
SHORNE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



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.

This year the Assembly was held on Thursday 17th May.

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 2017-18 report interesting and informative.

Chairman's Report



Robin Theobald, Chairman

Introduction

The Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government. As such, members of the public have an opportunity to quiz their Parish Council at the Annual Parish Assembly, which they don't have with other authorities. Firstly we will be reporting to you and secondly receiving reports from the parish organisations. You will have then an opportunity to raise any issues towards the end of the meeting.

Thanks

I must thank the council members for their contribution, particularly my Vice Chairman, John Bugg, and our two committee chairmen - Susan Lindley who chairs the Planning and Highways committee and Bob Lane who chairs the Council's Footpaths, Properties and Greens committee. Both are also involved in a number of other initiatives. I must also thank Theresa, our Clerk, who is having to cope with ever changing demands. It sometimes feels as though the world is being made progressively more complex and we are becoming more and more constrained, with data protection as the latest new regulation.

Former and New Members

We lost Martin Redfern from the Council last year. He and his new wife have escaped to Wales. Martin made a very useful contribution to Council and I would like to record our thanks to him. Martin joined the Council in September 2015 and was involved in work on Crabbles Bottom including liaising with Kent Wildlife Trust on the nature conservation aspects. He was also a trustee of the Shorne United Charities.

We have been lucky in finding a replacement councillor in Lisa McCluskey who lives in Shorne West. The Parish is warded and, ideally, we should have three members from Shorne West and six from Shorne Village. Lisa has already been making an impact, e.g. by leading a clean-up of Claylane woods.

Parliamentary Constituency - Boundary Review

At last year's meeting I reported on the proposal to amend the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituency for Gravesham. I am pleased to report we will not now be losing Higham to Medway.

Mobile Advertising Van Parked On Bridges

A year ago, we were trying to stop an advertising van that was being moved from bridge to bridge over the A2 in the parish. At one point it was causing a significant hazard by partly blocking the Brewers Road bridge. I approached Gravesham planning department but was told they could not do anything. Bob then found a reference to a court case on the internet. This was investigated and we obtained a copy of the judgement. This showed that there was existing case law and they could do something so we sent Gravesham a detailed report which included the judgement. The van, which had been on the golf club bridge then disappeared. It, or one very like it, can still be seen on bridges over the M2, but happily no longer in the parish.

Lower Thames Crossing

In the late summer, it was announced that the Western Southern Link route (from Chalk, through Thong and to the A2 at the site of the former north-side petrol station) had been selected as the chosen route for the Lower Thames Crossing south of the River Thames. We were told that the Secretary of State for Transport made the decision but I can find no supporting records. A core group of Parish Councillors (myself, Susan Lindley, Bob Lane and Robert Hardy) have attended meetings with Highways England. We are very pleased that the proposed junction with the A226 was removed, in part due to our input. We saw some very sketchy drawings in December but despite many requests there has been nothing new since then, including the traffic volume data awaited since Autumn 2016. Gravesham Borough Council have now set up a joint working group which first met at the end of April. I will leave it to my colleagues to go into the detail but we are still fighting to do our best for those in the Parish who would be affected.

Land Opposite The Rose And Crown

With some enforcement assistance from Gravesham Borough Council we did manage to get the area of land opposite the Rose and Crown, with the old garage on it, tidied up – this plot had been of concern to residents.

Burdett Avenue – Fence Erected Across Roadway

Those of you living in Lower Shorne, particularly in Burdett Avenue, cannot have failed to notice that a 6ft, close-boarded fence has been erected across the end of the road and another in the adjacent field. Access between Burdett Avenue and Footpath NS156 has been blocked. Neither fence has the consent of the landowners and we are waiting to see what will happen. The one at the end of the road is on land belonging to the County Council, which is expected to take enforcement action to get the fence removed.

Tree Felling - Pear Tree Lane

As a Parish Council we have to be ready for the unexpected. This morning it was a lot of trees being cut down at a property in Pear Tree Lane, and both we and Gravesham took immediate action to get the works stopped.

Paperwork

Lastly, but no less important, copies of the Council's balance sheet have been left on your chairs together with last year's minutes and tonight's Agenda.

I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Robin Theobald
Chairman of Shorne Parish Council

Council Committee on Planning and Highways

This is my third year as Chair of the Committee, and first of all I would like to thank the vice-chairman John Bugg for his assistance, Theresa Martin and all the members of the Committee and specifically Robin Theobald for all his help and advice.

PLANNING

This year the Parish Council has made representations on 69 planning applications of various kinds affecting the Parish (including one just outside our boundary), up by over 60% from the 43 last year. Of these, 8 were non-residential in type leaving 61 applications relating to 53 residential properties (as there were some multiple applications).

All applications are examined very carefully, and increasingly some kind of comments, of varying complexity, have to be submitted - 5 of the residential applications were very complex. All comments sent in by SPC can be viewed on the GBC website and are also recorded in the Planning and Highways Committee minutes.

The detailed analysis will be published in the minutes of the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting. Some areas of the Parish cause a lot more difficulties than others. Most applications are reasonable and proportionate but some are “over-the-top”, inconsiderate to neighbours and the Parish as a whole.

As mentioned in previous reports, problems arise from Governmental changes to and relaxations of planning rules (e.g. eight-metre deep rear single-storey extensions are presently permitted without full consultation). The Parish Council is not necessarily consulted on every application however we maintain a “constant vigilance” approach and therefore comment on all applications discovered.

Planning matters particularly worth mentioning:

- National and other “consultations”: There have been many consultations of various levels during the past year. All of these are reviewed and responses made when appropriate. This involves reading and analysing a considerable numbers of documents then formulating and making responses.
- Appeals: There is an increasing trend for there to be Appeals to the Planning Inspectorate over planning permissions refused by Gravesham.
- Paths/footpaths crossing land in individual ownership: We have seen a number of problems over the past year with village paths not being maintained or even wilfully blocked. I just want to remind landowners who have paths crossing their properties that they are expected to keep these properly fenced and maintained and open for public use – often the Deeds (which we do check) include Covenants about their duties and responsibilities and so we request for there to be voluntary compliance in order to avoid costly legal actions. When an additional piece of land is purchased along with a house it remains non-residential.

HIGHWAYS

It has overall been quite a successful year for resolving Highways issues:

- New local managers: We welcomed Steven Black as our new local Highways Steward, and, after sequential personnel changes, there are also two new KCC Highways managers covering Gravesham. In combination with greater use of the on-line fault reporting system, we have got many longstanding, overdue works done this year.
- The KCC on-line reporting tool: I mentioned this last year but do so again because it is so useful and we strongly encourage residents to use it – you can pinpoint the fault on a map, see if it has already

been reported, describe where and what it is, and upload photographs so that there is evidence and no doubt about the severity. See <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Highways matters particularly worth mentioning:

- Drainage works on Forge Lane: After many requests for improvement, KCC set about doing this work in two stages but they were beset with one difficulty after another, which caused a lot of delay. In the first phase they discovered from their excavations that the drainage layout was much more complicated than had been previously understood, which meant that a lot more work, materials and equipment was needed. There was also a serious accident to one of the workers. In the second phase there were technical difficulties plus a week of rain which flooded the sites, and then the “Beast from the East” snowstorms. While Forge Lane was closed, there were problems with people ignoring the road closed signs and even driving across the field to reach the A226 rather than turning back.
- Resurfacing of The Street: This caused a lot of anxiety for residents, in great part due to sub-optimal co-ordination at KCC and communication back to the Parish Council, together with KCC not taking in what they were being told. Feedback has been given about this. The condition of the road prior was bad, so the good thing is that it has been resurfaced and will hopefully last a few years. Before that work was done, a longstanding problem with the sunken kerb on the corner opposite the Rose and Crown was also fixed.
- “Stream” surfacing on Tanyard Hill: This is a continually recurring problem (also on a smaller scale in Manor Field) seemingly due to a stream that emerges occasionally. Historically there was a ditch (hence the wide verge) which was unfortunately filled in. There doesn’t seem to be anything that can be done without major land drainage works which would be very costly but requests to KCC continue.
- Traffic speed and calming on Brewers Road, The Ridgeway, Pear Tree Lane: This is something that is of great concern to residents, who also submitted a petition to KCC, and which I have been discussing with KCC Highways for some time, not helped by several KCC personnel changes. We are now starting to see some progress however it must be realised that this will be gradual. We are very grateful to County Councillor Bryan Sweetland for agreeing to provide £2000 from his Member’s Grant funding, to pay for traffic volume and speed surveys, which we expect to arrange soon. There is though a need to be realistic about the difference between perceived risk and actual risk, and the background of budget cuts at KCC which mean that public funding will only be provided at proven serious accident black spots. Speeding drivers are unlikely to be deterred by lower speed limit signs and any new chicanes must be accompanied by street lighting.
- Traffic and parking problems elsewhere in Shorne: I have been in correspondence with the Country Park about visitor parking and road safety outside the Park itself. Parking in The Street and near the school continues to be problematic, and also on The Ridgeway. Parish councillors and others have been collecting photographic evidence (essential to accompany any concerns raised – there must be proof) in order to progress getting some additional double-yellow lines installed. However, regrettably, KCC have recently announced that they will no longer fund these, which are costlier than we might imagine - £7,500 for simple corner protection - so community funding would have to be sought.
- Crematorium traffic and signage: Traffic to the Crematorium continues to traverse Shorne although there perhaps seem to be fewer problems than originally. I asked the Crematorium to inform all the Funeral Directors, and this (plus possibly the corteges getting stuck on a few occasions) does seem to have helped. I asked for the address and postcode to be reviewed by GBC but am repeatedly assured they are correct. The problem of attenders using Sat-Nav, which directs them through Shorne, remains however and it seems unlikely that additional signage will help.

Susan Lindley
Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee

OTHER WORK UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL (if not reported on by others):

Gravesham Local Plan review and consultation: Gravesham are currently consulting, until 20th June, on the review of their Local Plan. This is a Governmental requirement, and it is better to have an agreed local plan rather than not, as otherwise there is reduced defence against speculative developers. The Local Plan review involves reviewing a lot of other associated aspects including the Green Belt boundaries and Landscape Quality.

The problem that Gravesham, and therefore Shorne, has is that the Government sets housebuilding targets centrally. These exceed the previously developed land available and if met would require farmland, and/or Green Belt land to be lost to development. Although the Government figures recognise that 78% of land in Gravesham is Green Belt or higher restricted designations, and therefore ought to be protected, there are only hints, and no certainties, that Gravesham might be allowed to build less houses than presently required.

Also, these additional houses lead to more commuting without associated road and rail improvements, and without more schools, doctors, hospital beds etc. While the Government targets are originally based on local need, there are no requirements that only local people can buy/occupy the new houses and they are instead being advertised widely and at prices local workers/residents cannot afford.

Everyone who lives in Shorne should please respond to the consultation (preferably on-line as the written questionnaire sent out has some wording errors) and make clear to Gravesham that the Green Belt and all our countryside must be protected.

Parish Survey: A survey requesting resident's views on life in Shorne was included with last year's Parish Annual Report distribution. Residents were asked to tell us what they found good and not so good, and the comments received were very interesting.

The number of responses (40 in total) was a little disappointing. The usual approach in such circumstances though is to assume that everyone else is happy although otherwise the numbers were too low to draw any definite conclusions.

Residents were generally very happy with the local Facilities and Environment and expressed that Shorne is a good place to live.

The topics causing unhappiness were mostly as had been expected: Traffic volume, speed, parking, prevention/calming; condition of roads and pavements; fly-tipping and litter.

The full results will be published shortly on the Parish Council website and may be used to inform future development of a Parish Plan.

Parish Council Drop-in sessions: We instituted these in October last year, with attendance encouraged by providing hot drinks (with thanks to Shirley Lane) and freshly baked muffins (with thanks to myself).

The first session was well attended with a lot of important issues raised and concerns of Parishioners being discussed in a very friendly and enjoyable format, with remedial actions being taken subsequently where possible. The March session was unfortunately held on a day when it was freezing cold and snowing so, not surprisingly, attendance was lower. The next session will be held in the Autumn.

Susan Lindley
Parish Councillor

Council Committee on Footpaths, Properties and Greens

I am pleased to report at the end of my third 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.

Footpaths

In terms of Footpaths, I am referring to the 13 miles of public rights of way within the parish, not the paved pathways alongside the streets – these come under the Kent Highways remit.

The majority of footpaths and bridleways in Shorne are maintained by Kent County Council. As we all know, KCC are suffering severe cut-backs in government funding, and this inevitably has an impact on the maintenance and cutting back of vegetation alongside the footpaths. If we want our footpaths to remain accessible at all times, it is down to all of us to make sure that any problems are reported before the footpath becomes impassable. If you see a footpath that is starting to get overgrown, our website contains a link to the KCC page where you can report this before it becomes impassable.

There are a number of long-established tracks and pathways through Court Wood, the area of woodland between the north-western side of Pear Tree Lane and Gravesend Road. 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.

Susan Lindley and Robin Theobald have been working to establish ownership of the various pockets of woodland, and to correctly identify the pathways, including the pathway that links them to Swillers Lane, so that representations can be made to KCC to have them protected as public rights of way. Part of this process will be to demonstrate that the pathways are regularly used by the public. To this end, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who uses these pathways.

Properties

Other than land, the Parish Council does not own a great deal of property, and we haven't incurred much in the way of expense recently, although there could be some significant expense in the future.

For example, the brick-built bus shelters in Gravesend Road are now over 60 years old, and are used for many activities other than waiting for buses. At some time in the future, these will need to be replaced, and this will be a costly exercise.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to see the car park resurfaced, which will also incur significant expense.

The Parish Council has given consideration to installing one or two defibrillators over the past year. These seem to be the fashion with parish councils recently, but we have not so far been convinced that the cost is justifiable. Each one would cost in the region of £1500, and would incur ongoing maintenance and replacement costs. We would welcome parishioners' views on this.

In August last year, we installed CCTV and automatic number plate recognition cameras in The Street. We are pleased to report that the full cost of £2,160 was met by a KCC Member's Grant from our County Councillor Bryan Sweetland, and we would like to thank him for this.

Greens

As mentioned last year, responsibility for the maintenance of our roadside greens and verges reverted from Gravesham Borough Council to KCC in 2017, and it was with some trepidation that we waited to see how

they performed. KCC only cuts the “urban” grass verges 6 times a season, which means they can become overgrown during periods of vigorous growth. The Parish Council decided not to proceed with taking over the maintenance of the verges from KCC, as the money offered was not sufficient to cover our costs, and we are not really set up to take on this activity ourselves. Nevertheless, the Parish Council continues to carry out supplementary Spring cutting of the verges where bulbs are growing, and this goes some way towards keeping on top of the situation.

There are 4 areas of common land that the Parish Council owns and is responsible for maintaining. These are the Recreation Ground in The Ridgeway, Shorne Common Rough between The Ridgeway and Woodlands Lane, Shorne Common (by the Scout Hut) in Mill Hill Lane, and Crabbles Bottom between Crutches Lane and Bowesden Lane.

The Recreation Ground is leased to Shorne Football Club, and the grass is maintained by Gravesham Borough Council, so our maintenance responsibilities are limited. Last year we replaced the main gate post and had the gate repaired, although this will need to be replaced at some time in the future.

At Shorne Common Rough, little expense has been incurred other than having 5 chestnut butts replaced, and installing additional “village green” signs, although it is disappointing to report that the original sign and one of the new ones have recently been destroyed. The sign warning of CCTV in operation appears to have reduced the incidents of fly tipping, but even this sign has been damaged recently.

At Shorne Common in Mill Hill Lane, we replaced the decayed gate post to the car park this year, and installed chestnut butts and a “village green” sign to the newly cleared patch of land adjacent to Briar Cottage. We also had some dead trees and branches cut back, which threatened the parking and play area. These were identified during the annual arboriculturalist surveys that we have carried out. As these trees are in a conservation area, it was necessary to obtain planning consent before proceeding with the work.

The parking area itself is a cause for concern, as it becomes severely waterlogged during wet weather, rendering half of the parking area unusable.

We continue to have the play equipment maintained annually, consisting of cleaning, topping up the safety surface, and cutting back the vegetation, and the annual safety report commended us on improvements implemented over the last year.

Crabbles Bottom is the name given to 27 acres of meadow, woodland, and ancient orchard between Crutches Lane, Bowesden Lane, and the Wainscott Bypass. The Parish Council employs contractors to cut back the footpaths and bridleway through the land, and to cut back the grassland in the orchards to prevent the nettles and brambles taking over completely.

Over the past year, we have had to replace a number of sections of fencing alongside the bridleway. Although the fencing was only installed 6 years ago, many of the posts are decaying, and it is likely that fence replacements will become an ongoing expense.

Bob Lane
Chairman of the Footpaths, Properties & Greens Committee

OTHER WORK UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL (if not reported on by others):

Website

As reported last year, our website has been migrated to a ‘WordPress’ platform, which is a more modern format, and more compatible with tablets and smart phones. Parishioners are encouraged to make use of the website, where you will find useful links, contact details, and monthly newsletters, as well as agendas and minutes of the Parish Council meetings.

Lower Thames Crossing

As mentioned earlier, we continue to work hard to mitigate the worst impacts of the Lower Thames Crossing. We are pleased that Highways England have listened to us and abandoned the junction on the A226, but we continue to press them for further measures, including moving the tunnel portals south of the A226, and the use of cut-&-cover “green bridges” either side of Thong Lane.

The current proposals for the junction with the A2 are unnecessarily convoluted and will make access to the eastbound A2 difficult for residents of Shorne and Gravesend East. Perhaps more importantly, it could encourage traffic to use Thong Lane as an alternative route, something that we would want to prevent. We will continue to press for improvements.

Litter Patrols

Two further litter patrols took place in October 2017 and March 2018. Over 30 volunteers participated on each occasion, collecting over 100 bags of litter in total, including 20 bags from Shorne Common Rough, plus fly tipped rubbish from Shorne Ifield Road. Towards the end of last year, we installed signs warning of CCTV in operation in Shorne Ifield Road, and this, together with the camera images recently published online, appears to have had some effect in reducing the incidents of fly tipping in this area.

More recently, some volunteers carried out an ‘unofficial’ litter pick alongside the A2 slip roads at Brewers Road, and Councillor Lisa McCluskey organised a very successful clean-up operation in Claylane Wood and the area leading up to Michael Gardens, collecting over 40 bags of rubbish.

To conclude, I would like to thank the residents who have responded to our litter patrols and other volunteer activities, and all those who just quietly take it upon themselves to look after our village and make Shorne a pleasant place to live. Thank you all.

Bob Lane
Parish Councillor



Crabbles Bottom – Entrance



Crabbles Bottom - Orchard



Crabbles Bottom – Orchard



Crabbles Bottom – Meadow and Bridle Path



Litter Patrol – October 2017



Litter Patrol – March 2018

County Councillor's Annual Report

Mr Sweetland reported that Kent County Council is approaching the start of another financial year facing an immense challenge in setting the council's budget. In the coming financial year, KCC has a budget gap of £113 million out of the council's net budget of approximately £1 billion.

Savings of £53 million are needed as government funding reduces by £45 million, coupled with rising demand for services, particularly for children's and adult social care and linked to inflation costs currently rising at more than 3% a year.

KCC is continuing to make savings through efficiency and productivity, effective commissioning and procurement, service transformation and judicious use of the council's reserves. KCC is fast reaching the point where frontline services are now threatened. However, since it announced its budget consultation in September 2017 for the coming financial year 2018/19, there have been two significant announcements made by the government. Firstly, the announcement that the government has accepted the Kent and Medway bid to become a Business Rate Retention pilot scheme in 2018/19. The bid was very innovative, working with the 12 District Councils, Medway Council and the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority. This good news will potentially deliver £5.6 million of additional resource for the county council for the coming financial year. Secondly, the provisional local government settlement for 2018/19 announced by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons included an increase in the amount authorities can raise council tax by - 1% without a referendum (this is worth £6 million to KCC). KCC is therefore joining county councils across the country in proposing to raise council tax to protect and deliver the services it believes our community deserves. In 2018/19 it is proposed it will be raised by just under 5%, adding £1 per week to the average band C household in Kent.

The severe weather during the winter caused widespread damage to roads across the county and KCC has estimated that there is a backlog of £650 million of outstanding repairs, against a budget of just over £11 million including additional governmental funding from the Department for Transport of £3.1 million. KCC suspended all works for four weeks in order to work just on the potholes and road/drainage damage, and another pothole blitz scheme will start later in the year.

Although the past year has been financially challenging, I was very pleased to be able to provide funding from discretionary grants for the new CCTV system at the Village Hall, which was installed last August and has already proved its worth, and also towards traffic speed and volume surveys to be done later in 2018 which are needed before speed reductions can be considered on Brewers Road through to the traffic lights at the end of Pear Tree lane.

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



The parish church continues to sit quietly in the heart of the village; though not so quiet as it was this time last year. Many of you will have noticed that a new group of bell ringers have been training and practising, and we hope to be ringing regularly for services and special occasions later in the year.

Following my installation as Vicar in January last year we have had an exciting year at St. Peter and St. Paul. Most things continued as usual: weekly services; meetings; coffee mornings; church cleaning; brass polishing and general cleaning, the things of everyday life. But we have also had some interesting extra activities: Two weddings and a re-dedication of marriage vows; and 11 Baptisms, including two dads of children we were baptising. This year we have had or have booked 14 Baptisms, and we are not yet halfway through the year. We have another five weddings this year and already have five booked for next year.

Much of our worship continued in the same pattern: 8:00 am, well attended, Book of Common Prayer 1662, said Holy Communion every week; then at 10:00 am various services to meet the needs of the community. On a First Sunday – All Age Worship, at which we are often helped by the children and staff of our Village Church School. Second and Fourth Sundays – Parish Communion. Third Sunday – Family Communion. and Fifth Sunday (4 times a year) – Songs of Praise.

After Easter we started regular mid-week services: 8:30 Tuesday morning – Morning Prayer and 8:30 Thursday Morning – Holy Communion. We have introduced some extra opportunities for children and families to come together: Pancake capers; Harvest Lunch; Bright Lights party [an alternative to Halloween]. We welcomed the school for services and lessons throughout the year, and at Christmas welcomed the Village Nursery School for the first time with a 'Special Nativity Service'.

Now we are starting to look at some other new things. In June we start 'Tea with the Vicar' which is better named 'Prayer, Praise and Pastries' – a monthly short informal service around tea, for the whole community. We are also re-launching three bible study groups: one morning, one afternoon and one evening. Information about these and all activities at the church can be found in the Parish Magazine and on notices around the village.

We have also had a lot of fun with our social activities. The first of these, a 'Jazz Evening with food' in the Vicarage Garden; Quiz night; Music Concert in Church; and a Music Hall Evening in the village hall as part of the deanery commemoration of the First World War.

I could not give a true report from the church without mentioning the 'Saga of the Mobile Phone Mast'. As many of you will know, there was a proposal for a mobile phone mast inside the church tower, which would have brought in some much-needed finance to the church. The operator has now withdrawn the application while they consider their options, in light of developments and new legislation and guidelines.

The church building itself is not in the best of health. I and a small team who are looking at required work on the church and possible improvements were surprised to have highlighted to us, by our architect, the many defects which are in urgent need of repair. With work required on the stone work and roof being most urgent, alongside requirements for an accessible toilet and proper accessible kitchen facilities: we are going to be launching a significant fundraising campaign in the near future.

Finally, we have noticed an increase in the number of people coming into the church, for services and for some to just visit or for events and activities. There have also been a couple of times the church has been used by the community for events; a choir used it for practice, a group has used it for a meeting, and soon a group of knitters will meet here. I would like to encourage everyone to make use of your church in the heart of your community, where it has been for 1,000 years – we are not just open on Sundays! We hope you will always find a warm welcome whenever you visit at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Shorne.

Reverend Ted Hurst
Vicar



Shorne Village Pre-school

We are happy to report that 2017-2018 has been another fun filled year for our children, and another successful year for the Pre-school.

So, what has been happening at Pre-school this year?.....

- S. Is for singing and dancing, learning new songs and rhymes.
- H. Is for having happy times, playing with friends in the home corner.
- O. Is for outdoor play, sand and water is always fun.
- R. Is for running and realising fast and slow.
- N. Is for nothing is impossible with a little help from my teachers.
- E. Is for exciting activities and encouragement to discover new things.

- V. Is for very healthy snacks at break time.
- I. Is for independence and investigating why and how things work.
- L. Is for loving learning through play.
- L. Is for laughter during the day.
- A. Is for acting out adventures in clothes from the dressing up box.
- G. Is for great big bricks to make tall towers.
- E. Is for Easter egg hunts and colouring Easter chicks.

- P. Is for painting pictures of Mummy and Daddy and me.
- R. Is for recognising letters and shapes.
- E. Is for exercising balancing on beams and jumping through hoops.
- S. Is for being a Superhero and saving the world.
- C. Is for celebrating Christmas, Chinese New Year and using chop sticks.
- H. Is for helping at 'tidy up time' to put the toys away.
- O. Is for outside play finding dinosaurs in the sand tray and jumping in puddles.
- O. Is also for opportunities to play with messy gloop and squashy play dough.
- L. Is for looking at books and loving to listen to wonderful stories.

Quite a busy time, I am sure you will agree.

We can be contacted at the hall on 01474 823315 or at 07895 981423

Jenny Bennett
Shorne Village Pre-school



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 very successful and enjoyable summer fete in June last year, a family picnic in September, the Great Shorne Bake Off (entries from the children of the school), donut sale, a wonderful Christmas Bazaar, an adult Christmas disco night, a movie night, 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, last year FOSS was delighted to raise sufficient funds to purchase a new interactive white board for one classroom, to replace an essential classroom laptop and fully furnish the outdoor cabin area, known as Logan's Den. We are currently in the process of purchasing a small number of I-pads and hope to be able to raise sufficient funds to increase that number in the near future.

Our next key fundraising event is the summer fete on Saturday July 7th. 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 of those 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 mid 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 79th year. We continue to offer a full and interesting programme of meetings and activities for young people from 6-14 years old. The Gravesham Scouts District Explorer Unit Phoenix (14-18 years old) also shares our facilities, with many of its members helping with our younger sections. Beavers and Explorers meet on Mondays, Cubs on Wednesday and Scouts now meet on Thursday evenings.

All our sections are supported with very committed leaders who are invaluable assisted by a number of adult and young person helpers, all of whom give up much of their valuable free time to the group in addition to the weekly meetings. As always, we would love to hear from any adults willing to help out, even if they have no children associated with the group.

The Beaver and Cub sections continue to run fully subscribed and we have unfortunately had to refer enquiries or place them on section waiting lists. The Scout section continues to have space availability and is open to new members. Currently there are more boys than girl young members, whilst the split last year was nearly even.

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. The group, along with Phoenix Explorers, participated in the Remembrance Day Service at the Parish church in November, had representatives at the Civic Service and also joined in a service at the end of February at Shorne to mark Founder's Day which celebrates the birthday of Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout movement. All sections also joined the St. George's Day parade in Gravesend town centre in April.

The Beaver section currently has 15 members and a waiting list of 6. Over the past year the Beavers have been busy both at The Hut and further afield on activities and visits and have worked on a number of badges. The gardening badge included growing carrots tops, making a gardening plan and a visit to Millbrook Garden Centre. For the photography badge they had a red carpet night, taking pictures of each other and a visit from a member of Maidstone Camera Club. The faith badge included visiting both a Synagogue and Shorne Church. During the summer term they are completing safety, snow sports (!) and sports badges. Over the past year the Beavers also had their usual Easter egg hunt, water sports and Christmas train ride activities.

The Cub section currently has 23 members and has followed a very diverse programme over the past year. Activities ranging from kayaking, bell boating, paddle boarding, caving, zorbing, climbing, archery, air rifle and laser shooting were experienced through an Adventure day at Kent Scouts HQ at Lower Grange Farm, on-the-water activities at Leybourne Lakes and a camp at Hopehill. A block car weekend and camp was held at the Hut which included making and painting wooden cars and competing on a set run-off track slope. Other activities included a disaster survival day (shelters, stoves, survival kits, water filtration, stoves), orienteering, home safety training, knots, Burns night haggis, making pancakes, swimming, mud walking, conkers, mapping, Christmas Crafts and road safety. The older cubs participated in a challenge comprising a train journey to Sittingbourne, hike to the campsite, cooking dinner, overnight camping and finally a bouldering activity. A number of activities were organised and very successfully run by our young (<18y) leaders.

The Scout section numbers are slightly down from last year with 10 members, including three girls. This is mainly due to cubs not moving up due to other commitments. Last summer saw the Scouts along with some Phoenix Explorers heading off to the Kent Internal Jamboree Camp at Detling with 16 young people enjoying a fantastic and varied week of activities with Scouts from around the world. Highlights of the camp included a close encounter at feeding time with the tigers at Port Lympne, a day climbing in all directions and surfaces on the purpose made climbing experience, and nearly all of them jumped off a scaffold structure at height onto a giant air bag! One to repeat! Other activities included meeting ducks, an evening at the Soar trampoline park in Gillingham, supermarket sweep challenges, a slime night, various fire challenges, e.g. one match, quickest fire to put itself out and different treats cooked on the open fires. There was also a night hike accompanied by pet dogs - 12 young persons with 6 dogs (who was better behaved?). The scouts also undertook a number of craft projects, making reindeer at Christmas, painting rocks and cupcakes, and laid trails around the village for each other to follow. We are also pleased that two of our young people have been successful in gaining places to attend the World Scout Jamboree which will be held in the USA in summer 2019. They are busy now with the challenge of fund raising towards the cost of the trip and looking forward to the terrific experience.

The Phoenix Explorer Unit has some 12 members and continues to thrive with its new leader team and meets on Monday evenings. The Explorers follow an active challenge programme based on the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Activities ranged from rock climbing at Groombridge, attending 24 hours of activities at Gilwell which included High Ropes, Quad biking, mini-tank driving, having a panic room session in Gravesend, ice-skating, cooking a full sit-down Xmas dinner amongst the programme activities. The unit regularly meets up with other units in the district for joint activities.

Chris Zgoda
Group Scout Leader



Shorne Scouts and Phoenix Explorers in 2017-18



Dancing: Sheila Theobald School of Dancing

As usual 2017 was a very busy year for the dancing school.

In the September to December term 2017 we had Royal Academy of Dance Ballet examinations, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing Modern and Tap examinations, plus School Assessments. I am pleased to say that all candidates 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.

We also had R.A.D. and I.S.T.D. examinations and Assessments in March 2018, and we are currently awaiting the results from these examinations.

Our theatre trip is now organised and on Friday May 11th we are going to see Hairspray at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

In Gravesend on a Monday evening we now also have a flourishing Adults exercise and dance class 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, commenced training for a BA Hons degree in Musical Theatre at Millennium Performing Arts. Sophie Hart is in her third year at Reynolds Academy and Caitlin Wade is in her second year at Dance College.

In February 2017 Ellie Loughlin, one of our senior students, auditioned for a role in the English Youth Ballets' performance of Sleeping Beauty. Ellie was called back for casting in the June of 2017, auditioned completely *en pointe* and was given the role as part of the guests' ensemble. Ellie appeared in the production at the Orchard Theatre in August 2017

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.

At present this concludes our list of activities.

Sheila Theobald,
Principal



LOCAL AMENITIES/SOCIETIES

Country Park: Shorne Woods Country Park

This year we have completed the annual one hectare of coppicing in Randall Wood. All timber we cut is seasoned for at least two years and then chipped to provide sustainable heating for the main visitor centre or processed for sale as firewood to help offset site running costs. The coppice coupe is adjacent to the 4km ride network that connects all parts of the woodland and all old coppice coupes together.

We have just started our annual grazing of the knoll area of the park. Having taken expert advice from the Rare Breeds Survival Trust we will be grazing a lot more animals for a shorter period of time to try and help the acid grassland species to flourish and to bruise back the bracken. The knoll area is the rarest habitat on the site with veteran trees and acid grassland and the cattle do a great job helping us to restore this threatened habitat.

The Faerie Ring sculpture was renewed by local Higham sculptor Steve Portchmouth in October. Steve designed the original sculpture in the mid-90s, the old one was finally destroyed by some large trees falling on it during a winter storm.

Owing to severe erosion along some of the easy access trail path edges we have installed post and rail fencing to try and allow these areas to regenerate. The large footfall has eroded all the vegetation away and damaged the habitat so we are looking to reverse this over time.

4956 children came and enjoyed education visits to the park this year, getting involved in pond dipping, forest school activities and den building. This was a record year for the park.

Every week the Saturday Park Run regularly has over 200 runners with some weeks that topping 300.

Our volunteers contributed 870 days of their time to help us manage the park this year totalling 5222 hours. Volunteers help us carry out conservation tasks every Tuesday from 9:30am until 3:30 pm. We also have volunteers who help run the park run every weekend and volunteers who help us to manage the Sensory garden. Archaeological volunteers continue to meet weekly at the park and carry out activities all over the local area. If you want to get involved in volunteering please call 03000 414747.

This year Shorne Woods offset its entire running costs so was managed at no cost to the taxpayer. The Country Parks service as a whole offset 74% of their running costs.

This spring we will be repairing damaged paths in Randall Wood and replacing sections of path edging in the claypit area of the site along with the vegetation control along the footpaths ongoing throughout the summer.

We have recently started a Facebook page for the site which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ShorneWoods/> this is regularly updated by park staff so look out for site news and information there.

If you have any questions or queries please call 03000 414747 and one of the team will be happy to help you or alternatively come and find us at the visitor centre.

Tim Bell
Ranger Services Manager



Dicken's 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 under review major plans affecting our area of interest (which straddles Gravesham and Medway), 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 (LTC) consultation: The outcome of the 2016 consultation, that the LTC should follow the Western Southern Link route (from Chalk, through Thong and to the A2 at the site of the former north-side petrol station) was announced just after our last report was submitted. Throughout the past year DCPS has kept a watch on what has been happening and, along with Parish Councils (including Shorne – there is overlap of Committee membership) and community organisations etc, has been participating in joint meetings with Highways England (HE) and continuing the fight in various ways. The Society welcomed the removal from plans of the suggested junction on the A226 but there is still very little detail available about the final proposals
-

for the exact route and its format. The proposed junction with the A2 is poorly designed at present, does not meet the needs of local residents and threatens local villages with additional through traffic. Of great concern is that HE have yet to publish the results of the detailed traffic surveys that they undertook in Autumn 2016, which are already now more than 18 months out of date. This crossing will consume large amounts of Green Belt and agricultural land and pass very close to residential areas. The Society will continue to make input.

Other items that are particularly worth mentioning are:

- Housing Threats to the Green Belt: As well as the LTC, the Green Belt (and many other green areas locally) is under threat from Government dictated housing targets. For Gravesham and Medway, respectively 78% and 23% of total land is supposedly protected from development, but the Government is suggesting annual new housing targets up to 2026 of 506 for Gravesham and a staggering 1665 for Medway.
- Gravesham Local Plan and Green Belt Review – In Gravesham, a consultation is currently open (until Wednesday 20th June 2018) concerning the designated Green Belt lands and where new housing might be located. Details are on the Gravesham Borough Council website and we would encourage all Gravesham residents to take part and make their views known.
- Medway Local Plan – the equivalent plan for Medway is also currently under consultation until Monday 25th June. Housebuilding in Medway will have impact on life in Shorne, particularly through increased traffic, so residents should also keep aware of what is being proposed just across the border from Gravesham.

The Society continues to keep watch on local planning issues of concern to Shorne residents. We are monitoring the changes occurring at Nuralite, which do not have planning permission, and the problem of historic tracks being blocked in Court Wood and elsewhere. Please let the Society (and/or Shorne Parish Council) know if you use/have used the tracks and have met with any problems.

On lighter matters:

- The Society held its annual Barn Dance on Saturday 5th May this year, 72 people attended and had a very energetic and enjoyable time.
- New members are welcome – get in contact via our website www.dcpsonline.org.uk

Susan Lindley
Committee Member



DCPS Barn Dance 2018

VILLAGE HALL AND HOSTED ORGANISATIONS

Village Hall

2017 has been a good year for the hall.

We have been able to have the all the doors on the car park side painted, the kitchen repainted and a new radiator in the gents. We still have the long running problems with the heating but we hope these will come to an end soon.

We had our Quiz in February which was very well supported and I would like to thank Mr & Mrs R Moore for all their help.

The hall bookings are looking good and are already extending into 2019, we have new groups coming to the hall with children's parties sometimes two in a day. Thanks to my Booking Secretary Andrea for her time in showing people round the hall.

My thanks also go to Hanna for all the work as the Treasurer, Mike my vice chairman, my cleaner and caretaker.

Thanks to Shorne Parish Council for their help and support, and thanks to all of you for supporting your Village Hall

Gloria Ashby
Chairperson, Village Hall Management Committee



Early Retirement Club

The club has continued to meet at Shorne Village Hall, on a fortnightly basis, during the past year. Our membership has remained fairly constant over this period, however we are constantly looking for new members who would be very welcome. Anyone interested in joining or attending a meeting as a guest, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mr Jim Pearce (01474 355816).

We have been visited by various speakers who have covered a variety of subjects. They have ranged from Anecdotes of a Sports Writer, through Local and Regional History, and Women of the 2nd World War. A recent talk was on the 'Diamond Queens' a contrast between Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Our Speaker Secretary is very busy trying to find affordable speakers with new topics.

Following each meeting many members avail themselves of the opportunity to enjoy lunch at the hall.

Robin A Friday
Chairman



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: Armchair Guide to Shorne Parish by Christoff Bull - an interesting and entertaining talk from which everyone must have learned something.

November: "Riot, Robbery and Bloody Murder" (Shakespeare and Marlowe in Kent) by Professor Stephen Prickett – some surprising connections between the playwrights and the County as well as its part in some of their plays.

December: Medieval Christmas by Toni Mount – a seasonal talk from which we learned not just about the past but also about the origin of some current Christmas customs – followed by wine and mince pies.

January: Nurstead and Nurstead Court by Suzanne Edmeades Stearns who spoke about her family home, which incorporates part of a rare aisled hall dating back to 1320, and the village.

February: Gravesham's Railways by Rob Poole – Gravesham has had many railways from local industrial to mainline and several stations now closed such as West Street and at the canal basin.

March: A Child's Life in the Middle Ages by Imogen Corrigan – the return of a very popular speaker.

April: Maritime Kent by Stuart Bligh.

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

Andrew Moffat
Chairman



Probus (Northfleet and District)

PROBUS is a non-political, non-racial, non-fund raising organisation, although some clubs do the occasional fund raising event. Formed by Rotary International in 1965 for retired or semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness men - hence the name PROBUS - clubs are autonomous, not affiliated to a central body. The Northfleet & District Club was established two years afterwards, in 1967, and is now the oldest PROBUS club in Kent.

They meet on alternate Tuesday mornings at the Shorne Village Hall, between 10.00hrs and 12.00hrs, and pay an annual fee of £12, plus £3 per meeting. For their £3 they get a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit, a free raffle for a bottle of wine, and there is a guest speaker at every meeting. Members are expected to be of good character and conduct themselves responsibly.

There is a Social Team who arrange day trips and an annual 5-day break. The last break was to Llandudno, and recent day trips include a visit to a heritage windmill and Deal Castle; Constable Country including the famous Flatford Mill and a visit to Brooklands Aircraft and Motor Museum. Essex Waterways Cruise is the next trip, and a holiday in Scotland is being planned.

The club hold four luncheons a year, and members invite their wives/partners and guests: this is held at the Village Hall, with the assistance of external caterers.

Like many similar clubs, membership has dropped slightly in recent years due to age, disability and natural loss, but three new members have recently been inducted, two of whom were as a direct result of reading the monthly reports in the Parish Magazine. The present membership strength is 54, including three honorary members, and there is another considering membership.

There is also a web page on the Shorne Village Hall website, where there are general PROBUS details and a list of future meetings and speakers, together with forthcoming events.

Any semi or fully retired business/professional men interested may come along to any of our regular meetings, at Shorne Village Hall, between 10am and noon on alternate Tuesday mornings, and join the members of this friendly group, by arrangement with club secretary, Robin Friday Tel; 01474 363135. For general PROBUS information, including meeting dates and topics, visit www.shornevillagehall.org under the heading 'Regular Users'.

Colin Fooks
Chairman & Publicity Officer



Luncheon at Village Hall



Queen Mother's Garden at Deal Castle, Kent



PROBUS President, Mike Fitzsimons, J.P. with Northfleet & District Ladies PROBUS Chair, Sandy Ellwood at Luncheon



Constable Country (Flatford Mill)



Brooklands Aircraft & Motor Museum, Surrey



Shorne Active Retirement Association (ShornAra)

Shorne Active Retirement Association (ShornARA) is certainly running well with lots of Activities and events for our members. Our membership stands at around 165.

We have a full programme of event such as:

Short Mat Bowls, Ten Pin Bowling, Theatre Trip to London and Dartford.

Days out, Holidays:

Potters, Isle of Man, Highcliffe, Westerton-Super-Mare and Liverpool.

There are other trips in the pipeline. We had a New Year Party at the Manor Hotel. We are constantly looking at our proposals to see what members would like.

We have our monthly meetings at Shorne Village Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. We normal attract roughly 110 members every time. These sessions also offered members opportunities to find out 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. Also during the year we have two social afternoons with a strawberry cream tea, cakes etc providing members with a chance to mingle with other members.

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 our website <http://shornara.org.uk> for details of our current events. New members are always welcome. For further information on how to join please contact ShornARA's Members Secretary Andrea Brickell on 01474 746606 or contact the Committee by email on info@shornara.org.uk or m.horsham@blueyonder.co.uk who is our Chairman Maureen Horsham on 01474 363285.

Maureen Horsham
Chair



Short Mat Bowls Club

The local Short Mat Bowls Club meets every Wednesday evening in Shorne Village Hall between 7pm and 10pm. If you have never played, do come along and have a go. Over the year our numbers have dropped slightly and we would warmly welcome you. No equipment is needed as everything is provided.

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. This year we were runners-up in Division 2 of the Maidstone District Short Mat Triples League.

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

Mick Carlill
Chairman

STAGES (Shorne Theatre Appreciation & Group Entertainment Society)

2017 Was another successful year for Stages.

The Committee was very active in organising 61 events during the year, which were the following:

12 Members meetings in the Village Hall - these included entertainers and speakers plus 2 cheese & wine evenings and 2 cream teas. (The main purpose of our monthly meetings is for members to see what we have available for the future and to sign up for events already agreed at previous meetings).

13 Theatre visits either at London theatres or The Orchard at Dartford, The Marlowe at Canterbury or The Churchill at Bromley.

7 Classical Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall or Cadogan Hall in London.

7 Diners' Clubs in various restaurants.

11 Stately Homes & Gardens including Buckingham Palace.

2 Tours of London with a Blue Badge Guide.

4 Museums in London.

1 Horse Racing day at Kempton Park together with a meal.

1 Factory Visit to the BMW Mini factory in Cowley.

1 Visit to the rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour.

1 Overnight stay in Norwich after our visit to Thursford Christmas Spectacular.

We try to offer a varied programme with something for all members.

We have an excellent committee who help run the events when we go on trips.

The suggestions for events come from the committee and members. Our 2018 programme is already going ahead with many new events.

Our membership is open to residents of Shorne, Higham, Chalk & Cobham. If you are interested in joining please ring our membership secretary Adrienne on 01474 822875.

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 held our AGM and welcomed new committee members. The AGM was attended by our WI Advisor, Sue Hollins, who gave us good advice about the running of our club.

New members have been welcomed but, sadly, some long standing members have had to withdraw because of ill health or moving from the area.

We have enjoyed some varied and entertaining speakers this year. Subjects ranged from history related topics – Edith Cavell and Pocahontas – to learning how women took care of themselves during the Second World War, how to take care of pearls, where to find hidden places of note in London and the story of dance from La Chahut (the CanCan) to Tiller Girls type dancing. The presentations were excellent.

At the start of the year, we held a 'Bring and Buy' and were due to play Bingo! but the snowy weather put paid to that meeting.

A Strawberry Tea in July was well attended by members and visitors from other WI's. The strawberries were complemented by a delicious cake baked by Jane Watson to celebrate our 95th Anniversary. We also enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch at the Golden Lion in Luddesdown.

On top of our monthly meetings, members have organized a visit to Restoration House in Rochester, a delicious Christmas Lunch in the village hall, coffee mornings at Millbrook Garden Centre, a book club, and knitting baby items for Darent Valley Hospital and throws for a residential home. We have also attended events at other WI's in the area.

We are an active club that is looking forward to another successful year.

Sue Muckley
President



The Shorne Parish Council Annual Report 2018 was edited by Susan Lindley.

Please contact 01474 823179 or susan.lindley@shorneparishcouncil.org if you have any questions about the content.

Cover Photograph: Wisteria at Little St. Katherine's (RPL, 2011)

People and Organisations contributing to this Report:

County Councillor for Shorne	Bryan Sweetland	07976 309171
Shorne Pre School (Shorne School)	Jenny Bennett	07895 981423
Friends of Shorne School	Tara Hewett	01474 822312
Shorne Scouts	Lisa Sewell	01474 740538
Sheila Theobald School of Dancing (Shorne Football Club)	Chris Zgoda	07921 106122
Shorne Woods Country Park	Sheila Theobald	01634 388218
Dickens Country Protection Society	David Cater	01474 822129
Shorne Village Hall (Cottage Garden Society)	Tim Bell	01474 823800
Early Retirement Club	Pat Lippiatt	01322 275389
Shorne History Group	Gloria Ashby	01474 822874
Short Mat Bowls	John Grace	01474 822647
Shorne ARA	Jim Pearce	01474 355816
STAGES	Andrew Moffat	01474 822280
Women's Institute	Penny Edwards	01474 822076
Probus of Northfleet	Andrea Brickell	01474 746606
Shorne Flower Arrangers	Richard Moore	01474 823384
	Julie Aspinall	01474 825046
	Colin Fooks	01474 262135
	Linda Hutcheon	01634 325540

Shorne Parish Council 2017-18: (see website for latest personnel information)

<i>Chairman:</i> Robin Theobald	01474 823674	robin.theobald@shorneparishcouncil.org
<i>Vice Chairman:</i> John Bugg	01474 823547	john.bugg@shorneparishcouncil.org

Members:

Pauline Clifton	01474 825110	pauline.clifton@shorneparishcouncil.org
Russell Cooper	01474 823377	russell.cooper@shorneparishcouncil.org
Robert Hardy	01474 357681	robert.hardy@shorneparishcouncil.org
Bob Lane	01474 822680	bob.lane@shorneparishcouncil.org
Susan Lindley	01474 823179	susan.lindley@shorneparishcouncil.org
Lisa McCluskey	01474 332654	lisa.mccluskey@shorneparishcouncil.org
Clive Rea	01474 568702	clive.rea@shorneparishcouncil.org

Clerk:

Theresa Martin	01474 320824	theresa.martin@shorneparishcouncil.org
----------------	--------------	--

The date of the next ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY is provisionally set for Thursday 16th May 2019 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 2019. 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.