

All change in Adur - or the same old constraints?

Politically it's all change in Adur but will it change anything?

All politicians promise the earth, but really can promise nothing. They are constricted by events, circumstances, realities, ability and ideology - probably in



Tim Loughton MP, retiring after 27 years

that order.

As a Society, the Shoreham Society is non political. We represent members with many views, and the committee leaves it's collective political hat at the door of a meeting, because the objectives of the Shoreham Society are ideological. We care about our town, its heritage, its inhabitants (old and new, young and old) and how it functions. We celebrate coming together in events and rituals, and we work together in times of sadness and crisis. We want it to be the best it can be for everyone.

Continued on page 4



Committee

Chair : Gerard Rosenberg

Vice Chair : Jenny Towler

Secretary : Vacancy

Minutes Secretary :
Vacancy

Treasurer : Jenny Towler

Membership :

Phil Hamerton

Digital

Communications :

Tony Hodgson

Events Co-ordinator :

Jenny Towler

Journal / News Sheet

Editors:

Alan Dickson (Co-opted)

Richard Bingham
(Co-opted)

Committee Members :

Tim Higgins (Co-opted)

Christina Robinson
(Co-opted)

Jason Sunderland-Rowe

Nicola Yikes

Anne Younger

AGM 17th May

Our AGM for 2024 will take place in a different venue, which is also a very familiar place if you are a long-standing member - St Peter's Church Hall, West Street.

The formalities will be dealt with swiftly, and will be followed by a talk from our guest speaker, Brian Rousell, Director of Engineering and IT, Shoreham Port.

See the back cover for our list of 2024 events.

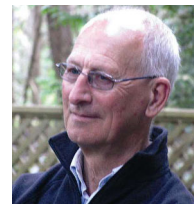
Proposed new committee members



Richard Bingham



Alan Dickson



Tim Higgins



Christina Robinson

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A Bumper Crop for Spring

No fewer than four new members have joined the Committee of the Shoreham Society this month.

Richard Bingham

has lived in Shoreham with his family since 1999, when he relocated from Hove. A published novelist with a passion for architecture, Richard has also joined the Publications group and will be contributing to the newsletter and the website. He will also be keeping a beady eye on the planning system locally, and in particular on developments along the Western Harbour Arm.

Alan Dickson

Alan says 'A kiwi dragged by his parents kicking & screaming to Shoreham age 4. Alumnus of Swiss gardens, ex Victoria Road and Buckingham schools. After he graduated in civil engineering he never wanted to see Shoreham ever again. So he dragged his poor wife & children around various parts of Africa... until the light dawned. Actually Shoreham wasn't that bad after all. Lived on the beach ever since; 35 years.

A convinced convert, it's amazing. Aren't we lucky?'

Tim Higgins

arrived in Shoreham in 2022, reconnecting with urban life following an indelible period living on the coast on the Irish Sea in North

Wales. Previously working with Bristol Cathedral and city centre life, Tim will be keen to encourage creative collaboration between local organisations. He is actively involved in the global Franciscan movement and how we can enliven our relationship with the life of the Planet.

Christina Robinson

moved to Shoreham three years ago from London after retiring. She specialises in the programme and project management of technical solutions to support the marketing functions in both the mobile telecoms and charity spaces. Her key local interests include the preservation of the natural environment and maintaining Shoreham's strong sense of community, along with taking care that the heart of Shoreham continues to be an enjoyable place to go.

Chair of the Shoreham Society, Gerard Rosenberg, said, "**I'm so excited about the addition of four new, very able members to our committee.**" Coupled with four excellent newish members over the last three years, this demonstrates a renewed dynamism in the Shoreham Society. We all look forward to serving the members of our community with some exciting projects over the coming months and years - especially with our 40th anniversary coming up in 2025!"

Continued from front cover:

The hard realities are that someone has to make the big decisions in order for our town to function, balancing the desire to do 'This' against the reality of That'. Which is why we should listen and collaborate with those who make the decisions, whatever their political persuasions, and to learn from the experience of those who have spent many years trying to make our town thrive.

It takes commitment to be a councillor or MP. No one does it just for the money - what there is of it. It is time consuming; there is a lot of detail to master and a lot of people to please, some shouting more than others.

This is the reason that the Shoreham Society, with others, established AdurVotes - a campaign to explain the work of the District Council and County Council. Who is responsible for what and where the difficulties lie. Got a pothole? It's no use going to your local district councillor. It's

the County Council who deals with that. Got an issue with your rubbish bins? Adur District Council deals with that.

It is complicated, but unless you are prepared to engage in learning about what a council or MP does and how adept your representatives are, you get the administration you deserve.

We should thank those who have undertaken - sometimes a thankless task - to be a councillor; and we should warn those who are new to the job, that it will not be as easy as some may think!

Thank you to those past and present for taking on the role of guiding and representing our town. You may not always get it right in some eyes, but at least you stood up and tried. For those of you reading this, would **you** do it?

Jenny Towler

Shoreham Society AGM

Our own democratic process occurs on 17th May.

The Agenda is printed on page 7

Post - AGM Guest speaker:

Brian Rousell, Director of Engineering and IT, Shoreham Port

Loss of Trust for Toll Bridge



The Toll Bridge at low tide recently

Last summer, the death of Liza McKinney, the former Shoreham Beach Councillor and Shoreham Society Chair, deprived Shoreham of more than a colourful, forthright and daunting character. Twenty years ago she formed and operated the Old Shoreham Tollbridge Community Trust, which successfully prevented the loss of the toll bridge, our Grade II* listed Adur crossing. With the loss of Mrs McKinney, the Trust is now being wound up, so there will be no independent oversight of the structure's condition. Could the bridge be in danger again? In winding up the Trust's affairs, they gave their assets - over £40,000 - to West Sussex County Council, but whether that will be ringfenced for the bridge is as yet unknown.

Built in 1781 and restored during the First World War, the timber bridge formed part of the A27 until the fly-over was opened in 1970, but by

1997 it was on the 'At risk' register. Grade II star listed buildings are defined by Historic England as being "particularly important [and] of more than special interest" - 18th century timber vehicular bridges are exceptionally rare in Britain. Nevertheless, English Heritage had turned a blind eye to the condition of Shoreham's bridge, as the owners had insufficient funds to maintain the fabric.

Its ownership had passed into various hands, but from 1970 it was



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passed from British Rail to West Sussex County Council. However, as local councils became less financially secure following the loss of supportive central government funding, the bridge dropped to the bottom of County Council priorities, which meant that maintenance suffered. All registered listed buildings and structures carry official maintenance responsibilities for their owners, and they are monitored by conservation officers in the local authority planning office. Somehow, the dangers approaching Shoreham's old toll bridge were unobserved until the Shoreham Society's Liza McKinney brought it to the notice of WSCC. Together with the Shoreham Society committee member, Vera Tickler, Liza created the Tollbridge Trust, accepting the task of raising funds to fill the financial hole. Following a contribution from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Toll Bridge Trust and the County Council embarked on the work of commissioning surveys, developing design solutions to the reconstruction problems and obtaining matching replacement heartwood from South America. The refurbishment completely replaced the pile-head crossbeams, deck support longitudinal beams and handrails. It also selectively replaced and reinforced components of each of the 27 pile bents. Working over water, particularly fast flowing rivers, is hazardous, but most of the original timber was retained, though the parapets and complete deck support structure

were replaced.

Completed in 2008, the renovated bridge was re-opened by Prince Andrew. In 2010 the Tollbridge Trust was awarded a Shoreham Society plaque for their outstanding conservation achievement, but inexplicably, the plaque was never displayed.

Immediately following the 2015 airshow disaster, people spontaneously laid flowers at the nearest safe site, which was the toll bridge. A memorial slab was placed at the centre of the bridge and a memorial sculpture arch erected at the town end. This has already become part of its history.

The refurbishment secured the future of the bridge for 30 years, but with the loss of the Trust, we now have to rely on the owners of the bridge to monitor its condition. History demonstrates that our community needs to be alert. So, in around fourteen years' time, it would be useful if someone could check whether the bridge is safe and sound.

Could somebody please make a note for 2038, perhaps in a smart phone, to get a notification ping on the day? That will have to be one of our younger members of course: the rest of us will be too old. And don't look at me: I'll be 106.

Shoreham's Toll Bridge is one of six Grade II listed buildings in Adur. There are 119 listed buildings of all grades here.*

Tony Vinicombe

Shoreham Society AGM

Friday 17th May 2024 - 7pm at St Peter's Church Hall

AGM Agenda

- **Welcome** – Jenny Towler
- **Apologies for Absence**
- **Minutes of the 2023 AGM (Printed on pages 10 - 12 of this edition) and Matters Arising**
- **Chairman's Report** – Jenny Towler
- **Treasurer's Report** – Jenny Towler
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner** – Jenny Towler
- **Election Of Officers & Committee** – Jenny Towler

The following are willing to stand again but there are two official vacancies,

Chairman – Gerard Rosenberg

Vice-Chairman – Jenny Towler

Secretary – Vacant

Minutes Secretary – Vacant

Membership Secretary – Phil Hamerton

Events Officer – Vacant

Communications – Tony Hodgson

Treasurer – Jenny Towler

Journal - Editors Alan Dickson & Richard Bingham

Committee members

Anne Younger

Nicola Yikes

Tony Hodgson (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

Beatriz Huevo (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

Jason Sutherland Rowe (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

Tim Higgins

Christina Robinson

Rob Howlett

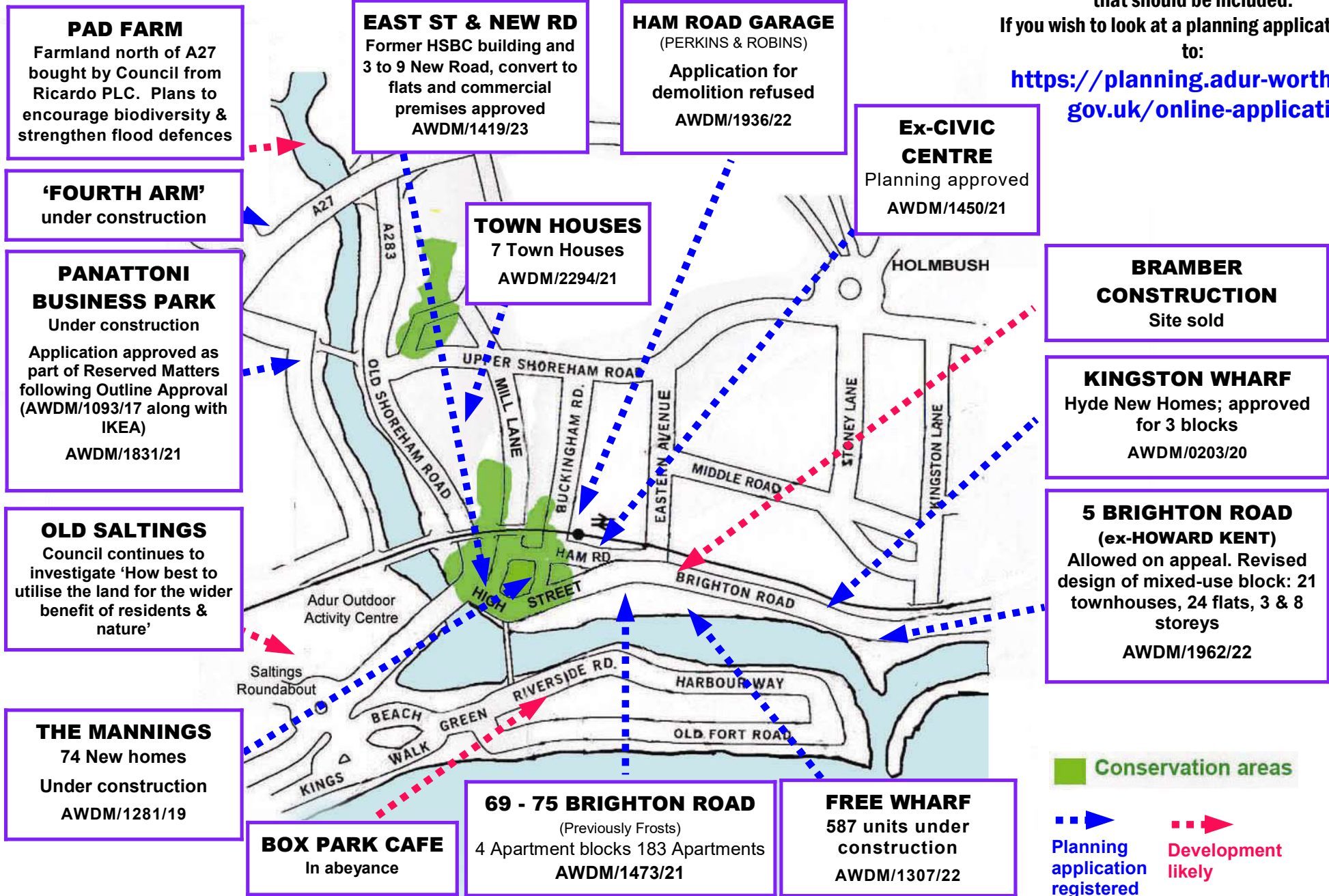
- **Any Other Business**
- **Our Guest Speaker – Brian Rousell**
Director of Engineering and IT Shoreham Port

Current Developments in Shoreham-by-Sea

Please contact the Editor if you know of anything that should be included.

If you wish to look at a planning application, go to:

<https://planning.adur-worthing.gov.uk/online-applications>



Minutes of The Shoreham Society 2023 AGM

Friday 19th May 2023 - 7pm at the Shoreham Centre

- **Welcome** – Gerard Rosenberg (Chair) welcomed everyone
- **Apologies for Absence**
Tony Hodgson, Nik Yikes, Jason Sutherland Rowe, Anji Pawlicki, Gabe and Simon Chrisp
- **Minutes of the 2022 AGM and Matters Arising**
The minutes were unanimously accepted by a show of hands
- **Chairman's Report** –
Gerard gave an update on the last year

Low lights

Loss of Journal editor Adrian Towler and stalwart committee member Mary Tilling in early 2022,. Sadly, we can add Christopher Harris, architect, who was one of the founding members of the Society and Marilyn Stafford, internationally renowned photographer and one time-member of the Shoreham Society Committee.

High lights

- **The return** of Tony Vinicombe to the committee and editorship of the Journal and newsletter with the help of Clive Webb and Jenny Towler. The Journal is one of the Society's selling points and has been widely praised under the new editor.
- **Networking.** We have continued to have regular meetings with Councillors and Council Officers, presenting the Society's views, highlighting the concerns of residents and identifying areas where we can work together to improve Shoreham-by-Sea. We also continue to work with groups such as AREA, Shoreham-by-Cycle, St Mary de Haura and many others. We took part in the Adur Lions Funday, the St Mary de Haura Christmas Festival and the Moon and Stars festivals in order to raise the profile of the Society.
- **Our talks programme** has covered everything from Retro-fitting your home, to dolphins on the Sussex coast to the gradual loss of the town's public hards through ill-thought-out development.
- **Heritage Open Days – Astounding Inventions – Guess the Gadget.** Our involvement in Heritage Open Days increased this year to a Town Trail and a series of talks such as the local film industry and houseboats . Popular local historian, Geoff Mead pointed out that Shoreham was extremely good at appropriating well-known land marks that were not actually in Shoreham such as the airport and Shoreham Port. Thanks to Jenny Towler, Brian Sayer and Ronny Flynn for organising the event which was identified by Heritage Open Days as something that could be used to as a case study

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for a webinar. Heritage Open Days in 2023 is bigger and better with the involvement of WordFest, Marlipins and St Mary de Haura to celebrate the heritage of creativity in Adur and another town trail to highlight the current creative community in Shoreham. Adur Unwrapped: a celebration of our cultural heritage is between 9th to 17th September.

The running of the Society

- Whilst it is great to have new members on the committee – welcome Clive and Nik - more involvement from the membership is encouraged. From suggesting talks to helping out events there is something for everyone to do. The more people we have doing something eases the pressure on everyone else.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Jenny Towler
The Treasures' Report was unanimously accepted by a show of hands
- **Appointment of Independent Examiner** – Jenny Towler
Anji Pawlicki was reappointed as the Independent Examiner unanimously by a show of hands.
- **Election Of Officers & Committee** – Jenny Towler
The following were willing to stand again but there were two official vacancies,
Chairman – Gerard Rosenberg
Vice-Chairman – Jenny Towler
Secretary – Vacant
Membership Secretary – Phil Hamerton
Events Officer – Vacant
Communications – Tony Hodgson
Treasurer – Jenny Towler
Journal – Tony Vinicombe/Clive Webb

Committee members

Anne Younger

Nik Yikes

Tony Hodgson (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

David Jezeph (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

Beatriz Huezo (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

Jason Sutherland Rowe (and Town Development Sub-Committee)

The Officers and Committee were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

• **AOB and Questions**

- Terri Jezeph asked for an update on our involvement with the Independent Traders

Continued overleaf

- Barb O’Kelly raised the issue of underpass and the possibility of the Station Ticket Office closing. It was agreed that Barb and members of the committee would meet up and discuss what we could do.
- Kim Mathews raised the issue of the disappearing public hards due to the increase in harbour development
- Natwest Bank is likely to close but there is a possibility that Shoreham will have a Banking Hub.

The meeting ended at 8.21pm

Adur & Worthing Councils’ new opening hours

The council has reduced its customer service opening hours by closing for an hour over lunch time from 1pm to 2pm.

ADC says the new opening hours will give customer service staff dedicated time to carry out essential training & administration tasks away from the phones, meaning they can stay up to date with the latest information and help residents more efficiently.

Most of their services are now on line, and appear to work efficiently

A new on-line form has been created to request a call back if people can't find answers on-line.

visit www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/contact-us to see latest opening hours

Transported with delight

Heritage Open Days take place between 6 - 15th September

Adur Connected is a series of heritage boards and banners sited across the Adur area celebrating all forms of transport, routes and individuals.

Jenny Towler is asking members for memories of the Steyning Line, the Adur ferry, Shoreham Airport, Shoreham Port, historical routes through Adur and anything route or transport related.

If you would like to take part in an audio interview or have personal photographs that can be used, please contact Jenny via

info@shorehamsociety.org.uk

Holding Hope Together



Less than two years ago we moved to live in Shoreham. Not just to 'Shoreham' because there is one of those in Kent. It has to be 'Shoreham-by-Sea' and that has taken a little while to sink in. And then, just a few weeks ago, the sea lapped the main road as water levels rose to unusual heights. This also took a little while to sink in!

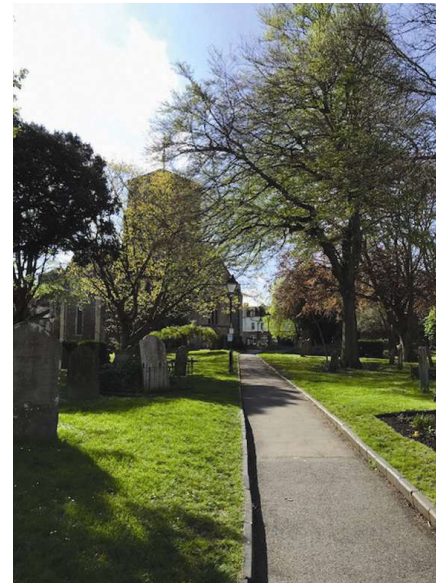
The drip, drip of climate emergency is invading life by the sea and spreading anxiety.

Holding Hope Together is an event to raise the spirits in joyful June as well as connect with local organisations keen to inform and entertain. Sunday afternoon 16th June from 2.00pm 'till 3.30pm in the Town Centre Churchyard of St Mary's will be the place to gather to celebrate the life of the Earth.

This will part of events during UK Great Big Green Week. It will be a time for all ages, children, activists, families and visitors. Local organisations caring for the life of the Earth will offer our community things to take away, ways to health and wellbeing and a memorable experience of hope

in a time of environmental concern. There will be activities for children, a nature trail, games, stories to tell and a place to make new friends with shared hopes.

All these threads will be drawn together when the unique Gathering Light Singers open up a space for shared experience. Beneath the trees will be the sound of natural voices creating powerful harmony. Taking us deeper than any 'data' can reach, we can rise above current anxieties about the future. In such a space we can



know the power of personal resilience, holding hope together, we can become a community of hope empowered to act for good.

Holding Hope Together is the vital theme of the whole event and is a response to the way in which the heavy stream of data about the state of the Planet can bring us down. Reports, including the dying of oceans, the facts of global heating, the destruction of insect life, name but a few. If the result of all our work to be 'informed' leads to helplessness and destructive anxiety then we have lost the plot.

This community gathering aims to hold us together so that we can be

both informed as well as led by hope. Hope, with foundations, will make the difference for good as we celebrate the life of the Earth. Together we will celebrate Earth's rich weave of the web of creation, holding us all, and of which we are intimately a part.

Looking forward to meeting up on Sunday 16th.

Tim Higgins

Look out for further
Holding Hope Together
events at special sites to
transform and inspire:
tim.tssf@gmail.com

Western Harbour Arm Development concerns raised

Adur Residents Environmental Action (AREA) continues to raise questions and urge clear thinking in deciding how the Western Harbour Arm should be developed. AREA leading light, Barbara O'Kelly has written to

Adur District Council's planning officers to point out the huge benefits to be gained from providing green spaces for all and play areas for children. She quoted a Parliamentary report estimating *"if everyone had access to sufficient green space, the benefits associated with increased physical activity could save the health system £2.1bn per year."*

She said *"Consider the savings to the health system over the many years of occupancy of the WHA by being inventive and brave enough to turn at least some of these future sites over to green space, a children's playground and a community hub"*.



Shoreham Banking Hub Operating



Cash Access UK, the organisation set up to protect nationwide access to cash, has recently opened a new Banking Hub in Shoreham which is located on the south side of the High Street, where the kitchen showroom used to be. Tim Loughton officially cut the ribbon on 15th March.

Cash Access UK said: *'While many people are comfortable banking and paying for things digitally, there are still over five million adults in the UK that rely on cash and face-to-face banking services. Banking Hubs allow customers to carry out regular cash transactions within a shared space on the high street.'*

Your editor has paid a visit, and discussed performance with the staff. There were quite a few bewildered elderly people wandering around, so hopefully we will all benefit in the fullness of time, when we can't re-

member our PIN numbers, or anything else for that matter.

The duty manager said, although it was early days the uptake has been encouraging so far.

The Hub offers an extremely useful counter service operated by the Post Office. All normal Post Office transactions will be carried out at the hub. In addition to customers of all major banks being able to carry out regular cash transactions. It will also offer a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues, Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm. Community Bankers will work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week:

Monday: HSBC
Tuesday: NatWest
Wednesday: Barclays
Thursday: Lloyds
Friday: Santander

The location was arrived at following LINK's recommendations, who operate the country's largest chain of cash machines.

If you would like to know more about the Banking Hubs, please contact:

cashaccessuk@cicero-group.com.

Alan Dickson

events

Talks on the Third Friday of the month



TIME: 7pm (please assemble in good time)

VENUE: St Peter's Church Hall **NOTE NEW REGULAR VENUE**

(Time & venue unless stated differently)

PARKING: Pay & Display behind The Shoreham Centre (free from 6pm)

ADMISSION: £3 (members and guests) - unless stated differently

www.ShorehamSociety.org.uk

May 17 Please note time & venue as above

AGM followed by guest speaker

Guest Speaker: Brian Rousell, Director of Engineering and IT, Shoreham Port

Free Entry, Refreshments and nibbles provided

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

June 21 -

The Curate's Vision

Lancing College, its foundation in Shoreham and 175 history including the completion of the Chapel and the story of the Woodard Schools.

As Hon Secretary of the Friends and Chapel Steward, **Jeremy Tomlinson** has overseen the conservation of Lancing Chapel for over forty years and written the guidebooks. During lockdown he pushed through the completion of the West Porch which was dedicated in 2022: a defining moment in the school's 175 year history.

July 19

Sussex Kelp Recovery Project

A kelp forest can absorb 20 times more CO² than a land forest, so in March 2021 a nearshore trawling ban was passed in Sussex to take the pressure off the ecosystem after 97% of the kelp forest disappeared. Local diver and environmental campaigner Eric Smith and his daughter Catrine, from Sussex Underwater will tell us about this pioneering project

September 20

The Lost Railway (Postponed from March)

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