

How do we know what you really think?

‘Your Town, Your Voice’ ... we say... But as we don't always know what you say, maybe we should.

Is there a Shoreham Society position on, for instance, the proposed IKEA store? Suppose, for example, that 59% were for it and 21% were against it and 20% don't care (with 79% of our members voting) then maybe that result would be helpful to somebody – maybe to our planning Councillors?

Statistics... statistics. We live by them! So, how do we go about asking you? We've given this some thought and probably need several ways. Also we'll give you a 'voting number' each time to check that some people don't vote twice (*we think that's easier than asking for your membership number, which may be hard to find?*). If there are two members at the same address, put an a or b after the number (e.g. 261a and 261b) **SO HERE'S THE PILOT OR "TRY-OUT":**

Please respond by October 1st
DO YOU WANT A NEW IKEA ON THE A27?

YES - DON'T MIND - NO

Your voting number* is stamped on the coupon below. Please do one of four things:

● **Send** a blank e-mail to jaapple59@icloud.com and in the 'Subject' line, just put three things: IKEA, voting number, and your response (*yes / don't mind / no*).

● **Phone** 07837 658552 with (as above) IKEA, number and your response. If there's no answer, leave a voice message.

● **Text** the same three things to the same number.

● **Post** the reply coupon below, but it will cost you a stamp!

That should cover everyone we hope, and thank you.

* Just to say, we have **not** made a note of the numbers so your response will be anonymous.

MODERNISING THE MESSAGE

Also we can't ignore the trend to having publications e-mailed rather than posted. Or put onto a website for viewing & downloading. Should we do that, and e-mail you to say they are there? You could have that **as well as** posted or hand-delivered.

Don't worry – if you still want a printed copy we'll send you one as before. In future, membership rates might be a bit lower if you *don't* want it delivered, and some societies are doing that already (e.g. Margate Civic Society charge £13 membership with paper newsletters and £10 with electronic ones)

So – can we start by asking you now... if you DO have an e-mail address and are happy to have the Journals and News Sheets e-mailed as a PDF to read on-screen or print out at home, please e-mail phamerton50@gmail.com to say so and we'll amend our lists accordingly. This will save us money and work for the volunteers. If you've already done so, there's no need to do it again. Many thanks.

Like Dr. Who...

CECIL NORRIS IS REGENERATING! And growing.

SO, who was Cecil Norris? Anyway, this is about the 'House' bearing his name, situated on the part of Ravens Road that did not exist on the 1951 map shown in *Memories of Shoreham* booklet (see next page for a piece on this by Phil Hamerton). It was then 'Buckingham Gardens', and only accessed by that little elevated footpath that still exists, although now pretty overgrown.

Cecil Norris House is owned and operated by Adur District Council, but they want it replaced. Liam Russell architects have designed the new block of 15 much-needed 'affordable' flats to replace the bed-sits (basically, council housing) to be let out at 80% of a 'market' rent. The new block will therefore house more people, so will be taller with a bigger footprint, building over the car parking area. It will have balconies, a sedum (green) roof, an assortment of brick colours, some solar panels on the roof and only two parking spaces (for disabled). Other cars must park on the street, but there's talk of a residents' parking scheme coming in, especially around the station area where commuters park all day.

Shoreham Society committee members met with 'Adur Homes' (the Council) representatives and the architect on Sept. 11th to discuss. We had no particular issues with it, in fact it looked nicer than the existing building. Of course, you might say why demolish a property which isn't particularly old, is in decent condition, why not refurbish, retro-fit or extend? But that could have been said about the Civic Centre, and our Council discarded it. Out with the old...!

It seems there ARE local objections to this plan, in particular from residents on Ravens Road at the back, very thorough and too detailed to go into here. Mainly about the bulk and height of the new block and pressure on car parking space. The developers have asked, please e-mail ravensroad@naturalpr.biz if you wish to comment, and no doubt there will be further discussion.

PLAQUE FOR REG LEGGETT

We are very close to ordering (at last...!) a Blue Plaque to go on Tile Cottage in Middle Street. We are trying to get in touch with Sandi Marchant, part of Reg's family, who we seem to have lost contact details for. Can anyone help please? Adrian or Jenny 01273 463096

When The Guns Fell Silent – Church Bells Rang

IT can't have escaped your attention but this year marks a big centenary, the signing of the armistice ending the "war to end all wars" – or so it was hoped at the time. The Shoreham Society has been busy over the last few months working with St Mary de Haura and local schools to create an exhibition describing the work of the parish church and churches during the war and the seismic change in society in those four years.

The exhibition will start at St Mary's on Saturday 20th October then move to St Nicholas and the Church of the Good Shepherd over the next six weeks ending on Friday 30th November.

As part of the commemorations the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust have awarded us 6 silhouettes to place in the three churches as part of the 'There But Not There' national commemoration, bringing to mind those who went to war and did not return.

We are taking the "There but not there" theme further by asking Shoreham residents put silhouettes in their windows to mark the fact that someone who lived in that that house went off to war. The static cling silhouettes can be easily removed, leaving no marks and we would be really grateful if you receive one to put it up from 20 October until 30 November and encourage neighbours to do likewise.

Jenny Towler

REPLY COUPON - please put in an envelope and post to
Votes, 59 Connaught Ave, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WL
IKEA: YES - DON'T MIND - NO (*delete as applicable*)
My voting No. is

2nd Member at same address: YES - DON'T MIND - NO

Memories of Shoreham

WHILST sorting through some correspondence between members and me which took place during the past year, I came across a letter from Esta Rogers, and I was prompted by the last paragraph of her letter to "Google" 'Memories of Shoreham'.

And there, on the shorehambysea.com website was a selection of audio recordings, the first being a BBC local radio interview with the late David Tait (see opposite) when he was talking about the writing of that book.

There were various snippets of the many recordings made during the process of this Oral History Project, including Jack Lucking and Reg Leggett, the latter having been interviewed by Esta. Please do log in and listen.

Meanwhile, Esta told me in her letter that she was on the very first committee of the Shoreham Society, and her son William was the first Junior Member (*don't have those now, do we? – ed!*) Her late husband Patrick delivered the Newsletter for years and her late brother Alan Upton before him.

After volunteering, at the request of the Shoreham Society many years ago, she had worked at the Marlipins Museum and was a Trustee, gaining a Long Service badge. Esta mostly worked on Saturdays and could help people with her local knowledge. Her brother worked with Helen Poole and Emma on a Catalogue. She was so sad when the Shoreham Society no longer supported the Museum.

Her husband had always helped when she was very involved with the Society, but to her joy in the last years of his life he became more actively involved on the working party of the Museum. They had so many happy hours there.

Esta comes from a very old Shoreham family and her grandfather and his brothers manned the lifeboat in the early days. Her father was a Voluntary Coastguard but worked for the Shoreham Urban District Council until his retirement.

As alluded to in the first paragraph above, Esta finishes her letter by saying "I worked on the creation of the 'Memories of Shoreham', interviewing local people and spent many hours with the late Reginald Leggett."

The book, published by the Shoreham Society in 1994, is fascinating and I am sure many people reading this will have a copy* on their shelf at home! Thank you so much for sharing your memories, Esta.

Phil Hamerton

* If you don't, Marlipins Museum has a few left at the very cheap price of £2 each. And it has been discussed by the Committee as to whether we should order a reprint of it – but maybe not quite yet. However, Michael Norman's excellent *Walkabout Guide to Shoreham* could be due a revised edition and we have talked about doing it. Do Members have any opinions on this?



Letters

AMSTERDAM ANGER

BRIEFLY the problem is this: The Amsterdam Inn, the Tudor Cottage and the three small cottages set back

between them 459, 461, and 463 all share frontage and access to a small adoptive road which is part of Upper Shoreham Road. It is not private property. When Stonegate (*the pub company*) first took over the Amsterdam for refurbishment they appeared to believe they owned the whole area up to Connaught Avenue and the Old Shoreham Road. Their initial plans cut off access to our properties and were subsequently correctly redrawn. End of problem.

The three owners of the properties who share this frontage to this road with the Amsterdam have no quarrel with the Inn itself; it is in our common interest that the business thrives and is an asset to the area. But it becomes difficult for us when Stonegate (who are not a local company) make decisions like installing a pay & display car park, erecting new signage, and initiating charges where we have had a tacit right to park ever since my family moved here in 1956. And we receive no prior notification. The Amsterdam put up the wall and the lighting back when it was a tea room. And more recently you may remember there was stencilled lineage for cars and 'The Amsterdam Car Park' on the raised kerb demarking the car park from the roadway. But whether that entitles the new owners to claim freehold I don't know. If they were to offer we three households some form of parking voucher or parking concession it would ease the problem.

Jennifer Kariban

● *It must be a problem for local pubs. As towns get busier, people just park in their car parks. We note Greene King, who took over The Swiss Cottage, have instituted a comparable scheme where you get a parking voucher at the bar when you buy drinks (so avoid a threatened fine from some obscure parking company, based miles away!) Jennifer, you had a detailed reply from one of our Committee (too long to print here) and I do hope all has been resolved.*

ALL CHANGE AT THE MANNINGS

ONE big housing issue coming up concerns The Mannings in Ham Rd./ Surrey Street. Residents have been informed by their Housing Association that the whole block is to be demolished and they will be required to move out soon.

St. Mary's Ward Councillor Catherine Arnold had previously put in a request to Adur District Council (after hearing rumours) seeking what information they had received about this development. They stated they were unaware of any proposal. Two weeks later The Mannings residents received their formal letters. There are Council flats in Surrey Street opposite The Mannings that are rumoured also be part of any development.

With no decision yet on the future of the old Civic Centre site, this area of Shoreham will certainly need the spotlight on it.

Brian Whipp

The Gateway Site of Howard Kent

SOME of the Committee went to see the new proposals for the old Howard Kent site, Southwick on Sept. 14th and came away quite optimistic. The architect Liam Russell explained they'd pretty much gone back to the drawing board after the many objections and 'shock-horror' with the original scheme.

Although there is one block of flats in the new proposal, there are rows of three- and four-storey terraced properties, four-bedroomed houses for families, still with river views and balconies but much softer than the earlier design. Although less homes, they were just-about profitable enough for the developer, we were told, due to lower building and preparation costs.

Although it's not in Shoreham, we like to keep an eye on this and our MP Tim Loughton is to be congratulated on all the work he's put in to achieve this improved result. Watch out for more public consultation soon.

NOT MUCH is happening about our SUBWAY. I'm summoning up the energy to complete a summary of four years' campaigning and then ask local councillors to start harassing Network Rail (who are getting a new Chief Exec soon, *hooray*.) Nobody has offered to help me so, although I've not given up, I have been easily distracted by other things.

More people in Shoreham, with more new housing, means more people waiting at the crossing! I went to look at Fishersgate Halt recently where NR were to spend 'huge amounts' on a replacement footbridge because it had "a couple of issues" (see last News Sheet). Admittedly there's enough railway land on both sides of the track to put in the huge, long ramps for wheelchair users, if that's what they're planning. But no sign of any work yet. **Adrian Towler**

CAFE-ON-THE-BEACH

THE DEBATE

KERRY Leask and Geoff Beardsley of River Close, on Shoreham Beach, sent their thoughts on café proposals to their local Councillors. And then were persuaded to send them to Shoreham Society. So here are some thoughtful responses by one of our architects... with which most of us agree. *What do you think?*

KERRY & GEOFF: A huge part of Shoreham beach charm is how unspoilt and un-touristy it is. It goes without saying a café on the green will attract many people beyond very local residents, people who have nothing invested in the immediate area where people like myself live (River Close)

SHOREHAM SOCIETY: A café on the Green will indeed attract people beyond 'very local residents' (not completely sure what a very local resident is... but anyway), personally I feel this would be a great thing... Look at the success story of The Perch and East Beach ... Why wouldn't we want to promote our beautiful Shoreham as a friendly coastal destination?

K & G: I am massively concerned about the huge increase in pressure on local parking availability and so clogging up nearby streets such as ours...

SS: Personally I feel that, because of its hidden location, this small café will primarily attract cyclists and pedestrians (similar to The Perch and East Beach café). But, there is also the Beach Green car park, making this a very sustainable location for a café/ retail unit.

...the inevitable huge increase in litter regardless of how many bins they put out as people will take away food and drinks onto the beach...

SS: I agree. This is a problem indeed everywhere. And I don't think it's down to number of bins either, as this can indeed be provided, but the problem is more the potential strong winds/ breeze and seagulls blowing rubbish everywhere... Could the café be encouraged to organise regular beach clean ups?

...not to mention all the protected plants on the beach with much heavier footfall and people who aren't local understanding how special our wild beach is.

SS: There are signs that can be put up to show the importance of protected plants and their protection. Many of these exist already (an attachment showing them was sent to K & G).

K & G: The initial proposals absolutely horrified me so I am glad the Fat Boy Box company proposal is much more modest – however the cynic in me wonders if this was almost deliberate so we would feel relieved at a replacement plan which is still too big and unsightly for the plot?!

SS: I also felt the previous proposals were out of scale with the site. But very pleased to see the council have taken resident comments into consideration and are looking for a much reduced scheme. I feel the scale is suitable for its location so do not have an issue.

K & G: It's a pretty small green and not directly on the beach so if we HAVE to have a café at all (pah!), let it be smaller and more rounded, curved, softer and more in keeping with the natural environment, have a living roof etc. I see an alternative suggestion in the Shoreham Society newsletter but limited information.

SS: I'm certainly not against a more rounded building, just know that Box Park developments use shipping containers to form their developments, so a rounded proposal may not work with their construction methods. Plus I particularly like the fact that the flat roof allows for a terrace which will face south, therefore giving it more of a connection with the beach/ sea... What I would like to know is if the developers will provide money to landscape the closed-off road that sits between the beach huts and The Green. Not completely sure but materials appear to be timber, gabion walls and glass. All very seaside materials, of which I approve...

K & G: More people /vehicle noise and pollution – at times groups of teenagers already gather on the opposite park side of the green until late at night. What guarantee would there be that a café wouldn't start having one off events with a late licence which gradually become a regular feature?

SS: Planning conditions can be implemented imposing strict opening and closing times. However, I am aware that The Perch, for example, are currently having cinema evenings on the beach, which is such a fabulous community thing to do and I would be inclined to support it on Shoreham Beach.

K & G: The proposed café will be in front of an area of beach which is on the edge of 'no swimming' zone with no life-guards and dangerous groins that only more local people know about to avoid depending on the tides. Am well aware I am

continued on back page

This Obituary for David should have gone into the last Journal but, sadly, was omitted – my fault entirely – although some of it was used in the *Shoreham Herald* of 22nd March.

David Tait,

a Shoreham resident for over 30 years, died on February 25th 2018, aged 86. David was a retired Teacher of English as a foreign language, who lived in Greenacres and was involved with a large range of societies and activities. For forty years, he and his wife Elizabeth recorded news and short articles for The Talking News (the weekly newspaper for the sight-impaired), first in Brighton and then, when they moved to Shoreham, for Adur Talking News where he led a team of four readers, until ATN was disbanded in 2016. He had an excellent reading voice and, just like Elizabeth, was able to 'create' different characters. He revelled in humorous pieces by such writers as Basil Boothroyd, as well as being able to share his love of poetry and of local history.

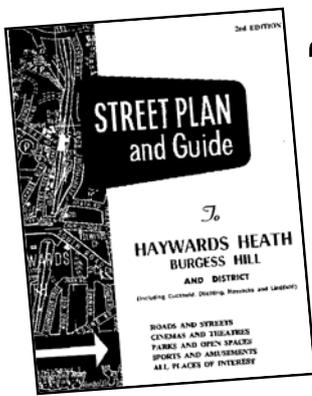
David became **Chairman of The Shoreham Society in 1991**, a position he held for several years having been Vice Chairman beforehand. During this time, the Society was responsible for the day-to-day running of the local museum Marlipins in Shoreham High Street, so David became closely involved. To promote the museum he and Elizabeth spoke at local schools to encourage groups of children to make visits, which he and Elizabeth then often shaped to the needs and interests of the pupils concerned. For several years, David was also a leading member of the local branch of The Probuc Club.

David and his wife put together a number of hour-long programmes of readings about Sussex or Sussex dialect, or about poets (such as John Betjeman). These entertaining presentations, given for over twenty years, were illustrated with slides and performed at various clubs, societies and WI groups throughout Sussex – in great demand.

In 1998 David wrote the script for 'Bungalow Town Memories', an entertainment (readings, sketches and songs) which he presented, again with Elizabeth, about the early days of Shoreham Beach with its music hall and film star residents. It included an interview with the niece of Marie Lloyd as well as songs from the 1900s to 1940s sung by a close harmony group, The Worthingaires, and it was performed to a packed house at Kingston Barn as part of that year's Adur Festival.

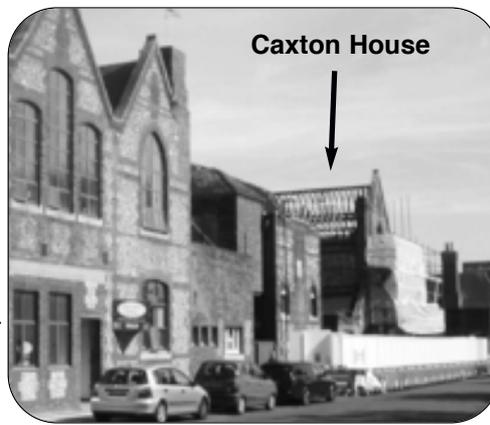
David Tait was a respected member of the local community who – with his kindly manner and gentle humour – will be missed by all who knew him.

Trevor Harvey



'NORMAL SERVICE IS RESUMED...'

but IN BURGESS HILL FOR many years, **Service Publications** in Ham Road put Shoreham-by-Sea on the map. On many maps actually. Perhaps you have an 'SP Map' in your collection?



STREETMAPS... WHAT with all the fuss about a proposed IKEA store and ever-increasing A27 traffic, I had hoped to show you a bit of the 1996 A-Z Street Atlas. Because it showed the "**Proposed Worthing By-Pass**" from the old Sussex Pad to almost the Coach & Horses after Worthing. Lack of space I'm afraid. Next time! *Will we ever see it in our lifetime?*

Their old building, "Caxton House" is now being torn apart and made into flats. I remember being asked to buy street map advertising by a Service Publications salesman when I was working in Hastings years ago at the White Rock Theatre. Here's a bit of their history which **Simon P. Scoble**, their Managing Director, has very kindly written for us. *Much appreciated, Simon.*

"**M**R. Peter Edward Martell, the founder of Service Publications and Southdown Press, moved the companies to Ham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea in 1964 from Davigdor Road in Hove, which had been the Company's home since their conception in 1947.

"As a printing and publishing company, Mr. Martell had the building called Caxton House after William Caxton. (William Caxton was an English merchant, diplomat, and writer. He is thought to be the first person to introduce a printing press into England in 1476, and as a printer was the first English retailer of printed books.) [*Incidentally, Peter's wife, Ruby Evelyn Ryder, was a relation of Samuel Ryder the donor of the prestigious golfing award 'The Ryder Cup' and co-founder of the seed and herbal remedies company Heath & Heather - ed.*]

"The publishing part of the operation (Service Publications) operated from the upper floor of the building, and the printing part (Southdown Press) operated from the factory on the ground floor. I believe that Mr. Martell bought the building from "The Scottish Bakery" in 1964, and before that it was a school. The building, I believe, was built around 1898/1900-ish.

"From its inception, as it does today, the company produced free diaries and magazines for churches and charities across the country [*and surely, street maps! - ed*]. The production of the diaries are funded by advertising support from local companies wishing to promote their services, and over the years we also produced publications such as *The Wrestler* and *Blues and Two's*.

"The company is still a family-run operation, and we employ a small team, many who have been with us for over 40 years. One employee, Mr Stuart Hay who works the printing machines, has worked at the company since 1966. When the company started production, its publications and diaries were printed by letterpress, and as technology changed the company moved over to printing by lithographic process, and today we still use lithographic and modern digital processes to produce the work.

"As a small family company, and not some big money-making operation, Caxton House in Ham Road became too big for our requirements, and coupled with the building needing comprehensive modernisation and refurbishment, this was money we did not have available, so we had to look for a new place of operation. We would have ideally liked to have stayed in the Shoreham area, but there was very little available to meet our requirements at the time, so we were forced to look further afield. A factory became available that was close to our requirements in Burgess Hill, and we moved out of Shoreham at the end of June 2017."

THE CAFE cont.

sounding like a typical 'NIMBY' plus, ironically, I am not originally a local so technically an 'outsider', but much of Shoreham beach's attraction is the very thing which such a café is at risk of spoiling – it's relatively clean, quiet and wild. SS: Most beaches in Sussex have no lifeguards, including the one opposite The Perch. I do not see this as an issue. Can simply be dealt with using signage if necessary.

One last point: The beach is a public space that does not belong exclusively to Shoreham Beach residents... One small café will hardly make it a touristic destination, but instead will add a much-needed focal point for ALL locals to appreciate the beach better. The majority of us don't have a house on the beach, so this café will create a much-needed place where we can all go and have a bite to eat and a coffee and further enjoy the beauty of Shoreham, something we should be promoting and not hiding. **BH**



Talks & events

All in St Peter's Hall, West Street, Shoreham
BN43 5WG at 7.30pm (except Oct.)
Members £2, guests £3 (except Dec.)

Friday 21st September at 7.30pm

SUSSEX LITERARY LANDSCAPES

Geoff Mead looks at perceptions of our county over a thousand years of written records, using material from novels and prose, poetry and official documents, with historic images.

Friday 19th October in **Ropetackle** Cafe-Bar at 7.30pm

PECHA KUCHA: Lovin' Shoreham-by-Sea

20 images x 20 seconds – **Seven busy people** attempt to tell you why they love Shoreham-by-Sea and what they do within the Community. Not quite the butcher, the baker etc. but an opportunity to learn about who makes up Shoreham and to meet new people in friendly surroundings.

Friday 16th November at 7.30pm

WHY IS CHURCH LANE SO STEEP?

It often surprises **Bill Avenell** how little people appreciate the impact that the physical geography of their area has on their daily lives. And on planning, housing, architectural styles, communications, farming, flooding and other issues. In this illustrated talk, Bill will explain.

Friday 14th December, 7 for 7.30pm

Our popular CHRISTMAS BUFFET

This went well last year, so we're doing it again but this time in St. Peter's Hall. Fork buffet supplied (incl. veg. & gluten-free). Bring your own drinks or buy at the bar. Chat, review the year, plan the future! **£10** includes a welcome drink. You must phone or text 07837 658552 to **reserve places**, then pay on the night.