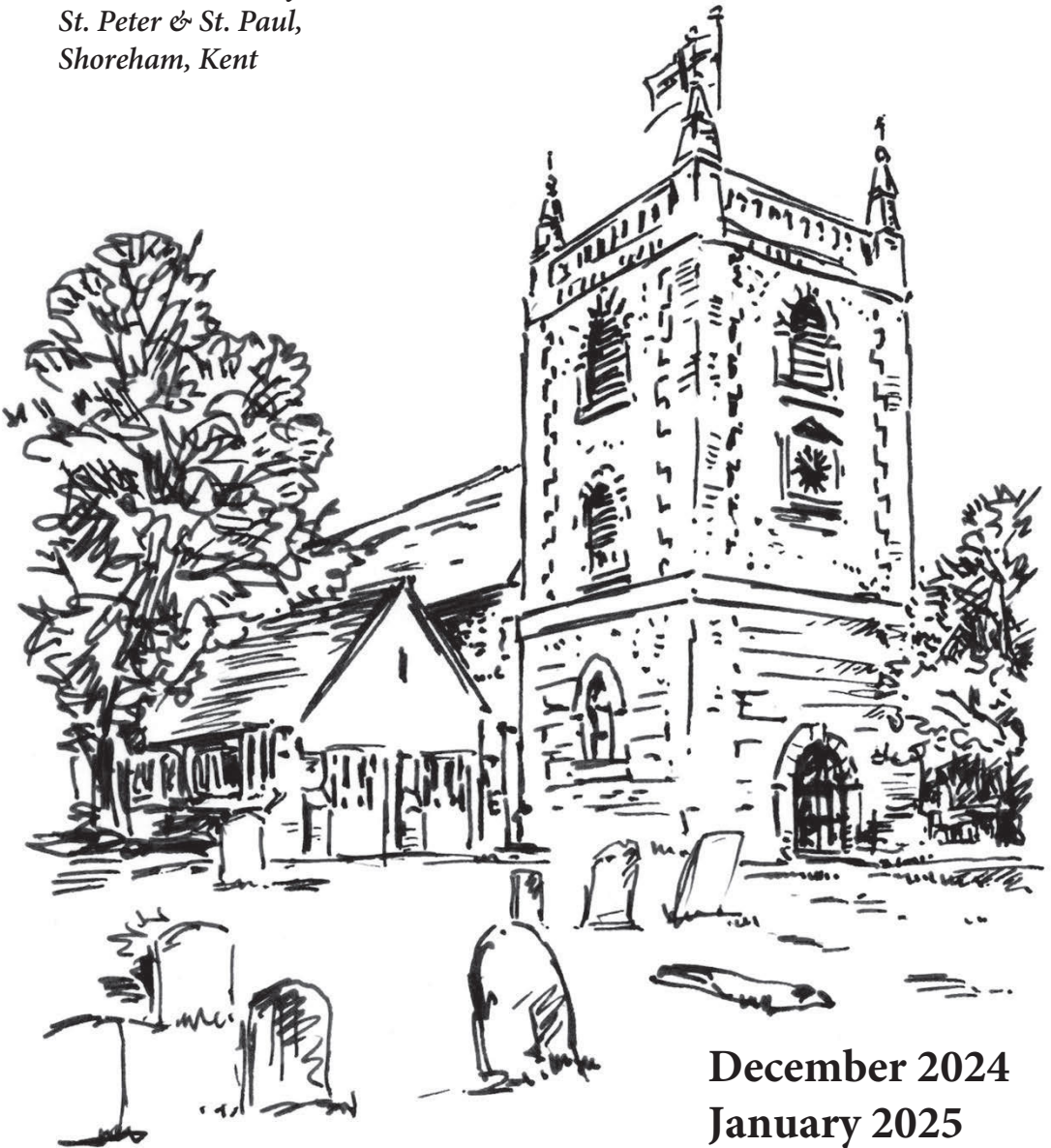


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If you'd like to be on the list either permanently or temporarily, or you know someone who would, then please contact Amanda Barlow, the Parish Clerk on 0791 2611048 or via email at clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you are giving the details of another person please ensure you have their permission and agreement.



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VOLUME 56 SHOREHAM GAZETTE NUMBER 10
DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

Jesus is the Reason for the Season: Christmas in words and pictures

It used to be that Sundays came around quickly, then it was months and now it's Christmas! Sadly, this will be my 10th and final Christmas in Shoreham ... as we leave for pastures new in February. To that end, please note that the current church email address revdrdi@outlook.com will be switching to shorehamparish@gmail.com. For now you can use both but the Outlook account will be closing at the beginning of February.

The title for this article is one of the rather corny slogans, used in years past, to challenge us to think a bit more about the meaning of Christmas. Others include:

Christmas - copyright: it's not a genuine Christmas without Church

Put Christ back into Xmas

Give Jesus your Christmas Presence - Deliver it yourself

Make Room for God this Christmas

(alluding to the failure to make a hotel reservation in Bethlehem)

and then there were some rather startling ones:

You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up
Spoiler Alert. He Dies.

Christianity could be regarded as a religion of words. The library of 66 books, that we call the Bible, have around 750,000 words in them. Sermons are preached, prayers are prayed, the poetry of the liturgy is read. Words. Modern and ancient. Words can be wonderful but they are not the whole story. Images are important too. Churches are sermons in stone, paintings and windows, creeds and stories, in glass and on canvas.

There is one image, an African painting of Jesus and Mary, that I saw in Nazareth many years ago. It was one of many paintings in this church, from all over the world, depicting Mary and the infant Jesus. As I think about the baby Christ we celebrate at Christmas, it is to this image I return in my mind.

It was a simple painting. Black, white and red. Mary is standing and holding the baby in such a way that he is facing us with his arms spread out, with the back of his wrists against her shoulders. Uncomfortably reminding us that one day this child will be on the cross. It is as if Mary is offering him to us, as if she saying, 'This is God coming into the world, to keep us company in all the world's pain. This is the "Word" made flesh who brings the good news of God's love.'

Whatever it is, an image, some words or music that makes you pause this Christmas, I pray that you may find a moment of hope, filled with joyful calm and remember those words, spoken to Mary and to us: 'Do not be afraid. For I am with you'. Emmanuel, God is with us.

Revd Diane, shorehamparish@gmail.com

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ST PETER AND ST PAUL, SHOREHAM, SERVICES FROM 2024 INTO 2025

1st December - ADVENT SUNDAY

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

8th December - Advent 2

9am Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Worship

15th December - Advent 3

10am Morning Worship with Communion

6pm CAROL SERVICE

22nd December - Advent 4

10am Communion with Choir

Sunday 22nd - CAROL SINGING around the Village

Meet at the top of Crown Road at 6pm. Mulled wine after

Monday 23rd - CAROL SINGING around Shoreham Place

Meet at the Church at 6pm. Mulled wine after

24th December (Tuesday) - CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Communion

25th December (Wednesday) - CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Christmas Day service

29th December - Christmas 1

10am Morning Worship with Communion

5th January 2025 - Epiphany

9am Breakfast@Church

6pm Communion

12th January 2025 - Baptism of Christ

9am Communion (BCP)

10am Morning Worship

A CHURCH for ALL service with an activity running alongside

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19th January 2025 - Epiphany 2 - Week of prayer for Christian Unity
10am Morning Worship with Communion
6pm Evening Service

26th January 2025 - Epiphany 3
10am Communion with Choir

2nd February - CANDLEMAS - turning from Christmas to Easter
9am Breakfast@Church
6pm Communion

9th February - 4 before Lent - Revd DIANE's farewell service in Shoreham
10am Morning Worship with Communion
A CHURCH for ALL service with an activity running alongside



The Rev Dr Diane Rees
The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA
revdrdi@outlook.com, shorehamparish@gmail.com 01959 522363
(Usual parish days Friday to Monday)

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

Baptisms **Austin MacRae and Lorenzo** 3 November 2024

HOLD THE DATE - A PARTY!

Revd Diane's last service with us will be on Sunday 9th February at 10am. But please also hold that afternoon in your diary for a celebration "Tea and Fizz" at 3.30pm, to which everyone is warmly invited. Nearer the time we will also be collecting for a gift to thank Diane and Alain for everything they have given to the village since arriving in 2015. Please be ready to catch us if you have any contributions, including ideas!

Elaine Scott and Johnny Aisher, Churchwardens

COFFEE AND CHAT –FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER AND FRIDAY 3rd JANUARY

Do treat yourself to a healthy walk to the Church Room for a convivial cup of coffee (or tea) and a chance to pass the time of day with village friends. The first Friday of each month, 10.30am - 12.00 noon, everyone welcome - no previous experience or religious knowledge required!

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CROWN ROAD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The wonderful tradition of the ceremonial turning on of the Shoreham Christmas lights will be on Saturday, 30 November at 6.30pm. The carol singers will set off from the church at 5pm, arriving at Crown Rd at 6.20pm. There will then be a few carols sung, which all are welcome to join in, and the turning on of the lights. Santa will be there with gifts for the under 7s. If your child would like a gift please bring £3 in cash. The Crown Pub will be offering (vegan options available) burgers, hotdogs, mulled wine and their usual bar selection. It is always a wonderful start to Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all there.

The Shoreham Lights Team

KEN FOWLER'S CENTENARY BIRTHDAY

Friends are invited to the Village Hall for drinks and nibbles to celebrate his hundredth birthday from **3pm on 1st January 2025.**

We shall cut the cake at 4 o'clock.

All are welcome.

The Fowlers.

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES.

Whether you're planning ahead or need last-minute items, the shop is geared up, as ever, for the festive season. Christmas trees, toys, party items, decorations, wrapping paper and stocking fillers will be ready. Foods include mince pies, cakes, a variety of chocolates in presentation boxes, plus ginger and lemon biscuits in Christmas tins. Don't forget mulled wine, champagne and our range of real ales and excellent wines. Our charity Christmas cards this year help out the League of Friends of Sevenoaks Hospital.

Our opening times over the holiday are from 10 to 4 on Christmas Day and 10 to 6 on Boxing Day. We wish all our customers a peaceful and happy holiday season.

Raj and Venkat

OVER 60S

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas lunch in the Village Hall, 12 for 12.30pm.

Wednesday 8th January - AGM in the Village Hall , 2pm.

Wednesday 22nd January - a talk by Bill Foreman about his work at Garrards and other jewellery businesses. Village Hall, 2pm.

We are looking for a volunteer to help set up the tables and chairs, when we have meetings in the village hall. It would mean meeting us at the hall, at 1.30pm, for half an hour and again, to put them away, at 3.45pm for half an hour. We would give you the dates later.

Huge thanks to Suna and Kath who arrange our programme throughout the year.

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NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL, NOVEMBER 2024

I am very proud of Seb, Imogen and Daisy, who represented the school at the Remembrance Service in the church and at the war memorial. Seb and Imogen read poems they had written in class, following an inspirational Creative Writing workshop led by pupils from Sevenoaks School. Daisy and Imogen then laid the school wreath on the war memorial before the minute's silence was observed. All pupils were able to show their respect during an assembly in school on 11th November, led by Reverend Diane. It is very important to us that our pupils understand these significant cultural events and that they can participate in them as part of the heart of our village community.

Cameron Class enjoyed their trip up to Shoreham Station to see the finished mural that they contributed to and it was very exciting to spot the individual pieces of art with the children's first names underneath. It is a joyous celebration of the beauty of Shoreham! The children were invited to suggest further ideas to improve the station and also had the opportunity to ask questions of the Southeastern and Station Manager guests. They asked some thought-provoking questions!

Our anti-bullying ambassadors have been busy preparing and delivering an assembly, reminding everyone in the school of how important it is to understand what bullying is and to tell someone if you feel you are being bullied. We reminded everyone of our Shoreham High Five (using the five fingers / thumb on our hand):

1. Ignore it 2. Talk politely 3. Walk away 4. Talk firmly 5. Report it

Bullying, if it occurs, is always dealt with swiftly in our school and it is really important that the children tell us so that we can help to resolve any issues.

The conversion process for us joining The Pioneer Academy is progressing and we have a conversion date of 1st February 2025 planned. We do not expect there to be any noticeable changes initially when we join on 1st February but do anticipate some capital investment in the fabric of the school and grounds to happen at some point. We are very grateful to Pioneer for facilitating the purchase of some really lovely, substantial furniture for the Palmer Class outside area which includes story chairs, planters, tuff trays, storage and some lovely work units for messy play.

If you would like to support the school further, we are always happy to hear from people who would be interested in volunteering to work with the pupils to hear readers or run a club, or for those who could bring skills to the Governing Body that will help to lead the school strategically to further improve. If you would like to find out more about how you can help your village school in this way, please contact me via the school office; all volunteers are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check and go through an induction and training programme.

We still have some limited spaces for pupils available in some year groups, so if you know anyone who is looking for a small friendly school with high standards and lots of lovely outdoor space, please ask them to call us to arrange a tour. Phone: 01959 522228 or email: office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk

Gillian Lovatt-Young, Headteacher



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Yes, it really is that time of year again! Signs of Christmas are everywhere. Most importantly, Santa's elves have been in touch with the Shoreham Society to arrange his annual trip to see the children of Shoreham.

We are thrilled that, as before, he has agreed to come on Christmas Eve. It is also wonderful that the Samuel Palmer Pub has offered to host this great event. It is a little earlier this year, 3pm until 3.45.

This is a free event for all Shoreham children and those that are here for Christmas. Just come along; the elves will be there to meet you, sing some songs and wait for **Father Christmas's** big arrival. If you are unsure of the arrangements, then please get in touch at: shorehamsociety@gmail.com.

Remember: 24th December 3pm until 3.45, The Samuel Palmer.

Last month, the Committee discussed **traffic** related issues – problem parking, yellow lines and visitor numbers. No easy solutions, but we agreed that something must be done and that a report commissioned by the Parish Council is welcome. Parking on the George Bend must be dealt with and we are concerned about antisocial parking on the High Street pavement either side of Mill Lane. It is possible to park on the curb while leaving space for buggies and wheelchairs, but often the pavement is all but blocked, forcing pedestrians into the road,

However, there is some good news! We are told the use of the **train** at Shoreham Station has increased by 30% over the last two years. This is in part thanks to people coming down from London to visit The Mount Vineyard – so not everyone needs to come by car.

There is a new way of getting up to date train information – Southeastern has a WhatsApp service on 07866 002 690.

We've arranged a **Public Meeting with a talk on 'Digging in the Darent Valley'** – all about local archaeological discoveries over the last five years. It's **on Friday 29th November at 7.30 in the Village Hall**. We know that our wonderful distributors often deliver your Gazette a little before the beginning of the month, so hopefully you'll read this before then. Anne Sassin, the Community Archaeologist of the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme, will tell us what has been found and what it tells us about the past. It's also the Shoreham Society's Annual General Meeting, and we'll again welcome William Alexander of Castle Farm talking about his farming year.

Finally, we are keen to find a new membership secretary to replace the wonderful Jenny Walkling who is standing down after many years of service. Duties are modest and there will be plenty of support. Please get in touch if you could help!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Chris Euman and John Saynor, Joint Chair (shorehamsociety@gmail.com)

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Plus other prizes. Raffle tickets are on sale for just £1.00 per strip in The Village Shop. Please help Venkat by writing your contact number on the back of the strip.

Tickets will also be on sale at the Community Coffee morning in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th December, when the raffle will be drawn.

Many, many thanks for your support over the year and we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Lorna Robinson, Shoreham RBL Secretary

SHOREHAM WI

Very many thanks to everyone who came to our November Community Coffee Morning, bought raffle tickets, purchased goodies from the bric-a-brac table (albeit very high class bric-a-brac!) and made generous donations for their refreshments. We were able to pass the proceeds of £500 to Hospice in the Weald who would also like to pass on their thanks for the wonderful donation.

Our December WI meeting will be our Christmas Lunch at 2pm on Tuesday 3 December, which we are holding in the Village Hall this year with great food and an entertainer to kick off everyone's festivities.

The last Community Coffee Morning of 2024 will be on Thursday 12 December, in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. The Royal British Legion (Shoreham Branch) will be selling raffle tickets for a wonderful Christmas hamper. The cost of tea/coffee and cake is only £2 and we would love to welcome everyone to this lovely community event.

Our January WI meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 January at 12.45pm. It will take place, with lunch, in the Village Hall. We are always pleased to welcome guests and new potential members - please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfwi.org.uk

Finally, our January Community Coffee morning will be held on Thursday 9 January, from 10am to 12pm, in the Village Hall. Start the year as you mean to go on – keeping in touch with old friends, as well as making new ones, in this sociable and warm-hearted environment. All welcome.

WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Shoreham WI

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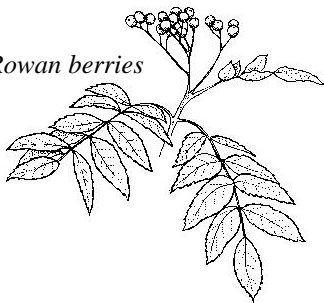
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Rowan berries



WINTER BERRIES: A SEASONAL FEAST FOR WILDLIFE

Winter berries bring vibrant colour to hedgerows and woodlands while offering a critical food source for wildlife through the colder months. These berries, ripening in autumn, vary in how long they last into winter, with some enduring until February, depending on the species and the feeding patterns of wildlife.

Remarkably, birds appear to follow a careful strategy when consuming winter berries, selecting them in a sequence that extends their food supply. Early in the season, birds prioritise non-toxic berries with shorter shelf lives, like blackberries. Berries that are mildly toxic or longer-lasting, such as ivy berries, are saved for later, only eaten when other foods are scarce. Even then, birds eat these in small amounts to avoid toxicity, helping to ensure that food supplies stretch into late winter.

Three striking wild berries to spot in winter

1. **Hawthorn** The deep red berries, known as haws, are a lifeline for birds like thrushes, blackbirds, and redwings. Found in hedges and woodlands, hawthorn adds vibrant pops of colour in winter. They can be used to make jellies, wines and even ketchups!
2. **Holly** With its glossy evergreen leaves and vibrant red berries, holly is an iconic winter plant. Its berries provide essential nourishment for birds during the colder months, and mistle thrushes are known to fiercely guard these berries to keep them all to themselves! Small mammals, like wood mice and dormice, also benefit from this winter snack. However, holly berries are toxic to humans and pets, so it's best to admire them as festive decorations rather than a treat.
3. **Rowan** Also called mountain ash, the rowan's red-orange berries are a favourite for fieldfares and waxwings. The berries are sour but safe to eat and rich in vitamin C. Rowans often grow in open areas, lighting up the landscape even on the greyest winter days.

For a nature-friendly winter walk, keep an eye out for these wild winter jewels, and the animals feeding on them.

Andrea Gilpin andrea@cfga.org.uk www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met in October and November and Members were pleased to welcome residents as well as our County and District Councillors to the meeting.

The following issues were discussed:

- Parking Survey – Cllrs Histed and Jeffery met with the consultants, ITS Global, following their initial report. They are making some amendments to the plans and the Parish Council will be holding a public meeting in the new year for residents to review and comment on the proposals.
- Refuse Freighter – the Parish Council has renewed the contract with Sevenoaks District Council for the Saturday refuse freighter and as soon as the new schedule is published, it will be made available.
- Members agreed with the Cricket Club that the advertising banners would be removed during the off season and these have now been taken down.
- CCTV – the CCTV in the Recreation Ground has been repaired following two incidents of vandalism. Kent Police are continuing their investigations into these crimes. The cost of the repairs was covered by a grant.
- Remembrance Sunday – The Parish Council would like to thank all those who contributed to such a successful Remembrance Sunday this year. Cllr Jeffery who organised for the Shoreham Cross to be re-chalked and all the contractors involved, the master craftsmen who restored the War Memorial and re-etched the name on the plaque. They all worked extremely hard to get everything completed before Remembrance Sunday. Special thanks to Cllr Blamey and his team of volunteers who organised the road closures to allow for the safe procession from the Church and observing of the two minute silence.

The Parish Council will be producing a Christmas Newsletter to go on social media and the Council's website. There will be some paper copies available in public places. If you would like a copy please email the Clerk at clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

A full pack of information supporting each meeting is available for residents to download from the website. Before every planning meeting, the planning log is uploaded which includes information on past and current applications. The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday 22 January 2024.

www.shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Members and Clerk of Shoreham Parish Council would like to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

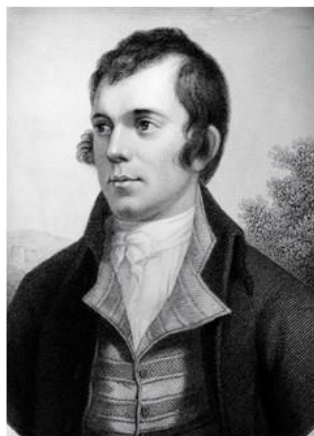
Amanda Barlow, 07912 611048, clerk@shorehamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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All Enquiries to 07967 583435 or EMAIL jjhdale@gmail.com

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For our November meeting, Alan Williams gave a fascinating and well-attended talk about the V1 flying bombs - the “doodlebugs” - that rained down on London and the south-east for three months in 1944. Many were launched from moveable platforms in northern France and caused enormous turmoil. More than 1,400 landed in Kent, killing 150. One exploded near the centre of Shoreham, just to the north of Water House.

There will be no December meeting of the Society as it was not well supported last year with several other Christmas meetings on offer at that time. The next meeting on 17th January will be the Bill Lothian Memorial Lecture when Anne Nicholl will talk on “My Father, an Army Doctor in WW2”. Her father Dr Kenneth Hulbert lived in Shoreham for 30 years at Timberden Farm Cottage in Shacklands Road.

Please remember to look at the website <https://shorehamkent.weebly.com/> for up to date news and articles. The Society are hoping to recruit more committee members at the AGM in March to continue offering an interesting programme for members, please consider offering your time.

Lynda Alleeson

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

NOVEMBER 2024

Friday 29 Nov	‘Digging in the Darent Valley’ talk	Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 30 Nov	Crown Road Christmas Lights	Church 5pm, Crown Rd	6.20pm

DECEMBER 2024

Tuesday 3	WI Christmas Lunch	Village Hall	2pm
Wednesday 11	Over 60s Christmas Lunch	Village Hall	12 noon
Thursday 12	WI Community Coffee Morning and RBL Christmas Raffle	Village Hall	10am
Tuesday 24	Father Christmas’s arrival	Samuel Palmer pub	3pm

JANUARY 2025

Wednesday 1	Ken Fowler’s Centenary Birthday	Village Hall	3pm
Tuesday 7	WI Meeting and Lunch	Village Hall	12.45pm
Wednesday 8	Over 60s AGM	Village Hall	2pm
Thursday 9	WI Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am
Friday 17	Historical Society talk: Anne Nicholl ‘My Father, an Army Doctor in WW2’	Village Hall	7.30 for 8pm
Wednesday 22	Over 60s jewellery talk	Bill Foreman Village Hall	2pm
Friday 24	Burns Night Supper	Church	7pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a good look at our adverts for local services. The Stag is updated every month with their latest stage and screen productions.

Donations are welcome to Ken Fowler, who heads the distribution team, or by bank transfer to SHOREHAM P C C Sort code 090155 Account number 00193703. Please reference your name and gazette.

Copy for February 2025 Gazette by 19th January to shorehamgazette@gmail.com
Word attachments in Times New Roman 10 and single spacing, images as jpgs, please.

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WHAT'S ON AT THE STAG SEVENOAKS



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WHAT'S ON SCREEN

ANDRÉ RIEU'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
7TH & 8TH DECEMBER

THE ROYAL BALLET: CINDERELLA
10TH DECEMBER

KRAVEN THE HUNTER
SHOWING FROM 13TH DECEMBER

THE ROYAL BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER
19TH DECEMBER

MUFASA: THE LION KING
SHOWING FROM 20TH DECEMBER

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3
SHOWING FROM 20TH DECEMBER

WE LIVE IN TIME
SHOWING FROM 3RD JANUARY

THE ROYAL OPERA: THE TALE OF HOFFMAN
15TH JANUARY

BARGAIN WEDNESDAYS!

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WHAT'S ON STAGE

SEVENOAKS PANTO - SNOW WHITE
FEATURING WEST END STARS ALONGSIDE THE LEGENDARY SILLY BILLY AND DAME ELAINE STAIGE!
6TH - 31ST DECEMBER

CHARLIE DORE: 'THE MAN WHO BUILT CHRISTMAS' WITH JULIAN LITTMAN
9TH DECEMBER

RELAXED PERFORMANCE OF SEVENOAKS PANTO - SNOW WHITE
10TH DECEMBER

A SINGIN' SWINGIN' CHRISTMAS SHOW
15TH DECEMBER

BABY BROADWAY CHRISTMAS
15TH & 23RD DECEMBER

RHIANNON - FLEETWOOD MAC SHOW
19TH DECEMBER

A CHRISTMAS WISH (FAMILY BALLET)
20TH DECEMBER

OUTSIDE THE BOX: GLENN MOORE
9TH JANUARY

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

www.socc.uk

Find us on Instagram: @shorehamotfordcc Or Facebook: shoreham-otford-cricket-club

And you can even search for Shoreham Otford Cricket on YouTube

Contact: Laurence Cooper • 07950 436009

Email - Seniors Men: sandocccavailabilities@gmail.com

Juniors: chrisspollard_1@yahoo.com

Women: niceynz@gmail.com



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Membership Secretary

Vannessa Hills

v.hills098@gmail.com



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