

SHOSCOMBE NEWSLETTER



Editorial

If anyone would like to place a commercial advert in the Newsletter, for a small donation towards printing costs, please let us know. There will be no charge for community adverts.

The Newsletter has a monthly circulation of 250 copies, delivered to every home in the village by volunteers from our community.

Items for the **June 2021** Newsletter to be submitted by **21st May** either by posting into the postbox of 46 Single Hill or via our new email address shoscombe.newsletter@gmail.com.

A copy of this newsletter and the calendar for the village hall bookings can be found on the village website www.everythingshoscombe.org

Litter Picking Weekend

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd May 2021

Can you help?

Equipment and maps can be picked up from the Village Hall Car Park at 10am. If you have your own equipment that will be a great help.

All bags of rubbish must be left in the Village Hall Car Park for collection by B&NES on Monday 24th May.

16 locations which need to be cleared, so please help if you can.

Children should be accompanied by an adult.

School Litter Picking - Friday 21st May 2021

Children will be Litter Picking around the school.



For more information please contact : Alan Keating
01761 - 434103 or Email: alankeating@outlook.com

Shoscombe Defibrillator

If you need the defibrillator in an emergency:

1. Call 999
2. State the kiosk postcode BA2 8NB
3. You will then receive the access code and assistance from the Ambulance Service

Matthew Street, Vicar

'Rising to the Challenge' by Matthew Street, The Vicar, based on Joshua 1:1-6

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. (Joshua 1:1-6)

Anyone who has ever been hillwalking will know the experience of thinking one is nearing the summit, only to find, as one gets closer, that there is another stretch to climb ... and another ... and another! However far we progress, there is always that little bit further to go.

So it proved, in a rather different sense, for Joshua and the people of Israel following the death of Moses. After years of wandering in the wilderness, they had finally arrived at the border of the Promised Land, their long journey at last over. Or was it? A closer inspection revealed that others already occupied the land they thought was reserved for them. The task of making it their own had only just begun. No wonder Joshua, the newly chosen leader of Israel, felt overwhelmed by the sudden responsibility thrust upon him. His was the onerous challenge of rallying a people reeling from disappointment and inspiring them to new levels of enthusiasm and endeavour. Alone, he couldn't have done it; but he wasn't alone, for God had promised to be with him wherever he went. He goes on making that promise to us today - to anyone and everyone willing to serve him, however great a challenge such service may involve.

ST JAMES the LESS FOXCOTE

May 2nd, 5th of Easter

11:15am Morning Praise
Lead by Shaula Reilly
Preaching by Dick Beath

May 9th, 6th of Easter

11.15am Morning Praise
Lead by Matthew Street
Preaching by Shaula Reilly

May 16th, 7th of Easter

No Service

May 23rd, Half Term

11:15am Holy Communion
Lead by Matthew Street
Preaching by Matthew Street

May 30th, Half Term

11:15am Morning Praise
Lead by Andy Fraser
Preaching by Andy Fraser

Friends of Foxcote

At a zoom meeting on 14th April, Mr S. Clews outlined the various financial difficulties confronting Foxcote Church, grants applied for during 2020 and alluded to these problems separately.

We are delighted to welcome friends old and new to the following fund-raising events:

SOUPER TUESDAY SHOSCOMBE VILLAGE HALL 8TH JUNE 2021. 12.30pm TO 2.00pm

Menu, cheese salads, strawberries and ice cream, tea etc.

CAKE AND SHERRY COFFEE MORNING 12TH JUNE. CRAFT STALL 10.30am TO 12.30pm

Donations only. Booking of Shoscombe Village Hall to be confirmed.

CREAM TEA IN FOXCOTE CHURCH GROUNDS 15TH AUGUST 3.00pm TO 5.30pm

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT FOXCOTE CHURCH 24TH OCTOBER.

Date and programme to be confirmed.

All the above arrangements are subjected to Covid regulations

P.S. The Friends would welcome all offers of help. Tel. C.A. Stevenson 01761 436847

Shoscombe Local History Group

Coal Mining in Somerset - Part One

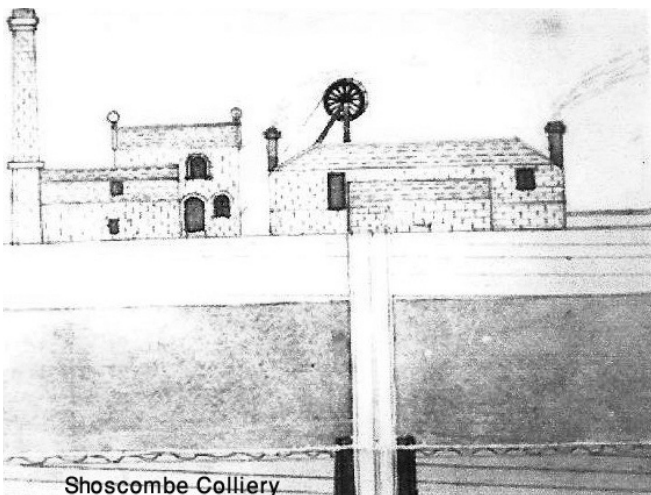
Coal mining in Somerset has a long ancestry. The Fosseway, the Roman road through Bath, passed through the coalfields so that coal would have been easy to obtain and transport. It has been suggested that the coal was used by the Romans in the temples in Bath. It is also probable that the Romans used outcropping coal when working iron or burning lime for building purposes.

After the Romans left Britain, in AD 410, there are few records of coal being used in the country until the end of the 12th century. Up until the 1600s coal was probably worked sporadically but, with plenty of wood, mining coal was seen as largely unnecessary and was being worked on a small scale.

However, by the middle of the 16th century supplies of wood were beginning to fail in Britain and the use of coal as a domestic fuel rapidly expanded. The Industrial Revolution was based on the availability of coal to power steam engines.

From the 18th Century the speed of change increased. Coal became more accessible and was in greater demand for industry. Coal was cheaper and much more efficient than wood fuel in most steam engines. The small-scale techniques were unsuited to the increasing demand, with extraction moving away from surface extraction to deep shaft mining as the Industrial Revolution progressed.

The local pits of the Somerset Coalfield, like Shoscombe and Foxcote, began in the 1800s when most of the local coalfields opened.



Shoscombe Colliery

Shoscombe was begun about 1828 and was owned by the partnership of James, Hill and Langfords. Only one shaft appears to have been sunk up to about 360ft deep. The colliery was served by a short siding off the Somerset Coal Canal Tramroad.

Nothing more is known of the pit. It was closed before 1860 and today little remains other than a waterlogged depression marking the site of the shaft. It seems reasonable to conclude that this was not a particularly successful venture - financially or in other respects. The construction of the nearby railway probably removed any evidence.



Foxcote Colliery

This pit was sunk from 1853. The shaft reached an eventual depth of 1416ft in 1871. The pit was connected to Lower Writhlington by a dramway / incline circa 1866, and later to the Coal Depot / Land Sales between Ammerdown Terrace & Turners Tower. A Saddle tank loco. called 'Foxcote' worked this incline.

A small brickworks were established adjacent to the pit, with the output mainly for internal works (shaft lining, repairs on the surface, etc.). The brickworks closed in 1924, and though the pit achieved an output of 600 tons in 1930, probably as high as at any time, winding ceased in 1931.

The Pithead was demolished in the 1950s, and little remains apart from the foundations of the winding engine house, drum house, and some other surface works, though the rank of cottages remain down the track off the Green Parlour lane. The line(s) of the inclines are still very traceable, and the former Coal Depot relatively intact & occupied as a dwelling.

Tales from the Shoscombe Archives. Email if you would like info on the history of the area for the next newsletter.

shoscombe.archives@btinternet.com

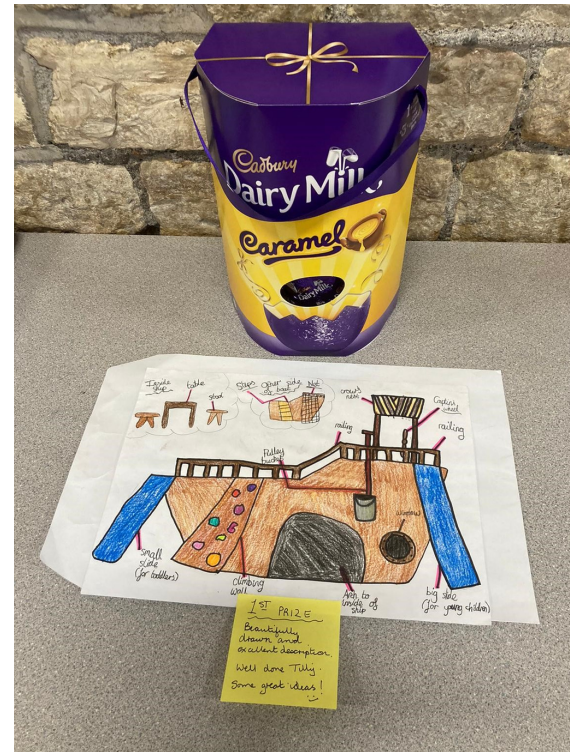
Shoscombe School

School Easter Activities and Design a Piece of Play Equipment Competition

Following a Parish Council meeting it was decided that some money would be dedicated to a new piece of equipment for the play area at the rec. It was felt that it would be appropriate to ask the school children to design some equipment that U5s would like to play on. They were given some ideas just in case they came up with a theme park! Although there weren't too many entries, the children who entered had some fantastic ideas including safety features etc.

Tilly in Y.6 came up with a particularly clear and inventive design and won 1st place. Well done Tilly! While I went down to the school with Tilly's prize, I was honoured to be asked to help judge the Easter Bonnet competition. It seemed that nearly every child had entered and the standard was amazing making it an incredibly difficult task! Three of us including Mrs Noall, the Headteacher, deliberated for a long time but finally decided on the best and runner up in KS 1&2.

During the afternoon of the last day of the term I stayed to watch the egg rolling competition which was keenly enjoyed and finally the end of term assembly, held outside in fair weather fortunately, to watch the children receive their prizes for the play equipment competition, egg rolling and Easter Bonnets.



Whilst in the playground I could see the 3 mud kitchens, made by Steve Causer, and being obviously used and enjoyed in the fine Spring weather. They are a very popular, fun piece of play equipment for all the children which I'm sure will be used for many years to come. The P.C's thanks go to Steve for all his hard work and time to make the mud kitchens for the School.

Fiona Crockett
Parish Councillor

Shoscombe Parish Council

I hope you all managed to have a Happy Easter with some relaxations to the rules and sunny weather.

Those of you who use the play park will have seen some temporary fencing near the boundary with the adjoining farm land. David Cradock has kindly erected this for us until repairs can be made both to the fencing and ground below. All other areas of the park can be used however. Ideas for improvements to the equipment are still being discussed following consultation and a competition with school children. The Village Hall is looking very smart now; many thanks to everyone on the Management Committee who have organised these repairs and improvements over the last year or so.

We have been told that both Green St and Single Hill are being considered by B&NES Highways for some re-surfacing in the coming months which is fantastic news as both of these areas have been reported to B&NES many times over the years both by myself as well as present and previous parish councillors. There is no guarantee how much work will be done but we are hopeful! Many thanks to Neil Butters who has helped with this and gave us the good news.

We have received a planning application for St Julian's Farm - **21/01678/ADCOU**. Details of this application can be viewed on the B&NES site by clicking on 'search planning applications' then either type in the application number or just Shoscombe in the search bar. Residents may comment and the Parish Council will also submit comments following our next meeting on 6th May.

We will be holding our next meeting on Thursday 6th May at 7.00 p.m. via the Jitsi platform and a link to this will be on the agenda which is published on the website and on notice boards. You are welcome to log in and introduce yourself.

Jean Fossaceco – 01761 431068
Clerk to Shoscombe Parish Council

Christian Bayley's new interview in the village

Grant Thomas, a businessman and director of Themes Incorporated and Batmink Ltd has had a rollercoaster of a journey over the past year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Themes Incorporated is an event prop & furniture hire company and Batmink Ltd is a sales company providing audio and entertainment lighting to the leisure & hospitality industry.

Here's what he had to say:

"Keeping the businesses afloat has not been an easy task and having to make 7 out of 22 staff redundant during the first lockdown was the saddest and most upsetting thing I've ever had to do. Every member of staff who was able to keep their job was put onto the furlough scheme whilst Grant and the managing director, David, were the only ones who were able to work. Since the government's roadmap was announced last month and the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, business is slowly returning."



I asked him if he thought people would worry about going out socially again. He said:

"The re-opening of nightclubs and entertainment venues should not be too much of a problem. Because of the vaccination programme and the fact that younger people are much less likely to die from Covid 19, they'll be very excited to get out and party again."

Of course, despite all of the negative impacts that have come out of the pandemic, some positives have come out of it too. For Grant and David they were able to "step back and look at new ways of working and spend more time looking for new products and market places"

Giving up was also considered. Many times, in the past year, giving up seemed like the easiest option when the going got tough. Fortunately, due to 36 years of successful trading the reserves of the company will see them through to the other side.

Christian Bayley

Climate and Nature



Climate and Nature Crisis Community Forum Evening 19th May 2021 7pm



Thank you to all the residents who returned the Climate and Nature Crisis Survey, which was included with the last newsletter. It was great to hear what you feel are the important issues, and your ideas for things that we can do in our community. We are looking forward to discussing them at the online **Forum on the 19th May**.

The aim of the Forum is to work towards:

- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Living more sustainably
- Protecting our natural environment and wildlife

Everyone is welcome and you can turn up on the night – just go to the **Climate and Sustainability** section on the **Everything Shoscombe** website for details on how to attend. It would help to have an idea of numbers so, if possible, please register by following the link on the website.

The programme for the evening will be as follows:

- Welcome and introduction
- Presentation by Sarah Warren, Cabinet member for Climate Emergency, B&NES Council
- The Results of the Survey
- Breakout groups to discuss ideas for living more sustainably and protecting Nature
- Feedback on each group's ideas. Action plan for Shoscombe
- Conclusion and close

Shoscombe is our little patch of the planet – everyone's ideas are vital in taking care of it and doing our bit for Nature and for the Climate. Please come and have your say at the Forum on the evening of Thursday 19th May.

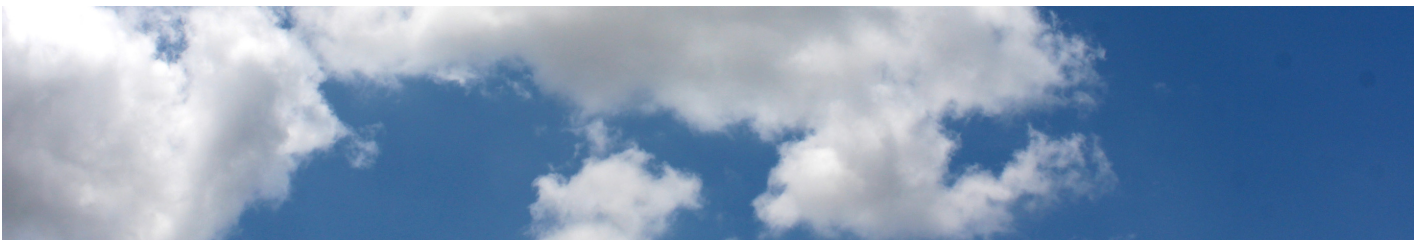
To get in touch with the Climate Group:

Tricia: triciawv@talktalk.net 01761 434805

Joy: fjschneiderman@outlook.com 01761 433459

Carolyn: carolynkeating@msn.com 01761 434103

Angelina: angelinalewis@live.com 07798 528610



Village Hall

The village hall, with its new flooring in the entrance hall and carpeted stage, will be open for use again from May 17. All hirers still need to comply with our special COVID rules so please don't just turn up at an event without checking with the organiser first. Please email me at bookings@everythingshoscombe.org if you have a booking enquiry, or if you see something you are interested in joining but don't know the person running the event and I'll put you in touch.

Suzanne Fiddes SVH Bookings Secretary

Village Hall Bookings May 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
17th May 19:00 - 21:00 Dog Training	18th May 10:00 - 12:00 Table Tennis 19:00 - 21:00 Monkey Mutts (Dog Training)	19th May 10:00 - 12:30 Flower Arranging Class 13:30 - 16:30 Band Practice 18:00 - 20:00 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis	20th May 09:00 - 10:30 Exercise Class: Hazel Freear	21st May 19:30 - 22:00 Jazz Jam Session	22nd May 08:00 - 09:30 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis 10:30 - 17:00 Drumming Workshop	23rd May 15:30 - 17:30 Terry Hill Big Band Rehearsal
24th May 19:00 - 21:00 Dog Training	25th May 10:00 - 12:00 Table Tennis 19:00 - 21:00 Monkey Mutts (Dog Training)	26th May 09:30 - 12:30 Band Practice 18:00 - 20:00 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis	27th May 18:45 - 21:15 Private Booking		29th May 08:00 - 09:30 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis	

Village Hall Weekly Bookings May 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
19:00 - 21:00 Dog Training	10:00 - 12:00 Table Tennis 16:00 - 18:00 Village Hall Cleaning 19:00 - 21:00 Monkey Mutts (Dog Training)	18:00 - 20:00 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis	16:00 - 18:00 Village Hall Cleaning		08:00 - 09:30 Exercise Class: Natalie Sallis	



Shoscombe Village Directory

Electrical, Heating & Plumbing

L E Services, Pippins, Shoscombe

433293 or 07714 327662

Piano Tuition

Linda Lethbridge

01761 435656

lindianajane@yahoo.co.uk

Piano Tuition

Charlotte Ostafew BMus (hons)

All ages and abilities welcome

Alexander Technique lessons

07971 001424

livemoreeasily.com

charostafew@hotmail.com

Life Coaching

Antonia Clews

Project self personal change coaching - supporting you to make and manage change in your self and your life

07591 104080

www.projectself.co.uk

antonia@projectself.co.uk

Learn Spanish with a Spaniard

Daniella Gonzalez

danimgw@me.com

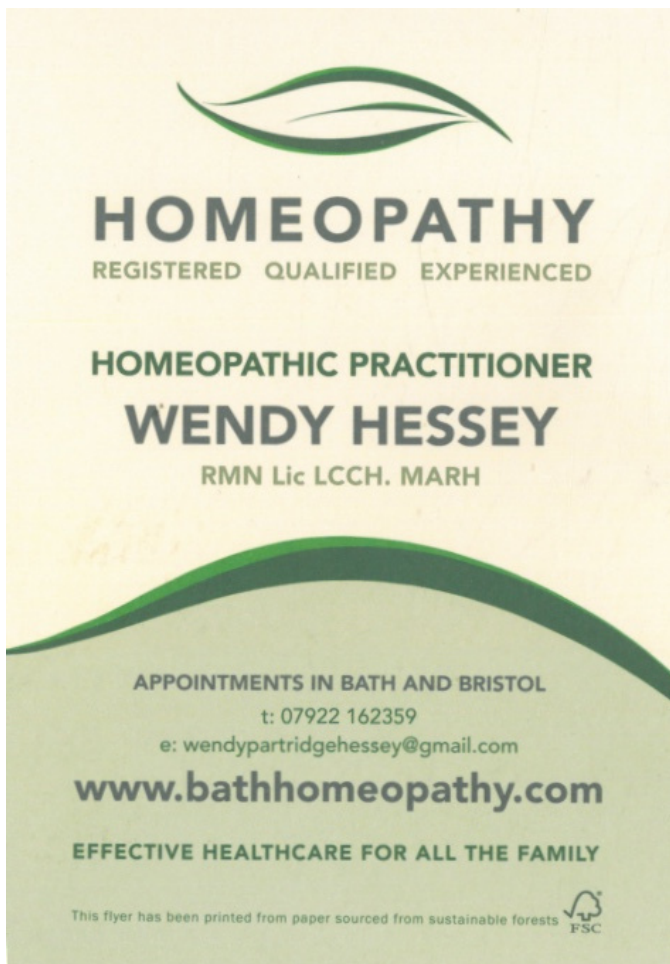
Effective lessons that are tailored to all levels, goals and interests. Experience with children, Spanish for GCSE and A-Levels and teaching Spanish for business



Tutor for KS2 SATS, GCSE English

Fiona Crockett - Qualified teacher (retired)

01761 420229 or 07786 746151

fionacrockett1953@gmail.com




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Lending with Heart and Mind

Bath & North East Somerset Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.

We understand the expense of maintaining your home and we work with you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations.

We see you as an individual, not a credit score. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying for a home improvement loan.

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*subject to eligibility