

# HSCP Chatter



THE HORSHAM  
& SHIPLEY  
COMMUNITY  
project



## On Yer Bike!

We have loved the cycle loops again this year, brilliantly organised and led by Derek T. Nine great 20-milers and two super-loops of 30+ miles. We have more electric bikes than traditional in the group now, so if you would love to come out for the fresh air, exercise and great company, but are worried about hills, consider this for your Christmas present wish-list!

## 2026 Summer BBQ

In 2026 instead of trying for three events, we are considering just one "Big Summer Bash". Imagine...a warm, relaxed Sunday afternoon, picnic rugs and deck chairs, plenty of chance to play pétanque, croquet, garden pick-up-sticks, maybe badminton, or even have a go at a mini walking football game! A long afternoon with friends, family, games and a lovely plate of food! If you have any thoughts about that, let us know!

## HSCP Happy Couple

In the best HSCP news of 2025, our love and congratulations to Keith and Alison on their marriage. Our South Downs Way Challenge in 2022 was the start of their love story. Wishing them every happiness.



## Many Hands Make Light Work!

To keep all the Shipley activities going, and to prepare for everyone to enjoy next year, there is a lot of groundwork to do. If you like fresh air and have a little time to spare on Mondays, the Green Team would love more hands on deck.

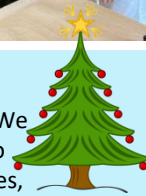
## Replacing the Storage Areas

Notice something missing?? The Sheddies and Green Team have done an amazing job clearing the old, rotten container and getting rid of the waste. The new one, which the Sheddies have been busy fitting out internally, is already on site and just needs a crane to slot it into place. A new, dry, mouse-proof (!), safe place for the Green Team equipment at last! Thanks to HDC for a grant which helped towards this cost.



## Christmas is Coming!!

...which can only mean it's time for our end of year bash! We are looking forward to seeing those of you who are able to make it on Tuesday. Join the pétanquers at 11am for games, otherwise 12am ready for 12:45 sit down. The Sheddies have been busy preparing some lovely items, so please bring cash if you are looking for some skilfully hand-made Christmas gifts, and of course we will have a cash raffle with some lovely prizes!



## Health Walks Culminate in Russell's Riddles

The Health Walks programme has been lovely again this year with a variety of distances and terrains led by various members. Our thanks to each of you who undertook organisation of one of the walks, and those of you who have walked with us! Russell took on the final date and foxed us with 40 questions to answer around Horsham, following [some dodgy] directions for a route which took us around the town! Relying on our powers of observation (and some guesswork) we had to find the answers and make it back in 3 hrs. Great fun and so much we don't usually notice!

## High Sheriff Visit to Men's Shed

We were thrilled to bits to receive a second visit from the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Dr Tim Fooks (the first in 2021). He is interested in everything that we do, but this time really enjoyed chatting to the Sheddies about their experiences at the Shed. A retired GP, Dr Fooks has made "mental health and community wellbeing" the focus of his year in office and is doing some valuable work locally and nationally. We are absolutely honoured that he has chosen us as one of the 5 charities he is nominating for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service!



## A Decade of Footballing Celebrated

This Summer we celebrated 10 years since the start of our walking football club. It started on what we now use as the croquet lawn, when the current pitch was still a mess of brambles and waste! Some of those original walking footballers are still taking part and we salute them! In 2026 we will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pétanque group and the Men's Shed. Looking forward to that.

**Goodbyes** Since our last Chatter we have been very sad to lose three of our lovely, long term members.

**Martin Babister** was a regular pétanquer with his wife Julie for many years before the Parkinsons illness overtook him. He is missed.

**Helen Reynolds**, wife of Derek, sadly passed in the Summer after a relatively short illness. We remember her fondly at pétanque.

**Chris Haselden**, the Father of the Men's Shed, helped build and shape it 10 years ago, and was a regular petanque player. We won't forget him and owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his support, especially with the shed in its early days.

## Get in Touch...

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