
SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



As a Parish Council, we are required to 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 your questions.

The assembly also provides an opportunity for parish organisations to report on their activities and to 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 2017 report interesting and informative.

You will also find enclosed a separate sheet on which we are seeking your views on life in the Parish – we will be very grateful if you could please fill this in and send it back to us.

Chairman's Report



Robin Theobald, Chairman

Thanks

My thanks go to John Bugg, my Vice Chairman for his support.

My thanks are due to the Council members for their work over the last year. I should also like to thank Theresa, our Clerk.

My particular thanks go to Bob Lane and Susan Lindley.

Bob Lane, who chairs the Council's Footpaths, Properties and Greens committee, has also taken a number of initiatives, including investigation into the possible installation of close circuit television in The Street, which he will report on later. Bob has joined John Bugg in representing the Council on the Village Hall Committee.

Susan Lindley, who chairs the Planning and Highways Committee, has also been very active in dealing with a number of other matters. She is in regular contact with the County Council to ensure that our roads are adequately maintained.

New Members

You may recall that last year we had two vacancies on the Council, both in the Shorne West Ward. I am pleased to report we now have two new members: Mr Robert Hardy and Mr Clive Rea, both of whom live in the relatively new developments off Michael Gardens.

Accounts and Precept

Copies of the accounts for 2016/17 have been circulated. These are to be audited and they have not yet been formally adopted by the Council.

We have increased the Council's precept for 2017/18, partly to make up for the unexpected expenditure on legal fees in 2016. We also need to plan for possible further legal costs this year. We are still paying off the loan from the Public Works Loans Board which we took out for the Forge Lane footway. This is due to be paid off in 2021.

Parliament Constituency - Boundary Review

There has been a proposal to amend the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituency. Among the changes, it is proposed that Higham should be moved into Medway. Susan Lindley led on responding to this and we have lodged an objection in support of Higham.

Lower Thames Crossing

We have already discussed the Lower Thames Crossing in detail prior to the meeting and so I will not dwell on it here other than to thank Bob Lane (see also the Footpaths, Properties and Greens report) and Susan Lindley for their in-depth work and help on this, and their very informative presentations which you will be able to find on the Parish Council website. The Council took Counsel's opinion. This cost some £2,000 but disappointingly, the advice obtained was that, on the five grounds that we raised, despite their validity we would not stand a good chance of success in seeking a Judicial Review. Several councillors also met the Counsel in chambers to discuss the options in more detail and to see if there was any other action we could take. This cost a further £600.

Court Wood footpaths

The Parish Council is concerned about problems being experienced with footpaths in Court Wood. Land that includes the ancient pathways has been sold off in small parcels, with the new owners perhaps not realising the situation. Together with Susan Lindley I have been gathering map and land ownership evidence. Please see the Footpaths, Properties and Greens report for more information.

As a local authority, the Parish Council has free access to Ordnance Survey mapping. To be able to utilise the detailed maps we need them converted to a different format but found that, surprisingly, the company that does this would not deal with a Parish Council. We are seeking alternative sources.

Gravesend Road Street Lights

A number of the street lights on the Gravesend Road were switched off as part of the County Council's drive to save money. Through the Gravesham Joint Transport Committee, we were able to get the lights reinstated. They were originally installed as accident prevention measures following a spate of accidents.

Planning

Most of the work on Planning is done by our Committees and I hand over to Susan Lindley to report on Planning and Highways.

*Robin Theobald
Chairman of Shorne Parish Council*

The Shorne Parish Council Annual Report 2017 was edited by Susan Lindley.

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

Council Committee on Planning and Highways

First of all I would like to thank the vice-chairman John Bugg for his assistance, all the members of the Committee and particularly Theresa Martin, and Robin Theobald for all his help and advice.

PLANNING

This year the Parish Council has been consulted on 42 planning applications of various kinds affecting the Parish (down from 50 last year), plus one just outside the Parish. Fortunately, only one of the 42 was highly complex. One additionally had a pre-application discussion as did a further two which did not lead to planning applications.

Of the 42 within the Parish, 31 were domestic. Of these, we raised no objection without any comments in six, five of these were permitted and one is pending a decision. In four we raised no objection but submitted comments, all four were permitted. For 18 we had no objection in principle but submitted comments, nine of these were permitted, five decisions are pending, one application was withdrawn and three were refused.

We objected to only three applications (much lower than in the previous two years), all of which were refused. One related to excessively large extensions to a house on Pear Tree Lane, one to raising the roof height and adding a large dormer to create a third floor in an estate location in Shorne West and one was not submitted by the correct process.

The remaining 11 non-domestic applications were three for telecommunications equipment, there were two each for three businesses and the remaining two were about the flue at the new Cemetery in Chalk and the Telephone Kiosk at Post-Office Green.

The system for reviewing planning applications has changed. In order to save money, Gravesham Borough Council unilaterally decided to no longer send us physical copies but instead we have to look at all the plans online, which is not always easy for large plans and very detailed changes.

Planning matters particularly worth mentioning:

- The See Ho Public House – There were two applications within the year. We raised concerns particularly over parking capacity and traffic issues however Gravesham still gave permission. The landscaping approval application is pending approval.
- RS Skips, Apex Business Park – A revised application for expansion of the waste transfer station was submitted. This is a Kent County Council planning application and the Parish Council submitted further detailed objections in writing and also verbally at a Planning Inquiry. KCC gave approval with conditions and further written representations were submitted about these.
- Gravesham Conservation Areas review – This was mentioned last year when it was a consultation but just to update that Gravesham Borough Council have extended the Ridgeway Conservation Area to include Shorne Common Rough.
- War Memorial Listed Building Status – We were informed that the War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest at Grade 2.
- Land west of former Nuralite works – This is accessed via Higham but located within Shorne Parish. Residents were concerned that land had been cleared and valuable wildlife habitat destroyed. There was an application to bring in building waste to the site, rejected by Gravesham as it would be a KCC responsibility. Subsequently engineering works occurred without planning permission, referred to enforcement officers at Gravesham.
- Telephone Box at Post Office Green – British Telecom were wanting to remove the telephone apparatus at Post Office Green due to underuse. Objections have been submitted and a decision is

awaited. The historic telephone box itself is considered an important part of the street scene and must be retained.

- Landscaping strip at Michael Gardens – This is a recurring problem. Gravesham Borough Council do not want to maintain the strip for financial reasons so have issued some licenses to occupy to adjacent houses. This has in some cases then resulted in over-thinning of the trees. We keep up pressure on Gravesham over this matter.

HIGHWAYS

We continue to report issues with Parish roads and pavements such as potholes, drainage problems, collapsed manholes etc. Over the past year we have had greater success in getting repairs done, including correction of some of the longstanding, very annoying problems. It is now much easier to report problems, via the KCC online reporting tool (also accessible on the Parish Council website): we would encourage residents to use it too. It is very easy to check whether a problem has already been reported, and to add reports and a photograph showing exactly where and what is the nature of the problem.

The biggest “Highway” issue that we have currently of course remains the Lower Thames Crossing proposal, which was discussed earlier and others have reported on.

Highways matters particularly worth mentioning:

- Traffic volumes, speeds and parking – The Parish Council continues to be concerned about these issues which 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 Conservation Areas review. We have attempted to take these topics forward, with Gravesham and KCC during 2016-17, and will continue doing so, to get improvements planned and on appropriate agendas.
- Fire Hydrants – Residents may have noticed that fire hydrants have been cleared and repaired and are now more clearly indicated.

Susan Lindley
Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee



Council Committee on Footpaths, Properties and Greens

I am very pleased to report at the end of my second year as Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee.

I would like to thank Russell Cooper, Vice-Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee, and my fellow Councillors for the advice and support they have given me in my efforts to maintain and improve our environment. But most of all I would like to thank all the residents who have responded to appeals and have volunteered to pitch in to help us with our Litter Patrols, flower planting, leaflet and Annual Report delivery, and those who just quietly take it upon themselves to look after our village and make it a wonderful place to live.

Over the past year, we have continued to do what we can to help maintain and improve the environment we live in, with some degree of success. Fortunately, there have been no unexpected problems, and we have

not had to incur any great expense in terms of footpath maintenance, bus shelter repairs, notice board replacements, greens and recreation areas, etc. But we need to be aware that both Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) and Kent County Council (KCC) are suffering severe cuts in Government funding, and they are understandably looking to see where they can make savings, and where they can devolve responsibility to local parishes.

- Footpath Maintenance – One area where we have already seen the impact of the cuts is in the maintenance of footpaths in Shorne, meaning the public rights of way (PROW) through the local countryside, rather than the paved and tarmacked footways alongside roadways, which are the responsibility of Kent Highways. The KCC PROW vegetation clearance service has suffered severe cutbacks. They now mostly provide only a reactive service after receiving complaints. There may then be some weeks delay before the vegetation is cut back. To ensure that our footpaths remain passable the work needs to be carried out in good time. If you see that a footpath is starting to get overgrown, we would be very grateful if this could be reported direct onto the KCC reporting page (please see the link for this on the Parish Council website).
 - Greens and Verges – KCC is responsible for cutting the greens and verges throughout our village. Until April this year, GBC carried out this work on KCC's behalf, cutting the verges in Green Farm Lane, Forge Lane, Tanyard Hill, etc, eight times a year at approximately 4-weekly intervals. However, KCC has reduced the amount of money available for vegetation maintenance from April this year, and as a result GBC has handed back responsibility to KCC, and will no longer cut the greens and verges. KCC has indicated that they may have to reduce the number of cuts from eight to six or even five times a year. This would mean that our greens and verges would only be cut every 6 weeks at best. The Parish Council has agreed to monitor the situation, and if necessary arrange for supplementary cuts to take place.
 - Crabbles Bottom – Crabbles Bottom is the name given to 27 acres of meadow, woodland, and orchard between Great Crabbles Wood and the Wainscott Bypass. Shorne Parish Council took over ownership of the land from KCC in 2010. It is a pleasant, easily walkable amenity for the parish, readily accessible on foot from Bowesden Lane and Great Crabbles Wood, and from the lay-by in Crutches Lane. We employ contractors to cut back the footpaths and bridleway through the land, and to cut back and weed-treat the grassland in the orchards to stop the nettles and brambles taking over completely. Councillor Martin Redfern obtained advice from Kent Wildlife Trust and we have incorporated some of their recommendations into the maintenance regime for this year. With the help of volunteers, Martin has carried out a significant amount of woodland management in the area during the past year, and he would be pleased to hear from anyone who would also like to help.
 - Parish-Owned Trees – The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of trees at Shorne Common Rough, the Recreation Ground at The Ridgeway, and Shorne Common at Mill Hill Lane. We have engaged the services of a qualified arboriculturalist to carry out rolling 3-yearly inspections of those areas where there is a higher risk of trees or branches falling onto roadways, paths and recreation areas. Last year, three trees were identified that needed complete or partial felling. This work was carried out by Martin Redfern, assisted by myself, at no cost to the parish.
 - Court Wood – Court Wood is the area of woodland between the north-western side of Pear Tree Lane and Gravesend Road. Although privately owned, it contains a number of long-established pathways which have been used by Shorne and Higham residents for at least 150 years, and probably much longer. With the fragmentation of ownership of the woodland, there is a risk that access to these pathways will be lost unless they can be officially recognised as public rights of way. The first step towards achieving this is to obtain evidence from users of the pathways. To this end, Shorne Parish Council would be pleased to hear from anyone who has made use of these pathways, so that we can include this in representations to KCC.
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- Property Maintenance – The Parish Council is responsible for the bus shelters in Tanyard Hill and Gravesend Road. Last year, the bus shelter on the north side of Gravesend Road had become so overgrown with ivy that it had almost disappeared. After being let down several times by contractors, a group of Councillors decided to roll up their sleeves and tackle the job themselves. Most of the ivy was found to be growing from private gardens which surround the shelter on three sides, but we managed to cut back a considerable amount and to bring the shelter back into use. More recently, we have replaced the decayed wooden benches at Mill Hill Play Area with eco-friendly benches made from recycled plastic. The new benches are almost indistinguishable from wooden benches, and should last many years without decaying.

General Responsibilities also undertaken for the Parish Council:

- Litter Patrols – Two further litter patrols took place during the past year. In September 2016, 22 residents collected over 30 bags of rubbish. In March of this year, 33 residents managed to collect around 50 bags of litter, plus a further 40 bags in Shorne Ifield Road. On both these occasions, Councillor Russell Cooper and his neighbours tackled the fly tipping which occurs with depressing frequency in this area. The excellent response to these voluntary litter patrols is a clear illustration of the pride we have in our village, and our determination not to see our environment desecrated by inconsiderate parties who do not have the same regard for the area.
- CCTV Cameras – The Parish Council is considering the installation of closed circuit television camera coverage in The Street and possibly other parts of the village. This follows a number of incidents of criminal damage. We recently invited comments from parishioners, and any comments or concerns received will be taken into consideration during our decision-making process.
- Disturbance from Nuisance Motor Vehicles – The frequency of disturbances from motorbikes and cars racing in Park Pale has been much reduced over the past year or so, but we must remain vigilant in case the situation deteriorates again. We are aware of continuing problems with off-road motorbikes on land adjacent to the A2 near Claylane Wood, and have been in contact with the Police, the land owner, and GBC regarding this matter. We would encourage parishioners to report incidents of unsocial behaviour such as these to the Police by telephoning 101.
- Lorry Watch – Vehicles over 6'6"/2m wide are prohibited from driving through Shorne between Gravesend Road and Brewers Road, except for access to properties or sites within the village. The same restriction is in place in Thong and Shorne Ifield. In addition, vehicles over 7.5 tonnes are prohibited from using Green Farm Lane. Residents are invited to contact the Parish Council to report any vehicles disregarding these restrictions. Where adequate information is provided, the Parish Council will report these vehicles to the Police and KCC under the Lorry Watch scheme. Where reports include details of the company which owns the vehicle, we will also write to the vehicle owner directly. Further details of the scheme can be found on the Parish Council website.
- Website - At the end of March, our website provider transferred the Parish Council website to a new 'WordPress' platform. This is a more modern format, which is more compatible with tablets and smartphones. However, it is also slower and has lost some of the functionality of the old website, such as the News preview on the Home page, and the simplicity of the 'Links' page. It is also considerably more complicated and time-consuming to manage. Nevertheless, I would encourage all parishioners to keep an eye on the website, where you will find contact details, news items and monthly newsletters, as well as minutes of the parish council meetings.
- Lower Thames Crossing – To add to what was said in the presentations earlier, I do not think that the Parish Council itself can change the Government's decision. A full judicial review would cost a great deal of money and resources, would raise false hopes while continuing the uncertainty. The Parish Council now needs to focus on achieving the best possible mitigation, including: extending the tunnel

portal; no junction on the A226; improving the design of the A2 junction; and maximum use of cut & cover and landscaping to lessen the impact.

*Bob Lane
Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee*



A footpath is in there somewhere



New bench at Mill Hill play area



Bus shelter - before



Bus shelter - after



Litter patrol – Autumn 2016



Litter patrol – Spring 2017

County Councillor's Annual Report

Councillor Sweetland reported that he has had the privilege of being the KCC Councillor for Gravesham Rural for the last four and half years, serving the six rural parishes. He attends Parish Council meetings from time to time. He complimented Shorne Parish Council for being an excellent local council. He has been very active locally during the last four years over various local issues.

The Lower Thames Crossing – He reported that many people, including members of the Parish Council, have carried out great work on the Lower Thames Crossing in opposition to Option C. He thought the Highways England consultation to be a sham and that the decision to proceed with Option C was probably made long before the consultation began!

Budget – This is the sixth year that the KCC budget had been cut and again they will have to make savings of around £80M. It is not possible to do that without reducing provision of some services. KCC currently still employs around 11,000 staff and this number is being further reduced.

Potholes – KCC continues to deal with repairs to roads and potholes. In the last year, 23,923 potholes were repaired.

Apprenticeships – KCC is trying to increase the current number of apprenticeships offered through the KCC online system.

Schools – During the last year there was an improvement (from 71% to 89%) in the number of schools rated as good or outstanding. This is continuing to improve.

Grants – Over the past four years, he has provided grants for items such as the interactive sign at The Ridgeway in Shorne and wooden bollards at Cobham. A lot of grant money has gone to village halls to be spent on new facilities such as toilets and kitchens.

Library – Despite the cuts, a new public library has been provided in Meopham Senior School.

Waste & Recycling – We have one of the best recycling sites at Pepperhill. They will accept commercial waste but there is a charge.

Buses – KCC continues to subsidise bus services. There are now 24,300 bus passes in existence which has gone up in number. These are still cheaper than what would be charged by the bus companies.

Cllr Sweetland thanked the Parish Council for their hard work. He 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



Rev Ted Hurst with the Bishop of Rochester – 5th January 2017

At this time last year we had been without a vicar for over three months and were already feeling the brunt of having no formal spiritual leader of our own. We were, of course, very well supported by the Area Dean, Rev Sue Brewer and our neighbouring vicar at Chalk, Rev Nigel Bourne and his curate, Rev Chris Kilgour. Both, Nigel and Chris were always extremely helpful throughout our interregnum and we are eternally grateful to them for all their help and that of those working and retired clergy who so often came to our aid when we needed cover for services. However, it was still heavy going having no one at the helm and we did not think that it would take another nine months until we were finally settled with our new vicar.

The Rev Ted Hurst and his wife Sylvia first became known to us when they came to our Harvest Festival service and lunch in October, so we were very pleased later to have Ted as a candidate for the post of vicar to our parish. He also came with special recommendation from the Bishop of Rochester, so we had no hesitation in interviewing him for the position. Ted was successful in proving himself to be an excellent choice for our parish and took up his ministry after a very moving service of Induction and Installation in January, led by The Right Reverend James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester and followed by a reception in the Village Hall.

Ted comes to Shorne with a wealth of new ideas to enhance our worship and to encourage new people into the church; this has already been in evidence over the Lent and Easter services and our congregation is steadily rising in numbers. Moreover, there are several weddings and baptisms in the diary for this year; proving that the knowledge that we have a welcoming new vicar is filtering through to the village and local area. Ted has taken up his responsibility to Shorne C/E Primary School with enthusiasm, taking services in the school each week and encouraging interaction with the church. The school currently lead our 10.00 am All Age Worship service once a month on a class-by-class basis. It is wonderful to have so many children

and their families in the church and they enjoy the preparation and the chance to write their own prayers and display their art work.

Throughout this year we have had Coffee Mornings in the church on the last Thursday of each month 10.00 am -12.00 noon, providing a chance for people to relax and chat and catch up with local news. Fresh homemade cakes are served, with bottomless coffee and tea pots, all for only £1.50. These events have been very successful in the village and will continue as long as people want them to. All are welcome, so please do visit at some time.

Over the year we have held many enjoyable events starting when we celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday in June with a grand tea-time event, which was very well supported and enjoyed by all. This was followed by a Thanksgiving service on Sunday 12th June and our Civic and Patronal day at the end of June, with a reception hosted by the Parish Council and attended by the Mayor, Greta Goatley. Once again, the Church Open Day in September was open to visitors for afternoon teas, craft sale and church tours and we had several visits from the cyclists taking part in the Friends of Kent Churches' sponsored 'Ride and Stride'. Our Harvest Lunch in October had some very welcome extra guests, owing to the children from Shorne School and their families taking part in the Harvest Festival service. On Remembrance Sunday, Rev Chris Kilgour kindly led our service, which began as usual with a gathering around the War Memorial in the church yard, which has just this year been given English Heritage Grade Listing as an edifice of Special Historical Interest.

In December Ted and Sylvie held a special Christmas Evening for us all at the vicarage with mulled wine and mince pies, which went down very well. Then we had wonderfully well attended Christmas celebrations, especially the Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve when the church was filled with children and families full of the magical joy and expectation of the coming event of our Lord's birth.

After Christmas we were immediately thrown into the preparations for Ted's Induction and Installation Service on the 5th January, as mentioned above. Then Lent was once again upon us, kicked off by an evening of 'Pancake Capers' on Shrove Tuesday, when the children made an 'Alleluia Banner' and we had pancakes with the usual fillings. We were fortunate to be invited to the vicarage for our weekly Lent Course meetings where we were treated to a meal of delicious soup and rolls provided by our hosts. On Easter Sunday we had a traditional 10.00 am Easter Family Communion service followed by a Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Following on from this we hosted a Quiz Night in the church on Saturday 22nd April, where 6 teams enjoyed an evening of fun with questions and fellowship.

Sadly, we have lost a few of our older long-term church members this year and remember especially the lives of John Bone, known to many in the Gravesend area through his business in furniture removal and June Wilkins, who was a teacher in her working life but also very well known for her lifetime involvement in local needs and events.

We are still hoping to start the alternative services known as 'Messy Church', which are aimed at children, young people and families, with craft activities on a theme, time to share food and worship time with singing etc. These would most likely be once a month or quarterly on a Saturday. To get this off the ground we will need quite a few helpers therefore please contact us if you are interested in taking part.

We ask you all to join us once again 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 over a thousand years. We have a lovely historical church building and it is full of welcome to all.

*Jaqui Olid and Sandy Cackett,
Churchwardens*

Shorne Village Pre-school

Another fun filled year for the children has passed at Shorne Village Pre-school, and we have had some new staff joining us with lots of new ideas and enthusiasm.

Summer term 2016: This is a very busy term for Shorne Village Pre-school, and it is a sad time too, as many of our older children leave for school and we try our hardest to make the transition as smooth as possible. We also get ready to welcome, and have lots of visits from, new families joining in September. We held a lovely leavers assembly for all of the families of the children leaving us and there wasn't a dry eye in the hall after watching a slide show of photos of all the children having fun at SVP.

Autumn term 2016: We held a performance of the Nativity and Christmas songs for our parents which they very much enjoyed. We also had our usual Christmas party for the children with a special appearance by a very famous person, the man in red himself, with personal gifts for all of the children.

Spring term 2017: The children enjoyed getting back out into the garden and joining in planting seeds and watching them grow.

This is of course just a snap shot of some of the highlights of the last year as every single day here at Shorne Village Pre-school is totally full of fun learning activities and of challenges and successes as we nurture the children in our care and watch them grow.

Jenny Bennett



Shorne Church of England Primary School

As mentioned in our last report the school was hoping to receive some funding from FOSS (Friends of Shorne School) in order to purchase some new outdoor adventurous play equipment for our school field. This was installed over the summer holidays by Adventure Zone who said, at the time of installation, that they have never built such a large climbing frame in a school! The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing on this apparatus over the current academic year.

FOSS have continued to hold many fundraising activities over the course of the year ranging from the Christmas Bazaar, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls and very recently the Summer Fayre. The school are, as always, very grateful and appreciative of all the hard work, commitment and support that FOSS carry out for the school.

We have continued to provide rich learning experiences for our children and this year they have been enjoying trips to visit Warren Farm, located adjacent to the school. These trips have given them the opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning and to learn about the outdoors, whilst promoting mental and physical health.

Earlier in the year the school introduced the Cornerstones Curriculum. This was rolled out across the whole school and has given the children themed and imaginative learning projects every term.

The first half of our summer term has been very busy so far especially with Classes 2 and 6 having sat their annual statutory tests, the SATs. As a school we are extremely proud of how hard the children in Class 6 in particular have worked towards these.

The school has been involved in a lot of sporting activities recently with teams of children taking part in various sports off-site including netball, football, athletics and an infant agility competition. The school's football team, which consists of a group of boys from Class 5 & 6, has been enjoying huge success this year. On Tuesday 14th March they played in the final of the O'Reilly Shield against Higham Primary School. We were absolutely thrilled that they won the match 3-1 which meant that, for the second year running, they were the overall winners of the O'Reilly Shield. Furthermore, Shorne were the first school this century to retain the trophy!

During the week beginning Monday 22nd May we held a Sports Week where every day we held a different type of sporting activity ranging from Coaches Day to an Inter House Olympics Day and finally Sports Day.

The school has been involved in many community events as well. On the evening of Thursday 9th March the school choir attended the Grasp'd Music Festival which was held at St George's Secondary School. They sang a medley of songs from "Oliver" plus "Night Fever" and together with other schools they sang "Happy" and "Ghost Busters". Mrs Forbes, the school music teacher, said that it was a fabulous evening and the choir sang really well with lovely behaviour.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 21st March a parade took place through the streets of Gravesend to commemorate the native American princess Pocahontas, four hundred years after she died. Harry from Class 4 and Libby from Class 5, together with Mrs Bull, represented the school at the celebrations. They sang at St George's Church in a choir which was made up of children from local primary schools.

Finally, at regular intervals during the year individual classes have led Sunday morning church services at Shorne Church with Class 4 recently speaking about Moses and telling the story of the 10 commandments.



Class 4's Church service

Friends of Shorne School [FOSS]

FOSS has continued to hold a variety of events to raise additional funds for the benefit of pupils of Shorne Primary School. These have included a rather wet but nevertheless successful summer fete in June last year, a family picnic in September, the Great Shorne Bake Off (entries from the children of the school), the Christmas Bazaar, an adult Christmas disco night at Shorne Village Hall, a school disco, Mother's Day gift sale, non-uniform days, cake sales and an Easter Egg hunt.

In addition to paying for or contributing to a number of school trips and visits, the school eco-committee, the children's Christmas parties and other small-scale activities or educational tools required by the school, FOSS aims to raise money for one larger project per year. Last year, having managed to save over the previous two years, FOSS was delighted to pay for a large climbing frame and play area on the school field for the use of all children for years to come. This year we are aiming to purchase new interactive white boards, which are in urgent need of replacement, in the classrooms.

Our next key fundraising event is the summer fete on Saturday June 24th. This is always a great event supported by parents of the school but also by local businesses and friends within the local community. It is a very enjoyable day which raises a lot of money for the school and we very much hope that many within the parish will come along and enjoy the day with us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parishioners of Shorne for their continued support, particularly those at Shorne Village Hall and the residents of Cob Drive and Swillers Lane.

Our next AGM will be held in early July. I have attached a small selection of images taken from the recent events which may be of interest.

Victoria Turner
Chairman





1st Shorne Scout Group

Shorne Scouts is now in its 78th year, and we continue to run a lively and active programme of meetings and activities for young people from 6-18 years old, supported by our great team of volunteer leaders and helpers give up much of their valuable free time to the group. We continue to seek new adult volunteers to help out in the running the group and welcome any offers of assistance from the community, even if they have no children in the group.

Numbers have fluctuated between sections over the past year and are slightly down overall at the moment, especially in the Scout section which has dropped from 24 members to 14, compared with this time last year. The Beaver and Cub sections continue to be nearly fully subscribed and Scout numbers are expected to increase soon as Cubs move up during the rest of the year. The proportion of girls versus boys has evolved this year with an even split in Beavers, Scouts comprise two-thirds boys, but girls are currently a minority in the Cub section.

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. Following the programme objectives, all sections mix meetings at the Hut with numerous activities further afield and with District and occasional County run events.

There are some 15 members in the Beaver section. We sadly lost our assistant Beaver leader as he moved away, but were very fortunate replacing him with a local volunteer. The team is also valuably supported by two regular helpers. The Beaver's 30th anniversary was celebrated by joining the District party at Hopehill in September. Activities at the Hut included cooking and kitchen safety, meeting our local MP Alan Holloway, a visit by a dentist on dental health. For the Community Impact Badge, the Beavers had a session talking about the possible local impacts of the Lower Thames Crossing. For the Adventure Challenge Award, they grass rolled, climbed and skateboarded. An interesting visit to Rochester airport formed part of the Air Activities badge. Other visits included a local library, and learning about the Stone Age at Horton Kirby. When two Beavers moved up to Cubs recently, they were asked what they enjoyed most; one said the overnight sleepovers, and the other games and trips out, so we have at least two happy youngsters who are staying with the group.

The Cubs continued their 100th anniversary year with a programme again filled with fun and adventure. Activities included Water activities at Leybourne Lakes (kayaks, bell boats and paddle boarding), an Adventure day last summer (zorbing on a football pitch, caving in a bus, karting around a quadrangle), and a Cub Camp (campfire, laser tag, climbing and airgun shooting). They also completed Athletics, Communicator, Science, Swimmer and Disability Awareness Badges (including a visit by Guide Dog) and went roller-skating, hiking and cycling. Visits included to Chatham Dockyard and a London visit in which the highlight was a Duck tour on and under the Thames.

The Scout section programme included a week-long summer activity camp at Tolmers Scout Campsite in Cuffley. Later in the year, they tried out a new activity - curling at Fenton's ring near Tunbridge Wells following a land version competing against Higham Scouts. Problem solving and teamwork was a key element in a session held in the new Gravesend panic rooms. On-the-water activities included competing in the district Kon Tiki day at Leybourne lakes, and some participated in kayak training sessions held on the Medway.

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 fun and skill training activities. From January, the unit has a new leadership team and has held backwoods cooking, first-aid training sessions and participated in district wide ready-steady cook and bowling competitions. Indoor activities included indoor mini pioneering projects using marshmallows, spaghetti and straw and cola laces for tying (see photo), and included teams building weight tested bridges and a tallest "stable" structure.

During the past year we have been pleased to share our facilities with local Guide groups. Higham Brownies and 2nd Riverview Guides both held successful weekend sleepovers. 2nd Riverview Guides, who have no permanent home base, are also meeting three times this summer term at the Hut with a nature craft themed programme.

Chris Zgoda
Group Scout Leader



Phoenix Explorers – mini pioneering



2nd Riverview Guides – Catering team at the Hut



Cubs – London visit



Beavers - meeting our local MP Adam Holloway



Scouts – on-the-water during Summer Camp



Dancing: Sheila Theobald School of Dancing

As usual 2016 was a very busy year for the dancing school.

In the September to December term 2016 we had Royal Academy of Dance Ballet examinations, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing Modern and Tap examinations, plus School Assessments. All candidates I am pleased to say passed with excellent results.

We are currently organising our usual theatre trip for our older groups, whilst our younger pupils enjoyed their traditional Christmas party. The end of term saw our senior students and adult pupils enjoying our annual Christmas meals together.

On Friday January 20th 2017 some of our younger members of the school performed at the Burn's Night celebrations in the village hall. This was the first time the children had performed in a cabaret setting, rather than on a stage at the Woodville Halls, but they thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as I hope did the audience.

We also had R.A.D. and I.S.T.D. examinations and Assessments in March 2017, and we are currently awaiting the results from these examinations.

We also now have, on a Monday evening, a flourishing Adults exercise and dance class in Gravesend 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.

Several of our students are now in full time dance training, and in September Esther Shelton, our current Head Girl will commence training for a BA Hons degree in Musical Theatre at Millennium Performing Arts.

The summer term will again be particularly busy, as in May we have I.S.T.D. Modern and Tap examinations and in July we have R.A.D. Ballet examinations. We also have school Assessments this term.

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 to view the syllabus content of each particular genre and the standards we have to achieve for the examining boards.

At present, this concludes our list of activities.

Sheila Theobald



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Football: Shorne Football Club

SHORNE FC have had a reasonable season, unfortunately not as good as the last. We finished third in division 1 and reached two quarter finals of two of the most prestigious cup competitions, the Kent cup and the GM cup. There is still a chance that we may be promoted to the Premier division if one of the top teams cannot continue, obviously this is not an ideal situation as we would prefer to get promoted finishing

in the top two places, but if it were to be the case, we would relish the challenge of pitting our wits against the best in the top division of the North Kent Sunday League. We have already signed some new players for next season, and are looking forward in anticipation to the new 17/18 season.

*Lee Boyson,
Manager Shorne FC*

SHORNE/HIGHAM FC have had a very stressful season this term. Due to work commitments and injuries throughout the season we seem to be constantly fighting to get a team out from an early point. The latter part of the season saw us in a real dog fight to avoid relegation. It was touch and go at one point, but sheer hard work and dedication finally saw us over the line with a couple of great wins in the remaining games. Like our other team Shorne FC, we also are fully committed, and are signing new players for the 17/18 season so hopefully we can compete for the top honours.

*Dave Cater
Manager Shorne / Higham FC*

This summer we will be continuing with our ground improvements. We will be completely repainting inside and outside of the club house and reseeding the football pitch. We realise what a fantastic facility we have at Shorne and intend to make improvements every season.

The management committee of Shorne and Shorne/Higham FC



LOCAL AMENITIES/SOCIETIES

Country Park: Shorne Woods Country Park

Another great year at Shorne Woods Country Park! The shop and café have been busier than ever and the staff have been working hard to increase their number of local suppliers. The addition of an all-terrain wheelchair to our existing fleet of rental “Trampers” has made the park even more accessible.

The volunteers have been up to their usual activities of putting in fencing, repairing steps, pulling rhododendron, splitting logs and cutting back paths in addition to installing 5 new benches totalling 4654 hours of hard graft. The rangers have cut a hectare of Sweet Chestnut coppice.

The service as a whole was put before a government select committee in November as one of the most self-sufficient country park services in the UK, Councillor Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport was tasked with discussing the role of local authorities in managing public parks and how these open spaces can be protected for the future.

Numbers for the year; 1 new hand carved sculpture at the entrance to the arboretum, 5 new outdoor gym equipment items, 63 runners competed in the first Shorne Woods 5 Miler for a decade, 75 meters of easy access path created across the car park, 1050 meters of all user path surfaced along the muddiest routes, equivalent of 2482 bags of logs sold from the visitor centre and 4500 children taught by our education rangers.

Finally, we had our first record of Emerald Willow Damselflies on site, as verified by the British Dragonfly Society.



(Photographed by Patrick Doyle)

In the year to come, look out for a brand new Faerie Ring, and the Dragon's head is getting a body!

*Joshua Gearing
Countryside Ranger*



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, the various local planning applications being submitted to both Gravesham and Medway councils.

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

The Lower Thames Crossing consultation: this had just ended when our report was prepared last year. Since then DCPS has kept a watch on what has been happening and, along with Parish Councils (including Shorne) and community organisations etc, has been participating in joint meetings and continuing the fight in various ways. Together, considerable doubt was cast on the consultation

documents, particularly the traffic figures and the actual benefit to Dartford. The outcome of the consultation has however just been announced by the Government with the proposal now being for the Western Southern Link. Several comments made in the DCPS submissions have been quoted and otherwise included in the Highways England responses.

Land at Canal Road, Higham: In April 2016 we noticed that land between the Thames and Medway Canal and the North Kent Railway line had been cleared. This area west of the former Nuralite works is in Shorne Parish but accessed via Higham. It is Green Belt, was formerly covered in bushes and was useful wild life habitat although part of the area has been used in the past for asbestos waste. A planning application was submitted to Gravesham Borough Council to use the land for considerable tipping of building waste, which would have meant thousands of additional lorry movements through lower Higham, and afterwards for open storage. The Society objected and Gravesham Borough Council referred the applicants to Kent County Council but to date no further plans have been submitted.

Shornemead crossing: After the successful appeal by Shorne Parish Council (led by Councillors who are also DCPS Committee members) Kent County Council issued a Definitive Map Modification Order early in June 2016, the crossing was found to have been re-opened just prior.

Waste recycling, Apex Business Park: This is another topic where DCPS overlaps with Shorne Parish Council, and both submitted objections to the proposed increased waste processing as it was considered that the location and road access are unsuitable. Kent County Council unfortunately nevertheless have permitted the development.

Applications in Medway which could impact on Shorne: The Society objected to proposed housing developments, these were also refused by Medway but are likely to go to Appeal:

- Cliffe Woods, applications to erect 50 dwellings on farmland to the south and a further 225 to the west. There are concerns about increased traffic on the B2000 and via village lanes.
- Farmland North of Brompton Farm Road (immediately east of the Wainscott bypass), an application to erect 135 dwellings on high grade agricultural land in the Green Belt between Gravesend and the Medway Towns. If permitted the development could set a serious precedent.

On lighter matters, the Society will be holding its annual Barn Dance on Saturday 13th May this year.

*Susan Lindley
Committee Member*



DCPS Barn Dance 2017

VILLAGE HALL AND HOSTED ORGANISATIONS

Village Hall

The maintenance for the hall continued in 2016: a new roof to the lower part of the hall has been done, we have had the drains cleaned three times as the loos were blocked, and all the small things that happen from day to day. We have had a lottery grant for £7,250 which went to the cost of the roof, and a grant from the Neighbourhood Forum for £2,000 which went to the cleaning of the main hall floor.

Our bookings were very good in 2016 with parties, Quiz nights. Race nights and Charity nights and with new groups coming to the hall. We had a Quiz night, and Take That night from which the money went to the upkeep of the hall. I would like to thank my booking secretary Andrea for showing people round the hall and taking their bookings and all her hard work.

For their help and support my thanks also go to Shorne Parish Council, Mick Carlill for cleaning the fans, Mr and Mrs R. Moore for their help with fund raising, to my Treasurer for all her hard work for the hall, to Helen the cleaner, and to the caretaker Mike Slade.

To my vice chairman Mike for the support he gives me and to my committee for your support in 2016 I thank you. I hope the hall continues the good way we are going so far in 2017.

Gloria Ashby
Chairperson, Village Hall Management Committee



Cottage Garden Society

2016 was a very sad year for the Society with the passing away of David Baker, our Chairman whilst still in office. He was chairman for well over 10 years and together with his late wife Ruth did so much for the club over these years. This year we have also lost June Wilkins, again a stalwart of the Society for many, many years. They will be sorely missed.

We ended the year with 60 members, exactly the same number as 2015 but down on the 73 in 2014. We held the same events as before with an AGM, three speaker evenings and three garden shows. Attendance at the speaker evenings was variable, below 20 in July but then a bumper 30+ for the October meeting which has encouraged us to organise more this year, hoping for a similar level of support.

The three shows in 2016 were again very enjoyable afternoons thanks to the hard work of a diminishing number of committee members. Entries were roughly in line with last year but, as always, we could do with more to make the village hall sparkle even more brightly than it does. This year has seen a considerable rise in the number of entries, the Spring Show had over 360, possibly the highest number ever and the Summer Show had 200, twice the number last year.

Our other social event was the Presentation Supper which was held in November. It was a very enjoyable evening with an excellent meal. Things appear to be on the up but, as with most Shorne clubs and societies, we could do with an influx of new members

John Grace
Acting Chairman

Early Retirement Club

The Early Retirement Club has continued to meet on alternate Tuesdays during the past year. We have welcomed some new members but we would like to welcome more as we do offer a programme of interesting talks with the opportunity of having lunch afterwards.

Our speakers' secretary Mike Fitzsimons does an excellent job in arranging speakers using our frugal budget and two of our members Roy Winter and Alf Cole have entertained us in the last twelve months. At some of the talks we are pleased to welcome ladies.

This year we have made some outings to the Spitfire Museum and the Ramsgate Caves and the picture shows some of our members enjoying refreshment after their walk through the caves.



We will continue to meet at the Village Hall and new members should contact our Membership Secretary, Jim Pearce (01474 355816)

Bill Woolley
Committee Member ERC



Local History Group

The Group met 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: Diamond Queens by Peter Hartley - the background to the celebrations of the 60 years of rule of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II who are the only Queens in British history to have celebrated Diamond Jubilees.

November: The Maunsell Sea Forts by Frank Turner – how Guy Maunsell developed the concept of these forts in the Thames Estuary and fought the War Office to get them built.

December: Woolwich Women at War by Steve Hookins – How women came to work in factories concentrating on their role in the munitions factories in Woolwich.

January: The Secret History of Northfleet by Christoph Bull – an exploration the many facets of this ancient place including cement, shipbuilding, architecture, the various places that make up Northfleet and Rosherville Gardens just to name a few.

February: Robert Pocock, Gravesend's most famous son by Malcolm Jennings – about Gravesend's first local historian, printer, creator of its first public library and botanist. Including his herbarium or dried plant collection and how it was rescued after being effectively 'lost' for 200 years!

March: The Dregs of the People – the aftermath of the Black Death by Imogen Corrigan – how these devastating plagues affected people and forced big changes in society and the economy.

April: Dartford Hospitals by Francine Payne

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

*Andrew Moffat
Chairman*



Short Mat Bowls Club

The local Short Mat Bowls Club meet every Wednesday evening in Shorne Village Hall between 7p. and 10pm. If you have never played do come along and have-a-go. No equipment is needed as everything is provided. We are a very friendly club and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Besides our standard playing evenings, we hold internal competitions with the prize giving at our Annual Dinner & Dance. We also take part in external competitions in the Medway Triples League, County Competitions and other outside Competitions. We came top of our division in this year's Medway Triples League and in the County Pairs competition two pairs, Eddie Holden and Linda Newton, Nick Trice and Lin Ray both reached the final knockout stage. In the Triple Competition Eddie Holden, Linda Newton and Martyn Rothery reached the semi-final being before knocked out by a team consisting of 1 Kent Premier player and 2 England Players.

The club holds several social events such as the Spring Annual Dinner, Annual Dinner & Dance and Christmas festivities.

We are looking forward to another good year next year.

*Mick Carlill
Chairman*

Shorne Active Retirement Association (ShornAra)

Shorne Active Retirement Association continues to flourish in offering a wide range of activities and pursuits for retired and semi-retired people aged over 50 living in the area.

Regular activities: Most of our 165 members enjoyed the programme of activities offered throughout the year. These, together with the individual events and trips we organised, presented opportunities for everyone. We continue to be delighted by the active involvement and interest in our programme on the part of the bulk of our members.

The Short Mat Bowls, Ten Pin Bowling and Tea Dancing events remained very popular, with at least the same level of support for all these activities as in previous years.

Around 40 members continued to enjoy the two sessions of Short Mat Bowls which took place every Wednesday at Shorne Village Hall in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

The Ten Pin Bowling sessions, which took place fortnightly at the AMF Bowling Centre in Gravesend, were still thoroughly enjoyed by a very enthusiastic group of more than 25 members. These friendly occasions culminated in a celebratory Christmas lunch with trophies presented to the highest achievers.

The Tea Dances, held at Shorne Village Hall, continued to be well attended, with at least 30 dancers taking to the floor every month to enjoy an afternoon of dancing to great music.

Our monthly main meetings at Shorne Village Hall attracted on average over 100 members every time. These sessions also offered members opportunities to find out about and sign up for the latest events and outings on offer.

Most of the meetings also featured speakers chosen for their potential entertainment and interest value, and have included subjects as diverse as the life of a Pearly King and Queen, experiences of working in the Royal Household, stories of a Tiller Girl, life in 19th Century Kent and behind the scenes of TV's "Golden Years".

We have also held two social afternoons with a strawberry cream tea, cakes etc providing members with a chance to mingle with other members.

Events and trips: We organised various excursions and visits all of which were strongly supported.

These included:

- January – New Year Lunch at the The Knowle Country House, Higham
 - April – The Carole King Musical "Beautiful" at the Aldwych Theatre, London
 - May – Four-night holiday at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay, including a number of local day trips
 - September – Visit to Guildford, followed by a horse drawn narrow boat cruise from Godalming along the River Wey
 - October – Visit to The Poppy Factory in Richmond to see some of the 11 million remembrance poppies, 135 000 wreaths and 1.1 million remembrance symbols produced there each year being handmade
 - November – Trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular in Norfolk including an overnight stay in Swaffham
 - December – Christmas lunch at the Manor Hotel, Gravesend.
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Looking ahead: An interesting and varied programme has been organised for the coming year. The Committee are working extremely hard to ensure members continue to have a wide range of activities and events to enjoy over the year ahead.

Visit website <http://shornara.org.uk/activities.html> for details of our current programme. New members are most welcome. For information on how to join please contact ShornARA's Membership Secretary, Andrea Brickell, on 01474 746606 or contact the Committee by email on info@shornara.org.uk.

*Maureen Horsham
Chair*



*Tripping the light fantastic at ShornARA's monthly dance in Shorne Village Hall
(Photograph courtesy of The Kent Messenger Group)*



STAGES (Shorne Theatre Appreciation & Group Entertainment Society)

We had another very successful year, the Committee was very busy in organising 64 events throughout the year.

The events included the following:

- 12 Members meetings in the Village Hall, these included speakers plus 2 evenings with cheese & wine and 2 afternoons with cream teas.
 - 14 Theatre visits which alternated between London Theatres and the Orchard at Dartford plus the Marlowe at Canterbury.
 - 5 Classical music concerts, at the Royal Albert Hall /Royal Festival Hall or Cadogan Hall.
 - 6 Diners club meals to various restaurants.
 - 9 Country Houses which included National Trust and English Heritage properties
 - 2 Tours in London with a blue badge guide.
 - 7 Museums in London.
 - 2 Horse Racing days with a meal.
-

- Factory visit to the Frogmore paper mill with lunch.
- Visit to Crossness pumping station, the old sewerage works.
- 2 Art Exhibitions
- Christmas dinner dance
- River trip with lunch on an old sailing barge.
- Seven day holiday to Austria.

This has all been made possible by a very dedicated committee who help to arrange the outings and act as event managers when we go on the trips. The ideas for events come from our members and the committee try to offer as much variety as possible. Our 2017 Programme is already well under way with many new events which have been well attended.

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

Richard Moore
Chairman



WI: Shorne and Thong Women's Institute

It has been another very busy year for Shorne and Thong WI.

In May, we hosted the District Ramble in Shorne Woods Country Park. We were very fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day and the event was well attended.

In June, we celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with a delicious Afternoon Tea. We were delighted to welcome 14 guests. We had a red, white and blue theme throughout from our outfits, table settings and flower arrangements. Our knowledge of things royal was thoroughly tested in a table quiz.

In August, the weather proved difficult for the Garden Party, we had to flee indoors for a while and enjoyed a quiz. The logistics are proving difficult to continue with the summer garden party and we are in the process of rethinking what we do in August.

We have launched a Book Group this year which is proving very popular with the avid readers within our WI. We meet once a month in a member's home and have had some very lively discussions about the books we have read. One of our members is the main coordinator and she has a group ticket for the library to get multiple copies of the books to avoid members having the expense of buying books each month. We have also started to try some of the films on offer at the Woodville Halls.

We have enjoyed some varied and entertaining speakers this year.

Recruitment of new members remains a challenge for us and several of our members are unable to attend meetings regularly due to poor health. We try to make sure there is transport available to those ladies who are unable to drive. At the craft morning in November, a number of ladies expressed an interest in joining the WI but they are unable to attend daytime meetings. I hope in the future we will be able to be flexible enough to accommodate all who wish to join.

Julie Aspinall
President

People and Organisations contributing to this Report:

County Councillor for Shorne	Bryan Sweetland	07976 309171
Shorne Pre School	Jenny Bennett	01474 357872
Shorne School	Caroline Conroy	01474 822312
Friends of Shorne School	Lisa Sewell	01474 740538
Shorne Scouts	Chris Zgoda	07921 106122
Sheila Theobald School of Dancing	Sheila Theobald	01474 534659
Shorne Football Club	David Cater	01474 822129
Shorne Woods Country Park	Joshua Gearing	01474 823800
Dickens Country Protection Society	Pat Lippiatt	01322 275389
Shorne Village Hall	Gloria Ashby	01474 822874
Cottage Garden Society	John Grace	01474 822647
Early Retirement Club	Jim Pearce	01474 355816
Shorne History Group	Andrew Moffat	01474 822280
Short Mat Bowls	Penny Edwards	01474 822076
Shorne ARA	Andrea Brickell	01474 746606
STAGES	Richard Moore	01474 823384
Women's Institute	Julie Aspinall	01474 825046
Probus of Northfleet	Anthony Weller	01474 560230
Shorne Flower Arrangers	Linda Hutcheon	01634 325540

Shorne Parish Council 2016-17:

<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Theobald	01474 823674	robin.theobald@btinternet.com
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Clerk:

Theresa Martin	01474 320824	shorne.parish@yahoo.co.uk
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The date of the next ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY is provisionally set for Thursday 17th May 2018 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 2018. 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>

Reports on Parish Council issues also feature in every issue of the Shorne Parish Magazine.