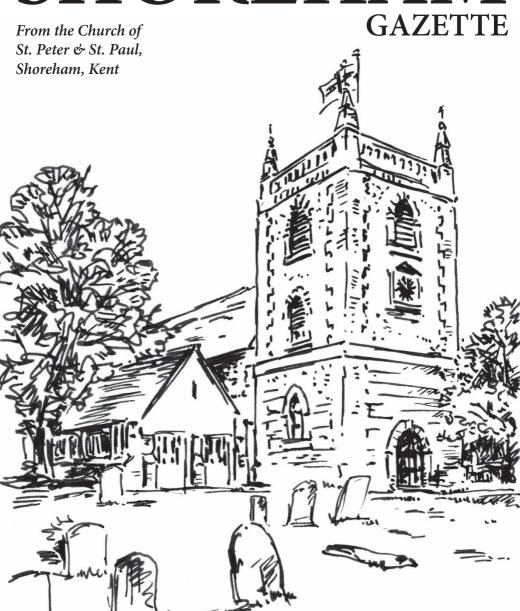
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Shoreham Emergency Plan

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 Sarah Moon, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission and agreement.



VOLUME 52 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 9 – NOVEMBER 2020

SERVICES AT ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL IN NOVEMBER 2020

Friday Prayers 10am each week on Zoom.

1st November - All Saints/ All Souls

8.45am Service of Holy Communion in church (30 mins)

10am Sunday worship for all via Zoom - you can join online or by phone.

6pm Commemoration of the Departed - service in church, with an opportunity for reflection and lighting a candle in memory of your loved one. If someone you loved has died and you would like them to be remembered by name please write the name on the list inside the church door or let Bryan know (see below)

8th November - Remembrance Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion in church (30 mins)

10am Sunday worship via Zoom ... pausing at 10.30 for 15 minutes ...

10.45am Remembrance Sunday service in church (continuing on Zoom), finishing shortly after the two minute silence.

15th November / 22nd November / 29th November - Sundays leading to Advent 8.45am Service of Holy Communion in church

10am Sunday worship for all via Zoom

Who's Who to contact about services

- ~ Please contact <u>Diane</u> revdrdi@outlook.com or 01959 522363 for Zoom service details.
- ~ Remembrance Sunday only Mike Robinson on 01959 525772.

THE PCC 100 YEARS ON

We are used to the concept of a Church of England Parish being run by the PCC (Parochial Church Council) but this institution is a relatively new one in the long history of the church. The first actual PCC meeting in Shoreham took place on November 19th, 1920 at 7.30pm in the (Old) Vicarage ... so 100 years on, I thought you might to know one or two things about our PCC, recently elected at our annual meeting ...

Ann became a member of the PCC in 2000. Over the last six years, as Deputy Churchwarden, Ann has been responsible for caring for the churchyard, including the establishment of the Garden of Remembrance. Ann is the church archivist and Editor of the Gazette since 2014

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Bill moved to the village in 2011 with his wife Linda from Otford, where he was a Lay Reader. Bill says he finally saw sense and recently decided to worship where they live. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren; other interests include golf and music.

Bryan's involvement began as a scruffy choirboy some 70+ years ago, has included most church roles from churchwarden to youth leader and today describes himself as, "ageing 'Lay Reader privileged (with wife Maureen) to play a part in the ministry of Shoreham parish."

Frank has always regarded the church as central to his life in the village, He has served as churchwarden for many years; seeing the extension project through from start to finish over 14 years. Currently, Frank is adjusting to retirement as a Chancery QC and continues to produce his Ramion children's stories.

Sarah, via Sevenoaks, Wrotham and Wales moved to Shoreham when she got married. Sarah spent most of her nursing years working in operating theatres. She was secretary of the Shoreham Society for many years and on the Parish Council planning committee.

James (PCC Secretary) spent much of his career working in the media. His family have lived in the village for many years, and although James has known the church all his life, realises that he still has much to learn from it.

Lindsey moved to the village 2 years ago with husband Duncan and two children. She is a teacher and animal lover ... has two dogs, six chickens, seven fish and an overweight silver grey tabby cat called Mouse. She likes reading, yoga, gardening and DIY.

Bilingual **Johnny**'s (Churchwarden) entire career has been with the John Lewis Partnership, now looking after their Council. He and Jill have three children (opera singer, DJ and law student). A school governor for twenty years, he devotes time to church, the garden and being a grandpa.

Elaine works in the print and marketing industry as a Project Manager. She has been actively part of village and church life for twenty years, the last seven as PCC Secretary, as well as helping with wedding admin, the churchyard and the launching of fundraising for the Church Rooms.

Terry (Treasurer) is approaching a big birthday, having been an accountant in public practice for sixty of those years. He has been married to his 'lovely wwife' Pauline for forty eight years; they have two sons. Terry sees his role on the PCC, as integral to his ethos, which is to help and serve others.

Kevin (Churchwarden) has lived in Shoreham for nearly forty years. He passionately believes that the church has a place at the centre of our community. He played a key role early on in the fundraising campaign for the extension. Now retired, Kevin looks forward to helping the church grow.



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



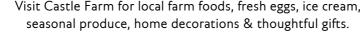
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From the Church Registers

Burial

30th October Mary Gillham

Interment of Ashes

19th October John Lloyd

CHURCH KNEELER



There are eighty nine beautiful kneelers in the Church produced by many hands and a careful list is kept of who made them. This black and white picture doesn't do justice to the kneeler that Liz Nash has created of a red admiral which is so colourful and vibrant. This is the 10th kneeler Liz has made. Thank you Liz

Ann Ball

SHOREHAM ALMSHOUSES TRUST - SMALL GRANTS AVAILABLE

Specific bequests were made in the respective wills of Thomas Terry in 1628, Sir Joseph Prestwich in 1896 and Sir Benjamin Cohen in 1909 'for the general benefit of the poor of the Parish of Shoreham'.

The endowments were originally invested and managed in three separate trusts. Those trusts were subsequently amalgamated with the Shoreham Almshouses Trust.

The objects of the Trust allow for the income from these endowments to be awarded as the Trustees see fit, by way of grants to support individuals/families in need of financial assistance. The Trustees now wish to make these funds available.

If you are facing unexpected expense and are having difficulty meeting the costs, we encourage you to apply for financial help, as we may be able to support some or all of those costs.

All applications for funding will be dealt with in a confidential manner that supports the privacy, safety and dignity of the applicant.

Please note that the **total** sum available to distribute across all applications is not likely to exceed £500 each year.

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Applications must be made for a specific purpose, using the template provided. Copies of the application form can be obtained from Sarah Moon, Clerk to the Trustees (contact via email shorehamalmshouses@outlook.com or tel 07879 655459)

- Applications and grant awards will normally be processed within two weeks of receipt
- Individuals may apply either themselves or through an intermediary if they prefer e.g. the vicar/headteacher/friend/village organisation
- An intermediary might identify someone in need and either suggest to them that they apply, or offer to apply on their behalf
- The Trustees will assess each application on a case by case basis
- Grants may be offered as a contribution to the requested amount and not necessarily the full amount, given the restriction of funds available
- If the Shoreham Almshouses Trust is not able to assist, the Trustees will aim to signpost alternative sources of funding for applicants

 Sarah Moon, Clerk to the Trustees

THE PEOPLE'S DANCE COMPANY

It was a wet October day when **The People's Dance Company** first arrived at the Shoreham Village Hall. Our many bags were full of fun. The Autumnal weather was not going to dampen our spirits.

The first class was the **Tots with Tempo** age 2-4 Baby Ballerinas who demonstrated great good toes and remarkable rhythm. Their teddies and parents watched proudly as these budding dancers found their feet.

Next up was the **Tots with Tempo** Music and Movement group made up of young babies through to two and three year olds. Their accompanying parents or grandparents ably assisted with their singing, smiles and sways. It was difficult to tell who enjoyed the activities more as children and adults alike left with a skip in their stride and babes in arms grinned gratefully.

Tots with Tempo classes are paid termly and a six-week term costs £30.

Finally, the **Fitness with Friends** crew arrived for a weekly dose of moves to cheesy tunes, all in the spirit of fitness and fun. Some attendees had transferred from a venue in Otford but we'd like to welcome more residents of Shoreham and surrounding villages. This relatively gentle class is mainly aimed at the mature and retired, though routines can be adapted to many ages and abilities, including disabilities. The cost is £6 paid weekly and booking is essential to meet the attendance restrictions in place for Covidsafety.

Lockdown affected our business greatly but we discovered new ways to reach our participants. **Tots with Tempo** and **Fitness with Friends** classes were streamed live through Facebook enabling us to teach people in their homes. We have a fabulously



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Ofsted, April 2019

dedicated and talented team who worked unconditionally planning and delivering fun sessions. In addition, **Fitness with Friends** pre-recorded videos were saved in 'the Cloud for people to play and participate in at their convenience.

Having wondered for months if face-to-face teaching would ever be possible again, we are delighted to be back sharing our love of music, movement and dance and following strict Covid-safety measures in our Covid-secure venues but with no compromise on the fun!

It is a delight to be in Shoreham Village every Tuesday afternoon. For information or to enquire about availability, please contact us as the following:

WEBSITE: www.thepeoplesdancecompany.co.uk
EMAIL: hello@thepeoplesdancecompany.co.uk

TELEPHONE: Beckie – 07990 972789 / Sue – 07768 983515

ON THE WING



The last of our summer visitors have left and by the beginning of November and our winter visitors are here. Look out for Redwing and Fieldfare feeding on yew berries in the churchyard If you see several Mistle thrushes amongst them they may have arrived from northern Europe and Russia, adding to the numbers of resident thrushes found over the summer, some of whom in turn may have migrated south.

We think of Robins as a permanent feature of our gardens and churchyards, often believing we have got to know a particular

individual. Actually, many winter Robins have migrated here from colder climes and the average life span of a Robin is only nine months, so this is unlikely to be true.

Some birds are 'true migrants', swallow for example always travels to Africa regardless of weather. Other birds such as chiffchaffs and blackcaps will respond to the weather, going south ahead of cold spells. As a result of climate change, these less programmed migrants may now stay with us all winter.

Migrating, birds need places to rest and feed and churchyards can be excellent for this. Many bird species are in trouble with populations declining steeply. Providing food and shelter for birds on the move and those wintering here can make all the difference. Bird boxes are used for sheltering as well as nesting. Dense ivy and hedges give shelter from the weather and berry-bearing shrubs provide a rich food source. Consider pruning hedges and shrubs later in the winter so that birds can feed on the berries for as long as possible. From a bird's perspective we can offer a warm welcome for its weary wings – a bit like a transport café or a cosy pub for birds

Andrea Gilpin

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The Shoreham Parish Council Bulletin No. 83 November 2020

Autumn/Winter

As we move into autumn and winter, we unfortunately find ourselves once again concerned about the possibility of facing tighter restrictions or further lockdown as a result of COVID-19. I would therefore like to remind you of the volunteer group which was set up in the village at the start of lockdown in March. At that time, all residents received a leaflet, listing the names and contact numbers of numerous volunteers, who could be contacted to help with shopping/collecting prescriptions or even just a friendly chat. This group is still up and running and whilst things thankfully remain quiet at the moment, please rest assured that should circumstances change, these volunteers are still able to offer their support. If you have mislaid your leaflet, please contact me and I will be able to provide you with a new one.

This time of year also brings unsettled and often extreme weather, which can cause blocked footpaths, debris on the roads, blocked drains, potholes etc. If you notice anything like this, please report it **directly** to KCC. The best way to do this is via the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. Here you will have access to a map, which allows you to accurately pin-point the location of the fault. The tool is useful as it allows you to see if someone else has already reported the problem. You can also add a description of the fault and upload photos if you wish – the more information you can supply, the better. If you do not have access to the internet, then please call KCC on 03000 41 91 91. Similarly, if you witness any acts of anti-social behaviour, particularly in the car park, recreation ground or church yard, then please report this directly to our PCSO, Chloe Randall, who can be contacted directly at Chloe.Randall2@kent.police.uk.

Shoreham Woods

Last month I met with Ashley Walmsley, Countryside and Open Spaces Manager at Sevenoaks District Council, and Ray Froud, SDC Park Ranger to discuss the newlv sianed off Woodland Management Plan for Shoreham Woods. The plan was originally drafted by the Kent Wildlife Trust (with input from other organisations including Shoreham Council) and has been approved by the Forestry Commission.

The overall aim of the plan is to set out a long term strategy for creating and maintaining a healthy wood, whilst simultaneously increasing The plan is to be biodiversity. implemented over a 5 year period with Andrews Wood being dealt with in years 1 and 2 and Meenfield and Pilots Woods in years 3 and 4. Work will commence at Andrews Wood this winter and will involve thinning in certain areas and coppicing in others. The thinning process will reduce every 5 trees to 3. which will ensure that the remaining trees will have more room to grow out, not just up. It will also create more light on the ground, encouraging undergrowth to flourish. Areas in which this has taken place have already seen an increase in the number of foxgloves and other woodland plants and this in turn has led to an increase in pollinating insects, small mammals and birds. A buzzard has recently taken up residence in Andrews Wood for the first time ever and it is likely that this is due to the increasing of amounts prev available. Tawny owls and little owls are also present here. Thinning the woodland in a managed way is necessary and will help enrich the woods and make wildlife thrive even more.

Andrews Wood in particular was originally planted by the Forestry Commission as a commercial timber crop, which meant planting trees close together. Because of the density and lack of light, trees planted in this manner are forced to grow tall and straight and this can easily be seen in Andrews Wood. When the woods were sold to SDC. the purpose of the wood changed from being a timber woodland to an amenity woodland. This meant that the woods have to be managed in a different way and need a helping hand to naturalise. Whilst the work is taking place, information boards will be on display but there is no cause for alarm. The plan has been carefully thought out and nature will take once again soon over. protecting Shoreham from the noise and pollution of the M25.

Similar work will be undertaken on a smaller scale in Meenfield and Pilots Woods. This will not take place until 2023/2024 and full details of exactly what is planned will be given nearer the time, probably by way of a public presentation.

Finally, there are sadly numerous cases of ash die back present in the woods. Whilst this disease is infectious, it also causes the trees to become brittle. These trees

quickly become unsafe and therefore need to be felled. If you witness the felling of any trees in Shoreham Woods prior to 2023, then this is the reason why.

I would like to reiterate that both the Countryside Manager and the Park Ranger take the responsibility of caring for our woodland very seriously indeed, the latter having worked tirelessly doing so for 30 years and therefore any actions taken, will only be done with the best interest of the woods at heart. If you would like any more details on the work planned for the woods, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Traffic and Parking

Having undertaken a traffic survey earlier in the year, we are pleased to announce that our request to reduce the speed limit on the A225 has been accepted by KCC. The Parish Council will be meeting with officers from Kent Highways to discuss the details in November. We shall also be hoping to move forward with other measures such as a reduction in the speed limit throughout the village. We were also extremely pleased to learn that there will soon finally be a footpath from the station to the village. This will make a huge difference to so many people and will allow for a safe journey home from work and school during the approaching winter months.

Tennis

The introduction of an annual subscription has been a great

success and many residents have now bought a membership card. If you, or anyone in your family enjoys playing tennis, then it is a really cost effective way of using the court. For just £20 you and any members of your household play tennis as often as you wish, the whole year round. You just need to show your card in the village shop at the time of bookina. The tennis courts will remain open throughout the winter, so please contact the Clerk if you would like to take out A card might also subscription. make a great stocking filler for Christmas!

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is currently scheduled for 4 November 2020. This meeting will be held via Zoom and, as usual is open to the public. Details of how to access the meeting will be included on the agenda nearer the time.

Website

Finally, apologies to anyone who has had difficulty accessing our website recently. We are currently in the process of building an entirely new website which should be up In the and running very soon. meantime. there if is anv information you need that you are unable to access from the website. then please contact me and I will ensure that it is forwarded to you personally.

Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk

Useful Contact Details Parish Council

Parish Clerk (D	Direct all initial	communication	via the	Parish (Clerk)
-----------------	--------------------	---------------	---------	----------	--------

Name	Phone	Email
Sarah Moon	0787 9655459	clerk2012@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk

Shoreham Ward Councillors

Roy Blamey	01959 533452	rb2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk
Jonathan Histed	01959 523993	jh2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk
Miranda Cockburn		
Martin Sheward		
Andrew Hibbins	07580 659308	andrew.hibbins2@gmail.com
Neil Powell		np2018@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Romney Street Ward

Brian Jeffery	01959 522955	brian.jeffery13@outlook.com
· ·		

Well Hill Ward

Suzanne Hubble	

District Councillors

John Edwards-Winser	01959 522503	Cllr.edwards-winser@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Irene Roy		cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Rachel Waterton		cllr.waterton@sevenoaks.gov.uk
(Crockenhill & Well Hill)		

County Councillor

Roger Gough (KCC)	01959 525109	Roger.gough@kent.gov.uk

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Check with us in store when turkey-ordering will begin this month. We may even be able to get you some half-turkeys this year if social distancing rules keep our festive gatherings limited. We're pleased to be able to install a cash machine inside the shop, and look out for our new coffee machine – able to dispense all manner of wonderfully warming coffees and hot chocolate.

Raj, Desh, Lorna and Prasanth

TALE FROM THE HILL

It is very hard in these times to write about anything ordinary, without feeling guilty, how can one be frivolous when the world's turned upside down, but as in war time comedy is the bedrock of our fightback and we Brits are rather good at laughing at ourselves. So here goes I am writing about 'the ordinary' without guilt.

The age of linoleum has long past, now replaced by laminate disguised as wood. Lino was mainly confined to the nations hallways, whereas laminate has found it's way upstairs into bedrooms and bathrooms. "Now hang on" I can hear you say, "he's going on about lino, whatever next!" Well my logic is perhaps young people should know about our past privations and older readers would briefly like to remember the past and then quickly forget about it. Nostalgia is a funny old thing, take the ubiquitous bar of Sunlight Household Soap. This hard brick that graced every sink throughout the land and was so reluctant to give up its lather was used to wash clothes, pots, pans, floors, children and the occasional dog.

The can opener, the one with the knife like dagger that gave housewives throughout the land a stigmata has now long gone. One old means of opening a tin remains with us, the little key thing that is the only way into a tin of corned beef. Once you have located the metal tab into the eye of the key, special care must be taken to wind the key parallel to base of the can, if not one of two things will happen, the little tab will break immediately or you will get to the first corner and the strip will snap, leaving you with two options-to attack the tin with a hammer and chisel or throw it at the wall

John Bovington

ROGUES - ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY

On Friday 16th October we played at Woldingham in the beautiful Haliloo Valley. I have tried to find the origin of that name, but Google has failed me. However, during my research, I learned that Death Valley received its name from a group of 49ers who

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attempted to cross the desert as a shortcut to gold in California and ran into a spot of trouble. There is apparently an area in Death Valley called The Devil's Golf Course. Perhaps we should book that for next year; sounds like a challenge.

The Woldingham course was in excellent condition and the results reflected that: 16 of 31 scores were in the thirties. (For any non-golfers who are reading this, that's pretty good. If you score 36 you're playing as well as you are thought to be able).

Alan Geaney and Steve Murphy were tied in second place on 35 points, and the clear winner was Geraldine Field on 38. The last fixture of the year is on Friday 4th December at The Darenth, although, in the circumstances, our traditional Christmas dinner at The Crown has had to be cancelled.

If you would like to join us for the golf, please get in touch.

Wyn Melville-Jones - Captain wyn.mj@btinternet.com 01959 52424

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

October has been a relatively quiet month at school as we have been unable to participate in external sporting fixtures or events. However, we have still been busy inside the building and around the village with each class taking the opportunity to celebrate their part of the Shoreham project we have all been enjoying.

Cameron Class have been developing their skills in using perspective when drawing and, after a few practice runs with lettering and shapes, they are now embarking on a Palmer style landscape using a view from the village. They have been measuring the flow of the river to enhance their geography skills and have written free verse poetry and sculpted clay figures to demonstrate their understanding of the school values.

Moore Class have created a fabulous fabric wall hanging to celebrate the class names and their connections to significant villagers, they have based their art work on Palmer's 'The Magic Apple Tree' painting, using and blending pastels. They developed their own maps of the village and created keys after studying Ordnance survey maps.

Palmer Class have been making stained glass windows after their visit to the church and have been developing their geographical location skills, labelling world and local maps.

Barton Class have created a huge River Darent using sponges and paint and have recreated some of Palmer's works using chalks. They used blocks to build bridges, working out what was needed to make the blocks balance. We have created a virtual gallery of the work which is available to view here: https://www.shorehamvillageschool.net/class-pages/

Our friends in Tanzania have managed to mainly avoid Covid related issues and we have shared the virtual gallery above with them so that they can experience some of the joyful





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learning that has taken place recently. We exchange WhatsApp messages with them every few weeks which is such a wonderful way to stay connected.

Our internal Inter-House Cross Country run took place a couple of Friday's ago and it was much enjoyed by the majority of children who are still improving their fitness levels after the lockdown period. We were proud of the determination shown by so many of our pupils who wanted to earn points for their Houses as well as achieve their personal best.

The months ahead still look quite different for us as we plan a virtual Remembrance service and online Christmas events that involve parents and carers. Whatever happens we will still be ensuring our school is an amazing place to learn!

Gillian Lovatt-Young, Headteacher

THE WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



The War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter in 1917. Its duties are to mark and maintain the graves of the members of the forces of the Commonwealth who were killed in the two World Wars, to build memorials to those who have no known grave and to keep records and registers, including, after the Second World War, a record of the Civilian War Dead.

1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces died in the two World Wars. Of these the remains of 925,000 were found and a headstone marks their graves. Where the remains were not found, the casualty's name is commemorated on a memorial. There are war graves in some 150 different countries; mostly in the 2,500 war cemeteries and plots constructed by the Commission The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a maintenance agreement with the Shoreham Parochial Church Council for the care of five war graves Arthur Levett, Vera Martin, Stephen Blundell, Albert Lynn and Walter Cheeseman.

Spare a quiet moment to seek their memorials in our peaceful churchyard and recall the great sacrifice they and so many others made on our behalf

SHOREHAM SOCIETY

AGM by Zoom on Friday 27th November - "The Farming Year"

Have you wondered what crops are growing in the fields around Shoreham? What happens to them when there are months of drought or pouring rain? How are the lovely cattle up Dunstall Farm doing? And is 31st December 2020 a good or a bad thing for farming and for our food? Our vice-president, William Alexander of Castle Farm, will speak at our public Zoom meeting at 7pm on 27th November 2020. He will tell us what

sort of a year it has been, how a modern mixed farm is run and how farming is doing generally. Our AGM for members will follow afterwards.

All are welcome to join this "virtual village hall" evening. Shoreham Society members will receive a Zoom invitation by email. The zoom Meeting ID is 897 7885 9405 and the Passcode is 313812. You need a smartphone or computer to join, and we're very sorry that you don't have access to a smartphone or computer, you'll not be able to join this time.

Filston Stream

If you've taken a walk down Water Lane recently, you'll have noticed a bit of a transformation. The water in question is Filston Stream, a branch of the River Darent that had become so overgrown that you could hardly see the river. This is a bad thing environmentally, as a rare chalk stream like the Darent needs plenty of light to flourish (as you would have learnt from the talk at our last AGM!) Light allows water plants – such as the Stream Water Crowfoot - to flourish, which supports and develops the river ecosystem of plants, invertebrates and fish.

A fine organisation called the North West Kent Countryside Partnership organised three days of voluntary tasks to clear trees and brambles from the river banks, at the instigation of Nigel Britten, our other vice-president. It was quite a prickly job! There is more work to do, and we hope to organise a task for Shoreham people in due course.

The NWKCP, which is funded in part by KCC, arranges conservation tasks in this part of Kent -see https://nwkcp.org/volunteering-with-us/. You can join them if you are free on weekdays. Kent Wildlife Trust arranges tasks all over Kent – see https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/

The Shoreham Society wishes to represent our whole community, and if you have any ideas for things we should be doing, do please get in touch. If you aren't a member already, please email jenny.walkling@btinternet.com. It costs only £5 per household per year, or £3 for one person. Jenny can resend the meeting invitation to you.

John Saynor Co-chair, Shoreham Society

DARENT VALLEY COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

A community rail partnership (CRP) was set up last year for the Darent Valley railway line. Community rail partnerships have been springing up all over the UK, with the aim of bringing train operators, councils and communities together to breathe life back into railway stations and encourage more rail travel. Our CRP is supported by Shoreham Parish Council together with Otford, Eynsford, Swanley and Sevenoaks (parish, town and district) and the main train operators in the area – Southeastern and Thameslink. I was recently appointed as the new railway officer for the line. I live in Shoreham and have been travelling by train from here for over eighteen years, so bring local knowledge and experience of rail travel to the job.

I am very keen to enlist people (known as Station Adopters) to help with the project. The plan is to revive Shoreham station and think of ways to encourage more use of the station.

For inspiration, do check the wonderful Community Rail Network website (www.communityrail.org.uk). The Covid pandemic presents challenges, but for now, groups of up to six can still work together outdoors on all sorts of tasks.

As we live in an area of outstanding natural beauty with rare habitats and precious endangered species, I would love the stations in the valley to provide vital wildflower areas. The Darent Valley CRP has a limited budget (there is some!) but we can always raise more money together to, for example, create big planters for the platforms, bring groups together to build bee hotels and set areas aside for vegetable patches or wildflowers.

Also, what would you like to do with the buildings at Shoreham station? It is likely (tbc) that we will have access to these. Perhaps a "white cube" to be used flexibly by the community, one that would allow pop-ups, small exhibitions, group meetings? Some years ago there was a volunteer-led Countryside Centre in the building, then a beautiful little station café. If you've visited Bat & Ball station recently, and seen the fabulous renovations there, it will give you some ideas. There's support to make the space Samuel Palmer-related with a permanent information display about this famous artist's time in the village.

The other big issue is better access and there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes on this challenge. Good access up to, from and at the station are vital to encouraging people to use it, and so are very much on the agenda.

Do please get in touch – community involvement is at the heart of the community rail movement and all ideas are very welcome. I can be contacted at sarah.newman@sevenoaks.gov.uk. I will keep you updated through the Gazette and Village Facebook as plans arise.

Sarah Newman

MEMORIES, MUSINGS AND MORE BY FRANK HITCHCOCK

During the war a special concession was made to farmers, to kill two pigs each year for personal consumption. The day of the pig killing was a special day. Mother's washhouse became the slaughterhouse, the wood fired copper full of boiling water, the benches given an extra scrub. Dad was very good at sharpening knives which he started on the grindstone and finished off with the steel; nothing annoyed him more than a blunt knife! My grandfather was a butcher so my Dad was well schooled in the process and the local butcher came to assist with his humane killer.

Almost every part of the pig was used, very little went to waste. Firstly, the hair was 'scalded' off using hot water and the intestines and internal organs removed. The lungs were the only part given to the dogs.

Intestines were made into chitterlings. They were repeatedly washed in copious amounts of cold water, soaked in salt water then plaited and cooked. We ate them cold with pickles and a sprinkling of vinegar which may not sound appetising but we quite enjoyed them with fresh bread and butter. The fat was rendered down to make lard and used in cooking pastry and frying.

The hams and belly pork were made into bacon. My father had his own recipe for brine and the absence of freezers necessitated a heavy salting. My memories of this bacon are not all happy ones! My brother and I preferred the fat bacon which tasted less salty. The brine was rubbed into the meat and left in a wooden trough for a long time. My uncle's trough was lined with lead — no health and safety checks then!

A part of the pig not much used these days is the trotters. My father always said that trotters should be eaten with the top of a fresh baked cottage loaf, whilst sitting under the hedge in the hay field.

I remember the wonderful pork pies my mother used to make. She made brawn too by cooking the pig's head, taking the meat off and pressing it into a basin to cool and set.

One of our favourite parts was the "pork cuttings" – the small bits of meat trimmed from the joints. We ate them fried for breakfast instead of bacon. Some of the meat was swapped with my uncle, who kept pigs, and would return the compliment a few months later.

This might sound like a lot of fuss for a bit of bacon but at a time when meat was rationed, it was worth the effort and very welcome during those difficult wartime days.

Frank Hitchcock

SHOREHAM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Extract from Memories of Shoreham by John Lane. Society Publication 5

"I was born in a cottage near the church in 1914 and started school at the age of three in the infants which is now the canteen and from there I went to the Primary School. The Samuel Palmer School of Art opposite was then a row of cottages with a low fence

Captain Steane was headmaster and Mrs Chapman and Mrs Walkley were the teachers. Captain Steane taught the older pupils and was choirmaster and organist at the church. He picked the choir from the pupils at the School.

Older men were tenors and baritones and ladies were contraltos. I was in this large and good choir for about four years. Choir practice was on a Wednesday evening in the church and no excuses were allowed. "Fit enough for school fit enough for the choir"

Mr Shoebridge took over the school after the Captain retired but not the choir. The school was enlarged in the early 1920s and for six months the Church Room (originally on the footpath by the aircraft museum) We were packed in like sardines as there were about sixty pupils

The Revd Madge was the Vicar and lived with his sister in the Vicarage. They were respected and loved by adults and children alike. He was a tall, grey haired man and very deaf and walked with a steady plod always looking at the ground, a man of few words but very sincere" To be continued.

NEXT ISSUE IS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY COPY TO SHOREHAMGAZETTE@GMAIL.COM BY 18TH NOVEMBER

GUEST EDITOR

We have a guest editor for the next issue, my granddaughter, Kirsty Freeman. Your copy should be sent as a Word attachment in Times New Roman 10 with no funny spacing or capitals to the usual email address.

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