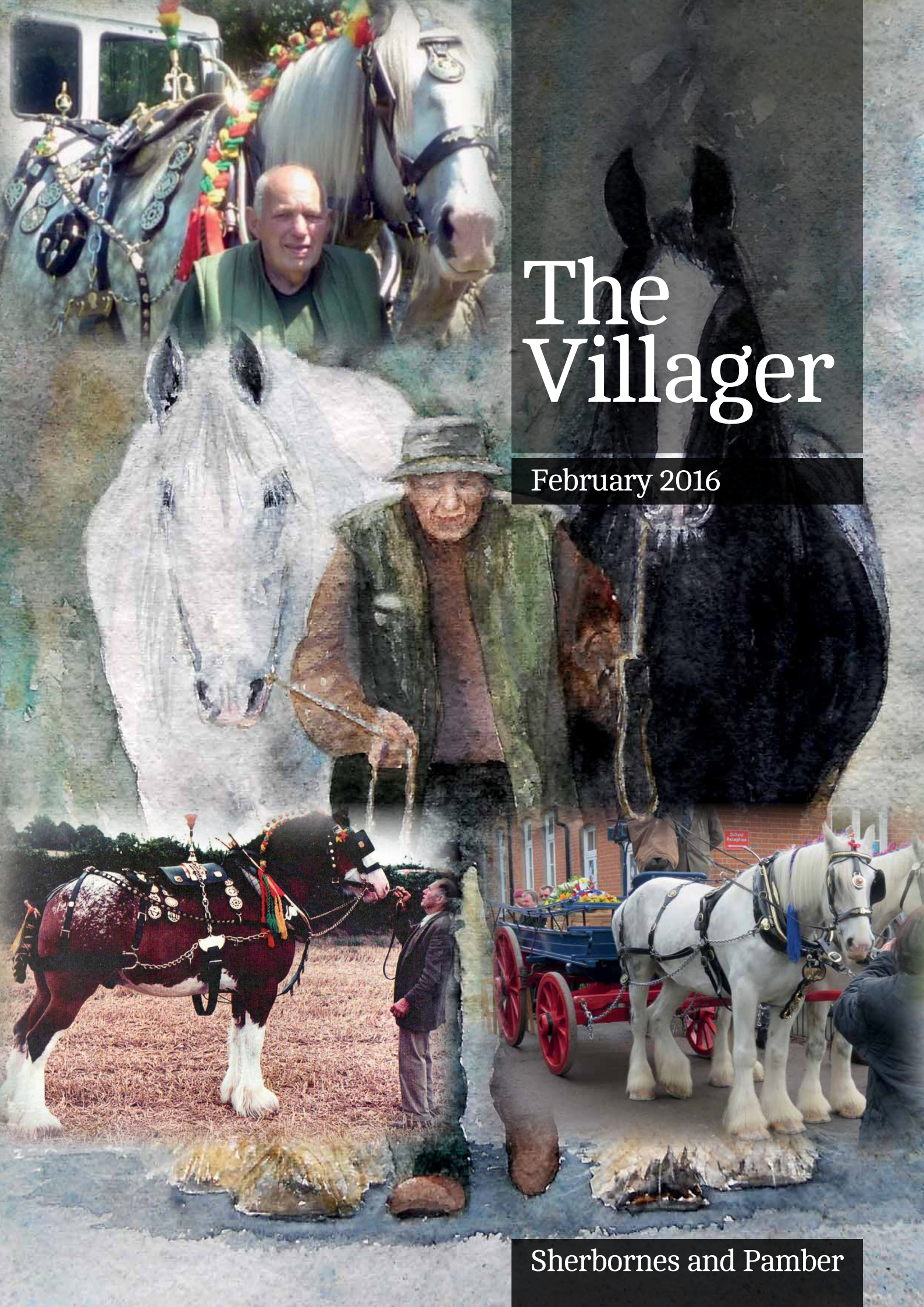




The Villager

February 2016

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

This month we say goodbye to several much respected “treasures” in Sherborne St John: John Wilson and his wonderful Shire horses, and Janet Page our postmistress.

We are saddened by John’s passing and the fact that his horses have now been rehomed in the Winchester area; we will all miss the sight and the sound of them plodding through the village.

We acknowledge the huge contribution made by Janet and her team in the post office to all our lives. Their hard work, sense of service, cheerfulness and community spirit will be sadly missed – to say nothing of their amazing costumes at Christmas! We wish Janet and Mose good health in their retirement.

Julie Crawley - Editor

Dear Villagers

We can’t believe that we are finally having to write this! As most of you are aware we finally close the doors to our beloved Post Office for the last time on the 25th January and will officially leave our home on the 1st February.

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support, loyalty and friendship since 1999, through the good times, the bad times, the highs and the lows. Some of the villagers have always been supportive where possible and the Post Office has always been the central point in the village, more often to meet up with friends old and new, to find out the gossip but most importantly to find out vital information regarding Sherborne St John.

I would like to personally thank you all, old and young who have helped me deliver the papers in all weathers over the years (you know who you are) and also to thank Sue Bruce & Shelley Moore for assisting in the Post Office, especially so we could go on holiday and have a well-deserved day off. But we wouldn’t be here today without the help, love and support of all our family, who often stepped in giving up their time just for love.

The Post Office is also our home and we will be leaving some treasured memories behind. One of the best days was when we got married, we were blessed in the church and had our wedding reception in the village hall. It’s not just us who have memories, all of our family have great memories too, especially the annual family BBQ!

Mose and I have met some great people over the years and some are now great friends, some are no longer with us but that does not stop us remembering them and talking about old times.

It will break our hearts to walk away, as we will always love the village. The day has finally come, it’s now our precious time to spend with each other, our children and grandchildren. All that leaves us to say is that we wish you all the best for the future and we hope that you will welcome Mr & Mrs Duckworth into the village the same way as you did us.

Take care, God bless, we are looking forward to our retirement and putting our feet up!

Janet & Mose

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

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Future Events

February 2016

1 - 29	Sherfield Gallery Open Art Exhibition, Sherfield School, RG27 0HU, 22 Jan – 4 March,	9am – 5pm
5	SSJ Women's Fellowship, AGM, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
8	Pelican Film Society Grand Seduction A light hearted comedy Ark Conference Centre, guests £5	7.30pm
9	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
22	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

March 2016

1	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Thai Carving Art, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
1 - 4	Sherfield Gallery Open Art Exhibition, Sherfield School, RG27 0HU, 22 Jan – 4 March,	9am – 5pm
7	Pelican Film Society, Suffragette Ark conference Centre, Guests £5	7.30pm
8	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion	7.30pm

April 2016

4	Pelican Film Society, Lady in the Van, Ark conference Centre, Guests £5	7.30pm
5	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Landscape Photography in the British Isles, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
12	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
17	Woof & Wellies, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
25	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

May 2016

3	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Jonathan Jones IS Rudyard Kipling, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
9	Pelican Film Society, Brooklyn, Ark conference Centre, Guests £5	7.30pm
10	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
11	5 and 10 K Run, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
16	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
19	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, (Thursday) Chute Pavilion	7.30pm

June 2016

5	Sunflower Fete, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
7	SSJ Women's Fellowship, The Dragon and The Damsel, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
14	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
27	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm



Charity Plant Stall 2015

2015 was an excellent gardening year especially for flowers and as a result, and with your help, we have managed to raise £4,321 for Macmillan Cancer Support, selling plants, cut flowers, fresh fruit and vegetables, planted tubs and cards.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fantastic sum by bringing along their surplus plants and vegetables and to all those who stopped to buy from us.

This year we will again have a stall on the drive of Lynten House in Monk Sherborne and hope you will continue to support us – as with last year all proceeds will go to Macmillan.

We hope to open the stall late February/early March (weather permitting) with daffodils selling at 50p a bunch. We will also have pots of bulbs, primroses, polyanthus, wallflowers and an even wider variety of perennials, the majority of which will be 50p a pot.

Later in the year we will continue to sell freshly cut flowers from our garden at only £1 per bunch. These prove extremely popular and last year we sold almost 1300 bunches.

Many thanks again to everyone who supported us and if you haven't visited the stall we hope you will give it a try next year. It's a very worthwhile charity.

Chris & Bebe Moore

Try Something New for 2016 & Learn to Dance

Mondays (Excluding Bank Holidays)

Line Dancing

(Fun mixture of Latin & American line)

12:15pm - 1:15pm - Weekly Class

(Class not suitable for complete beginners)

Tea Dance

(Ballroom, Latin American & Popular Sequence)

2:00pm - 4:00pm

£3.50 per person / per week

Inclusive of Tea & Biscuits

Fridays

Intermediate

Ballroom - Latin - Sequence

7:30pm - 8:30pm - Weekly Class

(Class not suitable for complete beginners)

Stage 2 Beginners

Ballroom - Latin - Sequence

8:30pm - 9:30pm - Weekly Class

(Class not suitable for complete beginners)

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Wednesday mornings
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Church Matters February

Last month David Bowie died. Whether or not “his music was part of the soundtrack of your life” to quote one writer¹, Bowie’s death was an event almost impossible to miss. Tributes and appreciations occupied a large part of the news that day. All sorts of eminent people felt bound to comment on Facebook, Twitter and doubtless other social media. The Times covered its issue of Tuesday 12 January with a 4 page spread of photographs and lyrics. Radio 4 played rock and roll! Every aspect of the media seemed to have to comment at length.

¹ David Robertson <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/david.bowies.death.grief.and.the.frustration>

² See Robertson’s article.

³ John 3:13

⁴ See Hebrews 9:27

Why was that? Not many stars get this kind of treatment. If Bowie did not belong to your era nor you to his you may well wonder what all the fuss was about. Perhaps it was the surprise factor – not many people knew he was ill. Bowie managed to keep his cancer a secret, right to the end. Friends who discovered it were sworn to secrecy. So his death came as a huge shock to everyone. It seems that he thrived on creating shock waves. At stages of his life he revelled in debauchery. However he moved from being gay/bisexual to being heterosexual. He even stated that he believed in God: “I have an undying belief in God’s existence. For me it is unquestionable” he said².

It is not unusual for pop stars to include heaven in their songs: Bob Dylan was “Knocking on heaven’s door”; Eric Clapton knew “there’ll be no more tears in heaven”; John Lennon was rather more negative “Imagine there’s no heaven”.

Nevertheless it is noticeable that such stars are a good deal less embarrassed talking about heaven than we are. Why is that? Do we perhaps associate such discussion with a kind of enthusiasm which makes us embarrassed? And yet of all people Christians should be the most ready to talk about it. Let me give you three reasons for that.

First, we know the one who came from heaven³. Jesus is the only one with authority to tell us about heaven, because he came from there when he entered our world and he returned there after he was killed. He was raised to eternal life never to die again. Second we know that we cannot presume on heaven – there is judgment to come⁴. God has made it clear that the only way through to glory is personal faith in his Son, Jesus Christ. Without that all talk of heaven is misplaced. Thirdly we know that the opportunity to believe is right now and it will not last for ever. Despite the way that the things of this world are so absorbing we have to get our eyes off this present existence and focus on the issues of eternity.

It is our responsibility to teach this reality to the world. Otherwise all they will have is the confused chorus of popular music.

John Hamilton



Services for February

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

7 February

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

14 February

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

21 February

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

28 February

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

6 March

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM

Feb 7	Life or death?	Romans 6:23	John Hamilton
Feb 14	Why people don't believe	2Cor 4:1-5	Scott Seivewright & Steve Howe
Feb 21	How people do believe	2Cor.4:5-14	Scott Seivewright
Feb 28	Futile fires	Isaiah 50	John Hamilton & Andy Spence
Mar 6	Return of the rescued	Isaiah 51	Andrew King

SUNDAYS AT SIX

Feb 7	The Warrior's authority	Luke 4:31-37	Steve Howe
Feb 14	The Warrior's priority	Luke 4:38-44	Andy Spence
Feb 21	The Warrior's army	Luke 5:1-11	Scott Seivewright
Feb 28	The Warrior's touch	Luke 5:12-16	Scott Seivewright
Mar 6	The Warrior's power	Luke 5:17-26	John Hamilton

MIDWEEK MEETINGS

HOME GROUPS meet on the weeks beginning 1 & 22 Feb.

On Tuesday 9 Feb we conclude THE HUMAN JOURNEY: 8-9pm in the Parish Room.

Theme: Global health: who is my neighbour?

PRAYING TOGETHER. While there should always be time for prayer at all our meetings we will meet specifically to pray on THURSDAY afternoons at 2.15 pm.

This month we meet on Thursdays 4, 11 & 25. Finish by 3 pm.

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I am a fully qualified counsellor and an accredited member of the BACP – British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and as such, I am committed to abide by their code ethics.

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Recognising the difficulty in choosing a counsellor, I offer an initial 30-minute session to help you decide whether or not you would like us to work together.

Please contact me, Louise, on Tel: 07565 879401 or e-mail: louise@lwcounselling.co.uk. Website: lwcounselling.co.uk



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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

The Parish Council would first like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous new year.

Highways

We are again at that time of year when potholes start to appear in our roads and grow over night! Could we ask anyone who notices the potholes to visit the Hampshire County Council web site and report the problem. We understand one complaint notifies them of the problem, however fixing them is dependent on the number of reports received, and therefore the quicker they will be repaired. The annual temporary repair to the pot holes from the church to the A339 has been carried out.

The Parish Council are investigating the report of there being a locked gate to footpath 6 behind Field Barn cottages.

Planning

The planning application for a picking station at Manor Farm has been approved with the inclusion of a noise level condition.

Manydown are proposing a pre-application submission to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for demolition of the barns at Rookery Farm and replacement with three dwellings.

Playground

Following a playground inspection, the

beam to the top of the climbing net has now been replaced.

Litter

We have had reports of an increase in the amount of litter being dropped around the village and would like to give our thanks to the parishioner who takes the time to tour the village picking up the litter.

We would also like to thank Councillor Boyle for his efforts in clearing the drain on the corner by The Mole and village hall following the recent flooding.

Cllr Spencer.

Pamber Parish Council

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

Planning applications:

15/03634/ROC: Amendment. Variation of condition 1 of planning consent 14/02338/FUL (Installation of a solar park and associated works to include a temporary roadway and construction compound, security fencing and landscaping works) to allow an alternative site layout. Variation of conditions 3 to 11, 15 to 16 and 20, for works to be carried out in accordance with submitted details

Land At Berry Court Farmhouse
Bramley Road Little London.

Resolved at meeting: No objection

15/04281/HSE: Erection of two storey rear extension and a single storey side extension to include new chimney and balcony to rear

Pamber Farm Bramley Road Little London.

Resolved at meeting: No objection.

Planning decisions made by the Borough Council:

15/03172/FUL: Erection of 1 no. four bed dwelling

Land Adjacent To Barnsted (Plum

Trees) Green Lane Pamber Green.

GRANTED

15/04079/OHL: Erection of new 10m high H pole with associated apparatus Pole P45 At Ash Park PV, Land Rear Of Frog Lane, Little London.

RAISE NO OBJECTION

Co-option of New Councillor

Mrs. Andromeda Witchalls was co-opted onto Pamber Parish Council as a representative of the south ward. After taking her Declaration of Acceptance of Office she was welcomed onto the council by the other members.

Pamber Parish Council now has a full complement of ten councillors (five from the north ward and five from the south ward).

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Councillors agreed to proceed with the application to join the scheme and approved the proposal that Pamber should be a lead parish. This would involve carrying out the administration for a cluster of parishes. Having a parish lengthsman would mean that some of the repairs and maintenance that Hampshire County Council is no longer able to carry out could be undertaken by the parish.

Budget

The budget was agreed and the precept set at £26,500. This was a slight increase from last year which was necessary to cover the increased costs of maintenance and administration in the parish.

Little London Telephone Box

Plans are going ahead to set up a Book Exchange as the kiosk is no longer needed for the defibrillator. Mr. Rob Huitson has kindly offered to run the scheme so please deliver any spare books that you wish to donate to Rob at 5, Beach's Crescent, Little London.

The next meeting of Pamber Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 8th February 2016 in The Memorial Hall, Pamber Heath. 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) 882571

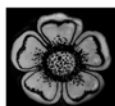


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SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan

This is progressing well. We have a draft plan that we will soon present to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for their informal review prior to the formal submission. Once the Plan has been accepted by BDBC all Parishioners will then be asked to vote, by way of a referendum, as to whether or not the Parish accepts the plan.

Village Shop

There is one key issue that needs to be resolved prior to the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan, that of the village shop.

The Parish Council has been offered premises from which a new village shop could operate. However there are a number of financial issues that need to be resolved prior to the Parish Council being happy to take on fiscal responsibilities for any new premises.

To that end the Parish Council has employed the services of a Retail Consultant to properly and impartially review the options and then report back to the Council as to his conclusions.

As part of this process a number of Parishioners have put their names forward to be interviewed as to their viewpoint on a new shop. If you haven't done so and would like to please contact the Parish Clerk (ssjclerk@gmail.com)

The intent is to then make available the Consultant's report and ask Parishioners to vote as to the preferred way forward.

Finally by the time you read this the current Shop/Post Office will be no more, having been sold as a private residence. We wish Janet and her family all the best and a happy, well deserved retirement.

The Chute

December and January seem to be the months of goodbyes as Judith Darmady and John Edwards have 'retired' from their Chute responsibilities. It should be noted that both Judith and John selflessly gave freely of their time to look after the Chute for a number of years and it is thanks to them the Chute is the successful, vibrant facility that it is.

We have a new bookings administrator, Shawna Campbell, and a new caretaker, Ed Campbell. Both have a tough act to follow.

Ed's position as caretaker is currently only contracted to the end of March. There will a formal recruitment process for a permanent replacement as caretaker for both the Chute and the Village Hall.

You will also note the recent improvements at the Chute – a new shed for storage and the main fabric of the building itself being spruced up. We're nearly there as the last piece of the puzzle is the refurbishment of the tennis courts, planned for the spring.

Dog Fouling

Over the Christmas/New Year holidays a number of folk have contacted me as to a significant increase in dog fouling, especially so along the Church Path which we know is a popular walk with the family to feed the ducks.

It's not funny and it's not clever. Please do clear up after your pet.

New Councillors

We have 2 new councillors, Becky Jones and Carl Davies. Becky you will know as a result of her many and various Village Review appearances. Carl has recently moved to the village. Welcome both.

May next year will see the whole Parish Council up for re-election. If you're interested this is your chance to play an active role in the development of the village.

New Website

The next few months will see the birth of a new website. Given the amount of activity the PC has decided to outsource the web site to an organisation that runs a number of PC web sites.

The outline shell of the web site is built.

More as it progresses.

And Finally.....

On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you for your support during 2015. It's been a busy year and no doubt 2016 will be the same..

Best wishes to you and yours for 2016.

Richard Morgan

Chair, SSJ Parish Council

Thought for the Month

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

Robert A. Heinlein

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

I must be a sad case! I start writing my page for this month in Spain during the Christmas and New Year break. It is very mild this year with no rainfall during our time here and, more significantly, no Tramuntana wind to 'rock the boat'. We certainly have enjoyed better weather whilst you were doing battle with storms, heavy rain and rising flood water (even though the temperatures were kind). We haven't done not a great deal in terms of activity though too much in terms of food and alcohol but it would be rude to reject the Spanish hospitality wouldn't it.

Only recently I noticed the January 2015 Parish Council minutes noting the consideration of providing a notice board at Pamber Green. The minutes go on to say "After discussion, it was agreed not to proceed with the project as no suitable site could be identified". I don't know what criteria constituted a suitable site but I would have thought a number of locations were possible. As communication is key in any 'committee to membership' relationship, somewhere is surely better than nowhere. I'm sure there used to be a notice board adjacent to the A340 bus stop at the end of New Road, Pamber Green or perhaps next to the post box opposite Green Lane, Pamber Green would be deemed suitable. Any thoughts appreciated either via me or direct to clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk or 01256 882571.

The November 2015 Parish minutes note The Monitoring Officer (BDBC) is carrying out investigations into Code of Conduct complaints against Cllrs Gardiner, Hale, Kingston, March, McGarvie and Young. I will report further when the result is to hand. I received email updates from Cllr Gardiner providing some expansion to my comments and questions in my last article about the two planning applications in Pamber End and Little London. Regarding the outline application for 4 houses, 2 bungalows and a village hall at Berry Court Farm, Little London, the planning decision due on 17th November 2015 was delayed and is likely to go before BDBC Development Control in January or February 2016. I also understand from other sources that the planning application on the A340, Pamber

End also has not been to committee although the Parish Council has raised objections to this application. Both are emotive topics in the Parish and your views can still be heard so contact me if you so wish. Cllr Gardiner also commented on the proposed County Ward changes to reduce it in size by moving out some villages on the edge of the ward but Pamber will see no change. It also appears that Cllr Chapman has indicated that he does not intend standing in the 2017 elections so new candidates will be encouraged to stand as a replacement. Finally on Parish matters, interest has been shown in the South Ward vacancy and this is due for discussion at the January Parish Council meeting. The Parish meeting will take place on 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall. There is always an agenda item allowing participation of the public so please take this opportunity to have your voice heard.

The felling in Mariner's Copse has now finished. The weather was kind to them and the track damage not as bad as in previous years, as shown by the photo sent to me by parishioner David Spencer. However, now the weather has deteriorated and no doubt the view of the ruts will now be significantly worse and longer lasting. The tales I hear of the condition of the paths at the moment is far from encouraging.



One benefit of our trip to Spain was the newspaper 'food parcel' our son, Thomas, brought out when he flew to meet us. I have written before in the Villager of my very enjoyable involvement with Tadley Singers and Basingstoke Ladies Choir and an article in the Telegraph (repeated in a number of other national newspapers) caught my eye. It spoke highly in favour of the benefits of singing and joining a choir, something I can vouch for myself and a topic parishioner Dai Ogborn wrote about in the Villager a year ago. The article expanded on new guidance from

the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) that said older people should be offered more activities to keep them healthy and happy. NICE said councils should do more to offer group activities, such as singing programmes and, in particular, "those involving a professionally led community choir". The advice was issued after considering dozens of studies, including four that tracked the happiness levels of those assigned to join a choir, and said singing has been proved to lower stress, relieve anxiety, elevate endorphin levels in a similar way to exercise and increase levels of happiness. The watchdog said the evidence showed a clear benefit in preventing a decline in independence and possible onset of dementia though this may be partly due to the "group-based nature" of the activity. In our local area we are blessed with a number of excellent choirs meeting these criteria. In addition to the two I am involved with, there is the Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir and a range of others to suit everyone, details of which can be found on the internet under the banner "Basingstoke Festival of Choirs" or email the Secretary, Marilyn Wright, on wrights@flyingpiano.plus.com. Alternatively, please contact me and I will provide you with a contact. Later this year, you will find an opportunity to see this enthusiasm in action with the Basingstoke Festival of Choirs (BFOC) Concert at the Anvil on Sunday 10th July focusing on the Best of British – more to come about this in later magazines.

I am heartened that I receive some comments about my articles which clearly show there are some of you out there who read them. I am always happy to raise topics that are of interest within the parish and, if need be, ruffle a few feathers to make some progress. In addition, the spreading of parish news more widely is hopefully of interest to a wider audience.

Though probably a distant memory to you, I hope you enjoyed the festive period and feel able to face the rest of the winter. Let's hope the weather sees an improvement and leads us into a swift start to glorious spring.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

My Family and Other Setbacks at Probus Club

A laugh a minute was the conclusion of members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social organisation for retired professionals and business managers, after the talk by Mel Rees about his growing up, marriage, family and typical problems he encountered through his life.

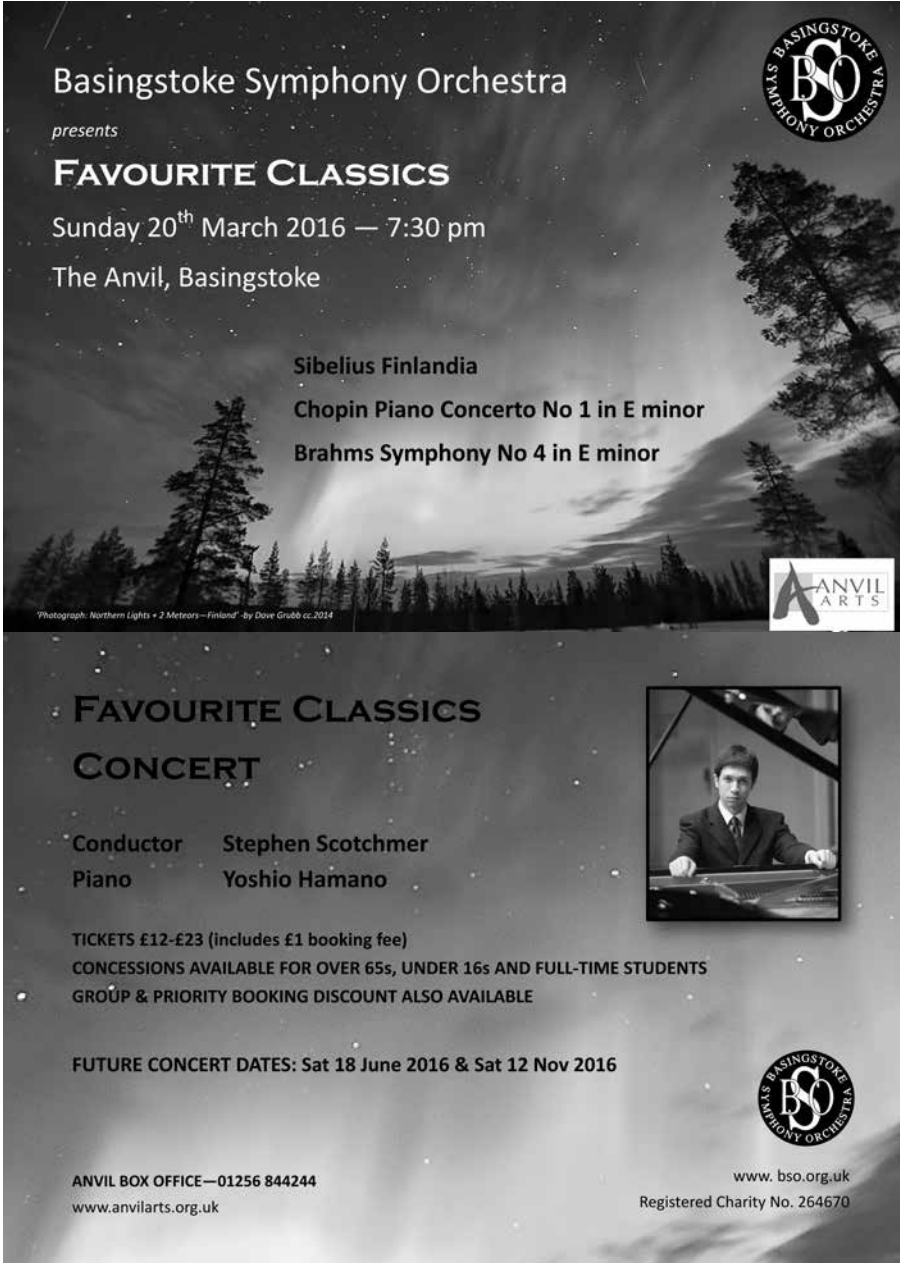
Born in Battersea in 1947 he spent most of his youth train spotting at Clapham Junction which while equipping him with the ability to instantly identify a Castle Class locomotive, had a detrimental effect in his teenage years frustrating his attempts at getting girl friends. He confessed that many chat up lines were frequently practised in front of a mirror at home.

Clearly successful with one girl he initially considered to be out of his league after two years of marriage they moved to Ash Vale where they continue to live in the area. He is the father of three children and is thankful that two have fledged the nest and he would appreciate any suggestions for disposing of the third.

Employment problems resulted in him working all hours to make ends meet; working as a copy advertisement/photographer for the weekly car magazine then known as the Thames Valley Trader while at the same time painting skips at a paper mill. It was at this time that he started to put together tales of the past and his serious and humorous thoughts of life.

His first semi auto-biographical book was ready in 1989 but he was unable to find a publisher. In desperation and with a firm belief in his abilities as a writer he self published. He has now written five books under the umbrella of his own publishing company, the Trouser Press, using the pseudonym Anthony Mann. All have been sold through leading bookshops such as WH Smiths, Waterstones and many independent book sellers. Some have been selected as the book of the month in the national press. Naturally all titles were available to purchase after his talk.

More information about the Probus Club can be seen on their web site www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or ring their secretary Paul Flint for an informal chat on 07770 886521.



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The Village says Farewell to John Wilson 14 December 2015

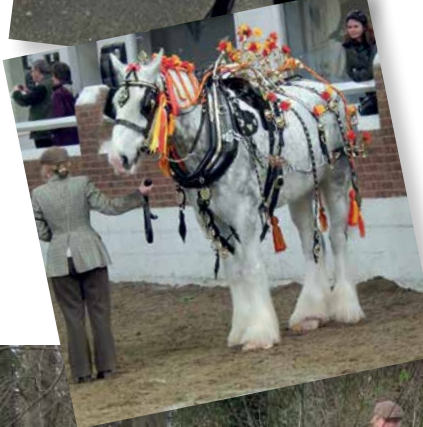


On a grey and damp December day, mourners and enthusiasts from the world of steam and heavy horses, and some villagers in Sherborne St John, lined the pavement in Elm Road and around the green in the village centre, to watch the cortege of John as it moved down Elm Road towards the church. His favourite horses, Silver and Herbie, pulled the cart containing John's coffin, and the youngest, 2 year old recent acquisition of John's, followed at the rear. John and I have never experienced such a moving sight.

St Andrew's Church was full, and the tributes paid were interesting as well as full of affection for a man who clearly lived for his horses.

Over the years we have been treated to the sound of heavy hooves on the roads around the village as well as seeing those magnificent and dignified animals, as John and his helpers have walked the horses to their new grazing grounds. Doubtless, the showing world of heavy horses will never be the same, nor will our village fetes, as John delighted children and adults alike with his beautifully turned out and decorated horses, with their brasses gleaming and ribbons tied in their manes and tails.

Farewell John, you will be greatly missed.
John and Liz Edwards



An article from the Portsmouth News written by Bob Hind **Heavyweight in the world of horses dies**

A man well known in the heavy horse industry in the Portsmouth area has died. Cyril Wilson, who lived near Basingstoke, was known locally not only as a train driver but also for never missing the Southsea heavy horse weekend.

Cyril owned five horses at one time and they were all stabled at his home at Sherborne St John. He was christened John Cecil but was always known as Cyril (Editor's note: but in Sherborne St John he was always known as John !). He was born and bred in Hampshire and never moved out of the county.

He began owning horses in 1975 and much to the wonderment of his colleagues on the railway he managed to keep them all in tip-top condition despite the expense. He was helped in their grooming by a bevy of girls. Cyril was not a materialistic man. He did not need a new 48in television, he did not need the latest clothes or a new car every two years. He lived for his 'boys and girls', his horses.

If it came to choosing between a trip to the dentist for expensive treatment or paying a vet's bill, the latter took priority. His love for his family of shires was absolute. Cyril had hands like shovels with skin like heavy sandpaper. When he shook hands with you your hand remained shaken.

Cyril used to love coming to Southsea for the heavy horse show, although he was upset when the council stopped the parade of horses around the roads surrounding the common. Over the years he won many awards for his horses and the walls of his house were covered in winners' rosettes. I last saw him at Southwick in June for the D-Day weekend when his horses pulled a carriage for visitors around the village.



“The Cafe Royale” arrived at Sherborne St John on New Year’s Eve.

Doctor Helen Reed hosted the event and master chef Patsie Callaghan-Brown with her sous chefs put on a sumptuous six course banquet fit for kings (and queens). The black tie event was attended by a number of friends from Sherborne St John and Monk Sherborne; guests also flew in from the Channel Islands for this special event. All went swimmingly well and fortunately there was no Fawlty Towers “the duck’s off” incident! Some of the 30 guests lingered for a late night Strictly Does Disco session in the ballroom/conservatory, which included many of the ladies dancing repeatedly to Bonnie Tyler’s “Holding out for a Hero” as with the gents in attendance these were obviously in short supply!

However, the real heroes of the evening were the organisers and guests who, as well as having a good time, raised £300 towards the Autistic Society, Help for Heroes and Cancer Research.



Piccolo Pre-school Nursery Nativity Play – Sherborne-St-John



At Piccolo we started the Christmas celebrations preparing for our Nativity Play, which has become a favourite of the children, their parents and family. It is a joy for the Piccolo Team to prepare the children for such an occasion.

We started reading the Nativity story, so the children learnt the real meaning of Christmas; they also learnt some lines and some songs.

On the 7th December we invited the Senior Citizens from the Grange Nursing Home, Sherborne St John Bowling Club, Sherborne St John Parish Council, Judith Darmady and John Edwards to our dress rehearsal, some were able to come and loved watching the children perform.

All at Piccolo worked very hard to bring this play to life; all the children took their roles very seriously. It was a joy for all members of staff to watch their



key children performing on the day, taking into consideration that several of the children had only recently turned 2 years old.

Parents and grandparents made comments like: “*The Nativity was absolutely fab today! All the children were so well behaved and it was obvious they had practised a lot! Well done to you and the team! Thank you all again for today,*

it always brings a tear to my eye seeing your little ones perform!”, “*Thank you again for a wonderful morning. It was truly lovely.*”

Claudia R Cafarelli-Hunt
Manager, Piccolo Pre-school Nursery

Bert's Blog



Belated happy Christmas to all my followers, I hope you had a woofing good time. I certainly did, with titbits of turkey and lashings of love. After sniffing all the presents under the tree to ensure none of them had bones inside I

retired to my bed to listen out for distant sleigh bells and then checked the garden for reindeer droppings – didn't find any.

The miniatures put in an appearance, all five of them and showed me how to open presents with the utmost alacrity and speed, almost as quickly as I excavate the garden when searching for my buried bones. The end result was very similar – great joy!

The Boss and I are now deep into the shooting season and I have proudly retrieved many pheasants and partridge for him. It is the time of year I love the most from when he appears at breakfast time dressed in his shooting greens and I wear my green lead with pride knowing I am doing the job I was born for. The freezer is getting stocked for the year and every Sunday I have tasty game titbits to add to my biscuits as well as long snoozes dreaming of running blissfully across the fields.

I wish you all a very happy healthy new year filled with some exciting new smells for sniffing although the Mrs tells me that sniffing and cold moist noses do not have the same health connotations for you as they do for me. I wondered why one of the miniatures kept trying to wipe mine with tissues.....

Sherborne St John Social Club

We've had some really great events at the club recently.

The Children's Christmas party was very popular and Jake the Juggler was brilliant. Santa turned up Christmas Eve, delighting the children of all ages !! . Both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were great family nights out.

On to 2016 and firstly may I remind existing members to pay their subscriptions promptly.

Thinking of joining us ??

New members are most welcome and with our annual subscription still at £18.00 per adult member we are still excellent value for money

Members can hire our function room for a private party/event at very competitive rates, contact the club or go to the website for more details.

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Feb events so far:

Sat 6th Our very popular wine tasting night



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Ode to the Shire Horse - Read by Jim (Jumbo) Lovett at John Wilson's funeral service

Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride,
friendship without envy, or beauty without vanity? Here.
Where grace is laced with muscle and strength by gentleness confined.

He serves without servility; he has fought without enmity.
There is nothing so powerful, there is nothing so quick,
nothing more patient.

England's past has been born on his back.
All our history is in his industry.
We are his heirs.
He, our inheritance.

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by Ronald Duncan (adapted)



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Womens Fellowship

At the January meeting held in Sherborne St. John Village Hall on Tuesday the 5th, we were all delighted to listen to an exciting account by Mrs Sheila Martin (one of our own members) about the world cruise she took last year. The cruise lasted 106 days calling at 36 different ports in a total of 23 countries.

Sheila started off by explaining how her husband Graham and herself were watching a programme on T.V. about the P & O flag ship Canberra in the 1970's, and her remarking that she would love to go on the ship, and her husband replying that one day when they had the money he would take her. In 1985 the Canberra was scrapped so they never got to do this longed for trip. Undeterred, Sheila booked a

Mediterranean cruise to Venice in 1986 and they were instantly smitten with the "Cruising Bug". Many cruises later in January 2015 they set sail in the P & O liner Arcadia from Southampton on their trip of a life time.

Calling first at Vigo in Spain they set off across the Atlantic. They travelled a staggering 34,000 miles, crossing the Equator on the 10th February and the International Date Line on the 12th into the 14th (they missed out the dreaded 13th of that month at least).

Arriving back in good "Old Blighty" on the 11th April they had finally circumnavigated the world as they had once dreamed of doing all those years before. Asked what had been the biggest highlight of the whole trip for her Sheila



laughingly replied "Riding an elephant bareback in Thailand".

The "Cruising Bug" still actively rampant in their blood Sheila and Graham are off to New Orleans and Miami now in April of this year. GOOD LUCK and many more happy cruises to you say I and all their friends and family.

Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



At the January meeting Tony Brazier, the Secretary, gave details of the forthcoming trips to Winchester and the Ghurkha Museum on Thursday 18th February and Cadbury World on Thursday 17th March.

The speaker was Ian McEvoy who gave a photographic account of his visit to Antarctica which entailed flying to Argentina and then sailing to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Orkneys and on to the peninsula of Antarctica itself. He travelled with an expedition that was going to do

research on the continent and explained that it was only scientists themselves who were able to travel further inland towards the South Pole. Strict hygiene precautions were necessary wherever they went ashore to ensure that they did not contaminate any of the habitat. He showed many photographs taken at the different locations where there was an abundance of birds, penguins, seals and whales but plant life was restricted to those that grew low and could survive in the really cold climate.

After thanking Ian for his interesting

talk John announced that the next meeting will be on 3rd February when the speaker will be Mervyn Annetts from Mervyn's Coaches

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am – 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. The programme of speakers and trips for this year is now available and can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com.

David Cowling

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Sherborne St. John



Our Draft Neighbourhood Plan is ready for review – first by the Parish Council and then BDBC. There is a formal programme which allows for residents’ to make further comment, review by an independent Inspector, and a final SSJ Referendum. We hope to have a new website with all the key information up and running within days – it will be linked to the SSJPC website.

Julian Crawley
SSJ Neighbourhood Plan

Ted Wilkinson, Area Co-ordinator.
e.mail ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com

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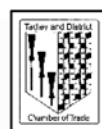
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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

Welcome back to 2016, and by the time that this Villager is distributed we will be nearly at half term!

We have some exciting projects for this half of term. Key Stage 1 are looking at castles, and were thrilled to receive an 'invitation' from the Queen to visit Windsor Castle to find out all about it. Class 3 are learning about the Ancient Egyptians, and we are all looking forward to the day when they have a practical lesson in mummification – luckily it is only fish that are mummified! It is always a fascinating moment when the fish that were mummified two years ago are dug up, and we can see how well they have been preserved!

Class 4 have a project entitled 'May the Force be with You' which is rather

topical but unfortunately they are not spending the term studying Star Wars! The children are looking at different forces around us; this is a topic that has plenty of hands-on science and DT and follows on well from their visit to the Winchester Science Museum in December.

All of our Year 6 pupils went on a week's residential course at the Stubbington Study Centre in January and took part in team building activities as well as studying the local wildlife habitats. Meanwhile you may have seen the Year 5 children taking part in their Bikeability sessions around the Village – they learn about road safety and awareness as well as how to look after their bikes. Some children from Class 3 have taken part in focussed group

sessions at the Vyne – the first group in January were studying bats.

In February we have a strong focus on literacy. We are running our own 500 words short story competition; all the children will write a story and these will be judged within school. The best stories will also be submitted to the Radio 2 500 words competition. Our School Book Week will be the week beginning 8th February and we are planning plenty of activities linked to reading, including an author visit. Everyone will have the opportunity to dress up as a book character on the final day of the half term!

Sherbert – SSJ School Villager Correspondent

The Priory Primary School NSPCC Christmas Fair

Our children, like many others, I am sure, have been thinking about their resolutions for 2016. Here are some of their good intentions!

My first resolution is to clean out my hamster. I made this resolution because when I had two gerbils my mum ended up cleaning them out even though they belonged to me. My second resolution which is both respectful to my neighbours and my family is to stop playing my music so loudly!

Lily

My resolution is to keep my room tidy because every time my parents come into my room they complain about how messy it is so I would like to prove to them that I can keep my room spotless!

Daniel

My resolution is to do more sports activities like running and basketball so I stay healthy, keep fit and energetic!

Maggie

My resolution is to try new food because I'm a very fussy eater and I don't eat a lot!

Evie

This year my resolution is to try to be a kinder person to everyone and I think I should help my mum and dad more with the washing up after meals and be more helpful to the teachers at school!

Aidan

Whatever your hopes and dreams are for the coming months, on behalf of everyone at The Priory, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2016 and once again, extend a very warm welcome to you to visit our school.

Suzanne Kelly, Head Teacher

It seems a long time ago now but we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fair held in conjunction with the NSPCC at the end of November. We raised just over £1000 in total, the table hire money plus an extra £100 was donated to the NSPCC, a further £100 was sent to the Basingstoke appeal to help feed the homeless over the Christmas period and the remainder for the Village Hall fund – as you may have noticed the hall has been redecorated outside and is being decorated inside at the moment so this was a welcome addition to the funds.

Thank you again

Sue Burlingham and Angela McArt

The Sherbornes Society of Bell Ringers



On Christmas Eve, 24th December 2015, the bells of St Andrew's, Sherborne St John were rung continuously for a large part of the morning. A group of Basingstoke ringers were ringing a Christmas peal, some 20 years since the last full peal was rung at the church (November 1995), and it was the 25th full peal ever rung on these bells. They rang the peal of Surprise Minor in 2 hours 46 minutes, and it consisted of 5040 changes (made up of 720 changes in seven different methods). The ringers, all belonging to the Basingstoke District but not from our local band, are also members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, an old-established and prestigious bellringing society based

in St Martins-in-the-Fields in London. It dates back to the very early days of English change ringing. Their first 'Name Book' dates from 1747.

After the ringing was finished the group had lunch at the Swan and, by way of relaxation went on to ring a quarter peal (about 44 minutes) elsewhere.

Our local band rings for services at Sherborne St John and at Monk Sherborne and also helps at Baughurst, Wolverton and Silchester. Our practice night is on Thursday, 8pm to 9.30pm at St Andrew's and we warmly welcome anyone who wishes to learn to ring bells.

Tower Captain, Keith Gillings,
0118 981 3242

BAOS Presents West Side Story

The Haymarket 8th – 12th March 2016

Can true love conquer all?

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Following the sell-out success of Hairspray, BAOS is set to bring the streets of New York in the mid 50s back to Basingstoke. The story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is vividly and emotionally brought to life through the rivalry of the Jets and the Sharks in Bernstein's musical masterpiece. Two teenage street gangs from different ethnic backgrounds. As war builds between the two gangs, the Sharks from Puerto Rico are taunted by the Jets of New York. When Tony, a Jet ready to leave the gang life behind, falls for the beautiful Maria, the sister of the Sharks' leader Bernardo, tension escalates between the two groups. All

leading to a violent rumble that will leave your heart racing. Watch as the two young lovers desperately try to find a way to be together despite living in a time of much hate and ignorance.

With songs such as 'America', 'Somewhere', 'Tonight', 'I Feel Pretty', 'One Hand, One Heart' and 'Jet Song', it's a show full of emotion, strength and intense dance numbers.

£16 Tuesday.

£20 Wednesday - Saturday.

£13 for under 16's all shows.

£1 reduction for Students and over 65's

Group discount on bookings of 10 or more at £1 discount per ticket

Peace and goodwill to all?

Christmas and New Year have now long gone, but sadly not everyone experienced peace and goodwill to all men, or women. Domestic incidents are the only identified incident type that each year shows a significantly higher level of reporting in the run-up to Christmas and New Year. On average over the past ten years, 20 per cent more domestic incidents have been reported in December than in a similar period earlier in the year.

The financial pressures of Christmas, spending time with distant relatives - or even close relatives that are usually at work/school/college - or simply the desire to give your family the best Christmas ever, can all add to the tension at home.

Now we are well into the New Year, the domestic abuse can potentially continue. Research shows that someone being subjected to domestic abuse is likely to experience 35 separate incidents before calling the Police. Many victims of domestic abuse are reluctant to help the police in pursuing criminal cases against violent partners, or even seek help at all. In nearly a quarter of the cases reported to police, these are repeat offences.

New measures were introduced to provide an enhanced criminal justice service in high risk cases to make sure that more is done now, to prevent repeat

victims of the future. This includes providing enhanced victim care and pursuing cases to court wherever possible, even when a victim may change their mind about supporting a complaint.

There are often many reasons why victims are reluctant to prosecute the perpetrator. For example, they may fear that their actions will exacerbate a violent situation and increase the danger they face. Although this poses significant challenges for the Police, it is vital that everything is done to protect domestic abuse victims and help them break the cycle of abuse.

The Police understand that victims are frequently most at risk from a coercive and controlling partner when they seek help, or try to end a relationship. Through this joint approach with the CPS the Police will make sure that victims are well supported, right from the moment they first call to the conclusion of a trial. They will also prosecute cases wherever they can in order to help survivors of domestic abuse break the cycle of violence against them.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from domestic abuse, do speak out. Visit the Hampshire & IOW Domestic Abuse Forum website www.hampshiredomesticabuse.org.uk to

find out about local services and where to go for help and advice. Do not suffer in silence. If you do not want to get involved but suspect someone is suffering from domestic abuse, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Just tell us what you know, not who you are.

PC 741 Simon Wright

24/7 Intelligence Team

Hampshire Constabulary Operational Headquarters, Mottisfont Court, Tower Street, Winchester, SO23 8ZD

Tel: 02380 478 247 Int: 463 1600

E-mail: simon.wright@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Remember – if you have information about ANY crime, please do not hesitate to give Crimestoppers a call on 0800 555111 or log on to www.crimestoppers-uk.org when you can also give information anonymously. If you are tweeting, please follow me @HantsCrimestopp

BEWARE!! – Computer Scam

Early on the morning of 7th January I was logged to a wildlife forum when a pop up together with a shrill alarm, appeared on my screen informing me that there was a critical problem with my lap top and to ring BT support on an 0800 number.

I rang the number (08004101027) and spoke to an Asian gentleman who called himself Dee. He spoke to me using the same terminology that BT support workers use and asked if he could access my pc to check the problem. I stupidly allowed this and he proceeded to do remote tests on my lap top. He informed me that:-

1. There were 479 viruses on my lap top that would infect all pcs in the house.
2. There was also 2 Trojans
3. He said that I had 2 hours or my pc would crash and be unusable forever
4. I would have to invest in a piece of software from Microsoft to stop this happening even though I had McAfee,

which he said, would not achieve the required result.

5. He said he would do what he could but would also send the information to Microsoft who would phone me for credit card info as this was not covered by my BT contract. It would cost me £399 to buy the software for a lifetime, or £299 for an annual (renewal) package.

He gave me his phone number 08000780008 and said if I hadn't heard from Microsoft within 15 minutes, I should phone him again.

Just then our son Graeme arrived and told me - in no uncertain terms - I had been scammed and I could be in trouble had I given any information about my bank account.

When the phone rang next Graeme answered and it was the person who was going to take money from me. Graeme told him that it was a scam, he was to stop doing anything to my PC and the police would be informed, the call was abruptly terminated.

I have subsequently spoken to BT who have confirmed that it is a scam, and gave me a number to ring to talk to their Nuisance/Broadband department and suggested I inform the Police.

Interestingly, the scammer made a further attempt through a subsequent phone call, once again giving the same number as above. The caller again had an Asian accent and insisted that he represented Microsoft and that my computer was beset with problems. He persisted even though he was informed that I knew differently and that the Police would be contacted. This time it was me that terminated the call. Subsequently my son, Graeme, restored (at no cost and very little effort) the computer to good order.

Doreen Turner

Recent Police Incidents reported in the Villager Area

02/12/2015 between 22.28 – 22.45 hours – Manor Road, Sherborne St John – Unknown persons have used a tool to force the front UPVC door of the property, the address has been entered and a table draw in the hallway has been opened. It is suspected the offender/s were after the car keys to the vehicle which was parked on the driveway, the offender/s left empty handed when the house alarm sounded. This incident is still under investigation.

19/12/2015 between 19.50 – 20.00 hours – Cranes Road, Sherborne St John – Police were called to the address

after a neighbour heard the house alarm sounding and what they thought was a figure in the back garden, a search was conducted of the grounds, no person located and the address was still secure. Fresh damage had been caused to the hedge row where the offender/s gained entry to the garden.

02/01/2016 18.00 – 03/01/2016 09.00 – Salters Heath Road, Monk Sherborne – A rear garden shed which was unlocked at the time was entered by offender/s and a number of tools stolen, the day before this incident a vehicle was sighted driving around the area, details below.

Suspicious Vehicle – 02/01/2016 20:00 – 21.00 hours, a suspicious vehicle **M628 UYC** dark blue Subaru estate was seen hanging around the area of Salters Heath Road, Monk Sherborne. If you spot this vehicle or see any other suspicious incident please report via the 101 for Hampshire Police.



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**By Hayley Eachus,
Director and Family
Law Specialist**

How Family Law could help you this New Year

My experience has taught me that Christmas can be a tough time for some relationships; excitable children and long family visits can make for testing times. So often it is the case that a relationship already tense and struggling with problems that had been kept undercover knowingly or unknowingly burst through during the hubbub of the festive season. That unfortunately makes January one of our busiest months of the year as people resolve to start the New Year with a clean slate.

Having supported Relate in North Hampshire as a Board Member I would be the first to recognise that relationships need help from time to time. For a lot of couples relationship counselling should be their first option but if you have pursued this as far as you can; then it may be time for one of our experienced family lawyers to help you. Our team has a wide range of expertise and experience to help and guide you.

Our objective is to help you as quickly and cost-effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family. You will certainly have lots of questions about your rights and the process. Most people going through a divorce or separation would rather avoid having to go to court if possible. We understand that, so we offer a range of services including Mediation, Separation Agreements and Collaborative Law. One of these methods could be right for you.

Mediation is one of the most sensible and cost effective ways of resolving family problems when a relationship has broken down. There is often a lot of distress and anger between you and your partner and family mediation can allow matters to be resolved amicably because you are both equally involved in the decision making. Our trained mediators offer a calm, impartial voice and help you both to limit the conflict so that you can discuss things sensibly and make the right decisions for your family.

If we cannot find a way to resolve your concerns without the use of the courts, then we have the expertise and experience to get the right results for you in the courtroom. We endeavour to guide you through the court process in the most amicable way. All our team are members of Resolution Family Law meaning we follow a Code of Practice that promotes a non-confrontational approach to family problems and encourage

Whatever the issue that you face this New Year, we can help you and your family to find the right way forward at this difficult time. For more information contact Hayley Eachus here at Phillips by calling 01256 460830, email hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk

Small Ads

Enquiries and items for inclusion please contact **Emma Foreman** on **01256 889215/07747 015494** or **advertisingvillager@gmail.com**

- 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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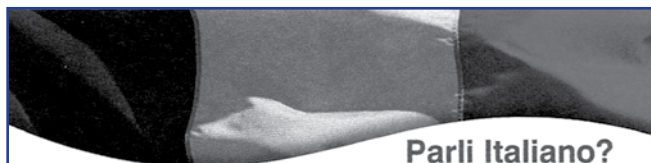
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