



The Villager

September 2016

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

The tennis courts will soon be open again. £40,000 were raised from grants, SSJ Parish Council and Tennis Club. Our thanks to Penny Mayo, Clerk of SSJ Parish Council, for all her hard work in sourcing the money. We hope that more people from Sherbornes with Pamber (and further afield !) will wish to play tennis and enjoy these fabulous rejuvenated facilities.

Contact Paul and Maria Saunders on 01256 850430 for further details re membership/playing etc.

Red Cross Collection – May 2016

Betty Burnett

The total amount collected from the village and Monk Sherborne came to £465.43. Once again I would like to thank the Collectors and also the people of the two villages for giving so generously.

Bus Service Route 2

Ted Wilkinson

The changes which were expected to be implemented at the end of August have been deferred until at least the end of September and possibly October. Stagecoach have not yet decided themselves how to improve the overall service but it is the intention to increase the number of vehicles serving and increase the hospital services. We have to hope that there will be a spin off to improve the frequency through Sherborne St John village. The final outcome will be widely publicised."

And finally *(sent anonymously, but reiterated by many!)*

While walking through the Trip Trap bridge, I have noticed on two occasions that there have been black dog poo bags hanging on a tree and one left on the ground. There are cattle grazing in the field and they could quite easily get hold of one and possibly choke while trying to chew it which could prove very nasty for the animals. I do wish people would take the bags home and put them in their grey bins

The Editorial Team

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

September 2016

4	Monk Sherborne Village Fete	
5	Pelican Film Society The Danish Girl, Ark Conference Centre	7.30
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Annual Outing	TBA
10	Moonlight Walk, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
13	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
17-24	Scarecrow Festival, Sherborne St John	
23	SMH & TC Golf Day, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
24	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

October 2016

3	Pelican Film Society Jimmy's Hall, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Newlyn's Farm Shop, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
11	Bridge with Sparkling Afternoon Tea, SSJ Village Hall, Call Pat 850593 or Tracey 850611	2.00-5.00pm
11	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
15	Concert: Basingstoke Ladies Choir with the Hospital Male Voice Choir United Reform Church in London Street, Basingstoke	7.30pm
22	Race Night, SSJ Village Hall, Cal Hilary 850404 or Tracey 850611	7.30pm
24	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
29	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm

November 2016

1	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Lifetime Shepherd & Storyteller (Part 2) SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
7	Pelican Film Society The Source, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
8	Sherborne St John Parish Council Planning Meeting, Surgery Room, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm
12	SSJ Village Market, Village Hall	10 – 1pm
12	Quiz Night, SSJ Village Hall, Call Hilary 850404 or Tracey 850611	7.30pm
19	NSPCC Fayre, SSJ Village Hall, Call Shawna/Lorah 889434	10.00-4.00pm
28	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

December 2016

4	Light up a Life, St Michael's Hospice, Fundraising Hotline 01256 848848	
5	Pelican Film Society A Little Chaos, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship, Christmas Lunch, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
10	Family Christmas Celebration, SSJ Village Hall,	4.00-6.00pm
19	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting AGM, SSJ Village Hall	7.30pm

January 2017

3	SSJ Women's Fellowship, TBA, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
16	Pelican Film Society Bridge of Spies, Ark Conference Centre	7.30pm

Ramsdell Play Area Refurbishment Project

The new play area is now open. We are very grateful for the funding that we received in the form grants, Charitable Trusts donations and private donations. To help increase the fund, local children held sponsored events. Without the support from the Community, the project would not have been possible. So a big thank you goes to all those that gave their financial support, the residents that worked so hard in producing the plan and clearing the site. Without your help, this project would not have been possible and the community wouldn't have this new smart play area.

Parish Clerk

Sherborne St John Poppy Appeal

31st October-12th November 2016.

I urgently need volunteers to join my team of house to house collectors for this year's Remembrancetide. Many of you may know my lead volunteer Tracey Jeram, who distributes collection boxes and blue trays of the traditional red poppies.



Volunteers are also needed to join my team working 1-hour slots on a rota system, in the main entrance of Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital. The CEO, Mary Edwards, her Management Team and hospital staff extend a warm welcome to us, especially as the Hospital is experienced in treating injured service personnel. We are provided with a table and chair so that volunteers can sit in comfort while they collect. The Management Team also arrange free parking for us! The staff, patients and visitors create a warm atmosphere and make generous donations to help serving and ex-service personnel.

If you are interested, please contact me either by e-mail: jean.young39@virginmedia.com OR by telephone: 01256 350926.

Jean Young, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser,
Sherborne St. John SBA14.



SWP Baby and Toddler Group

Managed by Sherbornes with Pamber church



Autumn Term Come and Play!

Join us for free-play, craft, bible stories and song-time and get to know others in the area. There are teas and coffees for grown ups and a fruit snack-time for the children.

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



Wednesday mornings
(during school term time)

10.00–11.30

Sherborne St John Village Hall



phone Barbara 850173 or Liz 850800

Church Matters September

In a confused world we may well wonder how our children are going to find their way; and if our children have grown up, then our concern will be all the more for our grandchildren. They seem so vulnerable in a world which hits them with corrupt ideas and real danger. It is a world out of control in terms of the influence and even dominance of the electronic media. Through these many unscrupulous people try to corrupt young minds. We wonder what influence will be the dominant one in their lives, and will it be for good or for evil? When political correctness promotes deviant sinful activity, as though it were mainstream, we have every reason to be concerned.

The answer to bad teaching is of course good teaching. The counterweight to unwholesome influence is convictions that are both sound and good. The best way to contradict a bad example is with a good example. The question is where in our day will our children hear good teaching, find convictions that are sound and wholesome and see examples that are good? The alternatives are school,

home, church or the children's peer group, the social media and the internet.

Will it be school? After all, most parents commit their children to school for 5 days a week in term time? No doubt they expect the influence on their children to be helpful and wholesome (or health-giving). Surely most of the time it is – after all there is no TV there! However there are trends in society today, which if followed and promoted as some wish to see, risk creating huge uncertainties in children's minds about something as fundamental as their own identity.

So then, will it be church that gives the good teaching? I certainly hope so! We do have the privilege of teaching Christ to the children who come to us, whether it be in church for the “Spot” over in Sunday Club or at Family Services and Holiday Club. These times are both valuable and important and it is up to us, who have the privilege of teaching the children, to make our teaching as good as it can be. But there is one drawback to church – it is only one hour a week! The teaching can and should be memorable, but the time allowed puts us at a severe disadvantage compared for example to the TV.

Along with the TV goes the Internet and a whole host of “apps” supplying information and visual behaviour which may be highly corrupting and is almost impossible to police. Moreover the use of the internet is guided not by the previous generation who are nothing like as savvy as the children themselves but by the young peoples' peer group. They are the ones really up to date with the social media and they know how to guide their chums to view stuff which

their parents didn't even know existed! And remember peer group pressure is very strong in young lives.

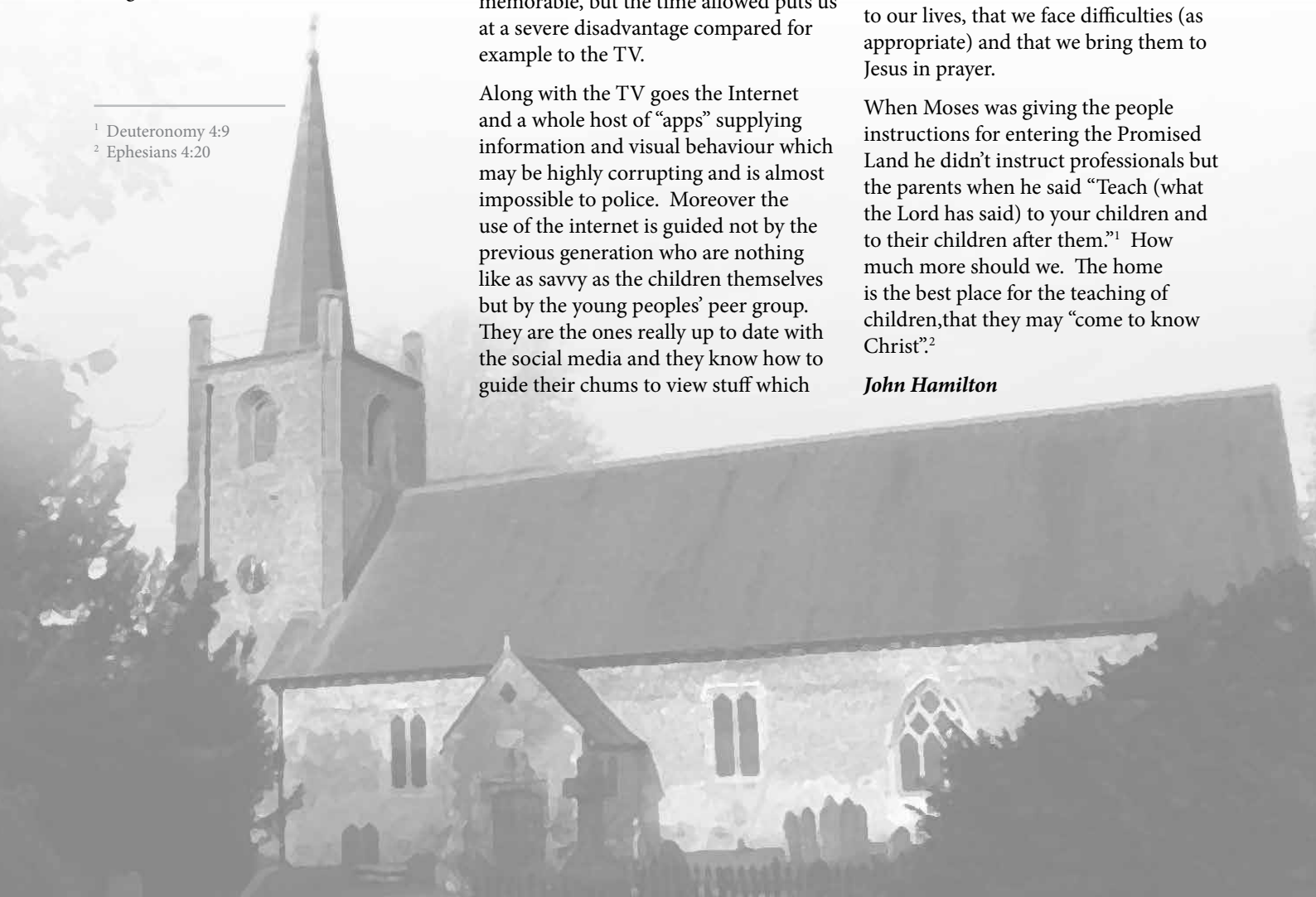
Now for any computer in the home the parents can set parental controls over what content may be viewed and they would be wise to do so, but I believe that the primary answer for parents is proclamation rather than prohibition. While there should be prohibition of unwholesome viewing what is really going to bear fruit in young lives is the regular proclamation in the home of Jesus Christ as Lord. Parents, teach Christ to your children. You can do this seven days a week! Here are some suggestions: read the Bible daily with your children at bedtime. As the children get older keep on doing this and as soon as they are able to follow it move on to a normal Bible rather than a children's one. Pray with them each evening. Make sure they are in church and Sunday Club regularly. Discuss what they learnt on the way home or over lunch. Help them with what they didn't understand. And we need to let them see that Jesus makes a difference to our lives, that we face difficulties (as appropriate) and that we bring them to Jesus in prayer.

When Moses was giving the people instructions for entering the Promised Land he didn't instruct professionals but the parents when he said “Teach (what the Lord has said) to your children and to their children after them.”¹ How much more should we. The home is the best place for the teaching of children, that they may “come to know Christ”².

John Hamilton

¹ Deuteronomy 4:9

² Ephesians 4:20



Services for September

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

4 September

10am Family Communion St Andrew's

11 September

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

18 September

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

25 September

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

2 October

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

Sunday Mornings at 10AM...

We start Deuteronomy. Much of this is a closed book to most of us – we tend to think it's rather "heavy". But in fact it is a lively book, recording Moses' preaching to the people as they are about to enter the Promised Land.

Sept 4	Teach your children	4:5-10	John Hamilton
Sept 11	The true and living God	4:15-24	John Hamilton & Andy Spence
Sept 18	The heart of the Covenant	5:1-21	John Hamilton
Sept 25	Love the Lord	6:1-12	John Hamilton & Steve Howe
Oct 2	No compromise	7:1-11	Scott Seivewright

... and at SIX pm in the Village Hall: we look at what Luke says about Jesus in chapters 6 & 7 of his gospel:

Sept 11	The King of the Sabbath	Luke 6:1-11	Scott Seivewright
Sept 18	The King of the upside-down Kingdom	Luke 6:12-26	Scott Seivewright
Sept 25	The King of counter-culture	Luke 6:27-38	Scott Seivewright
Oct 2	The King of a new people	Luke 6:39-49	John Hamilton

MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet on the weeks beginning 12 & 26 September: they will be following up the Sunday morning teaching: this month looking at Deuteronomy chapters 1-4.

Central Fellowship – Tuesdays 6 and 20 September.

Coffee at 7.45 pm. Bible study and discussion at 8 pm.

Pray at 8.30. Finish at 9 pm

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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Monk Sherborne Village Fete

Sunday, 4th September 12 noon MS Village Recreation Ground

So get your fruit and vegetables ready. There will be games, side shows, a BBQ, teas, cakes, PIMMS and beer.

Here are the categories for the fruit and veg competition. Don't be shy if you are worried your veggies are not up to scratch - you could be happily surprised. This is not a show for the professional exhibitor; it's just for fun and the more the merrier.

Vegetables

1. Five potatoes
2. Five large or medium tomatoes
3. Five cherry or plum tomatoes
4. Three carrots
5. Three leeks
6. Two courgettes
7. Five beans (any sort)

Novelty

12. Heaviest marrow or courgette
13. Heaviest carrot
14. Ugliest vegetable
15. Longest runner bean

Flowers

16. A vase of five flowers (any one sort)
17. Two roses
18. A flower arrangement
(60cms diam max)
19. Three dahlias

Fruit

8. Five apples (any sort)
9. Dish of raspberries
10. Three figs
11. Five pears (any sort)

Children's classes

20. A miniature garden
21. A flower arrangement
22. A Mr Potato head
23. A painting
24. Best scarecrow

Home cooking

25. A chocolate cake (men only)
26. A fruit cake
27. A jar of jam
28. A jar of marmalade

Life Explored

LE is an informal and relaxed seven-week course. It's for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life. It's completely free. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen.

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, LE is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe.

Date: Starts Wednesday the 14th of September.

Time: 8-9pm

Venue: 16 Speckled Wood Rd, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9SR

Scott Seivewright - 01256 416272



SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

SSJ Picnic on the Green

The weather could have been a bit better but in spite of that the Parish Council hope that you all enjoyed the afternoon/evening. Thank you to all those residents that contributed to the afternoon. Photos on page 19.

Please mark July 8th 2017 in your diary for next year's event.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan has been completed and informally reviewed by BDBC. The next step in the process is for the BDBC to assume ownership of the plan and forward it to a number of statutory review bodies for their comments.

Towards the end of the year BDBC will then arrange a referendum where all residents will have the opportunity to vote yes or no as to the adoption of the plan.

Mobile Shop

There is now a mobile shop that parks in the Village Hall car park each Monday and Friday afternoon, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The shop sells a wide range of goods and will take advance orders and Keith is willing to deliver to your door if you're unable to get to the Village Hall car park. Keith can be contacted on 07584 018976

Defibrillators

Funding has been received from The Lottery for the purchase of two defibrillators, one for the Chute and one for the Village Hall. Both have now been installed. Instructions as to how to get access to the unit are on the outside of each unit with additional instructions inside the unit itself.

If you would like to attend a short training course re: the access and use of these units then please e-mail the Parish Clerk (ssjclerk@gmail.com)

Tennis Courts

Hopefully by the time you read this article the extensive works on the Chute

tennis courts will have finished. The works focussed on resolving subsidence, resurfacing and replacement of the fencing. With the improvements mentioned above it's a great opportunity to take advantage of a superb village facility.

If you do want more detail as to how to book the courts please contact Paul & Maria Saunders 01256 850430.

Chute – Tree Work

You'll note that over the next few weeks a number of the trees on the boundary of the Chute Recreation Ground with Vyne Road, will be cut back so that they don't over hang the football pitches. At least one of the trees is rotten so that particular tree will have to be cut down.

Speeding

A number of tickets have been issued to drivers exceeding the 30 mph limit as they enter the village along the A340 from the Tadley direction. In addition the Parish Clerk is to request speed enforcement activities on Cranes, Elm and Vyne Roads. It seems more and more the village roads are being used as 'rat runs' as a consequence of improvements to the A340 near the hospital. In the interim the PC have arranged for additional speed speed watch signs to be installed around the village.

Web Site

The new web site is close to completion. Details will be published as and when it is available.

Bramley Level Crossing

The Parish Council have been informed that because of the increased rail traffic on the route through Bramley, the Bramley level crossing moves into a higher use category. The Parish Council understands that Network Rail plans to close the Bramley level crossing by 2019.

Currently there is a lack of information as to whether that closure means a bridge, a tunnel or a change of route.

Control Your Dog (s) Please

Recently there have been a number of instances where residents out walking their dogs, and with the dog (s) on a lead, have had their dogs attacked by other dogs also out walking with their owners but not on a lead. This has resulted to injuries to both owners and dog(s).

So far the incidents have either been resolved face to face or with the involvement BDBC Dog Warden. Can all dog walkers/owners please demonstrate due care and concern for all other dog owners/walkers by keeping their dog(s) on lead on the footpaths, etc. around the village.

SSJ Bus Service

The changes which were expected to be implemented at the end of August have been deferred until at least the end of September and possibly October. The intent is to increase the number of vehicles and increase the hospital services. We have to hope that there will be a spin off to improve the frequency through Sherborne St John village.

Scarecrow Festival

Recently you might have noticed a number scarecrows located along the side of the road as you drove through Bramley. These were the entries to a Bramley build a scarecrow competition.

Not to be outdone, SSJ Village Hall committee will have its own Scarecrow festival from the 17th to the 24th September. See page 18 for more details.

Infrastructure

The Parish Council continues to look for ideas as to how to improve the infrastructure of the village. If you have any suggestions as to a likely project or projects then in the first instance please contact the Parish Clerk (ssjclerk@gmail.com)

Richard Morgan Chair, SSJ PC

Correction:

As Chairman of Pamber Parish Council I would like to clarify the position regarding questions concerning the lease of St. Stephens Hall as reported in the July/August edition of the Villager magazine. It is simply untrue to say that the Management Committee were unaware of these questions prior to the meeting. No fewer than 4 members had advance notice of the questions and a further 3 members attended the meeting at which they were discussed. As is usual at our meetings, there was an opportunity for parishioners to speak but nobody from the Management Committee chose to do so. Perhaps the Pamber News correspondent would like to speak to the Clerk to the Council to ascertain the facts before reporting on meetings which she does not attend. Chris Goss, Pamber Parish Council

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

with guests

'3 Tenors (and a Bass)'

- a trombone quartet

Autumn Concert

on

Oct 1st, 2016

7:30 PM

at

United Reformed Church

London Street

Basingstoke

Tickets : £5 available from

Tel : 01256 768608 or Dawsons Music

Ramblers Association

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group, is part of the Ramblers Association, we walk mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside. In the last few months our group has enjoyed both walks and social activities.

The group walk on both Tuesday and Saturday and cover both areas in and around Basingstoke as well as sometimes going further afield.

The group have just done a 3 day walking holiday to Minehead, and had three beautiful walks, on day 1 our first walk was to start at the Gallox Bridge in Dunster, by road about three miles from Minehead and a steam train trip to the start of the walk was enjoyed. The walk also took us to the lovely Withycombe Parish Church of St Nicholas, completed in the 13th century and with interesting stone effigies, a carved wooden rood

screen, and a plague door for the priest. On day 2 the group did a seven and a half-mile walk starting at Simonsbath and ending up passing Cow Castle and a failed Copper Mine. Day 3 finished the few days with a walk to Dunkery Beacon the highest point on Exmoor at just over seventeen hundred feet.

As well as the walks, the group also enjoys some social activities; this includes an Annual Summer Picnic, Boys lunches and a Summer Ladies Walk and tea party.

The group have an active path patrol group, who report problems to the local council and also do some work on the paths, which can be as varied as checking waymarking and replacing waymarking discs, minor clearing or even repairing stiles and gates. To date this group has replaced 20 gates in conjunction with the local council. The most recent being the replacement of 4 gates at Cottington Hill,

where as well as the gates and steps being erected, some footpath clearance work was done at the same time .

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Hampshire Downs group, there is more information on our Website. www.northhampshiredownsrabblers.org.uk.

If you are new to walking and want to give us a try, or already walk, you would be given a very warm welcome by the Group. We hope to see you soon!

If you are interested in joining the Ramblers we suggest you come along for a couple of walks with the group first to get a taster. Membership details are available from the Ramblers' national website: www.rabblers.org.uk

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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

The month we were given off from writing for the Villager has rushed by and caught me by surprise. I am away in the sun in France as I write this and am somewhat short of material.

As the summer arrived so my lifestyle quietened down. Choir activities are over now until the first week in September and we have gone away. We have mainly been blessed with sun whilst in mid France and long may it last. The area is well known for slowly increasing heat until it reaches the point where a spectacular storm arrives bringing torrential rain, deep resounding thunder and an impressive lighting display all around the sky. The temperature then drops again and the process repeats itself. I'm quite happy as I love watching storms but others are less keen. I do allow some common sense to prevail (a struggle for me to find on occasions some will say!) and stay away from the high and exposed swimming pool even though a cooling down would be welcomed.

Hopefully, progress has been made with the setting up of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme to allow the Parish Council carry out some of the essential maintenance work normally carried out by the County Council. I'm not sure of the scope of this programme but increasingly issues are becoming very

apparent. Potholes grow ever larger, especially on our country lanes and roads, and hedging is badly overgrown preventing safe access to footpaths etc. The line of sight from the A340 bus shelter at the end of New Road, Pamber Green is very restricted. When I last used it, standing in the shelter seeing the bus gave me barely enough time to get to the kerb and hail it. Let's hope the Lengthsman Scheme will cover such works. I look forward to hearing what the programme covers and how we can report essential works.

I have been reading with interest newspaper reports about BT Openreach and the abysmal, sub-standard broadband provision they provide for many of their customers, especially rural ones, as a result of their failure to invest in the network. Openreach, a subsidiary of BT, owns the pipes and telephone cables that connect nearly all businesses and homes in the UK to the national broadband and telephone network. Consideration has been given to forcing BT to sell off its broadband division, thus ending its monopoly. Ofcom has been reluctant to take this step so far as they are concerned BT would mount a legal challenge in Brussels. However, they have recently recommended that BT Openreach should become a distinct company with its own board, with a majority of non-executive

directors coming from outside of BT. Faster, more reliable broadband and better coverage could be enjoyed after leaving the European Union because the regulator will have more powers to break up BT. Time will tell what comes of this but anything that helps improve the dire rural broadband provision will come as most welcome news to many in our parish.

I have to say I do miss my singing. So therapeutic! I'm looking forward to starting again in September and working towards the first concert of the year. Basingstoke Ladies Choir will be joining forces with the Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir on Saturday 15th October at 7.30pm at the United Reform Church in London Street, Basingstoke. A venue with lovely acoustics and my first chance to sing with this Male Voice Choir. Do come along if you can and support well deserving charities.

Don't forget the quiz at the Plough, Little London every 3rd Monday in the month starting around 8.30pm. A thoroughly enjoyable evening can be had with a contribution of 50p per person for the quiz. Maybe a Pambers team could take on the might of other local teams!

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com

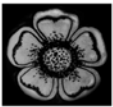


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Sherborne St John Village Hall, RG24 9HR

Tuesday 11th October 2016

2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

£60 per table

Please bring your own table and playing cards

For further information contact :

Pat Burt : 8 Tyfield, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG249HZ

01256 850593

Tracey Jeram : 44 Cranesfield, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke. RG24 9LN 01256 850611

Sherborne St John Scarecrow Festival!



17th to 24th September 2016

It's Scarecrow Building Time for Sherborne St John

For one week, the village is playing host to hopefully a whole new set of residents, built from straw, clothes, paper, wood, anything you can think up, just as long as it looks like a

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Saturday 24th September from 2pm

Scarecrow Trail, Refreshments, Crafts and Prizes in the Village Hall

To win a prize, and be part of the Scarecrow Trail, you will need to fill in
An Entry Form - available from the Village Hall, Primary School or by email

SSJScarecrows@gmail.com

SSJ Village Picnic



Postcard from the Lake District

The steam train that runs between Haverthwaite and Lakeside is authentically slow, it slows your thinking down and prepares you for rest of the day. It is completely

outclassed by the mv Swan as she glides eponymously onto the berth to put down and take up passengers. The Swan was built in 1938 by Vickers in Barrow in Furness, transported by rail and assembled on the lake; and has swept majestically up and down Lake Windermere (as if she owns it) ever since!



It's a long straight run to the first stop – Bowness. The Swan glides in without fuss - punters get off, punters get on. This is our chance to claim the best seats at the bow; with a pot of tea from the galley, what more could we possibly need? We sit imperiously, the empire at our feet; is there anywhere else in the world quite so beautiful on a sunny day?

Onto Ambleside and the mountains of the Northern Lakes – the Scafells, Helvellyn - start to impress themselves on the scenery. Lake Windermere remains serene but the surrounds become wilder. We eschew the bustle of Ambleside, stay on board, and turn back southwards to Lakeside – we are so relaxed, why spoil the day?! Steaming south, we pass sailing boats on their own and in small groups – a millionaires' playground for all, or is this what the Garden of Eden really looked like? The shore is dotted with beaches, castles and Victorian outlooks and stone follies.

I wonder if those Roman Centurions ever got holiday leave away from Hadrian's Wall to enjoy the pure beauty of the Lakes?

Later in the week, enjoying a cream tea in front of an open fire at the farm above Lake Coniston where Arthur Ransome wrote 'Swallows and Amazons', we realise that it's the damp climate that keeps the Lake District looking so green and beautiful. You really can't complain!

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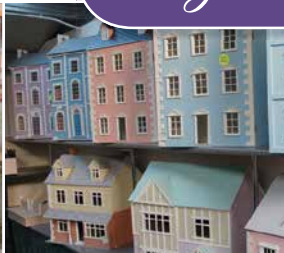
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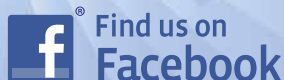
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Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



Michael Wells was the speaker at the July meeting where he gave the 48 members present an entertaining presentation on the work of the charity, Canine Partners. The organisation buys puppies at a few weeks old which they train to be assistance dogs for people with disabilities enabling them to have more independence and reducing the time that they need help from families and carers. The dogs are firstly given to volunteers who begin the training and meet up with other volunteers in their area. They then go for a further 20 weeks intensive training at the specially built facility near Midhurst followed by a further 2 weeks to get used to their new partner before they are taken home. They will carry out a whole range of duties including operating the washing machine, taking the washing out to the line, and accompanying the partner on shopping trips where they are able to operate pedestrian crossings, fetch items and retrieve and replace a wallet or purse.

There will be a visit to the Canine Partners Centre on Thursday 17th November.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770 or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791

David Cowling



Learn to Play Bridge



If you've always thought you would like to learn to play bridge, but have just never got round to it; if you would like to try something new and challenging which opens up a wide new social circle for you and introduces you to a game that can be enjoyed at so many different levels; if you played a little years ago, but have forgotten most of what you ever learned; if you've never even played cards before, but would like to see what it is all about: why not come along to **Basingstoke Bridge Club on Tuesday 27th September at 7.15 pm**? We have been running classes for beginners for 7 years now, and every year some class members go on to become members of the club and most become as addicted to the game as the rest of us.

Beginners' classes take place on Tuesday evenings (7.15 to 10.00 pm). The course runs from September to July with various breaks for holidays. The cost is £60.00 for each of the three terms of ten lessons. The first of these evenings is entirely free. You will find yourself playing a mini version of bridge on the very first night. Each lesson comprises about 20-30 minutes teaching followed by lots of practice hands to play. You will receive notes and copies of the hands with commentary every week, together with some homework to keep you up to speed. The course is run by Chris and Helen Kinloch who can be contacted by e-mail: kinloch@btinternet.com or telephone 01264 333175.

Basingstoke Bridge Club is a very friendly club with about 180 members. Visitors are always welcome. We have bridge every day from Monday to Friday. Our main evenings are Mondays and Fridays, and there is also bridge on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Table money for visitors is £3.00 on these occasions. Thursday evenings ("Starters' Nights") are for less experienced players who do not feel ready to join the other sessions. The first Thursday you play you will not be charged. Thereafter sessions cost £2.00 for visitors. (For more information about Thursdays, telephone George Collins on 01256 780940 or Arthur Whittaker on 01256 334496.)

The club address is Maydene, Sherborne Road, Basingstoke RG21 5TG. For more information see our web site: www.basingstokebridgeclub.co.uk or telephone Helen on 01264 333175.



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Womens Fellowship

The August meeting of Womens Fellowship was a talk given by Mrs Britt-Marie Wallwork – and her dog called Daphne – titled ‘Hearing Dogs for Deaf People’.

Britt-Marie began her talk by explaining that she was giving her personal story, why she wanted a ‘hearing dog’ and what she meant to her. She told us that Daphne was definitely not allowed to demonstrate her skills to us, as it was not an authentic situation for the dog and would confuse her.

From her mid-teens, Mrs Wallwork experienced a hearing loss and was eventually found to be suffering from otosclerosis, a condition affecting the bone structure between the middle and inner ear. The abnormal calcification of the bones results in a loss or lack of vibration which carries the sound. It is considered to be brought on by hormonal changes, thus teens, also during pregnancy. She was told not to have children, but not until after she had had two! Her life became very difficult with further operations, bereavement, and moving to a new part of the country.

Her hearing was hopeless, and she was on her own. Everyday life such as hearing the telephone or answering the door-bell were impossible. She was therefore in danger of becoming isolated in her own home.

An outing to Broadlands Summer Fair, however, brought an unexpected new beginning for her, as she walked past a stall about Hearing Dogs. The stall had information, as well as puppies in training, and a new life began.

The process of obtaining a Hearing Dog is not straightforward in the initial stages and involved a great deal of training for Britt-Marie until she was allowed to join the 2 year waiting list. Eventually.... a photograph arrived of the ‘perfect dog’ – a poodle. A poodle was not on the expected agenda and it was somewhat of a shock; but poodles are apparently very clever dogs, and easy to train. The photo was of Daphne, now nearly 12 years old.

Further training for the Britt-Marie involved feeding, cleaning, brushing teeth (never easy) and ‘picking up’. No picking up meant no dog. Both dog and human behaved beautifully, and they were allowed home after a week. After a few days Claire the trainer went to the house to check that all was well, and took both to the vet for an introduction. Working dogs do not come cheap, and pet insurance is compulsory at a cost of £380 annually, although they get the first injection free and worming tablets.

At this stage, Daphne was still in training. She had to be tested for recall out in the field – (a tasty treat always in the pocket), shopping in town, and

hospital. After three days on her own, Daphne passed.

The training for Dogs for Hearing People cost around £45,000 from beginning to end. There is no Government money and work is done mainly by volunteers. ‘Puppy Socialisers’ keep the puppy for one year and are trained on the lead, public places, being with children, and attend puppy class weekly (the puppies not the socialisers).

Britt-Marie had a cochlear implant last year and said it’s brilliant, but her hearing remains impaired, especially in crowds. Prior to her implant she was completely reliant on lip reading.

Dogs for Hearing People are supposed to retire at 11. Dogs for the Blind retire at 10 yrs. As Britt-Marie said these dogs work very hard all their lives, and are entitled to a more restful life after all their work.

The Grange in Buckinghamshire, are the Headquarters, and further information can be found on their website www.hearingdogs.org.uk

She was thanked for her enlightening talk by Mrs Margaret Plumb.

Probus Club learn about the old Incense Routes

Richard Tanner, a retired head teacher from North Waltham, gave the Probus Club of Basingstoke an informative insight into the ancient Incense Routes that were so important to the Middle East well before and after Christ. The nativity story of the baby Jesus receiving gifts from the three Kings of gold, frankincense and myrrh is well known. To hear that incense had a value, weight for weight, greater than gold puts some perspective to the importance of this commodity. How was incense produced and where did it come from? And the Queen of Sheba comes into the story too.

Richard's interest in the topic came whilst he was teaching geography at the 'Royal' school in Amman, Jordan. This teaching post gave him the opportunity to travel throughout the region.

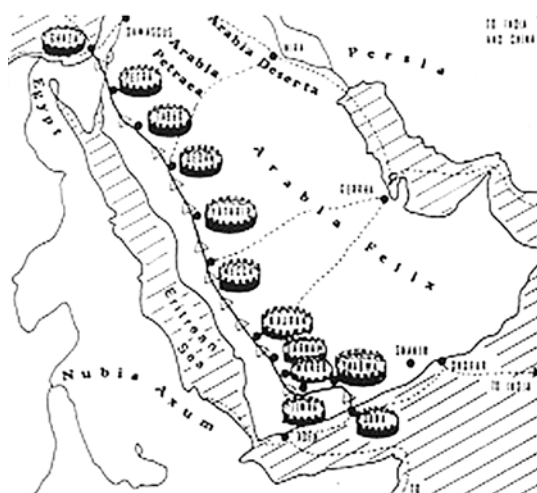
The term incense, that includes both frankincense and myrrh, refers to a substance that emits a fragrant aroma when burned. Resins are collected from certain tree barks during winter which were found only in the arid regions of Southern Arabia and to a lesser degree in Eastern Africa. As early as the 8th century BC, incense was popular across the ancient world for sanctifying religious ceremonies and masking the pungent odours of burned flesh – from cremations and human sacrifices – and sewage.

Richard described the route taken by incense traders, at first by sea along the

coast of Dhofar to the port of Qana in Yemen. The prospect of continuing by boat up the Red Sea was dismissed due to difficult wind patterns and the threat of pirates. The inland route chosen, using camel trains, had extremely difficult terrain with robbers determined to get their hands on the valuable cargo. For some 1500 miles it followed a route parallel with the Red Sea through Medina and on to Petra, thence to Gaza on the Mediterranean coast.

The inhabitants along the route were Nabataeans. They were experts in trading and desert agriculture with skill in water management with its collection and storage in reservoirs. They played a central role in controlling the incense trade route. They built 65 fortresses and resting stations in strategic points along the route to serve and protect the convoys set at a distance of a day's walk, while the journey could take three months.

The 'Incense Route' reached its peak during the 2nd Century AD. At this time the Romans had succeeded in sailing directly down the Red Sea to Southern Arabia. From the 4th century AD when Christianity became the official religion, the practice of sacrifice and cremations was avoided and there was a return to ordinary burials leading to a significant reduction in the demand for incense.



Finally, following the Moslem conquest of the area in the 2nd half of the 7th century, heralding a further decline in the demand for incense, the trade route died out and the resting stations along the route gradually fell into decay and were deserted.

And the Queen of Sheba? She came from the kingdom of Saba, in present day Yemen. Legend has it that she travelled up the Incense route to Jerusalem to seek the Wisdom of Solomon. And she brought the same gifts the Magi afterwards brought to the infant Jesus.

To find about this group of retired professional and business men then look on the Probus Club website www.probusbasingstoke.webs.com or ring the Secretary Paul Flint for an informal chat on 07770 886521.

Spring and Summer 2016

April was near average, but there were some very sunny days and clear nights mainly at the beginning and end of the month which led to some frosty nights with grass frost recorded on 14 nights and the air temperature down to -5.2C on the 28th, so average temperatures were below the longterm values. Sunshine totals were well above average but there were no really warm days.

May was a warm month with several really sunny days and occasional light rain, but 48.2mm (1.9ins) fell on the 10th and 17.2mm on the 31st (heavy rain around lunchtime).

June was a poor month weatherwise; there was unbroken sunshine on the 6th and 7th but for most of the month cloud prevailed – so very few chilly nights – this resulted in lower sunshine

totals than that recorded in April in spite of the much longer hours of daylight. There was virtually no rain for the first 12 days but, thereafter, there were many days with some rain; even so, thunderstorms on the 10th produced no rain and again on the 16th (afternoon) only 2.3mm; but to the South and East there were heavy falls of rain.

July was characterised by very little rain (only 14.9mm for the whole month, we would normally expect 55mm), there were 15 days with some rain but the amounts were so small as to be totally ineffective.

The 1st of August was very wet with 18.2mm rain but very little since then, so there is a serious water deficit on the gardens, farms and woodland.

Of the past 12 months only September 2015 and April 2016 have had below average temperatures, all the rest have been above average, and the overall rainfall has been above average (apart from July).

The nett result appears to be a harvest with below average yield and below average quality and harvesting seems to have been delayed by some 2 to 3 weeks, although grain driers should not be great demand. In the gardens fruit yields appear to be down and bird breeding and insect numbers would seem to be adversely affected.

2016 Pamber Green	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	To 12 Aug
Avg Day Max Temp C	10.6	13.9	18.3	20.5	23.7	22.8
Diff from 30-yr ave C	+1.0	+0.5	+2.6	+1.7	+2.7	+1.4
Highest Max Temp C	16.0	19.5	27.1	26.5	33.1	26.6
Avg Night Min Temp C	1.5	2.9	6.0	11.5	12.2	11.7
Diff from 30-year ave C	-0.3	-2.2	+0.1	+2.7	+2.0	+0.9
Lowest Min Air Temp C	-5.3	-3.2	-1.8	7.4	7.0	7.0
No. Nights with Air Frost	12	8	2	0	0	0
Night frosts diff from ave	+2	+4	0	0	0	0
No.Nights with Grass Frost	15	14	6	0	0	0
Total Rainfall mm	76.8	63.5	94.5	59.5	14.9	19.2
Percent of 30-year ave	122%	119%	172%	119%	27%	76%
No. of days with>1mm rain	9	13	12	11	5	1
Diff from 30-year ave	-2	+4	+2	+4	-2	

David Cullum. Tel. 850315

Bert's Blog

This is my stick and when it is thrown in the lake by the Boss or the Mrs I am allowed to retrieve it, but I am not allowed to jump in the lake unless I receive the command "fetch". That is the signal to belt hell for leather towards the water, take a flying leap and doggy paddle out to reach the stick which conveniently floats on the top of the water - rather clever that, as when the Boss' fishing stick fell in the lake it did not float and I did not get the command to "fetch". Instead the Boss had to wade in and retrieve it while the Mrs watched quietly giggling to herself. There was also a lot of giggling when the windsurfer was dragged into the water, last seen apparently in the 1900's and well before my time. I was a little disconcerted when the Boss stood up on it and sailed off towards the further shore, that is until there was a loud splash and he disappeared beneath the surface. Although the Mrs seemed paralyzed with laughter, I immediately went into lifeguard mode and paddled out to see if I needed to retrieve him and was just about to grab the large stick laying in the water (which turned out to be the mast) when a sharp reprimand to "leave it" was issued and he clambered back on and persevered. I wondered if



I could bag a ride back to the shore on the front but the Boss did not think this a good idea either so I doggy paddled beside him just to make sure he made it and would be around to give me my dinner this evening. I could have towed him back in I just know I could!

Household Waste

Once upon a time we had a bin
That we put all our rubbish in.
And every week on a specified day
It was collected and taken away.

Life was simple and complete
Happiness reigned in the street
Then we were given another bin
To put our recycling in.

Even then this was not enough
There was still some other stuff
Like bottles that had once held wine
Now needed a box to join the line

Soon green bags appeared as well
For garden clippings and to swell
The coffers of the council more
With extra charges made galore

And if the rules you dared to flout
You'll get three strikes and be out
With no more collections from your bins
You'll be made to suffer for your sins.

With talk of slop buckets on the way
And fortnightly collections any day
I begin to think, where this will this end?
It's driving me around the bend!

Bill Breakspear

Befrienders Required

Would you have an hour a week free in the daytime? (Monday to Friday). Many elderly people would love to have someone to come and see them for a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person they see that week who has time just for them! You will gain great satisfaction and help them to relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public transport we will reimburse your costs.

We need people who have time and patience and like talking to elderly people. You need to have good listening

skills and be able to show empathy. We will provide you with training and support and match you with one of our clients. Our befriending co-ordinator will take you to your first meeting with our client and support you as necessary.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteering@neighbourcare.com



Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. promotes local beer in Parliament

Members of Parliament are able to nominate a small, local brewery, to provide the beer for 'Strangers Bar' in Parliament for a week. The 'Strangers Bar' always has a 'guest beer' from a particular constituency, and recently Ranil Jayawardena, Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire, nominated Sherfield Village Brewery to provide their 'TBA' beer for a week. While on sale 'TBA' was enjoyed by Parliamentarians and visitors from across the country and overseas.

The All Party Parliamentary Beer Group supports the initiative, which gives small, local breweries the chance to offer their products on a wide scale.

Mr Jayawardena was very pleased to welcome the Sherfield Village Brewery Team to Westminster, including Bruce Batting, Ivan Gosden, and brewer, Peter Cook.

Sherfield Village Brewery beers will be available at the Sherfield Beer Festival on Saturday 24th September, at Sherfield Village Hall.

Ranil commented: "I was delighted to nominate Sherfield Village Brewery to provide their 'TBA' beer in the Houses of Parliament, and to welcome them to Westminster for a tasting session! It's great to see smaller breweries such as Sherfield, succeeding in North East Hampshire".



Funeral Co-ordinator Begins Search to Find Basingstoke's Best Neighbour

Residents from across north Basingstoke are being encouraged by their local funeral directors to nominate the stand out members of the community to be crowned 'Basingstoke's Best Neighbour'.

Percy Salway, Funeral Co-ordinator for A Monger Funeral Directors in Basingstoke has launched the competition to celebrate and give recognition to those who help make a difference within the funeral home's local villages.

Launching the search, Percy said: "I really enjoy getting involved in all of the community events within the Sherborne St John & Bramley area; however I often think the smaller hamlets and villages within the local area get dwarfed by the fact we are so close to Basingstoke and Reading.

"That's why I came up with the idea of the 'Basingstoke's Best Neighbour' competition. It's a way of giving the hardworking people in our immediate local area the chance to shine and receive

recognition for all the lovely little things they do that impact on others' lives. I'm really looking forward to receiving your entries and reading the stories that get sent in."

The winner will not only receive the entitlement of being 'Basingstoke's Best Neighbour' but will also receive a bumper hamper of goodies from The Southern Co-operative Food with vouchers that can be spent in any of The Southern Co-operative's food stores.

The title is open to residents who live in the Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne, Bramley, Little London, Pamber End, Pamber Green, West Heath, Charter Alley and Ramsdell areas.

The closing date for entries is **Friday 21st October 2016** where the nominations will be whittled down to Percy's most deserving entrants. Basingstoke's Best Neighbour will be crowned by a local dignitary during a small celebratory party for the

finalists at the funeral home on Friday 4th November.

To nominate your best neighbour, please fill out the nomination form here: <http://bit.do/AMonger>.

Nominations can also be handed in to A Monger Funeral Directors at The Old Forge, West End, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9LE or e-mailed to info@amongerfuneraldirectors.co.uk. Nominations must include: your name and contact details, the name of your nomination and a short write-up of 100 words or less of why your nomination deserves to be 'Basingstoke's Best Neighbour'.



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**By Hayley Eachus,
Solicitor & Leasehold
Specialist**

Leasehold Property and what it means for you

Leasehold property is owned for a fixed period of time. The property is owned under the terms of a lease. This is a legal agreement with the landlord (often known as the freeholder). The lease sets out how many years you will own the property for, when the lease expires, the ownership of the property returns to the landlord.

This means that if you own a leasehold property or are interested in buying one the most important information to find out is how long remains on the term of the lease. This can have an impact on any lending you take out against the property (i.e. a mortgage) as financial institutions can be very wary about lending against a leasehold property with less than 70 years remaining on the lease without knowing the premium required to extend the lease.

There are strict rules and processes to be followed when extending a lease and a premium must be paid to the landlord. However, it does see an extension of 90 years to your current term and transfers you to a peppercorn (nominal) ground rent if done properly.

For many leaseholders coming towards the seventy-year mark or below extending your lease really could be the answer. However, determining an appropriate value for the extension is essential so you would need to consult a surveyor.

It is also only right to note that as soon as you serve notice to your landlord of your intention to extend the lease you become liable for their legal and related costs. It is important to make sure you do it properly or it could cost more than you bargained for.

If you currently own a leasehold property or are looking at buying a leasehold property you can contact Hayley Eachus on 01256 854633 or email hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk

Small Ads

Enquiries and items for inclusion please contact **Emma Foreman** on **01256 889215/07747 015494** or **emma@thehaye.co.uk**

- The advertising rate is £4 per month or £6 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payment to 'The Villager'.
- 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**

TSI COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE. Electrical. Plumbing. Carpentry or Decorating. For a quotation, please phone **01256 780460** or **07989 940210**.

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CRAFTY FOX ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES I deal in Antiques and other collectables and am keen to buy a variety of items. So if you are looking to declutter, or sell an item or collection, give me a call. Fair prices offered for good items like quality china, and glass, old toys, dolls and teddies, books etc etc. **Phone 07879 440478 or email yvonne.cox@virgin.net**

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All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

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

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2016

Although Christmas still seems a long time away, now is the time of year our thoughts turn again to the gift of Christmas Shoe Boxes. Over the last few years readers of The Villager have given very generous support to this Appeal and have donated hundreds of boxes to this caring, humanitarian cause. Last year over 20,000 boxes were collected by the Rotary movement in Hampshire alone and distributed by members of Rotary.

This Christmas Rotary will again be collecting and transporting Christmas shoe boxes for children who live in the mountains and very poor regions of Montenegro, Albania, Romania and in the cold foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. You are invited to make up and donate shoeboxes, which will bring joy and delight to these children who have virtually nothing.

If you would like to make up a box here are some helpful suggestions:

Choose the sex and age range for the child you would like to receive your box.

The age ranges for boxes are:

1- 3 years, 4 - 7 years, 8 -11 years, 12 - 15 years.

Please ensure that all items included are new or 'as new'. Last year there was a great shortage of boxes for children in the older age groups.

Suggested items you might include:

Learning toys, mosaics, Lego, games, balls, jigsaws, modeling clay, sticky tape, coloured paper, skipping ropes, playing cards, dominoes, chess sets and clothing such as socks, gloves, pants, tights, hats, scarves.

Depending on the age you select you may like to include items for use at school, e.g. ball point pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, paper, colouring pencils, solar powered calculators, geometry sets.

Soap, combs, face cloths, hand cream, talc, football memorabilia of famous teams, sports magazines, books, especially paper-back English Classics.

Please do not include:

Food, drinks, liquids, items for the bath, sweets, large soft toys, swimwear, toilet rolls, large items of clothing, toy soldiers, toy guns and other military-type toys, penknives, anything breakable or anything which needs a battery.

While you are making up your box think of the delight on the face of 'your child' when they open their box that you have sent to them.

Please cover your box and lid **separately** with decorative paper and secure the lid with strong elastic bands (the boxes need to be opened easily as they may be inspected by Customs). Put a sticky label on the outside of your box and indicate the **sex and age range** you have chosen. Please donate £1 per box to help to cover the cost of transportation costs and attach the coin to the outside of the lid.

The maximum size for the shoeboxes is 13" x 8" x 6"

Boxes should be delivered by 15 October latest please to the Rotary collection points at Eden Fiat, A30, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Oakley Carpets, Andover Rd, Oakley, Basingstoke RG23 7HA or The Bear Factory, Festival Place.

If you would like to contribute to this cause but you are unable to fill a complete box, donations of any of the items above would be very welcome because they can be used to make up extra boxes. These donations can be taken direct to the collection point.

Royal Voluntary Service



Could you volunteer for just 1 to 2 hours a week to make a real difference in enhancing older people's lives?

Royal Voluntary Service is looking for volunteers to visit older people returning home from hospital to support them in reclaiming their confidence at home and in the community. Anyone can become a volunteer, even one hour a week can make a difference to the quality of an older person's life.

This short-term, friendly service enables volunteers to help older people by collecting prescriptions, shopping or simply by visiting for a cup of tea and a chat. This will significantly reduce the loneliness older people experience; when getting out and about is difficult. Royal

Voluntary Service is calling on local people in Basingstoke to give up just 1 to 2 hours of their time for six weeks to become a volunteer for the service, which is tailored to the individual requirements of each person.

There is no specialised requirement for volunteers, you just need to;

- possess a willingness and desire to help
- be committed to providing reliable, consistent support
- enjoy sharing your time with others and meeting new people.
- The benefits to both volunteers and older people are numerous and rewarding;

- you meet new people
- you learn new things about others and the area in which you live
- people retain their independence and self-esteem
- volunteers experience a feeling of contributing to an invaluable service.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information about the service, please contact Natalie Roebuck on 07919 880629 or Natalie.Roebuck@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk and Lesley Bridge on 07500 811180 or Lesley.Bridge@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

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