



# The Villager

June 2024

Sherbornes and Pamber



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**Monday - Friday 9am to 7pm Saturday 9am to 5pm**  
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**Phone/Fax: 01256 357637**

**Great News on the SSJ  
Cranesfield Appeal**

We are absolutely delighted to confirm that the Appeal by Rydon Homes, to enable them to build on the land at Cranesfield, has been dismissed by the National Planning Inspectorate.



Following the informal hearing on 30th April within two short weeks the decision has been made and confirmed.

This is a wonderful result for our rural community rich in heritage, wildlife, natural environment and open green space. Our collective efforts, after fighting against this for two and a half years, have paid off.

We simply couldn't have achieved this outcome without the collective efforts of all of our community.

Thank you!

**Colette**  
*On behalf of the SSJ SOG*



Our thanks go to each and every one of you who objected to this planning application and supported in this battle. We must also call out the continued support of the SSJ Parish Council, most notably Cllr Richard Morgan and Cllr James Rowley and our Local Councillors, Cllr David McIntyre, Cllr Jay Ganesh and Cllr Simon Bound.



Answer on Page 29

*Cover Photo: The Northern Lights over Sherborne St John, May 2024, Jane Ledson*

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.

Readers should also make their own enquiries about, and assessment of, claims and services made by advertisers in this magazine.

Contact us at [villagermagazine@gmail.com](mailto:villagermagazine@gmail.com)

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# Spectacular Skies



Image Jane Ledson

The skies above our communities recently gave many of us a spectacular display of beautiful dancing ribbons of light as the Northern lights made a rare appearance this far South. Others of us however (myself included!), had our curtains drawn and were completely oblivious until our social media feeds were filled with pictures of what everyone else saw the next morning.

Phillip Pullman writes of the phenomenon in His Dark Materials, "The sight filled the northern sky; the immensity of it was scarcely conceivable. As if from Heaven itself, great curtains of delicate light hung and trembled."

One of my favourite Psalms in the Bible, Psalm 19, opens by making the claim that the beauty we see in sights like the Northern Lights does indeed come from heaven: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." The Psalmist is claiming that whether we're enjoying a glorious sunset, gazing at the night sky full of stars, or if we're fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis, we are enjoying the work of our Creator God.

Some of us missed the Northern Lights, but the beauty of the world around us is impossible to miss. And it tells us of a God who is not only amazingly powerful and immense, but who also loves us and wants us to enjoy and find beauty in the world he has made for us. Joy and beauty that give us a glimpse of the joy and beauty we can find in God himself, who speaks to us with words

that "are more precious than gold, than much pure gold."

I do hope you are enjoying the start of the summer and the increased opportunity the long days and better weather offer us to discover beauty in the world around us. Let's not miss the God whose hands are behind it all!

**Rev. Stewart Deering**  
[stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org](mailto:stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org)  
 07359 717577

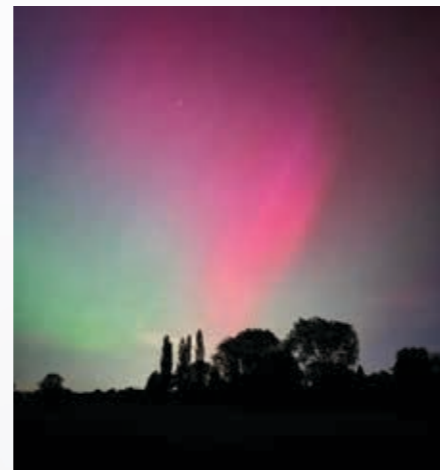


Image Jane Ledson

## 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



# June 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](http://www.sherborneswithpamber.org) [facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber](https://facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber)

For regular updates please scan the QR code:



Sun 2nd	10am All-Age Service with Holy Communion - St Andrew's SSJ 3pm Tea at 3 - The Rectory
Mon 3rd	Homegroups this week: contact <a href="mailto:admin@sherborneswithpamber.org">admin@sherborneswithpamber.org</a> for details
Wed 5th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer - St Andrew's SSJ 7.30pm God's Big Picture - The Rectory, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John
Fri 7th	10am Watercolour Art Group - The Parish Room SSJ
Sat 8th	8.30-9.30am Morning Prayer - The Parish Room
Sun 9th	10am Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ 10am Morning Worship - All Saints' Monk Sherborne
Wed 12th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer - All Saints' Monk Sherborne
Sun 16th	10am Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ
Mon 17th	Homegroups this week: contact <a href="mailto:admin@sherborneswithpamber.org">admin@sherborneswithpamber.org</a> for details
Wed 19th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer - St Andrew's SSJ 7.30pm God's Big Picture - The Rectory
Sat 22nd	7.30pm Pims & Puddings Women's Event -SSJ Village Hall
Sun 23rd	10am Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ 10am Morning Worship - Pamber Priory
Wed 26th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer - All Saints' Monk Sherborne
Sun 30th	10am Morning Worship - 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.

# Claiming Dates

## June 2024

1	Cream Tea & Music & Dancing, Chute Pavilion. Entry Ticket only	2pm
1	Sherborne St John Social Club, Pink Tribute – Club Entry Ticket Only	7.30pm
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
5	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	7.30pm
6	D Day Memorial Celebrations, Council Offices	9.45am
6	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
8	Wyeford Gardens Open Day, Tadley RG26 5QL. £5 entrance fee to charity	11.00am – 4.00pm
8	Sherborne St John Social Club, Ben & Bryony Music Quiz	7.30pm
10	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
15	Sherborne St John Social Club, Danny Connors – Members Free	7.30pm
15	The Vyne (National Trust) BWCB Liquorice Allsorts Clarinet Band	noon – 4.00pm
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 Village Hall	7.30pm
22	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	7.30pm
26	Sherborne St John Social Club, Chris & Jazz Friends	7.30pm
27	The Mill House Garden Open Afternoon, SSJ, £5 entrance (children -free) in aid of charity	2pm - 6pm
29	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Theatre "The Importance of Being Ernest"	7.00pm – 9.00pm
30	The Mill House Garden Open Afternoon, SSJ, £5 entrance (children -free) in aid of charity	2pm - 6pm

## July 2024

1	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
2	Women's Fellowship, OUTING	
2	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Cinema "Grease sing-a-long"	9.15pm – 11.05pm
4	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
8	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
10	The Arts Society Basingstoke AGM at 10.15, lecture: Post-War Fashion Illustration by Connie Gray	10.30am
10	Basingstoke U3a AGM and Talk by "a passenger on the Titanic", Queen Mary's College	1.30pm
12	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Theatre "The Adventures of Dr Dolittle"	6.30pm – 8.30pm
13	Quiz Evening, Sherbornes with Pamber Parish, SSJ 8Village Hall, see large advert	7.00pm
15	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
29	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

## August 2024

1	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Cinema "Pretty Woman"	9.15pm – 11.15pm
1	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
3	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Cinema "The Greatest Showman Sing-a-long"	9.00pm – 11.00pm
4	The Vyne (National Trust) Outdoor Cinema "Top Gun"	9.15pm – 11.05pm
6	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Sweeney Todd - Romance, Riches & Retribution	2.00pm
7	Basingstoke U3a Meet & Greet/Join Up Afternoon, Queen Mary's College	1.30pm
12	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
12	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
26	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
2	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
3	Women's Fellowship, CHRISTMAS LUNCH	
5	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
16	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on [lindsayberry0@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayberry0@gmail.com) or message on 07775 800955

# Sherborne St John Parish Council

## Elections

As you are probably aware there were Parish and Borough elections at the beginning of May.

At the Borough level there were some surprises but it still remains a 'hung' council.

Simon Minas-Bound, one of the 'gang of three' that represent Sherborne St John and Rooksdown retained his seat.

At the Parish level, the 'dream' team ( depending on your point of view of course ) all retained their seats as there were no other candidates. Cllr Rowley will be back with us soon. From a continuity perspective this is a positive for the village.

We are still looking for a full time Clerk but any candidate will have big boots to fill in taking over from our locum, Mel Finally the Police Commissioner, Donna Jones, was re-elected for another 4 year term.

## SSJ Neighbourhood Plan

The revised SSJ Neighbourhood Plan is now 'live'.

We expect this Neighbourhood Plan to be a strong link in the chain as we fight against expected planning applications e.g. Kiln Farm and Weybrook golf club - both applications have yet to be formally submitted.

With the number of houses that BDBC are committed to build in the next 5 years being reduced the planning pendulum might be swinging in our favour.

## Planning

Cranesfield, 26 houses - The Rydon appeal was heard on the 30th April. Subsequently the Parish Council has been informed that the appeal has been dismissed.

Congratulations to the parishioners who produced and presented an excellent rebuttal of the Rydon appeal.

## The Chute

A lot of activity at the Chute over the last few months. Our 'guests' have left and a team from the football club made good the mess that they left behind - thank you.

The next step is to clear the brambles, etc. at the back of the car park thereby increasing the number of parking spaces This will hopefully alleviate some of the weekend parking issues.

You will have noticed a new gate has been installed at the Chute.



There are also additional railings on the left as you drive into the Chute to stop vehicles cutting across the verge to get into the car park.

Finally a speed hump has been installed to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the site.

It may take a short period of time to 'bed in' the process of arranging pin numbers for authorised users and a 'fall back' process but we're working on it.

In the interim you can contact the Chute Site Manager on 07584 169241.

## Speedwatch

We had the leader of the Hants Safer Roads Unit Team, Paul Freeman, attend the March Parish Council meeting. The following key points were taken away from that meeting. The ethos of the

team is to educate vs. enforce ( I'm not sure how that works in practice )

The team is carrying a number of vacancies which are proving difficult to fill SSJ is classified as a Tier 1 location i.e. is eligible for mobile camera enforcement

Paul agreed to work with the Parish Council to identify suitable and proper locations for any mobile camera

We should/will request an extra SID

The Clerk will write to the Police Commissioner highlighting SSJ's case.

## Lengthsman

If there are any outstanding jobs around the village /parish that you think need looking at then please do contact the Clerk, [clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk)

## Potholes

Some progress. The BDBC 'process' is to temporarily fill the hole and then come back at a later date and repair the hole 'properly'

Please do continue to report potholes in and around the village using the following link <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

## Council Meetings

We held the Annual Parish Meeting ( APM ) and the Annual Parish Council ( APCM ) meeting on the 15th May. The first is a report back to the parish as to the Parish Council's activities over the previous 12 months, financials, etc. The second is to re-elect Councillors to positions on the Council for the coming 12 months.

Four folk turned up for the APM so the assumption is that everyone is happy re: the status quo!

## Richard Morgan

Chair, SSJ PC

## Basingstoke Male Voice Choir - 60th Anniversary Concert

7:30 PM, June 29th, 2024

St Michael's Church Cottage, Church Square RG21 7QW

Tickets £10

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# News from the Pambers & Little London



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 (Incorporating Cooke, Cooke & Co)

We are now safely home from a fabulous few weeks in Malaysia where we lived for nearly 4 years. It was wonderful to catch up with friends and re-visit favourite old haunts, and, of course, enjoy some scorching weather. My time away, to say nothing of an imminent week's sailing on the Norfolk Broads, means that it is very difficult to fulfil my brief of writing about our villages. A little help from those inhabiting said villages would be most welcome.

We came back to find that Spring had well and truly sprung and what delightful displays of colour are to be seen everywhere from azaleas to wisteria.

I am enclosing some helpful information from Pamber Parish Council about rural walks involving cows and other livestock; worth a look especially if you are nervous about our multi-stomached friends. It is called Countryside Safety, Livestock and You, and can be viewed on the following link <https://youtu.be/mfLBCliKof0?si=-tM0SjrsmbBNARPK>. This is well

worth a watch, being both entertaining and informative.

I recently completed the pressure cleaning of the pressure stones under our pergola. Despite the resulting mud-spattered legs, this annual activity provides me with a ridiculous level of satisfaction. Who would have thought a Kärcher (other models are available) could make me so happy!



Stay well everyone, and keep dry!

B  bdownes.villager@gmail.com



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**Little Acorns**  
 BABY & TODDLER STAY & PLAY  
 Wednesdays (during term-time)  
 10am - 11.30am  
 Sherborne St John Village Hall

Join us for free-play, craft, bible stories and song-time  
 Tea & coffee for the grown-ups & a fruit snack for the children  
 £2 per child £1 for additional child

 Little Acorns Sherborne St John

# 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	10-1130am	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 (Bumps, 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@totsplay.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	9:00-1:30	Contact Sarah	basingstoketumbletots@gmail.com
Basingstoke Beekeepers (3rd Fri of mth)	7:00-10:00	Contact Steve	events@basingstokebeekeepers.com

## SATURDAY

Open Heavens Christian Fellowship	3:00-5:00pm	Contact Albert	bertlampp@yahoo.com
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### 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 -acupuncture/sports therapy	various times	Contact Amanda	abond602@gmail.com

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](mailto:ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com) or by calling **07526 954835**

# News from Clift Surgery

For those of you who use the dispensary for repeat medication, please make sure you pick up it up as soon as possible as the dispensary has limited storage. Due to staff shortages it is taking longer to process prescriptions so please make sure you request your medication is good time.

If you can - download the NHS App in order to request repeat prescriptions etc.

If anyone has hearing difficulties and finds it hard to hear calls from medical practitioners, please ask the surgery to make a note on your record.

The surgery's new car parking lines have proved popular especially as they are now wider.

The number of missed appointments in April was **70**. Although they have

improved slightly it is still too many, so please make sure you cancel any appointment you no longer need.

# Sherborne St John Primary School

We really enjoy the summer term at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School. We enjoy lunch outside together, sunny village walks and all the big summer events that we have to look forward to.

We are lucky to have a supportive School Association who work hard to raise money for the school. This term, we are beginning to think about our next big fundraising project. All parents, staff and children have been invited to work with a representative from the Hampshire landscape team as we start to think about how we can use our grounds in a more creative and exciting way for the children. Once we have our vision in place, we will be working hard to raise money to make it happen. We'll keep you posted on our progress and if you'd like to support the school in any way, please do make contact.

On May 10th, we held our annual May Festival. The school community came together to enjoy a sunny afternoon

together. The School Association provided refreshments and our Year 3 and 4 children provided the entertainment.

Year 3 demonstrated their country dancing skills and Year 4 displayed what they had created around the May Pole. It was a lovely afternoon and we were all relieved that we didn't need to reschedule due to the weather!

Finally, we are beginning to meet our new Reception children for September and we can't wait to welcome them to the school properly. We do still have a couple of places remaining so if you know that someone is moving to the area or didn't get the school they had hoped for, please let them know.

**Sherbert**  
*SSJ School Villager Correspondent*



# Sherborne St John Tennis Club

The courts at the Chute Recreation Ground in Sherborne St John are in great condition.

Come and join a Mixed Club night on **Monday evenings at 7pm** throughout the summer months; when members turn up and play.

Thursday mornings from 10am – Members social tennis.

### Annual subscriptions:-

Membership	includes £6 key
Family	£85.00 per year
Couples	£70.00 per year
Single	£55.00 per year
Juniors under 18	£15.50 per year

If you are interested in joining the Tennis Club and/or have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Paul Saunders 07577 557850 or email [ssj.tennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ssj.tennis@hotmail.co.uk)

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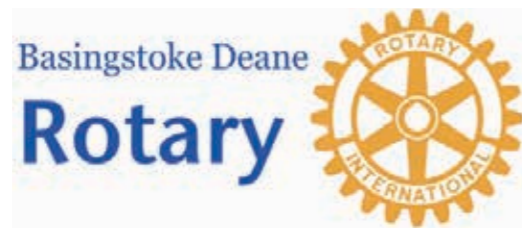
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### IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT MONEY . . . . .

When you think about “What Rotary Does “, you will likely recall one of our fundraising events that you may have attended. Possibly our Anvil Concert attended by 1200 people. Or The Festival of Transport, in the Memorial Park in Basingstoke. Both are successful events that raise funds for charitable purposes. People attending have a great time and the money raised enables us to support good causes mainly in our community. We also support international projects such as our End Polio campaign, Mercy Ships and respond to disasters such as the earthquakes in Syria or to support the people of Ukraine.

### IT'S ABOUT MAKING A GENUINE DIFFERENCE

#### And having fun while giving back!

But in truth much of our voluntary work for our community is often out of the public eye. We work closely with many local charities, “In Partnership,” to find out what they need most and where we can best help. Sometimes it is simply providing ‘peoplepower’ For our local St Michael’s Hospice it is supporting their own fundraising events, be it car parking for the Woodland Walk or deserved refreshments at the end of the Moonlight Walk when the tired but elated participants are glad to be rewarded with hot chocolate and biscuits



Midnight Walk

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](http://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

### St Michael’s Hospice Future Events

- Golf Day 13th September 2024
- Moonlight Walk 28th September 2024
- Reindeer Run 24th November

St Michael’s Hospice, like many local charities, needs constant fundraising to support the special work that they do. You can support them by participating and getting sponsorship. To fundraise for their events. (See their website) or join our support team at one of the events, contact details above

**Below are just a few of the many Charities we support. Our funds are limited, can you help? See individual websites for further information about their needs**

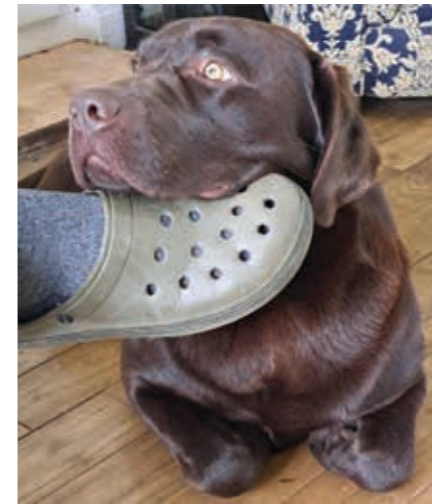
**The Camrose Centre.** Help the homeless and vulnerably housed in Basingstoke. They have sustained need food donations as well as clothing

**Mencap Basingstoke.** Need to fundraise locally to support the work they do for people with learning disabilities especially their horticultural therapy -Greenfingers.

#### Basingstoke & District Young Carers

Provide care for a parent, a sibling, or a relative with a disability, illness, or mental health condition. They need time away from their caring responsibilities. It’s important to recognise that a young carer’s path is markedly different from that of a typical young person. They juggle the demands of school, extracurricular activities, and the responsibilities of care-giving, often without the understanding or support that they need and deserve. The challenges they face can be overwhelming. Their activities need funding, can you help?

# Beau’s Blog



### Water, water everywhere.

Even I, who never really mind being outside in the rain or plunging into water of any temperature have found the continuous downpour a bit much. The grounds are really

sqelchy and the lake is overflowing on the spillway like Niagara Falls.

The Boss and the Mrs decline to venture outside much in the inclement weather as do all the other members of this tiny hamlet where I spend my holidays. Not another dog in sight and only cows who brave the rain and stare at me from the other side of the fence.

The upside is I can lay beside the roaring fire and toast my tummy, occasionally rolling over to warm the other side.

Alas among the good things in life there is always a situation that doesn’t go to plan.....dinner time. I have been relaxing with the Boss in front of the fire enjoying the heat but now I want him to wake up and open the door so I can retrieve my

dinner bowl from the rain-soaked garden. My tummy is telling me it is time for my dinner but his eyes are still closed and his breathing too even for him to be aware of my hunger - and the Mrs is not around to give him a nudge - so I have no alternative but to gently lean on his foot to bring him back to awareness of my plight and have the patience to wait for his tummy to tell him the same as mine.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

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# News from the Hospital

A slight change from the normal, but my wife and my search for winter sun in Spain and France gave me a chance to meet a number of other Europeans and to try and get an understanding of how each country runs their health system, which hopefully will be of interest.

Whilst the US spends most by a long way of its GDP on health, it has according to the figures, a lower life expectancy for both men and women, so clearly money is far from the final solution.

There is growing realisation that the NHS is seriously failing, so breaking with tradition, this article is based on some impressions of meeting a number of other Europeans, (whilst enjoying some winter sun in Spain and France), to try and understand how their systems are run. If politicians can ever drum up the courage to initiate the radical changes now needed here, reviewing how other systems operate to establish what works best is a sound starting point.

Two aspects seem to stick out with other European countries: unlike here in the UK, where National Insurance contributions go straight into the Government's overall budget, all European citizens have to pay into their country's specific medical insurance scheme, which in many cases can be topped up to provide enhanced treatments. The second key element is that treatment is normally very quick, so entail none of the long waits for hospital treatments that we experience, although, to be fair, our treatment for cancer patients seems to be just as quick. In the case of the Netherlands, the medical insurance companies are all national, with none being of foreign ownership.

In many countries the cost of seeing a GP comes off the insurance; however in France, it seems one is charged at the time, with re-imburement from the State varying in amount subject to one's means. Another aspect that our NHS might benefit from would be a change in

our clinical malfeasance claim culture. Here something like the New Zealand system of a commissioner who decides a claim's merits and value recognising their health system provides ongoing cover, but which in the case of a dispute then goes to a tribunal. However in both situations legal representation is not possible. Not only has this reduced their health costs and thus better utilisation of budgets, it leads to quicker resolution, with more openness from clinicians – after all who has never made a mistake?!

Let us face it, until we demand radical change of our politicians, sadly our NHS is slowly going to continue its downward spiral, whilst continuing to cost us progressively more and more.

**Keith Bunker**

Former Hospital Governor

## D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations 6 June 2024



The UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France.

Also known as D-Day, the historic operation saw the Allied Forces mount a large-scale invasion of Nazi-occupied France

that ultimately tipped the course of the Second World War in the Allies' favour.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are marking this day by raising a special anniversary flag at a flag-raising ceremony on 6 June at 10am at the War Memorial, Basingstoke.

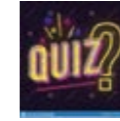
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All are welcome to join us for a fun evening with quizmaster Steve Howe setting the questions. Form a team (maximum of 8) or join others on the night to form a team. Please reserve your place before the event.

The event will include a short 'Quiz the Vicar'. A chance to meet and get to know our vicar, Stewart Deering.

To book your place, please contact:  
Steve Howe 01256 851616 [steve.g.howe@gmail.com](mailto:steve.g.howe@gmail.com), or  
Nick Elphick 01256 851384 [nickelphick1@gmail.com](mailto:nickelphick1@gmail.com)

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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](mailto:adoption@basingstoke.cats.org.uk) or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.

# Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



There were 45 members at the meeting held on 1st May and they were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling, who gave apologies received and also congratulated those with birthdays this month.



Our speakers this month were Sarah & Kate from Thrive which is a charity that is using gardening to change the lives of people. Their philosophy is

to use gardening and horticulture for health and wellbeing. Although this is not a new idea, Thrive promotes this to improve people's lives who may be suffering from conditions like depression, anxiety, social isolation and disabilities so as to improve both their physical and mental health. They have three centres around the country in Reading, Battersea in London and Birmingham. They also run training courses from the basic 'What is Social and Therapeutic Horticulture?' through to a diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. For more information about this, and gardening tips and advice, please go to [www.thrive.org.uk](http://www.thrive.org.uk).

Our next meeting is on 5th June when John Hollands will give a talk about the Willis Museum in Basingstoke.



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](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com) or 07715 640171.

*Margaret Atkinson*

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# Womens Fellowship

The May meeting included a talk by Mr. Julian Richmond, with the title 'A Portrait of the Architect as a Young Man' - when he transported his audience back to the world of the 1970's - think Ford Cortina, fountain pens and teak drawing boards. Julian regaled everyone with his often hilarious anecdotes of his early days of training to be an architect, starting off in Scotland but moving South to Buckinghamshire where he began his first 'job' - apart from filling bags of herbs for Holland & Barrett - at a firm of architects willing to offer him a step onto his career ladder.

All did not go well in his first week. Expecting to begin to design a fancy building, he was tasked with, apart from making the ubiquitous cups



of tea, cleaning the pens for the more experienced employees. These pens were not ordinary pens, rather writing or drawing implements with a number of components, including very expensive nibs. £5 for a nib in the 70's was a lot of money. He set about filling the sink with water, placing the pens in the water, whereupon the water ran out with great speed, taking the nibs with it, and down the plughole, never to be seen again.

Julian had already informed everyone that his drawing skills were minimal, so following the pen incident he was given the job of tracing, which suited him well. He was surprised to see his drawing board, rather than being an up-do-date 1970's model, was a teak piece of furniture dated 1905.

During his second year of training, Julian returned to the Buckinghamshire firm, which did not appear to show much improvement. One task he was allocated was to help design a 'Rave Barn' attached to a farm. Realising that this term was unlikely to meet with Planning

Approval, the name was changed to 'grain barn' which, if said quickly, could easily be mistaken for rave barn. Builders had been called in to start work on the foundations and laid the concrete slabs to the required depth. Julian had fortunately put on his wellington boots that morning, so when he walked across the still-wet concrete, sinking deeper and deeper, the squelching concrete did not overflow by a very thin margin. When the boss told him that 'some idiot' had walked across it and left footprints, requiring the work to be done again, he could not bring himself to confess so merely nodded in agreement.

Julian's career did progress and he worked as an architect for many years, working for 'the railways' until they were privatised. He clearly enjoyed his career, and enjoyed telling everyone about his early days. He was thanked by Rose Cooper.

Next month's meeting in June will include a talk by local speaker David Hopkins on the Archeology of Basingstoke.

## Helping Local People in Crisis

As we look forward to summer, we also know this is a difficult time for many, with no further cost of living payments this year and upcoming summer school holiday costs. We are therefore continuing to develop our 'more than food' initiatives to support those



without enough money to live on, aware that hunger is not a food problem - it is an income problem.

## Mayors Award to Companies 2024

We were absolutely delighted and honoured to receive the Mayor's Award to Companies from the outgoing Mayor, Councillor David Leeks, at the Mayor Making Ceremony. The award was presented to us for our contribution to the wellbeing of the borough.



This reflects all the hard work of our dedicated team and volunteers who work tirelessly all year round, and all those who kindly donate food, finance and other essential items, without which we could not support our local residents who are struggling to afford the basics.



This is a great acknowledgement of all the work done by us and the Community

## Thank You For Your Support

We are grateful for the many local and national businesses and community groups who support us through office collections and charity support schemes. A few examples are Earth Breeze who have donated 400 packs of laundry sheets, The Country Food Trust, who gave a pallet of venison bolognaise, and Basingstoke RSPCA who secured a grant for us and were able to deliver £300 worth of pet food.



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# North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Group

Activity within the prostate cancer world is hotting up, as Prostate Cancer UK has just announced a major new research programme called Transform, aiming to establish the best way of achieving early identification of this cancer in men, so watch this space after all prostate cancer is now the most prevalent form of cancer in the UK!

## The Making of a Civic Mayor

As a former mayor of Basingstoke & Deane, Paul Miller, on his third visit to us, this time as our main speaker, selected the above title for his talk. He got underway with a whole host of 'chatty little facts':

- There are three types of mayor, Civic covering a Borough, Metropolitan area such as London or Birmingham with a lot of political power and large budget, and Town mayors
- Basingstoke and Deane is a Borough with a mayor, because it has a royal charter signed by Charles I in 1641. The original document is on show in the council chambers
- The mayoral role is offered to councillors on a seniority basis, usually by a phone call to about five potential candidates, many of whom for various reasons are unable to take on the role
- The prime role is to chair the seven council meetings in a totally a-political way

- The mayor gets to nominate two charities for support during his tenure
- The name of our Borough came from the combination of the biggest urban (Basingstoke) and smallest rural (Deane) areas in what is now the Borough
- The name of Basingstoke, comes from the old English of 'Belonging to Basing', when Basing with Basing House was a very important residence and village
- The wife of a male mayor is called a mayoress, however the husband of a female mayor is called her consort!
- The mayor executes the Sovereign's authority in the Borough; thus a royal visitor is first received by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, who promptly defers to the mayor
- In terms of dress, whilst in the Borough the mayor wears the regalia of office (chain) with a red ribbon, but just his medal and blue ribbon when at functions outside of their Borough, demonstrating their deferment to a higher authority, and at Remembrance Day, a male mayor wears a bi-corn hat whilst a female mayoress would wear a tricorn version
- Attendance at church services always entailed the wearing of full robes

In the second part of his talk, Paul emphasised that the role is very much a full-time job, with himself and Sandra, his wife, attending over 400 functions in

the year. These included, for example, visits to schools, charities, youth groups, major celebrations including those celebrating the King's coronation – with much cake eaten! Also, he highlighted his role in the proclamation of succession event, and the choreography and timing involved.

An important event for Paul was being present at the 800th celebration of the Southampton mayor (with so many mayors present they were dubbed the 'Chain Gang'), who the next day was upgraded to that of Lord Mayor, following Southampton's new city status. The change of regalia cost the city about £100,000!

However, for Paul one event stood out, when during the Mayoral show at the Anvil, a group of Ukrainian refugee women sang in their choir and receiving a standing ovation.

Paul concluded by highlighting that, with the many demands on them, they could not have fulfilled the role without the brilliant coordination provided by their 'Mayoral Coordinator' – (secretary to us folk).

**Keith Bunker**

# Mill House Open Day

As almost anyone who walks to the Vyne knows Mill House is the four-square red brick house that can be seen in the valley bottom.

From 2pm to 6pm on both Thursday 27th June and Sunday 30th June, there is a rare chance to step inside and see the mill wheel machinery (which is used these days to power the house) and walk the surrounding gardens of Mill House. There is a charge of £5, with children being free. Ample parking in the adjoining field is free and accessible

from Vyne Road opposite Bob's Farm/ the new development. Homemade cakes, tea, and other refreshments will be available.

Owners Harry and Devika Clarke confirmed the invitation saying "The gardens, streams and mill pond look at their best in high summer and we know that seeing the hydro-electric machinery close-up is interesting to many. We hope everyone will take the chance to join us with the funds going to charity"



You can find this and indeed many other interesting private gardens to visit this summer at <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk>

# Probus Club Enjoy Social Gatherings

The last couple of weeks has seen the Probus Club of Basingstoke enjoy occasions with their wives/partners.

Their annual Spring Ladies' lunch was held at the Test Valley Golf club where together with their wives/lady friends the members enjoyed a splendid lunch. The president of the Basingstoke Ladies' Probus club, Val McKenzie, was the guest of Honour and felt at home as several of the wives/partners are themselves members of Ladies' Probus. This is their thirtieth year of continuous operation, and they meet monthly in the restaurant at BCOT.

A reciprocal arrangement will take place at the next meeting of the Ladies' Probus club as the men's president, Dr Jeff Grover, will attend as their guest of honour. This will be his final representation as president as his period of office concludes at the club's 44th AGM which takes place in June.

A couple of weeks earlier a full day was spent in Winchester for a busy day's excursion. The itinerary included a backstage visit to the Theatre Royal in the morning followed by a conducted tour of Winchester College after lunch.

With its fascinating history when it started out as the Market Hotel in the 1850s the group learned about all the subsequent developments of the Theatre Royal that took place from the days of cine-variety, live theatre and through to the modern day 'live streaming' technology of films or other national performances.

Split into smaller parties they were given a tour of all levels of the theatre from the stage, 400 seat auditorium and dressing rooms to climbing the 'fly tower' used to hang lighting, scenery and stage effects during a show.

The party was then met at the Porter's Lodge of Winchester College, the alma mater of Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. It was founded in 1382 by the Bishop of Winchester, William of Wykeham as a feeder school to New College, Oxford. Previous pupils are known as 'Old Wykehamists' and only in 2022 were girls admitted but then only in



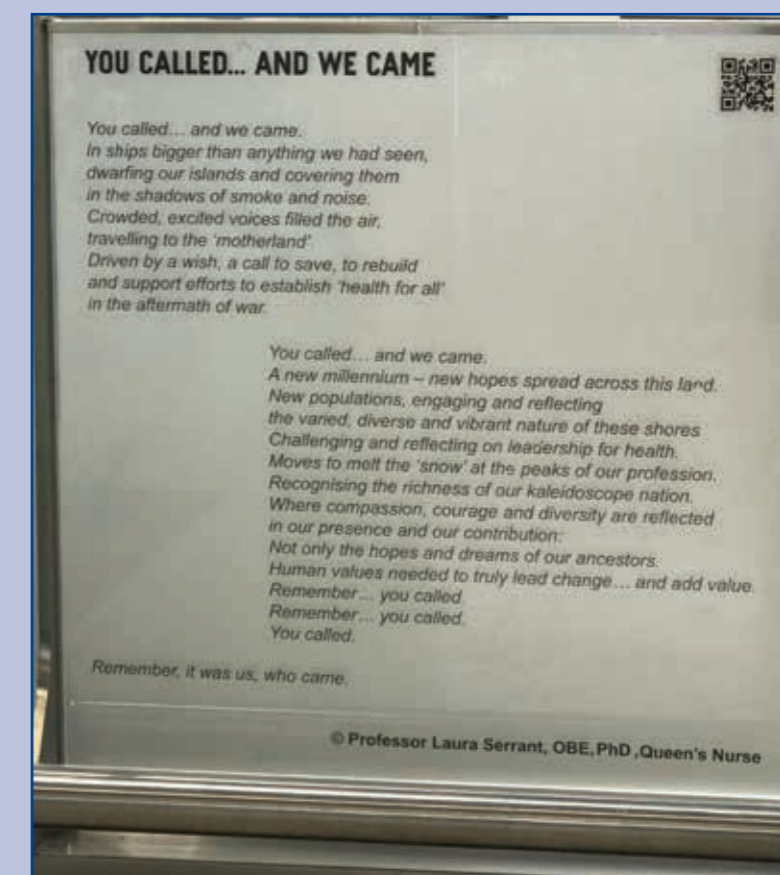
the sixth form. There are over 300 staff with only 740 pupils, so the vigorous academic standards set centuries ago are maintained.

With extensive grounds of over 250 acres there are 94 listed buildings with the first, Chamber Court, being completed in 1384. There are eleven boarding houses each with a housemaster who sometimes set

their own entrance examinations. The guided tour included visiting the 14th century Gothic Chapel, the College Hall refectory, the Cloisters and the 17th century red brick schoolroom.

[www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information about this social organisation for retired professional and business managers.

## Where am I? - Answer: The National Windrush Monument, Waterloo Station



# 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 £6 per month or £8 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payable 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.

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**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

**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.

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**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, Callus reduction, Dry and cracked heel remedies, Verruca treatment and Diabetic foot care. To book an appointment call Fay on 07780 664410

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**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

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**GUITAR TUITION** I am a music Teacher with over 20 years experience of teaching Guitar, and have taught adults and Children, from the age of 6 to 86. I am able to teach up to Grade 7 Classical or Acoustic Guitar, all levels of Ukulele and beginner piano. I am a member of the MU, up to date with my safeguarding training and am D.B.S checked. For availability and prices please contact Sharon Chant on 077940 14178

## 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@basingstoke.gov.uk	
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Androulla Johnstone	Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.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		
	simon.denton.23888@hampshire.police.uk		07469562503
	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com		01256 850891
	https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk		
PC 23888 Simon Denton			
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH			
NEAREST JOB CENTRE			
<b>LOCAL GROUPS</b>			
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			
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mr Stuart Maughan		01256 883858
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Mrs J. Hughes	email: tadleysd@gmail.com	
BALLET at SSJ Village Hall	Jenni Stafford		jenni@jsba.uk
<b>VENUE BOOKINGS:</b>			
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		
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>			
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
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
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
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>			
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			
Julie Crawley	villagermagazine@gmail.com		07703 720961

## 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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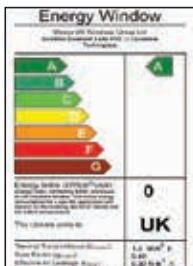
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