
Shipley Parish News

August / September 2026



A white stork surveying the landscape
and maybe plotting the long migration journey ahead.
Read more on Page 22

Parish church directory

Vicar

- Currently in vacancy - please contact the Church Wardens

E: Vicar@Shipley.Church

Church Wardens

Gavin Kenny Meadowcroft, Polecat Lane, Copsale, RH13 6QR
T: 07720 288807 E: Warden@Shipley.Church

Richard Killner 2, Smokehouse Farm, Countryman Lane, Shipley
RH13 8PR
T: 07970 781874 E: Churchwarden@Shipley.Church

Acting Honorary Treasurer

Colin West E: Treasurer@Shipley.Church

Honorary Secretary

Fenella Warren E: Secretary@Shipley.Church

Organist and Choirmaster

Peter Sanderson E: Choir@Shipley.Church

Assistant Organist

Anne Haimes E: Organist@Shipley.Church

Sunday School

Liz Cockerill E: SundaySchool@Shipley.Church

Safeguarding officer

Liz Cockerill E: Safeguarding@Shipley.Church

Bell Captain

Simon Meyer E: Bells@Shipley.Church

Bell Secretary

Sue Meyer E: BellSec@Shipley.church

Andrew Hall

Amanda Jupp, Annette Lepper E: AndrewHall@Shipley.Church

Magazine advertising

John Davies E: shangani7@hotmail.com

Magazine subscriptions

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Teresa Gwilt E: magazine@shipley.church

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Parish church email database

We continue to set up a database of email addresses for the Parish, to keep you informed about what is going on at Shipley Church, share news and let you know about fundraising and events. If you would like to sign up, please email Vicar@Shipley.Church.

Please note: In sharing your details, you will be giving us permission to use your personal data solely for the purposes of communicating about church life and events, in accordance with data protection laws.

St Mary the Virgin Church, Shipley

Welcome to our latest issue of the Shipley Parish News. St Mary the Virgin. Shipley is a friendly and active church community with lots going on throughout the year.

We hold a **10am Holy Communion Service each Sunday**, followed by coffee, and all are welcome.

There is also a **midweek service at 10.30am on Wednesdays**.

The church is open every day during daylight hours, so if you wish to enter for quiet reflection, please feel free to do so.

For more information about what's on, please go to www.shipley.church



If you feel the need to talk to someone, you can call the Samaritans on 116 123, free of charge, day and night, or visit them at 21 Denne Road, Horsham, RH12 1JE.

Polite parking request

A number of the regular members of the congregation have mobility problems and it would be appreciated if the spaces on the road, adjacent to the commemorative bench, nearest to the Church could be left free for them on Sundays.

Parking is available for the able-bodied, both in the School Lane car park, before the Windmill and also the car park adjoining the flats at the end of Church Close.

Thank you for your co operation.

Church bank account details

For payments into the church bank account, donations or magazine subscriptions, the church bank account details are as follows:

Account name: **PCC of Shipley** (full name: Parochial Church Council of Shipley)

Sort Code: **30-94-41** Account number: **00282667**

Please put an appropriate reference.

Thank you very much.

Church calendar

Date	Celebration	Service	Time	Reader	Reading	Intercessions	Sidesperson
Sunday 2 nd Aug	Trinity 9	Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Erica Smaile	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Amanda Jupp	Amanda Jupp
Sunday 9 th Aug	Trinity 10	Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Claire Ebdon	1 Kings 19: 1-18		Claire Ebdon
Sunday 16 th Aug	Feast of St Mary	Family Service Evensong	10:00 - 11:00am 6:00 - 7:00pm	Richard Killner	1 Corinthians 15: 20-27a	Gavin Kenny	Gavin Kenny
Sunday 23 rd Aug		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Claire Searle	Isaiah 51: 1-6	Sarah Nuttall	Neil Warren
Sunday 30 th Aug		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Janet Ruff	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Sarah Nuttall	Eve Kenny
Sunday 6 th Sept		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Harriet Annis	Ezekiel 33: 7-11	Sarah Nuttall	Harriet Annis
Sunday 13 th Sept		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Helen Lindfield	Genesis 50: 15-21	Sarah Nuttall	
Sunday 20 th Sept		Family Service Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 10:35am 11:00 - 11:30am	N/A	Jonah 3: 10 -4: 11 N/A	N/A	
Sunday 27 th Sept		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Janet Ruff	Ezekiel 18: 1-4 & 25-32	Eve Kenny	
Sunday 4 th Oct		Family Service	10:00 - 10:35am	Lucy Bernardi			Ginny de Zoute
Sunday 11 th Oct		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Harriet Annis	Isaiah 25: 1-9	Claire Searle	Harriet Annis
Sunday 18 th Oct		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am		Isaiah 45: 1-7		
Sunday 25 th Oct		Sung Eucharist	10:00 - 11:00am	Janet Ruff	Leviticus 19: 1-2 & 15-18	Eve Kenny	

We are always looking for anyone to get involved with readings, leading Intercessions or acting as a Sidesperson. It's fun to be part of things. Please let us know, we're always here. By Richard Killner | churchwarden@shipley.church | 07970 781874

The Vicar's letter

Dear Friends,

It's time to say goodbye as I am retiring. So as I write, I have two more Sundays left, and my last Sunday will be 26th July.

What a fascinating and interesting place Shipley has proved to be. It has a notable history, expressed in its buildings and a continuing desire to inform and celebrate that history, in which the Church has played, and is continuing to play, an important part. So I want to thank all those who have made Liz and I feel part of this community and its parish church and congregation, and we shall miss you all very much. Every parish is different and I can say that all of the six parishes in which I have served have all be quite different, not only in respect of city, town and country, but in social make up, types of housing and homes, and in the way of worship. England is a very diverse country and you only have to go a few miles and you are in a very different environment. Praise God for that!

All turning points in our lives leave us with mixed feelings. I know I am ready for a rest after 50 years of unbroken parish ministry. I have loved being a parish priest and have been honoured to have had a part in many different churches over the years, and I am grateful to all of them for what I have learned from them.

The last few weeks and months of my ministry here have been active ones with varied events, both sad and joyful and, as always, it has been a privilege to continue to be of service to people during these times. Over the 50 years of my ministry



I have been privileged to get to know so many people in their times of sorrow or joy and I hope I will remember you all with respect and affection.

So a time of vacancy or interregnum beckons. Gavin and I have been securing the services of priests to cover Sunday services, so the services on Sunday will continue. And it will be important not to let this time be weighed down by worry or anxiety. It needn't be just a time of waiting. It can be a time of new energy and growth and a time for people to get involved in ways that suddenly become possible, even necessary. We have been blessed over the years by a number of new worshippers. So make it a priority to welcome and continue to welcome and encourage such arrivals. And also try to be alert to those who have not been seen in Church for a few weeks, and find out why.

Inevitably, thoughts will be turning to find a new Vicar. I think it will be true that any priest will be attracted to a parish

The Vicar's letter cont...

that is active and well managed, where the congregation is not declining and where people are open to new ideas.. Those things are true of Shipley Church now and need to remain so.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the support you have given me over five and a half years. The bonds forged in a parish

are close, based on trust and mutual respect and on the sharing of burdens. These we have shared in abundance and I give thanks for it.

So now farewell, and I commend you all to the love and mercy of God.

In Christ
Chris

Hello from your editor

Welcome to our August & September edition!

Hello everybody. What a past month we've had with these high temperatures. I hope that you have all managed to stay cool and comfortable in the heat.

In this issue, you'll be reading lots about Rev Chris. Chris, I wish him well for all your future adventures. And what a fabulous community, ensuring church services will continue until a new Vicar is found.

As always, if you'd like to send me an article, or know of any services, groups or organisations looking to promote themselves, all I need is your words, and any pictures. Please email me at: magazine@shipley.church.

And as always, thank you so much to everybody who contributes, in every way. And please remember... Stay safe, stay connected and look after one another.

Teresa

Publication Submission deadline	
Oct / Nov	14 th September 2026
Dec / Jan	14 th November 2026
Feb / Mar	14 th January 2027

Sudoku

				6	5	9	2	8
1		5		2		7	6	
		2	8					
5	3		4	8	9			
6	4		7			8	3	
		7		1			4	9
4	9				8	1	5	7
	1	8				3		
				9	1	2		

←
Easy

Extreme



			7	4				
1								7
				9				8
							9	8
	4				6	5		3
3		8			2			
4								
2				5			3	
		1	7			3		5

Church cleaning rota

Saturday 1 st August	Lucy and Ros
Saturday 15 th August	Ginny, Annabel and Amanda
Saturday 29 th August	Claire and Sarah
Saturday 12 th September	Claire E and Sheryl
Saturday 26 th September	Lucy and Ros
Saturday 10 th October	Ginny, Annabel and Amanda

Thank you all for your help keeping the church clean and tidy. Many thanks Liz for your help over the last few years and thanks to Sheryl for filling in. If you're reading this and think you might like to join the rota, please do get in touch!

By Lucy West T: 01403 741912

Flower rota

	Altar Vases	Memorials
Saturday 1 st and 8 th August	Jane	Diana
Saturday 15 th and 22 nd August	Ann	Carole S
Saturday 29 th August and 5 th Sept	Nicky	Hariot
Saturday 12 th and 19 th September	Keith	Angela B and Carol B
Saturday 26 th Sept and 3 rd Oct	Angie S	Kathy
Saturday 10 th and 17 th October	Lucy	Mandy

If you need help or wish to change the above dates, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hariot Annis T: 01403 741227 | M: 07402 916801 | E: hariotannis@hotmail.co.uk
Jane Grinling T: 01403 741768

By Hariot Annis and Jane Grinling

Time to Retire

It was 9th June 2020, and we were in the middle of the Covid Crisis, when Richard and I first met Chris, albeit remotely via Zoom, as the first lockdown which started in March had only just begun to lift.

The challenges of Covid were fresh in our minds and we were keen for the vicar of Shipley to be a visible presence in the community. Chris agreed and so we asked for the Bishop's blessing to allow the Rev. Christopher Allen to become the new vicar at Shipley.

Chris and Liz moved into the vicarage and Chris was licensed in November 2020, just as the country went back into lockdown for a second time! While we had a limited lifting of restrictions over Christmas it wouldn't be until February 2021 that Chris could really get out and about.

But Chris rose to the occasion with his trademark calm, writing newsletters and doing all he could to reach out to people.

Chris' ministry at Shipley has been very successful, not only running Sunday services but also launching and running services on Wednesday mornings too. As a preacher, his well researched sermons are thought provoking and last much longer than the church service they were delivered in.

But Chris does so much more than deliver one or two sermons a week, which is all that is officially required of the Shipley post. He also attends assemblies at Shipley School, and is a School Governor, as a result of which he has forged much stronger links between School and Church, including with



William Penn school. He also visits the sick and supports those in mourning. He helps those planning weddings, baptisms and funerals. He has run Lent courses and prepared people for Confirmation. A very full brief, but it doesn't end there.

He has also been very active in the upkeep of the fabric of the Church, sorting out faculties, special permissions which are required before any work can be done to the Church, or in the graveyard. He has overseen a major roofing project, met with architects and builders and organised bat surveys, (we are waiting for the latest report!). All of this in his "Spare Time".

We have been so lucky to have had Chris and Liz supporting us in the Parish, they have truly been a gift from God and will leave a big hole to fill. We wish them well as they start the next adventure of their lives and I know that while Chris is officially "retiring" I expect God will find something for him to do.

Our thoughts and prayers go with you both.

By Gavin Kenny
Church Warden

Interregnum

As I am sure you are all aware by now, Chris will be leaving us in August, and Shipley will go into a state called Interregnum or Vacancy. First let me assure you, this is nothing to be worried about, Church Services will continue as normal, and we would love to see as many of you in Church as we can so that we can show what an active community we are, in Shipley.

The Churchwardens and the PCC will continue to run the Parish day to day, with support from the Rural Dean and the Horsham Archdeacon, who we have already met and are fabulous. Many of the current PCC, and the two Churchwardens were in post during the last Interregnum and know what to do. Parish jobs will be split across volunteers to keep things running smoothly. In fact there are many small jobs which make a big difference, so if you can spare some time and are willing to take on a job or be a backup, do let me know, many hands make light work!

Sunday services will be taken by a cadre of retired priests who live in the area, including the lovely Rev Jack Mulder and the Rev Lionel Whatley (who is also a Canon in the Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya), who have supported us before. We will also have some new faces coming to take services, which will give us the ability to try different styles of service and help us consider what we are looking for in our next vicar. We already have all our Sundays covered up to and including Christmas and I am now starting to book people in for 2027.

Talking of our next vicar, for those of you used to the world of business, the Church of England does things a little differently. We are not racing out desperate to find someone with a pulse and a dog collar. We shall spend time, together, to reflect on our community and the type of person we want to join us here, to help us grow and develop, both spiritually and as a community. Through prayer and reflection, God will find us our next vicar and make them known to us.

I have spoken with the Archdeacon and there is no intention of turning Shipley into a “Shared Benefice”, we are already working on the Parish Profile, which is what potential applicants will read and decide if they want to come to Shipley, and the whole process is already starting, but it will take time.

The average time it takes to find the right person, and for them to leave their existing parish and take up a new role is about 18 months. This is normal and we are well prepared to keep things running during this time. Please support us by coming to Church Services and events as it is far more attractive for an incumbent to come to a vibrant active community.

Finally, we don't need to only use the official channels to find our next vicar, personal contacts are just as good. So if you know of someone who is ordained in the Church of England, who would like to join us, get them to reach out to me. My email is warden@shipley.church

By Gavin Kenny
Churchwarden

Wednesday Morning Service

During his tenure the Rev Chris Allen introduced a said weekday celebration of the Eucharist which has been regularly attended by a small but loyal group.

Due to Chris' departure the celebration of this Sacrament cannot continue BUT in consultation with our Church Wardens, PCC, Chris and the Archdeacon (I gather the latter was very happy with the suggestion) it has been agreed that the service of Morning Prayer could take place.

This is a Service that lay members of the congregation are permitted to conduct.

We are a very small band but we would be so excited if you were to join us for this Service on **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS at 10.30a.m.** followed by coffee or tea and biscuits for a social chat.

PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN!

By Erica Smale

Shipley Book of Remembrance

As was published in the last Shipley Parish News, we have been looking at setting up a Book of Remembrance. After a very positive response the PCC has decided to go ahead. The Book has been ordered and will be delivered at the end of the Summer. A great vote of thanks to those who have donated money so that we can make it happen.

We now need to hear from those who wish to have their loved ones recorded in the book. A form has been designed and can be accessed on the Parish website

(www.shipley.church), or a physical form is available at the back of the Church. Please fill one in and return it with a cheque or direct debit to the PCC bank account. Forms can be sent to Gavin Kenny.

We are still very happy to receive donations for the upkeep of the Book or any unexpected costs.

Thank you to all who helped to make it a reality. The Book will be dedicated when it is ready, and the date will be advised.

By Eve Kenny

Come along and discover more

Shipley Church has an active band and excellent teaching facilities, including a specially installed dumb bell.

As well as ringing at Shipley Church, we also provide the opportunity to ring at other towers around the country – which recently included Canterbury Cathedral.

Practice night is on a Wednesday from 7.30 – 9.00pm. Additional sessions can be organised for initial bell-handling tuition.

Contact:

Ringling Master Simon Meyer

07494 511533

simon.meyer.bow@gmail.com

Bell Tower News

The first Quarter Peal to report is what has become our traditional one to open Shipley fête. We started at about 10 o'clock in the morning so that we were ready to open the tower to visitors at 11am. This year the country was basking in record breaking heat and although the church and tower was probably the coolest place to be, ringing non-stop for 42 minutes was quite a challenge and we were all very hot by the end!!

Sussex County Association

Shipley, West Sussex, St Mary the Virgin
Monday, 25 May 2026 in 42m
(9–1–4 in A), **1260 Doubles** (4m),
360: St Simon's, St Martins
300: St Osmunds 240: Eynesbury

- 1 Jocelyn Foster
- 2 Gina French Larcombe
- 3 Simon S Meyer (C)
- 4 Simon M Alford
- 5 Zach J A Johnston
- 6 Judith A Alford

Opening the Shipley village fête.

The next Quarter to report was rung at East Hoathly, East Sussex by the Sussex Young Ringers. Shipley young ringers Zach and Alice Johnston were part of the band and Zach was conducting. The bells in this tower are particularly challenging and the treble was only chiming half of the time! This made keeping in time and rhythm especially difficult requiring full concentration and effort - again in record breaking temperatures. Congratulations to these young people for their perseverance and achievement.

Sussex County Association

East Hoathly, East Sussex,
Wednesday, 27 May 2026 in 45m (9–0–2
in Ab), **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Luca G Greenslade
- 2 Marisa A Hayes
- 3 Isla R Beckingham
- 4 Zach J A Johnston (C)
- 5 Archie D P Morley
- 6 Alice L R Johnston

Rung by Sussex Young Ringers in 30 degree heat. 50% rung with a 5 second delay on the treble. The other 50% was rung with no sounding treble at all.

The next Quarter Peal to report is of a complicated method which was another first for Zach. He was fortunate to have a strong and secure band around him which was invaluable!

Sussex County Association

Bolney, West Sussex, St Mary Magdalene,
Sunday, 21 June 2026 in 44m (13–0–8 in F), **1280 London Surprise Major**

- 1 David F Perkins
- 2 David E House
- 3 Susan P Meyer
- 4 Zach J A Johnston
- 5 Graham G Firman
- 6 Abigail C Fairhurst
- 7 Simon S Meyer (C)
- 8 Luca G Greenslade

Bell Tower News cont...

The next is called a date touch. That means in this case 2026 changes. It was rung in 79 minutes.

Sussex County Association

Horsham, West Sussex, St Mary the Virgin, Sunday, 5 July 2026 in 79m (22–2–24 in Eb), **2026 Stedman Caters**
Composed by John Hyden

- 1 Simon S Meyer (C)
- 2 Jonathan M Spencer
- 3 Josie E Rapley Mende
- 4 Tom A Sutton
- 5 Zach J A Johnston
- 6 Abigail C Fairhurst
- 7 Luca G Greenslade
- 8 Vanessa V Mitchell
- 9 Andrew D Meyer
- 10 Stephen R T Pocock

The next four Quarter Peals were all rung on the same day by the same band. No mean feat!

Sussex County Association

Washington, West Sussex, St Mary, Friday, 10 July 2026 in 42m (9–2–5 in G), **1272 York Surprise Minor**

- 1 Graham A Cane
- 2 Harry E Cane
- 3 Terry J Madigan
- 4 Luca G Greenslade
- 5 Zach J A Johnston
- 6 Ewan Grant-Richardson (C)

Sussex County Association

Thakeham, West Sussex, St Mary, Friday, 10 July 2026 in 42m (9–2–5 in G), **1296 Darton Surprise Minor**



- 1 Graham A Cane
- 2 Harry E Cane
- 3 Zach J A Johnston
- 4 Terry J Madigan
- 5 Ewan Grant-Richardson
- 6 Luca G Greenslade (C)

Sussex County Association

Storrington, West Sussex, St Mary, Friday, 10 July 2026 in 38m (9–1–7 in A), **1293 Superlative Surprise Minor**
Composed by Donald F Morrison

- 1 Graham A Cane
- 2 Harry E Cane
- 3 Zach J A Johnston
- 4 Terry J Madigan
- 5 Ewan Grant-Richardson
- 6 Luca G Greenslade (C)

Sussex County Association

Findon, West Sussex, St John the Baptist, Friday, 10 July 2026 in 42m (9–2–14 in Ab), **1320 Rossendale Surprise Minor**

- 1 Graham A Cane
- 2 Harry E Cane
- 3 Zach J A Johnston
- 4 Terry J Madigan
- 5 Luca G Greenslade
- 6 Ewan Grant-Richardson (C)

Remembering Barbara Harbut, tower captain at Findon for 40 years who sadly passed away on 11 June 2024.

By Gina French Larcombe

The extraordinary case of Nora Kirby

The extraordinary case of Nora Kirby - housekeeper to composer Dr John Ireland

Her grave in Shipley churchyard lies at the foot of Ireland's own resting place

Following on from John Ireland's profile included in the previous edition of Shipley Parish News, this story exists as a fascinating corollary to Ireland's death in 1962. When he died at the age of 82 he left a magnificent collection of music and a distinguished reputation. His personal belongings, complete with his two grand pianos and favourite conductor's baton, hundreds of mementos including photographs of him taken throughout his long life were all lovingly cared for by Mrs Kirby, a genuine devotee to his life and works. Ireland left to her his home, all his possessions, his royalties and precious manuscripts - though these eventually went into safe keeping at the British Museum.

For 20 years after Ireland's death Mrs Kirby worked tirelessly to extend the reputation of the man she so admired, and with whom she had spent 16 years of

her life as a close companion. She ensured that a complete catalogue of his works was published, and became responsible for the founding of the John Ireland Charitable Trust. In her own Will she allocated a considerable amount of her own estate to the Trust to secure its long-term future. She also arranged that she would be buried alongside the composer at Shipley church, and even ensured that the burial plot was paid for in advance.

However, a chilling sequence of events came close to cheating her of her final wishes. After Ireland's death Mrs Kirby moved to Steyning, and purchased a house in the high street that is now the Steyning Bookshop.

When her health began to deteriorate nearly 20 years later, she was moved to a nursing home near Margate, Kent. The owners of the home, a middle-aged husband and wife, took an unusually close interest in their most recent guest, even visiting her home in Steyning and arranging to bring some of Mrs Kirby's treasures to Kent. They became so intimate as to discuss with her what arrangements she wished to make for her Will and for her funeral.

Sadly, Norah Kirby died from cancer at the age of 84 after spending only four months in Kent. It became known that, only five days before her death, she had made a new Will cutting out the John Ireland Trust and leaving her entire estate to the owners of the nursing home. Also, it had even been decided that following her funeral her body would be cremated.



The extraordinary case of Nora Kirby cont...

Her friends were dumbfounded and suspected foul play! Solicitors acting for the Trust, blocked the cremation plan and persuaded the Crown Prosecution Service to take action. Nearly two years after Norah's death the proprietors of the nursing home were made to face seven joint charges of administering poison to Mrs Kirby, stealing money from her, and attempting to steal property from her personal representatives. The couple stood trial at Maidstone Crown Court where it was alleged that they had given Mrs Kirby drugs during her last days, which had made her so confused that she altered her Will in their favour. But they were initially acquitted upon the direction of the presiding judge who ruled that there

was no actual evidence of the intention to cause injury or harm to Norah.

It was a sensational conclusion to a highly controversial trial. Mrs Kirby had devoted 36 years of her life to Dr Ireland; she had passionately wished to be buried at his side; and she undoubtedly wanted the residue of his fortune to be left in trust to honour his name long into the future.

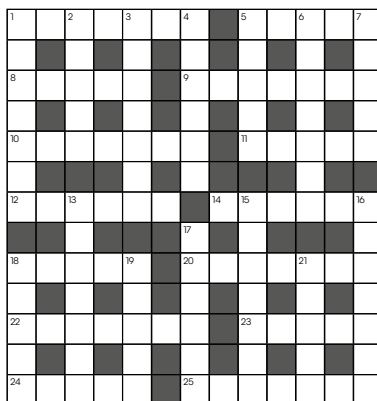
However, further legal intervention took place, and the last-minute Will was annulled, and clearance finally obtained for the burial in Shipley churchyard of her body that had been detained in cold-storage for almost two and a half years. In death as in life, she wanted to be beside John Ireland. Her last wish was finally granted.

By Peter Sanderson

Quick crossword | Answers in the next edition

Across

- 1 Pig's foot (7)
- 5 Pilfer (5)
- 9 Pungent
condiment (7)
- 10 Ideas (7)
- 11 Secret agents (5)
- 12 Beer and lemonade
mixture (6)
- 14 Trapped (6)
- 18 Substantial (5)
- 20 Beseech (7)
- 22 Excuse (7)
- 23 Frown angrily (5)
- 24 Ceremonies (5)
- 25 Convent (7)



Down

- 1 Cash receipts (7)
- 2 Music for eight
performers (5)
- 3 Gland in the neck (7)
- 4 Negligent (6)
- 5 Goes without food (5)
- 6 Foremost (7)
- 7 Mythological abode
of the dead (5)
- 13 Illness (7)
- 15 Skilled worker (7)
- 16 Wholly (7)
- 17 Defeated (6)
- 18 Wonderful (5)
- 19 Sediment (5)
- 21 Wear away (5)

Quoth the Raven, 'Nevermore'

It was the morning of 15th July, St Swithin's Day, recalling the old rhyme '*St Swithin's Day, if it should rain, for 40 days it shall remain*'. Looking up at the blue, cloudless sky, there didn't seem to much chance of that. After two weeks of heatwave, the third intense heatwave of the year so far and it was only mid July, the garden seemed to be wilting. The grass which until recently had been quite lush and green, was now brown and crispy underfoot. We were having coffee outside, looking out over the two enormous, beautiful oak trees at the end of the garden, when we noticed a huge black bird sitting high up in the branches of the larger tree and squawking loudly. Too big for a rook or crow, certainly not a jackdaw, I said, *I think it's a raven*'. The Merlin bird app confirmed it. A raven in our oak tree, that was a first.

The day progressed, steadily heating up and we became aware of strange creaks coming from the oak tree. About 15 years before the tree had been struck by lightning, leaving a narrow fissure all down the tree's trunk. This spring the tree had come into leaf, but the highest branches

were almost bare, tall antler shapes against the blue sky, and some of the oak leaves were huge, at least twice the size of the others. There was no doubt the tree was in the latter stages of its life and the recurrent heatwaves were putting it under stress. The creaking and cracking sounds persisted and looking up we could see long, thin splits appearing which widened over the afternoon. We waited for the inevitable, unable to concentrate, listening out for every creak and groan, and then with a huge wrenching, splitting sound, the whole left side of the tree sheared away and fell with a thud on to the grass.

It could have been so much worse. No one was hurt, nothing much was damaged, but the poor tree now looks half the tree it had been, sadly lop sided, three or four of its massive limbs now resting on the ground. We thought about the raven, how strange was that? Probably just a coincidence, but still... In folklore, ravens have much symbolism attached to them. They can be harbingers of death and destruction or bringers of wisdom and transformation, a bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds.



Quoth the Raven, 'Nevermore' cont...

The words “*quoth the raven, Nevermore*” came back to me from a poem by Edgar Allan Poe, published in 1845, the bird representing loss and sorrow, strangely appropriate. Ted Hughes wrote a poem ‘*Ravens*’, exploring themes of life and death, the harshness of nature, survival

and resilience. We take our magnificent oak trees for granted at our peril. Go and stand under your nearest one now and marvel at its size and beauty, but watch out if you hear any unusual creaks!

By Lucy West

Defibrillators - Where's your nearest?

Community Notice - Andrew Hall Defibrillator

Please be aware that the defibrillator at Andrew Hall on Red Lane is **currently out of service** while we wait for a replacement battery, which is on a back order.

We apologise for any inconvenience and will let everyone know as soon as it is back in operation.

If you ever need a defibrillator in an emergency, always call 999 first. The ambulance service will direct you to the nearest available device and provide the access code where required.

Other local defibrillators are available at:

- Foxfield Cottages - In the old phone box on Shipley Road.
- Shipley Football Club - At the football grounds.
- Shipley Primary School - Available during school hours.
- William Penn School - Available during school hours.

There are also defibrillators nearby at:

- Coolham Village Hall
- The Selsey Arms, Coolham
- Dial Post Village Hall

Thank you for your understanding.



Shipley History Society

On Saturday 9th May we enjoyed an extra event to our planned programme. Lucy organised a guided walk beginning at Shipley Windmill where Edward Eustace greeted us most warmly before taking us inside the mill where we were able to see the workings and climb the steps to the upper floors. Edward talked of the history of the mill and his restoration plans. Our sincere thanks go to Edward for his time and willingness to speak about his forthcoming plans.

This was followed by a walk along School Lane and then Boar Lane to the Zero Station where Ian Miles talked about its use during the Second World War. Ian's research

was comprehensive (as is his knowledge) and he had prepared handouts to help us understand the importance and the layout of the Zero Station. There is only a few known sites of other Zero Stations, such as the secrecy surrounding them, so we are most fortunate to have the remains of one in Shipley.

Our annual Summer Social evening for our members was held this year at Green Gates in the garden of Gina and Derek Larcombe. A rainy afternoon soon cleared and the sun shone in true tradition in time for everyone's arrival at 6pm. We all squeezed into the orangery where we settled down for a talk with photographs on a screen by



Shipley History Society cont...

Ian Miles about our old friends and late members Bob and Josie Philips. We were joined by Claire and Sarah, their daughters who were able to add to the evening with their memories. Bob and Josie had lived in the village for many years. They were stalwarts of village life, contributing to Shipley Scouts as well as many other activities. They were true country people with an in-depth knowledge of country

ways. They are sorely missed and this was our tribute to them.

After the talk, we all mingled and chatted in the garden while enjoying the abundant refreshments in the warm sunshine.

Our next event will be in September (see below). Details will be emailed to members nearer the time.

The programme for next year is well under way and will be published soon.

Programme for 2026

Thursday 10th September at 5pm | Alan Barwick - Knepp safari to look at ancient trees and visit the walled garden.

And our new programme to look forward to, so put the dates in diaries:

Thursday 15th October | Alan Barwick - will speak about the Horsham to Steyning branch line. **7.30pm Andrew Hall**

Thursday 26th November AGM | Kevin Newman - Spooky Sussex followed by our traditional Christmas refreshments. **7.30pm Andrew Hall**

Secretary Jean Wright Email: shipley.history.secretary@gmail.com
Our new website is <https://shipleyhistory.wordpress.com/>
By Gina French Larcombe

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Codeword | Answers in the next edition

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Shipley Arts Festival 2026



Get Closer to the Music

After a brief summer pause, the Shipley Arts Festival returns on Saturday 29th August with four concerts that complete this year's season, beginning at the familiar setting of Drew's Barn, Warnham.

For many readers, the Festival will be a familiar name. Yet one of its quiet pleasures continues to surprise both new and returning audiences: the opportunity to hear music without the distance and formality of a traditional concert hall. With performers and listeners sharing the same space, familiar works are experienced with a different sense of closeness, where the communication between musicians becomes as engaging as the music itself.



This year's Festival has already welcomed fantastic audiences, with many concerts playing to capacity, a heartening reflection of the continued enthusiasm for live music shared in these distinctive settings.

The Festival resumes with BMG Stradophonics presenting their celebrated interpretation of The Great American Songbook, before continuing through September and October with a commemorative evening at Durrance Manor in honour of the Festival's late Patron, Gordon Lindsay, the world première of a new work by Mark Copping at Billingshurst Church, and a new collaboration of music, poetry and visual art at the Festival's newest venue, Castle Goring.

To explore the remaining concerts and book tickets, visit www.BMGLive.com.

Andrew Bernardi
Artistic Director, Shipley Arts Festival

All images © Tracey Carr



Shipley Arts Festival 2026 cont...



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2026 concerts

Saturday August 29th | Drew's Barn, Warrnam
BMG Stradophonics presents Swing with Strings!

Sunday September 6th | Durrance Manor, Shipley
Memorial concert for Dr Gordon Lindsay

Sunday September 13th | St Mary's Church, Billingshurst
World Premier from composer Mark Copping

Sunday October 4th | Castle Goring
Stradivarius Piano Trio & Art preview

Sunday October 18th | Drew's Barn, Warrnam
2026 Festival Review by invitation

The front cover photograph shows one of the Shipley White Storks, a part of the White Stork Project based in the parish. They have 42 chicks that have been ringed and ready to fledge. At Wadhurst in Kent there have been 3 chicks ringed and ready to fledge. There was much excitement as reports came out about a successful pairing of white storks in a Guildford industrial park. This was a big step forward but the local bird Facebook groups reported that a white stork had died on the A3 near Guildford. Finishing on a more positive note, the captive breeding programme at the Cotswold Wildlife Park has had another great year. It looks like another 49 birds will be released at Knepp in July. This will help to boost the numbers of the colony. Hopefully the Storks, chicks included will be heading off on their migration after another amazing nesting season.



A highland cow trying to cool down in the June heatwave

In previous articles I made mention of the 1976 summer that delighted some and was a struggle for others. This year the weather presenters and the news channels

are making such a big thing about temperature records being broken and in the background links to global warming which seems to have taken a bit of a back seat in priority as the governments pull away from some of their previous commitments, goals and targets. Nature always finds a way, the highland cow we saw in South Milton Sands in Devon was making the most of a small lake to cool down in the searing heat. This national trust property and site is well worth a visit and the site of a highland cow finding refuge in a lake certainly brought a smile to my face.



Colourful buildings on the Nidelva river in Trondheim June 2026

I visited Norway in June to check up on my brother David who had suffered horrendous injuries after falling from a roof trying to deal with a seagull nest at his home. Positive news, my brother is recovering but struggling with the intensive physiotherapy. He is coming to visit us in August and the goal is to walk to the Countryman unaided to enjoy a delicious Sunday lunch (a mini goal)!

Countryman cont...

I mentioned the incident to a dear friend of mine who is 90 years old and lives in London. Robin is blind but has a very sharp mind and a brilliant memory.

When I mentioned what happened to my brother Robin recited a poem from memory...

*Lord Finchley tried to mend
the Electric Light Himself.*

It struck him dead: And serve him right!

It is the business of the wealthy man

To give employment to the artisan.

By Hilaire Belloc (who lived in Shipley)

Moral of the story for my get someone else to fix your roof next time! I thought I had to share it because of the link to Shipley.

A note of interest about the River Nidelva is that it has 4 hydro-electric power stations along its length and that is so Norwegian, working with nature to create power.

In my last article I mentioned that I was going to visit a Sand Martin colony. Wow, I was not disappointed. My golf club, West Sussex based down near Pulborough, is being quite innovative and the club is located in an area of heathland that supports several different habitats. The club has a dedicated nature group that gets involved in all sorts of activities, and has planted a wildlife meadow adjacent to a reservoir which is a magnet for wildlife. There are Owl boxes, Swift boxes and last year a part of the land was cleared to reveal a sandy bank. As if by magic a colony of Sand Martin found the site and started to nest. It is a beautiful sight and like White Storks, the Sand Martin is



A Sand Martin leaving its nest

a migratory bird that heads south after the nesting season is completed. On the river Chilt that runs through the golf course property there is a real problem with Himalayan Balsam which is classed by the Royal Horticultural Society as a non-native invasive plant. It appears on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 9 list and the Non-native Species Secretariat (NNSS) list of Species of Special Concern, meaning there are restrictions on growing, cultivating, selling and transporting it. If Himalayan Balsam is already growing in your garden, this is not considered an offence, though it is recommended that you control or remove it. The club has organised working parties to try and eradicate it and stop the plants seeding and outcompeting native plants for space, light, moisture and nutrients. Rapid growth early in the season leads to dense, tall stands of Himalayan Balsam that crowd out other plants and reduce species diversity.

Countryman cont...

In a recent visit to Devon we enjoyed some coastal walks. The South West Coastal Path hugs the Devon coastline giving magnificent views and opportunities to see wonderful wildlife. Now Mrs Countryman has a real eye for a bird and as I was held up taking photographs of wonderful seascapes, I was summoned to view a pair of birds. Her exclamation came 'I think it is a flycatcher'. We have had Spotted Flycatchers in the garden in Shipley so seeing the same flying mannerisms it seemed like an obvious link. When I got closer and watch the pair dancing in the air and catching flies and insects, I thought it was a Stonechat. A beautiful bird the Stonechat is a small, robin-sized bird belonging to the Old-World flycatcher family, Muscicapidae. Its scientific name is Saxicola rubicola, which means "stone-dweller". It gets its name from its sharp, loud call that sounds like two pebbles tapping together. Mrs Countryman was right and identified the habit shared with other birds in the flycatcher family.



A Stonechat waiting for insects to catch
Devon June 2026



An acrobatic blue tit feasting on berries
on an Amelanchier tree June 2026

I have mentioned the beautiful and fruitful Amelanchier tree in our garden. When it fruits it attracts lots of birds. My favourite are the bullfinches that appear every year without fail. Blackbirds and thrushes also feed and the greedy pigeons would strip the fruit in a day if they could. This year I spotted a surprise visitor. A cheeky Blue Tit was feasting on the berries. Blue tits are omnivores that primarily eat insects and spiders in the spring and summer, especially favouring caterpillars for their chicks. In autumn and winter, they shift to a diet of seeds, nuts, nectar, tree sap, and berries. They are also frequent visitors to our garden, happily eating sunflower hearts, peanuts, suet pellets, and fat balls. I didn't know that Blue Tits ate berries but it makes sense when you think about it!!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and keep cool.

Your Countryman

News from William Penn School



What a busy summer term we have had at William Penn School. The summer term is always a hectic one and I sometimes wonder how everything gets done but it always does, thanks to a brilliant team effort from everyone involved.

A huge part of our year is our Maypole Summer Fair. This was my first experience of maypole dancing and I was very impressed. It is a great opportunity to celebrate our Year 6 children as they get ready to move on to High School. We had a fantastic afternoon in the sunshine with lots of stalls and activities, a really memorable day and, as always, our PTA were absolutely brilliant.



We are always looking to do new things at the school to enrich the children's time at school and have recently set up a Gardening Club. This was a School Council idea and they wrote to Old Barn Nursery who very kindly gave us a huge discount on all of our grow bags and plants. The children love to water and tend the garden at lunchtime and we have big plans for developing it next year.



As I mentioned in our last update, we have a new library and sensory space coming soon. We wanted to say a huge thank you to the Mrs Sarah Andrews Trust who have made an amazing donation of £5000 towards providing the furniture for our new area. The cheque was presented by Nigel Jupp, who is a trustee. Special thanks to Amanda Jupp for being so supportive of the school this year and for putting our proposal forward.



Have a great summer!, Mr Brookes, Head Teacher, William Penn School

Regenerative Farm Visit

In May we visited Church Farm North to see mob grazing in action with Knepp's herd of Sussex cattle where Pat Toe walked us through the system and talked through the benefits that this type of grazing has on soil health.



Wildflower Meadow Visit

The wildflower meadow visit to Hooklands Farm in June was a huge success. Despite the elements threatening to derail the event, our intrepid explorers managed to avoid the rain and the feedback has been enthusiastic, to say the least.

Ian Miles told us, *"It always feels like a great privilege when people open up their land for us to enjoy and Hooklands Farm is absolutely stunning, wild and beautiful. The hosts (Will and Caroline) are so welcoming, friendly and*

entertaining too. Going at a slightly different time of year this year enabled us to see a different window into nature's cycle which of course changes constantly with the seasons. It was also a bit of an adventure in some ways as the weather was threatening us with a sudden downpour, which thankfully never happened and those of us who carried on regardless were rewarded with an opportunity to commune with friends, neighbours and most importantly, Mother Nature. Thank you so much to all those who organised the event."



Lost Species Reintroduction Visit

Hard on the heels of the wonderful visit to the wildflower meadows at Hooklands Farm earlier in June, Greener Shipley and Friends went on a safari to Knepp to find out more about their Lost Species

Reintroduction work. Matt Phelps, Lead Ecologist and Science Communicator at Knepp, introduced the group to their white storks and beavers. All who took part were delighted and inspired.

News from Greener Shipley cont...



The Energy Saving Home

Do you want to make your home more **energy efficient**?
Do you want to **save money** on your energy bills?

On 20th August we will be joined by **Neil Sephton** from **HDC** where he will help us learn more about the **costs and carbon emissions of homes** in Shipley, and what opportunities exist to improve them using a **free-to-use tool** offered by **HDC**.

Then join us for a tour of a recently retro-fitted house to see the various options in situ and visualise how they might be put to work in your home.

Across the district over **half** of carbon emissions are from buildings, and **over 80%** of these buildings are homes.

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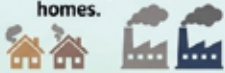
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The talk starts at 6.00 on 20th August on the Knepp Estate.
Spaces are limited so please email greenerhipley@gmail.com to reserve a place (or two) for this event.

 **ENERGY SAVING PLAN BUILDER**

 **GREENER SHIPLEY**

 **Horsham District Council**

Photos from Lost Species Reintroduction Visit



By Nancy Brock

News from Sussex Green Living

Why solar has been our best home investment

When we moved into our Sussex new-build a few years back, we knew the bills would be steep. We were a family of four, the cost-of-living crisis was in full swing, and with two young children, the washing machine was never going to get a rest. Nervous about rising costs, we looked into solar and decided to take the plunge.

We had a 10-panel system fitted with a battery, so we could store excess energy and use it later. We treated it as an investment and were told it would take around eight years to recoup the cost through savings, but solar also adds roughly two per cent to the value of your home, so in that sense the panels pay for themselves.

The system went live in January 2023. We didn't see much difference at first, but by April we were exporting more energy than we were buying, and by summer we were producing more than we could ever use. Now I run the washing and do my batch cooking when the sun is out, which has saved us a fortune. Even in winter there are bright days to get some washing done.

Carrie Cort, the founder and CEO of Sussex Green Living, agrees *"we had solar put on our home in 2017 by a great Littlehampton company, CC Solar. We love making bread while the sun does shine and trickle charge our EV car off the battery at night, making full use of free energy from the sun."*



The savings we've seen have been beyond what we were expecting. In the first year, I spent £441 on electricity, but my energy company paid me £206 for what we sent back to the grid - a net cost of just £235 for the year. Before solar, our annual estimate was around £1,100. That's almost an 80% saving.

In Sussex, we're lucky to live in one of the sunniest corners of the country. A recent study by Tradefix Direct found that Brighton is the fastest place in the UK to recoup the cost of solar - under five and a half years - with homeowners saving close to £1,120 a year.

Reducing our reliance on the grid has taken the stress out of every announcement that prices are rising again. For us, it's been money very well spent.

By Bex Bastable



News from Shipley CE Primary

We celebrate 150 years of Shipley CE Primary School this year, and on Friday 10th July we held a mini-museum in the school hall. It was a lovely way to celebrate 150 years of Shipley CE Primary School and bring the school's history to life for everyone to enjoy. It gave the current pupils, and visitors, a special chance to look back on the school's story and see how much it has changed over time.

We were delighted to welcome past pupils, parents and staff, making this a celebration that connected different generations of our school community. This sense of shared history is such an important part of marking a 150-year milestone, and something the children were really engaged with.



One of the most enjoyed parts of the display was reading the past Headteacher Log entries, which offered a fascinating glimpse into school life in earlier years. The Logs included details of significant periods of history, including when evacuees joined the school during the Second World War. Visitors also particularly enjoyed the photos showing how the school has changed, giving everyone a clear and engaging way to reflect on the journey the school has taken.

By Catherine Brooks,
Head of Shipley School



Sudoku | Answers in the next edition

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Expert

News from Knepp Castle Estate

I'm sure everyone has struggled with the heat in late June and July. Presumably the flora and fauna that we live alongside has struggled too. Following our Ranger Steve's contribution to the last edition, he thought it prudent to carry on with a bit more educational information on how the prolonged hot weather is affecting our trees, which makes grim reading I'm afraid:

*"Sadly, the lovely fresh green Lammas growth that the oaks had put out to compensate for the early frosts and insect attack, has mostly been burned off. At temperatures over 25 degrees centigrade, oak trees stop photosynthesising, therefore ceasing production of sugars and carbohydrates. They effectively go into a state of suspended animation. The way they do this is by closing the microscopic pores, or stomata, on the underside of their leaves that allow for the gaseous exchanges. This helps conserve water, the vital life blood of the tree. Not only does water move the various products of photosynthesis around the entire tree, it also fights disease and defends the tree against certain insect attack. Larvae of the wood boring beetle, *Agilus biguttatus*, live in the living cambium layer of the tree, just below the bark, and are a major contributing factor to oak decline. To combat their attack, the oak can target the area of infection by flooding the area with more water in an attempt to drown the larvae. It uses a similar response to various fungal infections too. Therefore, in drought conditions, the tree just cannot obtain enough water to sustain its own food production or protect itself from attack. An average oak tree requires 100 gallons (378.54 litres) of water a day. That's enough for approximately 5 baths or 63 toilet flushes. As an aside, a garden sprinkler uses the same daily requirements of 3 oak trees, in an HOUR !*

Research has shown that when average day/night temperatures are over 11.5 degrees, oak trees are at significantly more risk of Acute or Chronic Oak Decline. With these events happening more regularly, and for longer prolonged periods, our oaks are facing a sustained environment which is threatening their ability to survive. It is thought that a move towards planting oaks in more upland (cooler) areas is the way to maintain oaks in our landscape."

Hats off to our workforce though who have been making adjustments to their work schedules and practices, as well as their attire, to maintain productivity during the heatwave. With tourism and hospitality businesses, gardens, property and livestock to manage, work carries on in all weathers. I'm told that the chefs working in the restaurant had a particularly tough time during the red heat health alert period at the end of June. If this is the new norm, which we all fear, then changes will need to be incorporated in all areas of the estate to help the teams and visitors cope.

It is with great relief that we have embarked on the restoration of the Brew House, a building in the castle complex that was adapted to a water tower at some point in the last century. The roof and upper floors of the building are made up of gigantic iron water tanks, set into the structure with decaying iron girders which are expanding and damaging the building. We've been watching this slow-motion decay for many years and have now bitten the bullet. Before the tanks can be craned out, we are having to carefully take down the castellations – it's a finely



tuned project that our foreman Matt is overseeing. Photos to follow next time.

Meanwhile Dave and Ben, our joinery team, are also busy building a timber framed garage at Swallows Farmhouse to replace an ugly late 20th century building at this lovely property – two great listed building projects are underway alongside a third – an up-to-the-minute refurb of a cottage with lots of smart renewable energy solutions which we will be showing to visitors at a forthcoming Greener Shipley event.

At the butchery, many congratulations to Ian on the development of Knepp's superb charcuterie range, which he has now scaled with the addition of a new "cave" to meet the wholesale orders that have been placed. Ian and Ned will be expanding the range and creating new



flavours in the months ahead now that the cave is full of maturing produce.

And finally, from Nick at the Wilding Kitchen and Shop at Swallows Farm – *"We've got summer covered at our Wilding Kitchen & Shop with BBQs, events, lunch in our courtyard terrace and a delicious selection of summer essentials in our shop.*

Our Friday night live music and BBQ in the courtyard has proven incredibly popular and are booked up for weeks in advance. The ticket price includes the band, a complimentary drink and a selection of Tex Mex delights from our BBQ chef. These events will run until the second week in September and then we are planning on trailing folk music with autumn and winter food in our restaurant – as always, do subscribe to our email newsletter to be the first to hear.

Our beautifully landscaped courtyard is a great venue all through the week, not just on Friday nights and there are now a limited number of tables you can book online for lunch and supper on a Saturday night. For something quick and light our coffee trailer serves sandwiches, cakes, drinks and ice cream and on the August bank holiday we are planning to launch a pop-up pizza offering for the weekend.

We have a programme of events running throughout the summer. A pre-cinema launch screening of 'Derek vs Derek' featuring devoted revilder Derek Gow and his sceptical farming neighbour Derek Banbury. We're honoured to have both Dereks joining us for this event for a post screening audience discussion and supper.

In September we will be welcoming author and ecologist Lee Schofield, a landscape-scale thinker and a huge influence in the conservation world.

News from Xnepp cont...

His new book, 'National Parks or National Embarrassments?' asks some hard questions about the habitat management in these important areas. Lee is currently working on one of the largest landscape recovery projects in the country, and once again has found himself butting up against a national park system that seems to give little regard to species and habitats. He'll tell us about his new book, which will look at what we might learn from national parks overseas to help us reinvigorate nature in our own.

In October we welcome Monica Feria-Tinta, who tackles fundamental questions such as can a planet have rights? Can it be defended in a court of law? How must we redefine the "right to life"? For nearly two years, Monica advised on a pioneering Charter of Rights for the River Ouse in Sussex – a first for England, that sparked a nationwide "riverlution." In this talk, she explores how moving past a human-centred perspective is radically transforming the legal defence of Britain's natural world.

We also have a host of events for younger visitors with a new series of 'Revild your Child' events for the summer holidays. Led by star ecologist, Ryan



Greaves, the very popular hour and a half event is now being joined by a day long, parent-free session aimed at immersing children in nature and away from their screens.

Our organic market garden is also hosting events over the summer ranging from hand-tied bouquet workshops to Saturday tours aimed at introducing people to organic growing and an opportunity to ask an expert how to grow successfully and sustainably. The produce from the market garden is used extensively in the restaurant and sold in the shop and on a Friday afternoon we stock an extra large range as part of our 'Harvest Fridays' where you can stock up for the weekend with an extra large range including fresh bread, organic milk and a new, larger cheese selection from Neal's Yard."

By Jason Emrich

Sudoku | Answers in the next edition

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Medium

Hummingbird Hawk-moth - the hum of summer

Nature is full of confusing naming conventions, throwing many of us into temple-rubbing identification exasperation. Dark Green Fritillaries are mostly orange. Bearded Tits are actually moustachioed Reedlings. And don't get me started on Slow Worms.

The Hummingbird Hawk-moth, however, satisfyingly does what it says on the tin. The species has developed similar abilities as its avian namesakes, especially the hummingbird. It's an example of convergent evolution, where different species evolve to have the same techniques despite not being related; think the ability to fly in both bats and birds.

Whilst resting, the Hummingbird Hawk-moth looks quite unassuming; mostly grey in colour and blending in with muted surroundings. But in flight is where the glorious hummingbird transformation happens.

The moth's wings beat at an astonishing 80 times per second, so fast that their orange underwing colouration appears to merge with their overall form and they look brighter. Their long, curled



Hummingbird Hawk-moth
© Simon Linington

proboscis, a straw-like mouthpart resembling a swirl of black liquorice, is unfurled and prepped for nectar-slurping, à la hummingbird beak. Large eyes help perfect their proboscis precision. The moth flits between flowers, zipping about in expert hover so quick that its wings emit an audible hum.

They can be found in a variety of habitats, including our gardens and urban green spaces; anywhere they can get that proboscis stuck into nectar-rich plants like Honeysuckle and Buddleia. The caterpillars feed on plants from the bedstraw family, so females will lay their eggs on the flowers of these plants.



Hummingbird Hawk-moth
© Andrew Holloway



Hummingbird Hawkmoth on Lavender
© John Lauper



Hummingbird Hawk-moths are a summer visitor to the UK, migrating from southern Europe and north Africa in variable numbers each year. They can be found any time between May and September and are most commonly spotted around the south of the UK and its coastlines – lucky Sussex.

As a day-flying moth, Hummingbird Hawk-moths give us the opportunity to see them up close in all their glory, and as hummingbirds are restricted to North and South America, for many of us this is the closest we may get to the real deal.

But with these eye-catching insects offering us our own buzzing burst of summer's hum, that gasp-inducing



tangerine flash spied on walks or through windows, those mindful minutes gifted by following their floral fastidiousness - honestly, who needs a hummingbird?

By Kerry Williams,
Communications Officer – Conservation
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Chalk Reef Jester – the Tompot Blenny

When it comes to engaging people with our natural world, the marine environment can be one of the more challenging stories to sell. Our oceans provide thriving biodiverse ecosystems and play host to the fascinating lives of some of the most weird and wonderful creatures and organisms on earth. But, for most of us, we can't see it.

We, as mammals, like things with a face. We like a good story, characters with big personalities. We like cute. Enter the Tompot Blenny.

A regular acquaintance of divers, Tompot Blennies have made a name for themselves as a bit of a comedian; a jester of the reef. With antler-like orange tentacles, big eyes and a curious, feisty attitude, this fish doesn't blend into the background.

Their sassy attitude comes from their territorial nature. As crevice dwelling fish, Tompot Blennies can be found on guard in holes in rocky reefs. Here, the males will spruce up the place, hoiking out mud and silt, and await passing females. If the hidey-hole meets her standards, she will lay her eggs, which the male then fertilises and guards for a month or more, before



News from SWT cont...

the young hatch and float off to live their best fishy lives. Job done.

But the drama ensues with interloping males who try to fertilise the eggs behind the homeowner’s back. The females also keep their options open by laying eggs with several different hosts. With farce a-fin, it’s understandable that the males might like to keep an eye on who’s passing by, hence their penchant for investigating divers.

You might be lucky enough to see the Tompot’s smaller cousin, the Common Blenny (or ‘Shanny’) in rockpools, and may be luckier still to see a Tompot Blenny at the bottom of the shore at low tide, but mostly they inhabit shallow rocky reefs.



Tompot Blenny © Paul Naylor



Tompot Blenny face © Paul Naylor

That towering Sussex chalk we’re used to associating with cliff and grassland extends under the seabed, creating chalk reefs, a nationally scarce habitat. Teeming with biodiversity, the chalk provides the vital bedrock that Tompot Blennies and many other species rely on for shelter and food.

With this bustling ecosystem just out of sight, we need charismatic species like the Tompot Blenny to welcome us into their underwater world; a fish to hook us, so we might just consider being a little more curious ourselves.

By Kerry Williams,
Communications Officer – Conservation
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Wordsearch | Ice cream flavours

- BANANA
- CHOCOLATE
- COCONUT
- COOKIE DOUGH
- COTTON CANDY
- FUDGE
- HOKEY POKEY
- MAPLE WALNUT
- MOOSE TRACKS
- NEOPOLITAN
- PECAN
- REESES
- STRAWBERRY
- TRIPLE TORNADO
- VANILLA

L	L	O	H	M	S	L	R	L	H	A	N
G	C	D	G	A	Y	A	A	O	O	L	A
N	H	A	U	P	E	C	A	N	S	L	T
G	O	N	O	L	K	H	L	V	Y	I	I
C	C	R	D	E	O	S	F	N	N	N	L
O	O	O	E	W	P	E	A	U	O	A	O
C	L	T	I	A	Y	S	C	E	D	V	P
O	A	E	K	L	E	E	C	O	Y	G	O
N	T	L	O	N	K	E	T	A	E	E	E
U	E	P	O	U	O	R	L	W	O	R	N
T	R	I	C	T	H	B	A	N	A	N	A
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	R	Y
C	O	T	T	O	N	C	A	N	D	Y	H
S	M	O	O	S	E	T	R	A	C	K	S

News from Shipley Community Hub

Summer at the Hub...

With August just around the corner and those long summer days without the interruption of school almost here, I've decided to start as I mean to go on – relaxing on a picnic blanket by the seaside, and treating myself to the biggest ice cream I've ever seen!

Talking of ice cream, I'm delighted that the lovely Tony from T&M Ices has agreed to pop along to the Hub on Tuesday 4th August with his ice cream van. What better way to celebrate our summer-themed Hub than with a delicious ice cream? Although, knowing the British weather, it'll probably be raining!

I'm also delighted to announce that Martin and Debs from Lily's Cottage Upcycling will be joining us. They've organised a fun wildlife quiz, so come along with your friends and family, make up a team, and put your knowledge to the test. It's completely free to take part, and there are prizes to be won!

Last month's Hub was incredibly informative, with a fascinating talk from the Chanctonbury Community Land Trust. A huge thank you to Caroline Instance for giving up her time to speak to us.



It was also lovely to see Chris, our Vicar, winning the Afternoon Tea Hamper in the raffle. As Chris and Liz will soon be leaving Shipley following Chris' retirement, we'd like to wish them both every happiness in this exciting new chapter. And Chris... you think you're busy now? Just wait until you retire!

Our Repair Café was as busy as ever in July, and we're pleased to say our new booking-in system is now up and running. It's already helping to free up Matt, Maureen and Rob from the paperwork, meaning they can spend more time doing what they do best. We now have a dedicated check-in and collection point for all the items that need a little TLC. If you're bringing something along for repair, please see Sarah when you arrive to book your item in. If you'd like to use the Repair Café, please do arrive earlier rather than later to give our wonderful volunteers plenty of time to work their magic.

I'm not going to mention the 'C' word in July... but I will say that we're already getting rather excited about some festive plans! We're delighted to be working alongside Tim and Sophie at the George & Dragon, but that's all you're getting for now... you'll just have to watch this space!

News from Shipley Community Hub

We'd also like to thank everyone who continues to support us through donations for repairs, refreshments and raffle tickets. Every penny goes back into keeping the Hub running for our community. Everyone involved gives their time voluntarily, and I truly believe the Hub has become a real asset to village life.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you to our next Community Hub, which takes place on the first Tuesday of every month (except January), from 11.00am until 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Much love to you all, and we look forward to seeing you at the next Hub.

Best wishes,

Sarah and the Community Hub Team xx





Shipley Community Hub

A free monthly drop-in hub run by the community for the community

ALL WELCOME

First Tuesday of the month

Cakes and refreshments, talks/themes, repair café, eco-refills, great company

11AM - 2PM

Andrew Hall, Shipley RH13 8PH

The repair hub volunteers can look at most mechanical or electrical items, clocks/watches and knife and tool sharpening and more!

Repairs are on a first come first served basis until 1.30pm. No need to book. Knife sharpening of treasured and loved knives a speciality! If you have old tools needing love and oil, we can de-rust and sharpen them - they take longer and will need to be left until the next Hub or can be picked up locally when ready. Tools need love too! Repair. Refurbish. Not Replace!!

Can you help bake/donate a cake?

Email: shipleycommunityhub@gmail.com
www.shipleycommunityhub.org

Printing sponsored by FinePRINT Tel: 01402 912117

Our programme for 2026

Tuesday 4th August | Free Trivia Quiz organised by Lillys cottage

Tuesday 1st September | Benefits talk - WSCC (Amanda Jupp)

Tuesday 6th October | A Talk by Jane Warren about the Japanese art of fixing precious items with raised gold leaf

Tuesday 3rd November | The Peking to Paris Motor Challenge. A talk about a gruelling 37-day, 14,500+ km endurance rally for classic and vintage cars.

Tuesday 1st December | Xmas Fayre

The Dan and Morfa Pope Memorial Fund Shipley's Charity for Young People

A Whole World of Ideas Where You Might Get Real Support

"From whence cometh my help?" asks Psalm 121 that begins famously, "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills."

Could you do with a hand-up instead of reaching vainly for a hand-out? A young person's dignity and belief in themselves is often enhanced if the help they receive can be attributed in part to their own efforts and initiative.

This is why the **Dan and Morfa Pope Memorial Fund** (Shipley's Charity for Young People) is appealing for applicants to come forward who might benefit from a financial donation that could benefit their future. The terms of the charity are set out on the page opposite. You are urged to read them if you think you have the credentials that would entitle you to a grant.



A little help goes a long way, as we all know, and the available support for an activity or occupation of your own choice could help meet the challenges of growing your own future that you might not otherwise be able to fund. You might dream of pursuing an acting career, or aim to become a writer, or an expert in first aid or photography, or seek to be a performing musician, a dancer, an athlete, or sportsperson. There are plenty of forums for training opportunities and for skills development that are exciting but not always affordable. Do please come forward if you have the hope or ambition of achieving something that could lead to your personal advancement or help you accomplish some skill to which you might aspire, and which could guide you to a successful career.

It is sometimes assumed that one's future is something that just happens to us, and that we have little or no power over it. But, the best way of predicting the future is to invent it for ourselves! A *'very present help'* could be the answer. There may be others of you whom we could assist. Do get in touch and please note that the offer is also available for active Shipley Scouts and Explorer Scouts.

**Fund now open to
active Shipley Scouts and Explorer Scouts**

THE DAN AND MORFA POPE MEMORIAL FUND

Shipley's charity for young people

The trustees of the fund would like all members of Shipley Parish to be aware of the above fund which was formed to help young people enhance talents they would otherwise have found difficult to develop due to lack of funds.

The terms of the Charity are as follows:

- The young person must be under 25;
- Must live in the ecclesiastical parish of Shipley (which includes Coolham, Brooks Green and Dragons Green);
- Or if not living in the parish, must have previously attended Shipley C of E Primary School or the William Penn Primary School in Coolham;
- **Be an active Shipley Scout or Explorer Scout.**

GRANTS

If you have a child, or are a young person who fits this description, we encourage you to get in touch and apply for a grant.

The fund has limited resources and it may not be possible to fund all applications. However, we promise we will consider them all.

Please contact Nicholas de Zoete at nick@nickdezoete.com or 01403 741460 if you are seeking a grant.

Registered Charity No: 10887795

Quick crossword

1	S	2	T	3	R	4	I	5	D	6	E	7	N	8	T	9	P	10	I	11	N	12	T		
13	W	14	E	15	I	16	O	17	R	18	E	19	I	20	R	21									
22	A	23	E	24	S	25	E	26	X	27	R	28	E	29	G	30	A	31	T	32	A	33			
34	A	35	T	36	I	37	W	38	L	39	E	40	I	41											
42	T	43	A	44	F	45	F	46	E	47	T	48	A	49	A	50	R	51	O	52	N	53			
54	U	55																							
56	C	57	A	58	L	59	I	60	C	61	O	62		63	B	64	E	65	A	66	V	67	E	68	R
69	O	70																							
71	M	72	O	73	O	74	S	75	E	76	I	77	N	78	F	79	A	80	N	81	T	82	S	83	
84	I	85	M	86	A	87	K	88	I	89	A	90	T	91											
92	C	93	H	94	E	95	Z	96	M	97	O	98	I	99	L	100	U	101	N	102	A	103	R	104	
105	A	106	N	107																					
108	L	109	O	110	S	111	T	112																	
113	H	114	I	115	G	116	H	117	B	118	R	119	O	120	W	121									

Cryptic crossword

		1	S	A	2	N	3	D	P	I	4	P	E	5	R	S							
6	I	A		E				E						I									
7	M	I	N	O	R	C	A		S	O	S												
	A	T	O			C				S	S	O										9	
10	G	R	A	F																			
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						12	H		Y		O		L		H								
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21			E		S		N		I	G	S												
23	G	R	E	T	A	G	A	R	B	O													

Codeword

26	D	E	V	2	O	L	V	18	26	2	P	U	M	P	11	22	4	K	19	N					
24	U	26	18	26	1	U	L	23	24	3	5	6	21	2	A	13	H	19	A						
3	B	26	A	10	L	19	A	11	K	12	A	11	22	4	R	19	S								
23	I	26	A	10	U	18	X	9	U	23	I	23	1	K	1	C	21	I	V	E					
24	O	26	B	25	E	1	V	25	I	21	C	21	1	I	21	V	E								
5	U	26	T	26	E	13	R	23	S	1	T	23	1	A	10	N									
7	S	26	W	13	E	26	R	7	12	2	A	13	21	9	7	15	T								
3	T	26	E	10	F	15	S	7	12	2	A	13	21	9	7	15	T								
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19	Q	23	10	3	9	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	
10	U	23	10	3	9	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	3	9	22	18	26	
23	I	26	19	23	22	3	13	23	30	13	1	12													
18	L	26	G	10	26	2	O	18	26	4	21	20	25	26	4	21	20	25	26	4	21	20	25	26	
20	A	26	V	10	26	5	U	26	5	U	26	5	U	26	5	U	26	5	U	26	5	U	26	5	U
1	C	2	O	3	T	4	K	5	W	6	Z	7	S	8	V	9	U	10	N	11	M	12	H	13	R
14	X	15	F	16	G	17	J	18	L	19	Q	20	A	21	D	22	P	23	I	24	B	25	Y	26	E

Sudoku

→
Easy

2	5	4	6	8	3	1	9	7
6	8	7	9	1	5	3	4	2
9	1	3	4	2	7	5	6	8
3	4	5	8	7	1	9	2	6
7	2	6	3	4	9	8	5	1
8	9	1	2	5	6	4	7	3
5	3	8	7	6	4	2	1	9
1	6	2	5	9	8	7	3	4
4	7	9	1	3	2	6	8	5

Xriss Xross

		C		P		J		F		O		F		B											
C	U	L	T	I	V	A	T	E		S	M	I	L	E											
L	I	E				K		R		W		L		N											
U	P	P	E	R		E	N	G	R	A	V	I	N	G											
N				R						U		L	P	A											
G	A	L	L	E	R	I	E	S				D	R	I	L	L									
		O								N		O													
F	E	W	E	R						F	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	S							
R	E		E												O										
E	U	R	O	P	E	A	N	S							M	E	C	C	A						
E		I				O	T		A		A								O	R					
L	A	N	D	S		E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N	S											
Y		G				D																			

→
Extreme

4	7	9	6	8	5	1	3	2
1	6	2	7	3	4	5	9	8
5	3	8	2	1	9	7	6	4
9	1	3	5	6	8	4	2	7
2	5	4	1	9	7	6	8	3
6	8	7	3	4	2	9	1	5
8	9	1	4	7	3	2	5	6
3	4	5	9	2	6	8	7	1
7	2	6	8	5	1	3	4	9

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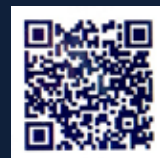
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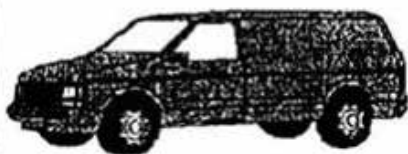
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HAVE YOU GOT THE INSURANCE YOU NEED?

When did you last walk around your house looking in cupboards to check your contents insurance is adequate?

Do you live in a larger, higher-value home, or have a number of expensive items – perhaps jewellery and watches, fine art or collections, or even designer interiors with beautiful curtains and tech. Standard insurance may not be fully protecting you. You may be better protected by an insurance product which enables you to adapt your policy to meet your specific needs – such as agreeing values, increasing cover limits.

WHAT IS UNDERINSURANCE?

To be 'underinsured' means that the amount you're covered for is less than the cost of rebuilding, replacing, or repairing. For example, if you had a fire at your home, and your 'sums insured' is only £30,000, but the actual cost to replace your contents is £100,000 then you're underinsured and the reality is your policy won't pay out beyond £30,000, leaving you with a hefty bill.

DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU OWN?

Try to take account of the true value of everything you own – both buildings and contents. If you're unsure of the difference between the two, imagine your house could be lifted off the ground and tipped upside down. Everything that falls out is contents. The rest should be covered by buildings insurance.

Also don't forget about items such as artwork or jewellery that you might have inherited or purchased a long time ago – their value may have changed significantly.

HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN EVERYTHING IS COVERED?

Not only does Bespoke insurance from NFU Mutual offer many specialist features as standard, but unlike many other insurers who have moved online, the team at NFU Mutual value a real conversation with you to fully understand your needs, enabling them to tailor cover right down to the finest detail.

Contact NFU Mutual Henfield on **01273 025715** to speak to Nick or Tracey or visit nfumutual.co.uk for more information.

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

Take time to walk around your house and use the table below as a guide to the amount of contents you need to be insured for. Remember, you should look at how much items are to replace from new as in the event of a claim you can get new for old cover. Exclusions may apply.

Living room £	
Curtains	
Furniture	
Books and ornaments	
Electrical appliances	
Pictures	
Other	
Kitchen/utility room £	
Electrical appliances	
Kitchenware e.g. pans, cutlery	
Other cupboards	
Dining room £	
Furniture	
Rugs	
Pictures and linen	
Diningware - china, glasses, silverware	
Other	

Bedrooms £	
Clothes - including suits	
Shoes and handbags	
Jewellery	
Bed linen and curtains	
Furniture	
Electrical items	
Other	
Bathroom £	
Bath linen	
Furniture	
Toiletries and make-up	
Other	
Other rooms £	
Office	
Garage	
Outbuildings	
Attic	
Other electrical appliances	
Other	

"At NFU Mutual Henfield we pride ourselves on taking the necessary time to make sure we are providing the right level cover for you to protect your home and contents should the worse happen." – Chets Modi, Agent.



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Shipley Parish Council Directory (as at August 2026)

Cllr Matthew Payne, Chairman

Email: matthew.payne@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Horsham Association of Local Councils Rep, Chairman of the Complaints Committee, West Sussex Association of Local Councils Rep, Shipley 1st Scouts

Cllr Ray Wright, Vice-Chairman

Email: To be confirmed

Cllr Nick Barrett

Email: nick.barrett@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Gill Hood

Email: gill.hood@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Bridget Huggett

Email: bridget.huggett@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Coolham Village Hall representative

Cllr Jason Emrich

Email: jason.emrich@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Horsham District Climate Initiative

Cllr Derek Larcombe

Email: derek.larcombe@shipley-pc.gov.uk

History Society

Cllr Jo Nunn

Email: jo.nunn@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Shipley Church, Shipley Community Hub

Cllr Judy Tuck

Email: judy.tuck@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Climate and Environment matters, Greener Shipley

Cllr Rebecca Smale

Email: To be confirmed

Mr Paul Richards, Clerk

Email: clerk@shipley-pc.gov.uk

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council

www.shipleyparishcouncil.org.uk

West Sussex County Councillor

Mark Baynham Email: mark.baynham@westsussex.gov.uk

Horsham District Councillor

Colette Blackburn Email: Colette.Blackburn@horsham.gov.uk

Alex Jeffery Email: alex.jeffery@horsham.gov.uk

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