

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

3rd Jan	2.00pm Extra panto rehearsal ( <i>Pirates called</i> )
4th Jan	5.00pm Ukulele Club
6th Jan	Rubbish (Black) Coffee Morning 6.00pm Short Mat Bowling
7th Jan	Pie Night
8th Jan	10.30-11.15 Mobile Library
10th Jan	Panto Dress Rehearsal
11th Jan	5.00pm Ukulele Club
13 Jan	Recycling (Green)
14th Jan	Pie Night
15th Jan	Peter Pan (1st) at 7.30pm
16th Jan	Peter Pan (2nd at 2.30pm, 3rd at 7.30pm)
20th Jan	Rubbish (Black) 6.00 Short mat Bowls
21st Jan	Pie Night
25th Jan	Lunch and Chat
27th Jan	Recycling (Green)
28th Jan	Pie Night

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THE SHROTON VILLAGE PLAYERS  
proudly present

PETER PAN

Jan 15th-16th, 2016

in the Village Hall

Book your tickets from Terry Hill (860020)

Adults £6; Children (up to 12 years) £4.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY CLASHES WITH 'PETER PAN' PANTO

Shroton's very own star, Darren Wheeler, has been forced to step down as Captain Hook because he has been offered an amazing career opportunity to present his woodwork in Liberty's, London.

We are all very sad to lose his powerful presence from the pantomime, but welcome Joe Grinter who has been

persuaded to fill our giant's shoes (metaphorically, at least!) and has proved an able alternative: he loves to play the villain!

Darren's work has been marvelled at for several years both at Shroton fairs and at other local events, and even at Sculpture by the Lakes.

Best wishes for the London trip, Darren!

## Editorial - Ena Rees

Dear Everyone,

Thank you for the many responses in support of our pub, most of which I have decided not to publish: we were unaware at the time that a planning application had prompted the complaint.

However, it is heartening to realise that so many people value The Cricketers and view it as an asset to our village, recognising that it nevertheless needs to be able to run as a business where improvements and changes are sometimes necessary.

Many of you will have bought pantomime tickets by now, though I gather there may still be some available for the Saturday Matinee performance. Anne and Chris Pearson have been directing the panto in rehearsals since October, coping with absentees and novice thespians as well as some 'old hands', giving us all a lot of fun in the process! For anyone who has been involved so far, the sheer pleasure and relaxation afforded by these get-togethers over the last few weeks is an achievement in itself - and the fun of being part of the Shroton effort at entertainment is great! Well done and thank you Chris and Anne, for all your hard work and creative inspiration!

In this Issue I have included three articles by villagers all writing about Shroton past and present. I am particularly delighted to publish an account of childhood memories by Dorothy James. I do hope this will inspire other readers to make a contribution to the Lines. - Any articles will be welcome and I know there are plenty of ideas and experiences out there which are well worth sharing!

With all the flooding elsewhere in the country we must all be feeling how very lucky we are to live where we do. Our unseasonal weather has at least kept the heating bills down, but I am not giving up on our carefully stowed sledges just in case there is an opportunity for some action on the lower slopes of Hambledon before a non-winter is declared!

Very best wishes to all our readers in the village and beyond for a happy 2016!

## Village Hall News

Anne Pearson

By the time this goes to press, all the festive fun will be over. Wait a minute though, we still have the village pantomime, Peter Pan, to brighten those dark days of January! Rehearsals continue, with lots of laughter and some truly hilarious moments – most of them unscripted! Tickets are on sale and flying (just like Peter Pan!) off the shelves, so be sure to buy yours soon.

The Christmas Dinner was a huge success, a real family occasion. All the ingredients for the perfect evening were there - sherry, sprouts, singing and, of course, a raffle! We catered for almost eighty and there was a lively party atmosphere from start to finish. Thank you to everyone who cooked, who helped, who ate and drank and who turned up the following morning to clear up!

It was very heartening to witness such a groundswell of support for our village pub. The pub is a village institution and such an important part of village life. Shroton just wouldn't be Shroton without the Cricketers!

It only remains for me to wish you all a Very Happy New Year and hope to see you at one of our Village Hall events very soon.

### Fun at the Christmas Dinner

The Twelve Days of Christmas was accompanied by some actions, with Lewis Briggs on improvised tin dish-drum. Also, below, high jinks when Ursula won a special chocolate surprise on the raffle!



**Happy New Year  
Everybody!**

### The Cricketers Extension and Refurbishment

**Sally Grieves**

Several of you may have heard that this was all going ahead in January! Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, this has had to be postponed until September/ October, as this is the next convenient date to cause the least disruption to business and bats!

Works should commence mid-September for 7 weeks and we will keep you updated on closures etc.

Joe and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you all for your good wishes and support.

### The Mystery of the Missing Blue Tablecloths

Does anyone remember washing tablecloths before the Christmas Dinner? Three are missing, so if you find them in your linen cupboard, please return to the Village Hall as they are needed when a big event takes place!

Many thanks.

**Hazel Ward**

## Parish Council News for Shroton Lines January 2016 Edition

**Lizzie Kingsbury**  
Parish Clerk 20/12/15

### Dorset Home Choice

A year ago, a comprehensive review was carried out of Dorset Home Choice, which is what the Housing Register is called in the North Dorset area. A new Allocations Policy was adopted by the council, which set out stricter criteria for acceptance onto the register. The changes included a requirement for a stronger local connection and tougher financial criteria. Finally, people already adequately housed, including those in the private rented sector, were no longer able to join the register. As a result of the review, around two-thirds of those previously on the register were no longer eligible. Applicants from other parts of the country, those with significant financial resources and those who were currently in adequate housing were excluded from Dorset Home Choice.

There are now around 750 people on the housing register in North Dorset, who are able to bid for social rented homes when advertised by housing associations through Dorset Home Choice. Whilst the new register more accurately reflects acute

housing need in the area, we are finding that in practice some properties are attracting very few bids, or even sometimes no bids at all. It is felt that there are many people across the numerous communities in our area who are in housing need, but have chosen not to apply to join the Housing Register for a range of reasons.

It is important that the Parish Council and residents in this community understand the importance of applying to Dorset Home Choice for anyone who is experiencing housing need. People whose housing need is not necessarily acute can still apply to join the Housing Register provided they have a strong local connection to a certain parish. More information about Dorset Home Choice can be found at <http://homechoice.dorsetforyou.com/DorsetHomeChoice/home.aspx> People living in the North Dorset area who wish to discuss their current housing situation should ring the Housing team on 01258 484320.

### Planning Applications including Tree Works Orders

Planning Applications or tree work orders can now be viewed on the Parish website. A simple guide will get you into the NDDC planning portal where you can view the NDDC received and processed documents for each application and the date for members of the public to send in valid comments or observations.

[www.shroton.org](http://www.shroton.org) Please take the time to look at the website and advise Cllr Jim Bird of its effectiveness and use.

### Pothole and Highways Issues Reporting

If you spot a pot hole or other highways related matters you can report it directly on the [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) website at:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/travel-dorset/roads-and-driving/report-a-road-problem>

Whilst the Parish Council regularly report road surface conditions and issues affecting highways matters; further reports from Parishioners with information about a location will mean that the DCC Highways team need to respond efficiently to individual and collective community reports. Please continue to advise your Parish Councillors of your pothole observations and other hazardous highways matters.

### Parish Council Vacancies

Volunteers are urgently needed to join the Parish Council. The Parish Council urge residents of the Parish to consider supporting the work and involvement of the council in the life of this community. Please feel able to talk to one of the Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk about the role of the Parish Council and its council members.



## Views of Shroton from Early 20th Century

Postcards provided by Pam Percy





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**For details and bookings, apply to Terry Hill on 860020.**



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## Early Memories of a Life in Shroton

**Dorothy James**

I was born in 1928 in Corner Cottage, near the old Methodist chapel, and have lived in Shroton all my life. Over the years I have seen many changes as businesses have closed and houses have been built.

My grandparents and great grandfather came to Shroton in 1901 and lived in the corner cottage at Lynes. My father was one of sixteen children, twelve of whom lived long, interesting and fulfilling lives. Two babies died in infancy and twins who were stillborn were buried in a kipper box, secretly at night, by the wall in the churchyard.

My grandfather and one of my uncles were shepherds for Mr John Mitchell at Manor Farm and won many certificates at the sheep fairs in Blandford for the condition of their flocks. The sand from the pit at Green Lines was used in the building of the banks in Sturminster Newton and Blandford. Gran Pitman used to collect the price of the sand when people called in to get their wagons loaded. For this she was paid 1 penny.

Arthur, my father worked as a carter and looked after two horses, Captain and Prince, which were used for ploughing and harvesting. Father had to see that they were well looked after and fed and would take them to Mr Crew's forge for shoeing. The blacksmiths had a shed attached with a galvanised roof where the horses were shod. I would stand and watch the sparks flying off the anvil and smell the burning hooves. In front of the shed was a flat, circular ring of metal where the cart wheels were held when new metal tyres were being fitted.

I started school in 1932 and we were called by the ringing of the bell from the playground. The Head Teacher at that time was Mrs Mills and Miss Cousins taught the infants. While the rector instructed the older children on Friday mornings, Miss Cousins would often take her class to Ranston Park for a nature walk. We enjoyed this as we got to see the white rabbits that ran wild on the hill.

When I was eleven I passed a scholarship to go to Blandford Grammar School and was given a grant to buy a bike so that I could cycle there every day. My Royal Enfield semi-sports bicycle cost £6, I think, and I was so

proud of it. I used it very day until I got married in 1948. The next girl who was awarded a place had rheumatic fever and could not cycle. As there was a bus going to Shaftesbury at the appropriate time from then on all Shroton children went to Shaftesbury. I was pleased I went to Blandford as I played hockey for the school and we had lovely scarlet shirts to wear. After we had played we had to take them home to wash. As clothes were rationed, the purchase of school uniform took up all the coupons, so I used to wear the hockey shirt for as long as possible at the weekend.

## Sounds of Shroton

**LJ Highfield**

Can you hear the cock crowing and the dogs whining with excitement as they wait to run along the hedgerow in the early morning mist? Can you hear the farm gates whistle and sing in the breeze? Here's the Cross, in a few minutes the children will come running to laugh and play in the puddles. Here come the dog walkers, greeting and shrieking as they pass the white vans unloading in the lanes. Young men huddle around flasks of coffee, coughing and muttering before the hammering and drilling begins. The day is starting as the school bus wheezes onwards; tractors churn purposefully along the lanes. A small moment of calm, although in the distance there is usually the quiet drone of leaf blowers, lawn mowers and chainsaws.

Come this way, past the pub and the village hall, places of friendship, meetings and gatherings of all kinds -generations bonding as they have done for years. And now, St Mary's - with its six bells, silent now but come Sunday they will call out and the worshippers will stride up the path chattering, as the horses graze in the fields. This way, past the tithe barn, up to the cricket pitch where the flag flaps on windy summer mornings. You can then hear the rich clunk of bat on ball, intermittent cheers and the clinking of glasses. And later on into the night, the quiet chuckles of young men drinking, dreaming and putting the world to rights outside the old club house. If you could stay awhile, you'd hear the owls screeching in the copse and the pheasants calling and the cows lowing as they amble homeward - and then dawn comes and the cock crows.

The many sounds of Shroton: a village

which has striven and thrived throughout the centuries -we should rejoice and be glad!

## Major General James Wolfe's Army at Shroton 1756

**Judith Hewitt**

Many articles have been written stating that in August 1756 a camp was formed at Shroton near Blandford, whence Wolfe writes on the 4th, "saying that six battalions of infantry, six squadrons and two troops of light Horse, with twelve pieces of artillery, were encamped upon a pleasant dry spot open to the wind, which scoured and purified it." This is incorrect. The British Library has 2 military maps which clearly labels Shroton Camp as situated on Pimperne Down.

Shroton probably had the heavy artillery positioned here with some soldiers - using Hambledon Hill as the firing range. The soldiers would then have marched from Pimperne Down to Shroton on a daily basis.

Sir John Mordaunt, the senior officer in charge, possibly stayed in Shroton-and Shroton House was in fact advertised 'for rent' in 1756; therefore using Shroton as an official postal address for the Camp.

1756 Sep 2-Whitehall Evening Post - "Deserted from His Majesty's Twentieth Regiment of Foot, Commanded by Col. Wm. Kingsley, encamped at Shroton, Dorsetshire Samuel Bilson, 5 feet 6 inches high, aged 20 years, fresh complexion, black hair, well made, and walks straight, by trade a brick maker, born at Blakney, Northamptonshire, enlisted in London the 14th day of June 1756, deserted from Shroton Camp the 11th of August 1756, had on a Shepherds Grey Surplus coat, a Red and White flannel waistcoat, leather breeches and a plain hat".

Interestingly The London Chronicle June 4th 1757 reports that Abraham Gordon, Surgeon -Major to the third Regiment of Foot, whilst encamped at Shroton had a great number of cases of venereal disease. He found a cure by mixing 2oz of spirits (brandy) and a grain of mercury, administering a spoonful, twice a day. The patient was to drink plenty of barley water and have a spare diet. The patient's sweating and urine passing increased. Twenty men were cured at this time"

**More like this please! ~ Editor**

## Hambledon Hill Clive Whitborne, Ranger



January can be a really good time to look at the lumps and bumps which make Hambledon so impressive. On clear days with the turf relatively short (although unseasonably still growing) you really can see the definition of the hill's topography. The low sun - when there is any! - casts long shadows across the landscape and winter can be one of the best seasons for catching dramatic views from the top, with or without a camera. I will be out with my camera to try and capture some of these moments to share with you on our website. I'd love to see any great photos of Hambledon you take this winter, too!

At this time of year, my mind also wanders into the past and how our forebears used to spend their long winter nights and short days. While they probably didn't resort to wearing ridiculous jumpers, I'm sure they had some impressive winter feasts to keep them going, just like us... And they must have felt that once the shortest day had passed the sun shone with a promise of brighter things to come.

I've been giving a couple of talks recently and it's been a real thrill to talk about Hambledon Hill and to be greeted

with such enthusiasm- a real joy and thank you to all of you who attended my talk at Child Okeford in December.

I hope you find time to walk and wonder over Hambledon Hill during the holidays.

### Letters to Shroton Lines

#### Accrington Pals - News of Memorial Plaque

Having read Bob Briggs letter about the Accrington Pals I thought that you might be interested to know that the memorial plaque is mounted on an unfinished wall of Accrington brick. I have been there. They are some of the hardest engineering bricks ever made and have been used in some famous buildings. When I was a kid and was brought up a few miles away the factory was known as the Nori brick works because the stamp on the bricks was supposed to be IRON but someone put it the wrong way round!

**Win Walmsley**

#### Village Hall Lunch and Chat

I should like to thank all the many people in the village who have helped in the 'Lunch and Chat' over the year. The cooks, the flower arrangers, the people who set up the tables, those who wash up and the drivers without whom many could not attend, have all made an event which is enjoyed by not only the guests but also those who are involved.

Also, can I thank those who provide me with bags of plastic milk bottle tops, the sale of which goes to Wimborne

Priest's House Charity.

**Barbara Briggs**

#### Village Hall Christmas 'Lunch and Chat'

I should just like to express my thanks to all the ladies who cooked such a delicious meal for us. What a dedicated team and yet another reason for living in the lovely village of Shroton. How festive the tables looked to, putting us all in a happy seasonal mood!

**Doreen Browse**

#### Dog-Walker Friends

I should just like to thank all those kind people who have helped me by walking my dog when I have been unable to do so myself. Your help is much appreciated.

**Pam Percy**

#### What's happening to Shroton?

Someone complaining about noise at The Cricketers pub? Surely a few nights of the year can't disturb people too much??

We have lived here all our lives, including five generations of our family, and brought up our own children in the village, so we knew the noise of Shroton Fair for years, and the two pubs back to back! The army was billeted here during the war years which could also be noisy.

So what what is there to complain about today?

**Violet Fry and Dulcie McCrae**

### Reminder

Willing volunteers to join the Parish Council are needed. Please contact Lizzie Kingsbury or Judith Hewitt if you are able to offer your time and village knowledge.

#### Hugo Shroton Electrician

Evenings and weekends, including local emergency call out  
No job too small  
Contact 07717.836782

### SHROTON LOG SCHEME

Jason Macintosh

Please contact me:

- on my mobile **07966842194**,
- email **shrotonlogs@gmail.com**
- or knock on the door Littleport on Main Street.



## Welcome to Village Newcomers

A new resident in Shroton, (how could I forget) My mum, Marion Baker has moved into Old Mill Cottages, recently moved from Shaftesbury to be nearer to two daughters, she has been very busy over the last few weeks making her

house into a cosy home. Shroton is well known to Marion as she spent many happy times here looking after and visiting her three granddaughters Florence Rosie and Lily. All the residents of Old Mill Cottages have made her feel very welcome.

**Sally Grieves**

### Life Lines: Gordon Adam



Gordon was born in Edinburgh and originally qualified as an engineer, but his career has been a varied and interesting one in Scotland, England and travelling all over the world.

First of all he was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant in the navy for his National Service, a real honour as there were only a few commissions given each year. After this he did not want to continue as an engineer and instead got a job at Marks and Spencer in 1955 where he worked until he retired in 1988. This culminated in him being awarded an OBE for services to export in 1987; he was a Vice-president of the British Clothing Export Council, working with the President, Princess Anne. (After 27 years of retirement he is still in touch with friends from all around the world, which says a lot about Gordon's ability to make friends and enjoy a very full social life!)

His wife, Sue, was working as a nurse when they met on Gordon's birthday in 1966, marrying only a few months later. Their two sons were born while they lived in Hertfordshire, but they moved to Child Okeford when he retired. There he took up a busy retirement working as a non-executive director of North Dorset NHS Trust, raising money with the Blandford Hospital League of Friends. In his first year he raised £78,000 and five years later, when he finally retired from his personal retirement project, he and his team had raised over £2,000,000!

I can't help feeling it is Gordon's gregarious Scottish personality, and the support of Sue, which have enabled him to have such success in his various careers.

**How many years in Shroton?**

Twelve.

### Favourite television programmes?

'Pointless' - and anything about antiques.

### Taste in music?

Opera in general, but he is very fond of Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Judy Garland.

### Food Heaven?

Fish and chips! (This is usually his first choice when eating out, as it is not something they cook at home. I can't believe Gordon has chosen fish and chips because I happen to know Sue is an exceptionally good cook and there must be so many recipes in her repertoire to choose from!)

### What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

To acknowledge everybody has had problems at one time or another and to be helpful and sympathetic.

### Dreams for the future?

To keep going to their house in Spain which they have had for 32 years, and in 2016 to take their brand new puppy, a border terrier called Maggie May, for the first time.

### Most unusual experience?

Gordon and Sue set off on a cruise from Singapore to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary, but the ship had a fire in the engine room and all passengers had to remain on deck. When a P&O ship, the Sea Princess, appeared out of the mist, some passengers were allowed down to their cabins to collect their luggage before being rescued. (Others were not so lucky as some cabins had been burnt out.) Gordon and Sue ended up sharing a cabin with two strangers from America for 3 days, till they landed in Bali! One other notable story was that Gordon went zip-lining across the jungle in Indonesia when he was in his seventies!

### Best thing about Shroton?

The caring, thoughtful and lovely people! They particularly remember how the Gouchers welcomed them to the village on the day they moved, as the previous occupants of their house were much slower than expected in finally leaving. They have enjoyed being part of the village ever since.

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Wed 10th December

(Next order deadline:

**6pm Sunday 31st January)**

email: shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

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Happy New Year

## 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.

## “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