

40 Years and Counting

The Shoreham Society was inaugurated in 1985 as a “independent voice for all who care about the town of Shoreham-by-Sea in West Sussex”. Many of the founding members have passed on, but there are others who - over the years - have played their part in contributing to the life and character of the town. Our remit is wide, covering planning, conservation, development, the local economy, environmental and local issues.

Communication in 1985 was limited - no social media or mobile phones -, and the world wide web was yet to be invented. Members were kept up to date with what was going on in Shoreham via news sheets and (from 2005) the Shoreham Society Journal. Even with our revamped website in 2021 the journal has played a central part in Shoreham Society communications. The centre pages detailing the current position of developments, introduced by Adrian Towler, is widely regarded as a useful snapshot of the developments that change our town.

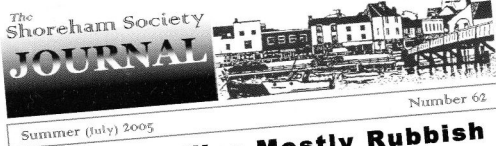
I have known only two Journal editors covering the last 19 years, Adrian and, for the second time in post, Tony Vinicombe, who created the Journal in 2005. Both exceptional people in their curiosity, storytelling, ability to make complex issues understandable and with a sense of humour. Adrian’s comic strip ‘Wet Lettuce’ comes to mind when highlighting quite serious issues. Whenever a new editor takes over the style and tone of the journal changes, even if you are doing it for a second

stint, but is always recognisable as the Shoreham Society journal.

So, this is a call for someone to step up and be the new Journal editor, and perhaps turn it into something exciting for the 40th anniversary relaunch. Take a look at the advert in this newsletter and consider if you would like to join us.

Two journals and two newsletters are produced each year and the content is a mix of committee provided information, membership contributions, self-produced articles and material sourced from elsewhere. There is exciting scope to grow an authoritative voice for all Shoreham residents, and to dovetail with an increasingly dynamic social media force in our town.

[Our first Journal in 2005. Its cover caused momentary alarm for our then Chair, Liza McKinney. ‘Mostly Rubbish’ referred to a talk by an archaeologist about historical finds at the Ropetackle site](#)



AGM Talk Was Mostly Rubbish

It was clear from the first few minutes of Simon Stevens’ illustrated talk about the archaeological work at the Ropetackle site that it was rubbish. It was the pits, in fact: rubbish pits... even cesspits. Because those, apparently, were found in abundance at the site and what they can reveal about the activities that took place and the people who lived there is certainly not rubbish: astonishing, in fact.

We had read about the initial discoveries in Society newsletter no. 58 (Spring 2004) but in a packed St Peters Hall on the 20th May, those gathered for the Society’s AGM heard details direct from the Senior Field Officer of Archaeology South-East, Simon Stevens. In addition to his busy narrative, we also saw slides of the team at work and the sites from which emerged information and artefacts.

commonplace in medieval times. There were quernstones that had been used to grind wheat for bread, and the remains of ovens, scraped out and thrown into the pits.

The line-up of these pits also indicated the line of the dwellings, because people’s rubbish pits would be situated conveniently nearby, usually at the rear of the premises.

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Like today’s discarded packaging at infill sites, the pits they excavated contained discarded containers, except that - in the days before canning and plastic - food and drink were dispensed from earthenware vessels. The kinds of pottery containers found in the rubbish pits indicate what people ate and drank thanks to the residue left behind in the bottoms. Besides vessels, there was also direct evidence. Cherry stones galore were found as well as fish and sheep bones, even figs, demonstrating that trade abroad was



Getting to the bottom of it digging out the well

Your Monthly Talks On the third Friday of the month

The Shoreham Centre Pond Road: BN43 5WU 7:00 – 9:00 pm Parking Pay & Display behind the Centre

Friday 15 March 2024

The Lost Railway

Reina Alston and Russell Barnes talk about a successful project to create historic interactive information boards along part of the route of the Steyning Line. How was it done and could we complete the southern end from Shoreham to Bramber?.

Friday 19 April

The Adur Estuary – A Natural Gem Within our Midst

Richard Allan and Tony Benton from Shoreham District Ornithological Society talk about the birds and other wildlife relying on the protected environment of the Adur Estuary.

Friday 17 May

Annual General Meeting

Guest speaker: Tom Willis, Chief Executive, Shoreham Port

Venue to be confirmed. Free entry. Refreshments and nibbles provided

Our annual event to reflect on the past year and consider projects for the future.

Snippets from the Shoreham Streets

After the icy blast of January where everything seemed grey and cold, things are stirring in Shoreham-by-Sea. Besides the cranes of the high-rise developments there are changes on the High Street. We say goodbye to Rooted & Co and hello again to the Neighbourhood Store, who have moved across the road. In its place comes Slipped Disc, a record store from Steyning. What was the Artisan Cafe is now Club House Coffee, and we now have a book shop in Brunswick Road, Chapter 34, complete with its own 'perk' coffee bar. The Ferry Rigg is apparently going to turn into a tapas bar. Change is the only constant!



JOURNAL EDITOR WANTED

Volunteer position

Are you someone with an enquiring mind and skills in presenting? Do you

- ◆ Care about Shoreham-by-Sea and believe there is a role for an independent voice informing Shoreham residents about topical issues?
- ◆ Follow current and local affairs and enjoy writing about them in an engaging way for a periodic journal?
- ◆ Have experience of desk top publishing?

There is exciting scope to grow an authoritative voice for all Shoreham residents, and to dovetail with an increasingly dynamic social media force in our town.

Join our varied and flexible team who are committed to enabling our home town to be a welcoming, pleasant place to live.

Currently two journals and two newsletters are produced each year and the content is a mix of committee contributions, self-produced articles and material sourced from elsewhere.

Contact info@shorehamsociety.org.uk for a chat and do say if you could also enjoy sharing this role