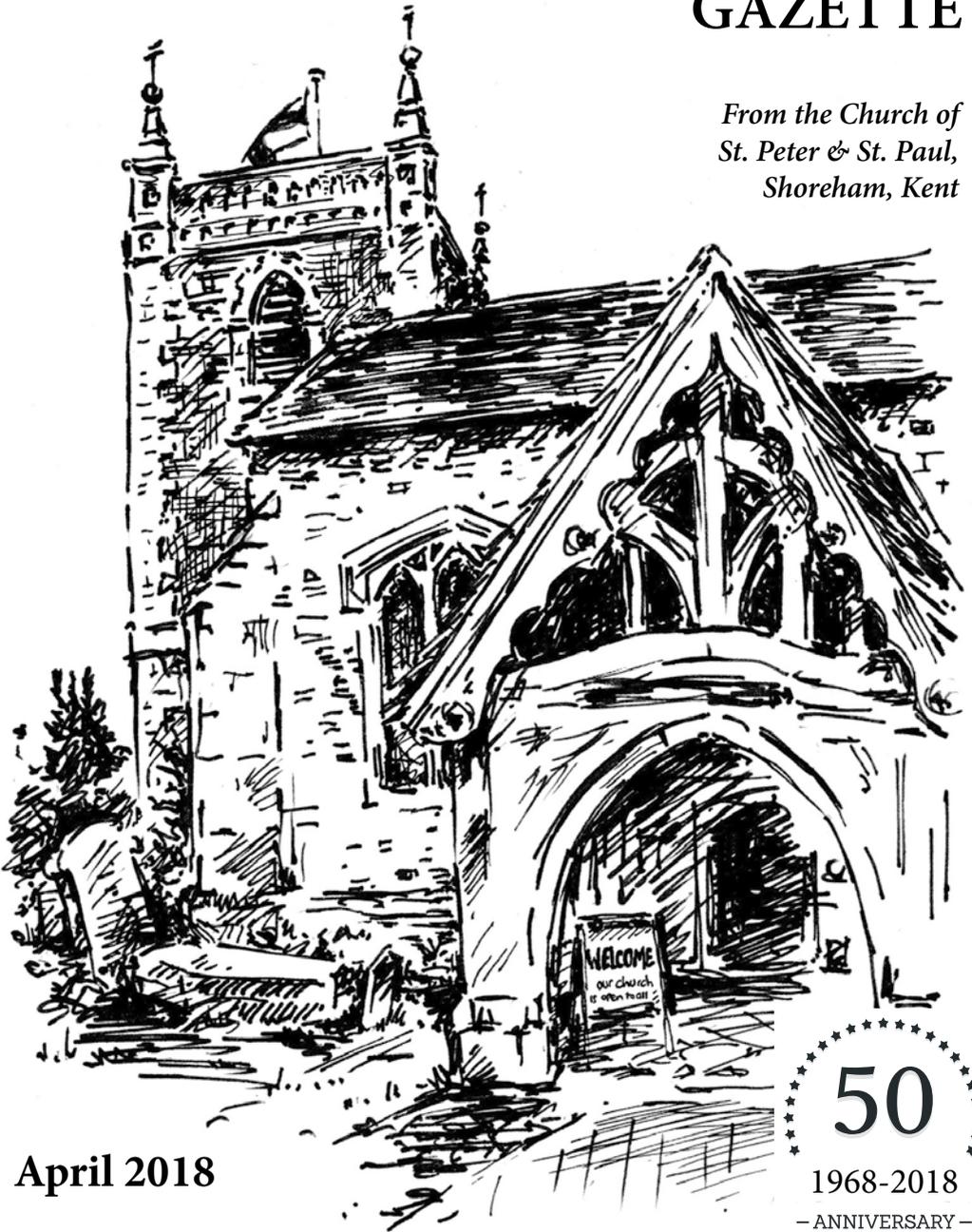


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Sarah Moon, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk . If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission and agreement.

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Volume 50 SHOREHAM GAZETTE Number 4
APRIL SERVICES

1st April - EASTER DAY

6.25am - Meet at Aircraft Museum (Sunrise 6:35am)

Sunrise service at the Cross on the hill followed by bacon sandwiches at the Vicarage.

10.30am - Easter Day Eucharist

6.00pm - BCP Communion

8th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

8am - BCP Communion

10.30am – Short Eucharist with Taizé music

6.00pm – Songs & Poems

15th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

8am BCP Communion service at Farningham

10.30am – Eucharist

6.00pm – Compline

Saturday 21st April –

7pm - St George's Feast + Hoedown Haystack

22nd April - 4th Sunday of Easter

8am - BCP Communion

8.45am - 10.15am Annual Parish Church Meeting

10.30am – Morning service for everyone Café Style with food

***NO EVENING SERVICE

29th April - 5th Sunday of Easter

8am BCP Communion Service at Farningham

10.30am - Short Eucharist

6.00pm - Songs of Praise



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

CELEBRATING EASTER

A chance encounter, an interesting discussion, a question, an hour of silence and a book I'd been recommended, have all challenged my thinking, over the last few days, about what Easter means. Most people get more excited about Christmas than Easter but Easter has always been the high point of the church's year. Christmas is significant but if you take Easter away you don't have Christianity.

I began to realise that, if I'm honest, my focus is often on Easter as the end of something - the busy period of Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week, after which I can have a break - rather than the beginning of an exciting period celebrating new life, hope and possibility.

We are pretty good as a church, and often as individuals, in our keeping of Lent. We perhaps give something up or make time to reflect on our lives. Then towards the end of Lent the excitement builds as we process on Palm Sunday; this year with brightly coloured Palm Sticks, and often with a donkey. We then go into Holy Week, with the foreboding events of Maundy Thursday and the marking of Good Friday. We finally arrive at Easter Day ... and then what? We often see Easter Sunday as the finale, confining the resurrection simply to one day. But whereas Lent is 40 days, the Easter season to Pentecost is 50 days. Are we maybe what Mark Bradford describes as, "...an Easter people living in a Good Friday world?"

I'm thinking again about how to view Easter Sunday as the starting of something new; to live out the Easter promise that in Christ we are a new creation; to find ways to allow Easter to unleash a season of festivity, music, feasting, rejoicing, doing good works, showing generosity, practising hospitality, and all the things that kindle in us new hope and new possibilities; to see it as a sunrise at the start of a new day.

Because as Thomas Merton, theologian and mystic, wrote: "Sunrise is an event that calls forth solemn music in the very depth of human nature, as if one's whole being had to attune itself to the cosmos and praise God for the new day, praise God in the name of all the creatures that ever were or ever will be."

If you are able, join us at sunrise on Sunday April 1st up at the Cross to welcome in the beginning of the Easter season (meet at 6.25am ... no it's not an April Fool ... at the Aircraft Museum ... afterwards at the Vicarage for breakfast).

NEW READERS

It's fantastic that we welcome eighty new readers of the Gazette in the East Hill ward of Shoreham Parish, if you want to submit an article to the Editor the links are on the back page. Welcome and enjoy. Thank you Brian Jeffrey for arranging this and Shoreham Parish Council for supplying the funding.

HAPPY EASTER.

Revd Diane

EASTER CRAFT MORNING

The popular Easter Craft Morning will be held on Good Friday, 30th March, 10am - 12 noon at the Church. Come and join us for some crafting fun. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sharon Desmond

Saint George's Day Feast Party

Saturday 21st April 7.30pm till 11 pm

In Shoreham Church English Fayre, Entertainment & Dancing to Haystack Hoedown. Tickets available from the Village Shop £25 (£15 for under 16) to include feast and a welcome drink. Cash bar.

In aid of The Friends of Shoreham Church

CONGRATULATIONS



Frank and Gill Hitchcock will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary at the end of April. Married in Shoreham Church in 1958, they have spent their whole lives living and supporting Shoreham Village and Church. We send you all our love and best wishes for a very happy Day.

SHOREHAM CHURCH EXTENSION UPDATE

Excavation Archaeological Investigation and Yew Tree

The footprint for the extension has been excavated down to the underside of the foundation slab with 20 skips of earth removed. The archaeological investigation has been completed with the position of each foundation mini pile located and marked. With the relevant consent the yew tree to the north of the extension has been trimmed back. Oil tank and headstones were moved in 2017. Physically the site is ready for work to begin.

Planning approvals

External lighting and materials details have been approved unconditionally by Sevenoaks DC. Building control approval was given subject to conditions on 6 March. Shortly all planning conditions will have been satisfied.

Tenders/main building contract

Tenders were opened on 2 March. Negotiations have started with the two companies with the lowest tenders with a view to building work starting at the end of April. The tenders were higher than the 2016 QS costing and savings need to be made both through the process of negotiation and by reducing the specification. Proposed savings include replacing a cedar boarding roof in Meeting Room No 1 with plasterboard and replacing Purbeck stone flooring in Meeting Room No. 2 with laminate.

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Fundraising and overview

The phase of fundraising which started in September 2016 was extraordinarily successful. From a base of not much more than £50,000 the target of £500,000 was rapidly reached. The extension fund accounts presented by the Church Treasurer to the PCC Meeting on 9 March show total projected funds receivable as at 31/12/17 as £500,041.35. £56,039.29 spent on the project in 2017 needs to be deducted leaving £444,002.06 as at 31/12/17. Enormous thanks to all donors, members of the fundraising committee, helpers and attendees at fundraising events.

I started this project in 2000. At times it has proved controversial, but where we have ended up is with a project which everyone can support. The new extension is tucked away on the north side of the church within the floor plan of a medieval church (it occupies what would have been the north aisle if one had been built in the Middle Ages). Future generations will find it as unobtrusive as the choir vestry added in the north east corner in the nineteenth century. Future generations will wonder how on earth we survived so long without toilets or other modern facilities.

£500,000 will not be sufficient to cover extension, repairs and decoration. Once the tender negotiations have been completed the shortfall will be calculated. Please send cheques payable to Shoreham Church Extension Fund to The Vicarage. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation let us know.

Frank Hinks Churchwarden

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll will be revised in preparation for the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd April 2018. Please report any corrections by Monday 9th April to Ann Ball, Oxbourne View, Mill Lane, TN14 7TP. Application forms are available at the back of the Church or from Ann Ball should you wish to add your name.

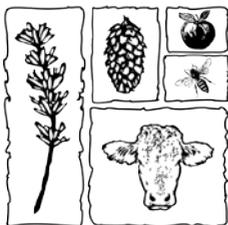
OUR WONDERFUL CHURCH TEAS

We are delighted that once again Lesley Spence is to organise teas in the Church for the weekends in August and the first weekend in September. There is no Heavy Horse Show on the first week of September this year which is sad.

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

With pupil safety in mind, Kent Fire and Rescue were invited in to talk to the pupils from Year 1 to 6 on the subject of fire safety. There were three different talks covering various aspects of staying safe, preventing accidents and how to act in an emergency. The children enjoyed meeting the firefighter who visited and feel that they have learned how to act in tricky situations.

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Cameron Class (Y5/6) and Barton Class (Reception) pupils traditionally ‘buddy up’ at the start of each year to ensure that our youngest pupils always have an older friend that they can rely on to support them at school. Each week, the children have ‘Buddy Time’ together which can involve reading, carrying out investigations and recently, making a film to retell a nursery story. This week, they have made faces using wood, nails and balsa wood pieces. The Barton buddies planned what they wanted their face to look like in their learning books, then they showed it to their Cameron buddies and they based the wooden face from the plan. The buddies then gathered the tools required – a hammer, nails, the shapes required for the face, then they set to work making their wooden face; they look truly wonderful! Their next step is to varnish their creations so that they will go outside the school. Some pupils said:

“I am really enjoying doing the wooden faces because we get to use the hammer and nails. I enjoy using the hammer and nails because we get to use a variety of things in DT which makes it much more fun!”

“I love doing DT because we use a hammer and nails which is fun because I’ve never used one before and it’s really exciting.”

Although the snow managed to disrupt our learning for a few days, we did not let it stop us from celebrating our annual World Book Day and Eisteddfod. Pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters which encouraged some wonderful discussions about different books as we all tried to guess the names of each character. In the afternoon, class champions, who had been chosen to represent each class, shared their creative talent with the school and an audience of parents and friends. We were entertained with a vast array of talent which included guitar playing, singing, poetry, artwork, craft and story-telling. *Cameron Class Pupils and Mrs Lovatt-Young*

SHOREHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For our April meeting we will be reverting to our evening meeting time of 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd April in the Village Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Patsy Groom who will be regaling us with the advantages of using Aromatherapy. Refreshments will be served, please come and join us. Visitors welcome.

STOP PRESS

Our Community Coffee morning this month will be on Thursday 12th April from 10.00am - 12.00pm in the Village Hall. Tea/Coffee and home made cakes are on the menu. All are welcome, please come and join us. Plenty of chat - just the tonic for a Thursday morning!
Sylvie Poynter

WHO'S GOT OUR TABLES

SOMEONE HAS TAKEN 2 SMALL TABLES FROM THE VILLAGE HALL THAT BELONG TO THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND THIS MAKES LIFE VERY DIFFICULT. . SLIP THEM BACK INTO THE HALL IF YOU ARE THE CULPRIT

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THE ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY

A bitter and wet winter has offered little joy to golfers. However, all this will change as a new Rogues season is about to start. Our first outing will be to the Shooters Hill Golf Course on April 20th. This is an attractive and well-established parkland course, which has stunning views over Kent. There has been some recent refurbishment of both course and clubhouse. In terms of the golf, there are plenty of interesting holes and you can look forward to 'Amen Corner', a trio of challenging par 3s.

The rest of the season includes some courses which are new to us or have not been played for a number of years; eg. Mid Kent, The Nevill, Rochester and Cobham, and some which are more familiar; eg. Woodlands Manor, West Malling and Chislehurst.

As always, if anyone might think about joining us, either as a new member or a guest, then do please get in touch with me on: christineeuman@yahoo.co.uk or 01959523374.

Chris Euman - Captain 2018

SHOREHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On March 16th the AGM was held and we are pleased to confirm that Suzie Faubert has agreed to continue as Chair and Linda Alleeson will continue as secretary, despite the hard work. David Simmons will continue as treasurer and the rest of the committee remains unchanged.

The meeting was delighted to welcome the speaker Toni Mount, whose talk on the medieval housewife kept the audience riveted with a series of scenes describing the customs and technology of the medieval household and the role of women within it. Fascinating details emerged as to how a woman should treat her husband based on thirteenth and fourteenth century instructions and what she should wear to maintain her appearance as a respectable woman. We were taken through the house from the bedroom to the kitchen, all the scenes illustrated by beautiful contemporary paintings and drawings and we learnt a lot about what you can do with nettles and the importance of aprons.

The next meeting will be on 20th April when Alan Williams will give a talk on the Use of the London Underground during World War 2

Mary Symons

SHOREHAM CRICKET CLUB (www.shorehamcc.co.uk)

New Season: With Spring showing signs of having sprung the new season beckons. Anyone interested in finding out more about playing for us is welcome to visit our website and contact me.

Junior Cricket: The Club has still been unable find suitably qualified coaches to lead coaching sessions at our ground. Fortunately Horton Kirby CC, thanks to their Chairman, Gordon Watts, have again invited Shoreham boys and girls to attend Sunday morning coaching sessions at their ground, under the watchful eye of two England



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The Shoreham Parish Council Bulletin No. 75 April 2018

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm at Shoreham Village Hall. This is a very informal affair at which all are welcome, including children. Last year over 50 people attended and made valuable contributions as to what they liked and disliked about the village and these comments will be used to form the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan. This year, we are delighted to welcome Kent Wildlife Trust to our meeting, who will be giving a presentation on the Polhill Bank Nature Reserve, one of the several reserves they manage in our parish. Polhill Bank offers stunning views across Sevenoaks and is a haven for many chalk grassland butterfly and orchid species as well as providing habitat for many birds such as yellowhammer and black cap. KWT are hoping to secure another 28 acres of land which will secure precious habitat for the future and transform the site and the presentation they plan to give will explain how they intend to do this and ways in which local people can get involved.

The meeting will follow a 'conservation' theme and will also give residents the opportunity to ask questions about the AONB in general, which, the Parish Council is extremely keen to protect. We have also recently been successful in registering the woods around Shoreham as a 'Community Asset' and will be able to explain exactly what this entails.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at this event. Refreshments will be provided!

New Parish Councillor

Following an uncontested election last month, we are pleased to announce that Neil Powell has been elected to the Parish Council and will fill the vacancy, which arose following Philip Dodd's resignation last year. Neil will formally take on the role at the Parish Council meeting in April and we look forward to working with him from then on.

Snow

The Emergency Resilience Team were on alert during the snow. Fortunately we had ensured that all salt bins were filled to capacity and thank those villagers who used this resource. Thanks also to those who made the journey to the pharmacist to ensure residents got their prescription medicine in time. It was typical of Shoreham that so many took the initiative to check on the potentially vulnerable and provide what they needed.

Communication

We are keen to ensure that parish news is communicated via multiple channels in order that everyone stays informed. We would like to remind everyone that the Parish Council has a Facebook page and a website as well as several noticeboards around the area (a new one will soon be installed on the fence at the George pub

courtesy of the Golf Club). Parish meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and the open format allows for some interesting two way discussion. Planning meetings are usually held on a fortnightly basis, providing there are planning applications to consider. We also try and get our messages out through other community forums such as the Shoreham Village Facebook page, the Well Hill page, the Nextdoor App and, of course, the Gazette, which is now distributed to all homes in the East Hill area as well as in Shoreham itself. Finally, the contact details of all councillors can be found on the back of this insert and whilst all communication should be directed through the Clerk in the first instance, councillors will of course, be happy to speak to you about any issues/concerns you may have.

Car Park

Last June, Sevenoaks District Council relinquished their lease on the Filston Lane car park and the Parish Council were obliged to take it on. We now need to pay business rates as well as maintenance charges as we are responsible for ensuring the car park remains clean, tidy and safe at all times. Sevenoaks District Council however, have retained

the bottle banks and the land on which they sit and they are also responsible for emptying the rubbish bins. Since relinquishing the lease, we have noticed that the bottle banks are not being emptied quite as frequently and the rubbish bins are also often overflowing. There has also been an increase in fly tipping on the site. We are trying to resolve this problem but in the meantime, if you notice any problems with the refuse collection in the car park, we would be most grateful if you could lodge a complaint directly with Sevenoaks District Council.

Freighter Service

The freighter service has been scheduled to come on Saturday 21st April 2018. Please bring any items/household waste to the bottom of Forge Way in Shoreham at 9.15 or to the Kent Hounds car park in Well Hill at 11.15 where you can load them onto the freighter.

Recreation Ground

Please could all parents of children who play football, ask them not to play on the fenced off area between the goal posts until further notice. The ground has suffered a huge amount of wear and tear over the past few years so we are now in the process of getting it re-turfed. Once laid, the new grass will need several weeks

to bed in so please don't play or walk on it until it is established and the temporary fencing is removed.

Footpath

We are pleased to announce that Kent County Council will soon be resurfacing the riverside footpath (SR4) from the bottom of Mill Lane up to the Village Green. To ensure the whole length of the path could be resurfaced, the Parish Council had to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the work. The path will no doubt need to be closed for a few days whilst the work is taking place and as soon as we have a date for this, we will communicate it to everyone. The path is widely used by residents and visitors alike and we are sure that its resurfacing will make a difference to all those who walk along it.

Next Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 following a Planning meeting at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 25th April and the Annual Council Meeting, will be held on Wednesday 9th May 2018. We hope to see you there.

Sarah Moon

Clerk, Shoreham Parish Council

Useful Contact Details

Parish Council

Parish Clerk (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
Lesley Spence	01959 525259	ls2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Parkes	01959 523732	dandsparkes@gmail.com
Alison Collins	01959 525347	alisoncallender3@gmail.com
Andrew Hibbins	07580 659308	andrew.hibbins2@gmail.com

Romney Street Ward

Brian Jeffery	01959 522955	brian.jeffery13@outlook.com
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Well Hill Ward

Norman McDonnell	01959 534310	nfmcdonnell@gmail.com
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District Councillors (S=Shoreham, WH=Well Hill)

Stephen Lindsay (WH)	07786 410911	Cllr.lindsay@sevenoaks.gov.uk
John Edwards-Winser (S)	01959 522503	Cllr.edwards-winser@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Michelle Lowe (S)	01959 525109	Cllr.lowe@sevenoaks.gov.uk

County Councillor

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

Police (Not emergencies)	101	Dial 999 for emergencies
Pothole reporting	08458 247800	http://www.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000	
Environment Agency	0845 9881188	

Cricket Board (ECB) Level 2 qualified coaches. Parents please note that part of the coaching qualification process does include DBS checking.

The coaching sessions cater for 5-15 year olds organised into at least two groups. No previous experience of the game is necessary. For more information please email me at shorehamcc@gmail.com. Full details available on website.

Club History:

The publication of ‘Shoreham’s Daddy Hundreth’ is anticipated in April – please watch out for posters. Copies will be on sale at the Village Shop or at Sevenoaks Bookshop – all proceeds to Shoreham Cricket Club. Here’s another taster for you:

“Benjamin Cohen, and his wife Louisa were great patrons of many village causes and took an active interest in cricket, notably financing the building of the Club’s first pavilion in 1900. At the opening ceremony Mrs Cohen was given the honour of declaring the pavilion open. The Sevenoaks Chronicle of 8 June 1900 reported that *“during the day the annual match was played between Shoreham CC and Chelsfield CC. The weather was beautifully fine and there was a good attendance of spectators. Mr Mildmay and Mr Albert Bath both being present in the afternoon. Chelsfield went in first... (With) the total eventually being carried to 88. Shoreham then went in and by a strange coincidence were dismissed for the same total”*. So the match was tied.” If you want to find out who Albert Bath was, then make sure you buy a c

opy of the book!

Nick Walker

SHOREHAM 8TH BIENNIAL OPEN GARDENS SAFARI 2018 **SATURDAY JUNE 30 AND SUNDAY JULY 1**

We announced earlier this year that a new committee had been formed to organise the next Garden Safari, but this is still the same Garden Safari as the last one in 2016. We would like to continue this biennial tradition that gives village residents, families, gardeners and the general public the opportunity to bask in summer sunshine, share gardening successes, and celebrate the beauty of Shoreham.

The Church will continue to benefit from the weekend, but as there is no fete this year, the committee would like to support other village societies as well. We recognise the contributions of the church and every society to the life of the community.

But we need more gardens for this event to go ahead. We are contacting former participants and neighbours but would love to hear from anyone, new or old, who would like to be part of this. Please email shorehamogs@gmail.com or leave your contact details in the Village Stores if you would like to share your garden, however big or small.

We will make a decision after Easter whether or not to go ahead this year, based on the enthusiasm of the village to host the Safari in their splendid spaces *Peter Kasch.*

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THE WILD CHERRY. (PRUNUS AVIUM)

A.E. Houseman once wrote: “Loveliest of trees, the cherry now, is hung with bloom along the bough”. Writing, as he did, with many other poets around the turn of the last century, the horrors of the First World War would, I think, have sharpened his senses to the natural world. It is widely believed, and I have experienced this myself, that privation and suffering give us a more acute and wider sense of beauty; two ends of a spectrum so to speak. Perhaps I am being a romantic but I cannot help thinking how different the human relationship with nature was then; It is sad to reflect on the ‘narrow’ window through which we look at our natural surroundings and how they now seem almost distant and unimportant as we become more and more immersed in fatuous and superficial pursuits that have become part of the ‘modern’ existence. I wonder if the beauty felt by Houseman is still felt by us now in the same way.

As we stagger into spring with yet more unseasonal snow and ‘extreme weather events’ I wonder if our native Wild Cherry will come back to life at all - it will, of course, and as the soft cream flowers emerge, we will all, I hope, have that wonderful sense that spring has arrived and delight, as Houseman did, in the new and emerging life before us. Aside from the beauty, we should remember what the function and purpose of the blossom that adorns our downland Wild Cherries or ‘Geans’ as they are sometimes known, actually is. It is not for our aesthetic enjoyment that the profusion of five-petalled flowers are displayed to the world; The trees have to set fruit - the small cherries so adored by birds. (Hence the Latin suffix ‘avium’) - for this to happen the flowers need to be pollinated by bees. These insects, along with other flying creatures of their kind, are under threat. A recent scientific report from Germany produced evidence showing a 75% decline in flying insects in the last 25 years. It is very likely that the chemical sprays so loved by farmers and so lamented by the late nature writer D. J. Watkins Pitchfork (or ‘BB’ as he was known) are the prime cause. Neonicotinoids, banned by the E.U. in 2013 are designed for the express purpose of killing insects; little wonder, then, that bees are on the decline.

The U.K. opposed the ban (as it has with most other directives introduced by the E.U. to protect the environment) and so, once again, our wildlife loses out. It is us though who, in the end, will be the final losers as with the decline of pollinating insects so will follow a decline in cherries and of course other crops that rely on the hardworking honey bee and other pollinating insects to produce their seed. It seems ironic that the misplaced notion that to kill insects to produce more food (or, to be more precise, profit) is in fact creating a situation when the very ability to produce food crops at all is under threat. Cherry blossom appears and is then gone in such a short time, enjoy it while it lasts.

Glenn Morris

Sue Wickes

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY CONCERT

Tickets for this very special event will go on sale at The Village Stores and from Maggie Triggs, 43 High Street early in May. The concert will take place on Saturday 23rd June in The Church at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm.

The programme has music by Henry Desmond and his Orchestra, Shoreham Singers and Shoreham Church Choir. Songs by Emma Scott, Tom Hicks, Bobby Stevenson and Will Desmond. Together with Poems and Readings remembering all the men of Shoreham who fought in WW1. There will be music from WW1 and WW2 plus other familiar pieces. Incorporated in this will be The Shoreham Royal British Legions 70th Anniversary. 1948 – 2018. This event is for the whole village to enjoy, so don't miss out...tickets are £12.00. There will be a licensed bar. We look forward to welcoming you to this special event.

Lorna Robinson

SHOREHAM BRANCH – THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

LEST WE FORGET

Monday 9th April is the 100th Anniversary of the death of Arthur Franklin. The Royal British Legion will be remembering him at The War Memorial at 7pm. As always, we will be lighting a candle for him which will burn all night. A brief history of his life will be read, followed by The Exhortation and a minute's silence. Please join us to remember one of Shoreham's own.

THE SHOREHAM SOCIETY



The Footpath Group, organised by Steve Birkin for the Society, had its inaugural meeting in February and fourteen volunteers have been allocated routes to monitor. A number of others, who were unable to make the meeting, will also be taking on paths. We are grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to feedback any concerns to KCC and for supplying the detailed maps of the paths in the parish. The group will meet periodically and new volunteers are always welcome.

The Society has recently purchased a microphone and amplifier which can be used in conjunction with the projector or as a stand alone piece of equipment. We were able to afford this thanks to the profits from the 2017 Duck Race. Plans for this year's Duck Race (planned for Bank Holiday Monday, May 7th at 2.30pm) are underway - more details in the May gazette.

The Shoreham Society remains concerned about the Sevenoaks District Council's intentions to build houses on the site currently occupied by the Timberden Farm barns, which is part of the Greenbelt and in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The exhibition held by Sevenoaks District Council in the village hall provided more questions



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than answers and the Society will consider what action is needed once the planning application has been submitted by SDC - to SDC.

We are keen to widen our membership. It is only £5 per household to join (£3 for single household). Please contact Jenny on jenny.walking@btinternet.com to request a membership form or for more information. *Sheila Birkin. The Shoreham Society*

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

During the big arctic freeze of a few weeks ago, we had the busiest couple of days we've known in the shop and we are grateful for the kind things people said on Facebook about our round-the-clock service. With our suppliers unable to plough through the snow, we slithered our way to our sister shop in Kensing for emergency bread and milk, while our house-to-house delivery people braved the blizzards. We're in the midst of a lot of improvements in the shop, with new promotions every month. Keep an eye out for special offers on everything from goose eggs to multipack drinks

Santhosh, Kannan, Lorna and Raj

SHOREHAM OVER 60'S

The Over 60s are a very friendly group and welcomes both ladies and gentlemen two afternoons a month during the winter months in the Village Hall, then come the spring, we venture out on the most amazing trips and visit local gardens. Please do come and join us at one of the following events. There is a very small charge to be a member and a delicious cup of tea and sandwiches are served during the afternoon.

Wednesday 11th April Bluebell walk at Oak Hall (details to follow)

Wednesday 25th April 2.15pm Poetry and Bring and Buy Sale

All About Badgers coffee and Fundraising coffee Morning Sunday 29th April starting at 10.a.m. in the village hall.

The West Kent Badger Group is holding a coffee morning and fund raising event which aims to introduce people to the elusive world of the badger. Field officers will be there to offer advice about managing badgers (e.g. in your garden!) and there will be fluffy badgers of every description on sale alongside bric a brac and cake stalls (*contributions very welcome*). If you like badgers and can help us on the day, please contact me via birkins78@gmail.com *Sheila Birkin (members the WKBG committee)*

TALES FROM THE HILL

I am sorry that Geoff Stanley did not quite make it to a hundred, it is also a pity that he just missed out reporting on "The Beast from the East." He would have enjoyed reminding us that the winters of 1947 and 1963 were similar, all caused by a large high pressure system blocking Atlantic fronts.

The 1947 blast was remarkable for the amount of snow, over 4ft and strong winds causing 20ft drifts. The '47 winter was a cruel blow to a country trying to recover from the war.

SHOREHAM GAZETTE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1948 – 2018

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For nearly two months the country came to a halt. Many power stations were shut down. Ships could not dock because of ice, the mercury dropped to -20c. Livestock froze in the fields. Vegetables could not be harvested, some farmers resorted to digging them out with pneumatic drills. A hundred thousand troops and prisoners of war (yes many were still here) were drafted in to clear snow.

Ingenious ideas were used to help with the situation. The Royal Navy launched operation 'Black Currant' whereby diesel powered submarines generated electricity for some coastal towns. There is a photo of a jet plane mounted on a railway wagon, the jet exhaust pointed down onto frozen points. The army used flame throwers to melt the ice. At Kew the sun didn't shine for 20 days.

The situation was so bad that the war weary population became increasingly angry with the government. Emanuel Shinwell, the Minister for Fuel and Power, had to have a police escort, and the winter was a contributory factor to Atlee's fall from grace at the next election.

I suspect that this winter will be remembered for its late onset, and the coldest spring day since records began. On a more local point, all exits from "The Hill" became impassable, despite Row Dow being a primary route for gritting.

Annette decided to use the local 'Next Door Shoreham' web site, (despite my scepticism) to gather support for action, and to my amazement it had the desired effect for our local KCC member Roger Gough who lives on 'The Hill' sprang into action!

I will remember this winter for two reasons. Kent Wildlife Trust delivered twenty Herdwick and nineteen Hebridean sheep to Magpie shortly before the snow fell. It confirmed my reluctance to graze sheep. The Herdwicks are perfectly camouflaged and in a snowy woodland scene they are nigh invisible. As for the Hebrideans they are antisocial, skittish and impossible to count, they are very reluctant to bleat in case they give away their location and their favourite pastime is getting entangled in brambles.

The other reason for remembering this year was watching our two youngest grandsons having great fun on their sledges in Magpie Bottom.

John Bovington

VILLAGE DIARY APRIL 2018

3 rd	Women's Institute	Village Hall	7.30pm
4 th	Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30m
7 th	Shoreham Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30pm
9 th	Royal British Legion	War Memorial	7pm
11 th	Over 60s	Bluebell Walk-	DETAILS TO FOLLOW
12 th	Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am – 12 pm
18 th	Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30pm
20 th	Historical Society	Village Hall	7.30pm
21 st	St Georges Feast	Church	7.30 pm
25 th	Over 60s	Village Hall	2.15pm

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