



The Villager

February 2017

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

February – and my first opportunity to wish all the Villager readers a Happy New Year.

I am always delighted to receive pieces of prose, poems, random thoughts and photos – so please make it a New Year's resolution to share some of these with the Villager readers during 2017.



A First Aid Course is being planned for **Saturday 25th March** from 9.30 until 12noon at the Chute Pavilion in SSJ. This will be a one-off 2.5 hour session and is open to all ages, for a donation of £3 per person.

This donation will go to Heartstart Tadley Triangle, the charity who organises these courses. If you would like to take part in this course please let me know as soon as possible so that I can add your name to my list.

Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. Promotes Local Beer in the Houses of Parliament



Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. for North East Hampshire, has recently nominated Little London Brewery to provide a guest beer for Strangers' Bar in the Houses of Parliament. When on sale, it will be enjoyed by Parliamentarians as well as guests from across the country and overseas.

This is an initiative of The All Party Parliamentary Beer Group,

which was formed to promote understanding of the UK beer and pub industry within Parliament. It is designed to give small, local breweries the opportunity to promote their products on a larger scale. Members of Parliament are able to nominate a local brewery within their constituency to provide the guest beer in Strangers' Bar for a week.

Little London Brewery, which is owned by Andrew and Joan Watts, creates ales sourced from natural English ingredients, predominantly Norfolk Malted Barley and Worcestershire Hops. Mr. Jayawardena thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Little London Brewery late last year and was very pleased to include them in this initiative.

Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. commented:

"It is fantastic to see local businesses thriving in North East Hampshire. I was delighted to nominate Little London Brewery to provide a guest beer in the Houses of Parliament and I am sure it will be thoroughly enjoyed!"

The Editorial Team

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.

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Future Events

February 2017

6	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
6	Pelican Film Society "Eddie the Eagle", The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship, AGM, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
20	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
27	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

March 2017

6	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
6	Pelican Film Society, "The Lunchbox", The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
18	Jumble Sale in aid of Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, SSJ Village Hall (Hall open from 1.30pm)	2.30-4.30pm
20	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
27	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

April 2017

3	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
3	Pelican Film Society, "United Kingdom", The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
17	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
22, 23	The Sherbornes Art Exhibition, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10am – 4pm
24	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

May 2017

1	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
8	Pelican Film Society, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
15	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
15	Sherborne St John Parish Council AGM, Chute Pavilion	7.30pm
22	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
29	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am

June 2017

6	Pelican Film Society, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
12	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
17	Sherborne St John Village Fete	
26	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

July 2017

3	Pelican Film Society, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
10	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
24	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
24	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm



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Church Matters **February**

This is a time of year when money may seem to be in somewhat short supply! By that I don't mean to refer to that key economic indicator – the “money supply” – thought by many economists to be the single most important factor in the condition of the national economy. For example if the money supply is too large there will be inflation since the same amount of goods is being pursued by a greater amount of money – or something like that! Actually such economic theory is outstandingly difficult to sustain because there are so many variables, other than the money supply, all affecting the outcome.

But the financial state of the nation was not what I was thinking of. Let such “macro-economic theory”, as it is called, be for the university lecture theatre and the Governor of the Bank of England! Our concern is the “micro-economic” reality of the household budget.

This may well have been put under considerable strain around Christmas time with large extra expenditure. In the bleak winter weather of February it

all comes home to roost. This may not be our situation specifically, if we have taken care to budget and resist spending beyond our means, but we should realise that many families face real stress around this time.

The truth is that money plays a big part in all our lives. We have to learn to be careful how we deal with it and how it affects us. Some may feel that money is evil and that Christians should give it all away and live without it. But that does not solve the problem – it just leads to skiving off other people. By contrast the New Testament tells church members to “settle down and earn the bread they eat.”¹ Money itself is not a bad thing – it is necessary in some form for the functioning of society – it is “the love of money which is a root of all kinds of evil.”² As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount “You cannot serve both God and money.”³

In fact Jesus spoke quite a bit about money and he used it in his teaching – for example the parable of the Talents⁴. In this three employees are entrusted with substantial sums of money by their wealthy employer who then goes away for a long time. These three are like Fund Managers operating a discretionary fund – they have to make all the decisions to do with it. Two of them make a variety of investments which turn out to be highly profitable and when the employer returns he is delighted to find that both have doubled his money. They are duly rewarded.

The third however did nothing – he made no effort to invest it in any suitable security – he simply hid the money under the bed. When the employer called him to account he was angry with this man for his faithless inactivity. “You should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.”(v27) He doesn't berate him for failing to produce the 100% return achieved by the other two fund managers, but for refusing to accept that he was a fund manager at all – even the lowest risk investment option yielding the smallest return would have been preferable to this man's disobedience.

Now of course Jesus is not holding a seminar on how to be a successful City Trader! Even less is he telling his listeners to see profit as the supreme objective in life! No, this is an illustration – that is what a parable is – the lesson is to do with faithful discipleship and the application is along the lines of the call to a lifetime of fruitful service. We must take care that we do not allow a love of money, or anxieties about money, to hinder us from heeding the Lord's command.

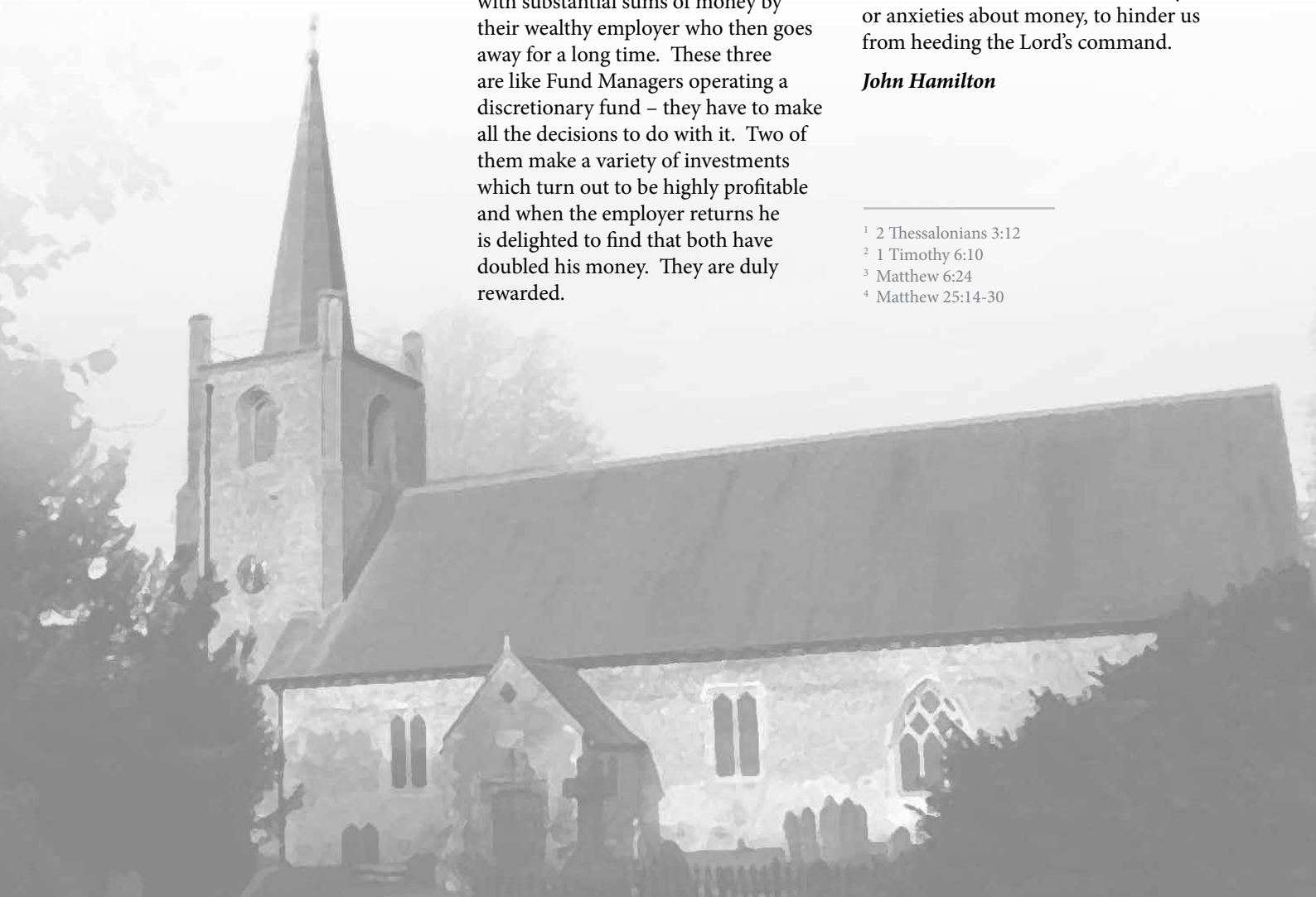
John Hamilton

¹ 2 Thessalonians 3:12

² 1 Timothy 6:10

³ Matthew 6:24

⁴ Matthew 25:14-30



Services for February

St Andrew's – Sherborne St John
All Saints – Monk Sherborne
The Priory – Pamber End

5 February

10am Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
Sherborne St John Village Hall

12 February

8am Holy Communion
10am Morning Service, Sunday Club, Crèche
10am Morning Service
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

The Priory
St Andrew's
All Saints
Sherborne St John Village Hall

19 February

10am Family Service
6.00pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
Sherborne St John Village Hall

26 February

10am Family Service
10am Morning Service
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
The Priory
Sherborne St John Village Hall

5 March

10am Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
Sherborne St John Village Hall

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM...

Feb 5	Who is Jesus?	Luke 9:18-27	Andrew King
Feb 12	Highs & lows	Luke 9:28-45	John Hamilton & Andrew King
Feb 19	Sibling rivalry	Luke 9:46-50	Scott Seivewright
Feb 26	Fire from heaven?	Luke 9:51-55	John Hamilton & Andy Spence
Mar 5	The power of God	Romans 1:16-20	John Hamilton

SUNDAYS AT SIX

Feb 5	The unfaithful wife	Hosea 1:1-2:1	Scott Seivewright
Feb 12	The faithful husband	Hosea 2:2-3:5	Scott Seivewright
Feb 19	A nation's unfaithfulness	Hosea 4-5	Steve Howe
Feb 26	Unrepentant	Hosea 6-7	Steve Howe
Mar 5	Reap the whirlwind	Hosea 8-10	Scott Seivewright

MIDWEEK

We meet to pray together on Tuesday 7th at 8 pm in the Parish Room (coffee & biscuits at 7.45pm). Home Groups meet in the weeks beginning 13th & 27th February. The third week is half Term.

A seven week 'Christianity Explained' course begins on Wednesday 1st February at 8pm. Further details from Scott Seivewright – Tel: 01256 416272.

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

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

Weekday Mass

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

* Time & Venue could vary

St Andrew's Sherborne St John

All Saints Monk Sherborne

The Priory Pamber End

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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Defibrillators.

The PC are pleased to report that 2 defibrillators will be installed in the near future. One will be in the phone box in Monk Sherborne and the other outside the hair salon in Charter Alley. Many thanks to Community Heartbeat and SSE for providing one machine free of charge and the second machine is funded through a grant from County Councillor Keith Chapman with the balance kindly donated by Stan Gibson in memory of his late father Wilf, who was a central figure of Charter Alley for many years.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

An annual grant of £1000 has recently been used to carry out the following works around the Parish. The contractor jet washed the area outside the MS phone box and the bench as well as the play area surfacing. The ditches around the War Memorial were cleaned and hedge cutting was carried out in Salters Heath Road and Pamber Road from the Priory School to Charter Alley. It is hoped that the scheme will run in the next financial year in order to make savings on Parish funds.

Planning Applications

The latest planning applications since the last Parish meeting are

16/04682/HSE Orchard Cottage,
Pamber Road, Charter Alley.

Single storey rear extension part two
storey rear extension over single storey

16/04745/HSE Beaufort Chase, Old
Chapel Lane, Charter Alley

Erection of two storey side extension
and single storey rear extension

Precept

Unfortunately it is likely that the precept for the next financial year will rise slightly due to the need to cover the loss of 50% of the grant towards Parish grass cutting. The Council have managed to have eight years without an increase but are left with no alternative in order to balance the books.

The Mole

Many of you will know that Monk Sherborne's pub opened in the autumn and since the New Year the kitchen has opened. There are 3 menus for sandwiches, bar and a la carte. The opening times for FOOD are as follows.

Monday.....closed for food

Tuesday – Thursday
12.00 – 2.30 and 6.00 – 9.00

Friday/Saturday
12.00 – 2.30 and 6.00 – 9.30

Sunday
12.00 – 4.00

The choice on the menus will increase as time goes by and a specials board will appear as soon as possible. It is recommended to make bookings particularly at weekends.

Please support your local pub



SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan

BDBC have now appointed a plan examiner who will determine whether or not the plan conforms to existing BDBC Local Plan, etc.

The current schedule indicates a formal sign-off on the plan in the 2017 mid-summer timeframe.

With Rydon's premature application for the development that is included as part of the SSJ Neighbourhood Plan I've received a number of e-mails/calls premised on the assumption that the plan is close to/has been adopted. This is NOT the case. There will be a formal vote, much like the national/local election process, where all villagers will be entitled to vote for or against the plan.

As per previous communications relating to the SSJ NP it is important to note that this is a village led initiative and that the Parish Council is facilitating and supportive of the process.

2017/2018 Precept

You will have seen in the national press that the cap on 2017/2018 increases in Council Tax has been removed to allow for Councils to generate additional funds for Social Care. Currently it looks like BDBC will be raising the Council Tax by approximately 4%.

The Parish Council has yet to set the level of precept for 2017/2018 but despite increasing costs and the loss of some key grants we're hoping to maintain a precept pretty much in line with that of 2016/2017.

The Chute

The schedule of works to repair/upgrade the Chute is almost complete. There is some additional work required to upgrade/repair the showers and water supply.

Additionally the alarm system will be upgraded and new equipment purchased to clean and maintain the new floor.

Mobile Shop/Post Office

The mobile shop continues to visit the Village Hall car park on Monday and Friday afternoons

The Parish Council has been in discussion with the PO as to the possibility of providing a mobile Post Office to complement the shop.

However the Post Office has decided that given the presumed number of transactions (based on the old Village Post Office) a mobile service is not financially viable.

Village Infrastructure

There are a number of issues including road re-surfacing, replacement of road signs and manhole cover replacement that remain outstanding.

We continue to badger BDBC/HCC but very much get the impression that these type of repairs are being 'rationed' given the apparent ever decreasing funds available to spend on these areas.

Telephone Box

There may be the possibility of getting a grant to make something of the Telephone Box in the middle of the

village. There are examples of old telephone boxes being transformed into libraries, etc.

The only concern is that given the recent deliberate damage to the scarecrows that were part of the Village Hall competition would it be a wise move to spend money on such a project?

Are there any other ideas??

Village Party – 2017

July 8th is in the diary

2017

On behalf of the Parish Council a big thank you to those parishioners who regularly attend the monthly meetings and work on behalf of the village in areas such as transport, the Neighbourhood Plan and the general upkeep and well-being of the village.

Best wishes to you and yours for 2017.

Richard Morgan,

Chair, SSJ Parish Council

Pamber Parish Council Notes for Pamber End and Pamber Green

The last meeting of Pamber Parish Council was held on Monday, 9th January 2017. Planning.

Planning decisions

16/02911/HSE: Conversion of bungalow into house, including front and rear extensions and addition of first floor, with new vehicular access. 15 Clappsgate Road, Pamber Heath **GRANTED**

16/03713/HSE: Erection of two-storey extension following demolition of conservatory. Rose Cottage, New Road, Pamber Green. **GRANTED**

16/03783/FUL: Revised siting for erection of 1 no. three bed dwelling (Amendment to approved scheme 16/00508/FUL). Plum Trees, Green Lane, Pamber Green. **GRANTED**

At the meeting planning application 16/04159/OUT was also discussed. This relates to an outline application for the erection of up to 64 dwellings, together with garages, parking areas,

access roads, footpaths, landscaping, surface water swales and associated ancillary development, with access to be determined at land in Pelican Road, Pamber Heath. After receiving feedback from residents in the area and looking at the plans themselves, Councillors agreed to formally object to this application for a number of reasons.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The Lengthsman Scheme has been extremely successful and all required works have been completed in the Pamber area. A huge thank you has to be given to David Saunders and his team who have been highly efficient in carrying out all works for Pamber and the neighbouring Parishes in its cluster.

Highways

Highway issues can be reported directly to Hampshire County Council - visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport> or telephone 0300 555 1388.

Avian Flu

In light of the recent news the following link from the Government Chief Veterinary Officer has advice for protecting any birds against Avian influenza, as well as details of the extension of the Prevention Zone: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-flu-prevention-zone-extended>.

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, February 13th 2017 in St Stephen's Hall, Little London. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Details of meetings are displayed on the notice boards and on the website www.pamber-pc.gov.uk

L. S. Browne (Clerk). Tel. 07920 787170. Email clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk

The Priory Primary School



Happy New Year to you all, we hope that you had a very pleasant Christmas. One of the highlights of our new term was the final of our spelling bee competition.

Here are Erin, Zack, Alex, Eva and Lucy to tell you a little bit more about what has been going on.

Tense spelling bee occurs in Priory Primary in year 5

At the start of last term Year 5 were given a spelling test of words they may or may not know. The top spellers were

chosen to go to a spelling club with Mrs Salsi every Wednesday for half an hour. We did a lot of spelling games and mini competitions along with learning different spelling patterns in fun and different ways. At the end of the term we were given a list of words to learn over the Christmas holidays to prepare for a spelling bee competition.

Our classmates were watching us so it became quite intense. There were six different rounds. In each round we all got two words to spell luckily there was

no tie breaker. And you might be wondering who won? So here is the leader board...

Erin 1st, Zack and Alex were joint 2nd, Eva was 3rd, and Lucy 4th. Everyone did as well as they could.

Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly articles; if you would like to visit us in person, a warm welcome will always await you at The Priory; please contact the school office on 01256 850062.

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

Unfortunately our all too short family Christmas and New Year break is over. Coastal temperatures in Mediterranean Spain were very favourable and the sun shone every day we were there. But it's back to the lots of dirty washing, chores and dismal English weather.

A splendid gathering of villagers filled St Stephen's Hall on December 18th for the festive offerings enjoyed from readers and musicians. Paul James and Jenny Spence provided delightful solos along with the octet of "Generations" who accompanied the villagers through all the carols under the direction of Steve Hetherington. They added to the evening with their own lovely seasonal offerings. There were Christmas related and humorous readings from Lauren and Colin Armitage, myself and Liam Elivish, a villager who is now pursuing a professional career in the theatre. How fortunate we are to have so many talented individuals in our midst and who are prepared to share their talents. The evening finished with everyone joining together over glasses of wine, mulled wine and refreshments in addition to trays of sausage rolls and mince pies. It was judged a great success and raised round about £100 for Hall funds and it is likely to be replicated again in December 2017. A range of events will continue to be organised at the Hall in the coming year including a Quiz Night on Saturday 11th February 2017 back by popular demand. Bring family and friends and make a team or come along and join one on the night. Please bring your own refreshments. Regular hall events are the Tuesday Club held every Tuesday from 10.15am - 12noon with coffee and chat; Pilates every Thursday starting at 9.30am (contact Hannah on 07887 791614 for more information); a Kundlini Yoga and Meditation course from 7pm to 8.30pm every Monday with the last session being on 20th February (for more information phone 07541742588 or email MARIA.J.COX@GMAIL.COM). As activities are on the increase at the Hall, it is therefore very unfortunate that parking has

been significantly limited and made exceptionally muddy. Extensive ditching work has been carried out alongside the field which bounds the parking area and the spoil dumped on Silchester Road side of the fields.

Latest published Pamber Parish Council minutes for November 2016 include a discussion of how the Council will deal with future planning applications in the South Ward. The Chairman reiterated that in June 2016 the Council agreed that a series of public meetings would be held when legislation relating to the 2016/17 Act was finalised. He added if the Council wished to press on with the Neighbourhood Plan, they would need to wait a month and fully read the protocol document. Parishioners argued that a Neighbourhood Plan could be drawn up for certain parts of the Parish and the Parish Council agreed that there was no harm in investigating this. It was planned to discuss this further at the December meeting. The Chairman reminded those present that each planning application was looked at on its individual merits and if anyone had a query about a specific planning application they should contact the Clerk and raise the matter under Public Participation. It was also minuted that a small Committee would meet with the St Stephen's Village Hall Committee to discuss the lease, as this would restore communication points on both sides. The next Pamber Parish Council meeting will be held on 13th February 2017 St Stephen's Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and please diary date the 8th May 2017 for the Parish Council AGM at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust note a fun wildlife-themed outdoor activity for children aged 5-15 years in the Basingstoke area on Saturday 25th February 2017 between 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Telephone 01256 782665 for details of location. A donation of £4 per person is suggested to cover costs.

Whilst not directly Pamber news, I was interested to read the poem in

the last Villager about John Wilson's beautiful shire horses previously located in Sherborne St John. Priory School Christmas Fayres of years gone by when my son, Thomas, was a pupil featured John's shires giving cart rides to raise funds for the school. What a wonderful sight they were, so great news to hear that two new shires have now been welcomed back to Sherborne St John.

Life in the choirs is just beginning to awaken and a busy schedule for all is being enthusiastically welcomed. Basingstoke Ladies Choir has a new venture, a Valentine Cabaret Concert on Saturday 11th February at 7.30pm at the Carnival Hall, Basingstoke to raise funds for the very worthwhile Pink Place North Hampshire Cancer Charity in Wote Street, Basingstoke. It is a cabaret variety show with guest performers and tickets are £10 to include the first drink. Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir is planning a series of concerts with the first likely in May (more details to follow) and Tadley Singers are also making plans.

Fancy something different? Then remember the long running quiz night at The Plough, Little London every third Monday of the month. Teams battle it out each month to win a prize for an entry fee of 50p per person which also covers some finger food. So arrive by 8.30pm for an 8.45pm start for some fun and friendship.

The small Pambers don't have the same volume of events that the larger areas covered by the Villager enjoy. However, please help this page contain interesting news so that we are not forgotten. Please send me anything you think will be of interest.

As I finish this article the much forecasted snow is starting to fall. Will it match expectations? Part of me hopes so as I love walking through Pamber Forest in the virgin snow, scuffling through it like I did as a child.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com

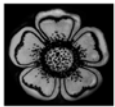


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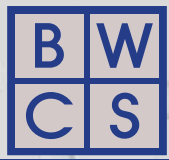
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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

January is the time for New Year resolutions, and fitness is certainly near the top of our list! There are plenty of different sports activities at school this half term to keep everyone on their toes. Our dance coach, Faye, is running weekly classes with years 1, 5 and 6 each week and she certainly keeps us all moving! Premier Sports are training with Class 1 every week developing football skills. Our usual Judo, Dance and Gymnastics Clubs have now been supplemented by a Football Club run by Basingstoke Football Club, and the Tag Rugby team are in serious training for matches this term. We also have a year 5/6 Athletics team and a KS1 skipping team participating in a local competitions.

On the 6th January, the School Playground became a 'fire safety' zone



as the Infants were visited by the Fire Service and had a chance to climb on board the fire engine and learn how to put out fires. The siren on the fire engine sounded very loud in the confines of the School grounds, and some of the small trainee firemen became rather wet in learning how to use the hose, but great fun was had by all and we learnt a lot of useful information!



On a rather cold January morning, 15 Year 6 children (plus Miss Biles and Mrs Rogers) boarded the bus for their residential week at Stubbington. Despite the cold weather,

they managed to take part in a range of outside activities and seemed to have a great time! Hopefully we can include some photos in next month's Villager.

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent



EXCITING AND NEW!

Fantastic news for the residents of Basingstoke and surrounding areas this Autumn, Basingstoke Art Class will be holding new part-time Art Classes in Basingstoke, starting soon.

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Women's Fellowship

For our December meeting we all attended along with some partners and friends the annual Christmas Lunch. Again it was held at Sherfield Oak Golf Club and what a splendid Lunch it turned out to be. The room was decorated beautifully and the meal could not be faulted or the standard of service either. We were seated around large tables of eight persons each and judging by the volume of chatter an absolutely great time was had by one and all.

For our January 2017 meeting (which incidentally fell on the 3rd) after the usual business was completed we were treated to the most delightful talk by Mr Mervyn Annetts one of the partners that own Mervyn's Coaches.

Mervyn first explained a potted history of coaching (the transporting of persons and goods) which started with a coach and four horses in the 1600's. At the peak of it's popularity there were as many as 40 coaches a day passed through a town

like Marlborough in Wiltshire. The richest coach line ever owned at one time involved 68 coaches, 1800 horses and had over 2000 employees in various jobs in the trade. At one time there was a "QUICK" service from Edinburgh in the north to London in the south which took a total of nine days. In 1824 the railways came and this was the beginning of the coach and horses demise despite the coming of the mail coach in 1874. Then during the 1st world war mechanisation began.

He then went on to tell us about his own company which started 35 years ago in Dummer and then moved to its present base in Innersdown 22 years ago. These days himself, his son James and one of his grandsons drive a fleet of luxury coaches but the queen of his fleet is a 39 year old Bedford O.B. which is still running perfectly and has appeared in many well-known films along with stars like Anthony Hopkins and Michael Caine as well as several episodes of Foyle's War and

Poirot. Of course Mervyn always drives this very special coach himself on these occasions. The model car company Corgi have brought out three different sizes of this particular coach so that makes Mervyn still more proud every time he climbs up into her cab.

Throughout the talk Mervyn regaled us with some extremely funny and hilarious anecdotes which had the hall in fits of laughter and delight. We just didn't want the talk to end but eventually, very reluctantly, broke for tea and biscuits. Mervyn was thanked by Mrs Jenny Cullum.

Mrs Joan Brandon



Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

The Chairman, John Lambeth, welcomed members to the first meeting of 2017 on 4th January and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips to The William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow on Wednesday 22nd February and Chichester on Wednesday 22nd March. He also reminded members that subscriptions for the year were due and that nominations for the committee should be sent to him. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave her up-to-date report and welcomed back those who had not been for a while.

This month's speaker was Anne Court who gave a talk on her year as Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane who is the Queen's representative in the Borough. She gave a history of the position which is an unelected one and is usually held by the longest serving councillor. She gave details of her charities for the year and the reasons she had chosen the Ark Cancer Centre, the Basingstoke Multicultural Forum and Inspiro to receive the £24,000 raised. Besides attending over 380 functions in the borough she also went to the linked Belgian town of Briane L'Allend to attend the battle of

Waterloo's bicentenary celebrations. Her most abiding memory of the year was though, she said, seeing the extraordinary amount of voluntary work carried out in Basingstoke by a huge number of people spread over a wide range of organisations. The next meeting is on 1st February when the speaker will be Alan Grace on "Amazing Berlin 1914 – 1989". The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. The year's programme and further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.



David Cowling

The Launch of the Bramley and District Branch of the Royal British Legion



2016 marked the amalgamation of the Bramley, Stratfield Saye and Sherborne St John Branches of the Royal British Legion into the newly named *Bramley and District Branch*. In doing so it stabilises the Branch and gives a strong base to move forward. 2016 has also seen an increase in the branch membership (not due to the amalgamation), and also bodes well for the future.

The Branch accounts are in a good shape and will allow the Branch Committee to do more for its membership in terms of meetings and events throughout the year. To that end the Committee is planning a programme of meetings to be held every two months, along with visits and an Annual Dinner.

Branch meetings will include some of the traditional elements such as the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph, but will also include a presentation to the Branch on subjects that aim to be of interest to the Members and the wider community. We may even start some experiments on the style of presentations so they can become more interactive with the members.

As a taster, below are some of the activities planned for the coming year:

- Visit to RAF Odiham
- An Annual Dinner
- A summer BarBQ
- Stories from the Members
- Visit to the Imperial War Museum
- And many more.....

For a few years now, membership of the Royal British Legion no longer requires a history of service in the armed forces, so any member of the public is welcome to join if they have a wish to support British Armed Forces personnel, ex-Service men and women and their families. So anyone wishing to dip a toe in the water and find out more please get in touch with Rhydian Vaughan.

Branch meetings for 2017 are scheduled for 14th March, 9th May, 11th July, 12th September and 14th November. All at Cross House, 7.30pm start.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

This year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was an amazing success for the Bramley and District Branch. In 2015 we had a very good year, with £6,889.56 raised, but this was surpassed in 2016 by an absolutely stunning total of £9,328.72. This was a phenomenal growth and can be directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of the Branch Poppy Organiser Jean Young and all her band of volunteers who supported her.

Sadly, for health reasons, Jean now has to retire from the role of Poppy Appeal Organiser for the Branch, and we would therefore like to appeal to anyone in the Bramley, Sherborne St John, Sherfield and Stratfield Saye areas for a volunteer to take on this essential role for 2017. Whilst the Poppy Appeal seems a long way off now, with the organisation

that goes into the arrangements, an appointment sooner rather than later would be highly beneficial. The appeal goes to anyone from the area, even if you are not currently a member of the Royal British Legion, because we can fast track membership for a willing volunteer. Training and guidance will, of course, be available.

Bramley & District Branch – Royal British Legion Standard Bearer

Our Branch Standard Bearer Tony Evans has been a member now for 59 Years. An ex Warrant Officer in the Royal Marines, Tony can always be seen at Royal British Legion events both locally and at County Level, carrying the Branch Standard. He is never put off by the weather, and will attend the events that are required. He can be relied upon to be immaculately dressed and is a credit to both the Branch and the National Royal British Legion. We hope that he will continue to represent the Branch for many years to come, as the Branch Members owe him a debt of gratitude.

Next month we will have more news about events and meetings planned for the members (and potential members) of the Bramley and District Branch.

Steve Day – Branch Treasurer &
Rhydian Vaughan – Branch Vice
Chairman

(For SSJ area please contact
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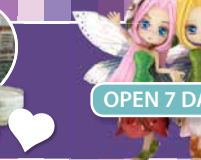


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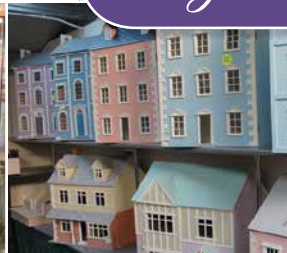


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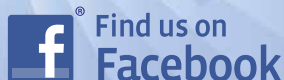
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Calling all Makers

Makerspaces are increasingly popular community workshops set up by local volunteers to share tools, knowledge and ideas with like-minded individuals. Reading already has one (R-Lab) as does Southampton (SoMakeIt!) and Newbury (NaDhack). We want to start one for the Basingstoke area and would like to hear from anybody else interested in helping out.

What goes on in a particular Makespace very much depends upon its members. Applying new technologies such as laser cutting and 3D printing is popular, along with computing and using more traditional metal working and carpentry techniques. What comes out of a Makespace is equally varied, from arts and crafts projects through to robots, software applications and perhaps a scaled-down medieval siege engine!

Apart from its members, the heart of a Makespace is its workshop and the search is on for rental accommodation



where access is possible throughout the week, preferably on a 24-hour basis. Makespaces are funded through members' subscriptions but we would also like to hear from potential sponsors willing to support local community ventures through donations of any kind! Sentinel Housing have kindly offered temporary storage facilities for tools and equipment until the workshop is ready.

Whether your preferred tool is a needle, a brush, an Arduino, a lathe, or a plane, as long as you like making things, Basingstoke Makespace would love to meet you! Come along to our planning meetings at the Four Lanes Community Centre, off Hanmore Road in Chineham, held fortnightly on a Tuesday, between 6 and 9 pm from January 10th onwards, or have a look at our website at basingstokemakespace.org.uk/ or contact Paul Hyde on 01256 470135 for more information.

Probus learn about the Art/Science of the Dowser

Michael Haxeltine, a member of the British Society of Dowsters, gave a presentation to the Probus Club of Basingstoke. Most of us have heard about water divining. However not many attendees knew about the extensive use made by dowsters in all manner of circumstances and the speaker gave practical demonstrations to help his cause.

And members of this social club for retired professional and business managers were encouraged to take part. One member sat with an open design pyramid over his head for half an hour which when removed was shown to have created an aura of about 75 cms

around him. The weighted end of a flexible metal rod was seen to rise when placed in the middle of the pyramid.

All present had a dowsing rod made of a wire coat hanger which we had to use to search for articles previously hidden in the room. Some had success but others had to count backwards to stabilise their mental position. One volunteer had the left side of his body checked by a dowsing rod to identify any old injuries. Some foods were checked if still suitable to eat by suspending a pendulum over it, similar in style to a plumb line, and if it rotated clockwise the food was edible.



Everyone had a corrugated plastic pipe with a weighted end called a bobber which if rotated clockwise had been used to find oil fields. All down to our mental process, apparently.

Michael Haxeltine is an enthusiastic amateur member of his society and so is not listed on their web site but see www.britishdowsters.org for more information about this fascinating subject. For information on the Probus club see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or phone Paul Flint on 07770 886521.

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Sherborne St. John Village Hall Presents

A Night with Sharp Practice



Saturday 4th February 2017

7:30 at SSJ Village Hall

£10.00 per person

Ticket price includes Ploughman's Supper : Bar provided



Sherborne St John Village Hall

Charity No. 301945

Tickets from : Tracey : 850611 / Pat : 850593 / Shawna : 889534



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Birds & Gardens: Perfect Partners

At Basingstoke Discovery Centre
Saturday 4 February / 2pm / £3.50



In this illustrated talk by Alick Jones, find out how we can make our gardens better habitats for birds and about the role of the Garden Birdwatch.

Advance Booking Essential

Visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre
Telephone 01252 478670
www.hants.gov.uk/shop

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Elizabeth Banks Presentation

At November's SSJ Village Quiz Night Richard Pettifer and Debra Morgan presented Elizabeth Banks with a bouquet and gifts on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Elizabeth has recently retired from the committee after an incredible 40 years of dedicated service. Richard thanked her for all the hard work and tireless effort she's put into village events and commented how much she would be missed.

The committee and her many friends in the village all wish Elizabeth well and look forward to seeing her as a guest at future events.



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Household Waste



Once upon a time we had a bin
That we put all our rubbish in.
And every week on a specified day
It was collected and taken away.

Life was simple and complete
Happiness reigned in the street
Then we were given another bin
To put our recycling in.

Even then this was not enough
There was still some other stuff
Like bottles that had once held wine
Now needed a box to join the line

Soon green bags appeared as well
For garden clippings and to swell
The coffers of the council more
With extra charges made galore

And if the rules you dared to flout
You'll get three strikes and be out
With no more collections from your bins
You'll be made to suffer for your sins.

With talk of slop buckets on the way
And fortnightly collections any day
I begin to think, where this will this end?
It's driving me around the bend!

Bill Breakspear

Soldiers Sailors and Airmen's Families Association

ssafa
the
Armed Forces
charity

This is SSAFA Forces Help. The charity was founded 125 years ago and is a national organisation dedicated to helping serving and ex service men and women and their families who are in need or distress and have a financial or housing need. In 2016 the Basingstoke branch was able to assist in 70 cases.

Locally SSAFA Forces Help has a team of trained caseworkers who are able to visit ex service men and women and offer assistance in various ways. Sometimes the need is to replace a piece of household equipment or help with special medical aids or a much needed holiday. There are many ways in which we can make life a little brighter for people who have given so much for us.

Anyone who has received at least one day's pay in Her Majesty's Services as a regular, reservist or national serviceman is qualified to seek assistance from SSAFA Forces Help.

Please call 0118 981 3700 for information

As well as SSAFA being able to assist those in need, we have a need for more caseworkers.

There are 7,000 volunteer workers throughout the United Kingdom and on service bases, there are also SSAFA caseworkers in Europe where there are expatriate communities.

Being a caseworker is a voluntary job to undertake at times to suit the volunteer, qualification is by attending a fully funded residential course and working with other trained personnel.

If you feel that you would be able to give a few hours per week to undertake this very rewarding work please contact SSAFA Forces Help on

0118 981 3700 - We need you.

Sunshine Deficiency "Sad" Syndrome

When I wake up in the morning and the sky is dark and grey,
I don't want to get out of bed and start another day.
But if when I awake the sun is shining bright,
I jump eagerly out of bed, my spirits high and light.

Sometimes when the day is dull and my chin is on the floor,
Eventually the sun peaks through and once again my spirits soar.
There's definitely something to be said for S.D.S.S. as they say.
For sunshine makes a difference to everybody's day

Joan Brandon

Have Fun on Mad Hair Day!

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce the return of their fun campaign Mad Hair Day which will take place on Friday 10th February to raise much needed funds for the Hospice. The local community are encouraged to wear crazy wigs and style their hair in weird and wacky ways.

'Mad Hair Day' is the perfect excuse to go wild and have fun with your hair', says Lynne Grimshaw, Community Campaigns Co-ordinator at the Hospice. 'Maybe you have always wondered what your hair would look like pink, permed or in a beehive, or perhaps ladies, you have always wanted to be brave enough to have your head shaved, or gentlemen your legs or chest waxed. Well Friday 10th February is the day to give it a try. You can have great fun and really help your local Hospice at the same time by getting sponsored too.' In the past, the Hospice has had wonderful support from schools and hairdressers but individuals and businesses are always welcome to join in too.

St. Michael's is the local Hospice for North Hampshire, providing care and support through the In-Patient Unit, Day Service and Hospice at Home services. All services are completely free of charge to people with life-limiting illnesses. The running costs of the Hospice last year were £3.9 million of which only 20% is funded by the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The support of the local community in campaigns such as Mad Hair Day really does make a huge difference to our fundraising.

For more information about supporting Mad Hair Day or holding an event, please call Lynne in the Fundraising Department on 01256 848845 or email lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelsospice.org.uk for a fundraising pack.

Supporting Today – Securing Tomorrow

Why are gifts in Wills so important?

As a local charity St. Michael's Hospice provides all of its services free of charge to patients and their families. Each year St Michael's receives less than 20% of its funding from the government and so must raise in the region of £3.1 million from the local community through fundraising and retail activities. Gifts in Wills are hugely important towards this total as they raise nearly 10% of the Hospices annual income.

We recognise that for many people it is difficult to give to their favourite charity during their lifetime and that is why leaving a gift in your Will is such a wonderful way to give, as it will cost you nothing now. We also appreciate that family and friends must always come first in your thoughts when deciding on what gifts to include in your Will. However, any gifts, whether small or large, make a huge difference to St. Michael's Hospice and will help to protect the future of your local hospice for generations to come.

It's very easy to leave a gift in your Will to St. Michael's Hospice and gifts to charity included in your will are exempt from Inheritance Tax. If you already have a Will and wish to leave a cash gift, then simply ask your solicitor to add a Codicil to your existing Will. A Codicil is a simple legal document that changes specific provisions of a Last Will and Testament but leaves all other provisions unchanged.

If you do not have a Will then a Solicitor will be able to guide you on making your Will and how to include a gift to St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire).

Please get in touch

Whether you have already included St. Michael's Hospice in your Will, or are considering doing so, we would love to hear from you. Please call Jackie Ridge, Legacy Manager, on 01256 848 854 or email jackie.ridge@stmichaelsospice.org.uk

A record number of people join together to Light Up A Life

On a beautiful clear night, over 1000 people came along to St. Michael's Hospice to pause and remember loved ones this Christmas.

The service, led by Richard Harlow, Rector of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester, featured Christmas Carols sung by local choir groups, Viabes Voices and the Ooh Mama Ladies Choir as well as music from the Basingstoke Silver Band.

This year's Light Up A Life service raised more than £30,000 from donations in memory of loved ones. Iain Cameron, Director at St. Michael's Hospice said 'We are extremely pleased with the response from the community. We know that Christmas can be a poignant time amid all the festivities and this service is important for those who want to pause and remember as well as to give thanks for the lives their loved ones led.'

The event is made possible by the support of volunteers who help on the night with car parking, making tea and handing out glow sticks to all participants. Chris Griffiths, Marketing and Events Manager at the Hospice said, 'We have many people we must thank as without their support this event would not be the incredible success that it is. We are extremely grateful to De La Rue Charitable Trust for their financial support as well as to the Rotary Basingstoke Deane, the Apollo Hotel, Asset Advantage, Stuart Freeman from Hype Photography, Projected Image, B & M Stores and, of course, the band and the choir. We are very thankful too for our wonderful volunteers and supporters who are the backbone of all our events. We would like to give everyone our sincerest thanks for their goodwill and loyalty throughout the past year and we look forward to meeting them next year.'

Bert's Blog

I know I permanently support a 'chocolate' fur coat but rumour has it there is going to be a cold spell so I thought I should try some of the Boss's headgear to ensure my ears do not freeze in the arctic wind. I think this one rather suits me, gives off a faintly Sherlock whiff while doing the job of keeping the ears warm. Speaking of Sherlock – I was allowed in one evening to watch it but could not make head nor tail of it – neither could the Boss who gave up and resorted to loud snores from his corner. It turns out the bird I thought was the most pleasant was a ghost, Dr Watson hasn't got a bones



chance in the garden of deducing anything, Sherlock goes barking mad having eaten too many doggy treats and Mrs Hudson should never be allowed near a vehicle, especially one without off road tyres and four wheel drive. The gun! I ask you – where did she get it – did she have a licence – what was the constabulary thinking of? When I think of the hoops and checks the Boss

has to go through to obtain any sort of firearm and definitely not a pistol I can't imagine what sort of skulduggery the housekeeper has been up to. Wouldn't do for the Mrs to wield such deadly stuff, her worst weapon is the Hoover which when occasionally wielded nearby tries to nip at my tail while I am tucked up in bed. I usually wait for it to sweep round the rear of my basket then leap for the door to avoid a carefully wielded suction grooming - I need all the hair I've got at the moment to combat the snowy winter weather forecast – the Hoover will just have to wait! Happy New Year to all you K9 lovers, wrap up warm and keep on the move.



Violet

When Violet came to live with me she was young and very fit
We walked for miles and played for hours and hours every day
I took her everywhere I went by bus and train and car
We even travelled on a ferry far far away.

As we two got older I've slowed up and so has she.
Walks have grown much shorter, and her ball's abandoned on the grass.
We enjoy each other's company in silence and content
And sit now in the garden and let the hours pass.

Her life and mine are creeping toward the ending
We understand each other's every mood and more.
I cannot imagine my life without her in it,
But that day will come eventually I am sure.

Joan Brandon



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Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	28 th January 2017	Race Night
Saturday	4 th February 2017	Quiz Night - Max 6 people per team £1 per person
Saturday	18 th February 2017	Wine Tasting £10 per person
Saturday	25 th February 2017	Please register your interest by Friday 10 th February at the Club
Saturday	4 th March 2017	Skittles Night, Fun for all the family £1 per person per game
		Quiz Night - Max 6 people per team £1 per person
Every Friday		Meat Raffle
Every Sunday		Bingo

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By Karen Bristow

Pulling a sickie – the consequences

Cold and dark mornings result in many people feeling the winter blues, tempting some into “pulling a sickie.” If you are an employee considering calling in sick, or an employer dealing with this issue, it is important to understand the potential consequences.

If an employee makes up or exaggerates an illness or injury in order to pull a sickie, they can be dismissed by their employer for misconduct. This is because it breaches an implied term of their employment contract called mutual trust and confidence. An employer will usually be able to fairly dismiss an employee if there were reasonable grounds for belief in the misconduct, following a reasonable investigation, and the misconduct in question was sufficiently serious to merit dismissal.

Employees may take a sick day for a genuine reason and in some cases there is added employment protection for such employees. For example, where their mental and or physical condition amounts to a legal disability, relates to a pregnancy, an accident at work or is due to the unreasonable conduct of their employer. Employees should note that there are very short time limits that apply to employment claims, in most cases three months, so they should not delay in seeking advice.

On the other hand, some employers are left with malingering employees either constantly pulling sickies or on long term sick leave, which can have a crippling effect on their business. If employers do not follow a fair process they could find themselves pulled into lengthy and sometimes costly employment tribunal litigation.

We offer fixed fee initial consultation meetings where you can discuss your work issues in a supportive environment and receive the advice you need to help you protect your rights and resolve any work related issues.

If you have been taking sick days for genuine reasons and feel that you have been treated unfairly or if you are concerned about a member of your staff taking sick days you can contact Karen Bristow on 01256 854670 karen.bristow@phillips-law.co.uk or Gill Brown on 01256 854605 gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk

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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	A
Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²K) (U-value)	
The climate zone is:	
Thermal Transmittance (U-value) Solar Factor (W/m²K) Effective Air Leakage (W/m³K)	
0 UK	

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