

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 262

May 2022

Dates

Dates : May

Main village & Bessells

Mon 2	Recycling
Mon 9	Rubbish
Mon 16	Recycling
Mon 23	Rubbish
Mon 30	Recycling

The Corner & Courtney Close

Weds 4	Rubbish
Weds 11	Recycling
Weds 18	Rubbish
Weds 25	Recycling

Garden waste (all)

May

Weds 4
Weds 18

Wednesday morning: coffee and chat in the village hall : 10—12. All welcome!

Saturday May 7

Jumble sale in the village hall
10—12 pm

Tuesday May 10

The Shroton History walk.
Meet at village Hall at 1.30 pm

Wednesday May 18

Annual Parish Council meeting in the village hall
7.00 pm

Saturday May 21

Bring and Buy & Plant sale in the village hall
10—12.30 pm

Your Crowning Glory!



Many thanks to those of you who came along to the first meeting of our Ukraine Action Group last Thursday evening. There were 31 of us in the Village Hall, which was a very encouraging turn-out.



After short speeches from Tim Sullivan, John Simmons and myself we had a general discussion about what we should do next. It was agreed that we should move on three main fronts: continue to try and find rented accommodation here or nearby; start a crowd funding scheme (similar to the one we set up for the pub during lockdown); make contact with groups like ourselves with a view to offering help with learning English and supporting social interaction with Ukraine families.

There is clearly a lot of good will in the village. We hope that the Ukraine Action Group can harness this good will and make a generous contribution to improving the plight of Ukrainian families in crisis.

If you would like more details about the group, please contact Chris Pearson
billybanjo@btinternet.com

Harvey's Stores...or 'Top Shop' as it was known

In the 1918 village sale, the building was described as *The valuable corner shop, bake house, and premises with residence and gardens.*

In 1952 the shop was called 'Harvey's Stores (Shroton) Ltd.: The Supply Stores (W Harvey, RA Harvey, LG Harvey and EM-Bush.)

The building was built in 1871 but there appears to have been a shop on this site for many years previously. Sarah Fisher's Will of 1779 refers to the shop at the East end of her property consisting of a shop, a kitchen and parlour on the ground floor and 3 bedrooms. Philip Richardson

had a Collarmakers Shop (harness maker/leather) at that time.

In 1851 Martha Rabbits had a Grocers shop at this site, and 1865 Harrods Commercial directory lists Horlick Phineas as a Shop-keeper here.

The 1769 village Map does show a large building on the same footprint as the current building and cottages. Written local memoirs of The Top Shop record a thriving business that sold everything.. haberdashery, meat, food, fresh bread and newspapers including a Morris Minor delivery van service.

Sadly Harvey's closed its doors for good in the 1990s.

Judith 861565

A sad thing to see...



As I walk around the area, I see lots of things that I share with my long suffering friends and family: wild flowers, sightings of SBBs (small brown birds!), lovely sunsets or sunrises. However, something I saw a couple of weeks ago has stayed in my mind and got me thinking about the stories around objects. At the bottom of Steepleton hill there is a stile and on this stile was hung a forlorn-looking bag containing tent poles..... You see my point. Someone, somewhere got to their destination tired and relieved to have arrived, only to not be able to put up their tent. I felt their pain!

Does anyone have any similar tales to tell?

Words from our NT Ranger

It's a beautiful Easter Sunday afternoon as I type, and I do hope Hambledon has been enjoyed by many of you over the Easter weekend. Cowslips will be nodding gently in the breeze, primroses glowing in the spring sunshine and the archaeological features beautifully highlighted, defined and clearly visible whilst the downland turf is still low.

Sadly, we have noticed from evidence on the ground and having been informed that a small minority of mountain bikers and horse riders have been straying away from the bridleways at Hambledon, causing concern and contributing to increased erosion on the long barrow as well as other popular areas of the hillfort. We have also had reports of hang gliders taking off from the summit, which is not permitted on Hambledon, and which can also disturb ground nesting birds like Skylarks and Meadow pipits, farm livestock and dogs. We have written to the local hang-gliding clubs so that they can inform their members that this is not permitted. If you see any of this activity, please can you let me know by either email or phone, so that we can build a record of these occurrences – this data will help formulate a way forward to deter this in the future.

Now that the days are getting longer and warmer look out for the first Early purple orchids, Brimstone and Orange tip butterflies, which grace the slopes of this wonderful island of old England, and which set the scene for the drama of the rich wildlife which makes Hambledon and its archaeology so very special.

Kind regards,

Clive

Clive Whitbourn

Area Ranger, North and West Dorset Team

Tel: 01747 841152

Mobile: 07788 480686

t National Trust

Stourhead Estate Office, Stourton, Wilts BA12 6QD

Welcome to Shroton. This is the section where we say Hello to all our new residents :

Paul and Julia Burrige who have moved into Old Barn. Welcome to our community!

Please let me know if you are new to the village . We'd love to welcome you too!

Congratulations to ...

Meggy Moos for winning Gold in the Taste of the West awards for their wonderful new Peppered Butter. If you haven't tried this yet, you missing out on a taste treat!



Locals all know about our wonderful Meggy Moos, but do share the secret with guests and visitors!

And.....

To Wilfred Shon (Shroton Gin) for winning Gold and Bronze at The Taste of the West & London Spirits Competition. These competitions are entered by hundreds of Distilleries. The former Award is to find the best produce in South-West England. The latter is to assess the finest Spirits across Europe, Asia & the Americas. The judges for both competitions possess some of the most refined palates in the world, so for Wilfrid to win Gold & Bronze respectively was a terrific feat for a recipe concocted in a rural Dorset kitchen by a company in its first few months of trading!



The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting 18 May 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday 18 May 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Shroton Village Hall. Parishioners are invited to join the Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council for this meeting, which will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Chairman of the Parish Council will present an Annual Report and this is your opportunity to contribute to and hear about what the Parish Council has been up to in the last year. Please would all attendees be seated by 6:50 pm for a prompt start at 7:00 pm? The Annual Parish Council Meeting (May) 2022 will take place on completion of the Annual Parish Meeting where Parishioners are once again invited to attend.

Gardeners' corner.

Easter brought a welcomed change in weather conditions which meant we could plug on with preparing the beds for seed sowing and getting on with planting our first early potatoes. Don't worry if you haven't done this yet, but think about getting them in now. Plant about 6 inches deep and 9 to 12 inches apart depending on how large you like your potatoes to be. Leave 24 inches between each row otherwise you'll have no room to round up with soil. Watch out for a frost forecast and cover with soil if necessary. Root crops should not be sown on freshly manured ground as this will result in your carrots etc forking.



Broad beans that have overwintered are now picking up and now's the time to sow a second crop straight into the soil. Onions and shallots have also gone out and needs good nitrogen-based feeding to promote good green which in turn will feed back into the bulb.

Brassica seed can also go in: purple sprouting along with sprouts and some types of cabbage. Sweet peas that were planted in November have now gone out from the cold frame and have already been pinched out once, these will be tied up canes and fed and watered well and any side shoots removed to produce good size flowers.

On the subject of flowers, cover any early shooting dahlias should frost be forecast but hold off planting out if you've started them indoors. If you do need to get them out then plant rather deep as this in turn will protect the tubers next winter when the first frost appears.

Hopefully the weather will continue to improve, so happy gardening.

U15 – Monday Games

2nd May Shroton v Kilmington & Stourton

16th May Shroton v Shaftesbury

23rd May Shroton v Marnhull

30th May Blandford v Shroton (a)

Ranston Evening League – Wednesday Games

4th May Sports Shed v Shroton

11th May Shroton v Donhead

18th May Umargulls v Shroton

25th May Shroton v Blandford

1st June Cup Match – Donhead v Shroton

Shroton Online Shop

<https://seriouscricket.co.uk/teamwear/stores/shroton-cc/>



Shroton Cricket Club News

April heralds the start of the cricket season. Eric and Darren have been busy preparing the ground for the forth coming season. Read on to hear what's planned.

We will be offering junior training sessions again on the Fairfield at Shroton CC every Friday evening, starting on the 29th April through to Friday 15th July, (with no training taking place on 3rd June.)

U9 and U11 (Rec/Year 1 to Year 6) cricket training sessions will run from **5.45 – 6.45pm**, while **U13 and U15** (Year 7 plus) cricket training sessions will run from **7.00 – 8.00pm**. Sessions cost of £5 per hour to cover coaching or a one off payment of £50 for all 11 sessions.

Kit will be available to borrow such as bats, helmets, pads, gloves etc, however **all children need to have their own protective pelvic cricket box** in the interests of health and hygiene!

All junior age ranges have been entered into the North Dorset Leagues, playing matches throughout the week, for those keen to participate.

For adults interested in playing, we have a team entered into the Ranston Evening League, playing matches on a Wednesday evening with a few friendly matches also in the diary. If you are interested in donning your whites then do contact the Club as we are keen to welcome new members!

If cricket isn't your bag, but you are keen to spectate and enjoy a cuppa or a beverage then do pop along to the Fairfield either on a training night or when we have a home game. We look forward to welcoming you to the Fairfield and Shroton Cricket Club.

All enquiries to shrotoncc@gmail.com or contact Christine on 01258 860104 or Ailsa on 07917 743175.

U9 – Weekend Games

14th May Shroton v Shaftesbury

21st May Marnhull v Shroton (a)

28th May Stalbridge Lions v Shroton (a)

U11 - Thursday Games

12th May Marnhull v Shroton (a)

19th May Marnhull (B) v Shroton (a)

26th May Shroton v Sherborne

U13 – Tuesday Games

3rd May Shaftesbury v Shroton (a)

17th May Stalbridge (Blues) v Shroton (a)

24th May No game

Thurs 26th May – U13 County Quarter Finals

1) East Dorset Winners v North Dorset Runners Up

4) North Dorset Winners v West Dorset Runners up

31st May Shroton v Marnhull

Please support your village show!

The Shroton Show will be held in the village hall on Saturday 3rd September, so as you nurture your flowers and vegetables over the summer, do consider entering them in one of the more than 70 available classes – see the schedule below.

If you have any creative ideas for other classes we could add to the schedule, do let me know: my email address is carolinebarrett59@gmail.com or post your suggestions through the letter box at 2 Ivy Porch Cottages.

The success of the Village Show depends very much on support from us all – so please do put the date in your diaries! Offers of help very gratefully received....

PRODUCE

Ceres Cup-best performance in produce classes

Galpin Cup-best single entry

CLASS

- 1 3 Courgettes with flowers
- 2 4 Potatoes
- 3 4 Runner beans with stems
- 4 4 Carrots
- 5 3 Onions from sets
- 6 3 Onions from seeds
- 7 1 Cucumber
- 8 4 Tomatoes
- 9 6 Cherry tomatoes
- 10 4 Beetroot
- 11 A Basket of any 5 vegetables
- 12 The largest marrow
- 13 The longest runner bean
- 14 12 Raspberries with stems
- 15 4 Apples
- 16 6 culinary herbs in a jar

COOKERY AND PRESERVES

Miss Hale Shield-best performance in cookery classes

WI Centenary Cup-best single entry in preserves

Baked exhibits must be cool before judging

CLASS

- 17 3 Fruit scones
- 18 3 Egg Victoria sponge with jam filling 7" tin
- 19 6 pieces of fudge
- 20 1 Loaf of Sourdough bread
- 21 1 Coconut Pound Cake (recipe overleaf)
- 22 3 squares of Millionaire's Shortbread
- 23 An Afternoon Tea selection plate
- 24 1 Pot of jam (soft fruit)
- 25 1 Pot of jam (stone fruit)
- 26 1 Pot of marmalade
- 27 1 Pot of lemon curd
- 28 1 Pot of jelly - any variety
- 29 1 Pot of chutney or relish
- 30 1 Bottle of lemonade
- 31 1 Bottle of cordial of any flavour
- 32 1 Bottle of homemade Liqueur (e.g. Sloe

FLOWERS

Lady Baker Cup-best performance in flower classes & **Elizabethan Cup**-best single flower

CLASS

- 33 1 Single Rose in a vase
- 34 6 Sweet peas
- 35 3 Dahlias – 1 type and colour
- 36 4 Dahlias – all different
- 37 4 Asters
- 38 4 Cosmos
- 39 A vase of garden flowers
- 40 A Cactus or Succulent
41. The largest Sunflower Head

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Sarah Cavan Cup-best performance in flower arranging & **Patricia Humphrey Cup**-best single entry. Flowers may be purchased

CLASS

- 42 "Green with Envy" (accessories allowed)
- 43 A Supermarket Bunch "It's a Bargain"
- 44 Miniature floral arrangement (max 10cm)
- 45 An arrangement of foliage and berries
- 46 An arrangement of flowers from a Shroton garden
- 47 An arrangement of Dahlias for effect

HANDICRAFTS

Maggie Page Trophy-best single entry in handicrafts

CLASS

- 48 Any article of knitting or crochet
- 49 Any article hand or machine sewn
- 50 Any article of tapestry or embroidery
- 51 An article of patchwork or quilting
- 52 A soft toy, fabric or knitted
- 53 Any painting or drawing
- 54 Any item made of wood, metal or pottery
- 55 Handwriting: copy a poem of your choice
- 56 Handicraft - any other item

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Frame-best performance in photography

Best Photo-best single entry

Unmounted, no borders, max overall size of photos not to exceed 24 x 30.5cm / 9 ½ x 12"

CLASS

- 58 A landscape or seascape
- 59 A living creature
- 60 A Shroton View
- 61 A photograph of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- 62 Sport in Action
- 63 A photograph of water
- 64 A photograph with a humorous caption

12- 18 YEAR OLDS

Hambledon Cup-overall winner

Exhibitors may enter any of the open classes 1 to 64 (max 5) but will be judged separately and awarded marks out of 10 for each entry. The exhibitor with the highest total marks will be the overall winner. There will be a cash prize of £5.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Patricia Goodbody Cup-Children 7 years and under

Bella Howlett Cup-Children 8-11 years

Two sections :7yrs and under and 8-11 years

CLASS

- 65 A jam jar of flowers
- 66 A picture made of buttons
- 67 Any drawing or painting
- 68 A house made from fruit or vegetables (cocktail sticks may be visible)
- 69 A garden on a plate
- 70 A funny photo
- 71 3 decorated Fairy Cakes
- 72 Largest marrow
- 73 Handwriting: copy this poem, no illustration

There was an Old Man on the Border,

Who lived in the utmost disorder;

He danced with the Cat,

And made Tea in his Hat,

Which vexed all the folks on the Border.

Dear Editor.....

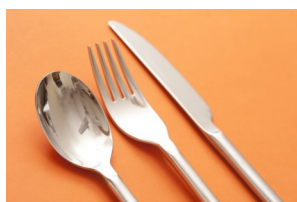
Dear Editor

The Cricketers will be closed to the public all day on Thursday 12th May for a private event. With kind regards, Chloe

Dear Editor,

Please pass on my thanks to a lovely lady who took the time to talk to us for over half an hour about the village when we were visiting the church. We don't know her name, but she was so enthusiastic about the community! We found your address by chance when Googling information about the village. With warmest regards, Bob and Belle Truscott

Lunch and Chat September 2021 - April 2022



We have had a happy season of monthly lunches at the Village Hall, appreciated especially following the long isolation of Lockdown.

Thanks are owed to the team at The Cricketers for regularly producing a varied menu of main courses, always ready on time for the L and C team to collect and serve and be enjoyed by our guests who always seem grateful for the opportunity to meet together socially and to have respite from cooking at home!

Thanks are also owed to our sterling band of volunteers who have produced a range of puddings which have been relished as special treats. Cathy Bird, Susan Adam, and Jan Simmons have all made puddings and helped in the kitchen.

I feel very grateful to have been supported in this endeavour by Barbara Briggs who continues to issue invitations, reminders and lifts for guests when necessary, and to keep me informed about numbers and any special requirements. Also this year, our core helpers have been a great team to work with. Gabriel Cox was able to step in and manage lunches on two occasions when I was not available to be the organiser, and I realise her efficiency is second to none, with all her lists and careful timing of everything down to the last detail!

Thank you also to Sally Bolton, Sally Breeze, Marion Carpenter and Anne Pearson who have willingly helped serve, wash up and generally contribute to making Lunch and Chat a happy and sociable occasion. They are a wonderfully efficient team! They too have contributed delicious desserts! Finally, thank you to those who have offered lifts or other support to guests who have needed some extra help on occasions.

It seems there will be a continuing clientele in September, so if anyone feels they would like to be involved in any way, please do let me know. (Telephone 861039 or call at Brook Cottage on Main Street.)

Ena Rees

The diary of a long distance Supermarket manager

Easter 1967

The Sainsburys in Putney High Street was what was known as a manual shop, that was a forerunner of today's supermarket. There were counters down each side of the store and customers had to queue at each department for their purchases. So instead of queuing once like today's supermarket customers they had to queue several times.

At the end of the shop was the office where the office clerks and manager sat keeping an eye on the business. On this particular Tuesday after the Easter holiday the staff arrived to see stretched across the store a huge canvas on which was painted a very good image of the office. This initial viewing was accompanied by a smell of burnt meat and decaying flesh as the weather had been quite warm over the weekend.

On inspection behind the canvas we were greeted by absolute carnage of burnt lamb carcasses and broken glass and rubble.

Over the weekend we had been robbed. In a well planned burglary the thieves had broken in, hoisted the canvas with the image of the office across the width of the shop and working behind it, set to work blowing the door off the safe. They removed all the frozen lamb from the freezer and used it to quieten the sound of the explosion.

We were unable to open as the police had to do their thing and we had to clear up. The police were very impressed with the skills of the artist and the accuracy of the measurements to construct and install this canvas across the store. As the shop was in the centre of the High Street the canvas was necessary to block the view of anyone passing who happened to look through the window.

We ordered a replacement safe and whilst we waited delivery we had to hide the takings within the building. One of the hiding places was inside the bandsaw in back of the butchery department. I told one of the senior butchers that the bandsaw could not be used first thing the following morning and was amazed to find he had put a sign on the machine saying '**Do not use money hidden inside!**'

Oh Sean what a character! He had a motorbike and sidecar and arrived late to work one morning sweating and cussing. On his journey to work he turned right and the sidecar carried straight on.

August bank holiday this same year we arrived at work on the Tuesday to find we had been broken into again. This time the burglars had tried to remove the safe by carrying it up the stairs with the intention of getting it out onto the back roof and dropping it down onto the loading bay. Unfortunately for them they had

dropped it and the safe had rolled down the stairs and was wedged at the bottom which meant we had to climb over it to access the changing rooms and canteen.



What a great introduction to my retail career. **(To be continued!)**

Going to the Dogs by Sue Bates

Shroton is a very dog-friendly village, so if you want to make friends, get a dog! You will meet like-minded pet owners on daily walk and you will find yourself remembering the names of the dogs rather than the names of the owners: Mrs Roxy or Ms Ted or "He's the one with the shaggy grey pooch" I mean the dog.

Several puppies arrived in the village at about the same time 2/3 years ago before we ever heard of Covid. Roxy, the frantic Sprocker, took the place of steady reliable Rufus and met Ted the whirling dervish. They played together very early on. Ted and Roxy both having good speed and turning circles, they fell upon each other with puppy love. Socialisation of these two was sometimes a bit hit and miss, Roxy doing the hitting and Ted the missing! In the early days Roxy was a bit of a thug having ruled the roost amongst her litter of 11 puppies...yes, 11! These days she is much more circumspect, happy to run in circles but falls back if the play gets a bit "ruff", with the one exception of Hector who she will lovingly biff and bowl over every now and again! Charky was the athlete of the newcomers, straight away; he could outrun any of the pups ... and any of us too. Toby was also a speedy dog but loves his flinger and now would rather run and chase a ball. Bramble, the old boy of the group, just ignored all these youngsters and concentrated on his flinger.

All this jollity and laughter came to a sudden halt with lockdown. Now we were walking at a social distance once a day. Roxy was lucky as I went out once and so did Nigel so she got her two walks. She used to find her best mates Harley and Storm and learned to swim: they barged her into the water so she had no choice! At this time there was a marvellous spoof on Youtube featuring a spaniel speaking in a Scots accent "I'm furious, one walk a day? Do they know how many pees I do, how many poos I do? One walk a day? I'm FURIOUS ,I'm going to pee in the corner"



During lockdown more puppies arrived: tiny Ludo who was carried for walks wrapped inside a jacket until his jabs were done and Hector, who nuzzled up to Roxy through the fence. The end of lockdown heralded getting to know any newcomers and the old lags of the village inspecting the new arrivals. I mean the dogs! Merle, was busy keeping a look out for new treat-givers (me), Vesper joined the Water Meadows walkers. Some mornings we had Ted, Roxy, Merle, Vesper, Molly and Hector racing around from the sheer joy of being out and about and free to play.

Puppy Chilli has appeared with her companion Blue. These two cross the divide of Cricket Pitch and Hill walkers versus Stream and Water Meadow walkers. As does chocolate coloured Rollo and Kristie with another Rollo. Ruby chooses the shorter walks with Chester, Pickle and Maggie, although Chester often fancies a challenging hike! Ted, Merle, Vesper, Roxy, Charky, Hector, Chilli, can often be met going round the Turf fields, along with Inca, who now has a newly arrived puppy to care for, bundled up in a carrier. Roly loves running alongside the old maize field and onto the bomb crater field. Many venture up Preston Hill and do the circuit back from Iwerne Minster.

New dogs have arrived as our population has changed, some I don't yet know very well, they walk earlier or later, or in a different direction. Purdy goes over to the left on Hambledon Hill, or round the block and Christine Ball's faithful spaniel walks along Fairfield. We meet them at the muddiest times when the fields are too wet to walk. Sweep with Denis and Angela go by our house in the afternoons and Roxy wiggles up to Sweep! The owners behave with more decorum.



JUBILEE REMINDERS



Jubilee mug design competition – open to all ages. Entries in by 30 April to Emma House, Edenfield, Fairfield Rd or emmahouse1@outlook.com

Bunting competition – Open to all ages. Entries to Emma House by Monday 30 May. Address above.

Crown competition – to be judged in the village hall on Sat 4 June and definitely all worn on Sunday 5 June! Winner announced on Sunday.

Decorate front area of house competition – go bananas with your Jubilee decorations and winner to be announced on Sun 5 June.

Fancy Dress on Sunday 5 June – You know you want to. Hats, wigs, outrageous costumes all to be encouraged. The madder the better.

Pudding Fit For a Queen – Make a pudding for the pudding tent. Judging will be based on Taste and Presentation. We need enough pudding for everyone!

NO NUTS OR SEEDS

WE NEED YOU TO:

Join the **JUBILEE CHOIR** (no need to be a professional – all voices/ages welcomed) to sing at the top of Hambledon Hill for Beacon lighting Thurs 2 June. Rehearsals St Nicholas Church, Child Okeford Thursdays 7pm and/or Sundays 4pm. Enthusiasm more than experience needed.

JUBILEE SING-A-LONG – Village Hall on Friday 3 June.

Email emmahouse1@outlook.com with **your favourite songs/hymns** and we will try to include all of them. Please email suggestions to John Simmons johnatfourways@outlook.com

MUSICIANS/ENTERTAINMENT – Anyone like to provide music/entertainment on Sun 5 June?

GENERAL HELP throughout the 4 days of Jubilee celebrations. Please email emmahouse1@outlook.com

TURN UP, JOIN IN & HAVE FUN!

Overheard comment (from a stalwart of the community)...

'My balls have never been so clean since Sue Bates has been putting them through her washing machine..!'



For the uninitiated, this refers to the tennis balls that Sue's dog collects and which she does indeed wash before putting them in a pot on her garden wall for anyone to help themselves...or retrieve lost ones!

Who said that community spirit is disappearing?



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Passover meal

Thank you to Jan and John for organising the annual Passover meal in the village hall last month. The Passover traditions were explained and we all enjoyed the food, the company and learning about this important ritual.

Particular thanks must go to Jan for providing the food



The village hall news

The village hall committee are holding a fundraising jumble sale on Saturday 7th May at 2pm. Jumble can be brought to the hall on the morning of the sale from 9am. If this is difficult please contact me or another committee member for help. Entry to the sale costs 30p children free.

We are also holding a coffee morning and plant sale on Saturday 21st May from 10 to 12.30. So come along, buy some plants, enjoy a bacon butty or some cake and chat to friends and neighbours. If you have any spare plants you could bring along we would be very grateful.

Finally the AGM will be on **Thursday 26 May** at 7pm. Please come and support your committee, contribute ideas or even join us. We are particularly looking for someone to act as our Treasurer, if you would like to find out more please get in contact.

Hazel Ward



An extract from John's account

Ranston Mill

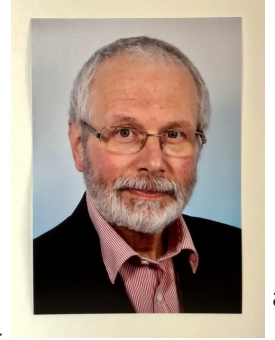
I'll start my stroll through the village at the south end of the main street just beyond the church cottages and at a time somewhere around the end of the 1950s. This used to be a dark part of the road shaded by tall trees growing next to the tall red brick wall guarding the park around Ranston House and more trees on the other side of the road. Almost hidden among these trees was a small brick and flint building, now converted into a pleasant country cottage that used to be the mill. Many of the trees have gone and the area is much lighter today. This was not the usual mill used for grinding flour but instead contained a generator producing electricity for Ranston House and we children were strictly warned to keep away as it was filled with 'dangerous machinery'. The mill was fed by the millpond situated where the cottage garden is today which, in turn, was fed by the river Iwerne. For a while Ranston was the only house with electricity but by this time 'mains' electricity was available, and used by the larger houses in the village although as I will describe later there were still quite a few houses without. I must confess I do not know if the mill was built specifically for the electricity or whether it was converted from an older more traditional use.

The river

This brings me to the most striking change that has taken place to the appearance of the village. At that time (the 1950s) the river Iwerne ran along an artificial course beside the main street to which it had been diverted to feed the millpond and not along its more natural course that it follows now through the meadows slightly further east. The river followed the main street all through the village but now diverts away from the street to flow behind the new houses on the old glebe field. The two bridges at each entrance to the rectory bear witness to the old course of the river. For us children this river was a wonderful entertainment and we used to spend many hours catching minnows in glass jars and building toy boats to float in the water. There was a price to pay as some houses drained into the river and occasional bouts of diarrhoea and strict admonitions from my mother not to play in the river followed. There was one amazing summer when the river was dredged to clear out the silt and we would follow the dredger and chase the eels that would be found wriggling on the mud piled up on the bank. I remember taking one home but mother was not interested in cooking it, and, to be honest, I was quite terrified of this wriggling black animal wrapped up in my handkerchief. My sister Gill tells me that she remembers Mrs King collecting eels in a bucket from which she baked an eel pie for her husband. However, when viewed from a stroll up the street the river was an attractive feature, particularly when the crab apple and laburnum trees planted along the bank between the rectory and the post office were in bloom.

Hello from Vancouver, Canada,

I doubt whether there is anybody living in Shroton who would remember our dear brother John, but I thought I should send a message that he died in February at his home in Berlin.



John was born in Shroton (well actually at Blandford Cottage Hospital) in 1949, spent his whole childhood in Shroton, before eventually marrying Helga from Munich and leaving to live in Germany. He was always very fond of Shroton and he, or my sister Mary, happily drove me back to the village whenever we met up on my return visits to England. We would make a point of visiting the church and its churchyard where our parents and sister Pat lie.

Some years ago he wrote a marvellous account of his memories of Shroton, and although it's rather long, I thought you might like to read it and consider printing parts of it in the monthly newsletter.

Thank you for the newsletter. It's always so interesting to see how village life has evolved, and Shroton will always hold a place in my faraway heart.

With a sad heart, Gillian (nee Taylor)

Gillian McMillan
gillianmcmillanpotter@gmail.com
home: (604) 937 7696

(If anyone would like me to send them John's full account, please email me, Helen)

The newly formed **Shroton History Club** will be taking a walk around the village (weather dictating) on Tuesday May 10 at 1.30 pm. Meet at the village hall.



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A message about the Food bank from Ursula Goodall

It is a sad truth that food banks are becoming even more necessary in our area. Thank you for all your contributions, but please keep donating. This month we are asking for toiletries shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, as well as tinned vegetables and potatoes.

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we would also welcome donations to help with lunchtime meals for struggling families: peanut butter and sandwich fillings, as well as long-life puddings, for example, rice pudding or Angel delight.

Can we also think about donating sweets, biscuits and treats?

Finally, thank you to all the wonderful people who have donated to this cause. Your support is hugely appreciated.

Donations can be made to the collection point in the Church entrance. Collections are made on Tuesdays.

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