

A photograph of a forest floor in early spring. The ground is covered with a dense carpet of yellow daffodils, some in full bloom and others as green shoots. The flowers are interspersed with fallen brown leaves and patches of green grass. In the background, a line of tall, slender trees with bare branches stands against a soft, hazy sky. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning sun, casting a warm glow over the scene.

The Villager

April 2015

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Letters to the Editor

I read John Hamilton's thought provoking 'Church Matters' in the last magazine focusing on Libby Lane, recently consecrated as the first woman bishop in the Church of England. John clearly has a very firm view on the situation and the status of Libby, apparently, an assistant bishop. The technicalities of the workings of the Church of England are rather beyond my humble grasp, basically as a Christian at heart and in the way I live but not a regular church goer. However, I accept that the world in which we live is changing at an astonishingly rapid pace and we need to embrace much of this, sometimes even when we feel reluctant, if we are to nurture a healthy setting for future generations to come. I wholeheartedly concur with one of John's views, that of serving and helping but I do not see that this is either wholly a male or female attribute. We can all aspire, if we wish, to do the best we can for the world in which we live and for its future.

Ann Ellis



Angela and the McArt family would like to thank all those who sent such kind messages of sympathy, flowers, cards and offers of help, on Leslie's death. It was so appreciated by us all and demonstrated, yet again, what a wonderful caring community we have in Sherborne St John. Leslie would have been overwhelmed by all your lovely stories and anecdotes of happy times you spent with him.

We moved to the village in 1971 and from then on the village and his friends within it were very important to him. He was proud to have been a parish councillor and chairman of the Parish Council, tennis club committee member, sidesman at St Andrews, and he loved his time on his allotment too! I also remember an organisation called the "Sherbornes with Pamber Century Draw Club", the purpose of which was to raise money for the church, brownies, cubs and other village groups, but was always an excuse for Leslie, Harry Hall, Pat Mummery and a few others to meet in the Swan for the regular monthly draw, plus the odd pint!!

Angela McArt

Distributor for Charter Alley

After several years Mrs Sue Simpson has decided to give up the distribution of The Villager for family reasons. We therefore seek a volunteer to replace her, as soon as possible, ideally at the end of April. If anybody is willing please contact George Rust on 01256 850413 or e-mail: r.rust@btinternet.com. Thank you Sue.

Julie Crawley
Editor

Contact us at Editor@thevillager.org.uk

Cover Photo: Daffodils in Pamber Forest, Hilary Evans

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Future Events

April 2015

4	The Sherbornes Art Exhibition, SSJ Village Hall, Open to all with lunches, tea and coffee	10 – 5pm
5	The Sherbornes Art Exhibition, SSJ Village Hall, Open to all with lunches, tea and coffee	10 – 4pm
6	The Sherbornes Art Exhibition, SSJ Village Hall, Open to all with lunches, tea and coffee	12 – 5pm
6	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship The Newbury Coat SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
7	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
13	Pelican Film Society The Imitation Game, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
14	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
14	Hardy Plant Society, St. Stephen's Hall, Little London Admission £3 for non-members	7.15pm
18	Sherborne St John Village Market, SSJ Village Hall	10am – 1pm
20	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
21	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
21	Boden Clothes Sale, Priory School	2 – 8pm
27	SSJ Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
28	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am

May 2015

4	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
5	SSJ Women's Fellowship The Mystery of Agatha Christie SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
5	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
5	SSJ Parish Council AGM, CHUTE PAVILION	7.30pm
11	Pelican Film Society 100 Foot Journey, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
12	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
15	Monk Sherborne Village Hall, AGM & Quiz Night with Bangers and Mash	7.30pm
16	Sherborne St John Village Market, SSJ Village Hall	10am – 1pm
16	Quiz in aid of SSJ Village Hall, £10 includes supper. Tickets from Elizabeth Banks 01256 850514	7.30pm
18	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
19	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
19	SSJ Parish Council Meeting, CHUTE PAVILION	7.30pm
26	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am

June 2015

1	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
1	Pelican Film Society, Theory of Everything, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
2	SSJ Women's Fellowship The History of Bramshill College SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
2	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
9	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
15	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
16	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
20	Sherborne St John Village Market, SSJ Village Hall	10am – 1pm
22	SSJ Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
23	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am
29	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
30	Tuesday Club (drop-in coffee mornings) St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. (Donation £1.00 pp)	10.00-12.00 am

July 2015

6	Pelican Film Society, The Judge, The Ark Conference Centre, Guests welcome	7.30pm
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship Strawberry Tea SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
13	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
17	Monk Sherborne Village Hall, Italian Night	7.30pm
18	Sherborne St John Village Market, SSJ Village Hall	10am – 1pm
27	60+Club, Sherborne St John Village Hall. Contact 01256 850577 for transport	10.00am
27	SSJ Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

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Church Matters April

This year Easter Day – that great focus on the foundation of our faith – comes right at the start of the month. Of course as Christians we rejoice every day that Jesus is alive, but Easter is special because it reminds us of the facts. He was put to death on the afternoon of “Good” Friday. He was raised to life on the third day. He has never died again – he lives today. This is true of absolutely no one else in the entire history of mankind.

But “You can’t prove it” says the atheist and the agnostic and the exultant unbeliever to the hapless Christian who is trying to explain the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Those who say this assume that the inability of the Christian to produce effective proof invalidates the claim. It does not!

If you think about it we take a huge amount by faith in this life. For example when I get on an aeroplane I cannot prove that there is no terrorist on board.

I cannot prove that the plane will arrive happily at its destination. I have strong reasons for believing it but I can’t prove it, so I forget about proof and get on board.

The fact that you cannot prove something merely means that the event in question is not one which is susceptible to proof. It doesn’t mean that the event didn’t happen. To put it another way if you can’t prove it it’s too bad for proof, not for the event. With regard to the resurrection of Jesus I readily admit that you can’t prove it. Proof is not the way to faith. But I can give you the strongest reasons for believing it.

Here are some of them:

- The tomb was empty that first Easter morning.
- The tomb had been guarded by a detachment of soldiers
- Neither the women (who went to the tomb) nor the disciples (who didn’t) were expecting Jesus to rise.
- Jesus appeared to the disciples in a variety of situations over a period of forty days. He gave many convincing proofs that he was alive (not resuscitated).
- The accounts in all four gospels say that the first witnesses were women. If you were making up the story in the world of those days you would not have said that.

It is noticeable that once the witness to the resurrection of Jesus has been given the New Testament moves on to show the significance of this great fact. It is not concerned with proving the event – rather the focus is on what the resurrection proves. Let me mention just three of the points the NT makes on this:

1. The Resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God¹. He did not become the Son of God when he was raised; rather he was declared with power to be what he was.
2. The Resurrection proves that there is a day of Judgment to come². History is not spinning off into some unknown future nor is it going to go on for ever. Rather it will go to that day, fixed by God, when all will be called to account. Jesus will be the judge and God has declared this by raising him from the dead.
3. The Resurrection proves that, if we are believers in the Lord Jesus our sins are forgiven for his sake – for “he was put to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification”³. If he had stayed dead we would never have known whether his sacrifice had been accepted as sufficient for us or not. As it is, if we trust Jesus, we can be absolutely sure.

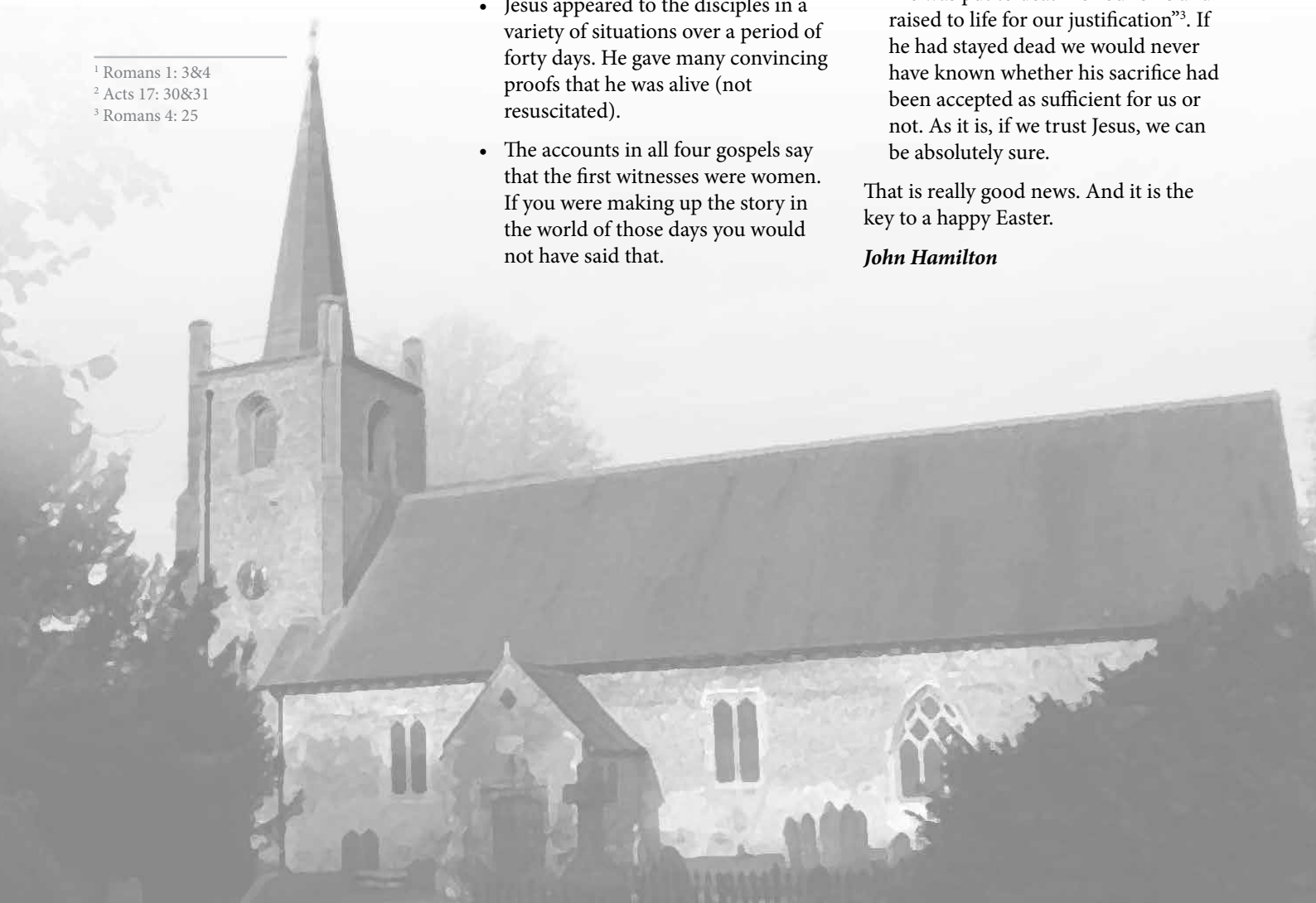
That is really good news. And it is the key to a happy Easter.

John Hamilton

¹ Romans 1: 3&4

² Acts 17: 30&31

³ Romans 4: 25



Services for April

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

3 April

10am	Good Friday Family Service	St Andrew's
2pm	'An hour at the Cross'	The Priory

5 April

9.30am	Easter Morning Service	All Saints
10.45am	Easter Family Service - followed by Holy Communion	St Andrew's
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

12 April

10am	Family Service	St Andrew's
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

19 April

10am	Family Service	St Andrew's
6pm	'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

26 April

10am	Visit of David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke	St Andrew's
6pm	Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche 'Sundays at Six'	Sherborne St John Village Hall

3 May

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

SERMONS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM:

Raised from the dead – 1 Corinthians 15

Apr 5	The most important thing	1 Cor 15:3-8	John Hamilton
Apr 12	What if he wasn't?	1 Cor 15:16-20	Warren Trask
Apr 19	Different bodies	1 Cor 15:35-41	John Hamilton
Apr 26	Ultimate victory	1 Cor 15:42-58	Bishop David Williams

SUNDAYS AT SIX:

Jesus our Priest – Hebrews 4-9

Apr 5	Our great high priest	Heb 4:14-5:10	Sean Clokey
Apr 12	He exactly meets our needs	Heb 7:11-28	John Hamilton
Apr 19	A better covenant	Heb 8:1-13	John Hamilton
Apr 26	He offered himself	Heb 9:11-14	Bishop David Williams

MIDWEEK MEETINGS

The programme is somewhat interrupted due to the Easter break. Home Groups meet during the weeks commencing 13 & 27 April. "Track 3" during the week in between.

EXTRA PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday 31 MARCH at 2.30 pm in the Parish Room

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

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

Weekday Mass

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

* Time & Venue could vary

St Andrew's Sherborne St John

All Saints Monk Sherborne

The Priory Pamber End

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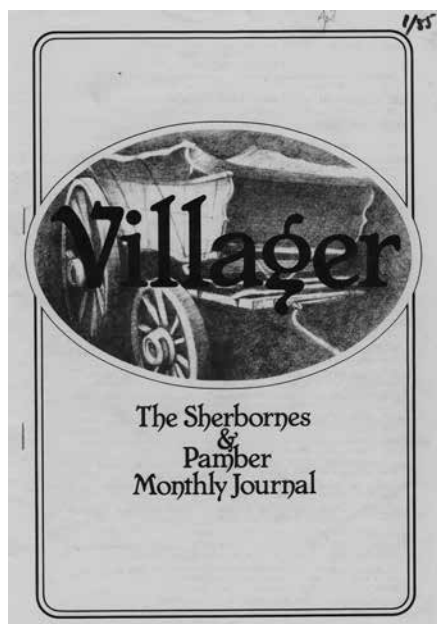
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Sherborne St John History Society



At the end of March 1985 the first edition of THE VILLAGER was rolling off the printing press in the Kent room in SSJ. Fingers were probably firmly crossed as the Gestetner machine was not totally reliable and caused headaches for Dave Field, technician in charge, for a number of years.

Production methods have improved immensely since that time, but the purpose of The Villager remains the same. It was to inform the parishioners of activities & organisations in the villages, to include a Christian based opinion page, to report on matters of the three parish councils, list church services, to include local news items and other matters of interest such as nature notes, reminiscences etc.

Parish magazines weren't new of course in 1985 – we have copies of Monk Sherborne and Pamber parish newsletters going back to 1889. The difference is that the rector in 1985, Rev. Christopher Ardagh-Walter was keen that the magazine should be more inclusive and run by and for the parish community. It would be financed by advertising and voluntary contributions. The Parochial Parish Council supported the plan to enlarge the readership but to have a magazine still under the aegis of the church. The committee running the administration of the magazine included some members of the PCC.

A local artist, Bernard Pye, drew a picture of a farmcart for the front cover, material was collected by local editors/reporters

and delivered to the first editor, Peter Osborne. Hilary Reed represented SSJ, Anne Fenton for Pamber and Christine Wills reported for Monk Sherborne. Catherine Osborne did the typing and artwork. Hilary Reed was persuaded to take over from the Osbornes when they left the village in 1988. She typed the material and put the magazine together and literally used cut and paste work to produce the finished pages. Neither computers nor word processors were involved in those days. Liz Edwards came on board to do the typing to the relief of Hilary. The whole team appreciated her efficiency and expertise.

There were several teams of collators who took it in turns to assemble in the Kent room towards the end of each month. Team leaders included Irene Saul, Kate Gilchrist, Roger Coombs and Alan Hall. The pages were piled up, collected in order, placed in the cover & stapled – more than 800 copies each month. The process didn't always run smoothly.

By 1990 the printing equipment was failing badly and the finances were in a perilous state. Hilary prompted the PCC to set up a 'think-tank' to review its future. It recommended that the administration should be completely separated from the church and become an independent organisation. A management committee was formed under the chairmanship of Roger Coombs with Peter Marrison in charge of finance. A new printing machine was acquired, still under the control of Dave Field. Hilary continued as editor, though the role was becoming hard to fit into her busy life. Meeting the deadline was often a close thing – Hilary recalls it was sometimes close to midnight when Dave Field received the copy ready for the printer and the assembly team.

Anne Monger took over the reins in September 1993. An article in The Villager of September 1994 by Roger Coombs listed all those involved in the production & delivery of the magazine each month – a total of more than 60 volunteers. Anne was followed by Kate Goucher in January 1997, by which time the wonders of computers and email reduced the role of local reporters. Kate was assisted by Joyce Stevens who set out the magazine, retyping and correcting copy. There was also a major change

in the production process when the Gestetner was replaced by the services of a local printing company, Greenhouse Graphics, who received the copy by email.

The number of people involved in the production of the magazine now dropped dramatically from nearly 30 to about a half dozen. However distribution still needs lots of volunteers. Kate Gilchrist organised the distribution for a number of years and George Rust has also been a stalwart in this role, in which he continues.

In September 2003 Roger Shelvey assumed the editorship when Kate left the parish. Joyce continued in her role, adapting willingly to the changes in technology. With more widespread use of email it was possible for The Villager to move fully into the electronic age with more photographs, and in April 2006 the introduction of colour. As a consequence advertising revenue was increasing, so there was no longer a need to ask for voluntary contributions. This change was welcomed by the distribution team. After six plus years Roger (semi retired) passed on the role to Andy Page. After a couple of years he found the demands of the job too much, particularly on his eyesight. A review of the work involved was undertaken and a new team was formed by Chrissy Humphreys and Julie Crawley. Technical layout is now done by Greenhouse Graphics; Julie continues as editor producing the 21st century version of our parish magazine.

Unfortunately a number of names have not been included here, some for lack of space, and doubtless some inadvertently. We would welcome any comments, favourable or otherwise, and further memories of this aspect of village history.

The History Society continues to collect information on the history of the village including about those villagers who were involved in WW1, whether or not they were combatants.

If you have information or memorabilia that might help us please email SSJHisSoc@Lillydown.net or phone Jean & Pat Linford 850264 (for SSJ), Jane Shelvey 850379 (Monk Sherborne) or Jenny & David Cullum 850315 (Pamber)

Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Following approval of estimates at the November meeting, members approved the level of precept to be served upon BDBC for financial year commencing 1st April 2015 is to remain as last year, £9450.

We have been advised that the Mole public house is scheduled to open in the spring.

The Horticultural Society is going into suspended animation, therefore the Village Hall are organising a Monk Sherborne Fete on September 12th, to include smaller and distinctly amateur veg, flower and craft competitions.

Two new trees have been planted in the playing field: a Snake Bark Maple and a variegated Tulip tree.

Highways are continually being pursued to ensure all pot holes within the parish are addressed as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the criteria for repairs has been altered considerably with timescales being extended, particularly for rural roads.

The road safety team at Hampshire Highways have been asked to undertake a review at The Lane, Charter Alley, to determine whether any safety measures could be introduced. We await

their recommendations. The Parish Council has been asked to investigate the potential for a footpath from The Priory Primary School to Charter Alley to assist with safer walking routes to school. Concerns were raised regarding both the cost and maintenance of the footpath as well as the visual impact a footpath in rural location would have. The school and highways are to investigate further to determine the viability of the project and whether it could be progressed in any way.

Bill Hayter

The SSJ Neighbourhood Plan April 2015 Update

The Consultation



120 residents attended the Questionnaire Consultation & Feedback Event.

The verdict was overwhelmingly positive – if you missed it we still want your opinion on the important issues raised. Read all about it and Submit

Your Vote by visiting the Virtual Consultation Event at



www.ssjvillage.org/neighbourhood-plan.html

Open until Friday 17th April.

Julian Crawley



WELLBEING OF WOMEN CHARITY GARDEN AND GIFT FAIR

THURSDAY 7th MAY 2015 (Election Day!)
9.30am - 3.30pm

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SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Local Infrastructure Fund

Good News! The Parish Council has been awarded a £30,000 grant from BDBC for improvements to facilities at the Chute Pavilion. This with a substantial contribution from the Parish Council funds will mean that the Parish Council has the ability to make major improvements at the Chute site, including a new storage unit, decoration and tennis court renovations. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the Parish Clerk for all her work in completing and obtaining the grant. A working group will be established to review all options and agree a course of action. They will seek the views all interested parties and report back to the Parish Council.

Village Maintenance

Work has been completed on tidying up hedges and trees down Elm Road by the Moss Hill allotments and additional work is planned for other areas of the village. If you are aware of any areas that need tidying up please contact the Parish Clerk (ssjclerk@gmail.com)

Speedwatch

The speedwatch volunteers have now been trained in the use of their equipment and they will now start to initiate random speed checks throughout the village. You have been warned !

Neighbourhood Plan

The Questionnaire Feedback Exhibition and the consultation on the Draft options took place on Saturday 14th March at the Village Hall 10.00am to 14.00. The Committee displayed results and information collected from both the Housing Needs Survey and the Questionnaire and interested developers presented potential proposals and how these fit in with the Parish's wishes.

Benches

The Parish Council will be looking at funding two new benches in the village, one by the duck pond in Cranesfield and the other near the cemetery. It is hoped that this will give residents the opportunity to relax and reflect in these two quiet areas.

Allotments

The warden Mr Wilkinson has reported that the vacant plots are nearly ready for the new tenants who will be contacted shortly.

Rights of Way

The Parish Council is very grateful to Mr Edwards who has completed a draft report on the state of all pavements and footpaths in the village area noting where action is needed. This will now be reviewed by the Parish Council for appropriate action to be taken.

Buses

The new Community Bus that runs on a Wednesday and a Friday has started with about half a dozen residents using it to go to the Chineham shopping area.

Bulb planting

It is lovely to feel Spring approaching with the longer days and warm moments of sunshine. The bulbs that were planted in the summer months are now beginning to show giving a splash of colour around the village which I am sure we are all enjoying. If you would like to volunteer to plant more bulbs this year then please contact the Parish Clerk (ssjclerk@gmail.com)

Parish Council Meetings

We have routine planning meetings on the second Tuesday of the month and a planning session prior to the regular Parish Council meetings, generally the 4th Monday of the month. Members of the public are free to attend on these occasions, all we ask is that the public contact the Parish Clerk to let her know of their intention to attend.

The dates are published widely on the notice board outside the Village Hall, on the website and in the Villager. Our next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 27th April in the Village Hall.

Jayne Tomlinson

SSJ Parish Council

Allotments in Sherborne St John



There are 3 allotments sites at present in the Sherborne St John Parish.

A few plots have become available for new tenants this year on the Moss Hill site so if you are interested please contact me.

There are 3 sizes small, normal and large. 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 me by e mail ssjclerk@gmail.com or telephone 0118 9332379 with your preference and contact details (including your address)

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Pamber Parish Council

Pamber Parish Council met on 9th March 2015

St. Stephen's Hall, Little London.

To all parishioners from the South Ward.

The Management Committee urgently needs your support to keep the hall running. Are you able to give a few hours of your time each month to help manage this very important community facility? Yes? Then contact the Clerk to see how you can become involved.

Parish Event.

The "Party InThe Park" will be held this year on Saturday, 13th June 2015 from 3 – 6pm at Pamber Park, Pamber Heath. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The theme is the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Entertainment for the afternoon will be provided by Hannington Silver Band who will be playing suitably rousing music to accompany the Lighting of the Beacon at 3.00pm. We will be holding a competition with a prize for the best Child and the best Adult wearing Period Costume. Refreshments will be provided in the form of wine, soft drinks and nibbles. So please put the date in your diaries now and come along to support your Parish and join in the fun! Don't forget your chairs or your picnic rugs!

Planning applications:

15/00447/HSE: Erection of replacement garage.

Woodcote, Bramley Road, Little London. **No objection**

15/00434/HSE: Single storey side and rear extension. First floor rear extension. Loft conversion and remodelling of elevation.

Woodcote, Bramley Road, Little London. **No objection**

Parish Council Elections 7th May 2015.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, Nomination packs are now available from www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=1514 (Or visit the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website). If you do not have access to the internet, contact the Clerk for help.

Grants

A grant of £200 was awarded to Home-Start North West Hampshire towards the cost of the service that is provided in this parish. A limited number of small grants are available from the Parish Council for groups working in the parish on a project that would benefit the community. If you belong to such a group and think that a grant would help, please contact the Clerk.

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 13th April 2015 in St. Stephen's Hall, Little London. All parishioners are welcome to attend. Details of meetings are displayed on the notice boards and on the website www.pamber-pc.gov.uk

E.A.Knight (Clerk) (01256) 88257

Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

Well it looks like Spring has finally sprung. I've managed to get in my garden a fair bit and start some long overdue clearance. It is looking much better but still needs much more. Whilst we love living in the country, the older we get the more we find the gardening a challenge. Together with living in an old house that seems in need of constant maintenance!

Following my plea in the January Villager for suggestions about what to do with the flower and shrub seeds that I collected from my garden, reader Debra Adams suggests I could donate them to The Priory School which has a very popular gardening club. The children, her son Ben included, have been busy planting cuttings and seeds. Apparently, the School is happy to

receive such donations to use with the children and for the development of the environment in and around the school. It also seems they would appreciate any time and or experience that anyone has to offer. You can contact the School on 01256 850062. I shall be packaging up and labelling my spare seeds and taking them to the Priory.

In general, not much seems to have been happening in Pamber at the current time. The moles continue to do battle and they seem to be winning. Equally, Hampshire County Council has still made no apparent progress to improve the overgrown hedgerows to give clear access along footpaths. I have reported this twice in the last five months and have had no email update to either enquiry even though I have asked for

one. A job for next week AGAIN.

On a positive note, Pamber Parish Council has been forging forward with the repairs to St Stephen's Hall and we await, with interest, the date of the re-opening party.

Don't forget to diary date the forthcoming Pamber Parish Council meeting on the 13th April 2015 and the AGM on 18th May 2015. Please try to attend.

Please send me anything of interest, whether a few lines or more.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com



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Meet Virginia - our newly-appointed 'Village Agent' volunteer for Sherborne St John.

Virginia volunteers for Age Concern Hampshire, which coordinates the Village Agent service to reach out to older people in rural areas. The service is funded by Hampshire County Council and provides information to people over the age of 50 on a variety of services that help them to live independently in their own homes for longer.

Virginia said: "Village Agents are respected volunteers who operate in rural areas of the county identified by Age Concern Hampshire and Hampshire County Council where there are older people who might need information and support.

"My voluntary role is not to compete against other agencies already in place, but to signpost where there is a need. I have lots of resources and contacts and have undergone training with Age Concern Hampshire. I am also receiving training from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and will soon be able to offer free basic home fire safety checks for older people.

"I am already busy making as many contacts as possible to reach older people who may be isolated and in need of support."

To contact Virginia, call her on 07517 518059.

We are looking for a 'buddy' to work alongside Virginia in volunteering as a Village Agent for Age Concern Hampshire in Sherborne St John, if you have a couple of hours a week to spare and would like to find out more about what's involved or to apply for the role, contact the Village Agent co-ordinator on 01962 892443 or email villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk.

For general help and advice and to find out more about Age Concern Hampshire services call Freephone 0800 328 7154 or email info@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk.

Education For Life

By Pat Burt

The best years of your life, they say
Is when you are at school
The time to develop and employ
Brain cells from your gene pool
While there you learn to read and write
Both useful skills it's true
But I've yet to find a time to use
The quadratic equations you do!

The repeal of the Corn Laws was pretty dry stuff
Can't remember just when that occurred
The reason for studying them fades away
And now seems just absurd.
But oh the joy of the hockey pitch
As over the grass we swarmed
I volunteered to be goalie
To keep my coat on and keep warm!
Translating a passage from Virgil
Was tasking, I furrowed me brow!
It's a skill that has been useful
I decipher headstones now!!
But science was a mystery
And remains so to this day
It's magic when I switch on the light
Not particles bumping as they say!
Our housecraft lessons were exciting
Independence for women their goal.
So I learnt to wash my hairbrush
Now I can unblock a plughole
There's just one thing I think I miss
About those days at school
I was young and fit and carefree...
Not a bumbling silly old fool!!



Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

The second half of the Spring Term is always quite busy – as the sun comes out (occasionally!) and it begins to feel like Spring then we can get 'out and about' more! The Juniors have been using the Chute Recreation Ground for tag rugby lessons and the Infants have been learning football skills. Groups from Class 3 have been working in the grounds of the Vyne as part of their project with the National Trust; this month they have been learning about birds, cows and sheep.

As part of Class 3's project, intriguingly entitled 'Visits, Visions and Visitors', they spent a day touring London. This included a visit to the Museum of London and a trip on the London Eye as well as a coach ride down Pall Mall to see Buckingham Palace. They have been studying the different buildings and attractions in London and it was good to see (and sketch) them in real



life. Despite a late return back to school, all the children enjoyed the day and they had perfect sightseeing weather!

Key Stage 1 had an equally interesting project called 'Pirates Ahoy!' They also had a long day trip but in the opposite direction – to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard where they had a tour of HMS Warrior and a pirate workshop! Luckily none of them decided that a life on the ocean wave was for them and they all safely returned to school!

We always finish the Easter Term with our recitation competition and Easter bonnet parade as well as our Easter service at St Andrew's Church. Because of publication deadlines, we hope to have photos of these events in the next Villager. Meanwhile we wish everyone a Happy Easter with plenty of chocolate!

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Community Clothing Collection at SSJ School

Our latest fundraising event is a "Community Clothing Collection", so we would like to invite you to have a "spring clean" and donate all of your unwanted textile items to the school between Tuesday 21st April and Friday 24th April, **ready for collection by Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools at 9am on Friday 24th.**

Alternatively, we can collect bags from you, please call Heidi on 07816 431512 to arrange collection.

Please donate the following (clean and dry) items:

Baby, child or adult clothing

Shoes (paired and tied), underwear, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, bags, purses, wallets, tights, ties

Cuddly toys, jewellery, glasses, umbrellas, key rings

Bedding and household linen, bath and hand towels.

All items will be shipped to various third world countries, where they are recycled or reused by the less fortunate via market traders.

The school will receive 60p for each kg we collect which will be a great boost for our fundraising. In addition it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reusing things.

Please donate lots of bags and help us have a really good collection. Many thanks for helping us with this fantastic fundraising opportunity.

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World Book Day

Friday 6th March was World Book day at The Priory. This year, we had chosen to celebrate by focusing on traditional nursery rhymes. Staff and children all dressed up as a varied assortment of characters. There were even families, who cleverly dressed up all the siblings in different year groups from one rhyme such as Jack and Jill, Three Blind Mice and The Grand Old Duke of York! Apparently there are some very clever mums out there.

We started the day by awarding prizes for best costumes. It was very difficult to choose winners out of an array of fabulous costumes. We also challenged the children to guess the



staff costumes and see who could recite the rhyme.

During the morning, all the classes worked on different activities based around nursery rhymes. The Infants were reciting rhymes, Year 3 were

playing Twinkle Twinkle on the Boomwhackers, Year 4 were writing newspaper reports, Year 5 were making Incy spiders and adding a couple of extra verses and Year 6 were learning about the origins of the rhymes and rewriting and adapting different rhymes.

In the afternoon, we celebrated our achievements as a school and shared with each other what we had learnt. It proved to be very entertaining. Who would have thought some simple nursery rhymes could have given us such an interesting and fun day at school!

Visit to Britannia

My husband and I were exceptionally fortunate to receive complementary tickets to attend one of the inaugural celebrations for the flagship P&O ship, Britannia. The day was everything we could have hoped for with a tour of a truly awe-inspiring, iconic ship which the Queen had named only three days previously. We could see any part of the ship we wished and there was also a routed guided tour to ensure the best parts were seen. Theatres, bars, dance floors, spas, pools, and exceptional accommodation, the WOW factor throughout. My absolute favourite was the centrepiece Atrium, three decks from top to bottom, containing the stunning 'Star Burst' sculpture. The day was all rounded off with a three course lunch in one of Britannia's beautiful main restaurants. British at its best, though sadly built in Italy, that will sail the world emblazoning the Union colours and Flag wherever it goes. Our 'bucket list' includes taking our first ever cruise and it has to be on this stunning

ship, something we will never forget. Hopefully by the time you have read this I will have broken the news to my

husband that we need to take some dancing lessons urgently!

Ann Ellis





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The Monk Sherborne Fete

on Saturday September 12th

The Monk Sherborne Fete is planned to be a fun day out (but not a Horticultural Show!). There will be games and stalls and a fruit, veg and crafts competition. The competitions will not be certified by the RHS and shouldn't be taken too seriously! Entry to the grounds will be £2.00 for adults, £1.00 for children under ten, free for toddlers.

Eligibility for the competition

- Residents of Monk Sherborne, Sherborne St John, Charter Alley, Ramsdell and Pamber End.

Entries - All exhibit entries are free. Entries must be the exhibitor's own work and are limited to one entry per class per family. First prize in each class will be awarded a prize of £1 and a rosette. There will also be a cup for the village with the most winners. Here are the classes, so you can start sowing for success!

Vegetables

- Three potatoes
- Five large or medium tomatoes
- Five cherry or plum tomatoes
- Three onions
- Three carrots
- Three leeks
- Two cabbages
- Two courgettes
- Two cucumbers
- Five runner beans
- Five French beans

Novelty

- Heaviest marrow
- Longest runner bean
- Heaviest carrot
- Ugliest vegetable

Fruit

- Five apples (any sort)
- Three figs
- Dish of stoned fruit
- Dish of raspberries

Flowers

- Five annuals
- Five perennials
- Three dahlias
- Three gladioli
- Three chrysanthemums
- Two floribunda roses
- Two hybrid tea roses

Home cooking and home brewing

- A chocolate cake (men only)
- A fruit cake
- A jar of jam
- A jar of marmalade
- A bottle of sloe gin
- Two cabbages

Flower arrangements

- A flower arrangement 60 cms high x 45 cms depth maximum
- A posy no larger than 20 cms diam

Handicrafts

- An article of yarn, knitted, crocheted, or laced
- An article of cross stitch or embroidery
- An article in hard material - eg pottery wood, stone or metal
- A painting
- A photograph

Children's' classes

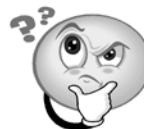
For each class there will be a prize for those under 5, under 7 and under ten

- A miniature garden
- A vase of wild flowers
- A Mr Potato Head (a potato decorated with vegetables only)
- A painting
- A photograph

SSJ Village Hall Management Committee

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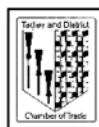
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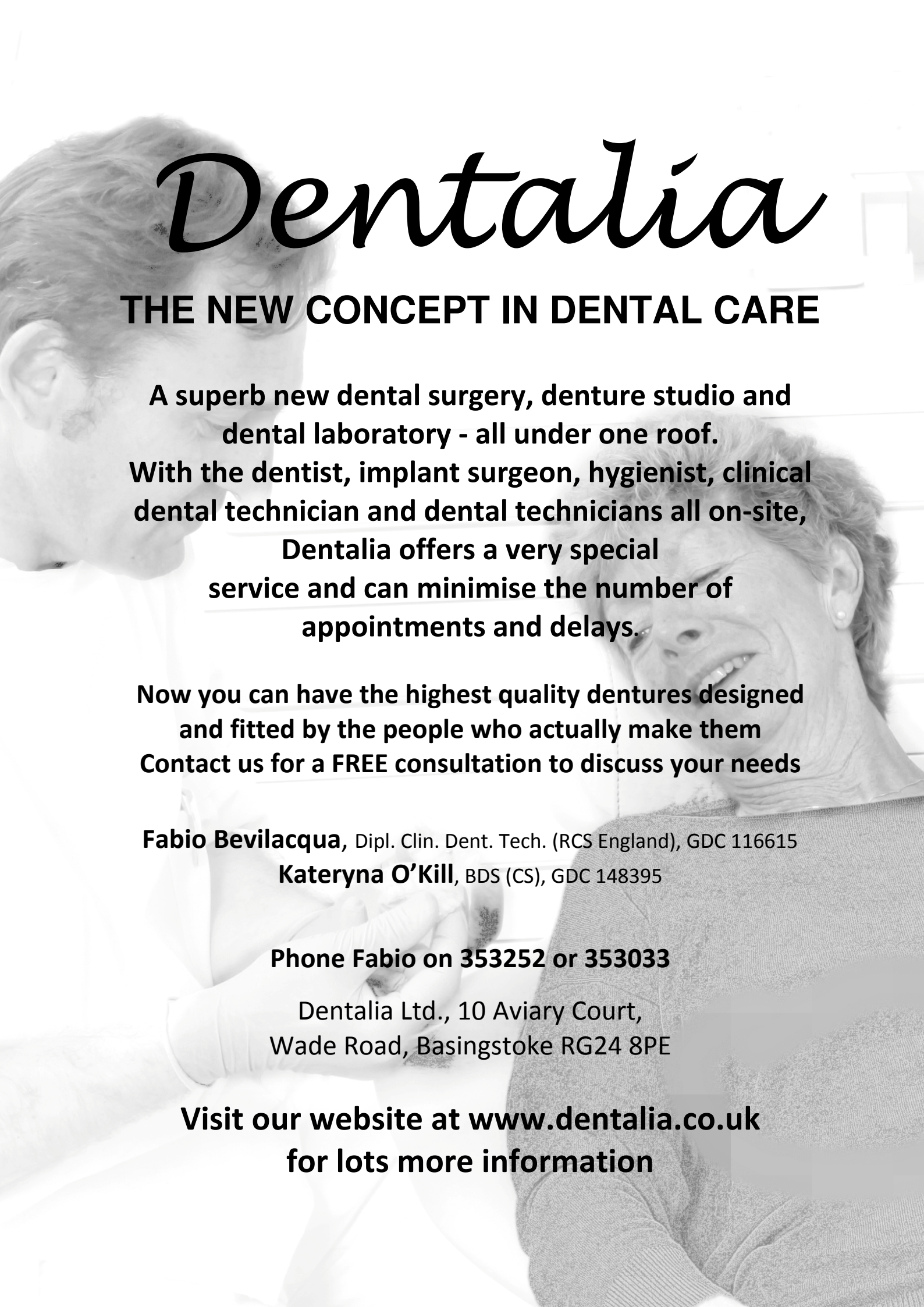
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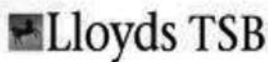
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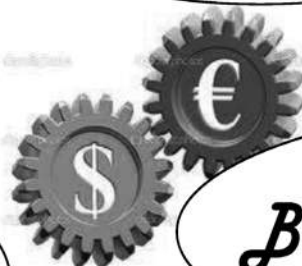
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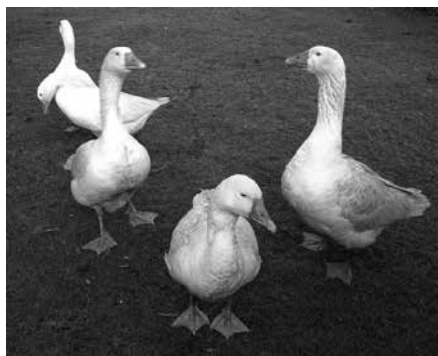


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Bert's Blog



Take a gander at these - I know, I know, not what you would normally buy to keep a dog company! Actually they were a Christmas present for the Mrs from the Boss and judging by her reaction (I witnessed it first hand) I think she was as shocked as I. Although I find my new friends quite amusing they do not reciprocate this feeling and their honkingly irritating reaction is to run flappingly down the garden whenever I put in an appearance. Due to this aversion and their reaction I now have a new nickname and task and am commonly known as the Goose Herder, much in demand as every night they manage to break out of their designated area and appear on the patio each morning tapping at the window for breakfast. If they were friendlier I wouldn't mind if we spent time together but there are definite areas that would need attention. Re-training in the toilet area is required as they are even more random than myself in that respect, also I am not keen on the hissing and would prefer honking if they really cannot manage a good deep bark. They do tend to stick together and just lately they have started having a rough and tumble which the Boss said was normal at this time of year and we should let nature take its course to hopefully make eggs - sometimes he does talk complete gibberish - for a start I always get into trouble for rough and tumble and it definitely does not produce eggs, just a good telling off and instructions to behave! The Mrs is the only person who gets eggs and they always accompany bacon not ganders. Meanwhile I shall try very hard not to get goosed!

The Sherbornes Bellringers

The newly refurbished bells at All Saints, Monk Sherborne will be rung for a quarter peal (approximately 40-45 minutes, 1,260 changes non-stop) on the morning of Saturday 25th April 2015, starting about 11.00 o'clock. This will be the first time the MS bells have been given such a long work out and we shall be delighted to welcome the visitors to use them. A group of ringers will be attempting to ring 10 quarter peals in one day, on local bells, starting at 8.30am in Thatcham and finishing at Burghclere more than 12 hours later. This is a considerable undertaking and will raise funds for the Ecchinswell Bell Restoration Trust (EBRT) and the Teenage and Young Adults Cancer (TYAC) service at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford. Ecchinswell has only three bells and the EBRT is hoping to raise £35,000 to repair the tower and hang a new peal of six bells.

Keith Gillings, Tower Captain, 01189813242

Thanks

The Tabletop Sale held on the 28th February in the SSJ village hall proved to be very successful, and we had a total of 19 tables in all. A profit was made of about £415, of which £148 was raised by the raffle, and another £86.50 by selling coffees/teas and home-made cakes. We have donated £250 of this amount to RadCan and the rest has gone into the village hall funds.

A very big thank you to all who took a table and to those who came and helped on the day, whether selling raffle tickets or working hard in the kitchen. Also all the delicious cakes, brownies and flapjacks kindly brought by friends in the village were, as always, much appreciated.

Thank you all.

Debra Morgan and Sue Burlingham

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Womens Fellowship

The Womens Fellowship meeting in March was a Talk entitled 'Birds of the Bible' given by Mr. Brian Clewes. Mr. Clewes has researched many aspects of these birds, as well as the passages in the Old and New Testaments, taking into consideration the translations as well as the different Versions, such as the King James.

The birds of the Bible are classified as those living in the region of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Great Sea and Red Sea. The habitats vary from birds living around olive plantations, mountains, hills, flat plains and desert. There are one hundred and forty five types of bird mentioned in the Scriptures, with Leviticus 11 – giving a list of what you may and may not eat. In Genesis, 1:20-23, it says "In the beginning, the 5th day, let the birds multiply in the earth".

We learnt that there are 10,000 different bird species in the world, with 597 species in the UK. 440 exist in the Palestine area (Gen 1:30 - and to every fowl of the air...I have given you everything of the earth). Many birds are now extinct, mainly island birds; the elephant bird was lost in 1550, the dodo in 1681 on Mauritius. The passenger pigeon in 1914, in the USA. The Syrian ostrich became extinct in Jordan in 1966, and the Red Sea cliff swallow in Palestine in the late 1900's. Two hundred other species are listed currently as 'critically endangered'. In the next five to ten years the list may double of the number of birds becoming extinct.

Mr. Clewes' posed the question, which came first the chicken or the egg? There is no answer! According to Genesis 1:21,

fully mature birds came first...but the discussion continues.

In Genesis 8:6, the raven was the first out of the Ark, then Noah sent forth a dove, but the dove returned because the whole earth was covered with water. This dove, according to Mr. Clewes, may have been a collared dove, or the Namaqua dove, which eats grass, seeds and vegetation.

Quails were released to the Israelites (Numbers 11:31) up to a thousand birds each.

Egypt exported 3,000,000 quails each year until 1920, but by 1939 trade was restricted. In the Tomb of Mera in Egypt, there are pictures of the Chukar partridge, thought to be thus due to the red eye pictures, although this is not confirmed.

From the book of Leviticus it is stated that all the creatures which are unclean when dead, may not be eaten. (Lev 11:13-19); these birds have been researched extensively by Dr. D. Lack and Dr. G.R. Driver, who have found that 15 ground birds are mentioned, 3 water birds and 2 'miscellaneous creatures'.

One rather alarming fact that emerged was that 50,000,000 vultures (97%) were killed between 1992 and 2007 due to their eating dead cows which had been injected by farmers with Diclofenac, a common drug used extensively. Now the drug companies have produced a new, 'safe' Diclofenac, but apparently large remaining quantities of the original chemical are sent to African countries to be used there.

The Golden Eagle is found on all continents of the world, and recently bred in Jordan. It lives for thirty years (Isiah 40:31)...they shall mount up with wings, as eagles they shall run..... Owls feature in the Bible as being prohibited from eating, as in Job 30:28-29, 'I am a companion of owls'...the birds that screech...The Barn Owl's habitat is both urban and rural. The Little Owl lives on rocky and wasteland terrain whilst the Scops Owl is resident in Cyprus. There are more than 250,000 pairs of osprey, but they are scarce in Bible lands as there is not enough water, thus they are scarcely mentioned in the Scriptures. The kite is referred to as 'the Detestable Kite' of which there are 300,000 pairs. The black kite lives in Bible areas, Africa and Asia. It is easy to catch, but not permitted to eat.

The sparrow is mentioned in the New Testament, Luke 12:6-7, as well as Psalm 84:1-3 and Psalm 102:4-7. House sparrows are familiar in Biblical lands so this may be the sparrow referred to by Jesus.

"God created every winged bird according to its kind" is mentioned at the beginning and the end of the Bible, Genesis 2:19-20, Revelations 5:14, and in John 1:32.

Mr. Clewes finished his research into the Birds of the Bible only very recently, and has obviously enjoyed enormously all the work he has carried out.

He was thanked for his most interesting talk by Mrs Joan Brandon.

(Not all Biblical references checked)



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Parking, noisy neighbours, antisocial behaviour. There are a wide range of other common issues that we advise on.

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

We advise that the best way to resolve disputes is by focussing solely on the legal issues and practical solutions. In fact our advice is to keep actual litigation through the Courts to a minimum. If entered into prematurely the Court process will be lengthier and more costly and in the vast majority of cases can be avoided altogether. In cases where it is necessary to get technical input we advise clients to instruct a surveyor or other expert at the outset so that the issues can resolved insofar as possible without the Court's involvement.

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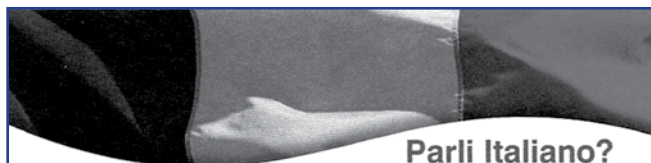
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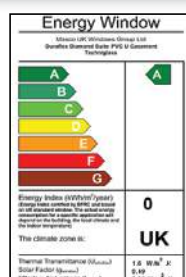
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