

The Shroton Lines is published by the Shroton Village Hall Committee for the residents of the village. It is written, published and delivered by a team of willing volunteers. Your thoughts and articles are always welcome and should be addressed to the editor, Ena Rees, either by hand to Brook Cottage, by phone to 01258.861039 or by email to shrotonlines@gmail.com. Cut-off date for submission is the 15th of each month.

Diary Dates This Month

- 2nd Aug Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
- 3rd Aug Pie Night at The
Cricketers
- 4th Aug Swing Train 5.30 - 6.30pm
- 9th Aug Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning
- 10th Aug Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 11th Aug Swing Train 5.30-6.30pm
- 12th Aug SCC v. Stalbridge (Home)
- 16th Aug Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
- 17th Aug Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 18th Aug Swing Train 5.30-6.30pm
- 19th Aug SCC V. PooleTown
- 23rd Aug Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning
- 24th Aug Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 25th Aug Swing Train 5.30-6.30pm
- 30th Aug Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
- 31st Aug Pie Night at The Cricketers

In this month's issue

- ~ Parish Council News
- pages 2 & 3
- ~ Letters to the Lines - page 3
- ~ Child Okeford and Shroton
WI - page 3
- ~ Iron Age and Roman History
of Shroton - page 6
- ~ A Visit to the Jungle in
Borneo (Rodney
Simmonds)
- page 6 & 7
- ~ Life Lines: Doreen Browne
-page 8

Shroton Summer Show Saturday 2nd September

Hazel Ward



It will not be long now until our annual Shroton Summer Show. Attached to these Lines you will find another copy of the programme along with the entry forms you will need to join in the fun again this year. The entry form for those who receive the paper copy is the same as last year but for those who receive their copy online, you will find it is in a slightly different format. Both types of form will of course be accepted. Both sides of the entry forms need to be completed and returned with the covering slip at the latest by 6pm on Tuesday 29th August to either Autumn Cottage or The Thatched Cottage together with the entry fees. If you are very keen and need additional forms they can be obtained from both these addresses, the bus shelter, the village coffee morning or on-line via the village website. Entries need to be brought to the hall between 10.30 and 12noon on the day of the show (no entries accepted after 12noon) and at 2.30pm everyone can come and admire the display, congratulate the winners and have tea and cake!

SO: what will YOU think about entering this year? As always we have

come up with some new challenges along with the traditional favourites of flowers, jams and cakes. So how about making a sourdough loaf or a lemon drizzle cake from the cookery section? Or Donald Trump made from vegetables or fruit (I look forward to seeing these!)? Those of you with photographic skills might try "a human hand" in black and white or some interesting architectural feature, there are lots of categories so something for everyone.

We are very keen to involve the children in the village show and so this year we have planned two craft afternoons, Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th August in the village hall from 2.30 to 4pm, where children under 12 can come and prepare some of their entries for the show. Materials will be provided along with squash/biscuits and cake. They will be able to make their card, their collage butterfly and more. See notices around the village for more details.

We really do hope that you will feel inspired to join in with the show this year, it is one of the most popular events in Shroton; so put in lots of entries. Good Luck everyone!

St. Mary's Shroton Bells Dedication Service Friday 25th August. 7pm



Led by Bishop of Sherborne
Followed by Refreshments
All welcome

The bells can be viewed on www.taylorbells.co.uk under 'contracts/work in progress'.

They are due to return to Shroton on 31st July to be rehung. Villagers may be aware of unusual ringing patterns during that week as the installation is completed!

Editorial - Ena Rees

Dear Everyone,

July is whizzing by as I write, and my stint back at the chalk face (only a small teaching commitment) is almost over. With the start of the holiday season, I am having to send this issue for early publication; alternatively it would not have been out till the second week in August.

One of my other roles is on the Village Hall Committee, so I was asked to draw attention to a new idea for Coffee Mornings. Lately, these have been increasingly well-attended and people seem to enjoy the chance to meet and chat with some coffee-time treats served by the various members of the village who take turns running the event. There are two grandchildren who visit regularly and are welcomed by all. The question was raised whether we could invite other toddlers and parents to come too. We could put a mat and play area out at one end of the Hall, and they could bring toys to occupy themselves while the parent(s) have a chance to socialise too. We are about to have a baby changing table put in the Ladies Toilet, which might help make a visit with young ones easier to manage, and it would be lovely to welcome even more members of our village to join us if and when they can.

It was very upsetting to hear of the loss of a dog which had ingested some rat poison while out on a walk. Thank you to Mike Scott who has alerted villagers via Pied Piper on email, and has put up signs along the dog walkers' route to make sure owners are aware of the danger.

Special thanks to Rodney Simmons for his most interesting article in this month's issue. He has had to wait some time till I had a space to include the account, which I hope you enjoy as much as I did.

Lastly, apologies to the Parish Council that I was not able to reproduce the graph of their Traffic Calming survey, but please look for it on Shroton's website. The Clerk will put a poster of results on the noticeboard.

Best wishes for happy holidays.

Village Hall News

Anne Pearson

Yesterday, the Shroton Ukulele Band held their end of year party on the patio at the Village Hall. It was a balmy summer evening and everyone congregated outside – lovely!

The Village Hall is particularly popular in the summer months and several Shrotonians have booked the hall for their celebrations. Happy Joint Birthday to Jim and Cathy Bird, who hosted a wonderful party complete with a calypso band, palm trees and pina colodas. We must also congratulate Julie and Kevin Milton who will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary with a party later this month. And finally, we wish all the Year Six pupils at St Andrew's School good luck for the future as they move onto senior school. They are celebrating with a party at the hall on the last day of term.

Our next event will be the Village Show on Saturday, 2nd September. I know that certain green-fingered residents are anxiously tending their vegetables while others are thinking about that winning photograph they are yet to take. We welcome all your entries and look forward especially to lots of entries from the children.

Enjoy the summer holidays and let's hope this wonderful weather continues. Hope to see you at the Show,

All the best, Anne Pearson

Parish Council News

Lizzie Kingsbury, Parish Clerk

Results of Traffic Calming Questionnaire

1. Do you support any of the following Proposed Traffic calming measures?
Yes 49; No 6; Total responses 55
2. White entrance gates to the four routes into the village with 'SLOW' painted on the road. **Y 32; N 13; TR 45**
3. Narrowing white lines on the road by the white entrance gates
Y 29; N 15; TR 44
4. Narrowing white lines and 'SLOW' painted on the road at the sharp bends in Fairfield Road, Main Street and Telegraph Street. **Y35; N13; TR48**
5. 'SLOW' signs painted on the road at Frog Lane and Telegraph Street leading to the junction at The Cross.
Y38; N12; TR 50
6. 'SLOW' signs painted on the road by the Village Hall and bus shelter.
Y 32; N 17; TR 49
7. 'Rumble' strips on the road at the village entrance on Fairfield Road.
Y 25; N 25; TR 50

Revised bus timetables

Dorset County Council has recently let new contracts for the provision of Passenger Transport. These new contracts have led to a number of changes to the public transport network, which will come into force from 23 July. I have placed new timetables for routes serving the locality on the bus stop notice board (Cricketers pub), the Parish website and are available from dorsetforyou.com/traveldorset

Village incident relating to the death of a dog

The Chairman of the Parish Council, the DCC Countryside Manager (North Dorset) accompanied by the Parish Clerk walked areas of the reported locations associated with the recent loss of a beloved pet on 20 July 2017. The advice from the DCC agencies is to remain alert to any collective sightings of dead animals, keep to the designated public footpaths & Right of Ways and keep dogs on leads. Residents sighting unusual amounts of dead animals or unusual substances on or near public footpaths & Right of Ways are encouraged to advise the Parish Clerk of the location in the first instance.

Dog-waste bins in the village

The Parish Council is currently in consultation with Dorset Waste Partnership concerning the siting of two additional dog waste bins within the village. Proposed 1st location is in Bessells Lane near to the self-closing gate recently installed, the 2nd location near to the entrance gate for the public footpath off Frog Lane. Proposed locations for these additional bins will require agreement with local residents, DCC Highways and DWP. The council has been discussing the replacement of the existing dog bins and has advised DWP that it does not want the large capacity waste wheelie bins being introduced (at existing village locations) as it phases out the red dog waste bins. The council is minded to opt for new litterbins in which dog waste can be disposed of as recommended by DWP.

The Glebe Play Area

Dolly Trim is compiling a roster for weekly /fortnightly inspections of the play area for

(Cont'd on page 3)

(Cont'd from page 3)

for the volunteers who stepped up at the May 2017 Parish Council meeting. James Millmer has been strimming the 'difficult to get to areas' around the fencing and in the play area for some time now, and has agreed to take-on some of the basic maintenance with the youthful Barry Mower to meet the recommendations of the Annual Inspection 2017 for play equipment.

A350 & C13 improvements 2017/2018

Following meetings with Parish Councils earlier this year, DCC have compiled a suit of improvement proposals for the A350 and C13 between Blandford and Shaftesbury.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/A350-C13-improvements>

Durweston Bridge Repairs

You may recall that, following concerns expressed by a number of villages and a meeting with chief engineers, DCC agreed to delay these works until the A350 works are completed. It is anticipated that bridge works are now being delayed until next year. However, they will need to happen in summer of 2018 and the works are expected to take at least 4 months to complete. County Councillor Croney is liaising with the DCC Highways engineers and the contractor regarding the proposed works for next year and will be arranging a consultation event for villages likely to be affected by this repair programme.

Letters to the Lines

WARNING TO DOG OWNERS

Mike Scott

It is with great sadness that I have to report that one of our village dog owners has had to take the very difficult decision to have their beloved pet put down following a suspected ingestion of rat poison whilst out on a walk through the lanes and fields surrounding our village.

You will understand me not going into specifics at this time out of respect to the owner and the fact that the route taken has not been confirmed.

Dog walkers - this is over to you now; keep your dogs on the lead or under strict control in the fields and lanes. Please pass on this warning to those not on email.

Land/property owners - if you do deploy poison for vermin control, please do it responsibly.

Baffling Blandford is Back!

Jana and Paul Hyland

Paul and Jana, husband and wife illusionists, are back for a second season of 'Baffling Blandford', weekly walks illustrating the quirky character of the town. Jana says, 'It's a half-hour walk packed into 90 intriguing minutes—with impossibilities at every turn!' 'Baffling Blandford' starts from the Crown Hotel's garden at 4 pm every Sunday and finishes back at the Crown about 5.30 pm, having delighted participants with a fabulous magic show at stops along the way.

Reactions in person and on Facebook: "We were spellbound!" "Great fun! Paul and Jana are brilliant and not to be missed." "Sheer enjoyment." "We loved being led to unknown spaces and were amazed by your trickery." Paul says, "People wave at us from their houses. One couple was able to check that their children were in bed because our walk went right by their door. Once a hungry boxer dog almost carried off my pet 'otter' by the river." Surprises are guaranteed.

Paul Hyland is a Dorset-born author, broadcaster and magician who has performed magic for celebrities in the UK, in Venice and the US. He has lectured at the world-famous Magic Circle. Jana is an American wordsmith who has performed magic since her childhood in Arkansas. Together they bring Magic about Blandford to life. The 90-minute tour is wheelchair accessible, with free parking at the nearby Marsh & Ham car park. Baffling Blandford is an entertainment for adults that children (6+) will also enjoy. Come see Blandford with new eyes! Tickets from the Crown Hotel Reception, Blandford TIC or your dynamic hosts, Paul and Jana, on the night. See www.artoftheimpossible.com/magic or like them on Facebook!

Baffling Blandford kicked off its 2017 season as part of the Free Expression Arts Festival in May and will continue every Sunday until 10th September.

CHILD OKEFORD AND SHROTON WI

Gaynor Waring

'Hey Day' was a great success for our WI Jambola stall - we sold out with an hour to go! Thank you to all our customers for joining in the 'Jambola' fun. We have made a donation to the Hey Day charities, which support local

village causes, as a result of your generosity. Thank you Dorset WI Federation Centenary celebrations continue and a picnic for the local BEACON WI groups was held at Melbury Abbas. Several members attended along with the Dorset Federation Chair, Marilyn Holehouse and had an enjoyable afternoon in the sunshine.

Our July meeting was to learn more about Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), an international charity supported by the WI movement. The Association was formed in 1929 and is dedicated to making life better by raising the standard of living of women and families through education, training and community development programmes throughout the world. Esme Isaacs, ACWW representative for Dorset WI, told us about recent projects in Tanzania – mushroom production, India – clean water for schools; Ghana – classes in infant care techniques. Every WI is encouraged to raise money via their county office to help sponsor these projects. For more information see the website www.acww.org.uk

Our skittles team will be 'going for gold' on Friday 21st July at the annual Beacon group skittles match at Melbury Abbas. Good luck Ladies! Whilst there are no meetings in August, several members of our WI will be exhibiting at the Dorset Arts & Crafts exhibition at Purbeck School, Wareham between 4th - 8th August. This event is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Our next meeting is on Monday 11th September. It is a treasure hunt around Child Okeford to support Dorset's WI Centenary initiative to 'Walk a hundred miles, yards & steps'. Please meet at the Community Centre at 2pm. The treasure hunt will take about an hour. Those not wishing to join in the walk are invited to stay at the Community Centre for a chat and join the returning treasure hunters for tea!

For more details or a chat about joining, contact : Liz Smith, President 01258 860432 or Cathy Bird 01258 861526 Visit Our website: www.childokefordshrotonwi.wordpress.com Our WI Email address : childokefordshrotonwi@gmail.com Our Twitter feed : @ChildOkShoWI



Farm Fresh Milk

**NEW at Meggy Moo's in addition to our Raw Milk...
Unhomogenised Whole Milk**

Our same fresh milk but gently pasteurised using a low temperature, traditional method to maintain the flavour.

It remains unhomogenised so the cream will still naturally float to the top or simply give it a shake to mix it together.

Suitable for those who may not be able to consume raw milk.

1 Litre - £1.00

2 Litres - £2.00

Also available from our milk hut – free range eggs, homemade cakes, chutneys and jams.

Open 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week

Meggy Moo's, Park Farm, Bessells Lane, Shroton DT11 8TP

Caring Jobs

Experienced and compassionate female carer is available to help with elderly or disabled person to allow them to remain in their own home for longer.

Tasks considered include shopping, cooking, collection of prescriptions, hospital visits and companionship.

Own transport, fully insured and references available on request.

Call Trish on 07789 244 285

E/mail: triciabright21@hotmail.com

Pretty Holiday Cottage Shroton

2 bedrooms/ 4 people

Fully equipped

Lovely garden

Minimum 3 nights

**For further details please contact:
01258 860285**

Shroton Village Hall for Hire

Our newly refurbished hall is available for hire.

**For details and bookings, apply to
Anne Pearson on 863892**

Having a Senior Computer Moment?



Help is only a phone call away!

- **PC Support & Training**
- **Virus Removal**
- **Wireless & Broadband**
- **Speeding up slow PC**
- **Laptop repairs**
- **Apple Mac & Windows**
- **Home & small business**

**For peace of mind, value for money or
just to get the damn thing working!**

Call Clive: 07788 181419 - 01258 870053



www.scmoments.uk

GET SWING FIT! - Fun Work-Out
to Jazz Steps + Charleston
Moves with Swing, Gospel + Jazz music
Fridays 5.30 - 6.30 p.m. from 2.6.17
Shroton Village Hall
Main Street, DT11 8QB

MORE INFO AND BOOKING AT
SWINGTRAIN.COM

#SWINGTRAINFITNESS @SWINGTRAINFIT

NATURAL BEAUTY

Mobile Beauty Therapist ~ Beauty Treatments in the Comfort of your own Home

*Manicure/Pedicure -Waxing -Shellac - Facials -
Massage - Lash/Brow Tinting - Pamper Parties*

For more information call

07920.269664

email:kellyrbrady@hotmail.co.uk

website: www.kellynaturalbeauty.co.uk





J & T WINDOW CLEANING

Your local traditional window cleaner

We are also able to clean guttering, fascias and conservatory roofs.

No water fed pole, no nonsense!

Please phone Jess and Tim on 01747 590090 or 07724455128 for a free quote.

Nazareth Lodge Residential Care Home Sturminster Newton



Rated 'OUTSTANDING' by the Care Quality Commission

Finally, Spring is in the air and the bulbs are pushing through to lift our spirits.

Nazareth Lodge.....a real home.

There is so much more we can tell you, so why not explore our website?

AWARD WINNING HOME

2016 Great South West Care Awards Regional Winners for:
Outstanding Contribution to Social Care – Camilla Trimble Care Team

Palliative Care Team

Ancillary Worker – Finalist

2016 National Care Awards:

Care Manager Finalist

First Care Home in the South West to achieve the

“Silver” Food for Life Catering Mark

Awarded the highest accolade of “Beacon” status for “End of Life Care”

Respite and day care services are available.

For further information or brochure please ring 01258 472511

www.nazareth-lodge.co.uk email: care@nazareth-lodge.co.uk



wessexinternet
SUPERFAST RURAL BROADBAND

no
phone line
required



Up to
50
Mb/s

Superfast Rural Internet

for homes & businesses in Shroton and beyond

Perfect for: ✓ Streaming TV ✓ Working from home ✓ VoIP Phones ✓ Online gaming

Benefits: ✓ Up to 50Mb/s ✓ 12 month contract ✓ 99.9%* up-time ✓ Local support
✓ 1-2 week installation lead time

*accurate at time of print

0333 240 7997 wessexinternet.com

Evidence of the way of life in Shroton valley - from the Iron Age to Roman times.

Judith Hewitt

In Autumn 1891 George Bath, a Ranston farm labourer, noticed some dark lines in a field at Park Farm, which suggested a buried building. He informed his employer, Sir Talbot Baker, who decided to investigate and carry out a trial excavation. The remains of a flint wall were soon discovered and other artefacts such as pottery, clay tiles and a child's skeleton. Lady Amy Baker wrote to her friend General Pitt-Rivers informing him of their discovery and consequently he carried out a full scale excavation. Lady Baker was convinced that the site was the lost Roman

settlement of Ibernio. The 2 words Ibernio and Iwerne both mean "the spring where the yew trees grow" in ancient Celtic.

The excavation, from September 1897 to December 1897, was Pitt-Rivers last one. The General (due to ill health) was only able to attend the site 4 times a week, and did not live to see the completed project.

Mr H St George Gray was in charge of the 'dig' with Mr GF Waldo Johnson, the draughtsman, and 28 labourers and 3 boys.

The day's work began at 8am and finished at 6pm -most of the labourers were employed from Pitt-River's estate during the quiet farming winter months. Labour was paid at 2/6d a day. All the evidence suggested that the

remains were not only of a Roman farm house-the main building, consisted of 3 rooms, was over 130 feet long- but also a settlement from Early Iron Age to 4th century AD!

The excavations remained exposed to the frost, wind and rain. Gradually the walls collapsed so the site was filled in about 1945 and today there is no visual evidence of its existence.

All the finds were displayed at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Farnham but sadly some were thrown away after the Museum closed. Salisbury Museum now holds some artefacts from the 'dig' including a wooden model to scale. Their website has a list of current items held there.

Any questions? Judith Hewitt 861565

A Visit to the Jungle in Borneo

Rodney Simmons

In 1965 a visit was arranged by our friendly army liaison officer to take a group of us to a Dyak Longhouse - a village in the trees where the inhabitants had little contact with the outside world apart from the odd foray into a Dyak town or with the British army.

These villages are constructed by first driving poles into the ground then lashing them together with liana to make a rectangular frame twelve to fifteen feet from the ground and about forty feet wide. More wood is then lashed onto this to form a flat platform, which in turn is tied to the surrounding trees. Two of these structures are made with a twenty foot gap between them. On these platforms a terrace of one -roomed dwellings are made then thatched with palm fronds. The one i visited was perhaps fifty yards or more long with over a hundred people living there.

It was just the same as Main Street in Shroton with houses on either side of the road - except this was up in the trees.

Beneath the houses were a few pens for locking up pigs and chickens at night, otherwise the animals scavenged freely in the forest during the day.

It had been an uncomfortable three

hour drive on unmade roads from Kuching in Sarawak to the village; even then we still had a quarter of an hour's hike through dense jungle to get to the village. Our guide and interpreter suddenly stopped, then called several times. Moments later, a small child's head appeared high above us, curious as to the shouting from below. The village blended so well into the surrounding trees that none of us had seen anything but jungle until it was pointed out by our guide. A ladder was lowered, not a traditional European ladder - it was more akin to a fish's backbone and rickety to boot! When we were all safely on the platform the village women drifted out of the houses, curious to see what was happening. As soon as they saw us they immediately ran back into their rooms, squealing. I thought this must be modesty as their only garment was a short sarong round the waist.

The single room where everyone lived was probably no more than thirty feet square with a small amount of bedding in different corners, some for the parents and others for children. To one side was a rather makeshift shelf with a couple of metal cooking utensils; no crockery or cutlery at all, except a couple of tin mugs for drinking from. Their food was served on green palm fronds - the same as those used for thatching; the meal was eaten with their fingers. Saves on washing up!

Beside the shelf on the floor was a square od dried clay with several flat stones which served as a fireplace

where the women cooked. One concession to the 20th century was several WWII jerry cans for water. That was the sum total of their belongings.

One thing that caught my eye most was the floor. Made of round branches, they were worn and shone as if they had been polished daily, which over generations they had, by thousands of feet!

As we were being shown round one of the rooms, women were gathering outside again and to our surprise and amusement, nearly all of them were wearing brassieres, though not to cover their breasts which were still uncovered. When we later asked our guide about this strange behaviour he explained it was their way of showing us how westernised they were...

We had been warned before we left Kuching to carry plenty of sweets and cigarettes with us along with a pack of 200 for the chief. The reason became apparent almost immediately. Word had evidently spread round the village of our arrival for we were quickly surrounded by a score of youngsters whose only words of English seemed to be "yespleasethankyoucheerio", sometimes in the right order, but not always. These children did not seem to walk or run, but bounced everywhere, except when they ran across the occasional fish backbone ladders that joined the two parts of the village. Here they were as sure-footed as mountain goats and agile as monkeys, flitting from one side to the other with complete confidence.

(Cont'd page 7)

(Cont'd from page 6)

Our supply of goodies was rapidly dispensed even though we had bought up all the available Spangles and hard-boiled sweets we could find at the airport and messes. A score of children can make a large hole in any amount of sweets in a very short time. The cigarettes too were quickly distributed although those I saw smoking them did not inhale the smoke but blew it out immediately and they had a strange way of holding the cigarettes. They made a fist before inserting a cigarette between the first and second finger next to the knuckle then drawing on it through the hole by their thumb. I never saw any of them put a cigarette directly to his lips - the women, of course, were not allowed to smoke.

We were ushered along to see the head man who turned out to be a small, wizened old man with a shock of white hair who still had the hole in his nose where in the past a bone would have gone. He was looked after, possibly by his daughter, in a much larger two-roomed bungalow built on stilts separate from the village. His room had rudimentary wicker furniture which consisted of one chair, several stools and a single pole bench, which from experience was very uncomfortable to sit on. We presented his cigarettes and

in turn listened to him tell of his life in the village, how his father was a great warrior who had killed many men and taken many wives. At this point I had better tell you that the Dyaks we were visiting had in earlier times been dubbed the '@Wild Men of Borneo'. They had been cannibals within living memory, as we found out by listening to the account given by the old man now retelling how he had participated in the last raid to have taken place. I should add here also that we were given an alcoholic drink called twa, which the old man was enjoying in quantity, so perhaps reliving the battle was a little on the exuberant side. He explained to us that the village had been constructed many, many generations previously; it had been an important meeting place at one time although he did not know why. They built it in the trees for the safety of the villagers as there had been many 'bad people' in the jungle at that time. These people would raid, kill the men and take away the women, which meant that in turn they raided the raiders for revenge and to get their women back. And so it continued until the Japanese came with their guns and started to shoot marauders. Although they had this dreadful habit of cannibalism, in other ways they were very civilised. In the centre of the meeting place was a cloth-covered seat

for the head man, then, set in semi-circles in front of this were reed mats where other men sat. Anything concerning the well-being of the village was discussed here. Each man was allowed to speak once, then a vote was taken. A real democratic parliament deep in the Borneo jungle - you couldn't make it up! One other quirky habit they had was that if a man wanted a woman for his wife, he could 'try her out' for a weekend in a room attached to the meeting hall; if either party was not satisfied there was no harm done, both were free to try again with someone else. It also served as a honeymoon suite for newlyweds. These once barbaric people were some of the friendliest I have ever met on my travels, and why not? They were isolated from 'civilisation' and had everything they needed growing around them just for the picking. The children were fit and appeared healthy, and something else struck me about them, their teeth were bright white and shone when they laughed, which was often - especially at the antics of the white men's attempts to cross from one side to the other on those fishbone ladders. I often wonder what that longhouse is like nowadays - if it still exists. I also wonder if we beat David Attenborough by getting there first. Although I doubt that. ■



**MADE TO ORDER
MANUFACTURED IN UK**

Your sofa the way you want it

- Expert Craftsmanship
- Any size
- Finest quality materials
- Fabric or leather
- Dorset Showroom
- Established for 10 years



01258 841414 | www.handmadesofacompany.co.uk
Unit 4, Manor Farm Business Centre, Gussage St Michael, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 5HT



Writers wanted!

Calling all writers, young and old. Would you consider writing an article, poem or story for the Lines?

Whilst space is often limited because of essential news items, it is great to squeeze in the odd piece of original writing when possible.

Please forward any material to the Editor using email: shrotonlines@gmail.com or deliver to Brook Cottage, Main Street, Shroton.

Life Lines: Doreen Browse



This interview took place on a very hot afternoon, in the cool of Doreen's shaded sitting room, where I discovered she is a talented tapestry worker who has made a number of beautiful cushion covers of different designs. Her handiwork was also evident when I was treated to some delicious home-made cake and tea served in beautiful china; what luck that Doreen had opted for me to visit her instead of the other way around! But I was later to learn that her preferred art form is music, which is an important feature of her everyday life.

Doreen grew up in Kent. She first met her husband when she went to play piano for a Sunday school when she was only 16 and Sydney was 23, the teacher of the class. Doreen trained as a primary school teacher specialising in music, and after they were married Sydney got a job in Ghana as a surveyor engineer for the Ghanaian government. Hence, Doreen worked in an international school for 2 years, in classes including 6 or 7 nationalities at any one time: a tall order in terms of language and cultural differences! Her interest in children led to her sponsoring the education of several children and exchanging letters with them over the years.)

On a visit home they heard that Sydney would not be able to be employed by the Ghanaian government any more because of a financial crisis and they were left to organise the return of all their furniture and belongings without actually returning there themselves. Damage to their property was almost inevitable because of the very basic means by which furniture was taken from shore to ship!

In Kent they both found jobs and raised their family, Debbie and Mark, who now live in Cambridgeshire and West Sussex, respectively. For all the family, sailing was a big part of their lives and Debbie and Mark still enjoy sailing as a major pastime. Doreen laughed, remembering how she first learnt to sail on her honeymoon!

At 54 Doreen took early retirement as she was already suffering from arthritis,

and because Dorset had always been a favoured holiday destination they came over to Somerset and Dorset to find a home for retirement - eventually finding Shroton. Sydney was good at DIY and was soon able to add a utility room and make modifications to their house to make it their home.

Sadly, Sydney died in 2005, but Doreen stays in touch with all her family, hosting her grandchildren and following their busy lives even though they live some distance away.

How many years in Shroton?

24 and a half years.

A favourite television programme?

Although not a great TV enthusiast, Doreen enjoys wild life programmes and used to like Morse, particularly because of the Oxford location.

A favourite book?

The Gift of Rain and *The Garden of Evening Mists*, both by Tan Twan Eng, are books she discovered a while ago and has read twice.

Favourite music? Doreen loves choral music like Mozart's *Requiem*; she enjoys opera and generally prefers classical music, although she also likes jazz music by artists such as Oscar Peterson and Ella Fitzgerald.

A favourite film? *Out of Africa*, the true story of Karen Blixen, which Doreen has seen many times because she loves the scenery and the story.

Food heaven? Lamb roast was nominated, but quickly followed by curry, Chinese or Indian - a wide variety of favourites!

A memorable experience? One of Doreen's proudest times was attending the first opera her son, Mark, composed; beautiful music, performed by a few professionals and several amateurs.

What single thing would improve the quality of your life? Being able to walk without wheels or a stick - but Doreen has had arthritis for 30 years.

What is an important lesson life has taught you? Never worry about things you can't do anything about - advice she learned from Sidney who was always "calm, cool and collected".

Dream or plans for the future? Doreen would love to go on another cruise. She has been on several, both with a friend and alone. Smaller cruise ships are very friendly and offer interesting lectures on the places visited.

Best thing about Shroton? "Shroton is like a big family." Doreen enjoys the sheer friendliness of the village and the Dorset countryside.

THE NOBLE CLEANER

All Domestic Cleaning Duties
Cleaning, washing, ironing,
gardening.

General daily duties.

All ironing now undertaken, free
collection and deliveries.

(Excludes weekends)

Here to help make life easier

Please call Miss Ball

01258.861651 or 07938.389250

SHROTON OIL SCHEME

Taking orders NOW
for delivery at beginning of
August.

Also available for free delivery:

**DISHWASHER SALT (Block
and Tablets)**

TOP-UP, please don't RUN-
OUT

Tel: 01258 861285 for details

Shroton Lines

The Editor - Ena Rees

Brook Cottage

Shroton

DT11 8QD

Phone: 01258.861039

Email: shrotonlines@gmail.com

**Deadline for submissions:
15th of the month**

The Shroton Lines is a magazine dedicated to publishing news and views of interest to the residents of Shroton; you can receive an email copy to save paper and expense if you let the editor know your preference.

**"The Shroton Lines Needs
You"**

This is your magazine, so you are encouraged to submit or suggest any articles you would like to see published in forthcoming issues. Please contact the Editor at shrotonlines@gmail.com

**For further local information, see
Shroton Parish Website:
www.shroton.org**