



# The Villager

December 2023  
– January 2024

Sherbornes and Pamber



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*A Merry Christmas and a very  
happy and peaceful 2024*



On behalf of all the Villager team I would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I would personally like to thank Beau, Emma, Lindsay, and all our contributors plus Liz and Chris and their wonderful band of distributors (braving all weathers, and particularly sharp and difficult postboxes!) who bring you your copy of the Villager each month. It is a magnificent team effort.

We are all having a month off so the next issue will be in February – if you have any photos, information about events or a written piece please do send it to me by the 12th January

Best wishes  
Julie

**NEW FEATURE:**

**Where am I?**



*Answer at end of the magazine*

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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# What does Christmas mean to you?



Colonel James B Irwin – the 8th person to walk on the surface of the moon – later described the sight of earth from space as like a fragile Christmas tree decoration hanging majestically in the darkness. He also made the bold claim that the most significant achievement of our age is not that man stood on the moon, but rather that God in Christ stood on earth.

Christmas means all kinds of things to all kinds of people. For many it's a time for family, sharing and charity, or as I read in an article recently, "celebrating the life we have with the people we love."

So what is the significance of the events that unfolded in Bethlehem that first Christmas? Does the story of Mary, Joseph and a stable in Bethlehem have any meaning for us beyond a few weeks of Nativity plays and carol concerts?

The angels thought so: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you."

Good news. Great joy! For who? Religious people? Important people? Good people? Sorted people? The angel couldn't be clearer: "for all the people."

The God who made us and the people we love came into the world as a baby in a manger to be our Saviour and bring joy to all of us. The joy that is found in Jesus is not the kind of joy that melts away with the snow, it's a joy that lasts. The joy of being forgiven, accepted and filled with hope.

We will be celebrating this joy and learning more about the true significance of Christmas at all our services through December, all ages are welcome.

I very much hope that you and those you love have a very happy Christmas and peaceful start to the new year.

**Rev. Stewart Deering**



## Services for Dec 2023 & Jan 2024

The Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/c/ParishoftheSherborneswithPamber> or the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

Sunday Club for children from School year R and upwards will meet during the service.

For more information please contact Caroline Elphick on 01256 851384

**Creche** – there are a few toys available for use in the Bell Tower, but this will be unsupervised.

<b>Sunday 03 December</b> 10am	Holy Communion Where is your trust? Philippians 4:2-23	St Andrew's   Stewart Deering
4pm	Advent Carols Leaping for joy! Luke 1:26-45	Pamber Priory   Stewart Deering
<b>Wednesday 06 December</b> 12pm	MIDDAY PRAYER	St Andrew's
<b>Sunday 10 December</b> 10am 10am	Morning Worship Holy Communion Mary sings for joy Luke 1:46-56	St Andrew's   Bret Rohloff All Saints'   Stewart Deering
4pm	Christingle Light & Joy Isaiah 9:2-7	St Andrew's   Stewart Deering
<b>Wednesday 13 December</b> 12pm	MIDDAY PRAYER	All Saints'
<b>Sunday 17 December</b> 10am	Family Carols News of great joy Luke 2:1-15	St Andrew's   Pippa Aslet
6pm	Carols by Candlelight News of great joy Luke 2:1-15	St Andrew's   Stewart Deering
<b>Wednesday 20 December</b> 12pm	MIDDAY PRAYER	Pamber Priory
<b>Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December</b> 10am	All-Age Morning Worship Zechariah sings for joy Luke 1:67-80	St Andrew's   Andy Spence
4pm	Crib Service Joy for all Luke 2:10	All Saints'   Stewart Deering

# Services for Dec 2023 & Jan 2024 continued



### Christmas Day Monday 25 December

9.30am  
10.45am

Celebration with Holy Communion  
Celebration with Holy Communion  
Joy to the world! Luke 2:15-20

All Saints' | Stewart Deering  
St Andrew's | Stewart Deering

### Sunday 31 December

10am

All-Age Morning Worship  
New Year: New Hope? Luke 2:41-52

St Andrew's | Stewart Deering

### Sunday 07 January

10am

All-Age Holy Communion  
Hope worth sharing Luke 4:14-21

St Andrew's | Stewart Deering

### Wednesday 10 January

12pm

MIDDAY PRAYER

St Andrew's

### Saturday 13 January

8.30am

MORNING PRAYER

Parish Room

### Sunday 14 January

10am  
10am

Morning Worship  
Morning Worship  
Hope Explored Luke 8:40-56

St Andrew's | Steve Howe  
All Saints' | Andy Spence

### Wednesday 17 January

12pm

MIDDAY PRAYER

All Saints'

### Sunday 21 January

10am

Morning Worship  
Hope Explored Luke 23:32-43

St Andrew's | Stewart Deering

### Wednesday 24 January

12pm

MIDDAY PRAYER

St Andrew's

### Sunday 28 January

10am  
10am

Morning Worship  
Morning Worship  
Hope Explored: Luke 24:36-53

St Andrew's | Andy Spence  
Pamber Priory | Steve Howe

### Wednesday 31 January

12pm

MIDDAY PRAYER

Pamber Priory

### MIDWEEK

**Home Groups** - meet in the weeks of Monday 11th & 27th November & 11th December

**PCC** – Monday 20th November 8pm – Parish Room

**Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group** – Wednesdays 10am SSJ Village hall during term-time

**Special events:** 6th Dec Christmas party, 13th Dec: Crib Service at St Andrew's

**St Andrew's** Sherborne St John

**All Saints** Monk Sherborne

**The Priory** Pamber End

[www.sherborneswithpamber.org](http://www.sherborneswithpamber.org)

**fb:** [facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber](https://facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber)

## 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

# Christmas at Sherbornes with Pamber churches

Come along to our Joyful Christmas Events!

3rd Dec 4pm Advent Carols - Pamber Priory  
 10th Dec 4pm Christingle - St Andrew's SSJ  
 17th Dec 10am Family Carols - St Andrew's SSJ  
 17th Dec 6pm Carols by Candlelight - St Andrew's SSJ  
 24th Dec 4pm Crib Service - All Saints' Monk Sherborne  
 25th Dec 9.30am Christmas Celebration - All Saints' Monk Sherborne  
 25th Dec 10.45 Christmas Celebration - St Andrew's SSJ

We also have our 10am Sunday services at St Andrew's SSJ on 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st Dec and at All Saints' Monk Sherborne on 10th Dec

Joy to the world!

www.sherborneswithpamber.org  
 Facebook: St Andrew's church




## HOPE | EXPLORED

Join us in the New Year to explore where true hope can be found

**Sunday Services 10am**  
 14th Jan All Saints' Monk Sherborne & St Andrew's SSJ  
 21st Jan St Andrew's SSJ  
 28th Jan Pamber Priory & St Andrew's SSJ

**3 session course with a meal Wednesdays 7.30pm**  
 17th, 24th, 31st Jan  
 The Rectory, Vyne Road,  
 Sherborne St John, RG24 9HX



For more details or to sign up use the QR code or contact: [stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org](mailto:stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org) 07359 717577



# Claiming Dates

## December 2023

1	SSJ Social Club - Jake/Jay Quiz Night, House of Games	7.30pm
2	SSJ Social Club - Michael Jackson Tribute - Ticket Only	7.30pm
3	St Michael's Hospice - Reindeer Run - Festival Place. <a href="http://stmichaelshospice.org.uk">stmichaelshospice.org.uk</a>	
4	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10am - 12.00
5	Women's Fellowship, CHRISTMAS LUNCH	12.30
7	SSJ Social Club Outing to Bath Christmas Market	9am - 7.00pm
9	SSJ Social Club - Johnny Blues Brothers	7.30pm
10	St Michael's Hospice - Light up a Life - St. Michael's Hospice. <a href="http://stmichaelshospice.org.uk">stmichaelshospice.org.uk</a>	
10	B/S Concert Bands Annual Christmas Concert at Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT. Tickets £10	3.30pm
13	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley by Sandy Burnett	
13	Basingstoke U3A Monthly Meeting, "The Good, The Bad & the Downright Funny" QMC Non-members welcome	2pm
16	Hook Choral Society Carol Concert at St John's Church, Hook, RG27 9EG. Tickets £15	7.30pm
18	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10am - 12.00
23	SSJ Social Club - Danny Connors	7.30pm
31	SSJ Social Club - Motown Tribute Act - Ticket Only	7.30 - 1.00am

## January 2024

10	Basingstoke U3A Monthly Meeting, "Basingstoke Foodbank", QMC	2pm
17	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: The Influence of Netherlandish Art by James Lindow	

## February 2024

4	Royal Marines Band at the Anvil	10.00am - 12.00
21	The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: The Story of Pandora by Mary Sharp	

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

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# News from the Pambers & Little London

Well there are certainly lots of fabulous autumn colours around as I write. There were lots of colours, costumes and candy around for some lucky Pamber Greeners who were in the US last week and experienced Halloween US style. We were all amazed by the decorations and dressing-up, and our granddaughter claimed never to have seen as many sweets in her life before.



No doubt there were celebrations here too, and indeed bonfires on 5th November, but I'm afraid I don't have any pictures of those to share!

On a more serious note, Stephen has alerted me to the notice we have received from the police about the latest scam doing the rounds. It involves scam telephone calls purporting to be from the police, the bank, HMRC, Amazon, Microsoft and other organisations.

These scams are designed to take your money and your personal details, which will be passed on to other criminals, who may also try and scam you at a later date. One of the most common scams that has been reported to us is **Courier Fraud**. This type of fraud occurs when people are duped into handing over money or valuables to criminals posing as couriers. Using a variety of different tactics, involving the impersonation of police officers and bank staff, criminals will call the victim and convince them into withdrawing a sum of money or into purchasing vouchers (such as iTunes) and handing it over to a courier who is sent to their home. The victim may also be persuaded to hand over their bank cards and PINs.

Your bank or the police will NEVER call you to ask you to verify your bank details or PIN. If you do get a call asking you to do this HANG UP. Wait at least 5 minutes before calling your bank on a number you know to be genuine, such as the one on the back of your card. Better still, visit your bank in person. Your bank or the police will NEVER send a courier to your home to collect your cash, bank cards, PINS or valuables.

The police will NOT contact you out of the blue and ask you to participate in an investigation that requires you to withdraw money from your bank or transfer funds and certainly will not ask you to install any apps on your phone.

If you have been a victim of courier fraud or revealed your bank details over the phone, call your bank straight away to cancel the card.

Report it to Action Fraud by visiting [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Please share this advice with anyone you know who might be vulnerable to this type of scam.

Useful links: <https://nbcc.police.uk/crime-prevention/cyber-and-fraud/little-book-of-big-scams-fifth-edition>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud>

And, to finish on a happier note, a few words from David (Ogborn):

*"After the very unwelcome break through Covid I am pleased to announce that we intend to gather once more in St Stephen's Hall for a Christmas gathering and celebrate with carols and readings etc.. followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree (outside), before returning into the Hall for mince pies and other delicious edibles, along with refreshments including wine (both mulled and "normal"). So please put this date in your diaries:*

***Sunday December 10th - 4 pm** when we can all join together once more and celebrate the joys of Christmas. There is no charge and all are most welcome to attend and mix freely as we did just a few years ago."*

**Many thanks. David (Ogborn)**

Thank you David. I am hoping to be there, and if I am I look forward to perhaps meeting some of you.

And since this is the last issue before Christmas, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a

*Merry Christmas  
 and a  
 Happy New Year*

B  bdownes.villager@gmail.com

# Monk Sherborne Parish Council

## Planning applications:

The Parish Council are notified of planning applications in the parish and discusses them at planned meetings, or collates comments/recommendations from parish councillors to submit to development control. There is a statutory period of 21 days in which people can comment. Depending on the nature of a proposal and its location, a registered application will be publicised in one or more ways:

- A site notice displayed at the proposed development.
- Notification by letter to neighbouring properties that immediately adjoin the site.
- A public notice in the local press.

Parishioners are encouraged to visit <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications> to view current and historic planning applications by using a keyword, reference number, postcode or single line of an address.

## Fly tipping (abandoned rubbish):

Instances of fly tipping are unsightly, please don't assume if you see abandoned rubbish that someone else will report it <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping-form>

The following information may help make a successful prosecution

- The day, date and time of the incident
- Make, model, colour and registration number of vehicle involved
- How many people involved and what they looked like
- Details of what was being fly-tipped, for example household waste, garden rubbish, broken furniture
- How much was dumped, for example black sacks, size of a wheelbarrow full, contents of a car boot, van load

- Any photographs taken of the incident

Please do not put yourself at any risk if you witness an incident. Your personal safety is always more important than anything else.

## Potholes:

The Parish Council have reported a number of potholes in the parish and continue to follow up on repairs. Please take the time to report potholes <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

Have you visited the Parish Council web site <http://www.monksherborne-pc.gov.uk>. It contains contact information, minutes of meetings and general information about the parish.

Our next meeting is on 10th January 2024. All are welcome.

*Cheryl Mcsoley*

# Sherborne St John Parish Council

## A fairly quiet month for the Parish.....

Traffic and speeding is still of a concern to a number of villagers, especially around Vyne Meadow with the new development having started.

The Parish Council as it has no responsibility for traffic calming has over the years been constantly raising this with the appropriate authorities, sadly to no avail. We share your concerns and will continue to fight for this with the support of our Councillors. We have provided data to BDBC. It is hoped that the Police will come to the next PC meeting, they were to have attended that evening but couldn't. Simon Minas-Bound confirmed that traffic calming is the responsibility of HCC and BDBC.

Among other things we have conflicting information for the funding of speed cameras, we have been told we cannot have any money resulting from the fines

to fund more cameras, however it has been widely publicised in Hampshire press that other councils have used "fine" money. We will continue to investigate hand-held cameras and moveable speed signs.

Simon also stated that HCC have a shortfall which is likely to mean no money available for traffic calming.

Simon confirmed that negotiations continue about the development at Manydown. Until this is concluded unfortunately we will probably continue to get speculative planning applications.

Planning applications have been received for the following which the PC will respond to:

- 42A Manor Road, 12 West End,
- Edernish House, Bollin House,
- 44 Manor Road,
- Weybrook Farm – speculative for 220 houses.

The Neighbourhood Plan is out for consultation with BDBC, please review and make any comments on the website.

## Winter is coming.....brrrrr

The residents in Sherborne Road have asked for a salt bin - if anyone else knows where one is needed please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council is applying for some grants in the coming months - we are hoping to improve the car park at the Chute including installing a barrier to prevent taller vehicles coming onsite and the childrens play area - we will let you know if we are successful.

If anyone has any work that the lengthsman can do please contact Jane through the Clerk

*Cllr Linda Agnew*

## Upcoming EVENTS

FOR NOV-DEC 2023

DOORS OPEN

	<b>WED NIGHT QUIZ</b>	AT 7.30PM
	<b>1-2-3 WEEK OF MONTH</b>	
	<b>NO QUIZ 13TH DEC - DUE TO ANOTHER FUNCTION</b>	
	<b>BINGO EVERY SUNDAY EVENING</b>	AT 5.30PM
18TH NOV	<b>CARBON COPY BAND FISH &amp; CHIP VAN (PAYG)</b>	AT 6.00PM
1ST DEC	<b>JAKE / JAY QUIZ NIGHT HOUSE OF GAMES</b>	AT 7.30PM
2ND DEC	<b>MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE (TICKET ONLY)</b>	AT 7.30PM
9TH DEC	<b>JOHNNY BLUES BROTHERS</b>	AT 7.30PM
23RD DEC	<b>DANNY CONNORS</b>	AT 7.30PM
31ST DEC	<b>NEW YEARS EVE MOTOWN TRIBUTE ACT (TICKET ONLY)</b>	AT 7.30PM TILL 1 AM

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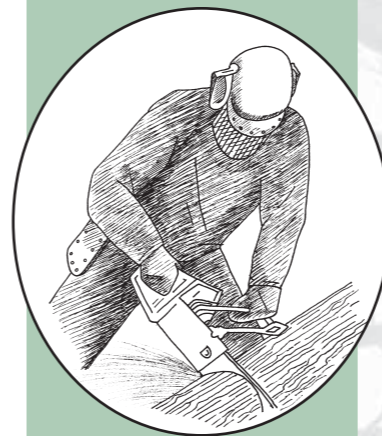
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## Elm Park Garden Centre

[www.elmparkgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.elmparkgardencentre.co.uk)

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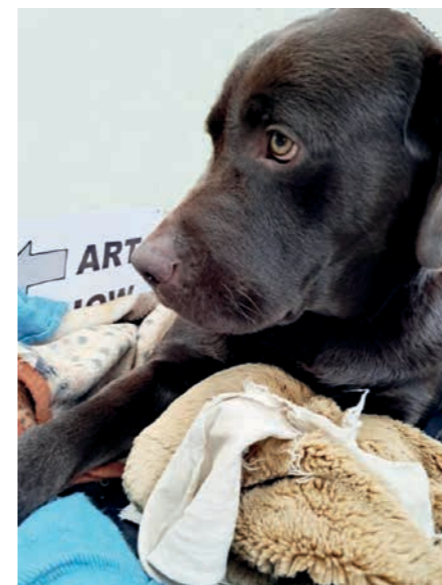
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## Beau's Blog



I may look a bit hangdog but I am relieved we can resume our normal walks and I am allowed to chew Teddy again. We have spent the last few walks stopping at every sign post and tying signs to it, followed by untying them all again after the weekend. All I want to do is have a good sniff and see if it is a suitable place to leave my leg lifting messages

but the Mrs makes me sit and wait till she has finished her mission.

I had a bit of trouble last week when the Mrs found one of her paint brushes with a heavily chewed end. Honestly I didn't realise it was not for chewing, it being a long stick with hair at one end, however once found, I was in big trouble and Teddy was confiscated for a few days until I repented and helped her tie her art notices around the village.

At the weekend the house suddenly became very bare with all paintings removed. I wondered if, in my shame, she had taken my portrait down as well but it was a relief to see it still hanging. The miniatures came with many cakes and the Boss couldn't believe his luck on viewing all the delicious confectionery delivered from many kind people. I thought I might be in for a feast but unfortunately for me it was all, along with the paintings, transported to the Village Hall. I was a little

peevish when the Boss explained to me, while dishing out my kibble, that the cakes had all been eaten and there was none left for me. Had the Mrs suddenly ditched her diet and devoured the lot? But no...it was explained to me that they were all sold for charity. The paintings did return though, minus a few, and the house is now back to normal. Walks have resumed on a normal basis and Teddy has been returned so I can relax with him and search out some hairless sticks to chew...

Ps: The Mrs wants me to pass on her thanks for the support she and her friend Pat received at their art sale and is very happy to report that over £600 was raised for Wellington & Dummer Riding for the Disabled Association where one of the Miniatures goes every Saturday morning.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

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# BASINGSTOKE CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT

## How to donate a hamper



### 1 Choose your hamper size

Choose if you are going to gift a small, medium or large hamper.

- Small:** 1-2 people with box base roughly A4 in size
- Medium:** 3-4 people with box base roughly A3 in size
- Large:** 5-6 people with box base roughly A2 in size

### 2 Wrap an open top box

Wrap your box in Christmas paper, leaving the top open.



### 3 Fill the box with goodies

Use our list of items to fill the box of your chosen size. Please only add the listed items and avoid adding anything containing alcohol. All the items should fit inside the box so the hampers can be stacked.

### 4 Bring the hamper to us

Bring the Hamper to our warehouse at 63-64 Tempus Business Centre, Kingsclere Road, Houndmills, RG21 6XG between 10am and 3pm, Mon to Fri or to our Festival Place 'shop'.



### 5 We will do the rest!

Besom (a local charity) lends us their van and local churches help us deliver the hampers to people who would otherwise have to sacrifice essentials to buy Christmas treats.

Item	Small	Medium	Large
Rough size of the base of the box	A4	A3 (ie 2 x A4)	A2 (ie 4 x A4)
Cake, ideally Christmas or yule log	1	1 large	2
Pudding	1	1 large	2
Box mince pies, apple pies, etc	1	2	3
Box or nice packet of biscuits	1	1 large	2
Box of chocolates, sweets, etc	1	1 large	2
Packet of savoury snacks, eg crisps, crackers	1	1 large	2 large
Jar/packet of hot drink, eg coffee, tea	1	2 small	2
Tin of cooked meat (no pies, please)	1	2	3
Tin of fish, eg tuna, salmon	1	2	3
Jar of cooking sauce, eg pasta sauce	1	2	3
Packet of dried stuffing	1	1	1
Tin of fruit	1	2	3
Tin/packet of custard	1	1 large	2
Jar of jam	1	2	2 + pickle
Nice toiletries (male and female)	1	2	3
Christmas crackers	2	4	6



Thank you so much

**Any donations can be dropped off either at our Warehouse in Houndmills, or to Festival Place**

**Warehouse Drop Off**  
**63-64 Tempus Business Centre**  
**Kingsclere Road,**  
**RG21 6XG**  
**10.00am – 3.00pm**  
**Monday to Friday**

**Festival Place Drop Off**  
**Festival Place**  
**UG floor opposite Apple**  
**9.30am – 5.30pm**  
**Monday to Saturday**  
**From 1st to 23rd December**

# Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



Our speaker this month was Di Lewis from Citizens Advice, Tadley and District. She explained that she has been working for CA for the last 22 years having started as a volunteer. There is an office in Basingstoke and Tadley with both offices working closely together. They are partly funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who appreciate the valuable work that they do and are the Mayor's

Charity for 2023/2024. The clients they see have varied problems and they aim to give advice to the person and present options so that they can move their problem forward. They also aim to improve policies that affect the general public's lives by lobbying Parliament to improve or amend legislation. Both offices have a range of specialist advisors and more details can be obtained at:- Basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk

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

Margaret Atkinson

# World Science Day at The Priory Primary School



Thanks Mr Vivian for teaching us about the Synchrotron



Year 4 learning about fair trade

Friday 10th November was World Science Day and the theme was focused on Peace and Development. At The Priory Primary School, we celebrated this day by learning about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, sometimes called the Global Goals - picture above).

the science gadget shop which was run very ably by the house captains.

Each class took part in sessions to focus on one of the SDGs, and there were also other exciting science activities going on like the Y1 and 5 big coke/mentos explosion (see reaction photo below), talks from visiting scientific parents, and



Year 1 and 5 coke-mentos explosion



Year 3 learning about earthquake proof engineering



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# The Vyne



Christmas magic awaits with The Vyne's house and gardens sumptuously decorated to tell the story of The Nutcracker. Enjoy off-peak visits before the school holidays begin (around 16 December). Families can follow indoor and outdoor festive trails. Parking is free and picnics are welcome. Alternatively, in the Brewhouse tea-room located next to the gift shop, you can order from the hot lunch menu before 2.30pm or simply grab some top-up snacks. Wellies at the ready, Morgaston Wood offers three circular waymarked

routes where you can blow away the cobwebs. Except for 24 and 25 December when The Vyne is closed, the below events are available daily until 1 January:

**Nutcracker Christmas at The Vyne**  
House 11am-3pm | Gardens 10am-4pm

Immerse yourself in the magic of this festive tale as you explore the luxuriously decorated ground floor of the house open daily 11am-3pm. Families can follow our heroes Clara and the Nutcracker as they defeat the villainous Mouse King on indoor and outdoor trails. Look out for plucky gingerbread men, pirouetting snowflakes and savour the sight of a sumptuous banquet in the 'Land of Sweets'. When you need to refuel you can order steaming hot chocolates, coffees or something a little stronger in the cosy Brewhouse tea-room. You'll find a range of festive gifts in the shop

## Nutcracker house trail

11am-3pm last entry 2.30pm

All ages can explore the ground floor of the house lavishly decorated to tell this much-loved Christmas tale. On your way round, look out for little gold nutcrackers, sweet thrones to sit in and have a photo and a Christmas wish tree. Trail sheet available at Visitor Reception for £1.50 (house and garden trail all in one trail sheet).

## Nutcracker garden trail

10am-4pm last entry 3pm

Pulling on your walking boots, on a circuit of The Vyne's magnificent lake, young explorers can keep their eyes peeled for swans, ballerinas and the North Lawn full of nutcracker soldiers. Trail sheet available at Visitor Reception for £1.50 (house and garden trail all in one trail sheet).

More information at [nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne)

# Sherborne St John Primary School

For this month's Villager, I have decided to share my reporting duties with some of the children from Sherborne St John C of E Primary School. The Year 5 and 6 children recently went on their school residential and they came back so full of excitement for things they had done and had achieved, I thought it would be nice for you to hear from them.

I now hand over to Joseph, Ellie and Kathryn.

## Joseph:

*What a fantastic and fun filled Runway's End trip!*

*Arrival at school before the journey and seeing everyone ready and excited made me feel quite nervous. Our bus arrived on time and the journey was smooth with everyone chatting and looking forward to the days ahead.*

*The first day went smoothly with a rock climbing activity followed by lunch and some time to relax with our friends. I was given a big room called Larch, named after a tree, which accommodated myself and 2 other friends. At first, I was scared of some of the activities but as we kept going, I felt braver and more confident.*

*The environment was full of nature which I found magnificent. The staff at Runway's End were very kind towards us. Also, our teachers were very supportive and they had planned activities which made the trip exciting and I learnt many things from the challenges. They have strengthened me so that I am braver no matter the challenge.*

*My experience of the trip will stay with me for the rest of my life because I haven't been away from my family before. I had a great time with my classmates.*

## Ellie:

*I liked raft building and I enjoyed working as a team even if we did fall in the canal! I liked sharing a room with my friends and canoeing.*

*I loved the low ropes and passing 'Mr Happy' along the line even when we had to restart a few times. Working as a team is something I enjoy and we got to do it a lot on this trip.*

*Fire lighting was really cool and using the special kettle to boil water for hot chocolate was great.*

## Kathryn:

*My experience at the residential was unforgettable. I had so much fun and loved all the outdoor activities.*

*Everyone used so much team work and were super supportive of each other. I really enjoyed caving and rock climbing.*

*I think I improved my people and leadership skills. I felt confident in that environment. I tried my best to help anyone I could and encouraged everyone to try the activities available.*

*I am proud that I helped lots of my group overcome things that they were afraid of. Overall, I had a blast at Runway's End and thought it was an amazing trip.*

*Thank you to all the staff who came along.*

As you can tell, the children had an amazing time away. I know the staff are already busy planning for the next one in 2 years' time!

For now though, everyone at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School wants to wish the whole community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We're looking forward to sharing more of our learning and adventures with you in 2024!

## Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

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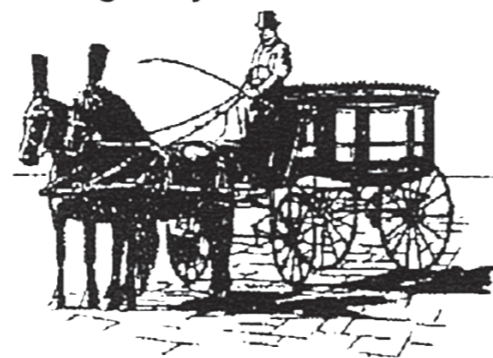
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## Womens Fellowship



Our speaker today was Jonathan Jones and the title of his talk was the Am Dram Tart.

He started, and we were able to see how good he must have been, by performing the Seven Ages of Man speech from As You

Like It by William Shakespeare.

He told us of the people who like to do Amateur Dramatics. They need to like dressing up, pretending to be someone else in front of strangers, speaking someone else's words and not getting paid but an Am Dram Tart is someone who likes this so much, has got pretty good at it and so is always after the lead rolls and is prepared to audition at a number of societies in order to achieve this.

Jonathan didn't start as an Am Dram Tart but in a small way as all the parts had been cast when he went to join his local

society. He was given the job of opening and closing the stage curtains. He was hooked on the first night. He opened the curtains and there was an amazing round of applause. Gosh! He must have done a great job! Nothing to do with what was behind the curtains.

He progressed from taking supporting roles with just a few spoken lines and worked his way up to lead rolls after a number of performances. And then he found he was plying his abilities around a number of clubs. He had become an Am Dram Tart!

Jonathan told us of the difficulties experienced in amateur dramatics. Learning lines always proved a problem. It was OK to paraphrase but you had to make sure that cue words needed by another player were always there and so it is always much easier to perform a monologue than to take part in a conversation. Also, rehearsals might be in a hall with outlines on the floor but the performance would be on a stage with actual furniture needing navigation. Prop malfunctions could have the audience in stitches. Not a good thing in a serious

play. There is a need to choose plays to accommodate the players that you have. Not great to have someone of 60 playing a twenty year old.

Of course, a lot of these problems are experienced by professional actors. Although there is a greater pool of people to choose from so casting at the right age is not difficult. A lot of actors have a bucket in the wings for when their nerves get the better of them.

Jonathan had a number of amusing anecdotes about the plays he had been in which we all enjoyed but he had a serious message for us too. We should all support our local amateur dramatic society otherwise there will be none left to entertain us brilliantly at little expense in the future.

Jonathan took a number of questions from members who had taken part in amateur dramatics themselves and was thanked by Rose.

Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2pm in Sherborne St John Village Hall. New members are always welcome



### 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.

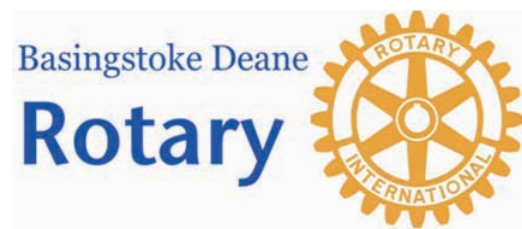
We are looking for fosterers, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.

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



### ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for our annual appeal. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our local community who help spread happiness to children who have little. Over 800 shoeboxes from our club, full of toys and warm hats & gloves etc. are, together with those collected from all over the Wessex region, on their way, to under privileged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Albania accompanied by Rotarians from our Rotary district. **Boxes will be delivered into the hands of Rotarians in those countries** to distribute those in need. Hopefully shoeboxes are also on their way to children in Ukraine. Our Wessex Rotary District delivered 18,224 Christmas shoeboxes in 2022.

### WHERE ARE WE VOLUNTEERING IN DECEMBER 2023

We will be helping The Silk Mill with a new event

#### A Victorian Silk Mill Christmas December 2 - December 3

Whitchurch Silk Mill 28 Winchester Street,  
Whitchurch, RG28 7AL

We will again be volunteering help with the following St Michael Hospice events.

#### ST MICHAELS HOSPICE

#### REINDEER RUN Sunday 3rd December 2023

Festival Place, Queen Anne's Square,  
Outside Iceland.

Join in the reindeer fun, put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along the **3K Reindeer Run route**, whilst raising vital funds for St. Michael's Hospice.

See the Hospice web site to register and for times and assembly points

[www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/event/reindeer-run/](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/event/reindeer-run/)

Rotarians will be marshalling on the day and encouraging you along the way

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 MICHAELS HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE

St. Michael's Hospice, RG24 9NB

**Sunday 10th December 2023, arrive from 4.00pm, the commemorative service will begin at 5:00 pm** with music and readings.

See the Hospice website for parking information.

### CAMROSE CENTRE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Rotarians will again be cooking and serving Christmas lunch for the homeless and vulnerably housed for the Camrose Centre clients and volunteers.

### HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

**Sunday 4th February 2024, 3:00pm**

*'A great gift for that difficult to buy for person'.*

Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities



Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged in past years to host the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines; this coming February we will again welcome these talented musicians to the Anvil for an entertaining concert.

Tickets selling fast, get yours from the Anvil Box Office.

**Basingstoke Deane Rotary wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2024**

**The Rotary wish is 'Peace the world over**

# North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group

It is going to happen, as Martin Budd our speaker explained at our monthly meeting, to which he was referring to the change over of our telephone services from analogue to digital. This he explained is due to start in this area next spring, with the whole national programme to be completed by the end of 2025. Martin showed how over the past few years we have absorbed similar changes for example the change to digital TV, or the gradual shift to smart phones. One of Martin's slides showed how the current system works where signals, including both internet data and phone transmissions are transmitted digitally between exchanges. However, in the exchanges these are split into the phone element in analogue form and the separate internet digital communications, before being sent in most cases to the recipient down old copper wires, many of which are old, worn out and near their transmission capacity, especially with analogue loads from phone transmissions.

The key driver to these changes comes both from the growing demand for higher data transfer speeds to be achieved by going ultimately to full fibre cables to replace the old worn out and

now unreliable copper ones, but also the saving in equipment maintenance with having to service only one set of units instead of two in the exchanges.

Gradually the familiar street cabinets will be replaced with more modern units with a fibre optic cable back to the exchange, as these cables have a much higher carrying capacity. For those who already have a fibre link to their incoming modem, the term 'full fibre' has been coined, with 'super fast' broadband being referred to those who still have a copper final linking cable.

So next the big question Martin raised - 'WHAT CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG'??? It seems for a few, and especially those with little IT skills, potentially quite a lot as Martin then set out with his activities in trying to help an 86 year old lady. Any change one makes to one's phone contract or supplier results in an automatic transfer to the new digital system, with no possibility of reverting back to the old system. The supplier then sends a new modem with an additional phone socket on the back. On an email sent advice to make the switch the phone link from the incoming line socket to the phone

master is then transferred to the modem socket. Typical problems can include the old master phone and incoming line socket being remote to the modem; heavy plugs falling out of adaptors, and inevitably overseas call centres with not a clue! Of course, if during this time one is not able to get emailed change over notifications, one ends up with no phone either!

Finally, Martin added that the 3G network for phones will be discontinued, although 2G and 4/5G will continue in service.

After the break Keith Jones our chairman highlighted some of the advances in prostate cancer research, including the work at Royal Marsden, where they are interpreting genetic data to provide proactive treatments, and the Sheffield Hallam University development of a special chair for men receiving external radiotherapy treatment. This involves the patient being lowered into a small room, removing the need for much larger rooms with their massively thick concrete protective walls, thereby cutting build costs to a third!.

*Keith Bunker*

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# Probus Hears About a School Boy's Experiences in WW2



The Probus Club of Basingstoke had a personal history lesson by member David Stiles, who reminisced about his wartime experiences as a schoolboy in Southampton.

He knows exactly where he was when Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, gave the announcement on the wireless that because the German Chancellor, Adolf Hitler had refused to withdraw his troops from their occupation of Poland, our ally, then "A state of war exists between our two countries."

It was raining at 11.00 am, on Sunday 3 September 1939. He was five years old, listening to a car's radio, in Ringwood with his mother and baby brother.

They had been walking around the town searching for a place to stay as they had not been selected by the evacuation committee when they were dropped off at the railway station that morning. Single children had been taken in as evacuees, but a mother, baby and young boy were left to their own devices to find a billet. A kind motorist took pity on them and offered them a bed for that night and the following day they returned to meet the committee to see if accommodation could be found. It could, but only for the speaker. His mother and baby brother had to return home to Southampton.

This was an unhappy time as he would not eat, nor speak and cried himself to sleep every night. This was the phoney war when little happened, and he joined about a third of all evacuees that returned home.

Returning to school only a short distance down the road he was able to see the vapour trails from dog fights during the *Battle of Britain* knowing that the pilots on both sides were young men, not much older than his fellow school friends. Winning the control over Britain's skies had the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill making his famous speech that "So much is owed by so many to so few."

His father was a tram driver in Southampton, and they lived opposite his grandparent's large house where their deep cellar made a safe and comfortable air raid shelter. This was much better than the Anderson shelters made from corrugated iron that were buried in most gardens that were damp and cold, or the Morrison shelter that was really a table like construction with a reinforced top, angle iron legs and drop-down steel mesh curtains.

Later, during *The Blitz*, bombing raids on Southampton docks were a daily occurrence and one night, they had to remain in their grandparent's cellar for fourteen hours. On another occasion, because of the amount of falling shrapnel it was not possible to cross the road to the safety of his grandparent's cellar they took shelter under the stairs. With the bombing causing the house to shake many of his mother's pride and joy, her Royal Albert tea set, had many cups shaken from their hooks on the dresser and crashed to pieces.

During one raid the Luftwaffe dropped over 2,000 high explosive and more than 3,000 incendiary bombs, killing 650 people and leaving Southampton a smoking ruin. Each morning boys would collect shrapnel

and became expert in identifying this jagged metal from bombs or shells. Shrapnel became school currency and could be swapped for cigarette cards or marbles.

One day two Junker 88 bombers, with anti-aircraft shells exploded around them, flew straight at the school during playtime, firing their machine guns. The school windows were smashed, and the speaker had tarmac bursting around his feet racing to the shelter where he was flung inside from a bomb blast.

With their house damaged by an incendiary bomb they were moved to a farm worker's cottage in the country but close enough to see the nighttime raids on Portsmouth and Southampton. Fortunately, his father had been brought up on a farm and became a dairyman, while the speaker, as now a ten-year-old boy, was taught to drive the Fordson tractor.

The time came when many thousands of men and equipment were camped all around for several days ready for the expected invasion of France. He recalled their kindness as well as the gifts of sweets and chocolate. Then one morning they had gone. It was the 6 June 1944, D Day. During the morning the sky was filled with gliders being towed south by Dakota aircraft. He now knows that 10,000 men did not survive that day.

David Stiles brought along a comprehensive display of war time memorabilia with a week's food ration, Identity cards, ration books, gas masks and other war time paraphernalia which added to this stirring presentation.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)

# Summer into Autumn 2023

So far this year only 2 months have had below average rainfall; in May there were only 6 days with significant rain and yet it came out at 81% of the average, however February only totalled 3mm for the whole month! My rainfall total (to 12Nov) is 923mm whereas the 30-year average should be 659mm|

June was a fine month with lots of high pressure, well-above average temperatures and only 3 very wet days, but a violent thunderstorm on the afternoon of the 11th produced some 30.3mm heavy rain. There were 23 days absolutely rainfree but sunshine totals were around average due to frequent stratocumulus clouds (below the high pressure systems).

July and August were both very average months - no hot weather and a few wet days. Overall temperatures were near average but sunshine totals were very poor.

September had a very warm spell from the 4th to the 11th but only a few days of rain, but they were caused by violent thunderstorms (42mm overnight 17th/18th and 39mm on the 20th.

October started very cloudy and dry but there was significant rain on the evening of the 11th and frequent rain from

2023 Pamber Green	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	To 12 Nov
Avg Day Max Temp C	23.7	20.3	21.1	22.4	17.1	12.2
Diff from 30-year ave C	+4.7	-0.7	+0.6	+3.8	+3.0	+0.4
Highest Max Temp C	29.6	27.3	25.4	29.0	25.0	14.0
Avg Night Min Temp C	11.6	12.2	12.5	12.6	8.8	4.2
Diff from 30-year ave C	+2.9	+1.0	+2.3	+3.5	+2.7	-4.6
Lowest Min Air Temp C	4.5	7.1	8.1	5.0	-1.2	-0.9
Total Rainfall mm	53.6	98.9	96.6	102.0	120.9	78.9
Percent of 30-year ave	107%	180%	148%	164%	161%	?271%
No. of days with>1mm rain	3	9	13	6	13	7
Diff from 30-year ave	-4	+2	+6	-3	+6	?
Highest 24-hour Rainfall mm	16.7	14.0	13.0	30.3	31.5	
Percent of 30-year ave	220%	124%	81%	107%	176%	
No. of days with>1mm rain	21	12	6	3	2	
Diff from 30-year ave	+10	+3	-4	-4	---	

the 18th. There were huge rainfall totals across much of Scotland but especially in the Southeast during this early part of October with very persistent onshore southeasterly winds day after day resulting in widespread flooding.

In November storm Ciaran passed over here on the 2nd, fortunately we were near the centre of the storm (unusually low at some 950mb) so winds here were only strong at times, whereas further South in the Channel winds were up to 100mph and Brest reported a wind of 115mph - resulting in widespread damage further south.

An aside from the past weather: politicians and the media are always talking about the production of carbon

dioxide by man's activities but they never actually discuss specifics. In the list of world producers of CO2 Britain lies in 17th place and is responsible for a fraction of just over 1% of global production; China occupies top place with 29% of the total followed by the USA with almost 14% and then India at about 7%. China produced about 11.5 billion tons of CO2 in 2021 with the US on about 5 billion tons. It is surprising to note some of the countries above Britain in the list - e.g. Germany, Iran, Brazil and even Turkey and Australia! I accept that the UK (i.e. us) have to reduce our production of CO2 but what about those who are at the top of the list! How can they be persuaded?

David Cullum. Tel. 850315

# Hospice launches Light up a Life appeal to raise vital funds for patients

St. Michael's Hospice, an independent charity, has launched its "Light up a Life" appeal to raise vital funds. By dedicating a light on the Hospice's tree or their virtual tree, you can remember someone special and help families who need the Hospice's care.

As part of the appeal, the Hospice will host a Light up a Life service on December 10 in the Hospice grounds. The service provides a special way to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

St. Michael's Hospice provides its care for free but receives only 16% statutory funding to run its services. This means the charity needs to raise £14,000 every day to care for people across North Hampshire who have life-limiting illnesses, need end-of-life care, or bereavement support. Demand for their services is increasing, and so are costs.

Lorraine Pink, Director of Income Generation, said, "This event is a beautiful and poignant way of remembering a loved one this festive season. We want to encourage everyone from our community to join us to celebrate our loved ones. All funds raised through our Light up a Life appeal will help us to continue providing vital care to our families across North Hampshire. We can't thank our community enough for their support."

You can make a difference to their patients across North Hampshire by supporting the Hospice's Light up a Life appeal. Please visit [stmichaelsospice.org.uk/light-up](http://stmichaelsospice.org.uk/light-up) to make a dedication to a loved one.

**Winter Appeal**

Please donate

**Your support warms our hearts during the coldest months!**

With the colder months driving up costs to run our Hospice, your generous donations and support will help us continue to provide crucial care and support to patients and their families across North Hampshire this winter. We know the cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all, so any gift you can provide, no matter the size, will help us more than you know. Please consider **donating** to our Winter Appeal today: [stmichaelsospice.org.uk/winter23](http://stmichaelsospice.org.uk/winter23)

Registered Charity Number: 1002856

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

# Reindeer Run fun is back this December in North Hampshire!

St. Michael's Hospice, an independent charity, are calling on keen reindeer runners to take on their 3k festive fun runs this December.

On Sunday 3 December in Basingstoke, and Sunday 17 December in Alton, St. Michael's Hospice are hosting their annual Reindeer Run – bringing the event to Alton for the very first time!

This family-friendly event is a great way to get your family in the festive spirit, while raising funds for the local charity. You can choose from the two events or take part in both! Both events are kindly being sponsored by Harlequin Clothing. The Basingstoke event, sponsored by

Festival Place, will start and finish in Festival Place and run around Eastrop Park. The Alton event will take place at Jubilee Playing Field and will loop the fields.

Sign up is just £10 per person. Included with your registration, runners will also receive a pair of reindeer antlers to make sure you look the part – and you'll be presented with a medal once you cross the finish line!

Becky Legate, Events Manager at the Hospice, said, 'Reindeer Run is one of our most popular events of the year, and this year it's even bigger with an event taking place in Alton! It's such

a fun way of getting the whole family involved with a local charity while getting in the festive spirit. We are excited to welcome everyone from Basingstoke and Alton community for a fun event for a worthwhile cause. Thank you!

St. Michael's Hospice provide their care for free but receive only 16% statutory funding to run their services. This means the charity needs to raise £14,000 a day to care for people across North Hampshire who have life-limiting illnesses, need end of life care, or bereavement support.

You can sign up for Reindeer Run at [stmichaelsospice.org.uk/reindeer-run-23](http://stmichaelsospice.org.uk/reindeer-run-23)



## Basingstoke Concert Band

invites you to their

**Annual Christmas Concert at Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT on Sunday 10 December 2023 starting at 3.00pm**

Tickets £10 (U16 free) available from: band members, at the door, or visit <https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/18858>

There's something for everyone, from Christmas carols to traditional and modern festive arrangements and so much more.

**Make this concert the start of your Christmas celebrations**

# 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'.
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Nov 2023 Julie Crawley

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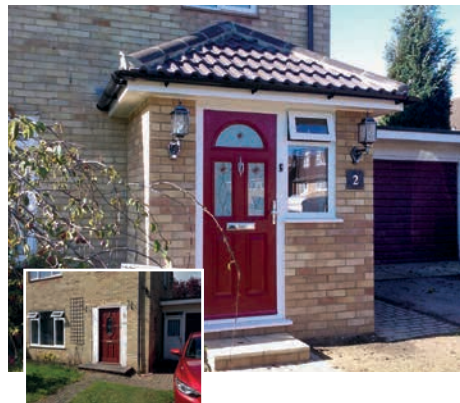
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