

A scenic view of a pond in a park. In the foreground, a white swan swims towards the left. In the middle ground, a dark swan swims towards the right. To the right of the dark swan, a small wooden signpost stands in the water. Further right, a duck swims. In the background, another duck is visible. The water reflects the surrounding trees and sky. The trees have yellow and orange foliage, suggesting autumn. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and picturesque.

The Villager

May 2016

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial



Thank you all very much for my beautiful picture of The Post Office. The money I also received will contribute nicely to our retirement. We are enjoying our time together and are looking forward to our first trip to the caravan shortly.

Take care and thank you once again.

Janet Page

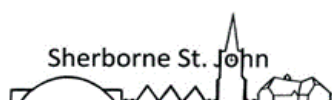
Reply to Joan Brandon (Page 3, April issue)

I have to disagree with your esteemed teacher about the definition of the equinox. Here's what Wikipedia has to say;

The oldest meaning of the word "equinox" refers to a day when daytime and night-time are of approximately equal duration.[4]

The word "equinox" comes from this definition and is derived from the Latin aequinoctium, aequus (equal) and nox (genitive noctis) (night).

Bill Hayter



**Reg. 14
Consultation**

**Draft Plan Consultation
Closes Monday 16th May**

Reminder - the Regulation 14 Consultation is open for comment. The Draft SSJ Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can all be found on the SSJ Neighbourhood Plan website –

www.SSJNeighbourhoodPlan.com

Please use the proforma response on the website to respond. All comments will be registered, reviewed, answered as appropriate. A limited number of hard copies of the Plan are available to borrow from the SSJ Clerk – tel: 01189 332379.

Support your local Neighbourhood Plan!

Julian Crawley
SSJ Neighbourhood Plan

Julie Crawley - Editor

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: Welcome visitors to village pond, Ian Todd

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Future Events

May 2016

2	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
3	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Jonathan Jones IS Rudyard Kipling, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
9	Pelican Film Society The Dressmaker, Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
10	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
11	5 and 10 K Run, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
16	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
16	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
19	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, (Thursday) Chute Pavilion	7.30pm
28	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm
30	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	

June 2016

5	Sunflower Fete, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
6	Pelican Film Society Lady in the Van,, Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship, The Dragon and The Damsel, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
13	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
14	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
25	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm
27	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
27	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

July 2016

4	Pelican Film Society, Pride, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
5	SSJ Women's Fellowship, The Dragon and The Damsel, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
6 – 16	Farnham Art Society Annual Exhibition, University for the Creative Arts, Falkner Rd, Farnham	9.30am – 5.00pm
11	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
12	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Big Wheel, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
25	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
25	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

August 2016

2	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
8	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	
9	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
22	60s+ Coffee Morning, SSJ Village Hall. ALL OVER 60S VERY WELCOME	

September 2016

5	Pelican Film Society, The Danish Girl, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Annual Outing	TBA
10	Moonlight Walk, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
13	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
23	SMH & TC Golf Day, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
24	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

October 2016

3	Pelican Film Society, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Newlyn's Farm Shop, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
11	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
29	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm

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From bumps to full-grown toddlers, come along and make friends!



Wednesday mornings
(during school term time)
10.00–11.30

Sherborne St John Village Hall



phone Barbara 850173 or Liz 850800

Church Matters May

Many will know that Ian Roberts was diagnosed with a brain tumour just before Christmas. He has been "Lay Reader" in our parish for more than 25 years and has lived here much longer than that. He first became a Christian toward the end of his time at university but it was 30 years ago that he really began to serve the Lord. For this article I have asked Ian to tell us a bit about what it means to believe in Jesus in the face of terminal cancer.

John Hamilton

Ian writes:

When I went into hospital I was in a lot of pain with blinding headaches. After a scan I was told I had a brain tumour and I was quite confused. I realised I could die and I was afraid. After a while I pulled myself together and said "You say you are a Christian; what are you afraid of? We will all die. The real problem is what happens afterwards." At this stage words from the 23rd psalm were going through my mind: "The valley of the shadow of death" – that is where I felt I was.

I then tried to remember Bible verses which defined what it meant to be a Christian. The first one was John 3:16 – the most quoted verse in the Bible, which could be said to summarise the message of the gospel, the good news of Christianity, and even of the whole Bible:

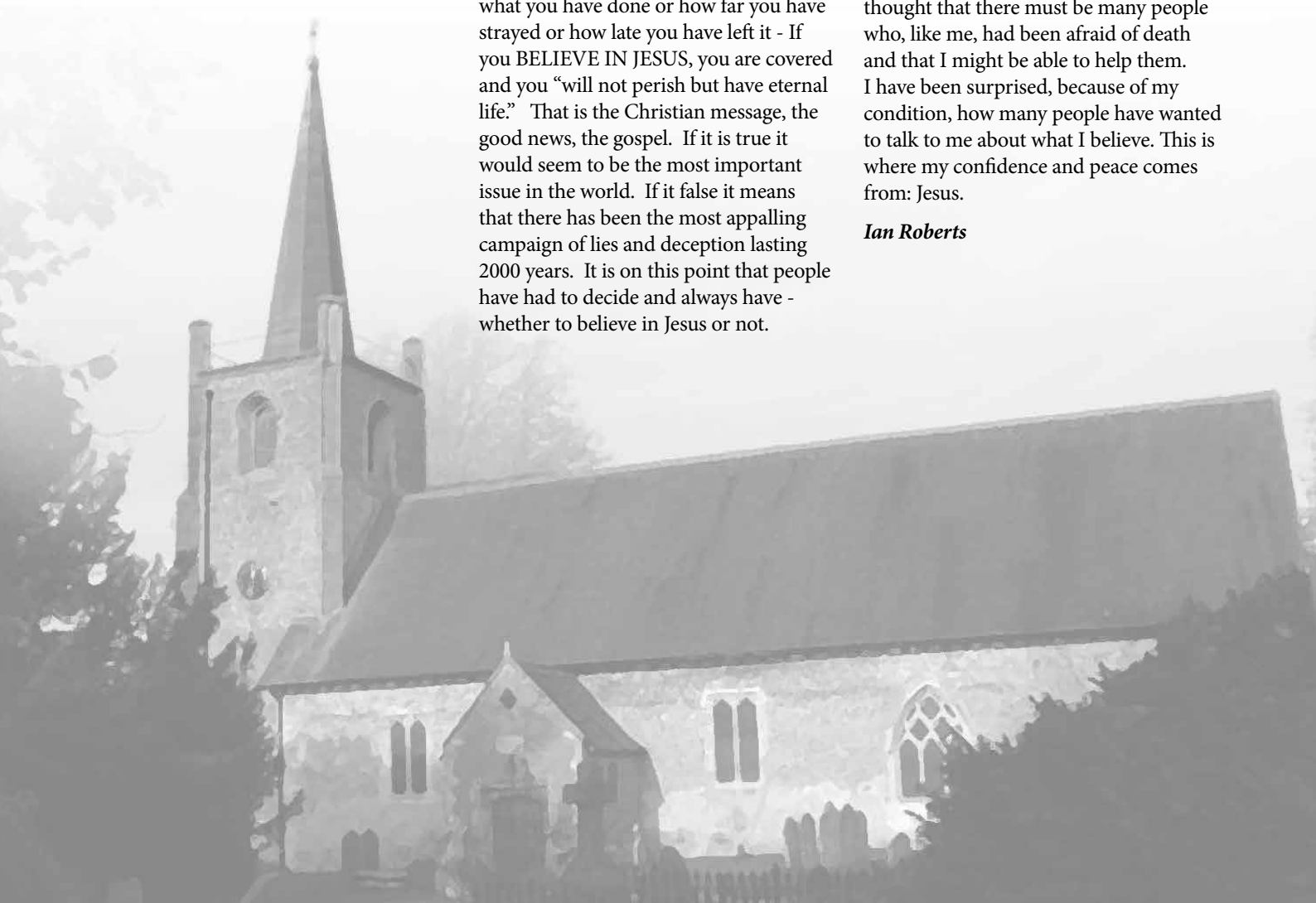
"God so loved the world that he gave his only son that WHOEVER believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

It is as simple as that! It does not matter what you have done or how far you have strayed or how late you have left it – If you BELIEVE IN JESUS, you are covered and you "will not perish but have eternal life." That is the Christian message, the good news, the gospel. If it is true it would seem to be the most important issue in the world. If it false it means that there has been the most appalling campaign of lies and deception lasting 2000 years. It is on this point that people have had to decide and always have – whether to believe in Jesus or not.

"Believe" – "Believe" in this context does not just mean intellectual assent to the existence of Jesus as a person but putting one's trust in him and accepting him as your Lord and Saviour. Luke 23:39:39-43 tells the story of the thief on the cross next to the dying Jesus. He had been a criminal, but as he was about to be executed he turned to Jesus and asked for mercy/help. He knew enough about Jesus to believe he could help him, even at this late stage. He put his trust in him and Jesus said "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." That is as short a "conversion" story as I have ever heard, but it does show that it is never too late in life to trust in Jesus!

After going through these and other Bible verses I realised that whatever happened, whether I died or not, my final destiny was absolutely assured. I would be in paradise with Jesus. I then felt calm and at peace and I moved to the end of the 23rd Psalm where it says "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Although I felt calm and at peace, I thought that there must be many people who, like me, had been afraid of death and that I might be able to help them. I have been surprised, because of my condition, how many people have wanted to talk to me about what I believe. This is where my confidence and peace comes from: Jesus.

Ian Roberts



Services for May

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

1 May

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

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

15 May

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

10am	Morning Service taken by Andrew Redbond	Priory
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29 May

10am 6pm	Family Service 'Sundays at Six'	St Andrew's Sherborne St John Village Hall
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SERMONS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM:

Breakout: from Jerusalem to the world. Studies in the first 12 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.
The Gospel, once established in Jerusalem, breaks out into the Roman world.

1 May	"To the ends of the earth"	Acts 1:1-11	John Hamilton
8 May	The world's greatest sermon!	2:14-39	John Hamilton
15 May	The perfect church?	2:40-47	John Hamilton
22 May	<i>Church Weekend</i>	Andrew Redbond	
29 May	No other name	4:1-22	Andy Spence

SUNDAYS AT SIX:

We start with Ruth, a very personal story of salvation – God's grace to an individual woman from beyond the borders of the Promised Land. Then (via Nahum!) we begin Paul's letter to the Colossians.

1 May	God's Grace	Ruth 1 – 2	Scott Seivewright
8 May	God's Guidance	Ruth 3 – 4	Scott Seivewright
15 May	The message of Nahum	Nahum 1 – 3	John Hamilton
22 May	-----		
29 May	True Gospel, True Christians	Col 1:1-14	Scott Seivewright

MIDWEEK MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Home Groups meet during the weeks beginning 2 & 16 May.

Central Fellowship – Tuesdays 10 and 24 May.
Coffee at 7.45 pm. Bible study and discussion* at 8 pm.
Pray at 8.30. Finish at 9 pm
* On Tim Keller's book "The freedom of self forgetfulness"

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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Council rates

At the Parish Council meeting on 16th March, County Councillor, Keith Chapman, advised that the proposed cuts in the Government Grant amounted to £140m. Borough Councillor John Leek, in his last official engagement with the PC noted that as a result, the BDBC would increase the Council rates by 2%.

The Parish precept request has been kept at £9450. The internal audit has been scheduled for 26th April.

Defibrillator

The site for a defibrillator was discussed and it was agreed the most suitable site was in the phone box, being highly visible and where there would be no cost for the electricity. County Cllr K Chapman advised that £1,000 could be available through his devolved budget allocation to assist with the required purchase, which could cost as much as £2000.

Planning

The application previously submitted at Manor Farm for a picking station has been withdrawn.

The Parish Council's complaints about the number of caravans at Blackberries had been received by BDBC planning but they advised that it could take some

time before it was addressed. In the meantime the number of caravans has been reduced.

In other planning decisions, the erection of a single story house at the back of 9 The Close has been refused, whilst an extension to Beaufort Chase in Charter Alley has been granted, as has a single story extension to Queens House

The Mole

The premises licence for the Mole has been granted and Keith Giles, the publican, plans to open in the near future. Retrospective planning application has also been submitted for the decking. Cllr Leek said that Highways were concerned about the number of car park spaces but Keith Giles has said that he has not been informed of any concerns.

Manydown Housing plans

Richard Bayley from BDBC gave a presentation concerning the Manydown development, with three possible layouts. Afterwards, the parishioners' main concerns were about the effect of increased traffic onto the A339 and in particular the resulting rat run from the A340 through Monk Sherborne onto the A339. As traffic cannot pass through Rooksdow, it was suggested that Rooksdow Lane could be reopened.

Parish signposts

You may have noticed that all the Parish signposts are clean and sparkling. Many thanks to Stan and Christine Gibson.

Village Hall

Bill Hayter advised that outline heads of agreement had been reached with Smiths Gore (Manydown's agents) concerning a new lease for the Village Hall. These have to be approved by Manydown and then the details fleshed out for both sides to agree the detail.

Pot Holes

Cllr Keith Chapman advised that because of the cuts in Government grants, the money allocated to repair the pot holes has had to be cut and long delays could be expected. The Parish is therefore applying to join the 2017/18 Parish Lengthsman scheme in which the Hampshire County Council pays for minor repairs carried out by the Parish themselves.

Bill Hayter

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



SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Elections

Don't forget the elections at the start of this month. The Parish Council would like to thank their retiring Borough Councillor John Leek for all his years of service and help to our community which has been much appreciated. Notices are on the boards listing all the candidates for both Borough and Parish vacancies (there will only be a Parish vote if there are more than 5 candidates nominated, should there only be 5 then they are elected without voting being required).

Roads/footpaths

After discussion the Parish Council have agreed to fund another speed sign – a SID – on the A340 at West End to deter the speeding vehicles and continues to report road problems. However even if you report problems to me please also report them to Hampshire County Council as the more pressure the better. Pot holes in Church Lane have already been reported for attention.

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately the problem with dog owners failing to clear up after their pets has started again in particular in the area of Church Lane and the Village school. It is an offence not to clear up after your dog so PLEASE do so - think how you would feel if it was you or your child who trod in the mess!!!

Chute Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is now hopefully on the last part of the improvement project with work to re fence and re surface the 2 tennis courts due to be started in the next couple of months once the final quotes have been received. So once they are completed it is hoped that more – both young and old - will join the tennis club and start using the refurbished courts. They are also looking into installing more play equipment aimed at older children ages 7 to 15 so if you have any suggestions they would be greatly appreciated ssjclerk@gmail.com.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Thanks to the extremely hard work of the Chairman, Julian Crawley, the Draft Plan and Baseline Report has now been posted on the website with hard copies available to view in both the Village Hall and Chute Pavilion during opening times. The Committee really want all residents to review the plan and make any comments they wish on the form provided on the site and send to ssjclerk@gmail.com as all comments will be reviewed and taken into account when making final amendments to the Plan prior to submission to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the public vote later in the year.

Allotments

The pest problem on the Moss Hill site is much improved although work is ongoing. There are still a few plots available if there are any parishioners interested so please contact me on ssjclerk@gmail.com for further information.

General

The Parish Council is presently applying for funding to install at least one defibrillator in the Village. If successful they will also organise some short courses for people to attend to see how they can use the equipment which is very user friendly.

The answers to the recent questionnaire issued to villagers about the provision of the shop on the Cranes road site have now been collated. They are in the process of reviewing the answers while continuing to investigate other options to provide a shop or a mobile unit in the Village.

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

Penny Mayo

Pamber Parish Council

The last meeting of Pamber Parish Council was held on Monday, 11th April 2016.

Planning applications:

16/00638/FUL: Erection of a new dwelling and creation of new access. Land Adjacent To Plum Trees Green Lane Pamber Green.

Comments

T/00098/16/TPO: Oaks (T1&T2) - Crown reduce height and spread by approx. 1m. Finished height approx. 7m, finished crown spread (radius) approx 3m. Deadwood. Oaks (T3-T6) - Crown reduce height by approx. 3m and spread by approx. 2m on southerly side predominantly over highway. finished crown height approx 12m and finished crown spread (radius) 5m approx. Deadwood. Raise crown on all trees up to 5m over highway

37 Silchester Road Pamber Heath.

No objection

16/00848/HSE: Construction of new dormer window to rear elevation and replacement windows (part retrospective)

Honeyhill Farm Dix Hill Pamber Green.

No objection

Planning decisions made by the Borough Council:

16/00147/HSE: Erection of extension to existing garage to create carport and conversion of existing garage to create ancillary accommodation with home office above
Valentine Cottage Silchester Road Little London.

GRANTED

16/00118/HSE: Erection of first floor extension involving raising of the roof with Juliet balcony to front elevation.
Avenbury Ramsdell Road Pamber End.

GRANTED

16/00335/FUL: Change of use of land from electrical substation to residential, and erection of 2 sheds (part retrospective)
Electricity Sub Station Knollys Road Pamber Heath.

GRANTED

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday, 9th May 2016 at 8pm in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. Please come along as this is your opportunity to hear about the work of the Parish Council and to comment and ask questions.

Grants

Following an application by the Citizen's Advice Bureau, a grant of £200 was approved towards the cost of providing the service for people in Pamber Parish.

The parish council has a small sum of money put aside each year for the provision of small grants. The grant is intended to help towards schemes that would benefit parishioners. Please contact the clerk if you would like more details.

Following an application from the Management Committee, a grant of £1,000 was approved towards the cost of running and maintaining St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. The balance of the full grant (a further £1,000) would be available in 6 months time.

Highways

A complaint had been received by the Borough Councillors about speeding along Silchester Road, Little London. Councillors agreed that the best way to deal with this problem was to ask that regular speed checks be carried out by the police along the stretch of road.

It was also noted that although parishioners regularly complain about speeding in the parish, when the parish council attempted to set up a SpeedWatch there were only three volunteers, not sufficient to run the scheme. If anyone would be interested in trying to get the scheme up and running in Pamber, please contact the clerk.

New Clerk

At the meeting on 11th April, a new clerk was appointed and she will be taking up her post in the next few weeks and after a handover period, will take over from me completely on 1st June. All contact details will be available in the next magazine and on the website and on the notice boards. I wish the new clerk good luck and best wishes for her new career and hope that she enjoys working in Pamber.

The Annual and Monthly meetings of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Monday, 9th May 2016 in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. This will be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish Meeting. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Details of meetings are displayed on the notice boards and on the website www.pamber-pc.gov.uk

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

A mix of sunshine and rain (sometimes lots) and of course storm Katie making herself known over the Easter holiday has lead to a somewhat turbulent time. However, what a pleasure to see the lighter evenings and steadily lengthening days. I hate the dark mornings and tend to hibernate but now things are on the change.

Some of our neighbours may have thought the mad March hares had affected the Ellis household as Dave and I have been seen dancing on our lawn. There is a very simple explanation though. We have been continuing our ballroom dancing lessons but find lack of practice leaves us struggling to remember the steps. We have tried practising indoors but are in danger of tripping over furniture so when the weather is nice the lawn is a perfect ballroom space. Whilst the dancing surface doesn't readily allow for flowing dance steps it does provide plenty of room and not having to negotiate turns too often. It is helping but there never seems to be enough time to practice. So please don't avoid us thinking we have 'lost the plot'!

The wild daffodils are trying to show themselves again this year but, as always since the very poor felling operation carried out in Mariners Copse in recent years, they are struggling to make themselves seen. The brambles continue to choke the exquisite little blooms and until something is done to alleviate this there will be no return to their previous wonder. Speaking with near neighbour, David Glover, recently he pondered on whether some work by the local conservation group might be possible. I do so hope so and perhaps anyone with some local contacts could initiate the dialogue and spread the word.

As Spring arrives, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are planning some local events. On 15/05/16 from 2:30pm the annual count of Green Winged Orchids followed by, weather

permitting, a group picnic will take place at Headley Gravel Pit. Last year the site had a record of over 5000 orchids and there is interest to see what effect the mild winter has had on their success. Park at St Peter's Church off A339 or, if full, on Ashford Hill Road. Look for Trust sign on verge and please book your place. Also advance notice of a walk at Ashford Hill National Nature Reserve on 10/06/16 from 10:00am. The Reserve is noted for its old water meadows which should be at their best at this time of year. There is a good variety of trees, plants, insects and birds. Meet at the Ship Inn car park in Ashford Hill on the B3051. Binoculars and cameras are recommended for both events and wear footwear suited to the weather and ground conditions. More information can be found at <http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on>

The February minutes of Pamber Parish Council available on the website note the complaints against Cllrs. Kingston, March and Snook for having failed to declare their membership of the Silchester and Pamber Conservative Association. The investigation carried out by the Monitoring Officer decided that they had breached the Code of Conduct but that no further action would be taken. Subsequent discussion by the Parish Council resolved to send a letter to the three councillors who had been found to have breached the Code of Conduct reminding them that the Register of Interests must be accurate and kept up to date at all times and to reinforce the obligations of councillors in order to preserve the integrity of Pamber Parish Council. All councilors will be reminded to this effect. Unfortunately, the minutes for the meeting held on 14th March have not been published at the time of writing so more up to date news is not available. However, the new village hall and housing planning application at Little London is still undecided so you have a chance

to make your opinions heard. The Parish Council next meets at St Stephen's Village Hall on 9th May at 7pm, followed by the Annual General Meeting at 8pm. Members of the public are welcome at both meetings where you will get your chance to make your views known. Please use this opportunity. I hope a detailed report will be heard from the Pamber Forest Advisory Committee and minuted so first hand news and views are brought to the fore. It appears as an agenda item at every Parish meeting yet rarely is there any informative information and encouragement to become more involved.

A number of forthcoming events for local choirs are looming. Basingstoke Ladies Choir travels to Spain for a week from 11th May to sing in a number of concerts at the request of the Costa Blanca Male Voice Choir, an exciting first overseas programme for me although BLC has regularly completed such tours. Both BLC and Tadley Singers have concerts on 11th June; BLC will be at The Pink Place Cancer Charity event at Many down Farm, whilst Tadley Singers will be holding their annual summer charity concert at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall. Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir is holding a concert on 24th June for the new Cancer Treatment Centre at Hazelby House, near Newbury, themed 'Music in the garden'. Do try to support the choirs, all of whom raise large amounts of money for charity and devote many hours to perfecting their music for your pleasure. Basingstoke Ladies and the Hospital Male Voice Choir are always keen to welcome new members and details can be obtained from their websites or from me. A great way to enjoy yourselves and relieve stress and anxiety.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

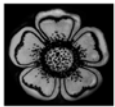


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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

At the time of writing, we are all on our Easter Holidays, so it is a good time to catch up on events at the end of the Spring Term.

Congratulations to all the children (and some of the staff) who completed a mile for Sport Relief at the Chute – and thank you to all the parents and friends who came along to cheer us on! The sponsor money is still coming in so we are hoping for a good total for Sport Relief!



Class 4 have been learning to play brass instruments this term and performed a selection of pieces for parents. Despite the unusually short term, they managed to impress with the amount that they had learnt! The Juniors all took part in the Annual Recitation Competition – this year the standard was so high that we could not limit the finalists to a single winner per year group so we had the biggest final ever! The overall winners, pictured below, gave polished performances to an audience of parents, teachers and children, who were also entertained by poetry recitations from some of the classes.



After several days of dry and sunny weather, the rain came only an hour before our Infant Easter Bonnet parade. Not to be daunted, we quickly rearranged the parade route through the school, and parents were squeezed into the hall so that we could all see the creative, funny and even whacky hats!

Our next big event will be the May Festival on 6th May – fingers crossed for the weather this time so that we can dance around the maypole and eat our hotdogs in the sun!

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent



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A new building project for The Priory School

With Easter being early this year, the second half of the Spring Term at The Priory School was extremely busy! In what seemed like a particularly short space of time, we had parents' evenings, the Annual Talent show, a Wear a Hat day for Brain Tumour research and an Easter Egg-stravaganza, as well as all the usual lessons and after school activities! Then, on the very last day of term, we had even more excitement when we found out that our latest capital bid to the government had been successful, giving the green light to our hall extension project!

You may remember that a couple of years ago, we were able to carry out significant improvements to the kitchen and toilet facilities of the school when we received a government grant of just over £400,000. This has transformed the life of the school to the extent that it is hard to remember how things were before the renovations. Now, to be in the position

of receiving a second grant, this time for just under £300,000 and for the purpose of extending the hall, is absolutely marvellous and beyond our wildest dreams!

Over the past three decades, as the school has grown in size to accommodate 7 classes of 24 children, we have found that the space in the hall is increasingly limited. Whenever we have all the children in there, it is most definitely a squash and a squeeze and if we have an event where parents join us, it is always a case of "standing room only" if you do not arrive early to reserve your seat!

In recent months, we have been working closely with a team of architects and late last year, they helped us to secure planning permission for the extension. When eventually we submitted our bid in December, we were in the fortunate position of being able to include a great deal of detail and without doubt, this

would have helped the people who assessed our paperwork to form a very clear idea about the school's level of need.

For many, many years we have wanted to make our hall bigger, to provide a better environment for PE, for Assemblies, for lunchtimes and for all those other occasions when we are together for plays, performances and workshops. The finished extension will complete the last major piece in our building jigsaw; it will enhance the existing space and provide so many more wonderful opportunities for the school and, hopefully, for the local community too.

I am looking forward to bringing you further news as we have it, but in the meantime, should you wish to visit us before the building work gets underway, please do contact us on 01256 850062 – you will be made very welcome!

Suzanne Kelly

Sherborne St John Boys Football Team 1981 How many boys do you recognise?

For a long time now I have wanted to share with villagers the photograph of the first ever Sherborne St John boys football team, prior to their first friendly match against Chineham Park Rangers. The Club was founded by Harry Hall, Don Elsley and John Edwards in 1981.

John Edwards

*Back row left to right,
Simon Champion, Andrew Donovan,
Michael Kinge, Nick Clegg, Stuart Brown,
Phillip Donovan and Daniel Edwards.*

*Front row left to right.
Ian Ellery, Stephen Elsley, Lee Tarrant,
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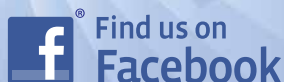
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Wildlife Report Spring 2016



As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, we have been carrying out a survey of the wildlife of the parish, to produce a wildlife map. A team of volunteers from the village has been recording birds. One good thing about living in Sherborne St John is that, despite the increasing closeness of Basingstoke, we are still surrounded by countryside: fields, hedgerows and woodland. This provides excellent habitat for a wide range of birds.

Some of you may have taken part in the RSPB's annual Great Garden Birdwatch at the end of January. Two of our team, who took part in this event, recorded 15 different bird species in an hour, either in or from their garden, which I think is pretty impressive. The Great Garden Birdwatch results are now available and you can find the results for Hampshire on the RSPB website at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdwatch/results.aspx>

[rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdwatch/results.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdwatch/results.aspx)

Last year, the bird survey team saw 82 different bird species around the parish. Already in the first 3 months of 2016 we've seen 60. Many of those sightings were in the village itself, but if you venture further, into the farmland, woods and wetlands around the village, there is a good chance of seeing many other types of bird.

Do you have a favourite bird? It can be hard to settle on just one. Perhaps my favourite of the year so far is the siskin, which has been present around the village in small groups or larger flocks for much of March. They often come to peanut feeders in gardens. The males are definitely eye-catching with black caps and bright lime-yellow cheeks and chests. The females are less colourful, but still handsome little birds and share

yellow wing and tail patches with the males. Even if you haven't seen them, you will have heard them making quite a racket. They have a wide repertoire of calls, often sounding like squeaky door hinges. Some siskins do breed in Southern England, but in spring many of them leave for their main breeding grounds in the coniferous woods in the north and west of the UK, making way for the summer migrants, such as chiffchaff, willow warbler and blackcap, which have already started arriving in Sherborne St John, no doubt helped by the strong southerly winds that we saw in March.

An evening event to look for bats and moths will be held later this summer in Sherborne St John. Further details will be provided in a future edition of the "Villager".

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Womens Fellowship

The April meeting was a talk given by Mr. Francis Spooner entitled 'Landscape Photography in the British Isles' which he also referred to as 'wandering with a wide angle'. Francis combined his love of photography with his enthusiasm for travelling in his campervan for many years.

The photographic tour started at Fleet Pond then down to the South West and along the West Coast up to the Lake District. He is working on a tour of Scotland and the East Coast which he told us would be his talk for next year.

The photographs of Fleet Pond were mesmeric, which he had taken during the autumn and winter months. He said he prefers these months, and never takes photos during the summer due to the unsuitability of the light, and he also loves taking his pictures during the spring. Fleet Pond – is the largest expanse of water in Hampshire. It was drained during WW2 due to its close proximity to Farnborough Airport and Basingstoke Canal. During the 1890's – 1900's there was a change in the climate apparently, and trainloads of Londoners would travel to Fleet Pond during the winter for ice-skating and picnicking in the summer.

We were then taken to Micheldever, to the stunning bluebell woods, and the Silk Mill at Whitchurch, where he took some magnificent photographs of the silk reels in all their wondrous colours.

Whilst staying on one of his favourite campsites in the New Forest Francis took photos during the winter of scots pine trees and male stag beetles apparently having a set-to, although he did admit that he had forced the issue by placing them together on a log.

He stated that he takes landscape and portrait pictures. He does not like to have people in them, although occasionally this does happen. He also informed us that if there are animals in his picture they should be facing the camera. In one instance there was

a large sheep looking away into the distance due to his lack of success in attempting to turn it round without any injury (to him) occurring.

Then down to Portsmouth and onto the Isle of Wight ferry where he took stunning pictures of Freshwater Bay. Back on the mainland we were transported to the Dorset coastline; Durdle Door looking as magnificent as ever, and a very unusual photograph of Corfe Castle which he had managed to take from the now little visited cemetery. His well known view of Shaftesbury, where the old Hovis advertisement was filmed, was looking lovely, as well as Poole Harbour, Kimmeridge Bay and The Cob at Lyme Regis. His photograph of Salisbury Cathedral was as beautiful as it could be, also the photo of ducks on the water at The Old Mill in Salisbury.

On now to South Devon and Cornwall. He had taken a picture of Becky Falls where the water drained off the Moors; Tintagel Old Post Office, St. Michael's Mount, also taken from an unusual angle, and another of St. Michael's Mount with the sun setting above, apparently a rare event, only ever seen like this in October. We saw pictures of the South African protea in the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the silver and tin mines as well as the shell beach at Porthcurno, the Mynack Theatre, Mousehole Harbour and Boscastle, which has now thankfully recovered from the devastation left by the terrible storm of 2004.

On now to South Wales and the Gower Peninsula's Three Cliffs Bay, Tenby Harbour, and a beautiful picture of Porthcawl; across to Shropshire, to the River Severn, which floods every year around Shrewsbury; the Iron Bridge Gorge which George III had built by Royal Assent in 1776. We were then shown photographs of Cardin Mill Valley, Betws-y-coed, and the Miners Bridge, where lead was mined, and where the miners' lives were short.

North to Snowdonia, and to the Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway, to the wonderful narrowboat canal Aquaduct. Then pictures of the River Dee, Llangollen and Conway Castle, all taken with much care and attention to detail. Francis told us that the Menai Strait Bridge opened in 1826 and this was at the time of the beginning of photography.

Across the water to Ireland and to Kylemore Abbey in the beautiful and magical Connemara, Lough Foyle, Coleraine, Glennaugh Castle in Donegal and Dunluce Castle near Ballycastle. White Park Bay is a surfer's paradise, and Lough Neagh is the largest fresh water lake in Britain.

Back to England, and to the National Memorial Arboretum, where he had taken a very moving photograph of the statue of a young soldier about to be shot at dawn for being a 'deserter'.

In Derbyshire we were shown a beautiful landscape picture of Ashford-in-the-Water; Mr. Spooner had tried to get a photograph of the steam train trundling through the countryside, but was unsuccessful, but liked the picture anyway. Indeed it was beautiful with or without the steam train. On his journey he took us to Staffordshire, to the Monkey Forest which he said was a very good day out, amongst the 60 acres. Shugborough Hall was a stunning photo, with picturesque wisteria growing over the frontage; this is the family home of the 5th Earl of Richmond. We were shown photographs of trolley buses in the transport museum nearby, and the first all-concrete house which turned out to be cheap but damp. Perhaps it's the only concrete house.

To view Francis' fabulous photographs see his website www.britishlandscapes.co.uk and you will be transported.

A whistle-stop tour south to the Channel Islands completed the interesting talk, and he was thanked by Mrs. Margaret Lewis.

Winter into Spring 2015-16

October 2015 had been mild but rather short on sunshine and below average rainfall,, November is usually a dismal month, and Nov 2015 was no different with low sunshine totals and mild damp days; thick fog occurred on the 1st and 2nd. It was largely cloudy and frequently wet (there were only 3 days with no measurable rain. With all the cloud and rain and predominantly southwesterly winds it was much warmer than usual with a maximum temperature of 16.9C on the 7th which also recorded the highest daily rainfall of 10.3mm.

December was another dull month with very low sunshine totals and predominantly southwesterly winds bringing frequent spells of rain (only 4 days with no measurable rain) and exceptionally mild temperatures (average night-time temperatures were an extraordinary 6.7C above the longterm value); there were no air frosts here and only 2 nights with a grass frost. The wettest day was the 30th with 18mm falling (mainly between 9pm and midnight).

January was a brighter month with almost unbroken sunshine on the 19th, 20th and 21st, but the clear skies did result in sharp frosts – down to -8C on the 20th ; there were 8 nights with air frost and 16 nights with grass frosts, but the mild and wet conditions, mainly during the first half of the month and

at the end of the month, did ensure that average temperatures were more than 1C above the expected value. The total month's rainfall was 130.9mm (175% of normal) with 6 days with more than 10mm each and only 6 days with no rain.

February was typical with average rainfall, 9 days with no rain and only 2 days with more than 10mm. Winds were again from mainly from between southwest and northwest but, with the Atlantic sea temperatures declining, temperatures were only slightly above the average

March, contrary to country lore, commenced in a quiet mood (it often does) with a good deal of sunshine from the 4th to the 7th followed by thick fog on the 11th and 12th. But storm Katie arrived on the 27th producing 25mm of rain here, but vastly more in the West and North; there were thunderstorms

at 10am on the 2nd and again on the 27th, but there were 17 days with no measurable rain.

April has started very mild with several days with rain; the temperature here rose to 17.5C on the 12th.

The lack of any significant winter Scandinavian anticyclone (bringing very cold east or northeast winds) has been an important factor leading to milder than usual conditions across northern Europe and into Russia, although snow accumulations in parts of Norway must have been enormous.

David Cullum. Tel. 850315

2015/16 Pamber Green	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	To 12 Apr
Avg Day Max Temp C	12.2	12.5	8.4	8.8	10.6	14.0
Diff from 30-yr avge C	+1.5	+3.8	+1.5	+1.2	+1.0	+2.5
Highest Max Temp C	16.9	14.7	12.7	13.9	16.0	17.5
Avg Night Min Temp C	7.3	8.6	1.9	2.1	1.5	4.4
Diff from 30-year avge C	+3.6	+6.7	+0.9	+1.0	-0.3	+1.7
Lowest Min Air Temp C	-3.5	1.5	-8.0	-5.2	-5.3	-2.4
No. Nights with Air Frost	2	0	8	9	12	2
Diff from avge night frosts	-3	-13	-5	-3	+2	
No.Nights with Grass Frost	4	2	16	16	15	2
Total Rainfall mm	80.4	88.4	130.9	62.2	76.8	26.6
Percent of 30-year avge	116%	128%	175%	100%	122%	124%
No. of days with>1mm rain	20	17	17	11	9	8
Diff from 30-year avge	+9	+5	+4	+1	-2	



Come along and join us at Polar Explorers as we go on an arctic adventure to find out all about Jesus in a week of fun, games, bible stories, crafts, drama and more! Run by your local church for anyone currently in school years R to 6.

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at The Chute Pavilion, Sherborne St John

and on Sunday 31 July at St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John

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For a registration form or for further details, please contact Lynda Harding on 01256 851203 or email: nickandlynda.harding@btinternet.com

Bert's Blog



Yes, you've guessed correctly and no I am not Mother Hubbard, but it is bath time again! The Mrs seems very keen on keeping me

smelling sweet, but her idea of sweet is totally different to mine. A good roll in the mud is always therapeutic for the fur and that was what I availed myself to on a recent walk, only to find on our return that this would be the outcome.... Nothing was said at the time of the rolling and it was pure luck we found a puddle deep enough to give a good covering but on the way home I detected a certain chilliness in the air not related to the ambient temperature.

You will notice that I am becoming more eloquent, the reason for this turned out to be another misdemeanour which I will relate to you. Fossicking about in the Boss's garage, where there seems

to be an inordinate amount of 'stuff', most of which the Mrs informs me is rubbish, I found a rather tasty book. It must have been stored somewhere near some venison and pigeons because it had a lovely perfume – reminded me of my bones, just the sort of think I like to chew on. Anyway there I was half way through this engrossing read when the Boss turns up and takes it away from me – I never did get to finish it. Neither did anyone else as my tooth marks had apparently rendered half of it illegible – told you I had learned some big words. Turns out it was a dictionary – surprise!! – and the Mrs was extremely disappointed in my choice of reading material, not to mention chewing material. After a long and tiresome reprimand I decided it would be in my best interest not to take up reading to pass the time as the Mrs does but choose the TV, like the Boss does, which shows much more interesting things like golf, rugby, snooker, farming, fishing and animals, which is why I think the Mrs reads so much.....

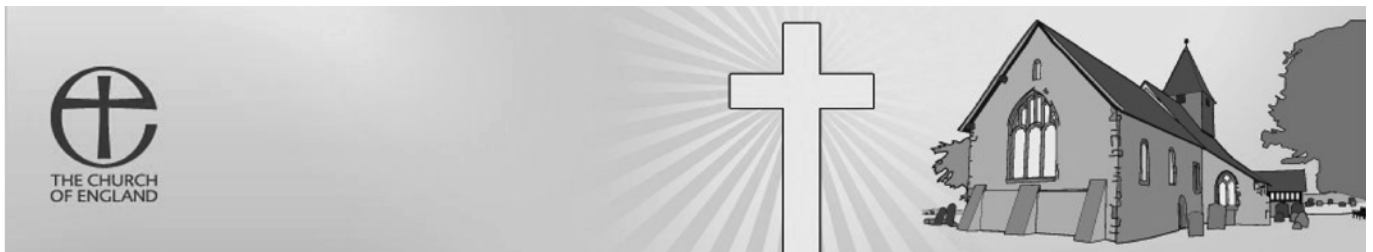


Basingstoke Art Club Exhibition

The exhibition at Proteus Creation Space runs from 14th-26th May and will feature the work of local artists in and around Basingstoke. There will be many new paintings and most are for sale.

It is open from Mon – Fri 10am-5.30, and Saturdays 10am – 2pm but is closed Mondays from 1.30pm-2.30pm and Thursdays from 10.30am-12pm. To check opening times and to avoid disappointment, call Proteus on 01256 321621. We are always looking for new members and have a range of activities which can be found on the website.

www.basartclub.org



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The Programme will be available on the website silchesterchurch.co.uk

Helicopter Flying in the Royal Navy

Retired Royal Navy Captain Mike Sant has experienced a full and varied 35 year career on land, sea and in the air. He gave a presentation to the Probus Club of Basingstoke for retired professional and business managers, recounting his flight training and operating helicopters around the globe for the Senior Service.



Mike joined the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1958. Initially cutting his teeth training as a young naval officer he spent weekends and summer camps learning to fly the legendary Tiger Moth biplane. This propeller driven aircraft from the 1930s was a basic trainer with an open cockpit and most did not have a radio. It was often described as easy to fly but very difficult to fly well.

Then selected for fixed wing flying training Mike underwent joint service jet instruction with the RAF at their Linton on Ouse base in Lincolnshire, but due to chronic air sickness while instrument

flying, was re-streamed to fly helicopters. He attended the elementary Royal Naval helicopter flying school at Culdrose in Cornwall and was awarded his Wings in 1964.

Mike illustrated the basic principles of helicopter aerodynamics and its controls describing the many problems he encountered when learning to fly the early types of single engine machines including how to land the aircraft on engine failure.



Posted for anti-submarine duties flying the then new Wessex helicopter, he was on board the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious in the Far East. The Wessex had a crew of four; two pilots, sonar operator and observer. Operating day and night, he explained how they searched for submarines and what life was like on board an extremely busy, congested ship alongside fast jet aircraft.

A Wessex had to be airborne every time a jet took off or landed should one go overboard and the crew needed rescuing.

Promoted to be the Flight Commander on the Frigate HMS Eskimo, Mike and his men flew the single engine Wasp helicopter in the anti-submarine role. Perched precariously on a tiny platform cum hangar at the aft end of the ship, he described operating and managing a team in an inhospitable Arctic Ocean environment.

He was promoted to be the Senior pilot of 819 RN Squadron based at Prestwick, positioned on the west coast of Scotland. They were equipped with modern Sea King helicopters, its main role being an anti-submarine aircraft. However, the base was ideally geographically positioned to support the deployment of nuclear submarines from nearby Faslane together with search and rescue emergency cover for both sea and the Scottish mountains. Mike's last flying job was as Commander (Air) at Portland where he flew Wessex V.

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

Warning

Hampshire County Council Trading Standards would like to remind residents to be cautious when receiving emails from unknown sources. Recently reports suggest that emails have been sent to residents demanding payment of around £800 for services carried out. However, the company has not carried out any work. It appears that the company name has been used fraudulently.

Suspicions are that this is a 'phishing attempt, the intent being to gain personal information to be used for fraudulent

purposes. But it is also possible that any links may contain a virus.

Best advice is to apply extreme caution when receiving emails from unknown sources.

Never respond to requests for payment where the sender is unknown.

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By Rob Parker

Collaborative law: a better way to separate

Rob Parker, family solicitor at Phillips, explains 'collaborative law', an alternative approach to sorting out family disputes that is increasingly being taken up around North Hampshire.

Why collaborative law now?

The way family law works in England is changing: the legal system is developing from an adversarial approach to a more collaborative approach which brings the separating couples together to agree matters of importance.

How does collaborative law work?

The collaborative process deals with family disputes in a non-confrontational way. Both parties instruct

their own specially-trained collaborative lawyers and everyone agrees to abide by the Participation Agreement. This means that:

- Neither party should, where possible, go over past events
- The children and their welfare must be the priority
- There should be complete transparency in dealings with financial matters
- All discussions are regarded as "privileged", which means they cannot be brought up later in a subsequent court case

Both parties and the lawyers will sign the agreement. Matters are then resolved in a series of 'four-way' meetings involving both parties and their solicitors, all in one room together.

Is it suitable for everything?

Not all situations will suit collaborative law, such as where there has been domestic abuse or a party is not willing to be honest and transparent.

How does collaborative law differ from mediation or going to court?

Mediation is a voluntary process where both parties sit in the same room as the mediator

who is impartial and who is not there to give legal advice. You must both agree on solutions or there is no agreement. During the confidential sessions the mediator will help you and your former partner to identify all the issues that need to be resolved and reach a settlement that is acceptable to both of you.

With collaborative law you each have your own solicitor to represent your interests, important in cases where one party may feel less confident about how to address matters. Your solicitor is also on hand to give you legal advice at all times, including during the face-to-face negotiations.

Whilst in mediation and collaborative law the couple arrives at the agreements themselves if you go through the court process, a judgment will be imposed on you by a third party (ie a judge).

Why does collaborative law work?

It works because it's non-confrontational and you will be dealing with competent, trained lawyers who are sympathetic, approachable and understand what you are going through. The priority is to resolve matters your way, not how the lawyers think it should be.

What's the best possible outcome?

Resolving matters through collaborative law can be quicker, cheaper and more dignified.

Where there are children matters can be to resolved in a calm way to retain an agreeable, working relationship as co-parents in the future.

For more information on Collaborative Law Rob Parker is contactable at rob.parker@phillips-law.co.uk and 01256 854 604. Further details about collaborative law in the area can be found at the North Hants Collaborative Pod website: www.resolution.org.uk/northhantspod

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We've all been busy here at the Village Hall, making arrangements for an exciting few months of events ahead....

By the time you read this, we will have had a **Fashion Show** and a **Quiz Night** - both sell out events and if you missed them, then make sure you get your tickets for the next ones.

Saturday 7th May **S#arp Practice**

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Mission UK Windows Group Ltd Boreham Industrial Estate, PO1 1 1, Boreham, East Angles	
	A
Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value) Energy Index (W/m²/K) (U-value)	
The climate zone is:	
Thermal Transmittance (U-value) Solar Factor (W/m²/K) Effective Air Leakage (W/m³/s)	
0 UK	

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