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Editor's Note

I make no apologies for the front cover and printing more amazing photos of the Northern Lights that appeared over Sherborne St John in October. Having waited all my life (many decades!!) to see the Aurora Borealis I managed to miss them on both occasions this year! What a spectacle for those lucky people who experienced them. Thanks to Ben Gledhill for the gorgeous photos.

The St Michael's Hospice Moonlight Walk

At the end of September the St Michael's Hospice annual Moonlight Walk took place around the town. Over 700 people, including children and dogs took part to raise much needed ££££s for our local hospice. The refreshments were provided by a team from Rotary - hot chocolate was definitely the favourite!





Nicola Todd grew up in SSJ

A heavy load to carry round the 10k



Cover Photo: Northern Lights, Ben Gledhill

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

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From Swords To Ploughshares



In the North Garden at the United Nations Headquarters in New York stands a bronze sculpture known as "Let Us Beat Swords Into Ploughshares". Created by Evgeniy Vuchetich in 1959 it depicts a man hammering a sword into the blade of a

plough - a weapon of war being turned into an agricultural tool. Sculptures like this are powerful symbols of peace and are designed to inspire future generations of peacemakers.

Some examples of this concept becoming a reality include after World War Two when military surplus tanks and armoured vehicles were converted into tractors. The world's first chemotherapy drug, Mustine was developed from the chemical weapon Mustard Gas used in World War One.

Sadly, these faint glimmers of hope are being constantly overshadowed by the continuing chaos and destruction of war in many parts of the world. This leaves many of us asking whether there is any real hope of peace in the world?

The imagery on display in the sculpture is taken from the Bible when the prophet Isaiah proclaimed that "in the last days... many nations will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up their sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2v1-5)

Isaiah was not primarily telling his hearers what they should do. He is painting a picture for them – and us – of what God will do. He is speaking of a day still to come, when the kingdom of God will be established once and for all. A kingdom of peace where people are reconciled, first to God, and then to one another. A kingdom ruled by Jesus Christ,

the Prince of Peace, through whom anyone can be reconciled and welcomed in. A kingdom which we are called to make known now as we pray for peace and Remembrance is a time when we call to mind the sacrifices of so many who gave their lives for the peace we enjoy today. As we look back with thanksgiving, let's also look forward with hope. Hope that the ultimate sacrifice made for us on the cross, will achieve the final reconciliation we all long for. Hope that faint glimmers will one day become real and bright and lasting.

See below for details of various Remembrance Services and Events in our communities, all are very welcome.

Rev. Stewart Deering stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577



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 * Saturday Church of St Bede, Popley 9.30am * Time & Venue could vary



November

Connect | Share | Grow

With Our Communities

God's Love In Our Faith In Jesus

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

AWDER CIT	Oice	www.sherborneswithpamber.org facebook.com/sherborneswi	thpambe	
Check out our new website Scan QR Code for regular updates:				
Sat 2nd		8.30am Morning Prayer - The Parish Room		
Sun 3rd	1	10.30am All-Age Morning Worship - St Andrew's, SSJ		
Mon 4th		12pm Retired Men's Bible Study - 22 Tyfield SSJ		
Wed 6th	I	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ 2-4pm Being Together - Parish Room		
Sat 9th		9.30am - Men's Breakfast - Monk Sherborne Village Hall		
Sun 10th		9.30am - Remembrance Service - All Saints' Monk Sherborne 10.30am - Remembrance Service - St Andrew's SSJ		
Mon 11th	-	10.45am Act of Remembrance - SSJ War Memorial		
Wed 13th		10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – All Saints', Monk Sherborne		
Fri 15th		6.45pm - Community Christmas Choir Rehearsal - St Andrew's		
Sun 17th	I	10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-14s - St Andrew's SSJ		
Wed 20th	I	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ		
Fri 22nd	I	7.30pm - Women's Christmas Craft Evening - SSJ Village Hall		
Sun 24th	I	9am Holy Communion - Pamber Priory 10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s - St Andrew's, SSJ		
Wed 27th	1	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – Pamber Priory		
Fri 29th		6.45pm - Community Christmas Choir Rehearsal - St Andrew's		
Sat 30th		10-11.30am Dads and Kids - SSJ Village Hall		

Children of all ages are very welcome in our services. At St Andrew's we run groups for 0-14s during term time.

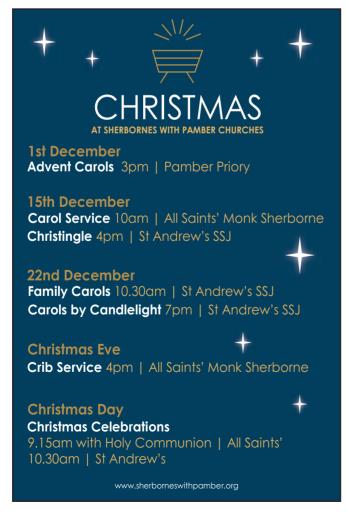
Claiming Dates

November 2024

1 - 3	The Vyne NT, SSJ, Halloween Pumpkin Trail, House 11am-3pm, gardens 10am-4pm	
4	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
4	The Vyne NT, SSJ, Winter hours commence, Gardens close 4pm, House open W/E's only 11 – 3	
5	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Christmas Miscellany	2.00pm
6	Monk Sherborne & Charter Alley Parish Council Meeting,	7.20pm
7	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Men's Breakfast	9.30am
9	* Christmas Market at Sherborne St John Village Hall * Refreshments available too *	12 noon – 5.00pm
9	Sherborne St John Social Club, Carbon Copy Band	7.30pm
9	Monk Sherborne Village Hall, A Night of the 60's Live Music, Doors Open 7pm. Tickets: 851202	8.30pm – 11.00pm
10	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Remembrance Service, All Saints, Monk Sherborne	9.30am
10	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Remembrance Service, St Andrew's SSJ	10.30am
11	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
11	Act of Remembrance, SSJ War Memorial	10.45
16	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	12 noon – 4.00pm
16	Voices United. Concert by Reading Phoenix Choir & Tadley Primary Sch, Pamber Heath Mem.Hall	4.00pm - 5.00pm
18	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am - 12.00
21	Knit & Natter, Ramsdell Village Hall (third Thursday of every month)	2.00pm - 4.00pm
22	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Women's Craft Evening, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm – 9.30pm
23	Preloved Clothes Sale for Charity, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm - 5pm
23	Sherborne St John Social Club, Jive Trio Tribute Band	7.30pm
24	St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run	
30	Sherbornes with Pamber, Dads & Kids, SSJ Village Hall	10 - 11.30am
30	The Grange Christmas Fayre, SSJ Village Hall	2 - 4pm
30	Sherborne St John Social Club, Ben & Bryony Music Quiz	7.30pm
Decem	ber 2024	
1	Advent Carols, Pamber Priory	3pm
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
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Fleetwood Mac Tribute	7.30pm
14	Sherborne St John Social Club, Quiz Night	7.30pm
14	Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert, Church Cottage, St Michael's Church	7.30pm
15	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Carol Service, All Saints, Monk Sherborne	10am
15	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Christingle, St Andrew's, SSJ	4pm
16	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
19	Knit & Natter, Ramsdell Village Hall (third Thursday of every month)	2.00pm – 4.00pm
20	Sherborne St John Social Club, Christmas Raffle	7.30pm
22	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Family Carols, St Andrew's SSJ	10.30am
22	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Carols by Candlelight Carol Service, St Andrew's Church, SSJ	7pm
24	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Crib Service, All Saints', Monk Sherborne	4pm
25	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Christmas Celebrations, All Saints, Monk Sherborne	1
	With Holy Communion	9.15am
25	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Christmas Celebrations, St Andrew's, SSJ	10.30am









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Voices United!

Help Reading Phoenix Choir and Tadley Community Primary School Choir to raise funds to support music activities at the school.

This hour-long family friendly concert on 16 November will include wide variety of music to suit all ages.

Tea /Coffee/Squash and cake available. £8 adults, Under 16s free & group discounts available.

Visit rpchoir.com/tadley for tickets.

The school choir would greatly appreciate your support. Thank you

Sherborne St John Parish Council

Planning

As yet we've seen no BDBC output from the new Government's revised planning objectives.

I understand that the new NPPF is being considered by BDBC which may result in a revised Local Plan with potential impact on the Parish.

I'm pleased that we completed our revised Neighbourhood Plan showing no new developments for SSJ but who knows what impact on SSJ this new BDBC revised Local Plan might have.

The applications for Kiln Farm and Weybrook Golf Club are still pending and no doubt there will be other applications once the new Local Plan is published.

Currently it's a case of wait and see. The Basingstoke Gazette and Facebook postings on the SSJ News page offer more detail, search for the link Team Charter Alley, Sherbornes

and Rooksdown.

Solar Farm

We have engaged with ET Planning, the group that helped us in getting the recent Cranesfield application rejected.

We will be sending a formal letter to BDBC suggesting ways that the impact of the Solar Fam on the village can be mitigated.

The PC has met with Pamber PC to plan a joint approach.

More once the formal development application has been submitted.

The Chute - Damage

Congratulations to the person or persons who damaged the new entrance gate by cutting/breaking off the yellow/black hatched bar that was attached to the main gate. This bar restricted the height of vehicles entering the car parkit's now been replaced

The Chute - Renovation

We've submitted a grant application for £14k to fund repairs to the drainage, replace/upgrade the showers and toilets and replace the kitchen boiler.

The work will be planned so as to minimise the impact on hirers.

The Chute - Ownership

After the visit by our recent guests, the PC looked at how we can protect the facility from further visits and if said visits do occur how we can accelerate the process of getting our guests moved on.

The entrance gate is but one part of the process.

The land that the Chute is built on was gifted to the Parish about 80 years ago but the PC was never registered as the owner. This ownership process is now nearly complete. Once completed I understand we can engage a bailiff and get any unwanted guests evicted within 24/48 hours vs. the long winded process we previously had to endure.

The Chute - Heating

The heating needs replacement as it is expensive to run and it's proving impossible to get spares for the heating units.

If you've experience in this area then please contact the Clerk with options for new heaters.

The Chute - Refuse Removal

On-going discussions with BDBC as to why the refuse in the Chute car park in the large black wheelie bin is not regularly collected.

I think we have resolved this for now but please keep an eye out for further 'misses'.

The Chute - Playground

The PC has funds to install a new playground on the Chute recreation ground. The replacement play equipment would be aimed at 4-7 year olds and younger children accompanied by parents. We expect to have more than the current 4 pieces of equipment in the new area but in the space available this is likely to be limited to 5 or 6 items. We will be having a more formal consultation in November with local schools, using Facebook and the parish council website, but we would be interested in your views as follows: Do your children use the younger children's play area and are they accompanied by parents/ grandparents; What are your views on the existing equipment (eg appearance, play value, safety etc)

What would you like to see included (eg climbing frame, swings, roundabout, other etc) are there any other play areas you visit which you think are good examples.

Any ideas about the theme or appearance

Please send your thoughts to the Clerk (clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov. uk) by 18 November as there will be a discussion regarding the play area brief at the 27th November Parish Council meeting where you are also welcome to attend.

SSJ Footpath Warden

The PC is in receipt of a grant to fund a volunteer Footpath Warden to walk the footpaths in the Parish, keeping them clear and reporting back to the PC any larger issues.

Peter Lake, our volunteer, should be starting mid/late November once all necessary training has been completed.

SSJ Parish Clerk.

We have a new Clerk, Rosie Burton. Rosie, and her family will be moving into the village early in the New Year once the building works on their new home are completed.

Some of you might already have seen/met Rosie as she walks her dog around the village.

Mel, our locum clerk, will be with us for a further 3 months whilst Rosie settles in.

Parish Office

With our new Clerk in place the plan to establish a PC 'office' in the village can be progressed. The aim is to use what was the doctor's surgery in the Village Hall one day a week, hopefully a Monday, to align with the Village Hall coffee mornings run by the Village Hall team.

The Clerk will be in attendance to meet villagers face to face and deal with any immediate issues and log other issues to be addressed at the next PC meeting

The expectation is that Parish Councillors would also be available.

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

Richard Morgan

Chair, SSJ Parish Council

News from Pamber and Little London

Well, here we are again. The season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness", as Keats tells us. Blackberry gathering has been replaced by apple picking, and judging by the number of apples on offer from friends and to be collected by the side of the road, your columnist's paltry production is not representative of this year's harvest! Time to get out the chutney-making pans and the malt vinegar. When the children were young they dreaded the chutney-making season because of the overpowering smell of heating vinegar: they were very happy to consume the result however!

I was delighted to have a suggestion from one of our readers, Kerry, as to what to do with a surfeit of blackberries, and she is happy for me to pass on the following ideas. I shall certainly be trying out some of them, and will not be driving or using heavy machinery after sampling the result.

Here are Kerry's suggestions:

Fill a kilner jar with blackberries and then add a bottle of cheap whisky to cover them. Leave for 6 months to a year, shaking the jar occasionally. Then strain and filter and add lots of sugar to make blackberry whisky. You don't need to heat the sugar. Once you have taken the alcohol off the fruit, just keep adding the sugar, shaking to dissolve and

tasting to make sure it is the right amount (considerably more than you would think - and more than is healthy tbh.)

And there's more:

This also works for Raspberry vodka (a particular favourite) and damson or plum vodka, as well as sloe gin. Fill a hip flask or some pretty bottles to make a great Christmas present or Secret Santa gift.

Cheers! And thanks, Kerry!

Still on the topic of things edible, we are lucky to have not far from our patch a couple of new food outlets/eateries. We have recently enjoyed a very good, reasonably-priced lunch at The Barn in Bramley, and the Open Day at Silchester Farm introduced us to the Farm shop, The Trough. Both of these are welcome additions to The Plough's excellent baguettes.

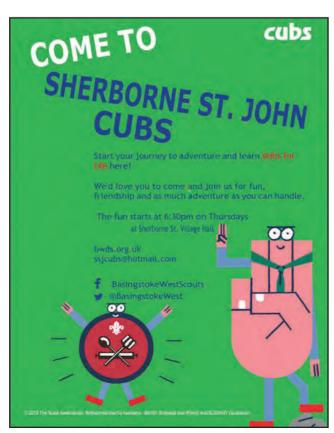
To heat or not to heat, that is the question. Once October arrives, we allow ourselves a burst of heat first thing in the morning, and a couple of hours in the evening. And at the weekend, oh joy... the woodburner comes into action. No physicist I, I continue to be amazed by how quickly and thoroughly this device warms the surroundings.

Delighted to have Kerry's contribution this issue, and equally delighted to see



that someone other than family and friends reads my efforts. Not quite the voice in the wilderness I feared I was! As a matter of fact, I am hoping that our 'Meet the Villager' section next month will introduce you to someone with a very unusual talent, so watch this space. And step forward the Mystery Man. You know who you are :-))

B w bdownes.villager@gmail.com







Monk Sherborne & Charter Alley Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 18th September, we were joined by one member of the public and one of our local councillors.

We continue to progress with highways the clearance of drains at the Memorial & Queens House Stable entrance, and have requested that highways review road markings.

Some footpaths have been cleared, if you are a dog walker please take poo bags with you and dispose of appropriately.

Potential changes to weekly bin collection was discussed, currently there are no details available, we hope that any change will be part of a consultation.

The installation of gates close to the highway was highlighted as a cause for concern, it was agreed that we would seek clarification from planning.

Our funding is limited and has to be used carefully through the year on priority areas. We rely heavily on our residents who take the time to clean & clear vegetation from around road signs, pick up litter and report issues directly to Basingstoke & Deane. Thank you to all.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th November and our planned meeting for January will be Wednesday 8th January 2025.

Meeting Agenda and Minutes are posted on the website www.monksherborne-pc.gov.uk



Our village nights & coffee mornings continue to be well attended with new faces joining us.

The village hall will be open from 11.15 - 12 on Sunday 10 th November for coffee/tea following a minute's silence at the War Memorial.

All are invited to The village hall AGM which will be held on Monday 18th November at 7.30pm.

News from our Hospital

For all the doom and gloom currently in vogue, it is perhaps appropriate to mention our local hospital trust is the only one in the South East which is improving. Whilst productivity is also improving, but not yet back to prepandemic levels, this improvement is reflected in the particularly high level of elective work at present starting to slowly eat into waiting lists, not easy when one recognises that demand is growing at 10% a year. The doom and gloom approach is also not helping with staff morale; who give their all, which is evidenced by some of the amazing patient feedback stories relating to how staff have gone way beyond expectations in their care and dedication.

One of the concerning facts is the sheer weight of bureaucracy loaded upon clinicians thereby reducing their clinical time and effectiveness. One perhaps should be asking how much of this work is required to protect the NHS from the growing burden of litigation – the figures are eye-watering, with claims in process currently equating to the whole of the NHS's annual budget!

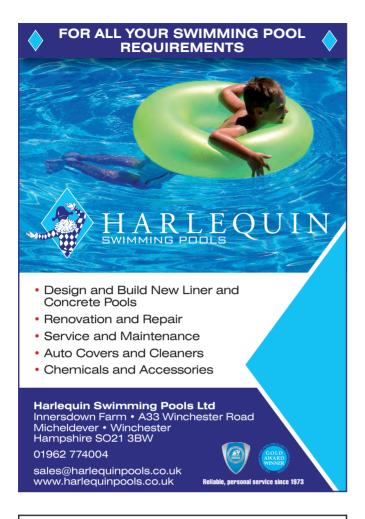
Despite all of the negative Government news about the new hospital programme, the team tasked with bringing a new hospital into being continues to work apace. Currently adjusting the original plans in the light of the feedback from the public consultation earlier this year. This consultation highlighted concerns around transport, especially for some demographics, and the value of a "drop down" facility, for those not requiring full hospital treatment. That a new hospital is required is beyond dispute, with building maintenance and energy costs rising rapidly, thereby adding to the unsustainable financial burden; growing issues of layout; and the rapidly changing nature of modern treatments. Thus a new hospital locally is still very much on the cards, as the present is just not

A new "drop down" facility will help enormously with the ongoing issue that is widespread across all hospitals, namely bed blocking due to lack of social care. This is inevitably going to get worse as our population ages, and as has been recently reported, Hampshire County Council like so many other County Councils, is in growing financial stress. Will we see this situation deteriorate even further this winter with this Government's decision on pensioners' winter fuel payments?

The public consultation, did also highlight a lack of understanding about the plans to create urgent treatment centres (UTC's) and a central emergency department (ED). The plans are for the ED to handle 'life threatening' cases with a highly dedicated skilled and well equipped team, giving faster response without having to draw resources from UTC work as is currently the case, thereby aiming at significant improvements to patient outcomes. Meanwhile the aim is to establish UTC's to handle the other work that currently come into ED departments, including for example full fracture treatment facilities.

Keith Bunker

Governor for the Council of Governors for the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT)



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The Priory Primary School









Nature at heart at The Priory

At The Priory, our eco-councillors have come up with a fun and clever way to use the many branches that have been left after pruning back all of the oak trees surrounding the school field: Den Building!

Learning comes in many different ways at The Priory and instilling a love of nature is one way that we inspire a love of learning.

We still have some spaces for our Open Day for the Reception 2025 intake coming up on 7th November 2024, so if you'd like to have a look around the school to meet our amazing pupils and staff, please give us a call on 01256 850062 or email office@priory.hants.sch.uk



Beau's Blog

Caught napping! Sometimes I just need some down time and the Boss and Mrs readily agree that the idea is a good one and I should just lie down and close my eyes for a while. Sometimes if I open one eye I spot them taking the opportunity to do the same. Here I am snoozing with my favourite toy Bun-Buns – a bit of a baby name for her but then I am still under three and entitled to a playful childhood.

Once Bun-Buns was mistaken for a real live rabbit sitting in the far corner of the field and cries of excitement were heard from new friends who hadn't seen her before and didn't realise she was my plaything. She happened to be sitting in a very lifelike pose where I had flung her and, when I barrelled forwards, pounced and threw her in the air ready for more play, screams of distress were heard until I brought her back to show them. Giggles and sighs of relief were heard all round after they realised she was my stuffed toy.



I was a little shocked that they thought I would treat game in that manner, after all I am trained! I retrieve, fetch and carry all game carefully and deposit it at the Boss's feet without damage. Bun-Buns is a bit of light relief, a jolly good playmate and a soft cushion when I need a bit of shut eye.

http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com

The Vyne



The glassy lake reflects a frosty landscape beneath cold skies. Snuggling into your scarf, a trip to the cosy Brewhouse tea-room offers seasonal specialities such as a pumpkin spiced latte.

With winter opening times in effect from 4 November, the gardens are open 10am-4pm daily, with the ground floor of the house open weekends only 11am-3pm. This opens daily from 20 November, showcasing sparkling trees and whimsical displays inspired by Lewis Carrol's Alice Through the Looking Glass. In the gardens look out for depictions of characters from Alice in Wonderland, including the Queen of Hearts' army on the north lawn.





Winter Fuel Cuts

Winter Fuel Cuts: What You Need to Know and Where to Get Support

I know I had promised to provide more detail on the proposed changes to our Local Plan, but given the challenging times many are facing with energy costs, I felt it more pressing to address the immediate concern of winter fuel payments. With the recent changes from the Labour government, many pensioners are understandably worried about losing access to Winter Fuel Payments. However, there are other ways you can get support to help you stay warm this winter.

Here's What Support You Can Access:

While the Winter Fuel Payment criteria may have changed, there are still several benefits and schemes in place to help you manage rising energy bills and keep your home warm. Here's a rundown of what's available:

- Pension Credit: If you're on a low income, Pension Credit can boost your weekly income and may also qualify you for extra discounts on energy bills and other benefits.
- Attendance Allowance: If you need help due to illness or disability, you may be eligible for this financial support.
- Cold Weather Payments: This is a benefit that kicks in automatically during very cold spells, helping to cover the cost of extra heating.
- Housing Benefit: For those on low incomes, this can assist with rent payments and may ease some of your financial burden.

Make Your Home Warmer with Energy Efficiency Schemes:

If your home is difficult to keep warm, there are several schemes designed to help with insulation and heating upgrades:

• Energy Company Obligation (ECO): This scheme offers support for insulation and heating improvements, which can help to keep your home warmer while lowering your energy bills.

- Home Upgrade Grant: If your home doesn't use mains gas, this grant can help cover the cost of energy-saving improvements.
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme: Need a new heating system or want to switch to a heat pump? This grant can help cover the costs.
- Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS): This provides insulation support to help reduce your energy bills by keeping heat inside your home.

Access to Grants If You're Struggling:

There are also a number of grants and schemes available to help if you're struggling to afford your energy costs:

- Fuel Vouchers: If you're on a prepayment meter, these vouchers can help top up your energy credit.
- Warm Home Discount: This provides £150 off your electricity bill if you're receiving certain benefits, helping to ease the cost of heating your home.
- Local Council Grants: Don't forget to check with the borough council for any available grants for energysaving home improvements, such as insulation or boiler replacements.
- Connected for Warmth: This scheme offers free loft or cavity wall insulation for homes in council tax bands A-D, helping to make your home more energy-efficient.
- Boiler Upgrade Scheme: Once again, if your boiler is old or inefficient, this scheme can provide financial assistance for a replacement.

Let Your Energy Supplier Know You're Vulnerable:

If you're considered vulnerable due to age, disability, or illness, it's important to let your energy supplier know. They can offer priority support, such as regular meter checks, advance warnings of power cuts, and assistance with reconnecting your supply if needed.

Get Help Today:

If you're concerned about rising energy costs, don't wait - reach out for help. The Environment Centre (tEC), in

partnership with Hampshire County Council, offers advice on energy-saving tips, and the "Hitting the Cold Spots" service can provide more information on staying warm and saving on energy bills this winter, https://environmentcentre.com/hitting-the-cold-spots/ or you can phone them for advice and guidance on (freephone) 0800 804 8601. Alternatively for help and support on what financial support may be available, contact our local citizen's Advice, https://www.cabasingstoke.org.uk/, on (freephone) 0808 2 787829.

In times like these, it's important to remember that support is available, and we are here to help. If you have any questions or need guidance on accessing these benefits or schemes, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of your councillors. We're here to ensure that every resident has the support they need to stay warm and comfortable this winter.

Until next time, stay warm, stay safe, and as always, feel free to contact me or your fellow councillors with any concerns or questions.

Cllr David McIntyre

T: 07736 645250

E: Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingstoke.gov.uk













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Basingstoke Concert Band

invites you to their

Annual Christmas Concert

at Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT on Sunday 8 December 2024 starting at 3.00pm

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

Join us for a concert of festive songs, carols old and new and, of course, traditional favourites for you to join in with!



SHERBORNE ST JOHN

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 9th November 2024

12 noon to 5.00pm

SSJ Village Hall, RG24 9HR

The Christmas Cafe

will serve

- soup and roll cakes
 - mince pies
 - teas and coffees



The programme will also include the lovely 17th century Peruvian piece 'Hanacpachap Cussicuinin', Elgar's 'The Spirit of the Lord', and Mendelssohn's 'There Shall a Star from Jacob';

All this for £20 (£18 for bookings of 4 or more persons) – so do put this date in your diary.

And while your diary is open, why not put in the date of the ever-popular Christmas Concert – carols and readings and wine and mince pies: which will be given at St John's Church, Hook on Saturday, December 21st.

The choir would love to entertain you at both these events. Tickets can be bought at hookchoral.co.uk or by phone from 07957 293 641

Probus Hears About The Titanic And Her Times



The peaceful period following the end of the Franco-Prussian war in 1871 up to the start of WW1 in 1914 was a time of great advances in social and artistic movements in Europe, centralised in France, and became known as the Belle Epoque.

At the same time there were shifting collaborations between nations where Britain, Austria and Prussia were allied against Napoleonic France. The unification of Italy and Germany brought other pressures with the arrangement between France and Russia seen by Germany as a particular threat which they met by re-arming with naval power. This brought them into direct competition with Britain who had the largest navy in history and the UK was also the most successful ship builders in the world.

By the 1890s Britain was losing its global predominance to both Germany and the USA. To maintain influence in the world the use of soft power was recognised as a replacement for gun boat diplomacy. One way was to have the most impressive, biggest and most luxurious ocean-going liners to attract the most wealthy and influential people in the world. Who better to build such leviathans but the most famous ship builders in the world, Harland & Wolff of Belfast.

This background was explained by speaker Dr Stephen Goss, himself an Ulsterman whose great grandfather was a painter on the RMS Titanic in this famous shipyard.

Belfast had boomed from the success of ship building with "Belfast Built" its signature and had become world leaders in ship construction, support services and finance. It was the only place to build three transatlantic liners for the White Star Line whose names are engraved in the annals of history, the Olympic, Titanic and Britannic.

At 46,000 tons the Titanic was the largest ship in the world and was fitted out to the most luxurious level. The staterooms were designed to exceed

the expectations of the great and good while the second-class cabins on the Titanic were more than a match for first class on other liners. Its safety measures considerably exceeded the maritime regulations of the day. To further pander to the wealthy clientele the Marconi Company was employed to relay ship to shore messages via the latest Morse Code signalling system.

During these years the increasing industrial and commercial activity in Belfast meant that there was extensive commercial traffic across the North Channel to Scotland and England as supplies were required from British manufacturers.

The pressure for Irish independence in the 1920s increasingly led to conflicts and to the three-year Irish war of independence between the forces of the Irish Republic – the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British Crown forces. This was a major concern to the business community in Ulster where 8,000 mostly Catholic workers had been driven out of the Belfast shipyards sparking sectarian violence in the city. There had been a long held fear an independent Catholic Dublin would negatively influence commercial matters between Belfast and Britain. The shipyards had become a Protestant closed shop and became afraid for the future of ship building and supporting industries that had brought so much prosperity throughout Ulster. The people in Belfast felt they had to protect their interests and in response to the armed activity of the IRA they formed the Ulster Volunteer Force with 100,000 members.

Home rule was eventually granted for Ireland that renamed itself the Irish Free State except the six counties of Ulster remained part of the United Kingdom, but the foundations were laid for generations of problems that in modern times became known as 'The Troubles'.

The sinking of the Titanic on its maiden voyage is well known but the discovery of the wreck is far from straight forward as the Marconi operator that fateful night gave incorrect information that placed the stricken ship a few miles from its actual position.

Over the years there had been several attempts to find the wreck, including one by oceanographer Robert Ballard. His ship contained the latest sonar and submersible technology, and he approached the US navy seeking support. While an agreement was reached to finance the search for the Titanic there was another reason for their support which was as cover for a top-secret mission. In the 1960s the US navy had lost two nuclear submarines in the North Atlantic Ocean in the area that supposedly contained the wreck of the Titanic, and they did not want the Russians to be aware of this search or its result.



The two submarines were located but that only left twelve days of the contract to find the Titanic and on 1st September 1985 a boiler was discovered in a debris field that led to the wreck. The survivors were wrong, and the Titanic had broken its back when descending below the waves. The rest, as they say, is history, culminating in June 2023 of the implosion of the observation submersible, Titan, with the loss of five lives.

And the future of Harland & Wolff remains uncertain as on 16th September 2024 it was reported the company entered administration for the second time in five years. The company is expected to continue operations normally while its noncore operations wind down.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club

Fishy matters



Fish anyone? Who knew that in the Middle Ages Sherborne St. John might have had a thriving fish farm!

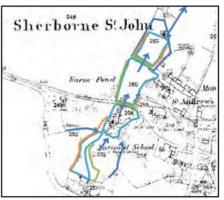
The rediscovery last year of Sherborne St. John's medieval fishpond has led to much excitement and various experts have paid us a visit.

Work is still to be done in the Hampshire Record Office, but LIDAR photos (in green) reveal a series of depressions and the prominence of the ditch to the north of Farm Pond.

It is possible that the surviving fishpond is in fact the survivor of a set of three or four: A picture is still emerging, but the slope of Mr. Rope's field beyond the cemetery shows how carefully the medieval owners of the manor of Sherborne St. John planned their earth constructions so that rainwater flowed from the field into their pond network.

Fish were a valuable commodity in the Middle Ages (a carp was about the equivalent of a carpenter's daily wage). They were signifiers of status and given as gifts, not just eaten on Fridays. It is tempting to think of the de Port family (or their successors the St. Johns) farming fish at Sherborne St John to send to their other estates.

More to follow as more evidence emerges, but in the meantime if you see an otter or otter spraint (and we know otters are in the area as evidence for



them has been seen in recent years), please let us know.

It is an exciting development for Manor Farm rewilding to have otters splashing in the waterways.

Welcome Tarka, and please make Sherborne St. John your permanent home: you can have all the Manor Farm fish you want!



Money Coaching Course

A free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, budgeting skills and confidence to better manage your finances.

St Bede's Catholic Church
Thursday's 10th 17th 24th & 31st October
7pm
A meal will be provided
Sign up with QR Code



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Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!

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

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

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

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



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

Women's Fellowship



The September talk was 'Living with Diabetes' given by two speakers, Mr Dave Murray and Mr Don Hutton, being Type 1 and Type 2 respectively. Each gave a very worthwhile insight into their experiences of living with diabetes. Dave has had Type 1 for 52 years. He stated that this type is usually - but not always - associated with early onset, in childhood, and indeed his daughter was diagnosed aged 6yrs.

Type 1 diabetes is basically when the pancreas is unable to convert the body's sugars into energy. Type 1 people need to inject insulin into their bodies up to four times a day. He was told as a teenager that he would have to eat the same meals, at the same time, every day for the rest of his life. As a teenager this was not welcome news but for the sake of his health he managed to control it. Nowadays the regime is not as strict, but diabetic people become acutely aware when their body is in need of a top-up. Dave carries an insulin pen at all times, and technology advances now enable people to have an electronic 'patch' connected to their phone which gives an alert when glucose is needed.

Type 2 diabetes starts later in adulthood and it is usually linked to lifestyle - eating habits - and weight gain. This is not necessarily the case, however, as very slim individuals may be Type 2 but may well have invisible excess fat adhered to the vital organs. Whatever the cause, failure to get it tested can lead to complications later on in life, particularly with eyesight and foot problems. It is possible to change one's

eating habits and general lifestyle and become within the 'normal' range but this does not mean they are no longer diabetic, it simply means that it is under control. There is now a 'pre-diabetic' diagnosis, which means the person is on a certain 'number' on the medical scale.

People with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes can lead normal lives, as in the case of our speakers. There are high-achieving sportsmen and women who live with their diabetes and indeed people from all walks of life. It is not proven that diabetes is a genetic disease but it can run in families.

There are many websites on this subject which deal with all the different aspects of diabetes and living with diabetes, but for anyone who would like individual advice, the local group will help, their email address is: diabetesuk. basingstokegroup@gmail.com

Dave Murray and Don Hutton were thanked for their most interesting talk by Julie Crawley.

Next month's meeting will be on the 3rd November with a Bring & Buy stall, and the talk will be 'A Christmas Miscellany'.

Rose Cooper

Sherborne St John Primary School

It has been a busy time at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School.

This month, we will be showing our respect to those who have served during the period of Remembrance. We sell poppies in school and children who attend clubs like Beavers and Brownies will wear their uniforms to school as a mark of respect.

We also support the Children in Need charity each year with our very own Cake Sale. The School Council are responsible for organising and running this event. It is a great way to raise



awareness of the small things we can do to make a difference for others.

Our School Association work incredibly hard to fundraise for the school and the children. They have recently supported us in providing some new activities and resources for our outdoor area. The children were very grateful and have had lots of fun exploring them and creating new games to play. This year, our School Association would also like to help with funding some new Computing equipment; if you know of any local businesses who may be able to



help, please contact the school. Finally, for those of you still looking

at school places for your child in September 2025, the deadline for applications is in January. We also have spaces available in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We are very happy to provide tours with our Ambassadors so that you can see the school in action. Please do get in touch with us through the school office to arrange this: 01256 850180.

Sherbert SSJ School Villager Correspondent





HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 26th January 2025, 3:00pm

'A great gift for that difficult to buy for person'
Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities

Basingstoke Deane Rotary. Once again, we are privileged to host the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil. We will again be able to bring



talented musicians to play for us and to welcome them to a venue they love playing in with its excellent acoustics.

There is always an exciting performance on offer, with some military music but you'll be entertained by a variety of music genres, swing band, pop, classical, and comedic pieces. We've been delighted by music from the movies, Bond themes, Star Wars and good old-fashioned tunes known and enjoyed by all ages.



The majestic full concert Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines, will include the amazing Corps of Drums

Everyone's favourites, our special guests, The Chelsea Pensioner should be with us again to make this a very special event.

A great afternoon's entertainment and still home in time for tea!

Tickets on sale from The Anvil Box Office. anvilarts.org.uk 01256844244

SAVE THE DATES!

St Michaels Hospice events

St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run Festival Place, Basingstoke

Sunday 24th November 2024 at 9:00 am

See the Hospice website to register for the 3K Reindeer Run and have a lot of fun whilst raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

Light up a Life

A special way to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one.

St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9NB

Sun 8th December, 2024

Arrive from 4pm to enjoy a hot drink and mince pie, view the Light up a Life messages, and purchase some gifts.

The service will begin at 5pm

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering at these events.

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

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

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | Twitter: @RBstokeDeane



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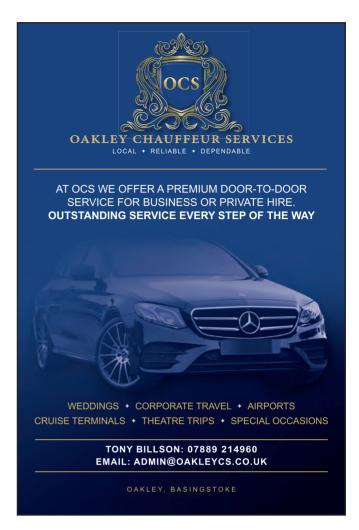
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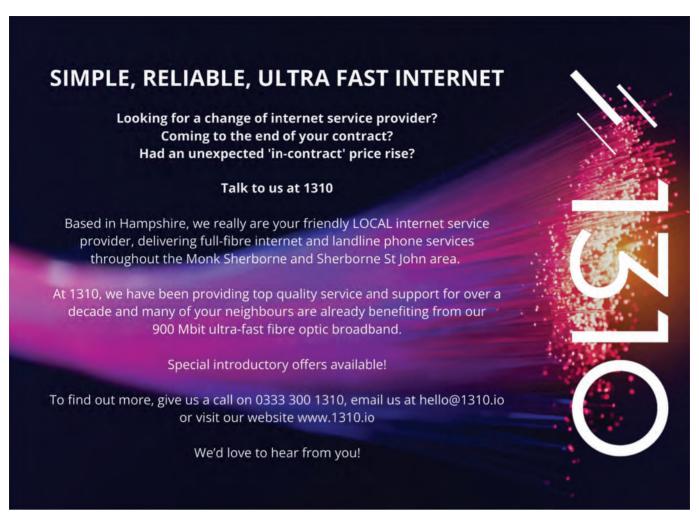
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Royal British Legion

2 branch members and friends recently visited RAF Odiham for a briefing of their recent operations.

They were greeted by Flt Sgt Matt Cannings and escorted to one of the hangars of 18(B) Squadron. On the short walk there, they saw three Chinook helicopters hovering low over the runway. We are used to seeing them flying over our villages but to see them at such close quarters was great.

Entering the hangar, we saw six more Chinooks there for maintenance. Matt gave an excellent briefing explaining the roles of the three squadrons based at Odiham, the different models and the developments in their technology. Two US versions of the helicopter were at the Station for familiarisation and were in the hover seen earlier.

Excitement increased as the group walked up the rear ramp into the vast body of the Chinook. After settling into the seats, Flt Sgt Chris Campbell, one of the crew, gave an informative chat about

the capabilities and worldwide tasks of the aircraft and answered questions.

On the stroll back to the main gate, we passed the Station War Memorial and some of the tragic stories of those remembered there were recounted. Altogether a most memorable visit and a Vote of Thanks was given to our hosts.

We held our branch AGM on 8 October with a good attendance. The meeting received reports of the last year's activities from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all of which pointed to a healthy and well-managed Branch. Michael Luck, our Poppy Appeal Organiser reported on a very successful campaign resulting in a total raised of £15,000.

Our branch Standard Bearer has also had a busy year beginning with the RBL Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall last November, several funerals of ex-Service personnel plus a number of training events. The new committee was elected, welcoming a new member Chris Woodward.



Branch Certificates of Appreciation for services to the branch were awarded to Ill Mann, our out-going Secretary, and to Linda Dove for many years of loyal service.



Finally Rhydian Vaughan MBE was appointed as Branch Chairman and received his Jewel of Office from John Morley who now becomes Vice Chairman. We wish Rhydian great success as he leads the branch into the coming year.

Need to declutter?

Preloved Clothes & Accessory Sale

In aid of



Saturday, 23rd November 2024, 2pm

Sherborne St John Village Hall

Please donate any clothes and accessories - in very good condition -(this is NOT a jumble sale!!)

Donations can be delivered to the hall at 2pm on the day, or give me a ring

Contact: Julie 07703 720961

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December 7.30

Church Cottage,
St Michael's Church Square,
Basingstoke

£10 ticket to include pie and punch

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc/t-1ngnveq

News from Clift Surgery

Dispensary and Repeat Prescriptions

In these villages, we are very lucky to have a dispensary at the surgery. This means that we don't have to travel several miles to get to a pharmacy and if you are prescribed medication by your healthcare professional you can pick this up at the surgery. By using our dispensary, you support the services we provide at Clift Surgery.

• Please note. Allow 6 full working days for prescriptions to be processed (does not including weekends and bank holidays), so make sure you put in for your repeat request in plenty of time. If you have run out of your medication and need an urgent supply, please contact the dispensary and we can arrange an emergency supply of your medication.

Managing your prescription.

At Clift Surgery, repeat prescriptions may be requested in the following ways:

- By hand drop your repeat slip into the dispensary or if closed in the post box located to the right of the main entrance.
- By post send it to us.
- By ordering online using NHS APP or Patient Access (N.B. NHS APP is replacing Patient Access) Please see our web site www.cliftsurgery.co.uk on how to download the NHS app or ask at reception
- Prescription queries can be made by telephone if you have queries or problems ordering your medication.

Medication Reviews. Patients on repeat medication will be asked to speak to a Healthcare professional at least once a year to review these regular medications and a notification should appear on your repeat slip. Please ensure that you book an appointment to avoid unnecessary delays to further prescriptions.

DNAs for September. The number of patients not attending booked appointments in September was **110**. Please make sure you let the surgery know if you are unable to attend or no long require the appointment. Thank you



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

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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

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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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Contacts

Julie Crawley

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND - SWP Parish	Revd Stewart Deering Mob: 07359 717577 Tel: 01256 647900 stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org			
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke 819722 Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke 316000			
SSJ MS Mrs Cally Morris Pamber Chris Gunnell BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HAMPSHIRE POLICE	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk David McIntyre Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingstoke.gov.uk Androulla Johnstone Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.gov.uk Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke 84484 The Castle, Winchester Non-emergency 101 or 01962 841841 www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime			
PC 23888 Simon Denton NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEAREST JOB CENTRE	simon.denton.23888@hampshire.police.uk 07469562503 ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com 01256 850891 https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk			
LOCAL GROUPS WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RAINBOWS BROWNIES GUIDES CUBS Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ SSJ SOCIAL CLUB SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY TENNIS CLUB SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING SUMMIT JUDO CLUB YOGA in SSJ Village Hall SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB FOOTBALL CLUB PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary) 01256 590359 Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com 422083 Sam Hazlewood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com 880132 Ms Trish Field 01420 544904 Mrs Liz Gwynn 07770 373282 850303 850303 Mrs Jane Shelvey jshelvey@lillydown.net Paul & Maria Saunders 850430 Mrs Margaret Cramer 850390 Mr Len Dunce 07860 435 831 or Mr Paul Hamilton 07917 005862 Mrs Jacqui Morris 881336 Mr Les Bone 850973 Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com 07584 169241 Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com 07528 726248			
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING BALLET at SSJ Village Hall	www.piccolopsn.com Mr Stuart Maughan 01256 883858 Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com Jenni Stafford jenni@jsba.uk			
VENUE BOOKINGS: St Stephen's Hall MS Village Hall SSJ Village Hall The Chute Pavilion Royal British Legion Doreen Quilter Shawna Campbell Terry Buller John Delafield	enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk 07759 064220 ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com 07526 954835 tel.buller@gmail.com 07584 169241 johndelafield66@gmail.com			
HEALTH CARE NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST HANTSDOC BRAMBLYS GRANGE CHINEHAM SURGERY CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY HOLMWOOD, TADLEY ROOKSDOWN SURGERY MORELAND SURGERY	473202 01189 365592 467778 479244 329021 881228 01189 814166 399710 0118 9816661			
EDUCATION THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher) Ms Sarah Jolliffe (Head teacher) Mr Jamie Carroll 850062 850180 473379			
PUBLIC SERVICES CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES BUS STATION (STAGECOACH) LIBRARIES	0808 2787829 0345 484950 0871 121 0190 Basingstoke Town Centre 473901 Chineham Library 465643 Tadley Library 0300 555 1387			
DIAL-A-RIDE	Tadley Library 0300 555 1387 Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm 01256 462101			
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				

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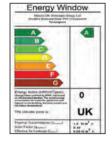
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