



The Villager

June 2021

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

It is lovely to be able to anticipate meeting up again in our village halls.

If your organisation is planning an event that you would like announced in the Villager please contact Lindsay Berry lindsayberry0@gmail.com so that she can include the event and the date in the Future Events page of the magazine.

Just to remind everybody that the Number 58 bus has commenced running again. From now on it will run every Friday from Sherborne St John to Chineham shopping centre. Leaves village at approximately 10.30am and returns from Chineham as 12.30pm. Just give - JOAN BRANDON - a ring on 01256 889071 to book a place.



Claiming Dates

Please send to lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775 800955

June 2021		
23	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, via Zoom. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm
July 2021		
21	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, via Zoom. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm
September 2021		
11	Scarecrow Competition – put your scarecrows up	
12	Scarecrow Judging Day	
18	Scarecrow Trail and Prize Giving	
29	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, via Zoom. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm

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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Sherbornes with Pamber



Think about a typical day. Start with how it begins. It doesn't begin with a cockerel crowing but my 'phone going off at the time of my choosing. Human beings are capable of amazing things, and that is quite a feat of technology, harnessing and understanding the properties of materials in the natural world. I haven't even got out of bed and I am confronted with that truth. When I go downstairs, I generally know that there will be food in the cupboard. When I have my breakfast, I pour milk that has been treated so that it will not harm me over cereals from a box which tells me their nutritional value to the microgram. Or I eat eggs that bear a mark telling me they're safe, laid by vaccinated hens, eaten with toast made from bread that I bought from a shop already sliced. If I run out of food, I know that I can go to a shop and expect that there will be some there. When I have a shower, all I have to do is turn a dial and water comes out;

I adjust another dial and it is the exact temperature I want. Afterwards, I put on clothes I have bought from a shop, made from thread I didn't have to spin, and cloth I didn't have to weave and sew together. If it is cold, I can press a button and the heating comes on. When I am concerned about my health, I can telephone my GP. Whether I can work and provide for my family isn't dependent on whether the weather is good or bad. I travel in a car made by human beings, powered by an engine which runs on diesel; more and more of us are using electric or hybrid cars. The direction of the car can be changed with the movement of the hands, the speed by changing the pressure of the foot. What I see as I drive through Basingstoke is the result of human achievement: traffic lights, blocks of flats, shops, flyovers. Even when I get into the countryside, plants and animals are things about which I have learned facts. I am the one who decides whether or not a particular scene is beautiful.

We experience the world as a place over which we have control and that makes it easy to believe that the world is solely made up of those things we can measure and are capable of natural explanation; it is increasingly difficult to believe that there is anything beyond that.

As a global event, the COVID pandemic, and the economic and social effects of the responses of the world's governments, have shown that we are not, after all, in

control. There is mystery and uncertainty in the world. As our society starts to recover, let's not forget that.

But we also live in a place where it is perhaps easier to be reminded that we are subject to forces beyond our control. In Acts 14.17, the apostle Paul wrote: "Yet he [God] has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." As we walk along the footpaths and drive along the country roads, we can see the crops grow and the livestock grazing and we are reminded that we really are dependent on the weather after all, as well as the hard work and competence of other people, and plant and animal health. We can look at the natural world and, rather than sitting in judgement over its beauty, contemplate it, and allow its beauty to break through.

Perhaps that makes it easier in turn to entertain the possibility that there is something outside the world we can observe and understand, such as that Jesus is the creator and sustainer of all things (Colossians 1.16-17, Hebrews 1.2-3), that he entered into our world and lived as a human being, died and rose again, left this world in his ascension, and that one day he will return to judge the world. Then we will prepare for that day by turning from our rebellion against God, trusting in Christ for forgiveness, and accepting his authority over our lives.

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector



SERVICES FOR JUNE 2021

At the time of writing, the Government continues to consider that the risk is sufficiently low to allow churches to remain open for corporate worship. You are welcome to join us. Please don't attend if you are symptomatic. Please use the alcohol hand gel on entering the building and maintain social distancing of 2m. Government legislation requires the wearing of a mask unless exempt. 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) by 12.45 pm on the Thursday before or our Rector, the Revd Daniel Newman rector@sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com – 01256 541607. This is used for test & trace purposes as well as ensuring we can accommodate safely all those wishing to attend. Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards. Visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBbHQM4CvpnnPsSGuuglR_w or the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

Sunday Club:

Explorers - School years R-Y6 will meet during the 10.45 service

Pioneers - Y7-Y9 meet virtually with Warren and Lisa Trask via Zoom at 4pm

Creche - there will be toys available for use in the Bell Tower, but this will be unsupervised

06 June

09.30 am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
10.45 am	All-Age Worship with the Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
	Warren Trask (9.30am) & The Revd Neil Jeffers	
(10.45am)		

13 June

09.30 am	Morning Worship	All Saints
09.30 am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Worship with Sunday Club	St Andrew's
	Generosity (1): The inward curve of the heart	Steve Howe & Warren Trask

Sermon Series: Living in Love and Faith

20 June

09.30 am	Morning Worship with the Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Worship with Sunday Club	St Andrew's
	Identity	The Revd Daniel Newman

27 June

09.30 am	Morning Worship	Pamber Priory
09.30 am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Worship with Sunday Club	St Andrew's
	Authority	The Revd Daniel Newman & Steve Howe

Mid-Week

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 1st June. **Home Groups** meet in the week of Monday 7th & 21st June.

Depending on Government rules at the time these meetings may be held via Zoom.

UPCOMING EVENT - All Creatures Great and Small

A conversation with Adam Rattray about what we can do for our part of the planet

Saturday 26th June at 7.30pm

Sherborne St Village Hall (with Zoom alternative if restrictions are not lifted) Book at sherborneswithpamber.org/wild



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Matters

The Parish Council monthly meetings are returning to face-to-face meetings in the Chute Pavilion as lockdown restrictions change on 17th May 2021 so, please do attend wearing a mask as all the necessary safety measures will be in place – sanitizer and chairs 2 meters apart.

As the Parish Elections were uncontested the Parish Council is in the process of interviews with prospective candidates to fill the 2 vacant positions. By the time of issue of this report the 2 new Councillors should have been chosen.

The weekly Basingstoke Community Bus from the Village to Chineham has restarted & will continue so please reserve your place.

The Telephone Box book Exchange is ready thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who will place notices when it will be opened and ready to accept books.

Annual Parish Meeting

took place via Zoom 21st April 2021. The Chairman gave his report covering

2019 to 2021 which will be available online and at the AGM and first Ordinary Parish Council meeting of the new Council on 19th May 2021 in the Chute Pavilion.

Residents asked that a noticeboard be placed on the side of the shop so residents will be better informed together with a new bench. As the Council are investigating the installation of more equipment at the Recreation ground it was suggested that a questionnaire be placed in the Villager specific to young teenagers asking them to comment on what improvements or new equipment, they would like to engage with the younger residents of the Parish.

Roads/Footpaths

The speeding problem at West End on the A340 continues to raise concerns and a new group of volunteers is in the process of being formed so that they can use the speed watch equipment which has been effective on Vyne Road. As an official group they can then submit gathered information to the police for review. So, if you would like to help as a volunteer, please contact me by email.

The redirection of footpath 208/18/b is about to be completed to loop around the front of the Pavilion across the grass.

Lengths man Scheme

The scheme is still successful at solving small issues around the Parish. If you

have any issues, please let me know so I can add them to the schedule for action on their next visit.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

Both the recreation grounds and Pavilion are in good repair and starting to be used again. Classes inside the Pavilion and parties have started again although all users will be asked to continue to adhere to the instructions re masks, sanitizing and masks to ensure peoples' safety.

Finances

Due to grants during the past year from government the loss of income from the Chute Recreation grounds and Pavilion has been minimized so the Parish Council still has sufficient to ensure all budgeted work can still go ahead.

Planning application **21/00443/FUL** was wrongly stated as 10 Aldermaston Road when in fact is an application from Armstrong Builders on their land.

Please contact me if there is anything you wish to say or if you have any problems that the Parish Council could help you with or suggestions for improving the Parish.

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk

Penny Mayo

Monk Sherborne Village Hall

As you can see here, there has been good progress made on the new Monk Sherborne village hall, with the roof and tiles now on, and the 'Monk Bond' brickwork in progress.

The build is on track for completion in the summer with a view to an official opening in September.

For more details and photos of progress please visit the Monk Sherborne Village Hall website and select the link on the home page.

As always, thank you for your patience with the disruption and a special thanks to the immediate neighbours of the hall.

Monk Sherborne Village Hall Committee



Borough Council Elections



Following the Borough Council elections on new boundaries, the Sherborne St John and Rookdown Ward has three councillors, Cllr Tristan Robinson, Cllr Simon Bound and Cllr Jay Ganesh. The whole ward includes Charter Alley, Monk Sherborne, Marnel Park, Merton Rise, Ramsdell, Rookdown, Sherborne Fields, Sherborne St John and West Heath.

Tristan has been our borough councillor for the past five years, working on issues from planning, to waste collections, funding for community facilities, traffic and more.

Simon has been the Rookdown Councillor for the past six years and is involved with the Parish Council and previously with the Community Association on issues from GP services, to community facilities and more.

Jay lives in Sherborne Fields and is an active member of the Residents' Association, regularly organising community activity such as litter picks and green space clearing.

We are here for the whole community and available to any resident who wants or needs our support. Our email addresses are:

Cllr.Tristan.Robinson@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr.Simon.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr.Jay.Ganesh@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Tristan W Robinson

T: 07817 131821

Email: rhydian.vaughan@nehc.org.uk

Rhydian Vaughan MBE was re-elected as a counsellor to the Hampshire County Council.



Ranil Jayawardena MP Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire



My recent updates have focused on our local response to the pandemic, but it's right that this should not be the only show in town. Residents of Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and the Pambers are lucky to live in and alongside some beautiful countryside, which folk love to walk and bicycle through – especially over the last year – and we can all play a part in 'Our Plan' for local services that keep us greener, cleaner and safer.

For example, Hampshire County Council recently committed half a million pounds to restore and improve local footpaths. So, if there's a much-used country path in Sherborne St John or the Pambers in need of improvement, or a beloved trail damaged by one of the wettest winters on record, do report it at: bit.ly/footpathrepairs

And, just a quick reminder, you can have your say on my suggestion of a "North Hampshire Cycle Network" at ranil.uk/cycling – and see the latest thinking on which particular route might be deliverable first.

Sadly, not everyone respects our environment – and fly-tipping is a crime

which blights communities across the country. It's particularly unacceptable here, given the free household waste disposal at Hampshire's network of Household Waste Recycling Centres – a cost-effective option open to small businesses too. You'll be pleased to know that over 100 people have been successfully prosecuted and 116 fixed penalty notices issued across Hampshire since 2018, while prosecutions nationally have more than doubled since 2016. As a result, we almost saw fly-tipping in Hampshire decrease for the seventh consecutive year – but for a single organised crime gang that shockingly dumped 30 tonnes of waste around Hampshire! This proves how lucrative fly-tipping can be for organised criminal gangs, and shows that, as ever, there's more to do.

That's why the Government continues to make sure local authorities have the powers they need, including: fines of up to £400; enhanced powers to search and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers; Magistrates' Court fines of up to £50,000 or twelve-months imprisonment; and

unlimited Crown Court fines or five year sentences. Work is underway to increase Magistrates' awareness of the prevalence and importance of waste crime too, whilst the Environment Bill will make it easier for officers to search premises to seize evidence and make sure that fines can be revised if needed.

Our local councils do act, and that's why it's promising that recent figures show a ten per cent increase in community reports across Hampshire, but please do report anything you see around Sherborne St John, the Pambers and beyond too!

- Report fly-tipping at: hart.fixmystreet.com
- Report fly-tipping at: bit.ly/basingstokeflytipping

For my latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook ("Ranil Jayawardena MP") or sign up to my newsletter at: ranil.uk/newsletter

Ranil Jayawardena MP
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Contacts

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CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS

SSJ Mrs Penny Mayo
MS Mrs Cally Morris
Pamber Chris Gunnell

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL
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HAMPSHIRE POLICE

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SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY
TENNIS CLUB
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

YOGA in SSJ Village Hall
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB
FOOTBALL CLUB
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)

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MS Village Hall

SSJ Village Hall

The Chute Pavilion

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Mrs Karen Payne (Head teacher) 850180
Mr Jamie Carroll 473379

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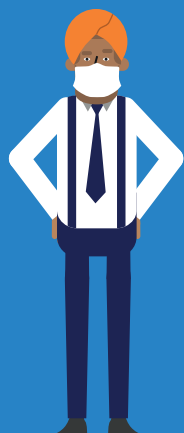
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nhs.uk/coronavirus



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GALES
GARAGE

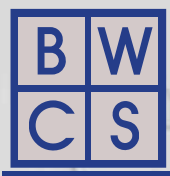
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Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

As I write, it is Mental Health Awareness Week which focuses this year on nature. We are blessed with an abundance of access to nature. I'm in no doubt how powerful the impact is of exploring our open spaces, my favourite being Pamber Forest, or watching nature from our own home or roadside. Nature has forged forward since I last wrote. The daffodils are dying, wild anemones are hanging in in the face of adverse weather and violets starting to appear. Birdlife is active building nests, mating and starting to feed young. Deer have taken a liking to our garden plants and are visiting 2 or 3 times a day for tasty snacks. They love grape hyacinths, rose buds and variegated laurel – not green laurel though, it just lacks that 'Je ne sais quoi'. They sprinkle little ready-made fertilizer balls over the lawn to encourage the grass to grow more. Sun is shining, evenings are lighter and it all makes me feel much better! Snatches of sun have encouraged me in the garden too, not before time.

Following my comments about litter when I last wrote, Stephen Howis has sent an update. Stephen and his household, together with that of Sue James, who was pictured last month with her grandchildren, do their best to keep the Pamber Green end of New Road, as well as the A340 clear of litter. He says his recent finds have included discarded PPE masks, protective gloves and wipes, takeaway coffee cups, McDonalds bags with the remains of a meal in, a carrier bag with a cooked eaten leg of lamb, empty bottles of all types, including an

expensive bottle of champagne, cigarette packets, sweet/crisp wrappers, a petrol can and an empty packet of generic Viagra, which had the user's name on. As this person lives in New Road, Stephen was very tempted to return the packet. He thinks they'll know who they are! A few days later he retrieved 16 beer and cider bottles from the ditches in New Road plus one in Green Lane, wondering how many people are drinking and driving. There's also been an incident of fly tipping in New Road which Basingstoke and Deane Council cleared within 24 hours. I'm sure many will agree with Stephen's view that he's saddened that people have so little regard for the environment. Much of what he picks up is recyclable and is obviously thrown from moving vehicles by people who can't be bothered to take their litter home.

Following the recent local elections, Pamber has formed a new Borough ward with Tadley. Borough Councillors now include Kerri Carruthers, David Leeks and Derek Mellor. Pamber Parish Council reports planning objections to the erection of a four-bed dwelling following the demolition of existing stables on land opposite Cottage Farm and adjacent to Cherry Tree Cottage, New Road, Pamber Green and objection to an outline planning application for 4 detached dwellings at Rosebank, Aldermaston Road, Pamber End. BDBC has been reminded to follow up enforcement notices and carry out an inspection at Berry Court Farm and Solar Farm Site in the areas that are

both subject to enforcement notices and where caravan storage was taking place. BDBC are looking to clear main country roads with no paths such as Little London Road, Silchester Road and New Road, as they are the litter authority. A grant request of £1,500 towards maintenance costs has been received from St Stephens Village Hall. The Council discussed at length uncontrolled dogs in Pamber Forest and agreed to report incidents to the Police and BDBC's Community Safety Patrol Officers. Pamber Forest is controlled by Hants and IOW Wildlife Trust. The next Parish meeting will be held on 12th July, hopefully at Pamber Heath Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

I've heard from Mr Hungerford who, sadly, reports a theft in the area. A historic cast iron finger post has stood at the entrance to Wyeford Lane, Pamber End. On top of this was a circular cast iron finial showing the country name of Hampshire and the precise location. This theft has been very upsetting as this was a much loved historic landmark for many years. Mr Hungerford asks that whoever took the finial consider the impact of the loss to the community and the irreplaceable loss. Please return and place it on the verge of Wyeford Lane so that arrangements can be made to return it to its proud, original location.

The Plough at Little London has now reopened its doors. Please support it during these very difficult times.

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

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

Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Watch



Cranesfield

Residents need to sign up

It is with much pleasure that I can confirm the appointment as Scheme Co-ordinator of Jamie Whitehorn with immediate effect. Unfortunately we have not inherited a list of the previously signed up members so it will help greatly if everyone interested e-mails their details to Jamie at jamiwhitehorn@gmail.com please give

your name/s, street number and at least one telephone number.

May we remind you that amongst other benefits most home insurers give some discount for NHW membership.

Tyfield

Volunteer Needed

We have been advised that the Scheme Co-ordinator here has resigned due to

moving out of the area, I would like to thank Carole Stanley for her lengthy service.

We are hopeful that we may soon get a volunteer respond to this request and be able to announce a successor perhaps in the July magazine.

Ted Wilkinson

Area Co-ordinator

Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School



As we gradually come out of the lockdown restrictions, we are able to do more in school although we are still working within our three 'bubbles'. We are enjoying a greater variety of sports (when the rather unseasonably cold and wet May weather permits!) and this term Mr Moria is teaching cricket and tennis, and Coach Faye is resuming her dance lessons in the open

air! We are also hoping to restart our swimming lessons for Class 4 after the half term break.

Although we are not able to have any school trips yet (we are keeping fingers crossed that this may be possible soon!) the children are able to enjoy the local facilities. We are able to use the Chute recreation ground for some sports lessons, and the Infants have been on a muddy Spring walk around the village! It is unlikely that we will be able to have a School Sports Day as we usually do this term, but there are plans to have sports afternoons within our bubbles so that we don't lose that competitive spirit!

Fridays are becoming the noisiest days of the week, as you may have noticed if you walk past the school

building! The Key Stage 1 classes are learning African Drumming with Mr White in the morning, and this takes place in the playground which means that many of our neighbours are experiencing their drumming skills! In the afternoon you may hear the sound of 32 cornets, baritones and trombones as Mr Denman teaches Class 4 how to play brass instruments! Both sets of instruments are a great way for the children to use up any excess energy at the end of the week!

Finally, congratulations to Miss Biles, who gave birth to a beautiful baby son, Chester, during the Easter holidays. Mum. Dad and baby are all doing well.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent


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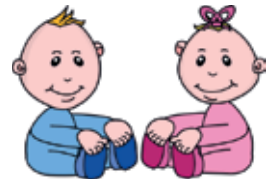
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Sherborne St John Village Hall

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phone Barbara 850173 or Liz 850800



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Ladies ...Come and meet
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the wife of our new Rector

SSJ Village hall at 7:30pm on Saturday July 17th.
As well as enjoying a drink and nibbles together,
Brooke will give a short talk.

**Please reply to Jenny Cooke by Friday 9th
July.**

E: jennycooke@outlook.com or T: 01256 850837



News from our Hospital

At the time of writing there are only five COVID positive inpatients at the Trust, a dramatic improvement from earlier in the year when at peak there were over 250. This fall underlines the effectiveness of the Government's vaccination programme, with many people locally – and 90% of Hampshire Hospitals' staff – now having had their second jab. The latest lockdown has also helped, underlining just how important it remains – even with light at the end of the tunnel – to continue to socially distance and wear face coverings/ masks.

The emphasis at the Trust now is restoring services, and I am happy to report that everything which had to be stood down is back up and running. Not all are operating at their previous capacity due to extra precautions, but the progress has been very encouraging. However, clearing the backlog of elective and non-urgent procedures will take considerable time.

Priority is being given to those who have been waiting longest for their treatment, especially those showing deteriorating

conditions. However, those being diagnosed with cancer can rest assured that they will continue to be given top priority, as has been the case throughout the pandemic. Indeed, our local hospital is currently rated among top performers in our whole region for cancer care. However, there is concern that there has been a general reduction in patient referrals from GPs, with the obvious danger that issues will not be treated early enough to give a good outcome. Prevention and/ or early intervention is always best so the hospital's message is, "if in doubt, get it checked out"!

There are many more positive developments. For instance, the Trust hopes soon that it can be more flexible on patient visiting – it's being reviewed in line with the Government's unlocking roadmap – and there are fewer significant ambulance waits at the Emergency Department. There is also on-going investment in services, notably the planned tender for the construction of a new cath lab at Basingstoke hospital, to support patients with heart operations such as the insertion of stents and pace makers.

If we look back at the Trust's achievements through this difficult time, a number really stand out. To take just a few:

- It was the first Trust in the country to do in house testing; it has created two new 'rapid test' labs getting results back in about two hours, as compared to the normal six.
- It created the first 'lab in a van' used for testing in places like care homes
- It has been an early adopter of the less invasive saliva testing.
- It has been deeply involved in developing the two game-changing treatments for COVID patients, and
- During this period staff at the Trust have created 16 scientific papers for the world's top medical journals.

All are a testament to the professionalism and hard work of the wonderful staff at Hampshire Hospitals.

Keith Bunker
Former Trust Governor

Winter into Spring 2020/21



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT! WE WILL USE SOME OF THESE FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE ITEMS BELOW. HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO DONATE, THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE ARE RUNNING SHORT OF AT PRESENT:

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- BISCUITS

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

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11th - 18th September 2021



Scarecrows up : 11th September

Judging Day : 12th September

Scarecrow Trail : 18th September

Prizegiving : 18th September

Further details in July...see Villager / SSJ Facebook page/ Village Hall website

SSJ Book Exchange Phone-Box Vyne Road



The Book Exchange opened in May after a brush-up of the phone-box by volunteers

Thank you to everyone who helped

Many thanks too to all of you who are now contributing books to the Exchange

We welcome fiction and novels, biography, children's books, history and culture, and cookbooks

Full information on where to donate any spare books you have, and on how to borrow books from the Exchange, is inside the phone-box

There are already some very appreciative users

Do take a look

Eirwen Bone
Sally Sokoloff

Notes from Rural France



Making friends and keeping them is something which everyone needs in their lives and so many things depend on whether a friendship will work. You could argue that such barriers as colour, creed, sex or even size, shape and age could prove a first barrier to overcome. Shyness, no confidence or lack of language skills may be a large

obstacle to get over but I have found a smile is the first step towards breaking barriers and a sense of humour and a like mind also helps. Speaking a bit of the French language has been a great help towards making new friends in France and I have found friendships can bloom between the most unlikely participants which is a joy to watch and revel in. The handshakes and 'La Bise' were typical French greetings but sadly they may now be a thing of the past....we shall have to wait and see how Covid has affected this respectful salutation. Casual friendships, steadfast friendships, acquaintances' all help to enrich our daily lives and spending time working on the ones you want to keep is a most enjoyable task.

Our much loved late dog Bert had an inquisitive mind – the Boss says it was rather like mine – but there the similarity ends as my nose is not the inquisitive tool Bert's was. None of the above possible hindrances worried Bert, he loved everyone and was willing to be loved by everyone. We do miss him. Here he is communing with the cows

that live in the field next to the lake, they always came to say hello to him and he always trotted over to check they still smelled the same. Once one licked his nose and it was a bit of a shock for him, I don't think he felt the friendship had advanced that far...

Of all the times when we needed him and everyone needed their friends it has to have been these last 14 months but it has also been the worst time for social contact. Amongst the tragedy of the pandemic we have all greatly missed seeing and hugging our friends. Dogs have suddenly become everyone's favourite; walking them a great excuse to get out and about and a comfort when locked indoors alone. Let's hope these connections survive and continue when normal life returns and we can start working on maintaining our social life again. Meanwhile we are looking forward to cautiously reconnecting with friends and family "in real life" and are coming round to thoughts of finding another Bert lookalike puppy who we can train to take over his legacy...

The Mrs

Winter into Spring 2020/21

From the 27th December 2020 to the 10th January 2021 the daily maximum temperature has averaged at 3.0C (i.e. 4.3C below average) and the night-time minimum temperature has averaged -1.1C (i.e 2.4C below average) – that is quite a cold snap, but it then warmed a little, but there was a very cold spell from the 22nd to the 26th. The main feature of the month was the lack of sunshine and also the lack of snow – it only snowed from 6am to 10am on the 23rd giving a 4 cm cover.

February was a month of 2 halves – the 1st to the 14th was cold with an average day and night temperature 2 Celsius below the norm and 8 mornings with air frost although none were really low; then southwesterly winds broke through on the 15th and from thereon it was relatively mild but mainly cloudy.

March continued the theme of relatively mild and cloudy with disappointing sunshine totals. It was also a fairly dry month with 19 days with no rain, and most of those dry days were in the latter part of the month when the sun is rapidly becoming more powerful. April. This was a month of several records – and records go back a very long way!

The main cause of the exceptional weather was the prevalence of high pressure frequently located to the north of the UK, this causes winds to be funnelled down the North Sea and originating in the Arctic. The most significant element was the lack of rainfall – a total of 15.4mm, and 14.1mm of that total fell between 11.30am and 7pm on the 28th. The prevalence of high pressure led to massive sunshine totals (solar panels greatly benefited the electricity supply); so much sunshine led to good daytime temperatures but the clear skies also led to frequent really chilly nights – there were 14 nights with air frost compared to the longterm April average of only 4 nights. This all must have led to a slow start for Spring and gave the early-nesting birds (especially blackbirds and thrushes) a very difficult start to the breeding season with poor food supplies and a slow start to the growing season. Livestock would have benefited from the firm ground but grass was slow to grow.

May. Apart from the gale on the 3rd it has been a fairly quiet month so far (up to the 12th) but it could soon change. There have been no significantly warm days and yet the soil temperatures are coming up.

David Cullum

Pamber Green

2020 into 2021 Pamber Green	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021	April 2021	To 12 May 21
Average Day Max Temp C	7.6	6.1	8.3	11.9	13.8	15.5
Diff from 30-yr average C	-0.6	-1.0	+0.7	+2.0	+1.4	+0.2
Highest Max Temp C	12.9	12.7	14.8	24.0	19.6	17.8
Average Night Min Temp	2.8	1.4	2.2	2.6	0.5	4.2
Diff from 30-year average	+0.8	+0.4	+1.1	+0.8	-2.8	-1.7
Lowest Min Air Temp C	-3.7	-5.2	-5.0	-3.0	-3.5	-1.1
No. of nights with air frost	10	12	11	7	14	3
Diff from 30-year average	-3	-1	-1	-3	+10	+2
Total Rainfall mm	108.4	92.6	46.9	53.2	15.4	30.7
Percent of 30-year average	157%	134%	75%	85%	29%	179%
No. of days with >1mm rain	18	13	9	8	1	4
Diff from 30-year average	+6	0	-1	-3	-8	
No. Days with NO Rain	7	9	10	19	21	0

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are delighted to announce that the Women's Fellowship will be open for business next month, July 6th, 2pm start, in the SSJ Village Hall.

This is of course if there are no disasters in the meantime. Judging by what is happening in other parts of the world I think we must consider ourselves fortunate to be vaccinated against this awful Covid virus.

Prior to July 6th the committee members will be arranging gatherings again in gardens for a chat and catch-up, which should ease us in gently for returning to the Village Hall.

We can't wait to see everyone again. If you know of anyone who is thinking about coming along, do let them know. Everyone is very welcome.

Rose Cooper

CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP
February 2021

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT MONEY

When people think of "What Rotary Does", it is likely they recall our fundraising events they have attended. Possibly our Anvil Concert attended by 1200 people, or our International Boxing Dinner supported by many local companies. Both are successful events that raise good money, and people attending have a great time and the funds raised enable us to support our work in the local community and sometimes internationally such as our **End Polio** campaign, **Mersey Ships** or in response to disasters

IT'S ABOUT MAKING A GENUINE DIFFERENCE

But in truth much of our voluntary work for our community is often out of the public eye. We work closely with many local charities. "In Partnership" to find out what they need most and where we can best help. Sometimes it is simply providing 'peoplepower' For our local **St Michael's Hospice** it is supporting their own fundraising events, be it car parking, marshalling, water stations for the Big Wheel or much deserved refreshments at the end of the Moonlight Walk when the tired but elated participants are glad to be rewarded with hot chocolate and cake St Michael's, like many local charities, are catching up on their fundraising events and are condensing their event into what is left of 2021. You can support them by participating and being sponsored (see their website) or **join**

our support team at one of the events, contact details above

The Big Wheel - Rotary Water station
St Michael's Hospice Events



- Sunday 14th June - Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk
- Sunday 18th July - Big Wheel - Cycle Ride
- Saturday 14th August - Moonlight Walk
- Sunday 26th September - Sunrise Walk
- Sunday 19th December - Reindeer Run

Midnight Walk - hot chocolate and cake



Rotaract in Basingstoke

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Contact Chris Flemming:

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Get in touch to join our volunteers on the day

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

PROBUS HEARS ABOUT MEETING PRINCE PHILIP



Like most of the nation, following the passing of the Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on 9th April, Probus Club of Basingstoke member Stephen Thair was sure that he was not the only member with reminiscences of this man who had been present throughout his life. One memory was from many years ago and in a far-off land.

“I was fortunate to meet him briefly on the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Tour of the Commonwealth in 1977, when I was working as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Department of Justice, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea” explained Stephen. “With my wife, Margaret, we had arrived there in April 1975, and so were able to watch some of the ceremonies when the country achieved independence in September that year, when Prince Charles came to do the honours, so to speak.”

At the time of the Silver Jubilee Tour, he was running a Junior Scout Troup of mainly expatriate boys (the PNG equivalent of a Cub Pack) with another leader, an Australian Scouter called Geoff. The final engagement of the Queen and Prince Philip in Papua New Guinea before they left for the next leg of their journey was to inspect an assembly of PNG Scouts and Guides. They were lined up for the royal inspection in a giant horse-shoe on the Murray Barracks’ parade ground in Port Moresby, with the Guides forming one side of the horse-shoe, and the Scouts the other.

The Scouts and Guides being well-organised were all in position for 11am, when the inspection was due to commence, with the pipe band of the Pacific Islands Regiment behind them. However, 11am came and went, with no sign of the royal party. The tropical sun rose ever higher in the sky over the parade ground, and it was, to say the least, very hot. Eventually, at around midday, the Queen and Prince Philip and their escort arrived. The Pacific Islands Regiment band began to play, and the Queen and Prince Philip began their inspections, accompanied in each case by the great and the good of PNG Guiding and Scouting.

“Our troop was in line with me at one end of it, and Geoff at the other end. We had other Scout Groups either side of us. Prince Philip and his party were about two groups away from us on the inspection, when the boy standing next to Geoff fainted because of the heat, and Geoff had to carry him off to the shade of a tree where fortunately he revived. However, by then Prince Philip had arrived at our Group, and so Geoff missed out, and I was the only representative for him to speak to.”

“Prince Philip asked me what I was doing in the country and when I had explained, he asked if I was enjoying it – which I was – and then moved on. He was perfectly pleasant to me. I had been a bit anxious as my father had told me a story of a solicitor friend of his who had been introduced to Prince Philip at an event of some kind, and when he replied to a question from Prince Philip as to what he did, received the comment “Oh no, not another b* * * y solicitor!”

Thus, another interesting PNG experience drew to a close. Stephen always felt marginally guilty that Geoff missed out on a Prince Philip encounter, although in fairness it could just as easily have been the boy next to him who fainted!

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100 years of the Royal British Legion



The 15th May 2021 marked a very special occasion in the history of the Royal British Legion, commemorating 100 years since its founding. John Delafield laid a wreath at the war memorial in Sherborne St John.

Before the Great War, there was scant attention paid to the care of wounded veterans. They received little support from the State and were only given an insignificant war pension.

The Government then arranged for compensation to the injured. **Earl Haig** became increasingly concerned about this problem during the Great War while he commanded First Corps, First Army and then became Commander-in-Chief of the British Army on the Western Front.

Some soldiers were even returned to the front line having been medically discharged, because there was such a large manpower shortage. This caused outrage and from 1917, three separate veterans' organisations arose, each with a bias towards different political parties.

During this time, another person in our history was 6' 6 1/2" **Thomas Frederick Lister** - a dominant figure indeed. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1914, became a Lance Bombardier, and then was wounded and discharged in 1916. Fred Lister joined the first organisation - The National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, linked to the Liberal Party, and later became its second President. This was followed by the Comrades of the Great War (Conservatives) and the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (Labour Party). Years of bickering followed the Great War but, with the encouragement of Earl Haig, in the spring of 1920 all three organisations decided that unity was the only way forward and they called a Conference. A fourth group joined them, founded by Earl Haig in 1920, called the Officers' Association. Further meetings followed and final agreement came at a Conference in May 1921, chaired by Fred Lister, to form the **British Legion**. The Prince of Wales was to be the Patron, Earl Haig the President and Fred Lister the Chairman.

The following morning at 9 o'clock, 15th May 1921, as a symbol of unity, a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by leaders from the four organisations, with the Field Marshal and the Lance Bombardier. Earl Haig remained the President until his sudden death in 1928, aged 66 years.



Lister was knighted in 1961, and worked tirelessly for the Legion until his death in 1966, aged 79. Only on the Golden Anniversary did the British Legion gain the Royal title in 1971.

The Royal British Legion is now well known for its Poppy Appeal, Festival of Remembrance, and Service at the Cenotaph. Money is raised to support veterans and their families for their financial, welfare, social and emotional needs. There are over 2500 Branches in the UK and overseas, and also Social Clubs, Bands, and Motorcycle groups around the country.

Text provided by JSK Swanston of Sherfield on Loddon.

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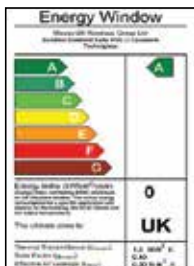
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