2 hours, and are very lucky to have an excellent clerk who manages all the paperwork and any day-to-day issues.

If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, please contact Julie Carder at julieshoreham@gmail.com / 07415 209432 or Susan Craighill at susanm.craighill@icloud.com. Alternatively, please send an email to shorehamalmshouses@outlook.com with some information about yourself and we will get in touch.

Julie Carder

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FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The Shoreham community came together on the 18th Feb at the pop up sale organised to help the victims of the Turkish and Syrian earthquakes.

The money was raised through cake, jewellery and book stalls, refreshments, raffles and an auction of promises. In addition many people offered generous donations. The total raised has reached £3800. £2800 of this was cash which was paid into Lloyds Bank to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). The remaining money was donated directly to the DEC via card reader as payment for the auction of promises and other payments during and after the sale.

The organisers are very grateful to everyone who supported the sale in anyway. *Sheila Birkin, Jo Winsler, Jenny Walkling, Agnetta Edwards, Jane Hudson, Elie Williams, Heather Sillitoe and the wonderful band of helpers who enabled this event to take place.*

SHOREHAM WI

Our next WI meeting is on Tuesday 4 April and we're back in the Village Hall for evening meetings from now until the end of the year. We are excited to welcome our speaker, who was a contestant on Masterchef and is the nephew of one of our members, who will talk to us about his Masterchef experience and then give us a cooking demonstration... followed by some tasty treats! Members should arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Visitors and new members are always welcome - please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk

The next Community Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 13 April in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. These monthly events are very popular and it's great to see everyone catching up with friends and neighbours while enjoying home-made cakes, coffee and tea (for only £2) – everyone is welcome and any proceeds will be used towards the maintenance of the Village Hall defibrillator.

Shoreham WI

HORTICULTURAL SPRING SHOW

Come along and join us at the village hall on Saturday 1st April for the first of our shows this year.

Although this is a horticultural show there is so much more than just horticulture, you don't even need to be a gardener, you may be an amazing baker and can enter something in the cooking classes, flower arranging may be your thing and we have classes for you, there are classes for talented artists and crafters to show us your original designs and for children there are cooking, art and craft classes, so we think there is something for everyone and even if you don't want to exhibit anything, you can be sure there will be a warm welcome to the show so why not come along and take a look.

If you would like to request a show schedule, please email shorehamhortsoc@gmail.com

Schedules are also available from the village store.

Entries should be bought to the hall between 10.00am and 12.00 and staged by 12 noon prompt, please try to register your entry with Sylvia Poynter by Friday 1st April as this really helps us on the day. Details can be found on the entry form.

Doors will be open to the public at 2.00pm when you will be able to see the show and enjoy a drink and homemade cake. Prize giving will take place at 3.15.

We look forward to welcoming both seasoned and new members to the society or just drop in for tea and homemade cakes after 2pm, you will be made very welcome. If you would like to join our happy, friendly society, please come and speak to a committee member at the show.

Sharon Desmond Show Secretary

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To Our Shoreham Community:

The Board of the Walnut Tree Trust at its meeting on 21 February took the decision to borrow sufficient money to accelerate its programme to restore all of its property to a fully useable condition. The cottages have already been repaired sufficiently now to comply with the “decent homes” legal standard, but the next challenge is the repair of the two remaining outbuildings that have suffered from decades of deferred maintenance.

Options for securing a loan will be explored with our bank and also with private individuals in the village who may be willing to loan money at a modest rate of interest. A few of the trustees have offered to loan some money to the Trust already and we wish to invite any other members of our community who might be interested to participate to contact us. This would be a loan, not a donation, on which interest would be paid. If you might be interested, please contact our clerk for further information: sue.worsfold@hotmail.com.

Later this year, we expect to be able to offer both the garage on the high street and the barn to rent for use as storage or perhaps a workshop. If you might be interested in renting one of these properties, please also get in touch.

At its meeting in February, the Board of the Walnut Tree Trust approved the following vision statement that we would like to share:

Always respecting the objectives of its 1932 trust deed, the Trust should become a significant provider of funding “for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Shoreham”, its societies, amenities and deserving individuals.

The Trust will endeavour to achieve a stewardship that embodies the best management of the Trust’s assets, “to preserve the picturesque buildings and site”, “from time to time to permit the said premises or any part thereof to be used for social purposes” and “to utilise any rents, profits and income for charitable purposes”. The Trust intends to maximise its funding goals while undertaking continued improvements of those assets

to ensure their long-term maintenance as historically important buildings and grounds at the heart of the Village.

The Trustees should strive to put in place a robust financial and management structure that will ensure the successful continuity and sustainability of the Trust objectives for the benefit of Shoreham Village.

We wish to be open and clear with our community, and perhaps the above vision may be a surprise to some since past boards had interpreted its purpose as allowing renting the cottages at extremely low rents to deserving individuals with connections to the village. Unfortunately this resulted in a lack of maintenance and this purpose is not in our 1932 trust deed which, as we have been advised by the Charity Commission, remains in force notwithstanding our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status and constitution. The current board is looking to restore the properties physically and to make them profitable for charitable purposes for the village in the future.

Chair: Jill Aisher. Sue Worsfold, Clerk. sue.worsfold@hotmail.com.

GREEN HEATING SHOREHAM

Ask this month. Have you had work done recently on:

- Insulation (loft, wall or any other)?
- Solar panels and/or battery storage?
- Heat pumps?

Several of you have been in touch to ask about individuals or companies that come recommended by other members of the community. It would be great to be able to offer feedback on reliable installers.

If you are happy to share your own fixes or have experience of local contractors, please get in touch and let us know at greenheatingshoreham@gmail.com

The Green Heating Shoreham team Heather Sillitoe

THE RIVER DARENT – DEMISE DURING MY LIFE TIME {Part 2}

The loss of the watercress beds were of great personal sadness to me. Those of Harry Simmons at South Darent and Fred Ward at Sutton at Hone. Laurie Vann at Sutton battled on by converting his beds into a nursery. The Devon Mill Stream, Burtenshaw Brook and Cran Brook dried up and have disappeared.

It all came to a head in 1976 when the Darent itself dried up. In the years following 1976 flows in the river remained at critical levels with isolated areas drying up. The only positive thing during this time was that the plight of the Darent was beginning to get the attention of both the local and national media. However it was not until 1985 that the Darent River Preservation Society (DRIPS) was formed with the sole intention of stopping and hopefully reversing the decline

DRIP led by its charismatic chairman Derek Attwood (of Old Cottage) assisted by the influential Hydrologist Michael Mansell-Moulin immediately begun an intensive campaign of lobbying politicians, NRA/EA, water companies, the media and anyone who would listen. This lobbying proved successful as in 1992 the NRA/EA commissioned Mott McDoanld to carry out a comprehensive study of the river and to publish their findings in a report. It was that report which led directly to the Darent Action Plan. Details of which can be found on the DRIPS website. <http://www.darent-drips.org.uk> [To be continued]

Trevor Carman

CITIZENS ADVICE

Local elections 4 May. For the first time in this country you will need to show photo ID in order to be able to vote. This could be a passport, driving licence, blue badge, some bus passes, identity cards with PASS mark, biometric immigration documents or (some) national identity cards. If you have none of these you can email elections@sevenoaks.gov or ring 01732 227000 to apply for a ‘Voter Authority Certificate’. This does not apply to postal votes.

Kate Britten

VILLAGE DIARY FOR APRIL

Saturday 1	Horticultural Show	Village Hall	from 2pm
Tuesday 4	Shoreham W I	Village Hall	7.15pm
Wednesday 12	Over 60s	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 13	Community Coffee morning	Village Hall	10 – 12
Wednesday 20	Over 60s	Village Hall	2pm
Friday 21	Shoreham Historical Society	Village Hall	from 7pm

OTHER DATES

Sunday 7 th May	Coronation Lunch	Recreation Ground
Sunday 14 th May	Duck Race	

SHOREHAM GAZETTE INFORMATION

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

You may order a postal Gazette from Pauline Clark paulineshoreham@gmail.com

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE IS MAY 2023

COPY TO BE WITH US BY 18 APRIL TO shorehamgazette@gmail.com

Send as a Word Attachment in Times New Roman 10

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WHAT'S ON SCREEN

THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE - LIFE OF PI 7TH & 16TH APR

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN - VERMEER 18TH & 23RD APR

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE - GOOD 20TH APR

WHAT'S ON STAGE

PSSED UP PANTO** 1ST APR

THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD 20TH - 22ND APR

CELINE - MY HEART WILL GO ON 23RD APR

SWEET CHARITY 27TH - 29TH APR

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For all enquiries, please contact the School Office on 01959 522228.



Yoga Classes in Shoreham Village

I offer a variety of options:

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Please contact me:

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