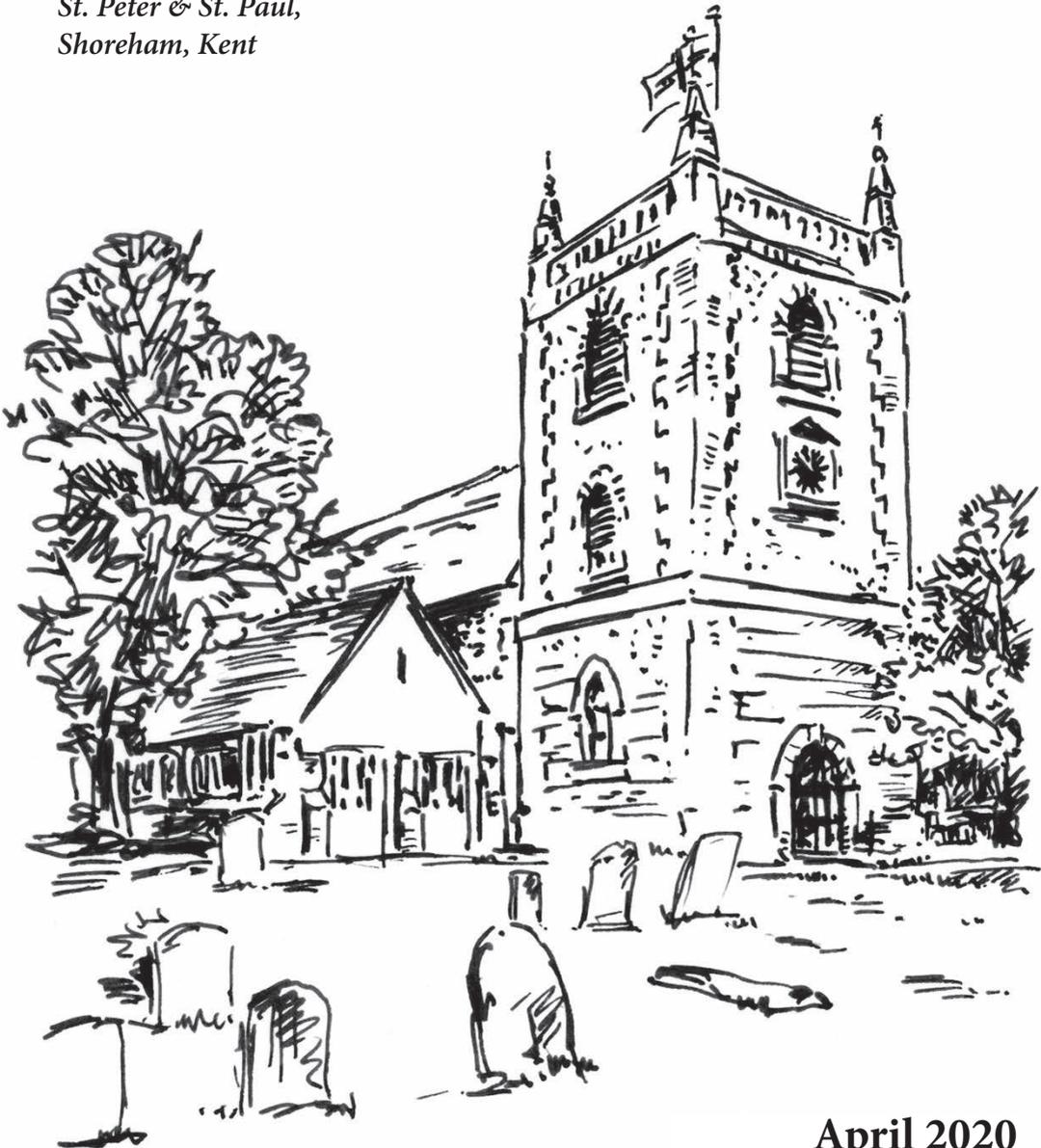


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All major emergencies are dealt with by the emergency services. However, there may be times such as power cuts, snow and ice, flooding or storms where the emergency services are not required. These conditions can make life challenging for more vulnerable people such as the elderly, infirm, disabled, sick or even someone who maybe heavily pregnant or with young children.

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](mailto:clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk) . If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission and agreement.

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### **1st The CHURCH is OPEN**

If I had been due to write my piece for the Gazette ten days earlier how different it would have been. It certainly feels that we are living through something seismic. I was reminded today in morning prayers, in the Bible reading from Exodus, that all through our history, there have been events which serve to make us afraid, not only of the events themselves but sometimes also fearful of each other. Covid-19 has the potential to do that too. In that sense there is, 'nothing new under the sun'. However, other things remain too: goodness, kindness, courage and selflessness, to name but a few.

How blessed are we to live a village where a leaflet has been drop with the contact details of over thirty people willing to help others, as well as some really useful information.

It is a reminder that we are not alone, we are in this together and, as it says in our church hymnbook 376, "...we are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load... I will hold the Christ-light for you, in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear."

I am not an historian (although I do live with one!) but I think for the first time in the Church of England's history at least, we are unable to hold church services, apart from (at present), funerals and weddings, with a handful of people.

However, the CHURCH is OPEN. I mean that in two senses.

Firstly, as usual, the church building is open, 7 days a week, all through the year.

This will continue for as long as we are allowed to keep the building open.

Inside the church you can do a number of things: sit in quiet and think or pray, light a candle, do the new churchyard trail (the leaflet for this is just to the left as you go in).

There are a number of prayers and opportunities for reflection dotted around the church. You could also look at some hymn words, or even sing, or read a passage from the Bible. A number of suggestions for hymns and Bible passages are in the church.

Each Sunday there will be a Newsletter with some short reflections on the readings set for that week. There will also be some prayers and an activity, suitable for all ages available on the Nave Altar.

There may sometimes be something to take away, e.g. flowers, candles, bunting and chocolate all feature over the coming weeks. Also, a short homily, or a picture, or a copy of the reflections on the Newsletter, will be emailed (as regularly as we are able), to all those on the church's Electoral Roll, where people have indicated that they want to receive communications. If you would like to be added to that email list, please let Revd Diane know by email [revdrdi@outlook.com](mailto:revdrdi@outlook.com).

Secondly, and more importantly of course, the church is about people. The current situation is making us think about how we can be church in a different way. I am sure this will evolve as we go along, but for now and for as long as we are able, observing the advice about social distancing, we are going to have one or two people in church every day between 10 and 11am. You are welcome to come into the church at any time but during that hour there may be music playing, or being played and you can have a chat, if you wish.

We have a number of people who are willing to keep in touch with those who are more isolated, or are on their own, over the phone. If this is something you would like to be involved with, or you are someone who would like to be kept in touch with, please give your details to Ann Ball 07531669204. If you know anyone who you think would appreciate being kept in touch with by phone, please ask them first before passing on their details.

And just as we are here to 'help each other ... and bear the load', here in Shoreham, so we are mindful of our brothers and sisters in our link parish of St Joseph's and the primary and secondary schools in Chunya, Mpwapwa. Our trip to Tanzania is obviously on hold for the time being. Thank you to those who have already given some money or suitcases. As well as perhaps helping us refocus on what is important, this virus has also brought home to us, that we really are one world, globally connected and interdependent on each other. I finish with this prayer of St. Patrick:

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down.

Let us place ourselves in the circle of God's love, knowing that wherever we are – and whatever happens – God will be with us.

May God bless us and keep us.

**Revd Diane**



The Revd Dr Diane E. Rees

The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA

revdrdi@outlook.com 01959 522363

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

These are extraordinary times and I recognise this must be one of the most important and historic Gazettes since its inception in 1889. The world has been overcome by Coronavirus and it is gradually on its way to our area which explains why there is no Village Diary as every event is cancelled, apart from the allotments.

In the last edition in March 2020 this was a distant threat in China and Italy now suddenly we are all in the front line and altering our way of living.

We are grateful to Louise and her team for putting together this most useful list which has been delivered as a leaflet to all the Parish houses.

*Ann Ball*

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Message to all Shoreham residents**

Hello! If you are self-isolating due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus), we can help!

At the time of writing, there are currently no suspected cases in Shoreham Village. This is likely to change. The good news is, there is help and support for those who, for whatever reason need to self-isolate. Here are a group of volunteers who can assist with tasks such as picking up shopping, posting mail, a friendly phone call or fetch urgent supplies etc.

### **Contacts by area:**

**Bowers Road & Mesne Way**

Jennie Adams - 07513 706897 - [jenniadams81@gmail.com](mailto:jenniadams81@gmail.com)

### **Church Street**

Louise Norris - 07736 684343 [loubyn2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loubyn2@yahoo.co.uk)

Sally Faithful - 07963 988274 [sallyfaithfull@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sallyfaithfull@yahoo.co.uk)

Maria Beard - 07783 876496 [maria.beard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maria.beard@hotmail.co.uk)

Liz Stopford - 07808 172223 [eastopford@googlemail.com](mailto:eastopford@googlemail.com) - **& Darenth Way**

Luke Magnuson 07904 006507 [lukemagnuson@gmail.com](mailto:lukemagnuson@gmail.com)

### **Crown Road**

Kara Dellow - 07947 319493 [karadellow24@gmail.com](mailto:karadellow24@gmail.com)

Francesca Pompili - 07952 057711 [frackia@gmail.com](mailto:frackia@gmail.com)

Marina Barnett - 01959 525 292/07793 139827 [marinatbarnett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marinatbarnett@hotmail.co.uk)

### **East Hill Road / Knatts Valley**

Rachel Gasgoyne – Day - 07946 509 069 [racheljanegd@gmail.com](mailto:racheljanegd@gmail.com)

### **Forge Way & Palmers Orchard**

Karen Morash - 01959 523289/07880 541743 [thebluenoser@gmail.com](mailto:thebluenoser@gmail.com)

### **High Street**

Jo Winsor - 07730 676808 [joannawinsor@gmail.com](mailto:joannawinsor@gmail.com)

Sarah Moon – 07879 655459 [clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk2012@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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Jo Robertson (phone support / High Street) - 07703 189486

[jo\\_robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo_robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Mill Lane**

Jane Hudson 07850 620454 - [pandjhud@gmail.com](mailto:pandjhud@gmail.com)

Patrick Joiner [thejoiners@btinternet.com](mailto:thejoiners@btinternet.com)

### **Preston Farm**

Will Bax 07825 275824

### **Quadrangle**

Jenny and Rob Lynch 07884 497855 [Robertalynch@icloud.com](mailto:Robertalynch@icloud.com)

### **Shoreham Place**

Alice Stone 07811 353160 [alicejcourtney@gmail.com](mailto:alicejcourtney@gmail.com)

Lizzie Buxton 07814 566047 [lwalker82@hotmail.com](mailto:lwalker82@hotmail.com)

Amanda Summers 01959 523563 [asummers1970@outlook.com](mailto:asummers1970@outlook.com)

Katie Hirst - 07946 620880

Sarah Williams 07731 392221 [sarahob88@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarahob88@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Well Hill**

Elize McMurdo 07752 270799 [elizemcmurdo1@gmail.com](mailto:elizemcmurdo1@gmail.com) (Phone support)

Any other areas contact Louise Norris as above

## **Useful Information**

As people with respiratory disease, on immune suppressant medication or other underlying conditions are most at risk from this virus, it seems sensible to try and plan ahead. Some tips to consider:

**Medication:** Register online for the Electronic Prescription Service. **Oxford Medical Practice** asks requests are put in 72 hours in advance.

**Shopping: Shoreham Village Stores** will take orders over the phone and deliver to your door. Just call **01959 522018**. Ask a relative, neighbour or one of the volunteers above to pick some items up and leave it on your doorstep.

**NB:** Volunteers do not deal with money so please pre-order and pay by phone for collection by the team

**Stay connected:** Ask a relative to set you up with Facetime, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook etc. to stay in contact with family members and friends. If you need help with this contact Sarah Moon, the Parish Clerk, who can help.

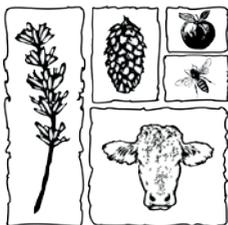
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*Louise Norris*

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## **SHOREHAM PRESCRIPTION SERVICE**

Patricia Wright has done a fantastic job for many years running the Shoreham Prescription Service. This is a vital lifeline for many in our village who use this service to have their prescriptions delivered to the Surgery and their medication delivered to their door. Many thanks to Pat and indeed all of the volunteers who have given their time over the years. Pat along with most of the volunteers are rightly acting on the advice of the Government (and their family and friends) to step back and protect their good health until the risk of Covid-19 has passed.

We wanted to reassure all the current users of the Service that their service will continue. This is thanks to a group of new volunteers who have reached out and offered to help temporarily. Thank you to all our new volunteers. Anyone who doesn't use the Shoreham Prescription Service but requires medication to be collected from a pharmacy, you are asked to contact one of the volunteers listed above.  
*Kara Dellow*

## **OTFORD AND KEMSING SURGERIES**

From 20<sup>th</sup> March the Surgeries will not be open for face to face consultations. Instead telephone consultations will be available and can be set up in the usual way by phoning Otford Surgery. It may be possible to set up video consultations as well, but this has still to be sorted out.  
*Alastair Boobyer, Otford Patient Group*

## **CHURCH CLOCK**

Our lovely Church clock can be very temperamental and we have set the hands to 12 and turned off the bell for the time being as it is proving unreliable. We continue to talk to Smiths of Derby and hope to remedy the problem. This 1857 clock was installed instead of one which certainly existed in 1761 which chimed the hour; this was sold for £5 much to the fury of the villagers.  
*Ann Ball*

## **“EYES ON, HANDS ON”**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter in 1917 as the sole organisation charged with the commemoration of the servicemen and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two World Wars.

Today, they maintain the graves or commemorations of 1.7 million men and women worldwide, caring for more than 165,000 war graves at over 12,000 locations in the UK alone. This year they will be coming to Shoreham Churchyard to check on our 5 war graves.

This new project will coordinate volunteers to be ‘the eyes’ of the CWGC on graves which they inspect every 2-5 years. We look forward to welcoming the volunteers when they do come.  
*Ann Ball*

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## **SHOREHAM OCCUPATIONS 1913 - 1928**

I recently carried out an analysis of the occupations of the parents resident in the Shoreham parish whose children were baptised at St Peter and St Paul between 1913 - 1928, mainly by the Vicar at this time, David Madge. The total number of parental names registered was 287. It is important to realise of course that this analysis does not include the children of non-conformist parents and some occupations may be over-represented because a particular set of parents had multiple baptisms carried out.

Shoreham was an agricultural estate village at this time. The overwhelming proportion, 43% of the occupations recorded are labourers, probably mostly farm workers. A range of other jobs are agricultural in nature such as shepherd, cowmen, famers and stockmen. Because this period spans World War One 5% of the occupations are registered as being in the armed forces. The nature of Shoreham as an estate village is shown by the fact that gamekeeper appears twelve times and chauffeur eight times. There are sixty different occupations listed.

The description Gentleman appears six times. There are virtually no professional middle class jobs listed. Two unusual occupations listed are of fathers not resident in the village but with some connection to the village, presumably through the women they married. One was George Hope Stevenson who was an Ancient History Fellow at University College Oxford and Hector Buchanan Roy who in 1918 was the Managing Director of the Vanderbilt Hotel in New York which was an impressive edifice just a few years old at that time. Sadly his son Bruce was killed in 1941 whilst a Pilot Officer.

I intend to carry out further analysis of the baptism records for the following decades which should be interesting, revealing the changing nature of the residents of Shoreham as the village evolved and some of the impacts of developments in the wider world.

*Alain Cozens*

## **SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES**

All of us at the shop hope that you have a pleasant Easter, but we know that there are many other things on your mind at the moment. We are confident that the Stores will remain open and at the heart of village life, and that in line with other retailers we'll stay stocked with all your necessities. We offer free delivery, and our phone number is 01959 522018.

At the time of writing, there have been no reports of panic buying by villagers – although one customer from outside the village did want an unreasonable quantity of pasta! (She only received a sensible amount.) If you need a cash top-up, remember that the Post Office at the shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9am and 3.30pm, and lets you draw out money from all the major banks. Our best wishes to you all

*Santhosh, Kannan, Lorna and Prasanth*



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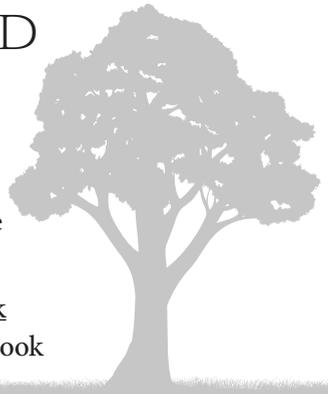
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[www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## The Shoreham Parish Council Bulletin No. 82 April 2020

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We are currently in uncharted territory with regards to the Coronavirus pandemic. Unlike most matters dealt with by the Parish Council there is neither legislation to which we can refer nor precedent which we can follow.

We, like everyone else, are taking our lead from central government. For us, this is in the form of cascaded information via Kent County Council. The situation is changing on a daily, if not hourly, basis and we can therefore only pass on to our residents any guidance which we are advised to follow. Such updates will be made available on the Parish Council and Shoreham Village Facebook pages. Those, who do not have access to the internet, should contact the Parish Clerk directly and she will be able to update you with the current advice.

Unlike KCC, we have neither social care resources nor staff who are qualified to deal with this matter and are therefore limited in terms of what we can practically do as a Parish Council.

We can however consider government guidelines within a local context and with particular regard to our elderly population. At present, our Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and the monthly Parish Meeting is due to be held Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. It is extremely likely that either one or both of these meetings will be postponed until further notice and that the nature and frequency of further meetings will be considered in light of the current epidemic.

We sincerely hope that all our residents will remain safe and will take all the necessary precautions to prevent further spread of this illness and to limit the numbers affected. Please continue to wash your hands, to avoid large numbers of people and to stay at home for seven days if you have a new continuous cough or high temperature. Please call NHS 111 if you suspect you may have contracted the virus. Do not visit your doctor's surgery or the hospital.

## **Traffic and Parking Survey –**

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned their traffic and parking surveys. Around 150 responses were received, which roughly equates to a 25% take-up. We therefore believe that we have a mandate to pursue the following measures:

1. A reduction in the speed limit throughout the village to 20mph (95% of respondents were in favour of this)
2. A reduction in the speed limit on the A225 between Otford and Preston Farm to 40mph (77% of respondents were in favour of this)
3. Minimising HGV access to the village (99% of respondents were in favour of this)
4. An additional 'Free Parking' sign at the Northern end of the village (91% of respondents were in favour of this)
5. Measures to improve safety/traffic flow around the George Bend (74% of respondents were in favour of this)

In addition to the above, we are still pursuing a footpath from the station to the village.

Not enough people considered the remaining issues such as pinch points and insufficient parking to be a concern and therefore we shall not be taking any further action with regard to these at this point in time.

In terms of next steps, the Parish Council will work out costings for these measures and meet again to determine how to practically progress them. A case for reducing the speed limit on the A225 also needs to be drawn up as KCC are not in favour of allowing this to go ahead.

**Light Pollution** – Several residents have been in touch with the Parish Council regarding the issue of light pollution emanating from various properties in and around the village. Whilst having bright lights does not contravene the law and does not require planning permission, Shoreham has always valued its dark skies and such light at night time is a nuisance for residents and has an adverse effect on wildlife and habitat. Indeed, the lack of street lights is mentioned in the Sevenoaks District Council Conservation Area Appraisal and the fact that this is valued by our residents. We are therefore asking property owners, who have exterior lights to have a look at them and see whether they can be dimmed or redirected to make them less obtrusive. In most cases this should help alleviate the problem. Please also consider whether having lights on continually for security reasons is actually effective. Motion sensor lights might be a better alternative.

**Wildlife Crime** – Sadly, several residents have recently reported suspected illegal poaching and lamping – the activity of hunting at night using lamps, especially for

rabbits. Lights at night time have been seen on the hillside and fields around the Cross in particular. The landowner has been contacted and he has confirmed that he has not and will not grant permission for such activities to take place on his land and therefore anyone partaking in such is breaking the law. If you are therefore unfortunate enough to witness this taking place, then please report it to the Wildlife Crime Police Officer, Nick Lingham on 01622 604319.

**Freighter Service** - The next freighter service has been scheduled for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Please bring any items/household waste to the bottom of Forge Way in Shoreham at 9.15 where you can load them onto the freighter. The freighter also stops at Well Hill at 11.15 but there may be a change in venue. Please assume for now that this will be the former Kent Hounds car park, but if the location does change, it will be communicated prior to 4<sup>th</sup> April. Dates for the rest of the year are 18<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> January (2021). Please note that electrical appliances, metal, hard core, large amounts of garden waste, large panes of glass, oil and paint cannot be taken, Also, please do not arrive early or leave items on site otherwise this will be classed as fly tipping.

**Sevenoaks Transport Volunteer Group** – Each year the Parish Council gives a small donation to the Sevenoaks Transport Volunteer

Group, This group exists to help those without their own transport or who cannot use public transport (if there is any) to attend medical appointments at hospitals, doctors or dentists in our area of Kent. If someone finds they need help, for a modest charge a volunteer driver can be arranged by ringing their office between 9.00am and 12.00pm on weekdays on 01732 458931 giving 24 hour's notice. Please do make the most of this service.

A further service, the Kent Karrier Service is also available for people who have difficulty using public transport. With this scheme, residents pay an annual membership fee and a subsidised fare for each return journey they make. For an application form and to book the service please call 01832 832447. A few information leaflets are available from the Parish Clerk, so please contact her using the details overleaf if you would like one of these.

**Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is currently scheduled for 1 April 2020 with the Annual Parish Meeting being planned for 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is highly likely however that due to the Coronavirus outbreak, these meetings will have to be postponed until further notice. I sincerely hope that everyone will stay healthy through what may be difficult times ahead and am positive that our community will pull together to help those in need.

*Sarah Moon, Parish Clerk*

## Useful Contact Details

### Parish Council

**Parish Clerk** (Direct all initial communication via the Parish Clerk)

Name	Phone	Email
Sarah Moon	0787 9655459	<a href="mailto:clerk2012@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk">clerk2012@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk</a>

#### Shoreham Ward Councillors

Roy Blamey	01959 533452	<a href="mailto:rb2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk">rb2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk</a>
Jonathan Histed	01959 523993	<a href="mailto:jh2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk">jh2011@ShorehamParishCouncil.gov.uk</a>
Miranda Cockburn		
Martin Sheward		
Andrew Hibbins	07580 659308	<a href="mailto:andrew.hibbins2@gmail.com">andrew.hibbins2@gmail.com</a>
Neil Powell		<a href="mailto:np2018@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk">np2018@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

#### Romney Street Ward

Brian Jeffery	01959 522955	<a href="mailto:brian.jeffery13@outlook.com">brian.jeffery13@outlook.com</a>
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#### Well Hill Ward

Suzanne Hubble		
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#### District Councillors

John Edwards-Winser	01959 522503	<a href="mailto:Cllr.edwards-winser@sevenoaks.gov.uk">Cllr.edwards-winser@sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>
Irene Roy		<a href="mailto:cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk">cllr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>
Rachel Waterton (Crockenhill & Well Hill)		<a href="mailto:cllr.waterton@sevenoaks.gov.uk">cllr.waterton@sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>

#### County Councillor

Roger Gough (KCC)	01959 525109	<a href="mailto:Roger.gough@kent.gov.uk">Roger.gough@kent.gov.uk</a>
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Pothole reporting	08458 247800	<a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/">http://www.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/</a>
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000	
Environment Agency	0845 9881188	
Wildlife Police	01622 604319	

## **THE SHOREHAM SOCIETY**

What a difference a month makes!

On the bright side, Shoreham should be really shining. We had a great turnout of willing helpers on March 1<sup>st</sup> who happily took on whatever task they could to clear the litter and tidy around the village. It was great to have so many helpers and even one or two babes-in-arms. We start them early in Shoreham!

On a less happy note and in view of the imminent health crisis that is faced, it would seem to be foolhardy to go ahead with some of our planned activities. The Community Walk on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, the RSPB Family Wildlife Walk on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> and the much-loved Duck Race, scheduled for Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, must all be cancelled. Needless to say, we are hoping for the best of outcomes and the swiftest of returns to normality. We would love to be able to reschedule these for later in the year.

The programme for later in the year includes a working party to pull the invasive Himalayan Balsam from the river and the Big Weekend in July. Our fingers are still crossed that these can still go ahead, but predictions for the outcome for this pandemic seem to change daily. A final decision on these two events has been deferred.

Whatever else happens, keep reading your wonderful Gazette to find out what is really happening. No panics, no stockpiling, no fake news and no scaremongering

*Chris Euman*

## **CHURCH FLAG**

The winter storms finally finished off the flag of St George on the church tower. It is our intention to replace this at Easter time which this year is April 11<sup>th</sup>. The flag of St George is the only one permitted on a church tower unless we have the coat of arms of Rochester Diocese in one corner but that expense is beyond the PCC.

*Ann Ball*

## **CITIZENS ADVICE**

In response to COVID19 Sevenoaks Citizens Advice will be changing how the service is delivered. We will not be giving advice face to face so there will be no drop-in service, or Otford outreach.

You can still ring us for advice on any problem, big or small, especially if you are affected personally or financially by the coronavirus emergency, on the Advice Line number 0300 330 9001 (10am -3pm, Monday-Friday) or by email [info@sevenoaksdistrictcab.org.uk](mailto:info@sevenoaksdistrictcab.org.uk). There is up-to-date information on the Citizens Advice public website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

*Kate Britten*



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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Our churchyard is filled with wildflowers and many of these have names associated with the Christian calendar. Snowdrop, the first spring flower was known as Candlemas Bells. It was picked at Candlemas in early February. Primrose, known in some parts of the country as Lent Rose follows, picked by children on Primrose Day in April. Cowslips, with their distinctive shape, were called Keys of Heaven or St Peter's Keys and were picked for Mayday head-dresses. Greater Stitchwort has an old name that links it with spring – Easter Bell.

There are biblical references in old flower names too. Germander Speedwell with its distinctive round blue flower was called Angel Eyes, God's Eyes and Eve's Tears. Meadow Cranesbill had the lovely name of Grace of God. Comfrey, which has different coloured flowers on a single stem was called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Lady's Bedstraw refers to the Virgin Mary.

When they have all finished flowering our amazing volunteer grass cutters start their summer job of keeping the grass cut.

*Ann Ball*

## NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

What a busy term we have had and it is such a shame that it finishes early for us as we close our doors indefinitely to try to contain the virus.

Cameron Class had a fantastic day visiting the Houses of Parliament. They were able to go and observe what was happening in the House of Lords and the House of Commons and listen to the debates that were happening. They all learned so much and it was very exciting to see inside of Parliament and what goes on! We hope to receive a visit soon from our local MP.

We had an absolutely amazing and inspiring time when we took 28 children to sing at the O2 with the Young Voices Choir. There were 8839 children in the choir so it was a really special feeling to be singing along with so many other children. Before the concert started we could just about see our parents, who were opposite us, and we did some big waves so they would see us. As the music started, the lights went out and the stage lights came on – it was incredible. We all had torches to wave as we sang and we all really got into the mood and sang (and danced) our hearts out. It was a late night – but it was totally worth it!

A team of 12 pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 took part in a Speed Stacking competition at Knole Academy. They participated really well and all tried their best. Speed stacking is a really good activity that uses both sides of the brain at once and, when under pressure to stack cups at speed, it is very challenging.

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We took part in the first ever Year 3/4 swimming gala at Sevenoaks School Pool. A team of seven from Moore Class took part, competing in full length pool races. Once again, their determination and enthusiasm was excellent and they all put in their best effort. Another first for us was a Water Polo Tournament for a year 5/6 team. They did amazingly well and came second overall which was a fantastic result.

As many of you will be aware, we have been raising money to enable us to transform a storage space to create a new dedicated learning space for our children and I am delighted to say that we succeeded and were able to officially open our learning space at the end of February. We would like to thank everybody that supported this venture and we know that the children will benefit hugely.

We are hoping to help the children to sew a fabric square for them to use as part of their costume for our VE Day celebrations eg a neck scarf or bandana and would love to have some help from any sewing experts in our community. I have managed to book 6 sewing machines from 20th April to 8th May, and now need some fabric and volunteers to help the children. If you would be interested in supplying fabric or assisting the pupils with their measuring, cutting and sewing, please contact Sharon Desmond in the school office to advise your availability. We do hope to continue with this activity if the school re-opens after Easter, so please do contact us via [office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk) if you are able to help.

*Mrs Gillian Lovatt-Young, Headteacher*

## ROGUES ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY

The ROGUES play once a month from April to October, usually on a Friday. We select the best of the nearby courses. The day starts with a bacon roll and coffee before the game, and there is an early dinner at the end of the day.

The Society's annual subscription is £20, and other than that the only cost is the fee for each day, usually £55, that covers the round, the food, and the magnificent prizes awarded. This year's first outing is on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Cherry Lodge Golf Club TN16 3AX.**

If you are a golfer, male or female, of any standard, you will be welcome to join. If you do not have an official handicap from elsewhere it doesn't matter: we can assign an appropriate Society handicap to you. You might alternatively come along as a guest for a taster day. If you are interested please contact me at: [wyn.mj@btinternet.com](mailto:wyn.mj@btinternet.com) or phone: 074848 21204.

*Wyn Melville-Jones – 2020 captain*

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## A SAINT OF THE AGE OF FAITH



For Saint Roch, like Old Testament as well as present day doctors, the battle was against infection, the enemy the scourge of the Middle Ages, the Black Death. This was possibly not due to the plague bacillus *Yersinia pestis* but to a form of *Ebola* virus, still one of the most deadly threats to humans. Recent research has shown that the infectivity of bubonic plague did not depend on wild or domestic rat vectors: the disease was as common in the country as in the town, and was passed on from person to person. The Black Death, unlike plague, may not have depended on unsanitary conditions and, if so, could strike again at any time. Sporadic cases of plague still occur, with the last major outbreak in India in 1994. Today the new enemy is a Coronavirus, one of the most infectious if not deadliest enemies to mankind known.

Saint Roch has an unusually well documented life, since shortly before he died in 1327 he wrote his autobiography, although the authenticity of this has been questioned. Born in Montpellier, France, around 1293, in an age when plague and cholera flourished and the average life expectancy in Western Europe was around thirty years, he inherited his wealthy parents' money at the age of twenty. Converted to a religious life, he sold all his possessions for the support of hospitals and the poor, and set out on a pilgrimage to Rome. At Aqua Pendente in Italy he found that the city was stricken with plague, and spent his time nursing the sick. Moving on to Piacenza, he himself became infected and would have died but for the care of a dog that licked his wounds and brought him food each day from his master's table. This statue from the French Governor's Palace in Louisburg, Nova Scotia, shows the saint pointing to a plague spot on his left leg.

Belief in, or prayer to an ancient saint will not prevent coronavirus or heal interstitial pneumonia. However, even in fickle and dark times where any miracle seems to be that of doubt, and worship can be seen in the collection of rolls of lavatory paper rather than in any Service of Eucharist, faith has still real power and can give medicine of real comfort. Now 85, lame, with failing memory, a metal aortic valve, short of breath and frightened by the thought of final lung shutdown, the ideal of the service of a Saint Roch as well as the thankfulness and blessing that St Francis of Assisi gave to both Brother Sun as well as to Sister Bodily Death, seem real, true and important. If I can still get out, I would like to walk from Boakes Meadow up Church Street; be silent, still, and pray with St Peter and St Paul

*David Parkes*

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The recent quiz night was a huge success. We made a profit of £846 which will go towards long-term projects: redecorating the hall and improving the toilet facilities.

We would like to thank the many people who helped to organise the evening: the Village Shop for their fantastic service supplying the alcohol 'sale or return', and for selling the tickets; Neil Powell and Brian Jeffery for designing and supplying the brilliant posters and banner; Neil Vickers for advertising on social media, and Mandy and Chris for organising the raffle and prizes. Thanks too to Janet and Jeff Heuston who, together with their trusted assistant, Ken Fowler, set the questions managed the marking.

Last but not least, a HUGE THANK YOU to all you wonderful villagers who came and supported us and helped to make this such a great evening. *Geraldine Field*

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## SHOREHAM ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

All members are invited to attend our AGM which will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in Shoreham Village Hall starting at 8pm.

We will be holding our Plant Sale at the Allotments on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, further details will follow in the May edition of the gazette.

*Jeremy Tooley*

## TALES FROM THE HILL

I miss Geoff Stanley's weather reports that appeared in the Gazette for so many years. They were reports not forecasts giving him some advantage over those in the London Met Office. Geoff's comparative local records going back many years were fascinating but his betê noiré was his counterpart on the Sevenoaks Chronicle, Peter Rogers. Although there are bound to be differences in temperature and rainfall between Shoreham and Sevenoaks, Geoff was often sceptical about Peter's reports.

Weather presenters are now minor celebrities, who have their own personalized style of telling us how hot or how cold, wet or dry it will be tomorrow. The style might be different but the words are all much the same! How about peppering up forecasts by using some weather words from the past

"In the south the morning will be bengy but later gleamy. In the north hen-scartin clouds will spread from the west with hunch later, becoming swullocking with pickles. Tomorrow in the north you will wake to armogan and welcome apricity with sea smoke around the coast. In the south it will start foxy with messengers breaking through, later blenky will arrive followed by snowmagedon. The Met office has issued a red warning in all areas."

Bengy-----Overcast  
Gleamy-----Becoming bright  
Hen Scartin-----Streaks of clouds heralding rain.  
Hunch-----Drizzle with wind  
Swullocking-----Humid with the threat of thunder.  
Pikles-----Heavy drops of rainfall  
Armogan-----Fine weather  
Apricity-----Warmth of the sun in winter  
Foxy-----Bright but freezing  
Messengers-----Sun Beams  
Blenky-----Light Snow  
Snowmagedon----A Deluge of snow

*John Bovington*

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