

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 May Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning
7.00pm Village Hall AGM
and Committee Meeting
- 4th May Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 6th May 7.30pm Jazz American
Supper in Village Hall
- 10th May Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
- 11th May Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 13th May Hambledon Hill Run
- 17th May Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning
7.00pm Annual Parish
Meeting followed by Parish
Council Meeting
- 18th May Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 24th May Rubbish (Black)
Coffee Morning
- 25th May Pie Night at The Cricketers
- 31st May Recycling (Green)
Coffee Morning

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Letter to our World

Claire Watson

This was No April Fool: over a hundred people attended *Letter to the World* in our local church. Palida Choir, Winners of Shaftesbury Fringe Music Award 2016, performed Karen Wilmhurst's complex arrangements of six of Emily Dickinson's poems. Each poem was first read out with backing from the choir, then they sang each poem, creating a gripping atmosphere in the church with its magnificent acoustics.

The concert started with Palida singing several jazz standards followed by Ed Bersey singing Lieder and English folk songs, accompanied by Sue Craxton on the church's grand piano. There were

several children in the audience, mainly Sue's pupils, who stayed alert and fascinated during the performances. Phil Dunford had set up special orange lighting at the back of the church which added to the atmosphere and Adrian Newton made a recording of the whole concert. The great acoustics meant that St. Mary's Church became a very effective recording studio.

Choir members and friends who hadn't been to the church before enthused about what a beautiful place it was and we very much appreciated the wonderful support from Jan & John Simmonds and Jim & Cathy Bird, who welcomed guests and provided tea, wine and crisps.



Easter Egg Fun on Hambledon Hill

Ros Chapman

A great gathering of Shrotonians turned out this year for traditional Easter fun and games at the Cricket Pitch.

The wonderfully decorated Easter eggs, including a very handsome 'Egg

Sheeran', were rolled (perhaps 'launched'?!) down Hambledon Hill followed by a challenging egg hunt around the Fairfield. The morning was lots of fun for the kids, parents and grandparents alike and much chocolate was munched by all!

Thank you to all who came on a slightly chilly Easter Saturday with such enthusiasm!"

(More photos on p.2)



Editorial - Ena Rees

Dear Everyone,

Living next to the play park and Glebe, it has been a delight to see how locals - and visitors - have enjoyed the safe play areas in the easter sunshine. Adults and children alike have made use of the goal posts, the space and especially the new excitement of a rope swing over the stream by the footbridge! Thanks to Pete Trim and Jason McIntosh as fathers with an eye for how to make things fun and the know-how to make it happen!

It was particularly impressive to hear folk praise the village children for being so welcoming and hospitable when visiting children were included in their games and able to join in the fun on 'their' territory. If only our politicians could be so civilised!

Various members of the village are currently working to plan future events for the village and there is much talk of who might come forward to help run a stall or contribute to these in some way. Even if you don't get asked personally, your participation and help would be most welcome. From personal experience I remember how difficult that could seem while you are working full time, but I would also add that it is also great fun when you do find the time and support is always appreciated.

Sadly, neither of our sons will be able to join the Hambledon Hill run this year, but it is a very enjoyable event to watch, and the chance for a chat over tea and cake is a bonus, especially if the weather is kind. The opportunity to swap some of your seedings for those produced by other gardeners can also prove quite useful. Hopefully there will be some guidance on hand for those who are novice gardeners and are just prepared to give their potential green fingers a try!

Many thanks to those working behind the scenes for our village. Please consider attending the Village Hall AGM on 3rd May and the Parish Meeting on 17th May if you can. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy Shroton in May.

Village Hall News

Anne Pearson

Easter holidays are here and the weather has been kind to us for once! We now have two rope swings across the stream on the Glebe, providing endless entertainment for the children and a few wet feet! And on Easter Saturday, Ros Chapman organized a wonderful Egg Hunt on the cricket pitch, which was very well attended. Thank you, Ros. My grandsons had a great time, especially the two-year old who set a new record for how much chocolate a small child can eat without being sick!

May is just around the corner and we will be hosting two events at the Village Hall. On May the 6th, Claire Watson and her band 'Sunny Side of Swing' are putting on an evening of jazz, swing and blues music. Bring along a plate of food to share and dance the night away! Then on Saturday the 13th May, we will be hoping for a sunny day for the Hambledon Hill Run. Come along and run, or just cheer the runners on their way. There will be tea and cake in the hall afterwards and a Plant Stall too. If any gardeners have spare plants, we would be more than willing to take them off your hands!

Oh, and please put this very important date in your diary. No, not the General Election, it's the Shroton Summer Fete, which is on Saturday, 24th June. Watch this space for further details next month.

The Village Hall AGM will take place on May the 3rd at 7 p.m. this year and we would love to see you there. As the posters say – Your village needs YOU! – so do come along and give us some feedback please.

Very Best Wishes,

Anne Pearson

Cakes and Plants

The Village Hall Committee needs your support in helping provide both cakes and any spare plants for the **Hambledon Hill Run on Saturday 13th May**. Your help would be much appreciated. Thank you in anticipation.

Volunteer Helpers Needed

Please could anyone who would be willing to help with the **Summer Fete on 24th June** make themselves known to Alex Smith on 860686 or any Village Hall Committee member? Planning is underway but we need people to bake cakes, bring produce and bric-a-brac as well as people to run stalls. Please help to make this a fun afternoon in Shroton for all the family.

Hambledon Hill Run

Saturday 13th May - 3pm

Main Race – 7km - Short Course – 3km
Mini Races (for under 11's) – Round the Cricket Pitch

Teas and Homemade Cakes + Plant Sale in the Village Hall

ENTRY FORMS - shroton.org/events
ENQUIRIES – 07921 398969

Proceeds to MS SOCIETY and SHROTON VILLAGE HALL



CHILD OKEFORD AND SHROTON WI

Gaynor Waring - WI publicity Officer

At our Annual Meeting we reviewed and reflected on the past year and shared our achievements. We began the year with 22 members and have since grown to 34 ! We have enjoyed a range of demonstrations, walks, trips and festive celebrations. We even won a silver medal at a WI skittles tournament, raised funds, through various activities for local charities at Heyday and made vast amounts of tea and cake for a large group of very hungry Dorset ramblers. It's been a busy, entertaining, challenging and lively year!

We welcomed two new committee members this year - Ann Pearce (Campaigns) and Liz Thomson (Events). We also said farewell to two long standing members who are stepping down from the Committee after many years loyal service :Brenda Martin and Kate St George. They have guided us through challenging times and supported us with their invaluable expertise as we evolved into a new WI group. Thank You Ladies - your experience, wise counsel and extensive WI knowledge has helped us to become a healthy and lively WI group with a bright future. Proceedings concluded

with a Logo Quiz - challenging members on their knowledge of well known brands and products. It was a competitive session where the winners, after a tense tie break question, were rewarded with chocolate treats! This WI is now in a healthy position to look to the future, to welcome new members and take on new challenges!

The WI would like to take this opportunity to thank Kate St George for her contributions to The Hill. She is stepping down, from her reporting duties, having recorded many WI meetings over the years. Her keen observational style, an eye for detail, careful use of vocabulary and a neutral tone has given villagers a unique glimpse into our WI. Thank you Kate.

Congratulations to 3 WI members who won awards at the Child Okeford Gardeners Club Spring Show: Trisha Samuel and Pam Crooks won their groups and Liv Shonfield won with WI Centenary Cup for Best in Show.

We will be meeting on Monday 8th May at 2pm at The Community Centre. Nicola Whitmarsh, a Fashion Consultant, will be giving a talk and demonstrating entitled 'Feeling Good and Looking Fab'. The session will explore how to look great by using simple

fashion tips and accessories to dress up or dress down! Scarves will be on sale. Non members are most welcome . Members are also reminded to bring along empty jars and prizes, to this meeting, for our Heyday 'Jambola' stall. Liz Smith, President 01258 860432 or Cathy Bird 01258 861526 email: childokefordshrotonwi@gmail.com Our Twitter feed : @ChildOkShoWI

Wildflower and Fruit Tree Area Update

Judith Hewitt

Success! There are tiny Yellow Rattle plants in abundance in 4 places where I carried out concentrated sowing and mowing last September. This flower depletes the grass and allows other plants to grow. Primroses, Violets and Cowslips have all returned to flower! The fruit trees are also in flower.

The area to the east next to Rectory Gardens has been mown to keep it tidy. This grass is still too thick to allow flowers to seed. I will sow Yellow Rattle here in September.

Please keep to the mown path and encourage children (and adults) to stay off the growing area.

All help and support gratefully received.

Praise O'Do'set: An exhibition of handpainted woodblock prints by Jennifer Martindale 4 April 2017 – 10 June 2017

William Barnes was a much loved and respected teacher, clergyman, scholar of languages and poet. Most of his poems are written with a strong Dorset accent as he casts a kindly eye over the lives of the hardworking Dorset rural community.

With these rustic woodblocks, hand carved, handprinted and hand coloured images, Jennifer Martindale has tried to share the spirit of the poems.

The techniques used in this tea room exhibition, lend themselves to simple kitchen table production. The wood is carved so that the raised untouched wood is used for printmaking. A mix of water colour paints and starch paste are lightly brushed on to the raised surface. absorbant paper is placed carefully on to the block, and a flat disc called a baren is used to rub hard all over the back of the paper. (A wooden spoon can be used instead of the baren). In this way the colour is transferred to, and

absorbed by the paper. The image is allowed to dry, and then is handpainted with water colours to achieve the final result.

Jennifer said "Making pictures uses the calm mindful part of me, and I aim to share with viewers the immense happiness that planning and making the work creates. A childish glee of playing with colours has never quite left me. Over the years I have worked in most media, and I still move between painting (in both oil and water colour) and printmaking (mostly relief printmaking using watercolours).

I have long had an interest in South East Asia and have been influenced by the use of space and the concept of capturing the fleeting moment. The handpainted relief block print techniques of this William Barnes series were carefully chosen to represent the rustic nature of the poems."

Jennifer's work is exhibited in the Dorset County Museum Tea Room and it will be free to come and view.

About the Artist: Jennifer Martindale

was born in Cornwall. She has lived in Australia and Thailand, and spent extended stays in India, Indonesia and across South East Asia finally settling in Dorchester, Dorset. In her professional career she has worked as a Librarian and Information Scientist. She has trained for Open University BA (hons), Arts Foundation, Weymouth College, Open College of Arts Printmaking courses, Edinburgh Studio of Paul Furneaux: Japanese water based woodblock printing, International Moku Hanga Conference Tokyo, delegate 2014, various short courses in Painting, Drawing, Print making, Chinese Brush painting and batik.





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Jazz American Supper

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Dorothy James

24th July 1928 - 17th March 2017



On Thursday 6th April Dorothy's funeral was held at St Mary's Church, Shroton. She lived contentedly in Shroton all of her 89 years and was known to be a skilled cook and needleworker. She also contributed some articles to past editions of the Lines, describing life in Shroton in days gone by.

Dorothy Pitman was one of the last

Parish Council News

Lizzie Kingsbury, Parish Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting 17 May 2017

This meeting will take place on 17th May 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Shroton Village Hall – this is your opportunity to find out what the Parish Council have been doing on your behalf during the last year and what they are likely to be getting up to in the next 12 months. Please could all attendees be seated by 6:55 pm for a prompt 7:00 pm start? The May 2017 Parish Council Meeting will take place on completion of the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Glebe Footbridge (from Main Street into the Glebe)

The Chairman appraised the Parish Council on the recent discussions between the Parish Clerk and the Dorset Countryside and Coast agency regarding the condition of the footpath bridge over the Glebe Stream. The bridge has a dip in the tarmac (roadside edge) caused by a sleeper deteriorating underneath. The current situation is that NDDC, DCC or the Parish Council has been able to determine ownership. An option being considered is that the Parish Council adopt this bridge as a public right way and any future maintenance requirements could be included in the DCC's Schedule of Works for footpaths/public right of way access. The Parish Clerk is currently awaiting public right of way details from the Community Highways officer and cost details of materials and labour from DCC Countryside agency together with

Shroton School students to gain a grammar school place at Blandford, and she was the proud owner of a bicycle which she used to get there every day. She married Phillip James in 1948.

After her husband died in 1994 Dorothy was very active in the WI, Mothers' Union and the Methodist Tuesday Club until well into her 80s. Even when she became immobile she remained cheerful and still enjoyed plenty of banter.

A reception was held in the Village Hall after the funeral service.

Shroton Summer Show

Alison Allen

We're hoping for lots of entries at this year's Summer Show on September 2nd. You'll find the programme attached this month so have a look and see what you'd like to enter. We have a few new

details of a possible contribution from a LTP within Dorset County Council. This footpath was not included in the sale of the Glebe from NDDC to the Parish Council in 2012.

Accessing public services at NORDON – NDDC, Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum

District Council Services are now based at South Walks House in Dorchester this includes, Senior Management, Legal and Financial Services, Human Resources, IT, Business Improvement, Democratic Services, Digital Access, Economy, Leisure & Tourism and Elections. North Dorset Residents can still access services such as Housing, Planning, Building Control and Revenues and Benefits at the NORDEN offices in Blandford Forum. The Reception Office is fully staffed and operational during office hours so you can still access services here and the duty officer services will continue to be operated. The following services will still operate out of NORDON - Housing, Technical Services including Facilities, Building Control, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Planning Policy, Planning, Trees, Conservation, Land Charges, Revenues and Benefits.

Improvements to A350 and C13

The villages along these routes have been highly involved with the development of this significant programme of works over the past 5 months. Two consultation events on concerning the programme of proposed works will be held in May 2017 -

categories this year to tempt you. Have a go at baking sourdough bread or create a likeness of the current American president from vegetables! It's not too late to snap some shots of frolicking lambs or delicate blossom for the photograph of 'A Season' and if you've not planted all your veg yet, pop down to the plant sale at the Village Hall on May 13th for a few extra tomato plants. We will try and run some children's craft afternoons in the summer to stimulate those young creative juices.

The programme will also be attached to the August edition of the Lines along with entry forms (both paper and online) and will be available on the village website. So get painting, sewing, planting, snapping, bottling and baking and let's make this year's summer show a great success.

Monday 15th May – 2pm to 8pm at Stourpaine Village Hall and Wednesday 17th May - 10.30am to 4pm at Compton Abbas Airfield. These consultation sessions are open to the public and are opportunities for the public to hear and see what the proposed programme; notably what remedial retexturing and resurfacing work to the A350 has been determined and what the current DCC maintenance programme is looking like.

Durweston Bridge Repairs

Following concerns expressed by a number of villages in the vicinity of the Durweston Bridge and a series of meetings with DCC chief engineers and recommendations from the Environment Agency, it has been agreed to delay these works until the A350 maintenance works are completed. It is anticipated that the bridge works will be delayed until next year, however, they will need to happen in summer of 2018 and the works are expected to take 4 months to complete. An information and advice site will be established to inform local residents of the proposed works, alternative diversion routes – on the same classification of highway roads and display the 'Plan of Works' and timescale this maintenance is to achieve.

The Parish Website displays regular updates for local government consultations, planning matters, countryside information, traffic news together with details of the work of the Parish Council and what is happening in the local area. www.shroton.org

Letters to the Lines Collapsed Graveyard Wall Graveyard

Alan R. Fry (Former Shroton Resident - 50 years)

As a regular visitor to shroton tochurchyard to tend several graves of family and friends, I am angry, annoyed and amazed that the fallen wall at the rear of the churchyard is still not cleared away...

Where are the menfolk of the village or parish!?

In years gone by they would all have got together and manyually carried or wheelbarrowed every last stone away to make it clear again, and accessible...

Surely this can be organised by someone, as the village seems to put on many fetes, shows, etc and lots of volunteers turn up for that so where are they now??

The wall may not even be necessary any more as it gives a lovely view up the hill but as it stands right now (actually it doesn't) it is an eyesore and is preventing many people from tending the graves and nobody seems to be sorting it out!

I expect there is a Health and Safety aspect attached to the problem but sometimes you have to 'bite the bullet' and crack on with it and get things done, but especially here of all places God will be watching over them!!

Fly Tipping in Shroton

Malcolm Trowbridge

Dear Residents of Shroton,

Over the last two weeks someone has found the need to dump items outside of properties up Fairfield Road. Clearly the person concerned has waited for people to leave their property before dumping their rubbish.

Fly tipping carries a very hefty fine should you be caught, and if spotted I should not hesitate to report it.

Let's keep our village clean.

A Village, Safe and Beautiful

Chris Pearson

It's a simple point but worth saying anyway. It's perfectly possible to have opposed the 30 mph speed limit proposal of two years ago and still be in favour of at least some of the current traffic calming proposals.

The old orthodoxy (no ugly signage; parked cars are enough; don't waste our money) won the day back then. Now the same old arguments are being

rehashed to oppose this year's proposals. But it's a different discussion this time.

This time we are being asked to think about smart solutions; solutions that won't disfigure the beauty of our village. Like white fences on the grass verges at the four entrances to the village; like a few "slow" signs painted on the road. I really think it's time for the old orthodoxy to be open-minded, generous even. We all want a beautiful village to live in. We all want a safe village to live in. I think it's perfectly possible with these new proposals for us to have our cake and eat it.

It's Spring clear out time again!

Judith Hewitt

I am again collecting clothes, bags, hats, shoes and some bedding/curtains in aid of village hall funds and a village Social Fund.

Empty bags kept in the hall or contact Judith 861565.

5 June is the last day for collection/drop off to the Village Hall.

I will put an empty bag through everyone's door during May.

Pam's 80th Birthday

Pam Percy

I would like to thank Helen and Judith for organising my surprise birthday party. I had no idea what was in store when Helen and Martin picked us up in their car!

Thank you also to everyone who contributed to the wonderful spread in the Village Hall and to all those who came to congratulate me and make the day special. I was very touched by the whole event, and by the gifts people brought. Thank you very much.

RVS Market Stall a Big Success

Laurel Burn

Royal Voluntary Service fundraising Blandford market stall event was held on April 13th. The event was a fantastic success. Lots of bargains to be had with the sale of plants, bric a brac, books, second hand jewellery, cakes and of course our wonderful knitted Penguins. Tina Damon –Sparks Befriending Service Manager said "I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who donated items to our stall and who helped on the day". We raised £130.00 the funds go towards supporting Dorset Befriending Service helping to reduce



loneliness and isolation.

RVS volunteers in Blandford deliver the Home Library Service as well as the Befriending Service. We also have a Trolley Service in Blandford Community Hospital. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, and we are currently in urgent need of Home Library Service volunteers to deliver books to housebound people in the area from Blandford Library, and a local co-ordinator for this service. The Befriending Service also needs a new local co-ordinator. Please phone the RVS local office on 01305 236666 and speak to Tina or Maria to find out more about any of these volunteering opportunities, and how to join our team!

Swing Train

Claire Watson

Unfortunately Claire has had to stop the Sunday Swing Train classes because of a reduction in attendance. In the meantime a mini class was held in Lanzarote [see attached photo]. She will resume it at a different time which is more popular to people, possibly on a Wednesday early evening but this won't be every week. So watch this space.

Life Lines (cont'd from p.8)

An unusual experience?

He was asked to dress up as Father Christmas for his sons' playgroup when they were 2 and 3 years old, and neither of them guessed they had actually been visited by their dad!

What single thing would improve the quality of your life?

White fences at the 4 entrances to the village, which would make the road look narrower and act as a traffic calming measure in Shroton.

What is an important lesson life has taught you?

Not to take himself too seriously, and not to nurse grievances, just let them go!

Dreams or plans for the future?

Moving to Courtney Close where they will have more space to host their growing family when they come to visit. (As a Taurean, Chris does not relish the prospect of moving, and is also anxious about becoming a North Shrotonian, having loved his cottage in the South!)

Best thing about Shroton?

Shroton's USP ("Unique Selling Point") is that it sits so beautifully off the main road. It is an idyllic rural village, and yet still has easy access to main routes!

Life Lines: Chris Pearson



Chris told me one of his sons says he has a lot in common with Henry VIII because he acts like a King of England and has had 3 wives! I feel a better way to define Chris is as the mild-mannered enthusiast who has contributed so much to village life since he has been here. He is a very highly regarded member of the community, first taking on the Shroton Lines as editor for two years, only 9 months after his arrival, and later writing and producing pantomimes with his wife, Anne, in 2014 ('Cinderella and the Seven Dwarfs') and in 2016 ('Peter Pan'). He has also provided the live music for quiz rounds to enjoy and puzzle over. However, it is as the leader of the Shroton Ukulele Band that he is most widely known, since there are now 18 members and they average about 6 'gigs' per month - much more at Christmas time!

Chris was born in Bromley, Kent, the eldest of 3 brothers. He had a very male-dominated childhood in that he also went to all boys prep and public schools, but remembers it as an idyllic time. His mother was trained as a teacher, but became a full-time mother when she got married, and Chris's father was a papermaker who worked in offices on Fleet Street and supplied most of the national newspapers; more importantly, it meant Chris got free copies of The Eagle comic and annuals on a regular basis! Chris says his father was a gentle but somewhat reserved figure in the family, having been one of the last to leave the Dunkirk beaches in WWII. It was only at his father's funeral that Chris learned his father had been awarded the Military Cross!

After finishing at Marlborough College, Chris did teacher training at Goldsmiths College, University of London, but having experienced some fairly rough schools on teaching practice, he persuaded his parents to let him try making a living as a musician...

Throughout, Chris has made music central to his work, playing in a bistro in London, a restaurant in Anglesey (where he met a record producer who invited him

to make recordings in London), and formed The Chris Pearson Band. His music also took him into schools, including teaching children with special needs, and while a young father he developed his alter-ego, Billy Banjo, a musician who visited schools, worked in entertainment and even wrote material for BBC children's television programmes. His role as Billy Banjo lasted 27 years.

Apparently, when his boys were 6 and 7 years old they asked their dad to keep his job a secret, but when they reached 12 years old they thought he was "cool" and became proud of him!

He met Anne, who taught his younger son, at a parents' evening and she needed someone to provide music for the school play... They were both divorced and she had 2 girls about the same age as his boys, so the new family holidays turned out to be a great success!

Once the children were grown and off their hands, the search for a house in the countryside became possible, and when they visited Shaftesbury one weekend Anne got very excited about what she saw in an estate agent's window: "It's all so cheap!", she exclaimed. They set up 5 viewings, but when they found 3 Ivy Porch Cottages, they fell in love with it. This was in 2010, and it took another 2 years before they moved in full time, selling Chris's flat but renting out Anne's house in London.

How many years in Shroton?

5 years

A favourite television programme?

Strictly Come Dancing! He loves to share and discuss the programme with other fans. Favourite film? West Side Story which he first saw and loved the night before he went to public school, boarding away from home.

Favourite book?

He enjoys historical novels, but one he loves is Captain Corelli's Mandolin. Music does seem to pervade every aspect of Chris's life!

Favourite music?

The Beatles and early 70s stuff, especially Joni Mitchell and James Taylor. I happen to know that Chris's collection of LPs is so extensive he keeps them in the shed and is rationed as to how many he can bring into the house at a time.

Food heaven?

Beans on toast, provided it's Heinz baked beans!

(Cont'd p.7)

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shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com

Tel: 01258 861285

Next order by 7th May

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:

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