

The Shroton Lines

The Shroton Lines is a community newspaper which celebrates the life of the village and its inhabitants. It is compiled by local volunteers and provides information and news. Those of us who are involved with the creation of the Lines are hugely grateful for everyone who contributes and particularly to Emma who is responsible for printing it. Contact: shrotonlines@gmail.com. Editor: Helen Christmas, Quince Cottage, The Corner. Please do submit stories, recipes and letters!

Issue 259

April 2023

Dates

Rubbish & Recycling

Main Village/Bessels

April

- 3 Recycling
- 10 Rubbish
- 17 Recycling
- 24 Rubbish

May

- 1 Recycling

The Corner/Courtney Close

April

- 5 Rubbish
- 12 Recycling
- 19 Rubbish
- 26 Recycling

May

- 3 Rubbish

All village

- April 5 Garden waste
- April 19 Garden waste

**Wednesdays in the Village Hall:
10.30 – 12.00 Coffee morning.
All welcome**

Dates for the diary

April

- 2: Easter Fun Village Hall
- 6: Passover Supper
- 7: Witness of the Cross
- 7: Hot Cross buns Village Hall
- 9: Easter Sunday services
- 25: Lunch and Chat

(Details in the Lines of all events)

Shroton History

The Corner

Anciently many poor of the parish paid rent to live in a handful of 'cottages' at the Corner (it was named such as was the Corner of Shroton Street).

The Tithe map names just 7 cottages. In fact by 1859 there were 13 families living in these 7 small cottages: tenants with wives, children and lodgers.

Two of the tenements were on the Glebe and owned by the Rector. In 1910 he describes them as **'very old, sand walls, three rooms in each under one thatched roof'**. They were sold to Alfred Bath for £175. These appear to be located at the south side of the Corner cottages.

The Corner cottages were advertised in 1869 and 1910 as **'Six valuable Freehold Brick built and tiled cottages with small gardens, pleasantly situated at the Corner, Shroton. Five cottages have three bedrooms, living room and pantry ..the other one has two bedrooms, living room and pantry. All have front and back entrances with the right and common use of the footway round the side'**

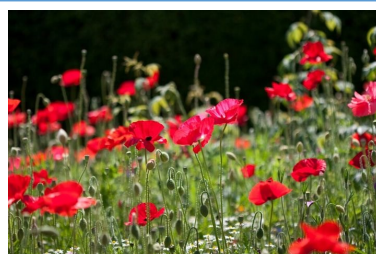
The Gardens were built in 1880, replacing 3 old cottages including one referred to as the Old Dairyhouse and lived in by George Stokes. Sold in 1910 and described as **'4 leasehold cottages with gardens, outhouses and stables. Each house has 3 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, back kitchen with furnace, pantry and cupboards with outhouse and good garden'**. They were sold again in the village 1918 sale.

The 1769 map shows an open water situated opposite the Corner cottages along the street. There was a primitive Chapel built in 1866 but this was replaced in 1896. It flourished in this community until the 1970s and sadly closed its doors in 1991.

In the 1960s there was a small pig farm and then an industrial unit at the site of Courtney Close but houses were built, including Shroton's only lamppost in the late 1970s.

Any questions? Judith 861565.

Request: I would be extremely grateful to read the Deeds of any house in Shroton. They hold so much information and would help put the jigsaw pieces together. Thank you.



Spring into action.... Throw off that long melatonin-induced stupor and find more energy as the days grow longer: explore some of the footpaths around the village; start conversations with your neighbours; clear out those cupboards; start thinking about your entry for the Village Show and most importantly, think what you can write for the Shroton Lines! **Happy Easter.**

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Shroton's Show will be taking place on Saturday 2nd September, so get growing those vegetables, planting those flowers and creating those arts & crafts items!

Or just come along on the day to share a cup of tea and a piece of cake with friends!

Memories of the Shroton Show 2022!



Holy week at St Mary's Shroton

Maundy Thursday April 6th 7pm

Passover Supper in the Village Hall.

Suitable for all the family. Please let Jan know if you would like a place – 861915 or jan@fourways.plus.com.

No charge for the meal but there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the cost.



Good Friday April 7th

Witness on The Cross at 10.15

Simple service in Church at 11am led by Toby Carson and John Simmons, followed by Stations of the Cross, starting at the Church gate at 11.30, and following the cross up Hambleton to the third gate.

Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in the hall afterwards.

All welcome to join in. Dogs and horses welcome!

Easter Sunday April 9th

Easter celebration service in Church at 10am.

Families welcome. Activities for



Polite reminder from the Parish Council

There are many well-trodden paths around the fields in the village. However, some of the paths are not Rights of Way and therefore the public do not have the right to follow these paths. I have recently replaced the footpath way markers on the ROW behind Courtney Close/Bessells/Water meadows showing the correct, legal route.

Please try to keep to the correct path and remember to keep dogs on leads if walking through Livestock. **Thank you.**

THE BIG HELP OUT DAY

A national day of volunteering as requested by King Charles.

May 8th
10am - 4pm
in
Shroton

A community day of helping and being helped and using our skills to the benefit of all.

Please volunteer to help on one of these teams:

Request help by:

♥ post request in box in village hall or church

♥ email jan@fourways.plus.com

♥ Ring Emma on 07983 464202

We will be able to respond to requests only if the task is within our capabilities and we have sufficient volunteer manpower.

1. DIY
Simple painting, carpentry, washers, bulbs etc

2. Make Do & Mend
10am-12pm in the hall
Tea/coffee cake
Gadget mending, sewing, darning etc

3. Gardening
Pruning, weeding, general tidying

4. Car Cleaning
Cars to Fourways drive

5. Tip Run.
Fill a car boot to go to the tip. Collect from people's houses

Cake Fest 2023

Pause or record buttons were pressed enabling ardent rugby fans to break away from their TVs for a few precious moments, shopping trips were cut short and once again, our village hall was filled with the sounds of happy cake eaters.

15 cakes were baked and close on 50 cake eaters sat, chatted and munched their way through everything that was on offer leaving 1 cup cake and a sliver of marmalade cake for the cleaners to finish at the end of the day.

Congratulations to Molly Adam, a clear winner, for building a beautiful multi-layered, multi-coloured cake topped with chocolate dipped strawberries. A firm favourite with those who attended and a clear winner that took away a pair of cook books as her prize.



Shroton business expansion creates job opportunities

Wessex Internet, based at Ranston Farm, is the village's own broadband provider, and it's been on quite a journey since its inception by James Gibson Fleming in 2010. The business has been rapidly expanding in recent years in its push to deliver better local broadband.

With working from home popularised during pandemic, the demand for fast and reliable home broadband has never been greater. Therefore, the company has scaled rapidly to keep pace with demand for its full fibre broadband service and now covers rural villages and hamlets (and more recently even some towns) across Dorset, Wiltshire, South Somerset and parts of Hampshire.

Growing from just 35 employees in 2020 to more than 200 today, Wessex Internet hit the fantastic milestone of 5,000 customers last Spring, and in September was awarded a government contract to roll out fibre to 7,000 more homes and businesses across North Dorset. Some of you may even have seen that the then Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, visited the business in Shroton to announce this contract.

This rapid growth has led to job opportunities in all areas from sales & customer service to design, technology, and construction. The business is passionate about remaining local, aims to recruit from within the area it serves and have a strong track record of training and promoting from within. CEO, Hector Gibson Fleming, says: "We're always on the lookout for local talent and would love to receive applications from Shroton residents. We believe this local focus has created a team that is more engaged with our mission and understanding of our customer base. All current vacancies are on our website, or you can email our recruitment team on careers@wessexinternet.com for more information."

This rapid growth has created some challenges for the business as it outgrows its Ranston base. You will have noticed the addition of temporary car parking and storage areas around the farm, while the company seeks new permanent office and yard facilities. Hector explains, "Wessex Internet has become one of the leading independent internet service providers in the South West, and we're proud to have developed this business here in Shroton. However, we realise we are becoming too big for our current location and are intending to move out in the next 12-18 months. We'd like to thank the villagers for their continued patience and understanding while we find an appropriate site."

Blackmore Vale Brass - Brass like you've never heard it!

We are performing in St Mary's church, Shroton at 7.30 on Friday 28th April.

We hope you will come and enjoy a light-hearted evening of various styles of music, a bit of banter.... and some interesting facts from our tuba player!

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church.



The quintet was formed in 2018 and is based in the North Dorset Area. It has done several series of concerts in the area both alone and with various nationally acclaimed artists such as Blake.

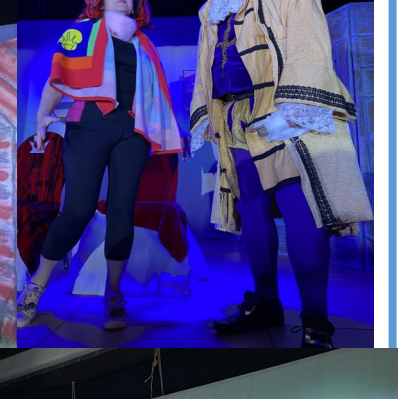
Shroton business expansion creates job opportunities (contd.)

Wessex Internet has been upgrading its wireless service in the village to ultrafast full fibre broadband and will be completing this work in the next few weeks. Many villagers will be aware that they've been running a promotion for the last year to donate £200 for every order received in the village towards a future Parish Council capital project. This offer is coming to a close when they complete the work, but any orders received before 30th April will still be added to their donation.

A word from the editor.... 'Help!'

Many thanks to all those who have sent copy, articles and recipes to me to be included in the Lines. However, like Oliver, I am going to ask for more!

I would love the Lines to reflect the voices of the village, but to do this, I need you. You don't need to be a Dickens, or a Maupin. You don't need to write essays! But, I am SURE that you have views, experiences, interests, jokes, accounts that others would LOVE to hear. Don't be shy! Email: shroton-lines@gmail.com and see your words in print!



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Travel risk assessment form MUST be completed prior to your appointment,
available from reception



Praise the spells and bless the charms,
I found April in my arms.

April golden, April cloudy,

Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;

April soft in flowered languor,

April cold with sudden anger,

Ever changing, ever true --

I love April, I love you.

[Ogden Nash](#)

.Blandford Police station

Information from Dorset Police

Opening hours are available on the Force website. Please
enter your postcode on this page: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact/find-a-police-station/>

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact/find-a-police-station/>

You are welcome to come in to talk to one of our staff
face to face to report a crime or an incident.

We are testing a new model with enquiry office staff who
can take queries face to face, but who can also support
our control rooms with other enquiries at quieter times.
We hope this will give us flexibility to be able to offer
different ways for members of the public to get in touch
with us.

For full details on stations which are open to the public
and opening times, please visit our website: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/contact/find-a-police-station/>

Easter in Shroton

Shroton Village Hall

Sunday 2nd April at 2:30pm

Kids Easter fun

egg decorating, easter egg hunt and egg rolling

Prizes awarded for 'best decorated egg' and furthest rolling egg'

Tea, cakes and squash available
£1 Per child taking part
Bring your own hard boiled egg to decorate
starts in the village hall

Good Friday 11am - 1pm
Hot Cross Buns served in the village hall
All welcome

Letters to the editor

Dear Shroton Lines,

As a veteran of the previous four Shroton pantos it was with a sense of anticipation and indulgence I sat back in the fifth row of the audience, waiting to be entertained by this year's offering, "Snow White and the Seven Lumberjacks".

Several other members of the 'old guard' had also decided to step back and make way for fresh talent this time round; so how would they do?

They did very well! From the confident opening where two 'wenches' gave us, in rhyming couplets, a brief synopsis of the story so far right through to the hearty community singing of the finale it was a delight. All traditional aspects were there: plenty of opportunity for booing, awful jokes, even sweets flung into the audience, and of course the usual hilarious vignette from James Bond and Money Penny. Marvellous stuff.

The music was great and the show looked great, with some very classy costumes. It seemed more of an ensemble piece this time round with strong contributions from every section of the cast. A real family show with a broad age-range of players, delivered by everyone as if they were still enjoying themselves. Perhaps they were.

So the great Shroton panto tradition continues and the future is in good hands. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Chris Pearson, retired

Dear Shroton Lines

Hi, I can remember when I was a small child visiting my grandmother who lived on Ranston Hill. I was maybe 4 or 5 but the things I remember are that the house smelled of paraffin which was for the lighting and I remember having to get water from a pump in the garden.

Above all I remember the silence that was only broken by the ticking of the kitchen clock. She lived very simply with no modern conveniences and I seem to remember that she was forced to leave and lived in the Old People's bungalows in the village. I wonder if there is anyone who might still remember her or her family in the village. I would love to visit the old house if it still exists. Our family name was Rose and if there is anyone who you think might have any information I would love to talk to them.

I have such fond memories of that hill I came up a few years ago and was confronted with a gate which was quite unexpected and disappointing, I went for a drink in the pub afterwards but didn't encounter anyone local.

Any information would be greatly appreciated

Regards

Robert Hall

rswhite3726@aol.com

Another Pantomime Triumph!

What features do we look for in a traditional pantomime?



There needs to be:

Comedy

Good v Evil

Cross dressing

Music and song

Eccentric colourful costumes

Audience participation

Rooted in a nursery story or fairy tale

The Shroton Players performance had it all in spades (except that Snow White and Seven Lumberjacks was not quite a traditional story known to many of us – and there were seven and a half lumberjacks!!)

From the opening Shroton Wenches to the rousing finale, they had a very lively audience eating out of their hands. The show had all you could ask for. The stage is not an easy one to perform on but the scenery and props created the right atmosphere.

Music complemented the action without dominating and the singing was belted out in true panto style. It would be wrong to pick out any particular performances of a very hard working cast (with the occasional assistance of an alert prompt!) except perhaps Liam Monaghan as The Boy who rather stole the show.

You might well claim that all of the above praise could be said of hundreds of village pantomimes. What makes the Shroton Players different is the little sprinkling of magic dust that makes it a true community event. You could sense the bond between cast and audience from the arrival in the hall to drinks afterwards in The Cricketers.

Those of us who come each year from Wimborne never fail to be impressed that we are visiting a village with a wonderful feeling of togetherness.

Looking forward to the 2024 performance already!

David Downing



Why don't rabbits get hot in the summer? They have hare conditioning!!

What do rabbit say before they eat? Lettuce pray

Why did the rabbits go on strike? Because they wanted better celery





DORSET PERENNIAL GROUP

The Dorset Perennial Group is a membership organisation made up of people who enjoy visiting interesting gardens during the Spring and Summer. We also hold garden related talks in the Spring and the Autumn. New members welcomed membership price for 2023 is £6.50pp. For more information

call 01258 861566

The Spring Meeting

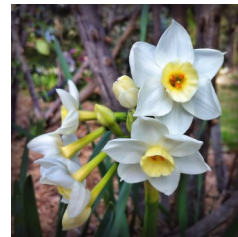
SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023

DURWESTON VILLAGE HALL, BLANDFORD FORUM DT11 0QA

Hall opens at 1pm – Meeting starts at 2pm

Charge £1 (members) £5 (non-members) to include refreshments

We get the word 'Narcissus' from Greek mythology. A nymph called Echo fell in love with a young Greek named Narcissus, but Narcissus told her to leave him alone. Heartbroken, she lived alone until nothing but an echo of her remained.



Nemesis, the God of revenge, heard the story and lured Narcissus to a pool. Narcissus, who was very handsome and quite taken with himself, saw his reflection in the pool and, as he leaned over to see better, fell in and drowned. He turned into the flower.

Narcissus species are found in a variety of habitats in Europe and North Africa, ranging from sea level to subalpine meadows, woodlands and rocky places. Spain hosts the greatest variety of species, but they can also be found in Morocco, Portugal, western France, Italy, and other countries.

Daffodils were introduced into gardens in about 300BC. The Greek botanist and philosopher Theophrastus listed and described many of the earliest known kinds of narcissus in his nine-volume 'Enquiry into Plants'. Daffodils were brought to Britain by the Romans who thought that the sap from daffodils had healing powers, but the sap contains crystals that can irritate the skin.

(<https://www.sarahraven.com/articles/a-brief-history-of-daffodils>)



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The Village Hall page

The village hall has seen some action!

Shrove Tuesday saw some unusual activity on The Glebe – pancake relays and races in wigs. Followed by pancakes galore in the hall. Sing for Your Lunch was the following day and we raised the roof with some silly songs and brain teasers. A delicious lunch followed thanks to Jan Simmons – thank you.

Then, of course, the panto – Snow White and the 7 Lumberjacks (although there were 8 on the last count). Thank you to everyone who helped make this good fun and a great fund raiser for the hall with nearly £2,000 raised.

Regular activities are happening in the hall – a weekly Pilates class (Mon 11am) and a music group for pre-school children (Fri 9.30am).

Perhaps you'd like to book the hall to play ping pong?

Or need space for a party?

Check availability with Tracy Briggs: 07774 140371.

Dates for the diary:

Fri 31 March 5pm – dog poo pick up in the Fairfield. Start the weekend on a high! Bring poo bags. Let's clear the way for the egg rolling event.

Sunday April 2nd 2:30pm Decorate an egg in the hall (prize for best decorated egg), then onto glebe for Easter egg hunt, Egg rolling down hill (Prize for furthest roller)

Good Friday – Hot Cross Buns in the hall 11am-1pm.

Coronation Weekend:

Shroton Coronation Mugs will be on sale (£5). Free to school children. Reserve your mug – contact Emma House



Sat 6 May Band, BBQ & Bar in the hall 6.30pm, band plays 7pm. Tickets £6 entry available from Emma House 07983 464202 and Wendy Gredley, Littleport, Main Street 07495 010396. Cash for BBQ & Bar.

Sun 7 May – special church service (10am) followed by lunch (12 noon onwards) on The Glebe (bring some food to share). Trestle tables, chairs and music will be provided.

Mon 8 May – Community Day. Make Do & Mend in the hall plus a Craft Group. Cake & Tea/coffee. Bring anything that needs repairing – gadgets or sewing, mending, darning, buttons replaced, hems, clothes or soft furnishing.

Do you have something you need help with at home or in your garden (Hedges, weeding, pruning, general clearing), DIY, hanging pictures, putting up shelves, simple carpentry, car cleaning?

Let me or Jan Simmons know and we'll send round someone from our Community Day Help Team.

emmahouse1@outlook.com 07983 464202 and jan@fourways.plus.com .

And contact me if you'd like to volunteer and put your repair, DIY, car washing skills to good use.

We would love to have some volunteers to get involved in village hall events. Come and join a great team and help get the shows on the road. Contact Emma

April's recipe from Kathy

On hearing the fabulous news that Paddy Davy, extraordinary onetime chef of The Cricketers, has taken over the Cafe at Gold Hill in Child Okeford, my mind went back to Shroton Lines of old when he had a monthly recipe column. I treasured his delicious and inspirational recipes, and hope he doesn't mind me using one of our favourites for this month's Lines - a suitably chocolate themed offering as we are coming up to Easter:

Double Chocolate Chunk and Chip Cookies by Paddy Davy

These cookies should be illegal! There are a few key details in the method that make a good cookie into a truly great one. The other important point is to use the best quality chocolate you can find. You can replace the cocoa powder with just plain flour for a less chocolatey result. You can also make a double batch and freeze the rolled cookie balls and just bake them off once thawed. Once the kitchen smells of chocolatey goodness though, I'm not accountable for the impact on your self control!

Ingredients:

220g plain flour
20g cocoa powder
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp salt
135g dark brown sugar
2 tsp dark treacle
100g granulated sugar
100g chocolate chunks (70% cocoa solids)
100g chocolate chips (70% cocoa solids)
170g unsalted butter at room temperature
60g egg (normally one large egg)

Beat the butter until it resembles mayonnaise (very important!).

Mix the 2 sugars well and add to the butter with the dark treacle. Beat until fluffy for about 5 minutes.

Now add the beaten egg and mix in briefly for no more than 30 seconds (do not overmix).

Sieve the flour, cocoa, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Add to the main mixture and beat in. Now do the same with the chocolate chunks and chips. The dough should be a stiff paste.

Refrigerate the dough for 1 hour. Preheat the oven to 175 C.

Remove the dough and roll into golf ball size balls (60g).

Place on baking parchment with good spaces between them as they spread. Bake for 14 minutes. If you do not have a fan oven you may need to add 10C and 3-4 minutes to these instructions.

Remove from the oven and place on a wire rack. Now try and leave them to cool down for 30 minutes... good luck with that, I never manage it.

Thank you Paddy !

For all you Moon lovers: look out for the following:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 April (5.34am) | Pink Moon |
| 5 May (6.34pm) | Flower Moon (total lunar eclipse) |
| 4 June (4.41am) | Strawberry Moon (supermoon) |



ASTRONOMY CORNER

As well as looking out for the Pink Moon on 6 April, keep your eyes peeled 5 days before this as you may well see one of the rare appearances of Aprilis Asinus. This is best seen at 20:00 from a high point. You will need to focus on the western quadrant of the sky and look for a rather dull light.

The British Astronomical Society are keen to hear of any sights: email: stars@gmail.com and send The Lines a picture if you are lucky enough to spot it.

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shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

Call Mike - 07815 617937

Mothering Sunday service in Shroton on March 19th

Our service is a family service led by Rev Chris Jervis and will welcome everyone, both villagers and visitors.

There will be activities for children and an opportunity to celebrate in our 'mother church'

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