

A close-up photograph of a field of white daisies with bright yellow centers. The flowers are scattered throughout the frame, surrounded by lush green leaves and stems. Some flowers are in sharp focus, while others are slightly blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The overall lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the delicate petals and the vibrant yellow of the centers.

The Villager

September 2018

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Communications to the Editor:

Your readers might be interested to know that this is the roadside rubbish that we picked up on a Sunday evening walk in July, between West End and the Monk Sherborne war memorial, presumably thrown from cars.

Russell Jones



The Clift Surgery in Bramley Needs You!

You will have been aware that The Clift surgery is having a reboot in so many ways. We are modernising our building and dispensary to provide easier access for wheelchair users and prams, expanding to accommodate the ever-growing population of Bramley and surrounding villages, and have taken on new staff. You will notice a familiar face with Dr James Norfolk returning to our team and we are still on the lookout for another doctor with some interest and hope for the future in this respect.

Times have been hard for the NHS as a whole but with the 70th birthday year of the NHS we would like to focus on things to be proud of. The Clift Surgery is one of several key services central to the community and as such we are wanting to engage with our patients and community more. We are approaching Bramley primary school to provide some artwork to display on the surgery walls and aiming to set up an informal walking group to start at lunchtime from the surgery in September, details to follow next month! These projects are stimulated through the engagement of interested patients, who are members of the Patient Participation Group (PPG), and who meet with surgery staff to identify key issues of importance to our patients and community that we can support together.

We are very keen to make sure our whole community is represented in this group. So your surgery needs you; be you a mum/dad, teenager, in employment/commuter, retired or carer. If you would like to be involved or just find out what the PPG is about, please contact David Gent by email davidgentj16@hotmail.com. Help us to help you.

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 2018

2	Pelican Film Society, Darkest Hour, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
3	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship – To be advised at a later date,	2.00pm
10	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
15-22	Sherborne St John Scarecrow Competition, further details to be announced	
17	B/S Horti Society, Growing Plants 4 RHS Chelsea Flower Show – Jamie Butterworth, Kempshott VH	7.30pm
17	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
24	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
29	Artisan Market, Sherborne St John Village Hall	11.00am-3.00pm
30	Basingstoke Festival of Choirs, The Anvil	7pm

October 2018

1	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
2	SSJ Women's Fellowship – The Glass Maidens', SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
7	Pelican Film Society, 3 Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
8	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
15	Basingstoke Horti Society, Australia, A Plantsman's Paradise – Steve Austin, Kempshott VH	7.30pm
15	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
27	Basingstoke Ladies Choir Annual concert + Hants Police Male Voice Choir, QMC	
29	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
29	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am

November 2018

4	Pelican Film Society, Phantom Thread, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
6	SSJ Women's Fellowship – Crafts for Christmas, SSJ Village Hall	2.00pm
12	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
12	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, St Stephen's Hall, Little London	7.30pm
19	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, AGM, Cheese & Wine, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Artisan Market, Sherborne St John Village Hall	11.00am-3.00pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm
26	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am

December 2018

2	Pelican Film Society, Secret Life of Bees, The Ark, Guests welcome £6	7.30pm
4	SSJ Women's Fellowship – To be advised at a later date,	2.00pm
9	Basingstoke Ladies Choir Christmas Concert, Carnival Hall	
10	Basingstoke Horticultural Society, Christmas Party/Buffer, tickets only, Kempshott Village Hall	7.30pm
10	60+ Coffee Morning at SSJ Village Hall ALL VERY WELCOME	10.00-11.30am
10	Pamber Parish Council Meeting, Pamber Heath Memorial Hall	7.30pm
17	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7pm)	7.30pm

Contacts

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS LIST.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT

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CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		322814
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LIBRARIES	Basingstoke Town Centre	473901
	Chineham Library	465643
	Tadley Library	01189 814595
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Church Matters **September**

One of the expressions often used by writers on family life today is “quality time”. Parents need to spend “quality time” with their children - and indeed with each other for that matter. It is an obvious priority - after all no relationship can flourish in the absence of communication. However it is also very easy to make parents feel guilty about this because the fact is that we all have a great deal to do and our pressurized existence makes it difficult to take time out to play with the children gladly and to give them our total concentration. There are just too many demands on our time.

On the other hand the doctrine of “quality time” can be an excuse for spending less time with our children than we should! We can fall into the tendency of thinking that we have given them the time they need when we have spent half an hour of “quality time” with them - that’s it for the day! We forget that children also need what we might call ‘quantity time’.

Our difficulty is made worse by the fact that children are not so good at entertaining themselves as they once were. An older friend of mine used to say, “Keep them happy with a book!” - but nowadays fewer and fewer have the patience or the perseverance to sit quietly and read. Electronic games have taken over and yet they are incapable of delivering the same level of interest and satisfaction as that to be derived from a good book!

The problem of boredom has become far more acute in our century than ever before. Agricultural life prior to the Industrial Revolution was a whole-life activity. It blended work with exercise and community life. And as soon as they could help children became involved in some way. Of course we cannot return to that but it illustrates part of the problem.

Another factor is the effect of advertising and the expectations it creates. We have bought into the idea that a fulfilled life is full of fun from dawn to dusk. Advertisers and the entertainment industry encourage us to pursue this by means of increasing exposure to whatever form of

stimulation takes our fancy. But of course it proves to be a mirage – what promised so much excitement turns out to deliver disappointment and worse. We need to help our children to see that living for fun and searching after pleasure is a futile quest – a “chasing after the wind” as the writer of Ecclesiastes puts it¹.

We also need to teach children to value time. As everyone knows it seems to drag when you’re young and races along when you’re old. In fact you don’t have to be old! The harassed parent may find it difficult to believe this but the fact is that with hindsight your children’s childhood will seem to have departed in a flash - yes even that long summer holiday. And you can never get it back.

Therefore we need to remember the Bible’s encouragement to ‘make the most of the time’². Time is a gift. These days are days of opportunity and they will never return. Now is our chance to discover and apply God’s will for our lives. Realising this leads us to live life with a new eagerness. It does not mean that our children will never be bored. Sometimes they will, just like anyone else, and we will need to help them to find worthwhile activities and to use the time well. And if we know God let us be positive in affirming his good purposes for us in Christ, and in modelling these to our children.

John Hamilton

¹ Ecclesiastes 1:17

² Ephesians 5:16 (RSV)



Services for September

02 September

10am Family Communion St Andrew's

09 September

8am Holy Communion Priory
10am Morning Service, Sunday Club & Crèche St Andrew's
10am Morning Service All Saints

16 September

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

23 September

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

30 September

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 10AM:

Church Builders in Action:

02 Sept	Church Builders	1Cor 3:10-15	John Hamilton
09 Sept	A new start	Ezra:1	John Hamilton & Steve Howe
16 Sept	Opposition	Ezra:4-6	John Hamilton
23 Sept	Real Confession	Ezra:7-10	John Hamilton & Andy Spence
30 Sept	Phase Two	Neh:1-3	Andrew King

MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet during the weeks of Monday 10 & 24 September.

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

This month we meet on 16 September.

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

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

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

Weekday Mass

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

* Time & Venue could vary

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Monk Sherborne Village Hall 50-50 Lottery

The Monk Sherborne Village Hall 50-50 lottery got off to a good start with Andrew and Natasha Chappell winning the first draw and a cheque for £140. A lot more people have signed up since then at £10 a go, so the prize will be that much bigger. Worth a flutter of anyone's money.

How to join? Please complete a form and arrange payment. You can pick up a form at the Village Hall or download it from <https://tinyurl.com/yc3dvlor>.

Bill Hayter



Piccolo Preschool Nursery Celebrate its 10th Year Anniversary

We celebrated our tenth year anniversary on Saturday 30th June at our Summer Fete. We would like to say a big thank you to Jane - Manager Director -, who organised a host of activities for all to have an amazing time on the day. There was a BBQ, two bouncy castles, face painting, raffle, tombola, hook the duck to name but a few.

Piccolo Preschool Nursery was founded in 2008 by Claudia R Cafarelli and Jane Sherwood, - Managers Directors - with the idea to create an early years setting with strong foundations for the development of young children.

We have taken a moment to reflect on these ten years; we achieved a

decade of high quality early childhood education for young children in the community and beyond. Throughout the years, Piccolo Preschool Nursery, has been and is buzzing with many different learning activities, coupled together with an amazing team of Preschool Practitioners, who are our major assets. Our members of staff are all highly qualified and dedicated to the development of all the children that come to the setting, together with parents/carers involvement.

We are proud of what we have achieved over the last decade, it's a time for all at Piccolo Preschool Nursery to reflect on where we have been and to reaffirm

Piccolo's Preschool Nursery ethos to continue to provide a high quality early years childcare and education. We are all really passionate about early childhood education and strongly believe in the value it brings to the community and beyond.

At Piccolo Preschool Nursery, we would like to extend our thanks to all of our children, families, and employees for the ongoing relationships, dedication, support and trust you've placed in us. This milestone belongs to us all.





PARISH COUNCIL

TRAVELLERS

The Parish Council is aware of problems with travellers and their ponies on the village green and is looking for solutions. The Village Green is owned by the National Trust, so any work has to be approved by them. Bramley is also having similar problems.

VERGES

Hampshire County Council are currently trialling 'robot mowers' to cut the verges, so don't be surprised to see these around the village.

POTHOLES

Hampshire County Council is well aware of the dire condition of many roads and has now obtained more 'dragon blasters' which fill up to 150 potholes a day. They work by drying out the pothole prior to filling and are very effective, so we hope to see an improvement soon.

CHUTE RECREATION GROUND

The football club was unable to use the ground at the Chute for much of the last season due to the condition of the pitches and now needs urgent drainage work to be carried out. The Parish Council is applying for possible grants to assist with the cost of this.

TENNIS CLUB

The tennis club is encouraging new members to use the excellent courts at the Chute Recreation ground. They have increased the coaching sessions which have been taking place every Wednesday evening.

TRANSPORT

There is new timetable for the stagecoach buses due out this month, so watch out for the changes.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic calming measures along the A340 at West End have been agreed

with Hampshire County Council, which will include new white gates and road markings. The Parish Council have paid for this in the absence of funds from HCC and have agreed to responsible for their maintenance.

SILENT SOLDIERS

This a scheme being run by the Royal British Legion to commemorate the villagers who gave their lives in WW1. We have approved silhouettes of 4 soldiers to be erected in the parish.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 24th September so if you have any issues you'd like discussed please e mail the Parish Clerk at the new e mail address clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk

Councillor Natasha Rougier

Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

As we start another school year we say a warm welcome to our new Year R children starting in Class 1, and also to Miss Scott, who is the new Class 4 teacher, and Mrs Hale, who will be working in the school office.

At the end of the Summer Term, we had our five-yearly inspection visit from SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). A really positive report was received, and it is worth sharing some of the comments that were included;

"The school uses a range of opportunities to promote its deep Christian ethos widely and to make clear the Christian foundation upon which the school is built. This has resulted in a school that has a strong Christian thread running through all its work and this is impacting very positively on pupils' achievement, well-being and their personal growth."

"The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding."

"Pupils value their school, describing it as 'Amazing, fun, special and creative.' Their enjoyment of the school results in behaviour that is exemplary."

What a wonderful testimony to the staff, children, parents and members of the community that work together to make our school a great place to be!

**Sherbert – SSJ School Villager
Correspondent**

Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

A summer so unlike what we are used to! Brown grass, plants dying, tans from English sunshine and washing that is dry almost as soon as you've finished pegging it out. I have also had reports from regular Pamber Forest walker, Dave Spencer, of the wide range of stunning butterflies being seen in forest, no doubt also brought out by the glorious sunshine. But, of course, as soon as the sun greets us it's also the inescapable water shortages and restrictions. Will the various water boards ever sort this out properly?

Tadley Singers continued their charity fund raising concerts at the end of June with a joint venture to raise money to enable Tadley Primary School to buy samba equipment as part of expanding the musical experiences for their pupils and for Burnham Copse School to support a group of their pupils. In total £883 was raised, another wonderful result. In recognition of the considerable sums of money raised by Tadley Singers for various charities, including the Day Care Centre Minibus Appeal, Tadley Town Council have awarded them a Good Citizen Certificate which was presented by Jo Page, Chairman of Tadley Town Council at the recent Tadley Singers AGM.

The bi-annual Basingstoke Festival of Choirs Concert featuring local massed choirs and the Heritage Light Orchestra will take place on Sunday 30/9/18 at The Anvil commencing at 7pm. Tickets are available from the Anvil Box Office. This is the fourth such concert, the first being in 2012, and will be a most enjoyable event with a wide ranging programme.

Travellers have again been active locally during the summer with procedures to evict them taking several days. You are recommended to take additional measures to protect your properties and assets, and to be particularly vigilant. It is understood that the travellers send out scouts in white vans to investigate potential new sites and mark places of interest with red cable ties. If you see evidence of such activity, please report it to the police using their non-emergency number 101.

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Planning Committee has recently met to consider the retrospective application adjacent to Berry Court Farm to use agricultural land for secure storage of touring caravans and motorhomes which has, according to the Committee, been trading for 18 months without planning permission. The application includes surrounding the site with a retention fence and earth bund, with hardstanding and 12 x 4 metre poles for CCTV and lighting. The Planning Committee has refused this. The decision on another application in the same location was deferred as the application was based on this being previously developed land and no evidence of this has been submitted or found.

No up-to-date news from Pamber Parish Council this month as minutes for the May AGM and Council meeting are still not available on their website. The next meeting of the Parish Council should be on Monday 10th September 2018. Please try to get there and make your views known.

Hampshire County Council have been holding a consultation on the future of supported public bus routes, older person bus pass concessions and switching off street lighting for part of the night. This consultation closed in early August and we, in rural areas, await the results with interest. As we in the small Pambers and Little London do not have street lighting that will be of little interest to us but the remaining two items are important in helping those in more isolated areas without other forms of transport to keep in touch.

In hopes you get the Villager in time, Morris Dancing will take place in the evening at The Plough, Little London on 4/9/18.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com

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Clift Surgery – Flu Vaccination

This year we are running clinics, from 17th September: either early morning or late evening. The dates will be publicised on our web site www.cliftsurgery.co.uk/, in the surgery and around the village.

All patients in the following categories are at risk from influenza and are advised to have a flu vaccination.

1. Aged 65 years or over
2. Asthma (which requires an inhaled or tablet steroid treatment, or has led to hospital admission in the past), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
3. Diabetic
4. Heart Disease
5. Lung Disease
6. Kidney or liver disease
7. Neurological disease
8. Immunosuppressed
9. Pregnant
10. Carers
11. Seriously overweight (BMI of 40 or above)

Please telephone the surgery on 01256 881228 to book an appointment.

Don't leave it too late. Be aware of your prostate!

Every hour a man dies from prostate cancer. That's 10,900 deaths a year. In the next twelve months 44,000 men will be diagnosed with the disease. The number of men diagnosed per year has already overtaken the number for breast cancer. By 2030 prostate cancer is set to become the most common cancer overall in the UK.

Most cases occur in men over fifty. One in eight men gets prostate cancer. Black men have a one in four chance of getting the disease. If there is a family history, these risks increase even more. These are stark and worrying statistics

There is a lot of ignorance about the prostate. It is a very small gland, about the size and shape of a walnut. It sits under the bladder and surrounds the

urethra – the tube through which men pee. It's no surprise therefore that one possible worrying symptom is the need to urinate more frequently and at night. But sometimes there are no symptoms of the disease at all!

Like all cancers, early detection can save lives. The answer is simple: know the symptoms, get checked if you are worried. A simple blood test is all that it takes. Become more familiar with the disease before it becomes too familiar with you. Look at the information on the Prostate Cancer UK website; it will give you everything you need to know.

If you, or someone you know, is already one of the 400,000 sufferers, then why not join your local support group? The North Hampshire Prostate Cancer

Support Group (NHPCSG) helps men and their partners whose lives are affected. The Group meets monthly, offers friendship and support and has talks on health matters. Members share their experiences and feelings. As an old advert says "It's good to talk".

Looking after your health and general fitness can be especially valuable in combatting some of the effects of the disease and of its treatments, like fatigue for example. Members can take part in a weekly exercise class that Basingstoke Sports Centre has set up just for our Group.

Want to know more? Call: Alan Instone Chair of NHPCSG on 01256 764485.

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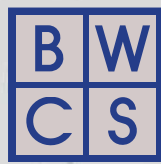
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15th to 22nd September 2018

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15th September—make sure your scarecrows are up and ready

16th September—it's judging time...

17th to 21st—keep them spruced up and ready for

Saturday 22nd September

from 1:30pm Scarecrow Trail

Get your trail map from the Village Hall and then solve the riddle of the Sherborne St John Scarecrows

to win a prize.

Vote for your favourite Scarecrow

and enjoy the refreshments in the Village Hall

Last applications by Wednesday 12th Sept



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Bryan Jenkins 01256 881938 (jenkinsbryan@btinternet.com)

Rhydian Vaughan 01189700728 (rhydian@battlefieldtours.co)

The event will comprise pre-dinner drinks followed by a 3-course meal and conclude with an address by our guest speaker. Smart clothing should be worn. (As a guide, jacket and tie for the gentlemen would be appropriate). Miniature medals should be worn by those entitled to do so.

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All Saints Church – Monk Sherborne

We need your help, please

Many of you may be familiar with the true wealth of history that we possess within the circulation area of our magazine when it comes to historic religious buildings.

There are three churches, (Pamber Priory, All Saints and St Andrews) all of which are approaching 900 years old. These rare and beautiful buildings require a great deal of repairs and upkeep and are essential to the history and heritage not only to our community but also the much wider area.

The second oldest of these buildings, All Saints in Monk Sherborne, is in danger of closing due to the state of the main roof. Recently our architect obtained competitive tenders for the urgent work, and these have shown that we will need to raise the substantial sum of £95,000 (at today's prices) in order to repair the roof and make major essential repairs to other parts of the fabric of the church. Clearly it will take time to achieve this, and we now need to find a resident who has the time, the interest and the motivation to lead this project and ensure that we keep All Saints church available for generations to come to enjoy and worship in.

The village of Monk Sherborne appears in the Domesday Book and there may have been a Saxon church on the site before the current building was begun. Construction of the church of All Saints was begun in the early 12th Century with it being consecrated about the year 1135.

All Saints church today enjoys the status of a Grade I listed building, which means that it is considered by English Heritage to be of national importance. A short tour of the church will highlight



the many original features which combine to give it this status.

- The font dates from 1230.
- The west window has three 15th century cinquefoil-headed lights.
- The pews are believed to be of 16th Century origin and the pulpit is dated 1651.
- The beautiful wooden porch dates back to about 1370 and, considering the weather that has been thrown at it over the centuries in this very exposed location, it is remarkable that it still survives in such robust condition.
- The door in the north wall has been there since at least the year 1270; it has even been suggested that it could be the original door.
- Other interesting fittings include the fine decorative scheme in the chancel, by G F Bodley, which includes the organ case, choir stalls and roof panelling.
- The bell tower houses bells 5 bells with the oldest two being dated 1595 and 1653.

While regular maintenance, and the dedication of churchwardens and volunteers, have served to keep the ravages of time at bay, a stage has been reached when it will be necessary to do more than to keep the gutters clear. Two years ago we had a foretaste of this when we had to replace the chancel roof. Further investigation has revealed a similar scenario for the nave roof - a much larger area than the chancel. Our inspecting architect has found that the present roof cannot be expected to keep the weather out for longer than five years, while other matters have also become more urgent including crumbling stonework and the condition of the gutters and down pipes.

So, if you are interested in helping please contact Wendy Howe, our Parish Administrator by email, pa.swppcc@gmail.com. There are sources of funding available to call upon but we need an individual to coordinate the activities and make the claim on the church's behalf.

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Bert's Blog



Tasty, tasty, very, very tasty.... I am one proud dog. After parading around the ring at our village Fête for 'Most Fabulous Fellow', 'Musical Sits', 'Best Paw Shaker' and 'Judges Champion' I finally won the last class and was awarded this fabulous rosette. I also received some bags of party 'goodies' which the Mrs kindly doled out to me one at a time and which she also stored in

her handbag for later – spoilsport! This could make a fellow swell headed but I am taking it in my stride, in my run and also in my sits as I now have no excuse not to do what I am told - the Mrs said she would relieve me of my rosette if I did not do exactly what she said in future – if I didn't she would know I was only showing off for the crowd and if I could do it in the ring, I could do it at home....

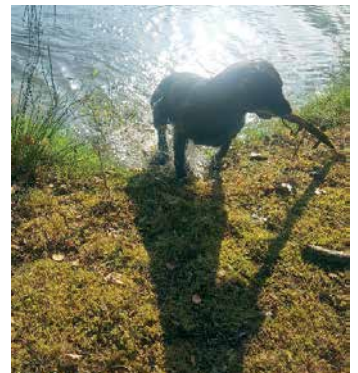
I knew I should not have been so prompt in my eagerness to perform.... It always leads to great expectations from the Boss and Mrs and now, each time I try to ignore a command or turn a deaf ear, the Mrs waves the rosette at me. I am wondering how long it will take for her to forget and allow the dog show to disappear into the avenues of murky past in her memory and allow me to sneak it down the garden for a proper respectful burial – I have the place chosen and marked out already in my own special way...

While searching for a suitable place my memory suddenly resurfaced from the murky past with the aid of sight and smell and I found a long lost tennis ball which pleased me greatly. I proceeded to gift it to the Boss who threw it to the Mrs, who had to drop the rosette (sshhh, I will appropriate it at a later date) to catch the ball and we spent the next hour playing dog in the middle. Each time I caught the ball I received another 'goodie' from my party bag, so all in all we had a very good time at the Fête – many thankful tail flicks and licks to the organisers.

Trying to keep cool??? In all of my nearly 7 years I have never felt as hot as this!

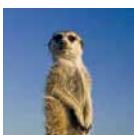
Have you noticed my companion – he always appears when the sun shines and never leaves me alone, except when I am swimming. Here he is in the photo trying to big himself up and take all the glory for retrieving my stick.

When I try to sit on him he almost disappears and running after him is completely useless as he always avoids capture and can run as fast as I can. Luckily he disappears on contact with water.



I get a break from him when the Mrs lets me cool off in the lake but her throw is not what it once was so the Boss gives me more of a swim as his sticks splash far out in the centre and I can practice my swimming stroke to its full potential. This stroke, commonly known as doggy paddle, which I think is a pretty pathetic name considering the speed with which I can move through the water, is a Labradors triumph. I will admit the diving could do with improvement - the Mrs insists it is called a belly flop but I prefer to think of it as a dog bomb – I make a mighty fine splash I can tell you! Once in the water my paws spread out and the webbing between my toes acts as a massive paddle enabling me to power through the water and catch the stick in my mouth to return it to the Boss for another launch..... If only he would let me try this with the fish but he continues to prefer to catch them with dangled lines attached to sticks – I think this is a huge waste of a stick!

Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



The speaker this month was Mel Rees whose talk was titled "My Family and Other Meerkats" in which

he gave an amusing history of his family from the 1930's when his parents owned a newsagents in Battersea. The Meerkats part of the title came from the attitude his mother would adopt when either disapproving of something (usually that Mel had done) or boasting about someone else in the family (usually not

Mel). His anecdotes also strayed into his personal observations on modern life, linked with the absurd the overstated and the self-delusions of those who control our everyday lives and the fortunes of Aldershot Football Club. These thoughts and more are also contained in his books written in the pen name Anthony Mann and published by his own company the Trouser Press with the latest, *In Bed with A Mann*, available now.

The next meeting is on 5th September when the speaker will be Eric Marsh on Victorian Sports. 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. Details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and for information about our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

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Ramblers Association

The group walk on both Tuesday, Saturday and have just recently started a Thursday walk which is sometimes a bit shorter for those who do not want to walk the longer distances. In the summer this can take the form of a short evening walk and pub stop. The walks cover areas in and around Basingstoke as well as sometimes going further afield.

On our Tuesday morning walks, which are typically 6- 7 miles, we continue to attract many walkers. We have recently walked around Titchbourne, Hartley Wintney and our annual summer picnic was held in Brown Candover.

Our Saturday walks tend to be longer, with fewer walkers, and can sometimes take most of the day. This last quarter our walks have included walking around Christchurch and Hengistbury Head, an annual favourite, as well as around Lower Wield, a coastal walk around Southsea and a walk around Winchester.

Our Thursday walks have included evening walks around Sherborne St John, Englefield and a 4-mile day time walk around Tadley Common.

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.



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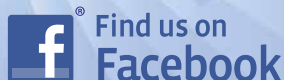
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We help several Sherborne st John residents who use the Clift Meadow surgery in Bramley, but we need to find some local people who can join us as drivers in order to keep this going.

If you feel you could give a little time during the day, every now and then and think this is something you'd like to do, then please get in touch. You'll need to have a car that older people

could get in and out of easily, and have comprehensive insurance.

Also, because we work with vulnerable adults, we'll need to set you up with a DBS check, which is all organised and paid for by us. We also pay you petrol money.

If you'd like to have a chat with me and find out more, then please call me on 079909 15588 and you can visit us on Facebook at Bramley Volunteer Drivers.

Jenny Edwards, Co-ordinator Bramley Volunteer Drivers

A Taste of Iran

Back in June an evening entitled 'A Taste of Iran' was held in the Village hall for all women in the village. An Iranian dish of Zereshk polo ba morgue was shared together and a wide variety of different Iranian cakes enjoyed by everyone. The main focus of the evening though was to listen to an Iranian lady called Rashin Soodmand who spoke about the persecution of Christians in Iran including the death of her own father. Natalie Montegriffo has written an account of Rashin's moving talk below.

The speaker, Rashin Soodmand, began with a Bible reading from John 8: 1-11. This is the story of a woman caught committing adultery, brought before Jesus. She was going to be stoned but Jesus said "Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" (v7). When the accusers had left, Jesus said he would not condemn her and that she should "Go and sin no more". This story illustrates how God gives us all a second chance, and gives us opportunities to turn away from sin.

Rashin's father, Reverend Hossein Soodmand was sixteen years old when he became a Christian but being a Christian was illegal in Iran so he later moved to another city (Esfahan). He taught in a school there which was set up by the Anglican Church for the blind, and met and married his wife.

He became a chaplain in a Christian hospital but moved to Mashad when he lost his job.

Here, Reverend Soodmand had a Church in the basement of his house and spoke to many people interested in Christianity. But Mashad was a very conservative Islamic city, so Christianity was not allowed and the Imams gave an ultimatum. The church had to be closed or Reverend Soodmand would be killed. He was arrested and released, and went to Tehran to speak to leaders there. They suggested that he should leave, but he said: "...I am ready to sacrifice my soul for my sheep. For me to escape from this persecution, would cause the hearts of my flock to become cold and weak. And I never want to be a bad example for them. So I am ready to go to prison again and, if necessary, to give my life". He was then captured and his family did not hear from him for two weeks. He had been hung at Mashad prison, on December 3rd 1990. As a result of this, Rashin wrote a letter to God, who had comforted her over her father's death, saying she would take up full-time ministry and follow in her father's footsteps. However, there have still been several deaths, including seven pastors, that the government have not accepted any responsibility for.



Rashin asked if we could pray for there to be more ministers, as some have had to leave Iran. She also asked us to pray for women who have converted from Islam to Christianity because they often feel as if they lack an identity after being brought up to feel inferior to men. There are several television programmes made for Iranian women to help them overcome this.

The Bible verses that were recommended are: 1 Peter 3: 14 and Psalm 23: 1-3. There was a request at the end of the talk to pray for further access to the Good News in Iran, to help women overcome domestic violence or drug abuse by their fathers and husbands, and to pray for finances for more Christian ministry.

Finally, there was uplifting news about how Christianity changes Iranian people from praying five times a day but fearing God's punishment rather than feeling his love, to being converted via dreams, miracles and pamphlets. There was an excellent video of how two Iranian women were converted to Christianity, found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVCj26fdJpQ> (called Padina's Story).

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Beginners' classes take place on Tuesday evenings (7.00 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 more than 200 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. Thursday evenings are for less experienced players who do not feel ready to join the other sessions. Table money for visitors is £3.00, but the first Thursday you play you will not be charged. (To find out more about Thursdays, telephone George Collins on 01256 780940.)

The club address is Maydene, Sherborne Road, Basingstoke RG21 5TG.

For more information see our web site: www.basingstokebridgeclub.co.uk

Sherborne St John Social Club

Elm Road Sherborne St John RG24 9HP - 01256 850303

Forthcoming Events

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	15 th Sept 2018	Music Quiz Night
Wednesday	26 th Sept 2018	Jazz Jam Event with Chris Cooke & Friends Why Not participate bring your music & instruments 20:00
Saturday	29 th Sept 2018	A VIRTUAL CRUISE Sailing from Singapore to Thailand, China & Hawaii With a taster at each port. Ticket available from the club Members £6 Guests £8
Saturday	13 th Oct 2018	Quiz Night
Wednesday	24 th Oct 2018	Jazz Jam Event with Chris Cooke & Friends Why Not participate bring your music & instruments 20:00
Saturday	27 th Oct 2018	Fancy Dress Halloween Disco

Keep an eye on  **facebook & the Noticeboard for other great events**

Every Friday

Meat Raffle

Every Sunday

Bingo

New Members Always Welcome

Guests & Children welcome



Minimum £5 transaction

Function Hall Available for Hire – 01256 850303

Sponsored Bike Ride – Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 8th September 2018.

The annual Sponsored Ride & Stride in aid of funds for the Hampshire & The Islands (Wight and Channel) Historic Churches Trust will be held on Saturday 8th Sept 2018.

ALL sponsorship money goes to the Trust (no expenses incurred), they will retain half of the sponsorship money for churches that require funds to maintain their historic condition; the other half of the money will be disbursed to the churches nominated by those being sponsored. The 2017 event

raised a magnificent £60,008 (including Gift Aid), with the Basingstoke area providing £1,120 before Gift Aid. Grants totalling £35,000 were made to six churches. Since 1988 the Trust has contributed funding to well over 300 churches.

The object of the event is to be sponsored to visit as many of the participating churches as one can during the day – either by walking or cycling or on horse back, or even by car!. All counties participate, so you can cross county boundaries if so desired.

There are six churches in the Basingstoke town area with a further five in Tadley as well as our three churches – a total of 21 in the Basingstoke District – that gives you plenty of scope.

Come on and get your bike out of mothballs and GET SPONSORED!

For further information and sponsorship forms, etc., contact:

David Cullum (01256 850315) or d.cullum483@btinternet.com or go online to www.hihct.org.uk.

Probus Club Summer Pub Lunch 2018

As usual at this time of year the annual Summer Pub lunch of the Probus Club of Basingstoke took place. On this occasion it was at The Poacher Inn in South Warnborough which is situated on the Alton road south of Odiham. Chris Perkins MVO, of Kempshott, being the newly appointed president, selected the hostelry ensuring not to replicate past venues.

This is an attractive and welcoming pub with a modern accommodation block, offering good pub food and the party of thirty six, consisting of members and their spouses/partners, enjoyed their time together.

During World War Two, the pub, then called The Plough Inn, was a popular off duty “watering hole” for all manner of

air and ground crews from the nearby aerodrome. These not only included the Royal Air Force, but personnel from Canadian fighter squadrons together with Belgian and Free-French trainee pilots from the newly formed Elementary Flying School on the base. Today, renamed The Poacher Inn, it continues to be a popular haunt for many of the helicopter squadrons. The landlady and her team go to great lengths to offer their hospitality to all and have endeavoured to integrate the pub with the local community by providing an ideal venue for meetings and functions.

Chris commented, “As I served for many years at RAF Odiham meant that I was familiar with this establishment and

confident that the licensee would be able to cope with such numbers arriving on their doorstep.”

He was not wrong. It was a splendid choice and the range of food and drinks on offer were of high quality and competitively priced.

Now in its fortieth year, the Probus Club of Basingstoke has a full programme of activities with monthly speaker lunches for members, who are all retired professional and business managers, with a variety of social outings that always involve the ladies.

Prospective members can find more information on the club's web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their secretary, Paul Flint, on 07770 886521 for an informal chat.



Down Grange Football Club New Ladies Football Team in Basingstoke

This upcoming season Down Grange will have a new Ladies team playing in the Hampshire County Football League Division One. We also have an under 18's girls team playing in the Hampshire County Youth League.

We are looking to expand both our squads. Would you like to get back into playing football or looking for a new team? Are you a young player who is looking to develop?

Down Grange Football Club also has a variety of younger teams for any girls under the age of 16 who would like to play.

If you are interested please come along to one of our training sessions, which are held on Wednesday evenings at Down Grange, Pack Lane, Basingstoke

RG22 5SN (by the hockey field) from 7-8.30pm. Please contact Ben (Ladies Manager) on 07519845292 or Garry

(U18's Manager) on 07776366602 to find out more. Alternatively you can email downgrangeladiesfc@gmail.com.



Ever thought of having a go at Indoor Bowls?

Then why not give it a go at

Loddon Vale Indoor Bowling Club
Open Day 8th September 10am-4pm

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E-mail: info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk

This is an opportunity to enjoy some light healthy indoor exercise for all ages-and meet new friends
We have comfortable air conditioned premises with restaurant and bar

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We are a non-profit making club

Spring/Summer 2018

It has been a very difficult summer

It was fortunate that the rainfall of March and April was well above the average; this provided a reasonable amount of groundwater which mitigated against the severe drought conditions that were to follow for most of us.

Summer droughts occur irregularly and infrequently; the summer of 1947 followed a severe winter with nonstop frost and lots of snow which, when it melted in April, produced lots of flood water which ran quickly into the rivers and left a severe groundwater deficit. In the drought of 1976 the rains came in early September immediately after a 'Minister for Drought' had been created. In my memory these are the serious droughts, but 2016 has been very problematical with rainfall often dependent on the vagaries of thunderstorms, and some areas have seriously missed out; here we had thunderstorms pass to the North or the South and even to the West or East; and one of the most promising coming up from France suddenly dissipated as it came near.

The most significant feature of the summer was the heat. Sunshine totals were far above average – very good for those with solar panels. But look

at the temperatures; daytime maxima were over 6 Celsius above average over the three main months and even night minima were well above normal in spite of the prevalence of clear skies at night. The highest temperature I recorded was 33.6C on the 26th July. The rainfall in June here amounted to 1.7mm. and most of that was in light showers that sat on the surface and then evaporated with no benefit to the crops and plants and leaving the ground parched and rock hard.

It has been a very difficult summer for the gardeners and disastrous for livestock farmers because the grass has

hardly grown due to the lack of water and farmers are having to feed their stock on what had been made for use in winter. The harvest has been relatively easy with good ground conditions able to cope with heavy machinery (unlike 2017) but the quality is not great and the yields are down.

One unusual feature of the summer has been the prevalence of thunderstorm activity across Europe from Portugal to Romania, down into Greece and Italy; on occasion these thunderstorms have moved into the UK from France and Belgium but have seldom produced heavy rain.

2018 Pamber Green	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	To 12 Aug
Avg Day Max Temp C	8.9	15.9	21.7	24.4	28.1	26.3
Diff from 30-yr ave C	-0.9	+1.4	+6.0	+5.4	+7.1	+5.1
Highest Max Temp C	14.6	28.1	28.5	29.1	33.6	32.1
Avg Night Min Temp C	2.0	6.9	7.3	11.2	12.7	11.6
Diff from 30-year ave C	+0.1	+3.5	+1.4	+2.5	+2.4	+1.1
Lowest Min Air Temp C	-5.6	2.9	-1.0	5.9	9.2	4.3
No. Nights with Air Frost	11	0	1	0	0	0
Night frosts diff from ave	+1	-4	+1	0	0	0
No.Nights with Grass Frost	17	1	2	0	0	0
Total Rainfall mm	99.4	72.9	55.5	1.7	16.4	4.8
Percent of 30-year ave	159%	136%	100%	3%	29%	22%
No. of days with >1mm rain	15	12	9	0	3	2
Diff from 30-year ave	+4	+3	=1	=7	-4	-1

David Cullum. Tel. 850315

Sample what singing has to offer!

Basingstoke Male Voice choir was formed in 1964. It's been through a number of changes since then and we want to continue the fine tradition of the choir into the next 50 years!

We want new choristers to help us achieve that aim – you don't need to be experienced singers just someone who wants to sing, enjoy music and the social aspects of singing. Singing is good for you, it's great fun - it's even been found to be therapeutic and is recommended by the British Heart Foundation.

We have a dynamic, new American Music Director who is keen for us the sing more modern material whilst keeping some of the traditional numbers in the repertoire. We rehearse 2 hrs per week so not too onerous. We'd love you to join us!

We are holding an open, 'taster' evening on Tuesday, October 23rd at our rehearsal venue (United Reformed Church, Basingstoke). We want you to experience choral singing, try it for yourselves and then decide if you want

to be part of the choir. The evening will be informal with plenty of opportunity to sing and ask questions. You won't be disappointed!

Come along on the night at 7:30 PM or contact us via our website (www.basingstokemvc.org.uk) or Facebook page (BasingstokeMVC) or ring 01256 768608 for more information.



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Basingstoke Festival of Choirs

At 7.00 pm on Sunday 30th September local musicians will present a concert in Basingstoke's concert hall, The Anvil, entitled 'Voices Together'.

Under the banner of the "Basingstoke Festival of Choirs" hundreds of enthusiastic singers will be joining forces to present a programme of music to suit all tastes and ages. They will be accompanied by the Heritage Light Orchestra. Special guests *Vocal Point* and *St Mary's CE Junior School Choir* will be displaying the very best of the Borough's young talent.

The programme will include the music of Carl Orff, Karl Jenkins, Gilbert and Sullivan, Verdi and more, all guaranteed to lift the spirits and ensure a joyous evening of music making.

Tickets cost £16.00 (under 16s £8) and are now available from <http://www.anvilarts.org.uk/> or by phoning 01256 844244 or by visiting the Anvil box office.



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Disputed Wills and Inheritance Claims

The loss of a loved one is always such a sad and difficult time; especially as there are many formalities to be dealt with alongside all the emotional upset.

Unfortunately, in some instances the situation can be made all the worse if there is a dispute over the contents of a Will or if there is another inheritance issue.

An example of this is when we are sometimes asked if there is anything that can be done if a Will fails to make adequate provision for someone who was financially dependent on the deceased.

Whilst we are generally free to dispose of our assets as we see fit, the law, through the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975, does provide protection for people who have been financially dependent on the deceased. The aim of the Act is to provide legal protection for spouses, children and other dependants, where a person has died without leaving sufficient money for their continued wellbeing.

Should a Will fail to make reasonable financial provision, then you may be able

to make an Inheritance Act claim. In this situation the Court will take into account the applicant's needs and resources and consider these against what would be reasonable for their maintenance.

If you are considering making a claim disputing the validity of a Will or making a claim under the Inheritance Act, it is important that you seek specialist advice at the earliest opportunity as strict time limits apply to contested Wills.

At Phillips Solicitors we have a great deal of practical knowledge and professional expertise in dealing with disputed Wills and Inheritance Act claims. We advise both individual claimants wishing to make a claim for adequate financial provision and beneficiaries who want to defend their interests under a disputed Will.

We look to resolve problems as quickly as possible. In fact, we always recommend that you try and stay out of Court when you have a dispute but in some cases this is unavoidable.

If you have any concerns about the validity of a Will or if you are considering making an Inheritance Act claim, please get in touch with Alastair either by emailing alastair.yapp@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling Alastair on 01256 854649.

Women's Fellowship

'More Where and What is That in Hampshire' was the title of Mrs Jill Daniel's second talk to members of the Fellowship. As before, pictures and stories mixed odd facts about well-known people and places with tales of the out-of-the way, obscure or forgotten, only a few of which I can record.

At the D-Day Museum in Southsea Daphne Lawrence created 31 stunning tapestries (by tracing photographs and used original uniform fabric for her embroideries). The Sandham Memorial Chapel in Burghclere, commissioned in memory of Lt Sandham by his sister houses works by Stanley Spencer, who drew on his experiences as a

medical orderly in WW1. On a wall in Hampton Street, Southampton there is a massive history of the town in glass and concrete which originally graced a Sainsbury's store and in Bramdean there is a corrugated iron church built by Rev. Bishop for itinerant workers who were unwelcome in the parish church. Minstead churchyard has several interesting tombs - Thomas White died in 1842 and his headstone has a word neatly removed. Apparently his wife found out too late that, alas, he was not a 'faithful' husband; Thomas Maynard's stone recorded that he was a musician and a representation of an instrument called a serpent was carved on it. In the

same churchyard is a stone recording Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife Jean. Originally buried in their garden in Sussex, they had to be moved when the house was sold. The locals were not happy because of the DoYLES' interest in Spiritualism and when an oak tree in the graveyard was twice hit by lightning this was felt to be a fitting response.

Mrs Daniels was thanked for her talk by Mrs Ann Twine who told of seeing Stanley Spencer on the platform of Cookham station. She asked if there might be a Part 3, but sadly although she had more material, Mrs Daniel's late husband had been responsible for the technical side of her presentation.

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**

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ONLINE BOOKINGS

All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

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

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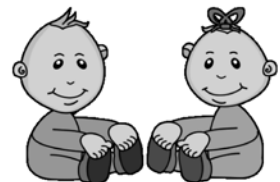
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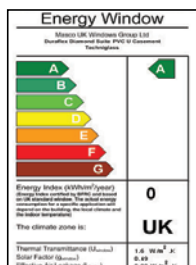
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