



The Villager

April 2020

Sherbornes and Pamber



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“Lockdown”

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years
of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the
housebound.

Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call
on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and
Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down
and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at

their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to
a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the
soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to
live now.

Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your
panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing.
Spring is coming.
And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

March 13th 2020”

Do you need help with your shopping, getting to medical appointments, or are feeling
isolated and would like a neighbour in the village to phone you for a friendly chat? Also
if you are unable to walk your dog.....

There are some lovely, compassionate local people who are happy to help you
Send me your name and phone number and I will put you in touch with them.
Julie (The Editor) 01256 851003

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
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Contacts

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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SSJ Mrs Penny Mayo
MS Mrs Cally Morris
Pamber Mrs Leonie Browne

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BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE POLICE

PCSO LUKE EDWARDS
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NEAREST JOB CENTRE

LOCAL GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
RAINBOWS
BROWNIES
GUIDES
CUBS
MOTHER AND TODDLER
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY
TENNIS CLUB
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

YOGA in SSJ Village Hall
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB
FOOTBALL CLUB
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)

VENUE BOOKINGS:

St Stephen's Hall
MS Village Hall

SSJ Village Hall

The Chute Pavilion

HEALTH CARE

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

EDUCATION

THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PUBLIC SERVICES

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)
LIBRARIES

DIAL-A-RIDE

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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

March 2020 Julie Crawley villagemagazine@gmail.com 01256 851003



CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In light of Government guidance around non-essential contact, ALL public worship is suspended until further notice.

We will livestream services from the Rectory on Sundays at 10am so that you can join us from home.

Visit our website at <https://swpchurch.churchbuilder.org.uk> or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/swpchurch.

Claiming Dates

Due To the Covid-19 Virus all events in April may well be cancelled or postponed until a future date. At the time of going to press Government protocols have been changing on a daily basis so please check with the different organisations as to whether events are still running

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are many bulletins being issued ranging from accurate to misleading.

Hampshire County Council continues to adhere to national guidance as issued by the NHS and Public Health England; we signpost people to the most up to date information and advice and we have a dedicated web page to help you - www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus

Cllr Rhyddian Vaughan MBE
Callveva Division
Hampshire County Council
fb.com/tellrhyddian



NeighbourCare needs you!

Could you help a neighbour in need? Our volunteer drivers and befrienders help elderly local folk get to hospital appointments, the doctors or an exercise class or shopping trip. This keeps our 'neighbours' independent and healthy. We visit lonely and isolated older 'neighbours' and share a cup of tea and a chat. If you have a few hours or more to spare, we would love to hear from you. Why not contact us to find out more and find out how rewarding it is to volunteer. As one of our volunteers said recently "It's good to feel you are helping people to keep their independence". NeighbourCare would be delighted to hear from you.

T: 01256 423855 E: info@neighbourcare.com V: www.neighbourcare.com or find us on Facebook Reg.Charity 1154382

St Andrew's Sherborne St John

All Saints Monk Sherborne

The Priory Pamber End

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

Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Watch

DOG POO The actions of a few very inconsiderate people cause a great nuisance to many others right across the Borough and council officers advise they will be conducting another campaign against offenders. The Borough Council have supplied us with a range of leaflets and signs which will appear around the village hopefully these will have some effect. We are also expecting a few visits from the Community Safety Patrol Officers and the more reports made from our village the more attention we will get. Elsewhere I have seen "professional" dog carers with several animals on leads but rarely do they visit the bins before leaving. One such person was seen at the Chute with 8 animals on leads. Report to 01256 844844 on ALL deposits found – location, date and time

discovered and of course if you witness the offence a description of owner, dog and any vehicle involved this will get us more attention from the Community Patrol and Safety Officers. Please help make SSJ a Poo Free Zone.

Now for our more usual subjects we seem to have had a quiet spell but the police report for February has not yet been received. The spate of mindless breaking of windows during late last year thankfully seems to have stopped short of SSJ, at least there have been no reports since early January.

We are moving on with issuing window stickers etc to new members but any other members may request these by e.mailing me or one of the co-ordinators a new list will be on the village website.



We now have a new beat officer PCSO Luke Edwards who is very keen to meet his area residents and attend our meetings. Finally if you see any suspicious vehicles or persons do please report to 101 and myself I will pass on to Luke and follow up.

Ted Wilkinson.
(SSJ area co-ordinator for NHW)

ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com or 01256 850891

Sherbornes with Pamber

I have just started reading *The Lord of the Rings* to my children. In chapter two, Gandalf the wizard tells Frodo the hobbit that the Dark Lord Sauron is gathering strength again.

'I wish it need not have happened in my time,' said Frodo.

'So do I,' said Gandalf, 'and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.'

When I wrote last month's article, I had little idea that I would find myself, just a couple of months after I arrived, as a parson in a pandemic. COVID-19 has now touched all of us in some way. People are having to work from home. Families have had to cancel long-anticipated holidays. Weddings have been postponed. Parishioners over a certain age or with underlying health conditions have decided not to attend services for the foreseeable future. Those working in healthcare are under pressure as they plan for contingencies and have the uncertainty of what they will face when they go back in for their next shift. My mother lives in Cyprus. She was planning to visit at the end of March. It would have been her first opportunity to see us in our new home and spend time with her grandchildren in a year, but she was not able to leave Cyprus.

COVID-19 has shattered the illusion that through our technological advances, we are able to control nature, rather than being subject to it. We constantly relate to the world through technology and the result is that we have become blind to the existence of anything outside of the world we can experience through technology. COVID-19 has opened our eyes to that reality again and is confronting us with our own mortality.

In a recent sermon, we considered the words of the apostle Paul: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5.1). In our present circumstances, we could end up becoming slaves to thinking that we have to earn God's approval by trying to keep rules or being more religious. The result can be fear that we haven't done enough. Paul writes: "But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope." Paul doesn't use the word 'hope' in the way we do: "I hope I won't get sick." Biblical hope is certainty about the future. God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ and lived in perfect obedience to the law he gave human beings. As we remember on Good Friday and Easter Day, he bore the punishment for the way human beings have broken that law when he died on the cross, and he rose again, showing that death had been defeated. God counts those who trust in Christ as righteous, as having kept the requirements of his law. Ask a Christian you know why they have peace despite COVID-19.

The freedom to which God calls us is very different from the idea of freedom that is widespread in our society, which is the freedom to do as we choose

without limits. We see the result of that in supermarket shelves stripped bare and online delivery slots booked up three weeks ahead, leaving the poorest, those with limited mobility, and those without internet access, with nothing. The apostle Paul writes: 'You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself"' (Galatians 5.13). We are set free to serve; we are liberated to love.

The Government has advised that we all increase social distancing measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). In light of their latest guidance, the Archbishops have advised that public worship is suspended until further notice. I will live-stream services from the Rectory on Sundays at 10am. Please visit our website: <https://swpchurch.churchbuilder.org.uk>. Even though we are not meeting together physically, we still want to serve our community. If you are socially distancing or self-isolating, please get in touch if you would like a chat on the telephone or need someone to get food or medication for you and leave it on your doorstep.

We may well wish that COVID-19 need not have happened in our time, but what will you decide to do with the time that is given you? Will you use it to make sure the future is something you eagerly await, and to serve one another?

Daniel Newman

Rector

rector.sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com
Tel: 01256 541607

YOUR HOSPITAL NEEDS YOU

I am sorry to have to inform you that most of our Spring and Summer fund-raising events have been cancelled due to the current circumstances, including the Classic Car Rally and The Hampshire Country and Garden Festival. This will leave a large hole in funds available for the support we give. Ironically, this comes at the moment our hospitals need us the most.

You have been so generous in the past making Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover Hospitals what they are today. At this critical moment as we teeter on the brink, our doctors, nurses and health care workers are about to **dig deeper** than they ever have before to keep our community safe. We are now asking you to **dig deeper** in order to help them with this massive task.

The Hampshire Medical Fund has always existed to buy medical equipment that falls outside the NHS funding remit whether this is because of time or cost. The below equipment list will deliver, over the next weeks and months, either life-changing or life-saving results and will give our medics the cutting edge resources they need to tackle the unprecedented situation we are all facing. This is our big moment, and we must make a significant contribution.

The government has made extensive public funding promises and has started to release detailed guidance, but we still await details on what will be funded, how and by when. Therefore, at this point each NHS funded purchase is creating financial uncertainty, which is limiting the hospital's ability to buy more than the absolute essentials to combat Covid-19. Some of this equipment is on lead times of several weeks, it must be ordered and paid for right now.

So please **dig deeper**, if we order the equipment that we know to be currently available, some of it can be arriving at our hospitals within a matter of weeks rather than months.

Every penny counts ... whatever you can give, your donation will be used IMMEDIATELY to fund critical equipment for Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover hospitals as they fight our battle against COVID-19.

"The situation in Hampshire Hospitals (and throughout the UK) is constantly evolving; at the time of writing we have more seriously ill patients than our neighbouring organisations and are working extremely hard to prepare for more. The ability to fund equipment today and have it here expediently is crucial. There is little doubt that we are going to need these resources to save lives. This scenario may last some time, the sooner we can scale up for our response the better" -

Tim Nedas, Consultant Urologist MB
BS FRCS at Hampshire Hospitals
Foundation Trust

The hospitals' needs are shifting on a daily basis, but right now they desperately need your help to buy:-

3 x Mobile X-Ray Units – these will be used specifically for Covid-19 patients meaning we reduce the risk of cross contamination and maintain a safe level of care critically ill patients who do not have Covid-19. £165,000. (£55,000 each)

22 x Intensive care unit hospital beds – high specification for use with ventilated patients. £209,000. (£9,500 each)

14 x Intensive care unit hospital beds – lower specification for use by critically ill patients not yet requiring ventilation. £70,000. (£5,000 each)

1 x Maldi – tof Microbiology machine – identifies organisms that present an MRSA risk amongst other key pathogens informing infection prevention and operational decisions across all three hospitals. £164,203.

2 x Sara Combilizer – allows severely immobile patients to begin rehabilitation whilst still on a ventilator allowing earlier discharge. £25,990 (£12,995 each).

1 x MRI Ventilator and monitoring system for Critical Care and Intensive Care units – allows MRI scans to be performed on ventilating patients. £3,837.

1 x MRI Monitoring System for Cardiology and Critical Care - allows 'stress' MRI scans to be performed with continual monitoring for critical Cardiac cases. This is not currently possible in Basingstoke, Winchester or Andover hospitals. £41,424.

1 x Cardiac Telemetry Monitoring system for Acute Assessment Unit and Ambulatory Care Unit. Allows patients to move through the emergency department ("ED") more quickly and to be monitored in the ambulatory care unit ("ACU") - £39,290.

1 x Transthoracic Echo machine for Acute Cardiology Unit – This machine would allow Andover Hospital to perform cardiac echo scans on Covid-19 patients rather than transfer them to Basingstoke or Winchester hospitals, as the Andover hospital machine has recently broken. £37,000.

1 x Airvo 2 Optiflow System for Children's Ward - This piece of equipment is highly tuned to deliver humidified oxygen effectively to babies and children who are extremely unwell with respiratory infections. £2,475.

Emergency cleaning staff, and overtime costs - we would like to have the discretion to pay for vital support staff, in consultation with the CEO and CFO of our NHS Trust. £tbc

We are eternally grateful for the ongoing support of all our incredible Hampshire Medical Fund supporters, please do forward this plea to anyone in Hampshire who might also be able to help and please once again accept our heartfelt thanks as we ask you to dig deeper...

Please go to
<https://www.hampshiremedicalfund.org>

or send your donation to the Hampshire Medical Fund bank account :-

Hampshire Medical Fund
Ref - Dig Deeper
Sort code – 30-90-53
Account number 00770720

Please take care of yourselves, and thank you for your support at this immensely challenging time.

With very best wishes,

Peter G. Walsh
Head of Fundraising
Hampshire Medical Fund

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Hampshire Hospitals*

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For help contact Amanda Hayman

For all other legal queries please call
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Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

What a confusing world we are living in at the moment. Brexit dominated the news for many a long month, taken over by the numerous horrendous storms that swept the country causing tragic devastation to communities often more than once. Now Corona Virus has taken control in more ways than one. As I write, there is talk of over 70's needing to self isolate for their own protection, European countries implementing draconian measures in an attempt to halt the onward march of the disease and panic buying to ludicrous levels. However, many local communities are setting up support groups to help elderly and vulnerable people at this very difficult time. Let's hope the UK soon returns to stability and sanity.

One constant is that Pamber Forest continues to be very wet which has put me off stepping in there. But, thank goodness, Spring is on the way. My magnolia is shooting, blossom is clearly visible as you drive down the A340 between the Pambers and flowers are appearing in the garden. A lovely sight with so much gloom around and the lighter evenings due too!

Local choir activity is already being disrupted in the light of current health concerns. Tadley Singers scheduled

concert on 4th April has been cancelled and it is possible the weekly rehearsals may also be disrupted. The committee are particularly concerned as many of the singers are more elderly and, potentially, at risk. At the moment, the West Berks Rock Choir events and rehearsals are unaffected, helped by a younger age grouping. Two charity concerts remain viable currently. The first is a one hour concert at Brightwalton Church, north of Newbury on 28th March, 7pm. Money raised will be split between the village ASPIRE project and the West Berks Rock Choir charity of Bucket List Wishes. Ticket price is £15 complete with a fish and chip supper and drink from the bar. The second is a VE Day concert, entitled 'Let's Celebrate', on Friday 8th May, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Thatcham. Included will be favourite wartime audience participation songs. A free, advance ticket is necessary for this event due to venue size restrictions.

Pamber Folk and Acoustic Club continue to hold events with the next one scheduled for 3rd April 2020, assuming Corona Virus doesn't intervene. It takes place at 7:30 pm in St Stephens Hall, Little London. Please support their efforts.

Reports have been received of a white Transit van, registration ME03 LVT, driving around in the early hours checking out properties. The driver has been wearing a high vis vest to try to look legitimate whilst having a hood covering his face. Please report sightings to the Police.

There are still no minutes for the December 2019 Parish Council meeting on the website. However, January and February minutes are available and include reports that the budget for St Stephen's Hall would be increased from £500 to £2,500 which would cover both running costs and maintenance. Pamber Parish Council in conjunction with Mortimer West End agreed to the joint purchase of a speed indicator device, with each parish having equal use of it. Parish gates are to be installed which should help reduce traffic speeds and it is hoped that enhanced road markings will also be carried out. Quotes for the repair of St Stephen's Hall roof are being sought. The next scheduled meeting will be on 9th April at St Stephen's Hall and the AGM will be on 11th May at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

BREATHE EASY

ASTHMA UK AND BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT GROUP

News from BLF

It's easy to feel down when suffering from a chronic illness. Check out blf.org.uk to find some uplifting blogs and vlogs from other people with chronic lung conditions to see how they have improved their life and wellbeing.

Local news

Our February meeting was well attended, we were happy to meet some new members.

The guest speaker was Claire Gill, a Macmillan dietitian.

Claire talked us through the minefield of misinformation about good and bad

foods to help reassure us about healthy eating. A good helping of common sense, eating a variety of foods including plenty of vegetables, sensible portion sizes and occasional treats was the main point. Advice for poor appetites, dry mouths and other complications caused by our lung conditions was freely given; including how to enjoy our food.

Two ladies from the Respiratory Team from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust came along to meet our members. They will be giving talks and answering questions throughout the year.

Trish, our friendly fitness instructor, put us through ten minutes of chair exercises. Using resistance bands Trish

taught us some simple exercises we can manage at home.

It was a busy day, tea break flew by with people chatting to friends and adding their names to lists for forthcoming outings.

Next Meeting

You will be welcome to come along to The Shaftesbury Room, Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LT 2pm on Tuesday April 28th

Our guest speaker will be Peter Jones from Neighbourhood Care

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month except December.



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Elections

There will be elections in May to appoint 5 Councillors for the next 4-year period. If you wish to stand for the Council please contact me or electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk for information.

Parish Matters

Unfortunately, there has been some fly tipping around the Parish roads and facilities, something which is increasing throughout Hampshire and which can only be stopped if we all take it seriously. So, if you see anything suspicious telephone the police, the Borough Council or e mail me with details of where, when and hopefully vehicle registration numbers - a photo on your mobile would be great!!! Let us stop these anti-social people ruining our environment and remember if you arrange for rubbish to be removed by a contractor make sure you see their licence!!

The Bus Shelter at West End going towards Tadley has been reported as in need of repair so I need to hear from residents using this stop so the Parish Council can review the situation.

The Parish has a new PCSO, Luke Edwards, so any problems please contact him via 101.

VE Day 8th May Celebrations

It is hoped that a VE celebration can be held in Sherborne St John with the new Rector and residents already discussing what could be arranged. However more people will be needed if it is to be successful so please contact me clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk or Daniel Newman rector.sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com if you can help or have any ideas to make the event special.

HCC Men's Health Group Initiative

HCC has started a new group tasked with encouraging better physical and mental health in men. Volunteers are needed to join this new group as raising men's awareness of health and welfare issues is essential. If you could help please contact me or Rhydian.vaughan@hants.gov.uk to find out what is involved.

Roads/Footpaths

With the extreme weather conditions there has been problems with mud and water on the roads especially on Cranes Road but Antlers Ltd are working very hard to ensure this is kept down. Please report problems to me and don't enter the building site as it is dangerous. Problems on Manor Road with builders leaving mud on road and paths has been reported to BDBC enforcement team for resolution.

Parents parking on Vyne Road when going to the Village school is still of major concern as it obstructs the road and blocks visibility on a very narrow road. Hampshire County Council are contacting the school for an update on plans to alleviate the problem.

Repairs to Vyne road and other roads around should be completed in the next couple of months as weather conditions have hampered contractors being able to carry out the work.

Please continue to complain to the County Council website to keep up the pressure to fix road problems.

Hampshire County Council are about to make a decision on re-routing footpath 502 so if you feel strongly please register your objections with tara.pothecary@hants.gov.uk.

Lengths man Scheme

Just a reminder to let me know if there are any issues which need to be added to their work schedule.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

There has been some fly-tipping at the Recreation ground so please let us know if you see any suspicious vehicles. The Parish Council have asked the Parish Clerk to look into the cost of installing CCTV on the Pavilion. While the Parish Council is still in the process of negotiations with the SSJ Tennis Club on rental of the courts the local school has signified that they would like to use them one morning a week for sports. The new pitch drainage will be started soon when the area will be cordoned off from the public. There are a couple of 'taster' sessions on Saturdays for a fitness art called 'Qigong' !!

Finances

Parish finances are good with enough to carry out all the projects agreed, with the Chute Recreation facilities generating sufficient funds to ensure that all is kept in good condition and repair.

Don't forget everyone is welcome to attend the Parish Council's monthly meetings so if you have any issues you wish to raise please come along to the Wednesday evening meeting or e mail clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Nina from the Premier Shop/ Post Office on Abbey Road has let us know that they now are stocking a full compliment of newspapers.

Penny Mayo

Planning Applications received February 2020

Application no	Address	Description of work	Actions
19/03405/HSE	5 Watercress Cottage Dark Lane	Erection of single storey rear & side ext plus garage doors to carport	No objection to the side extension although this is disappointing as it is a brand new property & development. We do however object to the garage doors for the carport which will distract from the uniformity and character of the overall development
20/00285/HSE	10 Vyne Road	Single storey rear ext , new dormer to rear & vault bedroom ceiling in master bedroom	No objections
20/00282/LBC	The Vyne	Removal of picture rail south bedroom, install 2 rails & redecoration of south & gallery bedroom	No objections
20/00248/FUL	The Vyne	Extensive outdoor works re flooding, spillways, footbridge, brick flood wall, sewage pipe etc	No objections
20/00307/AGPD	Weybrook Farm	Erection farm machinery store	No objections
19/02470/FUL	Bobs farm	Amendments requested by planning dept to original application	See D Whitmarsh e mail No objections
20/00128/PIP	A340	Re 8 houses on Aldermaston Road	PC already objecting on similar grounds to the previous PIP application
Trees:			
T/00062/20/TCA	5 Vyne Meadows		No objections
T/00086/20/TCA	Recreation Ground Chute	Remove white poplar	No objections
T/00088/20/DDD	Weybrook Willows	Replace fallen willow	No objections

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 2020

Parish Council elections have been postponed until next year 2021.

However there may be a need to co-op someone to the Council if any current Councillor does not wish to continue so if you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk or telephone 0118 933 2379.

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North Hampshire Hospital NHS Trust

Despite all of us wishing we had a shiny new hospital, that is still some way off. In the meantime the Hospital Trust is concentrating on the present facilities and enhancing patient experience with targeted improvements.

Not only have emergency departments been significantly improved both in Basingstoke and also in Winchester – those with accident prone children will perhaps have noticed the lovely child centred murals in both locations – truly inspired! More importantly and less obvious has been the recruitment of additional key staff, for example just in Basingstoke alone there are six extra senior nurses in the Emergency Department, with four more on the way. In addition there are six more consultants, who on completion of their training moved away from here, but have now chosen to return to us - we must be doing something right! The

Basingstoke team recently received the award for Learning Environment of the Year from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. This is a very prestigious award and recognises the amazing work the team do in training and developing clinicians.

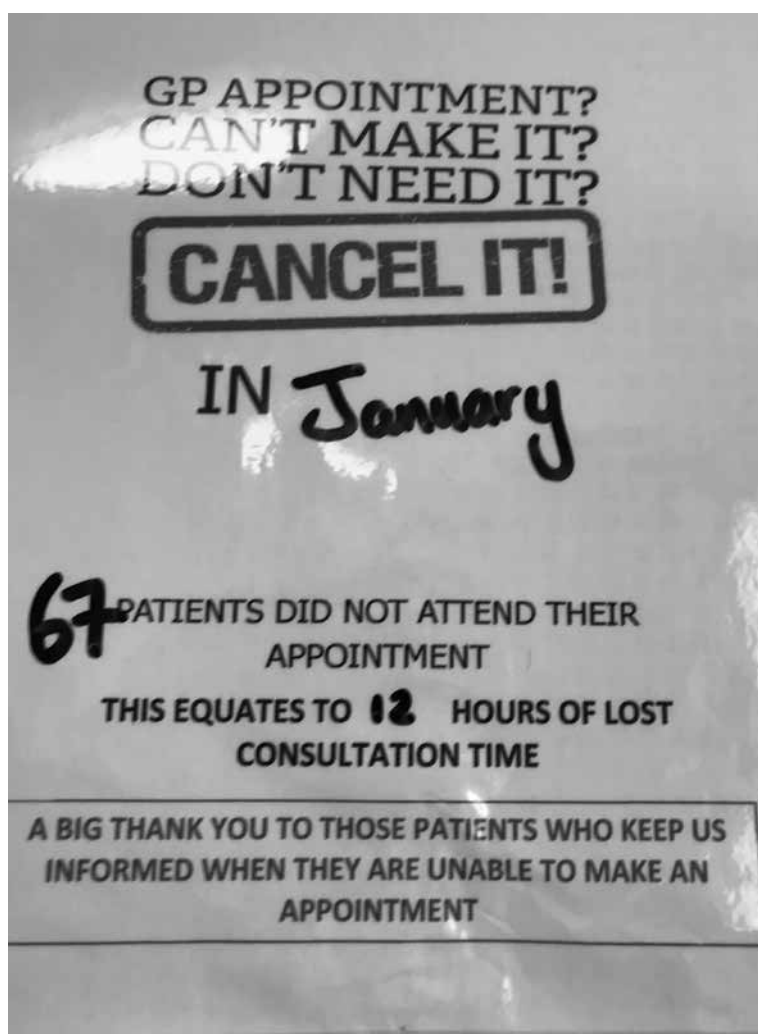
The departments in both locations now have 'rapid assessment and decision' units, along with full ambulatory facilities. However few know that in Basingstoke, we also now have a 'flu analyser', which helps in rapid diagnosis, which means that those affected can be quickly given the correct treatment as well as being isolated thus preventing further contagion.

A further change in Basingstoke involves changes to the 'high dependency' unit, with the creation of two new state of the art isolation rooms equipped with comprehensive pendant treatment modules. These rooms are

designed so that they can be operated with either positive or negative air pressure, so able to handle, both cases of highly infectious patients, as well as those who need to be protected from infection, such as those undergoing intensive chemo therapy. In addition, this will help the Trust to support acute patients as well as helping increase our pseudomyxoma cancer surgical treatments – a field in which Basingstoke is world renown.

Anyone who has previously visited the radiotherapy unit (located behind the Candover clinic) would have been aware of the large reception area. This is now being reduced to provide two additional rooms where patients can relax in private, along with a further room where patients can have private consultations - often needed to help them cope with the side effects from treatment

Keith Bunker



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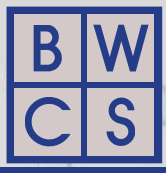
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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

As this article is published, we will be nearing the end of the Spring Term – one which has been notable for the high number of wet playtimes!! Hopefully the sun will shine for the last afternoon of term, when we have our annual Easter Bonnet Parade and enjoy looking at all the creative and original pieces of headgear that the children (with a little help from parents!) have produced.



Congratulations to all of the children who took part in sporting competitions this term, and in particular to the year 5/6 badminton team who qualified for the County finals. Teams from years 3&4, and 5&6, competed in tag rugby festivals and a Key Stage 1 team took part in a football festival. Everyone ran a mile at the Chute Pavilion on 13th March to raise money for Sport Relief – a big ‘Thank You’ to all the friends, family and villagers who sponsored the children.

We celebrated Book Week in March with a number of different book-themed events. The author David Hammersmith visited the school and ran workshops for the Infant classes. The staff read excerpts from their favourite books, and parents took part in a ‘relax and read’ session. We also had a successful book-swap event. At the end of the week, all the children came into school dressed as their

favourite book characters, and we had great fun guessing them all!

We are always interested to find out what our ex-pupils are doing now, so if you used to come to the school, or are a parent of an ex-pupil, please do email us at info@ssj-school.co.uk to let us know what you are up to. If you are happy for us to include you on our website, please indicate this on your email.

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent

URGENT APPEAL

March 2020

Dear Readers

It is 170 years since the doors to our wonderful village school opened. As you can imagine the building and outside grounds have seen much change during that time, reflecting the ever-evolving needs and resources available to our local children. I am writing to you on behalf of the Sherborne St. John School Association with that front of mind. We have been tasked by the school to support them in fundraising for the development of the children’s outdoor space. The children’s existing play equipment has reached the end of its natural life and will need to be removed from the school playing field. As a result of continued funding pressures there is unfortunately no additional budget available to fund the replacement. This therefore means we are faced with removal and replacement costs falling solely on the School Association.

Our fundraising therefore focusses on generating the money to replace the existing outdoor adventure trail and, if possible, we hope to install a small area

of running track. Naturally this type of equipment helps the schools continued commitment to and promotion of the benefits of good health and an active lifestyle. We have sought various quotes and have secured a final and best price, which is still over £23,000. This is unfortunately over 30% higher than originally estimated, which has resulted in a stretching target that is unachievable within our normal fundraising cycle.

We have already made some great progress toward this target but still fall short by approximately £12,000. With this target in mind, whilst school level fundraising will remain a priority, we are approaching local organisations and families with links to the school to ask for their support for our fundraising project. We would kindly ask you to consider making a one-off financial contribution to support our efforts. We are keen to secure these funds and progress with the project to ensure that our school children do not lose this valuable activity and exercise trail.

Thank you for the time you have taken to consider this request. If you can help us with any financial contribution, no matter what amount, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Karen Payne, Headteacher on 01256 850180 or Colette Vonka, Secretary of Sherborne St John School Association on 07551 627667 if you are able to assist or would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

Jo Berry

Chairperson,
Sherborne St. John School Association



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The Priory Primary School



The Priory Primary school in Pamber End has been evaluating its future direction and on Tuesday 10th March, the headteacher – Mr. Stewart, addressed the parents to share the vision for the future of the school. As a keen advocate for community involvement, Mr. Stewart wanted all the stakeholders of the school to be involved in shaping the vision and so to achieve this aim, the Priory has encapsulated and amalgamated ideas from the parents, the pupils and the staff at the school, whilst also taking in the recommendations from the recent (highly positive) OFSTED inspection.

The newly formed vision statement: *'Inspiring a Love of Learning'* has become the school's new mantra, emblazoned across the walls of the school, but also permeating through to school's evolving approaches to the curriculum. Equally, the staff of the school are developing new approaches to teaching that inspires the children to learn more deeply, which is summed up by their current focus on Writing. This was inspired by Bob Cox's 'Searching for Excellence' – where

quality (challenging) texts inspire the writing of the children. Although early days, the school has seen some really incredible writing being produced from the children.



In a physical sense, the new vision of inspiring a love of learning has been established through the Priory's PTA. Sharing the vision for the future – the PTA have invested heavily in developing the school's library, which is now a modern, vibrant and exciting center for learning, featuring a wide range of books, including high impact texts. A special thanks must go to Mrs Jo Swali and Stickerscape for their fantastic help with the impactful artwork around the school. Further investment in the library will include creating research bays, purchasing a range of magazines and journals, plus equipping the library with audiobooks and e-readers.

Throughout the whole process of establishing a new vision and making the vision become a reality, Mr. Stewart's aspiration to make the Priory more involved with the community has paid dividends and the new library is just one example, there are many exciting projects that the Priory will be involved with in the future – the school will keep us posted.

Mary, Sue, Kate and the rest of the family would like to thank everyone for their cards, kind words, love and support following the loss of beloved husband and father Dennis Plester.

The thoughts and prayers of so many people are greatly appreciated.



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Cut out or photocopy the form below if you are able to help any neighbours who may be self-isolating due to the coronavirus

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My phone number is

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Sherborne St John

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2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Please join us for a trail through some of our lovely village gardens

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SSJ Tennis Club AGM



This has been postponed for the time being

Tennis Club Event

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As these will be outside we are hoping to still hold these

: Drills with Andy the coach

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(for those members who have opted in)

New and previous members - All very welcome

WEATHER – Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere

The world receives incoming radiation from the sun and the ground warms up during the day and cools by infra-red radiation at night, but Carbon Dioxide molecules in the atmosphere reflect some of the outgoing radiation back. Mankind has broken the balance by increasing the proportion of Carbon Dioxide so there is now a nett tendency for temperatures to rise.

The atmosphere is composed of a mixture of gases, Nitrogen being the main element comprising 78.05% of the total, Oxygen comes next with 20.95%; then there is Argon at 0.93% and Carbon Dioxide currently totalling 0.04%. There are a few other gases with very small amounts, but significantly varying amounts of water vapour are very essential for enabling life to survive here.

The ratio of these gases has not always been the same. 2.8 billion years ago there was very little Oxygen because the world was out-gassing Methane (which readily combines with Oxygen and so creates Carbon Dioxide and water). A very long time ago cyanobacteria started to form in warm shallow waters of the sea and, under the action of sunlight, the cyanobacteria produces Oxygen (and still does). Then, about 2.8 billion years ago, the production of Methane decreased allowing Oxygen to increase to roughly its current proportion resulting in an environment that encouraged the development of life as we now know it.

The proportion of Carbon Dioxide has varied throughout time being noticeably low during ice ages and higher during interglacials; to investigate past levels very deep ice cores in places like Greenland and the Antarctic have been taken and analysis of the constituents of the interstitial air in the ice (there is a question of accuracy and reliability of the samples).

It is accepted that prior to the Industrial Revolution (viz. c.1700) there were about 280 parts per million of Carbon Dioxide (0.028%) in the atmosphere. Accurate analyses of the gases in the atmosphere have been made since about 1950 (especially at Mauna Loa in Hawaii). By 1958 the figure had risen to 315 parts (0.031%) and by 2010 it was up to 385 parts (0.038%). In 2018 the figure was up to 410 parts (0.04%) per million.

Growing vegetation takes Carbon Dioxide out of the air as part of the process of photosynthesis, but then ultimately the vegetation dies and the Carbon Dioxide is released back into the air. It has usually been claimed that the Tropical Forests, with their abundant growth, are the 'Lungs of the World'; but logically the forests produce abundantly but then decay abundantly with little nett benefit. There is an annual cycle with the amount of Carbon Dioxide varying by about 1% with a high value in the Northern Spring and a low value in the Northern Autumn – this is due the northern landmasses producing

vast amounts of vegetation during the Summer absorbing Carbon Dioxide in the process. The world had achieved a reasonable balance until the Industrial Revolution came along and man started to need increasing amounts of energy, and that was from fossil fuels which, in combustion, create large amounts of Carbon Dioxide.

I calculate that the atmosphere of the world weighs about 4500,000,000 million tons and of that Carbon Dioxide weighs in at 1845,000 million tons and to reduce that level by 25% (to near 1940/50 levels) some 460,000 million tons of CO₂ would need to be removed from the atmosphere. The problem is how to do it and what to do with it when it has been removed!

The main source of CO₂ is the burning of fossil fuels (coal and oil) but a serious additional source of CO₂ is cement production – production of one ton of cement involves the release of almost one ton of CO₂ due to the chemical conversion of calcium carbonate to lime plus the energy required so to do.

According to 2018 statistics the world's largest producer of CO₂ is China (27.5%), followed by the USA (14.2%) India (7.25%) Russia (4.6%) Japan (3.1%) and Germany (2.1%). The UK lies twelfth in the list with a fraction over 1% (well below that of Saudi Arabia).

David Cullum

Basingstoke & Deane Council introduces fines for idling motorists

It's not fine to idle – that's the message from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who is set to introduce new powers to penalise motorists idling their vehicles.

Stepping up a gear to tackle air pollution in the borough, the council will issue fixed penalty notices to those motorists caught idling while stationary on a public highway from Monday 23 March.

The notices will be issued by the council's civil enforcement officers, community safety patrol officers and environmental officers while carrying out their normal duties.

The £20 fines will be a last resort and a notice will only be issued when a motorist refuses to switch off their engine.

It's been over year a since the council launched its Clean Air Campaign encouraging people in the borough to reduce air pollution by using their vehicles less, to stop idling their car engines and to think about the ways in

which they can reduce pollution in their own homes.

The campaign has seen the council and partners work with local schools to encourage parents and children to travel to school differently, reduce idling outside the school gates, work with taxi drivers to reduce idling and encourage the use of ultra-low emission taxi vehicles.

Together with partners including Hampshire County Council's school travel team, Basingstoke Clean Air Campaign and Stagecoach, the council has also supported awareness and education events giving out over 5,000 anti-idling stickers to motorists to place on their car windows.

The new move to issue fixed penalty notices supports the council's Climate Emergency declaration last September to work towards a carbon neutral borough by 2030.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said:

"Leaving your engine on while waiting in your car contributes to unnecessary emissions that affect levels of air pollution and greenhouse gases. Many motorists are simply not aware they can make a difference by switching off their engine while waiting.

"Our primary objective is to raise awareness and educate motorists to switch off their engines while waiting, but it is also important they understand that vehicle idling is an offence. These powers enable us to issue a fixed penalty notice for a fine of £20 and these will be issued by our officers when required."

For more information on the new powers and what they mean for motorists, why the council is tackling engine idling, information on the Clean Air Campaign and myth busting visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/clean-air

For further information on this release please contact: Senior Communications Officer Krissy Lloyd on 01256 845240 or email krissy.lloyd@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Bert's Blog



coat is fairly shower proof as it has been severely tested recently. The Mrs is almost unrecognisable in her wet weather gear with only a ghostly face visible inside her hood. Her hibernation instinct has come to the fore and the Boss has a devil of a job extricating her from the house. I have more success persuading her to come for walkies to the lake where she can fossick about clearing debris from the spillways and streams and ensuring water flows in the

Rain, rain and more rain. An oversea trip to stay in my chic chien shack has not improved the weather, the rain continues to fall. Luckily my luxurious fur

direction it should. When she gets too enthusiastic it usually ends in disaster... wet knees, wet feet or falling flat on her back hauling branches out of the water. Once out in the wet weather nothing seems to deter her from getting wetter or muddier and for once she and I see eye to eye, especially when she has fallen over and I can give her face a good cleaning off while she is laying there recovering! However she is not as enamoured with my cleaning method as I am and usually belts out a loud "get offfff" when I try to help. I also give invaluable help with removing the broken branches from the water but my stacking system is not up to scratch yet. When the branches are log size the Boss gets busy with his noisy cutting machine and I have to stand well back until they are reduced to bite size, even then I

sometimes have trouble hauling them into place. The Mrs helps and eventually we load it all on the trailer and take it back to the barn for stacking in the dry. By this time we are all dog tired, my coat is usually quite wet and I seem to be covered in sawdust and mud in equal measures. The Boss and the Mrs usually fair a bit better and can shed their wet gear before entering their domain but bath time for me looms in the future..... I can feel it in the air and in the eyes of the Mrs as she regards me with that look which bodes ill for dirty dogs. It's out with the perfumed shampoo and hairdryer.....I can feel a woofter moment coming on. This constant rain brings out my natural perfume but the Mrs feels she can improve on that with her bottles and potions so I comply just to keep the peace.....roll on summer!

SSJ History Society

Sherborne St John School Celebrates Empire Day



Entries made about one hundred years ago in Headmaster George Hammond's School Log Book describe the annual celebration of Empire Day. Towards the end of Queen Victoria's reign it was said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire", and the map below illustrates the truth of this statement; the Empire in dark shading. Suggestions were made that a day should be identified on which children would be "reminded that they formed part of the British Empire and that they might think with others in land across the sea what it meant to be sons and daughters of such a Glorious Empire. The strength of the Empire depended on them, and they must never forget it".

It was not until some time after the death of Queen Victoria, on 22nd January 1901, that it began to be celebrated in schools, and the day chosen was the Queen's birthday, 24th May.

Mr Hammond's entry for 24th May 1909 reads "The children assembled at the usual time and after saluting the flag sang several patriotic songs. They were then addressed on "The Duties of Empire".

In the afternoon they marched to The Vyne and were addressed by retired General Sir William Knox on their heritage, their duties and their flag. Retired Admiral Noel Digby also spoke a few words to them. After singing "Flag of Britain" and "Hearts of Oak" they were regaled with buns and lemonade. They were then allowed to wander about the beautiful grounds and gardens. A very pleasant afternoon was spent. The buns and lemonade were undoubtedly well earned!

Similar celebrations at The Vyne took place every year and they were usually attended by school children from Monk Sherborne and Bramley in addition to Sherborne St John. When the 1st world war started in 1914 it was no longer possible to be entertained at The Vyne, but the celebrations continued at the School. For example, on 24th May 1916 Mr Hammond wrote that General Sir William and Lady Knox, and the Rector (Rev. Devereux Chute) attended. He said that the General had given a good address about the Empire and patriotism. This was in fact the General's last Empire Day speech because he died in December 1916 at the age of 69.

Both General Knox and Admiral Digby saw service throughout the world, both having taken part in the Ashantee War in 1874, Gen. Knox with the Royal Artillery and Admiral Digby serving as Commander on 'Rattlesnake'. Previously he had served as Lieutenant on 'Warrior' the first British seagoing ironclad warship, now docked near 'Victory' in Portsmouth's historic dockyard. In 1886 as Captain commanding 'Dreadnought' the future King George V served as one of his lieutenants. In retirement Gen. Knox lived at Hill House (now the Grange) in SSJ, and Adm. Digby at Street Farm House, Bramley.

Empire Day is no longer celebrated as it was a hundred years ago. Times have changed and Empire Day has changed to Commonwealth Day, the second Monday in March, when our Queen Elizabeth sends a special radio message to the youth of the Commonwealth. Unfortunately no lemonade and buns.

SSJHisSoc@Lillydown.net

(This article was written by Pat Linford in 2009. We are republishing it in his memory)



Supporting local families

Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. – Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire

Helping support our community's families and children is a key focus of my recent work as the Member of Parliament covering Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and the Pambers. Families in our constituency are fortunate to have one of the highest rates of employment, as well as the highest rate of marriage in the country and one of the lowest of lone-parent households.

So, as we look to solve the challenges facing our local area today – such as anti-social behaviour, demand for Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and the Pambers' local GPs and schools, and making social care sustainable – I've been writing to Ministers to boost recognition of the fact that many issues can be addressed by taking the best principles and aspirations of the past; namely the familial support that extended, multi-generational, families have provided one another for decades. To do so isn't old fashioned, but ambitious.

I know that many in our community want more support to help working parents look after those they love. One way is reducing National Insurance contributions to let working people keep

more of what they earn, so that's what we did in last month's Budget. By the time you're reading this – into the new financial year – your NI threshold will have been raised to £9,500, giving the 'typical' two-earner working family a £200 tax cut. This is alongside a freeze in fuel duty for the tenth consecutive year – a saving of £1,200 over the last decade for each family car – and a freeze on alcohol duty, which may have saved you even more!

But I've been highlighting that we must be flexible too and, as a society, we must revise the 'typical family' assumption. While families in North East Hampshire are united by where we live, they come in many different shapes and sizes and what works for one family may not work for another.

In many local families, for example, this means one parent providing the care for their children or their parents (or parents-in-law), while the other goes out to work. Yet, though this care is worth more than £1 trillion pounds annually to our economy, many parents tell me they feel that this is often undervalued. This is wrong.

That's why we've increased the transferable tax-free Marriage Allowance to £1,250 – and I trust that will continue – but, sadly, 2.4 million eligible couples currently do not apply. As your MP, I'm here to highlight it – if you think you might be eligible, please apply!

In my view, there can be no more important a job than looking after those you love, but who cannot look after themselves, so I know many want us to go even further. I've asked many Parliamentary Questions on these issues and will continue to do so, but please do let me know your thoughts and what works for you too, on this or anything else, to: email@ranil.uk

For more information, or to share further concerns or ideas, please join the official Facebook group for community support at: [covid.ranil.uk](https://www.facebook.com/covid.ranil.uk) and consider volunteering to help your neighbours at: [ranil.uk/covid](https://www.ranil.uk/covid)

For health advice, please visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

For the latest guidance from HM Government, please visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



Read Easy launched in Basingstoke last July to provide a free, confidential, one to one coaching service for adults who, for whatever reason, are unable to read or who struggle with their reading. We have had a very busy time with the initial recruitment and training of volunteers for coaching and our management team, as well as publicising our service to help those adults in the area who are in need of it.

The sad reality is that 2.4m adults in the UK cannot read, while 2.5m struggle to read, an estimated 7,000 in Basingstoke alone. On a practical level, this means

that even carrying out everyday tasks can be challenging, if not impossible – for example, never going to the doctor as it is too embarrassing to have to read and fill in forms. Being unable to read and write is often associated with depression, isolation, homelessness, crime, low self-esteem and mental health issues.

Last weekend was a milestone for us – we were delighted to have our first two readers complete manual one and are they are now moving onto the second stage of our phonetically based reading programme. We are so proud of them

for working so hard and achieving so much in such a short time. They were both absolutely delighted to be presented with a certificate for their achievement, and described in very moving terms the difference that being able to read has made to their lives.

If you know anyone over 18 who is unable to read or who struggles to read, do please encourage them to make contact with us either by phone on 07952 450789 or by email basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk. We are here and have trained coaches ready to help.

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YOUR LOCAL **ROTARY** **ROUNDUP**

April 2020

Basingstoke Sports Awards

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is proud to have been one of the sponsors of the Basingstoke Sports Awards. Our President Alf McCarthy was pleased to be able to attend. Basingstoke has a wealth of sporting talent over a wide range of sports with world class gold, silver and bronze medal winners amongst them.

North Hampshire Hospital Trust WOW! Awards

The compassion, dedication and skill of staff from across Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust were celebrated during a special WOW! Awards ceremony. Hundreds of nominations come from hospital users or their families and also from their fellow staff. Our Club is very pleased to be one of the sponsors for the WOW awards and President Alf McCarthy attended to present a well-deserved award. The WOW awards are a brilliant way to say thank you to the staff from the Trusts hospitals in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover for their outstanding work

Stroke Prevention Day 16th May 2020

For every 10 people diagnosed with high blood pressure, seven remain undiagnosed and untreated – that is more than 5.5 million people in England alone. **Knowing Your Blood Pressure** helps people to understand the link between high blood pressure and stroke, as well as other risk factors and, crucially, what they can do to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Stroke Prevention is one of several health and wellbeing campaigns that Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland are involved in. We will be holding our Stroke prevention day on May 16th when we could be taking your blood pressure and giving advice.

Look out in next month's Rotary Round Up and Facebook for announcements on venue and times

Symptoms of stroke

Signs of stroke - FAST

Face: Can the person smile? Has their face fallen on one side?

Arms: Can the person raise both arms and keep them there?

Speech problems: Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say? Is their speech slurred?

Time: If you see any of these three signs, it's time to call 999.

The **FAST** test helps to spot the three most common symptoms of stroke. But there are other signs that you should always take seriously. These include:

- Sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body, including legs, hands or feet.
- Difficulty finding words or speaking in clear sentences.
- Sudden blurred vision or loss of sight in one or both eyes.
- Sudden memory loss or confusion, and dizziness or a sudden fall.
- A sudden, severe headache.

If you spot any of these signs of a stroke, don't wait. Call 999 straight away.

Ambulance paramedics are trained in stroke, and will take the person to the best hospital for specialist treatment.



'Happy Easter'



Probuss hears from Local Author and Raconteur

The ability to engulf an audience in laughter is a real skill which Mel Rees easily displays. He was the guest speaker at the latest Probuss Club meeting and yet just spoke off the cuff. He had nothing but his memory to rely on as he thoroughly entertained everyone. There was no specific topic despite his talk having the title "My Family and Other Setbacks" as he gave anecdote after anecdote about his observations of life.

It is not surprising he has been passed on from one club to another so these days he gives over 200 talks each year across the south east of England, sometimes two a day, driving over 30,000 miles in the process. And what good value he gives as he passes from one topic to another with always the amusing aspects of life's experiences coming to the fore.

Living in Ash Vale, or, as he describes it, Upper Ash Vale in Surrey, with a

posh GU postcode, he therefore asserts he cannot catch the Coronavirus and is most disparaging about the neighbouring conurbation of Aldershot. When he had to use a mobile medical unit he asked the nurses if next time instead of using the Tesco car park that they use the one at Waitrose as they would get better quality patients.

A multi faceted individual he acts as a tour guide at the Hoggs Back Brewery and finds it amusing when talking to the visitors, if they hesitate before answering, he knows they lie about where they live. Reigate instead of Redhill, near Horsham instead of Crawley, Hove instead of Brighton – it becomes a double barrelled name of Hove Actually, West Camberley instead of Blackwater.

He has written several books which mirror his view on life and its vagaries especially about politics and his view of



Guardian readers and PC attitudes. His nom de plume is Anthony Mann and despite having one book as the Daily Express book of the month he could not get any literary agent or publisher interested in his outpourings. He had no option but to self publish and set up The Trouser Press. Today several of his books are on their third printing. Naturally all editions were on sale so a steady trade was carried out. But they can also be purchased on Amazon or downloaded as an E-book.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



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Haymarket Family Mediation

Separation and divorce usually involve a major crisis for a family where emotions can run high, especially if there are children to consider.

However, with mediation it can be handled calmly, where both sides work together to find the best solution for them and their children.

Sheila Parkes, who heads Haymarket Family Mediation at Phillips Solicitors incorporating Brain Chase Coles, believes mediation is one of the most sensible and cost-effective ways of resolving family problems when a relationship has broken down as it provides clients with a safe environment for them to meet with a neutral experienced mediator who will assist them in finding a resolution that works for them both.

In fact, for the majority of people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties than going to court, where the outcome can never be accurately predicted. Sheila believes separating couples are the best people to make the decisions that will affect their future and that of their children rather than a judge imposing a decision.

Sheila says “In my experience mediation is an effective way of resolving issues in a dignified, respectful, constructive and co-operative manner. Mutually acceptable solutions can be found even in the most difficult cases, whether the disagreement is about child-care arrangements or how the family assets should be divided.” Sheila and her team at Haymarket Family Mediation are based at Town Gate, 38 London Street, Basingstoke and can offer mediation with clients together, by shuttle (where each client is in a different room), or even by skype – whatever suits the clients more. Sheila is also qualified to see children as part of the mediation process in appropriate cases.

Haymarket Family Mediation is approved by the Legal Aid Agency to offer Legal Aid for those who qualify financially. This is a welcome benefit to clients who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn to for help. Mediation can also be used for cross generational issues such as grandparents.

If you feel that mediation is right for you or to find out more information, please contact Sheila by emailing sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 460830. Details about Haymarket Family Mediation can be found by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation

By putting in place Government contingency measures we intend to continue offering as normal a service as possible throughout the duration of this unprecedented pandemic; and by working together we are confident that we can find solutions to any problems arising, thereby reducing as far as possible any impact on our clients and minimising risks to health.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact one of the following Directors or your usual point of contact:

Max Hope – 07973 159165

Jack Gardener – 07968 082939

Hayley Eachus – 07557 341388

Elizabeth Ford – 07941 076782

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Women's Fellowship

The SSJ Fellowship met at the village hall on Tuesday afternoon 3 March 2020 and welcomed Barbara Cummins to talk about her experiences while “Cycling Around the World on a Bicycle, One Pedal at a Time”, no mean feat for anyone but Barbara is in her 70's and travelled alone for most of the journey. She had kindly agreed to step in to replace the scheduled speaker who was unable to attend to talk about “Learning about Clinical Trials”. Barbara had decided to travel after being made redundant unexpectedly and her talk covered part of the journey including short trips to India and Morocco and a 1,000 mile cycle along the Pacific coast of America.

One of the many highlights of visiting Kerala in S.E. India for Barbara was viewing the beautiful and varied architecture. Kerala is also renowned for its backwaters and is a popular holiday resort. Most of the Christians there are catholic and being wealthy, many in the state are highly educated. Barbara learned from a Catholic family she stayed with that birth control is practiced so families tend not to be large. The family was so welcoming that they took time to dress her in a sari, a process that took longer than 15 minutes. There were some hairy events on the road including having to overtake an elephant who appeared to be sweeping the road but who was actually carrying his food for the day and junctions that turned out to be free-for-alls so crossing was at your own peril. Not so impressive was the amount of rubbish dumped at the sides of the road and the constant noise from traffic. The tea plantations are to be found higher in the hills where the temperatures are cooler. Cultivation is labour intensive as only the top 2 leaves

of each plant are picked, hence the naming of PG Tips. Food at weddings is served on banana leaves and eaten using fingers. “Plates” are topped up by men scooping food from pots carried around. This obviously saves on the washing up!

Barbara did not enjoy her visit into the Moroccan Sahara as much. A long ride by camel into the desert followed by a very cold and uncomfortable night in a tent was not ideal. However, continuing her journey and cycling 25 km downhill, down the Atlas Mountains was fun despite the many potholes as the views were spectacular.

The final part of her talk covered her exploits in the USA. A catchphrase of Seattle is “It's never not raining” and downtown Barbara visited a Kinetic sculpture of an umbrella blown inside out depicting the bad weather suffered. She took photos of the fantastic views of the area whilst walking the rotating glass floor in the Space Needle. She amazed us with pictures of the innovative and colourful glass artworks of Chihuly taken at the exhibition in Chihuly Garden and Glass. She did encounter a few issues on the long cycle ride on the Pacific Coast route, not least of which was the final demise of her tent one night during a thunderstorm while camping by a river in Washington State leaving her huddled awake under the remnants until the storm abated.

She was given a sample of cannabis to try in Oregon where the substance is legal, but perhaps wisely did not indulge. She passed several signposts advising of Tsunami hazardous areas in Clatsop County where they are prepared for the next storm even though the last one occurred back in the 1700's. She arrived at a campsite where all 5 places had been taken. As it was not possible to erect a tent in the surrounding area she

accepted an offer to share a pitch from Ken, a hillbilly with an impressive beard, who it turned out hunted elk for a living. His political opinions were slightly controversial especially his plan for an uprising if he and his gun touting friends disagreed with government policies. Barbara decided to continue her travels the next day despite an invitation to stay and arrived at the coast to spectacular views of the lakes and sea. The worst hill she had to contend with was the 7 Devils hill and she had to push her bike and luggage for most of the climb until she reached the top where she met with amazing views that extended for miles. The 7 mile downhill ride afterwards was a joy. Barbara later visited Luna, a 1,000 year old tree that only survives today because a lady activist lived in it for 2 years until an agreement was reached not to cut it down.

Finally Barbara crossed the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco and after a brief visit to Alcatraz Island to see the prison, she went on to stay in Yosemite. The weather was so cold that milk she bought stayed fresh for 3 days. She paid \$95 to stay the night in a room that was not heated, had no comfort and little bedding. From here she cycled to Sequoia National Park to see the world's largest tree, the General Sherman. Here controlled forest fires are lit to clear dead pine needles and leaves to make way for new growth.

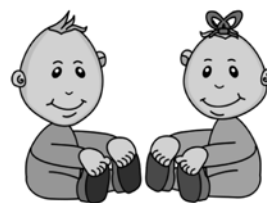
The talk was very much enjoyed and Barbara said she would be more than happy to come back to talk about other places she had visited.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 April at Sherborne St John village hall and will start at 2 pm. The guest speaker, Diana White subject is “Finland, A Very Special Country”. Everyone is welcome.



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