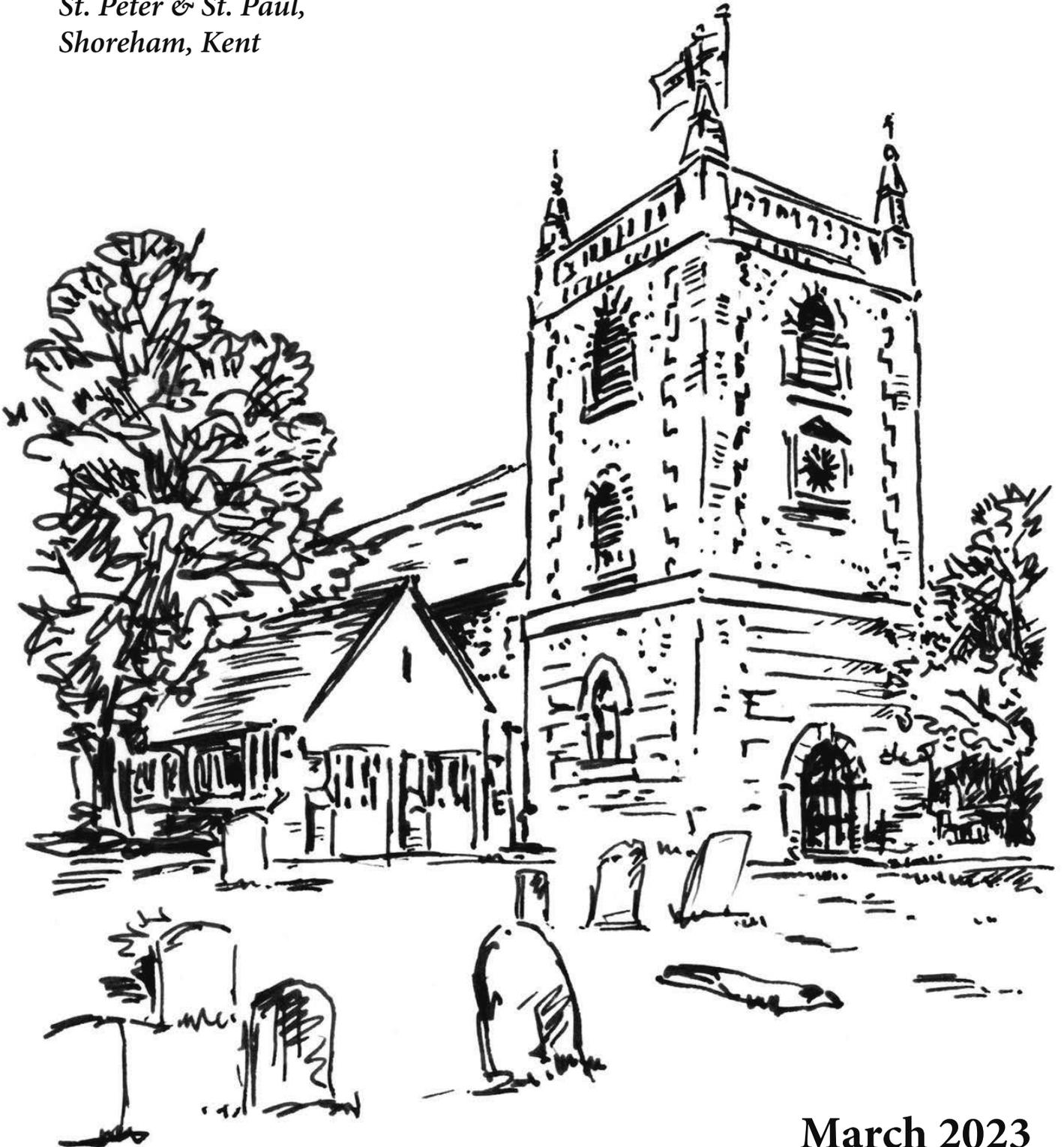


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk . If you are giving the details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



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VOLUME 55 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 2

MARCH 2023

WHAT THE VICAR DOES (AT LEAST FOR SOME OF THE TIME)

What Clergy Do: Especially When It Looks Like Nothing, is a brilliant title for a book.

When you have spent the whole day in the company of one or more babies or children, your partner returns home from work and asks, 'What have you done today', it can be difficult to think of an answer. Some of what has been done is visible but most of it is not.

It is, as Emma Percy suggests in her book, very much like being a priest. Most of what I spend my time doing is not visible or noticed, other than the bits that affect people that I'm with at particular times.

However, one of the most visible bits of my role as Vicar is the running of services ... mainly on Sundays, but also on other days, at Christmas, Easter, Weddings and Funerals.

Every month for the last seven and a half years I have drawn up a list of the church services for the coming month, for the Gazette. During my time here, our pattern of services has changed; never more so than during Covid and our gradual emergence from the restrictions and anxieties that that brought. It wasn't all bad though. It gave us a chance to think, to find out what was important (and less important) and challenged some of our assumptions.

Our pattern of services at church, consequently, has evolved and will continue to do so. The current pattern started in January, at the beginning of the year. It will be reviewed by the PCC again in June, with a view to implementing any changes from September (at the start of another new year).

I thought it may be useful to explain some of the principles behind our current pattern and what you might find if you came to a particular service. So, here is our monthly pattern:

1st Sunday

9am Breakfast@Church

This is an informal service. We sit around tables cafe style. There are bacon baps, hot and cold drinks and croissants for breakfast, which continues into ... an activity, discussion, reading, prayer and song(s). A number of families come to this service, with children of varying ages ... but it is a service also enjoyed by those of, shall I say, more mature years.

6pm Communion

We sit in a semi circle around the altar for this Communion service. It is quiet and reflective, following an order of service. This is usually from our blue book but occasionally we use Taizé or Iona. Usually a few hymns are sung.

2nd Sunday

9am Communion (BCP)

A formal communion service, using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer. It is a said service, although some music may be played.

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10am Sunday Worship

This is a 40-45 minute service, fairly informal, following an order of service, which includes seasonal material, eg for Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany ... usually there is a short talk and 3 or 4 hymns are sung.

3rd Sunday

10am Sunday Worship with Communion

Elements of the 10am service as for the 2nd Sunday but leading into a Communion. In place of a sermon, there is something more interactive, which could be a discussion, an activity or involve moving around to see or do something.

4pm ... currently the 'slot' with no name ... maybe 'At4on3' (At 4pm on the 3rd Sunday)

This is a time to try some different things. For example ... so far, Songs of Praise; Developing a Rule of Life ... perhaps ... weddings celebration/ renewal of vows; Midsummer event to celebrate our patron saints, St Peter and St Paul; Sunday Cafe; Messy Church; Arts, Crafts and Spirituality; Holy Habits; Creative Prayer ideas; Pet service; something for Toddlers ... we are open to suggestions.

This 4pm 'slot' is very informal and includes refreshments.

4th Sunday

10am Communion with the Choir

A formal communion service using contemporary language, seasonal material, with a sermon (usually around 10 minutes), 4 hymns and a piece by the Choir. New choir members always welcome.

6pm Evening Service

This can be a variety of services: Readings, Poems and Songs; Songs of Praise; Evensong but more often, Evening Prayer; Iona Evening Worship or Compline.

Principles:

- A Communion service every Sunday (6pm, 9am, 10am, 10am)
- The main Sunday service is at 10am, apart from the 1st Sunday of the month. The 10am service is followed with refreshments.
- Breakfast@Church is on the 1st Sunday of every month at 9am
- Services are held different times to suit different schedules - 9am, 10am, 4pm, 6pm
- Variety of services: with singing/ quieter reflective, traditional/ contemporary, informal/ more formal.
- Opportunity to try some different things at 4pm on a 3rd Sunday.
- Although, of course, everyone is welcome at all services; we try to ensure that at least two services a month are intentionally intergenerational. We hope families with children will feel especially welcome at these services.
- The Choir sings at the 10am service on the 4th Sunday of every month.
- Baptisms can take place at any 10am service or at Breakfast@Church, although the 9am start is a challenge.

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All services for the month ahead (or more) are published in the Gazette.

You will also find them on the church website www.shorehamchurchkent.org

A weekly email, is sent to everyone on our email list, with service times for that week and the following week, with other notices we feel may be of interest. We also provide a printed version, on request, for those who do not have access to email. Services are also advertised on Facebook a day or so before.

You will probably be familiar with the quote, attributed to the poet John Lydgate and later adapted by President Lincoln: “You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time.” In education speak, we are aiming for a ‘ broad and balanced ’ pattern of services, so that we can ‘please all of the people, some of the time’. Whether you come to church regularly or not, we hope that although you may not get the your preferred type of service, at your preferred time every week, that you will get that some of the time ... that you have the courage to explore, perhaps try a different service or activity ... that you will find something life affirming ... and that you will feel welcomed.

If you wish to be added to the church email list or be kept in touch in other ways, please send your request to Revd Diane on revdrdi@outlook.com or leave a message on the phone 01959 522363.

5th March - Lent 2 - 1st Sunday

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

12th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent - 2nd Sunday

9am Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Worship

19th March - Mothering Sunday - 3rd Sunday

10am Morning Worship with Communion - this service will have something suitable for all ages

4pm Creative Prayer Ideas for Lent

26th March - Lent 5 – 4th Sunday

10am Communion with the Choir

6pm Evening Prayer

2nd April – Palm Sunday - 1st Sunday

Elliot the donkey has an early start, and so do we, as we start at 8.45am at SVS, with a Palm Sunday procession ... taking us into ...

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

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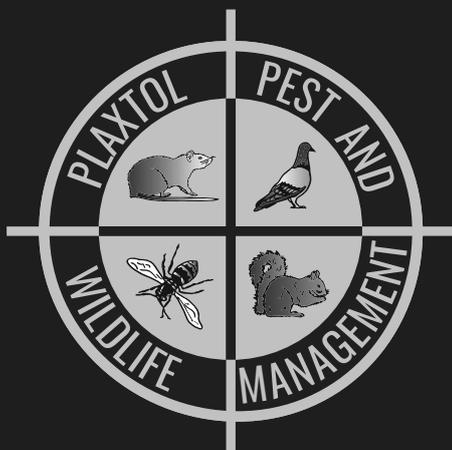
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revdrdi@outlook.com 01959 522363 (*Usual parish days Friday to Monday*)

From the Church Register

Interment of Ashes

February 10 Terry Robinson
February 17 David Miles

Funeral Service and Burial

February 13 Joan Payne MBE

SHOREHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS: TALL TALES

We are proud to present Tall Tales: a new play written and directed by our own Elie Williams, after a year of workshops with the very talented children of the village, who are now the stars of the show.

But this isn't a play just for children, it'll appeal to you all, whatever your age, it's for everyone who has ever been captivated by terrible villains vanquished by plucky heroes, using their bravery and quick wits. Using folktales, both familiar and less known, from around the world; it'll whisk you away for an evening of imagination, laughter and the odd, fairly small, shudder.

Performances are at 7.30pm on March 16th, 17th and 18th. There will also be a matinee at 2.30pm on 18th March.

Tickets from the Village Stores or from www.shorehamvillageplayers.co.uk

TALES FROM THE HILL

Am I invisible? A question I sometimes ask myself. You cannot say Magpie Bottom is overwhelmed by walkers, there are of course the regulars that enjoy a chat over the garden gate." How are you and what a lovely day!" Sometimes there is news of greater import. We miss the Fox & Hounds that served as a job centre and the purveyor of local news that came with added attraction of a pint. Now the local news arrives via social media and The Gazette, of course. During Covid the number of walkers passing our gate increased dramatically, and I must admit I quite enjoyed being the unpaid guide to Magpie Bottom. Since then the number of walkers have decreased, but there are still larger walking groups who do the circular walk from Shoreham Station to Otford Station via Magpie Bottom.

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The more mature walkers are only too happy to have a chat, but the younger people prefer not to. Recently a fifty strong group of students passed me on a quiet footpath, I purposely withheld saying hello until the last walker passed me and I asked "Where have you walked from?" "This tale ended told me they were a walking group from UCL. I noticed that at least half the walkers were on their phones and not one of the remainder acknowledged my existence, I know I'm old and they're young, and in the city where most of them probably live you cannot say hello to everyone, but it left me feeling a little sad and pondering whether I said hello to grown ups when I was their age Maybe these young people were just shy, or I was invisible

John Bovington

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL, MARCH 2023

Some of our pupils were able to experience great joy during the Young Voices concert at the O2 in January. Along with 8000 other school children, we polished our performance throughout the afternoon before the concert began at 7pm. The wonderful thing about Young Voices is not only the awe-inspiring chance to sing in a mass choir (it really gives you goosebumps!) but also to experience the diverse music and dancing that accompany the singing. We sang along with award-winning 'The Beatbox Collective', we danced with the internationally renowned 'Urban Strides' street dancers and we were the backing vocalists for Heather Small, who has two Brit Awards and Mercury Music Prize to her name! In addition, we were treated to a range of stunning classical and contemporary musical pieces played by violinist Anna-Phoebe - she was truly exceptional and inspiring!

We have had a have had a busy February in school and I had the pleasure of visiting the 'Vets' in Barton Class and being introduced to all of the sick or injured 'puppies' that were being lovingly tended in the classroom by the children who were demonstrating our school value of 'kindness'. In Moore Class, I saw our value 'determination' in action when the children's monoprints in Art were not quite turning out as they had planned; every child I spoke to was able to tell me how they could improve their work and what tips they would give to someone who was going to try mono-printing for the first time. With printing as the theme for Art this term, it has been wonderful to see the progression from stencilling by our Early Years pupils through to detailed lino cut printing by our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

This year's Safer Internet Day was held in February with a theme of 'Want to Talk About It? Making Space for Conversations about Life Online.' Here are our top tips for grandparents, parents and carers which suggest you make space for:

- regular conversations about life online.
- enjoying and exploring the online world together!
- working as a family to agree expectations for going online.
- learning about the apps, games and websites your child is using.
- supporting and reassuring your child if things go wrong.



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Our focus in March which has included fundraising by FOSS in previous years, is to overhaul the Early Years outdoor area and, having considered a number of designs, we are ready for the build stage which we expect to be completed well before Easter. This will make our Early Years area much smarter and will provide lots of further learning opportunities for our current Barton Class, who will have lots of use of the outdoor area before they move up to Palmer Class.

If you would like to support the school further, we are always happy to hear from people who would be interested in volunteering to work with the pupils to hear readers or run a club. If you would like to find out more, please contact me via the school office; all volunteers are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check with the police and go through an induction and training programme.

Gillian Lovatt-Young Headteacher

SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is coming to the end of its four year term and local elections will be held on Thursday 4 May 2023 at Shoreham Village Hall. If you would like to stand for election as a Councillor please contact the Clerk for further details.

The Parish Council must set a precept and at the January meeting Members unanimously resolved to set the precept for 2023-24 at £45,210 with the charge per household of £62.91 remaining unchanged from 22-23.

Members have discussed and agreed various items at the Parish Council Meetings this year and here are a few highlights.

- A225 Shoreham Road – the proposal was approved by the Joint Transport Board on 13 December 2022 and the Council have instructed KCC to go ahead with the design of the new road conditions and will be liaising with KCC on other areas such as signage.
- Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme – Shoreham Path
The Shoreham Path is now complete and the Council is providing further signage to promote use of the path. The Council will be responsible for the hedge cutting along the path.
- Recreation Ground/Tennis Court/Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
A contractor has been appointed and will be commencing work on the tennis court and MUGA in April 2023, the work will take about 6 weeks to complete. A contractor has been appointed to clear the path by the recreation ground and the matting will be replaced in the playground.
- Village Green
3 removable, lockable steel posts will be fitted to the path to prevent cars driving on to the green.

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- Picnic Benches
The Council received 3 picnic benches from SDC as part of the Welcome Back funding. 2 will be placed on the recreation round and one on the green by the river.
- Notice Boards
There will be two new notice boards for Shoreham Community notices one as Crown Road/High Street and one on the wall outside the village hall. The notice board in front of the village hall will remain the Parish Council's official notice board.
- Walnut Tree Trust
The Council discussed the collapse of the buildings owned by the Walnut Tree Trust and have appointed a surveyor to look at the recreation ground to ensure the banking is secure and safe.

A full pack of information supporting each meeting is available for residents to download from the website. Before every planning meeting the planning log is uploaded which includes information on past and current application.

www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk Amanda Barlow 07912 611048

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

At this time of year, the yellow trumpets of daffodils brighten up even the dullest spring day. Most of what we see are planted garden varieties, but a real treat is to find wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*).

Once widespread, the wild daffodil is now much rarer, having mysteriously declined during the 19th century. It now has a disjointed distribution – for instance it is found mainly in south Devon, pockets of the Black Mountains in Wales, stretches of the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border country, the Sussex Weald, Farndale in Yorkshire, and the Lake District. Elsewhere, even in suitable habitat, it only occurs in small patches, many miles apart. For example, in churchyards.

The wild daffodil's status as a popular flower was particularly celebrated in the area around Newent, Dymock and Ledbury on the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border which acquired the nickname of 'The Golden Triangle.' In the 1930s the Great Western Railway ran 'Daffodil Specials', from London for weekend tourists to walk amongst the 'golden tides' and to buy fresh bunches at garden gates. Many farmers and orchard-owners used to have them as a cash-crop, harvested on a 'Pick Your Own' basis. At the end of April, the meadows went back to their function of growing hay or fruit.

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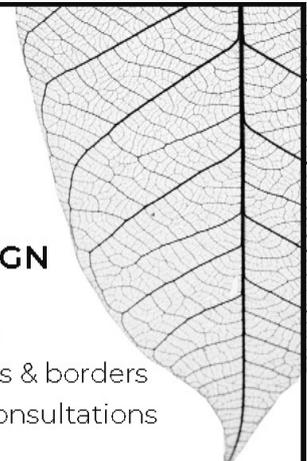
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A 1930's guide to a village in the Golden Triangle wrote:

'They are picked by the local women and children and were sold to an agent, who sends them to South Wales, where they find a ready sale for Mothering Sunday and also for Palm Sunday, for many places the old (Welsh) custom of 'flowering the graves' on that day still persists. The daffodils are also sent to northern industrial towns

How to spot a wild daffodil

The wild daffodil is smaller than horticultural varieties, with paler petals and a deeper yellow trumpet-like tube. The leaves are grey/green, flattened and around 15mm wide. It is relatively short (30-35cm) and forms clumps which carpet the ground. A top tip by expert Mick Crawley is that unless there are several hundreds of them looking particularly small and washed out, they probably aren't wild!

Andrea Gilpin andrea@cfga.org.uk

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

RIVER DARENT – DEMISE DURING MY LIFETIME

Flow

Up until the end of the Second World War the river had a healthy flow which supported working water mills and commercial watercress beds along its length. As the Hawley, Lullingstone and Otford gauging stations were not constructed until the 1960s we do not know the exact flows but archive material indicates a minimum base flow of 1.5cum/48 cuseses. Although the villages along the Darent obtained their water supply from the chalk aquafer it had little effect on the river flows due to low population density

After the war had ended things began to change rapidly with every village experiencing a huge increase in house building. These new houses came with indoor bathrooms complete with hot and cold running water which meant goodbye to the weekly bathtub in front of the fire and hello to the daily bath or shower for the whole family. During the next few decades the modern kitchens would be equipped with washing machines and dishwashers, not to mention gardens that needed watering and cars that needed cleaning. This meant the demand for water went through the roof and the old Victorian pumping stations were replaced by new ones capable of drawing huge volumes of water from the aquafer. The Darent ,being a chalk stream, source was so depleted that by the mid-1960s there was not one working water mill and the 3 remaining commercial water cress beds had gone out of business (to be continued).

Trevor Carman

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

Twenty Italian wines from across Italy are now in our wonderful wine section, including Prosecco. Two fashionable new lagers are also on the shelves – Madri and Stella Artois Unfiltered. In our grocery section, we have Arla lactose-free milk among a wide range of speciality milks – soya, oat, rice, almond and even cashew. Nearby are Costa and Starbucks chilled coffees to go, while our hot coffees and croissants are the best value in the village. Gifts, treats, chocolates and cards will be available for Mother’s Day on 19 March and you can stock up ahead of time with Easter goodies.

Raj, Desh and Venkat

SHOREHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next WI meeting is on Tuesday 7 March, and will be our last daytime meeting before evening meetings recommence in April (until November). The lunch and meeting will start in the Village Hall at 12.45pm. We are a friendly, busy and varied group of women who look after each other and the general community, and new members are always welcome. We already have a number of trips planned for 2023, and always have interesting and diverse speakers at our monthly meetings. Please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk

The next Community Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 9 March in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along and sample home-made cakes, coffee and tea (for only £2) – just turn up at this relaxed and sociable morning when any proceeds will be used towards the maintenance of the Village Hall defibrillator

Shoreham WI

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There was a packed Village Hall to hear our February speaker, Ian Thomson, give a fascinating illustrated talk on The Lady Code-Breakers of Bletchley Park. Ian is a former guide at Bletchley and took us through the head-spinning complexity of the top-secret work there in the Second World War, before highlighting the achievements of the many women transcribing data, translating and cracking ciphers round the clock.

The next meeting of the Society will be 8pm 24th March which is our AGM, this is usually very brief and will be followed by Colin Brown on The RNLI “It’s not all at sea”. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the committee to help maintain the recording of our village history.

Lynda Alleeson

OVER 60'S

Wednesday 8th March - a volunteer from Foal Farm animal rescue centre is coming to talk to us. Village hall at 2pm.

Wednesday 22nd March - a talk about Shoreham, past and present, will be given by Alain Couzens. Village hall at 2pm. Delicious tea and cakes as always.

Suna Keates

GREEN HEATING SHOREHAM

An update on progress with improving home insulation in Shoreham and moves towards greener heating. The pilots on both moves have stalled somewhat over the winter. Increased energy prices have hit almost everyone now, though, so minimising costs and moving away from fossil fuels remains an urgent issue.

Carol Stewart at Sevenoaks District Council (carol.stewart@sevenoaks.gov.uk) is always very helpful and it is excellent to hear that her role as Energy Efficiency Officer has been extended for two years. She will keep us informed of further insulation programmes and says that Sevenoaks DC hopes to win some funding to support heat pumps for homes off the gas grid.

The two companies we talked to over the past few months were enthusiastic about helping Shoreham residents to improve energy efficiency, but action since then has been disappointing.

Aran offers loft and cavity wall insulation. They work with Sevenoaks District Council on insulation and have installed loft insulation in one of the pilots.

Viridian Energy Solutions (VES) also offers loft and cavity wall insulation and has impressed in terms of response and initial survey.

Brenwards sorted an EPC for a second pilot and carried out an initial survey before Christmas but a quote for an air source heat pump hasn't yet materialised.

We are relying on the Shoreham community to provide feedback on their experiences. Two residents have already told us how they saved costs by using local 'handy' people to do the installation. One has considerably reduced heat loss from single glazed sash windows by putting in perspex secondary glazing. Another bought loft insulation materials herself and then found someone locally to install them. If you are happy to share your own fixes or have experience of local contractors, please get in touch and let us know at greenheatingshoreham@gmail.com

Knowing that many Shoreham residents are interested in renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, we are developing links to organisations that certify standards and keep directories of contractors that offer a range of services including insulation and heat technologies eg solar PV, storage batteries and heat pumps.

If you would be interested in more details, please contact us at greenheatingshoreham@gmail.com we can provide the links, regular updates and feedback on progress with contractors. *The Green Heating Shoreham team*

Heather Sillitoe

SHOREHAM SOCIETY

Don't miss....**Shoreham Shine!** It's the village bi-annual litter pick and clean-up – on Saturday 4th March. Meet at the Village Hall from 9am and in the afternoon. All welcome, including families. Bring gloves, but other equipment is provided. This time, as well as the village and the lanes round about, we'll be going up into the woods to remove more of the plastic tree guards. By the way, we should also thank those very public spirited Shoreham people who go out litter picking all year round!

Our summer programme of events starts in May, and we have wildlife and farm walks coming up, as well as the famous Duck Race. In the meantime, the Committee meets regularly to keep a look out for any threats to the village and the countryside, and to plan the various events.

By the way, the new fast trains from Otford and Swanley to London Bridge, Waterloo and Charing Cross have bedded in now, and they do allow you to travel from Shoreham Station to London Bridge in just over half an hour. And, of course, you and your children can now enjoy a largely traffic-free walk to Shoreham Station via the new Church Field path.

Do please join the Shoreham Society! For a membership form (£5 single or £10 per household) You can email: shorehamsociety@gmail.com

Chris Euman and John Saynor Co-Chairs

VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH

Saturday 4	Shoreham Shine	Village Hall from 9am
Tuesday 7	Women's Institute	Village Hall 12.45pm
Wednesday 8	Over 60s	Village Hall 2pm
Thursday 9	Community Coffee	Village Hall 10 – 12 noon
16.17 and 18	Shoreham Players – “Tall Tales”	Village Hall
Friday 24	Shoreham Historical talk	Village Hall 8pm
Wednesday 22	Over 60s	Village Hall 2pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE INFORMATION

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Copy for the April Gazette should reach us by 18th March 2023
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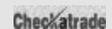


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