



Whatever next?

It's two years since the Friends of Old Shoreham agreed a constitution to **protect and improve Old Shoreham's natural and built environment through community action**, and to **provide a local forum**.

FOLDs began with three people who were concerned about the lack of care for the Old Shoreham Conservation Area. A public meeting brought together dozens more people and widened the conversation to include nature and rebuilding a stronger sense of community.

We never set out to create an organisation. FOLDs has grown naturally and today is less a conventional organisation than a network of people, projects and partnerships.

We have therefore been taking stock of what has been achieved and whether our constitution and way of working still fit what FOLDs has become.

Joan Staley's woodland photo above typifies how FOLDs offers fresh perspectives on Shoreham and Adur



Setting directions

This month started with our Forum and an online survey. Together, they addressed three pressing questions. What should continue? What is missing? What should change?

The survey and Forum show strong support for FOLDs and for continuing the work already begun. People particularly value the way nature, heritage, arts, community activity and practical action are brought together, rather than treated as separate interests.

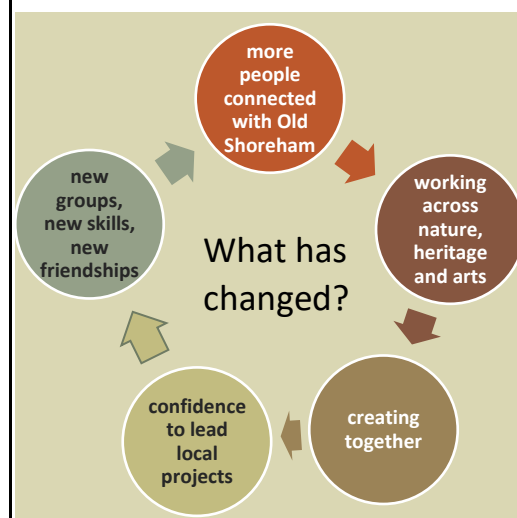
Most suggestions build on existing work: more nature

recovery, greener streets and corridors, better footpaths and interpretation, stronger involvement in planning, closer partnerships and more opportunities for people to meet.

ree priorities stand out.

- **Old Shoreham needs a place to gather.** A community hub, noticeboards or regular meeting places beyond pubs and churches.
- **FOLDs needs a widening community** with more active involvement from families, young people and communities beyond the current circles.
- And it needs to find a more sustainable way of working with responsibility, skills and knowledge shared more widely, using existing community resources and working with other groups.

The overall message is positive: continue the direction of travel, broaden participation and make the work sustainable.



Wendy Jones used this illustration to describe how FOLDs has been working, when she reported to the Forum about activity in arts, music and culture

The year in review

The Forum was also planned as a general meeting and the FOldS committee prepared an annual review which tells the story of a busy, productive year.

Local people recorded wildlife, researched history, made art and music, restored habitats, organised events and shared time, skills and knowledge.

Capturing Old Shoreham brought together the Community Banners, Echoes soundscape, Village Map, Nature Map and Heritage Trail, culminating in the exhibition at Marlipins Museum.

Alongside this, volunteers expanded practical work on paths, habitats and biodiversity, with the restoration of Mill Hill Local Nature Reserve becoming the largest current project.

Walks, talks, workshops, exhibitions, conservation sessions and community events brought people together and created new connections. The year also produced a growing archive of maps, research, recordings, surveys and interpretation.

The review shows how FOldS has developed through people, projects and partnerships. The next challenge is to share responsibility more widely and sustain this growing network of knowledge, care and practical action.

A full copy of the Annual Review will be available for download from <https://folds.info/about>

WHAT'S ON IN OLD SHOREHAM - JULY & AUGUST

Thu 16 Jul | From 9am | Mill Hill Greening Old Shoreham

A FOldS group will be working to clear this year's growth from the reserve footpaths before the school holidays begin. Meet at the small car park before the first cattle grid at 9am.

On the same morning, Greening Old Shoreham and National Park Volunteers will be working together, tree-popping (scrub removal) at The Refuge on the lower slopes.

Meet at the main (upper) car park at 9am

(Note earlier starts for the above)

Sat 18 Jul | 12 noon | Marlipins Bring your back garden finds

Drop-in session at the museum (A Capturing Old Shoreham event) See page 6

Sat 18 Jul | 10am | St Nicolas Greening Old Shoreham

Churchyard maintenance, tending the paths, borders and memorials. Meet at the churchyard at 10am.

Sat 18 Jul | 9am-4pm | Shoreham Methodist Centre Photography Exhibition by Dennis Hunt who has captured Old Shoreham on camera for FOldS

Thu 23 Jul | 7pm | Marlipins Archaeology of the Adur Valley

A talk by James Sainsbury, Curator at Worthing Museum. See page 6 or [click here](#). Booking is essential.



Fri 24 Jul | 8pm | The Amsterdam FOldS Music Sessions with Celtic Shore

Irish folk songs old and new
Martin and Dell - folk duo

Bad Sneakers

Steely Dan cover band

Sun 26 Jul | 14:30 | Buckingham Park

Monthly litter pick with Friends of Buckingham Park. Meet outside the Bowls Club.

Thu 13 Aug | 10am | Mill Hill

National Park Rangers will be continuing scrub removal on Mill Hill

There are no Greening Old Shoreham sessions in August

Fri 24 Aug | 8pm | The Amsterdam FOldS Music Sessions with Valentinos

Americana

Jonathan Russell

Guitar wizard

Ceilidh Vibes

Toe-tapping joy

Coming up in September*
5-20 Sept | Skyway Gallery
Heritage Open Days 2026
[Capturing Old Shoreham –](#)
[Everyday Histories in the](#)
[Landscape](#)

16 Sep | 7pm | Skyway Gallery
The History and Heritage Group is planning to launch its next project, 'The Streets'

*Dates to be confirmed



Keith Walder, Community Park Ranger, writes:

After a long campaign, local Rangers have secured funds for a roadside fence on the eastern boundary of Mill Hill Local Nature Reserve. This is an exciting development that will allow the hill to be grazed more efficiently, helping to restore the rare chalk grassland. Once the fence is complete, Exmoor ponies will arrive to graze the site, followed by the return of the Herdwick sheep in the autumn - together with the conservation volunteers starting autumn and winter scrub clearing.

The fence will soon be complete. The contractors have taken every care not to affect nesting birds and other wildlife and it has given us an opportunity to clear out unwanted invasive species amongst the vegetation. The pedestrian path through the reserve will be reshaped making things safer all round for livestock, walkers and road users.

NATURE RECOVERY



The councils for East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have co-developed Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which were published together at the start of this month.

Here is our initial summary of what the LNRS suggests for the Adur Valley and Shoreham Downs, together with some ideas for how our existing work already contributes. Join up with Greening Old Shoreham to help make it happen!

The strategy offers a simple vision: create bigger, better and better-connected habitats, with action focused where it will have the greatest benefit for nature and people.

This is a landscape approach: shifting attention from a simple focus on reserves and protected sites towards a joined-up network of habitats stretching from the Downs to the River Adur, the coast and our neighbourhoods. Delivering this vision depends on practical action by communities, landowners, local authorities and local organisations.

Urban Nature

Support declining urban wildlife including Swifts, House Martins and Starlings through nest provision, while improving habitats for Hedgehogs, Stag Beetles and Glow-worms.

Green Corridors

Strengthen the connections between the Downs, the River Adur, the coast and our neighbourhoods through hedgerows, roadside verges, gardens, trees and other green spaces. These links are as important as the protected sites themselves and can benefit both wildlife and people.

The Downs

Continue restoring species-rich chalk grassland through scrub management and habitat diversification for butterflies, orchids and other chalk grassland wildlife.

Shingle Coast

Protect and monitor vegetated shingle and its specialist plants and insects.

Adur Valley

Support wetland restoration and sensitive ditch management where opportunities arise to improve habitats and water quality.

Some practical steps we can take to make the plan happen:

Connect habitats

Develop our Nature Map into a practical plan for strengthening wildlife corridors.

Urban wildlife

Promote and create Hedgehog Highways, wildlife-friendly gardens, log piles, stag beetle pyramids, and swift and house martin nesting sites.

Nature-friendly management

Work with landowners and local authorities on simple changes to mowing, hedge management and scrub management that benefit wildlife

Downland conservation

Continue practical scrub management and habitat restoration with the South Downs National Park and others

Citizen science

Expand wildlife recording and monitoring through volunteers, schools and local residents to improve our understanding of nature in Old Shoreham and help measure change over time

The LNRS provides a useful framework for linking together many of the activities already taking place in and around Old Shoreham. By working together, we can help create a more connected and resilient landscape for wildlife, while bringing the benefits of nature closer to the people who live here.

Capturing Old Shoreham

Our landscape story of Old Shoreham at Marlipins has now had more than a thousand visitors since it opened in mid-May. Many have left feedback in the guest book, consistently describing the exhibition as beautifully presented, informative, accessible, community-led and emotionally engaging.

Many have commented on the depth of research and the amount of work involved, while others highlight the exhibition's appeal to local residents, visitors, children, schools and families. The feedback tells us:

- The exhibition is well curated and visually impressive.
- It makes Old Shoreham's history feel alive, accessible, and meaningful.
- The community map, banners, tapestries, children's work, soundscape, and mixed media approach are especially valued.
- Visitors appreciate the exhibition as a collective community achievement.
- Several people say they learned new things even after living locally for many years.
- The feedback suggests strong potential for the exhibition to be repeated, expanded, or made permanent.
- The volunteer stewards and family activities have added authenticity, relevance and good humour to the experience.

just a few of the many comments are printed in the next column.

'Spectacular display. Congratulations to everyone involved – inspirational!!'

'Fantastic exhibition and information about Old Shoreham. Thanks to all the contributors, including school children. Really well put together. Thank you!'

'Fabulous exhibition with beautifully presented displays, books and banners. The Community Map of Old Shoreham is a feast for the eye, containing so much information.'

'Fabulous find on our North Downs Link bike ride. What an amazing, interesting, informative, beautifully put together exhibition.'

'So much history condensed in an accessible format.'

'Amazing exhibition. Very well laid out, so interesting. Amazing needlework, and the information is easy to follow and brings Old Shoreham alive with the exhibits.'

'Totally impressed by the in-depth process of involving such a wide group of the Shoreham community. More than a museum exhibition, such an immersive experience of sound, visual and informative content.'

There is still time to visit and to enjoy the last few events – see below - before the exhibition closes on Saturday 25 July.

DROP-IN SESSION

Bring your back garden finds

Sat 18 Jul | 12 Noon | Marlipins

Brian Drury has played a key role in revealing the story of the First World War Old Shoreham Army Camp. Bring your back garden discoveries to the Marlipins to share or to

EVENING TALK

identify what you have found.

Archaeology of the Adur Valley

Thu 23 Jul | 7pm | Marlipins

There are just a few places left for James Sainsbury's expert talk on the evidence of more than 4,000 years of human activity in the landscape of our local Valley and Downs.

[Booking is essential: click here](#)

POP-UP ART OF OLD SHORE Huge

Prints by the SOLD Artists are on in the gallery this week and in the final week we will have works from Karolyn Mnich and Sarah Bidwell.

Huge thanks to Sussex Past, Friends of Marlipins and their wonderful volunteers for hosting Capturing Old Shoreham in the unique and beautiful Marlipins



Our exhibition will relocate in September to the Skyway Gallery at the Shoreham Centre in Pond Street for an initial two week exhibition as part of this year's National and European Heritage Open Days,



FOLDs has joined Heritage Open Days since 2024 and the move will help us take the story of Old Shoreham to a different audience and age groups including visitors from outside the area. Skyway gives us an opportunity to present the exhibition in a new way with more space and time for those who want to take a deeper dive into the information in the panels, albums and research materials. If you have been thinking about getting involved with the FOLDs Heritage group or doing independent research into your own property, family or street, this could be a good place to make a start

The FOLDs Heritage and History Group carried out much of the research behind the exhibition panels and albums. Its next project will look at the stories of Old Shoreham's streets and routes, joining up the properties and sites already researched and placing them within the wider landscape.

The first focus is likely to be two major routes: The Street - running from Mill Hill towards Swiss Gardens - and the Upper Shoreham Road and A27 corridor. Together they cross Old Shoreham from north to south and east to west, linking buildings, landscapes and everyday lives across the area.

The group is planning an open meeting at Skyway during Heritage Open Days to get this project underway. Would you like to be involved in writing the story of the oldest routes across Shoreham? Or are you a local resident with something to contribute? Watch out for further announcements in early September and come along to see what is involved.



Planning and resilience

Before the “What Next?” Forum on 1 July, a small FOLDs group planned to review recent planning proposals affecting Old Shoreham. Illness and absences meant this could not happen, but the Forum discussions and survey showed strong interest in planning and the future of the area.

The topic came up repeatedly in comments about green spaces, development and community involvement. There is enough support to make planning a new focus for FOLDs, alongside nature, heritage and community.

Who cares?

The illustration on the back page was shared at the Forum. It highlights the concerns that led to FOLDs being created, and the continuing need for a local group to help care for the area and turn plans into action.

Since the Forum, two developments have made this more pressing: recent heatwaves, which underline the need for local climate resilience, and reports of possible changes at Shoreham Airport.

The FOLDs committee has discussed holding another public meeting in October to review the priorities on page 1 and explore how FOLDs can help address planning issues and strengthen local resilience.

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Coming our way?

The local environmental action group [AREA](#) reports that [L3Harris](#), a major aircraft weapons systems manufacturer, may relocate its Brighton operation in 2027. Panattoni Park at Brighton City Airport is a possible destination, though nothing is confirmed.

This matters for Old Shoreham.

Panattoni’s warehouses were approved to meet demand for modern “last-mile” logistics. Yet two years on, much of the site sits empty. If it pivots to manufacturing, its impact on traffic, jobs, noise, and land use could change significantly.

We’ve seen this before. Across the river, commercial units built alongside new housing have remained largely vacant for years.

So what’s going on? Are planners asking the right questions? Are developers’ forecasts being properly challenged? Do we ever review whether promised benefits materialise? And how can local knowledge shape better decisions?

If L3Harris moves, it would join a growing cluster of defence-related firms around the airport—an area with deep industrial roots and military connections. With UK defence spending set to rise, is the Adur Valley becoming a defence manufacturing hub? If so, is that a direction current and future councils intend—and

what would it mean for Old Shoreham?

These aren’t arguments for or against. They’re questions about direction, accountability, and impact. They’re exactly the kind of issues to explore in a local forum, not just in far-away administrative centres

Getting to the core

FOLDs has grown quickly over the past two years. We are now a network of projects, activities and partnerships. To flourish, networks need strong support.

No one directs everything that happens in FOLDs. Each project develops its own ideas, takes responsibility for what it does, and contributes to our shared purpose.

But FOLDs still needs a core group to help things work well. They encourage ideas, connect people and groups, coordinate where useful, share news and learning, find resources, look after key systems, and make sure FOLDs welcomes and includes people.

No one is expected to do all of this. Some roles take only a few minutes a month. Others need more time.

If Old Shoreham is to thrive, the priority now is to spread the load and share these responsibilities

Do you enjoy doing this kind of thing? Come to our next meeting and help shape FOLDs for the future — or contact us now if you are ready to get started.

folds@oldshoreham.org

Who cares?

Old Shoreham lies within everybody's area of interest, but nobody's primary focus.

At the overlap of many responsibilities lies a place for which no single organisation has overall stewardship.

- South Downs National Park Authority
- Adur & Worthing Councils
- West Sussex County Council
- Natural England
- The Living Coast Biosphere
- National Highways (A27)
- Weald to Waves corridor
- Community groups and organisations (local network)
- Local councillors and elected representatives

Many plans. Many responsibilities. Shared objectives. The gap is often between plans and delivery.

WE DO.

Community stewardship: connecting, convening and getting things done.

