

A scenic landscape photograph of a river or lake. In the foreground, a large, leafless tree with a thick trunk and many thin, dark branches dominates the right side and extends across the top. The sun is bright and positioned in the upper left quadrant, partially obscured by the tree's branches, creating a lens flare effect. The water in the middle ground is calm and reflects the sky. The background shows a line of trees and a clear blue sky. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

The Villager

February 2026

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editor's Note

Firstly a very happy New Year to you all.

I am delighted that Jane Bechelet took up my challenge to readers to write about their memories of local life. Jane grew up in the Swan Pub in SSJ - although it was called the Swan Inn then. I would love to hear about other people's reminiscences.....

Julie

Message from PCSO Kane Lucas

If you have any concerns about your home security, alarms, key safes etc I recommend visiting the Blue Lamp Trust website; they offer free home safety visits providing security and advice.

Blue Lamp Trust | Supporting Safer Homes and Online Lives in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

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

Kind Regards,
PCSO Kane Lucas 19624
Tadley Police Station
07977962476

Would you be interested in meeting up with others, particularly those on their own, at the Swan Pub on a regular basis for a snack lunch and a game of Scrabble (other board games could be considered?)

If so, please email me at villagermagazine@gmail.com or phone me on 07703 720961

Julie

Cover Photo: Wintery sunshine over the sedge pond

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

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

Contact us at villagermagazine@gmail.com

**the Villager
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Contents

Stewart Deering	4
Church Services	5
Claiming Dates	7
Beau's Blog	7
SSJ Parish Council	8
Monk Sherborne Parish Council	9
News from Pamber and Little London	13
SSJ Primary School	14
Solar Farm Protest	14
Women's Fellowship	15
HCC Update	18
Clift Surgery	19
Royal British Legion	18
Probus	20
The Rotary	21
Basingstoke Ladies Probus	22
Growing Up in The Swan	23
Local Events & Issues	4, 6, 8, 13, 18, 22, 26, 27



The Missing Piece?

Building a jigsaw puzzle (a popular gift in our house this Christmas!) is less about the building and more about the searching. It can be hugely satisfying to find the right piece, fit it in place, and watch as the image slowly emerges. Until you get to the very end and there's one piece missing!

As we build our lives, we spend a lot of time and energy searching for the next "piece" that we hope will fit. It could be an achievement or a relationship, a sense of belonging or meaning, a feeling of joy or peace – we search, find, and then search again for the next piece.

Over the next few weeks at church we're going to be exploring John's Gospel together. Unique among the four biblical accounts of the life of Jesus, John doesn't start with angels or shepherds or a baby in a manger. He takes us right back to the very beginning: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1 v 1).

By beginning at the beginning of everything, John's claim is that Jesus is much more than the missing piece we

might be looking for to complete the jigsaw puzzle of our lives – he is the one who unjumbles the pieces and brings the whole thing together. The Creator in human form, the light of the world, the one who comes to us full of grace and truth.

The first words John records Jesus say come in the form of a question he asks of those who start to follow him: "What are you looking for?" Followed by an invitation to "Come and see." (John 1 v 38-39).

It doesn't matter what age you are, what your background is or what questions you have. Whatever you're searching for in 2026, or even if you're not quite sure what it is you're searching for, Jesus' invitation to "come and see" remains open. So that's what we'll be doing together at church, and all are very welcome. Details of our services and events are on the next page.

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



St Andrew's: A Building for All

The Vision of SWP Churches is to see...
 Lives transformed as we connect with people from every generation and every part of our communities, share God's love, and grow in faith in Jesus.

For almost 900 years St Andrew's church building has been a place of worship, belonging and beauty. Treasured by the whole community and many from afar, its stunning architecture and tranquil setting at the heart of the village of Sherborne St John, have inspired one generation after another.

Our desire is for this magnificent building to live up to its full potential for this and future generations, serving the whole parish and everyone who wishes to come to it. For this to happen, there are some key areas that need to be addressed, whilst remaining mindful of our responsibilities to preserve all that is so deeply valued.

 <p>Welcome</p> <p>Improvements to the entrance and inside space to make the building more welcoming, especially to those visiting for the first time.</p>	 <p>Accessibility</p> <p>Ensuring the whole building including toilet facilities are accessible to all, including young children and people with disabilities.</p>
 <p>Flexibility</p> <p>Improvements so that the building could better serve a wider range of people in the community by hosting different types of events and services.</p>	 <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Any changes to our building should make it more sustainable and environmentally friendly.</p>

Sherbornes with Pamber PCC are at the very early stages of a lengthy process of exploring how we can ensure St Andrew's church building truly is "A Building for All". We have appointed an Architect to conduct an Options & Feasibility Study and there will be a period of consultation with the community in due course. In the meantime if you have any comments or questions, please get in touch: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969



February

Connect | Share | Grow
 With Our Communities | God's Love | In Faith In Jesus

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

Sun 1st	10.30am Holy Communion with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (Whoever believes - John 3 vs 1-21) 4-5pm Discover 321 course at Sherborne St John School
Mon 2nd	10am-midday Maintenance Monday at St Andrew's
Weds 3rd	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer in the Parish Room
Fri 6th	7.30pm Reality Check - Illusionist at the SSJ Social Club
Sun 8th	9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints 10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (Here comes the bridegroom John 3 vs 22-36) 4-5pm Families at 4 at St Andrew's
Weds 11th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at All Saints 2pm Being Together Women's Group in the Parish Room
Sun 15th	10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's SSJ (Living water - John 4 vs 1-26)
Weds 18th	11am Holy Communion at Pamber Prioory 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at St Andrew's
Sun 22nd	10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's SSJ (The fields are ripe - John 4 vs 27-42)
Weds 25th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer in the Parish Room
Sat 28th	9-10.30am Men's Breakfast at Monk Sherborne Village Hall
Sun 1st Mar	10.30am Holy Communion, with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's SSJ (Taken at his word - John 4 vs 43-54)



Church Office: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969
 Minister: stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577
 Safeguarding: safeguarding@sherborneswithpamber.org 07798 550023



For regular updates please scan the QR code:

FAMILIES AT FOUR

8th Feb St Andrew's Church, SSJ 4-5pm
8th Mar St Andrew's Church 4-5pm
10th May St Andrew's Church 4-5pm
14th June St Andrew's Church 4-5pm
12th July St Andrew's Church 4-5pm

- Craft
- Games
- Short talk from the Bible
- Singing
- Refreshments

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 Visit Our Website sherborneswithpamber.org

SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES 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



Open Church

Sunday to Wednesday
 10am until dusk

St Andrew's Sherborne St John

Everyone welcome.
 Come in, take time to pause, pray, reflect, and explore the history and architecture of the wonderful church building at the heart of our parish.



SHERBORNES WITH PAMBER CHURCHES

Claiming Dates

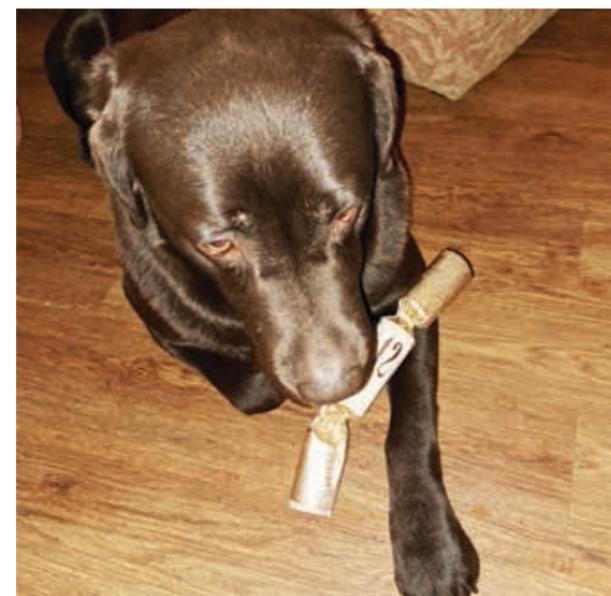
February 2026

3	Women's Fellowship, AGM, SSJ Village Hall,	2.00pm – 4.00pm
6	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
6	SwP Churches, A night of Illusion, SSJ Social Club £5 per person	7.30pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Mediumship, Susie Gigg	2.00pm
8	Families at 4, St Andrews Church, Crafts, Singing, Games	4 - 5pm
9	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
9	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
23	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
27	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ School Quiz Night	7.00pm

March 2026

6	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, UB40/Ska Tribute	7.30pm
7	The Mayors Rock Concert at The Anvil. Basingstoke. Tickets https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/	7.00pm
8	Families at 4, St Andrews Church Crafts, Singing, Games	4 - 5pm
9	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
9	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
21	Sherborne St John Social Club, Gary Barlow Tribute	7.30pm
23	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

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



Beau's Blog

It's nice to be included - the Mrs bought crackers that were themed for the twelve days of Christmas.

The family arrived, all eleven of them, so I made up the twelfth. I also received a portion of turkey, lots of cuddles from the family, an exciting game of chase with my visiting canine girlfriends, and a new bone from the Boss which I have already buried in the garden.....

I hope your Christmas was happy and your family safe and well.

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for reading my blog.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

Sherborne St John Parish Council

By the time you read this not only Christmas and the New Year will be a distant memory, but January will be past as well. Your parish councillors all hope you had a happy and healthy time and if you were working during the festive period that you and yours managed to enjoy most of it. We also hope you all stayed safe and warm during the very cold weather at the beginning of January.

If you have been to the Chute recreation ground lately you will have noticed that the Parish Council has been upgrading the younger children's play area. We have replaced some existing equipment with similar and have also been able to install some new play equipment and benches. Unfortunately, the cold weather did delay final completion, however we hope that once it is open the younger members of the parish enjoy playing in it.

The Parish Council has been discussing providing marking for Pickleball courts with the Tennis Club on the existing courts at the Recreation Ground. Pickleball is a fast-growing sport in the UK having started in the USA in the 1960s. Popular because it is a very social activity and playable by all ages and abilities. As Pickleball courts are smaller than tennis courts, being roughly the same as a badminton court there is less ground to cover for singles or doubles. The game is played using a solid bat and a softer plastic ball with holes in! As the courts are smaller, we can line out 2 Pickleball courts within one of the tennis courts, which could then be used for either game during the playing season – normally April to September.

If you are interested and would like more details, please contact James Rowley on 07342 289314

Following the successful implementation of our Accounts software package 'Scribe' as Phase 2 we are expanding the software capability to include the running of the Allotments; this will hopefully be followed by Bookings for the Pavillion. We have also begun our budget setting process for the next financial year, due to be completed in the next few weeks.

In addition, the Parish Council has also been considering improving overall security at the Chute following the unwelcome visitors and the recent theft of fences at the ends of the Pavillion. Therefore, we will be installing CCTV, which we hope to do in the coming months. We are also pleased to say that we have started to replace the heating in the Chute for new more energy-efficient ones.

We installed a CPR machine some time ago now and we are looking into running another CPR course,

when we have a date, we will let you know.

Can we remind you that we have the services of a Footpath Warden from BDBC which we are paying for so if you know of any issues with the official footpaths, please let the clerk know. The Lengthsmen continue to be active around the village again if you have a suggested task please let the Clerk.

Please use the Village Shop when you can – we must use it or lose it....

Following the bad weather in late December and January the roads around the village and the immediate area are getting in a worse condition with the number and depth of potholes increasing and worsening and not being repaired. Unfortunately, it also seems that potholes previously repaired are now appearing immediately adjacent to the existing repair. Please continue to report them to BDBC.

The Parish Council no longer meets every month but bi-monthly at the Chute, dates will be advertised on the notice boards around the village and on our website. We have put processes in place to make decisions that cannot wait in the intervening period so there will be no delays.

Our Drop In Sessions at the Village Hall Coffee Morning, has been successful and we will be running the next sessions on the 9th February and 9th March 2026, 10.00 am till 12.00. It is open to all residents of Sherborne St John, so please come along and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Linda Agnew
Vice Chair



Sherborne St. John Parish Council
Drop In Clinic
At
Sherborne St John Village Hall
Monday 9th February 2026
& Monday 9th March 2026
10.00am till 12.00
Parish Clerks; Rosie Burton & Alison Heward
An opportunity to meet your local Parish Council and ask questions

Monk Sherborne & Charter Alley Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 12 January. All Parish Councillors were in attendance, together with the Borough Councillor and one member of the public.

Agendas and minutes for Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish Council website:

www.monksherborne-pc.gov.uk

Residents are encouraged to report any highways issues directly to the relevant authorities. This includes potholes, fly-tipping, damaged or missing signs, and similar concerns. Issues can be reported online at:

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report and
www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem

Please do not assume that someone else has already raised the matter.

Local landowners are kindly reminded to ensure that roadside ditches and drainage gullies are kept clear to allow proper water run-off. Overgrown hedges that encroach on roads or obscure signage should also be maintained for the safety of all road users.

Many residents enjoy using our local footpaths and rights of way. If you come across a problem such as a damaged gate or stile, or a path blocked by a fallen tree, this can be reported to Hampshire County Council at:

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

Four new picnic tables will be purchased over the coming months following a generous donation from Monk Sherborne Village Hall and grant funding arranged by Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with residents in responding to the Stokes Lane solar farm planning application as it progresses.

Parish Councils play an important role in local democracy and are at the heart of village life. They are non-political bodies that serve the community by addressing local issues and working with borough and county councils to ensure that the voices of smaller communities are heard.

Have you ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor? If you would like to find out more or have an informal discussion, please contact the Parish Clerk at:

clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 March at 7.15pm in Monk Sherborne Village Hall. Further meeting dates for 2025 are: 13 May, 15 July, 16 September and 18 November.

If you wish to raise an issue for discussion at a meeting, please contact the Clerk in advance.

Cheryl MCSoley
Parish Councillor

CRIME

PREVENTION

YOUR

UPDATE



Subscription Scams

More than 20 million UK adults have signed up to a subscription without realising it, and of these, 4.7 million are still paying for a subscription they didn't ask for, according to new figures released by National Trading Standards. The data reveals the widespread impact of so-called 'silent scams' that involve low value but high-volume thefts.

Silent scams can include 'subscription traps', where consumers are automatically signed up to regular payments after making a single purchase or agreeing to a free trial, as well as one-off purchases based on misleading information where the item is of poor quality and not as expected. Due to their relatively low value, these payments often go unnoticed,

unchallenged and unreported.

We encourage people to report all scams, no matter the amount.

You can report a scam to Report Fraud: 0300 123 2040
<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

Read the full story on the National Trading Standards Website:

<https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/news/47-million-people-paying-for-a-subscription-they-didnt-know-they-had-signed-up-for/>

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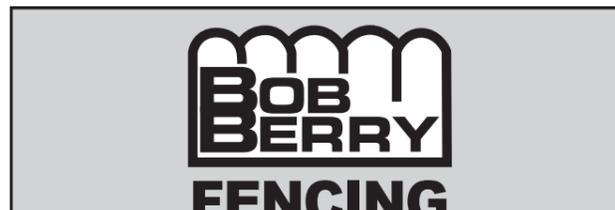
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News from Pamber and Little London

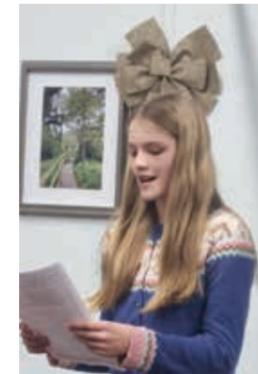
Happy New Year, one and all. Hope you celebrated well and had a wonderfully festive time.

You would have set things nicely in motion if you were able to go to the Christmas celebration organized by David in St Stephen's Village Hall. We were treated to carols accompanied by Jean and her Strings Trio, participants joining in vocally with great gusto; a lovely solo from young Esme; and readings from assorted villagers. It was, as ever, a lovely occasion and I am taking this opportunity to thank David for making things run so smoothly. Thanks are also due to Steve and Sue for their excellent supply of mince pies,

mulled wine etc. And the occasion was rounded off with the lighting of the tree and the tractor procession, the latter of which was generally thought to have been well worth the wait! Enjoy the photos! Not enough space for one of your columnist but she regaled the company with a reading about how difficult it is for Father Christmas in these politically-correct times!

Until next time. Stay warm! And here's hoping for a stable and safe 2026!

B  bdownes.villager@gmail.com



Hetty calls for us to be kind to our turkey. Love the hat!



Pete in action. What, no head attire, Pete?



Esme sings her solo



Jean leading the players

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Financial Matters

Hello readers. I'm a locally based, professional Financial Planner, who has lived in the local area for the past 15 years — even if that still counts as a newcomer to some!

Over the coming months, I'll be sharing short, accessible articles on a range of personal finance topics. My goal is simple: to help you feel more informed and better equipped to make decisions that genuinely support your financial wellbeing.

Whether you're thinking about budgeting, investing, retirement planning, protecting your family, or simply getting more organised with your money, I hope these pieces offer practical insights and food for thought. Small changes can make a meaningful difference, and understanding your options is the first step.

I'm passionate about helping people take control of their finances and would like these articles to be a starting point for anyone looking to improve their financial future.

Ian Weston

Quilter Financial Advisers

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As a qualified financial adviser, I can support you with:

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-  Protection
-  Wealth management

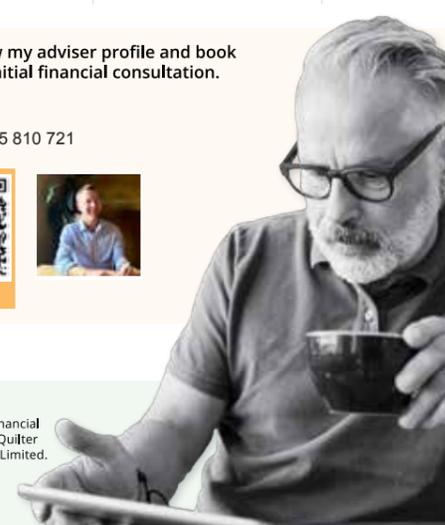
Scan to view my adviser profile and book your **FREE** initial financial consultation.

Ian Weston
T: 07775 810 721

 Scan me 

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

Q24_0248/16 July 2024



SSJ Primary School

The end of the Autumn term was a truly joyful time in school. Class 1 and Class 2 shone brightly in their nativity performance, telling a wonderfully creative story centred on Sarah, a young apprentice carpenter who somehow found herself in all the right places at all the right times. From helping the innkeeper to assisting the shepherds and even the wise men, Sarah's journey brought a fresh twist to the traditional tale. Through wonderful acting and fantastic singing, the children beautifully shared the story of the birth of Jesus.

It is always a delight to see our youngest pupils take to the stage with such confidence, performing to packed audiences. A huge well done to all the children, and heartfelt thanks to the staff for their hard work and dedication in bringing the production together.

As a school community, we also enjoyed a festive Christmas lunch and gathered with families and friends for a Christingle Service on the final Wednesday of term — a special moment that helped us all step into the festive season with warmth and togetherness.



Now, as we look ahead to the New Year, we are delighted to welcome our new headteacher, Mrs Vickie Alvis, who joins us in January. The New Year offers a chance for fresh beginnings and new resolutions, and we are excited to begin this next chapter in the life of the school under her leadership.

Sherbert
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Villagers protest against Stokes Lane Solar Farm

A huge thank you to everyone who came along on 30th December to support our campaign against Stokes Lane solar farm - it was a great turn out with residents from Monk Sherborne, Sherborne St John, Ramsdell and beyond, we have had some really good coverage in the press. Links below for articles in the Gazette and ITV news - the extract below is from a Facebook post by our Borough Councillor Simon Minas-Bound.



“The turnout sent a clear, respectful message:

- we support renewable energy
- but we must protect prime agricultural land
- safeguard wildlife and already-declining species
- and respect our local heritage, including All Saints' Church and the Monk Sherborne Conservation Area

This is about getting the right development in the right place, not industrialising valued countryside by default.

The planning application remains live, further information is expected from the applicant, and residents will have another opportunity to comment.”

Following discussions with a group of volunteers in the village who have been closely involved in coordinating our response, we have engaged the services of a planning consultant. We have not taken this decision lightly given the cost involved – around £5,700 – but feel it will give us the best possible chance. Contributions, however big or small, would be much appreciated, so that we are able to share the burden of this cost.

We have set up a go fund me page to enable contributions to be made.

<https://gofund.me/3ed7d3de6>

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed your generosity is very much appreciated and will help ensure we are able to put our best foot forward.

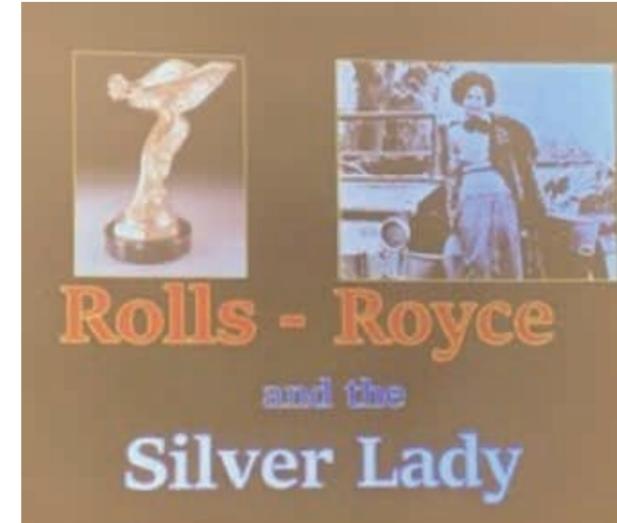
Next steps - we will be organising a petition and will be starting to prepare ourselves for the planning committee meeting. If you are interested in helping with any of this, please get in touch.

‘It's an obscenity’ - Residents protest against proposed 216-acre solar farm basingstokegazette.co.uk

We have also set up a community what's app group if you're interested in joining <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ch9ZLk6gZoxEcesPVpsWBW>

Rachel Williams
rachandstu@me.com

Womens Fellowship



We had a successful start to the year with a fascinating talk about “Rolls Royce and the Silver Lady” given by Mr Kevin Patience. To the uninitiated the title probably focussed on the Rolls Royce famous car, which was only partly correct as not only did we learn about the history of how the company started in the early 1900s but also the secret mistress of the 2nd Lord Douglas-Scott-Montague, Eleanor Thornton, the subject of the Silver Lady mascot.

The meeting of like-minded Charles Rolls and Henry Royce happened in the early 1900s. Both had a background in engineering and both with a fascination for speed together with luxury. They set up their business in Manchester and built six cars with a top speed of 12 MPH. These were successful but people wanted faster vehicles, so they produced cars capable of 50mph, two of which are in existence today. These early cars were built by Charles

Rolls and Henry Royce as chassis only, and were then sent to coach builders for the bodywork to complete the cars, hence the description ‘coach-built cars’.

The main car relevant to the talk was The Silver Ghost, also known as The Silver Lady, which was originally painted silver. These early vehicles were adorned with a badge (not yet a mascot) made by the RAC, but it was the AA Automobile Association which was commissioned to produce The Silver Lady mascot. Lady Eleanor Thornton was a private secretary for the AA in London, and Lord Montague, involved in publishing motor magazines and published The Car, met Lady Eleanor at the AA when he commissioned Mr Charles Sykes, a well-known sculptor, to make the famous mascot. Eleanor Thornton was 22 years old when she met Lord Montague, and he was married to Lady Cecil Kerr. His liaison with Eleanor resulted in a life lived as a Menage a trois in Blenheim Palace with both his wife and his mistress. A daughter, Joan, was born to Eleanor, who was quickly adopted to maintain secrecy; but Lord Montague kept in touch with her and left her provided for in his will. Lady Eleanor drowned whilst on board a ship travelling with Lord Montague. He was wearing a life jacket but she was not when the ship sank.

The mascot The Silver Lady is also known as The Spirit of Ecstasy, and the ‘silver lady’ has her finger to her lips in a ‘ssh’ pose, keeping their liaison hidden from one and all. The mascot can be seen at the Beaulieu Motor Museum.

Mr Kevin Patience was thanked by Julie Crawley.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 3rd February. Visitors are welcome and pay £1 for a meeting.

Winter Driving Advice



Cold winter mornings are a familiar challenge for UK drivers. Frosted windscreens can tempt even experienced motorists into bad habits that risk fines, damage to vehicles, or serious collisions. Knowing the correct way to clear your windscreen - and how to drive safely once you're on the road - is essential during winter months.

To read a practical guide to the do's and don'ts of clearing frosted windscreens and driving in winter conditions from the Older Driver's Forum visit <https://olderdriversforum.com/the-dos-and-donts-of-clearing-frosted-windscreens-winter-driving/>

✓ Do stay with your vehicle while it defrosts

✗ Don't pour boiling or hot water on the windscreen

✗ Don't drive with partially cleared windows




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HCC Update

This month's update from Councillor Rhydian Vaughan, begins with a New Year's Message from Nick Adams-King, Leader of Hampshire County Council.

As 2026 gets underway, I want to begin with a simple thank you. Public service is a team sport, and nothing we achieve in Hampshire happens because of one person, one department, or one council chamber speech. It happens because residents, volunteers, community groups, officers, councillors, and countless unsung heroes quietly get on with the business of making our county a better place to live. If there's a theme that ran through 2025, it was that Hampshire works best when Hampshire works together.

Last year we opened new school places, expanded support for children with special educational needs, and continued the long, patient work of improving the services families rely on. We pushed forward on infrastructure—sometimes celebrated, sometimes cursed when it involved roadworks—but always with the aim of keeping our county moving. Best illustrated by the fantastic work to build the new underpass at Junction 10 of the M27 in Fareham. Standing watching the work was a reminder that progress is rarely glamorous, but it is always worth it.

Of course, 2025 wasn't without its challenges. Local government continues to face financial pressures that would make even the most seasoned accountant reach for a strong drink. Yet despite the strain, we kept our focus on what mattered: delivering essential services, protecting the vulnerable, and planning responsibly for the future. Hampshire has a long tradition of resilience, and 2025 proved once again that we don't shy away from difficult decisions when they are the right ones.

In 2026 we will continue to push for sustainable funding for local government, because residents deserve services that are secure, reliable, and fit for the future. We will keep investing in the infrastructure that underpins daily life. And we will carry on championing the values that make Hampshire a place people are proud to call home.

But perhaps most importantly, we will do all this together. At a time when national and global debates can feel increasingly polarised, and as we enter what I very much hope is an election year for the county council, it is worth restating something I have said many times: no one enters politics to do harm; we simply disagree about how we should do good. That belief has guided me throughout my years in public life, and it remains the foundation of how I try to lead—collegially, respectfully, and with a sense of humour whenever possible. (If you've ever tried explaining local government reorganisation and devolution on Facebook, you'll know humour is sometimes essential.)

Division is easy. Unity takes work. But Hampshire has never been afraid of hard work. In 2026, let's continue to choose cooperation over conflict, shared purpose over

point scoring and kindness over cynicism. If we do that, I'm confident the year ahead will bring not just progress, but pride.

Election Postponements

You may have seen reports suggesting that next year's Mayoral elections will be postponed for two years, until 2028. While this is massively disappointing, it's important to note that this does not affect the County Council and other local elections which ought still to go ahead on 7 May 2026.

It is important to separate two distinct issues here. While the election of a Mayor may be delayed, the creation of the Combined Authority — and the transfer of powers and funding from Westminster that comes with it — remains vital. We are reassured that this process will continue as planned, and that the delay to the Mayoral election will not affect the establishment of the Combined Authority, the commencement of devolution, or our ability to begin exercising those powers for the benefit of Hampshire and the Solent.

Where the delay to the Mayoral election intersects with the creation of the Combined Authority is in our ability to influence national policy. The Mayor would normally sit on the Council of Nations and Regions. Given the size and importance of Hampshire and the Solent, it is vital that whoever chairs the Authority should take that seat until such time as a Mayor is elected. Our economy contributes as much to the UK as Wales, and our population is comparable to Northern Ireland. We deserve — and must have — that influence and voice at the national level as soon as possible. While it is deeply regrettable that this role will not initially be exercised by a directly elected Mayor, the council leaders who will form the Combined Authority board are equally capable of representing our area until the election is held.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Fb.com/tellrhydian

Calleva Division, Hampshire County Council

News from Clift Surgery and the PPG

Clift Surgery Dispensary and Online Pharmacies

Did you know that NHS rules mean Clift Surgery patients cannot use our dispensary for repeat prescriptions if they live within one mile of a local pharmacy, this is under review nationally but for now remains in place.

Local access to your repeat prescriptions remains available from the Clift dispensary and pharmacies. Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of patients are being encouraged to sign up to and use nationwide wide online pharmacy services, such as those offering postal delivery services. If this option genuinely suits you, that's absolutely fine. However, some patients have joined without realising. If you think this may have happened to you, please contact our dispensary team for advice.

When prescriptions are processed through an online pharmacy, our dispensing team still need to coordinate your prescriptions on your behalf. This creates extra work for the surgery, without any of the NHS funding that would normally support this time.

If you are eligible and collect your repeat prescriptions directly from our dispensary, the surgery receives the NHS payment, helping us continue to provide local services.

Remember, Clift Surgery also offers the **Pharmabox**, allowing eligible patients to collect prescriptions 24 hours a day over a three day window. This is especially helpful if you can't visit during normal opening hours.

Using the dispensary means your queries can be answered quickly by a real person.

Where possible, please support the Clift Surgery Dispensary. In a semi rural community, we are fortunate to have this service.

It Takes a Team: Who You Might See at Your GP Practice

When you contact your GP surgery, you won't always see a GP — and that's a good thing.

Modern GP practices are made up of **many different health professionals**, all working together to help you get the right care as quickly as possible.

Why things work this way

Different health problems need different kinds of expertise.

By matching you with the best person for your needs, the practice can:

- Help you sooner
- Reduce waiting times

- Make sure you get specialist care straight away
- It really does take a team.

Who might help you?

- **GPs** are experts in diagnosing and managing a wide range of health conditions. You'll see a GP when you need their specific medical expertise.
- **Nurses & Advanced Nurse Practitioners** are skilled clinicians who can assess, diagnose, treat, and prescribe for many conditions.
- **Clinical Pharmacists** are experts in medicines. They can review your prescriptions, help with side effects, and support long term conditions.
- **Physiotherapists** specialise in muscle, joint, and movement problems. They can assess, diagnose, and provide treatment plans.
- **Paramedics** are trained to assess urgent but non emergency issues and provide fast, effective care.
- **Mental Health Practitioners.** These professionals support emotional wellbeing, anxiety, low mood, and other mental health concerns.
- **Social Prescribers & Health Coaches** help with non medical needs like loneliness, housing, lifestyle changes, and community support.

What happens when you contact the surgery?

When you call or use online services, the team will ask a few questions. This isn't being nosy — it's to make sure you're booked with the right professional. You'll always be directed to the person best placed to help you.

The message to patients is simple

You may not always see a GP — but you will always see the right person.

Everyone in the team is trained, qualified, and working together to support your health.

The Patient Panel

If anyone is interested in becoming part of the Patient Panel, please email ppgclift@gmail.com for further details. We are particularly looking for a parent with younger children and a 16 – 25 year old.

The surgery would like to extend its thanks to all the patients who brought in gifts and cards at Christmas and the staff wish you all a happy and healthy 2026.

Probus Hears About a Life in Nuclear



Retired nuclear scientist and Basingstoke resident of many years, Suzanne Fletcher-Mallinson, Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, gave an outline to the Probus Club of Basingstoke of her working life spent in various sections of the nuclear industry.

After earning her MSc from the University of California, Berkeley, she joined Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, an institution known for designing nuclear systems comparable to those developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She facilitated nuclear and delivery system testing in Nevada and certified LLNL systems at more than seven production sites.

By 1990 the USA had produced approximately 70,000 nuclear devices across 65 types. Suzanne described field tests of a 6-inch diameter device using Nato guns. Next was her involvement in President Reagan's 'Star Wars' - Strategic Defence Initiative project to create a dome of defence using nuclear-driven x-ray lasers to knock out incoming nuclear missiles.

Moving to AWE in Aldermaston she married in January 1989 which qualified her for British citizenship five years later.

Following various roles, including being physicist and manager of the remaining reactor on the Aldermaston site, VIPER, she became the Technical Assistant to the Director of Research & Applied Science. Throughout her career she also performed research alongside her engineering roles. This led to her attending conferences at Nashville Tennessee,

Lucerne in Switzerland, Kyoto in Japan, and London. Following a career break after the birth of her third child in 2003, she joined Serco from 2007 – 2012 as a Nuclear Safety Consultant. Based at Harwell in Oxfordshire she also covered AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield (A and B) as well as Winfrith in Dorset.

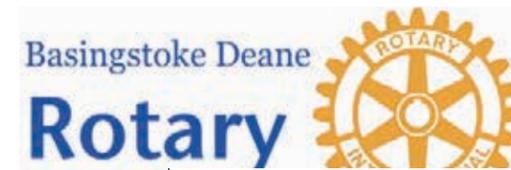
Suzanne rejoined AWE as an Internal Regulator in 2012, ensuring the safety standard and compliance of many of the facilities on the AWE A and B sites.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) snapped her up as a Nuclear Safety Regulator in 2016. Here her remit included various facilities at Sellafield in Cumbria and two defence sites associated with nuclear submarine building and maintenance at Barrow-in-Furness and Devonport. Partway through her time with ONR she shifted from Safety Regulation to Security Regulation. The ONR work included many nuclear sites as well as assessment of two Small Modular Reactors (SMR) going through the Generic Design Assessment stage of Licencing. She retired in October 2024.

Today her interests include being a square dance caller across southern England, being Secretary of the Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain and being a member of the Ladies' Probus Club of Basingstoke. For more information about the Ladies' Probus Club of Basingstoke email their secretary at reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk or phone her on 01256 471193.

For more information about the Men's Probus Club of Basingstoke see www.probusbasingstoke.club or phone their secretary on 07814 937202 for an informal chat.

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



Our Fundraising Focus for This Year



HAMPSHIRE HOSPITALS CHARITY

We were delighted to launch this year's fundraising focus at the Royal Marines Concert at The Anvil in January. We're especially excited to be partnering with Hampshire Hospitals Charity to help fund new specialist monitoring equipment for the Maternity Department. The Cardio Tomography (CTG) machines we're raising money for play a vital role in monitoring pregnant women and women in labour. The current machines are outdated and can't be upgraded, so replacing them with modern, data-rich, fully updatable equipment will make a real difference. These state-of-the-art machines will help make childbirth safer for local families. This important project will also be at the heart of our fundraising at the Festival of Transport, alongside our ongoing support for many local charities and a selection of international causes.

SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

People ask, "What does Rotary actually do?" The simple answer is we're all about helping and supporting our communities. As Rotarians, we're proud to make a real difference each year. We have a great time organising and enjoying events like The Royal Marines concert at The Anvil and Basingstoke Festival of Transport, and thanks to these efforts we're able to donate to more than 20 local charities. These include wonderful organisations such as Young Carers, Oakley Stitches and the Camrose Centre for the homeless.

We also support a number of international projects including Christmas Shoeboxes, ShelterBox and the End Polio campaign.

It's not just about fundraising either. We love getting involved hands-on, helping charities at their own events—often with marshalling, car parking, or whatever else is needed. One of our regular commitments is supporting St Michael's Hospice at all their fundraising events, including providing refreshments for the Moonlight Walk. Together, we have fun, make friends, and make a difference in our community

SAVE THE DATE
BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT
Sunday 10th May 2026
The Memorial Park, Basingstoke
11.00am to 4.00pm

We had wonderful weather and a great day in the Memorial Park last May, with hundreds of vehicles and thousands of happy people enjoying the sunshine with their friends and family. It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you on **Sunday 10th May 2026 at this FREE family event**

(£5 charge for Parking on the Common)
See our website below to register your vehicle



VOLUNTEER
 Last year we were grateful for the support of over 100 amazing volunteers to make this event a great success.

To be part of the team and join in the fun on the day, contact Paul on the link above, It can be anything from a couple of hours to the whole day.

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.

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Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club



At the 32nd AGM of the Basingstoke Ladies' Probus Club, Alison Wood took up her role as President for the ensuing year of this social club

for retired and semi-retired women with professional backgrounds or supervisory business experience, as reflected in the acronym PROBUS. At this regular monthly gathering in the BCoT restaurant followed by, as always, a delicious 3-course lunch, outgoing President Janet Fagg handed Alison the ribbon of office.

More recently the Club was treated to a fascinating talk by Hampshire Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE who, as a war historian and a passionate battlefields guide, has previously proved a very interesting speaker. On this occasion he held his audience spellbound as he detailed the sinking of the battleship, the Bismarck on 27th May, 1941 in a battle which lasted just 16 minutes and which resulted in what was said to be the Royal Navy's biggest disaster, the sinking also of HMS Hood with the loss of 1415 men - just 3 survived after being in the water for 3 hours. The Bismarck shortly met its own demise resulting from, initially, a torpedo fired

from an antiquated Swordfish biplane from HMS Ark Royal which jammed her rudders. Thus unable to manoeuvre she was finally sunk by two torpedoes from HMS Devonshire. 2,090 lives were lost and for some time rescue efforts were made by British warships, ultimately saving 114 personnel, but when it was thought a U-Boat had been spotted, the rescue had to be abandoned.

The membership of this Ladies Probus Club covers a wide spread of experiences stimulating interesting conversations which, together with presentations by guest speakers, makes for lively interchanges. Outside visits, when BCoT is shut in summer, have recently included a private tour of Stratfield Saye and a visit to a speaker's beautiful Japanese garden, also the opportunity for theatre visits - several had attended the latest stunning production by BATS, Basingstoke's own excellent amateur theatre company, of 'Come From Away' which deals with the hospitality shown to those on the 38 planes diverted to Newfoundland following '9/11' - particularly emotional viewing for one member who was actually in New York on that dreadful day.

For more information and enquiries about possible membership, please contact: Admin Secretary: reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994

Growing up in the Swan Pub, SSJ

Jane Bechelet (nee Smith)



During my early years at the Swan Inn I was very lucky to be part of the Smith family who had owned the pub for over 300 years. The inn (as it was known then) was very much centre of the village along with the church and the Chute family at the Vyne. My memories are a little vague as it was 76 years ago!

My mother, grandparents, aunts and uncles all looked after me as it was a busy (but sometimes lonely) place to live. In those early years the pub had two petrol pumps out front and also ran a taxi service. Many dinners and parties took place in what was known as the big room - a very long table was always set up and ready for large numbers of guests. I did not enter the pub area except on special occasions; but my uncle Victor (the landlord) used to take me with him when he went every night during the winter to light all the 4 fires.

I remember spending lots of time in the garden with Barney Barrington; I learnt about growing fruit and veg

from him. In those days we owned the land that the village hall now stands on. The village was the centre of the farming community surrounded by large farms and of course The Vyne milk bread and potatoes were all grown within the village and the Swan was very self-sufficient in its use in its food. Some of the

Some of the highlights of my life at the pub were:- going round the village with Mr Tiggy on the horse and cart to deliver milk, watching The Vyne Hunt start at the Swan with the dogs all around, children's parties with Dr Bernardo's and Father Christmas arriving with a sack full of presents.

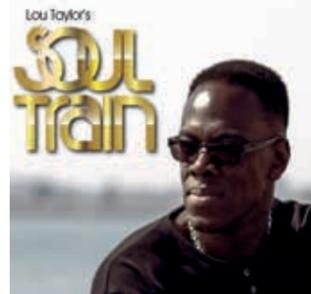
A traveller would park his caravan on the forecourt and he would tether his horse on the Green opposite and spend some weeks making pegs et cetera, and selling them to the local community. The caravan was wooden and colourfully decorated.

Writing this on a cold frosty day brings back memories of our winters with thick snow and being cut off from Basingstoke sometimes with no electricity as the lines had come down with the weight of the snow and frost.



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Small Ads

Enquiries and items for inclusion please contact Emma Foreman on 01256 889215/07747 015494 or emma@thehaye.co.uk

- The advertising rate is £10 per month. Cheques to be made payable to 'The Villager'.
- Payment for advertisements must be received in advance and are limited to 10 lines of type.
- For information on annual block advertisements please contact Emma Foreman

TSI COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE. Electrical. Plumbing. Capentry or Decorating. For a quotation, please phone 01256 780460 or 07989 940210.

DRUM TUITION. Professional musician with over 24 years experience. Teaching all aspects of drumming from counting, reading, playing to tracks, and technique etc. All ages and abilities welcome from total beginners to advanced. For more info please contact John Lezana on 07947 728 686 www.johnlezana.com

PRIVATE TUITION IN FRENCH AND GERMAN with qualified, experienced, CRB checked teachers. All ages and stages, including preparation for examinations (CE, GCSE, IB, A-level etc.), adult conversation and primary/nursery language clubs Daytime or evenings, at home, work or school. Call Samantha Cruickshank (Language Services Specialists) on: 07944 820284 or email: scruckshanktutor@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

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@monksherbome-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 PCSO Kane Lucas No. 19624 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (Charter Alley) NEAREST JOB CENTRE

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
Kane.lucas@hampshire.police.uk
ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com 01256 850891
blacksmithguitar@talktalk.net 01256 850282 / 07702 550226
<https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk>

LOCAL GROUPS
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
RAINBOWS
BROWNIES
GUIDES
CUBS

Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary) 01256 590359

Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY
TENNIS CLUB
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

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 - ssjcinformation@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 Graham Welsby 07970 182319
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

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

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

473202
01189 365592
467778
479244
329021
881228
01189 814166
399710
0118 9816661

EDUCATION
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
SSJ C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher) 850062
Ms Vickie Alvis (Head teacher) 01256 850180
Mr Jamie Carroll 473379

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BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES
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0808 2787829
0345 484950
0871 121 0190
Basingstoke Town Centre 473901
Chineham Library 465643
Tadley Library 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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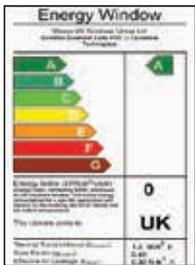
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