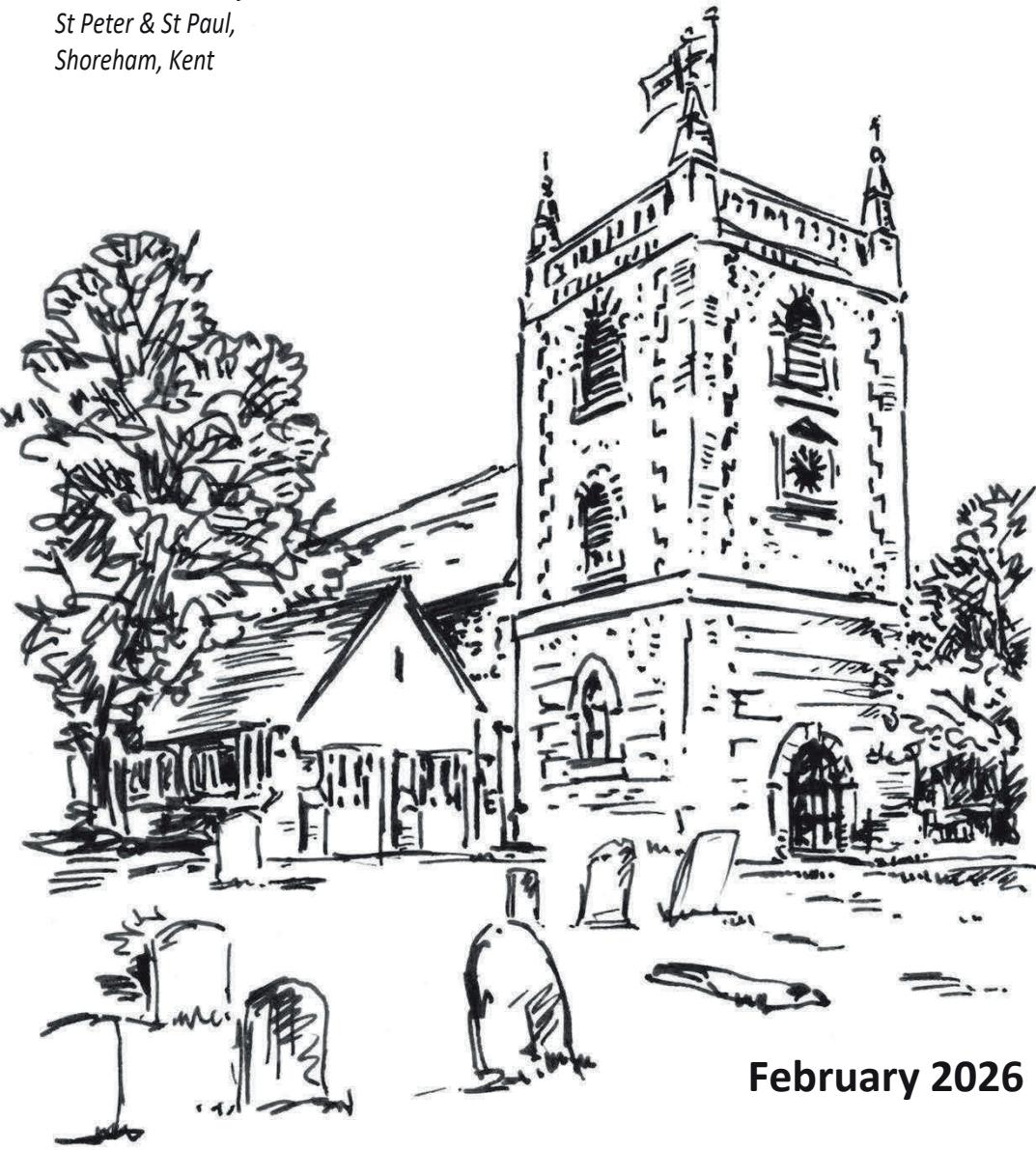


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you are giving the details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



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VOLUME 58 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2026

Camels, conversations, Lent & love



My gosh it's February already! Feels like only yesterday I was unpacking moving boxes, wait, that *was yesterday*. Well, as I continue to settle into my new home amongst you here in Shoreham village, it has been my pleasure to already meet so many great people. Going forward it is also my intention to visit every home in Shoreham to say 'hello' but also find out how we as a church can better support you. So have a think, what would you like to see happening at church? How could we improve things in order to bless people further; it's your parish church, so I'd value your input.

Big shout out of THANKS to everyone already involved with different roles at church, (especially over Christmas) whether it's making the refreshments, leading the singing or welcoming on the door —whatever your involvement with St P&P's, both in front and behind the scenes —it is always much appreciated. Also, if you are new to church and would like to get involved or find out more, then I would love to hear from you.

My email is: vicar.shoreham@gmail.com

With Christmas done and the Kings, on camels from Epiphany season, also departing from us, keep your eyes peeled for our next season of Lent! There will be a short course on preparing ourselves spiritually for Easter, running during the season of Lent, with times and dates to be confirmed. More info will follow, either online or on posters and in the church. Everyone is most welcome to join.

Looking ahead, some key dates for your diary:

18th February is Ash Wednesday: 7pm Service with Communion and imposition of ashes

22nd February, Lent begins and continues until 22nd March

15th March is Mothering Sunday.

At some point in there is also Valentine's Day, (14th February if you need to buy a special someone a card/chocs/flowers). Also a great opportunity to bless someone close to you if you know they may be feeling left behind in this romantic season.

St Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth, chapter 13, verses 4-7 wanted to remind us what love actually looks like, with or without the flamboyant gestures. He writes,

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record

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of wrongs. Love does not delight in doing evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

This is what love looks like and we can recognise when it is shown in the actions and words of those around us. But we should not just wait to receive the kind of love Paul writes about, instead we can be proactively modelling it to others. A kind word *here*, being forgiving *there*, etc. Spreading this kind of love all across Shoreham. Just as earlier, I wrote on discovering how our church can be a further blessing, I wonder how you might be a blessing to someone this coming week, and show God's love to all you encounter?

God bless you always,
Revd Caz, vicar.shoreham@gmail.com

FEBRUARY SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Sunday 1st February - Epiphany 4/Candlemas

9.00am Breakfast Church

6.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 8th February - 2 before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 15th February - Sunday before Lent

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 22nd February - Lent 1

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

Sunday 1st March - Lent 2

9.00am Breakfast Church

6.00pm Holy Communion

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

17 December 2025	Graveside burial	Robert Straker
16 January 2026	Thanksgiving Service	Dale Newnham

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CHRISTMAS THANKS

A big thank you to all who gave so generously at this year's Christingle Service, meaning we could donate a record £555 to the Children's Society and take over 50 presents to the Salvation Army in Orpington for distribution to children in need throughout the year. Thank you also for supporting the food bank and for the generous donation from the Allotments of the wonderful trees, and to all who helped decorate them and the church, make the Christingles, prepare and serve the food and drink and otherwise make for a joyful village celebration.

Elaine Scott and Johnny Aisher, Churchwardens

START-UP OF MORNING PRAYER

Everyone is welcome to join in with Morning Prayer, held in the Mildmay Chapel and gathering at 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during term time.

If you would like to join us, it is advisable to download the 'Daily Prayer' App on your phone in advance, this will be useful as we will use this for our framework.

This is a simple service with an opportunity to explore the day's Bible passages and offer up prayers for the day and its tasks. Do please join us if you are able, we look forward to seeing you.

COFFEE AND CHAT – FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY

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!

STAY AND PLAY

Every Monday in term time - 9.30-11.30 in the Village Hall.

ALL pre-school aged children WELCOME. (accompanied by a parent or carer)

SEVENOAKS LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

The families needing the help of foodbanks continues to grow. Please consider whether you could add something for our local foodbank to your weekly shop. Boxes for donations are at the back of the church.

BREAKFAST CHURCH

We are hoping to widen the number of people helping to shop and cook breakfast for Breakfast Church. If you enjoy coming, why not think about joining in to make it happen? Please see Jill Aisher, text 07989 278723 or email jill.aisher@gmail.com if you can help.

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www.temenos_chamberchoir.org.uk.

Kate Britten

SHOREHAM WI

We were very pleased to donate £1,300 to the Village Hall Fund in December, from Shoreham WI's Community Fund. Our Community Fund is made up of all the money taken at our monthly Community Coffee Mornings, held in the Village Hall, over the last few years. We would like to thank those WI members who have baked cakes and provided tea / coffee at these events, and also express our appreciation to the many residents of Shoreham and beyond who regularly come along to enjoy the mornings. We felt it was highly appropriate to use money given by the community to help with another important community facility which is currently in need of funds.

Our next WI meeting is on Tuesday 3 February at 12.45 for 1.00pm (with lunch provided) in the Village Hall when we will be joined by a Shoreham resident who will talk to us about his experiences as a TV / film extra. We are always pleased to welcome visitors and potential new members – please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wlfwi.org.uk

A note for your diaries: we are organising a 'fashion show' for our meeting on 7 April, in the evening, when Lottie's Loft in Seal will be coming along with some of their clothing and a few of our members will be modelling it! We will be extending an invitation to non-members to join us, for a small charge, for what should be a fun evening. Further details will be provided in the March edition of the Gazette.

Community Coffee Morning

The next Community Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 12 February in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. Do come and join us in the warm for coffee, tea and cakes at this friendly, relaxed morning – the cost is only £2 for a drink with a piece of homemade cake. Everyone is very welcome.

Shoreham WI

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Almost every family has been impacted by losses in the First and Second World Wars, plus other conflicts, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission works to make sure that the names of the dead are not lost to the past. Our next talk, on Friday 20 February, is by Sarah Nathaniel of the Commission – a speaker with a wealth of stories about those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The meeting starts at 8pm in the Village Hall, with refreshments from 7.30. Non-members are welcome for just £3.

Our January meeting welcomed Rod Shelton for a very well-attended talk on hops and hopping. He traced the history of the aromatic plant from its arrival in Kent in the 16th century to the vast numbers of pickers from the East End who descended on the valley each September until the 1960s.

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

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OVER 60s

My name is Terry Clark and I have taken over the running of the Over 60s from Suna and Kath with the welcome support of long serving volunteers.

The January Meeting was held on Wednesday 28th at 2.00pm. The Meeting started with the AGM.

That was followed by me reading from the account written by my son Christopher of him leading a team of 5 climbers in 1986 to the Karakorum Mountains in Pakistan. Their objective was the first ascent of the Shimshal Weisshorn, a mountain over 21,000 feet high. Several other professional climbers had attempted it, including Stephen Venables, but failed.

PART ONE. “A Fantasy Climbing Trip”. It is a story of years of planning, 17days of trekking, on foot, with 10 local porters up into the mountain range to set up base camp at the foot of the mountain. From base camp the five climbers then push on to attempt the climb to the peak. (Due to lack of time my reading had to stop at a literal “cliff hanger” point!).

PART TWO. “Evacuation Under Pressure”. I will be reading Part 2 at an additional Meeting booked for **11th February at 2.00pm.**

Part 2 covers the descent to the advanced base camp, lowering an unconscious member of the team by ropes, a slipped climbing knot, a fatal fall and one member left with life threatening injuries. The nearest phone to summon help is in Gilgit, a small village, many days away by trekking over dangerous terrain. Only 3 members of the team are still able to walk...

Terry Clark, terryshoreham@gmail.com

AN EVENING OF LIVE JAZZ IN SHOREHAM CHURCH - SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

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NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL – JANUARY 2026

As the festive season approached, our school was buzzing with excitement and the children eagerly prepared for a variety of Christmas events which concluded with our annual Christmas Concert at St Peter and St Paul Church in Shoreham; this was a morning of joyful music, poetry and narration with performances from our many talented pupils. The Barton Class Nativity, always a school highlight, was a charming performance and we could see the individual characters of each child shining through.

Our Pupil Leadership Team geared up for some festive fun when they hosted a stall at the church Advent Fair, running two exciting games: 'Ball or Brussels' and 'Drop the Coin'. These games delivered plenty of laughter, fun and holiday cheer and we were delighted with the local support given from across the community to our stall.

Another special event that we participate in every year is the Over 60s Christmas lunch and we thoroughly enjoyed taking 50 children up to the village hall to entertain the club members who joined in with our traditional carol singing; we all appreciated the opportunity to share music with the youngest and oldest members of the village community and it was a lovely reminder of the positive impact our pupils can have.

As a further part of our commitment to teaching the children about the community around them, Palmer Class embarked on a memorable school trip to Lullingstone Country Park. The children participated in a variety of forest school activities, learned about the changing seasons and trees, and enjoyed crafting and walking in the great outdoors. And of course, no trip would be complete without hot chocolate to keep everyone warm!

Another highlight has been the arrival of new playground markings at the top of the playground, designed to inspire maths-based play. The bright, colourful 100 square in the Palmer play area has also been a fantastic addition, encouraging fun, movement and learning during break times.

As we commence our new term, we have new activities on offer and Cameron Class have enjoyed their first Lacrosse lesson which will be repeated weekly until half term, at which point Moore Class will start to learn the game. This is an exciting opportunity to develop new skills whilst applying existing knowledge about team games and strategies for improving and winning!

Both Cameron and Moore Class also benefited from an 'Understanding Worries' workshop, led by NELFT NHS Foundation. The children took advantage of the chance to discuss what worries are, how they arise and, most importantly, learned coping skills that will support them throughout their life.

We have hosted a number of Open Days for prospective families over the past few weeks and still welcome visits from families considering our school for their child who may be starting Reception in September 2026. We still have some limited spaces for pupils available in other year groups, so if you know anyone who is looking for a small friendly school with high standards and lots of lovely outdoor space, please ask them to call us to arrange a tour. Phone: 01959 522228 or email: office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk *Gillian Lovatt-Young, Head Teacher*

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SHOREHAM BRANCH – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Shoreham Branch of the Royal British Legion ended 2025 with a very successful AGM, attended by a large number of members and supporters. The evening included a fascinating and moving talk by Bob and Fern Ogley, who shared poems from the First World War.

At the meeting, we thanked Pete Triggs and Mandy Vickers for their dedication and service as Chairman and Treasurer respectively, as they stepped down from their officer roles. Our thanks were also given to Neil Vickers, Ken Fowler, and Maggie Triggs, who stepped down from the committee after giving their time and support to the branch.

With a number of changes to the committee, we would like to begin 2026 by introducing the current team:

- **Chairman:** Henry Desmond
- **Vice Chairman:** Mike Hopkins
- **Secretary:** Caitie Gould
- **Treasurer:** Mark Ewing
- **Membership Secretary:** Mike Robinson

We are also very pleased to announce that **Lorna Robinson** has agreed to become **President of the Shoreham Branch**. After 25 years of dedicated service on the committee, we are delighted that she will now be able to guide the branch into the future, using her wealth of knowledge and experience to support the current committee.

This is an exciting period for the Royal British Legion as we move forward with our new 10-year strategy, built around three key pillars: **Connect, Remember and Support**. Our committee is committed to strengthening the Shoreham Branch and building closer links with the local community, ensuring we can continue to support our beneficiaries both locally and nationally.

Many people are surprised to learn that the Royal British Legion is not just for serving or former members of the Armed Forces. It is also for anyone in the community who wishes to support those who have served on the frontline and their families.

If you would like to get involved or become a member, please contact **Mike Robinson**, Membership Secretary, at **Shoreham.MemSecretary@rbl.community**, or **Henry Desmond**, Chairman, at **Shoreham.Chairman@rbl.community**. They will be very happy to help.

We look forward to welcoming you at one of our upcoming events in Shoreham.

Henry Desmond, Chairman, Shoreham Royal British Legion

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Father Christmas really did come to The Teepee at Mount on Christmas Eve and over three dozen Shoreham children received an early present. We are grateful to The Mount for hosting our annual event.

We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas wish you a good New Year.

February is a quiet month for Shoreham Society events. The next one for your electronic calendar or diary is the bi-annual **Shoreham Shine village clean-up on Saturday 14th March, 9am-4pm**. But we are busy planning for the remainder of the year, so keep watching this space!

We are seriously concerned about the threats to our beautiful Darent Valley from the government's plans for **massive housing developments in the Green Belt**, stripping away long-standing protections. Shoreham and our fellow villages of Farningham, Eynsford and Otford are not only in the Green Belt but also within a large area designated a National Landscape (formerly known as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONB). Large parts of the east side of the valley are also designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The government has made a succession of changes to Planning rules, including one that makes it easier to get accelerated permission to build in the vicinity of railway stations – a serious potential threat to Shoreham and many other villages.

The Shoreham Society is prepared for future planning battles, as we have financial reserves, but more support may be needed, depending on what happens. We – along with the other villages – lodged objections last year to the Sevenoaks District Council **Local Plan**, which seeks to regularise how the government's demands could be met. The Plan proposes a town of 2,500 homes at Pedham Place (near the M20/M25 junction) that will be visible from Shoreham and the hills above the village. This is part of the 17,000 homes that the government wants the Council to find space for.

Shoreham village was omitted from the development plans, but the latest changes to the rules may mean that it does not escape. And the daft thing about the policy is that it is unlikely to meet the real needs for affordable housing as they rely on developers to subsidise affordable homes.

The Shoreham Society is looking for a new **Membership Secretary**. If you can help, or if you'd like to get more involved in running the society do **please get in touch at: shorehamsociety@gmail.com**. Also get in touch if you are interested in the planning battles to come.

John Saynor, Chair, The Shoreham Society

HAZEL GREWCOCK

We are very sad to report the passing of Hazel Grewcock. Hazel lived at Littlefield in Shoreham from 1978 until a few years ago when she moved to Nesbit House Care Home at Badger's Mount. Hazel and her husband, Ronnie (our father and grandfather), will be remembered for their wonderful garden which they shared when they opened it to help raise funds for the church. Hazel was a member of the Horticultural Society, the Historical Society and helped with the flower arrangements in the Church. She also helped at Shoreham Primary School, listening to children read. Over a 13 year period, Hazel helped with the prescription run from Otford to Shoreham. Hazel was 99 years old and lived her life to the full. She will be greatly missed by us all.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30pm on Wednesday 25th February in Shoreham Church, followed by tea and cake in the church. All welcome.

Angela Bishop, Susie and Robert Galloway, Sally Beesley, Jane Kyte, and Family

CONGRATULATIONS PAN

On 18th February we celebrate the 100th birthday of Pan Buckley, long-time resident in Shoreham. Pan served in the WRNS from the age of 17, stationed in Portsmouth, and was officially demobbed in 1946 just before her 20th birthday. During the war her work was in Fleet Mail, who were in charge of decoding letters for the servicemen and women stationed around the world including HMS Golden Hind (Australia). After the war she married Michael and had a son, Peter, and has two grandsons, Michael and Nat. After Michael died Pan went into business, travelling to Norway for work and eventually retiring as Chairman of the company when she was 95.

Hamish Howie and the Committee of the Friends of Shoreham Church recall Pan's term of office, as Chairman, very fondly. She was a very astute and generous leader of the FOSC. All the committee meetings were held in her dining room, and a nip of whisky or other preference was always on offer.

Under Pan's leadership the Society prospered and she has continued to be a great supporter in the background ever since.

We send Happy Birthday wishes to this remarkable lady.

Ann Ball

CITIZENS ADVICE

The post-Christmas period is always busy for Citizens Advice with issues such as debt, consumer complaints about unsatisfactory goods, and even relationship problems. You can ring us on the freephone number 0808 278 7810 (10am-3pm, Monday-Friday – be prepared to hang on, as we are getting a hugely increased number of calls) or email advice@nwkent.cab.org.uk. We can also give free, confidential advice on many other areas - housing, employment, benefits, energy costs and more - so don't hesitate to contact us. There is also extensive up-to-date information on all issues on the Citizens Advice public website www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Kate Britten



Oldberrow Church, Worcestershire

FIVE WAYS TO WELCOME WILDLIFE

Midwinter is a good time for new starts so why not plan ways in which you can make your churchyard more wildlife friendly in 2026? Here are five simple things to try, maybe you could start with one or two.

1 Create a meadow - choose an area of grass in full sun, currently mown short. Leave it uncut for about 14 weeks over the spring and summer. See how many wildflowers come up naturally, you will probably be surprised. Scythe or strim the long grass, rake it up and remove it to a compost heap or use it to make hay.

2 Help your veteran trees - churchyards are fantastic for veteran trees, particularly yews. Gently clear below veteran and ancient trees, removing young saplings, piles of grass cuttings, sheds, grave spoil, old bottles and anything else that is there! Always remove ivy from yew trees but no need to do so from other trees unless advised to by an arboriculture expert.

3 Give wildlife a home - great fun for community events, how about making bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, deadwood piles and compost bays? Swift boxes can fit behind the church tower louvres. Try a range of different sized bird boxes, including open fronted ones for Spotted Flycatcher and Robin. Place a deadwood pile in a shady spot for frogs, newts, slow worm and hedgehogs to feast on the invertebrates there.

4 Be a little untidy – leave an area of tussocky grassland or scrub, perhaps against a wall or round the back. Cut and clear this every two or three years, doing a section each year. This will be fantastic shelter and great for overwintering invertebrates as well as amphibians and reptiles. Hedgehogs love places like this too.

5 Plant for pollinators – fill your flowerbeds or planters with species that are useful to insects. Include native plants and grasses as well as early and late flowering plants. How about some herbs which people can enjoy too? The wildflower Viper's Bugloss is outstanding for pollinators and very attractive too.

Enjoy watching the wildlife which will take advantage of these features and please tell us what you see.



Prue Dakin www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Tuesday 3	WI talk TV/film extras	Village Hall	12.45pm
Friday 6	Coffee and Chat	Church Room	10.30am
Wednesday 11	Over 60s talk: Part 2 of Christopher Clark's ascent of Shimshal Weisshorn, Pakistan	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 12	WI Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am
Saturday 14	Temenos Chamber Choir <i>Love Divine</i>	St Mary's Church, Riverhead	7.30pm
Friday 20	Historical Society talk by Sarah Nathaniel of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Village Hall	8pm
Wednesday 25	Hazel Grewcock Memorial Service	Church	2.30pm
Saturday 28	Friends of Shoreham Church Live Jazz	Church	7.30pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a good look at our adverts for local services. Some of them are updated every month with their latest events and 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 the Gazette.

Thanks to **Ken Fowler's 'lunch club'** for inserting church Christmas cards into the December/January issue of the Gazette.

Copy for March Gazette by **18th February** to shorehamgazette@gmail.com
Word attachment in Calibri 10 and single spacing, please. Images as **jpgs**, please

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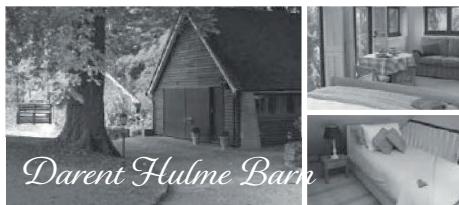
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