

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Chairman's Report

Over the last ten years I have attempted to serve the Parish and to keep the Borough and County Councils fully apprised of the thoughts and wishes of the people of the Parish. As a Parish Council we have not always been able to get problems solved, and as I have mentioned before, Parish Councils have very little power, though certainly some influence. I would certainly like to thank all Parish Councillors both serving and retired for supporting both me and the Parish over this ten year period.

The County Councillor for the area regularly attends Parish Council Meetings and is then made aware of the feelings of the population as conveyed to the Council. I regularly attend meetings at Gravesham Borough to discuss problems with the Leader and officers of the Council, and when the need has arisen I have also been in contact with our Member of Parliament.

In 2011 there will be an election to select representatives to stand on the Parish Council and at that time voting will take place in the wards of both Shorne Village and Shorne West. The last time there was a vote was in 1999 and at that time there was a shortage of candidates with only two nominations for three vacancies in Shorne West. Six seats are required to be filled for Shorne Village (this includes Lower Shorne) and three seats for Shorne West. Nearer the time nomination papers will be available for completion from Gravesham Borough Council Democratic Services and I do hope that as many people as possible will seek democratic election to ensure the continuance of your parish council.

One thing that will not be covered in other reports is the Council's agreement to take over the land to the south of Great Crabbles Wood. This will take place as soon as the legalities have been completed now that KCC has got the area and the road in a fit state for us to manage!

John Pooley – Chairman, Shorne Parish Council

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Highways



Planning Applications - This year the Council has been consulted on twenty three planning applications. We objected to the erection of a Chalet Bungalow opposite the Rose and Crown as it would have had an unacceptable impact on the amenity of the adjoining occupiers. We objected to a proposal from Kent County Council to use the education centre at the Country Park for weddings as we considered this was introducing a commercial use. We objected to the introduction of multiple dormers into the roof of one of the bungalows in Swillers Lane. This was initially refused, and then allowed as permitted development. Permission was sought for the use of part of the industrial estate at the northern end of Queens Farm Road as a Waste Transfer Station. The proposal was to use the site so that lorries could sort the material from the Skips and then take the debris away. We objected on road traffic grounds.

The wall at 'Bucklebury' in Pear Tree Lane has at last been lowered.

Forward Planning - Early in the year Gravesham went out to consultation on their Local Development Framework. The Parish Council made detailed comments. This document will be used in the future as a basis for deciding where development takes place.

Highway matters - The problem with the water on Tanyard Hill has at last been dealt with. A length of drain was blocked and the pressure of the water was lifting one of the manhole covers. The carriageway surface still needs attention and is being taken up with the County Council. There is a general problem with the type of material used on road surfacing as it is lifting in a number of areas. The bridge over the A2 was due to be resurfaced in May and this did not happen. We were advised that the work would be carried out in June. This is still to be done.

A number of residents on the Ridgeway have expressed concern at the speed of traffic. At their suggestion we have made a formal request for an interactive speed limit sign to be erected.

We are awaiting the publication of the impact assessment into the various options to improve the crossing of the river Thames. We hope this can be achieved by changes to the Dartford crossing which will be the most cost effective option.

Robin Theobald – Chairman, Planning & Highways Committee

FOOTPATHS PROPERTIES AND GREENS



FOOTPATHS - As you would expect the never ending maintenance of our footpaths is an on-going issue, as the nettles begin to emerge, the bushes and trees get bigger and the posts and older trees begin to rot. Some of our paths are tended by Gravesham Services, some are the duty of Land Owners, and some are tended by our own gardener. As it is impossible for us to monitor all paths in the parish, we rely heavily on all users to report any problems. The Ramblers Association have been very helpful. A replacement footpath map will be resited at the top of Butchers Hill.

FLY-TIPPING - By far our biggest single issue is that of fly-tipping which occurs along some of the more isolated stretches of Shorne Ifield Road and at Shorne Common Rough. This dumping of rubbish probably happens during the hours of darkness making it difficult to identify the offenders. Your vigilance in this matter could make the difference in bringing about the possibility of a successful prosecution.

CHESTNUT BUTTS - Our gardener Norman Quinnell has made a start on replacing many of the rotted chestnut butts around Shorne Common Rough. This is a lengthy task and will be achieved by replacing a few at a time. Our thanks must go to one of our parishioners Nigel Donovan who has been supplying the Chestnut Butts at no cost to this Parish.

RECREATION GROUND - You will have noticed that a new surface has been laid at the entrance to the Recreation Ground in The Ridgeway. The grass-crete finish used will with native seeds naturally seed over to blend in with its surroundings.

PLAYGROUNDS - Our two playgrounds, one at the common in Mill Hill Lane and the other at Michael Gardens in Shorne West continue to receive weekly inspections.

NEW TREES - As you come down Tanyard Hill you will see additional tree planting on both sides of the road. The type of trees chosen will provide colourful foliage throughout the year and add to this leafy aspect. The provision of these trees was achieved with a lot of hard work and bargaining by one of our Parish Councillors, Mrs Leanne Hornby, to whom our thanks go.

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT SHORNEMEAD CROSSING - In connection with the legality of the closing of this crossing leading to Shornemead Fort, Mr Robin Theobald and Mrs Leanne Hornby have been searching through the Parliamentary Archives and the records at Kent County Council for evidence of the crossing being a Public Right of Way. Mrs Hornby would like to hear from all walkers and cyclists who have used this crossing to Shornemead and Cliffe.

Brian Wilkinson - Chairman, Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The National Financial Situation - has dominated Kent County Council in that it has been necessary - in the 3 to 5 year financial plan - to cut £200 million from the budget with the loss over that period of approximately 600 jobs. The latter will be achieved by natural wastage and retirements as far as possible, and the emphasis is on preserving front-line services.

In spite of the above, the lowest Council Tax increase ever has been possible (2.1%). More cash has been found for Child Protection and for Highways maintenance - the balance of spending for the latter to be geared to maintenance rather than for new schemes.

Catherine Kerswell has been appointed as "Managing Director" of Kent County Council following Peter Gilroy's retirement.

The cash deposited with Icelandic Banks remains a source of concern to both the Council and its Council Taxpayers. It is expected that about 95% will be recovered and some has already been received.

Highways Issues - remain the main source of complaint to me, especially following the ravages of one of the worst winters in Kent for many years. Cash has been allocated for urgent pothole repairs (£2.4 m from central Government, and £2 m from Kent County Council) and teams from the small company private sector are being recruited to perform this work.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment - Kent County Council has again received an "excellent" rating by the Audit Commission and is one of only three Authorities to have received this.

Schools - Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is now proceeding in Gravesham and Meopham School will soon have a major re-build.

Joint Working with the Borough and District authorities

Neighbourhood Forums continue to perform well, The Rural Forum distributed its Grants Cash in a novel way whereby residents themselves voted for the best projects to receive the grant money. The Grant monies I can distribute personally (£10,000 for general purposes, and £25,000 for Highways schemes) are proving to be exceptionally helpful in supporting truly local projects such as the "MUGA" sites. A MUGA is a Multi Use Games Area that permits youngsters to play a variety of ball games such as football, netball, hockey etc.,) A number of these multi purpose areas have been installed locally including ones at Meopham and Vigo.

The youngsters' "Freedom Pass" was duly rolled out in Gravesham and Kent County Council is now going to extend this to those local students who have to travel outside the County boundary.

Local and Regeneration Issues

The A2 Activity Park (now named "Cyclopark") is moving ahead and is in the process of being built. This will be an excellent facility for the Borough.

For many in the rural areas - and here Cobham, Shorne, & Higham in particular are on the "front line" - the threat of a "Lower Thames Crossing" passing through Gravesham, east of Chalk, is very disturbing, and as the local representative I am pledged to defend our precious countryside. There is an acknowledged dichotomy here in that strategically there is a real need for more capacity. I am sure there will be considerable debate on this vital issue in the near future.

Mike Snelling - Kent County Councillor for Gravesham Rural



VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

FIRST SHORNE SCOUT GROUP

Our 70th anniversary celebration continued with some special events .

July 2009 Family Camp at Hopehill. 57 brave souls attended as family groups and were given an insight into scouting. They even had the opportunity to cook their own lunch backwoods style (no utensils) having first to light fires .

Halloween Party at the village hall - by chance we booked the hall for what happened to be the 31st October - so Halloween had to be the theme, fancy dress, traditional games, make mum a mummy (paper wrapping) doughnuts on strings, etc.

Both of these events were spectacularly successful. However, they both required an extraordinary amount of effort from a small body of our supporters.

Jane Wright our stalwart group chair has stood down. The group is indebted to Jane for the efforts she has made in supporting the group. Steve Fish has now stepped into this role.

As expected the group continued to grow, meeting the goal of 70 members in our 70th year, however, leader numbers have not grown. More leaders are desperately needed.

Our hut survived this winter without problems. This I put down to good design and installation standards plus no significant power failures. It was not so long ago that the outdoor WC used to freeze solid, necessitating some kettles of hot water to be brought into action. We now have the luxury of heated boys and girls toilets in addition to the adult/disabled toilet.

The hall lighting has been replaced with a 30% up grade and all fluorescent fittings are now the enclosed type, much safer from the odd ball attack.

The group continues to support the community with attendance at the Civic Service & Remembrance parade/service and Gravesham District's St George's Day Parade.

Major Sectional Events

Beavers . Sleepover – for many Beavers it was the first time away from parents, I suspect that the parents were far more worried than the children after we explained the difference between a tea towel and a face flannel. The leader informed me that they slept until 7am.

Cubs. Shorne pack was part of a Kent County Cubs 1066 invasion of Hastings. The cubs travelled from Ebbsfleet international to Ashford on the High speed Javelin train in 19 mins reaching 140mph.

Scouts. Shorne won the J P Bond district camping & cooking competition for the 6th time.



SHORNE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

We continue to be a thriving and much sought after school as indicated by the high numbers of parents wanting Reception class places for September 2010. We had a full Ofsted inspection on 7th and 8th December 2009 and a Diocese Inspection on 14th January 2010. It was pleasing that Ofsted recognised that the children, 'enjoy school and are good at keeping safe and healthy' and that, 'it is good that the children are helpful in school and the local area'. The Diocese highlighted the fact that, 'strong links exist between the parish church and the school'. We have drawn up action plans to show how we are going to address the key areas for development that were identified by the two inspections.

I am delighted to say that we are one of only a few schools in Kent to have gained a fourth 'Green Flag' award, thus enabling us to continue to be an Eco School. We were invited to represent Gravesham to take part in a 'Green Day', environmental awareness raising event in the summer term. We are currently working on this project.

This year we have been involved in a new initiative to give our children the opportunity to learn skills outside the classroom environment. Our youngest children have been regular visitors to Shorne Country Park as part of the, 'Forest Schools Project'. Suitably dressed for the woods, in all weather, the children have had great fun exploring and developing skills in a different setting.

April was marked by the school's first participation in the St George's Day Parade in Gravesend. We walked through the town centre with our dragon models proudly lofted high on canes. Several other schools, both secondary and primary, took part in the celebrations and it was an event that we would be keen to be involved in every year.

We have had another year of success in a variety of sports. In football we were joint winners of the Sullivan Shield with Cobham Primary. We won the tag rugby 'plate' and were runners up in the High Five netball tournament. We now have our own 'Strictly Schools Come Dancing' club. We are hoping to try out our skills at the next village hall tea dance.

Thanks to the wonderful support we receive from FOSS we continue to be able to provide exciting learning experiences for the children. These have included: theatre trips and visiting theatre companies and puppeteers. They have also enabled us to purchase vital resources for the school for which we are very grateful.



Year 4 at the St. George's Day Parade

NORTHFLEET AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

We meet at Shorne Village Hall every other Tuesday morning from 10.00hrs to approximately 12.00 noon. It is a male-orientated club open to all retired or partially retired Professional and Businessmen aged 60 years and over. The club has 77 members, which is slightly lower than 2008, due to deaths and resignations.

The members pay £2 per session (which includes a cup of coffee and a biscuit) and the Annual Fee is £10, unfortunately it has been necessary to raise these fees due to rising costs. On joining it is expected that every new member will purchase a Club Tie and a 'Probus' lapel badge. The Club holds its Annual General Meeting in July of each year, supported by four regular Committee Meetings.

The Social Secretary organises a great number of day trips to interesting places at home, as well those in France, Holland and Belgium. Trips are also arranged to Theatres, which are very popular. Our Speaker Secretary arranges a speaker for the Tuesday morning meeting and the subjects cover a wide range of subjects.

Annually we hold a 'Ladies Meeting' when we welcome the wives and partners of our members. This year Mr Don Dray presented, "The Story of British Music Hall and Variety". We also hold four Luncheons a year for wives and partners and these events are very well attended.

The club has its own Almoner, who contacts and visits any of the members or their wives/partners who may be ill or unable to attend our meetings, presenting them with flowers or fruit and a card from the club. He keeps in close contact and regularly reports on their progress or otherwise at each meeting.

SHORNE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Our regular match night is Wednesday in the Village Hall where games are played in a friendly but competitive atmosphere. Internal matches are played in various formats with the winners receiving their trophies at our Annual Dinner & Dance in October and we also play matches against other villages in Kent as members of the Triples League.

Over the years we have also developed a good social side with various events during the year which are always most enjoyable. This year is our 25th anniversary since founding in 1985 and we intend to make the Dinner/Dance a very special one.

SHORNE WOODS COUNTRY PARK

Shorne Woods has entered the final year of the Heritage Lottery Project. The major works undertaken this year were the completion of the rhododendron removal, the clearance of trees in the wood pasture area, halo cutting around veteran trees and the removal of 4ha of Sycamore. All work is carried out in liaison with Natural England, Forestry Commission and HLF.

The Sycamore clearance was important as for the SSSI to be in favourable condition this invasive species has to be removed. This is part of a 2 year programme to remove 7ha of Sycamore. The open areas will be left to regenerate naturally with any regrowth of Sycamore sprayed with herbicide.

The Halo cutting took place in Randall Wood. If a veteran tree is showing signs of suffering from heavy shading, the trees around it are cut back to allow a halo of light to get to the veteran tree and reduce the competition for water. This will allow the tree to flourish for future generations to come.

A permanent butterfly transect has been set up to monitor butterfly species throughout the 26 weeks of spring and summer. This will be carried out every year. A bird transect and full botanical survey has also been carried out.

A new interpretation has been installed in the visitor centre and out on site, including two new innovative sculptures interpreting the history of the park.

The Gravesham 'buddy project' has seen over 6000 visits from pre school children to the park. They attend 3 sessions with the education rangers aimed at encouraging them to explore and interact with each other. Feedback from teachers indicates that children involved in the project are all developing social interaction skills much faster than those not involved with the project.



Visitors Centre at Shorne Woods Country Park

EARLY RETIREMENT CLUB

This year the Club was again chaired by Philip Mansfield who led the Club through another successful year. Roger Endean continued as Treasurer. His commitment to this task enabled us to purchase needed equipment and once again we finish the year in a good financial position.

Keith Saunderson our Speaker Secretary always seems able to acquire good new speakers, as well as arranging for the return of those whom we have previously enjoyed.

We had to cancel two meetings this year, one due to heavy snow and another due to electrical repairs in the village. The theft of lead from the roof in the past and also flooding in the hall, was a nuisance, but never stopped us using it.

Our average turnout at meetings continues to stay at about 40 members and our total membership is currently standing at 50. Several new members have joined but we are still looking for more. Following a talk by the speaker an average of some 20 members usually stop for lunch and enjoy a convivial meal provided by Gloria Ashby at a very reasonable cost.

Our Summer Lunch and Christmas Dinner were well attended and successful events and we are planning to continue these. Whilst we did not arrange any trips this year, several of us have been able to attend trips run by PROBUS. These have been very enjoyable and we would like to thank PROBUS for their hospitality. A trip to a flying day at the Shuttleworth Collection has been arranged by Stan Hannigan for those interested in aviation. Our thanks to the Hall Committee for upgrading the sound system.

SHORNE FLOWER ARRANGERS

Our Club presents a programme of workshops and demonstrations and is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies. We meet on the last Thursday of the month at Shorne Village Hall. This season we have featured workshops on themes including floral handbags, pedestals, a Christmas workshop using cymbidium orchids, table decorations for Burns Night and an imposed workshop.

We have 30 members and look forward to welcoming anyone who loves flowers. The Club provides an opportunity for people to be creative, make friends and raise some money for charity. During the year we have supported Shorne Church Roof Restoration Appeal with a coffee morning at Shorne Church.

This year an entertaining evening was provided by the renowned arranger Mig Kimpton who highlighted his work as a professional theatre manager. Our club competition, entitled 'The Golden Era', attracted fifteen entries. One of our members, Linda Shackleton, gave a demonstration at the NAFAS National Show, for which she received a standing ovation. In November the NAFAS Area Show was held at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend. Two members, Marion Healey and Sheila Williams, entered the Club Class, achieving Very Highly Commended. Another club member, Jean Cooke, achieved first prize in the petite class.



STAGES

We have continued to develop and expand since the last Parish Assembly. Membership has been restricted to residents of Shorne and the immediate villages of Chalk, Cobham and Higham and is around the 210 mark.

Last year we organised an average of four events a month including six West End Shows, six classical concerts, six visits to houses and gardens, seven assorted day trips, three serious London plays and ballet, two quiz nights and a dance as well as a monthly meeting with live entertainment! This year we have surpassed this and by the end of May will have run 26 events!

In addition we were able to present two cheques of £500 each to two charities chosen by members at the AGM, being the profit from raffles made during the year at our events. This year these charities were the Kent Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes.

All this is possible due to the support of the membership and a fantastically hard working committee.

LADIES PROBUS

The Ladies Probus Club has been established for some two years and meets on the first Thursday of each month except in December when it is the first Friday.

We begin with morning coffee and the Chairman opens the meeting at 10am with a short report on club matters. We then have a report from our Secretary and also the Social Secretary who gives out information concerning trips. In the past these have included visits to France and Holland, and also to theatres and places of interest. We usually have a speaker at each meeting and the subject matter has been extremely varied over the past two years.

Our July speaker had accompanied her husband on his tour of duty in Japan where their two daughters were born. They were "adopted" by a Japanese family whilst there and it was very interesting to hear about the Japanese customs and to see something of their beautiful costumes. We have had speakers on many other varied topics from local wildlife to producing olive oil and Darwin.

Twice a year we have a lunch when husband/guest are invited, these are usually very happy social occasions which everyone enjoys.

At the December meeting we also invite guests to join us for Sherry, mince pies and carols.

Our AGM is in June, when we elect our new Chairman and her committee. Anyone may put their names forward for election to any of the offices. Our membership is open to anyone who may wish to join us.

SHORNE FOOTBALL CLUBS



The 2009-10 season started on a somewhat sad note with the under 18's no longer being a part of the village football scene especially as the previous season had passed with the lads winning a trophy, but with a combination of studies, and no longer being under 18 all good things must come to an end.

At the same time the Shorne Football Club Secretary decided to hang up his pen and linesman flag for the last time and on behalf of everybody at the three clubs we thank Mark for his years of service.

Shorne Football Club had another mediocre season. Their form which showed promise of reaching two cup quarter finals was not carried into the league fixtures. The summer months will see the rebuilding of the squad with the hope of greater improvement next season.

The Rose & Crown however have had a fantastic season and the people of the village should be very proud of the team in their midst. Last season saw them promoted to the North Kent Sunday League Premier Division one of the toughest divisions in Kent. Not only did they have good cup runs throughout the year but went on to become champions of the League a feat most teams can only dream of due to the high standard of teams in the premier division. So congratulations to the players of the Rose & Crown and in particular to the management team of Dave Cater and Sonny Brookes.

DICKENS COUNTRY PROTECTION SOCIETY

We have had another busy year. Although the number of local planning applications continue to be low we have maintained our basic work of monitoring these, as together they bring about creeping change. No definite new major issues have arisen but there continue to be newspaper articles about estuary airports, additional river crossings and tidal power schemes which we keep under continuous review.

The various Thames Gateway projects also continue to be rolled out and result in increased traffic and loss of open space in an already highly pressurized area of the country.

Other items that have been raised and are still receiving attention – The Chattenden and Lodge Hill redevelopment projects, the redevelopment of the Chequers Inn near Higham station, Tree preservation orders and condition of ponds in various locations, (particularly Upnor Pond for which the Society has applied for several grants with a view to leading a full restoration later in the year), conversions of garages into habitable rooms with consequent loss of off-road parking places, and the closure by Network SE Rail of the pedestrian crossing point at the end of Queen’s Farm Road which has cut off access from Shorne to the canal and river bank.

On lighter matters, the Society was active at several local exhibitions, fetes and fairs at Bromley, Gravesend and Higham Libraries and Cliffe Church. The Society’s annual Barn Dance held at Buckland Farm continues to be very popular.



SHORNE AND THONG W.I.

This year saw a change in the order of the WI year combining the October AGM with the traditional May Resolutions meeting – this year’s Resolution being – Clear and mandatory country of origin labelling on all meat, poultry and fish sold in this country.

Last November we listened and learnt how to grow old disgracefully before indulging ourselves in a festive lunch and entertainment by the Shorne School Choir. January saw us snowbound so our meeting was cancelled. In February one of our members recalled her experiences from her “call up” days in WW2 and in March we visited artistic Barcelona with Monty Parkin, viewing the city through the eyes of Gaudi and the paintings of Picasso and Miro. In April with speaker Graham Johnson we enjoyed being talked along the Medway from Tovil to the Thames Estuary.

We are pleased to report that this year, through the initiative of some of our newer members, we are starting a new Craft Group on a regular monthly basis. Some of our more able members have enjoyed a day learning the art of Curling on ice. Our darts, whist and quiz teams continue to compete in the District and Federation events.

SHORNE VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL

Another fun filled year has passed at Shorne Village Pre-school where every session is packed full with activities and experiences for all the children to enjoy. Over the winter months the children made a glorious stained glass window with waving hands to say farewell to Father Paul on his retirement and at Christmas the older children took part in a beautiful Nativity play which was a lovely start to the festive season. The children posted their Valentine cards to their loved ones and decorated pots planted with a bulb for Mother's Day. The Probus Tea Dance Group who also use the hall invited the children in to watch them dance and the children were very well behaved and sat tapping their feet in time to the music. The girls loved the "pretty dresses and sparkly shoes" and it was a good experience for all the children.

Visitors are always welcome at Shorne Pre-School especially if they bring a fire engine! Strood Fire Brigade are very popular visitors and gladly let the children climb in and out of the fire engine and answer all their questions. We have also had a parent who is a paramedic come into pre-school and the children enjoyed bandaging the staff. It's not just people who visit us, - two very special visitors were baby tortoises brought in relating to the letter T for Show and Tell activity which was very inventive and lovely for the children to see.



SHEILA THEOBALD SCHOOL OF DANCING

In July 2009 the school presented our production entitled 'Going for Gold' for three nights at the Woodville Halls theatre in Gravesend. All pupils participated and the summer term was hectic, but hopefully good fun, as all pupils worked towards their items. Our theme was the **alternative** Olympics and items included Tiddlywinks, Hula Hooping, Skipping and Draughts events to name but a few.

We were able to support two charities with donations after the show and were happy to give Demelza Children's Hospice the sum of £1503:22 and Asthma UK a donation of £1,000. We try to support and make a donation to charities connected with children, as this is a production involving children who are fortunate to be able to participate in a dance activity and we like to support children who through some form of medical illness are unable to experience the fun that dance can bring.

At the end of the autumn term we held our usual Christmas disco for the younger pupils. A noisy, but enjoyable time was had by all! In December we organised a coach trip to the theatre to see Hairspray. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and if you haven't seen this musical yet, we would recommend it to anyone who might be thinking of going to see a London show. It's funny, colourful and the music is bright and catchy.

In January 2010 the term began again and we returned to examination work. In February and March 2010 we had two days of Ballet, and two days of Tap and Modern examinations. We also had Ballet Assessments. In the summer term we will be holding our 'Open Week' when parents of our pupils are invited into the school to watch their children in action and view their progress. Some pupils from Shorne School will be dancing at the school's summer fete.

SHORNE HISTORY GROUP

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm beginning in October and finishing in April and our membership is over 50 in number. Apart from a good scrub up, washing archaeological items found in the Country Park at Randall Wood, we usually have a wide variety of speakers who delve into our history, and this year was no exception.

October - Tony Farnham – gave a moving account of his true story of his quest to find his family.

November – Michael Thompson spoke about the Rosherville area of Gravesend and the Rosherville Gardens.

December – Ask the Experts – This was an evening with all members of the audience participating in a bit of local history fun.

January – Helen Allinson gave a talk about 100 years of toys and play

February – Peter Hartley spoke about Princes and their Palaces

March – Gerry Harris delved into the history of Cobham Hall

April – Francine Payne recorded the background to Joyce Green Hospital and the River Isolation Hospitals of yesteryear.



Site of the old village of Merston, near Green Farm, Lower Shorne

SHORNE VILLAGE HALL

Early in the year Mrs Gloria Ashby took over as Chairman of Shorne Village Hall Management Committee and was quickly faced with the problem of flooding in the large hall due to a damaged outside downpipe and exceptional weather conditions. The village organisations were most understanding at the length of time it took to repair the damage caused for which we are duly grateful. The Hall has received a 5 star grading from Gravesham Borough Council for safety. The Committee strives hard to ensure that the Hall continues to be regarded as one of the best quality venues in the area and in this respect a Maintenance Committee has been set up to ensure that the hall is continually upgraded and kept in a good condition. In 2010/11 we are hoping to replace the heating system which is now some 30 years old.

The Chairman would like to thank all organisations who use, and continue to look upon the Hall as a centre of social activity, and all members of the Committee, for their assistance over the past year.

SHORNE ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

In December a Special Lunch is being held at the Mid Kent Golf Club to celebrate the 10th anniversary of SHORNARA.

We have maintained a full membership and are enjoying probably the busiest year yet. Meetings and events are well supported and the latter include a variety of day and theatre trips. A second holiday this year was very successful and another is being planned for 2011. Meals in various venues are always popular.

On the last Thursday of every month the Tea Dance attracts over 60 people. A Barn Dance is again scheduled for October. Quizzes and other indoor entertainments are regular features of the club as are Indoor Bowls and the Photography Group. Ten Pin Bowling, which was one of our first activities, meets every other Friday and attracts more and more members.



SHORNE COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

February's AGM was well supported and there was a good entry in the snowdrop competition which has now become part of the AGM evening.

In March Jane Stretfield showed us some of the delights of the gardens that take part in the National Garden Scheme and in June a visit was arranged to three gardens in Kent.

The Spring Show in April achieved the highest entry ever, prompting praise from the judge, Jim Buttress, on the quality and presentation of the exhibits.

Entries for the Summer Show were disappointing but there was a large entry in the cookery class and overall it was an attractive show.

A very enjoyable visit was arranged in September to Buckingham Palace Gardens and a successful and colourful Autumn show saw a good entry.

At an informal social evening in October David Johnson and Edmund Redfern showed slides of the Society's past visits to gardens which recalled many happy hours.

In November the Annual Supper and Presentation of Trophies brought a successful year to an end.

FRIENDS OF SHORNE SCHOOL

This year our main events in fund raising to support Shorne School have been the Summer Fete, Christmas Bazaar and the Candlelit Ball (held jointly at Cobham Hall School). Other fund raising events included a quiz night, promises auction, cake sales, discos, a pamper evening and our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is always popular with the children.

The money raised has provided 30 laptop computers, and these will permit more flexible and varied teaching for all subjects. This year we are actively fundraising to refurbish four junior classrooms.

Having completed a school sensory garden, we now have an on-going project to create an eco-pond which will allow the children to study nature and aquatic wildlife more closely.

We are very grateful to all those people, both inside and outside the school community, who have supported our events over the year.

SHORNE PARISH CHURCH – St Peter & St Paul



A major change in the life of our parish arose with the retirement of our Vicar the Rev. Canon Paul Longbottom. He had served as our Vicar for 15 years, dividing his time between the parish and the post of Diocesan Director of Ordinands. He retired on the 30th October following a special service and two social events where we were able to say farewell to him and Tricia. We were fortunate that the Diocese was willing to appoint his successor as Diocesan Director of Ordinands, to Shorne, but as Priest in Charge rather than Vicar, which is now usual with such arrangements. From a day to day point of view this makes no difference. The result was an interregnum of only two weeks before his successor, Rev. Glyn Ackerley was licensed at an inspiring service in our church. We are very pleased to welcome him, his wife Phillipa and daughters Sophia, Lydia and Sarah who are now settling into the Vicarage and the routine of the parish. We are grateful to those who assisted during the interregnum, particularly Rev. A. Randall and Rev. A Le Grys.

The Roof fund appeal has reached the sum of £50,000 and we can now apply for matched funding. The projected sum for the roof repair was initially £100,000 but it is certain to rise.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the fund and give special thanks to Dr Ian Craig for the work he has carried out on behalf of the church.

PEOPLE/ORGANISATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REPORT
Reports on these organisations were presented at the Annual Parish Assembly on
20th May 2010 or have subsequently been received

County Councillor for Shorne	Mr M Snelling	812404
Shorne Flower Arrangers	Mrs R Moore	824177
STAGES	Dr J Grace	822647
First Shorne Scout Group	Mr G Busbridge	569512
Shorne Cottage Garden Society	Mr D Baker	01634 710169
Dickens Country Protection Soc.	Mrs S Lindley	823179
Shorne Woods Country Park	Mr T Bell	823800
Friends of Shorne School	Mrs E Masterson	822312
Sheila Theobald School of Dancing	Mrs S Theobald	534659
Shorne Village Hall	Mrs G Ashby	822874
Northfleet & District Probus Club	Mr A Weller	560230
Early Retirement Club	Mr P Mansfield	01634 717823
Shorne Football Clubs	Mr L Moore	01634 252327
Shorne Short Mat Bowls	Mr P Curtis	822605
SHORNARA	Mr M Carter	534906
Shorne History Group	Mr T Austin	355524
Shorne & Thong WI	Mrs R Baker	01634 710169
Shorne C of E Primary School	Mrs C Conroy	822312
Shorne Parish Church	Revd. G Ackerley	822239
Shorne Village Pre-school	Mrs J Bennett	357872
	Mrs S Wightwick	362229

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL – 2010

Chairman	Mr J S Pooley	Tel.	822049	barb.and.john@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Mr B Wilkinson		536131	brian.wilkinson@blueyonder.co.uk
Members	Mr BTE Austin		355524	
	Mr M Brett		356163	markbrett@blueyonder.co.uk
	Mr J Bugg		823642	jrbugg@hotmail.com
	Mr D Hart		352481	hart485@btinternet.com
	Mrs L Hornby		822272	leanneandpeter@talktalk.net
Clerk	Mrs H Shove		822937	
	Mr R Theobald		823674	robin.theobald@btopenworld.com
	Mrs T Martin		320824	shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk

Parishioners are always welcome to attend both full Parish Council and Committee meetings which generally take place on alternate Thursday evenings from 7.45. A full list of dates can be obtained from the Clerk.

The date of our next **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** is Thursday, 12th May 2011 at 7.30 in the Village Hall. All village organisations are welcome to present their annual report at this meeting. All reports will be presented in the Annual Parish Report for 2011. Copy more than 250 words in length may be edited to fit available space.