



2019 Roundup



THE HORSHAM
& SHIPLEY
COMMUNITY
project

Keeping Busy, Keeping Active

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VETERAN'S FOOTBALL



WALKING FOOTBALL

Hills Farm Lane Football Club is now in it's 12th year of life and has grown into a well known, successful club. We have had 13 new members for the 2019-20 season taking the **membership to 41**. All members are eligible to play friendlies, and 30 are also registered to play league matches in the West Sussex & District Sunday Veteran's Football League. Thanks especially to Trevor, Darron and Sean for all their work and commitment 😊.

The league squad, led by Darron, ended the 2018-19 season exactly mid-table, after winning 6, losing 4 and drawing 2. This 2019-20 season, we have only played 4 matches so far, mainly due to weather. With **another 14 league matches to come** there is all to play for in the second half of the season as our squad strengthens. The league competition seems to intensify year on year...or are we just getting older?!

A low point in the year was the sudden and untimely passing of our friend and long term member Kevin Taylor. We continue to miss him.

Players are getting used to **the new training setup** at Hop Oast. We are sharing the pitch but it will be all ours after April when we will arrange some intra-club matches. We thank Andy Chantrill who has welcomed the vets to **Roffey FC** to play home matches, as the soft ground at TD Shipley was not able to support them.

In April the vets headed off on their "**Jersey Tour**" - an annual fixture! This year it involved two football squads, a golf game and lots of other things we can't write here! Sean is in charge for the 2020 Tour with 30 already signed up. The Tour was soon followed by the amazing **Charity Match Day**, organised mainly by a group of vets, and once again we raised over £1,500!

We have played **16 friendlies** since Jan, painstakingly organised by Trevor. Results have been mixed, but the most impressive victory was recently vs Diss Utd when the team **won 14-1!** That was a satisfying result!

Walking football has taken off across the country this year, and we are really proud to be considered by the FA to be a shining example of a fantastic club! A new Sussex FA post has been created for Walking football and in October the chap came to see us in action – in fact he brought his boots and joined in! He loved the atmosphere.

It is no surprise that the numbers are growing, **with 36 members**, including 8 new members in this year.

From April until early Nov we play on the grass at Shipley; this year because of higher numbers, mainly on the new pitch. A major improvement half way through the year was the **arrival of the new goals**, paid for by Magic Little Grants and AVIVA . We then marked the pitch properly (on the hottest day of the year) and now look semi-professional! In the Winter we retreat to Holbrook Club where the ground is less slippery.

Mike bravely took on **Friendlies Manager** role, and has sorted out 4 away matches so far which have been great fun. We are getting a reputation though, as our standard is pretty high compared with other local clubs.

The discussion rages about whether we are really playing "walking football" – when we play matches it has to be the full rules, but at home, on our own pitches we slacken the rules a little!

We are really proud to have **4 lady members** who give just as good as they get. In fact Karen has been chosen to represent England in Women's Walking Football, so the lads are up against it!

In May many of the team played an **intra-club match** at Roffey, to kick off our Charity Day. Some of the Veteran footballers joined in and had a taste of how much hard work Walking football is! Special mention to Gary who was voted **Players Player of the Year** for his tireless efforts in goal.



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MEN'S SHED

Word is spreading about the Men's Shed organisation, nationally and locally. Our shed in Shipley now has **21 members coming during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays**, and it gets busy! One of our challenges for 2020 will be to work out how we can expand our working space so that when everyone decides to turn up at once, we can safely accommodate them!

We started the year opening on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but it wasn't enough! So from April, after more First Aid training, we trialled opening on Mondays, and it has worked. The "team leaders" Keith and Chris, plus Brian, have their hands full, and they do an absolutely fantastic job making it possible for everyone to enjoy their time in the shed, and get the most out of it. If we had **more team leaders** we are sure we have the numbers to open on a fourth day.

This year the men have been involved in a huge number of projects. A major achievement which caught the attention of the press and local community, and which raised the profile of the Shed, was the **Coolham Airfield project**, which included two commemorative plaques, and the fantastic Bench of Contemplation which the members created from the last of some oak wood felled from the airfield. **Special mention to Bob** who did an amazing carving of the RAF Insignia.

The Shedders have branched into bird tables, bird, bat and bug houses, wooden toys, lamps, as well as potting tables, garden benches, **4 gym benches for the local school**, and a silhouette soldier for Billingshurst Parish Council. The men have also helped enormously with upkeep and fixing things around the site, including making a new pétanque storage cabinet. They are actually so busy that they now have an order book for internal and external jobs!

We had fun selling items at 3 local fetes this year which were all a lot of fun. Looking forward to 2020!



PÉTANQUE CLUB

The pétanque club has had a great year, with **membership increasing up to near 25**. More consistency in the numbers coming along each week has meant that we regularly need to use 3 or 4 of the pistes. New boules from the french company **Pernod Ricard** were gratefully received – thank you Chris Ellis!

In the Spring Melanie introduced **Tuesday Training once a month** for half an hour before the main session, and the results are showing! Members enjoy practising shooting, rolling and lobs – different techniques which take practise to master.

A highlight of the pétanque week during the Summer has been the **Friday evening gatherings** when a visit to the pub after has been known....! It is great to see the social side of the club developing. The plan is to restart those Friday evenings from early May next year, once the light returns.

Pétanque really is a game for everyone and we have been able to invite groups to the facility to have a go, ranging from the **local Beavers** group, to **Age UK** (twice), plus a group of retired people **from Highwood Mill**. They all really enjoyed themselves.

The **Summer Social Barbeques**, on the last Friday of the Summer months, have been a success again through this year. We have the "pétanque ladies" to thank for their fantastic contributions to the buffet spread! Those evenings, when people from all the different parts of the organisation come together, are a great opportunity for those who aren't regular member of the pétanque club... and their families... to give it a go. And this year Laki introduced croquet as well!

Thanks to **Melanie** for all her work this year to support the club and also **Val and Julie** who have spent time qualifying in Emergency First Aid so that they can support Melanie and give the club more flexibility.



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HEALTH WALKS & GREEN PROJECT

Richard's brilliant new activity this year has been the Health Walks! Usually starting at the football site in Shipley, we have done loops of **between 4 and 6 miles** (Richard is never very sure but thank goodness Val has her GPS hiking watch so at least someone knows what's going on!). Up to 17 people joined the walks each fortnight which made it a sociable affair as well as good exercise!

The most interesting thing has been starting to explore the amazing **Knepp Castle Rewilding** project area, with it's diverse, seemingly disorganised ecology and interesting animals from Exmoor ponies, to Tamworth pigs and various species of deer. Really fascinating and right on our doorstep.

The mud and rain beat us eventually this year, but next year Richard is planning a programme of longer **South Downs Way** walks alternating with shorter, local walks. It seems likely that they may start/end at a pub most often! Keep an eye out for more details next year.

A special mention this year has to go to a few people who have all made a huge difference to our "**Green Project**"...

Francis & Robin joined us mid year and have taken on the rockery at the entrance of the site with a passion. It is coming on brilliantly thanks to their efforts.

We would not have any cut grass without the miles of lawn **Ian** has covered behind the mower! And a special thanks to **Roger** who has been steely in his determination to rid the pitch of the thick thistle weeds, removing barrow loads of them and making it possible for the walking football pitch to thrive.

Not growing but recycling – **Roy** has, once again, been our Recycle champ, taking away all the recycling possible every week. And thanks for all the milk bottle tops, stamps and cards contributed by many of you.

OTHER INTERESTING THINGS

Outside of the regular activities, other interesting things have happened this year. In June Gary organised 2 teams to enter the **Foot Golf competition** for his son's charity "Just Different". They came 2nd and 3rd!

We had a **Men's Wellbeing** talk at Shipley and something similar is coming again in 2020. Also a West Sussex **HealthWatch** specialist came to talk about local services, and is keeping in touch.

The Men's Shed had stalls at the Shipley Fete in May, the Southwater Church fete in Sept and the Southwater Christmas Fayre in December. A good way to **spread the word and sell the wares** made in the shed.

Karen organised a truly international Old Girls World Football Cup in June and now has been selected to play for England in the **Women's Walking Football** team! We are so proud!

A group of vets (and wives ☺) ran a fantastic **Football Charity Day** in May and we raised over £1,500 for charity including Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund and Chestnut Tree House. Get ready to do it again in 2020!

Fantastic food cooked to perfection at the **Summer BBQs** in June, July and Aug, by our chefs Stan, Phil, Russell & Richard, complemented with salads by the pétanque ladies, and new this year Laki's Croquet. The event even caught the attention of our local MP who joined us for a sausage or two!

This year we have been visited by the previous Chair of **District Council**, Peter Burgess before Kate Rowbottom took over. Kate is our friend and neighbour at the Shipley site and regularly visits. The Chief Exec of the council, Glen Chipp also came in his first few weeks in office. HDC has been very supportive this year.

Saxon Weald did some fantastic work on a CSR day, building a compost system, painting the shed, generally helping out with the heavier work. An exhausting day!



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IN THE BACKGROUND...

The 5 trustees, (from left to right) Phil, Russell, Richard, Helen & Dawn (the only picture we have of us all is with the HDC ex-Chairman!) meet monthly to chew over the issues relating to each activity, plan ahead and make sure we are compliant. There is always lots to discuss. Being a **registered charity** has many advantages – such as being able to apply for grants and funding - but also comes with some burdens like formal reporting.

We are really pleased that a **license has been agreed** this year between TD Shipley FC (who lease the Shipley football site from Knepp Castle), and HSCP. This gives us security for the foreseeable future for all the activities which happen at Shipley, and we look forward to working with TD Shipley on some positive projects next year at the site. The arrangement at the site works well now for everyone and TD appreciate the positive input we make at their ground.

We try to keep you all updated each month via the **Chatter**. Helen always likes to hear back from you if you have any contributions or thing you want to say! She also keeps the **Face Book** page going with regular posts from all activities, so please “follow, like and share”!

We want to thank **Dan Purchase who runs BritWeb** (a local web design company) for his continued support with our website. It is surprising how many people find us and make contact via the site – for all activities – so we are grateful to Dan and his fantastic team.

We also want to thank the **Hills Farm Lane vets committee**, Trevor, Darron, Sean, Richard, Russell and Phil for their work through the year to organise and keep the vets ticking over. It’s not a small job.

Graham was instrumental in getting all our planning

done for the new pitch this year (and originally the Men’s Shed). We are very grateful for his skilful and patient input.

Russell, our “Money Man” does a great, but thankless and never ending task collecting and sorting out the cash and finances in all divisions. It is almost a full time job and we really appreciate it. He has also managed to finalise the annual accounts we have to submit, and still finds time to run the Shipley “café” on Tuesdays! Russell is also in charge of Membership, and Welfare, so if you have any issues you know who to go to.

Richard (Reg) is our motor – full of ideas and endless energy, and fundraising skill! He has set up and run the Health Walks singlehandedly, which involves a lot of planning and extra miles in prep! He is also a hard task master around the site and keeps Phil off the streets! A landmark achievement for Richard this year was the Coolham Airfield D-Day Commemoration, a massive local success. If things get too much for him you will find him stoking a bonfire – his best stress relief!

Dawn never ever stops doing something nice for someone. She is our sounding board and voice of reason, and the most supportive of “colleagues”. We love the cards she makes, and her recycling initiative.

Phil, our Chairman remains as energetic, positive and committed as ever to all parts of HSCP and has plenty of ideas for the future. Watch this space!!

IF YOU HAVE MANAGED TO READ THIS FAR THEN ALL WE HAVE LEFT IS TO THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR. EACH AND EVERY PERSON INVOLVED IS IMPORTANT AND IN THEIR OWN WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ORGANISATION OVERALL. AND SO....

...WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!