

Virtual AGM on June 12



THIS is the scene at a normal AGM and the 2019 Minutes are on page 5. Due to the Virus, we moved the date on a bit but it's made no difference. Social distancing still means it has to be done largely by post. HOWEVER with this Journal is a proposal for the future of the Society.

This was planned before the arrival of the coronavirus, due to the need to revitalise the

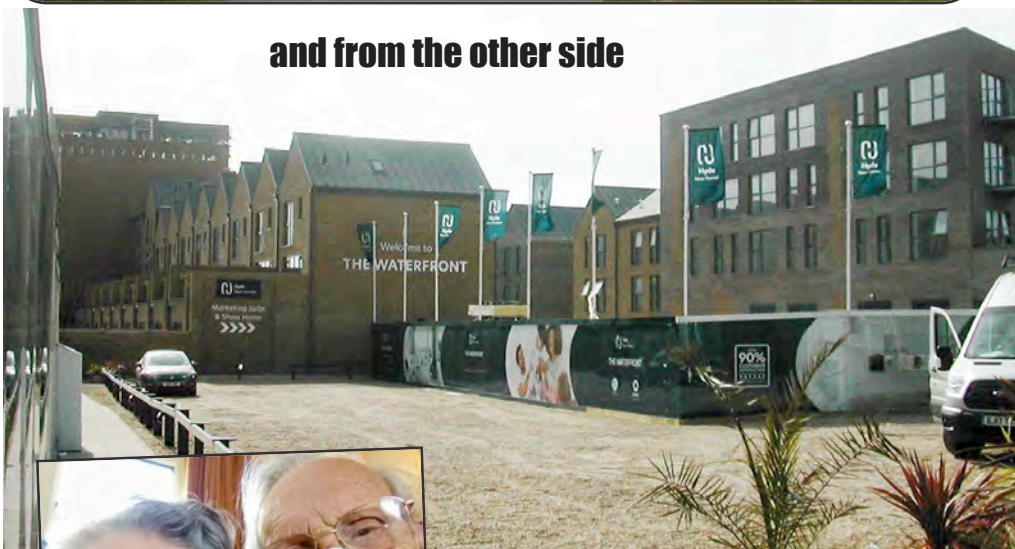
group. The details are on page 3.

REVITALISATION ISSUE

So this is an important time for the Society in that **changes are afoot**. Please read the articles about the future in this Journal, and perhaps think seriously about getting more involved. If you don't, it will not be the Virus that kills the Society, but apathy.



Lookin' a little like like Littlehampton – the riverside walk of Shoreham's The Waterfront Development



and from the other side



and WHAT (SOME) MEMBERS ARE DOING
DURING LOCKDOWN: wearing masks.

(Can yer tell who it is yet? Ans. p.20)

"Your flour or your life!"

(At least they're not collecting toilet rolls – ed.)



Journal No 103 - Summer 2020

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On this occasion, due to lockdown and the postal voting, we have **posted** copies to everyone rather than have them delivered by hand or electronically. But thanks to all our volunteer distributors – we will still need you!

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Shoreham Society is an Amenity Society, formed in 1984 and originally registered with The Civic Trust. A **registered Charity, no. 299391**. The Society is an independent voice for the residents of the town on matters concerning town planning, conservation, development and its environs. It is non-political, free of all commercial interests and works for the conservation of Shoreham's historic architecture and the enhancement of the town's environment by encouraging an enlightened approach to planning.

Rejuvenate: Finding the Silver Linings

EIGHT weeks into lockdown (at the time of writing) and it's time for reflection. For the time being the Shoreham Society is on hold, committee meetings stalled for a time, talks have been cancelled and the rest of the world seems to be on hold as well.

But new shoots, like Spring, are emerging. Many of us have been forced to embrace Facebook and new technology, reluctantly but out of necessity to be able to communicate whilst in isolation.

With that in mind we held committee meetings via Zoom in April and May and have tried to work out what we should do in what is termed 'the new normal' given that many of the current committee are either 'shielding' or remaining in isolation.

In this edition of the Journal various committee members talk over what the Shoreham Society is for, and how it can serve Shoreham in the future... being, in truth 'Our Town, Your Voice'.

The Shoreham Society has three main objectives according to the Constitution created in 1984:

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit (i.e. Shoreham-by-Sea, SbS).
2. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history & architecture (in SbS)
3. To secure the preservation, protection development and improvement of features of historic or public interest (in SbS).

Please Note – OPINIONS expressed in this Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Shoreham Society

In order to meet those objectives, we scrutinise planning applications, run a monthly series of talks – which also acts a membership social bond – and involve ourselves in various campaigns such as planting street trees, the reopening of the station subway for all to use, take part in national events such as Heritage Open Days and provide a forum for Shoreham residents to air their concerns.

But the objectives do not go away in lockdown! And when we emerge from our homes the issues will still be there but may have significantly changed. Reduced car movement has reduced pollution, nature has reasserted itself and we have seen what we have lost when we have not had the time to reflect on our surroundings. Our world has taken a break and started to rejuvenate itself.

This is the time for the Shoreham Society to do likewise. The majority of the current committee has been leading the Society for many years and it is time for others to take the Society forward and reshape it.

We are fortunate to have three new members willing to stand for the Executive Committee and that's a start. Over the next few months we will be planning how we can be more relevant to a wider section of the Shoreham-by-Sea community. Watch this space, read the other comments and **if you would like to get more involved** contact the Chairman or Vice-Chair via

info@shorehamsociety.com

Written by Jenny Towler

100+ Club Winners

Autumn

Mr J.D.Clark £50

Mrs M Mercer £25

Winter

Mary Tilling £50

Mr. K. Wilcox £25

Spring

Mrs. J. Silverson £50

Mrs. D. Gavin £25

Chairman's Report for the 2020 AGM

SINCE May 2019 the Shoreham Society has had a very successful and high-profile year, working with resident groups, St. Mary de Haura Church, Shoreham Harbour, Heritage Open Days and local politicians of all parties.

● **June** – Held a stall at the Farmer's market promoting the work of the Shoreham Society.

● **September** – Took part in the national Heritage Open Days festival by working with St Mary de Haura Church and presenting an exhibition of the history of Shoreham's Open Spaces.

We also relaunched Shoreham-by-Tree under the heading of Adur Arbor providing support and information for residents across Adur to plant street trees and help Adur become greener and ease pollution levels.

● **December** – The short-notice election provided an opportunity for a resoundingly successful public engagement activity by the Shoreham Society and FAST (Future Adur Schools Team) along with help from members of Extinction Rebellion, in putting on an election hustling at the Ropetackle, and live-streamed it to the Ropetackle foyer and the Crown & Anchor, enabling over 1,000 people to take part in the event.

The Christmas meal held at St Peter's Church Hall was attended by 24 people and a good meal and time was had by all, who agreed that we should do it again for 2020.

We continue to work with AREA (Adur Residents Environmental Action) in trying to address pollution issues in Shoreham. Our own Living Streets group lead by architect Bea Huezo looks at how we can improve our streets and built environment to the benefit of all users across the Shoreham Community

The 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of The Shoreham Society will take place on
Friday 12th June at 7.30pm

nominally at **59 Connaught Avenue**, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WL. Due to the current coronavirus situation nobody can attend but comments by post, phone or e-mail are accepted. As we don't usually get any nominations for Committee posts, under the circumstances item 4 will be a proposed continuation of the existing Committee for the time being.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM (see below) and matters arising.
2. Chairman's Report – Gerard Rosenberg, on the left.
3. Other Reports including Treasurer's Report* and appointment of an independent examiner.
4. Election* of Officers and Committee.
5. Any Other Business.

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting are below.

*If you are a Member you get the Treasurer's Report and a voting slip with this Journal.

from the disabled to pram-pushing young families and cyclists to name but few. The group has held two meetings and is currently waiting for a West Sussex C.C. report on parking in Shoreham, which has been delayed. West Sussex County Councillor Kevin Boram is part of the group so our views are going directly the people who make decisions.

The Website

remains an important, popular and informative part of what the Shoreham Society offers the community. Thanks to Ray Chandler, our webmaster who regularly updates it and sends out e-mails & tweets to notify members of news and events.

Our Membership

is gradually rising; the current count, as of April is 496 members. Many people have made additional donations that allow the Society to make a difference and it demonstrates that we are doing something right. Thanks to Phil Hamerton who keeps this running smoothly. Increasingly members are now joining online, something that we introduced in 2018.

Town Planning Sub-Committee

Membership of this group is dwindling and although we have been consulted by devel-

MINUTES of last year's AGM of 17th May 2019

● Due to the indisposition of the Chairman, Jenny Towler announced the arrangements.

● Apologies: Gerard Rosenberg, Gerry Thompson, Chris Harris, David Jezeph, Janet Pennington, Margaret Hamerton, Ray Chandler, Barb O'Kelly.

● Minutes of 2018 accepted.

● Chairman's report - was given by Jenny.

● Campaign, Subway, we can go through station but one member of staff objects.

● Treasurers Report, Proposed accepted by David Hall, seconded Michael Anderson-Upcott. Independent Examiner: Linda Hardy, proposed David Hall, seconded Adrian Towler.

● Committee re-elected, proposed Michael Anderson-Upcott, seconded David Hall.

Discussion re. Cecil Norris House redevelopment, lighting etc.

● Closed 8.05pm

opers and attended public consultation meetings where we have put forward the Society's views and recommendations, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up the scrutiny.

Development in Shoreham is a constant at the moment with the approval of the Free Wharf 550 housing units, the rebuilding of The Mannings in Ham Road/Surrey Street, Cecil Norris House, Hyde New Homes plans for the old Civic Centre site, the revised Kingston Wharf development going to planning in the very near future and other harbour sites being sold. Not to mention the approval for the New Monks Farm development and IKEA by Brighton & Hove Albion.

We need more people with expertise to join the Planning Sub-Committee to look at planning applications and make submissions to developers and the Local Authority. The Shoreham Society has never been about preservation for preservation's sake but about conserving and promoting the built environment keeping the essential character of Shoreham-by-Sea making it the special place we know and love.

Level Crossing Subway

Please see the report on page 17.

Treasurer's Report

Our finances are looking very well at the moment, thanks to members who have made generous donations with their subscriptions, a number of speakers not charging for their talks and the profit from the Xmas meal.

We received £250 from Shoreham Port to help with Heritage Open Days and Adur

Arbor expenses. The General Election hustings expenses were met by donations on the night and we were able to donate the balance of £103.82 to Turning Tides, the local homeless charity, formerly called Worthing Churches Homeless Project.

Linda Hardy who has previously examined the Shoreham Society accounts has moved out of the area. Under the current Coronavirus conditions these accounts have not been examined.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Anji Pawlicki is proposed.

Election of Officers & Committee

Heather Duffield and Gerry Thompson are standing down from the committee and we thank them for all the work they have done for the Society over the years, particularly for Gerry's work on the Town Planning Sub Committee and Heather for her staunch support for the NHS provision and community beds and Southlands Hospital.

The following have agreed to stand again

Chairman – Gerard Rosenberg

Vice-Chairman – Jenny Towler

Membership Secretary – Phil Hamerton

Webmaster – Ray Chandler

Treasurer – Jenny Towler

Journal editor – Adrian Towler

Town Development Sub-Committee –

Beatriz Huezo & David Jezeph

Committee members – Tony Hodgeson*, Jason

Sutherland-Rowe*, Mary Tilling, Rhiannon

Winter* (Vacancy for a Secretary) *new.

FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY

Here are two proposals – but are they any good?

A Possible Press Release

Ray Chandler writes...

THE influential 500-strong Shoreham Society is inviting local residents to get involved and revitalise the organisation – or risk seeing it disappear.

Chairman Gerard Rosenberg said: "The society has an excellent record of achievement, a wide range of key contacts and a strong voice for influencing decisions, so it offers a great opportunity for local residents to have a positive impact on the future of their town."

YOUNGER

"But the existing committee needs replacing by younger residents with a passion for the town who can shape and direct the organisation their way for future challenges and opportunities."

He said he was confident that residents would seize the opportunity to take over and reinvigorate the society, but he warned that if no new blood comes forward to take up the reins, the committee will make plans for winding up the 36-year-old organisation.

INFLUENCE

Formed in 1984, the society is a registered charity with no political ties or commercial interests. It has influenced a number of important developments in the town, working with planners, developers and architects to achieve significant improvements to many proposals.

It also organises events and makes representations on a wide variety of local matters including environmental issues and public amenities. Its website attracts hundreds of viewers every week.

CLOSE DOWN

"We hope interested local residents with ideas about the future of the town will take the opportunity to get involved and move the society forward," said Mr Rosenberg, "but if there is no longer sufficient interest in this among the local population, we will let it draw to a close." (Winding-up details for the Society are detailed in the Constitution – ed.)

Do We Stay The Same, Change or Disband?

Phil Hamerton writes...

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA is still a beautiful town, despite all the new, inevitable, developments. It is a very popular place to live, and the demand for property probably exceeds supply.

However, there is a need for people to become motivated to 'do something' to ameliorate the situation regarding the penchant the Adur District Council has for agreeing to the type of tower blocks such as the one currently under construction on the old Aquarena site on Worthing seafront, which are anathema to the town.

PLANNING DECISIONS

The Shoreham Society feels very strongly – and always has done, since its inception in 1984 – that the Planning Committee should be doing more to discourage the bland and overpowering developments that are continually being proposed, and is an organisation that finds itself still uniquely placed to have an influence on such decisions.

It is also the responsibility of all residents to take a part in such influencing of local government. It is their democratic right to get involved, both through voting at Local & General Elections, and through individual or collective effort to make those in power recognise that they are the town, not just the councillors.

CRITICISING

It is no good hiding on social media, going on about what is right or wrong about any situation, then criticizing what others are doing about it – although it should be accepted that this is another way that we communicate now. And yes, the Shoreham Society should be responding constructively

Wet Lettuce "I have... a dream"



to comments made in that forum, by encouraging those individuals who quite often have valid points to come and join this organisation and give some positive support to our cause, even if that is by pointing out our weaknesses and giving solutions.

The Shoreham Society is a good 'brand'. It exists alongside other, newer, groups such as AREA, but once it's gone, it's gone. If it has to 'fold up' there will be no-one to fill the void. This is just the wrong time to give up.

APPROACH AGAIN

This is the time to approach again those individuals who have joined indicating that they wish to have involvement. Alongside this, the Society needs to communicate strongly with its membership, pointing out especially that without them supporting the Society, so that we can collectively lobby the Council, there will be nothing.

We have done a tremendous job over the last 35 years by influencing planning and recognising and rewarding outstanding examples of how the Built Environment has been conserved by sympathetic restorations, improvements and developments.

SURVEY

We can do this in at least two ways, one of them being a survey of members, in lieu of the abandoned AGM. Or we could leaflet selected areas. In both cases asking specific questions and with several free text boxes, for comments.

So how would **you** answer some of these, if asked?

* First, there is a need to obtain demographics – asking for more detail than that provided on the Application Form or contained in our records, to include occupation, skills and so on. Then...

* Why are you living in Shoreham-by-Sea' born here, decided to stay - why?
• moved here to settle down - why?
• planning to move away - why, where to?
• cannot afford to move

* What should the Shoreham Society focus on / what should be its role?
• continue to recognise and reward excellence in 'conserving the built environment'
• to influence local planning

• to lobby WSCC to make living in SbS safer, e.g. traffic, policy etc.

* What is the Shoreham Society good at doing?

• 'What is it not so good at doing?'

* We need members to become involved in any way they can - could that be YOU? - e.g.

- publicity, including leafleting
- delivering our publications
- taking part as Committee members to influence Society policy and direction
- becoming an Officer of the Committee
- if an architect or interested in architecture and town planning, to sit on the important Planning sub-Committee to discuss / analyse planning applications
- co-ordinate the organisation of regular or one-off events
- be the editor of our publications or assist in their creation. So, *What do you think?*

PRINCE CHARLES

I would like to emphasise above all else that the views ... are my own personal views. I do not expect everyone to agree with my opinions. But, if some people feel they are in sympathy with them, then obviously I am delighted. My chief object has been to try and create discussion about the design of the built environment; to rekindle an alert awareness of our surroundings; inspire a desire to observe; and, most importantly, challenge the fashionable theories of a professional establishment which has made the layman feel he has no legitimate opinions.

Everywhere I go, I get a very strong impression that most people know the sort of buildings they like. They are buildings that have grown out of our architectural tradition and that are in harmony with nature. These were the qualities that made our towns and cities such beautiful and civilised places in the past and, with God's help and inspiration, they can do so again.

From A VISION OF BRITAIN, 1989

What's the Use

of Shoreham Society...REMINDING OURSELVES FROM THE

ARCHIVE REPRINTED FROM OUR SPRING 2011 JOURNAL

written by Tony Vinicombe (still relevant!)

“**W**HAT is the Shoreham Society for?” someone asked during our Ropetackle public meeting (*this was on 15th October 2010 – ed.*). He then asserted that the Shoreham Society was interested only in old buildings and that the Society ought to involve itself in the earliest stages of developments, in order to avoid conflict later, when the developer and architect have invested more time and money.

The speaker was the architect of the recently rejected redevelopment plan for St Mary's Church Hall, so his viewpoint clearly was affected by his experience of our opposition to his plans (*in fact Howard Carter, who later joined The Shoreham Society and even gave us a talk – ed.*). Councillor Liza McKinney rose to defend the Society by pointing out that we had on many occasions done exactly what the speaker had suggested, citing examples to support her claim.

It could have been added that the St. Mary's Hall proposal was another example. The developer and the architect had actually invited three architect representatives of the Society to meet them at St Mary's Hall site in the early stages, but all the suggestions made by our representatives at that time were ignored in the fully developed plan.

Our Town Planning Sub-Committee also met them shortly after Adur Council's

Planning Committee had rejected their planning application. Our discussions were amicable but without agreement. They rejected every point we made about the proposed building's height, its mass and its appropriateness in that location.

If public involvement in the early stages of a development is not a two-way process, we might legitimately ask our own question: “What is consultation for?” And are developers only interested in cramming the greatest number of 'dwellings' into their buildings?

However, to answer the question “What is the Shoreham Society for?” a look at the Society's constitution will explain – and it will show that we are not 'only' interested in old buildings. The list of the Society's purposes is set out in item 2 of the Constitution (*it was “printed below” but I have omitted it here. However see page 3 – ed.*).

It is understandable if the Society is seen as particularly concerned about old buildings. It has been the historic character of Shoreham that the Society and its founder members have necessarily had to defend against casual demolition and insensitive proposals for several decades.

We cannot believe that someone

continued on page 12

Current Developments in Shoreham-by-Sea

Things are pretty quiet at the moment, but here's our summary of what we think is going on. If there are any gaps or inaccuracies, please tell us; contact details p3. Apologies if we keep banging on about car parks, but cars are an important issue and will not be going away in the future.

THE WATERFRONT

(North Ropetackle)
Flats and riverside houses coming on apace, see photos page 2.

LAND UNDER FLYOVER

looks like it may be being prepared for development? But actually, probably re-planted with grass seed. See Letter p.13; photos p.19.

CECIL NORRIS

HOUSE rebuild,
see Endpiece p.19.

HAM ROAD / CAXTON HOUSE

new flats being built in a matching style to the adjoining conversion.

BURRCROFT(E) DEMOLISHED

Site would make a temporary car park for



shoppers, or even workers who have been advised not to use public transport during the virus crisis? It could be run by a local charity on a shared-profit basis? Is this initiative likely to happen? What do you think!



THE MANNINGS

This rather large housing development is, we are told, due for demolition and replacement. Not sure when.

BOXPARK

have planning permission to get cracking and start building a new cafe here sometime soon (with toilets).

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

concerned that new flats to be built next door (on the Civic Centre site) will complain about live band noise. And get events banned or noise restrictions imposed. But who was here first? An on-line petition was mounted.

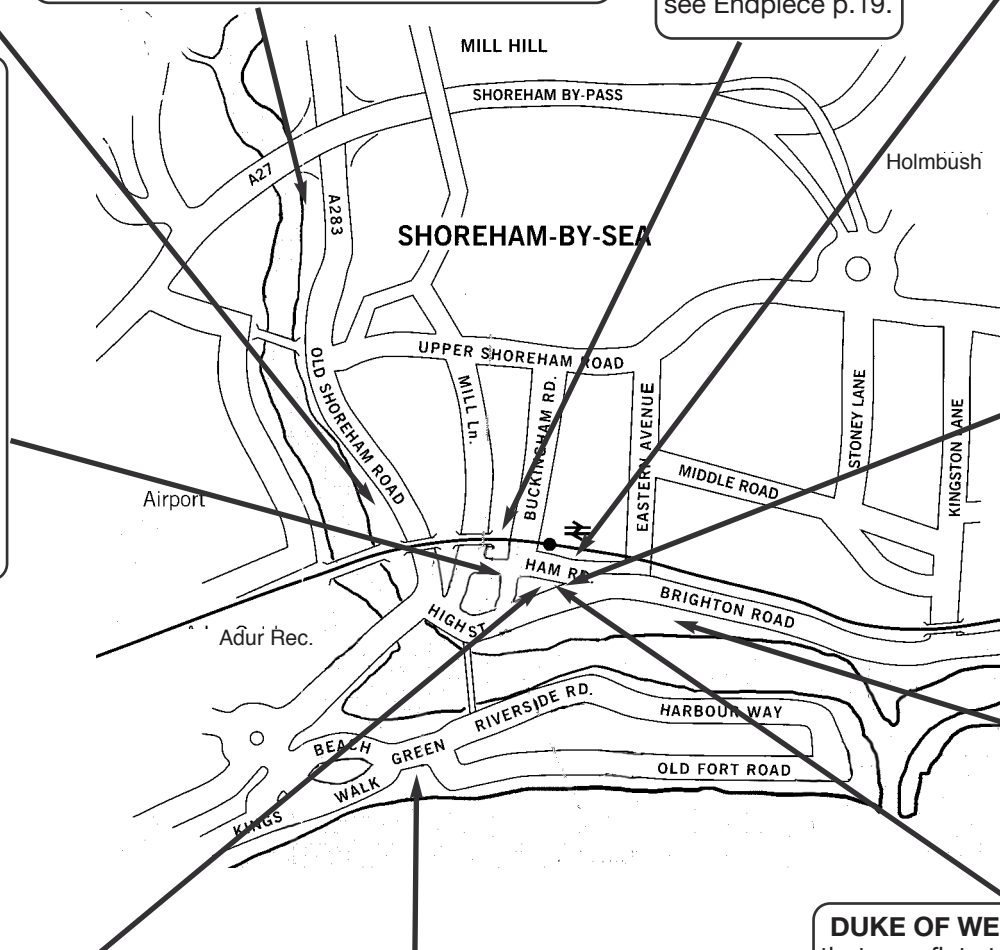
WESTERN HARBOUR ARM

Soon to become a corridor of assorted blocks of flats – all with charming river views of course – as you enter the town.



CIVIC CENTRE SITE

A car park for Focus staff. Often (before the lockdown) absolutely full of cars. Planning permission almost granted for more flats to be built, but we wonder, when this starts, where will all these Focus cars go? Will these people use public transport? Government advice is **not** to, until the virus crisis is over. Also... petrol has gone down in price. So...?



passionately dedicated to 21st century architecture would nevertheless approve of the demolition of Marlipins or the construction of a fast-traffic flyover adjacent to St. Nicolas Church. Those very threats took place prior to the establishment of the Shoreham Society and they were the kinds of insensitive proposals that caused Shoreham's citizens to form our organisation. They needed a united voice.

And just as any dedicated modern architect would not wish to deny historic character, we would not insist that every new building must be Poundbury pastiche. Some modern buildings adjacent to historic sites can create new landmarks, such as the pyramid at the Louvre or the "gherkin" in London. They are exceptional buildings by inspired architects working to very high standards with adequate budgets. But because those buildings work in their contexts, it does not automatically follow that all modern glass buildings must fit in any historical context.

In the mid 20th century, Swedish architects were encouraged by Stockholm city authority to sweep away large tracts of the old city and build a modern vision. Scandinavians were at the forefront of all forms of design at that time and the best of their new architecture was inspirational.

However, anyone visiting what remains of Stockholm's old town would surely recognise that the Swedes were right when they suddenly called a halt to the demolitions and decided to preserve what they already had. Swedes of all generations tell us that they now regret the wholesale destruction of their heritage. Tourists to Stockholm now head for the

remnant old town and the museum containing the preserved 16th century ship, the Vasa. Very few visit the 20th century buildings.

There are those who will seek out a Le Corbusier or Frank Lloyd Wright building to view with wonder, and if some developer appeared with the passion and the money to build a truly landmark building, most of us would be happy to see such a building in Shoreham. After all, Littlehampton has its East Beach Café.

At the appeal against the St Mary's Hall planning rejection, the developer's support team contained someone who had once worked at English Heritage. He made one telling remark that goes to the heart of the problem with housing developments. He said that **it was not possible to accommodate the number of dwellings required to make the development profitable if the design was not of the modern style that had been submitted** (*the emphasis here is mine – ed.*)

Perhaps this is why it is becoming difficult to distinguish one town from another in the blandness of our high streets. Where individuality has been retained, it is usually where historic character has been protected.

That's what we're for.

For Hire: Marler Haley Exhibition Panels

£10 a week (with £50 deposit against damage). If you are interested please e-mail adrian.towler@waitrose.com or phone on 01273 463096 – preferably early evenings – and I'll give you details.

Letters

DOWN BY THE RIVERBANK

HELLO, I am a member of the Society and live by the river bank in Old Shoreham and walk the river path for my 'permitted exercise'. Did you know that they have very recently cleared the large site between the Red Lion and the Flyover, leveled it and fenced it off? When I went out on Saturday it had been cleared of scrub and grass, raked over and looked prepped for something... I understood that additional housing in that area had been refused planning permission. As a very local resident I have certainly not received notification from the council that this building plan had now been greenlighted. Is it something you know about or are they taking advantage of our attention being engaged elsewhere?

Jennifer Kharibian

● **David Jezeph, one of our Committee, gives you a (rather long) reply:** We note your concern regarding the recent clearing of the grazing land on Steyning Road on the riverbank just south of the flyover.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Planning Application AWD/1953/16 for up to 52 houses to be built on the southern part of this land was refused by Adur District Council in its letter of 10/09/2019.

It was refused on a number of issues that were in conflict with the Adur Local Plan and relevant paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Most notably:

1. The site lies outside of the built up area boundary and is in the countryside where development will only be permitted where the need for a countryside location is essential. No such overriding need was successfully demonstrated.
2. The proposal would have a detrimental impact on the landscape character and appearance of the site and on the wider area, the gateway setting of Shoreham, the riverside setting, the setting of the Conservation Area and the Listed Buildings within it.

3. It was not adequately demonstrated that the proposed development would not result in harm to future residents through unacceptable noise disturbances as a result of the site's proximity to the A27 flyover.

4. No Stage One Road Safety Audit and Designer's Response was submitted to demonstrate that the proposed vehicular access was safe.

Notwithstanding the importance of these issues, probably the most significant reason for refusing this planned development is that it lies within an area of Flood Zone 3 with a 1 in 100 high risk of flooding from the river, which would require the approval of a full flood risk assessment, as well as other approvals such as a Flood Risk Activity Permit and an assurance that any proposed flood protection would not cause additional flooding elsewhere, which were not met.

With the completion of the new flood protection bund by the Environment Agency from the river across to Steyning Road at the northern boundary of the proposed development, the more northern part of the grazing land closer to the flyover is now at greater risk of surfacewater flooding and the impact of possible overtopping of the river, as the protection bund is now acting as an obstruction to the natural overland runoff flowing southwards, thereby retaining and subsequently diverting this runoff water eastwards towards the Steyning Road, thereby increasing the risk of flooding to this important access road into Shoreham from the A27 and the north.

Therefore I consider that it would be very difficult and most unlikely for a future developer to obtain planning approval for this particular plot of land.

Members of the Shoreham Society have also noticed that this northern plot of grazing land has recently been tidied up, levelled and fenced off, and to my own mind, it would appear that this land has been prepared to return to grazing. In order to alleviate your concern, and in-

deed our own, I have contacted the Principal Planning Officer for Adur and Worthing Councils who has assured me that no applications to develop this land have been received since the latest refusal.

Thank you for bringing these changes to our attention, and rest assured that we will be doing our utmost to monitor all future developments that would have a negative impact on the conservation of Shoreham's historic architecture and the town's environment.

But again, may I remind you of my earlier comments to you following my contact with Neil Parkin, Adur Planning and staff at the Amsterdam Inn on your behalf, regarding your local parking difficulties...

"The Shoreham Society Planning Subcommittee comprises only four volunteers (there are now only two of us) with dwindling, limited resources who try to respond to the numerous concerns of more than 500 members and other people in the community. To aid us in our endeavours in future you may wish to help our subcommittee by trying to directly obtain more background information on your issues from the relevant authority before contacting us, which we can then follow-up with a formal response to the authority from the Society. A letter from you and other concerned individuals directly to the Adur District Council or West Sussex County Council on public issues carries almost as much weight as our own, and could give more information to enable us to provide a better response and possible support to members and concerned residents".

David Jz. Town Planning Sub-committee

HIDEOUS CHIPBOARD

ONE of the few pleasant aspects of our High Street (the other being The Marlipins Museum) are the gaps between buildings where you can see the river. Recently a hideous chipboard barrier has been erected by the Crown & Anchor pub, presumably to give privacy to their garden. I don't know if this is a temporary structure so I wonder if you can shed any light on it? I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks,

Barbara Meredith

● We don't know, the pub is closed at the moment. It's Sterling board or OSB, by the way.



Revitalisation of The Shoreham Society

though Updating its Constitution

*by Phil Hamerton,
with Heather Duffield*

THIS may be an opportune moment to **review and revise the Constitution** of The Shoreham Society in view of recent discussions about its future, to make it more relevant and inclusive.

Perhaps the remit of 1984 should be revisited to encompass the general infrastructure for the residents, by expanding the purposes for it being established.

The Constitution states that it is, "for the public benefit for the following purposes in the 'area of benefit'", then lists three purposes:

- 1) To **promote** high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- 2) To **educate** the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- 3) To **secure** the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

(The 'area of benefit' is defined as these five Wards of Adur District Council: St. Nicolas, St. Mary's, Buckingham, Southlands & Marine.) The Constitution expands on this, talking about 'civic pride' and being a 'coordinating body ... to cooperate with the local authorities ... all other statutory authorities etc.

So we could **expand the purposes and add a fourth**, to include the local health infrastructure of GP surgeries

and the hospital, thus covering both our built environment and the people within that environment.

Although the hospital at Southlands provides services for outsiders, all those services are available for Shoreham-by-Sea residents, covering 25 different areas from Anaesthetics to Urology.

In the past 35 years, life has changed. The whole health economy has evolved and will keep evolving. But our voice should be heard as there will be more change which could result in a loss of facilities hitherto enjoyed on our doorstep.

So, whilst the Society has historically been seen to be 'guardians' of the built environment, looking after the physical health of the bricks and mortar of the town and where planning will lead us, **perhaps it should aim to become a more holistic organisation**, watching out for all aspects of the health of the town, in terms of both its buildings and its people.

That would mean keeping an eye and ear open for suggested developments, not only for dwellings but **those that might affect GP Surgeries and other local health-care facilities**, to ensure that this infrastructure is looked at in the same way that we consider planning for buildings and the environment. This may be a good way of repositioning The Shoreham Society in the minds of the townsfolk and thus giving it a new lease of life.

The Executive Committee

discussed this at length and made the following assorted comments:

◆ "I believe that to add local health to the society's remit, far from attracting new members, would simply diminish the role of the society and its standing. (They can) voice their concerns about their GP surgery and the Local Commissioning Group, by becoming members of their surgery's Patient Participatory Group (PPG).

"The voice of the PPGs is taken seriously by the GPs and our Local Commissioning Group... particularly when they are not in conflict with Government guidelines and restrictions over which we have no input or control."

◆ "What sort of voice would a small organization i.e. The Shoreham Society, have on the impact of decision-making regarding the Government's guidelines and restrictions that are made at the national level?"

◆ Within the present body of members, who of us has the knowledge, resources and contacts regarding health provision?

◆ I for one would have no interest in staying as a member of the Society if we were to go down this route. If we feel that the Society's role in protecting the built environment, particularly the conservation area, is no longer enough or relevant, I would prefer to add transportation infrastructure to our remit with emphasis on cycling lanes, cycle parking, exclusion of vehicles, etc... Let's move to "a golden age of cycling" starting from Cycling Week next month.

◆ Doing that might build up the members – not focusing on the NHS or schools. We have no expertise in these areas and, has rightly been pointed out, there are other organisations that are looking at these issues.

◆ "I've never felt it appropriate for the Society to get involved with issues relating to the NHS – or schools for that matter. If we look at the NHS provision, we would then, logically, expect to become involved in Schools as well, so potentially two minefields!"

◆ Whether a revised remit would bring in more/younger members at this point is unknown, but a review of what we should be involved in locally might be a good thing?

In conclusion it was unanimously agreed that this was not an area for the Shoreham Society to become deeply involved in as there are groups within the town that focus on this issue. However it is sensible to look at the Shoreham Society's constitution, but this should be **done by a new Committee** to take the Shoreham Society forward.

The Meads with Sympathetic Care

THE Shoreham Society News Sheet for January 2020 records that 'this secret space', The Meads, is threatened with plans for inappropriate development. In fact, this small area has an interesting history and it should be preserved with sympathetic care.

I was born and lived, until my marriage, at 'Locarno', 6 Swiss Gardens. Our end-of-garden fence backed onto The Meads and my father built a gate through the fence giving access to the grassy area beyond. At the north end, now bounded by some of the houses in Mill Lane, was a hedge, beneath which flowed a small stream. This contained fascinating water creatures, such as tiny newts (efts) and sticklebacks, waiting to be discovered by us children. The great row of elms high on the bank separating The Meads from Mill Lane cemetery, we used for climbing.

All this area was once under the sea, as is clearly illustrated in Mr Henry Cheal's excellent standard work *The Story of Shoreham* (1st edition 1921). Constant inundations over the centuries, due to tidal pressure and gale force winds, changed the position of Shoreham harbour and the River Adur now runs south of our High Street, covering ancient historical sites. I remember an occasion in my early childhood when a very unpleasant smell hovered around our front door. On picking up the floorboards to investigate, my father found wet, unmistakeable river mud – proof that Swiss Gardens had been built on the former flood plain.

The Meads had many uses. My white rabbit, Snowball, was often let out of its hutch to play there, with the dog and cat as 'guardians'. An old white cart-horse, tethered to a long chain, wandered around from time to time and this helped to keep the grass down. (Who was his owner?) A large brick and concrete air-raid shelter was built in the centre of The Meads during the early part of the 2nd World War but it was used, I fear, for other purposes than those intended so was not a pleasant place to enter.

I became a pupil at Swiss Gardens Primary School on the first day that it opened but I cannot remember that we children ever used The Meads for official recreation. We used the school playground at the front for that and we had a climbing frame outside the first-year classroom on the west side.

Thank you to Kirsten Wild for recording the current unhappy situation in The Meads. Several generations of my family were once part of Shoreham's close community and they left many memories of our fine old town as it was in their day. My hope is that this piece will inspire present Shorehamers to 'continue the fight'.

Finally I note that the Shoreham Society is to have a talk by Janet Pennington about William Morris and Sussex Chairs. I have one of these, still painted in its original black, but with the former cane (?) seat replaced by wood long ago.

Cynthia Bacon nee Green (now living in Chichester)



THE Subway Access CAMPAIGN

FOLLOWERS of this will be delighted to hear that it has received a shot in the arm from **Sussex Community Rail Partnership**.

Gerry Thompson, when on the Committee, had suggested some signs at the crossing, telling people that they could ask to use the subway and station staff would let them through.

I was ambivalent about this, thinking it's a poor compromise. But it might make station staff want to open it again and stop people bothering them! So I made the signs and put them up, making spares to replace any vandalised ones. Several things happened.

First, the signs stayed up and were not damaged; I didn't need the spares. Seemed to be working quite well.

Secondly, after a month or so, the staff got fed up and/or someone in management noticed what was going on, and decided to stop the informal arrangement. The signs were removed.

Thirdly, we (the Society) began to get enquiries about why the arrangement had stopped, and "did we have an official agreement", what had happened etc. and I had to tell them, quite frankly, that I was surprised it had lasted so long. Maybe it was being abused, by people who could get onto the platform, board a train without a ticket, and get a free ride? Sadly, people who had been using this concession, on the quiet, for many years, were upset about now being told to stop. We had blown it for them!

However (fourthly) the situation was drawn to the attention of Rowena Tyler, the

Look at this: Network Rail has spent big money replacing the footbridge at **Fishersgate Halt** (reported in *Shoreham Herald* 8/2/18). But why? The old bridge seemed quite good. The new one still has steps, no ramps or lifts. And they say they **can't afford** to give Shoreham access to its existing subway. *Bah!*



Community Development Officer (for Arun Valley & Sussex Coast Line) of Sussex Community Rail Partnership. She phoned me.

People must have contacted the Rail Partnership group after they were denied use of the subway, and as a result, they have 'taken an interest'. They have a lot of influential people on their Committee, and are in regular contact with the train companies.

They are unable to hold their usual meetings, due to the virus of course, but when they resume I will be invited along. And meantime I have sent Rowena some background information and a 'time line' of

what we've done so far, over the course of about five years which had no result! They have found, like us, that Network Rail can be tricky to deal with.

You may notice that I have headed this 'Subway Access'

rather than 'Secret Subway' or 'Give us Our Subway Back'. I feel this might help because, really, all we want are a couple of access points. There's nothing wrong with the subway. It is in daily use by the disabled and able-bodied. We just want two extra ways in so that more people can use it and there IS space to do it. That's all; it shouldn't cost much.

Adrian Towler

Crossing on foot?
You don't need to wait for the crossing to open – rail staff will let you go through the underpass.
Shoreham Society

The sign we put up

BEACHED!

SHOREHAM BEACH'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – THE STORY SO FAR

Shoreham Society decided at the outset that we didn't have the resources to do a **Neighbourhood Plan** for Shoreham town. But Shoreham Beach residents valiantly took up the challenge for their area, and here **Tony Wallington**, 'Community Engagement' of Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum, reports on progress...

THE "Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum" (SBNF) was officially recognised in November 2014 and given a five-year designation to prepare a **Neighbourhood Plan** for the Shoreham Beach community. But by November, 2019, our designation had run its time.

The Forum's Plan had been returned from ADC's Planning Department, with suggestions and comments awaiting our input... when our designation timed-out!

Currently, the Forum needs to complete that work for the Plan to be ready for a residents' consultation by way of a final 'Have Your Say' event. So the Forum Committee has **applied for a new Designation**, to complete its duties, prior the Covid-19 lock-down.

The Forum was told (at the time of writing) by the Planning Department that a decision could be offered during May 2020 – and this process includes a public consultation. Should the Forum receive a new five-year Designation, our work can re-start.

Will the Plan include these cute railway carriage bungalows? Just look at those side windows!



The current SBNF Committee will immediately need to offer the electorate an Annual General Meeting for election of officers. The Forum's outstanding work will be input to the Plan and a timetable set to deliver the last 'Have Your Say' event for the community's views before our Plan is officially offered to ADC for screening and independent scrutiny and to prove the Plan worthy of being voted on by the Beach community.

Planning, publicising and organising the referendum remains the responsibility of Adur District Council.

In the meantime, the Forum is advised by 'Locality' (the Government body responsible for Neighbourhood Planning) that all outstanding Neighbourhood Referenda will be delayed until May 2021. This advice was sent during the first Covid-19 lock down, so maybe that date will be even further deferred?

We recognise that five years is a long time for any community. Many residents and local businesses might have left and others joined us since November 2014. The Committee welcomes all its residents, long-established or new, to log onto www.shorehambeachforum.com for updates or to submit your views, especially on the process of Re-Designation. New members are always welcome.

On behalf of the current Committee may we wish everyone well during these strangest of circumstances and hope that better times will allow us all to return to normality within our special community.

The Re-designation proposal documentation is at:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/shoreham-beach-neighbourhood-plan/>



BUNDerbar, BUNDerbar !

Left of the bund (the flood-resistant raised bank), and photo on left, is the 'prepared' field referred to in Jennifer Kharibian's letter on p.13. *A building site?* No, we think it is sown with grass seed, with fencing to protect it.



Photos (& on front cover) by Phil Hamerton



Green Belt Land for sale (again) south of the airport, a 70-acre "strategic land opportunity". So they've given up trying to get planning permission to build on it, and are cutting their losses? Meanwhile (inset) The Dogs Trust have 'posted' their field with little signs round the edge to let you know it's theirs. Guard dogs on duty?



ENDPIECE: Yes, well, somebody has added to the Cecil Norris House (proposed) visual on Ravens Road (maybe so they can then post it on Facebook – or was that someone else?). Anyway, thanks to Gerry Thompson for the photo. Some might say there are enough dinosaurs in the Shoreham Society and we don't need any more.

Talks are normally on the **third Friday** of the month in **St Peter's Hall**, West Street, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WG. But since we do not know when it will be safe to have get-togethers again, we can only give an outline here of what we have in mind. Please can you **check our website** nearer the time and we'll try to get it in *Shoreham Herald*, to confirm that it is going ahead.



talks

ShorehamSociety.org.uk

Friday 18th September at 7.30pm

SUSSEX CHAIRS and the William Morris connection

with **Dr Janet Pennington**. Heard of the "Sussex chair"? Or even a Sussex chair... and what is the difference? The Arts & Crafts movement consisted of various different artistic societies, many influenced by the renowned William Morris. So what's his connection with... chairs? Find out tonight! Members £2, guests £3.

Friday 17th October at 7.30pm

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

with **Mark Perry Nash**, who returns to tell us about the wild side of British 'High Society' one hundred years ago and maybe why they were dubbed The Roaring Twenties. Members £2, guests £3.

Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm

FRIENDLY EARTH

Does the earth need more friends? **Tom Wright** helps to run the local Friends of the Earth group and says, "I'm excited to join the Shoreham Society to talk about how we can take action together to tackle the climate crisis. The challenges are many, from air pollution to biodiversity and planning." Members £2, guests £3.

Friday 15th December at 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

Yes we'll do it again as some people seem to like it. More info later.

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2020

Members are invited as observers. Usually at **Shoreham Centre**, Pond Road (Room 6) on **3rd Tuesday** of the month at **7pm**. Call Jenny Towler, 01273 463096 if you want to come.