

A photograph of a sloth hanging from a tree branch in a dense, green forest. The sloth is the central focus, with its long, brown fur and long claws visible. It is surrounded by various green leaves and branches, creating a natural, jungle-like background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the sloth's fur and the surrounding foliage.

The Villager

October 2026

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editor's Note



No, this is not a photo of a captive 3 toed sloth and her baby - but a wild one that my family and I had the thrill of encountering at very close quarters in a Costa Rican rainforest! Even our guide was astonished that they were so close to us.

Apparently her outstretched arm is her defensive stance – you would not want to be in contact with her long claws – as she moves so slowly that she is very vulnerable, especially with a baby.

3 toed sloths are also known as the smiling sloth due to their facial features (some have described them as looking like a pain au chocolat!) whereas 2 toed sloths look much more bear-like.

Julie



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Cover Photo: 3-Toed Sloth

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Blessed are you who...

The Bayeux Tapestry, currently on loan from France and on display in the British museum, is counted as one of the wonders of the medieval world. If you look closely at any section of it you can find all sorts of fascinating details: people cooking over a fire, preparing for battle, travelling, eating and working. But it is only when you step back and see those scenes as part of the whole 70-metre-long tapestry that they really come alive as you see their place in a much bigger story – a sweeping vision of a world undergoing enormous change at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, found in the New Testament, offers something of a birds-eye-view of the whole story of the Bible. We see that God has a plan: to unite his people in Christ and ultimately to bring the world together under Christ. Where the Bayeux Tapestry tells of human plans tearing the world apart, the Ephesians tapestry tells of God's plans to bring the world back together again, what the author C.S. Lewis famously called "The Great Reversal".

Like a small piece of the tapestry, our lives may sometimes seem ordinary or unremarkable. We might sometimes wonder where we fit into the bigger picture. God's plan for the world is one that everyone is invited to be part of as we put our hope in Christ. He promises to lead us through the ongoing division and brokenness offering meaning, purpose and security even as we go



through times of pain and suffering. And he promises that one day every division will be healed, every conflict will be over, and everything that is broken will be brought back together. This is a promise that our own lives can echo now as we do what we can to unite what is divided and remake what is broken.

Everyone is welcome to any of our services and events. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more about our churches.

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



October

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

Sat 3rd **9am-12noon** Churchyard Working Party

Sun 4th **10.30am** Communion with children's groups at St Andrew's
4-6pm Harvest Tea and Barn Dance at SSJ Village Hall

Mon 5th **10am-12noon** Maintenance Monday at St Andrew's
12noon-1pm Men's Bible Study in the Parish Room

Weds 7th **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at St Andrew's

Sun 11th **9.30am** Harest Celebration at All Saints
10.30am Harvest Celebration with children's groups at St Andrew's
4-5.30pm Bereavement Cafe at Monk Sherborne Village Hall
4pm Families at 4 at St Andrew's

Weds 14th **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at All Saints
2-4pm Being Together in the Parish Room

Sat 17th **9-10am** Men's Breakfast at Monk Sherborne Village Hall

Sun 18th **10.30am** Morning Worship with children's groups at St Andrew's
5-5.45pm Communion in the Parish Room

Tues 20th **11-11.45am** Tuesday Communion at Pamber Priory

Weds 21st **10-11.30am** Little Acorns Baby and Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall
12-12.30 Midday Prayer at St Andrew's

Sun 25th **10.30am** All Age Communion at St Andrew's

Sun 1st Nov **10.30am** All Age Worship at St Andrew's



Church Office: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org 07786 975969

Rector: stewartdeering@sherborneswithpamber.org 07359 717577

Safeguarding: safeguarding@sherborneswithpamber.org 07798 550023

For regular updates please scan the QR code:



Sherborne St John Parish Council

By the time you read this the very hot and seemingly never-ending summer will have gone by and the weather will probably have changed; although it will take many inches of rain to make up the deficit. If your garden is anything like my own quite a few of my plants have not survived the heat and drought.

Your parish councillors all hope you had a happy and healthy summer holidays.

The councillors are pleased to welcome Simon Minas-Bound as our new councillor and Chairman; we also take this opportunity to thank Richard Morgan for his valued contribution and service over the years.

The PC is also seeking to employ a Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). Although the advert ran out at the end of August if you are interested, please contact the Clerk for further details.

Please note the Parish Council is reverting to monthly meetings from September as a lot of activity are being managed. Dates will be on the website and notice boards.

The new school year will have begun by the time you read this – we wish all of the children embarking on their new school years, whether they are primary or moving on to secondary schools, our best wishes.



The Parish Council is pleased to say the upgraded younger children's playground is now open and we apologise for the unavoidable delay. We hope the children will enjoy it for many years. Please note that dogs are not permitted within the playground area and should be kept on a lead. All dog fouling must be picked up and disposed of immediately in bins provided.

We have had several reports of incidents of motorcycles riding inappropriately and at speed in the fields near the recreation ground. Please report the occurrences giving as much information as possible without any danger to yourself to the police as soon as possible.

We have been asked if the Union Jack and England flags on lampposts are to be removed – we confirm that they will not be removed by HCC or BDBC.

The previous Local Plan process has now been abandoned by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. We will need to wait and see which sites are promoted

by developers over the next few years while the council begins the lengthy process of preparing a new plan. In the meantime, without an up-to-date Local Plan and sufficient housing land supply, our communities will remain vulnerable to speculative planning applications.

The recent refused application for Cranesfield is being appealed having been resubmitted with very minor amendments. The Parish Council will again be objecting as the new proposal as is not substantially different to the one which has already been refused.

At the time of writing letters have also been dropping through post-boxes from SP Broadway inviting villagers to view the proposals for 83 new homes behind Sireburne Close and all the way up the Aldermaston Road to Gales Garage. The PC will be objecting to this generally as among other things our Local Plan says SSJ has fulfilled its requirement for development and recommends no further development for the life of the Plan.

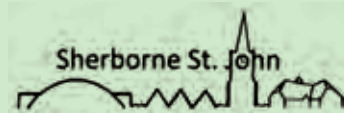
Just to remind you that fortnightly rubbish collections will begin in October.

So please keep reporting any potholes within the village on the council's website, if you are unable to do so please contact the clerk with the full details and the clerk will report to HCC.

Please use the Village Shop whenever you can – we have to use it or lose it. ...

You are always welcome to come to Parish Council meetings.

Linda Agnew
Vice Chair.



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Claiming Dates

October 2026

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

November 2026

2	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
3	Women's Fellowship, The Art of Christmas. Bring & Buy	2.00pm
6	Monk Sherborne Village Hall AGM, Village Drinks & Quiz Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, Diegerms Rock Band	8.30pm
9	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
9	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
14	Sherbornes with Pamber churches 'Dress without stress', SSJ Village Hall. Open to all women	2.30pm – 4.30pm
14	Sherborne St John Social Club, John McGarvey Blues	8.30pm
16	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
23	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
28	Sherborne St John Social Club, Buddy Holly Tribute	8.30pm
25	Board Games at The Swan - Eat @ 12pm, Play @ 1pm	12pm >
28	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12 - 3.00pm
30	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

December 2026

1	Women's Fellowship, Christmas Lunch	
4	Monk Sherborne Village Night, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	6.00pm – 8.00pm
7	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
12	Sherborne St John VILLAGE MARKET, SSJ Village Hall	12 - 3.00pm
14	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
14	Monk Sherborne Coffee Morning, Monk Sherborne Village Hall	10.45am – 12.00
21	Knit & Knatter Craft Group, SSJ Village Hall, tea/coffee available	1.00pm – 3.00pm
28	SSJ Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on [07775 800955](tel:07775800955)

Sherborne St John must prepare for the planning fight ahead



Like many residents, I am deeply frustrated that the proposal to build 26 houses at Cranesfield is now heading to a planning appeal.

This is not just another field on the edge of a settlement. Cranesfield is a highly sensitive and historically important site at the

very heart of Sherborne St John. Any development there would have a lasting impact on the character of the village, its historic setting and the lives of those living nearby.

Our community made its views clear when the application was considered locally. It is therefore enormously disappointing that we must now make our case all over again through the appeal process.

At the same time, the same developer has begun consulting on a much larger proposal for 83 homes on the fields behind Sireburne Close and Spring Close.

Taken together, these proposals could bring 109 additional homes to this part of Sherborne St John. That would represent a significant and permanent change to the village—not only to its landscape and character, but also to traffic, road safety, drainage, local services and infrastructure.

These two sites are likely to provide our first real experience of the new and much more difficult planning environment now facing communities across Basingstoke and Deane. The Borough Council has abandoned its latest attempt to produce an updated Local Plan. At the same time, it has no realistic prospect in the immediate future of demonstrating the required five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

Why does that matter?

Without an up-to-date Local Plan and a five-year housing land supply, national planning policy gives greater weight to the presumption in favour of sustainable development. It does not mean that every application must automatically be approved, but it makes speculative development considerably harder to resist.

Developers know this. They will argue that the need for more housing should outweigh local

planning policies and the harm identified by residents. The council will have less control over where development takes place, while individual villages face increasing pressure from proposals that have not been selected through a proper, borough-wide planning process.

The same danger applies to much larger prospective development sites, including the land being promoted near Pamber. Sites that have never been allocated through a Local Plan could now be brought forward while the borough is at its most vulnerable. The potential scale may be very different, but the underlying planning risk is exactly the same: developers seeking permission in the absence of an up-to-date strategy determining where new homes and the infrastructure needed to support them should go.

This is exactly why abandoning the Local Plan matters. No Local Plan does not mean no development. It means development with far less local control and infrastructure plan.

We must therefore fight these proposals more strongly, more carefully and more effectively than ever before.

That means presenting robust planning evidence, protecting the historic character of the village, challenging the impact on highways and infrastructure, and ensuring that residents' concerns are heard clearly. It also means the parish council, borough councillors and the wider community working together.

There are no guarantees in this new planning environment, and I will not pretend that the challenge will be easy. But nor should anyone mistake the community's determination to protect Sherborne St John from inappropriate and poorly planned development.

I will continue working with residents and the Parish Council as we respond to the Cranesfield appeal and scrutinise every detail of the Sireburne and Spring Close proposal.

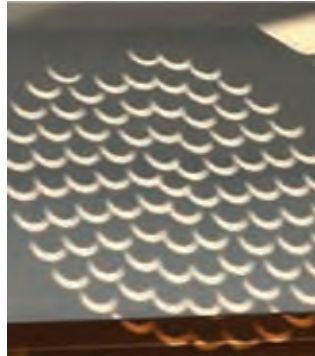
We will need to fight like we have never fought before — and we will need the whole village behind us.

Cllr Simon Minas-Bound

Sherborne St John & Rooksdown Ward

News from Pamber and Little London

And still the sun shines! We look out over parched fields and dying plants and crunch through positively autumnal leaves and in complete contrast to the normal British attitude, we long for rain! But at least the clear skies meant that in between bouts of water fights the children, parents and grandparents were able to see the fantastic partial eclipse on August 12th through those marvellous eclipse glasses. And I loved the multiple eclipses viewed through a colander.



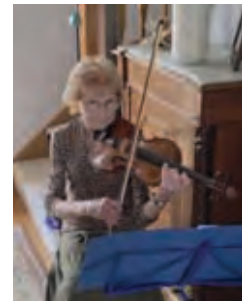
Our 5 year old grandson was particularly intrigued: maybe he'll be an astronaut one day.

The eight year old was more captivated by the Morris dancing which she deemed "cool". How lovely it was to see so many people gathered around The Plough watching or performing rituals which go back hundreds of years – the earliest confirmation



in England dates from 1448 in London - and encouraging children to have a go on the squeeze box. Thank you Kennet Morris, a troupe which dates back to a more modest 1957. You can find more information on them at <https://kennetmorris>.

And lastly a mention of a personal nature. My mother Hilda celebrated her 100th Birthday in August and our thanks to Jean (shown) and daughter Rebecca from Pamber Green for helping the occasion go with a string.



Until next time

B 🐝 bdownes.villager@gmail.com

Beau's Blog

Here I stand — or rather, sit — Sentinel. Much like the Egyptian Sphinx, I guard the citadel, ensuring my master and the Mrs are safe while they admire my noble profile. Perched high upon this stone plinth, I feel rather grand, though I can't help thinking I should be cloned so that I might occupy the adjacent one as well.

This ancient doorway, with its studded timber and weathered stone, isn't my home in France — though the masonry feels familiar. It belongs to the medieval castle ruins of Eymet, a 13th century bastide town where I'm temporarily residing with a somewhat reluctant female companion. She has, so far ignored me, rebuffed my advances and even voiced her displeasure at my attention. Still, I refuse to let that dent my ego.

So here I pose in imperial fashion, hoping at least to impress the Mrs on this fine morning outing — to remind her that I am, above all, a lovable and loyal companion. I'm not sure how long I can maintain this exemplary behaviour, but as long as she keeps treats in her pocket, I shall persevere.



<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

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Monk Sherborne Village Fete

Boy! We were very lucky, after the damp squib of the 2025 event when it hardly stopped raining, this year the weather was beautiful, just right, not too hot, no rain and sunny all day, which in turn lead to a great turn-out.

This traditional small village fete combines a horticultural show which forms the base of the event. It produced some amazing exhibits given the intense heat and drought we have encountered this summer.



The Fete is a great opportunity to come together and enjoy each other's company, whether that included the very popular tea and cake stall, hot dogs or even traditional wood-fired pizzas. The latter being both a pleasant and

extremely popular change to the normal BBQ burgers, that have become a staple over the last few years

Special thanks must go to Keith Tilley who lent us his very impressive and professional wood fired oven for the event. In fact, a word of gratitude must go out to all the volunteers who dedicated their time, those who helped with the set-up on Saturday, the event itself or the clear up afterwards on the Sunday without whom we could not hold this event each year.

Also, no fete would succeed without the children, taking part in the races, enjoying the Bouncy Castle or just keeping their parents on their toes and emptying their pockets. Toby and Archie James really entered the spirit of the event winning the junior section with their innovative exhibits at the horticultural show.



Planning is already underway for the 2027 event following a series of suggestions regarding what we might add to the event to keep it fresh, and if the weather is kind to us again I for one, am very excited about one of the ideas put forward and so are a number of the dads but that is all I will say for now.

Each year we donate any profits from the fete to a charity or local good cause, last year the money went to the British Hear Foundation. This year, the Trustees are still considering where the funds will go, however early calculations show that we will be donating between £400-500 to a worthy cause.

Well done to all those that attended for another great fete.

The Elderly Brothers present...

A MUSICAL Evening

Hosted by Ed and Steve (The Elderly Brothers) with Guests!

Sat 10th October 2026
7-9pm, doors open 6pm
SSJ Village Hall
Tickets £5 per person

Box Office: 07526954835 / ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com

A pay bar will be available!

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SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER	HALLOWEEN DISCO FANCY DRESS, GREAT MUSIC AND A FRIGHTFULLY GOOD NIGHT!
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER	DIEGERMS GREAT ROCK & POP COVERS FROM THE LAST FEW DECADES!
SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER	JOHN MCGARVEY BLUES AT ITS BEST A FANTASTIC NIGHT OF LIVE BLUES!
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER	BUDDY HOLLY TRIBUTE ALL THE HITS FROM A ROCK 'N' ROLL LEGEND A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

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Monk Sherborne Village Hall

Sunday 11th October

4 - 5.30pm



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PAMBER CHURCHES

Dress *without stress*

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

2.30 - 4.30PM

SHERBORNE ST JOHN VILLAGE HALL

Hilary Nicholls, personal style coach who has worked with White Stuff, Hobbs and LK Bennett, will share styling tips for women.

Learn about your body shape, colouring and how to dress without stress, including an interview with Hilary on fashion and faith.

TICKETS COST £10 (INCLUDES A GLASS OF PROSECCO)
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FAMILIES AT FOUR

2nd Sunday of the month
4pm

St Andrew's Church SSJ

Starts again on 13th September

- ▶ Craft
- ▶ Games
- ▶ Bible Story
- ▶ Singing
- ▶ Refreshments



SHERBORNES WITH
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HARVEST TEA & BARN DANCE

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
4-6PM

SSJ VILLAGE HALL

SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES

Please book using the QR code or email

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SUGGESTED DONATION

£5 PER ADULT



SHERBORNES WITH
PAMBER CHURCHES



SSJ Primary School

Welcome back, everyone! I am delighted to share that the new school term is off to a flying start. The classrooms are buzzing with energy and there is a wonderful sense of excitement in the air as we welcome our new staff members: Mrs Barnhouse, Mrs Hewett, Mrs Merrin, Mrs Holmes, and Mrs Lok. We are thrilled to have them on board!

Our school grounds and learning spaces have received a fantastic uplift over the break. The Juniors are already loving their new Hive area, and pupils across the school are benefiting from our brand-new sensory den. Down in the Infants, both the indoor and outdoor spaces have had a complete revamp. These fresh environments are designed to spark curiosity through play-based learning and a hands-on curriculum, allowing our youngest learners to explore, experiment, and grow every single day. We have also been making time to sing together most days- it brings so much joy and releases those wonderful endorphins to keep everyone smiling! If you happen to be walking down the lane, keep your ears open; you might just hear our cheerful voices ringing out!

A massive thank you goes out to the volunteers from AWE, who gave up their time for a dedicated grounds day. They tidied, weeded, and built some wonderful new

crate benches using crates generously donated by a local resident. Community spirit at its finest!

Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating our Harvest Festival and an upcoming Showcase Open Afternoon, where parents will be invited in to tour the newly updated classrooms.

Can You Help Our Outdoor Learning? To keep our outdoor play vibrant, we are currently searching for exciting natural play items - think log slices, timber, crates and loose parts for den building and outdoor exploration. We are particularly on the lookout for extra crates to build a brand-new mud kitchen for the whole school to enjoy. If you have any items to spare, please get in touch!

Prospective Parent Open Days If you or someone you know has a child starting Reception in September 2027, please pass the word along! We have upcoming Open Day dates planned (with additional sessions running in November and December), and we would love to show prospective families around our wonderful school. We also have limited places available in select other year groups, so please share widely with friends and neighbours.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent



Shape the Future of Our Community: Become a Governor at Sherborne St John School

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to our village? Sherborne St John School is seeking dedicated community volunteers to join our Governing Body.

By attending just two meetings a term, you can bring your unique experience to a role that truly matters. School governors work alongside the leadership team to drive improvements, oversee strategic direction and ensure we are providing the absolute best start in life for our children.

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Beware the Invasion of the Butterfly Hunters!



To some this may come over as something of a Marmite piece, seen by some as very contentious whilst at the same time welcomed by others who fully understand where it is coming from.

Then there are those it will leave confused if they haven't witnessed the recent phenomenon.

On Wednesday 4th of August Monk Sherborne achieved national fame, when a very rare visitor to the UK was witnessed on the land that belongs to Rookery Farm. A Facebook Group UK Butterflies, announced to the world - without any thought or warning - that the Queen of Spain Fritillary Butterfly had been spotted. This created excitement, as it is not a native of the UK, and its presence is a freak of nature and circumstance. Whilst it can lay its eggs, and the larvae can be witnessed, the pupae cannot survive the damp and cold UK winters. They have been witnessed in the UK quite a few times but, they have never survived. The last recorded sightings were on the Sussex Coast in 2009 and again in 2017. The recent combination of the heatwave and the direction of the winds have brought them from Northern and Western France.

Now, all this sounds very innocent and wonderful; however there is a downside to being inundated with the 'Invasion of the Butterfly Hunters', and for the last 3-4 weeks having to endure this odd group to a greater or lesser extent.

I have to point out I am not against people visiting the countryside to enjoy the great wildlife we have, in fact I actively encourage it and try to pass on what limited knowledge I have to walkers I come across when out with my dog. I also live right on the Camino Ingles/ the St James' Way and take time to welcome pilgrims and try and give them some local knowledge about what they will see on their way.

Unfortunately, this has at times been a totally different experience. The first Saturday morning, following the Facebook post, while walking my dog, the entrance of Rookery Farm was inundated with abandoned cars, some partially blocking the entrance to a working farm as well as the driveway to Rookery Farmhouse. The unofficial parking place that has grown up across the lane at the start of the byway was also full, with a couple of cars spilling onto the carriageway itself. For those that are unaware this is a blind bend on a narrow single carriage road which made it even more hazardous than normal.

Some of these human visitors had made a long journey travelling from across the country and were very respectful and polite. I spoke with some from Stoke on Trent, Bicester and Lincolnshire; however this cannot be said of all those that turned up, some of whom came

across very entitled and very rude, parking wherever they saw fit disrupting local residents' lives.

Some of the residents of The Close were afraid to venture out in their cars in case, when they returned, they would find a 'Butterfly Hunter' in their space outside their home.

In Kiln Lane cars have been abandoned on the grass verges preventing the builders working on the bungalow at the bottom from getting their vans onsite. At the top of the lane cars were parked outside the cottages disrupting the residents taking up parking spaces used by both visitors and causing problems for delivery drivers trying to turn around in the confined space. In one 10-minute period the local DPD driver who was dropping some packages off at the cottages, was not only inconvenienced by one poorly parked vehicle before being blocked in completely by another car who had driven up the lane looking for a spot to park. As both were being sent on their way a 'Hunter' on a bicycle emerged from the footpath, when challenged about cycling on a footpath, declared 'it didn't matter'. Now those that know me can testify I don't suffer fools gladly. Yet one of my fellow residents who was out walking her dog, and had overheard the 'discussion' stated I was very restrained and didn't swear once. That said I did question his intelligence whilst pointing out a sign not 6 ft away stating Hampshire CC. 'Footpath, Walkers Only' I had to walk away in the end when he continued to insist 'it didn't apply'.

As mentioned not all have been bad and a number I have met when out walking my dog are very respectful of the countryside and interested to learn about the local area. Unfortunately, it is those few that are ruining it for all, giving the group a bad name and leaving us wishing they should stay away from the countryside as they don't deserve it.

When one of my fellow residents, highlighted to one group that they should stay to the footpaths and not go walking through the verges of the fields and the set aside the farmer had created for wildlife cover. They responded with a mixture of entitlement and abuse whilst stomping around the grass like a group of 4-year-olds, sorry that is a slight on 4-year-olds. Their actions not only damaging the habitat of what they came to see but probably many other species. They should thank their luck that the gamekeeper wasn't around as he has just released a large number of birds for the coming season.

Thankfully, hopefully by the time you read this, it will all be over, as pointed out at the very beginning this is a non-native butterfly and the pupae do not survive British winters, so it is the butterflies that have travelled here and that stage only lasts between 3-4 weeks, from all the reading I have done, therefore this invasion is coming to an end.

Whilst it has been great to welcome this very rare visitor along with some of the humans it has attracted, I am afraid the same cannot be said for all of the individuals that accompanied them.

News from Clift Surgery and the PPG

Summer is heading towards autumn and for some patients that means one thing: that COVID and FLU vaccinations are not far away.

Clift Surgery will be sending out invitations to those eligible for these vaccinations shortly.

Pregnant women and children will have received theirs in September and those eligible for free vaccinations will receive theirs in October.

By having your vaccinations at the surgery, you can be assured of your records being updated immediately.

Dispensary news

The dispensary is such a useful facility for patients living in Bramley. The rules about who can use a dispensary are set by the NHS which specifies you must live further than 1 mile from a pharmacy. Dispensaries are generally located in a rural area, attached to a GP Surgery. Using Clift's Surgery dispensary is a green option as you can save money on fuel with free parking. If you are unable to get to the dispensary during opening hours, you can collect your prescription from the Pharmabox 24/7. Just make sure you sign up to use this service.

Did you know? The total prescription items in Hampshire was 36.5 million (an increase of 1.8% on the previous year). There will more about medicines next month.

Know Your Numbers: You can help by spreading the word. An estimated **4.2 million adults** are living with high blood pressure without knowing it.

Why it matters: High blood pressure is the **biggest preventable cause of death** in the UK. It's often silent, with no symptoms until something serious happens.

Recent Blood Pressure UK findings show:

- 43% of adults don't know their current reading
- 31% don't check regularly
- 49% wrongly believe high blood pressure has clear symptoms
- Only 26% know it can damage the kidneys

High blood pressure raises the risk of **heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, vascular dementia and early death.**

What blood pressure is: It's the force of blood pushing against your blood vessel walls. If it's too high, it can cause serious health problems.

Getting checked

If you're **40 or over** and live in England, you can get a **free blood pressure check** at many pharmacies — you don't need to see a GP.

You *cannot* get a free pharmacy check if:

- You already have high blood pressure
- You've had a professional check in the last 6 months

What happens at the pharmacy

A trained member of staff will place a cuff on your arm and take a reading. Depending on the result, they may:

- Offer healthy living advice
- Lend you a monitor to take home
- Advise you to see your GP

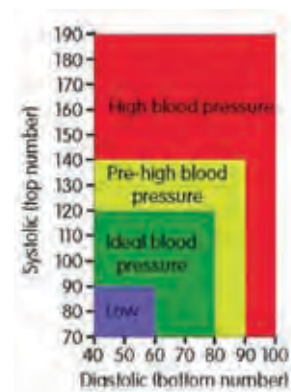
If you're registered with a GP, your reading will be added to your health record. It's not shared unless your reading is dangerously high or low.

Easy local option for Hampshire residents

You can borrow a home blood pressure monitor for free from any Hampshire library (you need to be signed up to the library to use this facility). With three devices available at each of the 40 branches, checking your blood pressure at home has never been easier.

Looking ahead

2025 showed what's possible when communities work together. In 2026, the campaign is expanding — more places to check, more conversations, and more people taking control of their numbers.





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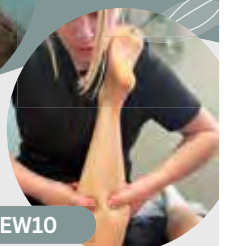
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Womens Fellowship

The July outing to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Chichester was a very successful, if rather hot, day when we had the option of stopping at Fishbourne or spending the whole day in Chichester.

Fishbourne Roman Palace is well worth a visit, and much work has been carried out since the early days when it was first discovered. It was actually discovered in the 19th century but wasn't until the 1960s when digging to provide a water main that excavations took place. There is a small but informative museum, full of artefacts, as well as the gardens laid out according to Roman mapping. The piece de resistance has to be the mosaic floors.

The August meeting was somewhat Ad Hoc but nonetheless most enjoyable. The meeting took place in the Social Club and the Tadley U3A Ukelele Group - or TUGS as they prefer to be known - gave a recital of songs from the 50's and 60's, bringing back memories for everyone.



The September meeting included the annual harvest tea and a talk by Dr. Frances Hurd on personal stories of British Emigrants in the British Empire. These stories spanned the 18th to 20th centuries and included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma, and South Africa.

The British Empire led the world with steam powered technology as well as naval power. From 1815 to 1915 twenty million people emigrated, mainly for economic reasons - a better life. Fifty percent travelled to North America and fifty percent to British ruled countries.



The countries receiving these people were expecting mainly agricultural, experienced workers to toil their land, but many, tired of that life in England which was often a poor, hand-to-mouth existence, wanted to settle in the towns and cities. People from The Forces also were expected to work the land, but were inexperienced in this work.

From 1814 - 1820 four thousand people were sent to South Africa, to the Eastern Cape Colony. Although the Dutch had already settled since the seventeenth century the population was mainly indigenous Africans.

One family, the Jackson family, emigrated to Gloucester in Canada where medieval boundaries of land still existed. The 1891 Census shows that J. Jackson, aged 32, was a general labourer, meaning he was 'freelance' that is, he had no employer and he worked a day to day jobbing work. His wife, Alice, also found work and took in laundry to support their then five children. One young man, a Tom Wilmot, wrote letters to his mother telling her of the terrible weather, the worst being tornados, although life out there was anything but pleasant.

Families emigrated to the Indian Continent to find a better life, often from the Police Force in England, and indeed some had good prospects, with servants and large houses. The East India Company did look after their workers but it was a rather double-edged sword as only ten percent survived into drawing a pension. Their lifespan was eighteen months or, as one emigrant put it - two monsoons, giving Cholera the main cause of death apart from scurvy, and military action, as well as ships sinking on the journeys to get there.

The Gold Rush in South Africa must be mentioned as this was a significant factor to the second Boer War 1899-1902 in the Transvaal region. The British who emigrated there to find wealth were denied any political rights by the Boer Government. Britain wanted to expand and strengthen its control over South Africa but the Boers wanted to remain independent. It also should be said that orphan children were sent to the Colonies, and later not only orphans but babies, some from respectable homes, were taken from nurseries and the parents were told their babies had died.

Frances Hurd had many stories of families who were separated due to emigration, emigrants dying from tropical diseases, but also emigrants who rose to the height of respectability and wealth.

She was thanked by Jenny Cooke.

The 6th October meeting includes a talk by Mr Mike Brook called Musings from the Amateur Stage.

Defibrillators in our Villages

In research by St John Ambulance, 52% of people said they did not know where their nearest defibrillator was. When one is used within the first few minutes it makes an enormous difference to whether someone survives.

Locations

- Outside SSJ Village Hall
- Outside Bell Tower door at St Andrews Church, SSJ
- SSJ Chute Pavilion and Car Park

Always call 999 first, the Ambulance Service holds the live list and the access code.



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The service can deliver a variety of library materials including books in standard and large print, audio books in various formats, and specialist items such as those from our Reminiscence Collection.

Specially recruited volunteers are matched to customers in their own communities and visit their homes each month.

This service can be a lifeline which enables access to reading, despite physical or other limitations, plus regular contact with

a friendly volunteer. The daughter of a customer recently told us "The HLS service .. is about so much more than reading... giving my elderly Mum much appreciated companionship."

Applying for the service is easy. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, you can enquire at your local library or online via the Hampshire Library website by selecting 'Access for All', then 'Home Library Service' and completing a short form. Applicants then receive a phone call to discuss their needs and preferences.

The service is adapted for each individual and ensures everyone has access to the library materials they enjoy.

Home library service | Leisure and culture | Hampshire County Council

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Basingstoke Deane

Rotary



World Polio Day – 24 October 2026

A Sea of Purple with a Special Meaning



Purple Crocuses for a Polio Free World

Every year, Rotary clubs across the UK and beyond plant

millions of purple crocuses. It's a simple but striking way to raise awareness, raise funds, and brighten our towns and villages. The purple crocus is more than a flower — it symbolises Rotary's global fight to end polio. Its colour echoes the purple dye once used to mark a child's finger after vaccination, showing health workers that the child had been protected. That's where Purple4Polio began using purple crocus blooms to share the message and support this life changing work.

This autumn, Rotary in Basingstoke will plant more crocus bulbs so the purple displays around the town continue to tell this powerful story. Each flower is a reminder of the progress we've made — and a sign of hope that, together, we can end polio for good.



Rotary's Part in Beating Polio

Not so long ago, two serious diseases—smallpox and polio—were affecting families all over the world. Thanks to a huge global vaccination effort, smallpox was wiped out in 1980. By 1990, polio cases in the UK had dropped to just a few, and today every child is offered routine polio vaccinations and boosters. It's a powerful reminder of how well vaccines protect us.

For more than 35 years, Rotary has been at the heart of the global push to end polio through End Polio Now. Rotary members have raised over \$2.1 billion and volunteered countless hours to help protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries.

Because of this incredible work, polio now remains only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in 2020 Africa was officially declared free of the disease.

Here in Basingstoke and the surrounding villages, local Rotarians have planted purple crocuses as a bright symbol of hope. You might spot them at Turnpike Cottages in Overton, the Silk Mill in Whitchurch, and Stratton Park in Kempshott. Each bloom is a gentle reminder of a future where no family has to fear polio again.

Rotary's Partnership with the Gates Foundation

Rotary is hugely grateful for the long standing support of Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation in the global push to end polio. In June 2025, we were thrilled to hear that the Foundation will continue its incredible 2:1 match on all funds Rotary raises, tripling the impact of every donation and keeping momentum strong.

JONAS SALK

We can't talk about polio without celebrating Jonas Salk — the quiet hero behind one of the first successful polio vaccines. When the US faced a devastating outbreak in 1952, Salk's vaccine changed everything and paved the way for worldwide vaccination programmes. In an extraordinary act of generosity, he chose not to patent the vaccine, ensuring it could be shared freely and reach children everywhere.



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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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Probus Hears About Charles Darwin



The talk by Ian Worley to the Probus Club of Basingstoke had the simple title "Charles Darwin" but what emerged was a life of coincidences that led to him becoming a world-famous naturalist.



Born into a wealthy family in Shrewsbury in 1809, his father was a physician who was married to Susannah Wedgwood a member of the famous pottery family. Having a large kitchen garden, he kept a detailed diary which probably stirred an interest

in plants in the young Charles.

Sent to Shrewsbury school which majored in the Classics of Latin and Greek Charles was a poor scholar and in 1825 was sent to Edinburgh University to study medicine in the hope that he would eventually be able to assist his father. Disappointment followed and in January 1828 his father sent him to Christ College, Cambridge to study for a clerical career hoping that he might rise in the church to become a bishop.

The received wisdom of the day followed the statement by Archbishop James Usher, the Primate of All Ireland in the seventeenth century, who using the Bible as reference had worked out that the earth had been established around 6.00pm on the evening before Sunday 23rd October 4004 BC.

Graduating in January 1831 Charles surprised even himself by coming 10th out of 178 entrants. One of his contemporaries at Cambridge, John Henslow, knew of a planned round the world surveying expedition that required an onboard naturalist. This was an unpaid position but as Charles had a substantial allowance, was a single man with no responsibilities, had gained an extensive knowledge about plants, he felt qualified for the position of naturalist on board HMS Beagle.

His father, though, thought differently and wanting Charles to go into the church forbade him from applying for the position. His brother-in-law, Josiah Wedgwood was the person to change his mind which allowed Charles to apply to Captain Fitzroy.

Charles was disappointed to learn that Captain Robert Fitzroy, a hydrographer and meteorologist who created the phrase weather forecast and eventually went on to found the Meteorological Office in London, had already offered the position to another man. Reflecting on his family commitments, he eventually declined the offer. Hence Charles Darwin went on the five years surveying voyage mostly around the southern hemisphere setting sail in December 1831 and not returning until 1836.

On Cape Verde, Charles Darwin discovered seashells high up in an escarpment, in South America he found ancient bones that he sent back to England. The Galapagos Islands, a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific,

had not only giant tortoises but birds like finches were different to those in England; all raised questions in his mind.

On his return to England, and later marrying his first cousin Emma Wedgwood, Charles Darwin wrote several books on his findings about botany and zoology that enabled him to be recognised as an authority on his subjects and was elected to prestigious scientific societies.



One book, written anonymously, in 1844, was poorly received as it was based on Darwin's emerging theory about changes and developments in different parts of the world that raised questions about Archbishop Usher's declaration about the creation of the earth.

It took the persuasion of scientific colleagues twenty-three years after the voyage of HMS Beagle, for Darwin to write *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Written in plain English it was received with a mix of scientific fascination, theological outrage and public curiosity. All 1250 copies were sold on the first day. Darwin published six revised editions up to 1872 and it has never been out of print.

Darwin's life had been a precursor to the 1998 film, *Sliding Doors*, the story of parallel lives dependent on whether the main character managed to catch an underground train. If Charles Darwin had not failed at Shrewsbury school his father would not have sent him to Edinburgh University, if he had succeeded there, he would have become a medical practitioner helping his father.

Instead, he failed and went up to Cambridge to study for a church career but developed his interest in botany and zoology where his friend knew about the planned voyage of HMS Beagle. Had the man originally offered the position taken the role of naturalist Darwin would have probably entered the church. Without any family responsibility and the financial security from his allowance enabled him to take on an unpaid position for five years.

From apparent failure as a son to becoming a world-famous scientist Charles Darwin was so revered that he was buried in 1882 amongst the great and good in Westminster Abbey.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

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Small Ads

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REGISTERED CHILDMINDER based in Sherborne St John will have full/part time spaces available from July. Also collecting from Sherborne St John school in September. For more information call: 01256 851249

HOME & OFFICE MAINTENANCE SERVICES All types of installation and maintenance works including electrical, plumbing, IT networks, access/security/alarm/attendance systems, carpentry and decorating. Cleaning services, secure disposal of office document waste. Please call Adam on 07511 495052. Visa, Master Card, Amex.

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

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.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

Join Our Local Ostomate Community

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS: BASINGSTOKE & AREA OSTOMATES SUPPORT GROUP

More than 200,000 people in the UK live with a stoma, yet many feel overlooked, misunderstood, or isolated. Too often, stigma and discomfort push Ostomates into withdrawing from social activities and community life.

Are you an Ostomate, or do you know someone who is?
A new face-to-face support group is now running in the Basingstoke area, offering a safe, friendly place to meet others, share experiences, and find support.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Every 3rd Thursday of the Month

LOCATION
Apella Hotel, The Loddon Room

DETAILS
Details shared in our Facebook group

TIME
18.00 to 18.30

WHAT YOU WILL FIND:

- A welcoming, inclusive space to talk openly
- Peer support from people who truly understand
- Refreshments
- Occasional presentations from product representatives

WE WELCOME all ostomates, partners, family members and those potentially requiring stoma surgery.

* Please note, this is an inclusive and relaxing environment. There is no obligation to stay the full duration of the meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

Find us on Facebook
Search: Basingstoke & Area Ostomates Support Group

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
Please look for us on Facebook or contact us at:
basingstokeandareasupportgroup@gmail.com

Scan the QR code to visit our Facebook group and find out more.

Together, we support. Together, we thrive.

To advertise in The Villager

CALL Emma Foreman
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emma@thehaye.co.uk

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- Kitchens plumbed / Taps replaced
- Dishwashers & Washing Machines Installed
- Leaking radiators repaired or replaced
- Outside taps fitted
- Block drains cleared
- Leaking gutters & Down-pipes repaired

Mickey: 07888 828542

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
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke	stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org 819722
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH	Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke	316000
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS		
SSJ Clerk/Admin Alison Heward	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk	07399 213133
Finance Officer	finance@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk	
MS Mrs Cally Morris	clerk@monksheborne-pc.gov.uk	07721 076186
Pamber	clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk	
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR	Simon Minas-Bounds	07879 477696
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber	Androulla Johnstone	Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.gov.uk
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Karl Rand	Cllr.Karl.Rand@basingstoke.gov.uk
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke	844844
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	The Castle, Winchester	01962 841841
HAMPSHIRE POLICE	Non-emergency	101 or 01962 841534
PCSO Kane Lucas No. 19624	Kane.lucas@hampshire.police.uk	
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com	01256 850891
NEAREST JOB CENTRE	https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk	
LOCAL GROUPS		
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary)	01256 590359
RAINBOWS	Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com	
BROWNIES	Tramayne Henwood	ssjbrownies@outlook.com
GUIDES	Heidi Wadsworth	ssjguides@yahoo.com
CUBS	Ms Trish Field	01420 544904
Little Acorns, Bumps/Babes/Toddlers in SSJ	Mrs Liz Gwynn	07770 373282
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB	ssjcinformation@gmail.com	01256 850303
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY	Mrs Jane Shelvey	ejselvey@gmail.com
TENNIS CLUB	Paul & Maria Saunders - ssj.tennis@hotmail.co.uk	07577 557850
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING	Mrs Margaret Cramer	850390
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB	Mr Len Duncie	07860 435 831
	or Mr Paul Hamilton	07917 005862
YOGA in SSJ Village Hall	Mrs Jacqui Morris	01256 881336
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB	Mr Graham Welsby	07970 182319
FOOTBALL CLUB	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk	07399 213133
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com	07528 726248
	www.piccolopsn.com	
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mr Stuart Maughan	01256 883858
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING	Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com	
BALLET at SSJ Village Hall	Jenni Stafford	jenni@jsba.uk
SSJ ALLOTMENTS WARDEN	mikegreaves@co-hort.co.uk	
VENUE BOOKINGS:		
St Stephen's Hall	Carol Ellis	07960 049189
MS Village Hall		07759 064220
SSJ Village Hall	Shawna Campbell	07526 954835
The Chute Pavilion		
Royal British Legion		
HEALTH CARE		
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST		473202
HANTSDOC		01189 365592
BRAMBLYS GRANGE		467778
CHINEHAM SURGERY		479244
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE		329021
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY		881228
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY		01189 814166
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY		399710
MORELAND SURGERY		0118 9816661
EDUCATION		
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST	Mr Matt Walsh (Head teacher)	850062
SSJ C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL	Ms Vickie Alvis (Head teacher)	01256 850180
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Jamie Carroll	473379
PUBLIC SERVICES		
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		0808 2787829
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES		0345 484950
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)		0871 121 0190
LIBRARIES	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

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

villagermagazine@gmail.com

07703 720961

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RAINBOW

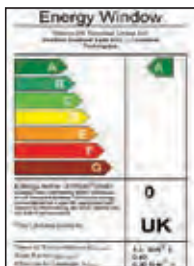
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