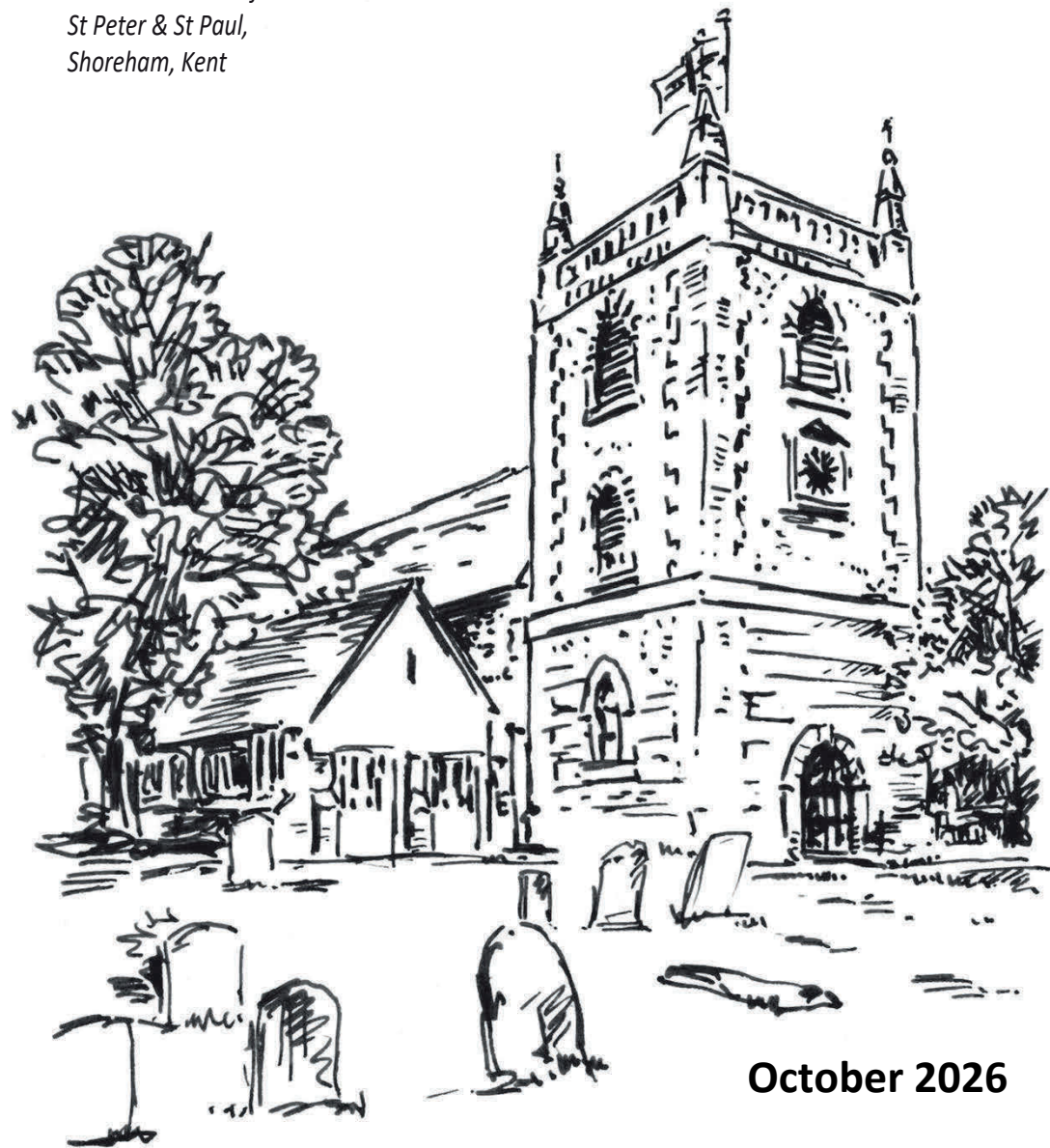


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October 2026



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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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‘Water’

Our lives this summer sometimes seemed to be dominated by the absence of rain. Hours were spent lugging heavy watering cans around our gardens, trying to save annuals and water-hungry shrubs and trees. Despite much welcome rain recently, at the time of writing my lawn looks like it has a horrible disease: isolated patches of green surrounded by bare and brown areas.

This reminds us, as if we needed reminding, that all life needs water to survive. We learn about this in science textbooks, where water is described as a unique solvent in which the chemical reactions essential for life can take place. It is no surprise that when scientists search for life beyond Earth, one of the first things they look for is evidence of water.

Water also has powerful life-giving significance in the Bible. There’s a river in the beautiful Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis at the start of the Bible. At the other end of the Bible, Revelation gives us an awe-inspiring vision of the New Jerusalem, with its ‘river of the water of life’. In both pictures, water sustains life, nourishing the trees and plants and quenching thirst.

But water also has a deeper, spiritual meaning. A much-loved psalm says:

‘As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God’.

Just as our bodies thirst for water, so our souls can thirst for God — for his presence, his love and the fulfilment that only He can give.

Water is also uniquely valuable for washing and cleaning. Imagine trying to clean the kitchen floor, or wash our clothes, without it. Ritual washing was important in the Old Testament, while in the New Testament water becomes closely associated with cleansing from sin — anything we think, say or do that goes against God’s will.

That’s one reason baptism is such an important rite of passage for Christians. If you saw the article in the September edition of the Gazette, you will know that Isla Solly was baptised in the River Darent, down by the footbridge, in August. A wonderful occasion. If you’ve never been Christened or Baptised and you’d like to be, do contact the parish office for a chat with Revd Caz. And don’t worry - It doesn’t have to be in the river!

Bill Lattimer, Lay Minister

<https://www.shorehamchurchkent.org>

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OCTOBER SERVICES AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL

Sunday 4th October - Trinity 18

9:00am Breakfast Church

6:00pm Holy Communion - Taizé

Sunday 11th October - Trinity 19

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October - Trinity 20

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Family Service

Sunday 25th October - Trinity 21

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Holy Communion with Choir

Morning Prayer during term time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9am

CHURCH FLOWER POWER

Throughout the year a small group of volunteers pop floral 'arrangements' into the Church, as and when they have flowers/foilage available. This is done informally and we all do our own thing. We'd love to see more people adding in their own creations as and when they wish. There are no rules!

On five occasions in the year we pull together in a more co-ordinated fashion. These occasions are Mothers' Day, Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christmas.

If anyone would like to join our happy group please do get in touch. You really don't need to have any flower arranging expertise nor do you need to buy anything. Garden and wild flowers/foilage are encouraged and the Church has vases and jars freely available.

Everyone is very welcome!

If you are interested please contact Vanessa: v.hills098@gmail.com

Vanessa Hills

CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP DAY

Join us on Saturday 3rd October, any time between 9am and 1pm, for some light weeding and clearing in our lovely churchyard. Come when you can, bring your own tools if possible, and dress for the weather! Refreshments and pizza afterwards! All welcome to join.

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LOOKING FOR THE BALANCE POINT?

You can find it in the Church Tower on **Tuesday 13th October** between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, when our friendly band of village **bellringers** invites you to a taster session. It's a hobby suitable for all ages, from around 10 upwards, and doesn't require particular strength or musicality. We're very fortunate to have an expert and enthusiastic trainer, which helps ensure that we always have fun!

Do come along and try, and if you'd like a chat beforehand or are interested but can't make that particular date, please contact Amanda on 07986 873121 or Johnny on 07764 674339. It's absolutely free and there may even be the traditional post-practice drink afterwards!

Johnny Aisher

PS The balance point is when the bell is exactly upside down and ready to swing and ding. It might also be when you have just the right amount of spare time in your week to try something new!

SEVENOAKS LOAVES AND FISHES FOODBANK

Families in our area continue to need the support of our local food bank. Please consider whether you could add something for the food bank to your weekly shop. Boxes for donations are at the back of the church. The Foodbank Team are always very pleased to receive these donations and they ask that their sincere thanks are passed back to the generous folk of The Church of St Peter and St Paul.



YOUTH GROUP

We will be trialling a new youth group on Friday 2nd October 6:30-8:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, or have teens who may be interested in coming along, for more info go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1172199678456671>.

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SHOREHAM VILLAGE STORES

Joe Lovett had a butcher's shop in the village of Speldhurst, near Tunbridge Wells, in the 1950s. His expertise in sausage-making has been handed down to the creators of Speldhurst Sausages, now based at a farm a few miles away, and customers at the Stores have been enjoying them for many years. Only the best pork cuts are used, with no artificial colours or flavours. Varieties include Honey & Mustard and Olde English with cracked black pepper. Joe Lovett's original recipe can be found in Original 6's.

They'd obviously go well with mash made from our excellent potatoes, or even with Kettle Krinkle crisps. The Aberdeen Angus Ribeye Steak variety are new in. Meanwhile, we're pleased that the shop has been given a hygiene rating of excellent over the summer.

Raj and Venkat

SHOREHAM WI

Our next WI meeting will be on Tuesday 6 October in the Village Hall, at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. We are looking forward to welcoming our speaker, Janie Ramsey, who will give us her talk on “The Lifestyle of the Windsors”. This talk covers the possessions, properties, world tours, servants, guests and lifestyle of abdicated King Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. Visitors and potential members will be made very welcome – please contact Shoreham@wkfwl.org.uk for more information.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING – ALL PROCEEDS TO HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

The next Community Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 8 October, in the Village Hall, from 10am to 12pm as usual. This will be our annual Charity Coffee Morning and we will be asking for donations, rather than charging for coffee/tea and cake, with all proceeds being donated to the **Hospice in the Weald**. There will also be a raffle (including a special hamper and other great prizes) that will be called at around 11.30am. We will have a bric-a-brac table as well and, if anyone would like to donate any items that could be sold in aid of the Hospice, please bring them with you on the day. We hope many of you will come along to enjoy the friendly atmosphere and help raise funds for this very worthy cause. Last year we were able to donate over £900 to the Hospice in the Weald from this one event, which was fantastic, and gratefully received by them.

Shoreham WI

SHOREHAM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Enjoyed by dukes, archbishops, kings and queens, **Knole Park** has shaped Sevenoaks throughout its history. One of the town’s most renowned writers and historians, **Bob Ogley**, will visit us on **Friday 16 October** to reveal a wealth of stories about the thousand-acre Park – from the Bronze Age through the Civil War to the visit of John, Paul, George and Ringo. It’s the oldest and largest deer park in Kent, created as such in the 14th century.

The meeting starts at **8pm in the Village Hall**, with refreshments from 7.30. Non-members are welcome for just £3. Don’t forget there’s always plenty to see on our website. In the News section, under the Home tab, read about documents we’ve recently acquired about Samuel Palmer’s Shoreham properties. And in the Buildings section, there’s a new history of the Village Stores.

<https://shorehamkenthistory.weebly.com>

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SHOREHAM OVER 60's CLUB

The Shoreham Over 60's Club usually meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month. The October Meeting will be on the 28th October. **(Please note that the November Meeting is a week early on 18th November).**

Meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 2.00pm and include Refreshments of Tea, Coffee, homemade and shop bought cakes, plus a mixture of friendly chat and gossip. There are speakers who give talks, often with a presentation of photos on the screen. Outside visits are normally by car share.

October Meeting. The Meeting is on **Wednesday 28th October** is at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Nigel Britten and his subject will be the history of the Shoreham Society.

Entry Fees. Day visitors are always very welcome. The Entry Fee for Members and Visitors is £3.00.

Important Notice regarding Cessation of the Club

The Shoreham Over 60's Club is a long established organisation. I believe it was in existence before the Second World War, and possibly before the First World War. It has operated continually throughout that time except for breaks for the War(s) and COVID.

Due to long serving Members of the Committee and helpers retiring, I regret to report that the Club will have to close on 31st December 2026. It will, sadly, cease its activities and become dormant.

The remaining Members of the Committee hope that there are people in and around Shoreham who will be willing to come and join them and resurrect this respected Shoreham Club and take it forward into the future.

Terry Clark, Email: terryshoreham@gmail.com

TEMENOS chamber choir

For All the Saints. Saturday 31 October, 7.30 in St Luke's Church, Eardley Road. For a different take on Halloween!

A fascinating mixture of composers contribute to this music in praise of the saints on the Eve of All Hallows. Palestrina's majestic polyphony, Duruflé's lush harmonies, the more cerebral approach of Britten, the traditional Anglican choral style of SS Wesley plus works by Villetto, Gowers, Wood and Boyle. Distinguished organist Andrew Lumsden will accompany some as well as performing two solo items.

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Kate Britten



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Bring some apples and bottles and we'll press them at £2.50 a bottle.

About the Show

Auto Amor have invited artists to respond to orchards, fields, fruit, cultivation and the traditions that mark the turning of the seasons. Held in the historic village of Shoreham, surrounded by the countryside that inspired generations of artists, the exhibition takes place at The Quadrangle, a site closely connected to Kent's rich landscape tradition.

Shoreham was home to the visionary painter Samuel Palmer, whose celebrated work *The Magic Apple Tree* transformed the local countryside into a place of wonder, abundance and imagination. We welcomed submissions from artists working on Auto Amor boards across painting, drawing, photography, printmaking & mixed media. From orchard trees heavy with fruit to intimate still life, cultivated fields to symbolic interpretations of abundance, *Harvest* explores our relationship with the land and the rewards of patience, labour and care. The harvest season has long inspired artists, representing both physical nourishment and deeper ideas of time, memory and renewal. Themes we are particularly interested in work exploring: Orchards and fruit growing, Landscape and rural environments, Still life traditions Agriculture and cultivation, Food and nourishment, Seasonal change, Labour and gathering, Memory and rural heritage, Abundance and celebration, Relationships between people and the land.

Selected works will be exhibited at The Quadrangle in Shoreham, Kent. Alongside the exhibition, The Quadrangle will host a community Apple Pressing Weekend, inviting exhibiting artists and visitors to bring their own apples for pressing and celebration.

Situated within the landscape that inspired Samuel Palmer and the Shoreham Ancients, *Harvest* continues a long tradition of artists responding to the richness of Kent.

Web: www.autoamor.co.uk www.thequadrangle.co

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**SHOREHAM SHINE WITH A
DAFFODIL AND TEA BREAK
DIFFERENCE**

Saturday 10th October

Come to the Village Hall anytime between 9am and 4pm and lend a hand for as long as you can. If you've not been

before don't be shy give it a try, you will be warmly welcomed.

This month it will be Shoreham Shine with a difference.

Refreshments: Fay and Chris at **The Crown** have very kindly offered to host and fund our refreshment pit-stop. You will be welcomed anytime throughout the day when you fancy a cuppa and a piece of cake. We will be running a token system for this.

Activities: Excitingly, we have been given the go ahead, and a grant, to beautify our village with daffodils. That will cheer us up in the dreary months! To achieve this we need plenty of people armed with trowels/bulb planters/spades/forks to help plant drifts of daffodils on Parish Council land. It will look amazing but we can't do it without you and your tools!

If you have a passion to brighten up the village but don't fancy planting daffodils do please still come along. There will be plenty of jobs to choose from; something for everyone. Tools and gloves will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you. Together we can make a big and beautiful difference.

Vannessa Hills on behalf of the Shoreham Society

The Shoreham Society is arranging to show the film, '**The People's Emergency Briefing**', a short documentary designed to provide the public with clear, accessible information about the climate change emergency. It explains what is happening and why, and sets out practical actions that people, communities and decision-makers can take in response. The date is **Sunday November 8th** and the film (in the village hall) will start at 6pm. More details in next month's gazette.

Sheila Birkin

NEWS FROM SHOREHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL

What a fantastic start to the new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back through the school gates, looking refreshed, smart and somehow, even more grown up!

The children have arrived ready to learn, excited for all the exciting opportunities that the year ahead will bring. There is a real buzz around school, with both children and staff full of energy and enthusiasm. It has been particularly lovely to see so many

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children earning stickers from me at the end of the day for their fantastic behaviour, kindness, effort and attitude.

Most importantly, there is a wonderful sense of calm, safety and happiness throughout the school, creating exactly the kind of environment where children can feel confident, settled and ready to learn. Exactly what our vision is:

"At Shoreham Village School, we are a nurturing and inclusive family community where every child is encouraged to thrive. We inspire our children to be resilient, ambitious, and curious learners, ready to embrace the opportunities of an ever-changing world. Through positive relationships, powerful partnerships, and a commitment to embracing individuality, we create an environment where children are motivated to take risks, aim high, and become kind, confident individuals. Together, we aspire to be a beacon for all small schools."

It really does feel like we have started the year as one happy, enthusiastic school community, and we are incredibly excited about everything that lies ahead!

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us bring this vision to life. Together, we can make this year a truly inspiring one for every pupil.

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

Nikki Sheraton, Head Teacher

SHOREHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL 11-12 SEPTEMBER

Our beautiful Church of St Peter and St Paul once again provided the perfect candlelit setting for two delightful evenings of music and song. On both evenings the classical concert performance, by countertenor Patrick Craig and harpist Frances Kelly, and by the talented Elgar Ensemble, was followed by companionable jazz and tasty refreshments, enjoyed by appreciative audiences. Shoreham Music Festival has a long tradition of combining classical concerts and entertainment, and we hope to offer this to the Shoreham community for many years to come.

Jill Webster

CITIZENS ADVICE

The government has made it known that there are many pensioners living on the basic State Pension who are not aware that they may be entitled to Pension Credit as a top-up. If you have very little extra income coming in you can apply by ringing 0800 99 1234, or filling in a form online on gov.uk. For more information on this, or any other issues you may have, you can ring our Adviceline, 0208 278 7810 (be prepared to wait as it is very busy) or go to <https://citizensadvicenwk.org.uk/get-advice-support/>.

Kate Britten



REDWINGS ON THE WING

Throughout autumn something special is happening in our night skies. Huge numbers of redwing are migrating from Northern European forests, which empty of most bird species before winter strikes. Coming from Scandinavia and Russia, they migrate into the UK, Ireland and western France. Bird books describe the redwing call as *seeih* and once you have learned it, you may hear a redwing call overhead every few minutes, wherever you are in the UK, as they pass over in a wave of birds. There are a few pairs (about 80) of redwing breeding in Scotland but really, they are a winter visitor to our shores.

Redwings are a small thrush, of similar size to our song thrush but with darker brown plumage and the characteristic flash of colour from the red feathers on their underwings as they fly. Look out for them feeding in the churchyard, you may be seeing birds fuelling up on migration or winter visitors who will stay for a few months. Redwings feed on berries, fallen fruit and will find soil invertebrates in short grass, pulling up worms or digging out leather jackets. They can be seen in flocks, with other thrushes such as fieldfare, mistle thrush and song thrush, feasting on yew berries and making a real mess! Winter thrushes descending on churchyard yews is one of the sights that chart the changing seasons.

You can help redwing and other thrushes by providing berry bearing shrubs and trees and thinking of your hedges as larders for weary travellers. Leave hedges untrimmed until February or early March so that birds may shelter within them and feed on hedge fruits such as hawthorn berries. Churchyards are usually free of pesticides which allows soil invertebrates to thrive, providing lots of nutritious meals. Yew trees provide both



food and shelter and also give us the opportunity to really look at these lovely birds and think about the long journey they have made to reach us.

Prue Dakin,
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Image copyright The Woodland Trust

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME – SPONSOR REQUESTED



The Gazette has been contacted by a Ukrainian family currently in the USA but wishing to relocate to the UK because of the uncertainty of American humanitarian immigration programmes. They are a mother, father and six-year old daughter (left), looking for a sponsor under the **Homes for Ukraine Scheme who would be willing to provide suitable accommodation for the family of three for a minimum of six months**, in accordance with the requirements of the scheme. They are not seeking financial support, just the chance to enter the UK through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, so they can then find work and somewhere to rent and establish themselves and their daughter. If you are interested in finding out more, without commitment at this stage, I will forward you the correspondence. Initial contact can be channelled through the Gazette if wished.

Anna Fischel, shorehamgazette@gmail.com

SHOREHAM GAZETTE

Do take a look at our adverts for local services, opportunities and venues. Some of them are updated every month.

Donations to the Gazette are welcome to Ken Fowler in person or by bank transfer to SHOREHAM PCC Sort code 090155 A/C No 00193703. Please reference your name and the Gazette.

Copy for November Gazette by **18th October** to shorehamgazette@gmail.com. Word attachment in **Calibri 10** and single spacing, please; images as **jpgs**.

The Gazette no longer accepts flyers as loose inserts but, with advance notice to the Editor, you can put a 'poster', sent as a jpg, in the body of the Gazette. How big it goes depends on the space available.

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SHOREHAM VILLAGE DIARY
FOR OCTOBER 2026

Friday 2	Youth Group School Pavilion 6.30pm
Saturday 3	Churchyard Tidy-up Churchyard 9am-1pm
Tuesday 6	WI talk by Janie Ramsey Village Hall 7.30pm "The Lifestyle of the Windsors"
Thursday 8	WI Community Coffee Village Hall 10am in aid of Hospice in the Weald
Saturday 10	Make Shoreham Shine Village Hall 9am-4pm
Sat 10, Sun 11	Harvest Exhibition, apple pressing The Quadrangle 11am-6pm



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Tuesday 13	Bellringing Taster Session	Church Tower	6.30-8.30pm
Friday 16	Historical Society talk Bob Ogley on Knole Park	Village Hall	8pm
Wednesday 28	Over 60s talk by Nigel Britten "The history of the Shoreham Society"	Village Hall	2.00pm
Saturday 31	TEMENOS chamber choir <i>For All the Saints</i>	St Luke's Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks	7.30pm



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