# The Villager

November 2026




Sherbornes and Pamber

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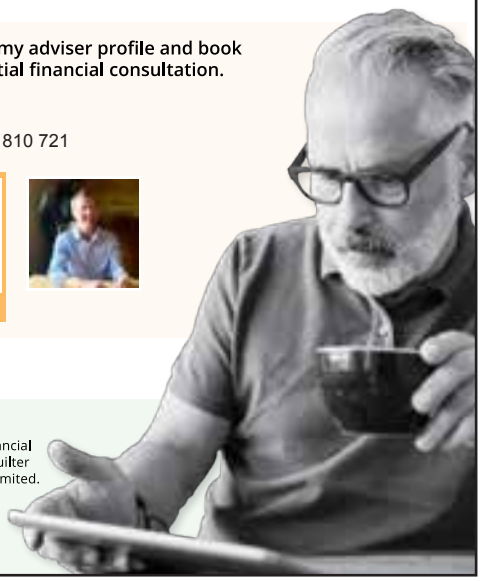
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Approver Quilter Financial Services Limited & Quilter Mortgage Planning Limited. 10 June 2024.

Q24_0248/16 July 2024

# Editor's Note

I thought with the lead up to Christmas it might be fun to include some drinks reviews on page 15



Trevor Langley requires no payment for anything that he submits. He sources and pays for his own products and has no connection with any of the companies that he reviews. These reviews are merely his personal opinion..

Obviously he would advise everyone to drink in moderation!

Next month: wines for Christmas

Due to personal circumstances Liz and Chris Gwynn are unable to continue to collect the boxes of magazines from the printers – Greenhouse Graphics in Cufaude Lane, Bramley - to deliver to the distributor "hubs" in our readership area.

**Can you help please?** It requires a car boot, and maximum 2 hours per month. If necessary this task could be reconfigured to split the boxes between 2 willing car drivers.

Any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with me




Following on from last month I now have the information for the sites of the defibrillators in the other villages:

**Monk Sherborne**
Old Telephone Box,
Ramsdell Rd, RG26 5HR

**Charter Alley**
Gibson House,
Old Chapel Lane, RG26 5PX

**Little London**
St Stephens Hall,
Little London, RG26 5EX

***Julie***

*Cover Photo: Lest We Forget*

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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SHERBORNES WITH
PAMBER CHURCHES



# Thank you

Thank you. How many times have you said it this week? It's one of the first words we teach our children. We use it to express gratitude for momentary gestures as small as a door being held open, and we use it to show our appreciation to someone who has loved us their whole lives.

We're just coming to the end of the Harvest season when traditionally we pause to give thanks for farmers and growers and for all that the land produces to nourish and sustain us. You may have spotted the display in St Andrew's churchyard, where the children at Sherborne St John School were each asked to write on a pumpkin one thing they are especially thankful for. Spaghetti, penguins, friendships and football all feature! Do stop for a heart-warming read the next time you're passing.



As we enter the season of Remembrance, our gratitude turns towards those who suffered and sacrificed so much for our peace and freedom.We may never be able to say thank you in person, but ceremonies and poppies and pausing in silence are all important ways that we can express our appreciation and honour their memories.

We say thank you because it is the right thing to do. We say thank you to encourage others and to show them that their kindness, effort or sacrifice has not gone unnoticed. But gratitude benefits us too. Research suggests that making a regular habit of noticing and recording the things we're thankful for can improve our wellbeing, helping us to sleep better and manage stress. Taking time to appreciate what we have can make a real difference to how we see the world.

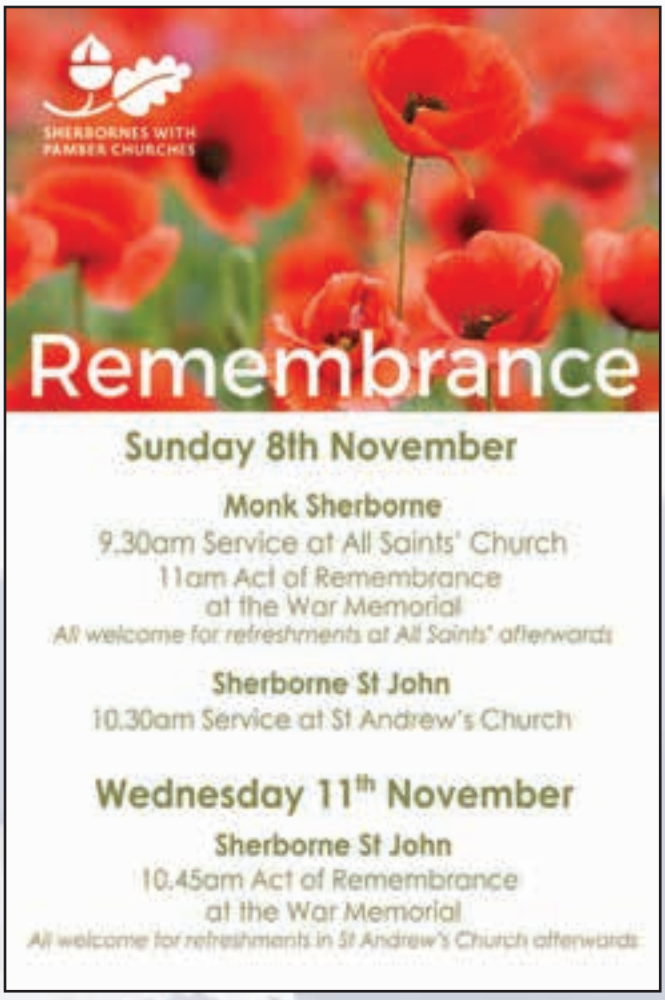
The Bible is full of encouragements to be thankful, and even fuller of reasons why we should be, at the heart of which is the goodness and faithfulness of God. As the Psalmist writes:

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever."* Psalm 106:1

May I encourage us all not just to say "thank you", but from time to time to pause and reflect on the reasons we have for saying it. It's one of the things we do when we gather in our church buildings each week – you would be very welcome to join us.

Details of remembrance services and events are shown below. If you have a particular connection– personally or perhaps through a family member – and you would like to lay a wreath during any of the ceremonies, please get in touch with Judith in the church office so we can arrange it:
admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969

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



SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES

# November

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

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Sun 1st** | **10.30am** All Age Worship at St Andrew's |
| **Mon 2nd** | **10am-12noon** Maintenance Monday at St Andrew's<br>**12noon-1pm** Men's Bible Study in the Parish Room |
| **Weds 4th** | **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall<br>**12-12.30pm** Midday Prayer in the Parish Room |
| **Sun 8th** | **9.30am** Remembrance Service at All Saints<br>(followed by Act of Remembrance at Monk Sherborne War Memorial)<br>**10.30am** Remembrance Service at St Andrew's<br>**4-5pm** Families at 4 and Youth at 4 at St Andrew's |
| **Weds 11th** | **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall<br>**10.45 am** Act of Remembrance at SSJ War Memorial<br>followed by refreshments at St Andrew's<br>**2-4pm** Being Together in the Parish Room |
| **Sun 15th** | **10.30am** Morning Worship with children's groups at St Andrew's<br>**5-5.45pm** Evening Communion in the Parish Room |
| **Weds 18th** | **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall<br>**12-12.30pm** Midday Prayer in the Parish Room |
| **Sun 22nd** | **10.30am** Morning Worship at St Andrew's |
| **Tues 24th** | **11-11.45am** Tuesday Communion at Pamber Priory |
| **Weds 25th** | **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall |
| **Sat 28th** | **8.30-9.30am** Praise & Pray Together in Parish Room<br>**10.30-11.30am** Dads and Kids at The Rectory |
| **Sun 29th** | **10.30am** Morning Worship at St Andrew's |


Church Office: **admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969**

Rector: **stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577**

Safeguarding: **safeguarding@sherborneswithpamber.org 07798 550023**


For regular updates please scan the QR code:

# Sherborne St John Parish Council

A few things we all need to be aware of in our darker nights: hedges over growing our footpaths can cause pedestrians to walk into the road. A torch or hi-vis clothing would make is easier for vehicles to see you and all bikes must have lights.

Road signs should be clean and clearly visible to all traffic, if you see any signs which need cleaning or repair, please report the Hampshire County Council Highways Dept.

**Planning**: As many of you know we are very busy fighting to keep our village from being swallowed up by the big planning applications currently circulating, The heritage of our village is very important to us all.

The plan for the 83 new houses along the Aldermaston Road will put a lot of pressure on our village facilities, just traffic alone. An extra 160 cars on the main road may cause a rat run though our village, and any hold up on the main road will mean traffic diverting through the village. With all planning applications your Parish Council will do all they can to make sure our village stays safe and a lovely place to live.

**The Chute**: Great news that the play area is now open; it took a little time, but safety is paramount where children play. We would like to remind you to keep dogs under control and on leads within the playground area. All dog fouling must be cleared up and disposed of in the bins provided around the recreation ground.

Over the summer your council has been looking at improving the facilities at the Chute Pavilion and the recreation ground and works are to be carried out over the next few months.

**Speeding**: Speeding in the village is still an issue and as the evenings get darker this becomes more of a hazard. Please be respectful of our speed limits and aware of children leaving school and the nursery at the Chute.

Speeding is always a concern, along Cranes Road, Vyne Road, and Elm Road, we are looking at SID cameras to be installed, The Parish Council is working with Speed Aware to make sure that we install them in the correct places.

For those residents who feel lonely or would just like to have some local contact with residents there is a Coffee Morning at the village hall on Mondays mornings every 2nd week (see Claiming Dates), so come along and have a chat over a cup of coffee or tea. The Parish Council also has a Drop in Session at the first coffee morning of the month; so it you have any queries and concerns or even just a chat, come and speak to us.

On the first Tuesday afternoon of the month we have a Ladies' Fellowship in the Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting is at the Chute Pavilion on Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 7.15pm.

***Cllr J Bechelet***


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# Claiming Dates

## November 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall | 10.00am – 12.00 |
| 3 | Women's Fellowship, The Art of Christmas. Bring & Buy | 2.00pm |
| 6 | Monk Sherborne Village Hall AGM, Village Drinks & Quiz Monk Sherborne Village Hall | 6.00pm |
| 7 | Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Jumble Sale. Donations can be collected in advance | 12.30pm |
| 7 | Sherborne St John Social Club, Diegerms Rock Band | 8.30pm |
| 9 | Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall | 10.45am – 12.00 |
| 9 | Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| 12 &13 | Hampshire Hospitals Medical Fund, Christmas Fayre | see advert in this magazine |
| 14 | Sherborne St John Social Club, John McGarvey Blues | 8.30pm |
| 16 | SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall | 10.00am – 12.00 |
| 17 | Nelson Mass, Requiem with Basingstoke Choral Society & Docklands Sinfonia @ The Anvil | |
| 21 | "Feel the Spirit" Concert, Hook Choir | see advert in this magazine |
| 23 | Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| 28 | Sherborne St John Social Club, Buddy Holly Tribute | 8/.30pm |
| 25 | Board Games at The Swan - Eat @ 12pm, Play @ 1pm | 12pm > |
| 28 | Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall | 12.00am - 3.00pm |
| 29 | Reindeer Run aid of St Michael's Hospice, Alton | |
| 30 | SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall | 10.00am – 12.00 |

## December 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Women's Fellowship, Christmas Lunch | |
| 4 | Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall | 6.00pm – 8.00pm |
| 5 | Christmas Market @ SSJ Village Hall, Teas, Coffees, Cakes & Soup available | 12.00pm – 4.00pm |
| 5 | Basingstoke Male Voice Choir | |
| 6 | "The Snowman" Concert | see advert in this magazine |
| 9 | Carols for a Cause | see advert in next month's magazine |
| 7 | Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| 12 | Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall | 12.00am - 3.00pm |
| 13 | Reindeer Run aid of St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke | |
| 14 | SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall | 10.00am – 12.00 |
| 14 | Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall | 10.45am – 12.00 |
| 19 | Christmas Sing-A-Long, SSJ Village Hall, All welcome and refreshments available | 7.00pm – 9.00pm |
| 21 | Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| 28 | SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall | 10.00am – 12.00 |
| 30 | Board Games at The Swan - Eat @ 12pm, Play @ 1pm | 12pm > |

## January 2027

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Women's Fellowship, TBA |
| 31 | Royal Marines Band Concert @ The Anvil, Rotary Fund Raising |

**Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775 800955**

# Monk Sherborne Parish Council

**Wednesday 16th September 2026.**

The following report is a synopsis of the meeting.

Prior to the formal opening of the meeting 2 members of the public were in attendance and a request was made that the font size of the planning notices posted on the Village Notice Board be increased to aid some of the residents who have been struggling to read them. The Chairman advised although these notices are produced by the Borough Council following a set format, the PC would do everything they could to assist.

Apologies were received from Cllr C McSoley, County Cllr R Vaughan and Borough Cllrs S Minas-Bound and Cllr K Rand. A written report was circulated from County Cllr R Vaughan prior to the meeting. The Cllrs expressed disappointment over the considerable time, effort and expense that had gone into the Local Government Reorganisation and was now wasted.

Borough Cllr J Ganesh provided a further update on the Reorganisation and what it meant locally, along with a statement that the Local Plan would have to be revisited all over again. He would keep us updated on this latter topic.

The PC expressed its gratitude for the support provided in relation to the Council CIL grant funding application for the new swings in the play area.

**Planning**

Members noted that following the resolution of the July Meeting, the Council's formal objection to the planning application related to Red House Farm has been submitted to BDBC.

**Highways & Pathways**

There were a number of points raised, which included a communication sent to BDBC that the Finger Posts throughout the village need attention, along with the Single-Track sign at the top of Salters Heath Road needs replacing as it is currently sat on the grass at the bottom of the post.

Gratitude was expressed that the replacement Single-Track sign had been installed at the top of Rookery Farm Lane, opposite Stone Circle.

A request was put in via Cllr J Ganesh that the plethora of road barriers scattered around the village were collected by BDBC, this followed a fly-tipping incident on the road between Monks Ford and Priory School that resulted in a road closure.

**Village Hall**

Cllr Cave reported that the diseased Ash tree in the corner of the car park had been professionally assessed and the LPA had issued a 5-day emergency notice to cover its removal before it becomes more dangerous. Permission has been received from the landowner for more tress to be planted in the Play Area and we have been successful in gaining 6 trees in an application to Greenham Trust that will be planted before the year end.

2 new benches have been installed in the play area to following a grant and a donation from the Village Hall, following a further donation of £500 from the Village Hall a further 2 benches will be purchased, and the remaining wooden bench will be removed.

The Village Hall AGM will take place on Friday 6th November followed by a Charity Quiz Night.

**Play Area**

As previously mentioned, a grant application has been put forward to allow the replacement of the swings that have been highlighted by BDBC as needing action, we have been successful at the first stage and now into the second round of the application process. The Members have expressed their gratitude for the great deal of hard work the Parish Clerk has put in to get us to this stage.

**Website**

Members received an update on the ongoing process regarding our new website. This will not only provide us with a far more functional and interactive website it will also involve a change of IT Provider, giving a much better value for money. This process is due to be complete before the end of the year.

**Date of Next Mtg**

The next meeting will happen at 19.20pm. Wednesday 18th November 2026 at Monk Sherborne Village Hall.



# News from Pamber and Little London



What a splendid summer this has been (provided we don't dwell on the message our changing climate appears to be sending, which is extremely worrying, to put it mildly!) But beautiful weather we have had, and we have the fruit to prove it. Our fig trees have fruited for several years but only a small proportion of said fruit has ever ripened. This year we have had several trug-loads of delicious, sweet, ripe figs. And we managed to gather the plums too before the squirrels/deer. At least we know it wasn't the sloths, but then we aren't in Costa Rica. Fabulous cover photo, Julie!



The Speedwatch team is becoming active again after something of a lull because of holidays, a police-enforced pause in volunteering and other commitments. The team is grateful for the support of the Enforcement Officer, Stephen, who has joined us on some sessions. I'm not too sure how we are progressing with traffic calming in Little London but I know that the Parish Council has contacted HCC requesting that signage be installed on islands where priority is not currently indicated, and HCC is the body which will decide who has priority. If you are interested in 'doing your bit ' for the community by helping to catch speeders, do let me know and I'll send you details. It involves volunteering for an hour a week, at most! We are a friendly group of people who maintain good humour, even on the very few occasions when we are verbally abused! And records suggest that we are making a difference.

I had been intending to remind readers of the exhibitions often well worth a look at The Base at Greenham but could not yet find any details. In my search, I came across this fabulous photograph of a female taking the sensible measure of donning a hat in the hot weather. Thought it might cheer up anyone who needs it!



Until next time

B bdownes.villager@gmail.com

# Beau's Blog

Resting with Teddy. The grass has all dried up, a bit like the Boss and the Mrs. The heat made lummocks of us all. I slept far more than I usually do because exercise was just a step too far. I did chase the tennis ball a few times when the Mrs could raise herself to whack a few underarm slices across the dried up lawn – this is her way of giving me exercise when it is too hot for her to walk me!! She says strolling downhill to the lake is fine but it's the climbing back up the hill which finishes her off. I suggested she jump in the lake with me but her snorting dismissal meant that wasn't on the cards…

I am home now and relishing the cooler mornings when the dew on the ground cools my paws and wakes me up after a night sleeping in temperatures far below the summer heat that we experienced a few months ago. Now I have the shooting season to look forward to where I replace tennis balls with pheasant and duck, charging through the undergrowth and retrieving the



game for the Boss. He tells me it is what my breed of dog is for and the Mrs reckons it's his breed as well….. The end bit is almost as good as the beginning when the Mrs cooks his offerings in delicious roasts of which I occasionally get to taste if there is any left over……

**http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com**

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# Solar Eclipse

**Wednesday 12th August 2026**

Now the nights are drawing in, and it is getting damp and cooler in the evenings it is nice to look back on one summer evening in the not too distant past when some of the Monk Sherborne residents came together to witness the partial eclipse of the Sun.

Following discussions at the Village Night held at the hall the previous Friday evening a number agreed to meet up at the top of the track that runs between Rookery Farm and Field Barn Farm to witness the event.

What a beautiful evening it turned out to be. The array of devices used were a spectacle even some, that had been suggested by TV magazine programmes in the days leading up, such as a colander, cereal box viewers as well as a welder's mask.

It was great to see so many turn out along the track in various places. Unfortunately it is going to be a very long time before we get to witness another eclipse on the same scale, maybe we should look for other excuses in 2027.



# A Walk in the Wood

On a Sunday in late August, just after the last of the summer heatwaves, I took a leisurely stroll in the northern reaches of Pamber Forest. Clearly the weather had taken its toll on some of the smaller trees, with brown leaves on the crowns or carpeting the ground beneath birch, hawthorn and hazel. Yellow flowers of fleabane and cow-wheat abounded though, providing nectar for butterflies, bees and a host of other insects. To my mind they are both interesting plants because the leaves of common fleabane were once burned to repel fleas and common cow-wheat uses a sugary liquid to bribe ants into distributing its seeds.

Still, this wasn't a nature walk, I was heading off to meet my colleagues from the Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers who were busy maintaining the forest, or at least a part of it. The day's task was to scythe the grass in the linear meadow above a foul water pipeline, and I would have joined in had I not been balancing on my NHS walking aids after a knee operation; scything on crutches is simply not advisable. I have enjoyed this task in past years of course, because the swish of the scythe through rank grass is therapeutic and raking up the grass afterwards is very good exercise. Removing the grass and young tree saplings creates an open habitat suitable for wild flowers like betony, tormentil, and broad-leaved helleborine, all of which add to the forest's biodiversity.

Today it was different. When I reached the team they were stoically enjoying the morning tea-break with unhappy looks on their faces. They told me the grass was too dry to cut because mostly it just bent under the scythe and everything took twice as long. True enough, there was a small pile of cut grass in the centre of the meadow where normally there would have been a pile three or four feet high. However, with spirits restored by tea and biscuits the team took up their tools again, swapped some banter and went back to work whilst I made my excuses and left to hobble home.



Ah well, one day out of fifty or so that doesn't go perfectly isn't a bad average; normally a day of volunteering is filled with camaraderie, conversation and a sense of doing some good. Yes, there's work to do but mostly you can set your own pace, and in winter there's often a bonfire to ward off the chill. Basingstoke Conservation Volunteers meet on one or two Sundays each month to perform a variety of tasks around the local area, and new volunteers are welcome; for more information, visit their website https://www.basingstokecv.org.uk/.

***Peter Elliott***

# Elm Park Garden Centre

**www.elmparkgardencentre.co.uk**

**Tel 01256 850587**

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SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES

# Christmas

**Saturday 12th December**
**Carols by Candlelight** Pamber Priory 4pm

**Sunday 20th December**
**Family Carols** St Andrew's SSJ 10.30am
**Carols by Candlelight** St Andrew's SSJ 7pm

**Christmas Eve**
**Crib Service** All Saints' Monk Sherborne 4pm

**Christmas Day**
**Christmas Communion** All Saints' 9.30am
**Christmas Celebration** St Andrew's 10.30am

www.sherborneswithpamber.org



# Community Christmas Choir

**OPEN TO EVERYONE**
(NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED)

**Thursday evenings from 12th November**
**6.45pm for refreshments**
**7.00-8.00pm,**
**St Andrew's Church, SSJ**

**To sing at Carols by Candlelight**
**12th December at Pamber Priory**
**20th December at St Andrew's, SSJ**

**Contact geofftennant@sherborneswithpamber.org**
**Or just turn up!**

SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES



Sherborne St John Social Club
EST. 1965

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# SSJ Primary School

Hello everyone!

It has been a very exciting start to the term at Sherborne St John Primary School, and there is lots of news to share.




One of the biggest highlights has been the opening of our wonderful new school library. It is already becoming a favourite place for children to discover new books, develop a love of reading and enjoy quiet moments with a great story. We are incredibly proud of this fantastic new space.

Our new Reception children have settled brilliantly into school life. They have shown great enthusiasm, independence and confidence as they begin their learning journeyand we are all extremely proud of how well they have adapted to their new routines.

We have also recently elected our new House Captains, and congratulations go to all the chosen pupil. We know they will be excellent role models for their houses throughout the year.

This term, we opened our doors for a successful Showcase Afternoon, giving parents and families the opportunity to see learning in action and share in the children's achievements. It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors into school.

As we prepare for our Harvest Festival, we have been collecting donations for Basingstoke Foodbank and reflecting on how small acts of kindness can make a big difference to others. (Post event note: 107.8 kilos were donated by the school which is the equivalent of 257 meals!)

Our newly elected School Council will soon be organising this year's Rotary Shoebox Appeal, helping us support children and families in need beyond our local community.

Excitement is already building as the annual Conker Competition gets underway this week! Pupils are eagerly preparing their prized conkers and we look forward to sharing all the excitement and the eventual champions in our next article.

Finally, keep an eye out for details of our Christmas Fair, which will take place on Friday 4 December from 5pm to 7pm. We would love to welcome members of the local community to join us for a festive evening of fun and celebration.

***Sherbert***
SSJ School Villager Correspondent






# North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group

In August the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group celebrated another Anniversary since it was set up 11 years ago to provide support for men and their partners affected by the disease. This time breaking from tradition the usual celebration of fantastic home made cakes and scones, was preceded by a fascinating presentation on Peru by a group member originating from that country.



Peru at 6000 miles from the UK, and six hours behind, means it can take up to 24 hours to get there even by air. The country with a land mass five times greater than the UK, has only just over half of the arable land. The country stretches from the equator in the north to Chile ( nearly 20 degrees south) in the south. one might expect it to have a tropical climate, but it has a multitude of 'Macro-climates' due to the influences of the South Pacific (with its Antarctic currents) on the west and the mountains of the Andes in the east.

The population is cosmopolitan with influences from the ancient Incas, the Spanish conquistadors of the 15th & 16th century, and modern European and Chinese. A number of the historical sites such as Machu Picchu (one of the 7 wonders of the world) and cities at Cusco and Coral are well known, with the later dating back 5000 years making it the oldest city in the Americas and one of the oldest in the world.

Knowledge of the Incas is widespread and how they built an impressive empire on the west of South America, achieving this by domesticating the llamas as pack animals, developing food preservation techniques and building roads. They built impressive terraced farms on the hillsides and were the first to cultivate the potato.

The Inca belief system had no deities, they believed in harmony in the world on three levels: the heavens represented by the condor; the earth represented by the puma and; the underworld represented by the snake

Death was not the end of someone's life; it was the transition to another world so therefore, the person did not die, they remained living but in a different condition.

When an Inca king died, his court would remain in his kingdom resulting in his descendant, the new king, having to conquer more lands. Hence the Inca empire kept on expanding.

In this vast Inca empire there were many spoken languages, but with a common trading language, although there appears to have been no written communication, recent discoveries suggest some form of recording details used woven or knotted strings (quipu). All agreed it was a fascinating talk.

For more views of Peru see the YouTube film via the link below, this comes complete with impressive scenery and llamas: https://youtu.be/lvNRoGr-APE?si=2s2VGYHXjYi3fUySnly

For more information on the group and the help it offers those who are affected by this disease, in the first instance contact:-

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Email info@nhpcsg.org.uk

Web www.nhpcsg.org.uk

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# Drinks: In The Caribbean Rum Spirit



Caribbean rums are highly respected and hugely appreciated throughout the world. Jamaica and the Dominican Republic are well known producers of Caribbean rums, as well as other Caribbean islands, that create delectable beverages of this type. The Caribbean is very much recognised as the 'birthplace of rum' and the distilleries located in the Caribbean are amongst the world's very best. Differing ingredients and different processes of productions define the appearances, bouquets, pleasures for the mouth and sensations on the palate.

Multi award-winning Diablesse Rum is UK based and was founded by Cleo Farman. The Diablesse Company produces small-batch blends of fine, aged rums, especially selected from Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica. The quality plus several unique profiles of flavour, that create distinctive productions, are now recognised globally. The rums are created using historic methods and matured in charred American Oak ex-bourbon casks.

**Diablesse Caribbean Rum** (40% vol) is a very regular choice for rum lovers. Caribbean rum is renowned around the world and this production (in my opinion) justly deserves the high rating it constantly receives. Little introduction is required for this delightful, small-batch rum, which is produced utilising a blend of fine, aged rums, from Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados, to a great advantage.

**Diablesse Clementine Spiced Rum** (40% vol) is a favourite with many spiced rum devotees. I found the Clementine contribution, for this popular beverage, to be evident throughout. Flavoursome and with a blend of warming Caribbean-inspired spices, including a hint of ginger, this small-batch production continues to gain in popularity.

**Diablesse Coconut & Hibiscus Rum** (38% vol) I found to be most pleasant indeed. From the bouquet to the mouth's delight, with the flavours of fresh, natural coconut, plus hibiscus and ripe, red berries certainly coming through. The palate's sensation continues, with the pleasures of this unusual, small-batch delectation.

The very informative website has all details of stockists and information about long-standing, proven methods of productions. I also found the website reading to enlighten me about the centuries-old stills, which are used in the productions. Online ordering is easy and orders are dispatched efficiently and quickly. www.diablesserum.co.uk

As always, enjoy!
***Trevor Langley***

# Mast Year: Is 2026 Another Mast Year

What is a 'Mast Year' and why the question?

According to the Woodland Trust every species of trees and shrubs has a distinctive way of reproducing, Autumn being the prime time to witness this, Acorns, 'Conkers', winged seeds and an array of fruits and berries are all part.

Every few years some species produce a bumper crop the collective term for these fruits and nuts are known as 'Mast' hence the term 'Mast Year'. This comes about every few years as the trees and shrubs decide to produce a large quantity of mast to counter the expected predation by wildlife, thereby ensuring the continued healthy existence of the said species.

This in turn lead to 2025 being deemed a Mast Year by the Woodland Trust due to the large number of Acorns and Conkers and other seeds witnessed.

Environmental and climatic conditions can also trigger an occurrence, although it is very rare to happen two years in a row. Yet in 2026 we have seen the perfect climatic conditions for a Mast Year with wet and cool conditions in the Spring followed by a very dry and hot Summer.



This has meant despite farming yields being down in 2026 a bumper crop could be found in the hedgerows.

The amount of Damson jam, Blackberry jam and pies being produced, not to mention the number of people planning to produce Sloe Gin gives an indication of the abundance we have had the pleasure of gathering this Autumn, all the images were taken within a few hundred yards of where I live and are not unusual on most of the footpaths in the area, if I had the cupboard space and time I could produce a store of preserves that would last for years.

So, in the strictest terms you could say 2026 was in fact another Mast Year.

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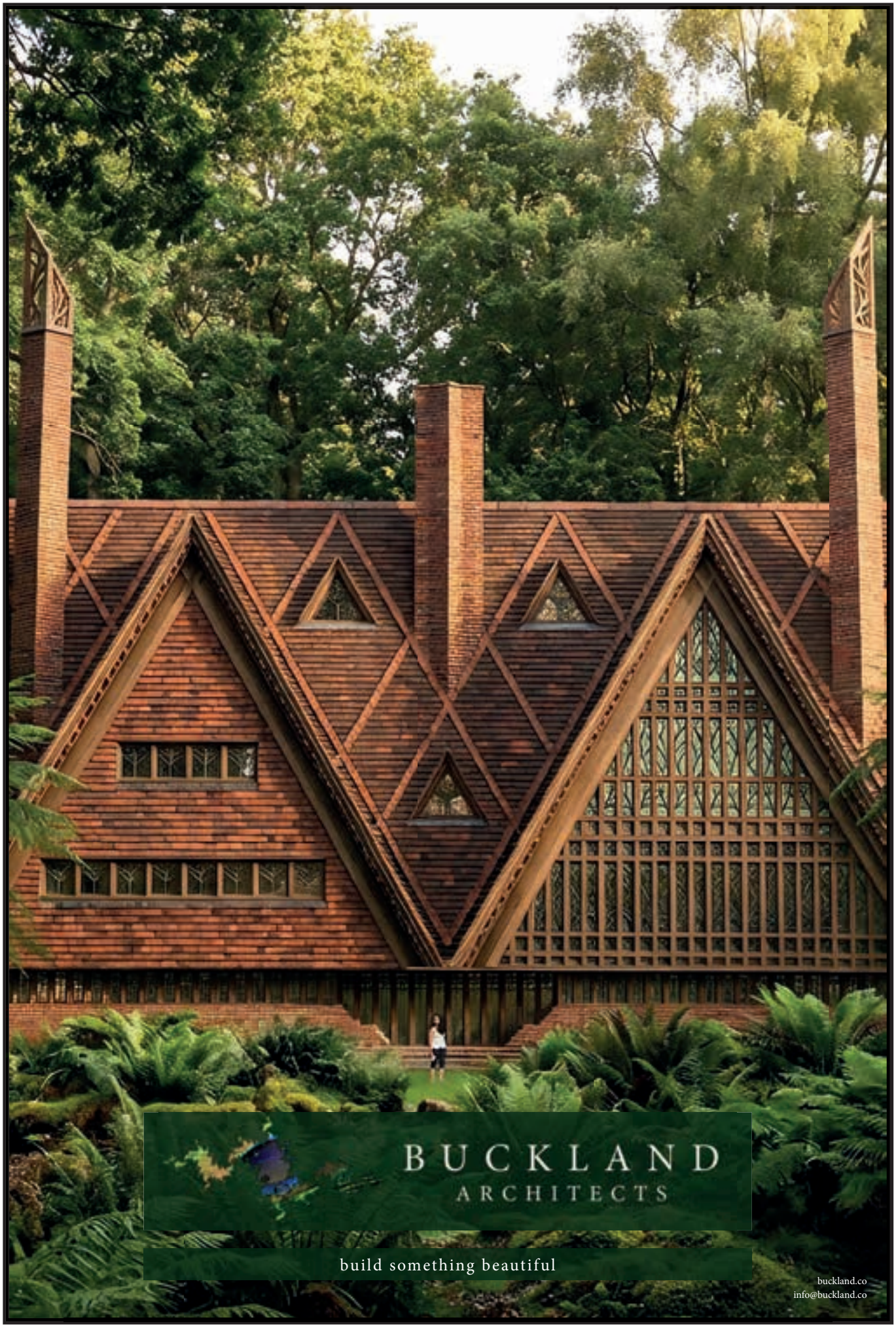
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# Womens Fellowship

The October meeting included a talk given by Mr Mike Brook titled 'Musings from the Amateur Stage'. Mike was a Chief Librarian but has enjoyed Am Dram as a hobby for more than forty years.

The talk was in two parts - firstly the musings from his own experiences on stage, mostly during his earlier time with Am Dram in the Newbury and Thatcham areas, but also in York. He gave the quote which his then director used, "An actor's job is to tell a story, nothing more, nothing less". He regaled the audience with jokes as well as occurrences on stage, one such incident when a Luger pistol was supposed to be shot up to the stage ceiling, but failed to do so, leaving the actors plus theatre audience in a dreaded silence, but the actor managed to recover the situation, and apparently the audience thought it very amusing.

Mike wrote eight pantomimes, one called Five Gold Rings, with characters such as Millie Milkmaid, Lord Leapfrog and Freddie Foxtrot.

The second part of the talk was comedy writers, namely the great Alan Bennett together with Alan Ayckbourn. We had a rendition from Alan Bennett's Talking Heads, about the bachelor Graham who lived with his mother, and Alan Ayckbourn's Ten Times Table.

Mike's friend and patron of Newbury Amateur Dramatics suggested a workshop, where each actor was required to make a speech which would then be critiqued. Mike was the last in line and realised that the other actors were reading their scripts, so he decided, with ten minutes to spare, to learn his by heart. The result was that his speech was 'quite good' though not word perfect, and accuracy is of the utmost importance. Another tip was his director friend Anne's decision to print three hundred copies of a poster on The Recruiting Officer by Henry Farquhar. She was advised that there was an H in Farquhar but she had omitted this. Fortunately she decided to check the spelling and realised her mistake before printing off three hundred copies, so always proof-read before printing, a life lesson for Anne.

One of the venues for Mike's Am Dram players is The Watermill in Newbury which is indeed well worth visiting.

The vote of thanks was given by Jenny Cooke.

The November meeting will include a Bring & Buy stall.






# Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club

**Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club moves on through the next 'Probus' year….**

The Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club exists to bring together a group of people who aim to be friends and support each other in whatever way they are able. In so doing, the Club provides stimulation, interest and friendship to retired and semi-retired professional and business ladies through a programme of monthly meetings, offering the chance to meet new people with varied interests and experiences during their working lives, hear about subjects not otherwise encountered and, most importantly, enjoy each other's company. And with the creation of a Theatre group, those with that interest have enjoyed several local productions.

All this while also savouring the delights of an excellent lunch provided by BCoT's much praised restaurant.

As with every year, this growing club of interesting retired and semi-retired ladies took a break from their monthly meetings through July & August, largely because their wonderful venue, the BCoT Restaurant, of course closed – everyone needs a break, even their fabulous kitchen and catering staff and students!

But on their laurels rested have Probus not!

Apart from an enjoyable visit in July to observe – and even indulge in – the mental gymnastics required for Square Dancing, the programme of future speakers for the year '26-27 was finalised and is now confirmed as follows:

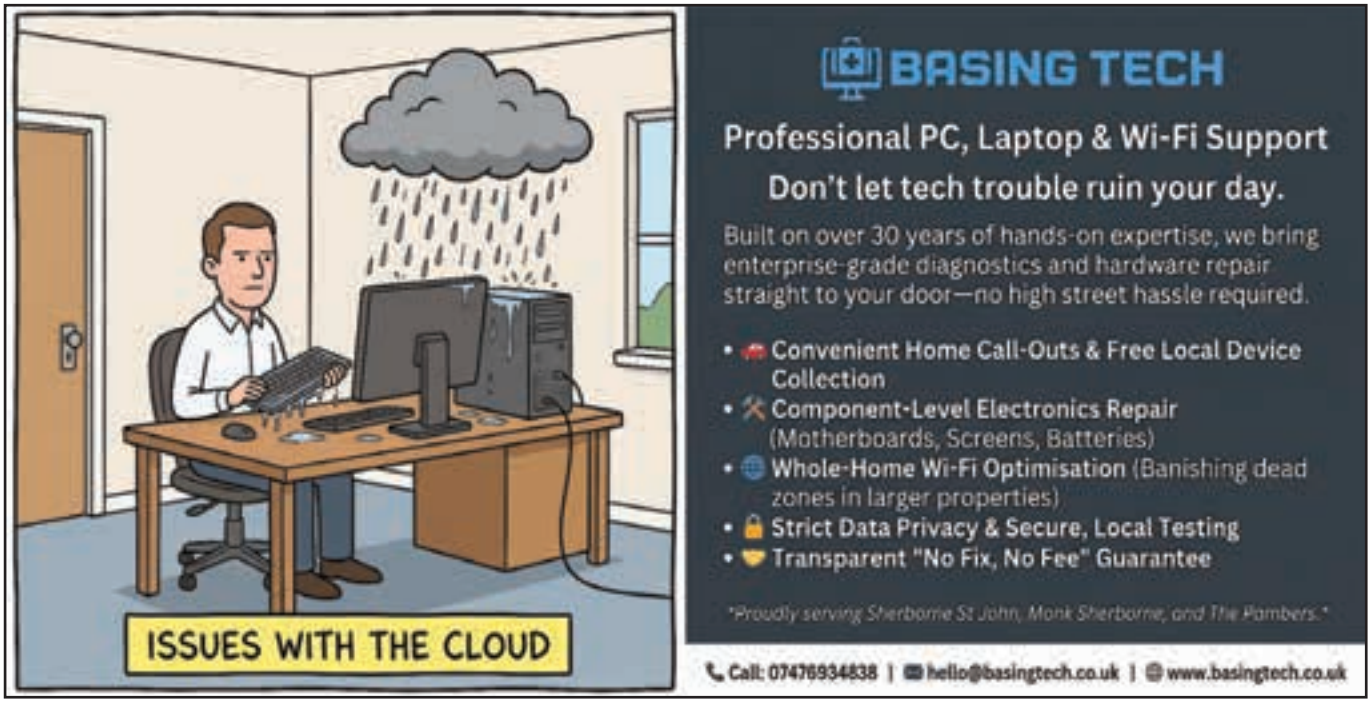
| | |
|---|---|
| 20 November '26 | **Fiends and Felons – My Life with Crime** |
| 29 January '27 | **The Saxophone, and My Life as an Army Musician** |
| 26 February '27 | **Travels on a Narrowboat** |
| 19 March '27 | **Dogs for Autism** |
| 30 April '27 | **The Eye and Vision in Art** |
| 21 May '27 | **We Had One of Those!** |
| 18 June '27 | **Mystery Guests!** |
| July/August | **Summer outing(s)** |
| 24 September '27 | **Black Redcoats – The Corps of Colonial Marines 1814–16** |
| 22 October '27 | **Our AGM – open to all members** |

**Interested? Curious? Like to know more?**

See retirement as the beginning of another chapter, not the end of an interesting life?

Do contact Admin.Secretary, Jane Leese reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk or 07754 296994 you can be sure of a friendly chat with no obligation to go further - or perhaps a desire to discover more.

***Annie Vicars***



***Oh what a night of talent!!***

*The Community were entertained by the Elderly Brothers (aka Ed Campbell and Steve Howe) along with the Community Choir, led by Geoff Tennant, plus the outrageous Nanas and the Poppers (Roland, Hilary, Jean and John) plus Lindsay, Lorah, Lexi and Lou.*

*If you can do better – please do join us next time we'd love to have you!*















**CONTACT** – Brenda Hewitt: brendahewitt@btinternet.com or Paul Temple: tempaul45@gmail.com

Basingstoke Deane Rotary

## HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering at these Hospice events**

### ST MICHAELS HOSPICE
### LIGHT UP A LIFE

**Sunday 6th December, 3pm or 6.30pm at St Josephs Church, Basingstoke**

See the Hospice website for further information and on how to make a dedication for a loved one

### ST MICHAELS HOSPICE
### REINDEER RUN

**Sunday 13th December2026**
**From 8:00 am -sign in and pick up your antlers for 9.00am start**

See the Hospice website to register for the3K Reindeer Run, dance and prance along the way whilst raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 2027
## BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

**Sunday May 9th 2027**

Basingstoke Deane Rotary look forward to welcoming you toThe Memorial Park in the heart of Basingstoke, when again the park will be full of Vehicle displays, stalls and other attractions for this big event. A great family day out!

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 28 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 check out **www.rcbd.org.uk** to see what we have coming up, or contact Brenda or Paul, see above..
We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

**Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | X: @RBstokeDeane**

# Royal British Legion

**Guy van de Berg reports on the recent Royal British Legion Tour to Waterloo.**

Building on the success of last year's tour of the Somme, This year's visit was to visit the historic Battle of Waterloo of 1815. The outcome of the battle changed the political and cultural direction of both Britain and Europe and, to a lesser extent, the wider world.



Our first morning we formed up where the Duke of Wellington, with his multitude of aides-de-camp and generals,had elected to command the battle. A younger version of the original Elm Tree marks the spot. One could see across the rolling countryside southwards to the French lines, including Napoleon's headquarters established at La Belle Alliance. The battlefield is some 3 square miles in size, which on the day of battle was occupied by some 200,000 soldiers and 537 artillery pieces from both sides.

For those unfamiliar with the Battle of Waterloo, it proved the culmination of a series of smaller battles. On 16 June, Napoleon oversaw the partial defeat and subsequent withdrawal of Marshal Blucher and his Prussian army at the Battle of Ligny. On 17 June, Napoleon's army, under Marshal Ney, pursued Wellington's forces and the two armies fought at Quatre Bras some 7 kms south of the final battleground. The Battle of Quatre Bas ended in an unconvincing draw and led to the deciding battle at Waterloo on 18 June.

Of special note,was the newly built Waterloo museum. But the crème de la crème was our visit to the site of the courageous defence of Chateau d'Hougoumont by the Coldstream and 3rd Foot Guards, 3rd Hanoverian Brigade and 71st Foot Scottish infantry. These troops held firm with the odd wobble against some 12,000 French infantry from late morning to the evening. Final victory only came with the arrival of Marshal Blucher and his Prussian army late into the day. As Wellington put it:'It has been a damned nice thing — the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life'.

And so ended another tremendous battlefield tour. The takeaway is not so much the detail of the battles fought, albeit this is important, but that fellowship,even amongst newly formed friends has the power to elevate and enlighten the soul. Rhydian and the RBL epitomise this principle for which both are heartily thanked. The final Mention in Dispatches goes to the group itself. As the adage goes: 'age is but a number' with the eldest participant, aged 93, showing the way to the rest of us.

I leave you with one final quote from Wellington, which for any combat veteran is as true today as it was then:

***'Nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won'.***

# News from Clift Surgery

1. **Autumn Vaccinations.**
   The Covid and flu vaccination season is here. Those eligible for free vaccinations can get them from the surgery. They are also available from pharmacies but remember Bramley is lucky to have a surgery and by having your vaccinations there you can rest assured your records will be updated immediately. The surgery will accept drop ins so it is worth asking.
2. **Dispensary news**
   Did you know there are only 935 of dispensaries in England? They are usually attached to GP practices and available to those who live more than one mile from a pharmacy. Your eligibility is decided by the NHS not the surgery. If you are eligible, please use this service when you can. If you have any problems or queries, the team is there to help. You don't have worry about postal deliveries being mislaid, items missing and with the 24-hour Pharmabox, you are not restricted to surgery opening hours. Ask at the dispensary for further details about the Pharmabox.
3. **Contact details.**
   Have you moved house? Using a different email address? No longer have a landline telephone number? Updated your mobile number? Tell the surgery to avoid messages going to the wrong place.
4. **NHS App.**
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- Block drains cleared
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**Mickey: 07888 828542**

# Contacts

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS LIST.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHURCH OF ENGLAND - SWP Parish | | Revd Stewart Deering | Mob: 07359 717577 Tel: 01256 647900<br>stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org |
| ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | | The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke | 819722 |
| BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH | | Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke | 316000 |
| CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS | | | |
| SSJ Clerk/Admin | Alison Heward | clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk | 07399 213133 |
| Finance Officer | | finance@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk | |
| MS | Mrs Cally Morris | clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk | 07721 076186 |
| Pamber | | clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk | |
| BOROUGH COUNCILLOR | | Simon Minas-Bounds | 07879 477696 |
| BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber | | Androulla Johnstone | Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.gov.uk |
| BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ | | Karl Rand | Cllr.Karl.Rand@basingstoke.gov.uk |
| BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL | | Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke | 844844 |
| HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL | | The Castle, Winchester | 01962 841841 |
| HAMPSHIRE POLICE | | Non-emergency | 101 or 01962 841534 |
| PCSO Kane Lucas No. 19624 | | Kane.lucas@hampshire.police.uk | |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH | | ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com | 01256 850891 |
| NEAREST JOB CENTRE | | https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk | |

**LOCAL GROUPS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP | | Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary) | 01256 590359 |
| RAINBOWS | | Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com | |
| BROWNIES | | Tramayne Henwood | ssjbrownies@outlook.com |
| GUIDES | | Heidi Wadsworth | ssjguides@yahoo.com |
| CUBS | | Ms Trish Field | 01420 544904 |
| Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ | | Mrs Liz Gwynn | 07770 373282 |
| SSJ SOCIAL CLUB | | ssjscinformation@gmail.com | 01256 850303 |
| SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY | | Mrs Jane Shelvey | ejshelvey@gmail.com |
| TENNIS CLUB | | Paul & Maria Saunders - ssj.tennis@hotmail.co.uk | 07577 557850 |
| SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING | | Mrs Margaret Cramer | 850390 |
| SUMMIT JUDO CLUB | | Mr Len Dunce | 07860 435 831 |
| | | or Mr Paul Hamilton | 07917 005862 |
| YOGA in SSJ Village Hall | | Mrs Jacqui Morris | 01256 881336 |
| SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB | | Mr Graham Welsby | 07970 182319 |
| FOOTBALL CLUB | | clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk | 07399 213133 |
| PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY | | Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com<br>www.piccolopsn.com | 07528 726248 |
| THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust) | | Mr Stuart Maughan | 01256 883858 |
| SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING | | Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com | |
| BALLET at SSJ Village Hall | | Jenni Stafford | jenni@jsba.uk |
| SSJ ALLOTMENTS WARDEN | | mikegreaves@co-hort.co.uk | |

**VENUE BOOKINGS:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| St Stephen's Hall | Carol Ellis | 07960 049189 | |
| MS Village Hall | | enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk | 07759 064220 |
| SSJ Village Hall | Shawna Campbell | ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com | 07526 954835 |
| The Chute Pavilion | | clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk | |
| Royal British Legion | | bramley.secretary@rbl.community | |

**HEALTH CARE**

| | |
|---|---|
| NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST | 473202 |
| HANTSDOC | 01189 365592 |
| BRAMBLYS GRANGE | 467778 |
| CHINEHAM SURGERY | 479244 |
| CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE | 329021 |
| CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY | 881228 |
| HOLMWOOD, TADLEY | 01189 814166 |
| ROOKSDOWN SURGERY | 399710 |
| MORELAND SURGERY | 0118 9816661 |

**EDUCATION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST | Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher) | 850062 |
| SSJ C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL | Ms Vickie Alvis (Head teacher) | 01256 850180 |
| ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL | Mr Jamie Carroll | 473379 |

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU | | 0808 2787829 |
| BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES | | 0345 484950 |
| BUS STATION (STAGECOACH) | | 0871 121 0190 |
| LIBRARIES | Basingstoke Town Centre | 473901 |
| | Chineham Library | 465643 |
| | Tadley Library | 0300 555 1387 |
| DIAL-A-RIDE | Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm | 01256 462101 |

If we have omitted any organisations, and/or their contact details, we apologise and would welcome any information to keep this list up to date and relevant

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Julie Crawley | villagermagazine@gmail.com | 07703 720961 |

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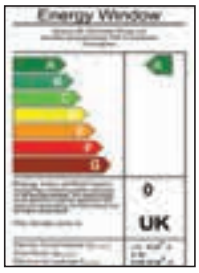
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