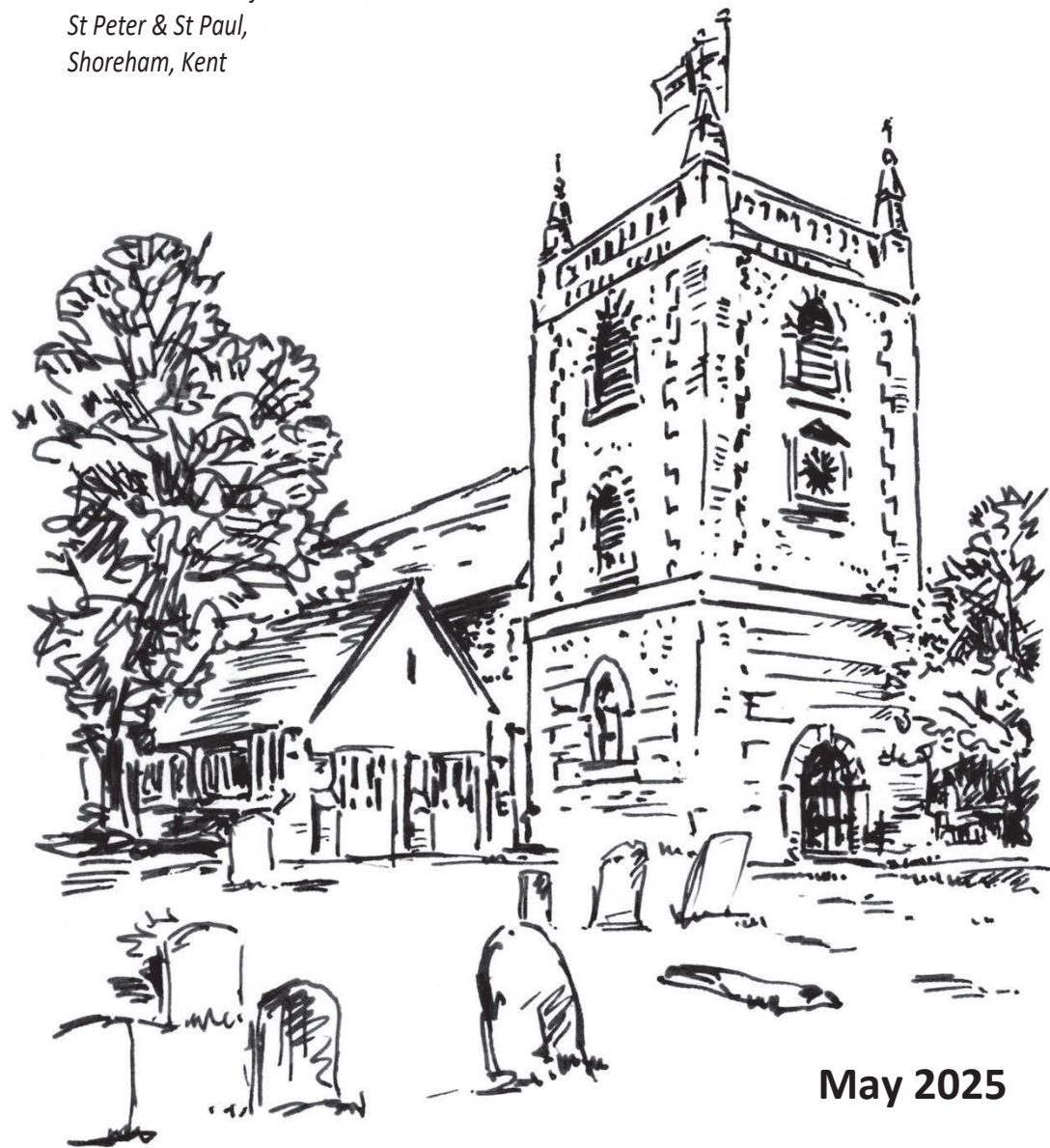


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at [clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk).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



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According to author Emily Bronte, 'May is the month of hope'. But hope seems to be in short supply as we go into May 2025.

We live in troubling times with many concerned about what the future might hold. Pensions and savings have been hit by President Trump's tariff manipulations; uncompromising powers continue to devastate Ukraine and Gaza risking world peace; across the southern hemisphere man-made and natural disasters leave millions homeless and starving – while many governments (including our own) are looking to cut back on overseas aid to prioritise defence spending. Meanwhile at home April's price hikes affect all of us but particularly those already running on threadbare budgets. No wonder the foodbanks are struggling to keep up with demand.

As individuals there seems so little we can do, except, if we can manage it, buy a few extra packets and tins to put into the local food bank and give a bit more to charities working in poorer countries... and of course, if you are a person of faith, to pray.

I know that some will ask is there any point in praying. As a neighbour said to me last week.... 'If there is a God up there I don't think he's listening'.

Well there is... and he does!

The story is told of Hudson Taylor, the missionary, who was on a sailing ship to China. The ship was becalmed, and slowly drifting toward an island inhabited by cannibals.

In desperation, the captain asked Taylor to pray for the help of God. 'I will,' said Taylor, 'provided you set your sails to catch the breeze.'

Despite his doubts the skipper did what Hudson told him. Hudson left the deck and shut himself away in a cabin to pray. A while later while he was still praying, he heard the Captain's voice calling 'Are you still praying?' ... 'Yes.'

'Well, you better stop, the wind is tearing the sails apart!'"

Every time we pray, we should pray in hope, but also in faith - 'sure of things hoped for' – always accepting that God's response may not be the one we want – it may be a different response or none at all (if it's not in our best interests). God's greatest gift can be an unanswered prayer!

Over the years when I've had answers to prayer, friends have explained them away as coincidence. William Temple who was Archbishop of Canterbury during World War Two wrote ... 'I'm amazed when I pray how often coincidences happen'.

A few years back with an ageing and reducing membership, the Church was urged to pray for more young people. Recently the Bible Society published research from 2024 showing a significant rise in the number of young people reporting belief in God and attending church in England and Wales.

Coincidence? I think not!

*Bryan Harris, Lay Minister [shorehamparish@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamparish@gmail.com)*

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## **MAY SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - Easter 3**

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Holy Communion

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Easter 4**

9am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Worship

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Easter 5**

10am Morning Worship with Communion

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Easter 6**

9am Holy Communion with Choir

## **FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER**

Interment of Ashes

**Ruth Bailey**

Thursday 10 April

## **COFFEE AND CHAT – FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY**

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!

## **SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES**

As excitement builds for the Duck Race on May 11th, don't forget that the Stores will be the place for all your supplies on the big day – not least our unrivalled supplies of ducks, specially bred for speed and endurance, plus fishing nets for rescuing any competitors in distress.

Our soft drink range continues to grow, and now includes Pepsi Zero Sugar Cream Soda and Fanta Tutti Frutti, while the freezer will of course be choc full of ice-cream. Or you can make your own tub with our ever-popular Fwip ice-cream machine by the counter. Biscuit-lovers will be pleased to know we now stock Bahlsen Choco Leibniz cookies and Galaxy-covered digestives.

*Raj and Venkat*

## **SHOREHAM CHURCH STAY AND PLAY**

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## **SHOREHAM WI**

Our next WI meeting, which is our AGM, will take place on Tuesday 6 May at the Village Hall. Members are requested to arrive from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Although there will be no formal speaker we will have a fun quiz, refreshments and the chance to socialise after the formalities have been completed. Please send any enquiries to [Shoreham@wkwfwi.org.uk](mailto:Shoreham@wkwfwi.org.uk)

## **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING**

Do come along and join us for our next Community Coffee morning, which is being held on Thursday 8 May in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. Everyone is welcome at this enjoyable monthly event when the cost is only £2 for tea/coffee with a delicious home-made cake. We look forward to seeing you there for a good chat with friends and neighbours, as well as meeting new people from Shoreham and surrounding areas.

*Shoreham WI*

## **SHOREHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

### **VE/VJ Day 80 Celebrations – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 12 noon – Kings Arms**

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon with the Shoreham Royal British Legion & the Kings Arms as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day) and look forward to the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day later this year! Join us for a fantastic BBQ, live entertainment by the amazing Miss Vintage (2-4pm), and all the fun of the 1940s with an authentic atmosphere. Dress in your best vintage attire and immerse yourself in the era! It's going to be a day of nostalgia, music, and celebration – don't miss out!

### **Wreath Laying & Beacon Lighting – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – War Memorial – 9pm**

Mark the end of Victory in Europe with communities across the country as we lay a wreath and light a beacon to unify the county in also remembering those who didn't return home after the war had ended.

*Henry Desmond*

## **OVER 60s**

Wednesday 14th May - Life as a River Pilot. A talk by Mike Cooley. 2pm in the village hall.

Wednesday 28th May - Trip to Emmetts Gardens. Meet at 1.15pm in Filston Lane carpark.

Many thanks to Suna and Kath who arrange our programme throughout the year. They in turn would like to say a HUGE thank you to Sharon and Kevin for helping with the tables and chairs.

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### **DARENT VALLEY CHOIR MAY CONCERT**

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**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**'Blue Skies'**



Come and celebrate May's arrival with us at our concert on May 10<sup>th</sup> in St Peter and St Paul's, Shoreham. The programme includes part of 'Time of the Singing of Birds',

Marianne Farningham's poem, set to music by Eynsford composer Rodney Burton. Also included are Haydn's 'Te Deum', some delightful English traditional songs, a poem or two and our usual musical surprises! Look out for our posters around the villages.

Admission is £12 and *under 18s are free*. Bar available (donations). Tickets will be on sale on the door and from our singers. You can also email: [darentvc@gmail.com](mailto:darentvc@gmail.com)

Do tell your family and friends about the Darent Valley Choir – singers are very welcome to join us.

*"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life,  
bringing peace, abolishing strife." Kahlil Gibran*

### **SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Our final meeting until the autumn is not to be missed. It's on Friday 16th May when James Dickinson will unpick the many mysteries of the Bayeux Tapestry – the 11th-century chronicle of the Norman Conquest with important Kent connections. The meeting starts at 8pm in the Village Hall, with refreshments from 7.30. There'll be a final chance until later in the year to look over all our publications delving into Shoreham's history. Non-members are always very welcome.

Don't forget our website for stories, pictures and profiles covering the many fascinating buildings of Shoreham and its famous former residents:  
<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

*James Saynor*

### **SHOREHAM ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

We are holding our Annual Plant Sale on the Allotments on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May with help from our friends from Shoreham Horticultural Society, from 10am to 1pm.

Bedding Plants, Perennials, Veg Plants, Soft Fruit plants, Gardening stuff too.

Plant donations will also be welcome.

Come along and take a look at the Allotments as well, some plots are currently available to rent.

*Jeremy Tooley*

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**Calling children of all ages to Shoreham's biggest annual event. It's the Duck Race on Sunday 11 May!**

Your first job is to make or decorate your own duck.

The best ones will be put on display, and you can win an award for style. Please use your imagination and skill to make your own duck (or ducks). Be as creative as you can! Special award for a sustainable (non plastic) duck.

The race starts at the Bridge, which is where you come to register your duck. **Duck Registration takes place between 1.30 and 2.20pm.** Volunteers will give you a form to fill in your details. If you bring your own duck, it costs £2 to register. If you don't have your own, you can buy an Orphan Duck for an extra £2. Each duck is given a number which you need to note to see if your duck wins.

A team of helpers puts the ducks in the river behind a barrier, and the **race starts at about 2.30pm.** The winning post is by the footbridge near the bottom of Mill Lane. There are medals and certificates for the winner. The Duckmaster is William Alexander of Castle Farm, who arrives in the Duckmobile and oversees the race. He also checks the river in advance for obstructions.

While you are waiting, special **Duck Biscuits, cakes and drinks will be on sale.** Friends of Shoreham School (FOSS) will also be selling ice creams and cakes.

Every year, the money raised by the Duck Race goes to support a village activity or good cause. This year, we are supporting Shoreham Pre-School which is attended by many of our village children.

If you can, please persuade your friends and family, if travelling from further afield, to leave their cars behind, to reduce congestion. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, trains will only be running to Shoreham from Swanley and Sevenoaks, with connections to Victoria and Charing Cross respectively. If you do come by car, it is hoped that parking will be possible in the Heavy Horse Field.

**We need many helpers on the day – please get in touch as there are many different jobs to do.** A lot of work goes on behind the scenes. Please contact Chris Euman ([christineeuman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christineeuman@yahoo.co.uk)) if you'd like to join the team – young and old welcome!

Looking forward to a fun afternoon! [shorehamsociety@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamsociety@gmail.com)

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

### **SHOREHAM FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**Tuesday 6 May, any time from 5pm to 9pm, The Samuel Palmer Pub**

Come along to the monthly board game evening at the Samuel Palmer to play fun games and share laughs. Everyone is welcome – kids, adults and families, in groups or

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alone. Come any time and we'll help you find a game and a table. We'll have a great selection of fun games, or you can bring your own.

*The event is hosted by Ceri & Natalie Price who live in the village and are board game lovers and inventors.*

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my lovely gifts that were presented to me on 28<sup>th</sup> March at The Kings Arms on my 'retirement' as Secretary and Committee member of The Shoreham Royal British Legion. I am, truly, humbled by not only the lovely gifts but also the kind messages and cards I received. I was not expecting any of it at all and I thank each and every one who was involved in this. I joined The Shoreham RBL after singing in the choir at their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1995. I became a member of The Committee in 2000 and, later on, Secretary. It has been an amazing road to travel, I've been all over Kent with others representing The Branch at parades and events...I've been to Westminster Abbey, to Canterbury Cathedral and, more recently, Rochester Cathedral for RBL events. Within the village there have been too many events to list individually but a few stand out: the Exhibition in The Church to mark the start of The Centenary of WW1; the wonderful concert given by Henry Desmond and his Orchestra to mark the end of The Centenary of WW1 which also coincided with the Branch's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Then there was the big tea party and WW2 exhibition we organised to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day in 2015. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been a Committee member for all those years and I will continue, as a Branch Member, to support them in every way I can. I will be at The Kings Arms for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May, where there will be a singer and a BBQ taking place during the day. Please, do, come along and help celebrate this Anniversary - everyone is welcome.

*Lorna Robinson*

### **COME TO OUR MIDSUMMER QUIZ**

**Saturday 21 June at Shoreham Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm start**

It could be Midsummer Magic if you win the quiz on 21 June, so why not save the date in your diary and get a group of friends together to share a table? There will be tables of six, so it would be great if you could make up a team, or if you want to come on your own or with a friend, we can match you up with a table; just let us know you are coming. Tasty nibbles will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own as well. A pay bar will be open all evening selling wine, beer and soft drinks. We will again be raising funds for our local food banks, and cash or food donations will be welcome on the night.

Tickets at £10 will be available from Shoreham Village Stores or Ticketsource from 1<sup>st</sup> June. For any enquiries, please contact Anne Deane [anne.darentvalley21@gmail.com](mailto:anne.darentvalley21@gmail.com) or ring 07745 292556.

The quiz is organised by the Darent Valley Branch of the Labour Party.

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

## VILLAGE VE DAYS GONE BY



*The ceremony at the Cross on the Hill on 8 May 1945, led by Revd Paul Gliddon*

*“All the lights shone out in Shoreham – no more black-out, and the church was floodlit. We knew we could sleep in peace that night for the first time for five long years.”*

Such was Mollie Lewis’s memory of VE Day on 8th May 1945, which featured a village parade, a children’s party in the Village Hall and a ceremony by the Cross on the Hill. The young Ray Cornwell made the most of the offerings in the Hall – “a plate with one sandwich on it and I think we had a choice, one sausage roll, one mince pie and then a little cup with a jelly in it. We thought this a terrific party at the time.” Sixty years later, in 2005, Ray took part in another VE Day commemoration which involved a ceremony led by the British Legion, the presentation of peace roses by children to veterans, a play about living through the Blitz, and a remarkable reunion of those from near and far who had been at the school in 1939.

Events for the 50th anniversary, from May 6th to 8th 1995, were equally elaborate. Months before, a 12-person working party laid out plans for a service by the bridge, the passing of a lighted torch, a procession to the Cross, a floodlit barbecue and a “design-a-mug competition”. Seven mug designs were entered, but all proved too expensive to produce, so a simpler look including the school logo was agreed instead.

A 49-minute video of those three days of gatherings was made and has been digitised by the Historical Society. Amid pubs decked out with flags, a throng of villagers are shown climbing the hill to outline the Cross with candles and to light a giant beacon, with Danny Kingshill at the head of a musical crocodile of children. Prayers and readings in the village are led by the Revd Barry Simmons, a Spitfire does aerobatics, guns are fired on the hill, and there’s an exhibition in the Village Hall where the mugs are handed out to slightly dubious-looking under-elevens. Profits from the events funded a party for veterans to mark VJ Day on 15th August. “Many stories were swapped and a good time was had by all,” noted the commentary on the video.

*James Saynor*



*Revd  
Barry  
Simmons  
leading  
the  
service by  
the war  
memorial  
on 7 May  
1995*

### **TEMENOS CHAMBER CHOIR**

***O clap your hands.*** Saturday 7 June, 7.30, in Shoreham Parish Church.

Inspiring music by Orlando Gibbons, whose 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary this is, and some of his contemporaries and successors at Westminster Abbey: Robert White, John Blow, Henry Purcell and others. Some will feature organ accompaniment which is very appropriate as the Shoreham Church organ came from Westminster Abbey.

Tickets £15, (students £7), from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), 01959 523765 or visit Sevenoaks Bookshop (cash or cheques only).

### **THE CHURCHYARD BUTTERFLY**

Holly Blue can be thought of as a butterfly of churchyards as the larva (caterpillar) has two food plants, holly and ivy, both of which are common in churchyards. Holly Blues have two broods per year, the first eggs hatch in May and the larvae feed mainly on flower buds and leaves of holly. They then pupate and emerge as butterflies in late summer ready to lay eggs. This second batch of eggs then hatches in August and the caterpillars feed on ivy. Look for holes where they have munched through holly and ivy flower buds! These caterpillars form chrysalises and overwinter like that, they then hatch out in April and May when the butterfly can first be seen, ready to lay those first eggs in May. The adults have different eating habits from the caterpillars, feeding on flower nectar, oozing plant and tree sap, aphid honeydew and juice from rotting fruit and carrion. They take the trace elements and minerals that they need from bird and animal droppings.

Blue butterflies can be quite a difficult group to identify, but Holly Blues are much easier than other blues as they fly high around trees rather than staying close to the ground. They are a lovely pale silvery blue colour with a wingspan of about 3cm and can be seen between late March and mid-June and then again from late July through to September. The males are territorial, if you see a butterfly flying around the top of a holly or ivy-covered tree or wall, they may be driving off other males and attracting females to come and lay eggs, which they will fertilise.

A key conservation principle is that an animal has different needs at different times, all of which must be met if the population can survive and thrive. In the case of the Holly Blue, the adult needs somewhere to lay eggs, the caterpillars and then the adults both need food. A churchyard with holly and ivy growing, as well as wildflowers, insects such as aphids and plenty of other life providing both droppings and then carrion is ideal. Please look out for Holly Blues flying and also the holes made by hungry caterpillars!



Holly blue butterfly

Prue Dakin [info@cfqa.org.uk](mailto:info@cfqa.org.uk) [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

### **SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR MAY 2025**

Saturday 3	Sevenoaks Climate Fair	Sevenoaks Vine Gardens	10.30am
Monday 5	VE Day	Kings Arms	from 12 noon
Tuesday 6	Board Game Evening	Samuel Palmer	from 5pm
Tuesday 6	WI AGM	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 8	WI Community Coffee	Village Hall	10am
Thursday 8	Wreath Laying & Beacon Lighting	War Memorial	9pm
Saturday 10	Darent Valley Choir Concert	Church	7.30pm
Sunday 11	Duck Race	War Memorial	1.30pm
Wednesday 14	Life as a River Pilot. A talk by Mike Cooley	Village Hall	2pm
Friday 16	Historical Society talk Bayeux Tapestry	Village Hall	8pm
Saturday 24	Annual Plant Sale	Allotments	10am
Wednesday 28	Over 60s trip to Emmetts Gardens	Filston Lane carpark	1.15pm



## SHOREHAM GAZETTE


Do take a good look at our adverts for local services. The Stag is updated every month with their latest stage and screen 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 gazette.


Copy for June Gazette by 18<sup>th</sup> May to [shorehamgazette@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamgazette@gmail.com)

You may have noticed that we have changed the font! Word attachment in Calibri 10 and single spacing, please. Images as jpgs, please.

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# WHAT'S ON AT THE STAG SEVENOAKS



## STAGE • SCREEN • COMMUNITY

THE STAG IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY

### WHAT'S ON SCREEN

**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE:  
DR. STRANGELOVE**  
7<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**LES MISÉRABLES: STAGED CONCERT**  
11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**THE ROYAL OPERA: DIE WALKÜRE**  
14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE**  
18<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**EXHIBITION ON SCREEN:  
MICHELANGELO, LOVE & DEATH ENCORE**  
20<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**THE ROYAL BALLET: BALLET TO BROADWAY**  
22<sup>ND</sup> MAY

**A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN THE MUSICAL**  
1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

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### WHAT'S ON STAGE

**KENTISH OPERA: DIE FLEDERMAUS**  
1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY

**SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS:  
MADAGASCAR**  
3<sup>RD</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**RARE PRODUCTIONS: PETER PAN**  
8<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**CARPENTERS TRIBUTE SHOW**  
10<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**P\*SSSED UP PANTO: SLEEPING BEAUTY**  
16<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**SPIRIT OF SPAIN: GUITAR CLASSICS**  
17<sup>TH</sup> MAY


**THE MARQUEE CLUB ALL STAR BAND**  
22<sup>ND</sup> MAY

**MAINLY WINEHOUSE (AMY WINEHOUSE)**  
24<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**NAVI: THE KING OF POP**  
25<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S PYGMALION**  
30<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY

**FREE HOT DRINK OR POPCORN**  
ENJOY A FREE HOT DRINK OR SMALL POPCORN ON PRODUCTION  
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**STAG SEVENOAKS**  
VALID UNTIL 01/06/25



## Shoreham & Otford CC

offers:

- Saturday and Sunday men's cricket
- We play in divisions 1, 4 and 8 of the Kent County Village League
  - Women's cricket
- Junior coaching for boys & girls age 7-15 from April - July
  - Winter nets at St Michael's School
- The ground and pavilion can be hired, call Laurence for details

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

**www.socc.uk**

Find us on Instagram: @shorehamotfordcc Or Facebook: shoreham-otford-cricket-club

And you can even search for Shoreham Otford Cricket on Youtube

**Contact: Laurence Cooper • 07950 436009**

Email - Seniors Men: sandocccavailabilities@gmail.com

Juniors: chrisspollard\_1@yahoo.com

Women: niceynz@gmail.com



### 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:

[shorehamvillageplayers@gmail.com](mailto:shorehamvillageplayers@gmail.com)

Or call Janet Heuston on:

01959 523 979

## Shoreham Village Hall



Weddings . Parties .  
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**To check availability:**

<https://shorehamvillagehall.co.uk/halibooking/>

**Bookings by email only:**

[bookings@shorehamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@shorehamvillagehall.co.uk)

## Shoreham Pavilion Available for Hire

A fully accessible, beautiful, wooden building with central reception space, kitchen and changing rooms set overlooking the school playing fields and Spellers' Wood.

The facility is ideal for evening or weekend events, adult or children's learning or music groups, and as a meeting room for social groups. The Changing Rooms are available to hire separately in conjunction with use of the field.

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



## Yoga Classes in Shoreham Village

I offer a variety of options:

- group • private and semi-private
- in-person and online • all abilities

Please contact me:

Email: [info@yogabylucy.co.uk](mailto:info@yogabylucy.co.uk) | Website: [www.yogabylucy.co.uk](http://www.yogabylucy.co.uk)

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Darent Hulme, Shacklands Rd. Shoreham, Kent TN14 7TU

## SHOREHAM ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Grow your own!

Annual rents

- Full plot £25
- Half plot £15
- Quarter plot £10

Membership Secretary

Vannessa Hills

[v.hills098@gmail.com](mailto:v.hills098@gmail.com)



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

## THE DARENTH COUNTRY CLUB

THE DARENTH, STATION ROAD, SHOREHAM, SEVENOAKS, KENT, TN14 7SA  
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