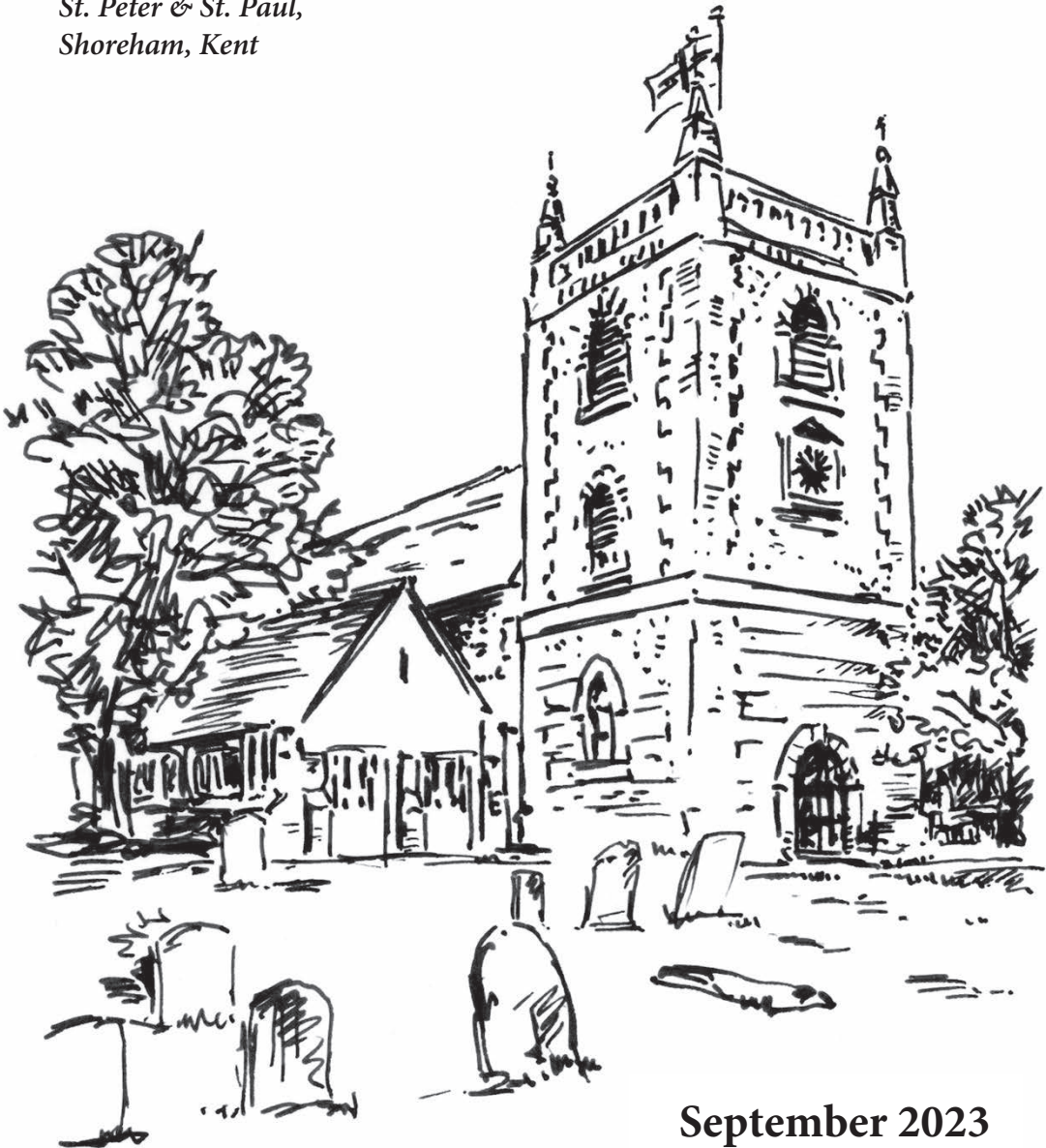


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at [clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk). 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 7**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**3 September - Trinity 13**

9am Breakfast@Church  
6pm Communion

**10 September - Trinity 14**

9am Communion (BCP)  
10am Morning Worship

**17 September - Trinity 15**

10am Morning Worship with Communion  
4pm Holy Habits

**24 September - Trinity 16**

10am Communion with Choir  
6pm Partnership Links Service at All Saints, Snodland  
*An opportunity to celebrate our links with Mpwapwa, Tanzania*

**HARVEST FESTIVAL** at 10am on Sunday 8 October

**VIEWS ON YEWS: WHAT DO YEW THINK?**

*Written on behalf of Shoreham Church PCC:*

The avenue of 50 yew trees is a major feature of our lovely churchyard and village, but they have grown larger than was originally envisaged and the Parochial Church Council needs to take some action. We are therefore inviting comments and suggestions from those with experience and expertise, as well as from anyone who would like to influence our decision, since we regard the churchyard (and church) as very much "belonging to" the village and the Parish Council has in the past contributed towards the cost of mowing, as do some village organisations.

We now face a practical, aesthetic and financial challenge. From a practical point of view, the width of the trees now makes it very difficult to carry coffins from the church (in both directions) to the churchyard in a dignified manner: the coffin-bearers, on both sides of the coffin, brush the trees and not infrequently any flowers

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on top are caught by the branches. The new field path and the wider Jubilee Gate have also led to a (welcome) increased number of people passing along the church path, and quite a few with wheelchairs, pushchairs and double buggies. Of course people are always happy to step aside but a slightly wider space would doubtless be easier for everyone.

From an aesthetic point of view, we have received a number of comments from those who feel the large yew trees make walking through the churchyard, particularly in the evenings and winter afternoons, feel somewhat “scary” and unsafe - the very opposite of what church should be! And it was never the intention that the trees should obscure the views of the church and churchyard. Where we have completely removed a couple of trees at the top of the path (to accommodate the new Jubilee Gate) there was initially some surprise, but people quickly came to appreciate the more open aspect around the gate. Many have also welcomed the opening up of the approach to the porch, where three trees have been pruned right back, and one has been experimentally “shaped”.

The financial challenge is simply that professional work on 50 trees is expensive. Whilst the trees have been “tied in” at various times over the years, this does not prevent continued growth and so a more permanent solution requires proper pruning. That could be more regular thinning and topping, as happened nearly ten years ago, or it could be a much more radical pruning, with a significant reduction in height, as has been recommended to us, to allow the trees to grow back to their originally intended shape and size. This latter approach takes much more time, whereas the former requires a lot more cash! There may be other approaches too or some combination of the two.

Whilst we are sure there won't be complete agreement - and no action can be taken without the blessing of the Tree Protection Officer - we would nevertheless prefer the village as a whole to be supportive of the approach we decide to take if at all possible. Please feel free to contact

**Revd Diane** (revdrdi@outlook.com) or either of the Churchwardens,  
**Johnny** (johnny@aisher.com) or **Kevin** (kevin.scott1502@yahoo.com)



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

*(Usual parish days Friday to Monday)*



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## **SHOREHAM CHURCH IN THE MEDIA**

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShorehamChurch>

Wedding information [shorehamkentchurchweddings@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamkentchurchweddings@gmail.com)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16928>

### **From the Church Registers**

August 30          Interment of Ashes          David Horsley

August 31          Thanksgiving Service          Tina Smith

### **FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE**

SATURDAY 9 September

10am to 6.00 pm

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Sponsorship forms are available from Ann Ball 07531669204 or downloaded on line from [www.kentrideandstride.co.uk](http://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk)

If you can come and help to welcome the participants at our Church any time from 10am to 5pm you would be most welcome *Ann Ball - Local Organiser*

### **SHOREHAM SOCIETY**

Hopefully, and before you read this, we will have enjoyed The Shoreham Society Picnic at The Quadrangle on the 24 August.

We hope the weather will hold for our family trip to Bore Place at Chiddingstone on Saturday 7 October. If you don't know it already, it is a fascinating organic farm with plenty to see and do. You are invited to connect with nature via their extensive footpaths, their educational programme, their farm shop and even their new viewing platform where you can watch the cows being milked. Tickets will be free but need to be pre-booked. Do let us know, so that we can organise things.

Our next Shoreham Shine litter pick is the following week on Saturday 14 October between 9am and 4pm. This has become a very special twice yearly village event. As always, just turn up when it is convenient for you and the Shoreham Society will

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supply the equipment, and the tea, coffee and cake to follow! If you know of areas of the village that would benefit from some TLC, then do get in touch.

Join us – If you care about Shoreham, why not join our Committee? We're a friendly bunch and always looking for new ideas! There are 6 meetings a year and you can be involved in the areas that interest you, whether it is traffic, events, planning or wildlife. Contact: [christineuman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christineuman@yahoo.co.uk) or [saynor9@gmail.com](mailto:saynor9@gmail.com) if you would like to talk it over before committing!

Talking of wildlife, you may have noticed the lovely wildflower borders – with added sunflowers - along the edge of Church Field and also at Filston. John Dinnis of Filston Farm planted them as part of wildflower headlands and to provide good seed for birds – whilst also deterring straying walkers! There are no plans for sunflowers to be a main crop, as the summers are not warm enough (yet!)

Kent Wildlife Trust's latest magazine reports on the birds and butterflies at Fackenden Down nature reserve, one of Shoreham's wonderful pieces of precious chalk grassland. In summer, you can hear *yellowhammers* and *willow warblers* and spot *small blue* and *dark green fritillary* butterflies. KWT run various events and visits for adults and children, including one on Polhill Bank in September – see their website. *Christine Euman and John Saynor, Co-Chairs*  
[shorehamsociety@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamsociety@gmail.com)

## **SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Shoreham Parish Council would like to hear from residents regarding traffic and parking in the Parish. Please engage with the Parish Council and let us know what problems you see in the parish regarding traffic and parking and most importantly, what possible solutions you have. To help the council more accurately assess the responses, could you please include the following information in your comments:

1. If you live in Shoreham village or elsewhere in the Parish.
2. If you are willing, please identify where you live.
3. As a household how many different vehicles do you wish to park outside or near to your home.
4. If any, how many off-street parking spaces do you have.

You can either email the clerk or put your comments in the Post Box at the Village Hall

## **THE CONSULTATION ENDS ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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September 20 Parish Council meeting is at Well Hill Church. The Agenda and supporting papers for the meeting will be posted on the website. [www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **SHOREHAM WOODS GUIDED WALK**

The last of the Shoreham Woods guided walks will take place on Sunday 17 September at 10:30am. The Rangers will explain how they manage the woods and the aims of the Woodland Management Plan

If you would like to attend please meet at the Rangers Lodge which is situated in Andrew's Wood. The entrance is in Shacklands Road, TN14 7BD.

*Brian Jeffery*

### **FROM THE EDITOR**

September 1993 we won the Best Kept Small Village in Kent and as a prize we have the nice plaque on the Village Hall Wall and the bench by the Bungalows in the High Street. We had many innovations in the Village including the wonderful Countryside Centre at the station, manned every Sunday by volunteers organised by the redoubtable Jill Morgan. I organised the entry on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Ann Ball*

### **SHOREHAM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Our autumn season of meetings kicks off on Friday 15 September at 8pm in the Village Hall, when Nick White will talk on The Four Battles of Sevenoaks. Join us for free refreshments from 7.30pm. Remember that membership costs just £8 per year, or you can come to a meeting as a guest for £3. Later in the year we have talks on The Coming of the Railway and The History of Eynsford Castle. Don't forget to keep up with Shoreham history news on our ever-expanding website at <https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

### **SEVENOAKS LITERARY FESTIVAL 2023**

There's a great line up at the Sevenoaks Literary Festival, which runs from 22 September to 2 October.

Memoirs and biography feature prominently in the programme this year. Highlights include: renowned broadcaster and journalist Clive Myrie, talking about his new memoir Everything is Everything; Justine Picardie in conversation about her



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definitive biography of Coco Chanel; Otto English revealing some surprising darkness in the stories of famous figures from history in Fake Heroes; Mike Brearley, arguably England's greatest cricket captain, discussing his memoir Turning Over the Pebbles with celebrated cricketer Ed Smith; and Blake Morrison reflecting on the loss of his two sisters and sibling relationships in literature in Two Sisters.

In the world of music, Jane Glover explores the life of the young Mozart and his three childhood trips to Italy, while Daniel Rachel looks at what might have been with The Lost Album of the Beatles.

In other talks we'll have Madeleine Bunting considering the state of the nation through its coastal resorts in The Seaside; Anna Murphy, Fashion Director of The Times showing how to make the most of life as a grown-up woman; and Tracy Borman on her extraordinary mother-and-daughter story, Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth

For the second time the festival is being sponsored by Wildernes House, who will be hosting two events during the festival in their beautiful library. The first is a head-to-head discussion between a true crime writer and a crime novelist. The second is a celebration of feminist publisher Virago in their 50<sup>th</sup> year, with the Editor in Chief Lennie Goodings and one of their novelists, Linda Grant. Both events will include free drinks and canapes. You can get all the information and book tickets at [www.sevlitfest.com](http://www.sevlitfest.com)

*Elie Williams*

## **STEPS TO WELLBEING**

Get active and socialise with the Shoreham Walking Group, set up for adults by Sevenoaks District Council as part of their Healthy Living initiative. The walks are free and take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 10.30am. They last about 90 minutes depending on which of three routes we take around the Darent Valley. We meet on the footpath next to the Vicarage in Station Road. Unfortunately the routes are not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies. More information is available on Sevenoaks DC website. Please contact the team on [healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or 01732 227000 to register

*Helen Wood*

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## **SHOREHAM OVER 60S**

Wednesday 13 September

Beetle drive and quizzes at 2pm in the village hall.

Tea and delicious cakes, as always.

Wednesday 27 September

Fish and chips for lunch at 1pm in the village hall.

## **WALNUT TREE TRUST**

The Trustees are pleased to share an update on works on the outbuildings in the portfolio. The barn renovation quotations are in and there are significant sums to be found in the short term to enable these works. The garage roof structure needs more repair than we had hoped and we await confirmation of whether this is covered by our current approved listed building consent or not, hence the pause.

We are confident, from the interest expressed by individuals so far, that a number of people in the village are prepared to loan the trust money for five years at base rate to fund this work. If you would also like to play your part in seeing these beautiful buildings come back to life and get a better return on your money than the bank will give you, do get in touch with Sue, our clerk to express an interest and find out more. The charges quoted to us for a loan from the bank are considerably more so this is a brilliant solution to our cashflow issue and is a total win-win. You can get in touch via [clerk@wttshoreham.org](mailto:clerk@wttshoreham.org) or message us on our Facebook page.

*Jill Aisher Chair, Walnut Tree Trust.*

## **THE LATE JANE HOPKINS**

My sister Jane Hopkins who died on the 8 July aged 71 was a valued member of the Shoreham community in the 1980's and 90's. She ran Shoreham Village Stores with her brother Neil. In 1981 she became the village postmistress following the death of Jim Morse. She was instrumental in the upgrading of the village tennis courts and was part of a committee along with George Booker, Jim Wood and her brother Neil which raised money for the courts' resurfacing. Jane also formed and organised the Shoreham netball team which played its matches on the court at the primary school. She was involved with the Village Players being in charge of props and also making seating plans for many years. In 1990 she produced two short plays "Rats" and "Afternoon at the Seaside", the lighting technician for these plays was one Mark Hopkins.

She was a keen sportswoman and captained Sevenoaks women's hockey team, before joining Neil at the village stores she was a P.E. and Biology teacher. An avid

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traveller, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, walked the Inca trail, and travelled through much of India and the Caribbean. In the mid 1970's she travelled overland from Australia to the UK, the final part of the journey from Kathmandu to Victoria Coach station was in a converted double decker bus.

She will be very much missed by her family and friends; she was a very sympathetic and enterprising person. Both husband Mark and daughter Beth were with her when she passed away in Pembury hospital.

*Robert Pierson.*

## **SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS ARE 100 YEARS OLD**

And, if we do say so ourselves, we're looking rather good for it... We are one of the very few amdram societies in the UK to have reached the grand old age of 100, and it's heartening to see our group still thriving, with talent abounding both on and off stage.

We have a heritage to be proud of. Our stage has been the fertile ground from which careers in the professional theatre have sprung. And, maybe more importantly, the realm of the Players has always been a welcoming and happy place for all, where confidence is boosted, talent encouraged, and every contribution appreciated. We enjoy each other's company, and life-long friendships - even marriages - have been the result.

Over the years generations of Shorehamites have created theatrical magic in the Hall, the Church, and some beautiful outdoor settings. We've played every genre from Shakespeare to panto, farces, musicals and dramas. We've breathed life into the scripts of famous playwrights such as Wilde, Coward, Stoppard and Pinter, and some from homegrown writers.

To celebrate all of this, we have created an exciting programme for 2024, our centenary year, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to join us as cast, stage crew, or audience.

We're also using our centenary to kickstart raising funds towards getting our technical kit up to scratch. The current system has worked hard for us for many years, but it is tottering on its last legs. Increasingly we are having to hire equipment, which adds significantly to each production's budget. So, we have a once in a generation project to raise £20,000 to replace all our lighting and sound equipment. If anyone has fundraising experience we'd love to hear from you, as we'll be looking for help in finding sponsors, individual donations and grants.

If you'd like to make your own donation, of any size, you can find our fundraising page at: [gofundme.com/f/shoreham-village-players](https://gofundme.com/f/shoreham-village-players)

Here's a glimpse of what's coming up....

The Players' Social - 21 October 2023

A night for the whole village - more details to be announced soon.

Christmas Cabaret - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

A seasonal celebration in a cabaret atmosphere, with food and wine. Bring your friends, book a table. (16+ age guidance)

We're holding an audition on 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall at 2pm and then the production team are meeting at 4pm. Come along if you'd like to get involved on stage or as part of the crew.

The Hamsters – every month

Our wonderful and imaginative youth theatre is running workshops monthly, discovering the world of mythology. The next one runs from 10am to midday on 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Village Hall. Anyone from 8 to 18 is very welcome to take part or just come along and watch. The shyest often bloom the most.

Two - March 2024

A compelling, funny, upsetting and moving story of one night in a pub (16+ age guidance).

Joseph – June 2024

Our triumphant return to full scale musicals with Joseph and The Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat. To be staged in the Church – this one is for the whole family and the cast will include everyone from 8 to 100.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Party - July 2024

Get your party pants on for our big celebratory evening.

One Man Two Guvnors - November 2024

And we round the year off with this hilarious, fast-paced farce that will leave you breathless with laughter.

It's going to be quite a year. We really hope you'll enjoy it. For further information keep an eye on Instagram (@shorehamplayers), Facebook and of course The Gazette. Or you can always email us at [shorehamvillageplayers@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamvillageplayers@gmail.com)

*The Players Committee*

## TALES FROM THE HILL

To stay or not to stay? That was my and my brother's dilemma on many Saturday nights. At that time there was no coordination between the Maidstone & District bus company and the four local cinemas. The main features usually ended after 10pm - the last bus went at 9.45 pm. My brother would give me a furtive look. Was it really worth staying until the film ended? Even if we sprinted out before the National Anthem we would still miss the bus. Staying meant a 5 mile walk home. Although we knew most cowboy films ended in the same way, the temptation to stay would be irresistible and the ending inevitable. After a chase through the canyon back to the hideout the hero, possibly Alan Ladd, would arrive just in time in time to save the boss's daughter, possibly Rita Hayworth, from the clutches of the gang leader, possibly Jack Elam.

My dad loved cowboy films, they were predictable fantasy although he had certain misgivings. "Why is it in a cowboy fist fight they always helped their opponent back on his feet his feet before punching him again? And why, after the cowboys have been grovelling around in the dust for ten minutes, they pick up their stetson, flick their trousers and emerge as if they had just been to the Dry Cleaners?"

Pathe News, Pearl & Dean, Look at Life, the B movie, usually a Raymond Chandler thriller, the cigarette smoke and booing the projectionist when the film broke at the vital moment. The noisy hunt for the little bag of salt in the crisp packet. All these elements added to the excitement of a Saturday night at the flicks!

Meanwhile back at the hideout...

*John Bovington*

## SHOREHAM WI

Our next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 5 September in the Village Hall when we will welcome the owners of Bray's Bees (Kent-based beekeepers who produce pure honey from their own hives) who will tell us about their journey, honey production and its many uses. They will have their own honey-based products for us to sample and purchase if anyone wants to. Members and visitors should arrive from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. New members and visitors will be warmly welcomed – please send any enquiries to [Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk)

The Monthly Community Coffee Morning will be back in September when everyone is welcome at the Village Hall on Thursday 14 September from 10am to 12pm. Delicious home-made cake and a cup of coffee (or tea) for only £2 – we look forward to seeing you at this friendly, popular morning.

*Shoreham WI*

## THE SHOREHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Autumn Show will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 9 September. Schedules available in the Village Shop. Staging from 10am to 12 noon, judging starts at 2pm and Doors open at 2pm for everyone to view the Show at a cost of 50p per person. Prizegiving at 3.15pm

## SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Tuesday 5	Shoreham Women's Institute	Village Hall	7.15pm
Saturday 9	Ride and Stride at the Church from 10am		
Saturday 9	Autumn Show	Village Hall	2pm
Sunday 10	Players Auditions	Village Hall	2pm
Wednesday 13	Over 60s Quiz and tea	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 14	Shoreham Community Coffee	Village Hall	10 to 12 noon
Friday 15	Shoreham Historical Society	Village Hall	8pm
Sunday 17	Shoreham Wood Walk	Andrews Wood	10.30am
Wednesday 20	Parish Council Meeting at Well Hill Church		
Wednesday 27	Over 60s Fish and Chip	Village Hall	1pm

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## GAZETTE COPY

Copy for OCTOBER should be sent to [shorehamgazette@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamgazette@gmail.com) by **19 September** as a word attachment in Times New Roman 10 and single spacing.

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### SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Are you interested in acting, singing, directing, lighting & sound, stage design & construction, costumes... having a lot of fun and making friends for life?

THEN COME AND JOIN US!

Email:  
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01959 523 979

## Shoreham Village Hall



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



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