

A grey falcon with a yellow eye and beak is perched on a wooden fence. The bird is facing left, and its wings are slightly spread. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some tree branches. The text 'The Villager' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the date 'March 2024' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the names 'Sherbornes and Pamber' are written in a white, sans-serif font.

The Villager

March 2024

Sherbornes and Pamber



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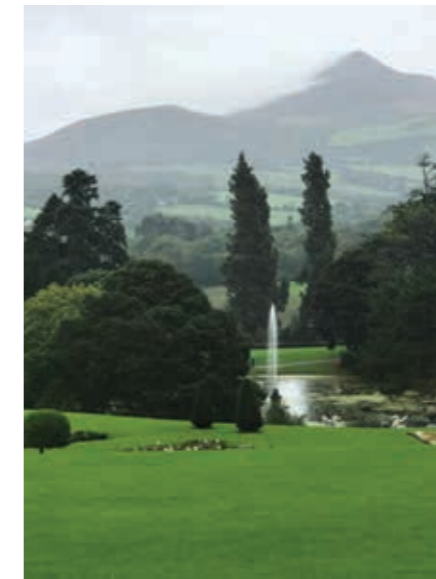
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Where am I?



Answer at end of the magazine

Cover Photo: Sparrowhawk by Amanda Hope

Whilst we are happy to publish items and opinions in this magazine it should be noted that the views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial team.

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Along the way

It's amazing how many of our favourite stories take us on a journey.

For over six hundred years Geoffrey Chaucer has been taking readers on a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury in The Canterbury Tales. More recently Yann Martel's Life of Pi takes readers on a voyage on a raft across the Indian Ocean. Roald Dahl invites younger readers to join James on a fantastical quest across the world in a giant peach. There are so many more examples we could list, from J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings to Julia Donaldson's The Gruffalo.

I wonder if you would agree that the thing that fascinates us about many of these stories is very often the characters along the way over and above the geography of the journey itself.

The season of Lent is a time when many reflect on the journey Jesus made from the Sea of Galilee to a hill outside Jerusalem. Luke, the author of the New Testament's third Gospel, records this journey from chapter 9 verse 51 onwards. As with many

literary travelogues, it's the individuals and groups of people who encounter Jesus along the way that Luke seems to most want to draw our attention to.

In his Lent devotional based on Luke's Gospel, To Seek And To Save, Sinclair B. Ferguson suggests that the key questions for all those who meet Jesus on his journey are these: why is he on the road in the first place? And, is he worth following? Questions that are perhaps worth pondering for all of us this Lent.

On Good Friday we have two opportunities to gather and reflect on where Jesus' journey took him as he died for us on the Cross. Then on Easter Sunday we will be celebrating the fact that his journey didn't end there as he walked out of the tomb three days later. Details of all our Easter events and services are below, everyone is welcome.

Rev. Stewart Deering

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at the Church of St Bede, Popley at the following times: 9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *	Friday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *
Wednesday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *	Saturday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *
Thursday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *			* Time & Venue could vary



March 2024

Make Jesus known & build up the church in faith & love

St Andrew's Sherborne St John | All Saints Monk Sherborne | Pamber Priory

www.sherborneswithpamber.org facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber

If you would like to connect with us please scan the QR code



- Sun 3rd** | 10am Holy Communion with Sunday Club – St Andrew's SSJ
- Mon 4th** | 12pm Retired Men's Bible Study
- Tues 6th** | 7.30pm Evening Prayer - Parish Room
- Wed 7th** | 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – All Saints' Monk Sherborne
- Sat 9th** | 8.30-9.30am Morning Prayer – Parish Room
- Sun 10th** | 10am Mothering Sunday Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ
10am Morning Worship – All Saints' Monk Sherborne
- Mon 11th** | **Homegroups & Dig Deeper this week**
For details contact admin@sherborneswithpamber.org
- Wed 13th** | 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ
- Sun 17th** | 10am Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ
- Wed 20th** | 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – Pamber Priory
- Sun 24th** | 10am Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ
10am Holy Communion – Pamber Priory
- Mon 25th** | **Homegroups & Dig Deeper this week**
For details contact admin@sherborneswithpamber.org
- Wed 27th** | 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ
- Fri 29th** | 10am Easter Garden Family Service - St Andrew's SSJ
2.30pm Reflections At The Cross - Pamber Priory
- Sat 30th** | 2-4pm Easter Egg Hunt - St Andrew's SSJ
- Sun 31st** | 9am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion - All Saints' Monk Sherborne
10.30am Easter Celebration with Baptisms - St Andrew's SSJ

The Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards. Search Parish of the Sherbornes with Pamber on Youtube or use the link on our website under the Resources Menu. Children of all ages are very welcome in our services. At St Andrew's we run a Sunday Club during term time and we have a creche space in the tower at the back for pre-schoolers & their carers with toys and a changing table.



Easter

at Sherbornes with Pamber Churches

Come along to our Easter events and hear a story of hope!

Good Friday 29th March: 10am Easter Garden Family Service, St Andrew's SSJ
2.30pm Reflections at the Cross, Pamber Priory

Saturday 30th March: 2-4pm Easter Egg Hunt, St Andrew's SSJ

Easter Sunday 31st March: 9am Easter Sunday Celebration with Holy Communion
All Saints' Monk Sherborne
10.30am Easter Sunday Celebration with Baptisms
St Andrew's SSJ



 Sherbornes with Pamber Churches
www.sherborneswithpamber.org

Claiming Dates

March 2024

2	Sherborne St John Social Club, Red Hoax Chilli Peppers (Ticket only)	7.00pm
5	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Mother's Book 'That Summer'	2.00pm
4	Welcome Hub for coffee, tea, biscuits, a chat, or maybe read the newspapers, SSJ Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
7	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Sherborne St John Social Club, Rugby 6 Nations,	2.00pm
9	Glen Miller Band, Live Music & Buffet £15 pp book via 01256 851202	6.30 – 11.00pm
11	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
11	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
16	Jumble Sale for Sherborne St John Brownies, SSJ Village Hall, ssjbrownies@outlook.com	10.00am
16	Sherborne St John Social Club, Super Saturday Rugby 6 Nations,	2.00pm
18	Welcome Hub for coffee, tea, biscuits, a chat, or maybe read the newspapers, SSJ Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
20	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: Winchester Bible by Christopher de Hamel, S-o-L V. Hall	10.30am
25	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
30	Easter Egg Hunt, Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Sherborne St John Church & Village	2.00pm– 4.00

April 2024

2	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Pilgrimage to India	2.00pm
4	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
8	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
8	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
17	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: Woman's Suffrage – Houses of Parliament by Mary Branson	10.30am
22	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

May 2024

2	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
6	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
7	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Portrait of the Architect as a Young Man	2.00pm
13	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
15	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: The Painting Secrets of Freud and Bacon by Alice White	10.30am
20	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

June 2024

3	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
4	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, The Archeology of Basingstoke	2.00pm
6	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
10	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
17	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
19	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: Nazi Looting During WWII by Shauna Isaac, S-o-L V. Hall	10.30am
22	'Pimms and Puddings', Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Sherborne St John Church & Village	7.30pm

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775 800955

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News from the Pambers & Little London

Well, not a particularly cheering view from our windows today: leaden grey skies and messy lawns requiring the removal of leaves and twigs. It's that time of year. Nor does your correspondent's nasty bout of shingles do much to lift morale and warm the cockles. If you qualify and have not yet had the jab, do go for it: shingles is a particularly uncomfortable illness best avoided.



Talking of warming the cockles... Our **Meet the Villager** this issue is Pamber Green's Freya. I shall let her introduce herself and a friend of hers who is particularly impressive in his charity work.

"As I write this I am recovering from a 'pony party' we gave my daughter for her 6th birthday party. I say this tongue in cheek as my girls' interest in ponies has been a slow burning flame entirely fuelled by my life-long passion for horses. I grew up spending every holiday trekking our bombproof ponies around different parts of the UK and rushing out of school 10 minutes early so that we got to ride before it got dark. I had a long break from horses while I went through university and worked as a physio but I was never really happy when I wasn't on the back of a

horse. When I decided not to go back into a hospital after having children I needed to find alternative employment. The power of social media led me to work at a small national hunt yard in Hannington. I now work as part of a small but very dedicated team of people looking after and exercising a wonderful string of race horses.

One of our owners, James Read, who as an adult learnt to ride his own racehorse, has founded the charity 'New Forest for Ukraine'. A truly inspirational man, he makes regular trips to Ukraine and its bordering countries to deliver all kinds of aid. From the stories he recounts I can't believe he turns up every week looking so happy and being so compassionate. But then I know myself, from the most depressed periods of my life, that there is no better therapy than mucking out a dirty stable, saddling up and flying along on your own fit and powerful horse."

Isn't it wonderful how Freya's love of horses hits you full-on? Though I must confess to being more tempted by the idea of flying along on a powerful horse than mucking out a dirty stable! And wonderful, too, that someone like James should be able to find within the equestrian community like-minded souls to help him with such a worthwhile cause. If you would like to find out more about how this charity, staffed entirely by volunteers, works, and maybe even get involved, then visit

Info@NewForestForUkraine.co.uk

Have a good shingles-free month, everyone.

B 🐾 bdownes.villager@gmail.com

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 Little Acorns Sherborne St John

Sherborne St John Parish Council

The days are finally getting longer, Easter is just around the corner and we are all hoping that warmer days are not far in the future. Hoping everyone is able to make use of the lengthening days and better weather to spend more time outdoors in and around our lovely village.

Parish Council Meetings

It is always good to see parishioners at our council meetings. Whether you have a matter to raise with the Parish Council or are just interested in what we do it would be great to meet see you. The meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Chute. Planning starts @ 7.15 p.m. and the council meeting @ 7.45 p.m.

Full calendar for 2024 can be found on the Parish Council website.

SSJ Neighbourhood Plan

Our revised Neighbourhood plan is advancing through the process of approval. It is currently in its final public consultation phase known as Regulation 16. This phase should be concluded on the 26th February.

Parish Clerk

Mel Camilleri has returned to the Clerk and RFO role for the Parish Council as

a locum. Unfortunately our permanent clerk appointment, Dan Faulkner had to leave us after only a few months but we thank him for his help during that time. Once again, we are advertising for a Clerk.

Planning

At time of writing, the council has been informed that the sites at Weybrook Golf Club and the extension of the development on the Popley side of the village (Kiln Farm) have been included as available sites in the new Borough Local Plan. The Parish Council and our three ward Borough Councillors will continue to oppose these sites at all opportunities based upon a number of key factors including encroachment of the strategic gap, damage to the natural habitat and road safety.

The previously rejected development of houses on Cranesfield was challenged by the developer and is now up for appeal. This appeal meeting will be held on February 21st and will be attended, and representations made, by the Parish Council and also by our Borough Councillors. Updates in the next Villager article.

Post Box

A post box specifically for the Parish Council has been setup at the Village Hall. This will allow for all written correspondence for the Council to be sent to one place. Currently mail is received by the clerk at home and some even going to councillor's home addresses.

2023/2024 Precept

The Council has agreed that the precept for Sherborne St John will increase by around 4% and the new Band D equivalent for the next Financial Year 2024/25 will be £49.20. The council continues to deliver services to the village whilst minimising any increase in costs being passed onto our residents.

Allotments

The Parish Council resolved that there would be no increase in rates for rental of allotments within the village. Although our allotments are usually fully booked slots do come up regularly so if you wish to be placed on the waiting list please contact the clerk on clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Cllr Carl Davies

Hampshire County Councillor report – Calleva Division

Early spring 2024

1. County Council Budget Consultation

You will no doubt have seen the publicity about councils 'going bust' in the last few months. The latest was Nottingham City Council, closer to home Southampton City Council is close to declaring it cannot deliver a balanced budget and Somerset Council is asking the Government to allow them to increase Council Tax by 10% this year to avoid the same situation. Hampshire County Council is not in that position, yet. Unusually for many councils it projects it finances ahead by a number of years. As I have mentioned before, these projections show that while it will be able to balance its budget for the next two years, by 2026 there will be an anticipated shortfall of £132 million.

The County Council has a legal responsibility to carry out certain functions. Examples of this are social care costs for older people, support for those with disabilities, the care of vulnerable children and young people and school transport for those who meet the necessary criteria. These mandatory services are increasingly expensive without sufficient government support to fund them fully.

Other services are discretionary, the council chooses to do these. HCC therefore has to consider ways by which it can balance its budget going forward, absent government support. As a result, it has now launched its consultation on how it might change its discretionary services to meet that budget shortfall. These include:

School Crossing Patrols - HCC do not have a legal duty to provide school crossing patrols. It does however have a legal duty to ensure children can travel to school safely.

Winter Gritting Routes - these have not been reviewed in many years, so it will be testing whether the current network is needed.

Community Transport and Bus Services - there is no legal duty for the County Council to support community transport or to subsidise bus routes.

However, both these can play a vital role in combatting social isolation and enabling access to vital services. HWRCs – I talk more about this below.

You can read more about the consultation here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation> I do encourage you to take part, do not rely on others to do so.

2. Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

Hampshire is the best served county in terms of its waste and recycling centres, we have more per square mile, per head of population and open them longer than any other area. As a Waste Disposal Authority, the county council is obligated to arrange for the deposit of household and garden waste at no charge under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In 2022/23, residents made 2.1 million bookings, depositing nearly 120,000 tonnes of waste across our 24 HWRCs, costing over £10 million a year to operate.

The county council is now consulting on a range of proposed changes to save money, including:

- charging for discretionary services (such as premium booking slots, additional services by site staff and chargeable items like gloves and sacks)
- alternative delivery models, such as handing over management to charities or community organisations or districts or borough managing some sites
- reductions to types of waste accepted at some sites
- reducing opening days and or hours
- Potential reductions to opening hours and days to achieve savings
- reducing the number of sites.

In assessing whether sites should be considered for closure, the council has split the sites into four tiers, based upon their size, usage and the cost of running them and is consulting on three options, no closures, just closing Tier 4 or closing Tiers 3 and 4. Our Basingstoke site is in Tier 1 and is unlikely to be affected.

Not all the proposals may be taken forward but savings will have to be found, especially following the additional £2m per annum cost as a result of the Government's ban on charging for DIY waste, as I mentioned last month.

3. New 20mph policy introduced

HCC's new policy on 20mph speed limits has now been introduced. The new policy allows the council is to introduce speed restrictions where there is a proven safety need for them, for example outside schools. In addition it allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area, subject to meeting specified criteria.

One of the criteria, as I have mentioned before, is clear evidence of community support as 20mph zones can be very divisive. Secondly, communities will need to fund the introduction of the schemes they request themselves. This should be possible through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy or other forms of developer contributions. Given the financial challenges I have referred to above, the county council does not have the resources to fund these. Communities should also give thought to measures to reduce speed, such as Speed Indicator Devices as the police will not be able to enforce these proposals.

4. County Councillor's Grants.

I have given financial support to the following in 2023/2024.
Sherborne St John- Social club revamp
Silchester – Coronation celebrations
Bramley Clift meadow Trust- bench
Hartley Wespall- Coronation celebs.
Pamber Memorial Hall- Rolls of Honour
Sherfield – Reindeer Trail
Sherfield Church – café revamp
Bramley magazine
Riding for the disabled.
Silchester Roman town fund
Ramsdell /Wootton St Lawrence speed indicator device.

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Sherborne St John Village Hall weekly activities

Monday	Retirement Coffee Morning (fortnightly) 10am-12noon	Contact Jenny	jennycooke@outlook.com
	Jenni Stafford Ballet Academy 4:05-4:50pm	Contact Jenni	jenni@jsba.uk
	Avenue Dance Company 5:00-8:00pm	Contact Lauren	info@avenuedancecompany.co.uk
Tuesday	Yoga 10-11:30am	Contact Jacqui	Jacqui.morris28@gmail.com
	Scottish Country Dancing 7:30-9:30pm	Contact Valerie	tadleysd@gmail.com
	Women’s Fellowship (1st Tues of mth) 2:00-4:00pm	Contact Loraine	01256 590359
Wednesday	Little Acorns (Bump, Babes, Toddlers) 9:30-11:30am	Contact Liz	lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com
	Rainbows 5:00-6:00pm	Contact Caroline	caroline.given@gmail.com
	Brownies 6:00-7:30pm	Contact Tramayne	ssjbrownies@outlook.com
	Guides 7:30-9:00pm	Contact Sam	ssjguides@yahoo.com
Thursday	Tots Play Basingstoke 10:30-12:30pm	Contact Michelle	michelle@totisplay.co.uk
	Bridge 1:00-4:30pm	Contact Jean	jean.anderson2@icloud.com
	Cubs 6:30-8:00pm	Contact Trish	01420-544904
Friday	Basingstoke Tumble Tots 9:00-1:30pm	Contact Sarah	basingstoketumbletots@gmail.com
	Basingstoke Beekeepers (3rd Fri of mth) 7:00-10:00pm	Contact Steve	events@basingstokebeekeepers.com
Saturday	Open Heavens Christian Fellowship 3:00-5:00pm	Contact Albert	bertlampp@yahoo.com
Our vyne room also has 3 businesses using its facilities at the moment			
	Peggys Beauty various times	Contact Jamie	jamie-saunders2010@hotmail.co.uk
	Weybrook Physio various times	Contact Rachel	rachelruane@yahoo.co.uk
	Amanda Bond various times	Contact Amanda	abond602@gmail.com
	-acupuncture/sports therapy		

If you would like to hire the hall for any special occasions, meetings, birthdays, weddings etc or the vyne room again for meetings, therapies etc please get in touch by email: ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com. Or by calling: 07526 954835

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Sherborne St John Primary School

A good place to start this edition is with a big thank you to the whole Sherborne St John community. On Friday 2nd February, the village Social Club and SSJ School Association joined forces to host a really great quiz night for school families and villagers. A big 'THANK YOU!' needs to be passed on to the Social Club for hosting and running the bar but also to Steve Howe for his excellent quiz master skills. Our School Association do an amazing job of raising much needed additional funds for the school and we really appreciate all that they did to put this night together. The whole community effort helped to raise £370 which will go towards future projects that will enhance the education of children at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School.



A few months ago, we put out a plea to the community for a new Local Authority governor. We still haven't been able to find someone to fulfil this position. We are continuing to look for someone who does not have a direct

link to the school to volunteer their time and add to our skilled and supportive governing body. If you think you may be interested and have a financial or education background, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Miss Jolliffe using the following email address: admin@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk

Finally, on Wednesday 7th February, we welcomed the Bishop of Basingstoke, Bishop David, to the school. It was the first time since the year 2000 that a Bishop has been to visit us and it was a very memorable event for all of us.

Two of our Year 6 Ambassadors showed Bishop David around the school. He visited lessons, saw science investigations in action and joined in

with the infant playtime. The infants were very keen to show him our play trail and the Buddy Bus Stop! Bishop David then led Collective Worship and talked to us about what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' He told us that he had seen the children of Sherborne St John living out the school values and that the children were kind, confident and welcoming. He would like to be invited back again soon!

Adam Rattray



Global Citizens at The Priory

Recently The Priory Primary School enjoyed International Week. This is an important event in the Priory curriculum and calendar as it helps the children to develop not just knowledge and skills, but important attitudes about being a global citizen. The children celebrated differences and similarities between countries across the world and travelled around the world to get the learning passports stamped at the end of the week!



Easter adventures at The Vyne

23 March – 14 April | 10am-4pm

In The Vyne's gardens, families can enjoy fun challenges such as wheelbarrow racing, target practice and an Easter egg puzzle before heading to the trail finish to collect their prize. Last entry 3pm. £3 per trail plus normal admission, includes bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From chocolate egg.



Wellies at the ready, Morgaston Woods offers three circular waymarked routes. In the tea-room you can order hearty one-pots, soups and pasties as well as steaming hot teas, coffees and cake. In the shop you can browse items from the new spring range. From 4 March inclusive, the house will be open daily 11am-3pm.

Warm Welcome Hub

@

Sherborne St John Village Hall

DATES

Monday 4th March 10am to 12 noon
Monday 18th March 10am to 12 noon

This is a FREE event!

Tea / Coffee and Biscuits /Cake

Come along and join us for a chat, a look at the papers or join in a game of scrabble plus we have books and colouring for the children.

Encourage an adult to learn to read!

There are 7,000 adults in Basingstoke who either cannot read at all or can barely read. For them, everyday tasks such as booking a doctor's appointment, reading road signs, or doing the food shopping can be incredibly challenging. Parents and grandparents who cannot read are not able to provide learning support for their children, with many missing out on the important bonding time that comes with sharing a bedtime story.

Local charity, Read Easy Basingstoke are here to help by providing free and confidential one-to-one coaching, from trained volunteers. Reading pairs meet once or twice a week at approved local venues to work for through a structured, phonics-based reading programme, which usually takes anything up to two years to complete.

There are many different reasons why people don't learn to read in childhood. For some it may have been a lack of support from their own family or

school, for others it may have been undiagnosed dyslexia. But people should not feel ashamed or embarrassed about it. We are friendly, non-judgemental, and here to help.

If you know of friends and family members who cannot read, please pass on the Read Easy Basingstoke phone number, and encourage them to make a call that could transform their lives.

Read Easy Basingstoke are always looking for people who are willing to



give up their time in helping with the organisation and leadership of our Team or to train as Coaches. Please get in touch if you are willing to help someone improve their life beyond measure!

For more information, please contact us on 07952 450 789 or email basinstoke@readeasy.org.uk



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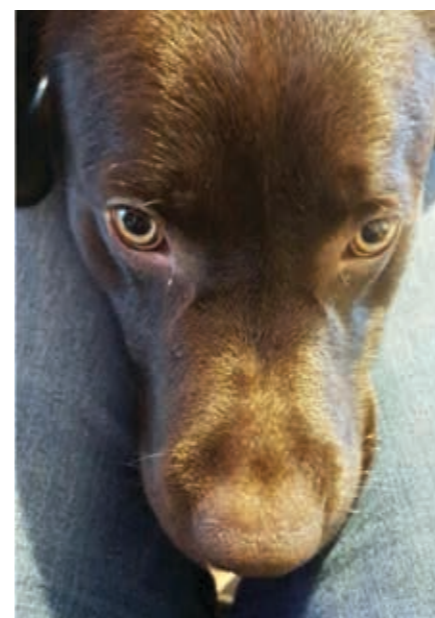
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Beau's Blog



I've been given the third degree..... the Mrs said...look into my eyes and tell me the truth: Was it you? Have you been digging in the front lawn? Did you forget where you buried your bone?

Of course I answered NO to all of the above. Firstly I am not allowed out onto the front lawn unaccompanied in case I see another K9 and rush out to play without permission. Secondly, I certainly would not forget where I buried my bone! I think the Mrs is projecting her bad memory onto me! My nose tells me instantly where I last buried it and it was definitely not in the front lawn. Besides which the holes are not big enough to hide one of my bones and I seem to remember the same thing happening on our neighbours lawn last year when I was looked at in a suspicious manner.....

Luckily for me the Boss had his superior knowledge confirmed when the our kindly neighbour GR set up a wildlife camera to get shots of the culprit which turned out to be what

the Boss said a visiting badger. After I got blamed, the crows got it in the neck as the likely vandals but it was, as the Boss said all along, a badger looking for worms.

The badgers are back again this year! This time they have left our neighbours lawn untouched but have gone to town on ours instead. The verges bordering the gardens down hill from us also have holes dug into them and the daffodils seem to be a bit flat in certain areas. The worm eating Billy Badger has a lot to answer for, but for once I have been declared in the clear for this particular misdemeanour and given a treat for telling the truth.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

3 Bears go travelling

All at Sea



Bailey, Barney and Brizzie say: "the humanoids tell us we are going to Spain in their motor-home.

Hopefully more adventures to come.....

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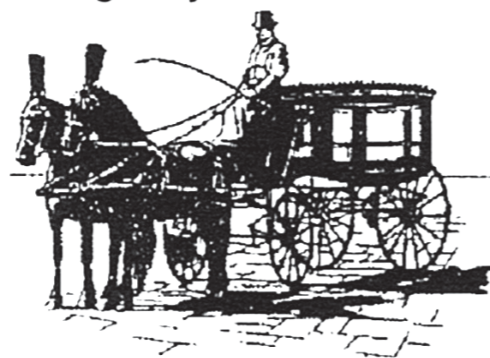
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Women's Fellowship

The February meeting, apart from being the AGM, was a talk by Mr Sokphal Din, a Basingstoke resident who was awarded the BEM for his work travelling the country, and beyond, educating young people in our schools, as well as adults, about the horrors he suffered at the hands of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia from 1975-1979.



Cambodia was in 1975 overthrown by the Khmer Rouge army led by Pol Pot, with the ideologies of the Chinese Communist party led by leader Mao Zedong. The Khmer Rouge received foreign aid from China, hoping to turn Cambodia into a Socialist Republic. Their aim was to empty the towns and cities of all their people, in particular those of certain standing such as doctors, lawyers, students, and political and business leaders. The backdrop to this invasion was in part due to the Cold War of Asia and the aftermath of the Cambodian Civil War, when the Khmer

Rouge proclaimed the establishment of Democratic Kampuchea.

Sokphal Din was a 17yr old living at home with his family in the city of Phnom Penh when, in April 1970, his home was besieged by soldiers and, within a few days, they were forced to flee the city along with thousands of others, and travel to the outlying countryside to carry out agricultural labour.

Sokphal gave us just an insight into his family's, his friends and neighbours' suffering, humiliation and degradation at the hands of this new regime, often at gunpoint. Food (rice) was rationed to a spoonful for each person per day; being the equivalent of a tin of beans of dry rice measured out once a week. They were at near starvation, with no accommodation other than a car, which Sokphal slept underneath at night. His family comprised his Mother, Step-Father, older brother, and two siblings aged 4 and under. His Grandmother in her 70's was also compelled to travel with them, along with two uncles. There was no drinking water, which resulted in disease such as malaria and gastro-enteritis, and they had to walk this journey from Phnom Penh to the countryside in the hottest season.

His Mother, clearly a force to be reckoned with, had sewn three pockets into her

sarong before they were evacuated, one for her money, one for jewellery, and one for family treasures. His beloved Grandmother, with whom he had lived for a while as a child, died during one night when they were living in shelters of bamboo huts. One pregnant woman had to get off her bicycle, give birth to her baby and then get back on her bicycle to continue her journey.

Sokphal did return to the family home in Phnom Penh but it was then occupied by others, and he did not choose to stay in the city. His hopes of becoming a doctor were dashed when the soldiers stole the money he had saved. Despite all that happened to him and others, he said he still has hope, and concentrates on the important things of life, for him his beloved dogs and family. He arrived in UK in 1987 and has lived and worked here since. He is concerned that when he no longer travels, educating people about the Cambodian Holocaust, there will be no-one to continue (just one other person is doing what he does) and it will become forgotten.

His book, 'The Killing Fields of Cambodia - Surviving a Living Hell' can be bought online.

He was thanked by Rose Cooper. Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 5th March at 2pm.



Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!

Basingstoke Cats Protection currently have 10 cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

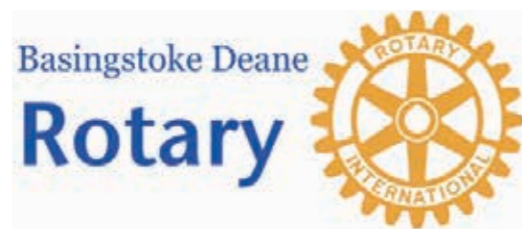
We are looking for fosterers, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection - food, litter, bedding and electricity.

Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness 🐱

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.



If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at adoption@basingstoke.cats.org.uk or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.



Sea of Purple has a special meaning

Rotary's part in ridding the world of Polio

In the early 20th century two diseases, Smallpox and Polio, killed large numbers of people around the world. After a long, worldwide vaccination campaign smallpox was finally declared eradicated by the World Health Organisation in 1980.

By 1990 cases of polio in the UK were down to single figures. All children today are offered routine polio vaccinations in infancy and boosters later in childhood. Proof of how effective vaccination can be.



Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years with our 'End Polio Now' campaign. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease so that no child will ever again suffer the devastating, paralysing and crippling effects of polio. Our goal to rid the world of this disease is closer than ever and polio is now only found in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Africa

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

was declared polio free thanks to the dedicated efforts of health workers, traditional and religious leaders, parents, Rotarians and country leaders, in August 2020.

In overseas countries, to identify the children who had been vaccinated, their little finger was painted with a purple dye. Hence Purple 4 Polio and Rotary uses purple crocuses to publicise and fundraise for the eradication of Polio.

Some of the purple crocuses planted around Basingstoke and surrounding areas have been planted by Rotarians in Basingstoke. A reminder of how families no longer fear this disease crippling them or their children

Look out for the Purple crocuses

Recently we have planted crocuses at Turnpike Cottages in Overton, the Silk Mill in Whitchurch and we hope to see the crocuses we planted last Autumn with Rotary in Basingstoke in bloom in Statton Park.

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SAVE THE DATE

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Sunday 19 May 2024

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Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



At the meeting held on 7th February the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed 45 members and 1 visitor to the first meeting of 2024, as there had been no meeting in January. He also reminded everyone that the next meeting was the AGM where there were several items to be discussed and decisions made regarding the future of the group. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave an update on the post AGM lunch at the Conservative Club and asked that if anyone had not put their name down but wished to go to please let him know as soon as possible. He then gave details of the trip to Arundel Castle in April for which places were still available. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, reported that that she was following up on those members who required her assistance.

Our speaker this month was Fred Swift 'The Wiltshire Beekeeper'. Fred said that last year had been a difficult one due to the unpredictable weather probably due to climate change. This is also contributing to the appearance in the



UK of the Asian Hornet which can have a devastating effect on hives with one hornet killing hundreds of bees at a time. For this reason, it's spread throughout the country is being closely monitored. Despite all the setbacks he was pleased to report that the honey yield had been about normal. Fred also brought along items for sale made with the honey he collects including different types of honey, hand cream, candles and honeycombs. His website www.thewiltshirebeekeeper.com gives more information.

The outing to Arundel Castle and Gardens is on Thursday 18th April and the cost is £50 (£52 for non-members). The coach will leave Oakley at 09.00 and Basingstoke Leisure Park at 09.15 aiming to arrive at 11.00.

At our next meeting on 6th March following the AGM our speaker will be Peter Robinson from Neighbourcare Basingstoke and our speaker for April will be Daniel Cowling whose talk is titled 'Should we follow the leader? Leadership in Challenging Times'.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about the meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

Margaret Atkinson

The Royal British Legion



BRAMLEY & DISTRICT NEWS

Too late for the February magazine, Tony Evans, one of longest serving member, celebrated his 85th birthday at The Grange Nursing Home, Sherborne St John..

Over the years Tony has held most branch officer roles and was lately our President and Standard Bearer. So it was appropriate that our Standard and a few committee members visited Tony to present him with a card and gift.

Michael Luck, our Poppy Appeal organiser, gave us a fascinating illustrated talk in February about the history of record Album Covers, some of which are works of pop art and command high values at auction.

You are warmly invited to our next meeting at 12.30pm on Tuesday 12 March at The Four Horseshoes PH in Sherfield. The lunchtime menu will be available.

Our new county Engagement Officer Holly Church will be joining us to explain her role and answer questions about the Legion and to tell us about some of the commemorations planned for this year, including D Day 80. This will be a great opportunity to meet Holly and get up-to-date information about RBL in Hampshire.

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News from Clift Surgery

Contact details.

Please let the surgery know if there are any changes to your contact details such as a new mobile phone number, if you no longer have a land line or your email addresses changes. All these help the surgery to keep in touch with you.

Recently there have been some TV adverts, reminding us about our health. If you are over 70 you can get a shingles vaccination and for young people, the MMR vaccine is something that can help the current rise in measles cases.

If you have children under the age of 18, then the Healthier Together App is the quickest way to get help and advice.

Appointments missed. In January there were 96 missed appointments. Please make sure you cancel if you no longer wish to attend. These appointments would have benefitted those who needed to see or speak to a health care practitioner.

Another reminder that the NHS app/web site is very useful. Once registered you can order prescriptions, review blood test results, see appointments and find documents related to your health. There is a short video on the surgery's web site that explains it. www.cliftsurgery.co.uk

Remember, if you think you would benefit from walking and spending time with others, then the Friendship Walks could be for you. There are

three levels of walk: faster and longer, medium, or a gentle stroll. We meet at 10.30 on Thursdays at the Pavillion, Clift Meadow, followed by refreshments.

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Probus Club Entertain Mayor & Mayoress



A Trio of Chains!

Guests of Honour at the latest Probus Club meeting was the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke & Deane, Cllr David and Amanda Leeks. The club made a donation to the Mayor's charity appeal.

Before lunch they enjoyed a trip down memory lane as they were entertained by the speaker Jenny Mallin. She gave an insight into how the BBC television centre was designed and what TV production life was in the seventies. This was through her experiences gained over seven years working at the BBC Television Centre at White City in Wood Lane.

The name White City came from the white painted buildings specially constructed for the Franco British exhibition of 1908 on a site of 140 acres near Shepherds Bush in Western London. Over the years various sectors were redeveloped including the

White City stadium which was home to the 1948 Olympics with its famous dog racing track and the television centre for the BBC.

Known as the 'Donut' because of the circular central core it was the most technically advanced and fully embracing television production centre with eight studios, full props and wardrobe departments and was the best in the world. The attention to detail in programme making was paramount.

Despite such comprehensive supporting facilities, there was an increasing use for some broadcasts at the nearby Shepherds Bush Green Empire that needed an audience. Eventually the BBC purchased it, becoming then known as the BBC Television Theatre. Programmes broadcast from here included the Billy Cotton Band

Show, What's My Line, Juke Box Jury, Crackerjack, the Black & White Minstrels, That's Life and the Generation Game among many others.

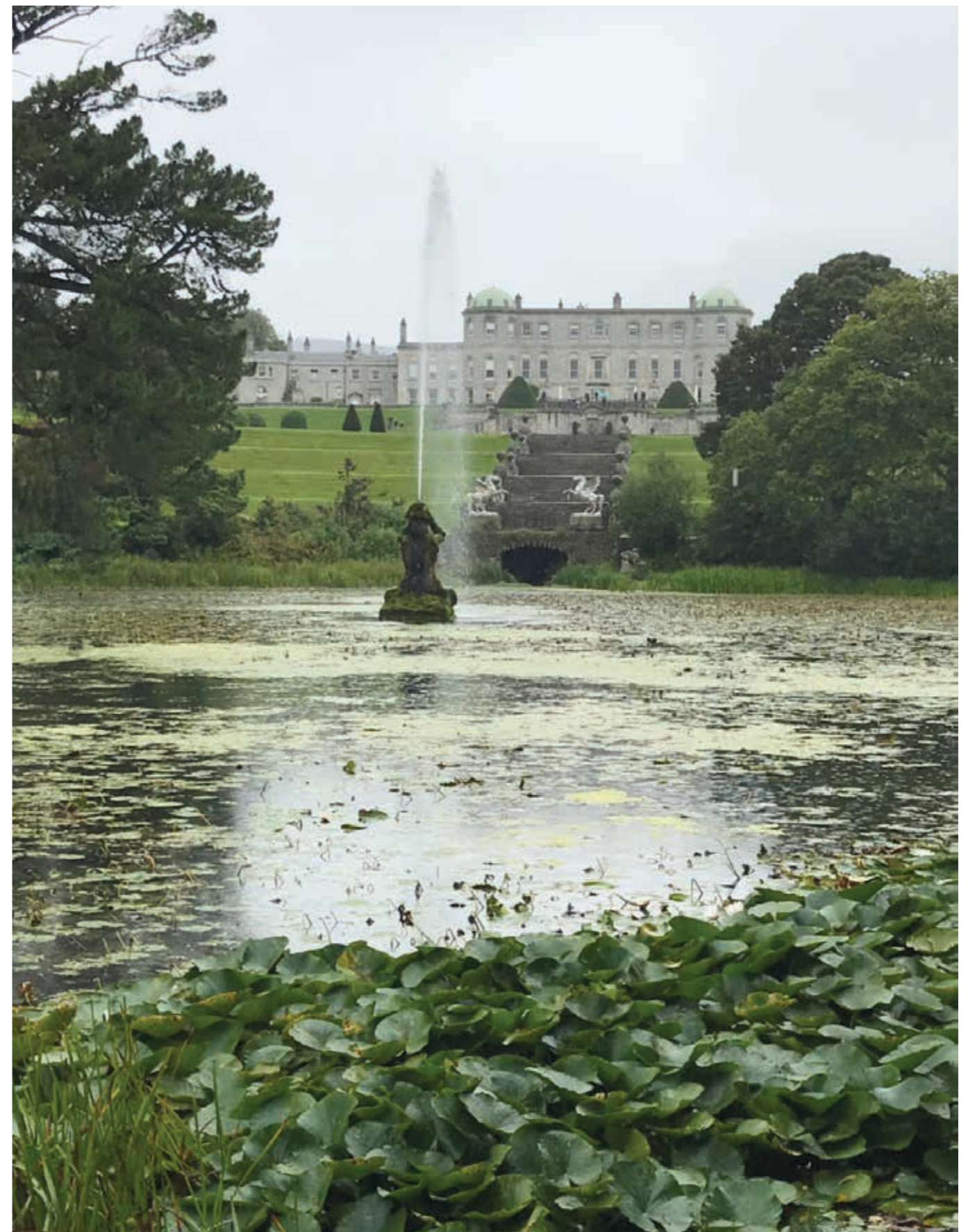
How news programmes were put together with breaking news events that demanded being featured with split second decisions on what to drop from the programme. News film taking up to an hour to process even after arriving at the BBC and then the introduction of ENG, electronic news gathering, with the use of camcorder type recordings taken by outside reporters.

Jenny recalled her time on the Generation Game as a Contestant Researcher and Games Deviser to three years on Mastermind with Magnus Magnusson and a myriad of disc jockeys on Top of the Pops and whether songs were sung live or mimed.

Memories were stirred as Probus members enjoyed this nostalgic view of a simpler life when the only decision to be made about what to watch on the "telly" was whether your choice was on the BBC or on ITV.

Information about the activities of the Probus Club of Basingstoke can be seen on their web site, www.probusbasingstoke.club or phone their secretary, Stephen Thair on 07745 243543.

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QUIZ Night

Jake & Jai's House of Games

DOORS OPEN: 7:30PM - QUIZ START: 8:00PM

SHERBORNE ST JOHN SOCIAL CLUB

NON MEMBERS: £1 CASH CLUB ENTRY

MEMBERS: FREE CLUB ENTRY | £2 CASH PER PERSON TO PLAY

MAX 6 PLAYERS PER TEAM

Small Ads

Enquiries and items for inclusion please contact Emma Foreman on 01256 889215/07747 015494 or emma@thehaye.co.uk

- The advertising rate is £4 per month or £6 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payment to 'The Villager'.
- Payment for advertisements must be received in advance and are limited to 10 lines of type.
- For information on annual block advertisements please contact Emma Foreman

TSI COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE. Electrical. Plumbing. Capentry or Decorating. For a quotation, please phone 01256 780460 or 07989 940210.

PILLS ARE NOT THE ONLY ANSWER
Hypnotherapy can bring rapid relief from depression and other emotional problems. Local practitioner, qualified with 14 years experience. Will give free initial consultation. Phone Derek Joseph on 01256 850653

DRUM TUITION. Professional musician with over 24 years experience. Teaching all aspects of drumming from counting, reading, playing to tracks, and technique etc. All ages and abilities welcome from total beginners to advanced. For more info please contact John Lezana on 07947 728 686 www.johnlezana.com

PRIVATE TUITION IN FRENCH AND GERMAN with qualified, experienced, CRB checked teachers. All ages and stages, including preparation for examinations (CE, GCSE, IB, A-level etc.), adult conversation and primary/nursery language clubs Daytime or evenings, at home, work or school. Call Samantha Cruickshank (Language Services Specialists) on: 07944 820284 or email: scruickshanktutor@yahoo.co.uk

ABLE GARDEN SERVICES Grass and hedge cutting, fencing, turfing, patios, planting, tree work, gravel drives etc. Please call Eddie on 01189 700765 (Pamber Heath) or 07904 440468

HOUSE CLEANING BY MARIA Reliable and affordable services. Experienced, easy going local lady, who checks every corner. Ironing services also available. References available upon request. Email: mariacleaning@live.co.uk, tel. 07933316989

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES River K Solutions Ltd, for all your bookkeeping needs. Please contact us on 07402173137 for free initial consultation or check our website www.riverksolutions.co.uk

LARGE 3 BEDROOM TOP FLOOR DUPLEX APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF CARCASSONNE. In a tree lined square, around the corner from all the restaurants, patisseries and shops in the old town, on the 3rd and 4th floor of a 19th Century building, our apartment looks out at the restored UNESCO site of the Medieval Cité. 5* Trip Advisor sleeps 6. Phone: 01256 850058 for more details.

REGISTERED CHILDMINDER based in Sherborne St John will have full/part time spaces available from July. Also collecting from Sherborne St John school in September. For more information call: 01256 851249

HOME & OFFICE MAINTENANCE SERVICES All types of installation and maintenance works including electrical, plumbing, IT networks, access/security/alarm/attendance systems, carpentry and decorating. Cleaning services, secure disposal of office document waste. Please call Adam on 07511 495052. Visa, Master Card, Amex.

LOCAL FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER, Visiting Practice, Nail Cutting, Callus Removal, Corn Removal and other treatments. Contact Lynne on 07767 059406

CHEEKY PAWS AND CLAWS Established, experienced dog walker. Home visits for all pets. Pet sitting, Equestrian/hoofed animals. Fully insured. 20 years as a zoo keeper. <http://www.facebook.com/cheeky.paws.claws> email: kbeeson1@btinternet.com 07752 414821 (text only)

PROFESSIONAL FOOT CARE IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME Fay Curtis (MCFHP. MAFHP) fully qualified Foot Health Practitioner offers a range of foot services including: Toenail cutting, Nail condition treatments, Corn removal, Waxing, Dry and cracked heel remedies, Verruca treatment and Diabetic foot care. To book an appointment call Fay on 07780 664410

BEAUTY THERAPIST Based in my professional, relaxing home based salon in Pamber Heath. Treatments offered - Gelish Nails, Pedicures, Waxing, Eve Taylor Aromatherapy Facials, Lash Lift, Massage, Indian Head Massage and Reflexology. Strict hygiene / cleaning and COVID safe procedures in place. Please call or text Amey on 07729421869

THE BASINGSTOKE ARTISAN HANDYMAN Local, trustworthy and reliable. A skilled Handyman who can also add a bespoke flavour to your projects. Any size job considered, quick and simple to complex. www.thebartyman.co.uk 07827 216806

JON'S GARDENING & HANDYMAN SERVICES Regular garden maintenance & one off jobs. Fencing, Hedges, Pruning, General tidy ups and home maintenance. For sensible rates and a friendly service please call 07488 347493.

HELEN'S HOUNDS AND MORE Dog Sitting (day and overnight), walking and pop-in visits. Cat and small pet visits. I'm fully insured, DBS checked and Dog First Aid trained. I have existing clients in SSJ and can provide references if required. Email: helenshoundsandmore@gmail.com Mobile: 07930870249

Contacts

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS LIST. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT

CHURCH OF ENGLAND - SWP Parish	Revd Stewart Deering	Mob: 07359 717577	Tel: 01256 647900
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke	stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org	819722
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH	Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke		316000
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS			
SSJ	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk		07714 770940
MS	clerk@monksherbome-pc.gov.uk		07721 076186
Mrs Cally Morris	clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk		07942 637210
Pamber Chris Gunnell	David McIntyre	Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingsstoke.gov.uk	
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Androulla Johnstone	Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingsstoke.gov.uk	
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke		844844
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL	The Castle, Winchester		01962 841841
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Non-emergency		101 or 01962 841534
HAMPSHIRE POLICE	www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime		
	Lionel.LEcuyer.28235@hampshire.police.uk		07787292848
	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com		01256 850891
	https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk		
PC Lionel Lécuyer			
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH			
NEAREST JOB CENTRE			
LOCAL GROUPS			
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary)		01256 590359
RAINBOWS	Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com		
BROWNIES	TramayneHenwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com		422083
GUIDES	Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com		880132
CUBS	Ms Trish Field		01420 544904
Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ	Mrs Liz Gwynn		07770 373282
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB			850303
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY	Mrs Jane Shelvey	jshelvey@lillydown.net	
TENNIS CLUB	Paul & Maria Saunders		850430
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING	Mrs Margaret Cramer		850390
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB	Mr Len Duncce	07860 435 831	
	or Mr Paul Hamilton	07917 005862	
	Mrs Jacqui Morris	881336	
	Mr Les Bone	850973	
YOGA in SSJ Village Hall	Mr Terry Buller	tel.buller@gmail.com	07584 169241
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB	Claudia or Jane	info@piccolopsn.com	07528 726248
FOOTBALL CLUB		www.piccolopsn.com	
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY			
	Mr Stuart Maughan		01256 883858
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mrs J. Hughes	email: tadleysd@gmail.com	
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Jenni Stafford		jenni@jsba.uk
BALLET at SSJ Village Hall			
VENUE BOOKINGS:			
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter		07854 280343
MS Village Hall			07759 064220
SSJ Village Hall	Shawna Campbell		07526 954835
The Chute Pavilion	Terry Buller		07584 169241
Royal British Legion	John Delafield		
HEALTH CARE			
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST			473202
HANTSDOC			01189 365592
BRAMBLYS GRANGE			467778
CHINEHAM SURGERY			479244
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE			329021
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY			881228
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY			01189 814166
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY			399710
MORELAND SURGERY			0118 9816661
EDUCATION			
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST	Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher)		850062
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL	Ms Sarah Jolliffe (Head teacher)		850180
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Jamie Carroll		473379
PUBLIC SERVICES			
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU			0808 2787829
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES			0345 484950
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)			0871 121 0190
LIBRARIES			
	Basingstoke Town Centre		473901
	Chineham Library		465643
	Tadley Library		0300 555 1387
	Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm		01256 462101
DIAL-A-RIDE			
If we have omitted any organisations, and/or their contact details, we apologise and would welcome any information to keep this list up to date and relevant			
Nov 2023	Julie Crawley	villagermagazine@gmail.com	01256 851003

ONLINE BOOKINGS

All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

To book a classified advert for the Villager, register with this website. Then search for The Villager using any of the searches allowed. There is no online payment - you can pay by cheque at the end of the booking process as normal. Once monies are received you will be able to access receipts and check your booking history from this site.



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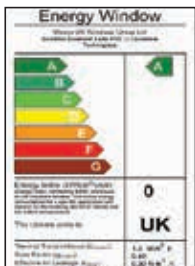
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