



The Villager

October 2020

Sherbornes and Pamber



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FLU VACCINATIONS AT THE CLIFT SURGERY 2020/2021

This year we have more local people than ever before to vaccinate and we need your help to make sure that we vaccinate people quickly, efficiently and most importantly safely.

Having a flu jab will not stop you from catching COVID-19 but it will help to prevent you catching flu which can cause serious illness itself. If our hospitals are busy treating patients with COVID-19, we want to try and stop them having to cope with a flu epidemic at the same time.

We have begun our flu vaccination campaign already, text message invites have already gone out to cover our 65 and over cohort, and our first Saturday clinic is fully booked. If you have been unable to book into this clinic please do not panic as there will be more vaccines being delivered in October along with more clinic availability. As more vaccines become available we will continue to contact every patient entitled to a flu vaccination to let them know how to book and when and where they need to attend to have their vaccination.

If you would like more information about this season's programme and to find out if you are in the Target Group, please visit:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE PRACTICE (OUR PHONES ARE BUSY ENOUGH AT THE BEST OF TIMES!!) - VISIT THE LINK ABOVE OR, IF YOUR QUESTIONS ARE STILL NOT ANSWERED, THEN SEND US AN EMAIL - reception.clift@nhs.net

This is what we need you to do to help: -

- Try hard to keep your appointment as this will allow us to ensure that we can spread the load and keep everyone safe.
- Do not attend if you, or anyone who lives with you, are unwell with a temperature, new cough, new breathlessness or a loss of taste or smell.
- To avoid car parking problems please walk if you can or be dropped off. Please be mindful of the narrow nature of Minchens Lane and do not park down the lane.
- Wear a face covering to your appointment.
- Follow the direction of the staff to ensure that you are at an appropriate safe distance.
- Come only with others who are being vaccinated at the same time to reduce the number of people in the building unnecessarily.
- Wear clothing that allows you to bare your upper arm quickly.
- As soon as you have been vaccinated please leave - no stopping to chat this year!

THANK YOU FOR WORKING TOGETHER WITH US TO GET EVERYONE VACCINATED AS QUICKLY AND AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE.

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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Contacts

CHURCH OF ENGLAND	Rev Daniel Newman	rector.sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com	541607
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke		819722
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH	Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke		316000
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS			
SSJ	Mrs Penny Mayo	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk	07714 770940
MS	Mrs Cally Morris	mspcclerk@gmail.com	07721 076186
Pamber	Chris Gunnell	clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk	07942 637210
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Mr Tristan Robinson	07817 131821	
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber	Mr. Roger Gardiner, Nuthatch, The Glen, Pamber Heath	01189 701109	
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke	844844	
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	The Castle, Winchester	0300 555 1375	
HAMPSHIRE POLICE	Non-emergency	101 or 01962 841534	
	www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime		
PCSO LUKE EDWARDS	luke.edwards@hampshire.pnn.police.uk		
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com	850891	
NEAREST JOB CENTRE	https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk		
LOCAL GROUPS			
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs Jenny Cullum (Secretary)	850315	
RAINBOWS	Laura Hawkins - lauraamyhawkins@gmail.com		
BROWNIES	Tramayne Henwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com	422083	
GUIDES	Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com	880132	
CUBS	Ms Trish Field	01420 544904	
MOTHER AND TODDLER	Mrs Barbara Irving	850173	
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB	Mr David Hughes (Steward)	850303	
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY	Mrs Jean Linford	850264	
TENNIS CLUB	Paul & Maria Saunders	850430	
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING	Mrs Margaret Cramer	850390	
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB	Mr Len Dunce	07860 435 831	
	or Mr Paul Hamilton	07917 005862	
YOGA in SSJ Village Hall	Mrs Jacqui Morris	881336	
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB	Mr Les Bone	850973	
FOOTBALL CLUB	Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com	07584 169241	
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com	07528 726248	
	www.piccolopsn.com		
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mr Stuart Maughan	883858	
VENUE BOOKINGS:			
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter booking@ststephensvillagehall.org		
MS Village Hall	Natasha Chappell natasha.chappell@googlemail.com	01256 851373	
		07766 426080	
SSJ Village Hall	Shawna Campbell ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com	01256 889534	
	Caretaker	07500 776222	
The Chute Pavilion	Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com	07584 169241	
	& Penny Mayo ssjclerk@gmail.com	07714 770 940	
HEALTH CARE			
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST		01256 473202	
HANTSDOC		01189 365592	
BRAMBLYS GRANGE		467778	
CHINEHAM SURGERY		479244	
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE		329021	
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY		881228	
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY		01189 814166	
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY		399710	
MORELAND SURGERY		0118 9816661	
EDUCATION			
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST	Mr Mike Stewart (Head teacher)	850062	
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mrs Karen Payne (Head teacher)	850180	
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Jamie Carroll	473379	
PUBLIC SERVICES			
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		322814	
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES		0345 484950	
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)		0871 121 0190	
LIBRARIES	Basingstoke Town Centre	473901	
	Chineham Library	465643	
	Tadley Library	0300 555 1387	
DIAL-A-RIDE	Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm	01256 462101	

If we have omitted any organisations, and/or their contact details, we apologise and would welcome any information to keep this list up to date and relevant

Julie Crawley villagermagazine@gmail.com 01256 851003

October 2020

Patrick (Pat) Frederick Terrington Linford

18th September 1934 - 1st March 2020



It is now six months since Pat's death and still we have Government restrictions on gathering numbers in both Church and Halls; so sadly we have decided that no Memorial Service can be held in his name. Pat would have approved this decision as he never did like 'Fuss'.

Born in the Norfolk village of Dersingham. Pat remained "a good



old Norfolk boy", and was a regular correspondent to the Village Voice newsletter on the people, places and local history he recalled from boyhood.

Diligent in his studies, particularly the sciences, Pat was awarded the Queen's medal (the first awarded in the Queen's reign) from King's Lynn Grammar School, he went on to study at Cambridge to begin his lifelong career in physics. Having honed his technical skills working for a beach photographer in his holidays, he went on to record his time at Cambridge through the lens of his camera. Many of the faces captured during these three years continue to appear in later albums, often with the addition of growing families, as the friendships made remained dear to him throughout his life and travels.

He went on to work as a materials physicist at AWRE; here he remained throughout his working life, with trips to use research facilities at the Los Alamos laboratories in New Mexico. His research with colleagues into the development of thick film technology, a precursor to the silicon chip, led to publications in this field still cited to-day. Collaboration was also made with colleagues on the completion of The Daily Telegraph cryptic crossword, often with final clues solved on the bus home. His struggle to complete the puzzle on retirement serves as a testament to Pat's inclusive approach to research and willingness to share and learn from others.

Pat will be remembered by family and friends for his love of music, the theatre and playing the piano, as a productive gardener, loyal friend, devoted church goer and family man. He joined the village school governors after his eldest son started education there, only retiring on reaching his eightieth birthday. Living in the same

Hampshire village for over fifty years he was well known and respected; so much so that many feel they have lost a much loved friend. Kind and gentle with a great interest in all of those around him, he would always have time to engage in conversation, and was delighted whenever an opportunity to return to college with friends arose. Pat died peacefully in his sleep on 1st March 2020.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many who in cards and letters have sent their kind thoughts and memories of Pat, this has been a great comfort to us over the last difficult few months. A donation in Pat's memory can be made to the Hampshire Medical Fund, North Hampshire Hospital, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke RG24 9NA <https://www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/> - a charity we and he had much to be grateful for.

Jean, Paul, Neil, Clare, Jen, Lizzie & Mathilda





Sherbornes with Pamber

As we have been walking along the footpaths in our villages, we have been able to see the stubble on the ground in some fields, while in others, harvest is still taking place. When we moved here in January, my family were excited to grow vegetables in the garden. We planted most of the seeds in the greenhouse to start them off before we transferred them to the vegetable patch. Then we had to wait for several months and life went on as usual. We could have thought that nothing was going to happen and forgotten about everything we had planted. But the plants grew and finally produced vegetables which we have harvested. We have enjoyed runner beans, tomatoes, carrots, courgettes, cucumbers, pumpkins and spring onions. We've learnt that there are things that we need to do differently next year, and it'll be a while before the BBC invites us to take over from Monty Don!

At the moment it can seem as though life is going on as usual and nothing is going to change. The effects of COVID-19, including the response of the government, continue to be with us. There are tighter restrictions once again on meeting up socially; for some families, that means that children

can't see both grandparents. Maybe we thought that we had heard the last of Brexit in January, but it is back in the headlines as the trade bill is discussed. There is ongoing division throughout the West over racism in the past and how it is perpetuated today, with statues being defaced or removed, places being renamed, and the suggestion that songs shouldn't be sung. There continue to be natural disasters, including the wildfires on the west coast of America.

Jesus says, "Life isn't always going to be like this. There is going to be a harvest." In Mark 3.26-29, Jesus tells a parable about the kingdom of God. Elsewhere, Jesus calls the kingdom of God 'eternal life'. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Jesus uses this as a picture of the word of God being proclaimed. That's what Jesus does when he first comes. He announces that God's kingdom is near, and calls people to turn away from their rebellion against God and believe the good news. That means trusting in him as God's chosen king and accepting his rule. What is the good news he announces, which means we should respond in this way? On one occasion, four men lower their paralysed friend through a hole they have made in the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching. Jesus tells the man that his sins are forgiven, not because his sins have caused his paralysis, but because the forgiveness of his sins is his greatest need. Jesus says he is like a doctor who

has not come for the healthy but for sick people: he hasn't come for people who think they are good but those who know that they aren't, so that they may be forgiven. Later Jesus explains how he does this: by giving his life as a ransom for many. His death on the cross pays the price for sins.

What happens when Jesus sows the seed of the word? It doesn't look as though very much is happening. Jesus' own family say he is out of his mind and religious leaders say Jesus gets his power to do miracles from the devil. But there will be a harvest. The world will not carry on as it always has for ever. Jesus will return.

That seed is being sown now, as you are reading this. The seed is sown Sunday by Sunday as the word of God is preached. Please do come and hear it for yourself. Jesus' teachings aren't the ravings of a madman. The way he healed people and welcomed those whom others had rejected show that he isn't bad. He is God himself who came into our world as a human being. Don't carry on living as if there is no harvest or think that you can be grain of high enough quality by yourself. Listen to Jesus' word, trust in him to pay the price for your sins and live under his rule. Then you'll be ripe grain which eventually grows from the seed, and Jesus will gather you into his perfect kingdom for ever.

*First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.*

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector



SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Please join us for our Sunday service in church. We follow the Government's social distancing and health & safety instructions, including the wearing of masks and the Rule of Six. Details of how to advise us of your attendance are included in our weekly email to the members of our congregation with an email address; those without email and would like to be included can contact our Parish Administrator, Wendy Howe at pa.swppcc@gmail.com or our Rector, the Revd Daniel Newman at rector@sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com or 01256 541607. This is used for track & trace purposes as well as ensuring we can accommodate safely all those wishing to attend.

The services held at St Andrew's are now being live streamed on our YouTube channel. We also record these services which are usually loaded onto the channel after lunchtime on the Sunday. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBbHQM4CvpnnPsSGuugIR_w or the one on our website.

The 9.30am service has a focus on parents with young families as we are unable to hold Sunday Club in the School building during the Autumn term.

'Hope for the ends of the earth': Acts 8-18

04 October

9:30am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Can human authorities stop God's word?	Acts 12	Warren Trask

11 October

9.30 & 10.45am	Harvest Service*	St Andrew's
4pm	Harvest Service	All Saints
How will the church multiply?	Acts 13:1-12	Revd Dr Daniel Newman

18 October

9:30am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
10:45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
Is there light for a dark world?	Acts 13:13-52	Brett Rohloff

25 October

9.30 & 10.45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
9.30am	Morning Service	Pamber Priory
Is Jesus good news for other religions?	Acts 14	Revd Dr Daniel Newman & Warren Trask

01 November

9:30am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Why can't Christians agree?	Acts 15:1-16:5	The Revd Daniel Newman

Mid-Week

Home Groups meet in the week of Monday 12 October.

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 6 October & 3 November.

Unless there is a change to Government guidelines for meeting in person they will held via Zoom.

***Harvest Service** – donated items will be collected during the service in a COVID-safe way. We are supporting the Basingstoke Foodbank; please visit their website or phone them for information on what they are short of.

Please do not include fresh food as this cannot be accepted.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/basingstoke/> T: 07722 673645

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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SHERBORNE ST. JOHN

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has not held a meeting since June 2020 with the July 2020 meeting cancelled and is in the process of organizing virtual meetings via Zoom until it is safe to hold open meetings again. Please check the website and noticeboards for further information or contact the Parish Clerk clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

The work of the Parish Council has continued in fact, with the Covid pandemic lockdown and so many people at home, it has been busier than ever. Residents have had so much time to look around with suggestions for action to improve the Parish. The wonderful work done by the group making masks and helping in practical ways people who have been self-isolating has been brilliant. The Councillors continue to be proud of all the hours volunteers have willingly spent helping others to get through this crisis.

Unfortunately, some of the suggestions received were impractical, given the limited staffing time in the Parish, and could only be implemented by groups of volunteers who agree to be responsible for the venture reporting back to the Parish Council.

Prospective Local Library in the telephone box in the square. Unfortunately, to date only one offer of help has been received by the Parish Council so this is unlikely to be able to be put action. The Parish Council would still welcome the submission of a plan for said library. The plan would need to indemnify the Parish re: all future repairs if the telephone box were to be vandalized.

Speed watch. Despite complaints from a few residents about the speeding traffic there has only been one person who has contacted me about becoming a volunteer. As I wrote before Becky Jones has done a wonderful job for the last 5 years but maybe the time is right for more villagers to help or the scheme might well end with insufficient volunteers coming forward to help.

Despite the hard work for the last months by Councillors and staff on the residents' behalf and the support of the

majority of residents, a number of ill-informed comments have been posted to social media platforms re: failings of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is happy to discuss any such issues, but the appropriate way forward would be via the Parish Clerk and /or Chair. Please e mail any comments or problems to clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

The new drainage work is completed but the lack of rain and the hot weather has meant much seed did not germinate or provided food for the pigeons. New seed is in the process of being sown & the fields will hopefully be ready for use by the end of September/ beginning of October and will provide a wonderful exercise area throughout the winter months without being waterlogged.

Anyone using the facilities is asked to read all signage careful to ensure they follow the regulations to maintain health and safety in these trying times.

There have been social media comments re: the new signage at the Chute stating that cycling is not permitted in the grounds. This is not a new regulation but was imposed many years ago long before this present Parish Council took office in 2011/2.

Considerable damage is done to the turf when teenagers ride around doing 'wheelies' with their friends. There have been several near accidents to older people and children walking and playing on the grounds which is unacceptable.

It is especially galling Terry Buller had received complaints and abuse from teenagers and adults cycling around the Recreation ground. Perhaps people are not aware of the hours and hours he and his football volunteers have carried out for several years to maintain the ground in excellent condition for all users of the Chute, not just the footballers. Despite only playing for 8 months a year at the weekends they spend up to £3000 per year, re-seeding, weedkilling, sanding, cutting the grounds & generally maintaining the areas, costs that the Parish Council could never cover without raising the precepts or charging much greater hire charges.

In addition, Terry has spent most of his spare time overseeing the new drainage. A comment from the company that re-seeded the Recreation ground suggested that the football pitches and environs are probably the best pitches/grounds

in the Basingstoke area and the envy of many other clubs.

As usual a minority make the majority suffer but with so much money spent, well over £120,000, in the last couple of years on tennis courts, storage units, pavilion decoration, equipment and drainage and much more, all from grants and income generated by the clubs that use the facilities, the facilities and area must be properly cared for so as not to negate such a significant spend. It is largely due to Terry's constant work that the whole area is so good.

Roads/Footpaths

Redirected footpath 18 from Popley will hopefully go out into the grassed area and reconnect with the exit under the trees into the carpark with little alteration. Fingers crossed BDBC/HCC might apply common sense and not levy the anticipated £3k fee to formally amend the route.

Because of the problems caused by the few I have contacted Hampshire County Council and the Countryside Hants team who confirm that cycling is **NOT** allowed on any footpaths.

Allotments

All the allotments are at present tenanted and under cultivation. There is a long waiting list with preference given to SSJ residents. Therefore, tenants failing to maintain their plots as per the tenancy agreement will be given one chance to rectify the situation or their tenancy will be terminated.

Lengths man Scheme

This is an ongoing scheme of work so if there is anything to add please contact me.

Finances

The finances are still good as there was a government grant to both the Chute and the Village Hall to help during times without any income.

Monthly Meetings

During these confused times and with few major issues to contend with we are not seeing many parishioners at the monthly meetings. It would be good to see folk if only to hear everything is in reasonable shape and that there are no key issues for the Parish Council to deal with.

So if you have any issues you wish to raise please e mail clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

Penny Mayo

Pamber Parish Council

Chairman's Report on meeting 14th September 2020

The Chairman advised the Council that the affordable housing is expected to be completed and occupied in November 2020.

County Councillor Vaughan reported on the work being carried out by Hampshire C.C. in the face of financial and logistical difficulties caused by Covid-19.

Councillor Gardiner reported that Basingstoke Council was having to find £2 million pounds from its reserves to counter a shortfall in funding.

The Council debated planning matters and agreed on their response to 4 applications. Councillor Gardiner gave a report on the latest White Paper concerning planning.

Matters of finance were discussed and payments agreed. It was also agreed to grant £25 to Victim Support.

Following the successful application for £200,000 LIF funding the next stage in the process of building an extension

to the Memorial Hall was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor Kingston should sign the LIF agreement and that Councillors Greaves, Kingston and Goss should meet with the architect and Lynda Parker-Schwarz to decide upon the procedure.

It was further agreed that the pre-school playgroup could erect a summer house in the grounds of the Hall subject to an amendment to their licence to occupy with the Council.

Councillor Greaves gave a report on the Neighbourhood Plan and pointed out that the White Paper could have a material effect upon how the steering committee proceeded.

Councillor Stephens and the Clerk will attempt to re-build the Council's FaceBook page.

A very long discussion over the spending of S.106 monies took place with final agreement that Councillor Goss will continue to explore the possibility of improving disabled access

to Pamber Park, that the Council will seek quotations for the supply and installation of fitness equipment in Pamber Park and that the Council will seek quotations for the supply of 3 metal benches.

The potential re-purposing of one of the tennis courts to the rear of the Memorial Hall was discussed with the Council considering that the cost of playground equipment was too high given the other financial commitments that the Council may have in the near future. It was agreed that Councillor Goss will try to obtain costs for a minimal version of the scheme.

The Council agreed to support the Keep Britain Tidy movement by organising a litter pick within the Parish on the weekend of November 14th/15th.

It was agreed to fund the restoration of existing footpaths within Pamber Park.

Reports were received from Parish Council Representatives.

Sherborne St John CE Primary School



Is your child starting school in September 2021?

Hello, my name is Karen Payne. As the Headteacher of Sherborne St John CE Primary School, I would love to meet you and give you the opportunity to have a look around our fabulous school. We would usually offer personal tours conducted by our Year 6 School Ambassadors, however due to current restrictions this is not

possible but I will gladly show you around and answer any questions.

Please call the school office on 01256 850180 to arrange a tour.

We look forward to meeting you soon!



Basingstoke Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association

BALGA normally provide services and supplies for gardeners at well below normal retail prices from their Trading Post at Eastrop Lane Allotment. They operate the National Association seed ordering scheme which uses Kings catalogue of which I have some spare copies it includes comprehensively both vegetables and flowers, prices are about half normal retail. This information has already been e.mailed to our allotment holders, some of whom have ordered. BALGA membership is open to all gardeners not just those fortunate

enough to have an allotment. However if you are interested you now have no more than 3 weeks to get your order in.

Contact me for a catalogue, order form and membership form. You fill in the forms and return to me with your cheque payable to BALGA by mid October and I will do the rest. You will receive your order by Christmas.

BALGA membership year normally runs from 1st October and costs £5 pa. The BALGA Trading Post is open in normal times on Sunday mornings

March to October but during this Covid period a phone and collect facility is being operated.

Kings are a major seed producer based in Essex and much of their business is packaging seeds for sale under other brand names. I have been ordering from them for over 20 years and have no complaints.

If you are interested email me for a catalogue.
email ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com

Ted Wilkinson
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Learn about fostering over a 'Cuppa with a Carer'

Hampshire County Council is inviting anyone interested in fostering to grab a cuppa and sit down with the experts to find out what it is really like. Throughout September and October experienced foster carers will be hosting virtual question and answer sessions where they share their experiences with anyone wanting to know more

Councillor Patricia Stallard, the County Council's Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People, said: "Right now there are more than 1,600 children in care in Hampshire. Finding homes for these youngsters has been especially challenging during the pandemic. So, I would encourage anyone thinking of opening their home to a child to put these session dates in their diary. It is a chance to find out how you could make a huge difference to a child's life."

The purpose of these online events is to answer many common questions and dispel some of the misconceptions people have about who can foster children. For example, 6% of people

think they can't foster if they are single. But the truth is, they can. The main requirements for foster care are being over 21 and having a spare bedroom. Although childcare experience is helpful, there are professionals who will support families at every stage of the fostering journey.

Councillor Stallard added: "I am delighted that some of our experienced foster carers have offered to take part in these virtual events, as there is nothing quite like talking to someone who truly knows what to expect. These conversations are a vital part of the fostering journey so it is fantastic we can offer this online while lockdown continues to restrict our normal outreach activities.

"Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you are new to the idea of fostering or have already begun looking into it. These online drop-in events are simply informal get-togethers where each person can speak freely and there is no obligation to leave your details afterwards."

The 'Cuppa with a Carer' events are every Wednesday from 6:45pm throughout September and October using Microsoft Teams. A social worker will also be there to help answer any questions.

The dates and discussion topics are as follows:

- Fostering as a Single Carer – 16.9.20
- The difference between Long-term and Short-term Fostering – 23.9.20
- Working full-time and looking to Foster – 30.9.20
- What is Parent and Child Fostering- 7.10.20
- Fostering as a Family - How may it affect my Children?- 14.10.20
- Fostering Sibling Groups – 21.10.20
- Under 35 and looking to Foster? – 28.10.20

To take part, visit the hants.gov.uk/fostering website or @HampshireChildren Facebook page, call 01489 587052 or search 'Cuppa with a Carer' on Eventbrite. Request an information pack to learn more.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - SHERBORNE ST JOHN

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

As there is no longer any monetary payment required we define membership as those who have provided their email address to their scheme co-ordinator and are therefore receiving update messages from time to time. If you are not receiving these messages please email your details of name/s, street address and phone number to your co-ordinator (or myself). Most Insurance companies will give a discount on home policies to NHW members.

As reported in September since the start of lockdown the Parklands office operated by Basingstoke Police had been closed but it was expected to reopen. In the event the office space was only sufficient for police whilst maintaining distances so our NHW administrator

was excluded. Whilst he has done some work from home he could not access his emails sent to the police address. So our outstanding items are blocked. However, I have a contact who will facilitate email contact for me using personal addresses. Even so approval of new co-ordinators will still be delayed as there only two officers with this authority.

The Rural Police section stopped issuing their normal monthly reports in January due to the resignation of a civilian volunteer at Tadley station and it is unlikely that these will restart. This was interesting as items were reported by beat and therefore very relevant to us. Those who are signed up to Hants Alert will have received some notifications depending on their profile and a new monthly report for the county is now circulated but it only gives general information.

Basingstoke NHW store for signs, literature and the like which had also been locked down is now in operation and 50 starter sets of literature will be ready for me on 16/9. These will then be in the hands of scheme co-ordinators for Monk Sherborne Road, Weybrook Court, Spring Close and West End for them to distribute. Any individuals in other schemes who would like one please apply to me.

Unfortunately there are no schemes for Aldermaston Road between Gales Garage and Monk Sherborne Road nor for Chineham Lane / Sherborne Road this being due to having no volunteer to become a co-ordinator. CAN YOU HELP?

email ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com

Ted Wilkinson
SSJ Area Co-ordinator for NHW.

SHERBORNE ST JOHN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



AUGUST 2020

Scheme	CO-ordinator	Telephone	Email
<u>Aldermaston Road</u> (near to ambulance station)	Applicant pending police approval		
Deputy	Annette Mulholland	326739	rjmulholland@btinternet.com
<u>Bournefield</u>	Peter Marrison	850740	marrison60@gmail.com
<u>Cranes Road</u>	Margaret Paterson	850263	mepaterson@hotmail.com
<u>Cranesfield</u>	Chris Cooke	850837	Chris.cooke@live.co.uk
<u>Dancers Meadow, Vidlers Farm, Kiln Rd, Dark La</u>	Julie Crawley	851003	julcrawley851@gmail.com
<u>Elm Road</u>	Ted Wilkinson	850891	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com
Deputy	Leslie Bone	850973	skerryvore1@btinternet.com
<u>Manor Road</u>	Malcolm Turner		malcolmtturner62@btinternet.com
Deputy	Alan Thirlwell	851149	no email
<u>Spring Close</u>	Jane Bechelet	850942	janeg113@btinternet.com
Deputy	Vacancy		
<u>The Severals</u>	Merged with Spring Close		
<u>Tyfield</u>	Vacancy pending Carole Stanley moving.	851250	carole_stanley@yahoo.co.uk
Deputy	Vacancy		
<u>Vyne Road and Vyne Meadow</u>	John Edwards	850507	edwards@sherborne8.plus.com
Deputy	Vacancy		
<u>West End</u>	Mike Perman at A.Monger's	850025	brenda@amongerltd.com
<u>Weybrook Court and Monk S. Road</u>	Virginia Sadowski		binbun@hotmail.co.uk

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ROUTE 22 BUS SERVICE

The bus service was restarted on Sept 1st but with no publicity I fear it ran completely empty. I emailed Stagecoach on 9th September because they had not let me know the expected September changes; then by chance I looked at their timetables on the web. I found they had launched new timetables on 31st August two weeks earlier than usual. It showed a restarted 22 with an improved timetable **but on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.**

The service is -

from Cranen Road at 9.48, 11.48 and 13.48 OR from Elm Road 9.50 11.50 and 13.50

from Basingstoke Bus station at 9.35 11.35 and 13.35 OR from RAILWAY STATION 09.38 11.38 and 13.38

Tuesdays and Thursdays only

This is similar to a suggestion we made to the then Area Manager a year ago

but it was turned down because he could not utilise the bus daily. However those carrying out the 2020 review have married us up with service 16 serving Dummer and Steventon.

The challenge now is to use it as much or more in the two days than we did in 5 days

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Monk Sherborne Village Hall Update

MONK SHERBORNE VILLAGE HALL
(registered charity 1175663)



Building Sub-committee

This is the second in a series of updates for the community on the new hall project. The first was published in June 2020. In my last update, I explained that the Trustees had established a Sub-Committee to oversee the tender and build phases of the project. Over the past few months, working with our architect, Oliver Perceval, this group has focussed on the detailed elements of the design including materials and fittings. The broad approach taken by the Sub-committee was to specify the hall to contain everything on our 'wish list' before testing the market, knowing that compromises could be made in the event of cost pressure. Whilst the hall remains based closely on the design submitted for planning permission, Oliver has completed the full set of drawings required for interested contractors to quote against.

One of the key discussions surrounded the heating for the hall. The team reviewed four main options; air source heat pump, solar panels, electricity and gas. The first two proved to have both prohibitively high capital costs and were not suited to the hall's energy consumption pattern. Electric boilers are slightly more efficient than gas in terms of energy conversion but this is outweighed by the much higher unit costs. Hence the decision fell in favour of modern gas technology. Research showed that this conclusion has also been reached

by several other local halls recently.

Other activity during the last few months has included:

- The commissioning of a Health and Safety report by an independent consultant that will guide the site operation of the prime contractor.
- The appointment of the engineer that will sign off compliance with building regulations in due course.
- The submission of information to the planning team at Basingstoke and Deane Council. We anticipate they will confirm compliance with planning conditions during October.
- The preparation of a site services plan which identifies the location of all current power, water and drainage services on the site.
- Formal notice to the landlord of our intention to proceed with construction of the new hall and to demolish the existing building.

Tender Process

The tender package was issued at the end of July. The pack was sent to 13 potential main contractors. A number of these declined the opportunity to bid, having initially shown interest, indicating that the construction market remains buoyant despite the pandemic. Four responses have been received. All are over budget. There are two contractors yet to respond.

Fundraising

Fundraising has taken second place to the work on the new building, but the lottery continues to generate over £200 each month. The Trustees intend to apply to Hampshire County Council and some other small local grant providers, but we must recognise that

the finances of all these organisations are likely to be stretched in the light of COVID-19.

Next Steps

Whilst we await this final bid, work has started on amending the design to remove any 'nice to have' elements, to defer non-essential work and to reduce the specification of some materials. There is also the option to reduce internal storage, all without compromising the overall design concept. The objective is to bring the build cost back in line with budget.

However, even if this cost management process is wholly successful, a contingency fund will be required for the build phase to cover small scope changes and other risks, such as imported material cost rises post Brexit. Hence, the Trustees are also looking to the local community for further support. If you wish to make a donation, funds can be transferred to the project bank account. Bank details, and a downloadable gift aid form, can be found at <https://www.monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk/new-hall-project>.

Final due diligence covering matters such as financial stability and the taking of references will take place prior to the appointment of the prime contractor. In the current climate, the length of time it will take the chosen builder to mobilise is uncertain. However, we remain focussed on starting on site prior to the expiry of the current planning permission in March 2021.

Please stay safe in these challenging times. We will continue to keep you updated on progress on the project.

Mike Wilson

Chairman
September 2020

The Poppy Appeal 2020

This year the Poppy Appeal will be a bit different for the Bramley and District Branch, as it will be across the UK. The Royal British Legion has been planning for different scenarios, including full lockdown. At the time of writing, this is still in progress but the priorities are clear.

- The safety of volunteers, staff and the public will be paramount.
- There will be an opportunity for everyone to donate and wear a poppy and to obtain and lay a wreath.
- There will be no house to house collections this year, for obvious social distancing reasons.

- Supermarkets, banks and others will be more involved in the distribution of poppies and the collection and banking of donations.

- There will be increased online availability of poppy items.

- School packs will continue as in previous years.

Volunteers from previous years who are in the vulnerable at-risk categories will not be allowed to take part, but those who are not in these categories will be able to participate in various ways, some of which are new this year.

That is all I know at this point – more guidance is coming in the near future.

Michael Luck
Deputy Poppy Appeal Organiser



Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

At the beginning of September, we welcomed all the children back to school, including our new Year R pupils. It is really great to see everyone again, and to catch up with friends and colleagues, albeit at a distance! Things are not quite as they were - we still have some restrictions due to Covid-19, and are operating in 'bubbles', but we are trying to make life as normal as possible for the pupils within these constraints.

The Summer Term was certainly a strange one! For the first half of term, all the children were taught using an online platform, and the teachers worked hard to make sure that lessons were posted and feedback given daily. The children were great at using the system and submitting their work, and we were really impressed that the children (and their parents) kept going, and produced really good quality work. There were

also some lovely videos and photos sent into school that made the teachers smile!

At the beginning of June we welcomed back the pupils in Year R, 1 and 6 whilst the others were still supported online. It was really wonderful to have children back in school again and to be able to teach face-to-face, even if it was only for some classes. The days were slightly different; we had staggered start and end times to the day, desks were spaced apart, PE lessons were strictly 'non-contact' and large chunks of the day were taken up with washing hands!! However, it was great to see friends again, and we were able to invite the other year groups back into school at the end of term to see their teachers and classmates before the holidays. Lots of the summer events, such as the Summer Fayre and the Junior Production, had to be cancelled, but we did manage to organise the ringing of the school bell for the Year 6 leavers, and

Daniel, the Rector, organised a poignant Leavers Service in the Church to mark their final day at the school. We wish all of the Year 6s well as they start their new secondary schools.

This term, we are able to have some sports coaches and music teachers in school, and we are hoping that we will gradually be able to increase what we can do within the Covid restrictions. Meanwhile, a big 'thank you' to all the staff who have worked so hard to support lessons online and in school; to the parents who have taken on 'home schooling' and kept the children motivated at home; to those in and around the village for words of support and encouragement (and cakes!); and to all the children who have stayed so positive and cheerful. Your support has been really appreciated!

Sherbert
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

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SSJ Tennis Club coaching sessions



Sherborne St. John
Tennis Club

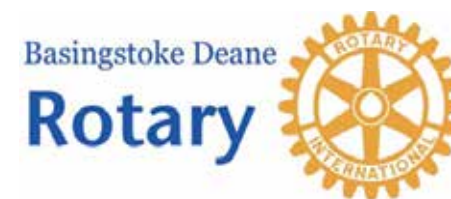
During the summer SSJ Tennis Club hosted a number of coaching sessions for children, run by a registered LTA coach and complying with government Covid 19 guidelines. These very successful sessions took place on the recreational ground's immaculate hard courts and for the most part even the British weather played ball, with only a single session needing to be cancelled due to rain.

The feedback from all who took part was fantastic and coach Ben was a big hit with all the children. The players of various ages and abilities had fun, gained confidence, increased their fitness and developed hand/eye coordination. The club contains some real superstars in the making!

As a result the club plans to run them again next summer as a minimum, with requests from some of our budding players to explore dates closer, such as the Easter holidays.

If you know of a child who would be interested please email the organiser, Anne Todd, at trianglequeen@hotmail.com so numbers can be estimated.

Well done to all involved!

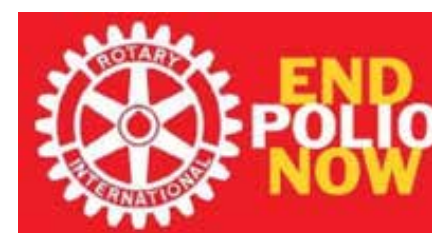


CONTACTS

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

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Rotary and the World Celebrate The Eradication of Polio in Africa



We are in the middle of a Covid 19 pandemic and are resting our hopes on a vaccination being developed quickly, so it was a timely reminder of other ongoing work on serious worldwide illness when it was declared, by the World Health Organisation on 25/8/2020, that Polio had been eradicated in Africa. Polio has long been a feared viral infection that mainly affects children for which there is no cure. It causes nerve injury which leads to death or partial or full paralysis. Whilst the last outbreak of polio in the UK was in the 1970's there are still many people in our country that live with the paralysing effects of this disease. British children are still routinely vaccinated against Polio and kept safe from infection.

Polio is preventable with vaccination

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

We've helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. So

far, Rotary has contributed more than £1.4 billion toward eradicating the disease worldwide.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year.

These agencies have been working since 1996 to try to eradicate the virus from the African continent with sustained vaccination campaigns. Almost 9 billion polio vaccines have been delivered in the eradication programme and this will continue and needs to be funded.

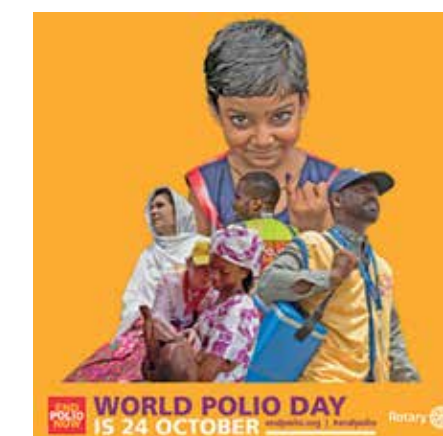
The part played by Jonas Salk

The unsung hero of this battle is a man named Jonas Salk, an American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines which quelled one of the biggest outbreaks of Polio in the US when it was introduced in 1952. The rolling



out of Polio vaccination programmes around the world has been a great success. Joseph Salk has been hailed for his altruism, he chose to not patent the vaccine or seek any profit from it in order to maximize its global distribution and in doing so he gave the world a great gift.

Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.



Smallpox is the only deadly disease to have been eradicated. This was in 1979. Polio is close to eradication but we will need to continue to fund the programme until it is achieved. Rotary Clubs around the world are committed to continue to fund the vaccination programme. Since the year 2000 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have matched Rotary International funding by 2 to 1 to give a huge boost to the programme. We've reduced cases by 99.9% since 1988.

Worldwide scientists are working on a vaccine for Covid 19. Hopefully altruism will play a part so that it will be available to all, not just those who are able to pay but include those in the developing world with less ability to pay.

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

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

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How and Why I Became a GP



The Probuss Club of Basingstoke heard from one of their members, Dr Nick Waring, who was a partner for many years at the Gillies Health Centre in Brighton Hill, about what prompted his medical calling.

His father was involved with the St John's Ambulance Brigade and that he also manufactured surgical needles encouraged Nick Waring's interest in medicine. Joining the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff in 1966 he qualified five years later although training and exams carried on for several years.

He recalled many instances during student training that showed that practicing on patients was part of the curriculum. There was a saying "see one, do one, teach one." Two examples that demonstrated how medicine had progressed was when he had to clerk (take a history) of an octogenarian who, when aged only 3, had been operated on by Lord Lister, the man who introduced antiseptics. Another was when his professor of bacteriology told that he had once been tasked with

transporting, in his briefcase, the "world" supply of antibiotics.

The first baby he delivered as a student arrived on a hot and humid evening (no air con then), the day man landed on the moon. It was a boy and, of course, named Neil.

His first paid job was in Southampton working for Prof Donald Acheson, the first Dean of the new Southampton medical school who went on to become the national Chief Medical Officer and then to work for WHO. Even though now qualified as a doctor, vocational training was being developed which involved two more years in various jobs in hospital followed by another year as a trainee. At this stage he could have been accepted into a general practice and after 3 years working up to parity he could become a full profit sharing partner. Unlike today, there were very few GPs then salaried or part time or indeed female.

To gain further experience, after Southampton he had three jobs in Cardiff, a stint in Wrexham and returned to Cardiff for a trainee year. Having spent a year in children's medicine he could see that there was great competition in Wales for higher positions in paediatrics with demanding work rotas and further exams. General practice seemed an altogether better option and he has never regretted it.

In 1972 he started in Basingstoke as a GP with a personal list growing from 0 to 3,500 in about eighteen months. This needed an on-call rota system working one night in five with a full day's work

either side. Probably half of the maternity patients delivered under the care of the practice and it was surprising how many went into labour in the middle of the night. There were no mobile phones in those days so out of hours calls came from home via a pager necessitating finding a phone to re-plan the route around the patch. His low point came when he was called out of bed five times after midnight. The change to the Hantsdoc co-op came just in time as most GPs were on their knees.

Patient records were, in those days, hand written on cards, kept in a brown envelope and stored in filing cabinets. Introducing computerisation made a significant difference allowing the practice to tailor their provision of service to improve care although for a few years, as required by the NHS payment system, they had to duplicate information by maintaining hand written records. It does mean that with increasing workloads patients have less continuity of care as ancillary staff take on more of the roles traditionally carried out by a GP. It is a very different job to the one he started out with.

Since retiring in 2007, despite his medical experience, he has become increasingly aware of how difficult it is to know when to seek medical help. He appreciates how much more problematic it can be for people to decide either to self-care or use the medical service responsibly. But it is better to call unnecessarily than not call at all when you need to.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club

LATE SEPTEMBER

It's only eight o'clock and already it is dark. A sign that summer surely is on its way. Soon the cold of winter will chill the evening air And night hours be longer than the day.

The last flushed, rosy fingers of sunset show Far away on the horizon in the west,

And some late homeward heading bird Twitters above, as he flies towards his nest.

Motorcar headlights flood the street for a moment Then darkness returns as they pass by. The twinkle of the street lamps is not enough To dispel the shadows that around you lie.

How eagerly we do await the lengthening days.

They come, then all too soon, we find that they are fled. Already mourning the passing of another year we feel, by late September, it is dead.

Joan Brandon

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Planning for the future

When it comes to thinking about the future of your loved ones it is important to have plans in place to cover all eventualities should anything happen to you.

Many people put off planning for the future because it is something they would rather not think about, or choose to worry about it at a later date – after all few people like to face up to the eventuality of their passing.

If this sounds like you, your loved ones could be left with some very complicated issues to resolve at a difficult and emotional time.

It is worth remembering that if you do not make a Will, when you die your estate will be dealt with according to the Rules of Intestacy, where the law dictates who inherits your estate. This may be against your wishes, especially if you are unmarried or live with your partner.

At Phillips Solicitors, our expert lawyers in our Wills and Probate team, understand the importance of planning for the future.

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To find out how we can help you plan for the future, please contact Lucy Watson, who is the head of our Wills and Probate team, by emailing lucy.watson@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854646.

Alternatively, for more information about our wide range of legal services please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk

Women's Fellowship

The latest Government legislation means that any plans to return to the Village hall have been discarded for the foreseeable future.

The Committee held a raffle and have distributed prizes to the lucky winners.

The garden groups have been very successful, with new friendships being formed thanks to meeting in groups with a maximum of six. Watch this space for further arrangements.

One extra special birthday for October is MRS JOAN JOHN who is 100 years

on the 9th October. We all wish her a very happy birthday.

With feedback that all members meeting in small groups have really enjoyed, and benefitted from the social interaction with old and new friends, here are a few quotes to keep us all going for the coming weeks.

FRIENDS

There is nothing better than a friend unless it's a friend with chocolate.

Good friends help you to find important things when you have lost them – your smile, your hope and your courage.

Friends show their love in times of trouble, not happiness.

Friends are like walls. Sometimes you lean on them and sometimes it's good just knowing they are there.

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

One in Four friends is unbalanced. Think of Three friends – if they seem OK, you're the One!

Rose Cooper

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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REGISTERED CHILDMINDER based in Sherborne St John will have full/part time spaces available from July. Also collecting from Sherborne St John school in September. For more information call: 01256 851249

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Virtual Basingstoke Marathon, Half Marathon & 10k

Sunday 4th October to Sunday 18th October 2020

Very sadly, the Destination Basingstoke Phillips Half Marathon and 10K Run has been cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

This would have been the 10th anniversary of the event and it is a real shame that we will not be able to participate together and celebrate what has become a firm fixture in the local calendar. For those who have run the event every year, including my dad Howard, it is particularly disappointing not to hit the milestone of doing each one.

However, all is not lost! For this year only, there is to be a virtual event which will also include a marathon distance. The virtual races will allow everyone to take part safely and still enjoy the challenge of undertaking a real race. Entrants will run 26.2 miles or 13.1 miles or 10k, on any course of the

runner's choice, between **4th October and 18th October**. More information about the event can be found at:

www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk/basingstoke-half-marathon/virtualrace2020/

We are thrilled to be able to support this event by entering a team of 50 runners and would be delighted if you would join our team.

To register click the Sign-Up button. Choose your race and select Team Phillips. Then enter PHILLIPS in the coupon code box, so you don't have to pay to enter and click apply.

Whilst our sponsorship of the virtual runs cover your entry fee, we are using this opportunity to raise funds and awareness for [Sebastian's Action Trust](#), which does fantastic work in providing ongoing support and respite breaks for seriously

ill children and children with life limiting illnesses as well as their families.

We would be delighted if our runners could raise sponsorship or make a donation to help support this very worthy cause. If each runner could raise £50, we would be able to raise £2,500 which would make a real difference to the work which is carried out.

To make donations, please follow use the following link: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Phillips2020>

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact our Marketing Manager, Richard Garfield by emailing richard.garfield@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854642.

We very much hope you can join us, virtually, this year and, hopefully, in person next year!

Field in Pamber End

Just wanted to share some of my favourite photos of Pamber End. They are all of the field behind the Queens College Arms where we frequently walk "the block". We have watched the crop growing from a bare field to harvest and now it appears to be green fertiliser.

My farm machine obsessed son has loved watching it change through the seasons and was delighted to be able to watch the combine harvester one very hot, dusty evening before bed.

Helen Forbes



Notes from Rural France:

My elderly neighbour Jacqueline walks across to her barn every morning to let her three chickens out to peck at the grass in their run. She only has three left now due to the wicked fox who lurks around the area. Although he cannot get into the pen her aged chickens died of fright at his attempts to decapitate them through the fence. She said she will not get any more as these three give her adequate eggs for her needs.

We wander across to her potager (vegetable patch) where I see her toiling daily and spy every vegetable growing that you can think of, which discredits the belief that the French don't eat vegetables. She asks me if I would like some tomatoes

and proceeds to load my arms with the biggest yellow tomatoes I have ever seen. Her garden is geared towards growing ingredients for her 'soup'. Every time she tells me about each vegetable she says it is for her 'soup' and we have a laugh each time she says the word as she know it makes me giggle. It seems the French do like their soup! I ask about her now enclosed garden whereas before it was always open and she explains that she spoke to the chief of the Chasse (the local shoot) about the deer eating all her carrots and he very kindly came and put makeshift fencing around her patch to keep them out. It appears to have worked as the second sowing of carrots are giving a magnificent show.

Walking back to the roadside to return home I give her a pot of the raspberry jam I made from our raspberries which another neighbour picked for us when we were away. Barter seems to be the way things work over here and the kindness of the giving is heightened by the pride of growing or making the produce. Jacqueline is a farmer's wife but her husband died many moons ago. She speaks of him fondly and still soldiers on in the same farmhouse. Although the barns are mostly empty now and the land let to other folks to grow crops she remains content with her lot and her potager and her 'soup'.

"The Mrs"

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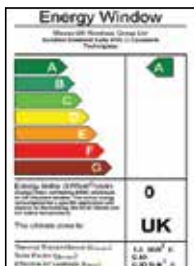
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