

The Villager

March 2026



Sherbornes and Pamber



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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?)

It will take place on the last Wednesday of the month ie 25th March 2026

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

Julie



Cover Photo: *Flowers of the Cape (South Africa)*

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.

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Fill your boots?

If you've stepped outside lately, the title of this month's reflection might feel less like a cheerful invitation and more like a soggy inevitability. Between the thick grey blanket of clouds overhead and the saturated ground beneath our feet, most of us have spent the last few weeks emptying the water out of our boots rather than filling them.

There are times in our lives when it feels like we need to empty out the muddy water. The season of Lent is a time when we traditionally give things up. But the question that always arises is, what will we fill the space left with?

As human beings we were made to be full. And we go to all kinds of places to fill our hearts and lives. The problem is, even when we do feel full, it never lasts very long. Winter Olympic Skier Mikaela Shiffrin (who has won two gold medals, one silver and is the most successful World Cup racer of all time) admitted recently, "you never feel you are doing enough... you just never feel good enough."

Jesus recognised this same feeling in a woman he met at a well. Seeing in her the same desire for fulfilment that's in

every person, he makes a startling claim: "whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4 v 14).

People often associate Christianity with emptying and long lists of things you should abstain from. Yet here is Jesus, inviting us – not to fill our boots with stagnant muddy water – but to fill our hearts with free-flowing living water, as we follow him in the way that leads to life in all its fullness.

I hope you have a wonderful (and slightly drier!) March. Don't forget St Andrew's is now left open Sunday to Wednesday 10am until dusk so feel free to pop in at any time. And you're of course welcome at any of our services and events coming up.

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



March

Connect
With Our Communities

Share
God's Love

Grow
In Faith In Jesus

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

Sun 1st 10.30am Holy Communion, with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (**Taken at his word John 4 vs 43-54**)
 3-4.30pm Family Walk starting at the Rectory

Mon 2nd 10am-midday Maintenance Monday at St Andrew's
 12-1pm Men's Bible Study in The Parish Room

Weds 3rd 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer in the Parish Room

Sun 8th 9.30am Communion at All Saints
 10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (**Do you want to get well? John 5 vs 1-15**)
 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 Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (**God the Son John 5 vs 16-30**)
 7.30pm Evening Communion in The Parish Room

Weds 18th 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer in the Parish Room

Sat 21st 9-10.30am Women's Breakfast at Monk Sherborne Village Hall
 10-11.30am Dads and Kids at the Rectory

Sun 22nd 10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (**Powerful Testimonies John 5 vs 31-47**)
 3-4.30pm Tea at Three at the Rectory

Weds 25th 10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
 11am Midweek Communion at Pamber Priory

Sat 28th 10-midday Community Working Party at St Andrew's

Sun 29th Mar 10.30am Holy Communion, with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's (**Behold Your King John 12 vs 12-19**)



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:

COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

TO TIDY UP ST ANDREW'S AND PAMBER PRIORY

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 16TH MAY **9.00AM- 12.00PM**

MEET AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OR PAMBER PRIORY

COFFEE & PASTRIES PROVIDED
BRING YOUR OWN GLOVES & HAND TOOLS IF YOU HAVE THEM
STAY AS LONG AS YOU'RE ABLE

www.sherborneswithpamber.org

Dads and Kids 2026

Saturdays | 10am | The Rectory

21st Mar Games, Craft & Bacon Sandwiches
16th May Games, Craft & Bacon Sandwiches
18th July Family Barbecue (4.30pm)

Rectory Location in SSJ:
Vyne Road, RG24 9HX
what3words fleet.perfumes.slide

www.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.

Claiming Dates

March 2026

2	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
6	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Two in Ten - UB40/Ska Tribute	7.30pm
7	The Mayors Rock Concert at The Anvil. Basingstoke. Tickets https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/	7.00pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Scotland v France, Italy v England	2.00pm – 6.00pm
8	Families at 4, St Andrews Church, Crafts, Singing, Games	4.00pm – 5.00pm
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
14	Sherborne St John Social Club, 6 Nations Rugby, Ireland v Scot, Wales v Italy, France v Eng	2.00pm -10.00pm
16	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
21	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Jumble Sale, SSJ Village Hall, ssjbrownies@outlook.com	10.00am
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
25	Board Games at the Swan, starting with lunch, everyone welcome Julie 07703 720961	12noon

April 2026

4	Sherborne St John Social Club, Ben & Bryony Music Quiz	7.30pm
6	NB: NO SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning today	-----
11	Sherborne St John Social Club, Susy Giff Mediumship	12.30pm
10	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
13	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
13	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
20	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
25	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12.00am - 3.00pm
27	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm

May 2026

4	Sherborne St John Social Club, Ben & Bryony Music Quiz	7.30pm
6	NB: NO SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning today	-----
11	Sherborne St John Social Club, Susy Giff Mediumship	12.30pm
10	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
13	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
13	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
20	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
25	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12.00am - 3.00pm
27	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm

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

Beau's Blog

Dreaming of sunshine..... This was me last summer when I was having a little snooze in the sunshine after running around like a mad thing and rolling in the dry grass. I remember it was so hot that I had to eventually move into the shade.

I hesitate to attach any type of animal sense to my playmate Bun-Buns as she is a stuffed toy, but as you can see, she somehow had the sense to lay in the shade from the get go. The lawn was more like a field of cut hay and was a delight to roll in, scrunching and scratching when I wriggled about. However the Mrs was not so happy when I traipsed bits of straw indoors with me. Bun-Buns got



the order of the boot as well so we both ended up outside again. I was only allowed in after a good brushing and Bun-Buns received an almighty shaking – poor thing. I am surprised she didn't lose some of her stuffing, but like me and my playmates – we are made of sterner stuff.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

Sherborne St John Parish Council

The days are finally getting longer, Easter is not too far away and we all hope that by the time you are reading this it has actually stopped raining and the warmer, drier days are finally here so that everyone is able to spend more time outdoors in and around our lovely village.

Children's Playgrounds - Chute Playground. We hoped to have been able to announce the opening of the new, upgraded younger children's play area at the Chute. The work is almost complete but unfortunately the persistent wet weather has meant that the contractors have been unable to get the works finished ready for inspection. This shouldn't take much longer and may even be complete by the time you read this article.

Cranesfield Play Area. Basingstoke and Deane, who own the Cranesfield Play Park have advised the Parish Council that they are upgrading the equipment on this site as well. Needing to wait for the weather to improve but hopefully won't be too long until that area also gets a new look.

Both excellent news for the younger residents of Sherborne St John.

Parish Council Meetings - It is always good to see parishioners at our council meetings. Whether you have a matter to raise with the Parish Council or are just interested in what we do - it would be great to see you. The meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Chute from 7:15pm.

Drop In Sessions - The next Sherborne St John Parish Council Drop In Session at the Village Hall Coffee Morning will be on **9th March 2026 at 10.00 am**. All welcome to come along and have a chat with us and discuss anything over a cup of coffee.

First Aid Course - St John's Ambulance are holding a First Aid/CPR Course at the Village Hall on **18th April 2026**. Attendance to anyone in the Village and is free but a donation would be welcomed. St John's Ambulance is a great charity. Please make a booking in advance as numbers are limited. If you wish to take advantage of this great opportunity, please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Planning - The Parish Council has been informed that the Cranesfield development has once again been rejected. The Council would like to thank local campaigners, our ever-supportive Borough Councillors as well as every resident who took time to submit comments against the proposal. This kind of success is only possible when our objections are supported by clear evidence and the engagement of large numbers of people in the village.

There are no further updates on either of the developments at Weybrook Golf Course or Kiln Farm.

2026/2027 Precept - The Parish Council has agreed that the precept for Sherborne St John will increase by 3% and the new Band D equivalent for the next Financial Year 2026/27 will be £49.95. With increases in pretty much every area, the Council continues to deliver services to the village whilst minimising any increase in costs being passed onto our residents.

Allotments - Cranes Road Allotment. The allotment holders on the Cranes Road site have been requesting water on site for a long time. Putting in mains water has been investigated many times and sadly is not value for money. And so the Council along with our Site Wardens have worked out a plan to use one of the allotment plots which has become vacant to store water in large containers. As the storage capability will only take around half of the plot, the Council is looking to offer the remaining space to the Village Primary School to enable pupils to foster physical health through active, outdoor work like digging and planting and to help educate them about food origins and encouraging healthy eating. This does, of course, mean we have now one less allotment plot across our three sites but the benefits of this move significantly outweighs that loss.

And finally, Pickleball! - What's Pickleball? It's a racquet sport which blends lawn tennis, badminton and table tennis, played on a badminton-sized court with a modified tennis net. It uses solid paddles and a perforated plastic ball and is suitable for all ages. It's also one of the fastest growing sports in the UK. The Parish Council and the Tennis Club are discussing marking up one of the tennis courts at the Chute so that Pickleball can be played. Full details need to be worked out but watch this space!

Cllr Carl Davies



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

Working Together for Our Rural Communities



One of the things I value most about representing the rural part of our ward is the strong sense of community that exists across our villages. Whether in Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne, or the surrounding hamlets, people care deeply about where they live — its character, its countryside, and the shared spaces that bring communities together.

Much of my work as a borough councillor continues to focus on planning and protecting the qualities that make our villages special. Residents will know that there has been significant pressure for development across North Hampshire, and it remains important that any proposals respect the rural landscape, local heritage, and the capacity of our roads, drainage and services. Growth needs to be planned properly and in the right places, with local voices heard early in the process.

Alongside this, I continue to work with parish councils and local groups on everyday issues that matter just as much — maintenance of rural roads and verges, drainage concerns, footpaths, and ensuring that services work for residents who live outside the main urban area. These are often small issues individually, but together they make a real difference to quality of life.

There is also an emerging large-scale planning challenge affecting our rural area which is beginning to take shape. At this stage, it is important that the details are fully understood before drawing conclusions, but it is clear that it will require the same calm, informed and collective approach that our villages have shown in the past. I am keen to share more widely once the full picture is clear so that residents are properly informed and able to engage constructively in the process.

It has also been encouraging to see the continued strength of community-led activity across our villages. Events, volunteering, and local organisations play a huge role in keeping rural life vibrant, and I am always grateful to the many residents who give their time to make this happen.

As always, if there are issues you would like to raise or discuss, please do get in touch. Representing our rural communities is a privilege, and I will continue working to ensure our villages remain great places to live, work and enjoy for years to come.

Cllr Simon Minas-Bound

Borough Councillor for Sherborne St John & Rooksdown Ward

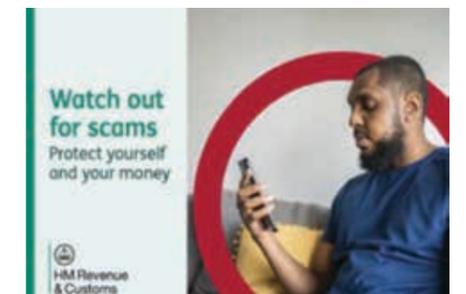


Self Assessment Scam

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has issued a warning after more than 4,800 Self-Assessment scams have been reported since February 2025. Scammers use persuasive and threatening tactics to target people when they are more likely to receive correspondence from HMRC. They send fake tax demands or attempt to pressurise people to hand over personal information.

HMRC has taken swift action to close down nearly 25,000 fake websites and phone numbers in the last 10 months. HMRC will never:

- leave voicemails threatening legal action or arrest
- ask for personal or financial information via text message or email



- contact customers by email, text, or phone to inform them about a refund

Anyone who receives suspicious communication from HMRC can forward emails to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk, and SMS messages to 60599.

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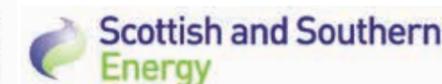
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News from Pamber and Little London

Well, what a miserable January we have had. Even the ponies look fed up with the weather.



There appears to be a certain amount of flooding in the area, but I have not heard of any major problems, something which residents are always concerned about in this area, given the amount of construction going on. People need somewhere to live, obviously, and one must avoid the drawbridge mentality – “I’ve-got-a-lovely-home:-no-one-should-spoil-my-view”, but we do need to be sure additional demands on services such as water, electricity etc. are being properly addressed.

I had hoped to introduce you to a villager this edition, possibly a new member of our community as our first 2026 introduction, but no one has contacted me yet. Perhaps next time!

I shall close my column now as I’m afraid I have no news from Little London and The Pambers as I have been away for a large part of the month, skiing in the Alps and helping with grandchildren in the less exciting but very beautiful Shropshire. Do, please, send me any items of interest to the email address at the end of this item. This is supposed to be about you, not me!!! And I can’t believe no one does anything remotely interesting here!

B  bdownes.villager@gmail.com

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HOME VISITS - CONTACT NICOLA ON 07500 968986

Women’s Fellowship

The February meeting was the Annual General Meeting and the members enjoyed an afternoon of games following the monthly meeting and AGM.



There was a record attendance, which was very encouraging considering AGMs are not always scintillatingly interesting, and the weather was inclement, to say the least.

It was decided to raise next year’s subscriptions by £5, bringing the amount to £20. The general consensus was that at £2 per meeting, this is still very much value for money.

Next month’s meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March and the talk will be about Birds of Prey.

Visitors are always welcome, a £1 donation on the day.

Upcoming EVENTS

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2026

**MEAT RAFFLE EVERY FRIDAY
SKITTLES LAST SATURDAY MONTHLY**

EVENTS START

27 TH FEB	SSJ SCHOOL CHARITY QUIZ	7PM
28 TH FEB	SKITTLES NIGHT	7:30 PM
7 TH MARCH	SCOTLAND V FRANCE ITALY V ENGLAND	2-6 PM
7 TH MARCH	REGGAE / UB40 / SKA TRIBUTE DUO	7:30 PM
14 TH MARCH	6 NATIONS RUGBY IRELAND V SCOTLAND WALES V ITALY FRANCE V ENGLAND	2-10 PM
21 ST MARCH	GARY BARLOW TRIBUTE	7:30 PM
4 TH APRIL	BEN & BRYONY MUSIC QUIZ	7:30 PM
11 TH APRIL	SUSIE GIGG - MEDIUMSHIP	12:30PM

TICKETS ONLINE @ SSJSOCIALCLUB.COM
OR BEHIND THE BAR
SHERBORNE ST JOHN SOCIAL CLUB

SSJ Primary School

A Warm Welcome and a Busy Start:

It has been an action-packed start to the year here at Sherborne St John Primary! As we wrap up the first half term, the school is buzzing with energy and achievement!

We have officially welcomed Mrs. Alvis as our new Headteacher. She has hit the ground running, getting to know the children and their families. The children report that she has given out many a gold sticker already!

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the term was our recent **SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)**. We are thrilled to share that the outcome was **extremely positive**.

The inspector noted the deep-rooted values that define our school; a success that belongs to our entire community. We are incredibly grateful to the staff, the church and our parents for their ongoing support and contribution. For those interested in the details, the full report is now available to read on our school website.

Our students have been showing off their determination and teamwork on the competitive stage:

Our Sports Hall Athletics team secured a fantastic **third-place finish**. We are excited to announce they have qualified for the next round!

- Our Key Stage 1 gymnasts demonstrated incredible poise and skill, bringing home second place in a recent local competition.



Education at Sherborne St John continues to be an adventure. This term, we've seen a wonderful mix of local exploration and hands-on history:

- Our Year R children have been wrapped up warm, exploring the changing seasons during their regular winter walks.
- Things got a little "fishy" in Class 3! To better understand the traditions of Ancient Egypt, the children successfully mummified fish, a memorable (and slightly salty) lesson they won't soon forget.

As we move into the next half term, we are all eagerly anticipating the arrival of Spring. We are crossing our fingers for some drier weather so we can make the most of our outdoor spaces and see the school grounds come back to life.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club



The Basingstoke Ladies' Probus Club kicked off their first meeting of the year with a fascinating talk by Dr. Stephen J. Goss, a former lecturer in history

at Queen's University Belfast, a published academic lecturing in history and politics at City Lit, and an Expert Tour Guide at the Imperial War Museums.

As a life-long admirer of Sherlock Holmes, Stephen explained to his very attentive audience how Arthur Conan Doyle drew from his experiences and the tumultuous events of his time to craft the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, a character who embodies logic, deduction and justice.

Doyle came to writing after studying medicine in Edinburgh from 1876, signing on as a ship's doctor on a whaler in 1880 for a year which he thoroughly enjoyed but sadly not so the next sea journey on a ship to West Africa

as he was frequently seasick, was subsequently a GP in Southsea and ultimately an eye specialist with a Harley Street address, as well as a renowned sportsman. Having married in 1891, the same year as his first Sherlock Holmes short story 'A Scandal in Bohemia' was published, he gave up medicine and wrote full-time which he found more remunerative. Tragically, after just 2 years of marriage, his wife died of consumption while they were on holiday in Spain. But his stories kept coming.

More than just mysteries, Stephen showed how the tales of Messrs. Holmes and Watson delve into politics, history, morality and human nature, making them relevant even today.

Once again, the Basingstoke Ladies Probus Club were treated to a very interesting and educational speaker and all subsequently enjoyed a delicious 3-course lunch offering from the best of BcOT's catering department.

If interested to know more about BLPC membership and the upcoming programme of future speakers, contact:

The Admin Secretary
reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk - 07754 296994



HCC Update

The brutal truth about Hampshire's potholes - and why we can't just "spend more"

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them. Here's the blunt truth: We simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.

The scale of the problem

Cost to bring roads up to the standard we'd want: £600 million

Highways budget this year: £60 million

£540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.

Why the money isn't there

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support
- These services are legally required. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.

And now Government 'Fair Funding' is removing almost £40million from our budgets and sending it to mostly Labour run councils in London and the midlands and north.

Council Tax reality

Band D Council Tax paid to Hampshire: £1,609

Surrey: £1,846

West Sussex: £1,800

Oxfordshire: £1,911

We've had lower Council Tax for years — but that means less money for roads. You can't run a high maintenance network on a low tax budget.

Why repairs feel slow

Here's how the system actually works:

- Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.
- Safety defects come first — A roads and B roads before residential streets and country lanes.
- Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.
- Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.
- Non safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please re-report them.

Why this winter has been so brutal

We've had 156% of our average January rainfall February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone

Repeated freeze-thaw cycles
Some potholes appear overnight.
Others worsen within hours.

The national picture

Hampshire faces a £500m highways funding gap

Government funding this year: £30m

We matched it — still nowhere near enough

Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the South East — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.

What we're doing right now

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers
- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)
- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve.

We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.

What's coming next

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10m extra for summer repairs. And we've launched plans for a lane rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes
Encourages shorter, better planned works
Could raise up to £5m a year for road maintenance

How you can help

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

Finally, huge thanks to all our highways staff, they are doing an amazing job in really terrible conditions (would you want to stand in driving rain all day assessing or fixing potholes?) Please remember that when you come across them.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Fb.com/tellrhydian

Calleva Division, Hampshire County Council




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Coercive Control is a form of Domestic Abuse

It's been 10 years since controlling and coercive behaviour offences were introduced under the Serious Crime Act 2015. This was an important development in supporting those effected by emotional forms of domestic abuse.

What is coercive control?

Coercive control is a form of domestic abuse where somebody you are personally connected to displays a pattern of behaviour which causes you to feel controlled, dependent on them, isolated from others, and scared.

What could this look like in a relationship?

- Constantly putting you down by calling you names and making you feel worthless
- Not allowing you to see your family and friends when you would like to
- Threatening to spread false information if you do not act they way they would like
- Having control of your finances and not letting you be independent
- Controlling what you are allowed to wear
- Monitoring your location at all times and not allowing you to go to certain places / leave the house without them



- Depriving you of basic needs such as food or care
- Monitoring how you spend your time
- Tracking what you do online or on your phone
- Threatening to hurt people close to you

What to do if your relationship looks like this?

- Report to Police via 101, or 999 if you are in immediate risk of harm
- Reach out to partner agencies who will be able to give you safety advice
- Tell a family member or friend what you are experiencing

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SHERBORNE ST JOHN VILLAGE MARKET

12:00 - 15:00

4th Saturday of the month, starting in April 2026

Dates: 25 April / 23 May / 27 June / 25 July
22 August / 26 September / 24 October
28 November / 12 December

SSJ Village Hall
Kiln Road

Join us for our new monthly market, featuring a variety of local traders, handmade crafts and delicious treats!

SSJ Village Market is organised and run by local volunteers for the community - we hope you will support us

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Probus Hears About Military Medicine Improvements



The impact of weapons technology on combat injuries forced the evolution of military medicine technology and such changes occurred over the centuries. It was during the English Civil War when Oliver Cromwell repurposed an existing building to create the Savoy Hospital in 1642, realising that the previous system of camp followers tending to the wounded no longer suited wounds from firearms.

David Wiggins, the curator of the Museum of Military Medicine, outlined the medical advances and health care since the time of Cromwell. The museum is currently in the process of transferring from the Keogh Barracks in Ash Vale near Aldershot in Hampshire to be near the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The real improvements emerged with the recognition that many combatants survived their initial surgery but died due to general conditions and disease. Regiments had their own small medical teams, but it was in the Peninsular Wars of 1808-14 that the medical services of the army were organised more formally.

Records show that during the Crimean War 1853-56 there were 4,600 combat injuries yet 20,000 died through typhus/typhoid. Enter Florence Nightingale with her disciplined approach to medical care that started a reversal of such statistics so that during the Boer War 1899-1902 with 22,000 wounded that 7,400 died from dysentery or typhoid fever.

The industrial scale of WW1 1914-18 brought in new wounds due to advances in military equipment. There was an equalisation between combat deaths and disease and a recognition that it was imperative to remove casualties from the battlefield to proper recovery settings.

Tented casualty clearing stations then led to casualty evacuation by various methods. Motorised ambulance, some made by Thornycroft in Basingstoke converted from the order for 5,000 of their J type 3-ton vehicle, inland canal barges, hospital ships and trains were



Prewett hospital in Basingstoke used for Canadian troop casualties.

used. The Royal Victoria Hospital was built at Netley with its own jetty on the Solent and on a branch line ambulance trains brought casualties directly to Park

Blood transfusions, X-rays, gas masks for men, horses and dogs, improved designs of splints and the introduction of the Brodie steel helmet in 1916 all helped to reduce deaths by 80%.

A medical officer, Harold Gillies introduced skin grafts to maxillo-facial reconstruction that became known as plastic surgery with patients at Park Prewett hospital. Today a general medical practice surgery in the town is named after this famous surgeon.

WW2 1939-45 saw further use of field surgical and transfusion units positioned close to the point of injury. In 1943, Alexander Fleming's earlier discovery of Penicillin, was developed into a usable medicine, becoming a game changer in recovery outcomes.



Post 1945 the helicopter became crucial to the recovery of battlefield casualties with the popular

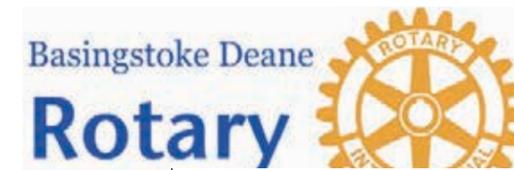
later TV programme, MASH, demonstrating the joined-up thinking with the connection of emergency evacuation with a mobile army surgical hospital during the Korean war 1950-53.

Helicopter use was necessary during the Falklands conflict of 1982 transferring casualties to hospital ships while the Afghan campaign 2001-2021, saw great use of various helicopters in casualty evacuation. Many casualties received medical support at Headley Court near Birmingham that become famous for the increasing use of prosthetics.

Peacetime also sees military services in demand under 'hearts and minds' policies both for medical and dentistry work in foreign countries. The Ebola outbreak in parts of Africa needed their intervention and at home the Covid-19 pandemic saw the construction of temporary hospitals.

2024 saw the amalgamation of three historical medical sections into one cohesive unit called the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS). These were the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) founded in 1898, the Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) founded 1921 and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) founded 1902. The aim is to provide full medical and dentistry services to our military for use in peacetime and during conflict to a level matching that of the NHS.

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



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ROYAL MARINES CONCERT AT THE ANVIL



The afternoon of Sunday 25TH of January saw us hosting the The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines for our annual concert, with an audience of nearly 800. Both the band and the

audience were on great form. We were treated to an excellent and varied programme that showcased solos and groups of their very talented band members. A truly varied programme.



Microfinancing

6 Years ago, Basingstoke Deane Rotary made their first microfinancing loan with LendWithCare.

Microfinance is widely recognised as a long-term, sustainable way to support people on low incomes in third world countries. Rather than providing a one-off donation, it offers what many describe as a "hand up, not a handout." By giving individuals access to small, affordable loans, microfinance empowers them to work, build their own livelihoods, and move toward greater self-sufficiency.

Our first loan was to a Pilipino widow who bought some pigs and cows to rear, sold them for a profit and repaid the loan

Lendwithcare brings together entrepreneurs in low-income countries with the people that have the power to help them - people like you. Run by CARE International UK, one of the world's leading poverty fighting organisations, Lendwithcare is a revolutionary

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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way for ordinary people to help these entrepreneurs to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

From launching a scrap recycling business, a café, a retail business, such as a grocery store to a farmer diversifying crops and everything in between. Entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas - all they need is a helping hand to get started. This is where LendWithCare comes in. The entrepreneur requests a loan - You, and others, lend to an entrepreneur, sharing the risk, you choose from a list of entrepreneurs available for funding and choose which promising business idea you'd like to support.

The entrepreneur's business grows. -Your loan is repaid. - You look for your next entrepreneur and off you go again. The Entrepreneur is lifted out of poverty, they can afford to send their children to school, lives are improved. It's a 'WinWin'

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BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 11th May 2025

Join Us for Another Fantastic Day in the Memorial Park! We were blessed with wonderful weather and a brilliant turnout last May, with hundreds of vehicles on display and thousands of happy visitors enjoying the sunshine. A fantastic community day out.

Rotary can't wait to welcome you back on Sunday 11th May 2025 for another FREE family event (£5 charge to park on the Common).

To register to display your vehicle, please visit our website bstokefot.co.uk

Volunteers Make It Happen

Last year, we were incredibly grateful to the 100 amazing volunteers who helped make the event such a success. Whether you can spare just a couple of hours or join us for the whole day, we'd love to have you on the team.

Financial Matters

Many people count the days until retirement. After early morning starts, deadlines and meetings it feels happiness will arrive once work ends. However, retirement doesn't always bring the happiness people expect. Work provides structure and purpose and when people retire they can feel a loss of feeling needed and a feeling of drifting.

Retirement does not solve life's other challenges. Health concerns, relationship difficulties and financial worries don't disappear when work stops.

Here are some tips to planning for a fulfilling retirement.

- **Think beyond finances.** Well before retirement, start thinking about some of the key things you want to accomplish. They could be small but fulfilling tasks.
- **What looks good.** Who do you know who has done retirement well.
- **Consider flexible working.** If you like your job and can continue in some capacity, approach your employer with suggestions. What do you enjoy doing most, what would you want to stop doing.
- **Be honest about leisure.** Some people after a holiday can't wait to get back to a routine. If you don't do leisure well, find a part-time job or volunteer.

- **Avoid over scheduling.** Schedules can be unappealing. Punctuate with varied activities and idle time – golf everyday could feel like work!
- **Invest in health and relationships now.** Don't wait for retirement to start these.
- **Get social.** If all your friendships are within work, expand them by joining groups or clubs. Village life can offer such opportunities.

Ian Weston

Driver Skills 60+ Scheme

Hampshire County Council (HCC) operate a driving appraisal scheme for Hampshire residents called the 'Driver Skills Scheme 60+'.



The appraisal takes place from the person's home using their own car and is delivered by specially selected and trained Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Approved Driving Instructors (ADI) who have a good understanding of the needs of experienced drivers.

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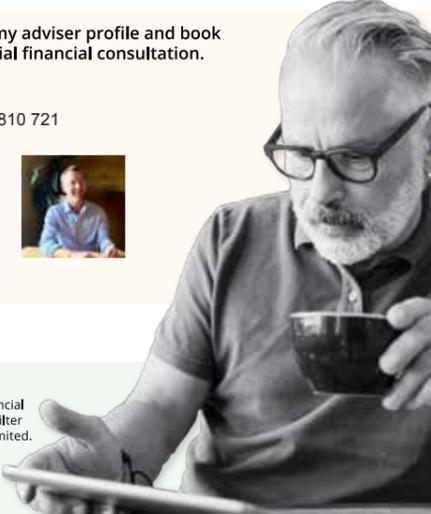
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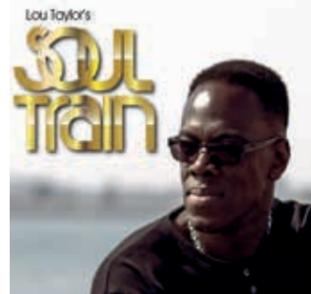

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JON'S GARDENING & HANDYMAN SERVICES Regular garden maintenance & one off jobs. Fencing, Hedges, Pruning, General tidy ups and home maintenance. For sensible rates and a friendly service please call 07488 347493.

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

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

CORNWALL HOLIDAY CARAVAN RENTAL We have a lovely 2-bedroom caravan available at Harlyn Sands Holiday Park near Padstow – just a short walk to the dog friendly beautiful beach at Harlyn Bay & within the 7 bays area. Just off the South West coast path & next to Trevoze Golf club. Sleeps up to 4, fully equipped kitchen, cosy lounge area, and great on-site facilities including indoor pool, entertainment complex with restaurant and bar. Perfect for families, couples, or a relaxing coastal break. Message me for availability and prices – happy to answer any questions. soozeandstephen@gmail.com

Contacts

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

CHURCH OF ENGLAND - SWP Parish

Revd Stewart Deering Mob: 07359 717577 Tel: 01256 647900 stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS

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

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

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

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE POLICE
PCSO Kane Lucas No. 19624
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (Charter Alley)
NEAREST JOB CENTRE

David McIntyre Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingsstoke.gov.uk
Androulla Johnstone Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingsstoke.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
Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com
Tramayne Henwood ssjbrownies@outlook.com
Heidi Wadsworth ssjguides@yahoo.com
Ms Trish Field 01420 544904
Mrs Liz Gwynn 07770 373282
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

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

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

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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

PUBLIC SERVICES
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BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)
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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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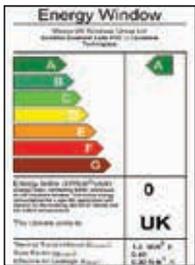
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