

SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



As a Parish Council, we are required hold an Annual Parish Assembly once a year to report to our parishioners on what we have been doing over the past year and to answer questions.

The assembly also provides an opportunity for parish organisations to report on their activities and encourage people to join them.

The Annual Report is based on the reports from the Council and the parish organisations.

We hope you will find this 2016 report interesting and informative.

Chairman's Report



Robin Theobald, Chairman

Thanks

My thanks are due to all the Council members for their work over the last year. I should also thank Theresa, our Clerk, who has served the Council for 30 years. We missed her when she was out of action through ill health at the end of last year and are pleased to have her back.

My thanks particularly go to John Bugg, my Vice Chairman for his support. When I discovered I was to chair the Regulatory Board in Gravesham, which deals with planning applications, I handed over the Chair of the Parish Council's Planning and Highways Committee to Susan Lindley. My thanks to her and to Bob Lane who now chairs the Council's Footpaths, Properties and Greens Committee as well as undertaking some important general functions. Both Susan and Bob will report later.

Resignations

It is with regret that I must report the resignations of George Dent and David Hart from the Council. David is moving out of the area and George resigned through ill health. Both represented Shorne West.

David Hart re-joined the Council in 2009 having served on the Council before. David ran the Council's website for a number of years and represented the Council on the Gravesend East Neighbourhood Forums, Shorne United Charities and the Village Hall Committee. David also dealt with last year's annual report.

George Dent joined us on 30 Oct 2014 and represented the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Local Councils. George also supported Susan Lindley when she was attending the local Highways England consultation events in connection with the Lower Thames Crossing.

The 2015 Council Election and Current Vacancies

The 2015 election was un-contested and the existing members of the Council were returned unopposed. We had two vacancies then which were filled by Pauline Clifton and Martin Redfern.

As a result of the resignations of George Dent and David Hart during the year, we had two vacancies in the Shorne West ward of the Parish Council. The Council has now selected two new members to fill these: Mr Clive Rea and Mr Robert Hardy. It is expected that they will be formally appointed to Council in September 2016, after which their contact details will be published on the Council's website.

Shornemead Crossing

Last year I reported that the Parish Council had lodged an appeal with the Secretary of State following the County Council's rejection of the Council's application for a Definitive Map Modification Order adding the footpath over the crossing to the Definitive Map. I am very pleased to report that we won the appeal. The

County Council then advertised the draft order and we waited to see if there would be any objections. The closing date was 22nd January 2016 and there were no objections and we are waiting for the order to be confirmed. This will add the path to the Definitive Map and we can then seek to get it re-opened. Much of this success is due to the work of Susan Lindley on the historic maps and documentation.



Crossing gates now



New signpost north of the crossing

County Council Ward - Boundary Review

The Council was dismayed when we received the Boundary Commissions draft proposals for changing the County Council electorate ward boundaries. They proposed to split the parish in two along the Gravesend Road. The Parish Council objected on the grounds of community ties and efficient administration and I am pleased to report that the proposal has been dropped. In the final decision of the Commission, Shorne West has been moved out of Gravesham Rural into Gravesham East. It would have been difficult for the Council to mount an effective opposition to this even if we had known in advance that it was being considered.

Lower Thames Crossing

Soon after the Council had received the positive news on Shorne Mead Crossing, the news of the consultation on Option C for the Lower Thames Crossing broke. The Council first set out to advise parishioners about the impact the crossing could have on the Parish and to offer some advice. We then prepared and submitted ten pages of formal representations to Highways England. Since the consultation closed, we have drawn up a brief and sought counsel's opinion on whether or not we have grounds for a judicial review. This is costing the Council and you as tax payers £2,000 but it is the only way we can get our voice heard. If we are told that we do have grounds we will need to make an application for a review and at that stage we will be looking for some outside funding. Following the 2008 Planning Act, we are no longer able to have a public enquiry. The Council will continue to do all that it can to resist this threat to our Parish.

*Robin Theobald
Chairman of Shorne Parish Council*

The Shorne Parish Council Annual Report 2016 was edited by Susan Lindley.

Please contact 01474 823179 or susan.bragman@btinternet.com if you have any questions about the content.

Council Committee on Planning and Highways

I took over as Chair of this Committee a year ago, since when it has been rather busy! First of all, I would like to thank the vice-chairman John Bugg for his assistance, all the members of the Committee and specifically Robin Theobald for all his help and advice.

PLANNING

This year the Parish Council has been consulted on 50 planning applications of various kinds affecting the Parish (up from 46 last year), although it seemed a lot more as several were very complex. Of the 50, respectively 5, 3 and three pairs were about individual properties.

Eight were straightforward with no objections and 22 more were similar but still required associated comments. The Council registered an objection to 16 of the applications (up from 12 last year).

The reason those figures do not add up to 50 is that some of the applications dealt with were submitted by means of applications for Lawful Development Certificates, Permitted Development, Prior approvals of change of use, Variations of conditions etc where the legal position is that although the Parish Council can submit comments we are not actually required to be consulted or able to object. This is overall rather a worrying change to planning processes. Examples are a house on Pear Tree Lane proposing very large extensions and a pool house was all permitted development, and a garage on Thong Lane which had been refused standard Planning Permission was then approved as lawful development, both without the Parish Council being consulted.

There were two instances where the Parish Council objected to designs, e.g. of an extension on the Gravesend Road and particularly of a proposed replacement house on Pear Tree Lane. These were still approved by the Borough Council overriding our views.

Planning matters particularly worth mentioning:

- Land to east of the See Ho – This went to a second Planning Inspectorate appeal in August 2015 with the outcome that the Inspector agreed with Gravesham and the Parish Council that the land is Green Belt and development was not permitted.
- RS Skips, Apex Business Park – We put in detailed objections to Kent County Council over the expansion of activities at the waste transfer station due to consequent pollution, noise and increased large lorry and other traffic movements, this is still awaiting a decision.
- Warren Farm – The owners have been given permission to convert the “Apple Store” into a house. Since then there have been other applications for an additional large barn (subsequently withdrawn) and to become a Caravan Club site for up to five touring caravans (decision awaited). Local residents were consulted on the latter so that their opinions could be included in our response. It should be noted however that the decision is out of Parish Council and Borough Council control.
- Venesta, Woodlands Lane – This was interesting as it involved in depth investigation into historical land ownership, the extent of Shorne Common Rough, the common rights and public right of way.
- Long Acre, Pear Tree Lane – We are aware that neighbours have concerns over the usage of the property and that they have been asked to collect formal evidence.
- Gravesham Conservation areas review – The Parish Council responded to both the draft and final reviews of the four conservation areas in the Parish (see also under Highways section), it is proposed that the Ridgeway conservation area should be extended to also include Shorne Common Rough.
- Travellers – During the past year there have twice been incidents of Travellers camping at the former Esso garage on the north side of the A2, on both occasions large amounts of site clearance was needed afterwards. The site has since been made much more secure.

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- Amenity land at Shorne West – Some of this land had already been allocated by the Borough Council to adjacent properties under licence. They proposed to instead sell part of it but were persuaded to continue with licensing.

I will also mention here the Gravesham Local Development Plan, Paramount Resort and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation for which I will invite Robin Theobald to answer any questions.

HIGHWAYS

We continue to report issues with Parish roads and pavements such as potholes, drainage problems, collapsed manholes etc. The problem is though that with ever reducing budgets at County and Borough levels, getting issues resolved is becoming increasingly difficult. It is a bit “hit and miss” over whether and how rapidly any individual item is fixed but please understand that it is not for lack of our trying.

The biggest “Highway” issue currently is of course the Lower Thames Crossing proposal.

Highways matters particularly worth mentioning:

- Butchers Hill – Robin Theobald arranged a supply of tarmac scrapings and a local resident very kindly accessed the required heavy machinery to spread and compact the material.
- Verge and pedestrian safety space at the Ridgeway – KCC Highways department partially resolved a problem at the Ridgeway where two houses had encroached on the strip of land alongside the carriageway. The Parish Council would like to see the footway continued east along from the postbox area but intends to establish local residents views before taking it forward, however safety of pedestrians has to be of paramount importance. Funding will be difficult to obtain.
- Traffic volumes, speeds and parking – The Parish Council has become increasingly concerned about these issues which linked together are adversely impacting on daily life and pedestrian safety in all parts of the village. Ideally there should be a comprehensive traffic calming scheme and parking restrictions, and this was also recommended by the Borough Council as part of the recent Conservation Areas review. We intend to take this forward during 2016-17 so that it is at least planned even if it cannot immediately be completely funded. The scheme in Cobham has been very successful however we understand that it was largely privately financed. The Parish Council has applied to have the speed limits all along Pear Tree Lane and also Forge Lane reduced to 30mph.
- Lorries Parking overnight on A2 – This is an increasing physical and behavioural problem which Highways England are well aware of both locally and nationally. Designated large lorry parks with full facilities might ease the problems.
- Misuse of Park Pale Road – There have been repeated problems of cars and motorbikes racing on this road late at night, particularly in the summer months, and including one serious accident as a result. The police are informed on each occasion (please see Mr Lane’s report on antisocial behaviour for further information).
- Speedwatch – the Parish Council is exceedingly grateful to all the Speedwatch volunteers for undertaking traffic counts and speed monitoring sessions around the village, and to County Councillor Bryan Sweetland for kindly making £800 available for the Parish Council to obtain its own (second-hand) monitoring equipment. The teams work not quite in all weathers but sometimes when it is freezing cold. In the past year 181 vehicles were detected travelling at greater than 30mph including up to 28% of vehicles at the Top of Tanyard Hill and up to 20% of those near the See Ho. As a consequence of the monitoring, the Police sent out several warning letters concerning mid-range speeding and high range speeding.

Susan Lindley
Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee

Council Committee on Footpaths, Properties and Greens

I took over as Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee in May last year, and in July also assumed responsibility for the Parish Council web sites (see end or report).

Over the past year, we have continued to help maintain and improve the local environment, and to encourage parishioners to get involved where possible. In addition to monitoring and maintaining the playing fields and equipment at Mill Hill Lane and Michael Gardens, we've had the roof recovered on the bus shelter in Tanyard Hill, and we had the parking bay lines in the Village Hall car park repainted. We also managed to get the litter bin reinstated on Shorne Common Rough, and we put "No Fly Tipping" signs up in the main 'hot-spots' in the parish. Shorne Woods Country Park also kindly carried out some tree lopping for us in Woodlands Lane.

Notice Boards

A new noticeboard was overdue being needed in Thong and there was concern about the safety of the existing location. The historical design was reproduced and it was relocated next to the post box in Thong Lane, although that doesn't appear to be heavily used nowadays. In the internet age the noticeboards may be a bit of a throw-back to earlier times but we must have somewhere to display official notices.



New noticeboard in Thong



New glass, Chestnut Green phone box

Chestnut Green

BT were persuaded eventually to replace the glazed 'Telephone' panels in the telephone box on Chestnut Green. This is a heritage K6 model from the 1930s, located in a conservation area, and BT are obliged to repair it. As with all public telephone boxes it is not used much anymore. BT are keen to offload them to the local parishes but without the telephone.

In October last year, volunteers planted 500 mixed daffodil and narcissi bulbs on Chestnut Green to supplement others previously planted throughout the village by Mrs Hornby. The bulbs were kindly donated by Mrs Polhill, who also helped to plant them. While there, it was noticed that the chestnut trees had basal growth sprouting up around the trunks, and some trees needed tidying up. The green is owned by KCC who were contacted to undertake the minor work required on the protected trees, but a few weeks later, without giving any notice, KCC lopped off all the limbs on one of the trees, leaving behind just a bare tree trunk, which they described as "a habitat pole". We took KCC to task regarding this but the damage was done. We hope that the tree will sprout new growth, and that it will recover in time.

Crabbles Bottom

Crabbles Bottom is 27 acres of meadow, woodland, and orchard owned by the Parish Council, between Great Crabbles Wood and the Wainscott Bypass. Last year we engaged two sets of contractors, one to clear

the footpath and bridleway, and the other to reclaim the main meadow area. This year we will continue to keep the footpath and bridleway open, and will extend the meadow reclamation to three 'concealed' meadow areas which have not been easily accessible over recent years.

Earlier this year, Martin Redfern and a small group of volunteers cut a pathway through to the concealed meadow areas to provide easier access for ramblers as well as our contractors. Martin also has plans for woodland management and for a community orchard in the area, but the latter has been put on hold due to the proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing Eastern Southern Link in this area.

This is a pleasant, easily walkable amenity for the parish, which can be readily accessed on foot from Great Crabbles Wood and Bowesden Lane, and by motorists from the layby in Crutches Lane. Please do use it and let us know what you think.

Footpath Maintenance

As reported last year, KCC has cut back on footpath vegetation clearance due to financial constraints, and this has on occasions resulted in some footpaths becoming impassable. Our initiative to create our own team of volunteers has only met with partial success. Last year we managed to clear two footpaths which had become overgrown, but we need more volunteers if we are going to be able to make a real difference. There are a number of ways you can help: you can volunteer to become a Footpath Warden; you can adopt a footpath or section of footpath; or you can join our team of vegetation clearance volunteers. If you use the footpaths or bridleways, and would like to help out by joining our team of volunteers, or by 'adopting' a footpath and reporting on its condition, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Volunteer Litter Patrols

One area where we have had great success is with our volunteer litter patrols. In March last year we had nine volunteers for National Clear Up Day. We had to pick everything up by hand, so we subsequently obtained a number of litter picking wands for our next patrol in October, when we doubled the number of volunteers to 18. But for our 'Clean For The Queen' patrol in March this year, we managed to double again and had 36 volunteers on the day.



"Clean for the Queen" – The assembled team



Shorne-Ifield Lane – one mound ready for collection

The litter patrol was kick-started by Barbara Millatt who couldn't make it on the Saturday, so in advance cleaned up most of The Ridgeway and Brewers Road, collecting three sacks of litter on her own. On the designated day, starting out from the Village Hall, the yellow-vested volunteers fanned out across the parish, checking and clearing as far as Green Farm Lane to the north, Pear Tree Lane to the east, Brewers Road to the south, and Shorne Ifield Road to the west, and all the streets in between.

In Shorne Ifield Road, Jeff and Sally Wright, assisted by Russell Cooper, Vice Chairman of the Footpaths Properties & Greens Committee, undertook a fly-tipping clearance operation, clambering down the banks and removing around 40 car tyres, dumped fridges, furniture, and general rubbish, and carefully stacking it up for easy collection by Gravesham Borough Council.

This was a tremendous response from the village, probably a combination of demonstrating loyalty to Her Majesty and our defiance to the Lower Thames Crossing proposals, but clearly showing how proud we are of our village and how determined we are to protect our environment.

General responsibilities also undertaken for the Parish Council:

Anti-social behaviour

Bikers sometimes cause a nuisance of themselves on Shorne Common Rough and the fields alongside the A2 next to Claylane Wood, but the biggest problems relate to motorcyclists and car drivers racing in Park Pale. Prior to joining the Parish Council I began liaising with the Police over this issue which spans both main committees, and have continued with this role. The principle problem is noise disturbance but there are also safety concerns. 2014 having been particularly bad, residents were looking forward to last summer with some trepidation but the Police did a good job with frequent patrols in the area and moving the offenders on, so matters were much improved. However, with Summer coming, the risk of disturbance returns. Residents should please report any serious disturbances to the Police on their 101 number and also keep me informed so I can follow it up.

Website & Facebook Page

In July last year, I took over the management of the Parish Council website and updated it, and believe it is now functioning quite well. We recommend all our parishioners to regularly log on to it to find out what's going on, when the next meetings are scheduled, and to read the minutes from previous council meetings. There is a lot of useful information, more and more up to date than can easily be placed on the notice boards.

The website also includes links to Gravesham Borough Council's Fly Tipping reporting form, and to Kent County Council's highway fault reporting page. The KCC site includes an interactive map where you can zoom in to pinpoint individual potholes, blocked gulleys, etc. We strongly urge parishioners to make direct use of these links – they really do get results.

In September, I launched our facebook page. This was a good learning experience and it is a useful method of two-way communication. We also discovered that the Gravesend Messenger scans through the website and the facebook page every week and prints anything they think is news.

Bob Lane
Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee



County Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor Sweetland reported that up until recently he was a full-time Councillor, but he has now resigned as a member of the Cabinet. This is because he has been very involved with the Lower Thames Crossing opposition to Option C, together with Shorne and Higham Parish Councils and others, while KCC have backed Option C. Shorne parishioners are fortunate that Parish Councillors have done a lot work on opposing the Lower Thames Crossing proposals.

He tries to attend the meetings of all six parishes, plus the Clerks and Councillors can contact him if there is any urgent matter.

Budget – The County Council continues to face unprecedented financial challenges. A reduction of over 38% (£58m) in revenue support grant from central government as part of the efforts to balance the nation's finances. An increase in costs of £80m from increases in demand for services (particular adult social care). KCC members will be asked to approve a 1.99% council tax increase raising £11m towards all council services. KCC members will also be asked to agree an extra 2% or the National Social Care Levy which will raise an additional £11m specifically for social care. The remaining £94m budget gap will be met through savings including staff reductions and the one-off use of reserves.

Limited Companies – KCC runs a number of companies. They own a bus service, printing services, office supplies and an Imaging Company. Monies used to be given to charities but this has been changed to commissioning. Major charities like Age Concern are supported.

Waste & Recycling – 700,500 tons of waste was recycled in its fifth year.

Buses – KCC continues to subsidise bus services with Freedom Passes for school children, older people and children.

KCC also runs a lot of non-statutory services.

Cllr Sweetland can be contacted at Kent County Council (07976 309171) or email at: bryan.sweetland@kent.gov.uk

*Bryan Sweetland
KCC Councillor, Gravesham Rural*



CHURCH, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:

The Church of St Peter and St Paul

This has been a changeable year for the parish, as our Vicar the Rev. Dr. Glyn Ackerley left us in January, after six years in his post, for Luton in Bedfordshire. Five of us journeyed to Luton for Glyn's induction there at a modern new church building based in a large area of housing. This was very different to our church building, which has a thousand years of worship and memories hidden in its ancient walls. We wish Glyn, Philippa and the family a happy and successful new ministry in Luton.

Glyn's departure has left us without a vicar. We are busy preparing our Parish Profile in order to attract a suitable person to the position. We now have a Ministry Team which has been set up to organise and manage church services and events during the time that we have no vicar. If you have any needs that we can help with, you are very welcome to contact one of the churchwardens, whose details can be found on the church notice board, the church web site and on the weekly pew sheets.

Since Glyn left we have only had one baptism, that of a beautiful baby boy, Joshua Flockhart; and we only have one wedding booked this year in September: one of the daughters of a well-known local farming family, the Houghtons of Green Farm. We hope you will join us in wishing them a wonderful day and love and happiness throughout their marriage.

Throughout the year we have held several successful events, beginning with an Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, a Quiz Night in May, where about seven teams competed and enjoyed a very sociable evening, a Strawberry Tea and a Harvest Lunch. On Red Nose Day the church was invaded by several children running about, enjoying throwing paper planes around the church in a 'make a paper plane fly' contest, a painted balloon face contest, Ultimate Lemons and Marble Mayhem. On the church Open Day we had church tours and afternoon teas with stalls selling crafts made by several local organisations. This was the same day as the Friends of Kent Churches sponsored 'Ride and Stride, in which two from our parish took part.

Coming soon we have Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday celebrations, with a Tea-time event in the church at 3pm on Saturday 11th June and a Thanksgiving Service at 10am on Sunday the 12th June. We warmly welcome you to join us for these events.

We have been supported spiritually during our time without a vicar by the Rev. Nigel Bourne, Vicar of Chalk and his curate Chris Kilgour. Nigel and Chris manage to give us their time to preside at our communion services on at least two Sundays a month and Chris is now involved with Shorne C of E Primary School on our behalf. We are very grateful to Nigel and Chris for all the help they provide. We are also able to contact a group of retired clergy to cover other services and have been very pleased to see the Rev. Paul Longbottom back in our church: he has presided over a wedding, a baptism and two interments of ashes in our Garden of Remembrance. One of these was that of Edmund Redfern, who was organist and choir master at Shorne for many, many years and is a great loss to the church and the village.

Caroline Conroy, Head Teacher at Shorne Primary School, has agreed our holding 'All Age Worship' services monthly on the first Sunday of the month at 10am in the school hall. Hence, there will be no service in the church at this time. However, the 8am Holy Communion services will continue without change every Sunday in the Randall Chapel of the church. We hope that holding services in the school will promote a closer relationship with the school and attract children and their families: we really need to help our church grow for the future. It is the 200th anniversary this year of the school's early beginnings in our Randall Chapel and they are planning events later this year to celebrate this and their attachment to the church. It is also our intention to start the services known as 'Messy Church' at the end of this coming year. However, we will need lots of people to help if we are to succeed, so please contact us if you are interested. 'Messy Church' is a different way of holding services and involves all ages but is aimed at children and young people enjoying church with their adult family members or guardians. There are usually craft activities on a theme, time to share food and a worship time with singing etc. It is the custom to have 'Messy Church' on a Saturday once a month or once a quarter.

We ask you all to join us in celebrating our Lord's love and hope to see you in church soon to help us continue Christian life in Shorne as it has been practised for the last thousand years. We have a lovely historical church building, which is full of welcome to all.

Church matters are online at www.shorneparishchurch.co.uk and www.facebook.com/shorneparishchurch

Jaqui Olid and Sandy Cackett
Churchwardens



Shorne Village Pre-school

We've had a very busy 2015/2016 Pre-school year. Our Pre-school is now more popular than ever with over 60 children attending each week. We work in partnership with the Hall Management Team to ensure that the children have daily access to our garden area and use of the big hall for physical play when it's available.

We held our Annual Teddy Bears Picnic at Shorne Country Park and over 60 children, parents, staff and relations attended.

Our leavers assembly was a lovely time for us to say goodbye to our little ones before they start school. With photographs on a large screen showing the children at play during their time with us, and "Time to say goodbye" being played in the background as they were presented with a certificate, and their own Learning Journal folders, made for an emotional day for all.

Our Annual Sponsored bike/scooter Ride is taking place throughout April and the generosity of the parents, their families and friends will enable us to buy some much needed equipment for the Pre-school.

The children will be planting sunflower seeds for a competition during the summer months to see who's sunflower can grow as big as Jack's Beanstalk, so look out for them in our garden.

Another good year at Shorne Village Pre-school.

Jenny Bennett



Shorne Church of England Primary School

This year has been particularly significant for Shorne Church of England Primary School, as we have been celebrating the school's 200th anniversary. The school was founded in 1816 in the Randall Chapel of St Peter and St Paul's church. When that became too small for the increased pupil numbers, the school moved into a dedicated school building on Shorne Common in 1872 and then to its current site in Cob Drive in 1974. A series of celebrations have taken place and further events are planned for the rest of this school year, including a street party, a picnic on Shorne Common and a family barbecue. We will also be holding a competition for the children to design a piece of art work to commemorate our 200th anniversary.

In the middle of our plans to celebrate such a significant landmark in the history of our school, we received the terrible news that the government's preferred route for the new Thames Crossing is the Option C route. If this goes ahead it would devastate the surrounding countryside and put the future of Shorne School in jeopardy. The potential impact on the school cannot be underestimated as the proposed plans show a six lane motorway only 300 metres from our school playing fields. The school is fully behind the campaign to oppose the Option C route and we will support the Parish Council in any way possible.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding our future, we continue to provide rich experiences for our children through a broad and balanced curriculum. Vital experiences beyond the school have continued with our residential trips to the Natural History Museum, Swattenden in Cranbrook and Avon Tyrrell in the New Forest.

Having become an Academy, in partnership with two other schools, we are working collaboratively across the schools to raise standards and we are beginning to see the financial benefits of economies of scale with services and resources. Our Academy Trust is likely to expand as the government agenda for all schools to become academies is put into action. In real terms, school budgets are likely to be cut by 12% and we continue to rely on the hard work of FOSS who work tirelessly to raise money for the school. This year we held a new fund raising event - 'The Great Shorne Bake Off'. This involved the children baking 6 identical cupcakes to be brought into school, one of which was entered for judging and the other five were sold by FOSS in a cake sale after school. There was a terrific response to the competition which coincided with the BBC final on the same day. This year FOSS are raising money for some outdoor adventurous play equipment for our school field.



Children celebrating World Book Day as their favourite book character

Other highlights of the year have included representing Gravesham at the Kent School Games finals for hockey, and at football we became champions at the small schools' the Early Season Sevens Tournament and winners of the O'Reilly Shield.

*Caroline Conroy
Headteacher*



Friends of Shorne School [FOSS]

Friends of Shorne School (FOSS) have had another outstanding year of Fundraising. We are always overwhelmed by the support the pupils' families provide, but also the support we see from villagers, parents of children that have long left the school and other friends in the wider community.

The biggest events of our fundraising calendar are both the Summer and Winter fayres, along with the exquisite Cobham Hall Ball, where we unite with the Unicorn Association (PTA) from Cobham Hall. This year, these three events helped us raise £10k of profit.

Smaller events such as Cake sales, School Discos and our annual Easter Egg hunt have proved just as popular and FOSS are proud to have 'got the balance right' in terms of the variation of events we provide for the school children and their families.

Last year, we spent our fundraising profit on supporting the school's IT suite, by providing new Laptops and plush new furniture for the room. This year we wanted to provide something the children would benefit from during their recreational time, and are delighted to announce that plans are underway to build an Adventure Playground on part of the school field from July 2016 for all classes to enjoy for many years to come. We also supported the school with a donation towards Logan's Den, a new outdoor learning facility.

Our next event will be the Summer Fete on Saturday 25 June 2016. Doors will open at 11.45am and we would love to see as many of our friends from the wider Parish join us for what we hope will be a sunny and fun filled day!

Lisa Sewell

1st Shorne Scout Group

April 2016 was the 60th Anniversary of the Scout Hut being erected and the original frame still forms its main core meeting area although extensively updated, reroofed, re-clad and refurbished over the last 15 years or so. Fifteen years ago many of the windows were still there but only a single toilet accessed via a store room, whilst now we have separate boys, girls and disabled/adult facilities.



*Roofing the Scout Hut in early 1956
(Photograph reproduced by kind permission of the Kent Messenger Group)*

We currently have nearly 80 members (6-18 years old) using the Hut most weeks from the three Group Sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, plus the District Phoenix Explorer Unit. All three Group sections are fully subscribed with more boys than girls in Beavers and Cubs but a high number of girls in Scouts.

All the sections follow the Scout Association's varied and active programme centred around three main themes: Outdoor and Adventure; the World; and Skills involving both individual and teamwork challenges - and importantly having fun doing it all. Shorne has a terrific volunteer leadership team, with welcomed additional support by a number of parents, however with leaders moving on or out of the area, we are now really stretched to support the Beaver and Cub sections (6-11 age group). We would be very pleased to hear from any adults interested in assisting with our sections and any leader would be pleased to chat about any aspects of helping us out.

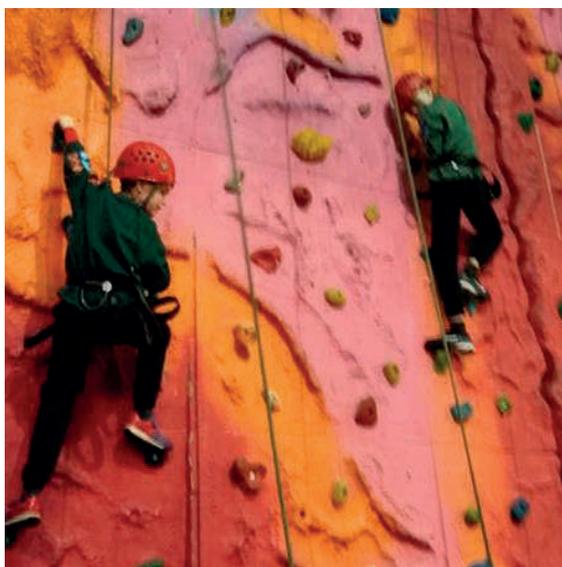
The **Beaver** section, with some 15 members aged 6-8, followed a programme dominated by the World theme which involved meeting people and groups who serve the community, with visits to all main three emergency services and included sitting in a fire engine, going into the police custody cells, having heart rates checked in an ambulance. They also visited a church and a temple to cover faith and the Gravesend food bank to learn how they assist within the community. For the Disability Awareness badge, they had a visit from a guide dog for the blind, and a full evening programme covering deafness and practicing how to communicate using sign language. Fun was had bike riding around Shorne Country Park and a sleepover at the Hut.

The **Cubs** have again filled their year with fun and adventure as they celebrate 100 years of Cub scouting in 2016. During the year they have camped, slept inside, canoed, rock-climbed, cycled, shot with air rifles and arrows, swum, played 5-a-side football and (their favourite) hiked in the dark several times. The section visited Chessington World of Adventures, the Panto at Christmas, Strood Fire Station, Chatham Synagogue, Halfords (to learn about bike maintenance) and the RAF Museum at Hendon. These visits coupled with activities at the Hut resulted in them gaining their Air Activities, Astronomer, Athletics, Camper, Cyclist, Fires Safety, Home Help, Home Safety, Navigator, Water Activities and World Faiths badges.

Highlights of the **Scout** section, which has some 25 members aged 10½-14, included mountain-board riding downhill in Surrey, summer camp in the New Forest (including long bike rides, high ropes and axe throwing) and winning the Novelty Raft competition at the “Kontiki” District Scout water event day at Leybourne Lakes with a “Smurf” themed raft they built. They also joined some 200 Kent Scouts for a midnight ice-skate. Members have been taking canoeing courses on the upper Medway and also learnt climbing skills on completing multiple climbs and practiced prusiking from the hall roof. Other activities covered learning about the environment, cooking, pioneering and tower building (and then burning these constructions down!).



Kontiki 2015: Scouts built a novelty “Smurf” Raft



Shorne Cubs on Climbing Wall



Beavers practicing signing at the Hut

The **Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit** (aged 14-18 years) based at the Shorne Scout Hut currently has some 12 members and follows a formal challenge programme aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award scheme, along with some more informal activities.

*Chris Zgoda
Group Scout Leader*

Dancing: Sheila Theobald School of Dancing

As usual it has been a very busy year for the dancing school. In November 2015 we produced our school show at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend. This was a two-night performance entitled 'Panto Pandemonium'. Although the term was hectic the show was a great success. It is a tradition with our school that when we produce our show we aim to support a charity connected with children and young people. Thanks to everyone's support we were able to make a donation of over £1,000 to the Oliver Fisher Special Baby Care Unit at Medway Hospital. The end of term saw our senior students enjoying our annual Christmas meals together.

The summer term will again be particularly busy, as in June we have I.S.T.D. Modern and Tap examinations and in late June we have R.A.D. Ballet examinations. We also have school Assessments this term. We will be holding our 'Open Days' once again. Our open days give parents the chance to come into the school and watch their children's classes so that they can see the progress the children are making and also view the syllabus content of each particular genre and the standards we have to achieve for the examining boards.

Looking ahead to the winter term, preparations are already underway for further examinations, Christmas parties and our annual theatre trip.

We also now have a flourishing Adults exercise and dance class in Gravesend on a Monday evening where participants can exercise within their own capabilities and enjoy learning a simple dance routine at the end of each class. This class is in addition to our Adult tap dance class on a Thursday evening.

Sheila Theobald



Football: Shorne Football Club

Our Football Club has had a fantastic year both on and off the pitch. We have a fantastic location on which to play football and this is recognised by the Kent FA and the N.K.S.L

During the closed season, major renovations were carried out on our Clubhouse, with the extension of the changing rooms, new showers and a new kitchen. The project came at a cost of just over £20,000, of which, two-thirds of this we received from Premier Football League, Gravesham Borough Council and Shorne Parish Council. Without their help none of this would have been possible, we therefore would like to say a massive "thank you". The final third was raised by both our football teams.

The refurbishment plan continues in this closed season, with the Clubhouse being painted externally and a new shed being built. There are also plans to have the pitch renovated – levelling & re-seeded. We will be continuing the fundraising in the hope of achieving this. The Premier League Fund have already said that they will match whatever we raise.

This year, our teams have experienced a mixture of fortunes:

- Our premier side Shorne/Higham experienced problems throughout the season. A lack of players on many occasions saw them lose too many games and unfortunately finished bottom of the division and therefore relegated to Division 1.
- Our other team, Shorne FC have had a very successful season and have been promoted from Division 1 to Premier Division. They also reached the final of the biggest cup competition in the

N.K.S.L The G & M Cup. This was a hard fought battle which unfortunately saw them lose on penalties after extra time.

Both teams are looking for further success for the coming season.

*Lee Boyson
Shorne FC Manager*



LOCAL AMENITIES/SOCIETIES

Country Park: Shorne Woods Country Park

This year saw the completion of the Darnley Trail. Park staff and fellow ranger teams cleared and fenced the remaining 300m along the golf course land and PROW funded fencing along the Knights Place Equestrian centre land with Network Rail providing the materials. This makes the entire route accessible to horses and cyclists for the first time.

500m of shared user route was surfaced by the ranger team including the final section of the path linking the village of Shorne, via Brewers Wood, directly to the park, as well as the muddiest sections of path in Randall Wood and adjacent to Brewers Rd.

Volunteers contributed 1576 days throughout the year, looking after the sensory garden and assisting rangers in a range of day to day tasks. One memorable task was the raking out of 120 bulk bags of cushion fall bark chip across the play area and trim trail. Resurfacing of some of the trim trail equipment with rubber wet pour has helped improve all year round access.

In response to customer comments, 6 orientation finger posts have been installed throughout the park to help orientation. As part of our woodland management we have coppiced a one-hectare coupe adjacent to Brewer's Road, providing chip for the biomass boiler and wood for firewood that can be purchased from the visitor centre at the park.

Over 4000 school children took part in our 2015/2016 education programmes and the café, shop, car park and birthday party income has meant that this year the park has covered 100% of its annual running costs.

*Josh Gearing,
Ranger, North Kent Area team*



Dickens Country Protection Society

The Dicken's Country Protection Society (DCPS) is a local amenity society (also a registered Charity) which was formed in 1972 after local residents worked together to fight plans for an oil refinery on the Hoo peninsula. The Society's geographical area of benefit is the whole of the former Strood Rural District Council. The Committee meets fortnightly and reviews all plans in and affecting the entire benefit area, whether large or small. There is some overlap in scope and personnel with the Parish Council, but DCPS can look at the wider context and broader aspects.

The Society has been very busy as usual this year, continuing the basic work of monitoring, and commenting on when considered appropriate, all the various local planning applications being submitted to both Gravesham and Medway councils.

During the past year there has also continued to be much national and local publicity about possible major projects in or affecting our area:

- The Lower Thames Crossing proposals were moved on a stage in late January 2016 by Highways England working for the Department for Transport. The current proposals are two variants of the same scheme either west or east of Shorne with different junctions to the A2 or M2 and the tunnel entrance west of Chalk church. The scheme now includes a junction with the A226 Gravesend Road, damaging to local villages as it would encourage (force in the easterly route) traffic from the A289 and Rochester to use the Gravesend Road past Gads Hill for access to the crossing. Both routes will have widespread adverse effects on local traffic and DCPS assisted the combined anti-Option C campaign by leafletting areas on other affected main roads outside Gravesham such as in Cuxton and Halling. DCPS submitted its own representations opposing the Option C crossing proposals.

The Society continually keeps all major plans under review and makes input and representations as and when possible. Detailed analysis can be found in our Newsletters which are sent out to Society members.

Other items that are particularly worth mentioning are:

- The Medway Local Development Framework also progressed with many development sites proposed by developers. Most were rejected however the Chattenden/Lodge Hill redevelopment project continues to be supported by Medway. The site is supposed to be the subject of a Ministerial review.
- Chalk Crematorium is currently under construction, the effect on Gravesend Road traffic will only be apparent once it is completed.
- Shornemead crossing. The Society is pleased to be able to report that the appeal by Shorne Parish Council (led by Councillors who are also DCPS Committee members) was successful and the crossing has been confirmed as a Public Right of Way. Network Rail did not challenge the decision and have now been ordered to re-open the crossing.

On lighter matters, the Society was active at several local exhibitions, fetes and fairs over the summer and will be holding its annual Barn Dance later in the year.

Susan Lindley
Committee Member

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VILLAGE HALL AND HOSTED ORGANISATIONS

Village Hall

The improvement in the economy has resulted in a higher rate of bookings for 2015. It does seem safe to say that the recession which began in 2009, and at one stage seriously endangered the hall, has receded due to good husbandry and an ability to turn the hall from an amateur organisation into a professional business.

A very wide variety of organisations are now using the hall. As an example we can have a birthday party in the morning, a conference in the afternoon and Irish dancing in the evening.

For the village organisations to continue to have use of the hall at a reasonable rate we look to organisations such as Slimming World and outside conferences to subsidise their activities. A profit of £2,359 was made in 2015 and any such profit is always taken into consideration when increasing charges. The hall is in the first instance there to ensure that it benefits the community.

Repairs to the main hall roof have been ongoing over the year and revealed that the high windows and the roof fabric were in need of more than just patching. 30 odd years of repairs had shown a greater structural need for the main hall roof and the Treasurer applied to the Big Lottery for a £7,250 grant, which was forthcoming. This funding will enable the building to continue to operate on a realistic footing for some time to come.

After 7 years, the Treasurer, Leanne Hornby, is leaving Shorne and as no other Trustee offered to take on the role we are employing a Chartered Accountant to replace her. We wish her all the very best.

Thanks go to the Parish Council for all their help over the years. I would like to thank the clubs and organisations for their assistance throughout the year and the Treasurer and Trustees. Thanks also to our new cleaner Helen Barnett, our caretaker Barry Jackson and our booking secretary Andrea Butcher for their hard work in ensuring that the hall remains a desirable venue. A big thank to you all for all your help and support.

Gloria Ashby
Chairperson, Village Hall Management Committee

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Cottage Garden Society

The Shorne Cottage Garden Society has had another successful year. The membership has stabilised at around 55 and its finances are in sound order.

Able led by David Baker, its Chairman, the Committee organised three shows, four social evenings and a Presentation Dinner during 2015.

The Shows, in April, June and September, were very well supported and this year it was decided to remove entry fees to encourage more passing village residents to pop in and see the beautiful and skilful display of 60 plus exhibits covering flowers, vegetables, flower arrangements, cooking and for the first time this year an exhibition of paintings by members at the Autumn show. The cream teas, large and busy plant stall and raffle were added attractions.

The social evenings covered a range of topics including More Garden for Less Effort, The Use of Plants in Poisoning and Improving Your Fruit and Vegetables. These are open to non-members and are advertised in the Shorne Parish Magazine.

We are always looking for new members and if anyone is interested then come along to one of our events or phone the membership secretary John Grace on 01474 822647 (email: shornecgs@gmail.com). Membership is only £7.50 per year.

D Baker
Chairman

Early Retirement Club

The Early Retirement Club (ERC82) meets every other Tuesday morning. The purpose of the Club has been to provide for those in retirement another year of fun and enjoyment at our fortnightly morning meetings, with a guest speaker, followed by a lunch if desired. This was duly achieved and resulted in another successful year being had, incidentally the 34th. We must be getting something right!

Historically "Meetings" are orientated towards men being in attendance. Members can however invite their wives, partners or friends to our special meetings held quarterly that might be of interest to them.

With membership now at just under 40 over 30 are still regularly attending This must indicate the attractiveness of our club with over 70% attendance and over half now staying for lunch. Gloria and her team have continued to provide us with an excellent lunch, so much so that our numbers have increased to the level that were staying 2 years ago.

During the year 3 Social events were planned and enjoyed by our members. We visited "The Criterion Music Hall" at Sheerness plus the "Battle of Britain Memorial" at Capel le Ferne, and had our own Christmas Dinner at the Shorne Village Hall.

Our outgoing Chairman (2015-2016) Mike Fitzsimons carried out his duties impeccably and is continuing to finds us a regular supply of interesting speakers.

A problem that presented itself at the beginning part of the year involved the nursery children being dropped off at the same time as our members were trying to park their cars. This however has now been resolved satisfactorily.

We are very grateful for the use of the Shorne Village Hall and trust you can accommodate us for many years to come.

The club is run on a non-profit making basis with minimal costs for members. At present Members pay an annual subscription of only £10 (No joining fee), a mere £2 with coffee on arrival including the talk and finally only £5 for lunch comprising a starter, main-course, desert, cheese and biscuits and coffee if desired..

Should anyone wish to join us or seek more information please contact either:

Roger Endean on (01474 355084), e-mail: rend@btinternet.com or Mike Fitzsimons on (01474 321329), e-mail: michaelfitzsimons@fsmail.net

*Roger Endean
ERC Treasurer (Hon)*



Local History Group

The Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from October to April at the Village Hall to hear talks on, mostly, our local history. The meetings start at 7.30 and finish by 9 pm. New members and visitors are welcome, just turn up to receive a warm welcome. These are the talks we heard this year:

- October: **Ordnance Survey, Ancient & Modern** by Colin Brown - How the Ordnance Survey and its products came into being together with a little about what can be done with modern Ordnance Survey large scale mapping.

- November: **Broom Hill at Strood** by Odette Buchanan.
- December: **Gad's Hill Place** by Anne Carter - The story of the former home of Charles Dickens and his occupation of it. This was followed by seasonal refreshments.
- January: **Old Kent Windmills** by Andrew Wood
- February: **Chalk Mining in Kent** Rod LeGear – a fascinating talk about underground holes from ancient agricultural pits to huge underground mines producing thousands of tons of chalk for lime burning and brick making.
- March: **Grim Gravesend** Christoph Bull – we welcomed our member who told us about the less salubrious parts of the town that have disappeared, illustrated by many old photos.
- April: **The Politeness of Princes, the Reality of Medieval Etiquette and Manners** by Imogen Corrigan – we welcomed back this popular speaker who described some unexpected manners and etiquette in the Medieval period, many related to dining and food.

For more information and our next programme contact Andrew Moffat at aimoffat@btinternet.com or 822280.

Andrew Moffat
Secretary



Northfleet and District Probus Club

The Northfleet & District Probus Club meets every other Tuesday morning from 10.00 hrs to approx. 12.00 mid-day. It is a male orientated club open to all Professional and Businessmen aged sixty and over who have fully or partially retired from their normal business or profession.

The Club has 57 members, which is a slight decrease from last year, the loss was due to death although there has been a slight increase in members joining, but not in sufficient numbers to outstrip those who have passed away. The majority of the members are in their late seventies and early eighties. Most are still active but there are some who are not all that well but still struggle to attend the meetings

The members pay £3 per session and an annual fee of £12. It is expected that each new member purchases a Club Tie and a 'Probus' lapel badge when joining. The Club holds an Annual General Meeting in July of each year, supported by four regular Committee Meetings.

The Social Secretary, Mr. Bill Stevens assisted by Mr. Paul Bevis and Mr. Roy Carter organise a small number of day trips to interesting places at home, but the take up by the members is not as good as we would like. I think this is due to the age and ability of the members, also some of our members have wives who are members of the Lady's PROBUS Club and they accompany their wives.

The Social Team also arranges for an early season holiday, this year we went to Biddeford, Devon, for one week which a number of the members enjoyed. The weather was cold and windy which is expected but fine, except for the Thursday which rained all day.

Our Speaker Secretary, Mr Mike FitzSimons continues to arrange a speaker for the Tuesday morning meetings, the subjects covered covers a wide range of various very interesting subjects.

On 3rd, May, this year the club will hold its 'Ladies Meeting' this is when we welcome the wives and partners of the members, the speaker will be Mr. Harold Craske who will speak on "Great Weddings". We hope that we will enjoy the company of many wives.

The Club also has its own Almoner and Public Relations Officers, in the form of Mr. Colin Fooks, who contacts and visits any of our members and/or their wives, who may be ill or unable to attend to enquire if we can be of any assistance, all receive a card from the Club. He keeps in close contact with these members and provides a report on their progress, or otherwise, at each meeting. We consider this to be a very important factor of club life.

Colin is very active in trying to get items in the local newspapers and other locations in a bid to increase the membership, and makes very good use of the Shorne Village Hall Web Site as well as other forms of the media. He has been very successful in spreading the word.

Mr. Alan Sheppard arranges for the club to hold four Luncheons a year for the members and their wives and/or partners, all of which are well supported and greatly enjoyed by all. At these luncheons any member who has reached the age of 80 and 90 years in the preceding months will be presented with a bottle of Sherry or Wine, and any couple who have reached their Golden or Diamond Wedding Anniversary will receive a gift for the lady as well as a bottle, usually Sherry, for the husband.

The Club holds an A.G.M. in July each year, at which a President and a Chairman are elected and will hold the position for one year. The President for this year is Mr. Alfred Cole, and the Chairman is Mr Tony Weller, who is also the Secretary.

Anthony Weller
Secretary



Short Mat Bowls Club

The local Short Mat Bowls Club meets every Wednesday evening in Shorne Village Hall between 7p.m. and 10p.m. We are a very friendly club and visitors are welcome. No equipment is needed as everything is provided to have a go.

This year our retired Chairman Dave Coppock negotiated with Gravesham Borough Council for a CAN Community Grant with which we bought 3 new mats and equipment.

Internal Competitions are held within the club with the prize giving at our Annual Dinner & Dance. We also take part in external competitions and compete in the Maidstone & District Triples League.

We hold social events such as the Spring Annual Dinner, Christmas festivities and our home and away matches against Cobham Golf Club followed by an evening meal.

We are looking forward to another good year next year.

Mick Carlill
Chairman



Shorne Active Retirement Association (ShornAra)

Shorne Active Retirement Association (ShornARA) continues to offer a popular range of activities and events to its 150 plus members throughout the year. We welcome local residents aged over 50 who are retired or semi-retired.

Organised activities throughout the year:

- Monthly afternoon tea dances in Shorne Village Hall - These highly popular events nearly always attract around 40 dancers of all standards who are made most welcome.
- Short mat bowling in Shorne Village Hall - Two 90 minute sessions are held on Wednesday afternoons usually involving a total of at least 40 players.
- Ten pin bowling at the AMF Bowling Centre, Gravesend - These sessions continue to be held throughout the year with 30 members or more enjoying keen but friendly competition every fortnight.
- Monthly meetings - Members' meetings take place monthly in Shorne Village Hall, featuring guest speakers on a wide range of entertaining and informative topics such as - during the past year - the Tiller Girls, Charles Dickens in Kent, and Greenwich Park. There is an opportunity on these occasions for members to learn about what events and activities are planned and to sign up for those of interest.
- Walks - ShornARA members get the chance to take part in walks organised by the Strood Community Project throughout the year. 16 walks, varying in length between three and five miles, were arranged during 2015.
- Visits - Planned visits to locations of special interest are a strong feature of the ShornARA programme. Over the past year these have included trips to Maidstone Museum together with a Medway river cruise on the "Kentish Lady", Whitstable and Deal, Godinton House and Gardens near Ashford, The Chapel Down Winery near Tenterden, and a tour of the state rooms and gardens of Buckingham Palace.
- Trips to shows - ShornARA continues to organise trips to West End performances and local theatres. Among the shows attended last year were "Miss Saigon" at the Prince Edward Theatre, "Gypsy" at the Savoy Theatre, "Dreamboats and Miniskirts" at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, and a special edition of Radio 2's "Friday Night is Music Night" at the Hackney Empire to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Eastenders.
- Lunches - Our programme of lunches held at local restaurants and public houses continues to be well supported.
- Holidays - ShornARA's midweek organised holidays continue to be very popular. The two breaks which took place last year – to the Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel in North Wales and the Potters Leisure Resort in Hopton, Norfolk – were greatly enjoyed.

ShornARA's hard working Committee is now involved in yet another busy year, providing lots of events and activities for members to choose from. We try to ensure that there are plenty of things for everyone to enjoy.

Visit our website shornara.org.uk for information about ShornARA's current programme.

Maureen Horsham
Chair

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STAGES (Shorne Theatre Appreciation & Group Entertainment Society)

It has been another successful year for Stages, we have organised 59 events for our members throughout the year.

These included:

- 11 meetings in Shorne Village Hall where we either have a speaker or cheese and wine or cream tea.
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- 18 Theatre visits which varied between London theatres and the Orchard at Dartford or Marlowe at Canterbury.
- 6 concerts which were at Royal Festival Hall /Cadogan Hall Royal Albert Hall.
- 5 Diners club meals in various restaurants.
- 7 Country House visits which included National Trust and English Heritage properties.
- 3 Tours with a Blue badge guide around London and Essex these usually include lunch.
- 3 Museum visits in London
- 1 trip to Southend on the Waverley Paddle Steamer
- 1 Horse racing evening with a meal
- 1 Talk with Chris Bull at Reliance fish bar
- 1 Christmas dinner dance at Shorne village hall.
- 1 Visit to Elstree Studios.
- 1 five-day holiday for 35 members on a coach trip to the Rhine and Moselle Valley.

We try to make our visits as varied as possible, most of our trips are suggested by the Committee or Stages Members.

The 2016 programme has already started with many events which have been well attended, and we have a very busy year ahead.

Our Membership is open to residents of Shorne, Higham, Chalk and Cobham.

Richard Moore
Chairman



WI: Shorne and Thong Women's Institute

Last year saw the centenary of the WI with many national celebrations taking place throughout the country. In June our President was lucky enough to attend a special garden party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the centenary. This was attended by the Duchess of Cornwall and the Countess of Wessex. There were plenty of posh frocks and big hats to admire. Also of course in true WI style plenty of tea and cake. Our Treasurer attended the celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall attended by the Queen.

Our speakers this year have been varied, we have particularly enjoyed the talks about Shelter Boxes and the Emergency Response Service. Our June meeting took the format of the ever popular Afternoon Tea and we were entertained admirably by the choir from Shorne Village School. We were fortunate to be left a small bequest from a former member and some of this money this was put towards an entertainer for our Christmas Lunch. We have started a book club which is proving popular with members and once the weather improves we hope to have some monthly rambles too. We have taken advantage of the local cinema at the Woodville Halls and also visited the BBC for a guided tour.

Shorne WI continues to face an uncertain future. We are not attracting new membership in the quantity that ensures future people come forward for official positions of our Institute.

Visitors are most welcome to attend meetings. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Village Hall

Julie Aspinall
President

People and Organisations contributing to this Report:

County Councillor for Shorne	Bryan Sweetland	07976 309171
Cottage Garden Society	D Baker	01634 710169
Sheila Theobald School of Dancing	Sheila Theobald	01474 534659
Dickens Country Protection Society	Pat Lippiatt	01322 275389
Early Retirement Club	Philip Mansfield	01634 717823
Shorne Flower Arrangers	Linda Hutcheon	01634 325540
Friends of Shorne School	Lisa Sewell	01474 740538
Shorne History Group	Andrew Moffat	01474 822280
Shorne Pre School	Jenny Bennett	01474 357872
Probus of Northfleet	Anthony Weller	01474 560230
Shorne ARA	Maureen Horsham	01474 363285
Shorne Wood Country Park	Tim Bell	01474 823800
Shorne Football Club	David Cater	01474 822129
Shorne School	Caroline Conroy	01474 822312
Shorne Scouts	Chris Zgoda	07921 106122
Short Mat Bowls	Penny Edwards	01474 822076
STAGES	Richard Moore	01474 823384
Women's Institute	Julie Aspinall	01474 825046
Shorne Village Hall	Gloria Ashby	01474 822874

Shorne Parish Council 2016-17:

<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Theobald	01474 823674	robin.theobald@btinternet.com
<i>Vice Chairman:</i> John Bugg	01474 823547	jrbugg@hotmail.com

Members:

Pauline Clifton	01474 825110	paulinec@waitrose.com
Russell Cooper	01474 823377	russell.cooper1@btinternet.com
Bob Lane	01474 822680	bob.lane@gmx.co.uk
Susan Lindley	01474 823179	susan.bragman@btinternet.com
Martin Redfern	01474 822506	meredfern@btinternet.com

(Vacant posts x2 in Shorne West ward, now filled – see Chairman's report)

Clerk:

Theresa Martin	01474 320824	shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk
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The date of the next ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY is Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All village organisations are most welcome to present their annual report at this meeting. All reports will form the basis of contributions to the Annual Parish Report for 2017. Copy of more than 250 words in length may be edited to fit available space.

Other information on Parish Council matters:

Parish Council Website: <http://www.shornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk>

Parish Council Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shorneparishcouncil>

Monthly reports on Parish Council issues also feature every month in the Shorne Parish Magazine.