



The Villager

September 2020



Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

Firstly some very sad news – Bert the Labrador died peacefully during a warm summer's night in his much loved garden in Sherborne St John. He was such a favourite amongst the Villager readership and also amongst his many admirers both 2 and 4 legged in Sherborne St John and France. He will be very greatly missed by us all. His final blog is on page 5 of this issue.

Now for some good news: - thanks to the generosity of the 3 Parish Councils, our County Counsellor, the Sherbornes with Pamber Parochial Church Council, the Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall and many individuals we have had a good response to our appeal for donations. These have given the Villager magazine a better financial buffer during these difficult times. These donations are also an encouragement to the magazine team that their efforts are worthwhile! Thank you all very much.

Julie

After many years Margaret Cramer has retired from her round, distributing the magazines in the village and we thank her very much.

Her round has been taken over by Sally Gridley. We also welcome Suzanne Smith, who is assisting Jane Shelvey in distributing in West End.

George Rust

Photo Competition

With the lenses on our smart phones producing excellent photos do please send me some of your best efforts via email. They should be sent in high definition/ actual size so that they can be enlarged without becoming pixelated.

Theme: The Villages We live in - this could cover all aspects of nature, buildings, weather etc.

There might be a very small prize and the possibility of your photo appearing on the front cover of the magazine.

Whilst we are happy to publish items and opinions in this magazine it should be noted that the views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial team. Readers should also make their own enquiries about, and assessment of, claims and services made by advertisers in this magazine.

Contact us at villagermagazine@gmail.com

Cover photo: Sunflower taken by Claire Hamilton

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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

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

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SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PUBLIC SERVICES

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BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)
LIBRARIES

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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

July 2020 Julie Crawley villagermagazine@gmail.com 01256 851003

Bert's Blog



AUGUST 2020

BERTS BLOG: I haven't been feeling myself lately, licking and scratching yes but not feeling. Had several visits to the white coated brigade who were masked and gowned and very kind. The Boss and the Mrs left me in their care for a few days and I woke up with a shaved belly, lots of staples and a fair few bits of me missing. I did get away with not wearing a mask but I was given a clear

plastic face shield which prevented the Mrs and the Boss from giving me my usual head pats and ear tickles so I am afraid it was jettisoned after an initial trial and I was constantly told not to lick my poor bare belly or the shield would have to be reinstated...a great motivation to behave as I love all the attention I am getting at the moment.

Things were going swimmingly until a phone call giving my prog nose is, which in fact was nothing to do with my nose at all, but turned out to be all about my expectation of life. The Boss and the Mrs have not shared this with me but kept this information to themselves, however I detect an underlying difference in their manner, a sadness of eye and braveness of face. I myself have realised I am not as well as I used to be. I seek constant reassurance and have had to take lots of pills and sleep a lot more than any dog of 8 years should do but on the bright side I have been allowed many more strokes, pats and treats than normal and the pills come with honey and biscuits.

Life is continuing much as it was with trips to the shoot to mooch about with the Boss and walks with the Mrs to visit far flung venues where I have to amuse myself while she gazes at the view and attempts a fair replica on paper despite me sitting smack in the middle of the composition or acting bored and wanting to go walking. However I am not a daft dog and I know I am on borrowed time. I wonder if I should bid you farewell now or see if I can still pen this blog for the next edition..... enjoy your life, you never know what is round the corner unless of course you are a dog with a nose like mine and can smell it.

RIP Bert 20.09.2011 – 03.08.2020

The Boss and the Mrs thank you for all your support for Bert over his eight years. He loved people. He died peacefully in his garden. His diagnosis was hemangiosarcoma attached to his spleen, it had metastasised and nothing could save him, mercifully for him his illness was short. He will be greatly missed, not only here but also in France.

Clift Surgery and COVID19

Clift Surgery is now a centre where suspected COVID patients will be seen, and precautions are in place to protect patients and staff.

The surgery is now divided into 2 sections.

- The **RED** area is where suspected COVID patients will be seen, initially in the car park in designated bays **at the back** of the surgery and, if necessary, in one of 2 **dedicated examination rooms**. Appointments are likely to be made at the end of the day. The **red zone doctor on duty** will not enter the green zone.

- The **GREEN** area is being kept separate to ensure the safety of anyone having to attend the surgery for non COVID related issues.

Rest assured that strict infection controls are in place. Patients suspected of COVID will be initially triaged and will usually be attended to in the staff car park.

Further updates will be given as required. It is likely that arrangements will have to change when winter flu starts and if a winter surge in COVID comes.

If you are unwell, please ring the surgery as normal, where instructions are given on how to proceed before you speak to a receptionist.

The dispensary is now open 8.30-6.00pm and now offering a text service to tell patients when their repeat medications are available for collection.

Please check the web site here

<https://www.cliftsurgery.co.uk/page1.aspx?p=15>

for further information.

Sherbornes with Pamber

I hope you were able to enjoy the summer, despite the ongoing constraints. Now children and young people are going back to school. For some of them, this will be after many months away. Some will be starting new schools. They will be facing pressure to make friends and be included. For all of us, it's a good time to think about our desire for acceptance in our different work or social groups. I feel that myself: as a new Rector, I want you to like me and to be at the heart of village life.

At the beginning of July, Disney streamed a performance of the hit musical *Hamilton* about the American Revolution and the founding father Alexander Hamilton. One of the storylines running through the musical is the tension between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. There are a few themes I'd like to explore in it which illustrate human longings. The Bible shows us where those desires can be truly satisfied.

Don't let them know what you're against or what you're for

Early on in their acquaintance, Burr offers Hamilton this advice: Talk less. Smile more. Don't let them know what you're against or what you're for.

He repeats the same sentiments when he stands for election against Thomas Jefferson as President in 1800. That strategy does not serve him well. Here is a sample of comments that are made about him:

He's not forthcoming on any particular stances. Ask him a question: it glances off, he obfuscates, he dances.

When it is a tie, Hamilton's opinion is sought. He supports Jefferson, even though they have disagreed on many aspects of policy, with the result that Jefferson is elected. He gives this reason: But when all is said and done Jefferson has beliefs. Burr has none.

The room where it happens

There is one point in the musical where Burr and Hamilton are talking. Hamilton breaks off to have dinner with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison where they make a decision and emerge with a compromise. Burr remarks that "No one else is in the room where it happens." Burr concludes, "I wanna be in the room where it happens." However, the desire for this can come at too high a cost. After Hamilton's endorsement of Jefferson means Burr doesn't get to be President, Burr says, "You've kept me from the room where it happens for the last time." It leads him to challenge Hamilton to a duel and kill him, and then he has to go into hiding. Burr says: "I survived but I paid for it. Now I'm the villain in your history." C. S. Lewis refers to the same phenomenon when he talks about the desire to be in the inner ring.

A grace too powerful to name

Burr, Madison and Jefferson accuse Hamilton of embezzling state funds. Hamilton is not guilty of this, but he admits to having an affair while his wife and children are away, following which, the woman's husband demanded money. His wife Eliza is heartbroken and burns all the letters Hamilton wrote to her, saying, "I'm erasing myself from the narrative." "You forfeit all rights to my heart." When their son is subsequently killed in a duel, they

move uptown. Eliza's sister Angelica comments: "There are moments that the words don't reach. There's a grace too powerful to name. We push away what we can never understand. We push away the unimaginable. They are standing in the garden, Alexander by Eliza's side. She takes his hand. It's quiet uptown." The Chorus sings: "Forgiveness. Can you imagine?"

The surpassing greatness of knowing Christ

In Philippians 3.8-9, the apostle Paul writes:

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."

Jesus Christ lived the perfect life and died on the cross in the place of his people to take the punishment they deserve for breaking God's law. We don't have to worry about what other people will think of us and conceal from them what we're against or what we're for: if we trust in Christ, God gives us the gift of righteousness—he counts us as if we had kept his law. We gain Christ and are found in him. This means that we don't have to be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God (Philippians 4.6): we are "in the room where it happens." We receive forgiveness for the worst things we have done: in the past the apostle Paul persecuted those who followed Christ and approved of their murder. When we accept our own need of forgiveness, that sets us free to forgive others. We are recipients of 'a grace too powerful to name'.

Daniel Newman
Rector



Services For September

Our services are held in Church and we follow the Government's social distancing and health & safety instructions, including the wearing of masks. If you would like to attend a service please email our Parish Administrator, Wendy Howe at pa.swppcc@gmail.com.

However, please would members of the congregation, who receive an email with the weekly newsletter, use the link included to register their attendance.

The services held at St Andrew's are recorded and shown on our YouTube channel, usually from after lunch on Sunday, via this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBbHQM4CvpnnPsSGuuglR_w or the one on our website.

The 9.30am service is geared towards parents with young families as we are unable to hold Sunday Club in the School building during the Autumn term.

Sermon Series: 6 September – 'Dare!' – Daniel 6. Followed by 'To the ends of the earth': Acts 8-18

06 September

9:30am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	Communion Service	St Andrew's
In the lion's den	Daniel 6	Rev'd Dr Daniel Newman

13 September

9.30 & 10.45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
4pm Saints	Afternoon Service	All
Is baptism enough to save me?	Acts 8	Rev'd Dr Daniel Newman

20 September

9.30 & 10.45am	Morning Service, Sunday Club	St Andrew's
Is anyone too bad for Jesus?	Revelation 8:6-9, 21	Warren Trask

27 September

9.30 & 10.45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
4pm	Afternoon Service	Pamber Priory
Does God have favourites?	Acts 9: 32- 11:30	Rev'd Dr Daniel Newman

04 October

9.30am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10.45am	Communion Service	St Andrew's
Can human authorities stop God's word?	Acts 12	Warren Trask

Mid-Week

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 8 September and 6 October.

Unless there is a change to Government guidelines for meeting in person they will held on Zoom.

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

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

Weekday Mass

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

* Time & Venue could vary

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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

The Monk Sherborne Parish Council met for a virtual meeting on Zoom on Wed 15th July. Three new councillors, Paul Cave, Sheila Mellor and Aaron Minter, who all live in Monk Sherborne, were co-opted onto the Parish Council, replacing two who retired, Stan Gibson and Andrew Lennard from Charter Alley. There is therefore no one on the PC from Charter Alley at the moment. If someone would like to put themselves forward there is room for one more Councillor.

Paul will be responsible for Planning, Aaron will be looking after the Highways, Transport and Footpaths portfolio and Sheila will be responsible for the Local Authority and Rural strategy portfolio. Bill Hayter will remain reporting on the Village Hall.

Stan Gibson has been a Councillor for 14 years, in charge of the Development portfolio and has assiduously followed and commented on development proposals in the Parish. He has also been servicing the defibrillator as well as keeping the road signs clean. He will be greatly missed. Andrew, who has looked after the Highways portfolio, has only been with the Council a couple of years but has been much appreciated.

Finance

The Parish accounts have been audited and signed off.

Planning

An appeal has been lodged for a residential development of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 9 dwellings on land at Monk Sherborne Road and Sand Martin Close. The parish council had previously lodged its objection to the application. Residents intend to object further and attend the appeal hearing.

BDBC Enforcement have been advised of the breach of the planning conditions at Blackberries. We wait to see what, if anything, Enforcement will do about it.

The development of Manydown continues and local parishioners remain concerned about the increase in traffic the development will bring, especially as a cut through.

A letter has been received about amendments to the application for Spriggs Mead. Comments are to be submitted prior to the 23rd July.

Details have been received relating to the development of a chalk quarry at land adjacent A339, near the road down to Ramsdell. This will include a new access on to the A339, a site office, wheel wash, weighbridge and a drying shed. Application 18/01064/CMA.

Village Hall

The Village Hall will shortly be issuing tender documents to interested builders for the new hall. Hopefully these will be within budget but, if not, we will look at the specs to see where savings can be made.

We have realised that once the building has started, the car park will be unusable, so it has been decided to allow the builders to use the old hall and the toilets etc, as their base.

In the light of the new Government guidelines, we may be able to open the hall to regular bookers. However, having asked the regulars if they are interested in returning, it was clear that most felt it was not worth it for the time available. All the necessary precautions are in place to ensure adequate safety against the Covid 19.

We have told the electoral commission that we are unlikely to be able to host the polling booths at the next election. Jack Goulds has been informed and he will investigate alternative sites.

Roads

The road down from the A339 passed All Saints Church has been completely re-tarmacked as has Salters Heath road – a huge improvement.

There are concerns about cyclists using various footpaths locally. Signs will be erected, pointing out this is illegal and to deter cyclists from using the footpaths.

Playing Field

Whilst the heavy equipment for landscaping for the new hall is on site, we will take the opportunity to demolish the mound by the slide and replace the slide with a more modern one with a stair case.

The Parish Council will pay for mowing the Village Hall lawn until the end of this year's contract, after which, the contract will be split, with the Village Hall negotiating their own contract.

We received three quotations for improving the drainage from the outlet from the road to the playing field. Pete Boyle's quote, being the lowest, was accepted.

The Villager

The Parish Council agreed to donate £200 to keep the Villager going

Cats

There has been a spate of cats being shot by someone with an air rifle. The police were called in and have confiscated an air rifle. Hopefully this will stop this cruel activity.



PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met for the second time since the Lockdown on 24th June 2020 with social distancing maintained.

Covid Volunteer Group

Again the Parish Council wish to thank everyone involved in these community initiatives which have worked so well. There are still some funds available which will be retained until they are no longer needed and then they will be donated to an agreed charity.

Parish Matters

The litter bins have now been reopened but can I ask if they are full you take litter home rather than leave on the ground by the bins. There has been more fly tipping at the Chute so if you see anything suspicious in the Parish areas please take vehicle numbers if possible and report to the police or Parish Council.

Councillor Vaughan, a supporter of local parish magazines, has made a grant of £800 to the Villager organizers to enable them to continue.

The Parish Council have been informed that a local Fish & Chip van has requested to be allowed to be in the Village once a week for 2 hours as they already do in Bramley. This is popular and causes no problems as they ensure the site is clear when they finish and would be a welcome facility available for residents. Where they could park is under discussion with The Village Hall and Chute being 2 alternatives.

While the recent Parish meetings in May and June were held at the Pavilion, where social distancing was easily maintained in line with Government regulations, the Parish Council has decided to take out a yearly Zoom subscription at a cost of around £400 to start holding 'virtual' meetings ready for the winter months and any recurrence of the pandemic due to concerns raised by one resident.

Volunteers Urgently Needed

Local Library. The Parish Council has been approached to convert the telephone box outside the former Post Office in Vyne Road into a small library facility. While they are happy to repair the box, this can only go ahead if a group of residents volunteers to oversee to ensure it is kept tidy & clean. If you would like to take part, please e mail me so I can arrange for you to meet to discuss a rota.

Speed watch. After advice by the police this was suspended for the last few months. However, with the Lockdown easing there is a noticeable increase in vehicles speeding through the Parish. I think we are all aware of the fantastic job Becky Jones and her team of volunteers have done for the last 5 years but it is time for some new people to take over and be trained to operate the equipment to try to stop speeding. If you could give a few hours a week to this, please contact me by e mail so that arrangements can be made to get the required training. Both these initiatives are very valuable to maintain a community so please see if you could help with either.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

While areas of the grounds are still cordoned off to allow the new seed to grow the whole area and facilities are in good condition. Tennis has re started and the nursery school intends to restart in September unless government advise against. While Yoga has restarted Judo has not due to their insurance cover, but hope to very soon. With community halls being allowed to re-open risk assessments have been formulated to allow the Pavilion to be used safely once more for parties and groups. Signage to remind users of regulations is in place.

New signs are being put up to remind everyone that cycling is NOT permitted

on the recreation ground, something that has increased during Lockdown. While at present the ground is dry constant use of the area by cyclists especially in winter months will destroy the turf and make it unpleasant to people walking and exercising dogs.

The playground has re-opened but please observe the government instructions to ensure everyone's safety.

The use of the Chute carpark by local residents for access, parking and deliveries was raised. While the Parish Council have no objections it was noted that this was not an adjoining properties' 'right' and was only allowed at the discretion of the Council and must be requested in advance before use as the carpark is solely provided for the use of people accessing the Pavilion or recreation ground for exercise and sports.

Roads/Footpaths

There is no further information about the application to re-direct footpath 208 due to the pandemic, but the Parish Council will ensure any costs - around £3000 - are budgeted for in next year's commitments.

HCC have refused the redirection application for footpath 502 - the original direction is therefore still the correct path.

A problem with the use of footpaths 208/10 & 208/9 from the Swan towards the Hospital was raised. People are not keeping to the path but cutting across the farmer's fields. This could result in the closure of the path due to crop damage - so please ensure if you use it you walk around the edge.

The matter of renaming the cul-de-sac part of Cranes Road was raised to stop confusion with mail and deliveries, when for a short part it becomes Spring Close. While Basingstoke & Deane are not against any name changes, they advised that residents affected should be

approached for their views before any action is contemplated. A local resident has agreed to carry out a survey and report back to the Parish Chairman.

Allotments

All the allotments are at present tenanted and under cultivation. There is a waiting list with preference given to SSJ residents. The tap within Moss Hill will be re-sited away from the main pathway.

Lengths man Scheme

This is an ongoing scheme of work so if there is anything to add please contact me.

Finances

The Annual 2019/20 audit has been approved by the external Auditors PKF Littlejohn LLP and will be posted on the website and Village Hall notice board for all to examine. Details of how parishioners can review the records will also be shown.

Website

New GDPR legislation WCAG2.1 means that anything posted since September 2018 must be an approved format. This is in the process of being implemented.

The Parish Council and I are happy to assist residents with issues and advice.

Please note that livestock on the roads, fly tipping and dumped vehicles and many other road problems have nothing to do with the Parish Council and must be reported to the police on 101 or the Borough or County Councils for action via their webpages.

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

email clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Penny Mayo

Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

Life is starting to show some normality returning but Covid-19 continues to be a worry. With us continuing to show common sense and concern for others we will, hopefully, come through this as quickly as possible.

One bonus for parishioners and others is the increasing use of Pamber Forest that they are enjoying. We have noticed something in the order of 200% increase in 'footfall' into the Forest. It's very pleasing to see so many more people, especially families, sampling this wonderful environment. Less pleasing is the visible increase in rubbish being left, particularly sweet wrappers and plastic drinks bottles. Please take all of your rubbish home and leave the Forest as nature intended. Also regularly visible are dog poo bags which people, having taken the trouble to collect the waste, then dispose of in the forest often in very visible locations. They may be bio-degradable eventually but, in the meantime they look horrible and totally out of keeping with the beautiful environment we are

blessed with. Please take them away and dispose of them responsibly. Also a major concern are clear signs of someone having lit a fire and, it would seem, have a party leaving behind bottles etc. Totally irresponsible and, particularly during this very hot spell, could result in a major fire breaking out which will destroy our natural heritage and endanger nearby residents. The simple answer is DON'T EVER!

A busy time for planning activity. An application for 4 dwellings at Berry Court Farm, Little London has been refused. An appeal against the refusal of an application on land to the left of the entrance to Berry Court Farm has been lodged with the Secretary of State whilst a new application for a single dwelling on the same piece of land has also been received. An application for 3 properties, in place of the previous application for 9 dwellings, has been lodged. As always, comments on any planning application can be lodged on the Basingstoke and Deane planning portal or direct with the Borough

Council. The next Pamber Parish Council meeting will take place on 14th September 2020 at 7.30pm, St. Stephen's Village Hall, Little London.

Weekly waste collections in Basingstoke and Deane are set to resume from Monday 17 August as staffing for the bin collection service stabilises during the pandemic. The day bins are collected will not change. New subscriptions to the garden waste service have also restarted although there will be a delay for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start. All of the Council's waste and recycling services are now back online.

We have had a little much needed rain today with more promised. The garden is in dire need of this as plants, shrubs and the lawns wilt. I do love the sunshine but so much hope for a respite from the drought before the return of fine weather.

Keep safe and well.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

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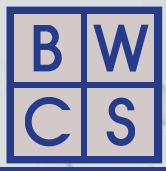
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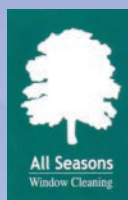
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The Monk Sherborne Horti



Although this year the Fete had to be cancelled, we thought with due care we could still have the Horti competition in the Village Hall. Kim Fleming, Cheryl McSoley and Mike Wilson carefully marked out a one-way system around the tables, which had been strategically laid out by Kim.

There were a respectable number of entries, though understandably down

on previous years. Melanie Smith once again did the judging most ably. I was responsible for following the judge around and recording the results. As such I felt it would be completely unethical for me to comment or prompt the judge in any way. So, when Mel gave my dish of raspberries first prize, commenting on the unusual colour, I couldn't of course mention they were actually blackberries. Anyway, the

runner up was Vivian Roberts and she had won far too many classes already!!

The class with the most entries was for the roses and there were some lovely ones. Diana Cheyne's winning rose had a delicate apricot colour.

Hopefully next year we will be back with a complete fete (and a new village hall).

Bill Hayter

The Royal British Legion



Due to Covid-19 the proposed Annual Dinner for this year will not be going ahead but we have, instead, booked the SSJ Village Hall for the next Annual Dinner that will be held on Friday 1st October 2021.

Next year will be the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the British Legion and the proposed event will be to mark that occasion.

As always this event will be open to all.

The Royal British Legion is currently working on its contingency planning for this year's Poppy Appeal in the light of Covid-19.

We understand that the Legion will not be allowing any face-to-face contact by volunteers in the Poppy Appeal, which rules out most traditional methods of operating the collection. We also understand that those people over 70 years old will not be permitted to take part.

I hope that we will be able to publish a fuller update in the next magazine.

However, we expect that there will be the usual ceremony outdoors at the War Memorial in SSJ on Wednesday

11th November, subject to whatever regulations are in force at that time.

John Delafield

Chairman, Bramley and District Branch
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Probus Members Remember the Battle of Britain



This summer is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and attached is an RAF badge of 19 Squadron (who flew Spitfires) and a picture of Pilot Officer Peter Watson of that squadron who was killed in aerial combat over Sangette in northern France. He was only twenty years old.

Today, the Probus Club of Basingstoke has several members who were “regulars” in the RAF. We have a Wing Commander, two Squadron Leaders, a Flight Lieutenant and Flight Sergeant and in previous years we have had two Group Captains. None of the present day members are old enough to have served at that time although many of our mostly civilian members class themselves as War Babies and do have war time memories.

One of these veterans is the Armed Forces Champion of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, and supports the local government in its covenant with all branches of the military, another was involved at a memorial service in Westminster Abbey when he was the usher to the chairman of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association and afterwards accompanied him to St James' Palace for a reception with Prince Charles, a third joined the Queen's Helicopter flight receiving a personal decoration from Her Majesty, the fourth was deeply involved in bomb disposal,

and the most senior was involved with delta wing Avro Vulcans during the Cold War. All of them have been part of the array of interesting speakers at the usual monthly Probus Club lunch meetings.

But what of the majority of members who either did their National Service or were just too young to be called up? They had busy lives in industry, commerce, medicine, law and science in the locality and overseas.

They now have a fulfilling retirement helped by their membership of the Probus Club. Some are keeping fit by trying to do their 10,000 steps a day, others pleased to get back on the golf course and one keenly looking forward to being a cricket umpire. Others may be less energetic but have kept their minds active with other hobbies. Not for them the problem faced by many being on furlough with an increasing waistline but by not dining out so often has had a positive effect on their wallets.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

Carer Awareness SEPTEMBER 2020: We Want to Care for You

The 23rd of March 2020 has become a date burnt on all our memories as the day Lockdown started. At the Clift Surgery it was to be the first day of our Carers Awareness, week long campaign to help identify those patients who are carers. A carer is anyone, of any age, who supports a friend or loved one who has a physical or mental disability, or just someone who needs that additional support as they get older.

What the Lockdown has highlighted, is the number of vulnerable people that needed to “shield” themselves, and the amazing community spirit that evoked in encouraging individuals and groups to act as street champions, to look after those isolated in their homes without

family to support them. We have all become more aware of our neighbours and hopefully got to know them a bit better, and this makes reigniting our Carer Awareness Campaign opportune.

We are going to declare September a month of pushing communication about carers self-identifying to us at The Clift so we can offer them support. This will be with the offer of a yearly health check-up for their own health needs, that often get downgraded in favour of those they care for; alongside a carers pack of information, including details of in house support through our Social Prescriber, MIND appointments for mental health and details about our new Dementia Support worker. Our hope is

that, before the winter hits, we will have a better awareness of those in need, to support and deliver focused care to the vulnerable AND those who they are dependant on.

Understandably, the COVID pandemic means that we cannot rely on footfall at the surgery and have to spread the message by word of mouth, and electronic communication. So, when chatting to your neighbour, or dropping off medication/shopping please spread the word to help us care for the carers in our community. We will have information on our surgery website also as a reference but simply let reception know if you are a carer and we will be in touch.

SHERBORNE ST JOHN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

AUGUST 2020



Scheme	CO-ordinator	Telephone	Email
Aldermaston Road (near to ambulance station)	Applicant pending police approval		
Deputy	Annette Mulholland	326739	rjmulholland@btinternet.com
Bournefield	Peter Marrison	850740	marrison60@gmail.com
Cranes Road	Margaret Paterson	850263	mepaterson@hotmail.com
Cranesfield	Chris Cooke	850837	Chris.cooke@live.co.uk
Dancers Meadow, Vidlers Farm, Kiln Rd, Dark La	Julie Crawley	851003	julcrawley851@gmail.com
Elm Road	Ted Wilkinson	850891	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com
Deputy	Leslie Bone	850973	skerryvore1@btinternet.com
Manor Road	Malcolm Turner		malcolmtturner62@btinternet.com
Deputy	Alan Thirlwell	851149	no email
Spring Close	Jane Bechelet	850942	janeg113@btinternet.com
Deputy	Vacancy		

Currently there is no cover for A340 from Gales Garage to Monk Sherborne Road nor for Sherborne Road and Chineham Lane.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - SHERBORNE ST JOHN

As there is no longer any monetary payment required we define membership as those who have provided their e.mail address to their scheme co-ordinator and are therefore receiving update messages from time to time. If you are not receiving these messages please e.mail your details of name/s, street address and phone number to your co-ordinator. Most Insurance companies will give a discount on home policies to NHW members.

Since the start of lock down the office operated by Basingstoke Police has been closed but it was expected that it would start up during the week commencing August 10th just too late to get things done and into this

magazine. However, I will now start to chase up outstanding matters and hope to have progress to report next month. The Rural Police section have not been issuing their normal monthly reports so we cannot give you any update on the crime situation. Those who are signed up to Hants Alert will have received some notifications depending on their profile.

Basingstoke NHW have a store for signs, literature and the like which has also been locked down. I have been trying unsuccessfully get some new member literature packs to supply many new members from late in 2019. I hope to have these in the hands of scheme co-ordinators in September.

Late last year I did a survey of all of our signage and found many deficiencies and made and received my order to cover these just before lockdown. The signs have now been installed, replaced, mended or cleaned as necessary.

Unfortunately there are no schemes for Aldermaston Road between Gales Garage and Monk Sherborne Road nor for Chineham Lane / Sherborne Road this being due to having no volunteer to become a co-ordinator.

CAN YOU HELP?

Ted Wilkinson

SSJ Area Co-ordinator for NHW
email: ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com



CONTACTS

Helen Ricketts: -
helen@highpathway.co.uk
 or
 Paul Temple:-
tempaul45@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2020

YOUR LOCAL

ROTARY

ROUNDUP

Can you make a child happy with a shoebox full of goodies?

Last year Rotary Wessex (Hampshire and east Dorset) distributed over 26.000 shoeboxes full of goodies to delight children in Montenegro, Moldova, Albania and the Philippines who live in poverty. To make sure they don't go astray Rotarians supervise the whole process including volunteers going to the countries to make sure the boxes get to the children. Philippines boxes go to a charity set up by a Rotarian that we know, so they will not go astray.

We have been told by recipients of shoeboxes, who have now grown up, of the excitement with which they were opened and what treasured memories they have of that special gift

Its great fun to get involved in putting together a shoebox.

Ideas below of what can you put in your box, things for:

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

Washing - soap, toothbrush

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

Wearing - hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery

Items need to be new or in good/as new condition.

Please - No liquids, sharp items, guns or war toys

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

Just use elastic bands to secure your box so it can be checked by customs

Forms to attach to your box and further info and small print on our website and Social media.

Remember that recipients will be opening the box in eager anticipation of

finding it full of toys and useful items, possibly the first gifts they have received.

One girl, aged 8 was thrilled to receive the first doll of her own, and said: "it is the most beautiful doll I ever saw. I will dress her and take care of her; I never had a doll before."

A 10 year old boy received a baseball cap and wore it all afternoon showing the dispatch team saying "I look so cool."

Why not get your workplace, church, club, your school, Scout, Cubs, Brownie & Guide groups, your children, grandchildren or just you involved, start now so with your help Christmas time can be special for these children who don't have a lot and spread a little joy

Please also attach coins to the value of £1.50p to each box for transport cost.

Drop off your box at the venues below by 19th October 2020

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35men & 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 Helen or Paul above to find out more . We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

With the Village Hall closed for the foreseeable future to host group meetings, the Women's Fellowship committee members have been holding 'garden groups' - according to Government Guidelines - to enable members to spend time together, which

is especially important for those living alone and for those who have needed to shield. We have held three sessions during the summer.

We do not expect to have returned for the September meeting, but the

weather will become increasingly significant for holding any more gatherings outside.

The Committee will continue to contact members for a chat until we can return to 'normal'.

The early nineteenth century village of Sherborne St John



Much of the village in the early 1800s was in a poor state. Although not a wholly owned estate village, a significant proportion was part of the land owned by the Vyne Estate. There was a general depression following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and there seems to have been little investment in the estate by the squire at the time, William John Chute. The houses that survive from this period and earlier such as The Haye, The Swan, and Weybrook House were not part of the estate. The cottages of the villagers were generally small, timber framed filled with wattle and daub or chalk and thatched. None survive to the present day.

After the death of William John in 1824 the Vyne passed to his brother, Thomas Vere, who only lived a further three years. There was no direct heir so the brothers selected a distant cousin, William Lyde Wiggett who took on the family name of Chute. At that time, 1827, William Lyde Wiggett was living in Norfolk in Pickenham Hall which he sold to provide the funds for starting the task of improving the estate. A considerable financial investment was needed as well as the determination to deal with the task. History shows that Wiggett Chute was up to the job.

The Hampshire Record Office (HRO) holds the Vyne Estate records amongst which are the accounts for the building, repairs and also sales of timber which helped fund the works. Wiggett Chute set to work straight away – repairing and rebuilding farmhouses such as Manor farm. Together with Bernard Brocas he initiated an Enclosure of the open fields, and common land which, in the interests of efficiency, enriched themselves at the expense of the villagers. This took place in 1830 when a new road was constructed separating the estates of Beaurepaire and Vyne, now known as Morgaston Road.

Wiggett Chute also recorded his 'Reminiscences' in 1872, mostly written from memory and so a not totally reliable record of his stewardship of the estate. Looking back he had been most concerned that there was 'no resident Rector for the parish for the very good reason that there was no house fit for his residence'. He goes on to say that 'the Rectory house was very old and dilapidated' and the Vicarage 'was occupied by labourers'. William's solution was to use what is now Edernish house as the Rectory. It was already owned by the estate and had been used by William's sister Caroline Wiggett

[later Workman] and the late Mrs Chute, William John's widow, 'to hold Sunday School there in cold discomfort'.

Several buildings in the village had been used as schools before Wiggett Chute's time. In the Reminiscences he recalls a 'house of two stories which stood on the top of the hill looking towards the church where Mrs Bush, the Vyne Steward's wife, conducted a small school at which a fair education was given to children of the better and more respectable inhabitants of the village'. When Mrs Bush died, at the grand age of 84 in 1845, her 'old house was pulled down and I built the present building of single rooms for four old people. These we know as the old Alms Houses, 18 & 20 Vyne Road. Next to them is a thatched house which was also used as a school room. It had been "built by Mrs Chute". It was now too small for the needs of the village and Wiggett Chute 'built the present school room and master's house on the site of the old Rectory house' in 1848. More children then had the opportunity to gain some education. That building remains as part of the SSJ Primary School.

SSJHisSoc@Lillydown.net

Spring into Summer 2020 – after a very wet winter, little rain

It was an exceptionally wet winter half of the year with a total rainfall for the 6 months September 2019 to February 2020 here of 675.6 mm as compared with the 30 year average of 417 mm i.e. 162% of the longterm average. Every one of the six months exceeded the average!!! That is extremely unusual. And, as a result of all the unsettled weather, there was plenty of cloud and, consequently, far fewer very cold spells. Overall the temperatures were a whole 1 degree Celsius above average across the whole 6 months.

Then along comes March with a serious decrease in rainfall and, following a mild winter, a significant increase in settled weather resulting in chilly nights (10 mornings with air frost) and a good rise in daytime temperatures and sunshine totals the best in recent years. From mid-March to mid-April I only recorded about 2 mm of rain – day after day – dry.

The very settled weather continued until almost the end of April with day after

day of unbroken sunshine and only 2 days with more than 10 mm of rain (17th and 27th). Daytime temperatures were exceptional for early Spring and 6.5Celsius above average, but clear nights led to several air frosts (and 10 grass frosts). Again sunshine totals were very high (very beneficial to those with solar panels!).

May was a very problematical month for gardeners – I only recorded a total rainfall for the whole month of 1.1 mm; that could prove a serious effect on crop yields – especially potatoes, maize and cereals. The highest daily rainfall I recorded was 0.8mm which is totally insignificant – it just evaporates off the ground doing no good whatsoever.

June into July have basically continued the trend with lots of sunshine and limited rainfall. The light south-easterly winds in late June brought very warm continental air to southern England with a maximum temperature here of 33.5C on the 25th; fortunately south-westerly

winds broke through on the 27th dropping the maximum temperature to only 19.8C. And then came the start of August (writing on the 12th); the temperatures have been exceptional with 3 of the last 6 days when temperatures exceeded 35C (95F) and nights were very warm and humidity high. Sunshine totals have extraordinarily high too – extremely beneficial to all those with solar panels.

The total rainfall since the beginning of May has been 82mm compared to the 30-year average of 225mm that is only 36% of what we should receive, and at the time of year when the sun is at its strongest and evaporation is at a maximum! Nature in all its forms is suffering severely.

David Cullum. Tel. 850315

I wonder whether wetter winters and drier summers are going to become the norm – as some soothsayers are warning!

2020 Pamber Green	March	April	May	June	July	To 12 Aug
Avg Day Max Temp C	12.2	18.8	21.3	21.8	23.2	29.6
Diff from 30-yr ave C	+2.6	+6.5	+5.7	+3.0	+2.3	+8.2
Highest Max Temp C	16.6	26.1	26.8	33.5	35.7	36.1
Avg Night Min Temp C	1.9	3.2	5.6	10.2	11.1	14.0
Diff from 30-year ave C	+0.2	-0.1	-0.3	+1.6	+0.8	+3.2
Lowest Min Air Temp C	-4.8	-4.4	-2.0	5.8	5.0	7.1
No. of mornings with air frost	10	7	3	0	0	0
Dif from 30-year ave	0	+3	+1	0	0	0
Total Rainfall mm	51.5	44.4	1.1	46.6	33.5	1.1
Percent of 30-year ave	82%	83%	2%	93%	61%	5%
No. of days with >1mm rain	10	6	0	13	9	1
Diff from 30-year ave	-1	-3	-10	+6	+2	
No. Days with NO Rain	14	22	27	11	16	11

Welcome Back to SSJ Village Hall!

We are pleased to let you know that we're once again taking bookings and are working towards opening again fully.

We are very much looking forward to seeing our regular user groups return. Please keep an eye on our Face Book page for more details. We'd like to update you on some of the Government recommendations

we've put in place to help keep our users and staff safe.

- The Hall has been deep cleaned and further cleaning can be discussed and agreed to meet the risk assessed needs of individual users.
- Hand sanitisers have been installed in the entrance and main hall
- Use of cloakroom facilities and kitchen will be agreed with each user group to keep groups safe. This may vary with each user group depending on numbers and activities.
- Cleaning kit available to all users.
- One way system in place to access cloakroom facilities
- 'Reminder' posters displayed for - Social distancing, - implementing

one-way systems and exit doors for larger groups.

- Making systems clear to user.
- Asking user group leaders to complete a risk assessment for their activities to include for example the wearing of masks and how they will monitor social distancing, use of W.C's, and the specific hygiene requirements for their activity.

The Hall trustees will continue to monitor and react to Government guidance and will update protocols as necessary and inform user groups of changes as they occur.

Please contact the Trustees via Shawna Campbell if you have any queries- ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Sherborne St John Village Hall will be held:

On Wednesday 9th of September 2020
At 7.30pm On Zoom

(please contact Shawna below for details)

All residents of the parish over the age of 18 yrs are invited to attend and may vote at this meeting.

Agenda

To record any apologies for absence.

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th of March 2019 (copies available at the meeting).
2. To receive the Chairman's report (copies available at the meeting).
3. To receive the Treasurer's report (copies available at the meeting).
4. To elect three trustees to serve until the next AGM (nominations available at the meeting).

Notice of any other nominations or business to be raised must be sent to the Booking Secretary (Mrs. Shawna Campbell, 2 Spring Close, RG24 9JF / ssjhallbookings@yahoo.co)



Keeping Hampshire Safe

COVID-19 – keeping Hampshire safe

A new information and communications campaign for the public - Keep Hampshire Safe - to support the delivery of Hampshire's Local Outbreak Control Plan has launched.

Community Transport Services up and running across Hampshire

Community Transport services commissioned by Hampshire County Council are now beginning to operate again as the Government lifts more travel restrictions for residents following the Coronavirus outbreak.

Plugging in more electric vehicles – tell us your views

Hampshire County Council is asking residents their views on electric vehicle charging points to support a bid for national funding to improve charging infrastructure for residents.

County Council calls on residents to take part in independent national survey on highways and transport

Hampshire residents are being asked for their views on Hampshire County Council's range of highways and transport services – from the condition of roads, provision for cyclists and how residents

feel the County Council manages utilities' works on the road network.



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Prostate Cancer now No 1

It is official, prostate cancer is now recognised as the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in the UK.

Basingstoke Hospital is one of the lead locations in the UK for effective treatment. In addition, locally there is a very effective and active support group for men and their partners affected by this disease – the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group.

The support group can help with not only understanding and empathy to deal with the emotional and psychological issues, but it also holds regular meetings with guest speakers addressing an increasingly wide range of subjects. The current lockdown, although prohibiting physical meetings, has not hindered continued gatherings via 'Zoom'. Once lockdown is over,

it is intended that the popular weekly 'exercise sessions' at the sports centre in town will be re-activated.

Contact us and see how the group might help.

Call or text 07377 430242

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website www.nhpcsg.org.uk

Probus and the Love of Bank Notes

In normal times we handle it every day. Money, they say, makes the world go around. Others see it as the root of all evil. These days we are using less coinage but an increasing use of cards, however bank notes make us feel good if we have plenty in our wallet.

Basingstoke is the headquarters of Thomas de la Rue, the world-famous producer of bank notes, and Probus Club of Basingstoke member, John Swain, was employed in that specialised printing industry all his working life.

Leaving grammar school at 16 he followed his father into the printing trade and undertook an apprenticeship of five years as a camera operator. On becoming a journeyman he joined security printer Bradbury Wilkinson in New Malden and as John says "learned about making security documents and how to spot and prevent forgeries."

Despite operating in a tightly controlled secure environment it was noticed that some Travellers cheques began to go missing. Despite stringent checks on employees at entry and exit of the factory it was only by spotting which

member of staff was enjoying exotic holidays and had a new car they discovered he was simply using a Royal Mail post box in their reception to send an envelope to his home.

An intended advancement to head up their photographic studio did not proceed as the company was taken over by Thomas de la Rue, but instead he became the general manager of the New Malden plant.

"All I had to do was to reverse a deficit of £12 million which in five years turned into a profit of £2 million."

Moving to Basingstoke in 1990 to head up a new, large photographic and proofing department was a continuous learning curve as the printing of the latest style of notes can involve over fifty security features as well as three different printing processes with visible and invisible fluorescent inks and holographic images. Moving from water marked cotton-based papers, made by their Overton mill, to the latest polymer substrate is not as new as one might think. Back in 1970 Bradbury Wilkinson produced the Isle of Man £1 notes on

plastic but then discovered that the ink came off if a note was accidentally left in clothes put in a washing machine. Eventually, after over two decades of research, the problem was solved, but by an Australian printer.

Visiting overseas De La Rue production facilities became a regular occurrence for John and after one trip he was stopped by a Customs officer at Heathrow. On this occasion the standard documentation he carried failed to impress the officer and as currency printing plates and ink looked suspicious the officer demanded the plate box and ink be opened. It was explained that it contained specialist fluorescent ink that was also indelible and should, on no account be touched. Of course, the officer got ink on his fingers and made the situation worse by using a tissue to spread it over his hands.

John smiled at this recollection. "That was a good few years ago, so I guess it has worn off by now."

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

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Sometimes the barrier to mediation is that the relationship has deteriorated to such an extent that you cannot contemplate the prospect of sitting down together in a room even with an independent mediator to address issues in mediation. Shuttle mediation gets you round that barrier and yet has all the advantages that the mediation process offers. It is simply a variant of the more usual mediation model.

With direct shuttle mediation, you are in separate rooms and the mediator moves between the two rooms to facilitate discussion and help you reach a compromise. Separate arrival and departure times are arranged to ensure that the risk of contact is minimised which can be reassuring for those of you with concerns. It can make the process possible but less stressful.

Even with Covid-19, shuttle mediation virtually is still an option. Using Zoom as the online platform, breakout rooms can replicate shuttle mediation as you can opt to be in separate “breakout rooms” while the mediator moves between the two virtual rooms helping you both achieve an agreement that is right for you both. The use of the “waiting room” is also good if you are mediating jointly online but just need a break within the meeting if feelings are running high.

At Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors, we can offer all options and are happy to discuss any concerns with you before you commit to the process. Feel free to contact Sheila Parkes by emailing sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk or call 01256 854652.

Alternatively, visit www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation

When contacting Haymarket Family Mediation or Phillips, please mention that you have seen this advertorial in The Villager magazine.

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 £4 per month or £6 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payment 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

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All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

To book a classified advert for the Villager, **register** with this website. Then **search** for The Villager using any of the searches allowed. There is no online payment – you can pay by cheque at the end of the booking process as normal. Once monies are received you will be able to access receipts and check your booking history from this site.

News from the Hospital

Locally the level of virus is now very low; such that at the time of writing there have been no people testing positive since the beginning of July, despite the level of testing ramping up significantly. So the hospital is working particularly hard at present to get back to close to normal, whilst still maintaining tight infection control.

The hospital is stressing that for anyone feeling seriously unwell, not to hesitate to seek help. The hospital is, especially now, encouraging any person with suspected cancer to make immediate contact with their GP, as at present the level of cancer referrals from GPs to the hospital is well below normal. The hospital is open for them; as for many such patients early treatment can make a

major difference to the outcome. It has confirmed that all cancer referrals are being handled with an initial face to face contact, before establishing what future treatment is required.

As many may know, Basingstoke's microbiology team developed a rapid test for the virus very early on during the pandemic. Although this test, which gives fast results, was not chosen for national roll out, the Trust has now been funded to create a mobile 'Test in a Van', which is now being used around care homes.

Much publicity has been given to the Hampshire Together engagement which is aimed at so much more than just the new hospital, as it is aimed

at looking at healthcare locally in its totality. This phase of engagement is now closed, and in line with HMG Treasury guidelines for funding – a new hospital is core to the anticipated changes. The Trust and its healthcare partners are reviewing the input. The next engagement will involve developing viable alternatives using that input from local people, and then assessing the pluses and minuses of each, to end up with a preferred option. It is hoped to be able to publish the details around the end of the year, and go out to the public for formal consultation in January 2021. The target for commencing the new hospital build is 2024.

Keith Bunker



Ranil Jayawardena MP

Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire

Foundation Trusts to receive additional funding to upgrade A&E facilities ahead of winter

- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to receive £1,505,000 and Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust to receive £1,820,000 to upgrade A&E facilities ahead of winter.
- Part of £1.5 billion announced by the Prime Minister to upgrade hospitals,

accelerate hospital building and expand A&E facilities.

Ranil Jayawardena MP has welcomed news that both Trusts are set to receive a combined additional £3,325,000 in order to support A&E capacity ahead of the winter months.

The extra £3.3m means that both Trusts will be able to increase their A&E capacity, put enhanced infection prevention and control measures in place

and make improvements to emergency care and urgent treatment services.



Shawna Campbell

Shawna Campbell, a resident of Sherborne St John, is an avid knitter and she has been spending any spare time over the past few months knitting hats and mittens for premature babies up at the hospital. The different colours distinguish

the different levels of care that the babies wearing them require: red means that the babies have serious complications, yellow means they may have some problems and green means the babies are healthy; such a clever and simple idea !



BUS SERVICES IN SHERBORNE ST JOHN

Route 22 (Stagecoach)

It is a matter of great concern for the majority of those village residents who live quite far from the A340 Aldermaston Road that their service has been progressively eroded whilst the main road route 2 has an excellent service. Until a few years ago one bus per hour in each direction was diverted from the A340 via Elm Road and Cranes Road but this was meeting criticism by travellers from points further out on A340 and a variety of operating problems. The diverted service was often unreliable with instances of drivers forgetting to turn into the village being all too frequent. These factors led to a reduction of usage by those with alternative means of travel. So the diverting of route 2 ceased and a new service 22 was introduced being just a loop from Basingstoke to the Hospital then through the village and back to town via the hospital. Latterly this was just 2 trips from town starting 2 hours apart thus giving our residents one return journey with about 90 minutes in town on Monday to Friday only. However for the remaining users it was a lifeline but come covid 19 and the service stopped completely.

As some other services have now been restored I wrote to the current Stagecoach Area Manager at Basingstoke who told me that the restoration of ROUTE 22 is included in the list of September changes which he has proposed to the Regional Office. He will advise us of the outcome as soon as possible. If the route is restored he has agreed the return trip will be 1 hour later at 13.00 in accordance with popular demand.

All readers are urged to use this service if it is restored as it will not survive long unless it is used much more than in recent years.

Route 58 Basingstoke Community Transport

I also looked at the BCT website but there was no mention of route 58 just two services to Old Basing remained. I then called the manager who told me that 58 our Fridays run to Chineham had been "cancelled". Absolutely no consultation. The need for social spacing has meant that numbers of passengers would be limited to 5 or 6 which would not cover the drivers' wages and the

fuel, in his view this situation would be ongoing well into 2021. The operating licence has therefore been cancelled.

On further inquiry I was told that the route was only marginally viable even before covid 19 but all the feedback we had received was that it was satisfactory, had any issue been raised I would have sought support from the Parish Council who had underwritten the route when starting up. I can well appreciate that the income from the route was very limited as all the travellers were pass holders for whom H.C.C. pay only a small fixed sum per journey. BCT is a not for profit business.

The 58 bus was a lifeline to people with mobility problems because it picked up very near The Severals and in Kiln Road near to Dancers Meadow, the vehicles even had a tail lift for taking on wheelchairs.

Along with the Parish Council we will seek to replace the lost service somehow but it will be difficult and any readers' ideas will be welcomed.

Ted Wilkinson

(email ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com)



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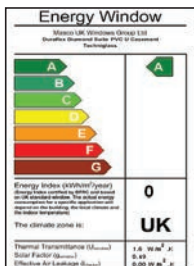
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