

# Capturing Old Shoreham



FOldS News | May 2026

This newsletter marks a milestone. Over recent weeks many of us have had our heads down — completing projects, preparing exhibition materials and reporting back to funders — while still working across the Downs, river and village.

Communications may have been quieter than usual, but activity certainly has not. This issue shares some of what has emerged, invites you to visit the exhibition and begins a wider conversation about what should come next.

Our funded projects have ended, but community action may only just be beginning. New connections are forming between landscape, heritage, nature recovery, research, art and community action — and between many of the people involved.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

FOldS

Friends of  
Old Shoreham



National  
Trust

Changing Chalk  
connecting nature, people and heritage

made possible with



Heritage  
Fund

## EXHIBITION

### Capturing Old Shoreham at the Marlipins A landscape of discovery

After many months of making, mapping, recording, workshops and research our 'Summer Show' is now open upstairs at the Marlipins.

Created by FOldS and friends — including artists, historians, naturalists, researchers and volunteers — the exhibition explores a landscape of connection, movement and change, shaped over three millennia by the Adur, the Downs and by community life.

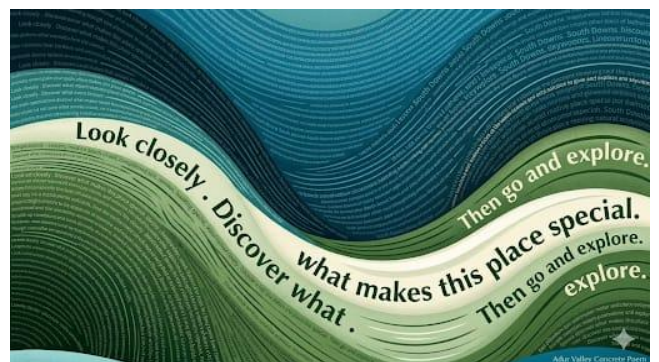
Through maps, a soundscape, stitched artworks, nature mapping, photographs and local research, plus a children's trail and family activities, you are invited to look again at familiar places and discover the stories woven through them.

The exhibition brings together five linked community projects supported through the National Trust's *Changing Chalk* programme. But this is not simply a display of finished work. It is also an invitation: to explore, contribute and join a wider conversation about the landscape, heritage, nature and community stewardship of Shoreham.

What emerged is not a conclusion, but a beginning.

Many of the people involved began simply by turning up to a walk, workshop or volunteer session. Others brought memories, research, creative skills or local knowledge. Together, they are revealing this is not simply a historic landscape but a living, changing place important to Shoreham's future.

**Come and explore.**



Thursday to Saturday 11am to 3pm till 25 July.

The exhibition includes a series of evening talks and Saturday drop-in sessions. See our 'What's On listing on Page 4 and FOldS WhatsApp groups for updates.

# Changing Chalk

## A community in action

We have sent our final report to the National Trust with our thanks for supporting Capturing Old Shoreham. In summary, the report says:

For many in Old Shoreham, the past year has involved exploring the area in new ways — listening to its sounds, recording wildlife, researching buildings, stitching landscapes into fabric and sharing memories of the places around us.

Supported by the National Trust’s Changing Chalk programme, Capturing Old Shoreham brought together five connected community projects. Together, they offer a new picture of Old Shoreham: not simply as a historic village centre, but as a larger living landscape linking river, Downs, heritage and everyday life — and a springboard for more research, art and community action. The five project strands, now feature in the Marlipins exhibition:

**Village Map** — a collective image of Old Shoreham’s landscapes, wildlife, buildings and memories.

**Banner Project** — a collaborative artwork recording local wildlife, buildings, routes and characters.

**Echoes of Old Shoreham** — a portrait in sound, words and song exploring birdsong, water, weather and everyday sounds across the Downs and valley.

**Nature Map (BioMap)** — community wildlife recording and ecological mapping guiding practical biodiversity action.

**Heritage Trail** — researching landscapes, buildings and the stories of the people behind them.

More than 200 people took part directly in workshops, walks, field sessions, talks and creative

<b>One</b> year	<b>Five</b> project strands	<b>72</b> sessions & events
<b>200+</b> people involved	<b>2,500+</b> hours contributed	<b>600+</b> session attendances
<b>40–50%</b> repeat participation		<b>20–25</b> core contributors

**A people-powered project - a year in numbers**  
These statistics are just a record of group activities –participants contributed many more hours of individual research and creative work

projects. Schools, artists, local organisations and residents contributed thousands of hours of time, knowledge and creativity.

The project was never simply about producing documents or artworks. It encouraged people to notice familiar places differently — through listening, observing, researching, mapping and making together.

One participant described a dawn sound-recording session as “a magical orchestration of bird songs — mesmerising.” Another called the experience of focused listening “very meditative.”

What emerged was more than a collection of outputs. New partnerships formed, new volunteers became involved and a growing network of local stewardship began to develop. The exhibition captures some of this work — but not the many new relationships behind it, nor the wider story still unfolding.



Some of the exhibition panels now on display in the Marlipins

# Big Chalk

## Nature recovery on Mill Hill

In December the Big Chalk Nature Recovery Fund helped FOldS to equip local volunteers to work alongside Council and National Park Rangers on a long-term effort to restore areas of rare chalk grassland on the local Downs. Here is what we have been able to report back

For many local people, the steep chalk slopes above Old Shoreham are simply a scenic backdrop to daily life —glimpsed from busy roads and the coastal plain. A closer view reveals that much of this rare habitat has been slowly deteriorating through scrub growth, erosion and increasing visitor pressure.

Our project has brought together community groups, conservation specialists, councils and corporate volunteer teams including HSBC and American Express. Most of the work has been carried out manually on steep exposed slopes using hand tools and careful extraction methods. Volunteers have worked throughout the winter in challenging conditions, reopening routes across the reserve and helping reconnect fragmented areas of chalk grassland. Work originally expected to pause in spring continued into early summer.



Mill Hill slope in December 2025 and (below) April 2026  
Photography by Jonathan Crawford 2026

### What volunteers have achieved so far

- invasive scrub removed from over half a hectare of target habitat
- overgrown paths reopened
- 4km of paths and public rights of way cleared and widened
- tools, partnerships and volunteer capacity needed for long-term stewardship.

The project is a reminder that nature recovery can be complex. Years of unmanaged growth have created dense root systems and secondary scrub, but also important habitat for nesting birds, reptiles and specialist insects — including the nationally scarce Barred Tooth-striped moth. Restoration is therefore not simply a matter of “clearing scrub”. Volunteers, Rangers and specialists increasingly adapted their methods to balance biodiversity, public access and long-term habitat recovery.

*‘The project has been a joy to support!’*

Caroline Svendsen, Big Chalk Nature Recovery Fund Manager

This is simply “Phase One”. Ecological recovery on chalk grassland takes years rather than months. Over the summer we will be managing the newly cleared areas and getting ready for the next phase starting this autumn including recruiting new volunteers. Could this be you? Watch out for new taster sessions.

Perhaps most importantly, more people are beginning to see Mill Hill differently: not simply as downland above the town, but as a fragile and remarkable landscape requiring active care.



Funded through the Big Chalk Nature Recovery Fund, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Protected Landscape Partnership.

[big-chalk.org](http://big-chalk.org)

## WHAT'S ON

### MAY-JULY

14 May-25 July | 11am to 3pm | Marlipins Museum

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham exhibition and trails**

### MAY

Thursday 21 May | 10am | Mill Hill

#### **Greening Old Shoreham conservation volunteers**

Details from [gosh@oldshoreham.org](mailto:gosh@oldshoreham.org)

Friday 22 May | 8pm | The Amsterdam Inn

#### **Music at The Amsterdam** (details on this page)

Saturday 23 May | 12 noon | Upstairs at Marlipins

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham Saturday drop-in**

**Mill Hill Army Camps** | Brian Drury

### JUNE

Monday 1 June | 7pm | Swiss Cottage

#### **Shoreham Harmony Group** (singing circle)

Thursday 4 June | 7pm | Upstairs at the Marlipins

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham evening talk**

**A history of the Adur Valley** | Dr Janet Pennington

Admission by ticket | £7.50 | [Book here](http://Book here folds.info/jp)

Saturday 6 June | 10am | Mill Hill | See 21 May

#### **Greening Old Shoreham conservation volunteers**

Sunday 7 June | 10am | Meet at St Nicolas

#### **Nature map walk- mapping the valley woodlands**

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham Saturday drop-ins**

Saturday 13 June | 12 noon | Upstairs at Marlipins

**Creating the Old Shoreham Banner** | Wendy Jones

Also Saturday 27 | 12 noon | Upstairs at Marlipins

**Creating the Village Map** | Karolyn Mnich

Thursday 18 June | 10am | Mill Hill | See 21 May

#### **Greening Old Shoreham conservation volunteers**

Saturday 20 June | 10am | St Nicolas | See 21 May

#### **Greening Old Shoreham conservation volunteers**

#### **COMING UP** (more details to follow)

Thursday 25 June | 7pm | Upstairs at Marlipins

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham evening talks**

**The Adur Site of Special Scientific Interest**

Wednesday 1 July | 7pm | Old Shoreham

#### **FOldS Public Forum** | See this page

Saturday 18 July | 12 noon | Upstairs at Marlipins

#### **Capturing Old Shoreham Saturday drop-in**

**Mill Hill Camps: bring your finds** | Brian Drury

Thursday 23rd July | 7pm | Upstairs at Marlipins

#### **Archaeology of the Adur Valley and Shoreham Downs**

James Sainsbury | Curator | Worthing Museum

## MUSIC AND ARTS

### FOldS Fourth Fridays

The regular FOldS Friday music sessions resume at The Amsterdam Inn this week, following a pause while the Inn changed owners to become a family-run independent business.

The opening session of this new series of Fourth Fridays has a diverse line up with gentle folk harmonies, bluegrass and sea shanties from *In the Bracken* and *Sea Glass* with *Salty Mares* bringing the evening to a rousing close.



### New Art for Old Shoreham

*Capturing Old Shoreham* at The Marlipins includes a 'pop-up' art exhibition that will change regularly. It continues the theme of New Art for Old Shoreham that started with the Heritage Festival in 2004 and last year's Community Fair,

Currently on display are original artworks by Susan Bishop, Delia Lindon-Spence, Karolyn Mnich and Janice Thurston all offering contrasting images inspired by Old Shoreham.

They sit in the gallery alongside five completely new pieces of Community Art – the Village Map, the Old Shoreham Banners - there are three now - and the Echoes of Old Shoreham Soundscape.

#### FRIENDS OF OLD SHOREHAM

From early beginnings in 2024 we can now see what becomes possible when local people begin working together around landscape, heritage and nature recovery. Some activities are beginning to develop lives of their own. New partnerships are emerging. New people are stepping forward.

This summer we want to pause, reflect and ask, what next?

- What should continue?
- What is missing?
- What forms of community stewardship are needed?

Join the conversation at our public forum: *Refolding* on 1 July in Old Shoreham 7.30pm -venue to be confirmed,