

SHORNE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

(established 1946)

Affiliated to the British Association for Local History



The Rose & Crown and the bottom of Butchers Hill, around 1910

PROGRAMME 2026-2027

Officers and Committee 2026-27

Chair: Andrew Moffatt
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Treasurer: John Grace
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Committee: Christoph Bull
Ray Edwards

Email List of Members

From time to time, we may wish to email members with news about our activities and (perhaps more importantly) to tell them if we need to cancel meetings at short notice. We will not pass on email addresses to other organisations. Please provide your email details at the booking-in desk at meetings.

Shorne Local History Group meets
on the third Thursday of each
month between October and April
at

Shorne Village Hall, The Street,
Shorne, DA12 3EA

Membership is £15.00 for the year
(October 2026-April 2027)

Visitors £5 per meeting

**New members and visitors are
always welcome – there is no
need to book**

SHORNE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Programme 2026-2027

15 October 2026

Annual General Meeting

A short meeting for approval of accounts for last year and election of officers for 2026-2027.

Followed by

Shorne – Saints, sinners and scenery
Christoph Bull

Shorne Parish is full of history and folklore-much of it unknown to those who live there! The talk will cover the whole parish and will be a lively introduction, concentrating on saints and sinners (as well as scenery). Who are the saints and sinners? Come and find out.

This talk was written and will be presented as part of the 2026 80th anniversary celebrations of Shorne Local History Group.

19 November 2026

The Knights Templar and their building in Strood
Jeremy Clarke

Hidden on an industrial estate is one of Strood's most fascinating buildings - Temple Manor, built by the Knights Templar in the 13th century. This talk explores the relationship between the 'big history' of this international military order and the lives of ordinary people in Kent. Shorne's local Hundred of Shamwell ('Scammels') was administered on behalf of the King by the Templars between 1159 and 1222.

17 December 2026

The King's Mercenary – a soldier in the English Civil War
Philip Barham

Meet Captain Matthias Hawkeslade, a mercenary fighting on the Royalist side during the English Civil War. Presented in full 17th-century battle gear, Hawkeslade offers an interactive, in-character experience exploring the English Civil War through a soldier's eyes — the battles (including the Battle of Northfleet), hardships, and brutal realities of war.

Followed by an informal gathering to celebrate Christmas with wine, soft drinks and mince pies

21 January 2027

A virtual walk through lost Shorne – Part 2
Ian Craig

Following on from last year's look at the northern part of the parish, again using old photographs from Shorne's parish archives, we will take a 'virtual walk' through the southern part of the parish (from the village centre to The Ridgeway – and a little beyond) looking at how buildings and their surroundings have changed over the past 150 years.

Shorne Local History Group meets at 2pm on the third Thursday of each month between October and April at Shorne Village Hall, DA12 3EA

Visitors always welcome - £5 per meeting – no need to book – just come along.

18 February 2027

The rise and fall of the Darnleys of Cobham Hall
Paul Kingman

Commencing with a brief history of Cobham Hall and how it came into the Darnleys' possession the talk will then discuss the various Earls of Darnley and their influence on the house and the wider community, how the estate and the Darnley influence declined and was lost, and bringing the history of the family into the 21st century.

18 March 2027

The Normans in Kent and the development of the Weald
Audrey Dreher

Covering the arrival of the Normans in Kent and William the Conqueror's allocation of land, and how, because Kent was allowed to keep Jutish land laws, the feudal system never developed in our county as elsewhere in England, and the colonisation of the Weald was therefore driven by small-scale tenant farmers, descendants of the Jutish Ceorls.

15 April 2027

The Thames and Medway Canal
David Parnell

A history of the Thames and Medway canal which cuts through the parish of Shorne, with images showing its use and eventual disuse over the last 200+ years, and more recently the work of the Canal Association to save, maintain and improve as much of the canal and towpath as possible.