

A photograph of several ducks swimming in a pond. In the foreground, a male mallard duck with a green head and a yellow beak is swimming towards the right. Next to it is a female mallard duck with brown and black mottled feathers and a yellow beak. In the background, other ducks are visible, including a male mallard and a brown duck. The water is dark and rippled.

The Villager

March 2017

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial



I would like to thank Valda Burt for her 28 years of delivering The Villager in the Pamber Green area. Sadly, Valda has decided she can no longer undertake her round so we are looking for another volunteer to take on delivering 10 copies in this area. Please telephone me (850413) if you would like a pleasant walk in the country once a month for 10 months in the year.

George Rust



A First Aid Course will take place on Saturday 25th March 9.15 - 12noon at the Chute Pavilion, Sherborne St. John. It will be a one-off 2-3 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.

Julie Crawley



Poppy Appeal 2016 - Sherborne St John Area

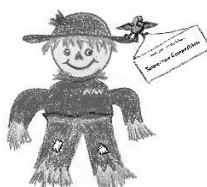
I am delighted to tell you that the total was £6,462.02 including £3,982.11 raised at the Hospital.

My thanks to all the volunteers – your efforts have raised much needed funds for service families.

I retire this year and would love to hear from anyone interested in training to take over from me. It is a very worthwhile and rewarding job and I will be around to support you, for some years, I hope!

Jean Young, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Sherborne St John Area

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

March 2017

4	Dads and Tots, Sherborne St John Village Hall, £2 per family, Tel. Scott 416272	8.00 – 9.30am
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
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship 'The Life & Works of Charles Dickens' SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
13	Pamber Parish Council Meeting	
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
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship 'The Weird, The Wild & The Wonderful' SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
17	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
22-23	The Sherbornes Art Exhibition, Sherborne St John Village Hall, Art all Weekend with Lunch	10am – 5pm
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
2	SSJ Women's Fellowship, The R. N. L. I. SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
6 & 7	Rotary Family Festival at B/S Rugby Club, Down Grange RG22 5HH Many attractions, free entry	11.00 – 5.00pm
8	Pelican Film Society, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
13	Dads and Tots, Sherborne St John Village Hall, £2 per family, Tel. Scott 416272	8.00 – 9.30am
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
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Stained Glass SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
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
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship Strawberry Tea SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
8	SSJ Village Party	
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

August 2017

1	SSJ Women's Fellowship 'Where & What is That in Hampshire' SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
7	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
21	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am

September 2017

4	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am
5	SSJ Women's Fellowship - Annual Outing Location to be advised	
16-24	Sherborne St John Village Scarecrow Competition	
18	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall	10.00-11.30am



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Wednesday mornings
(during school term time)

10.00–11.30

Sherborne St John Village Hall



phone Barbara 850173 or Liz 850800

Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	4 th March 2017	Quiz Night - Max 6 people per team £1 per person
Saturday	18 th March 2017	Dance Through the Decades
Saturday	1 st April 2017	Quiz Night
Saturday	8 th April 2017	£1 per person & 6 max in a team
Saturday	15 th April 2017	Grand National Race Night
		Easter Party with Treasure Hunt
Coming Up in May		Psychic Night details to follow
Every Friday		Meat Raffle
Every Sunday		Bingo

Guests & Children welcome



Function Hall Available for Hire

Church Matters March

Why is the world in such a mess? It's a question people often ask. Many years ago there was a correspondence in *The Times* on this question. Many erudite people contributed lengthy answers. But the simplest, and at the same time the most profound, came from the pen of G K Chesterton. Before the war he was a well-known writer and thinker. This was his answer – it must be one of the shortest letters they have ever received. This is what he said: "Dear Sir, I am. Yours etc., G K Chesterton". It was a brilliant answer. It is right in line with Jesus' teaching when he explained that the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.

We are going to spend Sunday mornings in March considering the question of what is wrong with the world. And we shall be aided in this by the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. This letter was written to establish a sound theological basis for mission to the countries beyond. Paul had not visited the church in Rome. He needed to know they would back him.

If they are to assist Paul's gospel mission they must understand the problem the gospel addresses.

The gospel focuses on one target – not sickness, not hunger, not suffering, not overcrowding, not anything else but sin. Not that the gospel has nothing to say to other issues – on the contrary – but it is sin that wrecks our relationship with God. Sin means shutting God out – living life with me in the middle. It means conducting oneself with no reference to right and wrong except what I happen to decide is important. It means rejecting the gospel and suppressing the truth.

In this great chapter 1 of his letter to Christians in Rome Paul shows that this rejection is culpable. God has given us all the evidence we need to believe in him; if we don't it is because we choose not to. What has been made ("Creation") in all its magnificence, variety, precision, intricacy and micro detail is quite sufficient to show that he is there. But rather than glorify him and give thanks to him, men and women chose to have their own ideas. As Frank Sinatra crooned "I did it my way". That is the fundamental nature of sin. "Claiming to be wise they became fools."¹

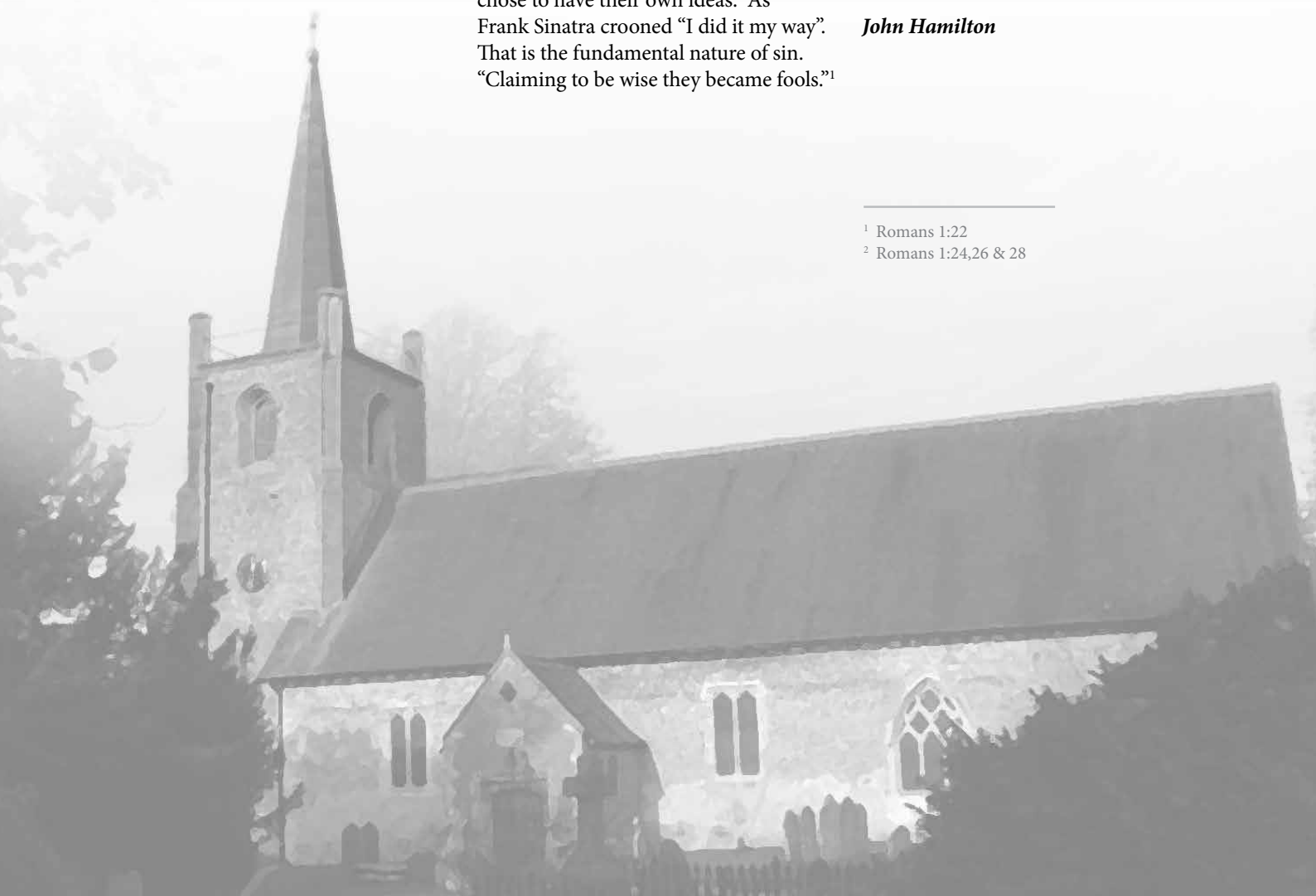
This has had massive consequences for our world. For God will not simply ignore what man has done. If people have chosen images, idols and man-made "gods" in preference to the one true God then he will make decisions too. In this chapter it says three times that he chose to "give them up".² That is to say he removed the restraint which kept things in balance and mitigated the worst effects of sin. "If they want to go that way let them do so" captures it.

Here we are told what God gives people up to. It is of course not a complete list. First he gave them up to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. Secondly, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind....they have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. It's a grim picture. But God knows what he's doing. More on this in church.

John Hamilton

¹ Romans 1:22

² Romans 1:24,26 & 28



Services for March

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

5 March

10am	Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

12 March

8am	Holy Communion	The Priory
10am	Morning Service, Sunday Club, Crèche	St Andrew's
10am	Morning Service	All Saints
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

19 March

10am	MISSION SUNDAY: Preacher Steve Smith (SIM)	
	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
6.00pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

26 March

10am	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
10am	Morning Service	The Priory
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM...

Mar 5	The Power of God	Romans 1:16-20	John Hamilton
Mar 12	Fatal Exchange	Romans 1:21-25	John Hamilton & Andrew King
Mar 19	Missions Sunday	Gospel mission	Steve Smith (SIM)
Mar 26	God gave them up	Romans 1:26-32	John Hamilton & Scott Seivewright

SUNDAYS AT SIX

Mar 5	Reap the whirlwind	Hosea 8-10	Scott Seivewright
Mar 12	God's relentless love	Hosea 11	John Hamilton
Mar 19	Deceitfulness & Judgement	Hosea 12-13	Andy Spence
Mar 26	Return to me	Hosea 14	Andy Spence

MIDWEEK MEETINGS FOR "LENT"

THURSDAY - 9th, 16th & 23rd MARCH

Discussions on Simon Guillebaud's book "Sacrifice"

8 pm Coffee & cake at the Rectory

Note change of day for the Lent meetings

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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SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Please note that the Parish Council is now holding all meetings in their own venue Chute Pavilion, Vyne Road.

Finance & Precept setting 2017/8

The Clerk issued the Councillors with schedules detailing estimates of projected expenditure and income for 2017/8 financial year together with a schedule showing the income and expenditure for the Chute Pavilion for 2015/6.

As per normal overall expenditure exceeds income. After discussions Cllr Davies proposed an increase of 3&1/2% on last year's band D rate of £42.55 taking it to £44.03. The Parish Council agreed to a precept of £27700.

Cllr Davies queried the balance still owed by the village hall on their loan by the Parish Council. While the figure recorded by the Clerk is correct the problem appeared to be how the village hall recorded them in their own accounts.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan is at present being reviewed by the External Inspector. It is hoped that after any amendments that may be necessary are made it will go to Referendum in the summer. While the Parish Council supports the Plan, residents will have a chance to vote during the Referendum on whether they wish to accept the Plan for the Parish.

Roads

The Parish Council is still pursuing options to try to install more speed reduction measures in the Parish however with the reduced Hampshire County Council budget this may mean that the Parish Council will have to pay for anything installed. The Clerk issued copies of the new Hampshire County Council initiative to fund road improvements not covered by the County Council.

It was reported that the signs around the village need cleaning and that some road junction signs still need repairing. There were discussions about the visibility at the junction of Cranes Road into Spring Close but the Parish Council did not think any improvement could be made.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

After all the work on the Recreation ground the Pavilion is also having extensive work carried out to bring the facility up to current Health & Safety standards. Electrical and plumbing systems will have major overhauls undertaken in the half term week to avoid disruption to users. A maintenance schedule will be produced so that the Parish Council will be able to programme any large scale expenditure that may become necessary in years to come. However with new flooring, repainting, new kitchen units and updated electrical and plumbing having either been already carried out, or about to be done, the facility is in an extremely good repair. The income from the Solar

panels, installed 4 years ago, has now covered their purchase and installation costs so any income is now able to be used to maintain the area.

Allotments

There is a new charge rate for allotments £25 for small, £45 for regular and £55 for large plots.

If you are interested in a plot please contact me on ssjclerk@gmail.com as there may be one or two available in the near future.

General

Cllr Davies has advised the Parish Council that they need to have e mail addresses specific for Council business which he will arrange.

Unfortunately it appears that the efforts to have a Mobile Post Office come to the Village have been unsuccessful due to viability.

A First Aid Course, open to residents, run by Heart start will be held at the Chute Pavilion on **Saturday 25th March 2017 from 9.00- 12.00noon**. If you are interested please contact the Villager Editor at villagermagazine@gmail.com.

The Council asked the Clerk to try to obtain information on the site owed by Downing College in Dark Lane which is falling into disrepair.

If you have any problems you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council please contact me on ssjclerk@gmail.com.

Penny Mayo, Parish Clerk

Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Concerns have been raised regarding the increase in fly tipping and litter within the area. The parish council reports all incidents seen, or advised off as soon as possible, but can we please also encourage residents to report any incidents of fly tipping as soon as possible via the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website. If it's reported, it gets on to their system and hopefully dealt with sooner rather than later. Thank you for your help in trying to keep this ever growing problem under control.

The council resolved at their January meeting to apply an increase to the precept, raising it to £10,000 from £9,500. The increase has been inevitable and applied to cover the loss of funding of £500 from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The parish council continues to operate a strict budget to ensure value for money for its residents.

Due to its close proximity to the parish, Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Development Group have been asked to include Monk Sherborne Parish Council

in any correspondence being circulated to its residents to ensure the parish of Monk Sherborne is kept up to date of any developments.

The parish council is pleased to note The Mole being supported, particularly since the introduction of food. Well done and let's hope it continues to be a success.

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 15th March at 7.20pm.

Pamber Parish Council Notes for Pamber End and Pamber Green

Pamber Parish Council met on Monday February 13th for its monthly meeting.

Planning applications:

17/00207/OUT.

Outline application for the erection of 3 no. bungalows and 1 no. house; creation of a new vehicular access to Silchester Road; use of the existing access for pedestrians only; creation of a village green; and formation of a car park to serve the village green and St Stephen's Hall.

Berry Court Farmhouse New Road Little London.

No objection

17/00186/GPDE.

Erection of a rear orangery (Permitted development notification).

2 College Farm Bungalow, Silchester Road, Little London.

17/00470/HSE

Erection of front and rear extensions and raising of roof to create first floor living space.

53 Silchester Road Pamber Heath

17/00124/TWRN.

Prune, trim and fell trees to 6ft in height (border fence height).

8 Ilex Close, Pamber Heath.

b.) Planning decisions:

16/04094/HSE

Erection of single storey front extensions, demolition of existing chimneys and rendering of existing walls. Installation of roof lights to rear elevation. Changes to fenestrations. 45 Pelican Road, Pamber Heath.

GRANTED

16/04386/FUL

Erection of replacement 5 bed dwelling and detached double garage following demolition of existing bungalow and re-positioning of driveway entrance. 8 Clappsgate Road, Pamber Heath.

GRANTED

16/04106/FUL

Erection of dwelling and garage and associated parking and amenity area. Change of use of equestrian land to residential.

Land At Boars Bridge Bramley Road Little London

REFUSED

T/00512/16/TPO

T1 Scots pine – fell.

5 Verica Gardens Pamber Heath

GRANTED

Highways

It has been noted that many roads around the local area have pot holes or are in a neglected state. The Council is sympathetic to the views of all residents affected by this and is in constant contact with Highways attempting to get these problems rectified. However, financial cuts have affected every sector and with Highways inundated with work, it is important to understand that there is no simple quick fix solution to this.

Speedwatch.

There will be a meeting this month for all those who have volunteered or would still like to volunteer. The local liaison Officer shall be attending and she has been out to check the area that were recommended by our current volunteers. Once approval has been given for these areas to be checked then training can finally commence which is exciting. Thank you again to those who have offered their time and help to make this happen.

The Priory Primary School



Hot off the Press – first edition of The Priory P.O.S.T!

We are always looking to provide new and interesting projects for the children. This month, Amelia and Kiera would like to tell you a little bit about our newest initiative - a school newspaper!

This term years 5 and 6 have set up a brand new school newspaper. Students

are working as reporters, editors, writers and photographers. The news room has been buzzing with excitement all term. We discussed many ideas as to what we should name our school newspaper and our unanimous decision was The P.O.S.T (The Priory Official Student Times). Over the last few weeks, we have been working extremely hard to cover all the thrilling things happening in our school. In our first issue, we have articles about the current building work at school, world news, as well as school news and events. The POST also has book and lunch reviews, school visits (including our choir

trip to the 02 and recent sports fixtures), teacher interviews, competitions and quizzes. This is a new project for The Priory, as the school have never had a newspaper before, and we hope it will interest children, teachers and parents for many years to come.

We hope that you enjoyed reading about our newspaper; if you would like to see the school in action, please do call us on 01256 850062 or visit our website at www.theprioryprimaryschool.org for more details.

Womens Fellowship

The February meeting for Womens Fellowship was the AGM, when members were given the new programme for 2017, and subscriptions were paid.

The new programme is a lively selection of Talks as well as a September outing, the Summer Strawberry tea and Christmas lunch. After the formalities we enjoyed tea and a chat, as always.

The March meeting is a visit from a certain Mr. Charles Dickens – aka Jonathan Jones – who will talk about his life and works. It promises to be an entertaining afternoon.

Womens Fellowship meets on the first Tuesday of the month. For further information on monthly meetings go to the Future Events page in The Villager.

Feet



Big feet, wide feet, some rather small
All there to help us keep standing tall.
Where would we be without our feet?
We couldn't walk down the street.
Or kick a ball, run, hop or skip
Jump a fence or do a back-flip.
The toes on our feet look so neat
Pointing forwards at the end of our feet

I love my toes and my feet
I'm pleased that daily I can greet
These useful parts so well placed
That into shoes they'll be laced
And allow me to go off for miles
Over fields and over stiles
Enjoying nature at its best
Before I come home for a rest.

Bill Breakspear

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

Goodness another month rushed by, I never seem to keep up with it all at the moment!

News has reached me of a new outline planning application on land at Berry Court Farm, Little London as a replacement for the previous plan which was turned down by the Borough Council. This time the application covers one house and three bungalows on a green field site, all of them large, high end properties which definitely could not be classified as the affordable housing recommended as part of the HARA housing needs survey which was conducted a couple of years back. Included are a village green and some car parking for the existing St Stephen's Village Hall with vehicular access directly onto the Silchester Road. There is local concern about the safety of children and other pedestrians who may wish to get to a village green sited in this location as they would need to walk along fast, dangerous lanes with no footpath provision, of which Silchester Road which used as a 'rat run' is the worst. It is suggested by supporters of the application in a hand delivered publicity flyer that the application could also have an impact on extending the superfast broadband provision in the area but this is entirely within the control of Openreach and any planning activity such as this would have absolutely no impact whatsoever. Having had a son who has spent all of his life in the area, the very best play area he and many other local children have ever had is Pamber Forest. A wonderful treasure trove of fun, adventure and excitement which is so large as to be directly accessible to so many parishioners from many points in the parish without the need to negotiate long sections of the dangerous local lanes. By the time you read this the date for objections will have passed so we await news of how this latest scheme to surface has been received.

As I sit and write this article, signs of spring are few and far. However, it is interesting to report a Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust event titled 'Signs of Spring in Pamber Forest' taking place on Thursday 30th March 2017 between 10am and 12.30pm.

Meet at the entrance by Honeymill Brook on the A340 opposite Skates Lane and a donation of £3 per person is suggested. What a shame this is not a weekend event allowing much greater involvement.

The latest Parish Council minutes available for December 2016 note an incident taking place after the end of the November Council meeting in a passageway outside of the hall. It was noted that anyone causing a disturbance in future would be asked to leave the premises. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a topic for discussion at the Public Meeting section of the Parish AGM in May. The agendas for both the January and February meetings include an item about litter picking along Little London Road, presumably relating to the decision of the Silchester litter picker to cease continuing to carry out this role due to the dangerous nature of the lanes. Forthcoming meetings are on 13th March at Pamber Heath, 10th April at Little London and the Parish AGM on 8th May 2017 at Pamber Heath. These are important opportunities for parishioners to voice their opinions to ensure the Council are fully informed of their concerns and thoughts.

Regular hall events continue to be held at St Stephen's Village Hall including the Tuesday Club held every Tuesday from 10.15am- 12noon with coffee and chat and Pilates every Thursday starting at 9.30am, contact Hannah on 07887 791614 for more information.

It was pleasing to read in the last Villager that Little London Brewery was a guest beer in the Houses of Parliament, hopefully a great boost to one of our local businesses. Also news of the amalgamation of some of the local branches of the Royal British Legion which, hopefully, will ensure ongoing sustainability and success of this most valued service.

Our family exercise regime has been extended over recent months with stand-in dog walking duties for Tilly Spencer, our neighbour's Yorkshire Terrier, following David's serious health issues. Whilst we most certainly wish him a speedy return to health and his usual range of activities (except his

jokes!), it has been very nice to get out regularly with the dog, almost always into Pamber Forest. Whilst rather wet and muddy at the moment, it is a pleasure to get out into such a wonderful natural playground although Tilly is a little disinclined to go out in heavier rain. But it is a good excuse to get all of the family and others in the standby dog walking team out whatever Mother Nature throws at us. Talking of the Forest, I'm not sure what some of the dog walkers recently thought of me when I was spotted walking back through the southern edge of the forest one Sunday about noon with Tilly and an empty beer bottle in hand. I don't usually see anyone when I'm walking Tilly but, of course, that was the day to bump into all and sundry. What actually happened was I, together with parishioner Paul Smith, spotted the empty bottle discarded near the kissing gate at the bottom of the field leading across to the Plough. My public spiritedness (maybe a poor choice of words here!) made me pick it up and carry it home. Hopefully this sets the minds of others at rest for my sanity and wellbeing.

And this topic also reminds me of a very enjoyable Gin Night hosted by the Plough which allowed a number of us to sample a range of gins from around England together with some finger food to mitigate the alcoholic effects. I never appreciated how different each gin tastes (I do have some friends however who are much more skilful) and whilst a couple were definitely not to my taste, a number were. The Plough boasts having over 50 gins so that leaves me well over 40 still to try. I'm always up for a challenge, better make my next booking now! And I was also fine to leave the pub at the end of the evening and not suffer any after effects the next day. Well done Kerry and all of the Plough team.

At least the nights are getting a bit shorter and darkness falls a little later each day. By the time you read this the clocks will be changing within about three weeks so maybe we can start to look forward to kinder days.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

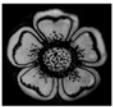


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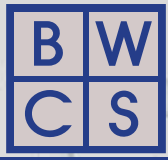
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Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

There were 57 members at the meeting held on 1st February who were welcomed by the Chairman, John Lambeth. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips to Chichester on Wednesday 22nd March, which will be do-as-you-please, and Parham House on Friday 21st April which will include entry to the house and gardens. The Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave her up-to-date report and welcomed back a number of members who had not been for a while.

The speaker this month was Gina Ireland who gave a talk on the History of Greeting Cards tracing their origins back to the ancient Chinese and Egyptians. Some were found to have been made in Europe in the 1400's but it wasn't until the mid-19th Century that they became more popular with the advent of commercially produced cards and the introduction of a reliable postage service. Christmas and birthday cards were those mostly sent but soon cards for special occasions such as Valentine's Day (1840), Mother's Day (1872), Easter (1989) and Father's Day (1907) became available. Postcards were also produced from 1869 and their popularity spread as more people went on holiday. It is now, of course, possible to buy a card for almost any occasion with the UK industry being worth nearly £2 billion with over 880 million being sold last year. Gina had brought with her a large collection of cards including some very old ones which everyone was able to look at after her talk.

The next meeting is on 1st March when we will be holding our AGM followed by lunch. 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



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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

In January, the Year 6 students excitedly clambered onto the minibus with their suitcases for a week's residential trip to Stubbington Study Centre. Our reporters, Fin, Rayyan and Maddie, tell us about their highlights;

"When we arrived we were pointed to our rooms, then we started unpacking. Each bunk had a bedside table to keep books in. The only way to make an early morning more stressful is by having an inspection. Every morning at 8.00 we had to wake up, get dressed then tidy our room, whilst being under the pressure of an inspector about to come into your room and give you a mark out of twenty. Whoever had the highest mark would be first into the tuck shop."

"The food at Stubbington was simply sumptuous. We were given enough food and no-one went hungry at any point. It was like a buffet and you could choose what you wanted. I have to say their fish fingers were the best I have ever tasted!"

"Every day at 7.00pm we did our challenge to earn some points for our house. Whoever had the most points at the end of the week would win a special certificate. In my opinion, this made it a lot more fun as it added that little bit of competitiveness into Stubbington. On the last night we did an S Factor that

would get some teams the extra points they needed."

"The highlight of my week at Stubbington was definitely going to the beach where I found a huge shark's tooth (I thought that I would never find anything.) It was fascinating. The shark's tooth was in the shape of a Y. The top of it was black; it was definitely fossilised. Another great highlight was seeing the amazing foxes from the hide."

"My favourite activities were Earthquake and Stubbington Fox. Earthquake was basically a really hard obstacle course which required a lot of teamwork. Everyone had to carry a piece of equipment such as ladders or food, and we had to take this equipment across the whole obstacle course. Teamwork was essential as some of the items needed more than one person to get across."

"The other activity – Stubbington Fox – was just as challenging. Basically we were paired up and given a map. The map had locations that we had to find. Each location had a question that we had to answer as if we were a fox. The only problem was, there was an evil farmer who wanted to catch us. If you were caught, one point would be taken from our score. Me and my partner accidentally answered all of the

questions as a human and so had to go back and correct them!"

"My favourite part of the trip was making new friends. I enjoyed playing with them and my confidence improved radically. All in all, Stubbington was an exceptional experience for me and I enjoyed every aspect of it."

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent



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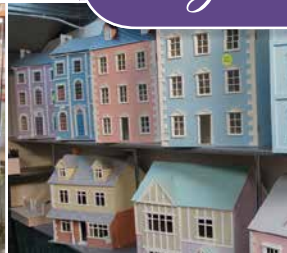
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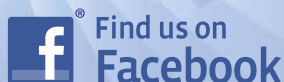
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Bramley & District Branch (Br1848)



The first “new-look” Bramley and District Branch Royal British Legion meeting was held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at Cross House in Bramley.

The event was clearly well received by those who attended and we hope to widen the interest in the future amongst members and anyone who would like to come along.

We were very fortunate that Geoff Twine, who had served with the RAF on Bomb Disposal duties, was able to give us a very interesting talk. He briefly covered the history of the RAF Bomb Disposal organization and his time in the RAF and focused on the largest

project he ever worked on, defusing RAF Bombs and various ordinances over a 6 year period that had been stored en masse at a site in Llanberis, North Wales. Clearly at the end of the last war, and in the years that followed, there was little consideration of environmental issues judging from the way the weapons had been dumped in a huge redundant slate quarry well away from the bases in East Anglia where they could have been used by the RAF bomber force. This work all took place in the late 1960s around the time of the Prince of Wales’ Investiture in Caernarfon.

So now let’s look to the future. The next Branch meeting will be held at the Cross House, next to Bramley Church, on Tuesday 14th March 2017 starting at



19:30 (7:30pm). The talk after this next meeting will be by our Chairman John Delafield who will give an illustrated presentation entitled “A Career in The Royal Air Force”. We have plans for a range of other very interesting talks!

The Legion is open to all so please come along to our next meeting.

Contact details for SSJ area

John Delafield

01256 889789 or 07850 950349



Neighbourhood Watch – Sherborne St John

It is with great pleasure that I report that in March a new scheme will be starting in West End which has in principle received police agreement, although the exact area to be covered has yet to be decided. I am very pleased to be welcoming Mike Perman to be the co-ordinator, whose appointment has already received Hampshire police approval. Further details of the start up should appear in the April and May issues of The Villager.

We are now looking for a few volunteers to help with vacancies which have occurred elsewhere.

In Spring Close Rene Tonon wishes to hand over after many years of service, he took on the start up of this scheme when newly arrived in the village. During this period there have been

many more new Spring Close residents so we hope that someone will come forward to take over. Except during start up being a scheme co-ordinator is not a very onerous role so please don’t worry about the time involved just contact either Rene (850212) or myself (850891). Diane Nash one of the deputies here has also resigned but Sue White will be continuing.

At the Weybrook Close and Monk Sherborne Road scheme we are looking for a new co-ordinator to replace Fred and Pat Corby who resigned for family reasons. They like Rene had served since the start, meanwhile Crissy Humphries remains as deputy co-ordinator.

I would like to express my thanks to these retiring co-ordinators and to all those still active for their invaluable

support. Anyone interested in helping to promote a safer and more secure village environment do please get in touch, especially if you can help with either of the locations with no cover at present these being the Hill Top area (on Chineham Lane and Sherborne Road) also on Aldermaston Road between Gales Garage and Monk Sherborne Road junction.

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The Battle of the Scheldt Estuary in October and November 1944

Retired RAF Squadron Leader Chris Perkins MVO, from Kempshott, is himself a member of the Probus Club of Basingstoke the social organisation for retired professional and business managers. He gave a presentation to members about his recent activity tracing his old squadron's role in supporting the Allied Forces in their campaign to free Belgium and Holland from German occupation during WW2.

Based for many years at RAF Odiham, 33 Squadron is today more familiar to the residents of Basingstoke for flying the Puma troop carrying helicopter and Chinooks from other squadrons based at this station. However, during the Second World War it operated the Supermarine Spitfire in the ground attack role in the support of the army.

In the course of following the fortunes of both air and ground crews in their journey from the Normandy landings, Chris has uncovered an incredible story regarding a battle, almost completely overshadowed by the tragic events occurring at that time at Arnhem.

The Battle of the Scheldt was a military operation in northern Belgium and the south western Netherlands to secure the port of Antwerp, essential for allied re-supply use. The First Canadian Army was given the task of clearing the Scheldt area of German occupiers. Believing the retreating troops to be demoralised and lacking in fight, the initial attacks in September proved otherwise. Hitler had told every member of his forces dug in around the Scheldt estuary that they had to defend their positions to the last man and bullet. Their families would be held as retribution if they failed to do so.

Under the command of General Crerar, the First Canadian Army was international in character. In addition to Canadian infantry and armoured troops, it included the 1st British Corps, and the 1st Polish Armoured Division. At various times it also included American, Belgian, and Dutch units.

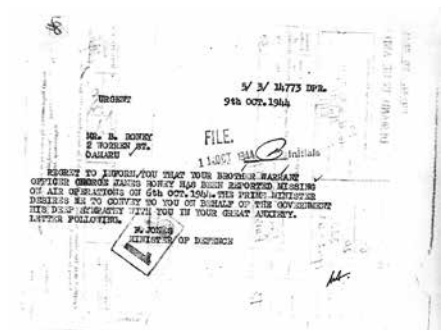
The First Canadian Army in north western Europe during the final phases of the war was a powerful force, the largest army that had ever been under the control of a Canadian general. The strength of this army ranged from approximately 105,000 to 175,000 Canadian soldiers to anywhere from 200,000 to over 450,000 when including the soldiers from other nations. It was totally volunteer in nature.

The enemy opened the sea locks and flooded the whole countryside making what some historians considered to have been the most difficult battlefield of the Second World War. With flooded and muddy terrain and the tenacity of the well-fortified German defences made the Battle of the Scheldt especially gruelling and bloody. At the end of the five week offensive, the victorious First Canadian Army had taken 41,043 prisoners, but suffered 12,873 casualties (killed, wounded, or missing), 6,367 of whom were Canadians.

And what of 33 Squadron from RAF Odiham? At that time it was also an international unit and consisted of many volunteer pilots from around the world. The Spitfires were used to support the ground troops by attacking enemy positions. Unfortunately many pilots lost their lives. Chris located a number of these brave young airmen now resting in remote cemeteries. Two graves were for 22 years old New Zealander Warrant Officer George James Roney and that of Flt Lt Godfrey Argument a 23 years old Canadian.

WO George Roney took off at 15.00 on 6th October 1944 as part of a three Spitfire armed reconnaissance sortie. Good weather favoured the German air defence batteries and all three aircraft were shot down after encountering heavy flak. George went down with his

Spitfire near the hamlet of Schoondijke. On 9th October 1944 his family received a “Missing on air operations” telegram. His remains were not recovered



until 9th June 1948 as were his personal possessions which included a “penny” or tin whistle which he brought with him from the other side of the world as his family all played musical instruments. On 12th June 1948 WO George Roney was given a proper burial in the local cemetery where he is the only Commonwealth War Grave and has been adopted by children from the local school.



The “penny” whistle is now on display in a war museum in the Zeeland area of Holland.

If you want to know more about the Probus Club and the activities of this group of retired professional and business managers there is a wide array of information on their website www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or ring the Secretary Paul Flint for an informal chat on 07770 886521.



National Trust

Enjoy a wild time in and around Hampshire
this Easter with the National Trust and Cadbury



The National Trust has teamed up with Cadbury to offer families in and around Hampshire the ultimate Easter experience, with their ever-popular Easter Egg Hunts.

This year, the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt (14 – 17 April*) will be inviting families to unleash their inner explorers on egg hunts through muddy woodlands, New Forest heathland, along nature trails and through spring gardens blooming with life.

There are no less than six Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts to choose from in and around Hampshire, guaranteeing a fun-filled Easter for everyone. You'll also find seasonal baking days and spring bird walks,

Every time you take part in a Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt, you'll help the National Trust fund vital conservation work to protect our special places across the South East.

To discover a Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at a National Trust property near you, visit:

www.cadbury.co.uk/easter

Winchester City Mill

Cadbury Easter egg hunt

14 – 17 April, 10am – 4pm, normal admission charge, plus £2 per trail sheet.

You'll find lots of delicious chocolate fun at the Mill over the Easter weekend. Pick up a map and follow the clues around this ancient building to locate the Easter Bunny's stash and collect your Cadbury prize.

Winchester City Mill – Easter baking demonstrations and holiday trail challenge

8 – 23 April, normal admission

Kids can have a go at completing the Mill's Easter holiday trail challenge, in return for a special prize.

On Good Friday (14 April), the Mill will be filled with the delicious aroma of warm spices on as our volunteer bakers host our hot cross bun demonstration. They'll also be baking Easter treats on Easter Sunday (16 April), followed by a chocolate indulgence demonstration on 23 April. Find out how to make all these delights, and take away a laminated recipe card, so you can get cracking on some baking fun at home.

The Wyne

Cadbury's Easter egg Hunt

8 – 23 April 10am – 4pm, normal admission charge plus £3 per hunt.

If you're as clever as the Easter Bunny then you might just be the folks we need to uncover hidden clues dotted across The Wyne on our Cadbury Easter egg hunt. Look out for lots of spring wildlife and wildflower characters on this nature-themed trail. Bring your wellies and a coat and collect your £3 hunt map from Visitor Reception.

The Wyne

Tag-a-Tile

Daily from 18 Feb, 11am – 4pm, suggested donation £5

Be a part of history by personalising one of our 71,000 handmade clay roof tiles with a message or drawing. Your tile will end up on our new roof, for people to discover in future decades.

Hinton Ampner

Cadbury Egg Hunt

8 Apr – 23 April, 10am – 5pm, normal admission charge plus £3 per trail sheet.

The Easter bunny needs your help. Follow our Cadbury Easter hunt trail around these pretty spring gardens, performing various bunny activities along the way, and you'll be rewarded with your own chocolate bunny to take home.

Mottisfont

Cadbury Egg Hunt

8 – 23 April, 10am – 5pm, normal admission charge plus suggested donation of £2

Spring has sprung at Mottisfont and all kinds of animals are stirring in the gardens. Pick up an Easter hunt sheet and follow the trail to discover the creatures that trot, scamper, crawl and wiggle around the grounds. Complete the nature-themed activities with your family and earn yourself a delicious Cadbury chocolate bunny.

New Forest

Cadbury Egg Hunt

16 – 17 April, £4, booking essential on 01794 344020

You'll be getting out into the 'wilds' of the New Forest with this Cadbury Easter hunt across our restored heathland site at Foxbury. Each egg hunt explorer will be rewarded with a chocolate bunny reward.

Discover early signs of spring with our rangers and learn all about the birds that live in the Forest, from where they nest to the creepy crawlies they like to eat. There'll be local visiting animals to make friends, plus den building, bushcraft, chainsaw carving and tractors. Round the day off with toasted marshmallows by the fire and a BBQ.

Directions: Foxbury can be accessed via Half Moon car park on Blackhill Road. Follow the sign posts up from the car park, through the tree line to the Foxbury gate. The trail takes in about 1.2 miles of wide gravel track, so stout footwear, outdoor clothing and off-road buggies are advisable.

New Forest

Spring bird walk

23 April & 7 May, 8 - 11am, £5, booking essential on 01794 344020

April and May in the New Forest is full of bird song and activity, as birds start to migrate, nest and call. Join our rangers and a local bird spotting expert on a walk through the Foxbury landscapes to identify some of the key species and learn how our conservation work here is supporting population growth.

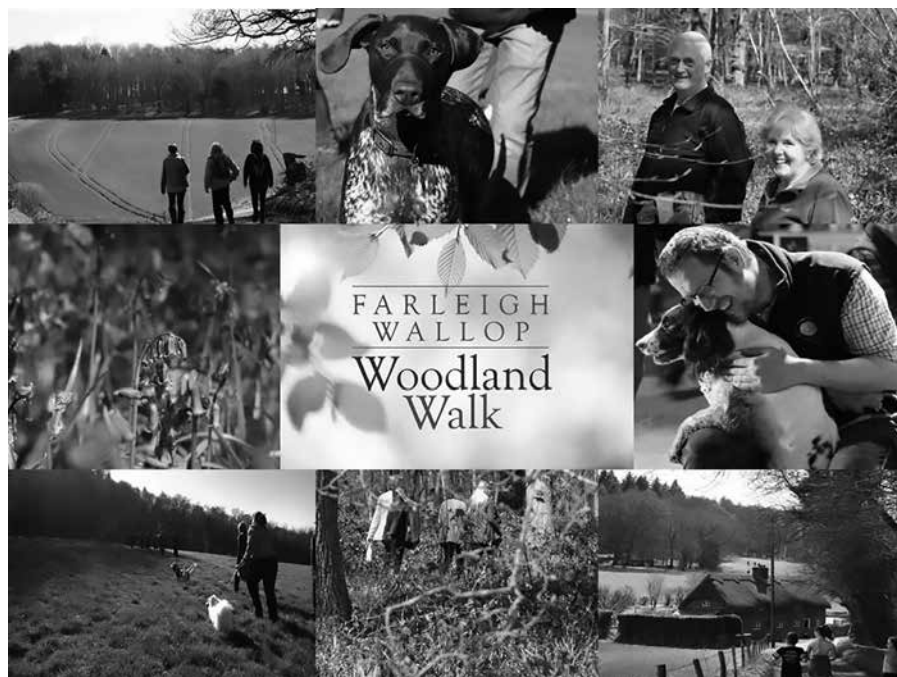
Directions: Foxbury can be accessed via Half Moon car park on Blackhill Road. Follow the sign posts up from the car park, through the tree line to the Foxbury gate. The trail takes in about 1.2 miles of wide gravel track, so stout footwear, outdoor clothing and off-road buggies are advisable.

Uppark House and Garden

Nature-themed Cadbury Egg Hunt

8 - 23 April, 10am - 4.30pm, £3

The Cadbury Bunny has hidden precious chocolate eggs across the country, and some of them are hidden at Uppark. Now it's up to you and your family to find them by joining the Cadbury Egg Hunt around the house and gardens. Outdoors, there are giant bird eggs to track down using our special map, plus lots of facts to discover about our native birds. Follow the trail into the house to hunt for further eggs. All participants will be rewarded with a Cadbury chocolate treat.



St. Michael's Hospice Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk

Sunday 9th April

Lord Portsmouth Estate, Farleigh Wallop, Hampshire

Registration has opened!

Here's a great opportunity to give yourself something to look forward to; register for a wonderful spring day out as St. Michael's Hospice have again organised walks around the beautiful Lord Portsmouth Estate in Hampshire on Sunday 9th April.

With beautiful views across the rolling Hampshire countryside, blooming bluebells and the opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family, two legged or four legged, what better way to enjoy the new season.

Starting from 09.30, there are two routes, 5 or 10 miles and both guaranteed to give you a superb day out. At the end, you will be welcomed to help celebrate the Hospice's 25th Anniversary by enjoying a delicious cream tea in the stunning setting of Home Barn.

Chris Griffiths, Marketing and Events Manager at St. Michael's Hospice said "This event is always one of our most enjoyable, coming at a time of the year when people are really beginning to enjoy being outdoors again. The funds raised are vital to our work at the Hospice where this year we will need to raise £3.1 million".

To sign up and for more information please visit the Hospice website: stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events or call fundraising on 01256 848 848 or follow us on Twitter @smhbasingstoke #WoodlandWalk

Chris Griffiths

Marketing and Events Manager
chris.griffiths@stmichaelshospice.org.uk

St. Michael's Hospice
Tel: 01256 848847

Bert's Blog

Ooops! Made a big mistake at the Docs today! There were so many lovely interesting smells that my nose went into overload and my bladder went into meltdown. Lots of my fellow canines had been there! I was halfway through leaving my calling card, a generous puddle in the middle of the Docs surgery floor, when the Mrs, who had been chosen to bring me, realised what I was up to and had an attack of the vapours shouting NOOOOOOOO – not here. Do you mean to say I can't leave a message to all my other mates who had been there and were obviously due back at some time. How very unfair



– they needed to know I had joined them in their unfortunate experience with needles, pills and that thing in my back which goes cheep every time we cross large amounts of water. The Mrs calls it a chip but I have yet to have any fish with it. Anyway the Doc, who didn't seem to mind about my 'message' to colleagues, hastily fetched

a small cleaning bath on wheels and disappeared my puddle rather quickly so my presence there was obliterated within minutes - total anonymity! The Mrs though, was a different kettle of fish (ha! to go with the chip). I could see she had her 'I am not amused' face on which usually spells trouble but on this occasion she kindly let me reiterate my 'message' in a much more suitable situation once outside the Docs so at least some of my buddies will know I have been there. I suppose I should apologise for mentioning this rather personal communication experience but believe me I am not embarrassed for you to read this. The Mrs was however and on returning home she gave the Boss her own message - it was definitely his turn to accompany me on my next visit to the Docs!



Dads and Tots

Saturday 4th March

8am - 9.30am

Venue: Sherborne St John Village Hall

Cost: £2 (per family)

Here's a chance for Dads to play with their pre-school kids, have a bacon roll and a mug of coffee, relax with other guys and hear a short 5 min child-friendly talk on fatherhood from a Christian perspective. Older siblings welcome too, so Mum can have a break!

Dates for the year ahead are: Saturdays: 13th May; 7th Oct; and 2nd Dec

Contact: Scott, 01256 416272 seivewrightscott@gmail.com

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By Ben Pearson

You can't choose your neighbours

They say, 'you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family.' The same could also be said of neighbours.

Neighbour disputes can be particularly fraught; apart from the old adage that 'an Englishman's home is his castle', there are some obvious reasons for this. Firstly, it is the parties' home and family lives that are directly affected which inevitably makes them highly 'personal'.

Secondly, parties are necessarily living side by side and as a result don't have the luxury of space and time away from the problem, which can often serve as such a sobering influence in a dispute. It is that much harder to approach matters calmly and practically when confronted on a daily basis with the problem and often matters escalate needlessly as a result.

There are a number of ways disputes can arise. If handled properly though, there is every chance of avoiding formal litigation, which can be lengthy, extremely costly and is always highly stressful for the parties involved.

Boundaries are a common source of discord. Whether it is by the land physically changing over time or by the boundary being poorly recorded, any ambiguity over the position of a boundary can lead to conflict. Boundary features themselves can also cause problems; whether it is in establishing whose responsibility it is to maintain a boundary feature or whether anything can be done about an offending boundary feature, for example one that blocks sunlight from a neighbouring property.

There are probably endless other ways that could be found to fall out with a neighbour,

but the most common other problem areas concern rights of way, parking, and nuisance, for example, excessive noise. Cases all turn on their particular facts and we will be able to advise you clearly as to where you stand in law and what your options are.

Where disputes become heated it can be sensible to avoid a direct approach and seek professional help. In extreme cases where there is any fear for anyone's safety you should in the first instance consider involving the police.

Whilst it remains unresolved, any dispute will directly affect your property. If you wish to sell, you will have to disclose the issue which could have a negative impact on the marketability or even the value of your property. It may seem that by instructing a solicitor you are escalating a dispute, but in most cases it is the best way of moving towards a solution quickly and calmly. Dealing with a difficult neighbour directly, perhaps over the back fence can make matters worse.

We advise that the best way to resolve disputes is by focussing solely on the legal issues and practical solutions. In fact our advice is to keep actual litigation through the courts to a minimum. If entered into prematurely the court process will be lengthier and more costly and in the vast majority of cases can be avoided altogether.

For more information and to find out how we might assist you, contact Ben Pearson on 01256 854608, or email ben.pearson@phillips-law.co.uk and visit our website www.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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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.

Hook Choral Society Spring Concert

Hook Choral Society will hold their Spring Concert at St John's Church, London Road, Hook at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8th April.

The first half of the concert will comprise beautiful and inspiring choral anthems such as *Panis angelicus* by Franck, *Abendlied* by Rheinberger, *Pater noster* by Handl and *Crucifixus* by Lotti. There will also be a piece by Monteverdi, *Beatus vir* and two works by Mendelssohn, *Verleih uns Frieden* and *For He shall give His angels charge* from the oratorio *Elijah*.

In contrast and as a balance to the more formal first half, the second half of the concert will include the eleven English, Scottish and Irish folk songs of the cycle entitled *The Sprig of Thyme* arranged by John Rutter. The collection includes songs of a variety of styles and genres, from the well-known ballads 'Down by the sally gardens' and 'The willow tree' to the lively

'The keel row' and 'The miller of Dee'.

Do come and join us for a celebration of this great music.

Tickets £12.00 (concessions £10, accompanied children under 11 free)

will be available from choir members, Trees Newsagents in Hook or by ringing 07734 667888



Hook Choral Society
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS WOODS

The Sprig of Thyme

John Rutter

A cycle of folk-song settings

Programme also includes:

Mendelssohn *Verleih uns Frieden*
For He shall give His angels charge

Monteverdi *Beatus vir*

Franck *Panis angelicus*

Rheinberger *Abendlied*

Handl *Pater noster*

Lotti *Crucifixus*

with organist Jacquie Harry

7.30 pm Saturday
8th April 2017

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