

The Villager

November 2018

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Editorial



"Andrea and Peter of Peppercorn, 10 Vyne Road would like to thank all the people who helped in raising £387.65 for Macmillan Cancer Support on 28th September. It was nice to see so many of you and we hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did."

The Vyne

There has to be the occasional perk to being editor of this magazine! This morning I was lucky enough to be invited for a private tour "behind the scenes" at the Vyne to see what they are planning to be on display in the future.

It will certainly be a more personal view of life as it was lived by Caroline and William Wiggett. John and Elizabeth Chute, having no children of their own, invited Caroline a poor relation to live with them. Caroline's brother William moved into the Vyne in 1842 when he unexpectedly inherited the house. William Wiggett added the name Chute as part of his inheritance. He found the house in a very poor condition and realised it needed a new roof. It is extremely unlikely that the Vyne would have existed today had William not carried out extensive repairs. Those repairs eventually needed further expensive renovation in 2017.

William had 11 children, including 6 daughters none of whom ever married as apparently there was not enough money to launch them into society as all William's wealth was spent on the house. A full press release is on page 25.

As part of the tour I was taken out onto the new roof to see the result of the recent renovations – what a magnificent job has been done and will hopefully keep this amazing house watertight for the next hundred or so years!



Hollie Ryan, Visitor Experience & Fundraising Manager at the Vyne is very keen to receive any memories local people may have of family or friends who might have worked at the Vyne in the past. If you have any information please contact Hollie at Hollie.Ryan@nationaltrust.org.uk

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

Cover: *Lest we forget silhouette*

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Future Events

November 2018

5	Pelican Film Society, Phantom Thread, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship – Crafts for Christmas, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
9	Pamber Neighbourhood Plan Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall, all welcome	6.00pm – 9.00pm
10	Pamber Neighbourhood Plan Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London, all welcome	10.00 – 3.00pm
10	Home Start quiz, £12 including meal 476640, SSJ Village Hall	7 for 7.30pm
12	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
12	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
17	Sherborne St John Social Club: Race Night	
19	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, AGM, Cheese & Wine, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Artisan Market, Sherborne St John Village Hall	11.00am-3.00pm
24	Hook Choral Society, John Rutter Requiem, St John's Church, Hook. Tickets: 07957 293641	7.30pm
24 - 30	FAS Christmas Art Exhibition, The Pavilion, Tweseldown Race Course, GU52 8AD	10am – 4pm
24	SSJ Village Hall quiz, £7.50. 85040	7.30pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
26	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
28	Sherborne St John Social Club: Jazz Jam with Chris Cooke & Friends	8.00pm

December 2018

2	Advent Carol Service at Pamber Priory	5.00pm
3	Pelican Film Society, Secret Life of Bees, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship – A Christmas Carol, SSJ Village Hall,	2.00pm
9	Basingstoke Ladies Choir Christmas Concert, Carnival Hall	
10	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, Christmas Party/Buffer, tickets only, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
10	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
10	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
15	Sherborne St John Social Club: Wine Tasting	
17	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
19	Sherbornes with Pamber Toddler Group Service, St Andrews Church, Sherborne St John	10.00am
24	Crib Service, All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne	5.00pm
24	Midnight Communion at Pamber Priory	11.15pm
25	Family Service, All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne	9.30am
25	Family Service, St Andrews Church, Sherborne St John	10.45am

January 2019

7	Pelican Film Society, Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
8	SSJ Women's Fellowship – To be advised at a later date,	2.00pm

February 2019

5	SSJ Women's Fellowship – AGM, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
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Clift Surgery News

The building works at the Surgery are now complete and the new car park is now open.

As the days shorten and our unusually glorious summer comes to an end, Dr Ward thought it might be timely to address the subject of feeling down and if this is just Winter Blues or whether it could be Depression.

We can all feel fed up, miserable or sad at times. These feelings usually do not last longer than a few days or weeks and do not interfere too much with our lives. Sometimes there is a reason and sometimes not. We usually cope by talking with friends or family but don't otherwise need help. However, for people suffering with depression, these feelings can last for weeks or months and are so bad that they interfere with daily life. It can be hard to recognise that you may be suffering with depression and often it is those close to you who recognise it first.

The following are common feelings with depression but not everyone has them all:

- feeling unhappy most of the time
- loss of interest in life and activities normally enjoyed
- finding it hard to concentrate or make decisions
- feeling tired all the time, despite sleeping more or unable to sleep
- loss of appetite/weight or overeating
- loss of self-confidence and feeling worthless or inadequate.
- feeling agitated or restless
- recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

If you have five or more of these symptoms, persisting over several weeks, then you may be depressed and it would be worth talking to family and friends about this or discussing it with your GP. Mild depression and low mood can be helped with approaches that do not necessarily need medication. Good nutrition, counselling through friends, family or a trained professional and regular exercise can help this level of depression. More severely

affected people may be recommended medication alongside these approaches. Do not be afraid to discuss your concerns with your GP: you are not alone and there is help available. If you think someone you know may be depressed, why not ask them how they are feeling or pop round for a chat?

Exercise always helps to lift the winter blues, so why not try out our new walking group starting at the Clift Surgery every Wednesday 1-2pm, launching on 24th October 2018.

For an informative video on depression please watch the Royal College of Psychiatry you tube video on <https://YouTube.be/dv82CywfKek>

Serious Hooliganism in SSJ

On the evening of October 3rd about 7.45 a lady walking her dog along Cranes Road was seriously intimidated by a gang of youths, so much so that she went to a friend's house nearby for shelter. Soon after there was another outbreak of knocking / banging on doors in Spring Close and Cranesfield.

About the end of September a group of about 5 late teens youths were sighted at Vyne Woods. Also there have been reports of a group of rowdies using the field adjacent to Monk Sherborne Road and Thames Dell. If you see or hear anything however minor please let me know and I will pass it on to the beat officer.

Most of these are of course criminal activities. Last year there were many more incidents ranging from criminal damage to causing annoyance and distress. When sighted the culprits were always heading to or from the direction of Cranesfield or the A340. To the parents reading this whose son might be one of the offenders please help him before he gets caught and has to start his adult life looking for work with a criminal record as a qualification. These people must be stopped before they do something really awful. We must all be very vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to the police either on 101 or if an offence is in progress 999 is

justified. (101 is sometimes too busy to take your call if you experience this try reporting on line using the link below)

Ted Wilkinson, Area Co-ordinator
Neighbourhood Watch

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/#>

Church Matters **November**

There is no doubt that Remembrance Sunday has a particular poignancy this year. First because of the date – this is one of those rare years when the day (11th November) falls on the second Sunday of November, the Sunday traditionally chosen for Remembrance. That remains the same, even if 11 November falls in the middle of the week. So when these two days coincide that lends special significance to the day.

But this year it is not just that the calendar happens to coincide but that we have arrived at an important anniversary, namely the One Hundredth Anniversary of the end of World War One. On Remembrance Day exactly 100 years ago on Sunday 11th November the guns finally fell silent on the Western Front. That incredibly costly conflict was over at last. The total number of participating personnel is estimated by the Encyclopaedia Britannica at 65,038,810. There were approximately 9,750,103 military deaths during the conflict.

There are of course no participants still living today. The last living veteran of World War 1 was Florence Green, a British citizen who served in the Allied armed forces, and who died on 4 February 2012, aged 110. The last veteran who served in the trenches was Harry Patch of the British Army who died on 25 July 2009, aged 111. They belong to another world; they almost connected us with the Victorian era while they lived. But now it just makes it clear that 100 years is an awful long time!

The hope that World War 1 would end all wars was to prove a vain aspiration. 21 years after the first war finished the second World War began. Although not so many died it was a global conflict, introducing the world to the horrors of mobile warfare and the terror of the atomic bomb. The fact is that as long as we have people we will have war. As James says in his letter

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from

your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill.

*You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight”.*¹

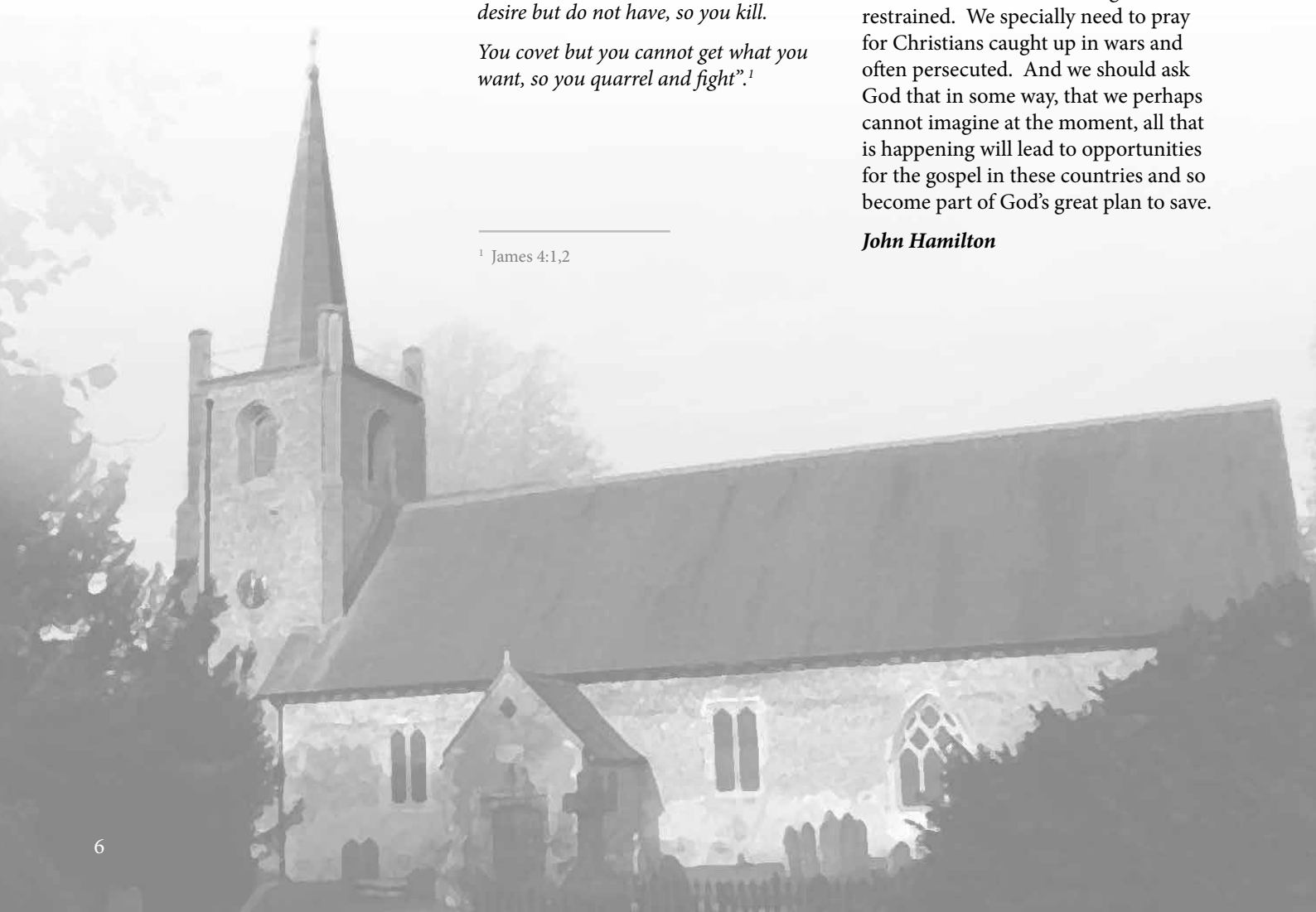
The problem is that men and women have a sinful and selfish nature – we all do – and the only thing that can end wars is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Moreover while we are thankfully involved in no major war at present our armed forces are still engaged, and there is always the possibility that a conflict could escalate. Once again new methods of warfare are being developed, and as we know once developed they have to be tried out. Some of these permit war to be waged in a remote way. The combatants fight from a desk rather than a trench. They go home in the evening to their families rather than to barracks. They fight but are not themselves in direct danger. It must take some getting used to.

As we consider these things we should remember that, as has been said “Prayer moves the hand that moves the world” and make full use of this weapon that the Lord Jesus has given to all who believe in him. We need to pray both that peace and security might come and that men of violence might be restrained. We specially need to pray for Christians caught up in wars and often persecuted. And we should ask God that in some way, that we perhaps cannot imagine at the moment, all that is happening will lead to opportunities for the gospel in these countries and so become part of God’s great plan to save.

John Hamilton

¹ James 4:1,2



Services for November

04 November

10am Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's

11 November Remembrance Sunday

8am Holy Communion Priory
10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's
10am Morning Service All Saints

18 November

10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's

25 November

10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's
10am Morning Service Priory

02 December

10am Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's
5pm Advent Carols Priory

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 10AM:

Church Builders in Action:

04 Nov	What does 'born again' mean?	John 3:1-21	John Hamilton
11 Nov	"Remember these things"	2Peter:1-15	Andy Spence & John Hamilton
18 Nov	Progressive Revelation	John 4:1-25	John Hamilton
25 Nov	The point of miracles	John 4:43-5:15	John Hamilton & Steve Howe
02 Dec	Greater things than these	John 5:16-30	Andrew King

MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet in the weeks of Monday 12 & 26 November.

We meet for Central Fellowship on Tuesday 20 November.

Coffee at 7.45pm followed by Bible study discussion and prayer; finish at 9pm

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at the Church of St Bede, Popley at the following times: 9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *
Wednesday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *
Thursday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *
Friday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *
Saturday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *

* Time & Venue could vary

St Andrew's Sherborne St John

All Saints Monk Sherborne

The Priory Pamber End

<https://swp.churchbuilder.org.uk>

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PARISH COUNCIL

By now we are sure you will have noticed the “Silent Soldiers” which have appeared at strategic points around the Village in acknowledgement of the ultimate sacrifice made by some of our residents in WW1.

Thank you to John Edwards for his work erecting them.

In Open Forum the issue arose again of vehicles speeding through our village. The PC is aware of work finally agreed to be carried out with HCC on the A340 and understands the frustration felt by the “Speedwatch” team and villagers for the apparent lack of action regarding Vyne Road. Budgetary cuts with HCC have put pressure on this type of project, however HCC have introduced a funding initiative scheme and the PC will go back to the HCC representatives to seek a solution yet again.

Becky Jones – our village’s Speedwatch Co-ordinator – has also highlighted the difficulties encountered with the equipment they currently have which is old and cumbersome so together with the PC we will investigate the possibility of obtaining newer lighter and more user friendly equipment – watch this space. In the meantime please continue to support the valuable work this team do for the village and if you can assist please contact Becky direct, her email address is on the SSJ website.

Transport

Please continue to support the 22 bus – if we don’t use it we will lose it!

Allotments

We currently have one vacancy and there is a turnover, if you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk and put your name down.

Footpaths

The footpath running between Footpath 1 and 5 has now been cleared and is ready for use.

A map showing where our footpaths are is on the website – if you encounter any issues please let the Parish Clerk know.

Planning

We have received some applications – a list is on the SSJ website and full details are available on BDBC’s website under Planning. It would be helpful

if prospective applicants could also send the information they are sending to BDBC to the Clerk to forward to the Chair of the Planning Committee. Unfortunately we do not always receive the complete information from BDBC as quickly as we would like which causes a delay. We have also noticed some applications are missing information.

We would also like to meet you either prior to or at the following meeting after submission to discuss your application.

Linda Agnew

Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP - 01256 850303

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	13 th Oct 2018	Quiz Night
Wednesday	24 th Oct 2018	Jazz Jam Event with Chris Cooke & Friends Why Not participate bring your music & instruments 20:00
Saturday	27 th Oct 2018	Fancy Dress Halloween Disco
Saturday	17 th Nov 2018	Race Night
Wednesday	28 th Nov 2018	Jazz Jam Event with Chris Cooke & Friends Why Not participate bring your music & instruments 20:00
Saturday	15 th Dec 2018	Xmas Wine Tasting

Keep an eye on Facebook & the Noticeboard for other great events

Every Friday
Every Sunday

Meat Raffle
Bingo

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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Highways

Roadworks commence in Old Chapel Lane, Charter Alley w/c 26th Nov 2018.

It is hoped that the signpost which is leaning at the junction by the War Memorial will be fixed before the Remembrance celebrations, but this is not yet confirmed.

A date for luminous bollards to be installed at the junction of the A339 towards Monk Sherborne is still not available.

Give Way markings have been repainted at The Priory School and the Monks Ford junction.

Road markings are to be reinstated at Flat Firs/Manor Farm following the recent resurfacing, but the date is not yet confirmed.

Kiln Lane Footpath/Public Right of Way

Concerns have been raised regarding the official route of the public footpath, (whether it continues straight down past the pond, or deviates into the field) The Parish Council will liaise with the landowner and Public Rights of Way to confirm and advise.

Dog Fouling

This is an ongoing issue and we would

remind all owners/walkers that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs, and not leave bags behind. Dogs should be on leads on public footpaths, so if you have let your dog run ahead, please be mindful of where it has 'pooped'.

Village Hall Fund Raising

The total has reached £50,000. The September fete was a great success, raising £1000.

Dorinda Tanner

Monk Sherborne Village Hall 50-50 Lottery



Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Monk Sherborne Village Hall Lottery.

John & Tessa Perceval were the lucky winners of the September Draw receiving a cheque for £190.

More people have signed up for October so the prize will be even bigger.

Worth a flutter of anyone's money!

How to join?

Please complete a form & arrange payment.

You can pick up a form at the Village Hall or download it from <https://tinyurl.com/yc3dvlor>.

Kathy Wilson

Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

As I sit here on a miserable Sunday morning with heavy rain falling, I can see a dear little robin huddled under the hedge trying to keep dry and I'm very glad to be indoors. I have walked the forest recently and been pleasantly surprised how dry and easy to navigate the paths are. I don't suppose that will be the case next week.

Thoughts returned to the pleasant year we have had when I read a recent Pamber Forest Nature Reserve quarterly newsletter. Interestingly, apparently in mid April we had the warmest April day since 1949. May and June were particularly warm and, in the main, dry though often with frequent thunder storms. Because of the unusual weather pattern, many of the spring migrants were late although the cuckoo arrived on time. Reptiles were tempted out of hibernation earlier than usual as the warm weather established. Rare daylight sightings of tawny owl were made and it is presumed that normal small prey must have been scarce leading them to feed by day. It was also a good year for moth sightings including the rare emperor moth and little recorded orange moth with many species emerging very early due to the high temperatures. Dragonflies were also out early and a very rare sighting of white-legged damselfly was made in early June. Volunteers put in a great deal of effort, including working in blistering heat in late June whilst the cold April meant coppicing could continue well into the month before bird nesting necessitated a change to fence repairs.

News from the Parish Council includes July minutes showing the grant to St Stephen's Hall, Little London now being approved after copies of accounts were seen. Concern has been raised about the number on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group linked to the Parish Council and Parishioners not actively participating in developing the Plan. The appeal re the application at Berry Court Farm, Little London for 3 bungalows, a house, village green and car park has been dismissed by the inspector. Reasons given are the application is on an undeveloped parcel of land that lies outside of the settlement boundary defined in the Local Plan and is, therefore, countryside. Small scale exceptions can be permitted where there is a locally agreed need. The inspector said there is no proven current need for development of this type in this area and existing permissions elsewhere in the Parish are sufficient to meet demand. September minutes are not yet published but details of a public apology made by Cllr Kingston at that meeting are on the Parish website.

Remember you have a chance to voice your views on the Neighbourhood Plan. Walk in events are at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall on 9/11/18, 6 to 9pm and St Stephen's Hall Little London on 10/11/18, 10am to 3pm. The next Parish Council meeting is on 12/11/18 at St Stephen's Hall, Little London starting at 7.30pm. Don't forget the dedication of the WW1 Commemorative Bench on 11/11/18, see the Parish website for details.

There have been a number of reports of dishonest activity of late. Some are phone calls of people pretending to be the Police and 'Nottingham Knockers'. These people try and sell you cleaning items, saying they are trying to improve their lives following prison release. They are often trying to find out more about the home owner and whether they are vulnerable and could be scammed out of more money. Be warned, do not buy from them.

At long last fibre broadband has arrived in the South Ward of the parish. Whilst reports of the extent of success and line speeds remain mixed, at least the technology has arrived. Let's hope the only way is up from here on.

In the traveller appeal against the High Court injunction at Culham's Mill, the presiding judge has concluded there is no case for a variation in the injunction as there is clear evidence the travellers had not been in residence at any point. Since then the remaining caravans have vacated the site and the owners have erected a soil barrier across the entrance. However, an appeal is still due to be heard by the Planning Inspectorate on 4/12/18.

Winter is a quieter time for Basingclog Morris but they continue to practice on Tuesday nights at 8pm at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall. Both dancers and musicians are most welcome.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com

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Royal British Legion



Remembrance Day

This year Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday and, because of this, we have decided to hold the usual Remembrance ceremony at the Sherborne St John War Memorial on Saturday 10th November at 1100 hrs. If you would like to attend please gather by about 1050 hrs at the memorial as we will start the proceedings a few minutes before 1100 hrs.

The formal Remembrance service will be held at St James Church, Bramley on Sunday 11th November starting at 1030 hrs; if you plan to attend please arrive well before that time as the church is likely to be filled to capacity.

Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner was a great success with 77 tickets sold. There was a large attendance from the village as well as from more distant locations including London, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. By popular acclaim we will plan for another such event next year and have pencilled in 4th October as the date. (this dinner is open to all-comers and is not just for members of the Legion)

The principal guest was Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns GCB, KCVO, CBE who was Chief of the Air Staff between 1997 and 2000 and, after retirement, served a further 8 years as

Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle. He gave a masterful and wide ranging speech embracing the defence arena with particular focus on the Royal Air Force to mark the 100 years since its formation in 1918.

John Delafield

Chairman, Bramley and District Branch
Royal British Legion

01256 889789 / 07850 950349



Art and Craft Exhibition

Celebrating the Creativity of Local Care Homes and Community Groups.

Exhibition 10 am—7.00pm
Auction 7.30 pm—9.00pm

Refreshments Unique Gifts

Friday 16 Nov. 2018

Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney, RG27 8RQ



Generously supported by The Rotary Club of Hart



The Artisan Market

Saturday 24th November
from 11am to 3pm

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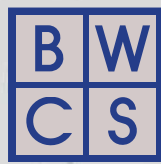
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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

The weather was beautifully warm for much of the first half of term, and we had a hard fought conker tournament, which resulted in joint winners for the Juniors (I think that they would still be playing if they had not agreed to a draw!). Congratulations to our champions for this year, Patrick, Sienna and Jake.

Our other major autumnal event was the Harvest Festival, held in St Andrew's Church. Each class had prepared an item to perform at the service, and donations of food were sent to the Basingstoke Food Bank.

Making the most of the weather, Class 3 had an Autumn walk to the Vyne to launch this year's Guardianship project. The class will now work with



the Vyne wardens in small groups for more targeted study; the first group were looking at fungi and found a great variety of these when they went out a couple of weeks ago. Year Rs also had a more localised Autumn walk around the village to see what signs of Autumn they could find.

Congratulations to the new Year 5/6 tag rugby team; despite only having a couple of training sessions, they managed to win both of their opening league matches. Let's hope that the winning ways continue through the winter!

Although it still seems very early to think about Christmas, the school Christmas Fayre will be held on Friday 7th December from 5pm until 7pm, so please put the date in your diary and join us for some festive fun!

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent

WANTED – NEW GOVERNOR

We are currently looking for a new Local Authority Governor, and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school
- an open and enquiring mind
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate.
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare voluntarily

We would particularly like to hear from you if you have previous experience of school governance in any capacity.

You do not have to be the parent of a child at the school to be a Local Authority Governor.

What can we offer?

- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our School
- Training to develop an understanding of specific School management issues
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- The pleasure of helping students reach their potential

The Governing Body works together as a team, as the strategic planners: We have a minimum of six meetings of the full Governing Body a year, and some governors also attend committee meetings eg regarding curriculum or finance. A full and detailed induction programme is provided, plus all Governors have the opportunity to undertake further training to build on existing skills or to help develop new ones.

Being a governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to have specialist expertise or knowledge. Enthusiasm and interest is much more important to start with and there is training and support available to help you throughout the four years term of office.

If you are interested, look at the information for prospective governors on the Hampshire County Council website: www3.hants.gov.uk/education/governors and apply through the online process. The deadline for applications is 30th November 2018.

If you wish to find out more before applying online, please contact the school to arrange an appointment with the Chair of Governors, Heidi Wadsworth. Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to a vetting process and identity check.

Bert's Blog

Ready for that walk, no need for company, I can take myself..... but no, the Boss and the Mrs want to come too. I can get along much faster on my own sniffing all the different animals who have passed by our domain but they who hold the other end of the lead want to spend ages discussing the origin of all the trails, tracks and spoor, and are constantly on the watch for footprints of deer, wild boar, coypu, pine martin, hedgehog, all found in France along with the lovely crunchy French sticks, the incomprehensible language and my chariot being driven on the wrong side of the road.....

The spoor is up for investigation, which animal had left it for discussion? It makes me laugh – if ever I inadvertently leave one, there is never the same interest that my wild friends poo generate, in fact the other day when



I had a nasty attack of cramps in the night and inadvertently left a calling card on my bedroom floor there was hell to pay. My ownership was heavily discussed, was I his dog or her dog. I was barred from returning until the clean-up had taken place. Trust me it wasn't that bad – just a little accident and beyond my control. At least there was no head scratching about who it had come from!

The Boss has purchased a wildlife camera to catch a shot of all these resident creatures in France and they spend every morning discussing the nightly wanderings of each of them. I sit and listen and think to myself.... I could have told you that just by their scent alone, never mind their footprints, their spoor

or the expense of the camera but we are up against the age old problem of linguistics, the Boss and the Mrs just cannot get their head around dog talk or barkage, so they remain ignorant of so much that I know. The long slow walks continue as before, but I never complain – sometimes their ignorance is bliss.

To read my past antics see:
Bertsdogblog.blogspot.com



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Sherborne St John Scarecrow Competition

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2nd prize was Fairdene House with
'Major leak..1st SSj resident in space'



3rd prize was Emily Davies from
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National Trust

Experience a sparkling and colourful Christmas at National Trust places in and around Hampshire

If you're looking for somewhere special to escape the high street crowds this Christmas, consider a visit to a National Trust place. Our historic houses in and around Hampshire feature sparkling decorations and Christmas trees, fresh winter greenery and festive trails. Outside, you'll discover beautiful garden landscapes filled with winter colour and scent.

Our shops feature traditional and contemporary Christmas ranges for all ages and pockets, including locally made food, drink and artisan gifts. Tea-rooms are serving a new winter menu, featuring delicious homemade treats using ingredients from our own kitchen gardens and local producers.

Here are our top places to enjoy Christmas in Hampshire:

Mottisfont

The Night Before Christmas

24 November – 2 January, house open 11am – 4pm, outdoor trail 10am – 4pm, normal admission charge plus £1 per trail.

Scenes from the much-loved poem, 'The Night Before Christmas', are brought to life at Mottisfont. Discover the children asleep in their beds, and a magnificent Christmas tree laden with decorations and presents. Unlike the poem, the mice are definitely stirring here – look out for them in nooks and crannies around the house. You'll find that Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Vixen have landed Father Christmas's sleigh outside, and in the gardens an activity trail offers seasonal fun challenges, from Santa's sack race to throwing presents down a chimney. There are simple activities for tiny tots too.

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Hinton Ampner

Hinton Ampner's Christmas Murder Mystery and Christmas Pudding mystery family trail

House offer: 1 – 24 December, house open 11am – 3.30pm, booking essential online or call 0344 249 1895, normal admission charge.

Family trail: 1 December – 1 January, 10am – 4pm, normal admission charge plus £2 per child

Owner Ralph Dutton's glamorous Christmas house party is in full swing. But, foul play is afoot! Wander through rooms

dressed in sparkling vintage decorations and stunning floral arrangements to find out 'who done it', with the help of Inspector Grey. Outside you'll find a traditional sweet shop and festive activities for kids. You can also help Inspector Grey's dog Albert find the Christmas pudding thief, on Hinton's festive family mystery trail through the gardens.

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Uppark House and Garden

The Twelve Days of Christmas and The Twelve Days of Christmas trail

House offer: 1 December – 1 January, 11am – 3.30pm, normal admission charge.

Family trail: 1 December – 1 January, 10am – 3.30pm, normal admission charge plus £2 per child

This winter, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' come alive at Uppark. You'll find beautifully dressed rooms inspired by this classic song, from 'Nine ladies dancing' to 'Seven swans a-swimming'. Paper artist Delicarta returns with more amazing creations made entirely from paper, alongside gorgeous decorations handmade by Uppark's talented staff and volunteers. Outside, families can get stuck in to an interactive trail based on the 'Twelve Days' theme. Join Alder Valley Brass Band on Sunday 16 December for some festive carolling as you make your way through the property.

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The Wyne

A Victorian Christmas at The Wyne and A Christmas Carol family trail

House offer: 1 December – 1 January, house open 11am – 3pm, normal admission charge.

Family trail: 1 December – 1 January, 10am – 4.30pm, normal admission charge plus £1 per child

The Wyne's Victorian owner Wiggett Chute invites you to join his family for Christmas. Fully re-opened after a two year roof project, you'll find The Wyne's historic rooms dressed in all the splendour of a Victorian family Christmas. Outside, a trail takes families on A Christmas Carol adventure. Inspired by Charles Dickens's much loved festive tale, A Christmas Carol, we're inviting you to take part in our Ebenezer Scrooge personality test. Follow the trail around the grounds to find out just how much of a meanie you

are; do you spend Christmas counting your money, or eating figgy pudding? Tot up your score at the end to find out!

Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Winchester City Mill

Christmas holiday trail

15 – 24 December, 10am-3pm, normal admission charge.

Every day this holiday, take a journey through the Mill following the trail of clues left by Father Christmas himself. Older children's keen eyes will enjoy the challenge of rounding up his herd of reindeer to claim a prize. For younger children there's a chance to hunt for elves who are sneaking around the Mill.

Alder Valley Brass Band Christmas carols

15 December, 12 – 3pm, normal admission charge only

Enjoy the merry sounds of this popular local brass band as they play favourite Christmas carols in the courtyard. You're invited to join in too, plus there's mulled wine and mince pies to keep out the chill.

Closed from Christmas Day to 31 December

Sandham Memorial Chapel

Christmas wreath-making workshop

2 December, 1 – 3pm, £24, book on 0344 249 1895, suitable for age 12+

Create your own beautiful Christmas wreath using fresh greenery and traditional decorations. You'll receive lots of handy tips on this session, including how to work with different types of foliage, and techniques for wiring fir cones, and cinnamon sticks for a lovely scented arrangement. Leave Sandham's peaceful surroundings with a unique wreath for your home this Christmas.

Decopatch for Christmas

7 Dec, 1.45 – 4pm, £22.50, book on 0344 249 1895

Learn the art of decopatch with local artist Helen Mortimer. You'll use beautiful papers to transform items into unique Christmas decorations – great to give as gifts, or to display in your own home.

More events during December - Open Fri – Sun in November and until 16 December

For more Christmas inspiration visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hampshire.

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The Vyne

The Vyne in Hampshire has launched a new layout in the house, fully reopening for the first time since the end of a £5.4m roof project. The National Trust property is celebrating the story of a brother and sister who rescued The Vyne in the 19th Century. Visitors now can look back on the roof project in a new exhibition and discover six tapestries that are off site to undergo conservation.

The house has been reorganised to reveal the untold story of a 19th-century brother and sister linked with The Vyne's survival. Newly presented rooms draw you into this moment in the mansion's past, mirroring charming 19th-century watercolours painted by members of the family.

Spaces previously closed to visitors have been opened up to host a snapshot of The Vyne's huge roof project. Against a backdrop of construction sights and sounds, visitors can watch bird's-eye-view drone footage, and learn how 3319 items were protected in the house.

Archaeological 'finds' are on show, and the Trust has even recreated the long money chute visitors used to make donations on the rooftop walkway.

The Vyne's Tapestry Room tells the story of its magnificent 18th-century Soho tapestries, which are undergoing urgent conservation treatment. In this darkened room, projected images highlight beautiful scenes from the rare textiles. Visitors can find out how they can be part of an ambitious plan to help save them.



There is a unique opportunity to watch live conservation too, when the Library's entire book collection is cleaned and restored to the shelves. Look out for 'hidden' items, such as personal letters and bookmarks.

There is more to explore on 'behind the scenes' tours, which take you into The Vyne's atmospheric cellars, attics and onto the newly restored roof. And later in the year, a new 'below stairs' experience opens in the Servants' Quarters, inspired by personal family memoirs.

St. Michael's Hospice Lights up the Autumn Sky

November is a busy month for the Hospice. Staff are busy preparing for the annual Light Up A Life Service and helping with all the different November Nights activities.

November Nights is a wonderful campaign for when the nights are drawing in, giving a great excuse to have a fun evening with friends and family and at the same time raise money for St Michael's Hospice. Some popular things that people choose to do are a cheese & wine evening, a games evening, Bonfire Night Party, a girl's night in being pampered, or a pub quiz night. The list is endless of the different things you could do to be involved.

If you have an idea for November Nights please let us know, or if you need supporting material to help promote your event, please give Lynne Grimshaw a call on 01256 848845 or email Lynne. grimshaw@stmichaelsospice.org.uk.

On Sunday December 2nd, a beam

of light will illuminate Basingstoke as supporters gather at the Hospice to remember loved ones.

St. Michael's Hospice is looking forward to welcoming the community to its annual Light up a Life remembrance service starting at 6pm within the Hospice grounds. The poignant service allows those who wish to remember loved ones the opportunity to dedicate a star in memory. Stars can be dedicated via the Hospice website or by contacting the Hospice but to be featured in the order of service dedications must have been received by 23rd November.

Laura Hughes, Events Manager at the Hospice is looking forward to the evening and welcoming the community to St. Michael's "We have many fundraising events that are held throughout the year but this one is particularly special to the Hospice staff and I, the love and compassion that the public bring to this event is very hard to describe. All staff whether clinical,

administrative or fundraising do everything they can to ensure the best care for patients is delivered and the event openly demonstrates the difference St. Michael's makes to the communities of North Hampshire. Christmas for many is a time of great joy, happiness, warmth and laughter. The most important thing for the families that we care for this Christmas is allowing them time to enjoy spending precious time together and creating memories that will last a lifetime."

For more information please visit St. Michael's Hospice website at stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call the fundraising team on 01256 848848.

For additional information please contact:

Chris Griffiths, Head of Operations
St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)

01256 848847

chris.griffiths@stmichaelsospice.org.uk



The fallen of three Parishes

SHERBORNE ST JOHN

Sgt John Batten was serving with 2nd Btn Hants Regt in 1914, married with 4 children, the family lived at both The Dell and Sunnyside in Aldermaston Road. John aged 33 was killed at Troitsa in Northern Russia on 20th June 1919 and buried nearby at Toposa. Sadly his son Dennis's name is listed on the WW2 Memorial.

Gunner Henry (Harry) Best enlisted in Royal Garrison Artillery in 1916. Harry attended SSJ School, was a gardener, married with one son was killed in action aged 33, on 25th September 1917 is buried at Ypres.

Pte Edwad Charles Brooker an under gardener before enlisting in the 10th Btn Hants Regt in 1914. Born in SSJ attending village school lived at The Dell. He died at Gallipoli on 10th August 1915 aged 22, and has no known grave.

Pte Frederick Charles Cooper enlisted in the 1st Btn Hants Regt in 1916. Born in SSJ living at South Lodge the Vyne where his father was gardener. Married with 3 children, Fred worked as a painter with H Baker, builder, West End. He was killed at Arras in April 1917 aged 32 has no known grave.

Pte Simon Cecil Douglas Hoddinott enlisted in 7th Btn Royal Berks Regt, lived at Vyne Lodge Farm. Simon died on 7th April 1919 at Salonika aged 26 and is buried in the British Cemetery.

Pte Albert H Hutchins a farm labourer lived at Swingate Hill Cottages with his parents, enlisted in 7th Btn Royal Berks Regt. Albert died on 19th October 1918, aged 22, at Salonika where he is buried.

Cpl Jesse & SS Arthur Ilsley lived at Vyne Lodge. Jesse served in 1st Royal Marine Lt Inf was killed in action on 25th August 1918 in Northern France, aged 33 has no known grave. Arthur served in 21st Empress India's Lancers died on 24th December 1914 aged 24, is buried in Nowshera Military Cemetery.

Sgt Isaac Ireland served in 2nd Btn Dorset Regt, his parents lived at The Dell. Isaac was mentioned in Despatches twice, but died on 2nd November 1916, aged 28, in Baghdad where he is buried.

Pte William Knight enlisted in Army Service Corps having been employed as a chauffeur. His wife Phyllis's parents lived at Bobs Farm Cottages. William died in Pas de Calais on 28th December 1915 aged 38.

Gnr John Edward Miles' parents lived on Rectory Hill. John worked as a gardener before enlisting in the Royal Garrison Art. He died at the Somme on 1st December 1917, aged 37.

Pte Walter Miles lived in SSJ working as a farm servant before joining 1st Btn Hants Regt in 1897. He died in Flanders on 26th April 1915, aged 38, and has no known grave.

Pte Frederick Harry Norgate born in Steventon married Kate Barrington of SSJ, worked as a farm waggoner before enlisting in 2nd Btn Hants Regt. He died at Verdun, Somme, on 8th July 1916 aged 27.

Pte Charles Portsmouth served with 1st Btn Dorset Regt in India. Charles died at Mons on 24th August 1914, aged 32, has no known grave. By 1918 his parents were living at Popley Field.

Lt Humphrey H Sloane-Stanley MC served with Grenadier Guards, died on 13th April 1918 aged 24 at Battle of River Lys in Belgium, with no known grave. By 1918 his parents lived at West End Cottage now Cleeves.

Lcpl Alfred James Thatcher a gamekeeper lived with his parents at Salters Heath, enlisted with 2nd Btn Hants Regt. On 13th August 1915, Aged 31, Alfred drowned on the 'Royal Edward' on way to Gallipoli.

Pte Alfred & Frank Tongs both attended village school. Alfred served in Middx Regt and Frank in Royal Navy; no records survive.

Spr George Guy Turner was born in Hitchin, emigrated to Australia and enlisted in Australian Engineers, with address in New South Wales, died on 25th August 1918 at the Somme. his brother lived at The Lodge, Park Prewett in 1918.

Nursing Sister Lena Aloa Davis died in 4th Canadian General Hospital, Park Prewett, on 21st February 1918 aged 32, from Blackwater Fever caught during her service with the Canadian Army Medical Corps in Salonika. She is buried in St Andrew's graveyard.

MONK SHERBORNE

Pte Frank Bond lived at Shothanger MS was a farm labourer before enlisting in 1/4th Btn Hants Regt, seeing service in Mesopotamia he died on 24th January 1916 and is buried in Amara War Cemetery.

Rfn Seymour Cresswell was a farm carter living in MS with his wife and children, enlisted in Hants Regt Rifle Brigade seeing service in Egypt. On the voyage home he became ill dying in Victoria Military Hospital at Netley on 30th December 1919. He is buried in All Saints churchyard with CWGC headstone.

Pte Arthur Duckett enlisted in Duke of Cornwall's Lt Inf. He died at Londonderry Military Hospital on 7th December 1918 from pneumonia, and is buried in All Saints churchyard with CWGC headstone.

Pte Albert Englefield born and went to school in SSJ, by 1912 he was living in MS with his Mother when he joined the 1/9th (Cyclist) Btn Hants Regt. While serving in NE England he contracted a fever and died in Basingstoke Isolation Hospital on 18th November 1915 and is buried in St Andrew's graveyard, with CWGC headstone.

Charlie & Osmond John Monger lived at 'Baymon' MS. Charlie served with 1st Btn King's Shropshire Light Infantry, he died at Flanders on 4th April 1918 and is buried in Denain Communal Cemetery NE France. Osmond joined the 1st Btn Hants Regt in 1912, he died on 1st July 1915 at Ypres and is buried at the Talana cemetery there.

Pte William Nash enlisted in 2nd Btn Hants Regt having been employed as cowman at Pamber Place Farm, his family home was in Kiln Lane MS. William was killed in action on 9th August 1916 at Potijze, Belgium, where he is buried.

Harold Williams No records have been found.

PAMBER

Capt John Hobart Anketell-Jones sometime resident at Clapper Hill, Pamber End. Served in 5th Irish Lancers, died on 16th November 1919 aged 38. Memorial in Pamber Priory.

Pte Francis William Appleby served in 2nd Btn Wilts Regt had lived in Charter Alley, was killed on 18th February 1917 and buried in Agny Military Cemetery.

Pte Charles Appleton served in 1st Btn Devonshire Regt was born in Pamber, died on 24th November 1915 in Flanders.

Frederick Banbury's home was The Cottage, Pamber Green, served as a Stoker 1st Class on HMS Tipperary. He died at the Battle of Jutland on 1st June 1916 aged 27.

Pte William Cottrell enlisted in 1st Btn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt, was killed on 4th October 1917 aged 39. His name appears on Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing, Belgium.

Frederick Theodore Freeman worked as a blacksmith in Pamber End, served as a Shoeing Smith in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He died on 16th September 1917 in France.

Charles William Hughes enlisted in 1/4th Btn Hants Regt was killed in Mesopotamia on 21st January 1916 aged 24. No known grave.

Pte Arthur William Pearce enlisted in 1st Btn Royal Berks Regt was killed at Ypres on 13th November 1914 aged 27. No known grave his name is on Pamber Priory Memorial.

L Cpl Charles Richard Smith lived in Pamber Road, Pamber, enlisted in 1st Btn Hants Regt. He was killed in action at the Somme on 1st July 1916, aged 26.

Pte Frederick Thomas Smith lived at Yew Tree Cottage, Pamber Green, enlisted in Hants Regt. He died on 28th March 1918 aged 28 and is buried in Harlebeke New British Cemetery, Belgium.

Bertie William Stamp served in 1st Btn Hants Regt was killed on 26th April 1915 aged 35, has no known grave. His father was living in Pamber Green in 1918.

2nd Lt RAF William Stanley Pullen killed during training on 12th June 1918 at Slough where he is buried.

Researched by SSJ History Soc. for fuller biographies or if you can add family memories please contact Jean Linford on 850264 or p.linford@btopenworld.com

Albert Englefield

Albert, known as Bert, was one of 10 children of Gilbert and Mary (née Loader). He was born in 1894. The family lived in Brook cottages, Vyne Road, SSJ. Gilbert was a traction engine driver employed by his wife's family business. Mary moved to Monk Sherborne with the children after she and Gilbert separated in 1903. By 1911 Mary was working as a charwoman with seven children still at home; Bert was a farm carter aged 16. He then went to work for General Sir William Knox at Hill House, SSJ.

There was a recruiting boom in April 1912 and Bert along with several other Sherborne young men enlisted into the newly formed 1/9th (Cyclist) Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment (no. 358) a

Territorial unit, training at weekends, evenings and summer camps. At the outbreak of war the Battalion was mustered in Southampton and then the cyclist soldiers were sent to assist in the defence of the north-east coast of England. Later they moved to the south coast. It was while on duty here that Bert became ill. He was sent home to convalesce, but his condition worsened and the doctor admitted him to the Isolation Hospital in Basingstoke with a diagnosis of 'spotted fever'. Apparently cured, he was sent home again, but his condition worsened so that, four months after becoming ill, he died on 18th November 1915.

Private Albert Englefield, aged 21, was given a military funeral and burial at

St Andrew's Church, SSJ, where he had been at school. An obituary in the Hants & Berks Gazette recorded that four of his friends who had joined the army at the same time were allowed home for the funeral.

On 22nd November Rev. H.S. Footman, vicar of Monk Sherborne and Rev. D.W. Chute jointly officiated. A squad of 20 soldiers of the Hampshire Regiment were sent from Southampton, four as bearers & twelve as a firing party who fired three volleys after the body had been lowered into the grave. Family mourners included Bert's mother, six siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as many friends.

Nursing Sister Lena Aloa Davis

Lena, a young woman of 29, was nursing in Canada and in April 1915 she enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. In June 1915 she did four months service at a military hospital at Le Touquet in France and then in October 1915 she was posted to Salonica in Greece.

Unfortunately while on duty there she contracted a severe type of malaria and was sent to the UK on sick leave.

She eventually recovered but remained in poor health. She returned to service in April 1917, and in September was granted home leave until October 1917. Lena returned to a posting at No 4

Canadian General Hospital, Basingstoke (Park Prewett). In February 1918 she became seriously ill again. The diagnosis was Blackwater fever which was thought to be associated with her earlier bout of malaria in 1916. On the 21st February 1918 she died aged 32 years.

Her grave is in St Andrew's Church Yard and is marked by a Portland stone ledger provided by her friends and colleagues from the hospital. For this reason it is not the usual type of war grave headstone but the grave is, however, recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Lena was awarded the 1914-18 Star, the British War medal, and the Victory medal. Her mother was assigned a memorial cross, and later a Stroll and plaque.



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Women's Fellowship

Mrs Penny Jubin was the Speaker for our October meeting with the title for her talk 'The Glass Maidens' made clear on entering the hall - a table covered with many items all featuring glass. Penny's interest in glass started in childhood when she loved to handle glass bowls or pretty coloured glasses. Twenty two years ago she went along to a glass making class and so started, at first a leisure hobby, which is now a passion and occupation. In the early days she invited a friend to share her interest, who in turn invited a friend and so a group of devotees to handcrafted glass evolved, and the name Glass Maidens was born.

Glass can be traced back to around 4,000 years ago to Egypt earliest known objects being in the form of beads, archaeology in the Roman Empire period show glass objects for use in domestic, industrial and funeral objects, and float or sheet glass with poor optical qualities began to appear. Float glass requires temperatures of about 1500°C to manufacture. 12th century saw the introduction of stained glass with the introduction of differing chemical

elements to achieve the colours required. This process must have been quite hit or miss to begin with, as when a chemical is added to molten glass it can be completely different from that obtained after firing in a kiln. Coloured glass led to a desire to form pictures using differing shapes as well as colours hence the use of lead to join pieces together, and those wonderful stained glass windows we see in our Cathedrals and Churches to-day. In the mid to late 1800s William Morris was responsible for the introduction of stained glass as a fashionable interior decoration in the home. Kiln glass fusing dates back to 1500 BC and is now widely used in modern glass art.

Penny uses both stained glass and fusing techniques to achieve the lovely art objects she produces. Buying a kiln six years ago opened up the possibilities of handcrafted glass production. Starting with an idea, making a cartoon, cutting the glass into each piece required from 3mm thick coloured glass, bonding together with either lead and cement or fusing in the kiln. At each stage accidents can happen and could be

costly, sheets of glass costing from £9 to hand made at £78, but Penny has found many ways of reusing the glass and thus learning new techniques for her craft.

An album of examples of Penny's creations showed the diverse ways glass can be used decoratively. Her first commission was for a stained glass panel for St Mary's School in Basing, she designed a beautiful 'Mary and Child' theme which has been much admired. Later she was asked to make a panel for another Basingstoke School this again was beautifully colourful, and all went well until the frame was all but fitted when the corner snagged the glass. All was thought to be lost, but, necessity being the mother of invention Penny devised a method of repair, and a new skill was born.

We were all invited to view, and purchase, the many ornamental mounted glass panels, bowls, dishes etc Penny had on display.

Mrs Daphne Thirlwall thanked Penny for an interesting and enlightening afternoon.



When ? Saturday 24th November

Where ? Sherborne St John Village Hall

What time ? 7.30 pm

How much ? £7.50

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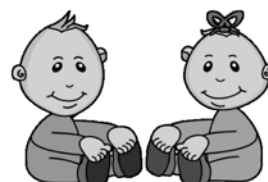
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The select committee found that discrimination, bias and outdated practices are prevalent across the business world even though they have been explicitly outlawed under regulations introduced in 2006.

It heard evidence from older workers that they were regularly discriminated against in the job market and were disproportionately likely to be selected for redundancy.

Following the committee's recently published report, called *Older People and Employment*, Maria Miller said: "Despite age discrimination being unlawful for more than a decade, the scale and lack of enforcement uncovered by our inquiry is both alarming and totally unacceptable."

The report was critical of both the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Government for failing to enforce the law on age discrimination.

It called for it to be made clearer that prejudice, unconscious bias and casual ageism in the workplace were all unlawful under the Equality Act 2010, which replaced the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.

At Phillips our Employment Law team, headed by Gill Brown, can advise you on all aspects of age discrimination which Gill reminds us can be directed at young employees as well as the over 50s.

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If you think you may have been discriminated against, or are worried about potential age discrimination or if you have any concerns about age discrimination or any other form of discrimination in the future, contact Gill by emailing gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk or call her directly on 01256 854605.

To find out more about the legal services offered by Phillips, please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk

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The Man Who Made Meccano (and Hornby trains and Dinky toys)

Everyone put their hands up to the question - who had played with some of the brand names in this heading? The man behind such famous products, Frank Hornby, was the subject of a talk given by John Hollands to the Probus Club of Basingstoke.

Frank Hornby was born in 1863 and Liverpool was his lifelong home ending up as Conservative MP for Everton. He was a cashier for a wholesale food business and had a small workshop at home that allowed him to develop some of his ideas. Having been impressed by a book about inventors and their many failures Frank Hornby appreciated that perseverance was the key to eventual success.

He wanted boys to take up useful trades and started to develop a construction kit which he patented in 1901. He hoped it would encourage boys to find suitable engineering employment locally.

Initially called Mechanics Made Easy the name changed to Meccano in 1907. Manufacturing was outsourced and were plain metal and not of the highest quality. The product was refined and eventually painted red and green then blue and yellow.

He started manufacturing himself and quickly growing out of two larger work units it was clear that even larger premises were needed. The famous Binns Road factory in Liverpool was opened in 1914 employing up to 2000, mainly women. After WW1 Hornby introduced model trains to compete against resurgent German toy manufacturers. Export markets had decals on the trucks and passenger coaches pertinent to their own countries.

So successful were overseas markets that manufacturing plants were set up in France and eventually after a legal case over 9 years to protect his patents in America, he opened a factory in New Jersey.

Meccano magazines were published monthly aimed at boys initially featuring articles on Meccano construction. Frank Hornby was the editor for many years. Over time Meccano Magazine became a general hobby publication aimed at "boys of all ages".

The factory began making model figures to complement the train sets. Using the same scale as the trains they were called Dinky Toys. Vehicles were added to the railway layouts and thus began the third

string of this toy manufacturer. No doubt every boy of a certain age, and many girls, enjoyed playing with Dinky Toys.

Increasing competition in the 1960s and 70s for die cast toys came from Mettoy's Corgi and from Match Box toys made by Lesney Products while Mattel developed their "Hot Wheels". Dinky Toys partly responded by expanding their Dinky Supertoys range which included the Mighty Antar transporter made by Thornycroft in Basingstoke.

Meccano Ltd was taken over by Lines Bros in 1964 with Hornby Dublo trains sets combining with the Triang name. Production was moved to Margate in Kent where it continues to this day.

The high cost of manufacturing in Britain took its toll and the Binns Road address closed in November 1979. Within a few years their competitors suffered the same fate.

Today Dinky Toys, especially with original boxes, command extraordinary prices at auction.



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