



The Villager

December 2018
– January 2019

Sherbornes and Pamber



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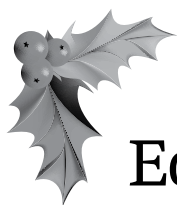
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Editorial

I think we could all agree that 2018 has been quite a year ! Extreme weather: "The Beast from the East" in March, a summer too hot for some; Trump arriving in the White House (much to everyone's surprise), the Salisbury attack, world events, and of course the Brexit dilemma. Despite everything we have arrived at Christmas, and on behalf of the Villager team I would like to wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a very peaceful and calm Christmas and New Year.

There will be no issue of the Villager in February to give the editorial team a break but please remember we would love to receive any photos or pieces that you think might be of interest to our other readers.

Julie Crawley

Allotments in Sherborne St John 2018

There are 3 allotments sites at present in the Sherborne St John Parish. There are plots available on the Moss Hill & Sunnyside A340 sites.

The yearly costs are small - £25, standard - £45, and large - £55 with a discount for anyone living in the Parish who is over 65 years of age so if you are interested please contact me.



So contact me if you fancy growing your own vegetables – hard work but VERY rewarding and there are many people already there who are happy to help with advice to ensure your success!!

Contact Penny by e mail clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk or by phone 0118 933 2379 with your preference and contact details (including your address)

Armistice Evening in aid of Monk Sherborne Village Hall Appeal



An excellent evening was held on 9th November in MS Village Hall. Trench stew and Apple Brown Betty were much enjoyed by those who attended – many in appropriate costumes. A jive demonstration was given by Mo and Kate Stoner and then many "cut the rug" to music from the 40s and 50s.



Our thanks to Mike and Kathy Wilson for a great evening



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

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Contents

Future Events	4
Rev. John Hamilton	6
Church Services	7, 9
Parish Council Reports	10
Our Schools	18
Local Events & issues	11, 13, 18, 25, 26, 29
Bert's Blog	21
Legal Issues	31

Future Events



December 2018

2	Advent Carol Service at Pamber Priory	5.00pm
3	Pelican Film Society, Secret Life of Bees, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship – A Christmas Carol, SSJ Village Hall,	2.00pm
8	Hook Choral Society, Mini Cracker Event, St Johns Church, Hook, RG27 9ED	5.00pm – 8.00pm
9	Basingstoke Ladies Choir Christmas Concert, Carnival Hall	
10	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, Christmas Party/Buffer, tickets only, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
10	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
10	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
14	Hook Choral Society, Barrett Homes Christmas Event, Chapel Gate, RG21 5TB,	5.00pm – 7.00pm
17	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
19	Sherborne St John Social Club: Christmas Draw	
19	Sherbornes with Pamber Toddler Group Service, St Andrews Church, Sherborne St John	10.00am
22	Hook Choral Society Christmas Concert St Johns Church Hook RG27 9ED. T: £8+m.wine@3.15pm	4.00pm
24	Hook Choral Society, Christmas at Heckfield Place, RG27 0LD	6.00pm – 7.00pm
24	Crib Service, All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne	5.00pm
24	Midnight Communion at Pamber Priory	11.15pm
25	Family Service, All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne	9.30am
25	Family Service, St Andrews Church, Sherborne St John	10.45am
31	Sherborne St John Social Club: Rock the New Year in with Kaboodle. Members £8, Guests £10	8.30pm till late

January 2019

7	Pelican Film Society, The Guernsey Literacy & Potato Peel Pie Society, Guests welcome £6, The Ark	7.30pm
8	SSJ Women's Fellowship – To be advised at a later date,	2.00pm
12	Sherborne St John Social Club: Quiz Night	8.00pm
17	Sherborne St John Social Club: Wine Tasting. £10pp pay a week in advance at bar	

February 2019

4	Pelican Film Society, Moonlight, Guests welcome £6, The Ark	7.30pm
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March 2019

4	Pelican Film Society, First Man, Guests welcome £6, The Ark	7.30pm
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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
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	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 December

Once again Christmas is coming upon us with amazing speed! It seems to be the case every year, almost as soon as the school Half Term has passed. Top of the domestic agenda of course is sorting out who is going to be where on the Day, but, given that, the next thing is the presents!

The problem is to know what to buy – don't we hear ourselves saying this already? It is so difficult in our well-off society, or at any rate that part of it in which we happen to live. Others – some in this country and perhaps the majority overseas – don't have this problem because, quite frankly, they cannot afford to give the members of their families any presents at all. This puts our little difficulties in perspective.

There are of course many other pitfalls that beset the present giver! The recipient may not like the gift. In one family I knew if they were given something that didn't appeal they simply gave it back! Or it may be that the present has gone out of date.

Increasingly people have a large number of electronic consumer durables – computers, cameras and coffee machines for example. Perhaps we could buy an attachment for one of those? But extreme care is required here: we may get the wrong thing, or it may have gone out of date, or even if it hasn't the user may have switched to a new model.

It is a feature of our age that things go out of date while they are still perfectly OK. They're obsolete before they cease to work. Take for example the roll film camera. No doubt we all had one or perhaps several. We probably still have them hanging around in a cupboard somewhere. They were good cameras; we used to enjoy using them; they were faithful friends for years. They would still work fine given the chance but the fact is that they have been completely superseded by digital cameras and we are never going to use them again.

Some seem to see the Christian faith in this light. They consider that it has had its day – still around for a few but with no real part to play in our modern digital world. The trappings are still enjoyed, especially at weddings for example, and in particular at Christmas. But the substance is obsolete in the eyes of most people.

By contrast at one time Christian teaching was largely accepted both in terms of belief – who God is and how to know Him, and behaviour – how the facts about God should impact our lives. Christian truth shaped our society – it

is responsible for the freedom we enjoy today. But now the general attitude is that Christianity has been relegated to the sidelines, coming a poor third after secularism and other religions. If it helps you that's OK of course, says modern man, but do realise that it is obsolete.

This easy confidence of modern man is a delusion and a snare. The vast majority of our fellow men and women are caught by it. Christianity is not obsolete and no revolution, whether digital or of another kind will make it so. No, Christianity is absolute truth. Listen to this:

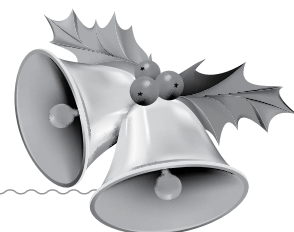
In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being....¹

Jesus is God's final word to man. There has been no further revelation after him and there will be none. What we celebrate at Christmas is the eternal God himself becoming man. This is absolute truth. Of course if this truth were merely relative then it could become obsolete. But as this truth is absolute nothing can make it out of date. That's why we wish one another Happy Christmas.

John Hamilton

¹ Hebrews 1:1-3

Programme for December



02 December

10am Parish Communion, Sunday Club & Crèche
5pm Advent Carols

St Andrew's
Pamber Priory

09 December

10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche
10am Morning Service
4.15 for 5pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE (see below)

St Andrew's
All Saints
St Andrew's

16 December

10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche
4.30pm CHILDREN'S CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT (see below)
6.30pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Andrew's
St Andrew's
St Andrew's

23 December

10am Morning Service (Sunday Club in the Rectory)

24 December

5pm Christmas Eve Crib Service
11.15pm Midnight Communion

All Saints
Priory

25 December

9.30am Christmas Day Family Service
10.45am Christmas Day Family Service
followed by Holy Communion

All Saints
St Andrews

30 December

10am Family Service

St Andrew's

9 DECEMBER CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Starts at 5 pm but please come to church at 4.15 pm to make your "Christingle".

GIFTS OF TOYS (New and Unwrapped) are welcome and will be distributed through the Salvation Army.

16 DECEMBER CHILDREN'S CAROLS.

Children are invited to dress up as any character from the Nativity story.

PREACHING on SUNDAY MORNINGS at 10 a.m.

02 Dec	Greater things than these	John 5:16-30	Andrew King
09 Dec	The testimony of scripture	John 5:31-47	John Hamilton & Andy Spence
16 Dec	A sign from the Lord	Isaiah 7:14	John Hamilton
23 Dec	A son is born	Isaiah 9:2,6,7	Steve Howe
30 Dec	A sure foundation	Isaiah 28:16	John Hamilton

MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet in the week of Monday 10 December. This month there won't be a Central Fellowship meeting.

Christmas Cards

As last year church members are encouraged to wish one another happy Christmas by signing one big card in church rather than sending cards individually. The money thus saved may be given to the missions we support. The card will be in St Andrews throughout December and giving envelopes will be available.

Advent Carols

Sunday 2 December at 5pm
A selection of carols and seasonal hymns
with Bible readings at Pamber Priory
Note the early start.
Mince Pies to follow.

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Programme for January

06 January

10am	Family Communion Service	St Andrew's
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13 January

10am	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
10am	Morning Service	All Saints

20 January

10am	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
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27 January

10am	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
10am	Morning Service	Priory

03 February

10am	Parish Communion Service, Sunday Club & Crèche	St Andrew's
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MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet in the weeks of Monday 7 & 21 January.

We meet once a month, normally on the third Tuesday, for Central Fellowship.

However this month Central Fellowship will be on the 29th.

Coffee at 7.45pm followed by Bible study discussion and prayer; finish at 9pm

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



PARISH COUNCIL

Vandalism

As detailed in last month's Villager there appears to be an increasing level of indiscriminate vandalism/nuisance behaviour in the village. Since the last Villager an un-occupied property has had its windows broken and there is evidence of alcohol being used in/ around the property. The police have been informed.

Combine the above with all the other recent incidents then it becomes a sad reflection on the anti-social behaviour of probably a small number of mindless miscreants.

If you do have any information please do call 101, the Police non-emergency number, or use the following link

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Remembrance Sunday

By the time you receive this edition of the Villager Remembrance Sunday, in recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the Great War, will have passed.

The four Silent Soldiers at the entry points to the Village will remain in place until approximately the end of November when two of them will hopefully be re-located to the War Memorial.

Road Repairs

The white paint highlighting the areas of Vyne Road that needed repair is itself in need of repair having now worn away ! The repairs to the actual road we are told are scheduled but as to when remains a mystery

Road Calming Measures

The Council has been working with HCC to put in place traffic calming measures on A340 entry to the village

from the Tadley direction. Again, we are reliant on the HCC mandarins as to when the work will start.

The focus is now on like measures at the Vyne Road entrance to the village.

2019 – Picnic on the Green

In all probability the Council will help fund the Village Fayre this year i.e. the merger of both events. June 22nd is the day.

As a bonus event there will be a Council funded event at the Village Hall on Saturday 16th March – we're looking to book a band in the same genre as Sharp Practice.

CPR/Defibrillator

We have defibrillator at the Chute and another at the Village Hall – they've been there for two years and thankfully have never been used.

Would you know how to i) deliver CPR and /or ii) use the defibrillator ?

If you want to know how to potentially save someone's life then please contact the Clerk (clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk). If we can get enough interest the Council will arrange the necessary training.

The Chute

The Chute continues to be self-funding and the number of bookings is increasing.

We've started a fund to replace the roof (not currently needed but officially it only has a 25 year life span) and we continue to look to get grants for specific work packages e.g. remedial drainage work to the playing pitches – approx. £50k

The council is working to formalise all the current agreements for users of the hall, both ad-hoc and long term.

The Council is also looking as to how promote the tennis club in order to get a better return on the facilities.

2019/2020 Budget

By January we'll have settled the Village precept for 2019/2020, part of the wider Council Tax.

We do try to keep a tight rein on expenditure but if there is anything you think the Council should take a look at then please do e-mail the Clerk – details above.

For example we are looking at installing a bench along Church Path by the duck pond.

Village Green Access

The Council continues its dialogue with the National Trust, who own the village green, to determine the best solution e.g. the installation of wooden 'bollards' in order to stop indiscriminate access to the village green

Lengthsman Scheme.

This scheme is now up and running and over the next weeks/months you'll see evidence of his activities e.g. hedges being cut back, general maintenance of village infrastructure.

And Finally.....

By the time you read this it won't be long until Christmas so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas from the Parish Council.

P.S. Chocolate Crème Eggs will no doubt be on sale from the 27th.

Richard Morgan, Chair SSJ PC

Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

I do hate it when the clocks go back and darkness descends ever earlier. Matched with the damp and dismal days which have arrived I find it such a depressing time.

The season of concerts with a Christmas theme is now upon us. Hopefully you may just receive this Villager in time to get to the official lighting of the Tadley Christmas Lights on Friday 30th November at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue between 6 and 7pm. Lots to entertain you including a great set of songs from the Tadley Rock Choir.

Tadley Singers are holding their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday 16th December at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall from 3.30pm. A mix of songs with a Christmas theme will be performed and a raffle drawn for a number of hampers. Entry is free with a retiring collection for SERV Wessex - Volunteer Blood Runners who deliver urgently needed blood, platelets, samples, documents, donated human milk and other medical essentials to Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire hospitals. Elsewhere in the Villager are details of how to join Tadley Singers so you too can participate in the uplifting hobby of regular singing and make new friends.

Momentum is gathering for the newly formed Little London Ping Pong group. The growing numbers attending are having great fun playing against each other on two tables. They meet on a Tuesday night at St Stephen's Village Hall, Little London from 7 to 9pm. A nominal charge of £2 per player is made and all proceeds go towards the sustainability of the hall. There is no ongoing commitment, just come along when you can. Contact Ian for more details on 07768 574400 rosewellian@aol.com

Thoughts begin to turn to Christmas festivities as St Stephen's Village Hall hosts a Christmas Extravaganza on Sunday 4th December starting at 4pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine together with carols, readings and Christmas Cheer. Lighting of the village Christmas tree will also take place formally starting the Christmas season.

With the recent 100th Centenary Remembrance events just passed it has been a very poignant and emotional period. The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall was exceptionally moving and I was particularly taken with the beautiful cello solo by Sheku Kanneh-Mason of the Leonard Cohen piece, Hallelujah. Our own local events have been equally touching, including the dedication of the Memorial Bench and lighting of the beacon at Pamber Park. Arthur, the War Horse named after Private Arthur Pearce, which

was recently dedicated outside The Plough Inn, Little London, now includes enhancing lighting which has been donated and installed by local businessman Richard Alexander and his team at APS Ltd. Following Armistice Day Arthur also now boasts an additional purple poppy below the backlit poppy placed by Private Pearce's grandchildren. Beautiful illumination at nighttime!

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council is 10/12/18 at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall

Winter is a quieter time for Basingclog Morris but they continue to practice on Tuesday nights at 8pm at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall. Both dancers and musicians are most welcome.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com



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At the meeting on 7th November there was a Christmas themed "Bring and Buy Sale" which raised £105 towards the new sound system. David Cowling, the Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the sale such a success. Tony Brazier, the Secretary, then gave a reminder that the Christmas



Lunch at BCOT on Thursday 13 December was at 12.00 and said that

there were still 4 places available for the four course lunch with drinks followed by tea or coffee all for £25. Christine Broadbent, the Welfare Officer, gave her up-to-date report in which she mentioned members who had been unwell and with whom she had been in touch with or sent cards to.

The speaker this month was Tom Codling a Community Safety Officer from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. He outlined the work done by his department from fire protection,



which was checking buildings to ensure that they conformed to Fire Safety Orders, to fire prevention, which entailed visits to people's home to advise and assess their needs. This was particularly

important in the case of vulnerable people or those with lifestyles that would put them at higher risk from either starting a fire or being rescued if one occurred. Overloaded electric plugs and unattended items being cooked on the hob were the cause of a large percentage of fires in the home and he emphasised how just a few simple measures could either avoid fires breaking out, or if they did, to prevent them from



spreading throughout the house. Help and advice on all aspects of fire safety is available at hantsfire.gov.uk/yoursafety or on 02380 626751 (Weekdays 9am – 5pm). There are also a series of Ageing Well Events taking place at Basingstoke Fire Station with the December date being Friday 21st from 12 to 1 pm. A number of organisations will be there with tea and coffee also being provided.

The next meeting is on 5th December when there will be a buffet lunch with Gary Myles providing the musical entertainment. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except January 2019 when it will be the second) at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and for information about our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

Why Should I Take My Blood Pressure?

You may have noticed, if you have been to the surgery in the last year, that a new Blood Pressure machine appeared in the old reception area, and it has now re-emerged in the dispensary waiting room after the extension has been completed. Having high blood pressure (BP) rarely declares itself with symptoms and so identifying whether you have it relies on an opportunistic check at the pharmacy, gym or surgery. Naturally you may think "if I feel well then why bother?" but the value of picking high BP is by treating it we can help prevent you having a stroke or heart attack in 10/15 years time.

In order to increase the opportunity of checking everyone's blood pressure we

used a generous donation from a patient to purchase this machine to sit in the dispensary waiting room, to enable everyone at any time to pop in and check their BP. It's as simple as putting your arm in the machine and pressing start. It will print out your pressure and if you put it in the box next to the machine your reading will be passed to your doctor to determine if further treatment is needed and entered onto your records.

Treating your blood pressure does not always mean tablets. A healthy diet that is low in fat and salt can help, alongside reducing alcohol and caffeine intake (for further advice look up the DASH diet). Regular exercise, relaxation therapies

and finally, but most importantly, stopping smoking. These measures really can help lower blood pressure without medication, but if tablets are needed it is because without controlling your BP your risks of heart attack or stroke in the future are greater. We want to help keep you healthy.

Don't forget to join us walking **every Wednesday 1-2pm** starting at the Clift surgery as your first step towards keeping healthy and reducing your blood pressure. Also do look at our new surgery website www.cliftsurgery.co.uk.

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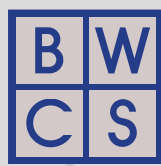
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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School



Can it really be December already? Although this half term is 8 weeks long, we have been so busy that time has really flown by! Thank you to everyone who has supported our fund raising activities; 67 beautifully wrapped and filled shoeboxes were passed along our human chain for the first stage of their journey to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania, and we also raised money for Children in Need with a dress down day, cake sale and raffle, and for the British Legion Poppy Appeal through sales of poppy stickers and stationery items.



A group of children are working together as a School Sport Organising

Crew, and they arranged a trip for Class 3 to Rock Up, an indoor climbing centre. As well as being great fun, this helped to build the confidence of all the children taking part and introduced them to a new activity which will become an Olympic sport in 2020.



As part of their project on Dragons, Class 3 took part in a 'Dragon Eye' workshop run by Heather (Frost Feather Fae). Heather used Pal Tiya, an ideal medium for sculpting, and all the children had great fun making their own dragon eye. We would like to thank the School Association who funded this workshop.

Class 3 are also going to the Vyne on their Winter Walk. They are looking forward to exploring the Christmas decorations in the Vyne House as well as taking part in Christmas craft activities and carol singing.

Meanwhile the Infants have been very busy rehearsing their nativity

play, which this year is called 'The Apprentice' (no – nothing to do with Alan Sugar!) Simeon, a carpenter from Bethlehem needs an apprentice. A young girl called Sarah seems an unlikely candidate but her new skills are put to the test one starry night when Bethlehem is full of visitors and it seems that everyone needs a bit of woodwork doing! We are all looking forward to seeing the performances before the end of term!

And as the term draws to an end, we have lots more entertainment lined up. After the Nativity performances, we will all take our seats to watch the pantomime at the Anvil on our whole school trip, generously paid for by the School Association. Then the last week of term starts with Movie Mob and is quickly followed by Christmas lunch and Christmas parties. We have our Christmas service in St Andrew's Church, at which we hope to see plenty of parents. Then finally we can break up and wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Royal British Legion



The annual Sherborne St John Act of Remembrance took place on Saturday 10th November, in order to de-conflict from the main Act of Remembrance on the 11th November, and was extremely well attended. Services of Remembrance were held at all our local churches on Sunday 11th November and were well attended

In the picture, L to R, Steve Day, Richard Elphick, Rhydian Vaughan, John Delafield, Miles Roberts, Michael Luck

John Delafield

Chairman Bramley and District Royal British Legion



Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP - 01256 850303

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	15 th Dec 2018	Xmas Wine Tasting CANCELLED
Wednesday	19 th Dec 2018	Xmas Draw
Monday	24 th Dec 2018	Christmas Eve Chillout Bring your own music & have a mince pie
Monday	31 st Dec 2018	Rock the New Year in KABOODLE 8:30pm till Late Members £8 Guests £10 tickets available from the club
Saturday	12 th Jan 2019	Quiz Night
Saturday	17 th Jan 2019	Wine Tasting £10 pp a week in advance Please pay at the bar

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Bert's Blog

Trying them on for size. How the Boss walks round in these is beyond me. Added to the fact that he has to remove them each time he goes indoors (the Mrs will not let him in with them on) seems to be a seriously good reason for going barefoot but apparently that's only for dogs! He grumbles about removal, especially when I am welcomed in front of the fire with just my bare paws. Muddy paws make for much easier washing – just walk through a few puddles, give them a quick lick and they are clean. Mind you there have been occasions when even I have been refused entry by the Mrs until certain ablutions have been carried out - but at least I don't have to stumble about trying to get these rubber feet off!

Talking about ablutions I had to succumb to a three person wash as I had received a personal invitation to attend a session of the 60+ Coffee Morning, apparently my fans wanted to meet me. The Mrs insisted I had a bath before the event and The Miniatures helped in the



bathroom which made it rather crowded but the extra hands doing the lathering made it very enjoyable despite the squealing when I divested myself of unwanted water from my fur. The towels were meant for me but ended up covering the Miniatures to protect them from my shaking – but I managed to get them when their guards were down and covered them with a fine spray of essence of shampooed dog. Then the towels were transferred to me and much rubbing and drying took place along



with a certain amount of giggling. After the towelling came the brushing and by the end I was almost unrecognisable and transformed into a sweet smelling canine fit to meet my fans.

After a brisk walk around the village I was warmly welcomed to the coffee morning by Shelley, and although failing to find any shells on her person I discovered she did have biscuit treats in her hand for me - which was very thoughtful and much appreciated. After walking around in my bare paws and meeting all the coffee drinkers present I was patted and petted, succumbed to some tummy tickling and had a photo with one of my fans. The Mrs showed some of my 'stay' commands and I showed them how I can carry my own lead. I was not allowed under the tables to check if they were barefoot but they seemed very happy so I can only assume they did not have rubber feet...

To read my past antics see:
Bertsdogblog.blogspot.com

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St. Michael's Hospice appoints new CEO: Iain Cameron



St. Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke is delighted to announce that Acting Chief Executive, Iain Cameron, has been appointed as Chief Executive of the Hospice, replacing retiring Chief Executive Dave Monkman, as of November 5th, 2018.

Iain has been with the Hospice since 2006, starting as Head of Retail before becoming Director of Income Generation in 2012 and latterly Deputy Chief Executive. Iain is passionate about ensuring that there is exceptional provision of Palliative Care in the North Hampshire area and that support for families is accessible when most needed.

Prior to coming to the Hospice, Iain had a solid basis in leadership across different sectors and has a keen eye for spotting talent in the workforce. Outside of St. Michael's, Iain has been Chair of the Board of Governors at Oakridge Schools Federation in Basingstoke for over 10 years. He has lived locally for over 30 years and lives with his wife and 3 children.

Andrew Chancellor, Chair of the Board of Trustees at St. Michael's Hospice, said Iain brings to the role an extensive knowledge of the Hospice as well as strong experience in the business community and beyond. "The Board

of Trustees are delighted with this appointment and we look forward to continuing to work with Iain to ensure the Hospice stays on a strong financial footing whilst responding to the changing demographics of the local community. With strong competition between charities, and the challenges of reduced funding from the NHS, Iain's background makes him uniquely suited to taking the Hospice forward and maintaining its place as a beloved and invaluable local charity."

Commenting on his appointment, Iain said, "I'm honoured to have the opportunity to lead such a prominent local charity as St. Michael's Hospice; the work undertaken here is an integral part of services provided to our local community. I see many challenges ahead some of which are significant in the ever-changing end of life setting and I am passionate about ensuring the very best outcome for patients and their families. Without the highly dedicated and committed body of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to achieve our aims we simply would not be able to operate. People are at the centre of everything we do and our staff, relatives and patients are what makes this Hospice truly special."

St. Michael's Hospice was established in 1991 by a committee led by former Mayor Margaret Weston. Now caring for over 500 patients a year, the Hospice continues to look for ways to meet the growing demands of an ageing population and remains committed to ensuring that patients receive the highest quality palliative care possible and their families are also supported, in order to allow the highest possible quality of life for the days that remain.

St. Michael's Hospice receives around 20% funding from the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. In 2018 this means the Hospice needs to make up a shortfall of over £3 million through Income Generation activities including retail stores, community fundraising, local business support, legacies, and its highly attended local events.



Basingstoke Male Voice Choir - Christmas Concert

BMVC will be staging their traditional Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 14th** at the United Reformed Church, London Street in Basingstoke. The concert will feature the usual mix of Christmas songs and carols and there will be opportunity for the audience to join in. There will be a guest appearance from the quartet Quadrangle – it promises to be a great concert. Take this early opportunity to get in the Christmas spirit. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection for a local charity. In recent years we have raised money for Basingstoke Samaritans and the Camrose Centre and from our last concert in October we donated £1000 to the Ark Cancer Charity.



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Book today and come along for an afternoon of festive magic and Christmas cheer!

Hook Choral Society Christmas Concert

22nd December at 4pm

St Johns Church, London Road Hook, RG27 9ED. Doors open at 3.15 for mulled wine and mince pies which is included in ticket price of £8. Under 11s free of charge. This is a popular event with a selection of new and old carols and readings.

In addition the choir will be singing at the **Mini Cracker event** at St John's, Hook on 8th December between 5 and 8pm, as well as at the **Barrett Homes Christmas event** at Chapel Gate Basingstoke on 14th (RG21 5TB 5-7pm) and finally on at **Heckfield Place** RG27 0LD on Christmas Eve between 6-7pm. We would invite people to come and listen to a selection of carols and celebrate the Christmas season in song.

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Probus Hears of “So Far So Good”



At its last meeting the Probus Club of Basingstoke was entertained by Malcolm Wells MBE with a lively, often high-octane account of three facets of his life experiences. He took the audience of retired professional and business managers through his 25 years in the army as a musician (playing cello on state occasions and at banquets), the 15 years spent as National Speaker for Canine Partners and his current role as Ambassador for the Plymouth based charity Literacy in a Box. Throughout he offered many amusing stories, funny anecdotes and witty jokes to illustrate his colourful history in public service, and charity work as a volunteer. In 1998 he was awarded an MBE by the Queen for services to children's charities.

Malcolm wrung an amusing story out of his MBE award, normally a formal, serious occasion. At that time he was involved with setting up a new band for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) in Portsmouth. What to wear? He requested a REME uniform but none was available so his dressers produced a variety of uniform items from different regiments. In Malcolm's words he turned up at Buckingham Palace dressed 'like a Christmas tree with more regalia than Prince Charles'. But the 'fun' didn't end there as he was approached by the actress, June Whitfield, who said to him 'Excuse me, where's the ladies' room?' clearly mistaking him for a member of the Palace staff.

Army stories were in abundance and included recall of Malcolm's time as a cellist for the celebrated Royal Artillery Orchestra. He was asked to produce a programme of music for the Queen's 'Monarchs' Dinner', choosing a suitable piece for each country represented there. He struggled with Denmark but came up with 'The Ugly Duckling': at the unforeseen rendering of 'the King was in the altogether', the reaction of senior members of the British Royal Family was sheer horror, but the band agreed to keep the story quiet. Despite this, page 6 of the next day's edition of the 'Daily Mail' referred piously to the 'totally inappropriate music' played at the dinner.



On another occasion, Malcolm's band was invited to a 'march and play' at an England v. Brazil match at Wembley which included the pre-eminent Pele. The band was instructed that pre-match it was to play the 'Match of the Day' theme music. Needless to say, the TV producers were not happy as the game was being broadcast on ITV! The evening went downhill fast as the band had not anticipated the Brazilian anthem going on 'for ever' and all subsequent programmes were severely delayed.

Malcolm recalled his time as National Speaker for Canine Partners, a charity which trains dogs to support those with a range of disabilities: they assist with a range of practical tasks and can be taught to use a washing machine! Malcolm made the point that the dogs choose their partners, not the other way round; this

was illustrated by the story of Graham, a wheelchair user, who tried to 'beat the system' by positioning himself near to a black Labrador which he wanted as his partner. But the lab wasn't playing ball and Graham ended up with Noodle the Poodle who made 'an immediate change' to his quality of life.

Malcolm ended by describing his current work as Ambassador for the Literacy in a Box Trust which runs in partnership with the Rotary Club. This provides educational kits, each costing £325 to produce, for schools and children in Zambia and sub-Saharan Africa. Probus members were pleased to make donations to this worthwhile cause.

www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com

Remembrance Ringing on Armistice Day

Sunday 11th November 2018

The Sherbornes Bellringers decided to mark the Armistice Day national ringing by attempting a quarter peal of 1260 changes. Andrea Falk, a Canadian who rings with us when she visits a couple of times a year, was keen to conduct a quarter peal and was aware of Lena Aloa Davis, a Canadian nursing sister from Ontario who died in 4th Canadian General Hospital, Park Prewett on 21st February 1918 aged 32, from Blackwater Fever contracted during her service with the Canadian Army Medical Corps in Salonica. She is buried in St Andrew's churchyard. It seemed appropriate to honour Nurse Davis by ringing with an all-female band.

The band consisted of: Treble - Virginia Budd, Second - Alex Fry (her first quarter peal), Third - Lois Blissett, Fourth - Lauren Taylor, Fifth - Andrea Falk (conductor) and Tenor - Miriam Taylor. Beginning at 12.30pm the quarter was successfully completed in 43 minutes.

The band is pictured in ringing order from left to right, beginning with the treble ringer, behind the gravestone of Lena Davis in St Andrew's churchyard.

Ringing for Morning Service at All Saints, Monk Sherborne was done with the bells half-muffled, which is usual on Remembrance Sunday. Afterwards the muffles were taken off and a male band rang the bells at 12.30pm for 15 minutes.



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Pelican thanks supporters at 25th anniversary event



PELICAN 25th ANNIVERSARY
cancer foundation

Basingstoke's Pelican Cancer Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary by thanking supporters and colleagues at an evening reception at the House of Lords on Monday 12 November.

Basingstoke MP Maria Miller, the MP for Winchester Steve Brine, Pelican's first Chief Executive Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town and Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust chief executive Alex Whitfield were among the guests at the event hosted by Lord Ribeiro, former chairman of the Pelican Research Review Panel.



Clinicians, including cancer surgeons, doctors and nurses who have worked with Pelican, celebrated with former

patients, fundraisers, donors and members of the Pelican team.

The landmark anniversary gathering recognised the charity's huge progress in furthering research and educating clinicians in the treatment of bowel, liver, bladder and prostate cancer.

Basingstoke is now regarded as a world-wide centre of excellence and innovation as a result of the charity's ongoing programme of specialist workshops and conferences and clinical research work.

Pelican founder and eminent bowel cancer surgeon Professor Bill Heald (pictured), consultant radiologist Professor Gina Brown and Pelican's Chief Executive Sarah Crane gave speeches to thank everybody who has helped make the charity such a success.



Sarah said: "We are delighted to be celebrating 25 years of progress in research and running our national programmes and wanted to thank our wonderful supporters and colleagues by celebrating together at this esteemed venue.

"We are overwhelmed by the generous and enthusiastic support we receive and we look forward to making even more advancements in the future."

To find out more about the Pelican Cancer Foundation, visit www.pelicancancer.org. Pelican Film Society – 7.30pm on 1st Monday of the month at the Ark Conference Centre. All welcome

Basingstoke Deane

Rotary

Serving our community



CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2018

Teams from our club will be in action prior to Christmas providing hands-on support to voluntary organisations at their events

Overton Christmas Market December 1st

12.00-6.00pm

St Michael's Hospice *Light up a Life* event on December 2nd

Festive Fun Run for the local Pelican Cancer Foundation. Sunday 16th See their website to join in and get your free Santa suit
We're proud to support them

And on the 19th Basingstoke Samaritans - will hold their fundraising Carol Concert at the United Reform Church 7.00pm

Rotary Shoebox Thankyou

A huge thanks to all who contributed shoeboxes for our annual appeal, the shoeboxes full of toys and warm gloves & hats etc. are on their way to under privileged children abroad

Rotarians Support Children in Need

On November 16th groups of Rotarians from all over the south of England, including members from our club, headed to Heathrow Airport Terminals for a mass collection for Children in Need. In 2017 over £47,000 was raised so hopefully we will have beaten this total when the final figures are published

HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES ARE IN TOWN

ANVIL 27th January 2019



It is a real privilege to welcome the 48 strong full concert band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines for their 7th visit to Basingstoke.

They will be accompanied by the Royal Corps of Drums and everyone's favourite - The Chelsea Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea
Unashamedly patriotic, a fabulous concert !

Tickets available from The Anvil Box Office.

They make a great Christmas present for that hard to buy for person

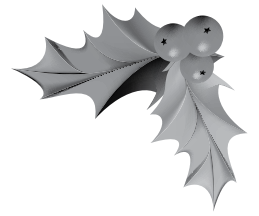
Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

Sherborne St John's Women's Fellowship



As usual on the first Tuesday in November the Women's Fellowship met in the Village Hall. After ten minutes for business we were treated to an exhibition of crafts laid out on two tables accompanied with a talk by Mrs Annette Williams.

Mrs Williams explained how she had been attracted to crafts of one sort or another all her life and had tried her hand at most things. She had the most fascinating example of quilting we had seen in a long time. Very simple designs had emerged out of all sorts of scraps of material. Annette explained how one room of her house was completely taken up with storing bits and pieces "that might come in handy". We laughed at this phrase as we could all relate to that.

Mrs Williams also explained that her abiding passion was miniatures. She had displayed some tiny little figures no more than three centimetres tall, perfect in every detail. My personal favourite was a set of boxes like Russian dolls. The largest was no more than four centimetres square. It had four boxes that fitted inside, each one smaller than the one before. It was so hard to believe that they were all made by hand by Mrs Williams herself. She showed us a simple shape made in felt or material that by altering one or two details you could produce a fish or a mouse. Annette also showed us that any kind of ring especially the cardboard or plastic sort that comes out of the middle of sticky tape reels can so easily be turned into very attractive Christmas decorations and finished up showing us how to make silk roses out of two lengths of satin ribbon.

At the end of the talk everybody agreed that it had not only been a very entertaining afternoon but a delightful and informative one to. Mrs Williams then threw the display open to anybody who wanted to buy and invited everyone to come and ask as many questions as they liked. After tea and biscuits and the usual raffle the meeting closed at approximately four p.m.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 4th December when a gentleman will talk to us about Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" and the usual tea and biscuits will be expanded to include some Christmas nibbles provided by the committee.



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Managed by Sherbornes with Pamber church



Come, Play and meet new friends



Join us for free-play, craft, bible stories and song-time.

There are teas and coffees for grown ups and a fruit snack-time for the children.

From bumps to 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



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Surviving the Office Christmas Party!

Christmas party season is fast approaching and some employees have a tendency to forget that even where an office party is held at an off-site venue it is still time spent “in the course of your employment”. Therefore the popular theory that “What happens at the Christmas party, stays at the Christmas party” is unfortunately not necessarily the case. Nobody wants to be dismissed for gross misconduct due to bad behaviour at a social event or for posting something inappropriate about themselves or others on social media.

Where alcohol or even a free bar is provided by your employer you do still have a duty to retain some semblance of sensible and responsible behaviour. Even under the influence of alcohol it is not acceptable to make unwanted advances, air grudges, be abusive, fight, harass or discriminate against others, drink and drive or use the photocopier inappropriately.

Jokes you would not tell or comments that you would not use in the office because they might cause offence, are just as likely to cause offence in a party situation even if they do get a laugh from all concerned after a few drinks. Remember for example that not everyone drinks alcohol, celebrates Christmas or likes social events and their views and beliefs must be respected.

Another often forgotten, but important point, is that it is completely inappropriate to discuss work matters, other members of staff, clients, suppliers or customers in a social environment where you can be overheard by others.

Senior staff also have the added responsibility not to make any rash promises such as agreeing pay increases or discussing promotions or company matters under the influence of alcohol as this could well be regretted later.

The office Christmas party should be a happy and fun experience for all concerned and remain in the spirit of the season of goodwill. One last tip - do aim to turn up on time to work the next day even if you do have a hangover.

Whether you are an employer or employee seeking employment advice on this or any other matter, please contact Gill Brown or Jack Gardener on 01256 854631 in the employment team at Phillips Solicitors and they will be happy to assist.

For more information about our services visit www.phillips-law.co.uk



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E-mail: info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk

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We are a non-profit making club

Small Ads

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- The advertising rate is £4 per month or £6 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payment to 'The Villager'.
- Payment for advertisements must be received in advance and are limited to 10 lines of type.
- For information on annual block advertisements please contact **Emma Foreman**

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ONLINE BOOKINGS

All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

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

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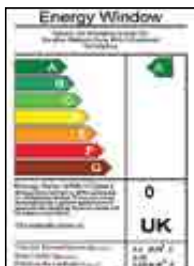
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