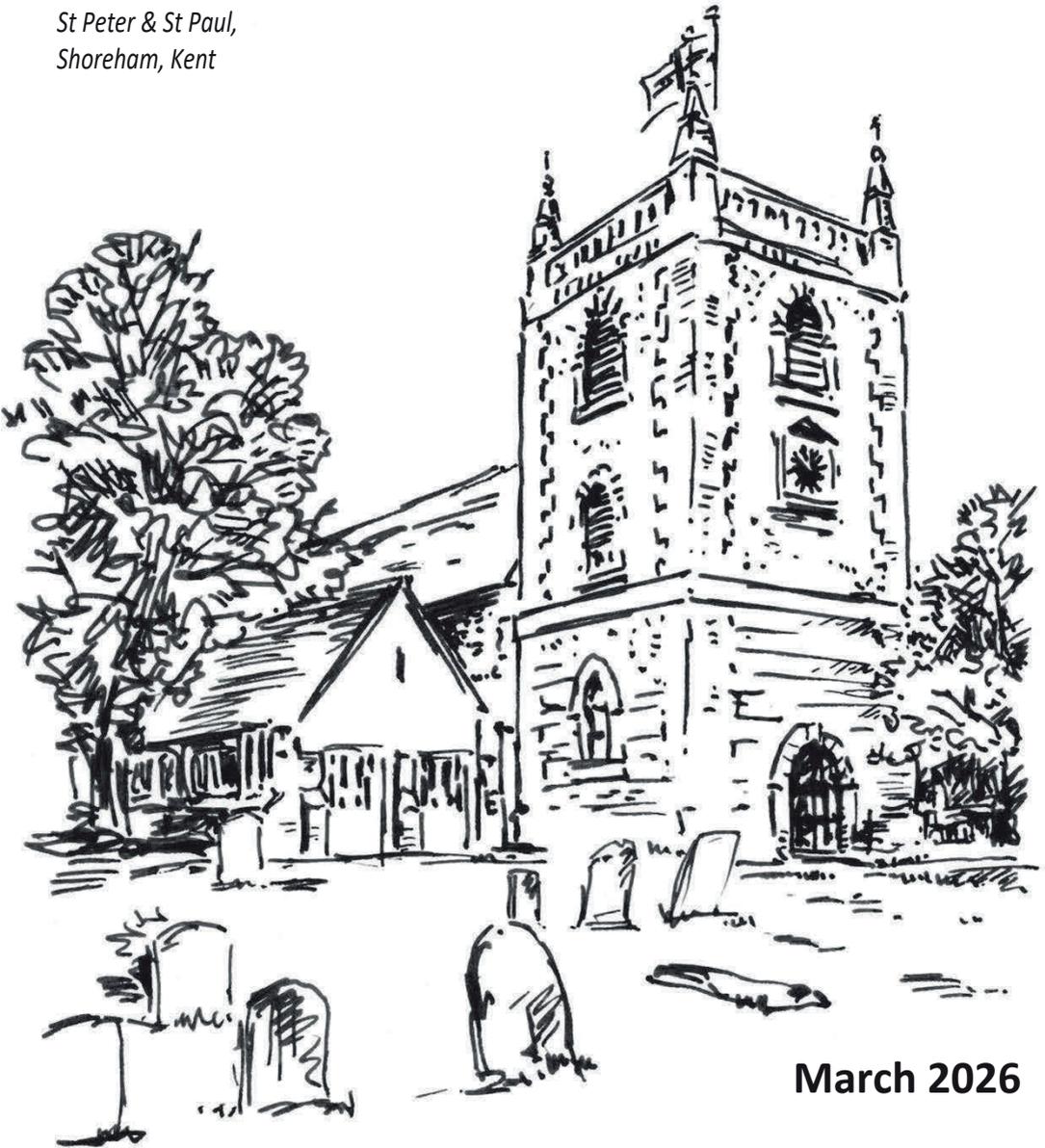


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March 2026

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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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Exploring Lent, love, chocolate and chats

Lent: A time of reflection and an opportunity to spend 40 days either refraining from something or starting something, both with the aim of preparing to encounter God in Holy Week and Easter. I wonder what your Lent has looked like before? I decided this year to give up sweet treats/snacks and desserts. Why? So that every time I crave some chocolate, I use it as a reminder to thank God for something or pray for someone in need. Then when I get to Easter, the chocolate will be even tastier and my relationship with God even stronger. At least that's the plan and by God's grace I'll get there. During Lent, I've also started reading two books, one called *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield, and also a book the home-groups are exploring, called *Practicing the way* by John Mark Comer. I'll let you know next time what I find out, but perhaps you could share with me how you are finding Lent and if you're looking forward to Easter. As ever my email is: vicar.shoreham@gmail.com or you can WhatsApp me on 07752960230. For all general enquiries and if you are new to church but would like to get involved or find out more, then we would love to hear from you, please email shorehamparish@gmail.com



The process of visiting every home in Shoreham to say 'hello' is also underway. So do have a think, what would you like to see happening at church? How could we improve things in order to bless people further; it's your parish church, how can we better support you as a church? Hoping to do this on Saturdays with volunteers from the church. Not going to be in? Then I'll leave a flier with details as to how you can share your ideas and get in touch.

Messy Church was an absolute blast, THANK YOU to everyone who came along and to the wonderful team who made it such a success. Our next Messy Church will be a MINI one on Good Friday (**3rd April**) for the Good Friday Family Hour between **12-1pm** during which we shall be making Easter Gardens to take home. You are welcome also to stay for the time of reflection and service afterwards between the hours of **1-2pm** and **2-3pm**. Come for as little or as much as you like during these times.

Looking ahead, key dates for your diary:

23rd February, then 2nd, 9th, 16th March at 7PM Or

Wednesdays at 10AM-11.30AM, 25th Feb, 11th, 25th March & 1st April.

Lent course, at the Church using the Lent in Plain Sight Book. A time of reflection, discussion and refreshment.

15th March is Mothering Sunday.

29th March start of Holy Week, during which we shall be meeting at church to say Compline (night prayers) together, focusing on the events of Jesus in the run up to Easter through imaginative contemplation, known as Ignatian Spirituality. Keep an eye out for fliers and posters around the village with times TBC.

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5th April Easter Sunday and D-Day for Chocolate lovers!

Philippians 3:14, in the Bible talks about pressing into God. It is a call to passionately pursue a deeper relationship with Him, overcome obstacles and seek His Kingdom by being intentional in spending time in God's presence. My prayer is that as we seek Him, we will find Him and encounter for ourselves afresh, His great love; a love given for everyone. That unending, sacrificial love we mark during Holy Week. Whatever you're doing to prepare for Easter, through Lent, know that God is right there with you.

That's all for now, but before I sign off, thank you for your kind words on my recent Engagement to Alex, we are very excited and finding our way through wedding planning for June! Your prayers are always welcome!

God bless you always,

Revd Caz, vicar.shoreham@gmail.com

MARCH SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Sunday 1st March - Lent 2

9.00am Breakfast Church

6.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 8th March - Lent 3

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 15th March - Mothering Sunday - Lent 4

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

Sunday 22nd March - Lent 5

10.00am Holy Communion with Choir

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

9.45am Procession from the Village School

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

12-3.00pm Easter Workshop and Worship

Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

6.30am Dawn Service at the Cross on the Hill

10.00am Morning Worship with Communion

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FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

2 February	Thanksgiving Service	Clare Massey
24 February	Celebration of life	Jonty Williams
25 February	Memorial Service	Hazel Grewcock

FRIDAY SOUP

In response to some suggestions and as a trial during Lent, the Church will be replacing the monthly Coffee and Chat with a weekly Soup and a Roll*, plus the usual coffee, tea and biscuits, **every Friday in March from 12-1pm**. Meet in the Church Room as usual and there is no charge. Perhaps since it's soup, it could be called a gesture of brotherly love?! And please don't hesitate to let us know if you have other suggestions.

*PS The roll may occasionally be a baguette!

SEVENOAKS LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

The families needing the help of foodbanks continues to grow. Please consider whether you could add something for our local foodbank to your weekly shop. Boxes for donations are at the back of the church.

BREAKFAST CHURCH

We are hoping to widen the number of people helping to shop and cook breakfast for Breakfast Church. If you enjoy coming, why not think about joining in to make it happen? Please see Jill Aisher, text 07989 278723 or email jill.aisher@gmail.com if you can help.

<https://www.shorehamchurchkent.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpaulshoreham>
shorehamparish@gmail.com

SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

With Mother's Day coming up on 15 March, there are always treats and gifts in store – from chocolate boxes to cards, cakes to champagne, or even the newly arrived Chocolate Orange-flavoured Baileys. And you can stock up ahead of time with Easter goodies.

Check out the grocery freezer for great-value items like SFC Peri Peri Chicken Strips, Southern-Fried Chicken Poppets (for just £1) and Chicago Town Pizzas. Or for something more fancy, treat yourself to Moroccan Lamb Tagine, Steak and Red Wine Pie or Pork Dijon from the Cook freezer. And don't forget that our baguettes, poppy bloomers and crusty rolls are baked every morning on the premises. They go wonderfully well with our range of cheeses.

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SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Constitution said that “the object of the Society shall be the advancement of public education in history, particularly that of Shoreham and the surrounding district” and the inaugural meeting was on 19 March 1996 in the Village Hall. And so, 30 years ago, Shoreham’s Historical Society was born.

We’ll be back in the Village Hall on Friday 20 March 2026 to mark our anniversary and welcome this month’s speaker, Ed Thompson, who will talk on “Sevenoaks Villages: The Past in Pictures”. The meeting starts at 8pm, with refreshments from 7.30. Non-members are always welcome. The brief proceedings of our AGM will take place before the talk. We hope to see you there.

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

James Saynor

AN EVENING OF LIVE JAZZ IN SHOREHAM CHURCH - SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Doors Open 7pm. Music from The Colours of Jazz 7.30 -10.30pm. Licensed Bar. Raffle.

Tables of Eight. No problem if coming in a smaller group or solo. We will help you find seating, on arrival.

Ticket price includes: Glass of Fizz; food for the evening - fine cheeses, breads, crackers, chutneys, crudites, and the joy of listening to live jazz!

Ticket Price: £25 per person

Please contact Agneta if you have any food allergies or wish for vegan options. agneta_edwards@hotmail.com

Tickets available from Shoreham Village Stores, online via the QR code or at <https://buytickets.at/friendsofshorehamchurch/2019666>



In Aid of The Friends of Shoreham Church, who help maintain this beautiful church so that we can all enjoy it for many years to come. Please come along and support us!

SHOREHAM WI

Our next WI meeting is on Tuesday 3 March at 12.45 for 1.00pm (with lunch provided) in the Village Hall when we will welcome Brian Dobbs from the RSPB, who will give us a presentation and a talk on “Birds of Kent”.

Brian is extremely knowledgeable and will also be pleased to answer any questions members may have about birds. We are always pleased to welcome visitors and potential new members – please send any enquiries to Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk

Community Coffee Morning

The next Community Coffee Morning will take place on Thursday 12 March in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm. Do come and join us for coffee, tea and cakes at this friendly, sociable morning – the cost is only £2 for a drink with a piece of homemade cake. Everyone will be very welcome.

As mentioned in last month’s Gazette, we will be hosting a ‘fashion show’ on 7 April, starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm with a welcome drink. Lottie’s Loft, which is a shop in Seal, will bring a selection of clothes along, and a few of our members will be acting as models for the evening! We would like to invite non-members to join us, at a cost of £5 each to include a welcome drink and more refreshments later. It would be helpful if you could email Shoreham@wkwfi.org.uk if you plan to come, or if you need any more information. We hope to see lots of Shoreham residents there.

Shoreham WI

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SPRING HORTICULTURAL SHOW – SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

Our first show of the year will take place on Saturday 21st March at the Village Hall, and we would love to welcome you along.

With spring weather always full of surprises, what is blooming in gardens will vary. We hope to fill the hall with cheerful displays of golden daffodils, tulips, blossom and other early signs of spring—so do consider entering some of your flowers (see the show schedule for details).

New for this year, we are delighted to introduce classes for winter vegetables, giving growers even more opportunities to take part.

If flowers aren't your thing, there are plenty of home baking classes, as well as crafts, and paintings created over the winter months. Children are very welcome to take part too, with dedicated art and craft classes.

There really is something for everyone, and even if you don't wish to exhibit, you'll be assured of a warm welcome—so why not come along and enjoy the show?

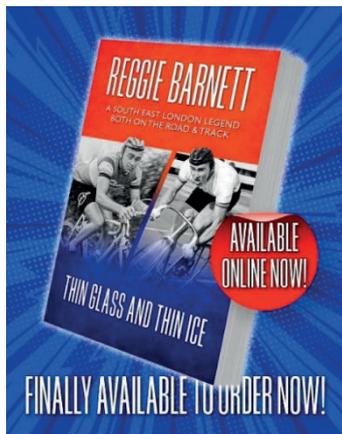
Exhibits should be brought to the hall between 10.00am and 12.00 noon and staged by 12.00 noon prompt. Please register entries by Friday 20th March if possible, as this helps us greatly on the day.

Doors open to the public at 2.00pm, with refreshments available, and prize giving at 3.15pm.

Show schedules are available from the village store or by emailing shorehamhotsoc@gmail.com.

Whether you are a long-standing member, new to the society, or simply fancy tea and homemade cake, do come along—we look forward to seeing you.

Sharon Desmond, Show Secretary, shorehamhotsoc@gmail.com



BOOK LAUNCH – LOCAL AUTHOR

Local cycling legend Reg Barnett is launching his autobiography *Thin Glass and Thin Ice*. A Shoreham resident for nearly 40 years, Reg is a former Olympic and Commonwealth Games cyclist, six-time UK National Sprint Champion and 20km Professional Track Champion.

Join him at **The Samuel Palmer on Saturday 7 March, 12–4 p.m.**, where his book will be on sale at the special launch price of **£12.99**, with Reg personally signing copies.

Marina Barnett



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NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL FEBRUARY 2026

Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed a busy and positive time in school as we approached the half term break. It has been a joy to see the children continuing to grow in confidence and enthusiasm supported by our families and community.

Our recent Parent Consultation Meetings were very successful, and we are grateful to the many families who came along to engage in meaningful conversations about their children's learning and progress. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate achievements and to consider together how best to support each child to flourish. They are a strong factor of our successful relationships between home and school.

Some of our families attended a Family Forum on school led by our SENCo, Mrs Bass, focusing on identifying and supporting children's needs. It was a supportive and informative session and we deeply value the spirit of collaboration that exists between school and home in ensuring that every child receives the right support at the right time.

Congratulations are due to Cameron and Moore Classes for their wonderful curriculum assemblies. The children shared their learning in creative and engaging ways, speaking with confidence and enthusiasm. It is always a pleasure to welcome families into school to celebrate the children's achievements.

Recently, interviews took place for the position of Headteacher. It was important to us that our pupils had a voice in this significant moment for the life of our school. A group of children from Moore and Cameron Classes took part in the process, meeting candidates and sharing their thoughtful reflections with the interview panel. They represented our school community with great maturity and integrity, and we are very proud of them.

As a school at the heart of our community, we are always grateful for the generosity of our volunteers. If you are local and would be interested in volunteering in school to support our children with reading, we would be delighted to hear from you. Listening to readers makes a tremendous difference to children's confidence and progress. Please note that all volunteers are required to undergo the appropriate DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and safeguarding procedures.

We would also like to share that there are currently a few limited places available in some year groups. If you know of any families who may be interested in joining our welcoming and nurturing school community, please encourage them to contact the school office for further information. We would be very pleased to arrange a visit and share all that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Phone: 01959 522228 or email: office@shoreham.kent.sch.uk

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SHOREHAM AND OTFORD CRICKET CLUB



Hi everyone,

It's getting to the time of the year when we can truly believe summer will return and our season can begin. We have some wonderful news to share with you – we have completed internal work at the clubhouse and it's looking amazing. We are ready to host our competitors, and you our supporters (and potential players!).

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SCAN FOR MORE INFO

We have new wines, beers and selection of non-alcoholic drinks for the new year, and of course our barbeque will be up and running. Try Laurence's chilli sauce if you're brave enough!! The club had an amazing season last year and we are looking to build upon this in 2026.

New this season is our kids cricket coaching years 1-3.

We welcome anyone who is interested in playing for any of the teams. Please contact the club, me or Nick Stroudley, the director of cricket.

You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram as well.

This season we will be introducing the 'Faces of Shoreham and Otford Cricket Club'. This will be a member of the club telling you about themselves and their link to the club. Also, we will be

celebrating the teams by the awarding of a Player of the Match award weekly, and this will be posted monthly in the gazette.



We can't wait to get back on the pitch and look forward to seeing you all supporting us whilst enjoying our new facilities. This year is going to be epic, and it's going to be a challenge to better last season.

The women's team training begins 13 May at Shoreham ground between 6-8pm. We can't wait to welcome you.

Leanne niceynz@gmail.com; Nick nickstroudley@hotmail.co.uk

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OVER 60s

As mentioned in previous Notices, The Shoreham Over 60's Club now meets regularly once a month for the time being, 2pm in the Village Hall.

The dates and subjects each month until May are as follows:-

- 25th February "The History of the Mildmays of Shoreham" James Saynor
- 25th March "The Graves of Shoreham Church" Ann Ball
- 22nd April "The John Lewis Partnership Experiment" Johnny Aisher
- 27th May "Talk on my time being a London Guide" Liz Scott

Each Meeting includes Refreshments of Tea, Coffee, homemade and shop bought cakes, mixed in with friendly chatting and gossip.

New Members, or day visitors, are always warmly welcomed. A day visitor's Fee is £3.00 and a Membership Fee for the year is £5.00, if they choose to join.

Terry Clark, terryshoreham@gmail.com

TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE SHOREHAM SHINE!



Our big village clean-up is on Saturday 14th March.

Come to the **Village Hall anytime between 9am and 4pm**, where there will be a warm welcome and a list of activities for you to choose. You don't have to commit to the whole day, just stay as long as

you can.

High Vis jackets, tools and gloves will all be available, although you are welcome to bring your own.

There will be tasty refreshments too!

It's a great way to get to know your community, whilst helping to keep our village just the way we all like it.

Here's a sample of the jobs to choose

- Litter picking in all village streets and in the roads leading to Shoreham
- Cleaning the telephone box and road signs
- Weeding the edges of the pavements
- Sweeping the multi-use games area (aka MUGA) on the Rec
- Removing tree guards from the woods
- Cutting back vegetation around the village hall

If there are any particular jobs that you think need doing, please email shorehamsociety@gmail.com We look forward to welcoming you!

Other forthcoming Shoreham Society events

We are starting to prepare for the Duck Race on 10th May.

In late May/Early June, we are arranging a guided tour of the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle, by the man who created it, Tom Hart Dyke.

A new map showing the location of all 10 defibrillators in and around Shoreham has been prepared and will be posted on village notice boards.

New Refuse and Recycling Collection Scheme

From **April**, the council intends to provide each household with **two wheelie bins** (for general waste and recycling), alongside any existing green waste bins you may have and a new food waste bin. Furthermore, starting in **August**, collections will move to a new alternating schedule.

We are concerned that many of our historic cottages simply do not have the space to store multiple large wheelie bins. In certain areas this may lead to limited parking, as bins may have to be kept on the road, which may in turn, hinder emergency vehicle access.

It is now rather late to change the scheme, but we are lobbying Sevenoaks District Council to make arrangements for small properties that lack a front garden for storage of the bins. Please get in touch if you would like to help with this campaign.

And the Shoreham Society is still looking for a new **Membership Secretary**. If you can help, or if you'd like to get more involved in running the society **please email shorehamsociety@gmail.com**. **And please email if you'd like to join the Shoreham Society to lobby for a better Shoreham and protect our countryside.**

John Saynor, Chair, The Shoreham Society

HAIRY-FOOTED FLOWER BEE



March can be a cold month and not one we associate with insects, the majority of which will emerge a little later in the year. Bumblebees are amongst the first to appear as their hairy bodies give them some insulation against the changeable weather of March; but have a look for another bee, which looks at first glance like a small bumblebee, but which is actually the delightfully



named Hairy-footed Flower Bee. The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name of 'hairy footed'. About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask-shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (*Pulmonaria*). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

As spring progresses, have a look at the walls of your church or churchyard if they are lime mortared or cobb. The female will nest within the mortar of an old wall, making a small hole in which to lay eggs. These are 'solitary' bees, so they do not nest in a colony like honey bees and bumblebees.

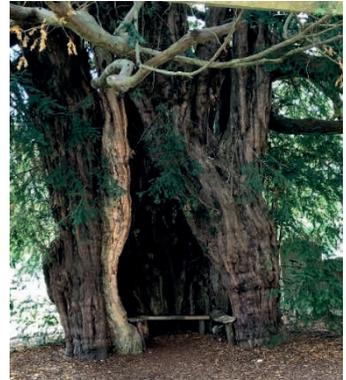
Hairy-footed flower bees are a good example of the need to provide a range of flowers for pollinators, including both spring and autumn blooms. This bee is active until June and relies on early pollen to give them energy for their brief breeding season. Most churchyards contain primroses and perhaps you can include lungwort and comfrey in flower beds or planters as well. Please let us know if you see a Hairy-footed flower bee; for those who love a phone or computer app, take a look at iNaturalist (uk.inaturalist.org) to confirm your identification and make a record of your spot.

MAGNIFICENT YEWS

Whilst churchyards contain many different veteran trees, it is the yews that are particularly special. Globally, veteran and ancient yews are threatened; however, on a world stage the best refuge for these trees is actually the churchyards of England and Wales. It is in these enclosed spaces that over three quarters of Britain's oldest yew trees can be found. Some trees are believed to be several thousand years old.

The yew trees we are referring to are the long lived *Taxus baccata* (often called the Common, English or European Yew) as opposed to others also found in churchyards such as the Irish Yew which is more upright, neat in shape and not nearly as long lived.

Almost every part of the yew is poisonous to stock and wildlife (including humans!). But birds such as blackbirds, waxwings, thrushes, and fieldfares enjoy the fleshy red berries. If you are partial to gathering fungi to eat, it is best to avoid even edible species if you find them growing on a yew tree.



The Common yews tend to grow in a 'normal' tree shape until about 600 years old when they often hollow out and thicken around the base. This hollow cylindrical structure does not weaken the tree, in fact it may even strengthen its structure. Hollow yews are great for sheltering wildlife. Some, such as the photo (right) from Much Marcle in Herefordshire, have seats inside, and in past centuries hollow yews were even used as homes by monks in Wales and Ireland!

For more information about our second annual Love your Yew Week initiative, visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-yew-week/ where you will also find an interactive map showing the locations of ancient and veteran yews in churchyards.

Prue Dakin, Caring for God's Acre

SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY FOR MARCH 2026

Saturday 28 Feb	Friends of Shoreham Church Live Jazz	Church	7.30pm
Tuesday 3	WI RSPB talk 'Birds of Kent	Village Hall	12.45pm
Friday 6, 13, 20, 27	Friday Soup	Church Room	12 noon
Saturday 7	Book Launch: Reg Barnett <i>Thin Glass and Thin Ice</i>	Samuel Palmer	12 noon
Thursday 12	WI Community Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10am
Saturday 14	Make Shoreham Shine	Village Hall	from 9am
Friday 20	Historical Society talk: <i>Sevenoaks Villages: The Past in Pictures</i> by Ed Thompson	Village Hall	8pm
Saturday 21	Spring Horticultural Show	Village Hall	2pm
Wednesday 25	Over 60s talk: The Graves of Shoreham Church by Ann Ball	Village Hall	2pm

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a look at our adverts for local services. Some of them are updated every month with their latest events and 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 the Gazette. Thank you to **Marina Barnett** for her donation.

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Word attachment in Calibri 10 and single spacing, please. Images as **jpps**, please

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