



The Villager

December 2025
– January 2026

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editor's Note



On behalf of the Villager Magazine - and our fantastic team of distributors who risk life, limb and fingernails to deliver the magazine to your doors - I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

There will be no issue in January, but if you have anything to contribute to the February, or indeed any future issues, the deadline is always the 12th of the previous month ie 12th January for February

magazine. We are always happy to receive articles, photos etc; although space can often be a problem.

I have now lived in Sherborne St John for 38 years - we moved in during the week of the "hurricane" in October 1987 - and I am always fascinated to see old photos of the village and hear of how the village used to be.



Whilst visiting Jane Moss in Elm Road I noticed this photo taken on 23rd May 1968. Interesting to note top left the newly built houses in Bournefield, no modern rectory and just the beginnings of the new cemetery along Church Path.

I am certain readers of the magazine have their own memories, and photos, of the Sherbornes with Pamber Parish. Do please share them with the rest of us.....

Cover Photo: "Christmas in St Andrew's Church", by Hilary Mills

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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Coming Home for Christmas

There's something deeply comforting about the idea of coming home for Christmas.

Seeing the Christmas tree in its familiar place with lights twinkling in the windows, smelling the mince pies as they bake in the oven, and enjoying the warmth of being with people who know and love us – "home" has a special pull this time of year. It's not just about a place, it's about belonging, about being known, accepted, and loved.

But sometimes, even with all the fun and festive cheer, Christmas can make us feel a little homesick too. It can stir within us a longing for years gone by, people we miss, or a peace we can't quite find.

That longing isn't new. It's as old as humanity itself. Deep down, every heart aches for a home we were made for — a life where love never ends, peace never breaks, and joy never fades.

That's exactly what we're celebrating at Christmas. When Isaiah wrote, "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given", he was announcing God's promise to send Jesus to be our way home. The child born in Bethlehem lived, died and rose again to open the way for us to come back home to God. Back to our forever home, where we are known, accepted and loved completely.

Wherever you're spending Christmas this year, I hope it is filled with love and joy, and that you have a peaceful start to 2026!

We would love to see you at any of our Christmas services or events, all the details are below.

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



SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES

Christmas

Saturday 13th December
Carols by Candlelight Pamber Priory 4pm

Sunday 21st 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 Celebrations
All Saints' 9.30am
St Andrew's 10.30am

www.sherborneswithpamber.org

Mon 1st	12-1pm	Men's Bible Study in the Parish Room
Tues 2nd	8-9pm	Evening Prayer in the Parish Room
Weds 3rd	10-11.30am	Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
	12-12.30pm	Midday Prayer at St Andrew's
	1pm	Being Together Women's Group in the Parish Room
Thurs 4th	6.45-8pm	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals at St Andrew's SSJ
Sat 6th	8.30-9.30am	Morning Prayer in the Parish Room
Sun 7th	10.30am	Communion with groups for 0-14s at St Andrew's SSJ Isaiah 11 v 1-10 Far From Home
	1pm	Church Family Lunch at The Rectory
	4-5pm	Christmas Families at 4 at St Andrew's
Weds 10th	10-11.30am	Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
	12-12.30pm	Midday Prayer at All Saints
Thurs 11th	6.45-8pm	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals at St Andrew's SSJ
Sat 13th	4pm	Carols by Candlelight at Pamber Priory
Sun 14th	10.30am	All Age Worship at St Andrew's SSJ Isaiah 55 v 1-5 No Place Like Home
Weds 17th	10-11.30am	Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
	12-12.30pm	Midday Prayer at St Andrew's
Thurs 18th	6.45-8pm	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 21st	10.30am	Family Carols at St Andrew's SSJ
	7pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's SSJ
Weds 24th	4pm	Crib Service at All Saints
Thurs 25th	9.30am	Christmas Celebration at All Saints
	10.30am	Christmas Celebration at St Andrew's
	11.30am	Christmas Communion at St Andrew's
Sun 28th	10.30am	All Age Service at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 4th Jan	10.30am	Communion with groups for 0-14s at St Andrew's SSJ
Weds 7th	10-11.30am	Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
	7.30pm	Mission Partner Prayer & Praise Evening (Online)
Sun 11th	9.30am	Communion at All Saints
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups at St Andrew's
	4-5pm	Discover Course at Sherborne St John School
Weds 14th	12-12.30pm	Midday Prayers at St Andrew's
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups at St Andrew's
	4-5pm	Discover Course at Sherborne St John School
	7.30-8.30pm	Evening Communion in the Parish Room
Weds 21st	10-11.30am	Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
	11-11.45am	Midweek Communion at Pamber Priory
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups at St Andrew's
	4-5pm	Discover Course at Sherborne St John School



 **Families at Four Christmas**

St Andrew's Church SSJ
Sunday 7th December | 4-5pm

Christmas craft, games, songs and short talk from the Bible about the greatest gift.

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Got questions about God, the world and you?

Over the course of 4 sessions, Glen Scrivener presents Jesus' vision for life through interactive videos that help us better understand God, the world and ourselves.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 4 - 5PM
(Refreshments from 3.30)
11TH 18TH 25TH JAN & 1ST FEB

VENUE: SHERBORNE ST JOHN SCHOOL

For more information or to sign up scan the QR Code or contact: stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359717577

 PRESENTS

REALITY CHECK A NIGHT OF ILLUSION

Be amazed, be amused and consider what's real

With Christian Illusionist  Todd Alexander

Sherborne St John Social Club
Friday 6th February | 7.30pm

Tickets £5 and booked by QR code or email admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 

Christmas Sing-along

At SSJ Village Hall
Sunday 14th of December 2025
from 6-8pm

Hosted by Ed Campbell and Steve Howe

Come along and bring your voice!

Enjoy hot drinks including hot chocolate (squash available) with festive cookies.

All welcome.

Claiming Dates

December 2025		
1 - 17	The Vyne NT, Christmas Lunch in the Brewhouse Tea-room (Weekdays only) 03442 491895	12.00 noon
1	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
2	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Christmas Lunch	12.00am for 12.30
4	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsal, St Andrew's Church, SSJ, All Welcome	6.45pm – 8.00pm
5	SSJ School Christmas Fayre, SSJ School	5.00pm – 7.00pm
6	SSJ Christmas Market at SSJ Village Hall, Art, craft & gift makers	12md – 4.00pm
6	SSJ Social Club, Fleetwood Mac Tribute Duo	7.30pm
6	B/s Male Voice Choir Christmas Celebration, Church Cottage, Church Sq. B/S, RG21 7QW	7.30pm
7	SwP Parish, Families at 4 Christmas Unwrapped at St Andrew's Sherborne St John	4.00pm – 5.00pm
8	Knit and Knatter Craft Group, Sherborne St John Village Hall, tea & coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
11	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsal, St Andrew's Church, SSJ All Welcome	6.45pm – 8.00pm
14	SwP Parish, Carols at Pamber Priory	4.00pm
14	Christmas Sing-along with Ed Campbell & Steve Howe.	
	SSJ V.Hall, Hot drinks & festive cookies	6.00pm – 8-9.00pm
15	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
18	Christmas Community Choir Rehearsal, St Andrew's Church, SSJ All Welcome	6.45pm – 8.00pm
20	SSJ Social Club, Midnight Riders Band	8-8.30pm –
21	SwP Parish, Family Carols at St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John All Welcome	10.30am
21	SwP Parish, Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's Church All Welcome	7.00pm
24	SwP Parish, Crib Service at All Saints' Monk Sherborne	4.00pm
24	SSJ Social Club, Christmas Eve Party with a visit from Santa	TBC
25	SwP Parish, Christmas Celebration at All Saints' Monk Sherborne	9.15am
25	SwP Parish, Christmas Celebration at St Andrew's Sherborne St John	10.30am
29	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
31	Sherborne St John Social Club, New Year's Eve Black Tie Event	7.00pm – 1.00am
January 2026		
6	Women's Fellowship, Rolls-Royce and the Silver Lady, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm – 4.00pm
11	SwP Parish, Discover Course, SSJ Village School	4.00pm
18	SwP Parish, Discover Course, SSJ Village School	4.00pm
25	SwP Parish, Discover Course, SSJ Village School	4.00pm
25	B/s & Deane Rotary Fundraising, His Majesty's Royal Marines Band Concert, The Anvil	3.00pm
February 2026		
1	SwP Parish, Discover Course, SSJ Village School	
3	Women's Fellowship, AGM, SSJ Village Hall,	2.00pm – 4.00pm
6	SwP Evening of Illusion, SSJ Social Club Tickets £5 (see advert booking details)	7.30pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Mediumship, Susie Gigg	2.00pm
27	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ School Quiz Night	7.00pm

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

Sherborne St John Parish Council

New drop in clinic

To allow residents to raise local issues with the Parish Council, a drop-in clinic is being held at the Monday coffee mornings at the village hall, attended by the Clerks and Parish Councillors on the 1st Monday of each month between 10am-12pm. Following the first in November, the next will be Monday 1st December. Please come along to the village hall and enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee.

As we write, we have fully reached the Autumn fall season in the village, with the leaves falling at full speed and autumn colours everywhere. It made me reflect on the importance of trees to the landscape and rural character of our village and why it remains a green and attractive place to live. We have a lot of mature trees in Sherborne St John along our main streets, residential streets and in the conservation areas. Some of our new housing developments such as Sireburne Close and Oak Field Close have managed to retain most of the larger trees and include landscaping along their boundaries, which has done much to soften their impact. We are also fortunate to live within walking distance of substantial woodlands at the Vyne and Basing Wood.

Planning

This week the Borough Council held a planning site visit at the Grange Nursing Home, where 4 new homes are proposed. The site is outside the settlement boundary and appears to be contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan. Although it is screened from the front by large trees on Vyne Road, along the side boundary to rear of the new homes, large trees would be lost and it will be very visible and overlook existing homes on the ridgeline from across the valley from the footpath (to Morgaston Wood and the Vyne) and looking up from Vyne Close. There are a number of objections, so we will have to see how this one fares at committee.

Cranesfield - On planning, as we reported last month, our main concern is the re-submitted application for 26 Homes at Cranesfield. The Parish Council has submitted a detailed objection with evidence from by our consultants ET Planning, which you can read on the planning portal (ref 25/02051/FUL). The scheme is very similar to the last one, which was refused and dismissed on appeal last year. This would still have a very adverse effect on the local landscape, causing harm to the setting of the church and conservation area and being contrary to the Neighbourhood and local plan policies. Our local 'Save our Greenfields Group' have commissioned specialist landscape and conservation advice to support a very strong objection made to

the new scheme, so thanks for their efforts. Over 200 objections have been submitted and if you are concerned and have not yet written in please do so.

Village Facilities

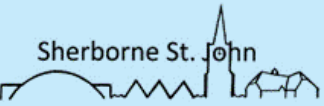
Following consultation last year, including with the primary schoolchildren, The Parish Council are replacing the younger children's play equipment at the Chute Recreation ground. As well as providing more interesting and additional play equipment, this will follow a nature-based theme suggested by the schoolchildren including bugs and natural history. The new equipment has been ordered and will be installed in the New Year.

Work has been underway at the Chute Pavilion and Recreation Ground to maintain and improve the facilities. The electric heaters have been replaced, with 2 still to complete in the future.

Outside in the car park, CCTV and improved lighting will be put in place early next year. The damage at the Chute Pavilion, such as the theft of the wooden fencing, which has now been re-instated and repaired. We have also been asked to help the Village Shop obtain a directional sign and hope to include more information on this next month.

A new Drop & Collect at Village Store in Sireburne Close, will offer Post Office services from a handheld device, providing convenient access for customers to bill payments and prepaid parcel collections and returns. More complex services like personal and business banking will not be available at this branch.

On behalf of the SSJ Parish Council may we wish everyone a happy Christmas.



Sherborne St. John Parish Council
Drop In Clinic
At
Sherborne St John Village Hall
First Monday of the Month
10.00am till 12.00
Parish Clerks; Rosie Burton & Alison Heward
An opportunity to meet your local Parish Council and ask questions

Village Resident Ticks One Off His Bucket List



Many people watch this annual event either as bystanders or seeing reports on television, the world-famous London to Brighton veteran car run. It was set up to celebrate the change in the law in 1896 that increased speed limits dispensing with the need to have a man with a red flag walking in front of new-fangled self-propelled vehicles.

A good reason, then, for Dave Kitson of Hilltop in Sherborne St John, to make a day of it to see the start in Hyde Park in London and then follow events by train and bus as the rally progressed to Brighton.

His travel plans immediately unravelled as the first train from Basingstoke on Sunday arrived in the capital at 8.35 am, far too late to see the first cars setting off at 7.00 am. So, he decided to watch the rally go past at Westminster Bridge. And it was here that things took an unexpected turn to the bizarre.

Standing below Big Ben as it chimed 8.45 am, a car, unusually with no passenger, stopped at the traffic lights. Dave made eye contact with the driver, raised his hitch-hiking thumb, pointed at the empty passenger seat and to his great surprise, was invited onboard.

Regulations state that all entries must have been manufactured before 1905 with the oldest participant this year being made in 1894. Our intrepid hitch hiker's car, entry number 289, was a 1904 American made Cadillac having a single cylinder eight horsepower horizontal engine, with two gears driving a chain to the rear wheels. The driver claimed that not only was this his 44th London to Brighton run but also in the rally this year he had another similar model of Cadillac being driven by a friend, and his son was driving a 1903 French made Panhard et Levassor which had



a two-cylinder engine producing 7 horsepower. The three cars had a total value of around three hundred thousand pounds.

Not only did Dave have the unexpected pleasure of being a participant in this world-famous rally he had the additional duties of helping to look out for the route markers, make left arm signals and best of all acknowledge the applause of the spectators lining the route.

The RAC were out in force and in front of every stationary van was a veteran car in distress. It became obvious that as they caught up with the driver's son that his Panhard was alarmingly emitting steam. They stopped at a petrol station to refill the radiator and carried on to Purley where many cars had pulled into a church car park for a welcome hot coffee.

It was while investigating the water loss of the Panhard that a team of eight RAC mechanics diagnosed a seized water pump declaring the problem terminal. It was probably an unrealistic expectation that any of their service vans would carry

a replacement water pump for an ancient French car.

It was here that Dave's adventure came to a halt. The son took the dad's Cadillac to drive on to Brighton while dad was left to organise rescue transport to take the Panhard back to Yorkshire after following to Brighton to collect both Cadillacs that were two of 340 cars that reached Brighton from 400 starters.

Dave travelled from Purley station back to Basingstoke, reflecting on his experience that was always the final scene in the Aardman Animation films when Wallace says "It had been a grand day out, Gromit."

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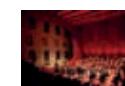
It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas!

Come celebrate with:

BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

Festive tunes, carols old and new,
plus plenty to sing along to!

Sunday 21 December 2025 at 3.00pm



Main Hall, Queen Mary's College,
Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke
RG213HF



Tickets: £10 (U16's free)

Online: <https://ticketlab.app/event/35239>



Refreshments and bar available

A Fairytale Christmas at The Vyne



22 Nov – 5 Jan (Closed 24 & 25 Dec)

House 11am-3pm | Gardens 10am-4pm

Step into a world of enchantment where treasured fairy tales sparkle to life. Aglow with dazzling trees and magical scenes, in the house discover The Snow Queen's icy realm, Red Riding Hood's cunning wolf, and Beauty and the Beast's elegant tea set. A free family trail offers fun games and activities in the house and gardens. Get your timed tickets at Visitor Reception.

New for 2025: Book your Christmas lunch in the Brewhouse tea-room available on weekdays 24 Nov - 17 Dec at 12pm. Book online or call 0344 249 1895.

More information at nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne

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CHRISTMAS

Winchester Cathedral

Friday 12th December

7.30 - 9pm

www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events

In association with
JM FINN
Investment | Wealth

A Christmas Celebration

With The

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

We invite you to join us for a concert of Christmas Favourites and Carols, spiced with numbers from our 2025 concert programme.



7:30 pm on Saturday 6th December 2025

At Church Cottage, Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

Free entry with a retiring collection
Concert profit to the Ark cancer charity



<https://www.basingstokemvc.org.uk>



Beau's Blog

A warning: the contents herein may be of a macabre nature and cause distress. If this happens please consult your best friend for some consolation.

You may remember me mentioning that I had a new companion to play with - Teddy. He was perfect until earlier in the year when he and I went to stay with one of my girlfriends for a few days while the Boss & Mrs went on holiday without me! My newest girlfriend insisted on investigating the innards of my teddy. By the time I managed to retrieve him she had destroyed his beauty, removing his glass eyes and instigating an appendectomy. She was eventually forgiven as she was only young at the time and not in complete control of her exuberance but it rankled with the Mrs who was not keen on continuously viewing a discombobulated teddy. The Mrs was also perturbed by some of his insides floating around the house, so eventually the Mrs took it upon herself to find some soft velvet material to heal teddy's hurts and return him to his dignified status. Hence "Bandit Teddy" evolved and I can play with him again knowing that I can be his guide-dog and his insides are safely contained and not spilling out during our games.

Since this amazing recuperative needlework the floodgates have opened with the Boss suggesting the Mrs could perhaps resurrect some of his old socks with a bit of darning or turn a few collars on his favourite work shirts – to my knowledge these items have been discretely



removed from his wardrobe with a quiet comment on the unlikelihood of this ever happening. I blame Teddy!

In this photo I have his foot secured in my soft mouth with my paw holding down his leg so that he cannot escape. Since wearing his Zorro mask he has become a bit of a rogue so I have to keep an eye on him to make sure he doesn't wander off and also to protect him from marauding girlfriends....

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

SSJ Primary School

At the school, we are in full swing with our preparations for Christmas. The infants are starting to learn their lines and the songs for the Nativity, which is always such a treat to watch. I can't wait to see the wonderful performance that I know our children will produce. We are also looking forward to our Christmas lunch. Crackers have been ordered and we look forward to sharing a wonderful meal together. Another highlight of the build up to Christmas is our whole school pantomime trip. A huge thank you to the School Association who cover all the costs of the trip. It is a very enjoyable experience for everyone and it is a great opportunity for the children to get to go and watch a professional performance.

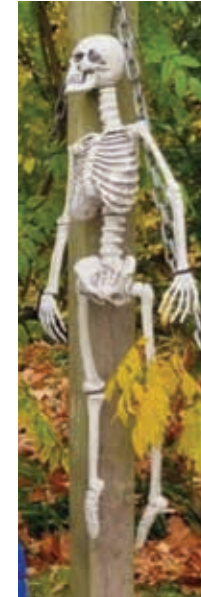
As well as all these wonderful events, we at Sherborne St John Primary School are also busy thinking about the true meaning of Christmas, and remembering that very first Christmas. What a wonderful event that must have been. One of the Christian symbols often associated with Christmas is the Christingle. We will make our Christingles in school very soon, supported by the church community. They are made of an orange, which represents the world, wrapped in red ribbon to symbolise the love and blood of Christ, then with sweets and dried fruit to represent all of God's creations. The lit candle represents



Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. Maybe you could make your own at home! Everyone at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School wants to wish the whole community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have time this Christmas to spend with your friends and family, doing all the things that make you happy. We're looking forward to sharing more of our learning and adventures with you in 2026!

Sherbert
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

News from Pamber and Little London



Well now we have got all the ghouls and ghosts out of our systems, I am delighted to be able to present to you an altogether infinitely more pleasant member of our community in the form of Simon Greaves. Many of you will know Simon already, but for those of you who don't, our

occasional "Meet the Villager" item will give you the opportunity to hear a little more about our Chairman of the Parish Council. Over to you, Simon.

"I have no affiliation to any political party, my desire is to foster a sense of community and to improve its facilities so that we all can have pride in our parish. However, it is not possible to please all of the residents all of the time!

I moved to Little London in 1989 with my wife Mary and 3 daughters [who have since married and left home]. Before I semi-retired 2021, I was a project manager in construction. I now work part time for 5 pre-school childcare providers in Hampshire as their maintenance manager and odd job man. This is very rewarding if a little tiring at times. I am sure you have experienced the constant "What are you doing now?" repeated ever 30 seconds from a child. Well multiply that by 20 children at the same time!

One of my achievements has been the War Horse Memorial at the Plough Inn. Commissioned and installed to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI. It is now a registered war memorial and dedicated to Arthur Pearce who was shot by a German sniper at the start of the war on 23/24 August 1914. I am also an Ambassador for the War Horse Memorial in Ascot. "

Thank you Simon. Simon's shorts and tee shirt look a little out of place in the December issue. Or do they? The weather has been so mild that I too have been sporting summer wear when in raking mode! There are some fantastic colours in evidence at the moment but Christmas is just round the corner and with a great deal of / a little bit of luck it will provide a totally white carpet.



On a rather more serious note, Pamber Parish Council has informed us that since the departure of the travellers in Pamber Park, bunds have been formed and bollards and a gate installed. Waste has been cleared and the area sanitized so it is safe to use. A legal process is being pursued in order to provide an injunction to be used in the event of travellers returning.

There remains only for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026. Do, PLEASE, send me some pictures or words about your celebrations!

B 🐾 bdownes.villager@gmail.com






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16

17

Poppies of Remembrance placed at St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John, October 21st, 2025



It all started with Lynne Littlechild's question of, "I wonder if the church in the village has ever thought of a poppy display for Remembrance Day?" A few people heard her at that coffee morning in the village hall, way back in January 2025.

As the expression goes, mention one thing in a village and the whole village knows! Lynne then set up

monthly 2 hr session in the Church Rectory Room, spoke to the Stuart about doing a display of some sort come November. Lots of people jumped at the chance to be part of such a special idea. We had people in the church, village, friends of friends, relatives, mothers, daughters, grandmothers, excellent knitters and the starters too! People were knitting in doctor's waiting rooms, at weekend retreats and camping jamborees.

In time Lynne was drowning with bags of poppies in different patterns, colours of red, large and small, took over her house! When our numbers were climbing up towards 2000, we started to wind down but just adding some purple poppies for the animals and some leaves to break up the red.

I started to tie the poppies to the chicken wire and a good 60' later we had the start of the sculpture -our intentions were to create a waterfall from the pulpit. On the day of the install, we had Ed Campbell, Becky Deering, Liz McFarlane, Lynn and me putting together the result of 9 months of hard work.

The poppies will be taken down in due time and packed away for next year. Hopefully we can add to them and shower a few more areas of the church with the magnificent hours of work.

Our thanks go to all who helped in any way, be it knitting or crocheting, to create such a wonderful masterpiece--a great tribute to Remember the Fallen.

Shawna Campbell

Poppy Appeal

As Acting Poppy Appeal Organiser this year, I must record my profound gratitude to Natalie Larner, PAO for Sherfield, for her tremendous support to me; also to Michael Luck, our previous PAO, for his help and advice. Many people have taken a turn running the stall in the main reception of Basingstoke hospital. and I thank each one of them. We have also had help this year from some staff from Network Rail who have given one of their charity days to the appeal. Special thanks to Jill Mann who has been a constant support to all our volunteers, and to Chris Hayward, PA Manager for North Hampshire.

To date the sum raised on the Poppy stall for the Legion's welfare work with the serving and ex-service community family is over £4,000..... Many interesting conversations have been had with visitors to the stall and people have been extremely generous in their donations.

We now have the task of collecting in and counting the donations from local schools and shops who have shared in the appeal. Gift Aid must also be added to many donations. A grand total will be given when all this is done.

We are still looking for a new PAO for our little district - could this be YOU? The Poppy Appeal is one of our country's major and most respected charities. Full training will be delivered. Contact our secretary (details below) for more information.



Branch Standard Bearer. We were sorry to receive the resignation of Luke Holdcroft due to a reassignment of his post with HIOW Fire & Rescue Service. Luke has been our Standard Bearer since 2023 parading our Standard with distinction at Remembrance and other events, including the RBL Festival of Remembrance at the Royal

Albert Hall. We thank him sincerely for his service.

This does create a Vacancy for a new Standard Bearer--could this be you? You need to be reasonably fit- the Standard is quite heavy - and over 18: is there a young person in your family who might like to perform this vital role for us? Full training is given. If you would like more information about this role, contact Chris Woodward, our Branch Secretary, at

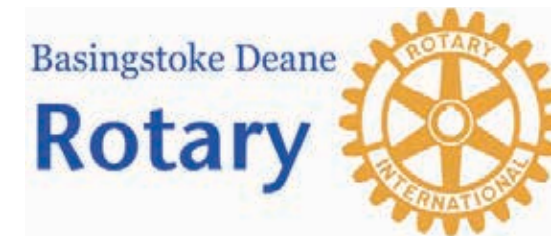
Bramley,secretary@rbl.community.

This will be my final monthly contribution to our great village magazines. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed sharing our news with you.

John Morley

Bramley & District RBL 07900 892566

CONTACT – Paul Temple: tempaul45@gmail.com OR Alf McCarthy: alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com



ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX

THANK YOU FOR SPREADING JOY!

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who packed a shoebox for our annual appeal — your kindness and generosity make a world of difference!

Thanks to our amazing Basingstoke community, nearly 900 shoeboxes from our club, filled with cozy hats, gloves, toys, and other goodies, are now on their way to children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and hopefully to Ukraine via contacts in Poland— where many children have been displaced and are in need of comfort and care.

These shoeboxes, along with thousands more collected across the Wessex region, are delivered in lorries accompanied by Rotarians from our district to trusted Rotary teams in each country, and so ensuring they reach the hands of children who may have very little and giving much needed cheer

In 2024, our Wessex Rotary District sent an incredible 20,455 shoeboxes and extra cartons of warm clothing, including beautifully hand-knitted items, all thanks to your continued support, we have sent more this year

Thank you for helping us bring smiles and warmth to children who need it most.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS DECEMBER

KICK OFF CHRISTMAS WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane
Cllr Colin Phillimore

Invites residents to join him at

The Mayor's Carol Service.

Saturday 6 December 2025 at 6pm

(Guests are asked to be seated by 5.45pm)

To be held at **St Michael's Church, Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW**

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

Due to limitations on the maximum number St Michael's church is able to accommodate, it is suggested booking your ticket soon as possible. Free tickets available, See Mayors events on BDBC website

BASINGSTOKE SAMARITANS CAROL CONCERT

Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 19.30

United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NU

Tickets £10.00, with mince pie and mulled wine

CAMROSE CENTRE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Shortly before Christmas our Rotarian team will again be cooking and serving Christmas lunch for the homeless and vulnerably housed for the Camrose Centre clients and volunteers.

HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 26th January 2026 at 3:00pm

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

Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities



Basingstoke Deane Rotary

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

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

Basingstoke Deane Rotary wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2026

Rotary's Christmas and New Year wish is 'Peace the world over'

Womens Fellowship



The November meeting included a talk given by Terri and Stephen Reid on 'Dickens and the Spirit of Christmas'. They concentrated on A Christmas Carol and the life of Charles Dickens.

Terri gave the life of Charles Dickens, with slides, whilst Stephen interspersed with extracts of prose from the book. There is a portrait of Charles Dickens in the National Portrait Gallery, London, when he was 27 yrs old. Born in 1812 - 1870 he wrote A Christmas Carol in 1839 and by 1843 had written seven published works.

His early life was one of impoverishment and destitution, with his Father living a life of crime and debt, which led to his arrest and imprisonment. Life started out for Charles Dickens in Portsmouth but they were constantly on the move, resulting in a move to a tenement building in Camden Town. When he was 12 he was forced to leave school and work in a blacking factory, his life becoming embroiled with pawnbrokers to help make ends meet. This poverty-stricken childhood is presumed to have had a lasting effect not only on his writing but also on his outlook on life. He became an anxious workaholic, spending sleepless nights wandering the streets looking

out for the destitute. He was so incensed with the state of the poor that he began giving furious speeches, subsequently publishing pamphlets, which did not have the desired effect.

Dickens married Catherine Hogarth and they had ten children, but this was not his only love. He left Catherine and, unable to divorce, supposedly had a clandestine relationship with Ellen Ternan who lived nearby and was with him the day he died.

We must not forget that Charles Dickens lived in the reign of Queen Victoria and consort Albert, the latter introducing the Christmas Tree to the UK as well as the tradition of giving gifts. The Christmas pudding as well as goose, turkey, sage & onion stuffing were all popularised around 1851, as well as Christmas crackers and 'mince' pies.

Terri and Stephen were thanked by Julie Crawley.

The New Year meeting on 6th January will be a talk given by Mr. Kevin Patience on 'The Love Story of Lord Montague and Emily Thornton.

We would love to see new faces in 2026, we meet on the first Tuesday of the month in SSJ Village Hall. We are a friendly group and you will be made very welcome.



News from Clift Surgery and the PPG

Look after yourself

There has been an increase in the number of flu cases in Hampshire, so please consider having a flu vaccination, if you are eligible. Ask at the surgery or a local pharmacy.

Christmas Information

- **Holiday opening hours.** The surgery will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. If you have a health emergency during this period, call 111.
- **Repeat prescriptions.** Please order in good time. The very last date for ordering medicines is 15th December. Please continue to allow 6-8 days for your request to be processed.
- **Our Pharmabox 24.** If you are eligible to collect your medicines from the dispensary, remember the Pharmabox is there for you to collect your medication 24 hours a day. No need to drive out of the village or worry about the post arriving in time. Just pop into the dispensary to sign up or find an application form on the surgery website www.cliftsurgery.co.uk/dispensary and follow the instructions.
- **Blister Pack recycling scheme.** Boots has a collection point for recycling tablet blister packs. Just put empty packs aside and drop them off next time you are passing.

A SMART phone is not just for telephone calls.

If you would like help to download the NHS app on your phone or get online to check your medical records, then get in touch with the PPG. We can show you how to download the App on your smart phone or access the NHS web site. This is the quickest way to read your results, access letters and appointment information. For further support and information, please email ppgclift@gmail.com

Patient Panel

The Clift Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) are volunteer patients of Clift Surgery who act as a communication link between the surgery and patients. All GP surgeries in England are required to have a PPG and it is important to ensure communication between Clift Surgery and patients is inclusive and accessible for all.

To assist with this, we are looking for patients of Clift Surgery who can represent different groups of patients. We envisage the representatives will be from the groups below:

- An unpaid carer
- A parent with young children

- A member of the community from an ethnic minority
- A young person (16-18)
- Someone with a long-term health condition
- An older person who does not use social media

These people should be willing to give a little of their time when needed. The task will not be onerous and will be undertaken remotely via email or paper.

If you are interested in taking part, please send an email to ppgclift@gmail.com saying why you would like to do this and explain which category you are applying under. Please enclose your name and contact details. You can also write to Patient Participation Group, c/o Patient Facing Services Manager, Clift Surgery, Minchens Lane, Bramley, Tadley RG26 5BH. Please mark the envelope "PPG Patient Panel". All data will be handled securely and never shared with anyone outside the Patient Participation Group. Any applications that are not accepted will be destroyed.

We send Seasons Greetings to everyone and wish you a peaceful and healthy 2026.



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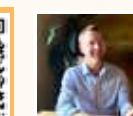
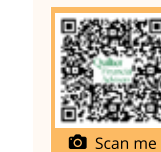
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Probus Learn About Local Hero



A Sherfield-on-Loddon resident Natalie Larner gave an outline to the Probus Club of Basingstoke of Captain John Aidan Liddell VC MC whose 1915 burial in South View cemetery, Basingstoke was attended by many dignitaries and public crowds.

Although he was born near Newcastle in 1888, during the early 1900s and after the First World War, the Liddell family lived at Sherfield Manor which today is Sherfield School. As a lasting connection one of the buildings at Sherfield Village Hall bears the family name and on 11 November each year a special service is held to commemorate his memory.

Following Balliol College, Oxford, where he had obtained a first-class degree in Zoology, at the age of 24 and not wanting to be a 'slacker' John Aidan Liddell joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders following his maternal grandfather into a Scottish regiment.

When the first World War started, with the rank of Lieutenant, he commanded a Maxim machine gun section on the Western Front that remained unsupported for 43 days. For this action and for saving the Company Sergeant Major he received the MC.



This long time at the front, spent either in action or the suboptimal conditions of front-line trenches, where he changed his socks only once in that time, took a toll on his health and he was given leave.

Before the outbreak of the war, he had trained as a pilot, flying a Boxkite at the Vickers school at Brooklands and following recuperation from his battlefield experiences he joined the Royal Flying Corps being promoted to Captain and was stationed at Saint-Omer in northern France.

On 31 July 1915 he, together with an observer/gunner, was flying a two-seater RE 5 biplane at 5,000 feet near Bruges when they were fired on by enemy aircraft.

Badly wounded with a shattered right thigh he lost consciousness and the plane nose-dived. Regaining consciousness, he was able to regain control at only 3,000 feet above enemy lines.

The plane was badly damaged and with the crew member, 2nd Lieutenant Roland Peck, also wounded, he managed to fly back to base saving not only the plane but also the life of his observer. Captain Liddell had his right leg amputated but died due to septicaemia a month later. He was 27 years old.



There had been much publicity in the British newspapers of this event so that when his body was brought back to England and following a Catholic mass held in London, the coffin travelled to Basingstoke by train where it was met with pipers from his regiment. The cortege passed through the town where crowds lined the streets and flags flown at half mast. His observer was amongst many who attended the funeral.

The posthumous VC was presented to his father by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 17 November 1915. Only four such medals were awarded to members of the Royal Flying Corps.

Several commemorative plaques of Captain John Aidan Liddell VC MC are found around Britain, but Sherfield-on-Loddon has its own memorials. His name can be seen topping the list of other local men who lost their lives during this conflict on the village war memorial. And in 2015, the century after his death, a commemorative engraved paving stone, atop a brick plinth, was positioned near the crossroad in the village. Sherfield-on-Loddon residents are justly proud of their local man who became a war hero.

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

Support Group October Meeting

Antiques - either appreciated (normally by the older generation) or ignored (by the younger)! The group were privileged to have Alan Stone from Squirrel Antiques, who came with two of his team to head up the group's monthly meeting with their lively and fascinating presentation.

Alan started by giving a bit of background and history to the family business, recalling the early days when as a youngster the family converted the old public toilets into the present shop, and his gleeful abandon in the task of knocking the old tiles off the wall. The business has now expanded to three shops, two in Basingstoke and one in Salisbury, with the original being the longest living shop in the town. He highlighted that they have an increasing role as the town's archivists, with a collection exceeding that of the Willis museum. They typically create their own exhibition a couple of times a year. He added that many of the local charity shops also benefit from the gifting of items which Squirrel have no market for.

With the introductions out of the way, Alan introduced his colleague Andrew Wilkinson, who has even appeared on the BBC as an expert on old gramophones. Now came the fun - a 'Fiona Bruce' type challenge from the Antiques Road Show game. He presented three gramophones and after a brief introduction to each, challenged group members to guess the value, before disclosing their approximate values ranging from about £120 right up to somewhere around £5000. He explained that the winner was unique, as not only were a limited number of that model ever made, but it had been signed by the crews of both the Oxford and Cambridge boats celebrating the 100th anniversary of the event's founding. Andrew went on to highlight that with items such as this, the appeal would have been less to a gramophone collector but would be significantly prized by someone collecting rowing memorabilia. Thus, for an antique dealer the skill is understanding the wider appeal. The exercise was repeated with Alan passing round three of his own very ugly pottery



items, which he explained were of greater appeal to men - they don't do the dusting - this enabled him to highlight how the history of the makers can have a significant bearing on valuations. With Alan having in advance indicated a willingness to give guide prices for members' items, a wide range were produced, with Alan using this to explain how fashion has a real bearing on prices, and how items such as an Art Nouveau vase, carriage clocks, and a lovely brass microscope have all fallen in value. However, a limited edition in pristine condition of 'Wind in the Willows' signed by the illustrator was of significant value. However, he warned of the costs of selling via auctions where there is typically a 20% charge to the seller and a 30% charge to the buyer!

What Alan found of real interest was a range of pottery figurine gin bottles, highlighting social history. In addition, an item of silver caught his eye, bearing a Canadian hallmark, but also an incorrect English hallmark - only UK hallmarked items being permitted for sale in the UK.

Whilst the talk was longer than normal, the Group really appreciated the time spent by Alan and his team especially as it had involved him closing the shop for the afternoon.

Group Meetings

Brighton Hill Community
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RG22 4NN

Meetings are held on the last Thursday
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- For information on annual block advertisements please contact Emma Foreman

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HOUSE CLEANING BY MARIA Reliable and affordable services. Experienced, easy going local lady, who checks every corner. Ironing services also available. References available upon request. Email: mariacleaning@live.co.uk, tel. **07933316989**

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES River K Solutions Ltd, for all your bookkeeping needs. Please contact us on **07402173137** for free initial consultation or check our website www.riverksolutions.co.uk

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.

CHEEKY PAWS AND CLAWS Established, experienced dog walker. Home visits for all pets. Pet sitting. Equestrian/hoofed animals. Fully insured. 20 years as a zoo keeper. <http://www.facebook.com/cheeky.paws.claws> email: kbeeson1@btinternet.com **07752 414821 (text only)**

PROFESSIONAL FOOT CARE IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME Fay Curtis (MCFHP. MAFHP) fully qualified Foot Health Practitioner offers a range of foot services including: Toenail cutting, Nail condition treatments, Corn removal, Callus reduction, Dry and cracked heel remedies, Verruca treatment and Diabetic foot care. To book an appointment call Fay on **07780 664410**

JON’S GARDENING & HANDYMAN SERVICES Regular garden maintenance & one off jobs. Fencing, Hedges, Pruning, General tidy ups and home maintenance. For sensible rates and a friendly service please call **07488 347493**.

BEAUTY THERAPIST Based in my professional, relaxing home based salon in Pamber Heath. Treatments offered - Gelish Nails, Pedicures, Waxing, Eve Taylor Aromatherapy Facials, Lash Lift, Massage, Indian Head Massage and Reflexology. Strict hygiene / cleaning and COVID safe procedures in place. Please call or text Amey on **07729421869**

THE BASINGSTOKE ARTISAN HANDYMAN Local, trustworthy and reliable. A skilled Handyman who can also add a bespoke flavour to your projects. Any size job considered, quick and simple to complex. www.thebartyman.co.uk **07827 216806**

HELEN’S HOUNDS AND MORE Dog Sitting (day and overnight), walking and pop- in visits. Cat and small pet visits. I’m fully insured, DBS checked and Dog First Aid trained. I have existing clients in SSJ and can provide references if required. Email: helenshoundsandmore@gmail.com Mobile: **07930870249**

T

F

PLUMBING AND TILING

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Tom Fisher
07825 701989
tom_fisher_5@hotmail.com

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- Bathroom taps and Baths Replaced
- Toilet cisterns repaired or replaced
- Leaking taps repaired
- Shower controls replaced

- Kitchens plumbed / Taps replaced
- Dishwashers & Washing Machines Installed
- Leaking radiators repaired or replaced

- Outside taps fitted
- Block drains cleared
- Leaking gutters & Down-pipes repaired

Mickey: 07888 828542

563148

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
stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS

The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke 819722
Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke 316000

SSJ Clerk/Admin Alison Heward
SSJ Clerk/Finance Rosie Burton
MS Mrs Cally Morris
Pamber Chris Gunnell

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk 07399 213133
finance@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk 07714 770940
clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk 07721 076186
clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk 07942 637210

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE POLICE

David McIntyre Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingstoke.gov.uk
Androulla Johnstone Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.gov.uk
Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke 844844
The Castle, Winchester 01962 841841
Non-emergency 101 or 01962 841534
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime
ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com 01256 850891
blacksmithguitar@talktalk.net 01256 850282 / 07702 550226
<https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk>

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (Charter Alley)
NEAREST JOB CENTRE

LOCAL GROUPS
WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP
RAINBOWS
BROWNIES
GUIDES
CUBS
Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY
TENNIS CLUB
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary) 01256 590359
Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com
TramayneHenwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com 422083
Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com 880132
Ms Trish Field 01420 544904
Mrs Liz Gwynn 07770 373282
Kerry Barrington - ssjscinformation@gmail.com 850303
Mrs Jane Shelvey jshelvey@lillydown.net
Paul & Maria Saunders - ssj.tennis@hotmail.co.uk 07577 557850
Mrs Margaret Cramer 850390
Mr Len Dunce 07860 435 831
or Mr Paul Hamilton 07917 005862
Mrs Jacqui Morris 881336
Mr Les Bone 850973
Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com 07584 169241
Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com 07528 726248
www.piccolopsn.com
Mr Stuart Maughan 01256 883858
Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com
Jenni Stafford jenni@jsba.uk

YOGA in SSJ Village Hall
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB
FOOTBALL CLUB
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
BALLET at SSJ Village Hall

VENUE BOOKINGS:
St Stephen’s Hall Doreen Quilter
MS Village Hall
SSJ Village Hall Shawna Campbell
The Chute Pavilion Terry Buller
Royal British Legion Rev John Morley
SSJ Social Club

HEALTH CARE
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
HANTSDOC
BRAMBLYS GRANGE
CHINEHAM SURGERY
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY
MORELAND SURGERY

EDUCATION
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST BEDE’S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PUBLIC SERVICES
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)
LIBRARIES

enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk 07854 280343
ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com 07759 064220
tel.buller@gmail.com 07526 954835
revjohnmorley43@gmail.com 07584 169241
ssjscinformation@gmail.com

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329021
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399710
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Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher) 850062
Ms Sarah Jolliffe (Head teacher) 850180
Mr Jamie Carroll 473379

0808 2787829
0345 484950
0871 121 0190
473901
465643
0300 555 1387
Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm 01256 462101

DIAL-A-RIDE

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

villagemagazine@gmail.com

07703 720961

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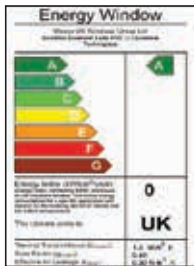
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