



Our first newsletter of the year looks forward to plans for 2026. And on page 3 we look back at what we achieved during FOLDS' first full year as a new community association, working together to protect and improve the local environment through practical community action.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

This Friday, 16 January, Paul Osborne - who co-founded the website - will present a richly illustrated guide to recent discoveries of local interest and discuss the future challenges of preserving Shoreham's past online.

His online talk is organised by the Shoreham Society and open to all via Zoom. See the What's On list for a connection.

- FOLDS History and Heritage Group is planning to link the Capturing Old Shoreham Virtual Heritage Trail to articles on the site and to contribute our research findings. The group meets on Wednesday this week at The Amsterdam and welcomes anyone interested in the history of local places and people.
- This year's national Heritage Open Days in September will have a theme of 'Everyday Lives', which matches well with the current work that the group is doing to uncover stories of the people who have lived, worked and done business in Old Shoreham in past times.

THIS MONTH IN OLD SHOREHAM

Tue 13 JAN 12:30 – 14:00	Old Shoreham Banner group <i>'Bringing the banner together'</i> Working session at Elmcroft in St Giles Close (Also on Tue 27 January) Contact Wendy Jones for details.
Wed 14 JAN 19:00 At The Amsterdam	Old Shoreham Heritage Group Meeting to share their latest research and start preparing for Capturing Old Shoreham at The Marlipins in May, and Heritage Open Days in September
Thu 15 JAN 10:00	Greening Old Shoreham Chalk grasslands restoration on Mill Hill . Meet at the Upper Car Park. Details from joan@oldshoreham.org
Fri 16 JAN 10:00	The future of Shoreham's past Zoom talk by Paul Osborne of Shoreham's local history website Organised by the Shoreham Society
Sat 17 JAN 10:00 -13:00	Greening Old Shoreham Working at St Nicolas and the Conservation Area . Meet at the churchyard . Contact joan@oldshoreham.org
	10:00-12:00 Friends of St Nicolas Coffee & cake
Wed 21 JAN	FOLDS Committee Planning the year ahead. 19:30 at The Amsterdam.
Fri 23 JAN 20:00	FOLDS Music at The Amsterdam with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Folk-rock from <i>Liege and Lief</i> ● Singer-songwriter Max Gilkes ● <i>Ceilidh Vibes</i> Dance to the music
Tue 27 JAN	Old Shoreham Banner group See 13 January for details
Thu 29 JAN 10:00-13:00	Greening Old Shoreham on Mill Hill Additional session for our chalk grassland renovation project.
Fri 30 JAN	Shoreham Harmony Singers at The Amsterdam 19:00-21:00
Sat 31 JAN 10.00	Riverside Litter Pick Starts from the Ai Show Memorial. Organised by Adur Green Party
Sat 7 FEB 17:00	Light Gathering Lanterns and Choirs at Buckingham Park to welcome the start of Spring. Organised by Apron
Sun 8 FEB	Walking Safari round the Adur SSSI Organised by FOASSI Book here

If you have Old Shoreham activities for 2026 to add to our February newsletter, please email

Mill Hill grasslands restoration



Above: October 2025: the Herdwick sheep have arrived on Mill Hill



January 2026: Invading plants removed from a third of a hectare.

Photos: Jonathan Crawford

These two pictures show the great progress made since October by the volunteer groups working on Mill Hill in the first phase of the Grasslands Restoration Project. In three months, they have cleared hundreds of invading scrub plants from the area outlined in red. It is slow, exacting handwork to remove the plants and their roots – including many tiny seedlings. This is to make sure that they cannot regrow, as has happened time and again when they have simply been cut back by machinery.

The pace is increasing as the teams work to clear as much of the site as possible before work has to pause for the nesting season. Extra sessions are planned and every extra pair of hands is welcome with jobs to suit every level of ability. A future newsletter will give more details about the butterfly species and reptiles we are trying to support, and longer-term plans for the whole reserve.

The volunteers have also been working with the County Council Rights of Way team to reopen this stretch of access path that had become completely overgrown in recent years, offering a safer route to the Reserve, away from the traffic. They will complete the work in February.



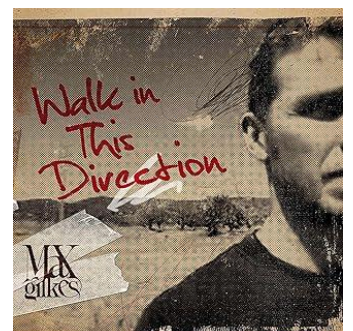
Creative arts and music

- Put a date in your diary to join Apron Community Garden's *Light Gathering* at Buckingham Park on Saturday 7th February at 5pm. FOldS is working with Apron to organise choirs to sing in the park amongst the lanterns on St Brigid's Day, celebrating the very beginning of Spring. Bring children, grandchildren, parents and grandparents to enjoy the lanterns and songs under the stars.



- FOldS music sessions** will resume on Friday 23 January at The Amsterdam Inn. Organiser Brett Widdows says the music will start with a short set by **Liege and Lief** and songs from Fairport Convention and Fotheringay. They will be followed by a solo set from local musician [Max Gilkes](#), a professional singer/songwriter and producer, performing songs from his albums.

The evening will close with a rousing set of Irish and Scottish songs from **Ceiledh Vibes** and plenty of opportunity to sing along with the band.



LOOKING BACK: 2025 IN REVIEW

Local people established FOldS in 2024, in response to a call that *'Old Shoreham needs friends'*. We work in partnerships with other groups to protect and improve the local environment, through community action. 2025 was our first full year, and this is a taste of what we did together.

January – Setting direction

'From awareness to understanding and action'

We secured funding for **Capturing Old Shoreham** — five linked projects to understand our place and guide future plans.

Planning for these projects happened alongside established conservation volunteering sessions, and new music events at The Amsterdam.

February – Hands on

'Just turn up and take part'

Greening Old Shoreham

launched regular conservation sessions, beginning in St Nicolas churchyard and on Mill Hill.

March – Finding our voice

Capturing Old Shoreham launched officially with support from the National Trust. We held workshops for the Old Shoreham Soundscape and Banner projects. The **FOldS Forum 'Planning Ahead'**, was an opportunity for informed community discussion about development, nature and heritage, making sure that we are ready to engage with future local planning in Adur and Shoreham. *A constructive local voice'*

April–May – Building depth

Behind the scenes our heritage research expanded with regular meetings of the new History and Heritage Group.

Greening Old Shoreham expanded its work and started local biodiversity surveys. Work on the Old Shoreham banner gathered pace.

We strengthened our partnerships with established groups and organisations active elsewhere in Adur and Sussex.

'Quiet progress that makes everything else possible'

June – A community moment

Our Midsummer Fair on 21 June attracted hundreds of people and involved more than twenty local organisations in a joyful day of music, art, talks and activities across Old Shoreham. Fifty new members joined FOldS and many others signed up with other groups.

'A day to bring the community together'

July – Culture at the historic heart of Old Shoreham

Natural Voices brought six choirs and over 150 people to St Nicolas for an evening of song.

The Old Shoreham heritage trail interpretation boards found permanent homes and the Village Map project started its first workshops.

'Music and art are the way to make community happen'

August–September – Wider participation

Nature mapping walks continued alongside Village Map workshops and walking safaris and a new singing group brought more people into FOldS activities.

'More ways for more people to belong'



October – Making a difference

Major **grassland restoration began on Mill Hill**, reopening paths and improving habitats, working in an equal partnership with rangers and other conservation groups.

'From footpaths to chalk grassland, active conservation volunteers making visible change'

FOldS volunteers contributed to Shoreham's annual Wordfest.

November/December – Taking stock

The Capturing Old Shoreham projects passed the halfway point. Assembly began for the Community Banner. We celebrated a year of monthly music and made plans for an Old Shoreham exhibition at the Marlipins in 2026.

To raise funds for the year ahead, the citizen historians in the Heritage Group presented their findings to local residents and we finished the year with a music gathering in St Nicolas, marking its 75th anniversary as a listed building of national importance.

Some achievements at a glance

- **250+ Friends**
- **Many active volunteers**
- **Local research underway**
- **Music embedded locally**
- **New community art and a wealth of community talent**
- **Links with schools and care homes**
- **New awareness of Old Shoreham in the community**
- **Growing partnerships with groups across Adur**
- **Essential funding for 2026**

With apologies that this is only a partial picture of all that has happened