

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 271

April 2024

Dates

Rubbish & Recycling

Main Village/Bessels

April

1	Recycling
8	Rubbish
15	Recycling
22	Rubbish
29	Recycling

The Corner/Courtney Close

April

3	Rubbish
10	Recycling
17	Rubbish
24	Recycling

Whole village

Apr 3 & 17 Garden waste

Wednesdays: Coffee and Chat in the Village Hall from 10–12 pm

Thursdays: Singing group in the village hall at 5.45 pm

Thursdays: Craft group at Littleport at 7:00 pm

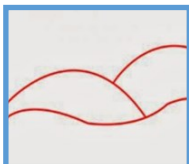
Events:

March 29: Make and Mend

April 23: Lunch and Chat (See Ena Rees or Barbara Briggs to book)

May 4: Band and BBQ

May 11: Plant sale



News from the Village Hall from Emma

Another month has raced by with all manner of things happening at the village hall. Cake Fest was a triumph – a recipe for success every time (*thank you Mike Scott, King of Cake*), ShrOdeon has been churning the films out (next date Fri 19 April) and the children's egg decorating, rolling and hunting afternoon had everything thrown at them from sunshine to rain and sleet but undeterred the chocoholics hunted until the last egg was claimed.

The village hall committee has been working its socks off to pass the Hallmark Scheme – an inspection on policies, planning etc and the good news is we've passed stages 1&2. We hope to complete stage 3 in May which will give us an advantage when applying for grants for the refurbishment of the building.

More good news – **Shroton Fete** is back with a vengeance, the first one since Covid, on **Saturday 19 July**.

We need your help – please let me know emmahouse1@outlook.com

07983 464202.

We'd also like your ideas for events to be included. Do tell us our ideas, please

Committee members will be on the hunt for helpers to make the day go with a swing.

We can't do it without YOU!



CRAFT GROUP

We are a small group, we originally met in the Village Hall on Thursdays at 7.00, but due to the largeness of the hall, the smallness of our group and the chilly evenings, we have relocated to the home of Wendy Gredley, (Littleport, near the Cricketers), still on Thursdays at 7.00. We are a lovely friendly group, we mostly knit or crochet but smocking is also being attempted, and some interesting painting projects have been on show. We would welcome more members and would be open to meeting at a different time/venue if this would attract more people.

For more information, or any suggestions, please call Wendy on **07495 010396**.



Dates for the diary

Good Friday (29 March) 11am-1pm – Hot Cross Buns, possibly some cake, and Make Do & Mend (donations to village hall refurb) - **Electrical goods** (owners' responsibility to PAT test), **mending/sewing** and new to the group, **IT** – bring your computers etc along and our whizz kid Martin will take a look (he doesn't just bake bread).

Sat 4 May Band & BBQ in the hall. Doors open 6pm. **Pressgang** 7pm. Tickets will be on sale after Easter. Watch this space.

Sat 11 May Plant Sale

CREAM TEAS

Sun 16, 23, 30 June,
7,14, 21, 28 July

Sat 13 July Shroton Fete



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Fancy seeing your name in print every month?

Always had an interest in local Shroton news?

Interested in people, places and events?

Then, Shroton is the place for you....help wanted for the Shroton fete, Village hall events and much, much more.

Interested in being involved with The Shroton Lines?

Please contact me for more details

Helen



Hot Cross Buns
Shroton Village Hall

&
MAKE DO & MEND
donation to village hall funds

Have a bun while your broken items are mended or just come along for a cuppa.

Good Friday - 29th March
11am - 1pm
All welcome

(Electrical items - It is the owner's responsibility to get the item pat tested once mended).

What did one egg say to the other on April 1? **Heard any good yolks today?**

How come flowers don't like riding bicycles? **They keep losing their petals.**

I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered.

I have a hilarious April Fools' Day joke about chemistry, but I don't think it will get a reaction

PLANT SALE - Saturday 11th May

We will not be organising a pre-order system this year but we can assure you all, will have plenty of:

- Popular bedding and basket plants, inc. Cosmos
- Perennials
- Vegetable plants.



we

To make this a successful annual event, I really need help, If anyone is dividing Perennials or herbs, please contact me & I will happily pot up & on.

Also any offers to grow from seed then donate would be most welcome.

All profits go to the Village Hall.

Thank you

Susan Maguire

Tel: 01258 860132



The Dorset Oven

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Call or Email Martino the Baker
DorsetOven@gmail.com
07925 911 881

Shroton Oil Scheme

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Same litre rate for any domestic order between 500 and 2300 litres.

And we place an order every month.

Also, water softener salt (tablet and block)

shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council - Meeting summary 20th March 2024

The Parish Council is waiting for confirmation that planning approval for the felling the Lombardy poplars has been granted. It is now likely that the felling of these trees will not take place until the autumn.

Flooding and drainage issues have been investigated by the Community Highways Officer and high pressure jetting will be carried out as soon as possible. The Parish Council agreed to order a 'white line' road marking to dissuade inconsiderate parking near the Glebe.

Planning applications P/HOU/2023/03163 & P/LBC/2023/03164 - Stepleton House

A350 - Erect conservatory to the west side of the west wing. There were no objections to these applications.

It was noted that application **P/PAAC/2024/00641 Deer Farm Gallows Corner To Far-ington – Lane Change of use & conversion of agricultural building to 5no. dwelling-houses (use class C3)** – has been withdrawn.

The Parish Council has received a response from the Environment Agency regarding the concerns raised in relation to the absence of wildlife in the Chalk stream. There are still questions arising concerning the quality of the water and Wessex Water's improvement programme to 2030.

This is an abridged summary of the Parish Council meeting; a full version of the minutes is available on the Parish Council website:

<https://www.dorsetparishes.gov.uk/council/iwerne-courtney-and-stepleton-parish-council/minutes-meetings-and-agendas/>

The next scheduled PC meeting, to include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on 23rd May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

David Green, Parish Clerk

Email: iwernecourtney@dorset-aptc.gov.uk



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DRMS e mail: drmsblandford@gmail.com / mob:07966513381



Refreshments available during the interval

www.emilyburridge.com

www.dorsetruralmusicschool.co.uk

RHS Gardening tips for April

Keep weeds under control.

Start to feed citrus plants.

Increase the water given to houseplants.

Feed hungry shrubs and roses.

Sow new lawns or repair bare patches.

Prune fig trees.

Divide bamboos

and waterlilies.



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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor

I now have the results of our sum raised at the Poppy appeal. We raised a total of **£456.43** between the pub and door to door which is pretty good for such a small community.

Thank you to all who contributed.

Jim Bird

The Noble Cleaner

All Domestic Cleaning Duties

Cleaning, Washing, Ironing, General Daily Duties

All ironing now undertaken, free collection and deliveries (excludes weekends)

Here to make life easier

Please call Mrs Colborne

01258 861651 or 07938 389250

Happy Easter to our readers and thank you for your continuing support of The Lines. Don't forget that opting for an electronic copy saves the Village Hall committee money, so if you feel able to change to a paperless option, please let me know. Thank you.

North Dorset

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CINEMA BRYANSTON

Madama Butterfly




Saturday 2 March	Wonder	Family film	10:30
Saturday 2 March	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	Silver Screen	14:00
Thursday 7 March	Titanic The Musical	Musical	19:30
Thursday 21 March	The Motive and the Cue	National Theatre	19:00
Tuesday 26 March	Madama Butterfly	Royal Opera House	19:15
Saturday 30 March	Peter Rabbit	Family film	10:30
Saturday 30 March	The Iron Lady	Silver Screen	14:00
Tuesday 9 April	Macmillan Triple	Royal Ballet	19:15
Sunday 21 April	An American in Paris	Musical	14:00
Tuesday 23 April	Nye	National Theatre	19:00
Wednesday 24 April	Swan Lake	Royal Ballet	19:15
Wednesday 1 May	Carmen	Royal Opera House	18:45
Saturday 4 May	Wonka	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 4 May	One Life	Silver Screen	14:00
Sunday 19 May	42nd Street	Musical	14:00
Wednesday 22 May	The Winter's Tale	Royal Ballet	19:15
Thursday 30 May	Message in a Bottle	Sadler's Wells Dance	19:20
Saturday 1 June	Wish	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 1 June	Oppenheimer	Silver Screen	14:00
Saturday 22 June	Mary Poppins Returns	Family Film	10:30
Saturday 22 June	Miracle Club	Silver Screen	14:00

Programme correct at the time of printing, please keep checking the website for up-to-date information and additional events.

For more information and to book tickets go to
tickets.bryanston.co.uk 01258 484669 (Office hours)

Coade Hall, Bryanston School, Blandford, DT11 0PX

 facebook.com/bryanston.events

 instagram.com/bryanston.events



Matthew House, Chairman of Shroton Cricket Club, writes :

We are delighted to say that we have re-joined Dorset league cricket after an absence of a few years. We will not be joining where we left off, in the Premier Division, but instead we will work our way back up from League Six (West). The team will be a mixture of some (older) familiar faces and, thanks to the great efforts made by a great number of volunteer helpers, a sizeable contingent from our youth programme. If you would like a game let us know and we will add you to our list for possible selection.

You will all be very welcome to come and support us at home and away. We would also like to ask for help with our cricket teas, which we have (in the past, famously) offered the teams at home games. We will be very happy to offer the players simply tea and cakes, so if any villagers would like to contribute home-made cakes, biscuits or similar we will be very grateful. Nothing fancy is needed, not even sandwiches, but a cake or two always goes down a treat. I have listed the fixtures below, so if you are able to commit to any dates please let us know. We will be very happy to pay for the cost of ingredients of course.

SATURDAYS	HOME TEAM		OPPONENTS
4 May	SHROTON	vs.	Charlton Down 2nds
11 May	Marnhull 3rds	vs.	Shroton
18 May	SHROTON	vs.	Symene Sports 2nds
25 May	SHROTON	vs.	Compton House 2nds
1 Jun	Buckhorn Weston	vs.	Shroton
8 Jun	BYE - NO GAME		
15 Jun	SHROTON	vs.	Sturminster & Hinton 2nds
22 Jun	Dorchester	vs.	Shroton
29 Jun	BYE - NO GAME		
6 Jul	Symene Sports 2nds	vs.	Shroton
13 Jul	SHROTON	vs.	Marnhull 3rds
20 Jul	Milborne St. Andrew	vs.	Shroton
27 Jul	Compton House 2nds	vs.	Shroton
3 Aug	Charlton Down 2nds	vs.	Shroton
10 Aug	SHROTON	vs.	Dorchester

Views of children and young people / parents / carers for CQC/Ofsted inspection

We are in week one of our CQC/Ofsted inspection with Dorset Council. Please take a look at the links below and fill in the surveys that are relevant to you, or share with friends and family.

Your views are important and will help inspectors understand your experience of the arrangements within Dorset and how well you have been supported. The survey will close at 9am on 5 March, to give the inspector time to look at the results. The survey works in Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Internet Explorer 11, and on mobiles and tablets when you copy and paste the link into the browser.

Ofsted would also like you to provide feedback on the survey process itself. This will take the form of some extra questions at the end of the survey. The survey is voluntary, and you do not have to take part. The surveys are confidential, and the responses will complement the evidence collected by inspectors during the inspection. Ofsted do not ask for your name so you will not be identified from your responses.

For parents and carers: Ofsted would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives and how it has helped you and your child. This survey is for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities. You can provide your views by completing an online survey at the following link: <https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10303173>



Now the weather is improving, do explore our wonderful tracks and paths around the village, but if you find broken gates or fences, or any problems with the paths/gates etc, do let the Parish Council know so that they can alert landowners.

But, also, please keep to footpaths when exploring our community, always shut gates to prevent livestock from wandering and make sure that no litter or dog poo is left on the ground.

Thank you!



Shroton School 1876 to 1916

A few months ago I wrote a piece for the Lines about the various childhood illnesses, prevalent in the late C19th and early C20th, that often kept Shroton's pupils absent from their classrooms in the village school. As I mentioned in that article, all the material on which the article was based came from Judith's researches into the fascinating and idiosyncratic Headmaster's Log which was started by Mr E D Harvey, who opened the school in January 1876, and continued by his successors until 1916. As well as providing a mine of information on childhood illnesses, the Log also noted a range of other reasons that contributed to pupils' inability (or failure) to attend school.



Truancy was clearly an issue. Mr Harvey complains in November 1877 that he has "called upon several parents to ask them to send their children to school more regularly"; two years later he is refusing to admit Edwin Rabbetts to the school until his mother has seen Reverend Maunsell, because of Edwin's frequent absences. Not all pupil absences are the result of willfulness. In May 1882, we hear that the headmaster "sent to the parents of Fanny Arnold to say that she must attend on Weds [to sit her National Exam] but they sent word that she will not be able, as her mother is confined to her bed, and the girl has to attend to a blind sister of 4 years of age." By 1881, Mr Lance, the Attendance Officer, is coming in for exasperated criticism: "It is of no use complaining to the attendance officer as I never hear anything further of the list of absentees that I give him." I imagine many a Head Teacher today might be saying something very similar – some things never change.

However, many of the reasons for pupils' absence from the classroom are very different from those of the early 21st century. While the weather occasionally still hampers travel to school (I well remember the joy of a few Shroton-bound days during the Beast from the East back in 2018, when snowy roads made my drive to Canford School impossible), the advent of snow ploughs, road gritting, 4-wheel drives and generally warmer weather means that most people can get to school most of the time. Back in the mid/late Victorian and Edwardian years, severe snow storms frequently closed the village school for a week at a time – the Log notes nearly every year during the months of January to March some disruption to school attendance caused by the elements. In January 1881, a "tremendous snowstorm and hurricane" closed the school to many pupils for ten days - I imagine the children living in Ivy Porch Cottages and other houses close to the school envied those living in Shroton Lynes and Farrington whose walk to school was made impossible by very deep snow.

Another major difference between then and now is the use of child labour. Farming nowadays is the occupation of a small number of skilled adults. But back in the late C19th and early C20th, most of the village, including the children, were involved in farming tasks, and the school closed, or suffered from very low attendance, at key moments in the farming year. Regular reasons for absence from school are given as potato picking, acorn gathering, wood gathering, "gleaning barley and leading horses". The importance of the children's role in the harvest is shown in the note in the 1905 Log: "Harvest holiday now 4th August to 4th September"; school holidays were shaped by nature's seasonal pattern. Children knew where their food came from – and that they had to work in order to eat it.

We tend to look back on this period with a certain Downton Abbey-style nostalgia, and a real sense of community fun certainly emerges from the Log – the children are as likely to be missing school for an outing as for potato picking. The many Temperance Fetes (at Marnhull, Iwerne and Ranston) don't immediately stand out as opportunities for childhood revelry, but there were also non-Temperance Fetes at Blandford and Eastbury Park in August 1885, a school outing to Lulworth in August 1900, a Festival of the Dorset Friendly Society held in the school in July 1882. A trip by the Shroton Choir to Bournemouth in July 1880, and to Southampton in July 1896, led to a whole day holiday and there were many absentees during the Band of Hope Festival in July 1886. A half-day holiday was given in October 1884 to visit the Exhibition of Curiosities and Antiquities at Ranston – fascinating to speculate what was on display. Concerts regularly took place in the school; this necessitated closing the school for the entire day, as did the children's performance of 'Golden Hair and the Three Bears' in February 1889. I can only imagine the children's delight when the school was closed for an entire week in January 1909 for a concert – the school's Log certainly paints a picture of a slower pace of life, when enjoyments were very local and communal.

The Fairfield, now the site of much dog socialising, was in this period an important place for major village events – the annual Shroton Fair every September was so important to the local area that it continued throughout the troubled years from 1914 to 1918, and the school was closed during it; there is also reference to the absence of many children during the March Sale in the Fairfield in 1889. The centrality of religion to the life of the school children is clear. As well as frequent references to the Rector's (and his wife's) involvement in daily school life, we hear that the school is closed for the day in March 1910 when the Bishop of Salisbury attends Shroton Church to confirm candidates. The ecumenical nature of Shroton society is shown: in July 1914, the school is closed due to the Baptists' outing to Burnham. Politics also touched the school. Its regular use as a polling station led to half or whole-day closures; on the 19th October 1876 Mr Harvey notes: "We could not use the class room this afternoon owing to the payment of the Tithes there" and in December 1894 Parish Council Elections led to a whole-day holiday for the pupils.

(cont'd on next page)

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News from Healthwatch Dorset – Dorset to get mobile NHS dental unit

Dorset is one of several counties in England that should be getting a mobile NHS dental unit as part of the [dental care recovery plan](#), announced by the Government earlier this month. The mobile units will be staffed with salaried dentists, nurses and technicians to see and treat patients who find it difficult or unaffordable to travel long distances to the nearest NHS permanent dental practices.

Concerns about dental care are among the most common problems reported to Healthwatch Dorset and other local Healthwatch, so the network has been campaigning for a dental recovery plan for many years. The new plan proposes a variety of initiatives, backed by £200m of Government funding, to offer up to 2.5m appointments to people across England

Thank you to Jim B for spotting this .

The History Corner (cont'd.)

The Army also played its part in disrupting the usual school routine. On the 6th September 1910, the Log reports that “in consequence of the military manœuvres on Hambledon Hill, and in Shroton village, the attendance was small and so school was closed”; in February 1915 the school is occupied by troops of the Royal Marines Light Infantry for two weeks. The royal family also plays its part in liberating pupils from lessons: in June 1902 there is “a week’s holiday in accordance with the King’s wish”, the 21st June 1885 is noted as Jubilee Day and the school is closed in June 1911 for Coronation Week.

Reading the Headmaster’s Log has definitely given me a greater knowledge of what life must have been like in a Dorset village 150 years ago. Perhaps the things I most enjoyed are those quirky items that don’t really fit into any particular category. Here are two that relate to reasons for school closure/pupil absence that I think today’s pupils would still appreciate:

21st December 1882, St Thomas Day: *“School closed in the morning as it is customary for the children to go begging for Christmas gifts”;*

1st April 1915: *“The Rector spoke seriously to the children about irregular attendance – partly due to primrose gathering”.*