

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

- 1st Feb Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
Village Hall Committee Meeting 7.30pm
- 2nd Feb Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 3rd Feb *Band Substance* playing at the Grove Arms, Ludwell
- 5th Feb 7.00-8.00pm Swing Fitness
- 6th Feb 10.05-10.50am Mobile Library
- 8th Feb Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning
- 9th Feb Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 11th Feb *Banned Substance* playing at The Dorset Soldier, Corfe Mullen
- 12th Feb 7.00-8.00pm Swing Fitness
- 15th Feb Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
Parish Council Meeting
- 16th Feb Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 19th Feb 7.00-8.00pm Swing Fitness
- 20th Feb 10.05-10.50am Mobile Library
- 22nd Feb Recycling (Green)
- 23rd Feb Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 25th Feb CakeFest, 2.00pm, Village Hall
- 26th Feb 7.00-8.00pm Swing Fitness

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Shroton's Burns Night

Judith Hewitt masterminded this splendid event in what proved to be a very enjoyable occasion, judging by comments from visitors and village guests alike.

A welcome whisky greeted guests and Max, the piper, began proceedings. Anne Pearson welcomed a full hall for this well-supported evening. The Selkirk Grace was read by Jim Bird, and the soup was served; Mike Jones toasted absent friends, especially Bob McCrae, before Maia Perez carried in the haggis, led by the Piper, and Ena Rees

'addressed the haggis' with Burns' poem. After the meal, Ena and Angus Watson each read poems for the Immortal Memory which was followed by a few Scottish dances led by Claire Watson. Finally, the raffle was drawn by Mike Scott.

Judith's organisation of a team of helpers in the kitchen meant the food was served promptly, and the tables were decorated with tartan beribboned candles and beautifully crafted orders of service containing a brief explanation of Burns' life and work.



Church Bells are Removed for Restoration



Lots of people turned up to see the Church bells on the floor of the Church, to find out the history of our bells and to learn all about the restoration project.

It's great to see just how many people really do care about our wonderful bells.

Judith Hewitt



CakeFest



CakeFest returns by popular demand on Saturday 25th February at 2pm in the Village Hall. This year's theme is "If I eat a whole cake, is that still just one slice?"

- 12pm - Hall open for cake delivery
- 1-2pm - Judging - hall closed, sorry
- 2pm - Hall open to everyone for cakes, refreshment and fun- Free entry
- 3.30pm - Prize giving
- 4.30pm - Last slice served - best offers accepted on remaining cakes
- 5pm - Hall closed

Editorial - Ena Rees

Dear Everyone,

January turned out to bring the cold weather we missed at Christmas, and I am sorry to note that illness has continued to affect many folk in the village, though not always just because of the inclement weather! We wish you all a speedy recovery and the chance to get out and about when the sun makes an appearance.

Waiting to write up the report on Burns Night, I left myself inadequate space to convey more than a bare factual account of events that evening, but the whole experience once again reminded me of how lucky we are to share our community. Originally I was supposed to be cooking the haggis, but when I saw the size and number, had to enlist the help of friends. There were many cooks behind the scenes making soup, preparing the vegetables and puddings and the team to set up, the team to serve, the team to wash up and the team to clear up the next day all helped to make the occasion a joint effort and a happy occasion. Judith has run many Burns Night events, but this one certainly seemed a triumph of organisation, effort and experience. Thank you Judith!

As you will see, the Parish Council have been busy gathering opinions and suggestions for traffic calming measures in the village and proposals are explained in this edition. I did not receive the map in time to include it in this month's Shroton Lines, but a copy will be placed in the Village Hall so that you can check what might be happening near you.

It is that time of year when indoor tasks can get done because the garden can wait, so I persuaded my poor hobbling husband to join me in a decorating project, which he manages to do despite also spending time at the field where his polytunnel is getting plenty of attention! If it weren't for certain inspirational friends getting on and decorating before us, I'm not sure we'd have started the process, but we promise ourselves it will be lovely when it's finished....

Best wishes, Ena.

Village Hall News

Anne Pearson

I wonder how many of us made a New Year's Resolution to try to do a little more exercise. Well, you've got no excuse now that Swing Train has come to Shroton! Claire Watson is holding a class every Sunday evening in the village hall and it promises to be a great way to dance yourself to fitness. There was a fantastic turnout for the first session and great to see so many men taking part. Thank you, Ed Balls, for showing us that dancing can be such fun.

And CakeFest will make a most welcome return on Saturday, 25th February. As usual, our judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood aka Marie and Mike Scott will be on hand to taste each cake and choose the winners. Cakes should be delivered to the hall by midday and the serious part – the eating – will start at 2 o'clock. We need bakers and we need eaters, so please put the date in your diary and come along.

By the time you read this, Burns Night will have come and gone. Thank you, Judith, for organising this popular event yet again. This year, I'm sure many of us will be raising a glass in memory of our very own Scotsman, Bob McCrae.

My Best Wishes to you all,
Anne Pearson

CHILD OKEFORD & SHROTON WI

Contributed by Gaynor Waring
- WI publicity Officer

January Events WI RESOLUTIONS MEETING

We began the New Year by welcoming 5 new members swelling the current WI membership to 35. We also had thoughtful and lively discussions exploring the 6 proposed WI resolutions. Using materials supplied by WI Central office, members acquainted themselves with detailed information prior, asked questions and discussed the issues in small groups prior to casting their individual votes. These will be carried forward to the WI National Conference in Liverpool in June where we are sending 2 members to represent 4 local WI groups.

RAMBLERS SPECIAL TEA PARTY

To celebrate their 90th Centenary, 45 ramblers from Bournemouth Ramblers Club were served up a sumptuous tea of handmade sandwiches and cakes provided by members of the WI after two long walks in and around Child Okeford. After breaking into an impromptu rendition of 'Jerusalem' the walkers tucked in, consumed numerous cups of tea and had lively exchanges with WI team. Many compliments were fed back to the WI team and we hope they return again. Photos of this event, held at the Village hall, can be found on the 'News' pages of our website.

February Meeting DORSET BUTTON MAKING WORKSHOP

Our next meeting is on Monday 13th February, 2pm at Child Okeford Community Centre.

Brenda Skaife, President of Shaftesbury Morning WI will lead a session on Dorset button making.

A Dorset button is a style of craft-made button. Their manufacture was at a peak between 1622 and 1850. Shaftesbury was a key centre for button making, employing over 1000 people at its height.

To learn how to make a Dorset button, come along and join us. Non members are welcome for a small fee of £3.50.

The cost of the materials will be covered by the WI. It promises to be a fun, lively and informative 'hands on' craft session, making something that has historical significance to our locality.

We will also be having a 'Bring and Buy' stall so dig out those unused Xmas gifts and any items for our Heyday 'Jambola' stall. (Items for 'Jambola' need to fit easily into a glass jar)

For more details or a chat about joining, contact :

Liz Smith, President 01258 860432

or Cathy Bird 01258 861526

or visit our website:

www.childokefordshrotonwi.wordpress.com

Our WI Email address :

childokefordshrotonwi@gmail.com

Our Twitter feed : @ChildOkShoWI

Letters to the Lines

Hambledon Hill Historical Mystery

John Housley

My name is John Housley and I have lived 50 years on the other side of the Hill in Child Okeford.

My last eight years have been spent researching into anything interesting that has happened locally.

I thought I had looked into most oddities and then I came across the following which I had not noticed.

What is, or was, the name of the hill that keeps us apart? From old tithe maps and other documents I have found four different spellings.

1. Hambledon ~ Modern.
2. Hamilton ~ Child Okeford tithe map.
3. Hambleton ~ Shroton tithe map
4. Hamildon ~ Alternative spelling by John Hutchins.

If you ever have space, could you bring this oddity to your readers. Someone may have an idea as to why Hambledon became the accepted spelling.

Do you have any historical society in Shroton? Two of us attempted to form one 18 months ago. No real interest and so we are now Archivists collecting photographs and local documents before the owner dies and such material goes into the skip.
Happy New Year,.

Our NHS in Dorset

Lizzy Kingsbury, Jim Bird

Services are under threat and if you have seen Shroton's website you will already know some of the details. The consultation period ends at the end of February, so if you want to have your say, please look at <http://www.healthwatchdorset.co.uk/resources/spotlight-our-annual-report-2015-2016>

NHS Dorset's Public Consultation on the proposals contained in their Clinical Services Review began on December 1, 2016 and will run until the end of February 2017.

The Clinical Services Review covers both community services and hospital services and proposes some significant changes. The Public Consultation gives local people the chance to have their say.

They are keen to know what local people think about the way this Public Consultation is being run. They believe it's vitally important that as many people as possible can take part in it, understand what changes are being proposed and have their say.

The consultation document can be seen here:

<https://www.csr.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/11/csr-consultation-document.pdf>



Lost and Found Tim and Gilly Whitlock

We wish to thank your local community at Shroton for the concern and help they showed us this week when we had lost our black Labrador, Angus. He was eventually found by a resident in Child Okeford after his 5 hour excursion during which he wandered around Hambledon Hill.
Kind Regards.

Thanks

Cathy and Jim Bird

We have been overwhelmed by the concern and offers of help during Angela's illness.

Thank you all so much.

House Hunting in Shroton Local Friends

Dear Shroton Residents,
We are looking for a family home in your beautiful village. Preferably a detached 3 to 4 bedroom house with a decent sized garden for kids to run around in. If you hear of or know of anyone who may be willing to sell, then please write an email to info@pasuppliers.com or call Richard on 0330 113 8058. If I'm not in please leave a message and I will return your call. We aren't in a chain and are cash buyers so can move fairly quickly.
With many thanks.

The Strays of Greece - Coffee Morning

Pip Swarbrick

On 4 March 2017 there will be a coffee morning at the Village Club, Watery Lane, Iwerne Minster in aid of Friends of The Strays of Greece (Dogs and Cats innocent victims of the Greek economy) between 10am and 12 pm (noon). There will be coffee, cake stall, wine or water stall, book stall and a raffle.
Please come and support this worthy event.

Any helpers or any donations towards the cake or raffle would be most appreciated.

At 7m there will be a Quiz at the Village Club, Watery Lane, Iwerne Minster in aid of the same charity.

Teams of 6.

Admission fee £7.50 per person. This will include a Hot Dog Supper! Prebooking essential as numbers are limited.

For more information on any of the events please call Pip Swarbrick on 01747 811737 or email topdogpip@yahoo.co.uk

BAND SUBSTANCE GIGS Steve Martin

Steve Martin's rock covers band 'Band Substance' are playing the following gigs:

February 3rd

The Grove Arms, Ludwell

February 11th

The Dorset Soldier, Corfe Mullen

March 3rd

The Kings Arms, Shaftesbury

Shroton Summer Show – News Update Hazel Ward

The date for our Summer Show this year has been fixed for Saturday 2nd of September, so now is the time to think about sowing sweet peas, choosing dahlias and planting your shallots and onions if the weather allows. This may also be the time to take a wintery photograph for the new class of "A Season" in the photography section. If you want to get ahead of the game for the preserves section you could think about making some marmalade as Seville Oranges are now to be found in the shops. BUT most importantly remember not to drink all of your sloe gin or other homemade liqueurs – you will need to leave a bottle to enter in September!

Lunch Outings Dee Sequeira

Lunch outings with transport - 1st Friday of each month, collected from your door. Lunches in a variety of venues at a reasonable cost.

Contact Dee Sequeira on 07850 500552".

Lunch and Chat

Change to Calendar

There will be no lunch in February as cooks are unavailable.

The next Lunch and Chat will be on Monday 6th March at 12.30.



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Jason Macintosh



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Proposed Traffic Calming Measures in the village

The Parish Council, with the valued assistance of interested residents, has produced a list of locations within the village envelope where potential traffic calming measures might be implemented. This list of locations is the Annex to this edition of the Shroton Lines. Parish Councillor Kevin Morris is producing a large-scale map of these locations and explanatory notes for the village residents to view and discuss. The map and its notes on the areas being considered will be available to view in the Shroton Village Hall from late January 2017 through to the end of February 2017.

As previously explained, this work will require active support and discussion with village residents for introducing any proposed traffic calming measures in the village. The Parish Council, in order to be able to do this effectively, need your comments and suggestions when determining any practicable solutions. Please feel able to discuss your ideas and suggestions on traffic calming with Councillor Morris, or come along to the next Parish Council meeting 15 February 2017 SVH at 7:00 pm to put your ideas and views on this matter forward.

The Red Telephone Box – Main Street

The Parish Council is minded to adopt the village telephone box after notification was received that it was to be permanently removed by NDDC and British Telecommunications. The Parish Council wishes to retain this kiosk for use by the village community if you have a suggestion on how this space could be used, please contact Parish Councillor Hewitt.

New Structures for Local Government in Dorset

Throughout 2016 the nine district, borough, unitary and county councils that deliver services to residents in Dorset have been exploring ways to restructure local government across the county. As has been widely discussed, the main driver for this course of action is the projected financial position in the coming years. The public consultation gave a powerful response acknowledging a compelling case to

change local government structures in Dorset. Based upon the weight of public opinion and the financial and other analytical evidence a consensus has emerged that two new unitary councils should replace the existing nine councils.

The two new unitary councils will be based upon the following local authority boundaries:

Unitary A: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area.

Unitary B: East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland plus the services currently provided by Dorset County Council in this area.

Parish Council Traffic Calming Project - Suggested traffic calming measures and locations -

Version No 1

Numerical order from Frog Lane – Bessells Lane - 'T' junction with Newfield Road – Fairfield Road – Church Farm developments - Main Street – water pump/Mill House - Ranston Estate entrance and back to Village Hall and Play Area

This is not a definitive list - The details shown below are for illustration and discussion purposes at the start of the calming traffic project by the Parish Council and the community.

Area 1

From A350 onto Frog Lane to the wooden gate (into the Water Meadow)

1. Entrance gateway with SLOW road markings before gateway into the Water Meadow
2. White lines – narrowing the road by the gateway
3. 2 SLOW signs painted on the road – between 'Fourways' and up to the footpath beside the vet's house
4. Warning triangle – prepared to slow down – opposite side of the road to the entrance gateway

Area 2

The Cross which includes all four roads Telegraph Street, The Cross Lane to Courtney Close, Main Street and Frog Lane into the village

1. Judith's mini roundabout idea
2. Change of priority on the give-way markings
3. Move the centre white line on Main Street road marking towards the left hand side of the road going up

Telegraph Street

4. Painting a centre island on the corner junction – see number 1

Area 3

From the top of Telegraph Street past the Manor Farm stable yard on up into Bessells Lane residences

1. SLOW signs painted on the road – between the stable yard and entrance to Manor Farm
2. Solid white warning line around the curve of the bend at Manor Farm

Area 4

Before 'Snowdrop Cottage' up to the stable yard at Manor Farm (to include Bessells Lane)

1. Entrance gateway with SLOW road markings before 'Snowdrop Cottage'
2. White lines – narrowing the road by the gateway
3. Warning triangle – prepared to slow down – opposite side of the road to the entrance gateway

Area 5

From the Parsonage Bessells Allotments past Park Farm, Sheep Lights and onto the 'T' junction with Newfield Road

1. To be determined/identified

Area 6

Newfield Road (from the Child Okeford turning) up to the cottages in Fairfield Road (Mr & Mrs Ball)

1. Mirror at the 'T' junction with Bessells Lane
2. Entrance gateway with SLOW road markings before housing
3. White lines – narrowing the road by the gateway -
4. Warning triangle – prepared to slow down – opposite side of the road to the entrance gateway
5. Three solid white lines across the road before the entrance gateway

Area 7

Fairfield Road from the 3 cottages around the bend to the Footpath No 14

1. SLOW signs painted on the road before the bend
2. Solid white warning line around the curve of the bend – up to Footpath No 14

Area 8

Entrance corner to the new Church Farm houses – Fairfield Road

1. SLOW signs painted on the road before the bend
2. Solid white warning line around the curve of the bend at the entrance to the Church Farm development

Continued p. 7



Youth Club Fun in Shroton Village Hall

28th December 2016

At some points the adults outnumbered the youngsters, so the turn out of 10-14 year olds was not as great as we'd anticipated, but we all had some fun.

The Village Hall Committee had offered this afternoon for youngsters to socialise after the Christmas festivities, but clearly families did not feel the need to use the afternoon on offer, which was a pity.

Many thanks to Dolly and Pete trim who have donated a table football game for use in the Hall. Many thanks also to all who supported the experiment, and for making it fun!

Traffic Calming Project

- Continued from p. 6

Area 9

Fairfield Road junction with Main Street

1. Change the 'give way' priority from Main Street to Fairfield Road

Area 10

Fairfield Road to the entrance of Main Street by the water pump (Ranston Estate end)

1. SLOW signs painted on the road before the bend
2. Solid white warning line around the curve of the bend - water pump location

Area 11

Ranston Estate entrance from A350 to the 'Bothy' cottage

1. Entrance gateway with SLOW road markings on turning off the A350 and before the entrance to Ranston Estate offices
2. White lines – narrowing the road by the gateway
3. Warning triangle – prepared to slow

Claire's Swing Fit Sundays at 7.00-8.00pm

The first session was a steep learning curve for all involved, but a turnout of 32 dancers, (not only women), was a clear indication that there is plenty of support and demand for this sort of exercise class, even if it does mean leaving the fireside on a cold Sunday evening! The class was too big so it was difficult for everyone to see and copy the moves, but at the second session numbers were more manageable and it is hoped that "swingers" will give it another go when they can. Practice makes perfect! Well done, Claire, and all those who are giving the exercise a try!

down – opposite side of the road to the entrance gateway

Area 12

Main Street from Church Farm House past the Village Hall up to the play area by Brook Cottage

1. Two red hatched warning boxes outside the village hall and adjacent to the play area – right across the road and approx. 2 metres in length

Life Lines - Continued from p. 8

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

"I am content. People confuse contentment with happiness, but I am content with my life as it is." (No surprise there: Jim's cheery demeanour is well known, and he has a positive approach to things which is quite remarkable.)

What is an important lesson life has taught you?

Something he says he's not good at: it is important to listen and to be listened to

as an antidote to our busy and media-oriented lives; also to enjoy the sounds of the countryside. He and Cathy sometimes take their coffee, or even breakfast, up Hambledon Hill to enjoy the morning in the countryside.

Dreams and plans for the future?

There are a few places I'd still like to visit, but that would probably require lottery funding. My main dreams are currently centred on the newest addition to the family, Katrina Meredith Meicklejohn.

Best thing about Shroton?

Shroton: it is home, the place, the people and what's going on here.

FOUND

Lost a ring?

A lady's ring has been found on the path behind Old Mill Cottages. Please contact the Editor to be put in contact with the finder.



Life Lines: Jim Bird



In truth, I am sure Jim needs no introduction to anyone who has lived in Shroton for some time as he is a 'larger than life' character who involves himself with many aspects of village concerns and is always very generous with his time and energy. A keen member of Shroton Ukulele Band who readily adds his sense of fun in vocal improvisations, I learnt that he also has a piano and key board, and it is only by sheer chance that his wife, Cathy, was not suddenly asked to house a full traditional organ when one took his fancy in Shaftesbury and another buyer managed to get his offer accepted first!

Despite the slightly eccentric persona Jim presents, he is actually a very practical gentleman with many skills and bags of enthusiasm. A long term member of the Parish Council, Jim also regularly takes a turn at running Coffee Morning, and his baking of cheese biscuits, miniature flapjacks and other dainty specialities make him an extremely popular host! Moreover, Jim is responsible for setting up and running the Shroton website.

Jim was born in Hampshire and raised in Sussex, but is three quarters Scottish, he tells me. His father was in the Navy and his mother was a teacher, and Jim has three older sisters. He was quick to point out that he was not spoilt as a child, which begs the question why he would assert this... He loved prep school and hated public school, unfortunately suffering from a time in education before dyslexia was understood. Since he went on to top his class in his Masters Certificate in the Merchant Navy, captained many ships and actually ended his career doing some teaching himself, he clearly made the right choice in leaving school as soon as possible!

His career sent him all over the world, but it was while he was in the Warsash School of Navigation, near Southampton, that he met his wife Cathy, who was the Principal's secretary. It seems their courtship was launched when he had been getting Cathy to help drum up support for events in his extra-curricular

role as Social Secretary, and prompted by a friend he plucked up the courage to ask her to come to 'the hop' with him. This was in 1968, and in 1969 Cathy joined him in Spain where he proposed in the market place with a red coral rose ring - he said he didn't earn very much at that time. They didn't wait long before marrying in 1970 when they managed to meet briefly in Toronto. Jim had to negotiate special arrangements as he did not have the correct passport to leave his ship, and his amazed taxi driver couldn't believe it when Jim left his bride immediately after the ceremony to rejoin his ship in Chicago! Cathy joined him there three days later, from where they began married life in Australia.

Michael was born in Brisbane in 1978 and they eventually moved to England where they settled in Shroton in 1980, before The Glebe was fully populated. Angela was born in 1980. Jim and Cathy have made life-long friends in far flung places, and being a gregarious couple they often share holidays with friends, including walking holidays with ex-Shrotonians, the Mulleys. Jim says he was able to ease himself into retirement by reducing his work days gradually, working for the Maritime Coastguard Agency, but I cannot imagine Jim ever being at a loss for projects as he is such a bundle of energy and always so willing to lend a hand.

How many years in Shroton?

39 years. **Favourite book?**

Jim enjoys the kind of science fiction that imagines a future which is politically and environmentally not so far from reality. He particularly named Robert Heinlein and Kurt Vonnegut.

Favourite film?

The Usual Suspects

Favourite music?

Jim likes most music and tends to listen to Classic FM. He loves Cesar Franck's Symphony in 'D' and any organ music.

Favourite food?

Jim loves all food; when pressed, he named Lebanese food for its variety of Mediterranean and eastern influences. He is a real chocoholic too!

A memorable experience?

Being stuck in a typhoon on a ship off the coast of Japan, rolling 60 degrees each way, and pitching at 20 degrees. (Jim is clear that global warming has made the sea a much more dangerous place because of the increasingly powerful storms nowadays.)

Continued on page 7

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Shroton Lines

The Editor - Ena Rees

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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