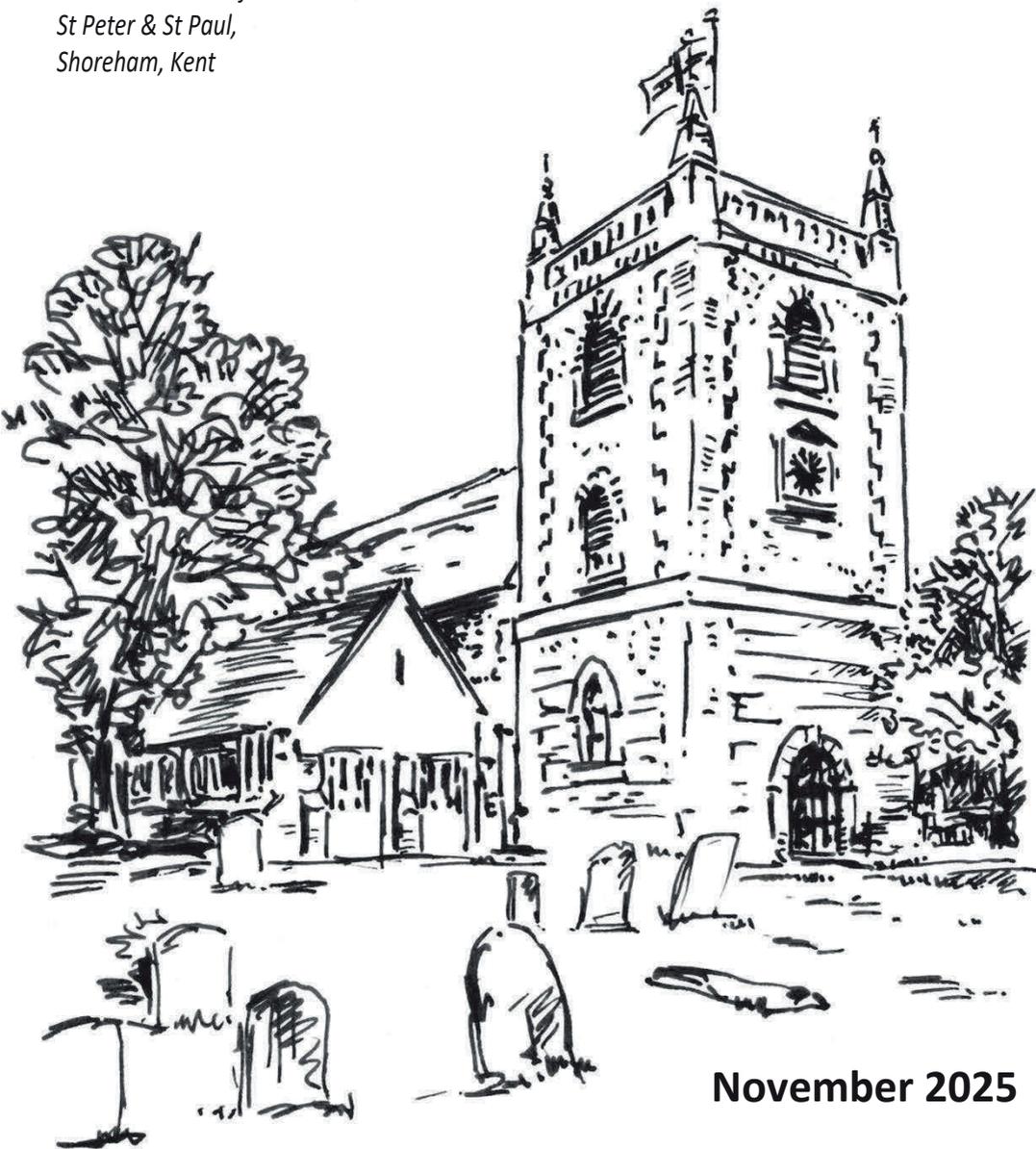


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November 2025

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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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Is Remembrance Sunday Outdated?

The First World War ended 107 years ago. There are only 8,000 people alive who fought in the Second World War. And casualties in subsequent wars – while devastating for those affected - were comparatively light. Some people object to what they see as the militaristic overtones of the commemorations. Hence the existence of white poppies, first worn as early as 1933.

Is it time to stop looking back? Is Remembrance Sunday a slightly self-indulgent time of maudlin reflection over the tragic deaths of young men who would be amazed that we still remember them? Wouldn't it be better if our time and attention were devoted to current peace initiatives rather than long-dead heroes?

There is no doubting that there is still huge public support for the commemorations. Children are taught about it at school. It is pretty much compulsory for politicians and TV presenters to wear poppies in early November. The Royal British Legion will raise over £160m to help military veterans. Our Church will, we can be sure, be packed as usual on Remembrance Sunday at 10am. More people will join us at the War Memorial at 10.45. And millions will tune in on TV to watch the proceedings at the Cenotaph.

What's the attraction? Maybe there is a degree of sentimentality, but I want to suggest that there is much more to it than that. At a time when our society seems so fractured, the commemorations provide some glue holding us together in a shared civic memory of cataclysmic events in our nation's past. At a time when rituals of observance are so rare – at least for non-churchgoers – the familiar hymns, the 2 minutes' silence and the Last Post fill a gap that we didn't realise we felt. And at a time when most of us have been so incredibly lucky as to avoid major wars in our lifetime, the commemorations give us a chance to reflect on our good fortune and give thanks.

What about the present and future though? Well, in Church on 9th November we will not just be looking back. We will be thinking about the many conflicts in our world at the moment. And of course praying to Jesus, our Prince of Peace, that a just peace would prevail. Hope to see you there!

Bill Lattimer, Lay Minister, shorehamparish@gmail.com

BE A SAINT...

All Saints Day, Saturday 1st November, is our last Churchyard Tidy of the year. Any help is gratefully received, no job too small, all ages welcome, many hands make light work. Come and enjoy maintaining the village's special garden, which may one day be yours forever!

We'll be there from 9 till 1, but shorter stints are also much appreciated. As ever, we conclude with a convivial pizza lunch for those who've earned their (stuffed) crust!

Johnny Aisher

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NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Sunday 2nd November - 4th Sunday before Advent

9am Breakfast@Church

5.15pm Holy Communion

6.00pm Candlelit Commemoration of the Departed

Friday 7th November

9.30am Friday Prayers

Sunday 9th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday

9am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Service of Remembrance, including laying of wreaths at the Village Memorial

Friday 14th November

9.30am Friday Prayers

Sunday 16th November - 2nd Sunday before Advent

10am Morning Worship with Communion

Friday 21st November

9.30am Friday Prayers

Sunday 23rd November - Christ the King

10am Holy Communion with Choir

Friday 28th November

9.30am Friday Prayers

Sunday 30th November - Advent Sunday

10am Holy Communion

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Sunday 21 September Baptism of **Nora Pearl Tye Hicks**, daughter of Katherine Tye and Thomas Hicks and granddaughter of Angela and Malcolm Hicks

Saturday 11 October Marriage of **Andrew Taylor** and **Qian Wu**

COFFEE AND CHAT – FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Do treat yourself to a healthy walk to the Church Room for a convivial cup of coffee (or tea) and a chance to pass the time of day with village friends. The first Friday of each month, 10.30am - 12.00 noon, everyone welcome - no previous experience or religious knowledge required!

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SHOREHAM WI

A HUGE thank you to everyone who came along to our October Community Coffee Morning, bought raffle tickets, purchased goodies from the bric-a-brac table and made very generous donations for their refreshments. Thank you also to Henry Desmond for providing background music, which was much appreciated by us all. It was a lovely (if busy!) morning and we raised around £900 to be passed on to Hospice in the Weald to help support the amazing work they do. Well done, Shoreham, £900 in two hours was incredible and definitely a record for us!

The next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 4 November (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, Village Hall) when we will have the opportunity to try (or watch) CPR training and hopefully have an overview of how to use one of the many defibrillators in the Village. Of course, there will also be a fun quiz to test our knowledge of first aid and associated matters which should be very enjoyable. We are always pleased to welcome guests and new potential members - please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk or just turn up at the beginning of the evening.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

Our November Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 13 November, from 10am to 12pm as usual. The cost of tea/coffee and cake is only £2 and we would love to welcome everyone to this friendly community event.

Shoreham WI

CHRISTMAS TABLE TOP SALE - SOUP AND PLOUGHMANS LUNCH

Saturday 15 November 11.00- 2.30 at the Village Hall

The Christmas countdown will be well under way in November, so why not make a date in your diary for Saturday 15 November at the Village Hall and get a head start on your Christmas shopping? Doors will open at 11 am with tea and coffee available as you browse for great bargains. Lunches will be served from 12.00, offering a choice of delicious homemade soup and a roll, or a ploughmans lunch. Stallholders can set up from 10.00 am. Tables are £10. Payment on the day by cash or card. To book a table please contact Anne on anne.darentvalley21@gmail.com.

The Table Top Sale is organised by the Darent Valley Local Branch of the Labour Party, and is raising funds to support local food banks. Donations can be made on the day.

Anne Deane, Gavin Owen, Sheila Birkin, Kate Britten, Madeleine Marshall, Lesley Spence, Jill Webster, Angela Wilkins

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OVER 60s

It is with great sadness that Kath and I are stepping down from running the Over 60s. Our last working day, so to speak, will be on 10th December at the Christmas lunch.

We have had a wonderful time over the last few years mainly, of course, because of the lovely members. We would love to hear from anyone interested in taking over.

Suna - 07749 674295. mossykeates@gmail.com

Kath - 07804 141145. kathdymoke@gmail.com

Wednesday 12th November- Bring and Buy sale in the village hall at 2pm.

Wednesday 26th November - Tea at Ruxley Manor. Details to be provided.

Many thanks to Suna and Kath for their sterling work arranging our programme over the years.



COFFEE



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Wednesday 5th November 2025

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w: ww.keystonelaw.co.uk

We have an excellent speaker lined up for our Annual General Meeting on 7th November. He is **Tom Hart-Dyke, who created the amazing World Garden at Lullingstone Castle**. Tom is a serious plant enthusiast and collector, and has a remarkable story to tell, not least his experience of being kidnapped when on a plant collecting trip in the Darien Gap (Columbia) in 2000.

The Lullingstone World Garden has been the subject of several BBC TV programmes. Today, it is almost like a miniature Kew Gardens, containing fascinating plants from all over the world. There is a particularly scary collection of cacti. Tom's knowledge of plants is enormous, and the event will certainly appeal to all gardeners and those interested in the natural environment. We hope to follow up this event with a guided visit to the World Garden next year.

All are welcome – you don't have to be a member to attend! There will also be an update on the Farming Year and on the work of the Kent Downs National Landscape (formerly AONB) team. The brief AGM will include a report of what the Shoreham Society has been up to in the past year as well as the formal business and an open session for members. And, of course, there will be the usual cakes and refreshments.

SHOREHAM SHINE – THANK YOU

A big thank you to the 26 villagers and friends who helped make our village even lovelier on 11th October. There was a lot of litter picking – especially from the verges of the local roads as well as weeding, cutting back of vegetation – and removal of yet more tree guards from the woods. The workers were rewarded with some yummy cakes – the Guinness and Chocolate cake was notable. Shoreham Shine takes place twice a year, usually in October and March, so do join up again next year.

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) /DEFIB TRAINING

Over 15 people joined the training courses on 11th October. We learnt what to do if a person collapses with a cardiac arrest and is not breathing. After calling 999, you start chest compressions immediately. Mouth to mouth breathing is no longer part of the procedure. The emergency operator will give you the code for the Defibrillator if one is available, and the machine includes voice instructions. We were able to try CPR on a dummy (hard work!) and given hands-on instruction in use of a Defibrillator. The course was organised by the excellent **Sevenoaks CPR Charity** (contacts on Facebook) and part paid for by the Shoreham Society.



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'OUR SHOREHAM' ART EXHIBITION ON 4th-5th October

This was a great success and a village event that brought together friends old and new. There were some real creativity and talent on display, and we are thinking of making it a regular event. We were lucky to have a really good team that planned, designed, set up, staffed and took down the exhibition with professionalism.

John Saynor, Chair; Sarah Andrews, Vice Chair; Rachel French, Secretary

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Women were shut out of most professions before the First World War, but how did that change when the hostilities were over? The impact on women of World War I will be the topic of our next meeting on Friday 21 November. Delia Taylor is the speaker and the talk starts at 8pm in the Village Hall, with refreshments from 7.30. Non-members are always welcome.

The Second World War was the focus of our October meeting, which heard about the wartime history of the Royal Marines in a fascinating talk by Martin Watts. Dr Watts's uncle served as a Marine in every naval theatre in World War II right up until the Japanese surrender. Summaries of all our talks can be found on our website:

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

Always remember our website for our own mapping of Shoreham's past:

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

James Saynor

ADVENT MARKET

Saturday 29th November 10am-1pm in Shoreham Church.

Please come along and support The Friends of Shoreham Church!

A choir; stalls selling home made produce, Fair Trade goods, jewellery, art, crafts, local honey, knitting and much more, plus a Raffle. Mulled Wine, Coffee and Tea served along with home made cakes. Dogs welcome!

Just a reminder that the Friends organise events specifically to maintain and improve the fabric of the church. We are raising money for lighting the top of the church path. The church is a hub for all who live in Shoreham. A Jazz Evening is planned for Saturday February 28th - more to follow!

Kath Dymoke

CAROL SINGING

It's never too early to start getting ready for Christmas - and the most fun, suitable for all ages and least expensive part of the festive season is, of course, singing! There will be plenty of opportunities in December to join in with carol singing around the village and in church (details in next month's Gazette), but the first event is our traditional procession from the Church to the Crown Road lights on Saturday 29th November. Meet in the church at 5pm, warmly wrapped and with a torch. The more the merrier!

Johnny Aisher

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NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL – OCTOBER 2025

It has been another busy and positive month at Shoreham Village School, full of learning, creativity and community connections. The children have been exploring new topics, taking part in exciting trips and showcasing their wonderful talents — all while our staff continue to ensure the highest standards of care and safety for everyone. The completion of our new perimeter fencing is a welcome improvement to the security of the school site. Designed to be sympathetic to the character of our lovely village school, it provides a safe, secure environment while blending naturally into the surroundings.

Our pupils have been out and about making the most of hands-on learning experiences. Barton Class enjoyed their first school trip of the year to Swanley Library, where they listened to stories, explored shelves of new books and learned about how libraries work. Even though the trains there and back were cancelled, the children's smiles didn't fade — they filled the time with songs, snacks and stories. Back in class, they have been exploring repeating patterns in maths and beginning to blend sounds in phonics.

Palmer Class had a fantastic day at the Sea Life Centre in London, where their science learning came to life. In class, they have been busy investigating floating and sinking materials and learning about buoyancy. In maths, they have been ordering numbers and using the greater than, less than and equal to symbols with growing confidence. There has also been plenty of creative play in the mud kitchen, with children designing their own imaginative 'recipes'.

Moore Class have been honing their persuasive writing skills with adverts warning of the dangers of meeting strangers online. In science, they've been learning about what plants need to survive — including photosynthesis, chlorophyll and the vital role of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Their art lessons have seen the creation of beautiful colour wheels, while music lessons have been full of rhythm and creativity as they compose their own Stone Age-inspired pieces.

Cameron Class have been diving deep into the structure of numbers, exploring addition and subtraction through problem-solving and reasoning. In English, pupils have completed their autobiographies and are now writing stories for the BBC's *500 Words Competition*. In Dance, they've perfected their Haka routine — complete with some impressive new sequences!

Our Year 6 pupils continue to shine as caring buddies, setting an excellent example of kindness and leadership across the school. Meanwhile, our Sports Captains have taken part in leadership training, designing their own team games and preparing to share them with other pupils soon.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who supported our children's artwork at the *Our Shoreham* exhibition — from Spitfire sculptures to blossom trees inspired by Samuel Palmer, their creativity was a joy to see. As always, Shoreham Village School continues to be a place filled with energy, enthusiasm, and community pride.

We are hosting Open Days for prospective families over the next few weeks, and we still have some limited spaces for pupils available in some year groups, so if you know anyone who is looking for a small friendly school with high standards and lots of lovely outdoor space, please ask them to call us to arrange a tour. Phone: 01959 522228 or email: office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk

Gillian Lovatt-Young, Head Teacher

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Tickets (14 (£7 students) from www.ticketsource.co.uk, in person from Sevenoaks Bookshop (cash/cheques only) or phone 01959 523765.

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Kate Britten

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We can give free, confidential advice on many other areas - housing, employment, benefits, debt, consumer problems and more - so don't hesitate to contact us. There is also extensive up-to-date information on all issues on the Citizens Advice public website www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Kate Britten

HARVEST REPORT OCTOBER 2025

My 'Harvest Report' last year began with a reminder of just how WET the weather had been in Spring 2024. What a difference a year makes! You will not need me to remind you that Spring 2025 was the complete opposite with extended DRY conditions.

My Castle Farm rain gauge recorded....

- 355mm or 14" of rain in the 4 months, February – May 2024
- 80mm or 3" in the same 4 months in 2025

This meant that garden lawns required less mowing this year. Similarly grass crops on farms did not grow as much as normal – resulting less grass for animals to graze and significantly smaller hay and silage summer harvests. Forage gathered and stored for livestock to eat during the approaching winter has, on some farms, already had to be fed to cows to maintain milk production or to lambs and cattle to keep them growing.

Forage shortages are even more acute in the Midlands and the East of the country, resulting in some farmers being forced to buy in expensive silage or having to sell animals to reduce feed consumption over winter.

A prolonged lack of rainfall combined with hot temperatures quickly dried soils. Crops respond in different ways to a lack of moisture - growing less, flowering earlier and ripening prematurely. Lavender flowered a week early with a good oil yield, whilst our combine harvester began cutting on 1 July – one of the earliest starts I can ever recall.

'Variability' was a key feature of this year's harvest. Cereal yields varied in different regions across England and districts within Kent. Yields varied between different farms locally and even varied more than usual between fields on the same farm.

Exactly when, where and how much rain fell caused some of this variation. Best quality soils retain moisture for longer, which can be the difference between grains swelling rather than shrivelling during a dry June. Autumn-sown crops develop longer, stronger roots before winter, so have a greater resilience to drying soils, making them less stressed than beans, linseed, barley or other spring-sown crops. In summary, the low rainfall resulted in disappointing, below average quantity of arable yields but helpfully, fine weather during the actual harvest period itself meant good grain quality.

Potatoes, peas, brassicas and salad vegetable growers faced similar challenges of responding to dry weather. In these crops, irrigation often plays an essential role in maintaining consistent and predictable field production, thus ensuring adequate daily veg supplies into supermarkets. Strawberries, cherries, plums and apples have all loved the sunshine and warmth, making 2025 a great, perhaps a bumper year for fruits of all type.

September rains were very welcome and followed by a prolonged settled period allowing arable farmers to push on with Autumn sowings for 2026 in ideal conditions. Grape harvesting locally is now complete, having benefitted from warm, dry days, delivering a promise of 2025 being a great vintage for the ever-expanding English wine sector.

In nature trees and shrubs have also delivered what is known as a 'mast' year – by producing an exceptionally prolific crop of fruits, acorns, nuts and seeds – far in excess of normal autumn output. This phenomenon is believed to be a natural strategy for some species to survive and thrive, overwhelming predators, such as squirrels, birds and mice, by providing them with more seeds than they can ever eat.

William Alexander

DANNY KINGSHILL

As ex-Shoreham residents of yesteryear we would like to say how much we appreciated Kate Britten's lovely piece in a recent issue of the Shoreham Gazette about Danny's long association with the Shoreham Players; and the wide-ranging gifts which he brought to so many productions. We would be so pleased if we could add our own memories of Danny's amazing talents in the years in which we shared worship together in Shoreham Church. Peter remembers especially Danny's enthusiasm in entering into many creative activities in special family services. We remember his commitment to playing the organ for many years; and Jane has happy memories of his enthusiastic leadership of the Church choir. He was indeed a 'one off'; an amazing and very humble man, and also an extremely clever one, although he would never admit it. In our 'new' home in Pillerton Priors in Warwickshire we have also had the benefit of Danny's musical expertise. He twice visited our village with the Darenth Diversions trio....many in Pillerton remember the sight of him playing his cello while walking round the Church, and singing at the same time!! He was a wonderful man, and it was a great privilege to have known him.

Jane and Peter Waters

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 1	Churchyard Tidy	Churchyard	from 9am
Tuesday 4	WI First-aid Training and Quiz	Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 5	Coffee with a Cop	Village Hall	6.30pm
Friday 7	Shoreham Society AGM; Tom Hart-Dyke	Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 12	Over 60s Bring & Buy Sale	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 13	WI Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am
Saturday 15	Christmas Tabletop Sale	Village Hall	11am
Friday 21	Historical Society Talk: Delia Taylor on Women after WWI	Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 26	Over 60s Tea at Ruxley Manor	details to come	
Thursday 27-Saturday 29	Village Players: The Girl in the Attic	Village Hall	
Saturday 29	Advent Market	Church	10am
Saturday 29	Carol Singing & Crown Road Lights	Church	5pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Donations are welcome to Ken Fowler, Distribution, or by bank transfer to SHOREHAM PCC Sort code 090155 AC No 00193703. Please reference your name and gazette.

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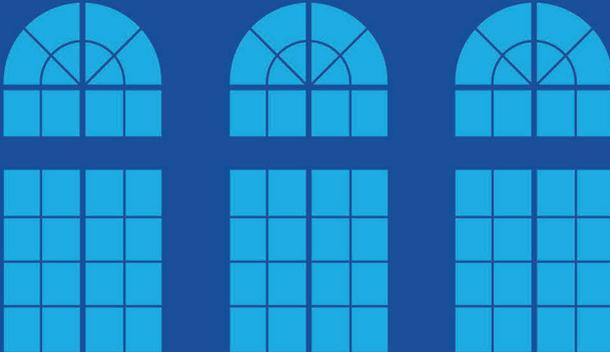
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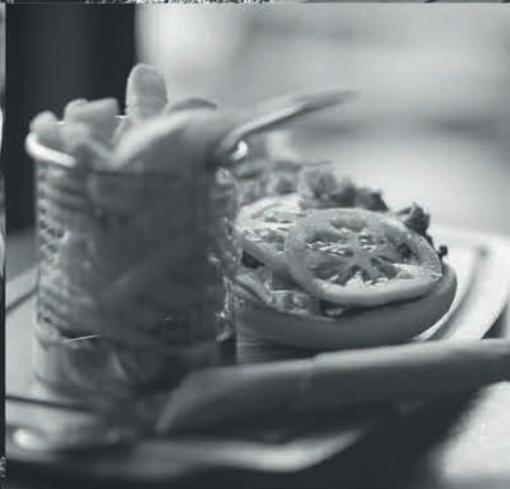
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