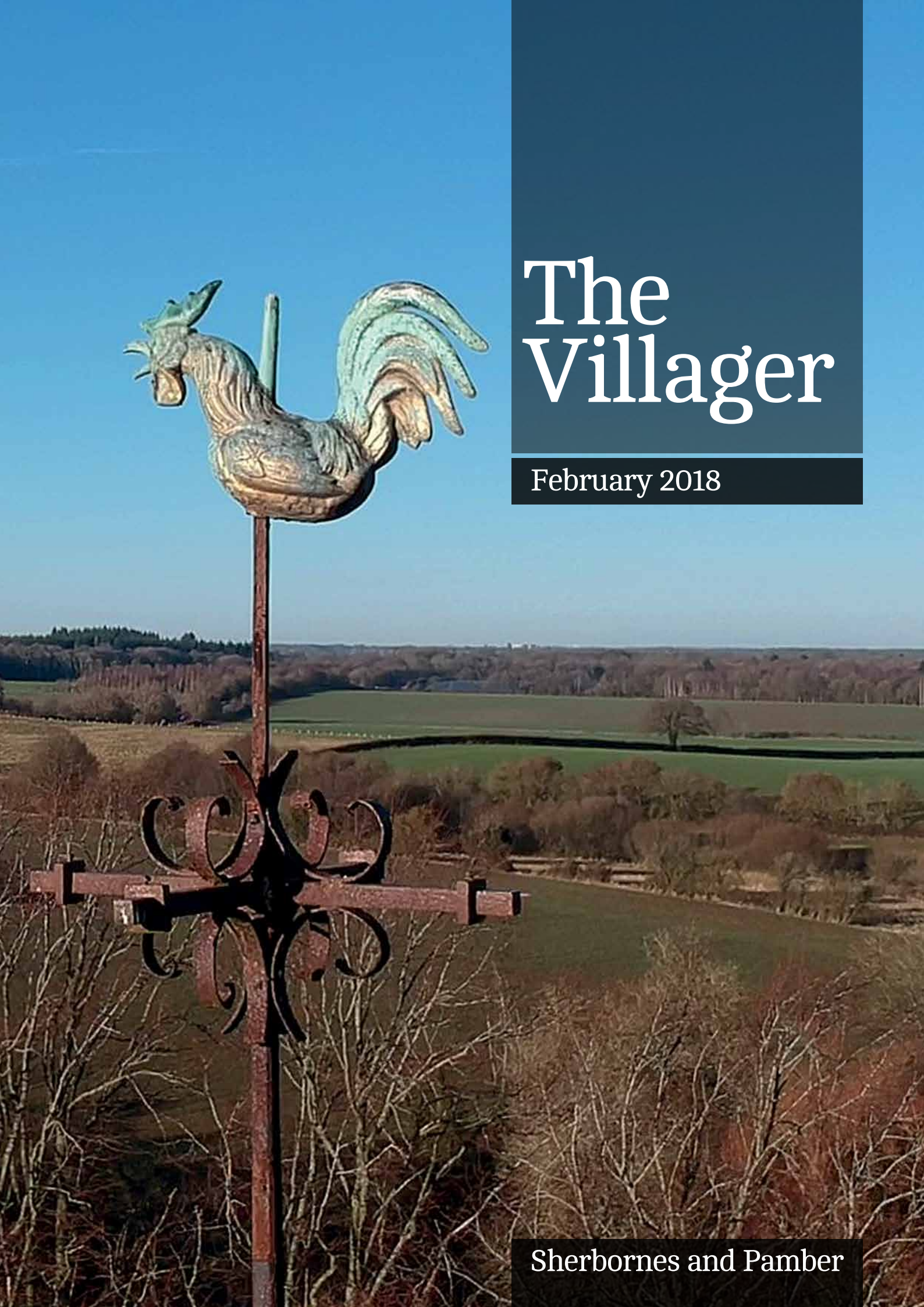




The Villager

February 2018

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Communications to the Editor:



Dear Friends

Thank you for all the cards and best wishes you sent to Gordon and myself. Our new house is becoming a home, everyone is very friendly here so I think we will be happy. The joy is living near to our dear daughter Gina and her family.

Thank you for your friendship and fellowship in Sherborne St John over the years, some of us go back a long way; our thoughts and prayers will always be with you. Sorry I didn't get round to seeing all of you prior to our move, it was a hectic time!

Wishing a healthy and blessed New Year to you all.

With love

Elizabeth and Gordon Banks

PS To "my boys": my thoughts and prayers will always be with you - till we meet again.



Unfortunately dog fouling seems to feature rather too highly in this month's issue. Wouldn't it be great if 2018 was the year when this subject did not have such prominence in our magazine, or indeed on the soles of our shoes !



Poppy Appeal

Unofficially we exceeded a total of £10,000.00 but, as some of this was paid in late, it does not officially count towards our total;



The official amounts were: £9,768.80 Of which the following are of note:

Basingstoke Hospital: £4,382.26 John Ferguson Funeral: £430.00

A grateful thank you to all those who helped us meet this record collection total for the Branch

The Branch meets every other month at Cross House Bramley at 7.30 pm with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 13th March. Everyone is welcome so please come along.

John Delafield

Chairman, Bramley and District Branch Royal British Legion

01256 889789 / 07850 950349

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

Contact us at villagermagazine@gmail.com

Cover: Weather vane on St Andrew's Church roof taken by a drone camera "piloted" by Henry Chan.

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Future Events

February 2018

5	Pelican Film Society, Going In Style, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
5	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
5	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship AGM SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
19	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, The Dahlia Year – Nick Gilbert, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
19	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
22	Pamber NP Steering Committee, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

March 2018

5	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
5	Pelican Film Society, Goodbye Christopher Robin, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
12	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
15	Pamber NP Steering Committee, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
19	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, The Lavender Fields – Tim Butler, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
19	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

April 2018

2	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
5	Royal Airforce Centenary Celebration & Service, Basingstoke War Memorial, Civic Offices	11am
9	Pelican Film Society, The Big Sick, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
9	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
16	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, Growing Veg without a Garden – Kelvin Mason, Kempshott V H	7.30pm
16	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
23	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
26	Pamber NP Steering Committee, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
28	Basingstoke Ladies Choir concert, Carnival Hall, Basingstoke in aid of St Michael's Hospice	
30	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am

Clift Surgery, Bramley

Nobody using the surgery since the beginning of December can have failed to notice the disruption, especially to the car park, which is disabled parking only for the present.

Although the trustees of Clift Meadow have kindly arranged for the new gate to be kept open until the last patient has left the surgery, the walk from Clift Meadow car park to the surgery can be troublesome for older and frailer patients or those with small children.

The problem is caused by the fact that Persimmon Homes cannot start work on the new entrance to the car park until they have obtained a Water Course Certificate, which they only applied for in December and, which in the normal course of events will take two months. The PPG have written to Hampshire Council to see whether matters can be expedited, but that, I'm afraid, is where we are at the moment. On the plus side, lighting has been installed and the walkway evened out, so that the walk

is not as difficult as it was when work started.

I hope that the March letter will contain better news!

Vicky Clarke

Patients' Participation Group

Contacts

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS LIST.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT

CHURCH OF ENGLAND	The Rev John Hamilton, The Rectory, SSJ	850434
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke	819722
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH	Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke	316000
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS		
SSJ Mrs Penny Mayo	ssjclerk@gmail.com	07714 770940
MS Mrs Cally Morris	msscclerk@gmail.com	07721 076186
Pamber Mrs Leonie Browne	clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk	07920 787170
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Mr Tristan Robinson	07817 131821
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber	Mr. Roger Gardiner, Nuthatch, The Glen, Pamber Heath	01189 701109
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke	844844
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	The Castle, Winchester	01962 841841
HAMPSHIRE POLICE	Non-emergency	101 or 01962 841534
	basingstoke.rural.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk	
	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com	850891
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH		
LOCAL GROUPS		
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs Jean Lindford	850264
RAINBOW GUIDES	Ms Sarah Ayto sarah_ayto@hotmail.co.uk	331200/07818 602806
GUIDES	Mrs Jenny Edwards	881213
BROWNIES 1st SSJ	Mrs Tramayne Henwood	422083
CUBS	Ms Trish Field	01420 544904
MOTHER AND TODDLER	Mrs Barbara Irving	850173
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB	Mr Trevor Page (Steward)	850303
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY	Mrs Jean Linford	850264
TENNIS CLUB	Paul & Maria Saunders	850430
THE 60+ COFFEE MORNING	Mrs Shelley Moore	850577
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB	Mr Len Duncie	07860 435 831
	or Mr Paul Hamilton	07917 005862
YOGA in SSJ Village Hall	Mrs Jacqui Morris	881336
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB	Mr Les Bone	850973
FOOTBALL CLUB	Mr Alan Brown	324450
	Mrs Heather Livingstone	840352
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com	07528 726248
	www.piccolopsn.com	
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mr Dave Green	881337
VENUE BOOKINGS:		
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850036
MS Village Hall	Natasha Chappell natasha.chappell@googlemail.com	01256 851373
		07766 426080
SSJ Village Hall	Shawna Campbell ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com	01256 889534
	Caretaker	07500 776222
The Chute Pavilion	Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com	
	& Penny Mayo ssjclerk@gmail.com	07714 770 940
HEALTH CARE		
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST		473202
HANTSDOC		01189 365592
BRAMBLYS GRANGE		467778
CHINEHAM SURGERY		479244
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE		329021
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY		881228
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY		01189 814166
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY		399710
EDUCATION		
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST	Mrs Suzanne Kelly (Head teacher)	850062
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mrs Karen Payne (Head teacher)	850180
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Anthony Murray	473379
PUBLIC SERVICES		
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		322814
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BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)		464501
LIBRARIES	Basingstoke Town Centre	473901
	Chineham Library	465643
	Tadley Library	01189 814595
DIAL-A-RIDE	Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm	01256 462101

Church Matters **February**

This month we are expecting another visit from the Cornhill Training Course in London. We have usually had them for a whole week, but they have decided to make the “weeks” shorter this year, for reasons of which I am not aware. The course is a short term training series in Bible handling – that is, how to understand the Bible and explain it to others. It runs for 2 or 3 years part time. Most students work for churches for the rest of the week. Visiting parishes for mission weeks or weekends is an essential part of their training.

This will be the seventh time that we have had a Cornhill Mission Team. We confidently expect it to be a great encouragement as in past years – not only for us but also for the members of the team. Certainly we shall be encouraged by their fellowship and example. We trust that they also will be strengthened by our welcome and willingness to work with them. It says in the New Testament that we should stir

one another up to love and good deeds¹. On a weekend visit this should work both ways.

It is often the case that those who have been Christians for only a short time are much keener than those who have been converted ages ago! If we have been around a long time there is always the danger that we “lose the love that we had at first.”² We need to be challenged and one of the best ways for this to happen is to meet in Christian fellowship those who are much younger, but probably much keener than we are! On the other hand it works the other way as well – it is of real benefit for younger Christians to meet with the older who may also be the wiser! In both cases it is as the proverb says “Iron sharpens iron.”³

There are a variety of events planned for the weekend. All of them are open to everybody (except of course the men’s breakfast is for men and the women’s coffee for women!) The quiz may already be a sell-out. These events

provide members of the Cornhill Team with the opportunity to speak. This is quite a large part of the purpose – to give a Bible talk in an unfamiliar situation. Often they have had relatively little experience of doing this. We have also asked each student to give their “testimony” over the time they are with us. That is to explain how they came to believe in Jesus and the difference he has made to them. Often these testimonies have unique power because we are being asked to consider someone’s personal experience and you cannot deny that! As it says in Revelation “They overcame him (ie. the devil or satan, the accuser) by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony”⁴. We look forward to welcoming the “Cornhillers” and hearing their testimonies.

John Hamilton

¹ Hebrews 10:24

² Revelation 2:4

³ Proverbs 27:17

⁴ Revelation 12:11



Services for February

St Andrew's – Sherborne St John
All Saints – Monk Sherborne
The Priory – Pamber End
<https://swp.churchbuilder.org.uk>

04 February

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

St Andrew's
Sherborne St John Village Hall

11 February

8am Holy Communion
10am CORNHILL CELEBRATION FOR ALL

Priory
St Andrew's

18 February

10am Family Service
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
Sherborne St John Village Hall

25 February

10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche
10am Morning service
6pm 'Sundays at Six'

St Andrew's
Priory
Sherborne St John Village Hall

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 10AM...

Feb 4	Christian Certainty and the power of prayer	1John 5:11-15	John Hamilton
Feb 11	Hope in a hopeless world		Cornhill Team
Feb 18	The fox and the hen	Luke 13:31-35	John Hamilton
Feb 25	An invite to die for	Luke 14:1-24	Scott Seivewright & Steve Howe

SUNDAYS AT SIX

Feb 4	Teach and Discuss	Christian thinking about warfare	John Hamilton
Feb 18	Saul blows it	1Samuel 13	Steve Howe
Feb 25	Playing the fool	1Samuel 14	John Hamilton

MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet in the weeks of 6th & 20th February. The third week is half Term.

We meet at the Rectory/Parish Room for our Lent meetings on the following Wednesday evenings: 28th February; 7th to 21st March at 8pm.

CORNHILL MISSION

Pub Night in the Swan, Sherborne St John Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm

Main course & coffee £7

Booking and payment in advance:

rod.harding123@gmail.com

Quiz Night in Sherborne St John Village Hall Saturday 10th February at 7.30pm

Drinks & nibbles £5

Booking and payment in advance via Wendy Howe Tel: 01256 851616 or E: pa.swppcc@gmail.com

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S.S.J. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

We had hoped to publish a full review of our NHW in this Villager but have had to put it back to March. For now just a few reminders.

Home insurance discounts are usually available to members of NHW schemes however there are we believe many residents in the existing scheme areas who are not actually members especially if they have moved here within the last five years. If in doubt you can either contact your co-ordinator or e.mail me and I will forward your details. There are no membership charges all we need is

your name, postal address, e.mail and/or phone number.

Mike Perman at A. Monger has volunteered to be co-ordinator for a new scheme to be set up for West End which has police approval in principle. All we need now is many more residents to pass their details to Mike so that we can meet the police criteria for membership, so please let Mike have your details NOW.

Many of our schemes now have a vacancy for either Co-ordinator or deputy, these are not onerous roles and there must be many readers who really could spare an

hour or so occasionally to keep us going or even a little more time to start up schemes where there are none at present at Hilltop/Chineham Lane and A340 from Gales to Dixons and there to Monk Sherborne Road. Please do come forward by giving me a call or e.mail for further details.

Ted Wilkinson

(Area Co-ordinator for SSJ and scheme for Elm Road)

Phone 01256 850891

e.mail ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com

Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	3 rd Feb 2018	Skittles Night
Saturday	17 th Feb 2018	Valentines Quiz and Mr & Mrs Quiz
Wednesday	28 th Feb 2018	Jazz Jam Event with Chris Cooke & Friends Why Not participate bring your music & instruments 20:00
Saturday	17 th March 2018	St Patrick's Day Disco & Karaoke

Every Friday Meat Raffle

Every Sunday Bingo

New Members Always Welcome

Guests & Children welcome



Minimum £5 transaction

Function Hall Available for Hire

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

Pamber Parish Council notes for Pamber End and Pamber Green

Pamber Parish Council met on Monday January 8th for its monthly meeting.

Planning applications:

17/03968/OUT

Outline application for the erection of a 3 bedroom detached dwelling.

Land at OS 460610 160313 Skates lane, Pamber Green

NO OBJECTION

Planning decisions:

17/03825/HSE

Erection of ground floor front extension Poppies, New Road, Pamber Green

GRANTED

17/02287/FUL

Erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling to provide staff accommodation for riding school.

Pamber Green Riding School, New Road, Pamber Green

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

Neighbourhood Plan

A huge thank you to those who attended the Neighbourhood Planning meeting on Thursday January 11th. It was a very

successful meeting and the next one is scheduled for Thursday February 22nd at St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. A representative from the Borough Council will be attending the meeting to discuss the process and next steps with the Steering Group.

Fundraising to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War

This year is the Centenary of the first World War and indisputably a vital time for all to think about the tremendous sacrifices made by so many people in this Country to protect citizens all over the world. As well as lighting the beacon and holding an event later on in the year, Pamber Parish Council has made the decision to purchase two items to commemorate the end of the War as a permanent dedication to those who selflessly dedicated their lives fighting for freedom, as a reminder for future generations about the sacrifices made in the past. The first item will be a WW1 bench which will be placed in Pamber Park, specifically designed to mark

this centenary. A second memorial shall also be allocated to Little London. The Council have committed to buy the bench and will be putting in a substantial sum to cover this but we are asking anyone within the community who is interested in such a worthy cause to donate anything, no matter how big or how small, to enable us to purchase a second commemorative item for the South Ward. We are all husbands, wives, sons, daughters or grandchildren of those directly or indirectly involved in a time that shaped our future world, so please help us in preserving the memory and teaching future generations about those brave men and women who gave so much. Thank you all. You can click on the link below to donate or simply view a picture of the bench which will be placed in Pamber Park.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/leonie-browne?utm_id=2&utm_term=NygaRRZjG

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at St. Stephen's Hall, Little London on Monday February 5th 2018.



60+ COFFEE MORNINGS – all welcome

Every two weeks throughout the year at the Village Hall from 10 – 11.30am.

Designed to promote elevenses, entertain, rejuvenate and revive friendships.

Our present organizer Shelley **requests some voluntary help** during these cheerful morning get-togethers and

someone who knows how to keep the spirit of mutually helpful conversation and friendliness would be a bonus. The ability to boil a kettle, spoon coffee and display biscuits in a pleasing manner would also help their application..... Please apply to 850577



SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and prosperous New Year from me and the Parish Councillors who all work hard to ensure Sherborne St John remains the kind of Parish you want.

Unfortunately the meeting 14th December 2017 was very short due to the lack of a quorum after 8.00p.m when one Councillor had to leave the meeting. Without 3 Councillors present the meeting could not discuss and vote on any issues raised and only had time to accept the minutes of the last meeting, the expenditure that had taken place during the last period and agree to accept the documents provided by the Parish Clerk: Standing Orders, Draft Constitution for the new Chute Management Committee, the Sherborne St John Parish Council Constitution, new allotment tenancy agreement and the draft conditions which will apply to any bookings at the Chute Pavilion. They will be placed on the Parish Council's website and updated when necessary.

Due to the new Government Data Protection Regulations, which come into force in May 2018, there will be amendments to all these documents to reflect any thing necessary.

FINANCES

The Parish Finances continue to be good and adequate for all needs and January is the time for the Parish Council to discuss and set the precept payable for 2018/9 and they will as before endeavour to keep it as low as possible. Unfortunately the new Government Data Protection Regulations and election costs for bye-elections will add unavoidable expenditure to the Parish Council.

NOTICEBOARDS

The notice boards are there in order to let residents know what is going on locally. However someone continuously takes everything off the board in the bus stop at West End, and appears to have now started to do the same at the Cranes

Road Board. Can I please ask whoever is doing it to stop. If someone knows who it is I am happy to contact them myself to ask them to desist as the information on the boards is a wonderful way of communicating with all residents and I do remove old notices when I come to put up new ones.

PLANNING MATTERS

The position on the Rydon Cranes Road site, from the Neighbourhood Plan, is still unclear, although BDBC have been in contact with the Parish Council concerning the provision of the shop that was in the plans.

CHUTE PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND

I am happy to say that the new storage unit next to the Pavilion will probably be finished before this issue of the Villager is printed. Unfortunately with a facility built many years ago I was unable to find any plans to identify where the utilities were in the surrounding ground. This resulted in unavoidable extra expenditure above the original estimates to locate the gas main and to have it re-routed. Basingstoke and Deane also decided that the unit needed a soak away installed; another expense not in the original grant request. This, with their original costs for planning permission, which were disallowed by the granting authority, had resulted in a larger total expenditure by the Parish Council than expected. However I am pleased to report that there is more than ample credit in the Chute accounts to cover this and still leave sufficient to allow the Committee to investigate further improvements at the site – so if you have any ideas please send them to the Parish Clerk ssjclerk@gmail.com to pass on to the Committee for consideration .

Once the new storage unit is finished the Committee have agreed to install artificial grass on the 2 cleared beds each side of the Pavilion and hope to place tables & chairs there for the use of residents. We still have room for

new sports groups should anyone want to start something – Dancing, Pilates, Yoga while the Tennis Committee has reported a rise in membership using the new courts.

ALLOTMENT

There are still one or 2 smaller plots available on the Moss Hill site so if you are interested please get in touch. Contact me by e mail ssjclerk@gmail.com. If you don't have internet please write to me at West End House, Stratfield Saye, RG72DP for information. The invoices for 2018 will be issued to tenants in the next week together with the new tenancy agreement.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Parish Council is still in contact with HCC to see about the West End Road improvements which the Parish Council will probably have to fund. The County Councillor made one suggestion, due to the reduction in HCC expenditure, that perhaps residents would take it upon themselves to clean any signs near their home, speed signs, road names etc. While this is of course only voluntary it would make all the difference.

DOG FOULING

Unfortunately the problem with residents failing to clear up after their dogs has not improved. If you see anyone failing to clear up after their dog – in particular this is becoming a real problem on the Chute Recreation Ground – please contact BDBC 844844 to report to the dog warden who will then decide if action is needed and issue fines. You can also contact me with information which I will pass on (a description of the dog would be helpful, size, colour, type etc) Please can I ask people to be more considerate.

Please contact me if there is anything you want to bring to the Parish Council's attention ssjclerk@gmail.com.

Penny Mayo Parish Clerk

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

Christmas is now a memory and it is now welcome to 2018 and all it will bring which has, thankfully, already included the early completion of the water main works in the Bramley Road and an end to the resultant traffic chaos. The New Year seems to have started with some pretty grim weather leaving Pamber Forest in a very poor state and, unfortunately, Spring is still some long way off.

Many of you will have received a flyer outlining the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council has appointed a Steering Group made up from a cross section of local people from all areas of Pamber Parish so as to make sure that all views are represented. The Plan will shape the development and growth of our local area and give some opportunities for parishioners to influence their own future. Parishioners are invited to become involved and make their views known and some initial meetings have been organised. The first one has already taken place but a further three are scheduled all starting at 7.30pm on 22nd February and 26th April at St Stephens Hall, Little London and on the 15th March at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall. Specific sub-committees will be set up to cover each area within the Pamber Parish and they will represent their parishioners' best interests and have a say into the structure of the plan.

Further to the existing planning application referred to in October Parish Council minutes for a caravan and motorhome storage site near Berry Court Farm which already has units on site, the application has now been amended to include the erection of twelve 4 metre high poles to carry security lighting and

CCTV. I understand that the Parish Council has opposed this application. There is also a new application for a 3 bedroom property on agricultural land next to the caravan storage facility and I understand the Parish Council has decided to support this application. The November minutes note concern over the condition of the illuminated bollards and signs on the A340 and Highways have been contacted to rectify these and to cut back the overgrown verges. It was also noted that a report from the Pamber Forest Advisory Committee was received although the content has not been published. The Parish Council will next meet on 5/2/18 at St Stephen's Village Hall, Little London 7.30pm.

The unlawful development of a travellers' site on land adjacent to Culhams Farm continues through the due process of the law. Barristers have presented all of their evidence in the High Court and concern continues particularly with regard to the numerous planning grounds against the site, the highly dangerous nature of Silchester Road and breaches of SSSI restrictions. The barristers have yet to give their summary statements before the judge can make his final judgement which is expected in late January.

Choir news includes the excellent £950 raised by Tadley Singers for the Loddon Valley Day Care Centre based at the Ambrose Allen Centre in Tadley. For all interested singers, David Gibson, Musical Director of the Basingstoke Choral Society is leading a workshop on some of the best loved choruses from Handel's Messiah. This is free to members of Basingstoke Festival of Choirs or £5 for others and will take place at Christchurch, Chineham on

10/2/18 from 10.30 to 4.30. Contact Marilyn Wright at bfoc@rocketmail.com. Forthcoming concerts for all of the local choirs I'm aware of are still in the planning stage but rest assured there will be plenty to entertain you. More news to follow.

We are blessed in having two nature reserves on our doorstep. Pamber Forest and Upper Inhams Copse are most central to us, being a large ancient woodland site traditionally managed by coppicing and grazing. The woodland is predominantly oak and birch, and the heath and wood pasture on the east of the site make an interesting contrast to the woodland site. Three species of woodpecker, woodcock and a variety of warblers are some birds of note to be found here and during the summer butterflies, such as purple emperors and white admirals are busy in the open sunlit rides and clearings. Ron Ward's Meadow is the other area close at hand. This flower-rich grassland is a reminder of how much of the countryside would have looked in the early 20th century. No chemicals have been used on this land, ensuring the survival of the wildflowers and butterflies that rely on them. Plants that can be found here in the meadow include dyer's greenweed, common spotted and southern marsh hybrid orchids. I would encourage you to visit these when the weather improves.

I'd like to remind you to save your milk bottle tops which can be used to raise money for charity. Please contact me to arrange for drop off or collection. Many thanks.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

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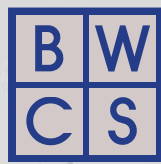
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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Dog Fouling



Dog fouling is an on-going problem in the village, as in most places. As a dog owner (who picks up my dogs poo), I see the evidence of people who allow their dogs to poo everywhere, including in people's driveways, their gardens and gardens verges. For some households I see this as a repeat offence on their property, it must be very frustrating. At the last Parish meeting someone came to express concerns about the amount of dog poo off the road on footpaths. It seems dog walkers just let their dogs off the lead to foul in these areas, out of eye shot. Yet every walker has suffered the consequences of the smell and mess to be avoided.

Nobody wants to have to clean dog poo off theirs or their children's shoes, scooters, prams etc and it certainly should not be left on public play areas for children to step in or even fall into when they are playing football or other such games. Leaving dog faeces in public areas is extremely unpleasant and unnecessary. There really is no excuse not to pick up your dogs faeces and take it home to your own bin or find a public bin, but not another home owner's bin!

It is an offence not to clean up after your dog in any street or public area in the parish. If you are caught, you could be given a fixed penalty fine of £50. To report dog fouling use the online form at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling>

Some dog owners are responsible pet owners and do pick up after their dogs but we are let down by those who fail to take responsibility. Please let's try to make Monks Sherborne a dog poo free village. Perhaps we need to consider some of the options used elsewhere to try and reduce this unpleasant behaviour:



Picture from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22853270>

The picture above was a scheme in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, British Waterways decorated a tree with dozens of bags of poo-filled plastic bags, to highlight the problem of owners picking the waste up - only to fling it into the foliage.

One of the problems with dog mess is that its earthy tones make it difficult to

spot against the ground. Spraying it a bright colour and leaving it in situ for the owners to consider upon their return has been tried by a number of councils. In Dorset, the excrement was painted bright green, while Gloucestershire favoured orange and West Dunbartonshire bright pink, as in the picture above. This pink spray-paint will make this mess really obvious so the owners get the message that it is disgusting.

Drawing attention to the problem can make owners realise how much it upsets other people, says Lance Workman, visiting professor of psychology at the University of South Wales. "When people take on a dog they think about the positives. People don't always see the responsibility that goes with it.

If you would like to address this issue please do contact the parish council and we can work together to see what we can achieve.

Jan Ashfield

Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

Happy New Year! We had a very hectic end to 2017 and it was great to see so many parents and visitors in school for events such as the Christmas Fayre, music concerts, nativity performances, the Class 3 Tea Party and the Christmas Church service. We had two extra special visitors too – a pair of reindeer who seemed very much at home in the chilly winter winds! All the children (and some of the parents!) had the opportunity to see the reindeer close up and learn about their habitat and special adaptations for living in Scandinavia.



Although our main focus in school has to be learning Literacy and Mathematics, we always have a diversity of additional activities as part of the wider curriculum. This half of term we have external coaches in school to teach dance (Class 4 and Year 1), Badminton (Class 3) and ukulele (Key Stage 1 and Class 4), as well as offering coaching in early morning/afternoon clubs for football, judo, tag rugby, dance, gymnastics and French. The Year 6 pupils spent a week on a residential trip to the Stubbington Study Centre and while they were away, the Year 5s undertook a 'Bikeability' course. Groups from Class 3 have been continuing their work with the Vyne.

We have some very interesting topics for study this term. The Key Stage 1 project is entitled 'Fire! Fire!' and is looking at the Great Fire of London. They have had a visit from our local fireman, Mr Miller, who told them all about his job!

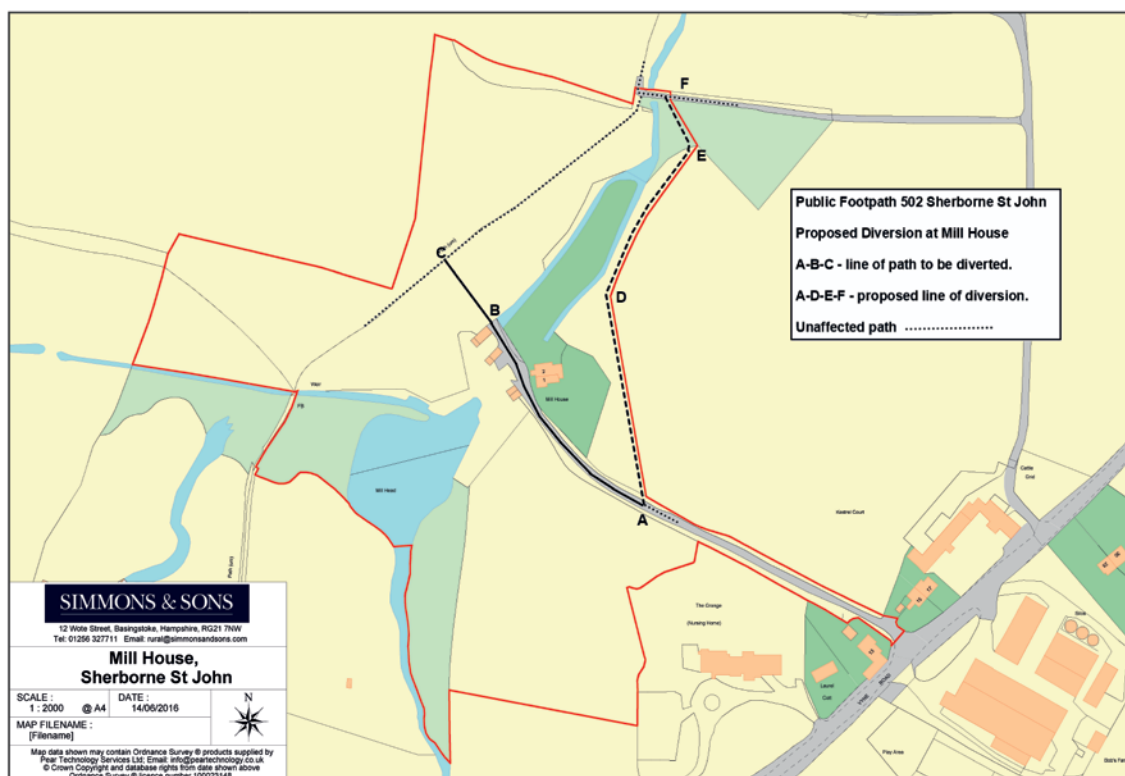
Class 3 are studying the Ancient Egyptians which will include a practical lesson in mummification (although it is only fish that will be mummified, not people!). This works surprisingly effectively, judging by the condition of the fish that have been mummified in previous years and recently dug up! Class 4's topic is 'Earth Matters' covering geology, climate and natural forces. They have already taken part in a practical improvisation of how different types of mountains are formed, and are learning how to read maps.



Sherbert
SSJ School
Villager
Correspondent

Proposed Diversion of Footpath 502 Sherborne St John, Mill House

The SSJ Parish Council has received quite a few e-mails from residents who are very concerned about this proposed diversion of footpath 502 without the Parish Council giving sufficient time to comment.



If you wish to make any comments to the Parish Council please send them to the Parish Clerk ssjclerk@gmail.com



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A Postcard from North Hampshire

Your *intrepid* 'Tourist' recently took part in a car rally through the lanes of N Hampshire; in these days of political correctness, a largely overlooked pastime! As you will appreciate, a wealth of rural delights awaits even the casual explorer.

2017 saw Jane Austen's bicentennial celebrations. We (Basingstoke) have been competing with Winchester and Bath for ownership of her memory! Did we win - who knows, but we did display an eye-catching selection of 22 benches designed as books (which were then auctioned and raised nearly £100,000 for the Ark Cancer Charity). We found one such as a 'clue' outside Steventon Church - Jane Austen's birthplace... and where at least one of Jane's relatives was the Rector.

If anything the difficulty in choosing clues is the wealth of choice! Memorials to a number of wars, village duck ponds, chalk streams, thatched cottages, thatched pubs, Elizabethan mansions, exotic weather vanes, millennial celebration tablets,



golden post-boxes, the London & SW Railway with its viaducts, rolling chalklands, historic watercress beds, and the national buffalo herd!. The diversity of flora and fauna is breathtaking!

Passing below Watership Down we were (again) reminded of an outstanding,

iconic view with another literary connection! Traffic was light and the day reminded us of the carefree motoring experiences of yesteryear.

The 'Stayhome' Tourist

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Autumn into Winter 2017-18

Pamber Green David Cullum

September 2017 was, in many ways, an unspectacular month with temperatures a little above average. There were spells of cloudy weather (especially from the 3rd to the 9th and again from the 25th) but overall sunshine totals were above average with plenty of sun from the 11th to the 22nd; this did mean some clear nights and chilly mornings – the air temperature fell to +1.7C on the morning of the 22nd. Rainfall totals were close to average with only one spell of heavy rain – 13.3 mm of rain fell mainly between 2.30 am and 4.30 am on the 25th.

October was a warm month with average temperatures more than 2C above normal and yet the highest daytime temperature was only 20.2C on the 16th. Sunshine totals were well below average due the persistence of cloud; there was plenty of sun from the 4th to the 7th and again after the 26th, but rainfall was well below average – helping the autumn sowing.

November was a cool month with the highest daytime temperature only reaching 15.1C on the 1st and there were 6 mornings with air frost. Rainfall totals were near average at 71.2 mm but there was heavy rain in the early hours of the 4th and again after midnight on

2017/18	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	To 12 Jan.18
Avg Day Max Temp C	18.9	16.3	10.1	7.5	7.5
Diff from 30-yr ave C	+1.1	+2.2	-0.5	-0.6	+0.3
Highest Max Temp C	22.5	20.2	15.1	13.2	11.7
Avg Night Min Temp C	9.4	8.5	2.8	2.3	2.9
Diff from 30-year ave C	+1.0	+2.4	-1.1	+0.4	+1.7
Lowest Min Air Temp C	1.7	-1.7	-4.0	-6.0	-1.9
No. Nights with Air Frost	0	1	6	9	2
Night frosts diff from ave	0	+1	-1	-4	-3
No.Nights with Grass Frost	0	2	14	18	5
Total Rainfall mm	61.0	21.0	71.2	102	23.4
Highest 24-hour Rainfall mm	13.3	5.1	18.8	18.8	13.3
Percent of 30-year ave	98%	28%	96%	147%	80%
No. of days with>1mm rain	11	6	8	18	3
Diff from 30-year ave	+2	-3	-3	+5	-3

the 23rd. Soil temperatures continued quite warm helping to maintain late grass growth and also to aid germination of overwintering crops.

Overall the December air temperatures were not far from average but they did fluctuate wildly, with a daytime temperature reaching only 2.6C (37F) on the 27th but 3 days later reaching 13.2C (55F). There were 9 days with air frost (far fewer than normal) but 18 mornings with grass frost (as we would expect) – implying a slight rise in night temperatures; this can be accounted for by the frequency of days (and nights) with rain. There were 18 days with rain (5 more than usual) and a well above average rainfall total of 102 mm (147% of average).

January 2018 (up to the 12th) saw some good sunny days but also some very dull days with the 8th the dullest day during at least the last 4 years and the 9th was not much better. The main feature of the month was Storm Eleanor which coincided with high tides leading to much coastal destruction and widespread damage inland (mainly on the 3rd).



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Loddon Valley Lions Club

Loddon Valley Lions Club have just completed a busy and rewarding December. Beginning on the 1st day of the month our Father Christmas Float visited local villages on a total of 20 nights and thanks to the efforts of our members and friends and the generosity of local residents a grand total £11,500 was raised for charitable purposes

In addition our Float Activities, Saturday 16th December saw a total 110 Christmas hampers donated to worthy recipients throughout our area - we are always happy to have potential recipients identified to our Club at <http://loddonvalleylions.org> or 0845 833 7494 .

Ken Williamson

Publicity Officer, Loddon Valley Lions

Bert's Blog



I have added a new trick to my repertoire – pulling a cracker. This training proved to be somewhat dangerous and I would advocate it not be tried at home without adequate supervision. The preliminary instructions involved the Mrs explaining to me with some patience that I should hold one end of the cracker in my mouth gently, but firmly enough to withstand her pulling the other end. This looked very much like a game I had played as a youngster. After a few false starts I had the hang of holding on tightly but at the last minute I noticed the Boss was tucking into a turkey sandwich and the urge to investigate overcame my need to concentrate on holding tight. I inadvertently let go of my end of the

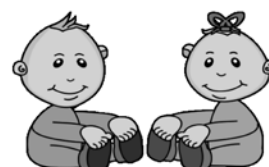
cracker resulting in the sudden unending of the Mrs who lay sprawled on the floor with a look of surprised annoyance on her face. The Boss nearly choked himself trying to disguise his laughter and earned a slap on the back to dislodge the turkey and a sharp rebuke from the Mrs about eating in front of me, especially during lesson time. During this opportune diversion I quickly investigated the whereabouts of the dislodged turkey, safely removing it quickly and cleanly from the floor before anybody noticed.

The Mrs said she wanted to continue with my training session as she almost had the cracker pulling licked, strange I thought, she had it in her hand, not her mouth – I was the one who had it licked! We proceeded with another try, this time with it firmly anchored between my teeth. Astonishingly, exactly the same thing happened again but this time there was a loud crack, paper exploded everywhere jettisoning the Mrs across the floor along with a pack of small screw drivers. Much to my amazement, thinking I was for it this time, I was completely surprised to find that despite this second inelegant sprawl and the resultant mess, the Mrs seemed exultant and covered me with pats and praise and exchanged the screwdrivers for the remainder of the Boss' turkey sandwich! Result!



SWP Baby and Toddler Group

Managed by Sherbornes with Pamber church



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Join us for free-play, craft, bible stories and song-time.
and coffees for grown ups and a fruit snack-time for the children.
For full-grown toddlers, come along and make friends! Support for pregnant and new mums. Safe baby area.



Wednesday mornings
(during school term time)
10.00–11.30
Sherborne St John Village Hall



phone Barbara 850173 or Liz 850800

Probus Hears about Radio Times

The Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social group for retired professional and business managers, listened with interest about radio broadcasting memories in the era of 1930s - 60s. It was presented by John Pitman, who grew up during WW2 on a farm near Winchester, where the "wireless" was the main form of information and entertainment.

Like many places in those days his home had no electrical supply and the radio was powered by an accumulator, an early form of battery consisting of glass phials filled with acid and it had to be taken away weekly for recharging. Some readers may remember "crystal sets" which were usually homemade and did not require an electrical supply. However radio broadcasting goes back to the turn of the twentieth century after the invention of valves made it possible to receive electrical signals. The first broadcast took place on Christmas Eve 1906 from the New York Metropolitan Opera House but the only listeners were ships moored in New York harbour.

1920 saw the first radio news broadcast by the Marconi Experimental Station at Writtle near Chelmsford in Essex followed two years later with regular entertainment programmes. The British Broadcasting Company, whose main station was 2LO, morphed into the Corporation in 1926 becoming the BBC.

Many memories were stirred as old radio programmes were recalled, *ITMA* (It's that man again - Hitler during the war) with Tommy Handley and Mrs Mop asking "Can I do you now sir" and *Worker's Playtime* was broadcast from factory canteens. *Have a Go* starred Wilfred Pickles with Mabel at the Table

and in later series Violet Carson, of Ena Sharples fame, playing the piano. *Ray's a Laugh* with Ted Ray was the fastest joke teller on radio, *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh*, with Kenneth Horne and Richard Murdoch was broadcast from a fictitious RAF station. *Hi Gang* in the war became in peacetime *Life with the Lyons* with American Ben Lyon with his English wife Bebe Daniels and Vic Oliver. *Take it from Here* starred "Professor" Jimmy Edwards, Alma Cogan with Dick Bentley and June Whitfield playing the dim witted engaged couple whose famous phrase was "Oooh Ron; yes Eth?".

Dick Barton Special Agent was on every weekday evening while *Journey in to Space* with Jet Morgan was on Monday evenings. *In Town Tonight* was a Saturday teatime current affairs and personality show "We stop the roar of London's traffic to see who is in town tonight". Sunday lunchtimes had *Two Way Family Favourites* with Cliff Michelmoore in London and Jean Metcalfe in Germany followed by the *Billy Cotton Band Show* which opened with the phrase "Wakey wakey".

The Goon Show had Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Michael Bentine and Harry Secombe while *Round the Horne* had Kenneth Horne, Marty Feldman with Kenneth Williams and Hugh Paddick as Julian and his friend Sandy. *Mrs Dale's Diary* was always worried about Jim and *The Archers* the everyday story of country folk is still on air today.

Who would believe that a ventriloquist's dummy would have a successful radio show called *Educating Archie!* It couldn't happen today but stars of the day



appeared like Beryl Reid as Monica but introduced herself in a Brummie accent "Good evening each, my name's Marlene" and Max Bygraves had two catch phrases "I've arrived and to prove it I'm here" and "Good idea, son".

The New York Opera still broadcasts on Christmas Eve but today over 300 radio stations around the world carry the programme.

For more information about the Probus Club see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone Paul Flint on 07770 886521.



Have Fun on Mad Hair Day!

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce their fun campaign Mad Hair Day which will take place once again and this year it is on Friday 9th 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 all in the name of generating vital money for North Hampshire's only adult hospice.

'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 9th 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 £3.7 million of which only around 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@stmichaels hospice.org.uk for a fundraising pack.



BAOS – Fiddler on the Roof

BAOS proudly presents the iconic musical, Fiddler on the Roof,

13 - 17 March 2018.

Fiddler on the Roof is a much-loved story, set in 1905 in the small, tradition-steeped Jewish village of Anatevka. Throughout the show, time-honoured traditions of Anatevka are both embraced and challenged by dairyman Tevye and his colourful community, as they witness his daughters, Tzeitel, Hodel, and Chava, grow up and fall in love in a time of change in Russia.

Fiddler on the Roof's premiere in 1964 saw the musical become the longest-running Broadway musical in history, a title it maintained for almost ten years. It is the love and humour woven through the story that has filled audiences with hope, faith, charity and warmth for generations, and keeps this story alive today.

Featuring timeless songs such as the beautiful *Sunrise, Sunset*, the boisterous *If I Were a Rich Man*, and the classic *Matchmaker, Matchmaker*, BAOS's energetic, thought-provoking production will have you both crying and laughing.

Tickets can be purchased through Anvil Arts by visiting www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/fiddler-on-the-roof or calling the box office on 01256 844244.

Ticket prices:

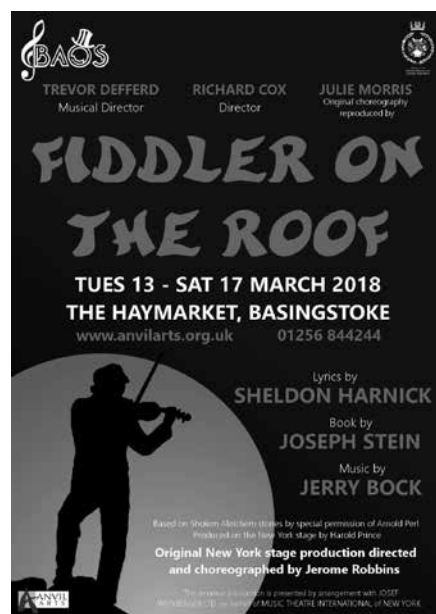
Tuesday £20

Wednesday – Saturday £23.00
(including Saturday matinee)

Under 16s £15.00 all shows

Concessions: £1.00 reduction for full time students and over 65s

Group discount: 10 or more at £1.00 discount per ticket



Anvil Arts, Basingstoke

Thu 1 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

The Snow Maiden

Based on a traditional folk tale and set in the snow covered landscape of rural Russia, this seasonal sparkler follows the Snow Maiden as she dances into the human world.

TICKETS: £41.50, £36.50, £34; over 65s and f/t students £3 off (excludes top ticket price); under 16s £19

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Fri 2 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

The Nutcracker

On Christmas Eve, as snowflakes fall outside, the warm glow of the open fire sends flickering shadows across the boughs of the Christmas tree and all the presents beneath. When midnight strikes, enter a fairy tale world where nothing is quite as it seems.

TICKETS: £41.50, £36.50, £34; over 65s and f/t students £3 off (excludes top ticket price); under 16s £19

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Sat 3 Feb, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

The Anvil

Swan Lake

The greatest romantic ballet of all time is brought to life by Tchaikovsky's haunting and unforgettable score.

TICKETS: £41.50, £36.50, £34; 2pm performance £36.50, £34, £29; over 65s and f/t students £3 off (excludes top ticket price); under 16s £19

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Wed 7 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

Suggs: What a King Cnut*

Due to popular demand after his first one man show, Suggs is treading the boards again. If the first show was about how on earth he got there, this show is about the surprises that awaited him when he did.

TICKETS: £30.50

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Thu 8 Feb, 7.45pm

The Anvil

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Violinist Nicola Benedetti joins the orchestra for a programme featuring Beethoven's Symphony no 4 and Violin Concerto. Marin Alsop conducts.

TICKETS: £40, £36, £29, £22, £14; Under 16s and f/t students £10

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Sat 10 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

Icons of the 80s

Featuring Go West (We Close Our Eyes, Call Me and King of Wishful Thinking), Nik Kershaw (Wouldn't It Be Good? and Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me) and Cutting Crew (I Just Died In Your Arms).

TICKETS: £36.50

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Sun 11 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

La Traviata

Based on a true story, it tells of the passionate loves and life of the consumptive courtesan, Violetta. The highlights include the Brindisi, the best known drinking song in opera, the duet Un Di Felice and Violetta's haunting aria Addio Del Passato.

TICKETS: £38, £34, £30; over 65s, under 16s and f/t students £20, £18, £16

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Wed 14 Feb, 7.45pm

The Anvil

Philharmonia at the Movies

Love Stories from the Silver Screen
Enjoy a romantic Valentine's evening with Carl Davis and the Philharmonia Orchestra in a concert of movie music that overflows with some of the most unforgettable love songs of all time from Love Story, Gone with the Wind, La La Land, West Side Story, Dr Zhivago, Mamma Mia, Romeo and Juliet, among many more.

TICKETS: £35, £25, £15; under 16s and f/t students £10

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Wed 21 Feb, 7.30pm

The Haymarket

A Brace Face

Vamos Theatre explore Post-Traumatic Stress, an unseen and often unrecognised injury of war, and the impact it can have on even the closest of families.

TICKETS: £12 (suitable for aged 12 +)

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Thu 22 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

Jimmy Osmond

Full of award-winning music, nostalgic footage and special memories of Andy Williams, who gave The Osmonds their big break with into show business.

TICKETS: £32, £29.50; VIP tickets £77 (not available online)

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Sun 25 Feb, 7.30pm

The Anvil

An Evening with Levison Wood

The best-selling author, photographer and TV presenter shares his experiences as a modern day explorer, delighting with tales of his epic adventures.

TICKETS: £24.50

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Wed 28 Feb – 3 Mar, 7.30pm

Thu & Sat 2pm

The Haymarket

Caught in the Net

By Ray Cooney

starring John Lyons (A Touch of Frost), this glorious comic romp, a sequel to Run For Your Wife, is a brilliant farce with an hysterical climax.

TICKETS: Wed-Thu £22, Fri-Sat £24, 2pm performance £19; Over 65s £2 off, under 16s and f/t students £13

TICKET PRICES INCLUDE £2 BOOKING FEE

Womens Fellowship

The talk at the January meeting was 'Postcards of Basingstoke' – many postcards and photographs being displayed on tables that the speaker, Mr. Michael Appleton, had collected during his researches.

Mr. Appleton emphasised that it was the quirky side to stories that particularly appealed to him, and his delving into reference books and artefacts took him back to the time of Hugh de Port.

Following a heart attack, he decided to take up walking in the surrounding areas of Basingstoke. Studying ordnance survey maps, he discovered the ownerships of land which led him to the arrival of William the Conqueror's companion Hugh de Port, where their Headquarters were set up at Old Basing, the start of Basing House, one of 55 manors in Hampshire. During the civil war, the story is apparently that a combination of wet straw, sulphur and arsenic were planned to set light to Basing House, but the wind changed direction and it didn't happen.

There were long-held rumours that there was a stash of gold in the well at Basing House, so in 1972 divers were sent down to investigate. Apparently the only

'treasure' that was found was a ring-pull from a coke can.

Another story entailed the Marquis of Winchester, who was ordered to sell his 1600 muskets, something he possibly did not wish to do – and the year following, war broke out, so timing was not beneficial. Anyway – the Marquis was imprisoned in London Street Basingstoke, apparently on the site of the present Midland Bank, at the time a debtors' prison, but he was allowed to return to Winchester.

In 5000bc in Basingstoke there was a burial ground, or mound, in Berkley Avenue, which was Crown property. Other gems included King John's hunting ground now the site of The Angel pub, opposite the Town Hall, at one time called Annunciation Hall. Nearby Joice's Yard was once a pumping station. Mr. Appleton told stories of the tunnels beneath the streets of Top of Town, as well as a story of the Fire Station, and where the horses were kept a mile away at the Brewery, thus on some occasions being unable to arrive at the fire in time for it to be extinguished.

The Haymarket Theatre was at one time the Corn Exchange; Wote Street was

Oat Street, and the area was home to a number of activities, including a boxing ring, a roller-skating rink and a cinema.

It is commonly known that the retailer Burberry's began its life in Basingstoke. What may be less well known is the story that Mr. Burberry would ride from his home in Hook every day, a fair distance on horseback. One particular day he fell into the roadside ditch, and was not permitted to ride again to work. As he worked until he was 90, this incident may have been during his more mature years.

The water supply for Basingstoke was at one time situated right beside the sewage works – and inevitably there was an outbreak of typhoid during which fifteen people died. The water supply was moved to West Ham (opposite Morrisons) and there is a fish tank still existing, where the water runs through, and if the fish don't die, the water is safe for drinking!

Mr. Appleton continued his talk with stories of the Canadian Army's occupancy at Park Prewett Hospital.

Next month's meeting is the AGM and Bring & Buy.

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

The Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed members to the first meeting of 2018 on 3rd January and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips to either Kensington Palace to see the display of Diana's dresses, or the Science Museum, on Tuesday 20th February and to Oxford, go as you please, on Thursday 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 on members who had not been well.

There then followed a presentation by Tom and Sheena from Wiltshire Farm

Foods. They gave a short history of the company from its foundation in 1992 as Waldens Wiltshire Foods Ltd, its takeover in 1995 by Apetito, getting the Queen's Award for Innovation in 2005 until today where the majority of the business is operated on a local or regional basis by some sixty franchisees. All the food used in their meals comes from known, mainly local, sources and is all cooked at their kitchens in Trowbridge where it is immediately fast frozen. Customers then order from a range of over 300 fuss-free meals and desserts for all appetites and special dietary requirements for easy microwave or oven cooking. Uniformed drivers in liveried refrigerated vehicles then deliver even offering a freezer packing service to frail customers who

find it difficult to perform tasks such as bending. After the talk members were able to sample a variety of the foods including a selection of cakes and pastries.

The next meeting is on 7th February when the speaker will be Barbara Cummins on Cycling USA. 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. 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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BASINGSTOKE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETINGS 2018

Monday 19 February 2018

The Dahlia Year – Nick Gilbert

Monday 19 March 2018

The Lavender Fields - Tim Butler

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and commence at 7.30pm. Visitors £3 incl refreshments.

For further details telephone 01256 324185 or 01256 466281

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'.
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- For information on annual block advertisements please contact **Emma Foreman**

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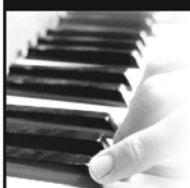
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