

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 268

January 2024

Dates

Rubbish & Recycling

Main Village/Bessels

Jan

3 (Weds)	Rubbish
9 (Tues)	Recycling
15	Rubbish
22	Recycling
29	Rubbish

Feb

5	Recycling
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The Corner/Courtney Close

Jan

5 (Fri)	Recycling
11 (Thurs)	Rubbish
17	Recycling
24	Rubbish
31	Recycling

Feb

7	Rubbish
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All village

Jan 10	Garden waste
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(Please note that at time of going to press, there are no further dates for garden waste collection available).

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 7—8 pm in the village hall

Events:

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

Shroton Tithe barn and Dove cote farmyard.

This farm and land was traditionally for many years the lord of the manor's own land called the Demesne. Both the Tithe barn and Dove cote are listed as being built in the early 1600s and there is still graffiti on the walls of the barn, including the dates '1790, 1888, 1752' and pictures of daisy wheels which were traditionally used to ward off evil.

The barn is a traditional threshing barn with the two big cart doors opposite each other, so that whilst threshing the cut corn in the doorway of one side, the dust and rubbish would be blown out the other door. The dove cote housed doves and pigeons which were farmed for their meat and eggs for the lord of the manor whose mansion was situated just behind the church. Mr John Knight, a late village resident, said as a boy he saw handcuffs attached to the beams, which were rumoured to belong to Cromwell's troops after the capture of the Dorset clubmen on Hambleton.

There was also a beautiful granary building situated near the Main Street end of the yard, raised off the ground to stop rats getting to the grain. Sadly, this was demolished in 1972. Villagers paid their tithe (a percentage of anything they grew) to the village rector and it was stored in the barn. This continued until 1836 when only landowners then had to pay money. The rector was also granted his own land in the village by the lord of the manor, and these fields were both in Shroton and Farrington. He rented out this land to local farmers. The Glebe was the last field to be sold by the resident rector in approximately 1969.

In 1632 Robert Kennell held the Demesne farm of 226 acres, at a value of £368 rent. This included land in Iwerne which we now know as Park Farm and the rights to Shroton Fair tolls. The farm was bought by the Ranston family in the 1918 village sale and was a working farm until the 1990s when the Tithe Barn, Dovecote and farmyard were sold for private housing.

I remember as a child, the annual Spring farm sheep shearing which was carried out in the barn. All the sheep on the farm were herded into the farmyard, then into pens at one end of the barn. I got such soft hands rolling the fleece.

Judith. Happy New Year to you all.

Events (cont)

Jan 19: Shrodeon showing of 'Swimming with Men'

Jan 29: Burns Night celebrations (TBC)

Christmas festive decorations Workshop

With thanks to Frances and all who took part.



Thank you to the anonymous person who put a copy of this through my letter box before Christmas!

THE CHAPEL SPIDER (taken from a book called 'Zunshine een the Vale' by a Dorset Maid)

We wos all brought up to be chapel,
Me brothers, me sister an' I,
An' we za teen the back zeat but oone,
Ivery Zunday, cum wet or cum dry

The zingin' wos food an' the preaching
An' we listened as best as we could,
But our thoughts did get zu distracted,
By a 'beastie' – that wasn't z'good.

Ee did waait 'til the hymn before zermon,
An' then ee did zuddenly appear,
He'd climb vrom 'is web een the winder,
An' we'd watch een trembling in veer.

Down cum thic spider a-danglin'.
Wi' 'is airy an' spindley legs,
'is body near big as a crown piece,
An' it drained all our life to the dregs.

We zat thar een veer of this spider,
As up an' down ee did run,
We only yeard 'alf of the zermon,
An' were wishing we 'adn't a-come.

We couldn't change zeats 'cos of Auntie
We all 'ad to zit by 'er zide,
She werdn't afraaid of thic spider,
Noo matter 'ow 'ard ee did try.

'Ee were iver z'wold so they towld us,
An' ee always escaped being caught,
The cleaners 'ad oft tried t'git un,
An' often the battle were vought.

But zomehow ee jist went on livin',
An noo doubt 'ould 'ave bin thar today
If it 'and't a-bin ver the vire,
Which burnt all the chapel awaay

I 'spose 'twere the only real answer,
For 'e'd yeard many zermons afore,
An' 'ee niver took any real notice,
'Til hell fire were raised at 'is door.

Perhaps 'e weren't really that wicket,
An' were doing' the best that 'ee could,
Ver'ow else would we kids 'ave kept quiet?
An' behaved as we jolly well should!

The Oasis Plant Centre

Although many will already be aware, I thought that I should save the odd customer a wasted journey and inevitable disappointment by reminding everyone that the Oasis Plant Centre is now closed until 1st of February (2024!).

For those of you desperate to visit us (?!) in the New Year we will be reopening then at 9.00am. Opening times will remain the same as last year i.e. 9.00am - 5.00pm Wednesday to Friday and 10.00am - 4.00pm on Saturdays.

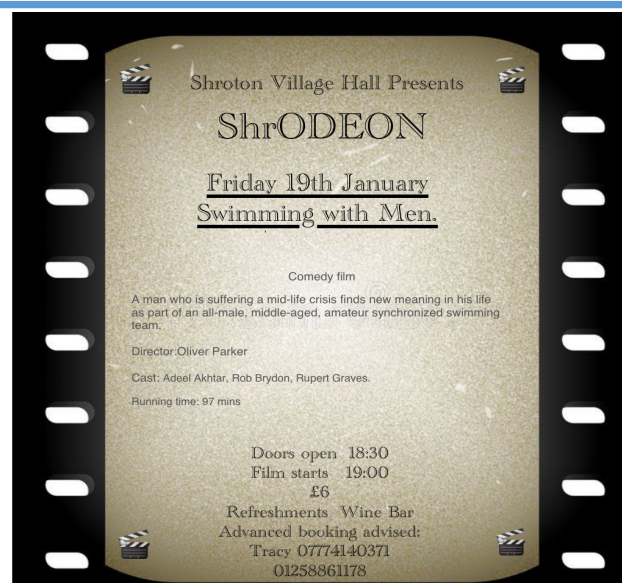
We would like to wish all our customers a happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all when your thoughts turn to filling up your gardens with seasonal colour!!

Best wishes in the meantime

Andrew Davies
Oasis Plant Centre
Child Okeford

Best joke 2023

Getting mythology wrong is my Hercules ankle. (Olaf Falafel, of course!)



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Letters to the editor

Writing this early on the shortest (and possibly windiest!) day of the year.

When this run-up-to Xmas week began Anne and I thought that we didn't have much going on. We were ready for it to feel a bit slow. However, the village thought otherwise.

First, the Shroton light trail on a dry, magical Monday evening. We ended up at the pub with lots of other 'revellers' and everyone agreed the creative effort by the village was brilliant. Martin and Helen's reindeer seems to get bigger every year; I'm sure you could fit a small army inside it.

Then on Tuesday a festive Lunch and Chat with Ena and her merry band of helpers. All beautifully organised. In the evening we joined everyone at the Village Hall for a festive singsong, led by Emma and the Shroton Singers. What a great atmosphere they created! And I'm sure the mulled wine and nibbly bits helped too.

On Wednesday we had Neil's quiz down at the Cricketers. Another superb night and very well-attended. So we learnt that you don't even need to leave the village to celebrate Xmas and have a good time. You can do it all here! Wonderful.

It's Christmas Pie Night tonight. So much going on - will it ever stop?

Chris Pearson

The Fontmell Community Lunch Club is back



We are pleased to announce that we have enough funding remaining from the Warm Hubs we ran in 2023 to provide 6 Community lunches this Winter and Spring.

We are combining the format of the Community Lunch Club with the Fontmell Community Support Warm Hubs to bring you the best of both, the main difference being that we do ask you to book in advance so we know how much to cook, this helps our funds go further.

We are offering a 2 course lunch, a hot main course and a pudding, tea and coffee absolutely free of charge to anyone living in the Parish of Fontmell Magna. Everyone is welcome and please bring a friend or neighbour. We can also provide takeaways.

The first of the lunches will be on Wednesday 24th January 2024 with doors open from 12 noon and food served from 12.30 pm.

Here's the full list of lunch dates (they are all Wednesdays):

24th January
7th February
21st February
6th March
20th March
27th March

If you are planning on joining us for lunch please email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com or call Lisa on 01747 812 500 so we know how much to cook and so we can cater for any special dietary needs.

We can also provide foodbank boxes, so if you are in need or know someone who is, please email the foodbank team on: fontmellfoodbank@post.com

Fontmell Community Support/Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Shroton Oil Scheme

There's never been a better time to benefit from group savings and save money.

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

Christmas lights

Thank you to Tash for organising a wonderful **12 Days of Christmas** light trail—and many thanks to all who took part. It was a lovely community event, like everything that happened this Christmas, from crib displays, to carols in the hall and in the pub, from the generosity of those in the pub to provide Christmas lunches for those on their own, to wonderful light shows and the fun and the solemnity of the Christmas services in the church.



Christmas cheer answers

What is interesting about this phrase...? **"A Santa spit taboo bat tips at NASA"**

(It is a palindrome—reads the same from the beginning to the end and the end to the beginning)

"Alive without breath, As cold as death; Never thirsty, ever drinking, All in mail never clinking. What am I?"
(With thanks to JRR Tolkien!)

(A fish)

New Year giggles

Why did Dracula pass out on New Year's Eve? *There was a count down*

Some astronauts wanted to have a New Year's party on the moon, but they didn't planet in time.

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

Village Hall events

Happy new year!

December was an active month in the village hall. We had the launch of the appropriately named 'Shrodeon' which will continue to bring entertainment to the village throughout 2024. *The Duke* was a popular choice and the bar provided entertainment of another nature – all in all a successful evening. Thank you to Tracy Briggs who oversaw the technical side of things – brilliantly done.

Then, huge thanks to Susan and Jonathan Maguire for overseeing the Christmas Dinner, Karen Holliday for organising the raffle and Frances and Jean for the beautiful table decorations. What a wonderful evening with happy faces and Tracy Westwood's amazing catering.

Then, Carols in the Hall – a festive sing-a-long, all very relaxed and helped by mulled wine and mince pies. The Shroton Singers performed brilliantly despite insisting they can't sing!

This has been another successful year in the village hall – thank you to everyone who makes things happen.

January dates to get in the diary

19 Jan **SHRODEON** will be showing *'Swimming with Men.'* 6.30 doors & bar open for 7pm showing.

Sat 29 Jan (to be confirmed) **BURNS NIGHT**

Festivities in Shroton



A great time was had by around 70 of us at the Shroton Village Hall Christmas dinner. It was a superb atmosphere with the Hall decorated beautifully with fresh greenery and wonderful decorations. A great start to the Christmas season. The food was incredible, the outside caterers, Tracy and her team, served a beautifully cooked and piping hot Turkey dinner with all the trimming with enough vegetables to sink a battleship! This was followed by Christmas puddings, mince pies, coffee and chocolates. The Raffle prizes were amazing, so thank you to all those who donated. Congratulations to Joe for winning the prize for the best Christmas attire which included a Christmas Hat with lights ! *[see picture]*

Big thanks to all those who helped make the event such a success including Judith, Joe, Karen, Leila, Frances, Jean, Wendy and Emma and a big thank you to Meggy Moo's for kindly donating the cream for the desserts and coffee.

Jonathan and Susan



The Shroton Ukulele band

By Christmas we will have donated **£1800.00** to charity.

This year we have supported.....

Julia's House children's hospice

Phyllis Tuckwell children's hospice

Forever Hounds

Bowel Cancer Research UK

Brave And Determined (Shaftesbury)



We allowed a very lovely greyhound into the Hall for a minute to have her photo taken as part of the presentation ceremony!

Each charity received sums up to £250.00 except *BAD* to whom we donated £500.00.

Blandford Food Bank will also get some help from us before Christmas.

Our activities are a triple whammy.... We enjoy playing.... Our audiences enjoy listening.... And the charities benefit from the money we raise by charging a mere £60.00 a concert with up to eight players!

We meet on Mondays at 16.30 in the Village Hall. Great fun.
New members are very welcome, or feel free to just come and listen.

Happy New year to all,
Mike Jones



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