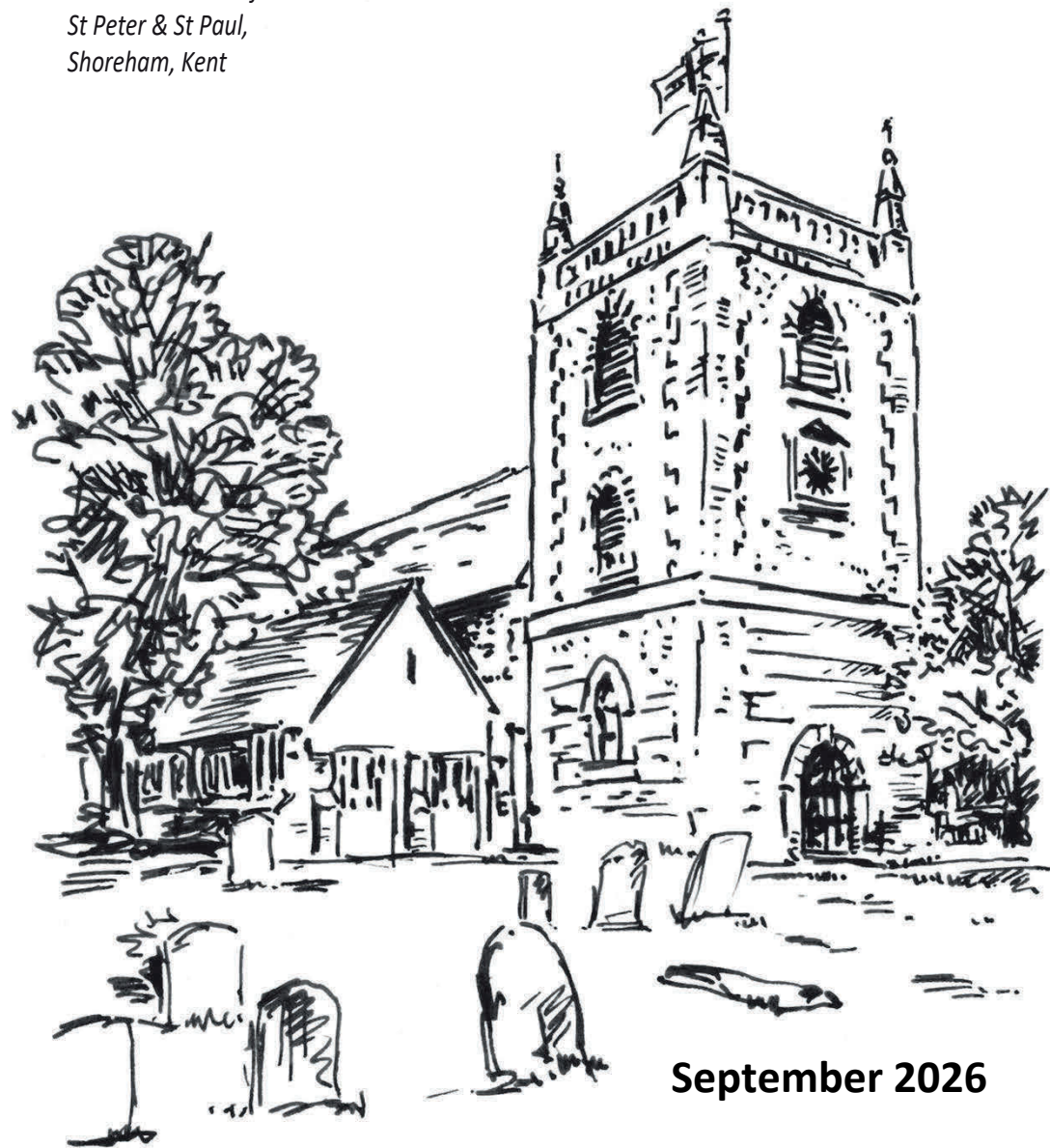


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*From the Church of
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Shoreham, Kent*



September 2026



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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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*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
Ecclesiastes 3.*

I think there's something quite special about September. A time to reflect on memories made over the summer, maybe holidays, time with family and friends, but also a time to look ahead.

In August, we were delighted to see large numbers coming along to our summer themed Messy Church to explore 'The Miraculous Catch of Fish!' Not only was there a whole host of activities linked to the story, but also props, sand and water – the church was transformed! There was an amazing atmosphere, lots of happy families, and everyone went away with a little fishing net, prayer and fizzy fish sweets!

Often September sees significant life transitions like starting school for the first time, moving to secondary, or onto college, even university, and we start to adjust to the changing season. Our landscape also transforms revealing the stunning leaves dropping from trees, the evenings drawing in, and cosy nights spent with a hot drink, good book and blanket!

Stay and play returns on Monday 7th September from 9.30-11.30am, and this always brings a joyous sound of children happily playing and seeing each other again, alongside parents/carers enjoying a long overdue cuppa made by someone else – hopefully that can be enjoyed hot! We run our sessions from the village hall offering a selection of toys, craft, messy play, books, and refreshments for all! Our biblical based themes are explored through the crafts/messy play/story/signing times. It's a great place for parents and carers to form connections with one another, share experiences, and also find out about other things going on.

September sees changes to our church services too! The 3rd Sunday of the month will introduce our new All Age Worship Services. We would love you to come along and join us at the first one: 10am, 20th September in which we will also celebrate Harvest Festival. Provisions like tins, packets and cereals (non-perishables) would be very welcome, and we will share together the joy of Harvest, with chances to listen, learn and take part – and for everyone to celebrate the season and what it means, to us as individuals, our community, and the wider world.

We really hope that our new service structure will offer more opportunities for those who wish to experience a variety of worship to come along, and access a space and service that works for you, at your church. This is a new venture, and there may be some teething problems, but as always do please feedback and share with us afterwards, your thoughts.

In other news our church website is currently being re-vamped! We will be aiming to launch this early September – do look out for this, and again share your thoughts!

We are also excitedly making plans for our new Youth Club to be launched in October! If you are moving to secondary school in September, and would like the chance to meet up with others of a similar age – come along on Friday 2nd October to The Pavilion at

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✉ tom_housden2k8@yahoo.co.uk



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Shoreham Village School between 6.30-8.30pm to find out more, and to help contribute what this will look like within our community here in Shoreham.

So existing and familiar things returning, and new things on the horizon starting up, which is always exciting, and we would welcome your prayers for all these, and for volunteers.

Good wishes to you and your families as we welcome the new season.

Proverbs 31 – God is always doing something new. Liz Clitheroe – Family Worker

<https://www.shorehamchurchkent.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpaulshoreham>

shorehamparish@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Sunday 6th September - Trinity 14

9:00am Breakfast Church

6:00pm Holy Communion - Taizé

Sunday 13th September - Trinity 15

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September - Trinity 16

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Harvest Festival

Sunday 27th September - Trinity 17

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Holy Communion with Choir

Morning Prayer resumes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9am.



FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Reverend Caz & Alex Diacos Marriage

On Saturday 20th June, Reverend Caz Mills and Alex Diacos were married at St Peter & St Paul's church. It was a wonderful, colourful and joyous service, followed by drinks in all of Shoreham's local pubs, and then back to the beautifully decorated church for the reception. A true village celebration, with many residents from the village helping out with decorating the church, the floral displays, drinks and music! A huge thanks to all. Congratulations to the new Mrs & Mr Diacos!

I'm George, a Shoreham resident and a florist of 30 years, providing bouquet deliveries, funeral pieces and large scale events.

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HANDS UP FOR A NEW HOBBY

And then hands down. And up again, and so on. Yes, it's the bellringing open practice night! Put Tuesday 13th October 7.30pm in your diary now if you'd like to try your hand - more details next month. All ages welcome.

RIVER DARENT BAPTISM

On Monday August 4th in Shoreham, at about 1pm, a baptism took place. So, some might ask, what was so unusual about that? A baby having water poured on its head over Shoreham's font?



Where to begin? This baptism was performed out of doors, in glorious sunshine, in the River Darent. For a young adult. It involved total immersion under the water – a falling back, followed by a rising, held and lifted up by the vicar. Perhaps not so unusual to some Christians, but sufficiently unusual that a man walked past with two children, his head turning just to glance, not stopping, a slightly puzzled expression on his face.

Why were there people in the river and a crowd of about twenty looking down at them from the bridge near the Mill Pond? Singing hymns, saying prayers and a Bible reading, making promises, holding a large candle, lighting a small one, supporting each other and those involved, a large jug of water poured?

As a public demonstration of faith in God and Jesus; a commitment to a new life of Christian faith; a washing away of past sins; a living reminder that Jesus himself was baptised in a river over two thousand years ago.

And who were the people in the river? Isla Solly, getting baptised; her boyfriend Dillon, participating and supporting; and vicar Caz Diacos, conducting the baptism. Asked why she wanted to get baptised, Isla said it was a way to mark her commitment to her Christian faith and having grown up in the village playing in the river she couldn't imagine doing it any other way. Congratulations to Isla on a joyful, memorable, and hugely personal occasion and for what was no ordinary event.

Richard Crosby

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ANNUAL RIDE AND STRIDE

Friends of Kent churches are organising the annual Ride and Stride on Saturday 12 September.

Sponsorship money raised will be divided between the Friends and a church of your choice. Sponsorship forms are on the table at the back of the church. Last year £152,674 was raised. We will be welcoming participants to the church from 10am.

SEVENOAKS LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

Families in our area continue to need the support of our local food bank. Please consider whether you could add something for the food bank to your weekly shop. Boxes for donations are at the back of the church. The Foodbank Team are always very pleased to receive these donations and they ask that their sincere thanks are passed back to the generous folk of The Church of St Peter and St Paul.

SHOREHAM WI

Our next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 1 September in the Village Hall, when we will be holding a 'silent auction' to raise funds for Spadework in Offham (near West Malling), which is a wonderful charity that supports people living with dementia, adults with learning and other disabilities, people experiencing problems with their mental health, those navigating bereavement, and carers. We will also be helping the evening along with cheese and wine for our members to enjoy. Members should arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. New members and visitors will be warmly welcomed – please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfwi.org.uk

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING – 10 SEPTEMBER

We're back after our summer break, and our next Community Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 10 September in the Village Hall from 10am to 12pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for delicious home-made cakes and a cup of coffee (or tea) for only £2. These are very friendly monthly events which Shoreham WI has been hosting since 2018 and, since then, we are proud to have raised around £2,500 for the Shoreham community and almost £3,900 for a variety of charities. **All** proceeds from these coffee mornings are either given directly to charities or are donated to Shoreham community projects when needed – so enjoying refreshments and meeting with friends means you are supporting others at the same time. We look forward to catching up with everyone and hearing about what you've been up to since June. Children and dogs are also welcome (squash and water available!).

Shoreham WI

HORTICULTURAL AUTUMN SHOW

What a crazy year it's been. With the record temperatures and prolonged dry spells, our gardens & ourselves have certainly been put to the test. Whether your plants have thrived or struggled, we'd love to see what you've managed to grow. Come along to the Village Hall on **Saturday 5th September** for our Autumn Show. The doors open at 2pm and prize-giving is at 3.30pm. This is an event for gardeners, plant lovers, cooks, artists and craftspeople, plus plenty of children's classes too - everyone is welcome.

If you would like to request a show schedule by email, please contact shorehamhortsoc@gmail.com. Alternatively, schedules will be available from the village store approximately 2 weeks before the show. Entries should be staged at the hall between 10.00am and 12 noon prompt. Committee members will be on hand to help if needed. Please try to register your entries at shorehamhortsoc@gmail.com beforehand, as this really helps. You can always change them on the day.

Whether you're entering a class, coming along to visit the show, or simply looking for a lovely way to spend a Saturday, we'd love to see you! Bring your friends and family, enjoy refreshments and lovely homemade cakes and help us make this year's Autumn Show a great community event. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Sharon Desmond, shorehamhortsoc@gmail.com

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SHOREHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th September, 7.30pm, Shoreham Church

Shoreham Music Festival is back this year and as ever, there will be two events each evening as after the 'formal' classical part of the evening (approx. 1.5 hours) we continue with live jazz, drinks (pay bar), complimentary nibbles and invaluable time to catch up with friends.

Friday 11th September, 7.30pm

Patrick Craig (Countertenor) and **Frances Kelly** (harp)

Following a very popular performance two years ago, Patrick and Frances will once again fill our beautiful Church with the lusciously rich sounds of Patrick's soaring vocals and the vibrant resonance of Frances's harp. It is an exquisite combination. This year their programme will celebrate the Dowland 400th Anniversary.

John Dowland (1563 -1626) was the greatest lute player of his day. And he played a vital role in the development of lute song in this country. This programme will feature some of his most beloved songs as well as less well known lute songs by John Daniel, Thomas Ford, Henry Lawes and more recently Richard Rodney Bennett. Frances will reinterpret these accompaniments on the baroque harp.

Post concert jazz will be performed by **Café Society**.

Saturday 12th September, 7.30pm

Elgar Ensemble: Charlie Brookes (violin), Fionnuala Ward (Piano), Daryl Giuliano (Cello)
We are very pleased to be welcoming the **Elgar Ensemble** to the festival. This evening will transport us on a journey through the richness of the piano trio repertoire bringing us a blend of lyricism, drama, and sweeping Romantic expression. Elgar Ensemble are coming to Shoreham following their very successful performances at the Malvern Chamber Music Festival last month. Some of you may know Charlie as he also teaches violin locally.

Elgar: Three Movements for Piano Trio

Frank Bridge: 'Phantasie' Trio

Schubert: Piano Trio No. 2 in E flat

Post concert Jazz will feature improvised piano by the young and talented **Michael Zell**.

Tickets: £17 (£10 students) per evening from ticketsource.co.uk/shoreham-music-festival

Or in person (cash only) from Shoreham Village Stores

The festival is self-funding, run by volunteers. Queries, but not tickets – 07956 478847

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Saturday 12th September 2pm

**Tour of the World Garden at
Lullingstone Castle**

Some of you will remember the entertaining talk by Tom Hart Dyke at our last AGM, when he told the story of his creation, the World Garden.

To follow this up we've arranged a special tour of the garden conducted by Tom himself. He will describe the plants from around the world that make up this 'mini-Kew' and how he came to collect them. The cactus section is particularly scary! You can be sure of a fascinating afternoon.

The idea is that you just turn up at The Gatehouse at 2pm and pay the standard £10 admission fee (£8.50 for over 65s, £5 under 16s). You will then be taken on the tour and afterwards you can explore the grounds and visit the tea room. Picnics allowed.

To reach the Gatehouse from Shoreham, it's a couple of miles' walk along the river from Mill Lane, past Castle Farm. By car, you drive around via Eynsford and the Roman Villa, following postcode DA4 0JA. At the Roman Villa keep the villa immediately on your right-hand side following bend in road to the Private Road sign. Follow this private track to the Gatehouse and park on the grass. Visit www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk for more info.

20mph Speed Limit for Shoreham Village

We were delighted to see notices announcing that a 20mph speed limit is proposed for the village. This has come sooner than expected. There is a survey to complete on the Kent County Council website (as Kent and not Sevenoaks is in charge of roads). If you search for 'Shoreham Kent 20mph', Google should find the page. Please complete the survey to say you are in favour!

The proposal in its present form has a limitation. It leaves the outskirts of the village on the existing 30mph limit. For example, this includes Station Road and Filston Lane to the current 30mph boundary.

Please ask for the 20mph limit to be extended to the present boundaries of the 30mph limit. Many residents have to walk along bendy roads with no pavements to get to and from their homes. Station Road is always busy with pedestrians.

People often say that a limit like this is not necessary or is ignored. But many drivers will obey it and research shows that 20mph limits do reduce average speeds.

Shoreham Shine Saturday 10th October 9am-4pm

Please keep 10th October for the bi-annual village litter pick and village clean-up. More details next month.

John Saynor, Chair, shorehamsociety@gmail.com

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SHOREHAM OVER 60's CLUB

The Shoreham Over 60's Club meets regularly on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Meetings are usually held in the Village Hall starting at 2.00pm and include Refreshments of Tea, Coffee, homemade and shop bought cakes, plus a mixture of friendly chat and gossip. There are speakers who give talks with a presentation of photos on the screen. Outside visits are normally by car share.

September Meeting. The Meeting this month is on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Candy who works in The Quadrangle, Shoreham. The title of her talk is **"Life as a leather worker"**.

Entry Fees. Day visitors are always very welcome. The Entry Fee for Members and Visitors is £3.00. If someone wishes to become a Member the Fee for the year is £5.00.

Help is required for Drafting the 2027 Monthly Programme of speakers and outside events

We are still looking for someone who would like to help us with the planning and arranging of speakers and events for the 2027 Programme of monthly Meetings. The task would initially involve meeting with our Committee to discuss the planned speakers or events for 8 of the monthly Meetings for 2027. We already have some ideas for the programme. They need to be sorted into appropriate dates with contact numbers and details of times etc. If anyone would like to help us please contact me on 0777 6182789, or by email, terryshoreham@gmail.com.

Terry Clark, terryshoreham@gmail.com

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What do Hever, Dover, Deal, Walmer, Leeds, Allington and Rochester have in common? They are all sites of Kentish castles and they'll be the subject of a talk by David Carder at the Historical Society's first meeting of our autumn season on Friday 18 September. David, as regular members will know, is a very popular speaker, and his talk will range from the earliest wooden fortresses to those built to keep out French invaders – not forgetting the famous siege at Rochester in 1215, when burning pigs were put under the walls to make them collapse.

The meeting starts at 8pm in the Village Hall, with refreshments from 7.30. Any members who have not yet paid up for the year, please remember to bring your subs. Non-members are always welcome for a small fee.

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

James Saynor

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Our next fundraising event is a film night planned for 26th September, so please do come along and support this if you can.

Why not come as a club or society, hall user group? We hope to see many of you there to make this a fun night.

Sing-A-Long - Sound of Music – Optional Fancy Dress

Shoreham Village Hall Saturday 26th September

6pm - Doors & Bar open at 6pm

6.15pm Cartoons

7pm Film starts, with a 20 minute interval – Ends 10:30

Ticket price £10 pp

Tickets available from Shoreham Village Stores, or by emailing ralph.abbott@gmx.com or some may be available for purchase on the night.

Please purchase drinks and popcorn from our bar as this is a fundraiser for the hall. Not optional although singing along and fancy dress are.

Other than organising the film night, other activities over the summer have included some extensive cladding repairs being completed, guttering replaced and we were successful in getting relief from Castle Water for the lost water caused by the leak, which is great news.

If you want to hire the hall for a party or private function or to book a regular slot visit:- bookings@shorehamvillagehall.co.uk

Website: shorehamvillagehall.co.uk

Mary Gee

NEWS FROM THE WALNUT TREE TRUST

The Board of the Walnut Tree Trust are pleased to update on the activities of 2025 which will shortly be published in our annual report and filed on the Charity Commission Website.

Having installed electricity to the repaired barn and garage, both are now let and enjoyed by their tenants. All three domestic properties (the cottages) are let and have been redecorated internally to a high standard. The bathroom at 31 was completely refurbished and the whole house redecorated and carpeted.

A regular schedule of planned maintenance, alongside prudent planning, means we can upgrade properties each year and deal with emergencies if they arise.

The Trust made a donation of £2,500 to Shoreham Village Pre-School which, we understand, was key in helping them deal with two major issues, a water leak and mouse issue that forced them to close for repairs, cleaning and the replacement of their kitchen area and a staff sickness issue which reduced their capacity and threatened the continued viability of the setting. This donation has benefitted 4 staff members and over 35 children who have attended the setting since it was made.

We are delighted to have helped.

The Trust has developed policies around financial controls, to sit alongside its policies on GDPR and Charitable Giving. All of these are on our website: www.walnuttreetrust.weebly.com

We would love to have fresh young blood amongst the Trustee Board and would invite anyone with an interest in charitable governance to be in touch and let us know a bit more about you. There is a time commitment to be made but the Trust is in good shape, and we are excited about the future. If you want to know more, do please get in touch by email: jill.aisher@gmail.com

Jill Aisher (Chair)

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME – SPONSOR REQUESTED



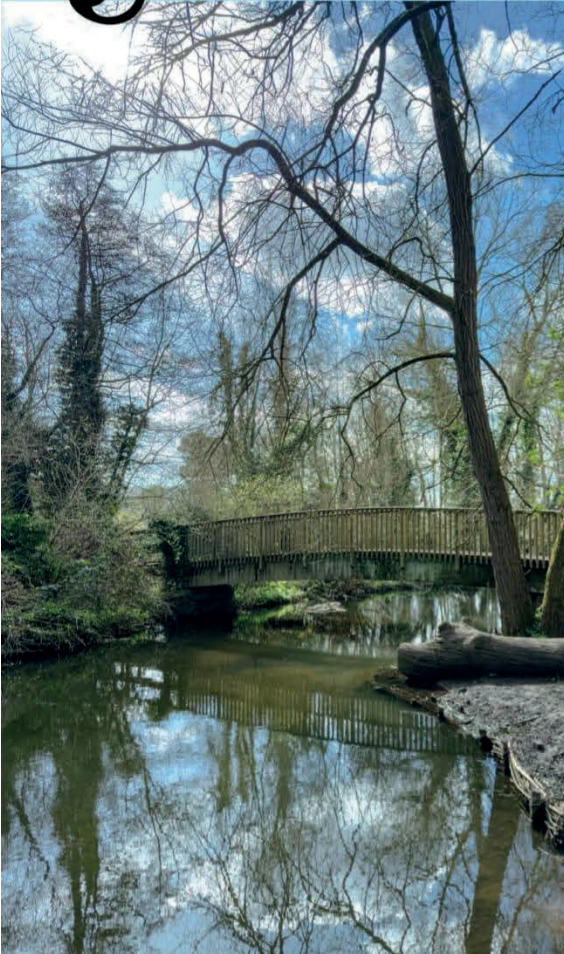
The Gazette has been contacted by a Ukrainian family currently in the USA but wishing to relocate to the UK because of the uncertainty of American humanitarian immigration programmes. They are a mother, father and six-year old daughter (left), looking for a sponsor under the **Homes for Ukraine Scheme who would be willing to provide suitable accommodation for the family of three for a minimum of six months**, in accordance with the requirements of the scheme. They are not seeking financial support, just the chance to enter the UK through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, so they can then find work and somewhere to rent and establish themselves and their daughter. If you are interested in finding out more, without commitment at this stage, I will forward you the correspondence. Initial contact can be channelled through the Gazette if wished.

Anna Fischel, shorehamgazette@gmail.com

Church of St Peter & St Paul
Shoreham, Kent

Shoreham

MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026



Friday 11 September

7.30pm

Patrick Craig – Countertenor
Frances Kelly – Harp 'Dowland 400
– the lute song legacy'

Saturday 12 September

7.30pm

Elgar Ensemble
Elgar: Three Movements for Piano Trio
Frank Bridge: 'Phantasie' Trio
Schubert: Piano Trio No. 2 in E flat

Tickets £17 (£10 students)
from ticketsource.co.uk/shoreham-music-festival
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CITIZENS ADVICE

Don't forget you can get free, independent, confidential advice and information from a trained adviser about any problem, big or small: housing, benefits, employment, debt, consumer goods and services or any other issue from Sevenoaks Citizens Advice. You can call the freephone number 0808 278 7810 (10am-3pm, Monday-Friday – be prepared to wait) or email advice@nwkent.cab.org.uk

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 1	WI Silent Auction in aid of Spadework	Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 5	Autumn Horticultural Show	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 10	WI Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am
Friday 11	Shoreham Music Festival	Church	7.30pm
Saturday 12	Shoreham Music Festival	Church	7.30pm
Saturday 12	Shoreham Society Tour of World Garden	Lullingstone Castle	2pm
Saturday 12	Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride	Church	from 10am
Friday 18	Residents Golf Tournament	Golf Course	from 10am
Friday 18	Historical Society talk	Village Hall	8pm
	David Carder on Kentish Castles		
Wednesday 23	Over 60s talk	Village Hall	7pm
	Candy of The Quadrangle on 'Life as a Leather Worker'		
Saturday 26	Sing-a-long Sound of Music	Village Hall	6pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a look at our adverts for local services. We have some new ones this month and some 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 October Gazette by **18th September** to shorehamgazette@gmail.com

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

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THE CAROLE KING & JAMES TAYLOR STORY-

WHITNEY - THE CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

FRANKIE (VALLI) - THE CONCERT

JANET STREET-PORTER IS OFF THE LEASH AT 80

AN EVENING WITH RICHARD OSMAN

SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS: INTO THE WOODS

NIGHT OWL SHOWS: CALIFORNIA DREAMS

PSYCHIC SALLY

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