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Editor's Note

Firstly, I have to thank Lindsay Berry hugely for taking over the editing of the Villager for the February and March issues. I think you will all agree Lindsay did a magnificent job.

Producing this magazine is always a team effort: – the advertising, the printing, the distribution to people's homes and of course the contributors of articles/photos etc. My thanks to the whole team that so competently filled the "hole" during my absence (for good behaviour ?!)

If you would like to join our team by distributing the magazine in your vicinity please contact Liz Gwynn at lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com.

Julie

Dear Villager Reader

Sadly the Villager magazine, like many, finds itself facing rising costs of paper and printing charges and diminishing income streams with fewer businesses wishing to advertise in local magazines. Advertising has been our sole source of financial support with only occasional donations.

Could you help us by making either a one-off contribution, or even a regular monthly donation?

For decades the Villager has provided the Parish with information and entertainment free of charge, and it would be very sad if this all had to cease with almost immediate effect.

Ever optimistic - Our bank account details are:

The Villager Community Account,
Sort Code: 30-18-45 Account No: 00608061

It would be helpful if you could put your name/organisation and GIFT as a reference.

If you would like to discuss this with me I would be very happy to do so.

Yours very sincerely

Julie Crawley

Editor

On behalf of The Villager Magazine

Cover Photo: Dragonfly on Lotus flower in Indonesia

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

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

Contact us at villagermagazine@gmail.com

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Contents

Church Services	4-5
Claiming Dates	7
SSJ Parish Council	9
Monk Sherborne	
Parish Council	10
Monk Sherborne	
Village Hall	10
SSJ Neighbourhood Watch	10
News from Pamber	
and Little London	11
RWE Proposal Meeting	11
Beau's Blog	16
SSJ Primary School	16
SSJ Village Hall	17
HCC Update - Spring 2023	20
Probus	21
Women's Fellowship	23
The Rotary	28
News from Clift Surgery	29
Local Events & Issues	3, 6,
15, 22, 25	





Happily Ever After?

Everyone loves a good fairytale ending – rags to riches, survival against the odds, the princess marrying the pauper. Stories with a happy ending have a powerful way of cheering us and can even leave us feeling optimistic about life and the future.

But then we scroll through the news app on our phones, or we remember the uncertainties we're facing in our own lives. Any sense of optimism we might have feels fragile at best.

Reading the story found in the Gospels, we might expect like any good story some kind of fairytale ending. And for many, that's exactly what you get. The stone is rolled away and Jesus Christ, the misunderstood hero of the story rises from the dead, the underdog triumphs.

But what if it's not a fairytale ending? The claim at the heart of the Christian Faith is that Easter is neither a fairytale nor an ending, but something much better – a true new beginning.

Christian Apologist Glen Scrivener recounts a famous conversation between friends J.R.R. Tolkein and C.S. Lewis in his little book "The myth that really happened." Lewis' main problem with Christianity was the Easter story. Tolkein encouraged him to consider the ways the story is different

to the mythical stories he loved so much – presented as history, anchored in time and space involving real people and attested events.

Lewis would later write, "As a literary historian, I am perfectly convinced that whatever the Gospels are they are not legends. I have read a great deal of legend and I am quite clear that they are not the same sort of thing."

The final pages of the story of the Gospels present us with a risen Jesus, conqueror of sin and death and all that is wrong with the world. Offering to all who will put their trust in him a truth that we can build our lives on. Lives that will continue to face the same struggles and uncertainties that come with living in this world – but carrying with us a sure and certain hope of a true new beginning, with God, that will last happily ever after.

We'll be celebrating and exploring this true new beginning at all our Easter services and events – details below, all 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



April nect | Share |

Connect With Our Communities

God's Love

Grow In Our Faith In Jesus

St Andrew's Sherborne St John | All Saints' Monk Sherborne | Pamber Priory www.sherborneswithpamber.org facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber

Wed 2nd	10–11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at St Andrew's SSJ2-4pm Being Together Women's Group in the Parish Room
Fri 4th	6.45pm Community Choir at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 6th	10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's SSJ
Fri 11th	6.45pm Community Choir at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 13th	9.30 am Holy Communion at All Saints Monk Sherborne10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's SSJ
Thurs 17th	10-midday Poppy Knitting Group in Parish Rooms at St Andrew's
Fri 18th	2.30pm Reflections at the Cross at Pamber Priory6.45pm Community Choir at St Andrew's
Sat 19th	2.00-4.00pm Egg Hunt at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 20th	9.30am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion at All Saints10.30am All Age Easter Celebration at St Andrew's
Wed 23rd	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12.00-12.30pm Midday prayers at All Saints
Sat 26th	10-midday Women's Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall
Sun 27th	10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's
Weds 30th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall12.00-12.30pm Midday prayers at St Andrew's SSJ



Church Office: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969 Minister: stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577 Safeguarding: safeguarding@sherborneswithpamber.org 07798 550023 For regular updates please scan the QR code:





Come along and knit, or crochet, poppies for a Remembrance Day display at St Andrews's Church, Sherborne St John.

We will meet on the third Thursday in the month between 10am and 12 noon at the parish Room which is attached to the Rectory. There will be tea and biscuits and lots of time to chat while making poppies. patterns, red and black wool, needles, all available if needed.

Dates for your diary: All Thursdays 20/3, 14/4, 15/5, 19/6, 17/7, 21/8, 18/9, 16/10.

Come and see the results of your hard work at St Andrew's on 9th November 10.30am.

Ring Lynne Littlechild for more information. Tel: 07789 968009

Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15 vs 13 (NIV)







Claiming Dates

April	2025
-------	------

1	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, The Good, The Bad, and The Downright Funny	2.00pm – 4.00pm
3 - 5	"The Vicar of Dibley" @ Central Studios. B/s Tkts: https://privatetheatricals.ticket-office.co.uk	7.30 pm
4	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	7.30pm
5	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Jumble/Table Top Sale, SSJ Village Hall, donations from 11am	1.00pm
5	SSJ Primary School Annual Sponsored Fun Run	•
5	Sherborne St John Social Club, Abba Tribute, Ticket only	7.30pm
7	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
12	Sherborne St John Social Club, Race Night	7.30pm
19	Sherborne St John Social Club, Alf Quiz Night	7.30pm
19	Sherbornes with Pamber Churches, Easter Egg Hunt, Starting at St Andrews	2.00pm – 4.00pm
19 - 21	Basingstoke Art Club Annual Spring Exhibition, SSJ Village Hall	10.00am – 4.00pm
21	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
23	Sherborne St John Social Club, Chris's Jazz Friends	7.30pm
26	Basingstoke Concert Band Spring Concert, Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall	7.30pm – 9.30pm
26	Sherborne St John Social Club, Gary Barlow Tribute, Ticket only	7.30pm
May 20	25	
3	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	7.30pm
5	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
6	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Christabel Pankhurst	2.00pm – 4.00pm
8	Sherborne St John Social Club, AGM, Members only	7.30pm
11	Basingstoke Festival of Transport, B/S & Deane Rotary, B/S Memorial Park	
17	Sherborne St John Social Club, Decades Tribute	7.30pm
19	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
28	Sherborne St John Social Club, Chris's Jazz Friends	7.30pm
31	Sherborne St John Social Club, Private Function	7.30pm
June 2	025	
2	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
3	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Titanic Conspiracy	2.00pm – 4.00pm
14	Sherborne St John Primary School Fayre, School Playground	tbc
21	Sherborne St John Village Fête, The Village Green, Sherborne St John	1.00pm – 4.00pm
21	The Vyne National Trust – Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Summer Solstice Concert	7.00pm
16	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
30	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
July 20	25	
1	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Outing	
14	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
28	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

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Sherborne St John Parish Council

Planning

It appears that the Government's intent to 'simplify' the current planning rules will have an impact on current applications that affect SSJ.

Solar Farm

There is the application for the Solar Farm to the north of the village - many parishioners attended the presentation by RWE on March, 4th.

There are a number of significant hurdles that the application has to clear so I imagine it might be several months before this application is submitted. The opinion amongst parishioners seems to be mixed as to whether or not this application is a good thing. If you want to make your opinion heard then please e-mail the Clerk (clerk@ sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk) - a better option than leaving a post on the SSJ News facebook page.

Kiln Farm/Weybrook

The two applications: Kiln Farm and Weybrook, are progressing but I get the impression that both of these applications are waiting to see if changes to Government policy make it any easier for these applications to be progressed.

Solar Farm - Monk Sherborne

There is also an application for another Solar Farm. Monk Sherborne will be mostly impacted by this application. Some of you may have received details of this application with the detail being written in Welsh - useful!

National Power

An application by National Power for a battery storage unit in the same area as the RWE Solar Farm, application has been withdrawn.

Local Plan

The BDBC process to produce a new Local Plan, based on the revised Government numbers for BDBC, continues apace with seemingly some pithy verbal exchanges between different BDBC factions.

The Chute - Renovations

All completed and I'm told, much appreciated by users.

The Chute - Heating

The heating units need replacing. They are expensive to run and it's proving impossible to get spares for the heating units.

We're still looking for suitable

replacements. One thing is for sure that any replacements will be expensive.

The Chute - Ownership

The process to register the Parish Council as the 'legal' owner of the Chute and its environs, progresses but at a snail's pace.

We're told that there is a 12 month delay to land registry transactions.

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.

There have been some 'misses' even after speaking with BDBC.

The situation appears to have been resolved.

It's highly likely that you might see the Chute gate unlocked on Tuesdays, the day that the waste is collected.

The Chute - Playground

The PC will be progressing the installation of a new play area on the Chute recreation ground. Hopefully this new equipment will be up and running by mid summer. The replacement play equipment would be aimed at 4-7 year olds and younger children accompanied by parents.

Cranesfield - Playground

Villagers might have received notification that BDBC are looking to replace the Cranesfield playground equipment. Detail of who to contact at BDBC have been posted on the SSJ News Facebook page.

SSJ Summer Fayre

The Village Hall team are organising a village fayre for Saturday, 21st June. The Parish Council will be contributing to the cost. We adopted this approach when the last fayre took place prior to COVID and it worked well.

Footpath Warden

Peter Lake is now all kitted out and fully funded. You might see him as you wander the paths and byways of the Parish

SSJ Parish Clerk.

Is in post and settling in well. There is some delay in her moving into the village but to be resolved soon. By the time you have read this article Mel, our Locum Clerk, will have left us. I am immensely grateful for her efforts whilst she has been in post.

Parish Office

A slight delay with implementing this with Rosie not yet being permanently located in the village.

Scribe

Is the accounts package that the PC are implementing in the 25/26 fiscal year. Scribe will reduce the manual end of month/year accounting processes. It will also allow hirers of the Chute to make their own bookings, payments, etc.

Richard Morgan Chair, SSJ Parish Council

Where am I?

Answer on Page 29

Monk Sherborne Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 12th March. Agenda and minutes of previous meetings can be found here. http://www.monksherborne-pc.gov.uk/Meetings_Agendas_and_Minutes_37955.aspx.

The PC discussed the recent consultation event held by Solar 2 regarding the Monk Sherborne solar farm, and subsequent village meeting and agreed to contact Solar 2 and invite them to a PC meeting to present and answer questions from the public.

The flooding at the war memorial and rear entrance to Queens House continues to be progressed. Highways have been requested to reassess, and propose a solution to resolve the issues.

Basingstoke & Deane will be implementing weekly food waste

collection in the Autumn, further details are awaited on collection days and waste containers.

A new role has been created Hampshire County Council, Community Engagement Ranger (CER) for Northeast Hampshire Access Team, the PC have provided dates of meetings and look forward to Andy Dawson's attendance at future meetings. It was agreed to contact him to discuss support to resolve footpath concerns.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday 15th May at 7:30pm in Monk Sherborne Village Hall.

Cheryl Mcsoley Parish Councillor

Proposed Solar Farm at Monk Sherborne

The residents of Monk Sherborne met on 10th March in the Village Hall to discuss the proposed Solar Farm, by Solar2 on land to the south of Monk Sherborne. The site is located on a large parcel of agricultural land surrounding Manor Farm and All Saints Church, adjacent to A339 and the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. If you would like further information or wish to be involved with the planning application please contact monksherborne@icloud.com. More details about the proposal can be found at monksherbornesolarfarm.co.uk

Monk Sherborne Village Hall



The recent MoTown evening held in the hall was a great success, it was lovely to see many local people attend. Our thanks go to Mo and Kate for sourcing the band, DJ, preparing the buffet and raffle and organising the event on behalf of the

village hall, and to Paul for organising supplies and running the bar.

Future events are being discussed and will be published on the village hall website and Facebook page.

An event on Monday 5th May for 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) is being considered.

A reminder that all are welcome at our coffee morning (2nd Monday of the month) 10:45 & Village Night (1st Friday of the month)

Plans for the village fete over the weekend of 30/31 August are being developed if you have any ideas for exhibit entries, competitions and/or are willing to

get involved please email enquiries@ monksherbornevillagehall.org

Painting has recently been carried out, along with improvements to external lighting, and front doors. A larger waste bin has arrived to avoid rubbish being in left unprotected from animals, and a new cigarette bin installed.

The village hall is a popular venue for children's parties and is being booked very quickly as dates are released, new daytime classes have also been scheduled further details of what's on can be found on the notice board and on the website.

Cheryl Mcsoley Trustee

SSJ Neighbourhood Watch

A very unusual topic for Neighbourhood Watch but nevertheless a couple of muntjacs (possibly a breeding pair) have been sighted at the Elm Road allotments and nearby. If they settle in SSJ they will do untold damage to gardens.

It is important to protect your own

plants and property as best you can by checking your fences and hedges for gaps and making sure gates are closed securely. If we chase them away when sighted we may be able to get them to move on.

Ted Wilkinson & Mike Greaves



News from Pamber and Little London

A view from the window reveals highly inclement weather. To put it more bluntly, it's chucking it down. And more rain is to come, the forecast tells me. Never mind 'what's a girl to do?' With half-term and energy-filled little ones approaching, what's a Granny to do? Enter The Base.

Some of you may know, or know of, The Base at Greenham. It is a purpose-built visual arts and craft building which houses a gallery, artist studios and a space for classes. There are exhibitions, events, workshops and courses: Family Collage Mural Workshop and Painting and Prosecco are events in March which jump out. And we will have the delight of being able to see the Wildlife Photographer of the Year between Friday 6th June and Sunday 20th July. We will certainly be going and taking refreshment at the very pleasant café there. But back to those grandchildren....

We took them to the Yinka Shonibare CBE exhibition where they were able







to look at paintings, woodblocks and hand-printed sculptures. There was also the chance to have a go and emulate his fabulous bird paintings. And a hot chocolate at the café rounded things off nicely.

I see a branch of Hounds and Bounds has opened on New Road, Pamber Green, a facility which judging by the various hounds I've seen bounding around is a welcome addition to our community.

A WhatsApp message tells me the Thursday tennis group is starting up again at the courts in SSJ - a sign that Spring is truly in the offing. Hooray! Do let me know if anyone wants further information.

I have just heard that after 20 years' service delivering The Villager, Fay has decided to call it a day. We wish her a happy retirement and thank her for her long and reliable service. If you want to continue to receive your magazine, perhaps you might consider taking over the role. It's an excellent way to keep up those steps and is really not at all onerous. It involves about an hour once a month except for December and August when there is no edition of the magazine. It would help you to keep fit and and it would help our Community immensely.

Thank you.

B www.bdownes.villager@gmail.com

RWE Proposal Meeting re Solar Farm alongside the Weybrook in SSJ

The residents of Sherborne St John met on 4th March to discuss the proposed solar farm with RWE on land to the north of the village. Villagers had previously fed back on the planned development following initial consultation in July 2024. Although residents were generally in favour of the principle of solar, strong objections were expressed about the proposed location in the fields either side of the WeyBrook between the village and the Vyne. These concerns are echoed in the official responses from other consultees, which suggest the impact has been greatly underestimated.

The developer presented the amended plans, including a buffer zone around the brook but still using the same site and with an identical impact. This is not about the villagers contesting to solar, this is about the villagers protecting a site of natural beauty not just for the village of Sherborne St John but for the wider community. The city of Basingstoke is ever growing, and people need a green

zone to escape to and this field and path provides this essential green escape. It is clear that RWE has not taken the views of the village (and the much wider community) into account.

Given the evident upset it was also discussed that there might be alternative local options for a solar site that could be less contentious. The field bordering the main road to the left of the proposed site was suggested - further away from the precious walking area, the chalk stream and the wildlife corridor. It was discussed whether this field might be an option and whether a buffer could be placed around the area of old Roman road that cuts through the field. RWE said this idea had been explored and rejected. The issue of local access was also discussed, especially given recent concerns about the capacity of Vyne Road (weight restrictions are currently being considered to take the pressure away from the brook crossing), The additional worry of HGVs navigating

the tight bend in the village centre by the village school was also discussed.

The meeting raised a number of questions around solar developments in general (batteries, capacity /power storage, decommissioning) and the local impact (heritage, landscape community benefits, hedgerows and trees, site access).

In conclusion, the residents of Sherborne St John have voiced their strong concerns regarding the proposed solar farm on land to the north of the village. While the villagers are generally in favour of solar energy, we are advocating for the preservation of a site of natural beauty that is cherished by both the village and the wider community. The developer's amended plans, which include a buffer zone around the brook, still fail to address the significant impact on this precious area

Arabella Davies



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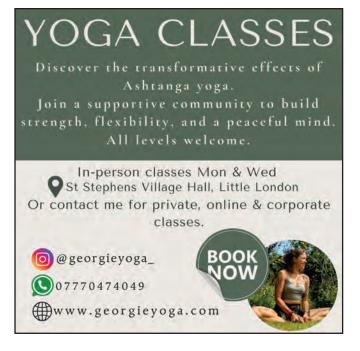
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SHERBORNE ST JOHN VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 21 June 2025

1 pm - 4 pm

SHERBORNE ST JOHN VILLAGE HALL AND VILLAGE GREEN KILN ROAD, SHERBORNE ST JOHN, RG24 9HS

BBQ * PIMMS * TEAS * CAKES * PLANTS * MUSIC TOMBOLA ***** COCONUT SHY ***** GAMES ***** AUCTION COMPETITIONS * RAFFLE * FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY CROCKSMASH * VINTAGE VEHICLES * BOUNCY CASTLE

👬 🦬 Please support our Village by your attendance and voluntary help 📫 👘 Your participation is always welcome ♥ contact hilaryandrews16@gmail.com

Any donations will be gratefully received at the Village Hall from 9am - 11 am on 21st June for the following stalls:

Cakes - Bottles for Tombola - Plants

Beau's Blog



You will notice I am holding Teddy by the arm. This avoids any worries the Mrs might have if I hold him by the ears or the foot. She thinks they may be torn off by accident if I play too roughly with him. I hasten to add that she is misguided in her belief - I wouldn't hurt

him....he is my best friend and I would not damage him, even though he does get flung around a bit. He changes his scent regularly and I am suspicious of the Mrs confiscating him occasionally and heading to her den where the washing machine is housed. He is always returned to me bright and fluffy but his scent is different and it takes a lot of cuddles, playing and licking to get him back to his familiar scent – very much like mine.....something I don't think the Mrs is very fond of.....

There do seem to be a lot of baths recently, which I don't mind. I jump in the bath with alacrity waiting for the shower to be sprayed over me and then a special doggy shower gel is rubbed all over. I have learnt to balance on three

legs while lifting one helpfully while the Mrs cleans the unmentionables. Then comes the rinsing shower again and finally I am allowed to shake but only if the shower curtain is drawn across hiding me from view. I am instructed to jump out of the bath tub and on to a towel while another is draped over me. This is a game I love and I can wriggle and shake with the best. The Mrs has trouble keeping me covered and I love the drying session with the towel before I am let out to show the Boss my new clean coat. He lets me snooze by the fire with Teddy until I am dry and I dream of spending the next few weeks playing and cuddling with Teddy so we can retrieve our own personal scents again...

http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com

Sherborne St John Primary School



We had lots of events last couple of months in school that have been lots of fun.

We held our very first Mad Hair Day at SSJ! This is an event run by St Michael's Hospice and it was our first time being involved. The idea was to wear your hair in a mad way; colour it (temporarily!), curl it, straighten it, stick things in it, add things to it or even wear a wig! Anything goes, as they say. As it was our first time, I wasn't sure to what extent this would play out with our school community – but oh my goodness! Staff got very involved and there was a plethora of

delightfully mad hair from them. And the children – I've never seen such mad hair! We had different coloured hair, up hair, down hair, and then some absolutely amazing creations that I have no idea how they were put together! We raised £235 for the St Michaels' Hospice which is of course such a worthwhile cause, and I hope that Mad Hair Day will become a staple for us here at SSI.

Then in March we had our annual World Book Day! Another excuse to dress up, but with this day comes a real focus on the importance of reading. We all dressed up as our favourite book characters, and took part in a range of reading activities. First, staff each touted a book to the children and then all children chose who to go and listen to read. Then, we shared all the entries we'd had in our 'Get Caught Reading' challenge - of which there were plenty of unusual ones! Then, each class continued in a range of activities during the day. We love reading at SSJ and as we all know, you have to 'read it to write it'; if you aren't experiencing new vocabulary, or exciting ideas, or informative texts, then you aren't building your store of information and skill ready to be a great writer. So, World Book Day is very important in our school.

I mentioned in the last edition about a mailing list for anyone wanting to stay in touch with the school re upcoming events – please do get in touch if you would like to. For our 175th anniversary celebrations later this year (Sept), we would love to hear from any alumni as to what you are up to now after your start at this school, so please do get in touch, and send your name and email address to adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Sherborne St John Village Hall





SSJ Village Hall 2004

SSJ Village Hall 2025

The SSJ Village Hall is and has always been an independent, registered charity, managed by its voluntary Management Committee: it receives no financial or administrative support from any other body. It is not, as was widely believed in the past, owned by or the responsibility of the Parish Council or any other "official" body. Readers who were village residents in 2004 will remember the old Village Hall, shown above, which was beyond further use and economic repair.

In order to replace the old hall with the current building, the Management Committee had to raise all of the necessary capital and manage the design and construction of the new building. They did this with the support of the Village as a whole, organising and running fund raising events and obtaining grants from external bodies.

But that was twenty years ago. Now, the continuance of the Hall charity and the hall itself depend upon new people coming forward to serve on the Management Committee. The village has grown significantly in the past twenty years and there are now many new villagers. Is there no one among you who will help to keep the Village Hall going? If no one volunteers, use of the Hall is in danger of being lost to the Village.

This is not an onerous commitment. The hall is currently well organised and managed, with much of the basic work done digitally. The committee meets three or four times each year and conducts its business mainly electronically. But legally, there must be a Management Committee. Right now that committee is reduced to three persons and desperately needs help.

Will you help and contribute some of your time to maintaining our superb village hall?

If so, please contact the current chairman, Paul Temple, on 07889 499888



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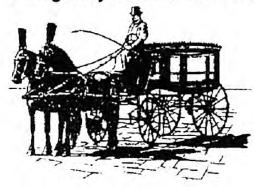
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Hampshire County Councillor Update, Spring 2025 – Calleva Division

This graphic to the right shows you how each £1 of your Council Tax will be spent next financial year in Hampshire. When you include schools spending then social care, school transport and education make up almost 87% of our budget.

At our budget setting meeting Hampshire's Full Council agreed our budget for the year ahead which sees an increase of 4.99% in Council Tax. We had asked the Government to increase it by a larger amount and they refused our request. Why did we ask for a larger rise?

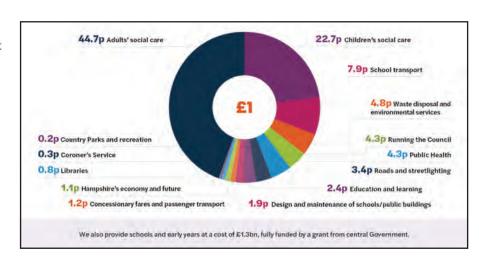
None of us want to increase Council Tax. But, the County Council's services are underfunded, and the reason for that in large part is our historically low Council Tax rate, which is why we needed to request an above 5% increase from Government.

Hampshire's Council Tax this financial year is £1533.24 for a band D property - the second lowest in the country. In Surrey the equivalent rate is £1,758.60, West Sussex £1,714.95, and Oxfordshire £1,820.56 for example.

Each 1% of Council Tax increase in Hampshire nets an additional £8million in revenue for the Council. So, a 5% increase results in £40 million in additional revenue this year. Offset that against the ever rising cost of social care. Every month in Hampshire we see a net increase of 30 people living in care homes who become reliant upon the County Council to pay their costs - even at the most basic level of care these 360 people add a further £18.7 million of cost to our budget each year.

Every month we are seeing an additional 200 applications for Education Health and Care Plans - the first step for children to register for SEN support. That exponential rise is the reason our budget for Home to School transport (for which SEN children qualify for free) has increased from £24 million per year at the end of the pandemic to £105 million next year.

Add to this the effect of employers National Insurance, which will cost us £10.5 million this year - we will get a one off reimbursement of £8 million from Government with nothing for future years.



Consider inflation or pay rises - these of course add further to the bill. We have cut over £700million from our budgets in the last 10 years, and will continue to look for further savings, but frankly there is little left to find and our reserves will, by 2026/27, be exhausted. This is the context within which we find ourselves and the background to both well founded concerns around services and council tax.

For months now, we have tried to engage with this government about our financial situation and have asked for meetings to discuss a positive way forward in partnership. In all that time we have been ignored despite huge pressures on our budget from adult social care and special education costs.

The County Council does not want to raise council tax above the 5% limit. We want to be given the tools to become more entrepreneurial, be given powers to decide where to spend and raise money free of Whitehall diktat. Perhaps our residents will not be surprised - given the present economic management of the country - all these suggestions were ignored too.

We were left with no choice but to agree to give the government our reasons to increase Council Tax above the referendum limit because it is all they asked us to do after finally replying to our letters calling for a meeting.

However, the government has said it will take money from shire counties like ours and give to councils in the midlands and north - some of them bankrupt. It has burdened us with increased costs via

employer national insurance and living wage increases we will not get back. The situation is now much worse.

Hampshire County Council is well run. It has the second lowest council tax nationally. As you can see, we sought the increase only due to the rising costs of social care, special educational needs and those increased costs and lack of funding from the government. We have used our reserves to balance the budget so far but this is not sustainable and by the end of the next financial year they will be gone.

So, we present a budget which will include proposals for more savings and an undertaking that while we look for more ways to reduce our costs we will also be promising to continue to spend our budget wisely, protecting our most vulnerable residents, fixing the roads as best we can and looking after our children who are at risk of harm.

My County Councillor's Grant: For 2024/25 I have given financial support to the following;-

Sherborne St John – Entrance protection Chute Pavilion

Pamber – Entrance Gate barrier

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE Calleva Division Hampshire County Council Fb.com/tellrhydian

Probus Hears the History of Jaguar Cars



This presentation was aimed at the male members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, especially those interested in British cars and Jaguar in particular.

Speaker Nigel Thorley possesses extensive knowledge about Jaguar cars, having owned over 70 of them, including sixteen Mk 2s. He has been the editor of the Jaguar Enthusiasts monthly magazine for over forty years.



The company originated in Blackpool in 1920, initially refurbishing motorcycles

before evolving into manufacturing side cars. Bill Lyons and his partner Bill Walmsley each borrowed £200 from their fathers to form the Swallow Side Car Company. In 1924, they exhibited at the motorcycle show in London and received numerous orders including those from George Brough the manufacturer of the world-famous motorcycles.

A customer requested them to repair his crashed Austin Seven car using their fabrication skills. After examining the bodywork, Bill Lyons decided to improve it and created a new style of two-seater sports car. Although Austin refused to supply chassis directly, Lyons managed to secure an agreement with the largest distributor of Austin cars, allowing Swallow to manufacture both a four-seater saloon and under their Swallow name, the two-seater sports car.

The company relocated to Coventry to be closer to motor industry manufacturers and began producing bodies for the Standard 16. Despite sharing running gear, the vehicle design created an impression it would go faster. In 1934, Bill Walmsley departed to build caravans, prompting Lyons to rebrand the company as SS Cars, reflecting their transition to car body production. The SS Jaguar 100 luxury sports car featured a Wilmot Breeden chassis and a six-

cylinder engine from the Standard Car Company. Before World War II, the company sold these 100 miles per hour cars priced from £360.

During hostilities, the Swallow Side Car Company supplied 10,000 side cars to the military, ceasing car manufacturing and repurposing factories to refurbish aircraft. Postwar, Lyons renamed the company Jaguar Cars, distancing themselves from the negative association with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS.

Admirer of Alfa Romeo and Maserati engines, Lyons developed the Jaguar their own straight 6-cylinder engine, designed to reach 120 miles per hour. The Jaguar XK120 sports car debuted at the 1948 London motor show, receiving critical acclaim and substantial interest from American distributors.

Jaguar achieved considerable success at the Le Mans 24 hours races, between 1954 – 57 featuring the C type and then the D type body but using the latest XK engine. The MK 7 saloon launched during the 1950s used the same engine.

The company moved to Browns Lane factory in Coventry, which later burned down and was retooled to become Britain's second-longest assembly line. Engine production transferred to Birmingham.

In 1962, the MK 2 saloon was introduced at £1,530, becoming popular among



bank robbers. Police adopted the same model to pursue offenders. The XK150 engine powered the 1961 introduction of the Jaguar E Type, capable of reaching 150 miles per hour. Enzo Ferrari described the Jaguar E Type as the most beautiful car in the world.

Following the introduction of the Jaguar MK10 large saloon, Jaguar Cars acquired Daimler in 1962. Daimler specialized in cars for royalty and bus

chassis, holding the royal warrant. Lyons produced a Daimler version of the Jaguar MK 2 saloon with a 2.5 litre V8-cylinder engine, featuring premium enhancements and much walnut veneer making this a success in a different market sector.

Jaguar Cars merged into British Motor Corporation (BMC) in 1966, later part of British Leyland, consisting of 194 companies. Jaguar was eventually privatized, leading to Bill Lyons' retirement.

In 1980, Jaguar returned to saloon car racing and competed in the 1992 Le Mans with the Jaguar 220, capable of reaching 220 miles per hour. Jaguar raced in Formula 1 Grand Prix before selling the team to Red Bull.

Subsequently, Ford acquired Jaguar, incorporating a modified Mondeo floor pan in the small Jaguar X Type saloon and estate car. Despite criticism from purists, Jaguar's production reached unprecedented levels by 1998.

Ford sold Jaguar Cars to the Indian conglomerate TATA, forming Jaguar Land Rover. After launching the Jaguar F Type sports car and I-Pace crossover saloon, Jaguar acknowledged the pressure to produce electric vehicles, halting production in 2024 for a complete relaunch in 2026. Future Jaguar models will include four-door saloons, cross overs and sports cars.

The December 2024 publicity launch unveiled blue and pink sports saloon concepts identified as Jaguar Type 00 cars with updated branding of the name style which sparked controversy but gained significant exposure. The automotive community eagerly anticipates the release of these electric models in 2026 keen to see if Jaguar continues to set standards in style and performance.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no Retirement Coffee Morning on Monday 21st April (Easter Monday) but come and enjoy the Art Show with refreshments instead!

FREE COMMUNITY BUS

Don't forget folks there is a free community bus that runs every Friday from Sherborne St John to the Chineham Shopping Centre.

To be eligible to use it you just have to be over 60. It will pick you up along Cranes Road (other pick-up points may be able to be arranged) just before 10a.m. and bring you back from Chineham Centre at noon. More than enough time to shop, browse and have a coffee. The bus can accommodate walkers and shoppers easily, and even a wheelchair or small folding scooter by arrangement.

The Centre has Matalan, Boots, a pet shop, Tesco, a hairdressers (no appt necessary), an opticians and several charity shops.

Just give me a ring on **01256 889071** or e/mail me on **joan.brandon@hotmail.co.uk** to arrange your first pick-up or discuss any further enquiries you may have. You do not have to commit to every week just use it when you want or need to





Womens Fellowship



The March meeting welcomed speaker Grace Powell who gave her talk 'My Windrush', a personal account of her experiences before and after the landing on UK shores of Caribbeans following WW2.

A summary of the history of the Empire Windrush began her talk, when we were told about the German passenger ship built in 1930 and initially used to carry German emigrants to South America, subsequently confiscated by the British during WW2 and becoming the Empire Windrush in 1947 before it caught fire and sank in 1954.

In 1948 the NHS was established, having been agreed in 1946, bringing many medical services under the auspices of one organization; one which required much larger numbers of all medical and ancillary workers. This work was not for the uneducated, rather the 'best of the crop' with some workers required to teach English, Mathematics and suchlike in order to build up the Mother Country.

Just under five hundred Caribbeans arrived at Tilbury Docks, London, in June 1948, the first of many more to arrive. They were housed in hostels in Clapham Junction as a temporary measure, after which they were left to fend for themselves.

Grace's first relative to come to UK was her uncle, who travelled to Birmingham to a cousin, where he would live and contribute to the economy of the household. It became the custom for relatives to share accommodation in the first instance, where her family 'played' drawing lots; each would put £1 or £2 in the shared kitty, and when a certain amount had been accumulated, lots would be drawn and the winner would seek to buy their own house, and the game of drawing lots would continue until everyone could live independently. When Grace's father arrived in England, the youngest of four brothers, in 1956, he went to live in Sheffield to join his older siblings. In 1958 Grace's mother arrived, leaving Grace in Jamaica to live with her beloved grandmother, or 'Mama' as she was called. When Grace was ten years old she flew on a BOAC flight to London Heathrow to be met by her mother, whom she now called 'Mummy', a new word for her.

Grace attended school in North London which she did not enjoy. The other children mocked her 'chicken legs' and were unkind, as was one of the teachers at secondary school later. Her father was in Sheffield when her mother was asked to go and preach in Liberia, at which point Grace went to Sheffield to live with her father. Here again she was teased, but this time for being a Cockney. At 15, due to much prejudice she endured, she returned to London. The discrimination and prejudice continued, to the extent that she left school at 16, having been told she would not succeed in anything much. But through sheer determination and hard work, she achieved a place at Southampton University where she studied to become a Social Worker. Nursing followed, and still discrimination continued. She really did have to fight her corner during those early years in the UK, not helped by her dyslexia and dyspraxia. Despite the enormous obstacles she faced, Grace obtained a Certificate in Higher Education, Probation training, with advice to take a course in Psychology. When she was told her English was not good enough to take a course in Psychology, her friends rebelled on her behalf, to the extent the Board relented and gave her eight weeks to take the relevant exams.

Grace's resilience comes, she says, from her family's example of the importance of Service to Others. She has brought up five children, has twenty grandchildren as well as great grandchildren. She is clearly loved as much by all her family as all the love she had for her own 'Mama' grandmother.

She was thanked by Jenny Cooke. The April meeting will be a talk given by Jackie Dimmock, 'The Good, The Bad and the Downright Funny'.

Meetings are 2pm - 4pm.







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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.

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



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









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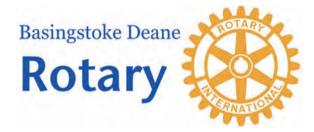
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BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 11th May 2025

The Memorial Park will again be full of Vehicle displays, stalls and other attractions for this big event. A great family day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you on **www.bstokefot.co.uk**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

We need your help to make it work! Have fun volunteering with us and help our local community.

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Or contact - Paul Temple - tempaul45@gmail.com
One of the things Rotarians rarely admit to is the selfish side of volunteering. After events we always come away feeling that we have made a difference. It's a very uplifting feeling. If you haven't experienced that feeling, then come and volunteer with us at any of our events. There'll be a welcome for you.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 25 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 Alf, alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com or Paul, tempaul45@gmail.com to find out more.

We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | X: @RBstokeDeane

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir at Brighton Hill...

Our spring concert will prove an interesting departure for the choir as we return to school! The concert on Saturday, May 10th will take place at Brighton Hill Community School and we shall be raising funds in support of a charity suggested by the school. The Children's Choir are from a school in Uganda with whom Brighton Hill have links. The group is made up of, and represents, children that are cared for at King's Kid Home School in Mityana in Uganda).

The concert will be our first of 2025, having celebrated our 60th anniversary in 2024, and will feature new songs that we've been busily rehearsing, along with some old favourites. Tickets are now available from TicketSource and can be purchased online at https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bmvc/t-krnxnvr.

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and a child (U-18) option for £5. The concert will start at 7:30 PM – with doors open from 7PM.

...and also

The choir will be singing in support of the 'Friends of St Lawrence church' in Wooton St Lawrence, along with Oooh Mama. This concert is being held to raise funds for the 'St Lawrence for Our Time' improvement project - to provide a water supply, toilet, kitchen and meeting area in our beautiful church. The concert is on Tuesday, May 13th and will begin at 7:30PM at St Lawrence Church, Wooton. Tickets (price £15) are available from https://musicaleveningstlawrence2025. eventbrite.co.uk

...finally

If you like singing and think you would like to join us then please drop in at one of our Tuesday rehearsals which take place in the Moose Centre, Basingstoke at 7:30 PM. You'd be made most welcome!

News from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

Community Health Days: Following on from the very successful health day at Clift Meadow in January, the dates have been released for the next 12 months.

These daytime events are aimed at all patients in the Whitewater Loddon PCN. Please consider coming if you are out of your area. These days, taking place on Tuesdays, are informative and supportive and will be run by GPs and medical specialists and associated organisations.

- May 20th Hook at Hook Community Hall. 11am – 3pm Focus is Cancer Care.
- September 23rd Chineham. (venue and time TBC) Focus: Frailty and Carers.
- January 27th Bramley (at Clift Meadow buildings time TBC) Focus: Diabetes.

More details will be available nearer the time and will be published in the Villager. Please spread the word by encouraging family, friends and neighbours to attend.

Making the most of your appointments: There is a useful piece on the Patients Association website www.patients-association.org.uk about making the most of your medical appointments.

In summary it suggests that:

Before you visit: Many appointments are limited to 10 minutes. There may also be a limit on the number of issues you can discuss. Being prepared can help you make the most of your appointment.

- Note your symptoms: The note can be written down or recorded on your mobile phone. Try to include: When your symptoms began; What they are;If they follow a pattern; How they impact your life or family
- Note any medication: Make a note of any medicines you are taking or treatments you have tried. This includes treatments for other conditions, including physiotherapy and herbal remedies.
- Prepare some questions: You may find it helpful to make a short list of questions before your visit.

During your visit:

- If you feel you need support, you can take a relative, friend or carer to your appointment. They may also be able to help you remember or understand what has been said.
- Discuss your main concern first. Do not feel you have to justify being there or leave your main concern to the end.

- It is important that you are honest with your GP about your lifestyle.
 For example, how much you drink or exercise. You should also be honest about your concerns.
- Ask about anything you are unsure of.
 If you do not understand, ask before leaving the room. Take a notebook and pen to make notes to help you remember what was discussed or record notes on your phone app.
- You may think of questions to ask after your appointment. Find out who you can contact to get these answered. You can also find out the names of any support groups providing reliable information.

Appointments at Clift Surgery in February

The number of appointments made at the surgery in February was 3925. Of these, 3828 patients attended their scheduled appointments. This demonstrates how busy our surgery is and how important it is to cancel any unwanted appointments.



Where am I?

Borobudur, in Central Java, Indonesia.

Borobudur is the largest Buddhist temple in the world, and ranks with Bagan in Myanmar and Angkor Wat in Cambodia as one of the great archeological sites of Southeast Asia. The central dome is surrounded by 72 Buddha statues, each seated inside a perforated stupa. Evidence suggests that Borobudur was constructed in the 8th century Worldwide knowledge of its existence was sparked in 1814 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, then the British ruler of Java. The largest restoration project was completed in 1983 by the Indonesian Government and UNESCO, followed by the monument's listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

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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 HOME & OFFICE MAINTENANCE

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

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Email: helenshoundsandmore@gmail.com Mobile: 07930870249

NEW SEWING/CROCHET CLUB

2 Bobbins is a new Sewing & Crochet Club for kids, age 7-11yrs old, offering affordable Saturday routine classes, halfterm workshops and Sewing & Crochet themed party packages at Osborne Room- Viables Community Centre, The Harrow Way, Basingstoke RG22 4BJ.

Visit www.2bobbins.com for more information or call 07584 220966 today.

ONLINE BOOKINGS

All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

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



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Mickey: 07888 828542

Contacts

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke	819722 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	The Castle, Winchester Non-emergency 101	singstoke.gov.uk 844844 01962 841841 or 01962 841534		
PC 23888 Simon Denton NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEAREST JOB CENTRE	www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-repor simon.denton.23888@hampshire.police.uk ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk	07469562503 01256 850891		
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YOGA in SSJ Village Hall SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB FOOTBALL CLUB PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	or Mr Paul Hamilton Mrs Jacqui Morris Mr Les Bone Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com www.piccolopsn.com	07917 005862 881336 850973 07584 169241 07528 726248		
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust) SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING BALLET at SSJ Village Hall	Mr Stuart Maughan Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com Jenni Stafford	01256 883858 jenni@jsba.uk		
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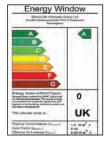


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