



The Villager

August –
September 2026

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editor's Note

You will have noticed that this issue covers August AND September; this is to give our hardworking Villager team some time off during the summer. The next issue will be in October with a deadline of 12th September. We always like to receive pieces and photos from our readers so do please send them in

The Musical Event held in June at St Andrew's Church was a great success and well attended with music, crafts and delicious cakes. Those living in Sherborne St John heard the wonderful bells and many were able to go up into the Tower to watch or try out ringing the bells for themselves.

6th September will be the Monk Sherborne Fete – 12pm – 5pm. The entry form and more details can be found on page 6

Here's hoping for some rain for our gardens and allotments – and maybe some cooler nights.

I had to include these photos on the cover of "The dancing ladies in Dark Lane" – every day on my walk down Dark Lane these hollyhocks give me (and others I'm sure) so much pleasure.

Enjoy reading the Villager and we will be back in October when no doubt we will be complaining of gloomy/rainy days – who knows!

Julie



Cover Photo: The Dancing ladies of Dark Lane

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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Blessed are you who...

How would you finish that sentence?

Blessed are you who... always have a full fridge? Get all the green traffic lights? Find a parking space right outside the shop? Win the lottery? Retire early?

We all have our own ideas about what a “blessed” life looks like. Usually it involves having enough, staying healthy, avoiding too much stress, being surrounded by loved ones, and hoping life goes more or less according to plan.

Jesus had a rather different idea.

He introduces one of his most famous sermons “Blessed are you who...” followed by a number of different endings, each one more surprising than the previous one. Instead of offering us a few helpful tips for a happier life, Jesus turns our ideas about the world and how true blessing is found upside down – or perhaps, the right way up?

The words that follow include many ideas that have become proverbial in our day-to-day speech – “turning the other cheek” and “can the blind lead the blind” to name a couple. Sayings which, when understood and lived out have the power to change the world.

Even the great Albert Einstein, who was no friend of formal religion, acknowledged his deep admiration for Christ’s sayings: “I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene,” he remarked in a 1929 interview. “No one can read the Gospels without

feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word.”

This summer, our all-age Sunday services will be exploring a section of Luke’s Gospel often called the Sermon on the Plain. Week by week we’ll explore what Jesus said and consider the impact his words can still have on our world and our lives today.

You don’t need to know anything about the Bible or church to join us. Whether you’ve been coming to church for years, haven’t been for decades, or are simply curious about what Jesus actually said, you’ll be very welcome. Details of all our services are found on the next page..

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



Sun 2nd Aug 10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew’s **Real Friendship Luke 6 v 37-42**

Sun 9th 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints’
10.30am All Age Communion at St Andrew’s **Real Integrity Luke 6 v 43-45**

Sun 16th 10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew’s **Real Obedience Luke 6 v 46-49**
6pm Evening Communion in the Parish Room

Sun 23rd 10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew’s **Real Faith Luke 7 v 1-10**

Sun 30th 10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew’s **Real Help Luke 7 v 11-17**

Weds 2nd Sept 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12 noon Midday Prayer at St Andrew’s

Thurs 3rd 7.30-8.30pm Prayer and Praise Night at St Andrew’s

Sun 6th 10.30am Communion with children’s groups at St Andrew’s

Weds 9th 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12 noon Midday Prayer at St Andrew’s
2-4pm Being Together in the Parish Room

Sun 13th 9.30am Holy Communion at All Saints
10.30am Morning Worship with children’s groups at St Andrew’s
4pm Families at 4 at St Andrew’s

Weds 16th 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12 noon Midday Prayer at All Saints

Sun 20th 10.30am Morning Worship with children’s groups at St Andrew’s
6-6.45pm Communion in the Parish Room

Weds 23rd 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12 noon Midday Prayer at St Andrew’s

Sat 26th 10-11.30am Women’s Brunch and Bible Discussion at Monk Sherborne VH

Sun 27th 10.30am Morning Worship with children’s groups at St Andrew’s

Tues 29th 11.00am Communion at Pamber Priory

Weds 30th 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12 noon Midday Prayer at St Andrew’s

Church Office: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969

Rector: stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577

Safeguarding: safeguarding@sherborneswithpamber.org 07798 550023

For regular updates please scan the QR code:





Monk Sherborne Village Fete

Sunday 6th Sept 2026, 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Monk Sherborne Village Hall

Schedule

11:00 AM	Doors open for exhibitors	3:30 PM	Dog Show (weather permitting)
12:00 PM	Gates open - Food, Bar, Tea & cake available from 12:30	4:30 PM	Raffle
2:30 PM	Children's races	5:00 PM	Tug of war and close

What to Expect

Get ready for a fantastic afternoon filled with traditional fete fun! Here are some of the wonderful activities and refreshments we have lined up for you:

- Friendly Dog Show (bring your furry friends!)
- Children's races & the classic Tug of War
- Bouncy Castle
- Beautiful displays of Fruit, Veg, Flowers & Crafts
- Delicious Refreshments: food, Tea & cake, plus a bar serving Beer, Wine & Pimms

For further information or to volunteer, please email enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk or contact Cheryl 07759064220

Claiming Dates

August 2026

3	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
4	Women's Fellowship, Theatrical Myths, Legends and Superstitions	2.00pm
7	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
8	Sherborne St John Social Club, Cheese and Wine Evening	8.15pm
10	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
10	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
17	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
21	Sherbornes with Pamber Holiday Fun & Food, games and crafts Chute Pavilion	11.30-1.30pm
22	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12.00am - 3.00pm
22	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ Football Club Quiz Night	7.30pm
24	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
28-30	Basingstoke Art Club Summer Exhibition, Dummer Village Hall, Up Street Dummer, RG25 2AK	
31	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm

September 2026

1	Women's Fellowship, British Emigrants in the Empire. Harvest Tea.	2.00pm
4	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
5	Sherborne St John Social Club, Decades Tribute	8.30pm
6	Monk Sherborne Village Fête, Monk Sherborne	12.00pm
7	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall + Parish Council drop in	10.00am – 12.00
14	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
14	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
19	Sherborne St John Social Club, Queens of Pop	8.30pm
21	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
23	SSJ Parish Council Meeting	
26	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12.00am - 3.00pm
26	Sherbornes with Pamber churches women's brunch, Monk Sherborne village hall	10.30am – 11.30am
26	Sherborne St John Social Club, AK47 Rock Pop Band	8.30pm
28	MacMillan Coffee Morning with craft stalls, SSJ Village Hall	10.00am – 1.00pm
28	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
30	Board Games at The Swan - Eat @ 12pm, Play @ 1pm	12pm

October 2026

2	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
4	Sherbornes with Pamber Harvest Tea & Barn Dance, SSJ Village Hall, Donation £5	4 – 6pm
5	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall + Parish Council drop in	10.00am – 12.00
6	Women's Fellowship, Musings from the Amateur Stage	2.00pm
10	A Musical Evening with Ed and Steve (The Elderly Bros) with Guests, music & comedy, SSJ Village Hall	7.00pm – 9.00pm
10	Sherborne St John Social Club, Danny Connors Singer	8.30pm
12	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
12	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
16	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ School Quiz	7.30pm
19	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
24	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12.00am - 3.00pm
24	Sherborne St John Social Club, Chas and Dave Cockney	8.30pm
26	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
28	Board Games at The Swan - Eat @ 12pm, Play @ 1pm	12pm

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

Supporting Sherborne St John Through Change



Over the past few months there have been a number of changes at Sherborne St John Parish Council. Following the resignation of our long-serving Chairman, Richard Morgan, I was honoured when my fellow parish councillors accepted my offer to help by co-opting me onto the Parish Council.

Like many residents, I want to thank Richard for his years of dedicated service to our village. Parish councils rely on volunteers who are prepared to give up their time for their community, and everyone who has served the parish deserves our appreciation.

I am looking forward to working with colleagues on the council to support them during this period of change. Parish councils are often at the heart of local communities, dealing with the issues that matter most to residents. They may not always make the headlines, but they make a real difference to everyday life.

One of our immediate priorities is resolving the problems at the play area at The Chute. Residents have every right to expect a safe, high-quality facility for local children, and it has been frustrating that the parish has been let down by a contractor. The council is determined to get these issues resolved as quickly as possible so that families can enjoy the play area with confidence.

Alongside this, the parish continues to face several significant planning challenges. We will continue to support the work being undertaken by the Parish Council,

local campaign groups and residents in responding to proposals at Cranesfield, Sireburne Close and the proposed solar farm. These developments each bring their own concerns, and it is important that the village continues to speak with a strong and informed voice.

This all comes at a time of considerable change for local government. The move towards a new North Hampshire Council, major national reforms to the planning system and the recent decision by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to abandon work on its draft Local Plan all create additional uncertainty for communities like ours. Parish councils have never been more important in ensuring that local views are heard and that villages continue to stand up for their interests.

Despite these challenges, I remain optimistic. Sherborne St John has always been a village with a strong community spirit, where people are willing to step forward, volunteer and support one another. I am pleased to be able to play my part alongside my fellow parish councillors.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who continues to support the parish—whether by volunteering, attending meetings, responding to consultations, or simply taking an interest in what is happening in our community. Your support, ideas and encouragement make a real difference, and I look forward to working with you all over the months ahead.

Cllr Simon Minas-Bound
Sherborne St John & Rooksdown Ward

News from Pamber and Little London

It seems strange to be writing my column now knowing that you will only read it in August or September, but our holiday plans mean I must tick this particular box well ahead of the game.

For what seems like an age we haven't needed to have our mower serviced to get it going for the first cut of the year. (Husband tells me I'm exaggerating. Again.) I don't think the Repair Café would have been able to help on this occasion but I wanted to draw your attention to this service which has recently been set up and sounds like a brilliant idea. There are 7 such cafés in the borough and you can find your nearest at sustainable-basingstoke.co.uk/get-involved.

You are invited to bring in to the experts items which are broken or damaged e.g. clothes, household items, bikes, toys and the team will do their best to repair them. This will save you money and reduce your carbon footprint. An excellent service in these throw-away times of built-in obsolescence.

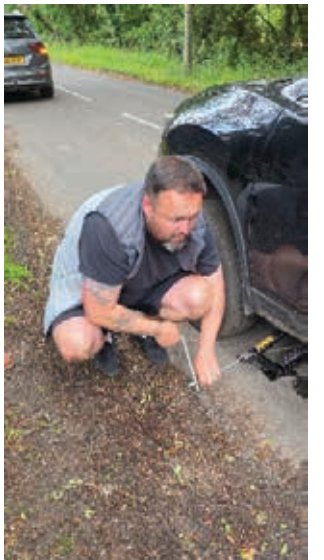
As part of my occasional "Meet the Villager" item, I am delighted to introduce you to our very own Knight in Shining Armour, dwelling in Little London no less! Driving home along Frog Lane recently and having had to keep well over to our side because of an on-coming vehicle, we fell victim to a pothole. Limping

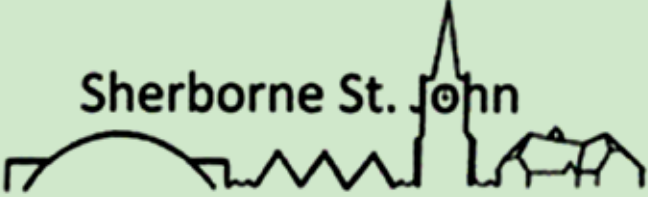
onto the main road, more or less deserted because of closure we - ie husband - set about changing the tyre. He was doing really well until the final nut which stubbornly refused to move. We had decided to walk home over the fields to get the much bigger spanner languishing in the garage when there was a screech of brakes (not really - another exaggeration for dramatic effect) and a "Need a hand?". And thus we met Joe. I was very quick to

accept the offer, knowing that husband being a bloke would decline, and a delightful Joe got us back on four wheels in a matter of minutes. Joe and his family(wife Pippa and son Miles) are new to Little London but are clearly throwing themselves into village life. We need more Joes! Thank you!

Until next time,

B bdownes.villager@gmail.com





SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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2nd Sunday of the month

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Starts again on 13th September

- Craft**
- Games**
- Bible Story**
- Singing**
- Refreshments**



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Work to solve water supply issues for new homes holds up Local Plan



Water supply concerns for new homes in Basingstoke and Deane are likely to lead to a new timetable for the area's Local Plan - the key document that sets out where new development should go over the next decade and a half. Questions about South East Water's ability to provide a resilient supply of fresh water for new houses, for drinking, washing and flushing toilets, were raised by the council earlier this year.

This followed a review of the borough's water infrastructure requirements through an updated water cycle study as part of supporting research to prepare a draft Local Plan. Problems have primarily arisen as a South East Water transfer pipeline has not been delivered to the originally planned timetable.

Now, due to environmental impacts, the Environment Agency has refused South East Water's application to continue to get water from one of the natural sources it is using instead. This decision is being appealed by South East Water.

Over the past few months, the council has been coordinating work with the Environment Agency, Natural England, affected neighbouring councils and the government to fully understand the situation and its impact and explore possible solutions. South East Water is completing the vital research work, but the company is taking longer than it expected to complete, despite the council challenging this. The council is seeking clarity on the water issues so that the Local Plan for the borough can be progressed further to help inform where new homes and other developments could go. However, South East Water's delays mean that the council's Cabinet will now need to agree a new timetable for the Local Plan.

As a result, the Local Plan is unlikely to be able to move to the next stage before the Government's deadline to submit a plan for examination by the end of year, unless the extension the council is seeking can be granted. Government changes to the national planning system mean that local plans submitted after December 2026 will need to follow a new process. This could mean the council having to take forward the plan under a new set of rules and procedures.

The council is keen to move forward with a Local Plan as quickly as possible, so that the borough is protected from speculative development and planning decisions are based on the detailed work already undertaken and the feedback from previous consultations. The council will also need to consider what the implications are for current planning applications.

The next steps in the Local Plan process are set to be considered at the Cabinet meeting in September.

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Andy Konieczko, who announced the impact of the water issues at a Cabinet meeting in early July said: "We have always said that decisions on building new homes must be supported with investment in more local infrastructure. "That was our clear position in pushing back on the significant rise in the government-imposed housing numbers for our borough. It was also the reason we commissioned an update to the water cycle study to ensure that we have enough water supply and sewage treatment capacity to meet the needs of future residents.

"This research revealed that demands for water from new housing may outstrip the limits of sustainable supply in the areas of our borough served by South East Water. We've been coordinating further research into this as it's vital that we understand exactly how much capacity is left. Frustratingly, South East Water is taking longer than it expected to provide that analysis.

"Through no fault of the council or local residents, this has affected our ability to finalise an up-to-date Local Plan that will protect our area from speculative development.

"We need to continue to push forward with the vital additional work to find the right and best solution for our borough. It's essential that we and local residents have assurance that the homes we are being asked to plan for - both for now and into the future - have sufficient infrastructure in place to serve them.

"The Leader and I have written to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, asking to meet with him to discuss how the government will support us protecting our borough from speculative development. We need an extension to the December 2026 deadline so we can then finish the Local Plan on which residents have already commented rather than having to start again under the new rules."

Council Leader Cllr Paul Harvey announced at Cabinet that he has a meeting scheduled with South East Water Chief Executive Officer-Designate John Halsall to discuss the situation.

The draft Local Plan evidence, including the updated Water Cycle Study, is at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-evidence

SSJ Primary School



What a fantastic end to the school year it has been at our village school! One of the highlights of the half term was undoubtedly our

phenomenal Key Stage 2 production of The Lion King. Performers, singers, stage crew and staff all worked tirelessly to bring the story to life, showing exceptional teamwork, resilience and creativity. Even during the heatwave, our children remained positive, determined and committed to putting on a truly memorable performance for our families and community.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Reception children into school for a special story time session. It was lovely to see so many excited faces, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them officially in September as they begin their school journey with us.

This term also brought some emotional moments. Our annual Leavers' Service at the church gave us an opportunity to celebrate our wonderful Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their education. We also said goodbye to some valued members of

staff who have been an important part of our school family. While farewells are never easy, we wish them every success and happiness for the future. Our Family Picnic provided another wonderful occasion to come together and celebrate everything that makes our school community so special.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome two new teachers and two new members of our support staff team in September. We know they will receive a warm village welcome and quickly become part of our school family.

Recently, I accompanied a group of children on a visit to our exciting new allotment project. There are some wonderful plans taking shape, and we are looking forward to involving the wider community. Keep an eye out in future editions, as we may soon be calling on green-fingered volunteers and supporters to help us make the most of this fantastic opportunity!

Finally, on behalf of everyone at school, thank you to our families, neighbours and community members for your continued support throughout the last year. Your encouragement, generosity and involvement make a real difference to our children and school.

Wishing everyone a happy, relaxing summer.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Beau's Blog



Please, please can we go to the lake so that I can jump in and swim around in the water to cool off and fetch branches out for you???

As you have probably already guessed, this is my pleading look, chin resting on the arm of the Bosses

chair, ears flat and soppy looking, eyes big and staring straight into his eyes.....

I can maintain this look for quite a long time – long enough for the Boss to feel guilty that he's been dozing while I've been patiently waiting for signs of life. The moment he stirs, I activate the full-strength stare, willing him to give in and take me swimming.

Occasionally my technique fails and I have to appeal to the Mrs in a similar manner which usually elicits a response such as "your dog wants to go for a walk, probably to the lake". Eventually one of them cracks and I get taken to the lake where I can dive in and swim around to cool off and play. The only trouble is the Boss then gets involved in untangling all his fishing gear and dangling it into the water, in which case I am banned from swimming near him and have to remain clear of his rods. It's a fishy business so I paddle around the other side of the lake and test out the theory that I can catch a carp faster than he can.....

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

News from St Andrews Bellringers

The Bellringers at St Andrews took part in a very successful Celebration of Music event at the Church in June. We had over 20 people come up to the ringing chamber to find out what we do and to have a go themselves. We had a wide variety of visitors from the youngest, who was just 3 years old, right up to grandparents, who ages we promised not to divulge! We were asked lots of very good questions. Everyone who came got the opportunity to chime our oldest bell which was cast in 1390. Alex, our Steeple Keeper, gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation about bell ringing and the history of our bells at Sherborne St John.

Later in June the St Andrews ringers and ringing friends from across the Basingstoke area went on a walking tower outing to Bristol. We had a great day of ringing, visiting six towers in Bristol including Bristol Cathedral. A great time was had by all even though it was an extremely hot and tiring day! The ice cold drinks at the local hostelry were most welcome!

Finally, congratulations to Alex on ringing his first peal at All Saints Monk Sherborne on 28th June. This was a great achievement. The peal entailed ringing for 2 hours 44 minutes, non-stop, and the methods

rung were Stedman, Grandsire, St Nicholas, Reverse Canterbury, St Simons and Plain Bob. Also, this was the first peal rung on the bells since 1990.



If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing please contact us on: ssjbellringing@gmail.com

Lois Blissett – Tower Correspondent

(Editor's note: I remember the first Sunday after Covid lockdown when the bells were rung again in SSJ for the first time in what seemed like ages – a very emotional half hour!)

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SSJ Allotments Update

The Crane's Road allotment site has now got four large water tanks filled with wate for the allotment holders' use, thanks to a lot of hard work by Chris Covell on the site. With our increasingly dry summers these are needed more than ever. Quite a lot has been used already!



On Thursday the Headteacher of Sherborne St. John Primary School, Mrs Vickie Alvis, and a group of pupils visited the School allotment to start planning the layout and thinking about what they are going to grow. Everyone is getting very excited about the project! We have one or two plots coming vacant on the Elm Road site soon. If you are interested in renting an allotment please contact me. **Mike Greaves (warden)** mikegreaves@co-hort.co.uk Mobile: 07712 188097



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Saturday 26 September 2026

St Michael's Hospice

Moonlight Walk 2026

10k & 6k route!

Ticket includes a t-shirt and wristband!

Sets off at **9PM** (Gates open from **8PM**)
Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

Join the festival atmosphere, light up the night, and walk in support of St Michael's Hospice. Featuring performances and entertainment at the start line and along the route!

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or visit our website: stmichaelshospice.org.uk

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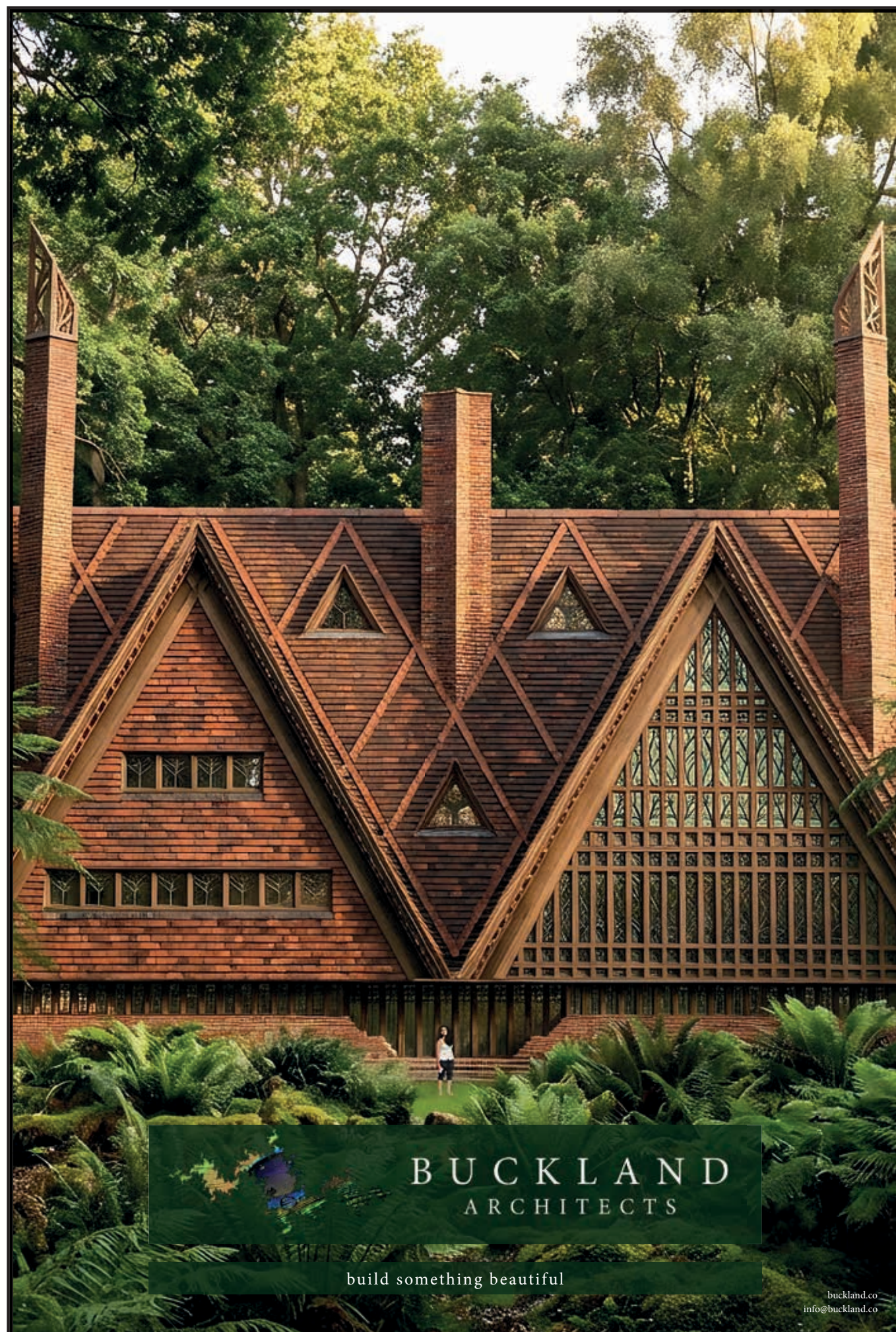
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Can you please help The Poppy Appeal, Oct 22–Nov 8?



Poppy Appeal

At our Basingstoke Hospital

Can you offer a couple of hours to help man the Hospital Poppy Stand?

Support is provided and the Appeal team is looking for helpers from all areas listed above.



Poppy Appeal

- where you live

Can you offer a couple of hours to Help run a local pop-up Poppy Stall?
Or help with poppy box deliveries locally,
Or collections or admin?

**To find out more and offer help, please contact: natalie@lerner.net
(Poppy Appeal Organiser)**

The Vyne

New exhibition open daily until 1 Nov 2026

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

From 27 June to 1 November, a house-wide exhibition 'Taste, Design and the Georgian Gentleman' sheds light on Georgian owner John Chute's artistic influence on the house and its interiors. Biweekly tours of the same name will take a deeper dive into the life and legacy the style connoisseur.



*Detail of 18th Century
Italian Pietra Dura casket*

Tours: Suggested donation £5 per person.

Families can enjoy a Summer of Play 23 July - 13 September. On select dates, young families with children aged two and above can enjoy creativity-boosting 30-minute sessions with early years practitioners Boogie Beat Music and Movement.

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

West Berkshire Dementia Hub And Greenham Trust

Almost every one of us has been touched by dementia – whether it’s a parent, a partner, sibling, friend or neighbour. And with numbers set to increase significantly in this area a new initiative has been launched to help meet this challenge.

The Dementia Hub will be a purpose-designed centre in the heart of our community, bringing together a wide range of dementia services under one roof, with the aim of enabling people with dementia in West Berkshire and north Hampshire to live as well as possible and providing better help and support to their family carers. The Hub is to be built on land to the east of West Berkshire Community Hospital (subject to planning). Centred around a café and courtyard garden, it will incorporate the NHS Memory Assessment clinics, alongside support services including one-to-one ‘wayfinding’ to help guide individuals and their families at every stage, plus activities focussed on brain health and rehabilitation, access to dementia technology, complementary therapies, legal and welfare advice, as well as peer support and friendship.

Greenham Trust has now officially launched the £4 million fundraising campaign to build the Hub, and is



inviting donations via its giving platform, The Good Exchange. More than £1 million of matched funding has already been secured through Greenham Trust and Englefield Charitable Trust, meaning that every pound raised will be matched, doubling the impact of your support.

The project has already attracted significant support from charitable funders. However, further fundraising is needed to help create this much-needed centre that will benefit thousands of people across West Berkshire and north Hampshire in the years ahead. If you are a local organisation or group which raises funds for charitable causes, please do consider supporting the appeal by making the Hub your chosen charity or fundraising cause.

For more information contact:

Rob Daniels, Head of Grants, Greenham Trust rob.daniels@greenhamtrust.com 01635 936370

James Wilcox, WBDH Project Lead, james@westberksdementiahub.org 07972 058378.

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Suspended for August but we plan to start again on Wednesday 30th September

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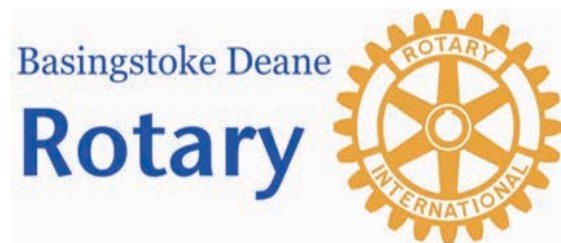
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**Christmas is a long way off... but it's
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Get involved!**

We're delighted to share that we contributed **nearly 900 shoeboxes** towards the **20,455** sent from Wessex area last year. Thanks to everyone's kindness, these boxes were safely delivered for Christmas 2025 and brought joy to children in **Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Montenegro**.

As we look ahead to Christmas 2026, it's time to start planning what can go into your shoebox — and you can begin collecting items now. **Just a few items a week will fill your box.**

Items should be new or as new please. Ideas of what you can put in your box are for-

Playing - ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, cuddly toy.

Writing - pens, pencils, sharpener, notebook, colouring book, puzzle book.

Wearing – hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery (Items need to be new or in good/as new condition)

Washing - soap, toothbrush, flannel, sponge.

We ask for a financial contribution for each box for ever increasing transport cost. TBA

Please No – liquids, war toys or war books, batteries/operated items, sharp items, broken items, food or sweets, large toys, large clothes or shoes, also nothing religious, political or racial.

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

**Collect for either Boys or Girls, ages
1-3, 4-7, 8-11, 12-15.**



Saturday 5 September, we will be in Festival Place, come and **pick up your free Christmas shoeboxes** ready for you to fill with goodies for these special children

Start thinking now about getting **your workplace, church, club, school, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Guides — or simply your own family — involved**. Whether it's your children, grandchildren, or just you filling a box at home, every single effort makes a difference. By planning ahead, you'll help us make Christmas truly special for the children who receive these shoeboxes. It's your small act of kindness that creates a genuinely meaningful impact.

**IT'S ABOUT MAKING A
GENUINE DIFFERENCE**

St Michael's Hospice Future Events

MOONLIGHT WALK, Saturday 26th September

REINDEER RUN, Sunday 13th December

We will be there supporting these events.

Volunteering, having fun while giving back!

St Michael's Hospice, like many local charities, needs constant fundraising to support the special work that they do. You can support them by participating and getting sponsorship.

To fundraise for their events. (See their website) or join our support team at one of the events, see Rotary contact details above.

Probus Hears About The Loss of American Colonies



The Mayor of Basingstoke, Cllr Jackie Tustain, was the guest of honour at the latest Probus Club meeting when she heard a talk by Dr Stephen Goss about the loss of the American colonies.



Two hundred and fifty years ago, on 4th July 1776, the thirteen British colonies along the eastern seaboard of North America declared their independence. Drafted principally by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence asserted

universal rights, most famously that "all men are created equal," and laid the foundations for the world's first democratic republic.

The American War of Independence emerged from tensions that had grown irreparably between Britain and its colonies. Disputes over taxation, representation and imperial authority fuelled resentment and a rising political identity.



Protests escalated into a determined struggle for self-government. Foreign intervention added complexity: Dutch tea smuggling deprived Britain of tax revenue, prompting the closure of Boston harbour. The Boston Tea Party in December 1773, became an act of defiance.

Britain viewed colonial resistance as a rejection of legitimate authority; while the colonists framed the conflict as liberty versus tyranny. The war

widened into a seven-year international struggle. France, Spain and the Netherlands supported the colonists: Prussia and many native American nations sided with Britain, partly due to Britain's policy of restricting westward expansion beyond the Mississippi.

Opinion was divided on both sides of the Atlantic. Many Americans hesitated over rebellion, and many Britons questioned the cost of waging a distant war that soon stretched into the Caribbean, Mediterranean and even India.



George Washington, commanding the Continental Army, avoided large scale assaults, relying on skirmishes to wear down British forces. Battles such as Bunker Hill, Lexington, Concord, Germantown and the decisive victory at York Town – achieved with French military and naval support – secured independence.

The 1783 Treaty of Paris, signed by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and others, formally recognised the United States and established boundaries with British North America (Canada). Britain adopted a generous settlement, seeking profitable trade without the burden of government.

As part of the reparations and settlements on all sides the Spanish regained Menorca but gave up all claims to Gibraltar. A situation that in very recent times has seen Spain dismantle all border controls between itself and this British Overseas Territory.

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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

Greenham Oncology Centre officially opens!

Thanks to **The Ark Cancer Charity** and a grant from the **Greenham Trust**, £2 million has been invested into our formerly known Rainbow Unit to be redesigned and reopened as the **Greenham Oncology Centre!**

Opened in July, by the **Countess Mountbatten of Burma**, the centre focuses on delivering high quality, effective and compassionate care. The staff aim to meet the patients' needs by providing holistic and personalised care and each year up to 100,000 treatments will take place within the centre

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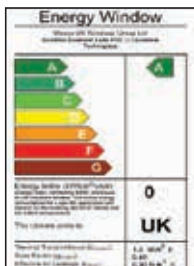
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