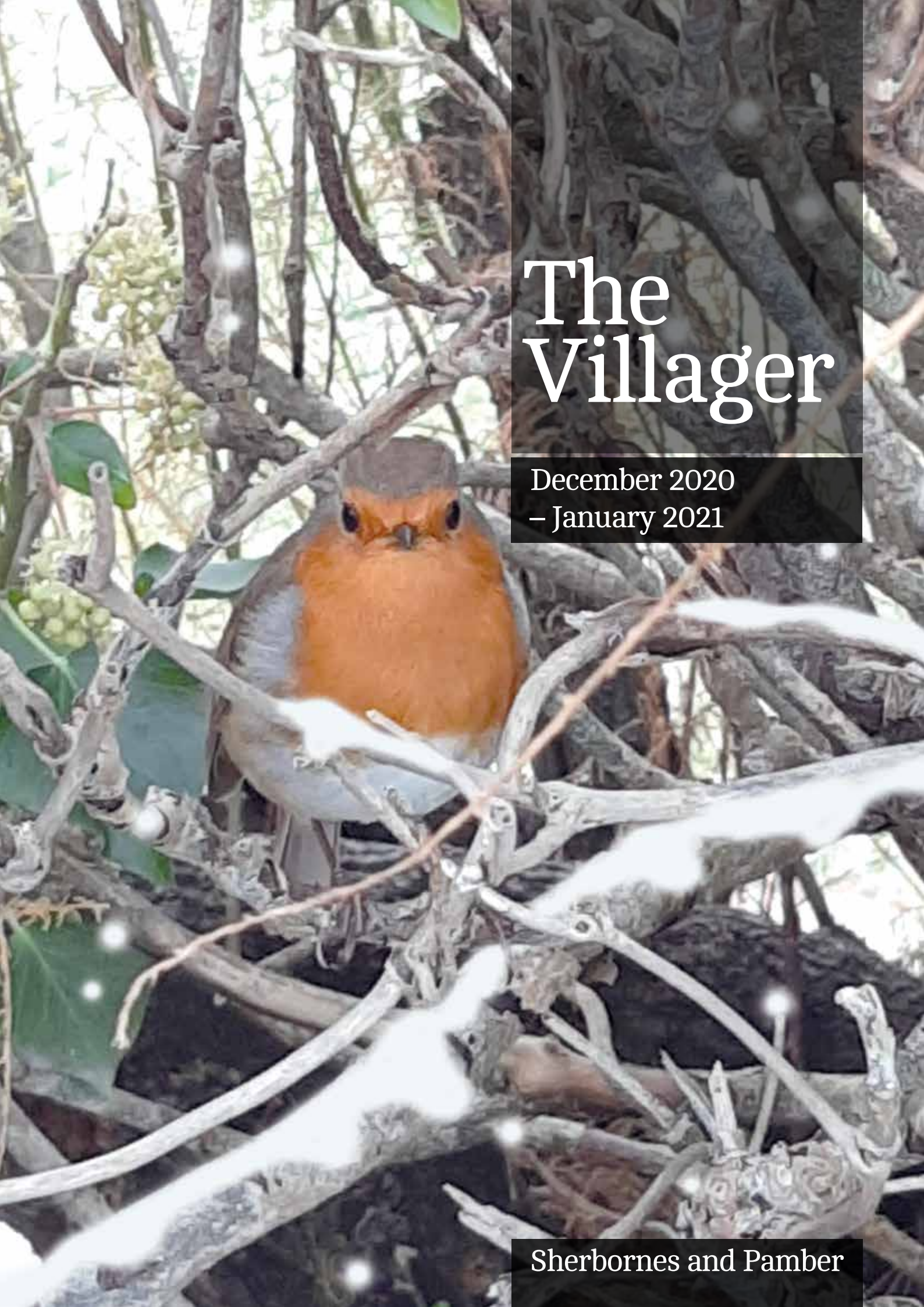




The Villager

December 2020
– January 2021

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial



Firstly on behalf of the Villager magazine team I would like to wish all our readers a safe, healthy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I don't think any of us could have imagined this time last year quite what an extraordinarily sad, confusing and strange year 2020 would be – and most of us just thought Brexit would be the problem! Certainly I would like to acknowledge the generous financial support that this magazine has received, which has been an encouragement for us to continue.

I would like to pass on my personal thanks to Emma who organises our advertising, and to all our advertisers, old and new, who support the magazine. No magazines would be delivered without the endeavours of George and Rosemary Rust and their amazing team of distributors who risk fingers to push magazines through our postboxes! Their “can do” attitude over the past few months has been truly wonderful.

I think we have also learnt the value of living in our villages and the help and kindness of neighbours, and sometimes strangers as well, during this very difficult time; whether it is picking up medication or shopping, sewing scrubs and face masks, a kindly phone call, or just a friendly wave whilst out walking.

I have received a letter from a parish resident to alert us to a scam: someone calls to offer to cut hedges etc and if you say “no thanks I do it myself” – your shed/garage is then broken into as they look for your hedge trimmers, leaf blowers etc. The advice is to say “no thanks, I have someone else who comes and does it for me” – good advice. The police have been made aware of this.

Covid Vaccination Clinics

Hopefully in the coming months our local surgeries will be organising vaccination clinics. Please let me know if you are a patient of the Clift Surgery in Bramley and would be willing to help the Patient Participation Group to marshal these clinics. I will need your name and contact number. Thank you.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a pdf copy of the magazine via email please ask them to contact me. This magazine is emailed to as far afield as the Cayman Islands, Australia and even Tadley!

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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A COVID Christmas

In different ways, Christmas will feel dark this year. Events that we have been looking forward to have been cancelled—school Nativity plays, work Christmas dinners, concerts. We feel out of control with the changing government regulations. At the time of writing, I can't predict how many people will be able to gather together in a house this Christmas. However, it is likely that families will not be able to come together in the same way that they usually do. Grandparents may not be able to see their grandchildren. Those who have lost their jobs or whose work has been affected by the pandemic may not be able to buy the presents that their children have been hoping for. Death casts its shadow over us: we see the number of COVID cases reported in the news and the rising death toll, and we may be afraid of contracting the virus ourselves and even dying. In some homes, there will have been a bereavement. In the past couple of months, we have heard of terror attacks in Europe and our country's own alert status has been set to 'severe'.

At Christmas we celebrate that light has already come into the darkness. In Isaiah 9.2, God promises:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

That light dawns with the birth of a child who is both God and fully human. Isaiah continues, in verses 6 and 7:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The first Christmas is dark, but Jesus is born as light in the darkness. An angel announces to Mary that she will miraculously conceive a son who will be called the Son of the Most High. Jesus is born at time when people feel out of control and their movements are controlled by government regulations. They are not told to stay at home, but they are told to return to their home towns because the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, orders that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. When they reach the town of Bethlehem, there is no social distancing as the town is full of people who have travelled to register for the census, but they do know what it is like to be isolated: there is no room for them in the inn, so they have to stay in the place where the animals live, and when Jesus is born, Mary

wraps him in cloths and places him in a manger. With a bright light shining in the darkness of night, angels announce Jesus' birth to shepherds who go and see it for themselves. Jesus is born into a dangerous world. It is politically dangerous. Wise men come from the east in search of Jesus and they are guided to him by light in the darkness—the light of a star in the night sky. On their way to find Jesus, they meet King Herod, who later orders the killing of all the baby boys in and around Bethlehem who are two years old and younger, to eliminate the threat of a rival king. The gospel writers don't draw our attention to this, but Jesus is born into a medically dangerous world. The infant mortality rate was higher, and they didn't have the medicine and the supportive treatment we do today.

According to the Bible, the reason there is darkness and death in the world is our rebellion against God. The birth of Jesus brings light because he grows up to die on the cross in the place of those who turn from their rebellion against God and trust in him. He is raised from the dead, and he will deliver them from death.

You are warmly invited to our Christmas events to find out more. Finally, I'd like to encourage us all, as those who live in a world in which light has dawned with the birth of Jesus, to be light in the darkness and help those we know to be lonely or in need this Christmastide.

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector

Please join us for our Sunday services. We follow the Government's social distancing and health & safety instructions, including the wearing of masks. Details of how to advise us of your attendance are included in our weekly email to the members of our congregation. If you aren't on our database please contact our Parish Administrator, Wendy Howe - pa.swppcc@gmail.com or our Rector, the Revd

Daniel Newman - rector@sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com - 01256 541607. This is used for track & trace purposes as well as ensuring we can accommodate safely all those wishing to attend. The services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBbHQM4CvpnnPsSGuuglR_w or use our website link.

For more information on our Christmas services and to book please visit the Christmas page on our website: <https://sherborneswithpamber.org/christmas>

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

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

06 December

9:30am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
How can I serve?	Acts 18	The Revd Daniel Newman
3.30pm	Advent Evensong	Pamber Priory

Sermon Series: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Isaiah 11:1-10

13 December

9:30am	Morning Service	All Saints
9:30am & 10.45am	All Age Service & Morning Service	St Andrew's
Lord of might	Isaiah 11	The Revd Daniel Newman & Steve Howe

Carol singing around Marnel Park: Visit our website or Facebook to see when we will be near you.

20 December

9:30am	All Age Communion	St Andrew's
10:45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
Rod of Jesse	Isaiah 11	Warren Trask

Carol singing around Sherborne St John: Visit our website or Facebook to see when we will be near you.

6pm Virtual Carol service premieres on our YouTube channel

24 December

5pm	Crib Service	All Saints'
The service will be repeated, if required, at 6.30pm		The Revd Daniel Newman

25 December

9:30am	Morning Service	All Saints'
9:30am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
		The Revd Daniel Newman & Warren Trask

27 December

9.30am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
10:45am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
Desire of Nations	Isaiah 11	Steve Howe

Mid-Week

Home Groups meet in the week of Monday 14 December; 11 & 25 January

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 8 December; 3 January; 2 February

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



Merry Christmas

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③ Boxing Day

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Future Events

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

03 January

9:30am

All Age Service

St Andrew's

10:45am

Lord's Supper

St Andrew's

Wisdom from on high

Isaiah 11

Andy Spence

Sermon Series: The Servant King: Mark 1-8

10 January

9:30am

Morning Service

All Saints

9:30am

All Age Service

St Andrew's

10:45am

Morning Service

St Andrew's

The Promised King

Mark 1:1-13

The Revd Daniel Newman & Steve Howe

17 January

9:30am

All Age Communion

St Andrew's

10:45am

Morning Service

St Andrew's

The Powerful King

Mark 1:14-1.45

The Revd Daniel Newman

24 January

9:30am

Morning Service

Pamber Priory

9:30am

All Age Service

St Andrew's

10:45am

Morning Service

St Andrew's

The Forgiving King

Mark 2:1-17

Warren Trask & The Revd Daniel Newman

31 January

9:30am

All Age Service

St Andrew's

10:45am

Morning Service

St Andrew's

The Controversial King

Mark 2:18-3:6

The Revd Daniel Newman

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



Christmas Cheer for the Hospital

The Hospital would love some Christmas or Rainbow images to help brighten up their workplace

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CHRISTMAS 2020 in SHERBORNE ST JOHN

LET'S LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE FOR ADVENT

We will be lighting up some of the trees around the village this December
We know a lot of the village already decorate their homes and gardens for Christmas
BUT
We would love even more people to join in
SO
We are asking you to light up a tree in your front garden or decorate a window with Christmas images or Christmas **NHS** Rainbows maybe, for the festive season
Enjoy walking around the village as it gets dark and the lights go on
Spread some Community cheer this year

Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

Back in lockdown again! However, this time the school is fully open and all the staff and children are carrying on with our 'new normal' way of life within our class bubbles! Whilst it has restricted many of our activities, we have been able to adapt our routines so that the pupils experience as little disruption as possible. We still managed to collect a carload of food for the Basingstoke Foodbank as a Harvest Festival gift; to give 48 filled shoeboxes to the Rotary Club to send to underprivileged children; and to have a 'dress down' day to raise funds for Children In Need. Thank you to everyone who donated – it is especially important to remember those who are struggling in these difficult times.

Mrs Payne has been very busy recently, giving virtual tours of the school to parents of children who will be starting school in 2021. There is also a wonderful video made by some of the Year 6 children on the school website which is worth watching <http://ssj-school.co.uk/wp/starting-school-2/>. If you have children reaching school age and want to know more about our school, do call the school office and make an

appointment to chat to Mrs Payne and to have your own exclusive tour!

Luckily we are still able to benefit from external PE coaching and music teachers this term. Whilst we are unable to take part in sports competitions against other schools, there have been opportunities to compete in virtual skipping and football competitions! Although sadly the Year 6 residential trip to Stubbington Study Centre is unable to take place this year, the staff at Stubbington arranged for Class 4 to spend a day at the centre in November to try some of the challenges that they would normally have experienced, including visiting the hides in the dark to look for foxes and badgers. Class 3 also visited Stubbington for an Anglo-Saxon experience!

The Year R children went on an Autumn walk which was full of muddy puddles and leaf-scattered footpaths - perfect! They had a wonderful time looking at the colours of leaves and the berries they found on trees. They investigated how trees are different and some have lots of leaves whereas some have none; and

discussed why there were lots of puddles and in particular why the puddles were at the bottom of the slope and not at the top! They also found paw prints and tractor prints, saw how the farmer had planted his crops in lines and listened to the different sounds the birds made. I wonder how much will have changed when they go on their winter walk!

Christmas will be very different this year; we will not be able to hold our Christmas Fayre, or to take a trip to the Anvil pantomime, or celebrate the meaning of Christmas in St Andrew's Church. However, we will do our best to ensure that the children have plenty of opportunities to enter into the Christmas spirit at school; I am sure that there will be plenty of creative Christmas activities and maybe even partying within our bubbles!

The staff and children of the school wish you all a very Happy Christmas, however you may be spending it, and hope for a better and brighter New Year in 2021!

Sherbert
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

You will have noticed my absence from the Villager for a while. I have to admit to not finding lockdowns easy to cope with. Added to which, so little of note seems to be happening making material hard to find. Anyway, I've mustered a bit of enthusiasm this month.

Superb autumn weather, sitting outside and enjoying sunshine are some measure of freedom. We've got back to walking in Pamber Forest realising, to our cost, how massive the crop of acorns is. During high winds, they hammered down like golf balls raining on our heads and bodies. We had a car some years back that, under similar circumstances, had the bonnet left with loads of dents looking like golf ball divots. But now the rain has come and turned the forest walks into mud. Lots of sweet chestnuts again this year, that's 2 years running.

Peter Elliott has written to me about tree destruction in Pamber Forest. Apparently, Ash dieback has reached the Forest so the Reserves Officer has cut down some ash trees for safety reasons. Once infected, trees can collapse or shed huge branches and would pose a threat to walkers (and workers) in the Forest so 20 mature trees have been felled. The wood will be taken for firewood and, in the years to come, other trees will colonise the newly formed

glades. However, it seems Englefield Estate, which owns the Forest, is also taking out some oak, but that's a different story.

Of worry is the theft of so many dogs, including locally, which can be moved long distances. Thieves can make a lot of money, particularly at the moment, when demand for dogs is high. One of the methods in use seems to be someone knocking at the front door as a distraction whilst someone else tries the back door to steal dogs. Keep your doors locked and take care.

There is varied news from recent Pamber Parish Council meetings. Goods Vehicle Operators Licence application at Oaktree Farm, Bramley Road to increase to 20 goods vehicles and trailers from 14 has been submitted and the PPC has lodged an objection. Following BDBC's refusal for permission re the application for Permission in Principle to erect up to four dwellings on land at Berry Court Farm, New Road, Little London, an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State. The Parish Council Facebook page was administered and owned by the previous clerk and it seems that it is not possible to change owner. Efforts have been made to obtain the passwords from previous Clerk but these have not been forthcoming to date. Should this continue to be the

case, it is recommended that the current site be taken down and rebuilt. There is a new Council clerk, Chris Gunnell, congratulations to the post and the very prompt posting now of approved minutes. This certainly has vastly improved the currency of the news they contain.

With access to the Council waste tip being restricted, fly-tipping continues to be a problem. 12,000 cases were reported last year though this year it is down to 8,000. Please remember that this is a crime and offenders will be prosecuted and fines can be significant.

Another Remembrance Day has been recognized, albeit in a very unusual manner. We were sad to not be able to honour in person those who gave their lives but we did observe the doorstep Remembrance. No doubt the funds raised by the Royal British Legion will be less than usual so please, if you can, make a donation to them online. It was very gratifying to see that Arthur, the memorial horse outside The Plough at Little London, was adorned with a Union Jack and two wreaths as a mark respect for the fallen. Keep safe in these troubled times.

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com



and demand for services and a huge reduction in government funding.

Like many others across the country, the council's budget has also been put under further pressure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with falling income and extra costs to provide support during this unprecedented time.

Maintaining services that residents value, including weekly bin collections,

community safety patrols and keeping areas looking their best, are funded as part of proposals to balance the budget next year.

This includes previous commitments for additional funding to increase community safety patrols and a new scheme for councillors to support small-scale projects in their communities, which were delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help fund services, as well as a small increase in council tax, a 3% average increase in fees and charges to help pay for the costs of these services without putting the burden on council tax payers is proposed.

Over the last 11 years £15.1 million in savings have been made while protecting services, with the borough council continuing to look at how it can run more efficiently.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Improvement Cllr Hannah Golding said:

"Residents' priorities are at the heart of everything we do and our proposals continue to focus on what matters most to our communities as well ensuring we are well placed to prepare for the borough's future as we work alongside our partners to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our proposed budget plans for the coming year will continue to make us a low council tax borough despite having one of the highest spending per head on services of all districts in the country.

"Although we have a history of strong financial management, we are having to make difficult decisions with reductions in funding and rising costs and demand for our services to ensure we can continue to provide services in the future. With a £1.03 million budget gap in 2021/22, we are awaiting confirmation of government funding to help address this as part of its annual spending review.

"Alongside this we are continuing to look at the opportunities we have to address funding gaps in the future, including how we work to ensure we continue to be as efficient as possible and our services continue to meet the needs of our residents."

"It is really important that our budget continues to reflect the priorities of our communities so we would love to hear from residents, businesses and groups across the borough to help shape our proposals."

Feedback from the consultation, that runs until 3 January 2021 at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/budget2020, will be considered before final decisions about the budget are taken at a meeting of Council on 25 February 2021.

For further information please contact Senior Communications Officer Jessica Bave on 01256 845746 or email Jessica.bave@basingstoke.gov.uk

Monk Sherborne Parish Council

The bi-monthly parish council meetings continue to be held over zoom while covid-19 measures remain in place. The last meeting was held on Wednesday 18th November.

Finance

The budget for the year 2021/22 has been reviewed and approved by the parish council.

Planning

The original Application for Permission in Principle for residential development for a minimum of 4 no. and a maximum of 9 no. dwellings on land At Monk Sherborne Road and Sand Martin Close Monk has been refused. A new identical PIP has been lodged for the same area and the council are awaiting an update from the borough councillor to ascertain if this is allowed.

Objections have been raised against the Erection of two-bedroom cottage within garden of Woodside Cottage, Aldermaston Road. Decision is pending.

BDBC Enforcement are due to issue a planning enforcement order against

the breach of the planning conditions at Blackberries.

The Mole

The BDBC Development Control Committee met on 7th October to decide on the planning application for a change of use from public house to a dwelling. Despite the hard work of the parish councillors and residents in providing evidence on the viability of the pub, including a petition with over 600 signatures the committee voted to approve the planning application in a 4 to 3 vote with 4 councillors abstaining. Unfortunately, this was not the decision the village wanted, and it is a blow to the community.

Village Hall

The village hall committee are due to decide on the contractor they will be using to carry out the building works shortly. Some extra funds will be required for things that crop up during the build process and the committee will be posting fundraising packs to residents with information on how to donate.

Parish Notice Board

The recent windy weather caused the parish notice board next to the phone box to collapse. Our thanks go to Peter Boyle and Geoff Tanner who repaired, repainted, and re-erected the board.

Play Area

The parish council recently received a quote to upgrade and install some new equipment for the play area. As the quote was quite high the council discussed the possibility of obtaining a grant that could help pay towards a complete upgrade of the area. This will be an ongoing project with the possibility of a public consultation before any decisions are made. *Cllr Aaron Minter*

Stay alert

With the nights getting longer and darker this time of year sees an increase in the number of thefts and burglaries. Please stay vigilant and ensure any outbuildings/sheds are locked and secure to deter potential break ins. If you spot any suspicious activities, please try to get a description or reg number and report the incident to 101 or the crime stoppers website.

Basingstoke & Deane Budget Proposals

Have your say on budget proposals to keep council tax low and protect services residents value

Proposals for a Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council budget, that protects services that residents value most while keeping council tax low, have been agreed for consultation.

Approved by Cabinet last night (10 November), a £5, or 10p per week,

average increase proposed for the borough council part of the council tax for 2021/22 is likely to make it one of the lowest of the districts in Hampshire, and most of the rest of the country, again.

Despite this, the council still has one of the highest spend per heads of districts in England and the highest of districts in Hampshire. This is despite rising costs

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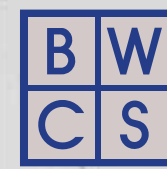
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PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held their 2nd Zoom meeting on Wednesday 21st October. Residents wishing to attend these virtual meetings need to contact the Parish Clerk clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk who will then send an invitation to join on the day.

Only 2 residents joined via Zoom, but more would be very welcome. The use of the telephone box on Vyne Road was again discussed. The Council will contact other Parishes to see how they organize this with their own volunteers.

It is hoped that the projected weekly visit by a mobile Fish & Chip van to the Village will be arranged soon so keep an eye on the Villager to find out which day of the week, times and position is agreed.

Speed-Watch.

If you wish to train as a volunteer, please contact me as I now have the information on exactly what you would need to do.

Roads/Footpaths

With the problems that have arisen with more people using the footpaths recently the Parish Council realized that many people may not be aware of where the paths are and that many may be missing signage. While you are not allowed to cycle on any footpaths they are asking all to take the time to walk the numerous local paths and note any problems and

let me know so that repairs etc. can be arranged. Due to the size it is not possible to include the map in this article - if you'd like a map please email clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk. It is also hoped to erect large signs giving the map in the village area.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

The commemorative bench for Dr Judith Darmady will now be placed at the Recreation ground at the request of her family.

While a resident asked for the children's playground to be fenced the Council did not think it was necessary as new fencing is being erected along the boundary of the grounds with Vyne Road. The Council is investigating the installation of bike racks at the Recreation ground.

After the request by a resident to detail the use made of the Amenity grounds by local clubs, I have now received information from both the Tennis and Football clubs. One excellent result from the pandemic is the increased use of the wonderful facilities by many more people. Residents are encouraged to visit and view all the improvements and hopefully join in the activities

Tennis Club.

Has over 130 members from the Parish and nearly 30 from outside due to the excellent courts. Covid meant they were unable to run a league team or evening drill sessions this year. The organized junior coaching sessions were a success.

The Club is affiliated to the LTA & Basingstoke & District Tennis League – so why not join !!!

Football Club

The football club has been active in the Village for a long time. Over the years many village children, from the age of 5 upwards, have been members of the teams, going through the years until they moved to the senior league.

At present they have around 200 members of all ages from the Village and surrounding areas, with 5 of their team coaches living in the Village. They are very committed to encouraging the young to join and their coaches continuously update their certifications needed to be allowed to teach children.

The Club is affiliated to the Hampshire FA and members of the Peter Houseman and N.E. Hants Leagues. They play home and away matches with great success and by keeping their subscriptions EXTREMELY low give children from families with limited means the chance to become members. They maintain the grounds, cutting, seeding, fertilizing etc. at their own expense all of which benefits all the people using the grounds.

They interact with the local school to use the area for sports and always lay out the School's sports day tracks.

Sherborne St John School

The School now uses the grounds for pupils to play sports and is planning to use the Tennis courts as well soon

Don't forget to contact if you wish to be able to view the meetings clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk or have anything to raise.

Penny Mayo

Notes from Rural France



Believe it or not, this is our central heating system. It will probably be used up over about 2 months in cold weather. Usually we won't be in residence during cold weather, only during hot weather but it is always best to keep a good store of logs in the nearest barn in case a cold spell turns up. We need two sizes, smaller ones for the wood burning cooker and these for the big wood burner in the living room. Luckily our farming neighbours have all the equipment you could wish for that is needed to cull trees and wood to get them to the correct size. Their family, as with many in our area of France, as well as working in farming and cattle, are heavily involved in wood.

These logs are from big trees, harvested from fallen and felled rotten ones from

the lake and no sooner do we ask if it is possible for Fredo to help split them than he and his tractor appear at the barn door with the splitter on the back and he is proudly showing how quickly he can do the job which would have taken us a month of Sundays.

Once when we were struggling to pull a dead rotten tree out of the lake he appeared out of nowhere with his tractor and very large chain saw (much bigger than ours) and proceeded to make short work of the operation. The whole family are a lesson in giving but not taking and we struggle to find something to give back to them to thank them for all their help, but we do and it works and we have made good friends.

'The Mrs.'

RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE



This area is a safe place to live, work and visit. We all know that's true, and yet crime does occur.

Coronavirus is, obviously, at the forefront of our minds, but my everyday work for you continues all the same. You've told me that you're worried about anti-social behaviour, drugs and even the risk of knife crime. Recently, I caught up with local Chief Inspector Karen McManus, who is in charge of policing in Basingstoke and Deane, to discuss what she and her officers have been doing to keep us safe – even during this difficult time.

She told me that the number one thing residents can do to keep themselves and neighbours safe is simply to report any crime you see or hear. I know, it sounds too simple, too easy. Anything that doesn't require an immediate 999 response, you can report either online (details below), by emailing me to: email@ranil.uk or by calling 101. Nothing is too small to report. This

can be anything from seeing or hearing people behaving suspiciously to a crime you can see taking place at the time. She also reassured me that not only will our visible patrols continue, but that they are utilising all tactics available to disrupt and prosecute criminals – and that these modern tactics are being rolled out across multiple forces in our area to secure a concerted effort in protecting all of our towns and villages. I will continue working with our local police force to make sure intelligence is gathered effectively and fed through to the relevant officers.

To complement this work in our community, I'm pleased to confirm that – as part of the Prime Minister's pledge to recruit 20,000 new Police Officers across the country – over 4,300 have been hired already and we will be getting some here in North East Hampshire. They are being trained up as I write this and will be on the beat very soon.

I want to thank our Police and everybody in our community who is keeping us safe during this difficult time. The crime rate in our area is low, but that is only because of the work you all do to keep it so.

As ever, if you would like any help or have any questions, please do contact my office by email to: email@ranil.uk or on (01256) 702468.

Report a crime online: bit.ly/3lsWXPp



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Notwithstanding the numerous Covid-19 related restrictions we all currently live under, it proved possible to hold our normal Armistice ceremony at the SSJ War Memorial on 11th November, albeit with added precautions.

Our rector, Daniel Newman, conducted the ceremony which was attended by 33 people and, under his initiative, a hymn was added to the

usual service together with a singing of the National Anthem.

John Delafield

Chairman, Bramley and District RBL





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tempaul45@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL **ROTARY ROUNDUP**

Basingstoke Deane Rotary

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and safe 2021

It has been a very different year for all of us and we must all hope for a return to more normal times next year



Rotary Christmas Shoeboxes

A huge 'Thank you' to all the generous local people who donated Shoeboxes for our annual Christmas appeal. It's been challenging to get close to our usual numbers but by the time you read this the boxes will be on their way to give some seasonal cheer to under privileged children overseas. Rotarians from the UK and the destination country oversee the shipment until the children receive the boxes. A Romanian lady, now living in Basingstoke, told us of the joy she experienced as a child on receiving a Rotary Christmas shoebox, her first ever present. Look on YouTube to find video clips by Malcolm Dent about shoeboxes from our Rotary district

"A Healthier Hampshire in a Heartbeat"

Can you help Basingstoke Deane Rotary provide improved Cardiac Service at Basingstoke Hospital?

Rotary has already raised a substantial amount of money towards purchasing equipment that will treat Atrial fibrillation (a debilitating condition) but we still need your help for the final push to make this happen and achieve our goal to improve the lives of the numerous local people with this type of heart condition. Presently patients travel to Southampton for this essential treatment. With this equipment they can be treated in Basingstoke.

Find out more on our website: www.rcbd.org.uk

Still time to donate, go to:-

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/a-healthier-hampshire-in-a-heartbeat>



'CHRISTMAS CORONA QUIZ'

Below are clues to Christmas anagrams (number of words in brackets) and cryptic clues to Christmas Carols

1. To wishy washy, rare crummies (6)
2. Manage rain way (4)
3. Troubledly trim me (3)
4. Tinsel two (3)
5. This warm ethics (2)
6. Kneel dottily (2)
7. Jill begs len (2)
8. Sweet gherkin (3)
9. Dug maintain petrochemical (6)
10. In the glints (6,5)
11. Jubilation to the terrestrial globe.
12. Noise injunction 8.00pm to 6.00am.
13. Small equus africanus asinus.
14. Miss Willoughby + Hedera genus.
15. Was the earliest Edmonds or Gallagher?
16. Listen, celestial messenger is vocalising.
17. Summon twice footballer Adebayor.
18. Removed in an animal feeding trough.
19. Summon the entirety of believers.
20. Mr Beckham's only visit to this noble place

Answers will be on our website and Facebook after Christmas



Share the joy of Christmas

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Make a Christmas Hamper for a local individual or family in need

Just cover a cardboard box with Christmas paper and fill it with all of the things that make Christmas special:

- Cake, ideally Christmas or yule log
- Pudding, ideally Christmas or a chocolate version
- Box mince pies, apple pies, etc
- Box of chocolates
- Box or nice packet of biscuits
- Hot drink, eg coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Tinned meat, eg ham, chicken, mince, pork
- Tinned tuna
- Cooking sauce, eg curry sauce, pasta sauce
- Packet of seasonal, dried stuffing
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- A nice jar of jam and/or pickle
- Toiletries
- Christmas Crackers (2 per box)



"There are no words I can write to say how much my hamper was appreciated that I received from your church and your members. The items inside helped me a great deal over the festive season".

We would also welcome contributions of food items for hampers.

Please bring your hamper or food items to us at Festival Place (Upper Floor beside Next) between 10am and 5pm on Monday to Saturday from Wednesday 2nd December until Saturday 19th December. If you would like to help to assemble hampers, please call or email us using the details below.

Contact details for Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas hampers are:

Email: Abigail@comptonburnett.com

Telephone: 07747-111336

Website: <https://www.thebesominbasingstoke.org/foodbankhampers>

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & 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.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBStokeDeane

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Basingstoke and Deane

'Tis the season to recycle

Christmas can generate plenty of extra household waste and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is urging residents to recycle more and waste less during the festive season.

There is no limit to how much you can recycle and any extra recycling can be put in cardboard boxes or clear sacks next to your green bin for collection. If you are recycling large cardboard boxes, make sure they are flattened next to your recycling bin and please remove the polystyrene and plastic packaging before leaving cardboard out.

There are lots of items that can be recycled during the festive season and all year round including cardboard packaging, paper, newspapers and magazines, food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and plastic bottles.

Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled and needs to go into your grey waste bin. Christmas cards can be recycled but only if they do not contain glitter, ribbons or bows.

If you are unsure about what can and can't be recycled visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle or call the council on 01256 844844.

For a second year, garden waste customers will be able to put their real Christmas trees out for collection

with their fortnightly garden waste. Christmas trees over 6ft need to be cut in half and decorations must be removed.

Real Christmas trees can also be recycled at one of several drop-off points across the borough between Saturday 2 January and Sunday 31 January 2021.

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree.

Christmas can also mean more glass recycling. Your glass box or glass bin should be placed next to your green recycling bin by 7am on your recycling collection day. All bottles and jars should be rinsed out and any corks or tops removed.

Make sure you don't overfill your glass box or bin as it will not be emptied.

Please do not put bottles or jars out for collection in any other container, they will not be collected.

You can order a 140 litre red glass bin for £28.15 as an alternative to a box if you have lots of bottles and jars to recycle. Order at 01256 844844 or visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling for more information.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather or lockdown restrictions affect bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 11 January 2021.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "Extra rubbish will be inevitable over the festive period but a lot of that can be recycled including glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, aerosols, tins and cans. We can all make changes to contribute to a more sustainable start to 2021 and recycling more is among them."

Check your bin collection day at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections or call 01256 844844.

Normal collection date

Wednesday 23 December
Thursday 24 December
Friday 25 December
Monday 28 December
Tuesday 29 December
Wednesday 30 December
Thursday 31 December
Friday 1 January
Monday 4 January
Tuesday 5 January
Wednesday 6 January
Thursday 7 January
Friday 8 January

Festive collection date

Wednesday 23 December
Thursday 24 December
Monday 28 December
Tuesday 29 December
Wednesday 30 December
Thursday 31 December
Saturday 2 January
Monday 4 January
Tuesday 5 January
Wednesday 6 January
Thursday 7 January
Friday 8 January
Saturday 9 January

SHERBORNE ST JOHN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Since the sad loss of Mike Ogden we have been without a co-ordinator for the small scheme on Aldermaston Road near the Ambulance Station. We have concluded that the best way forward is to merge this scheme with the nearby Elm Road one for which I am the Co-ordinator. I have discussed this with Annette Mulholland the existing deputy and she is willing to continue alongside John Edwards. I have therefore formally proposed this to the police and I understand it will be approved.

SCAMS

We are continually hearing of new scams and passing on warning messages to our members two fresh scams have recently been reported.

Claiming to be the police in South London the scammer claimed that a relative of the victim had been caught trying to use a cloned Visa Debit card to buy a Toshiba Laptop for £599 then a PC J Griffin of Thames Valley police came on the line. When told the matter would be reported to local police the caller rang off. A report was made to Hants police on 101.

The other incident involved a text message purporting to be from a bank. Unlike most Phishing e messages this one was immaculate and looked much like other messages generated by banks. It said that someone was trying to set up a new payee from an unrecognised device and invited verification or not via a link. When reported to the bank

they stated that this approach was now quite common.

These scams will trap some vulnerable person into giving important details or perhaps entering their password. Genuine messages from banks or internet providers will always address you by name and include part of your card or your account number and never ask for a password. Any communication lacking above details is suspect - as is any which include a link.

Press no links or call back features and don't give any of your personal details.

Please stay vigilant and safe.

Ted Wilkinson

Area Co-ordinator NHW

Use of Local footpaths linking to Popley Area

The pandemic problems have had one great result with many more people of all ages walking the local footpaths for exercise to improve their health and well-being.

Many people who have never used footpaths before are using 208/18/3 from Popley to access the Sherborne St John's recreation ground and the surrounding countryside.

Most people are aware that cycling is not permitted on any footpath.

Unfortunately, during Lockdown a very small number of people have attempted to cycle along the footpaths with several near accidents to children and walkers. There has also been a small number damaging the notices and shouting abuse at people attempting to stop them which is totally unacceptable.

Please continue to enjoy walking the paths but please also respect the regulations to ensure everyone is safe.

If you'd like a map showing the local footpaths please e mail clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk who will be happy to email one to you.

Thank you.

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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



2020 was the year when we should have been celebrating the Basingstoke Group's 50th Anniversary with activities planned to commemorate this milestone in our history. However, as we all know, everything was thrown into disarray by the epidemic so we will just have to adapt and next year celebrate our 51st Anniversary instead.

With all of our meetings and trips cancelled members have continued to be kept in touch with the group by means of a monthly newsletter which has included a quiz sent to us by our Head Office. Also, on the first Wednesday of each month, when it should have been our meeting, members of the committee have telephoned



everyone to have a chat and ensure that they are keeping well. This has been much appreciated especially as for most

people whether they be isolating or shielding the lack of socialising has been the thing they miss most. Although we have been unable to run some of our own money making events we realised that the Brookvale Village Hall and Mervyn's Coaches who have helped and supported us in the past would be even harder hit. We, therefore, sent them a donation which we hope will go a little way to easing their current situation.

Let us all hope that with the news that a vaccine may soon be available we will be able to return to our usual programme sometime next year. In the meantime



we send everyone Christmas Greetings with the wish that you enjoy yourselves as much as possible and look forward to a New Year filled with the things you love to do.

When things do return to normal the group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Further details can be obtained from csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

David Cowling



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Probus hears a story of Tilting at Windmills



The classic book by Cervantes about the Spanish romantic, Don Quixote, who, thinking they were giants, futilely attacked the sails of windmills, has some similarities with the experience of Sherborne St John resident and Probus Club of Basingstoke member, Dave Kitson.

Some years ago. Dave and wife Jennifer, bought a house in Kent, moving from Teignmouth in Devon. They owned a motor home that they wanted to tour around Europe so moved to be close to the Channel ports.

However, the house had an interesting extension – a windmill. Known as Stanford Mill it had been built in 1857 as a corn mill. It was a tower construction of five storeys with four sails that drove a cast iron windshaft and had four pairs of millstones, two steel mills and two roller mills. Milling ceased in 1969.



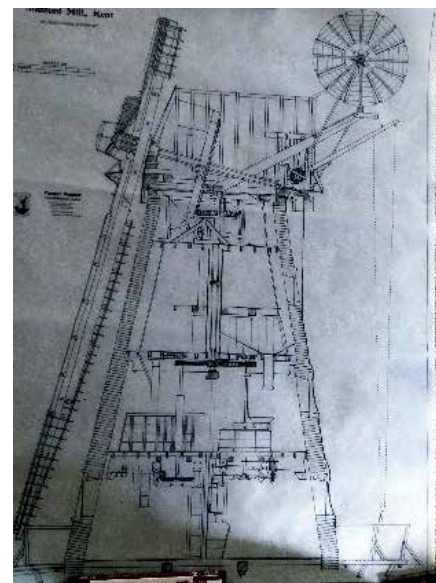
The ravages of time meant that by the time of their purchase the sails had been removed and a corrugated asbestos roof built over the cap frame. But it was also Grade 2 listed which brings all the authoritarian problems should any owner wish to make any changes.

However, Dave thought it possible to make the place presentable and usable as an annexe to the house even if it was not permissible to make it a separate dwelling. Hoping for some assistance from Kent CC he was to be disappointed by their lack of support. He made enquiries about the background to the mill and had drawings made of its original features.

There was a lot of original machinery in the mill, which also had protected status, but some of the floorboards and ladders were rotten or missing. These should have lasted more than the 160 years the mill had been standing but there was an inherent problem of severe damp in the mill. Old photographs show that the mill had been coated with bitumen trying to prevent the ingress of water.

One day when working at the top of the mill Dave heard someone coming up one of the aluminium ladders he had propped up to replace one of the rotting fixed wooden ones, but there was nobody there. Spooky. Aluminium ladders make a distinctive squeaking noise, so he was beginning to think, ghost? A haunted mill? Surely not. After some time, still mystified, he descended via the same squeaky ladder to the outside and then heard the same noise. It came from a man on an aluminium ladder painting the outside of a house but some 70 metres away and yet in the mill it sounded almost behind him.

Standing so long and so visible there were many occasions when the mill came under some form of attack. The solid construction of the mill stood it in good stead in the first World War



when a passing Zeppelin dropped a bomb, presumably aiming at the nearby railway, instead landing nearby and caused a split in the brickwork on the ground floor.

Windmills were always getting struck by lightning and Stanford Mill was no different. When Dave and Jennifer were abroad in their motorhome a lightning strike did no discernable damage to the mill but the electric cables between the house and the mill blew out many of the power sockets in the house. This caused a small fire on the carpet in the lounge, which fortunately, extinguished itself.

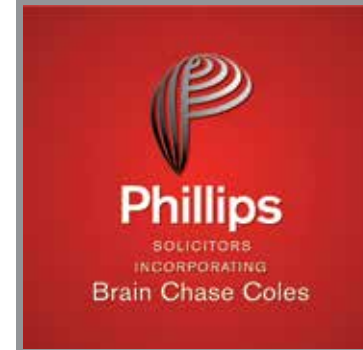
Another time there was a local earthquake which left the sturdy mill undamaged but separated some of the partition walls from the outer brick skin of the house.

Enough was enough for Dave and Jennifer and when their daughter announced that she was pregnant they decided to move to Basingstoke to be near to her. But selling the house, complete with a potentially problematic windmill, did not present any difficulties with the buyer wanting to take possession as quickly as possible. Perhaps he had deep pockets if the mill was to be brought back to some usable condition. Windmills may stand proudly on the landscape but, as Dave Kitson will attest, could need bottomless pits of money for their upkeep.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club

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Leave a gift for charity

Whilst many Christmas presents will be forgotten as soon as they have been unwrapped, there is a festive gift that can make a big difference – leaving a legacy to a charity.

Three quarters of Britons regularly give to charity in their lifetimes, but only 6% include a charity when writing a Will.

Without this source of income many charities would have to cut important services and some could not exist.

Lucy Watson, who heads the Wills and Probate team at Phillips Solicitors, said: “Charities rely on both regular donations and legacies in Wills to be able to continue their good work. Leaving money to charity in your Will can make a huge difference and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you’ve gone.”

“It is especially important to think of charities at the moment when so many of their normal fundraising avenues have been cancelled with the coronavirus pandemic.”

Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. A gift made to a UK registered charity is also inheritance tax free.

“If your estate is large enough to be chargeable to inheritance tax, gifts to charity will reduce not just the overall amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate but also the rate of tax, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance,” explained Lucy

“If you are looking to leave money to a charity you may well consider Sebastian’s Action Trust, which is Phillips’ charity of the year.”

Sebastian’s Action Trust provides emotional, social and ongoing support for seriously ill children and children with life limiting illnesses as well as their families.

It also offers respite holidays to families from all over the UK at The Bluebells – the Trust’s unique facility in North Waltham, just outside of Basingstoke.

For help in leaving a charitable legacy, or for any other Wills and Probate issues, please contact Lucy by emailing lucy.watson@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854646.

More information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips Solicitors, can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk

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The National Trust at Christmas



Escape to a warm, welcoming and traditional Christmas at National Trust places in Hampshire

It's been a tough year for everyone, but there's festive respite on offer, as National Trust places in Hampshire welcome you to a sparkling Christmas in beautiful rural settings.

Our historic houses are richly decorated with twinkling lights, glittering Christmas trees, and winter greenery that celebrates the beauty of the season. Set in acres of gardens and countryside, they offer the perfect getaway for a day.

Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail (for ages 3-5 and 5-9 yrs)

Treat your little ones to the magic of this Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail in our Hampshire gardens, in partnership with Penguin Random House UK. £2 per trail. Peter Rabbit's friends need some help finding items to see them through the colder winter months. Young nature adventurers can lend a hand to some of Beatrix Potter's well-loved characters such as Squirrel Nutkin, Mr. Jeremy Fisher and Jemima Puddle-Duck, and solve the clues to earn their special trail badge and certificate. Each trail pack includes an activity sheet, pencil, badge, certificate, and additional play pack to take home. There are nature-themed challenges to try on the trail, and a Peter Rabbit selfie station where everyone can take a picture with their favourite storybook rabbit. Activities for both 3-5 year olds and 5-9 year olds.

Christmas shopping and eating

Our shops feature traditional and contemporary Christmas ranges for

all ages, from stocking fillers and cosy winter accessories to artisan products made exclusively for the National Trust, inspired by our collections we care for. Cafes are serving warming treats from a new winter menu.

Planning your visit

To ensure everyone's safety, we recommend you book your visit in advance at busy times like Christmas. Every Friday we release new tickets for the following week. Visit the website of your chosen destination to book.

Each festive day out you enjoy supports the National Trust's work as a charity looking after special places for future generations to enjoy. To keep up to date with news and events in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight visit:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionlondonseasouth/hampshire>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionlondonseasouth/isle-of-wight>

CHRISTMAS IN HAMPSHIRE Mottisfont, near Romsey Christmas at Mottisfont, with Peter Rabbit and Friends

23 Nov – 10 Jan, 10am – 4pm (house closed 24 & 25 Dec), normal admission charge plus £2 per Peter Rabbit trail

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

This Christmas, there are festive delights indoors and out at Mottisfont. Lanterns and lights line garden paths, and there are signs of woodland animals gathering for celebrations and winter preparations. The newly reopened winter garden is ready to explore, full of rich seasonal colours and scents.

In the house, rooms are beautifully dressed with swags of holly and ivy. Twinkling lights add a warm glow to Christmas trees laden with glittering baubles, and little woodland creatures can be found nestled down amongst the decorations.

Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail: join favourite Beatrix Potter characters including Squirrel Nutkin and Jemima Puddleduck on our Peter

Rabbit trail around the gardens. Pick up a trail pack and seek out nature-themed activity stations in return for a special reward. Trail pack £2 per participant.

Hinton Ampner, near Alresford

Christmases past at Hinton Ampner

28 Nov – 21 Dec, 10am – 3pm (closed 25 & 26 Dec). Gardens, wider estate, shop, café re-opens 27 Dec, normal admission charge plus £2 per Peter Rabbit trail. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hinton-ampner>

Step through the door at Hinton Ampner and you'll find yourself in favourite historical and fictional scenes from Christmas past. Rooms are richly decorated to present traditional tales including The Nutcracker, and The Twelve Days of Christmas, but you'll also find a classic Victorian Christmas, with plenty of sparkle.

Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail: pick up a trail pack with everything you need for this fun challenge around the grounds to help Peter Rabbit's friends. As well as a prize there's a selfie station where families can take photos with their favourite storybook rabbit.

The Wyne, near Basingstoke A Victorian Christmas at The Wyne

28 Nov - 3 Jan, 11am-3pm house, 10am - 4pm grounds (closed 24 & 25 Dec), normal admission charge plus £2 per Peter Rabbit trail

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne>

This atmospheric mansion lends itself beautifully to Christmas. This year, The Wyne invites you to celebrate a Victorian Christmas. Discover ground floor rooms filled with glowing Christmas trees and traditional hand-made decorations.

Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail: in the gardens, kids can help Peter Rabbit's friends find items to help them through the cold winter months. Solve clues and try nature challenges in return for a trail badge and certificate.

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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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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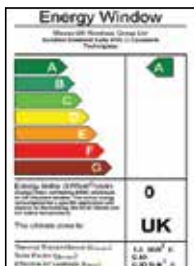
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