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News from Clift Surgery

Patients failed to attend 107 appointments during the past month – without letting the surgery know. This is particularly shocking when others are finding it very difficult to see a medical practitioner.

Please cancel your appointment if you do not need it Tel: 01256 881228

Free Trees!!

The Council are currently giving away 2 free trees per household: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/tree-mendous-giveaway



Poppy-Jo, Annie, Henry and Toby enjoying maybe their last ice cream of the summer

Where am I?

Answer on Page 29

Cover Photo: Gorse and heather on Cornish headland

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.

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"Out of the darkness, can come light"

The Princess of Wales closed her most recent health update with a message of hope to all those walking a similar road to her: "Out of darkness, can come light, so let that light shine bright."

With the deepening of Autumn and lengthening of nights, it's easy to feel the weight of the long nights pressing in. For many of us, this seasonal change will be an echo of personal challenges we may be navigating, or perhaps the broader struggles our world continues to face.

Princess Kate's words remind us that it's so often the darkest moments when the smallest glimmers of light shine the brightest. Whether it's a kind text from a friend, a helping hand from a neighbour, or a glimpse of beauty in the world around us, there is light to be found.

Jesus came into the world with a promise that he would not just be a glimmer of light, but the "Light of the World" (John 8v12), coming to dispel the darkness once and for all. He continues by promising, "whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

This half-term in our churches, we will be celebrating this light with a Family Light Trail on Sunday 27th October (details below). And in our All-Age services we will be thinking about what it means both to trust in the Light that Jesus brings and how - in a world where the shadows continue to linger - we can be part of letting that light shine bright.

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

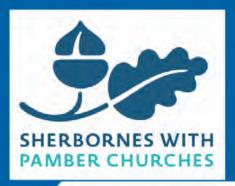


Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

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



October 2024

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For regular updates please scan the QR code:



Wed 2nd	ı	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ
Sat 5th	į	8.30am - Morning Prayer - The Parish Room 7.30pm - Paul Kerensa Comedy Night - SSJ Village Hall
Sun 6th	(III	10.30am - All-Age Morning Worship Harvest Celebration - St Andrew's 12pm - Community Harvest Lunch - SSJ Village Hall
Mon 7th	Ì	12pm Retired Men's Bible Study - 22 Tyfield SSJ
Wed 9th	Ì	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ 7.30pm Rectory Group - Vyne Road, Sherborne St John
Sun 13th	1	9am - Holy Communion Harvest Celebration - All Saints' Monk Sherborn 10.30am - Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s
Wed 16th	1	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – All Saints' Monk Sherborne 2.15pm - SSJ Primary School Harvest Collective Worship - St Andrew's
Sun 20th	l	10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-14s
Wed 23rd	Ì	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer – St Andrew's SSJ 7.30pm Rectory Group - Vyne Road, Sherborne St John
Sun 27th	j	9am Morning Worship- Pamber Priory 10.30am All-Age Morning Worship - St Andrew's SSJ 4.30-6.30pm - Light Trail - St Andrew's SSJ

We are trialling a new pattern of Sunday Service times so please note the changes above. Services at St Andrew's will now start at 10.30am and All Saints' and Pamber Priory will start at 9am.

The Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards. Search Parish of the Sherbornes with Pamber on Youtube or use the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

Children of all ages are very welcome in our services. At St Andrew's we run a Sunday Club & Creche during term time

Claiming Dates

October 2024

1	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Men I have Married	2.00pm
3	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm - 8.00pm
5	Parish of Sherbornes with Pamber, Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa, SSJ Village Hall Ticket event	7.30pm
5	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	
6	Harvest Festival, St Andrews Church followed by Community Lunch in SSJ Village Hall	10.30am
7	Macmillan Charity Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.00am – 12.00
11	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ School Assc. adult only Quiz Night, teams of 6 max. £4 pp	7.30pm
12	Sherborne St John Social Club, Michael Jackson Tribute, Ticket Only	7.30pm
14	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am - 12.00
17	Knit & Natter, Ramsdell Village Hall (third Thursday of every month)	2.00pm - 4.00pm
21	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am - 12.00
26	Sherborne St John Social Club, Jake & Jay House of Games Night, Halloween Fancy Dress	7.00pm
27	Light Trail & Refreshments, St Andrews Church, SSJ	4.30pm - 6.30pm

November 2024

4	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am - 12.00
5	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Christmas Miscellany	2.00pm
7	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Sherborne St John Social Club, Carbon Copy Band	7.30pm
9	60s Night at Monk Sherborne Village Hall including buffet supper Tickets from	7pm
11	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
16	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	
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
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	

December 2024

2	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am - 12.00
3	Women's Fellowship, CHRISTMAS LUNCH	
5	Monk Sherborne Village Drinks - First Thursday of the month, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am - 12.00
16	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am - 12.00
19	Knit & Natter, Ramsdell Village Hall (third Thursday of every month)	2.00pm - 4.00pm

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775800955

News from Pamber and Little London

It's a blackberry bumper year for us at least. The faster I pick them, the faster they appear. Or so it seems. I'd be delighted if anyone could provide some suggestions for how to use this lovely fruit, in addition to the inevitable - but delicious blackberry and apple crumble of course. I actually produced a very successful bombe (pictured) and made a pastry case which I then lined with marscapone and fresh blackberries (also pictured). Both of these were appreciated by husband and friends, though I wondered afterwards if the dish might have been more interesting if I had poached the fruit gently in, say, kirsch or brandy..... Next time!





On a more serious note, the tremendous advantages provided by ever-developing technology are, alas, counterbalanced by, amongst other things, an increase in scamming. The Pamber Parish Council provided me with some information from Hampshire Alert which I thought readers might find useful.

"We receive an average of 200 reports a week from local residents who have been defrauded, with a total weekly monetary loss of between £1million and £4million. Many of these crimes started with a simple phone call. Our colleagues at the Met Police have created this short, simple, signed, subtitled video to help you avoid being defrauded by a criminal over the phone:

Little Guide to Avoiding IMPERSONATION FRAUD (subtitles & sign).mp4 on Vimeo

Hampshire Alerts is not a crime reporting portal – please do not report crime here. If you realise you've been scammed and wish to report a fraud that has already happened, please report it to Action Fraud either phone 0300 123 2040 or online at: *Action Fraud*

If a crime is in progress, and/or you are in fear for yourself or someone else, and/

or there is evidence in situ that could be damaged/destroyed, please phone 999 immediately.

Otherwise, report online, or find out about other ways to report a crime at: Report a crime | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

Thank you – Fraud Safeguarding Team" And finally, a word to the White Van Man who, on the occasion of the recent collision at Pamber Heath, where the Speedwatch volunteers were monitoring speed, took the trouble to berate the team for "causing the accident". In a kind of way, he has a point. When spotting the high-viz jackets and clipboards of the SpeedWatch team, we drivers all doubtless feel a Pavlovian need to check our speed and probably slow down. It is crucial, however, that we only do so when it is safe, and that the checking of the speedometer is extremely brief. If that is not the case, accidents may occur.

Enjoy those blackberries! Oh and if you have a friend you would like to feature in the Meet the Villager section, do let me know. Thanks.

B u bdownes.villager@gmail.com

Monk Sherborne & Charter Alley Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 15th May, a summary of the parish council activities over the previous 12 months was provided, including the financial position.

We were pleased to have 3 attendees and an apology, and our PCSO also attended for part of the meeting.

The 1/4 Parish Council was also held on the same evening, matters discussed included the increasing volume and speed of traffic through the parish, driver behaviours, signage and road markings. The Parish Council are seeking guidance on how to progress.

The condition of footpaths were also raised, it is the responsibility of the land owner to maintain/clear paths, this however is not always done promptly. Residents are encouraged to report issues on Basingstoke & Deane website, public rights of way. https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

Recently we have met volunteers who are tasked from reported issues clearing the pathways.

We have requested signage to remind dog walkers of their responsibilities.

The flooding issues at War Memorial and Queens House Stable entrance remain on highways to do list!!

The Parish Council election was held at the beginning of May, Peter Boyle, Arron Minter, Paul Cave & Cheryl Mcsoley retained their seats, no further candidates were forthcoming.

The play area was formally opened on 3rd May, a competition held on the night was won by Alexa who received £5. Thank you to those who donated the Pizzas and Curries. A secondary gate has now been fitted at the far end of the car park.

At the July meeting fly tipping and local residents using ditches for garden waste was discussed. Residents are



encouraged to raise issues directly with the council by reporting https://www. basingstoke.gov.uk/report.

Residents are encouraged to use the garden waste collection service https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

For those of you not aware the council are currently giving away free trees https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/treemendous-giveaway

Our next meeting will be 6th November at 7.20pm.

If you should have any items to raise at Parish Council Meetings you should contact the clerk in advance of the meeting to discuss. clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council website is a source of useful information www. monksherborne-pc.gov.uk

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World Sight Day 2024

Thursday, 10th October - 9am-3pm Central Square, Basingstoke

Over 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss 43 million people in the world are blind 1.2 billion need glasses to see better

World Sight Day, now in its 12th consecutive year, comes once again to a stand in Central Square, Basingstoke – between Primark and Costa – on **Thursday**, **10th October** courtesy of **The Basingstoke Lions Club**, featuring a display of information regarding sight loss and small items of equipment to help the visually impaired with some of the practical aspects of daily living.

On this day, people are invited to take their redundant spectacles – prescription, non-prescription and sunglasses – for forwarding to the Lions Club of Chichester who will sort and distribute, e.g. gold rims are sent for melting down for the gold and vintage/designer pairs are sold on Ebay. The remainder are then sent to Medico France in Le Havre where they are cleaned and graded, ready for use in eye camps in Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

Around 1/1.30pm the Club's very own "Lennie the Basingstoke Lion" may be spotted on the prowl', when he drops in on Leightons and Prime Opticians to collect the haul of spectacles already donated by their own customers.

In addition, the Lions will mount a spectacle collection point in **Morrisons Supermarket** from **Monday 7th - Sunday 13th October**, thus providing an alternative option for those who might find that more convenient.

On a global scale, the aim of this day, on which Lions Clubs around the world conduct various sight-related projects, is to focus attention on the universal issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment and thus raise awareness about the importance of eye health and the need for quality eye care services for all.

Basingstoke Lions Club is delighted once more to be able to offer its service to the community – your spectacles need not languish in a drawer; please bring them to us!

(Note: Please - no spectacle cases)

Contact: av@mypostoffice.co.uk

Ordinary people – amazing things!

Hampshire County Councillor Report

Calleva Division Increased housing targets for Hampshire

You might have noticed publicity about new housing targets for councils announced by Angela Rayner. The figures for Hampshire are in the graphic below. The first column is the current housing target, the second is the number of houses delivered last year and the third is the new housing target released by the Government this week. You can see the increase proposed for B&DBC below.

I'm all in favour of new housing., but new homes must be built in the right place, preserving local gaps; planned in consultation with local people; and crucially include high levels of local infrastructure. In a letter Angela Rayner penned to council leaders recently she admitted that her new approach 'will delay the adoption of some plans'. So much for getting on with delivery.

The enforced government delay is deeply concerning because we are obliged to provide a 5-year housing land supply. This means we need to show that we have a plan to deliver the next five years of housing meeting the Government's target. So if our target is suddenly increased then we are unlikely to be able to meet it immediately

and if we don't, there is a huge risk of developers getting permission for speculative plans, which are unlikely to include the significant amount of new infrastructure we are demanding through the Local Plan process.

Of most concern is the fact that these new targets, introduced across both the county and the country, increase the amount of housing rural areas must deliver enormously.

Yet the numbers to be delivered by London and cities outside of the capital largely decrease. So much for the new Government's insistence that new development should be delivered on brownfield and greyfield sites first.

The commonality between those areas with much increased targets? They are overwhelmingly councils controlled by Conservatives or Liberal Democrats. The areas with decreasing housing targets? Yes, largely Labour run. (Evidence the reduction in housing target for Labour controlled Southampton).

This is a really worrying precedent for the new Government, let's hope their decision making is less partisan as it progresses.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

District	Current Method	Annual average net additions (20/21 – 22/23)	Proposed Method
Basingstoke & Deane	828	1,001	1,137
East Hampshire	575	493	1,074
Eastleigh	645	713	902
Fareham	498	115	794
Gosport	339	91	465
Hart	297	580	734
Havant	508	338	874
New Forest	729	268	1,465
Rushmoor	265	346	606
Test Valley	524	710	921
Winchester	676	1,006	1,099
Portsmouth	897	132	1,098
Southampton	1,473	438	1,295
Isle of Wight	703	499	1,104
South East region	51,251	40,837	69,060

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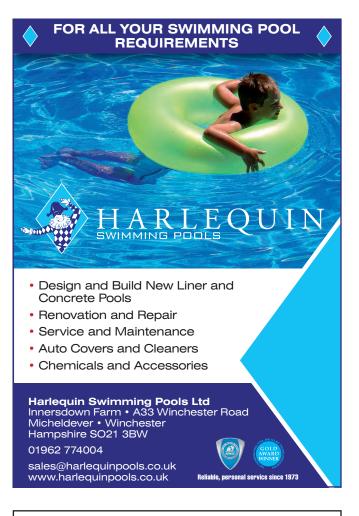
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Bonkers over Conkers



While on a walk in the Vyne sometime last year we saw lots of horse chestnut fruit scattered on the grass and we thought it was a good time to collect some conkers.

On closer inspection of each of the fruit on the ground, just a broken empty shell was seen. Where is the nut or the seed, known popularly as conker? It should either be inside the shell or lying close to it, having popped out of the shell on hitting the ground. We saw plenty of shells, but not a single conker. Where have all the conkers gone?

Has somebody collected them for the World Conker Championship, an annual event which takes place in Northampton? Northampton is further away, and it seems unlikely that they would travel that far.

(Conker smashing- players use conkers threaded onto a string and take turns to strike the other's conker until it shatters. You may be a bit late for this year's Conkers Championship, which is generally held in early October, but you still have enough time to practice and sharpen your nut shattering skills for the next year)

Or it is quite possible that some children have collected them to play Conkers or practice some craft on conkers. I don't see any kids around. Moreover, kids these days are unlikely to be interested in playing conkers, it is just child's play for them. They enjoy sweeping their little finger across the face of an iPad to play their games and they can indeed show you a trick or two in doing that.

We walked around frantically looking for conkers, no luck, all empty shells all over the woods.

Then I heard a squeak or two and there were two squirrels squealing in

delight dancing around a big bounty of conkers. They looked so delighted at the treasure they found so early in the season and they started moving at a frantic pace in different directions, obviously to keep small hoards in different places to see them through the winter. By keeping small hoards in different places, they could evade the taxman and disappoint any intruders. Do they have a combined account or separate accounts? I need to do some research on that.

As you are beginning to develop that thought-is this bloke going bonkers over conkers, let me close that thought with a few lines from Seren Roberts poem- Its autumn now-summers end contest.

Soon the autumn will be upon us Bringing pictures of many hues The chestnut tree full of conkers Every little boys dream



Monk Sherborne Village Hall

The village hall continued to be well utilised over the summer, our regular hirers have now returned providing an opportunity locally for a variety of exercise classes:

Monday

6-7pm Sue Cordery Yoga

07884138026

Tuesday

9.30 -10.15am Rachael Foster HIT

07867977933

Wednesday

6-7 pm Helen Clarke Yoga

helenclarkeyoga@gmail.com

Thursday

9-10 am Rachel Raune Pilates

07815862164

Friday

9-10 am Helen Clarke Yoga

helenclarkeyoga@gmail.com

Our next village night will be on **Thursday 3rd October 6-8pm**, come and join us for a catch-up, reasonably priced Beer, wine and non-alcoholic options.

The coffee mornings held on 2nd Monday of the month 10:45 - 12:00 have enabled donations to various charities.

In August, Anna Shevchenko, an author temporarily living locally, gifted two books "Around the War in 20 Stories" to the village. The book printed under shelling in Ukraine containers true stories. If you would like the book on loan please contact:

enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk

Information about the book can be found here:

www.aroundthewarin20stories.com

and about the writer:

https://aroundthewarin20stories.com/pages/contact

Donations can be made via Just Giving website.



Beau's Blog

The things a dog has to do! The Mrs has been at the brushes again - the ones on sticks that I am not allowed to chew! My dearest French friend Frédéric (commonly known as Frédo) (pronounced Fraydoh) invited us all to watch the combine harvester cut the field of corn belonging to his family. In fact we all turned out, our visitors, his family and Frédo, being inordinately keen on big machines of any sort tractors, harvesters, balers, etc - you get the picture - asked the Mrs if she would do another painting for him - of the "batteuse". This will be a gift to say thank you for all the friendship and generosity his family shows us, me included. She has previously completed paintings of himself, his tractor, his log splitter, the family dog and their house. All the family work on farms or with wood and I recognise the sound of his

tractor coming up the road now, so I know when to look out for him and get a friendly pat.

The Mrs takes a few days to complete the painting and I helped, of course, by jogging her occasionally when I felt she had been sitting too long in the same position. She knows I am right and reluctantly leaves the easel for a stretch and a bit of playing with me and my favourite tennis ball. She wants a photo of her work so gets her own back for my jogging her by getting me to sit very still for quite some time so she can lean it against me in the best light by the window and take a snap. I think I look quite handsome, the combine's not too bad and Frédo was so pleased with his painting he gave me extra pats.





Book tickets to a multi awardwinning variety show!

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the **best-selling** and **longest running** 'family variety show' in the South of England and is set to return to The Haymarket Theatre for its 29th stunning, variety show spectacular! Get down with the Gang as they showcase a series of sensational songs, comical choreography, super sketches, and a whole lot more. The 45th anniversary show will be performed at The Haymarket in February 2025. Audiences will be entertained as the cast of 70 take to the stage across 11 performances many over half term week. This best-selling amateur production is not to be missed, as it showcases the

very best of local talent in the Scout & Guide associations.

Tickets are on sale from 6th September via www.anvilarts.org.uk so book early so you, your friends and family experience this feel-good show at The Haymarket.

Dates are Thursday 13th to Saturday 22nd February 2025, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 15th and 22nd February. Ticket prices: Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24. Ticket prices include £3 booking fee via Anvil Arts.

Group booking discount of £1.00 off each ticket for every 10 purchased

before 31st January 2025. Discounts not available with online bookings.

All adults who are interested in volunteering for Basingstoke Gang Show 2025, please get in touch! There's a lot to do before we reach the theatre in February, from building scenery, making costumes or other support.

Local businesses can apply to be a sponsor of Basingstoke Gang Show with packages from as little as £100 up to £2,000. To find out more go to www. basingstokegangshow.com/sponsorship Look at the Basingstoke Gang Show

website www.basingstokegangshow.com







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Frances Mcsoley, Chrissie Sanguinetti & Minty Lawson-Smith after their recent climb of Ben Nevis in 28 degrees. Frances carries the BRACA 2 gene which means she has 95% chance of developing breast cancer. She is raising awareness about preventative surgery. She organised the challenge, sourced sponsorship etc in aid of Eve's Appeal.

Well done ladies!





Upcoming events at The Vyne

4-6 Oct

Movies under the stars pre-booking essential: https://www.adventurecinema.co.uk/venues/the-vyne

26 Oct-3 Nov

Half-term family fun on the Halloween pumpkin trail House 11am-3pm, gardens 10am-4pm £2 per trail sheet and prize. Normal admission applies.

Daily:

Burning fiery shades of ochre, amber and crimson red, don't miss welly walks out on the estate. Dogs on leads can have their free Pooch Passport stamped at Visitor Reception.

Enjoy a pumpkin spiced latte in the Brewhouse and browse luxurious throws and more in the gift shop.

From 4 Nov inclusive winter opening hours: gardens close 4pm, house 11am-3pm weekends only.





Polio has long been a feared viral infection that mainly affects children and for which there is no cure. It causes

nerve injury which leads to death or partial or full paralysis. Whilst the last outbreak of polio in the UK was in the 1970's there are still many people in our country who live with the paralysing effects of this disease. British children are still routinely vaccinated against Polio and kept safe from infection.

POLIO in GAZA

Unfortunately, last month the World Health Organisation declared that a baby had been partially paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years. This has been disappointing news. WHO has recently started the difficult programme, of vaccinating 640,000 child in Gaza. Hopefully this can be achieved.

POLIO is preventable with vaccination

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Rotary international has contributed more than \$2.6. billion toward eradicating the disease worldwide, vaccinating 3 billion children in 122 countries.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year.

Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.

Smallpox is the only deadly disease to have been eradicated. This was in 1979. Polio is close to eradication but we will need to continue to fund the programme until it

is achieved. Rotary Clubs around the world are committed to continue to fund the vaccination programme.

The part played by JONAS SALK

The unsung hero of this battle is a man named Jonas Salk, an American virologist and medical researcher who



developed one of the first successful polio vaccines which quelled one of the biggest outbreaks of Polio in the US when it was introduced in 1952. The rolling out of Polio vaccination programmes around the world has been a great success.

Joseph Salk has been hailed for his altruism, he chose to not patent the

vaccine or seek any profit from it in order to maximize its global distribution and in doing so he gave the world a great gift.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation since

the year 2000 have matched Rotary International funding by 2 to 1 to give a huge boost to the programme. Together we've reduced cases by 99.9% since 1988. The aim is to eradicate Polio totally

World Polio Day, 24th October 2024

Rotary clubs help to plant millions of purple crocuses every



year to raise awareness and to raise funds to eradicate Polio whilst adding a splash of purple to our communities.

The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate polio. The colour representing the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child to indicate they have received their life saving oral polio vaccine. For a number of years Rotary in Basingstoke has been planting purple crocuses around the borough. Recently we've planted them at The Silk Mill in Whitchurch, Turnpike Cottages in Overton and at Stratton Park, Kempshott

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.

Royal British Legion

Some committee members attended the funeral of our friend and former branch President Tony Evans on 30 August. Tony was so proud that fascinating evening. he served his country in the Royal The annual Poppy Appeal launches Hampshire Regiment, mostly serving in overseas locations. He was a member of our branch for over 50 years being

most UK branches. Our short AGM will be held at Cross

House Bramley at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 October.

our Standard Bearer and carrying

the Standard at the RBL Ypres 90

commemoration in 2011, attended by

This will be followed by an illustrated talk by Rhydian Vaughan on the pursuit and scuttling of the German navy's most feared battleship The Bismarck in 1941. This is open to everyone and will be a

officially on Saturday 28 of this month. Please support the appeal as generously as you can. It funds the majority of the caring work of the Legion throughout our military family, past and present.

John Morley

Branch Chairman revjmorley@talktalk.net





Anthony John Evans 'Tony'

Battlefield Tours

All of our tours and visits to the battlefields are memorable but sometimes there is just a hint of an edge!

I was recently lucky enough to take a group to Ypres which included the great great granddaughter of Field Marshall the Viscount Plumer. It was he who opened the Menin Gate in 1927 with the immortal words 'He is not missing, he is here.'

I had alerted the Last Post Association and asked them to make a fuss of her which they did brilliantly. They put her at the front of the wreath queue, talked her through the process and asked her to deliver the Exhortation. For her it was a very moving experience and all

thanks to the Last Post Association for their kindness and consideration.

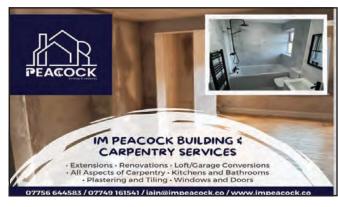
If anyone can help me with the CWGC, I think that she and her family should be guests at the rededication of the Menin Gate, following the refurbishment in June 2027- always assuming we have not been taken by then!

Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Battlefield Tours

07774 681516 Email: rhydian@battlefieldtours.co Web: www.battlefieldtours.co







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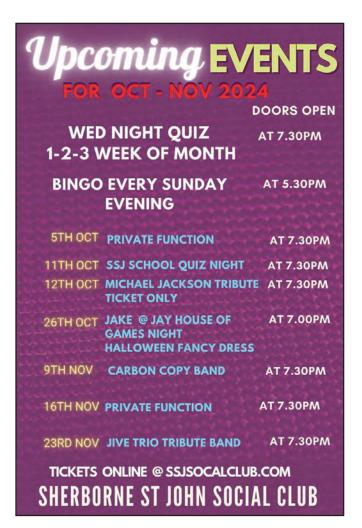
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Basingstoke Cats Protection currently have 10 cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

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.

Probus Hears About Hairy Helicopter Flight to Alexandria



Probus Club member David Stiles recalled an experience he would not want to repeat about a long-distance helicopter flight in 1968. He was acting as "Flying Spanner" with two pilots who had to ferry a newly introduced Bell 212 helicopter from Coventry that was urgently needed on a Shell oil drilling ship in the Mediterranean Sea above Alexandria in Egypt.

As an avionics expert he was monitoring an advanced navigation system throughout the flight of 4,500 kilometres. Bell 212 helicopters had a range of under 300 miles which meant many refuelling stops, hence the need for an indirect route.



Difficulties soon arose between the two pilots who squabbled as to which of them was in charge with several instances putting the helicopter, and themselves, in great danger. One decided to take a short cut over the French Alps to Nice instead of the planned route to Marseilles. The Bell 212 did not have de-icing equipment and with cloud up to 9,000 feet the helicopter started to ice up at 10,000 feet. Reducing height to above the top of the clouds they just missed the weathervane at the top of a monastery.

Flying down Italy one decided they should 'take a look' at the Vesuvius volcano and descended into the crater. While the volcano was dormant sulphur fumes curtailed this sightseeing.

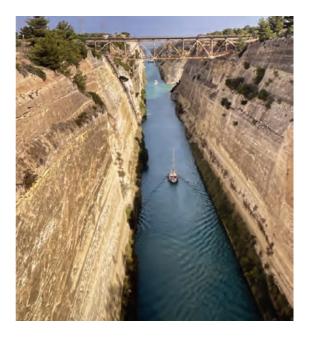
Severe turbulence became problematic as they crossed Greece and had to fly as low as possible. The Corinth Canal offered calm conditions, flying just a few feet above the water the 200 feet high sheer rock walls were only 15 feet either side of their rotors. They hopped over any shipping returning close to water level.

A nervous Egyptian army insisted the helicopter circle slowly over their army base with their missile site tracking the flight. They

checked that no armaments were visible as the Bell 212 was American made with a British crew and both countries had supported Israel in the recent Six Days War which the Egyptians had spectacularly lost.

The Bell 212 had behaved impeccably as had the navigation equipment throughout the flight that had taken a total of seven days.

Returning to England David



Stiles left the company six months later, having never been fond of helicopters, and returned to his first love of fixed wing aircraft working for Dan Air at Lasham.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



The Priory Primary School



The Priory Primary School is currently interested in recruiting school governors from the community. This is a great opportunity to get involved with a successful and happy school, and make a difference in your community.

Global Citizens at The Priory

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











Extra curricular opportunities at The Priory

We are very proud of the curriculum we offer at The Priory Primary School in Pamber End. Beyond this, we also offer a range of extra curricular clubs and learning opportunities for our pupils led by our teachers and external coaches and specialist teachers.

Our clubs range from extra languages, through woodwork, to a whole range of sporting clubs (even Quidditch!!).







We have an Open Day coming up on 16th October, so if you'd like to see the school in all its glory for your child to start in our Reception 2025 intake, please contact us to reserve a place.

We currently have spaces in our Year 3 and Year 6 classes, so if you are interested in your children coming to The Priory, please give us a call on 01256 850062 or email office@priory.hants.sch.uk to arrange a visit.



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Women's Fellowship



Our Women's Fellowship meeting this month was held on Tuesday, 3rd September and we were joined by Stephen Reid who was leader of the Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council in the early 1990s.

In June 1991, he was summoned to see David Pitt, the chief financial officer and told that they had received a substantial bonus from the Government of £6.5 m. There had been talk in the past of the need for a civic hall but the money had never been available. Perhaps this was now the time. Stephen's mother had

been a concert pianist and so he was keen to incorporate excellent acoustics.

An architect was found to see if the money available would be sufficient. Renton, Howard, Wood, Levin were so excited by this prospect that they produced designs and a 3D model but with a price tag of £11m. David Pitt was confident that they could find the money. Stephen gained support from his own councillors and the local MP although advised that it was an enormous risk for a small council which had always had a good reputation. Stephen decided he would take the risk. He had confidence in the council management and in June 1992, after lots of publicity, much negative, the full council passed the resolution to progress.

Stephen wanted a building that would be distinctive in design, and easily recognised by anyone looking for it. Acoustics were so important too. There are actually two buildings, a separate one to contain all the equipment needed to run the building so no vibrations were felt in the auditorium and the other double skinned to keep out the sound of trains, cars but mostly the bells of St Michael's Church.

This civic hall had to have a name and The Anvil was chosen as a forge had once been on the site and also because of its shape. The project was finally completed and the keys handed over in April 1994, only two years and 10 months after his first meeting with David Pitt. The final cost was £12.4m and Stephen was told that it was worth double.

The Anvil now has an amazing reputation with audiences and musicians alike and how lucky are we to have this fabulous venue on our doorstep and what an achievement for Stephen's time on the council.

A fascinating talk which we all so enjoyed before sampling the delights of a harvest tea

Preloved Clothes and Accessory Sale

In aid of



Saturday, 23rd November 2024, 2pm Sherborne St John Village Hall

Need to declutter?
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and accessories
- in very good condition to this worthy local charity

Contact: Julie 07703 720961

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sherborne St John Village Hall 7th October, 2024 9am to 12noon Cakes, Tea and Coffee

All donations warmly welcome be it monetary, cake, loaves or cupcakes.

A great event for a very worthy cause that touches us all.

Sherborne St John Primary School

We are well and truly back into the swing of the new school year and it has been busy! Our Class 4 children have started their swimming lessons. Year 6 have already completed their Bikeability lessons which prepare them for cycling safely on the local roads. Class 3 have been to QMC for their annual science workshops and they're also off on a day trip to Stubbington in the first week of October.

During the month of October, we look out for the good conkers beginning to drop and we will soon be holding our annual conker tournament which is a highlight of this term. All the children take part with their classes during the week and we come together at the end for a very exciting conker final!

We are all looking forward to another School Association Quiz night in conjunction with the Social Club. The last quiz night was a huge community success so we'd love to see you there on Friday 11th October.

Tours for prospective parents are now underway. Please visit our website for more information or contact the school office to arrange a tour with our Year 6 ambassadors. We are looking forward to meeting you and showing you how great our school and children are!

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Basing Singers and Basingstoke Concert Band present

'An Evening at the Musicals'

Date and time: Saturday 12 October 2024 at 7.30pm

Venue: Old Basing Village Hall RG24 7DA

Join us for a delightful evening filled with musical performances by the talented Basing Singers and Basingstoke Concert Band.

Adults: £12 Children: U16 £1

Tickets available from: Mike 07702 883117

& online https://basingsingers.org.uk/ourevents/

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The Village School at Portwenn (aka Port Isaac, Cornwall) the location for Doc Martin and also the 2 films about the Fisherman's Friends.

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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'.
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- For information on annual block advertisements please contact Emma Foreman

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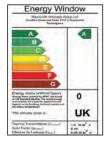


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