

A photograph of two white birds, likely egrets or herons, perched on a dense network of thin, brown tree branches. The bird in the upper half is facing away from the camera, with its head tucked down. The bird in the lower half is facing towards the camera, also with its head tucked down. The background is a soft-focus view of more branches and foliage.

The Villager

April 2021

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial



Most appropriately our resident celebrity – Dino, the dinosaur – was there at the front of the queue on Sunday 14th March 2021 at the opening

of the new village shop in SSJ. Let's hope he/she didn't eat all the biscuits!

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have visited the shop and met Uday and his team. Remember it is up to us locals – and those passing through – to encourage, support and use the shop as much as possible. Opening hours are 7.30am till 9pm every day of the week.

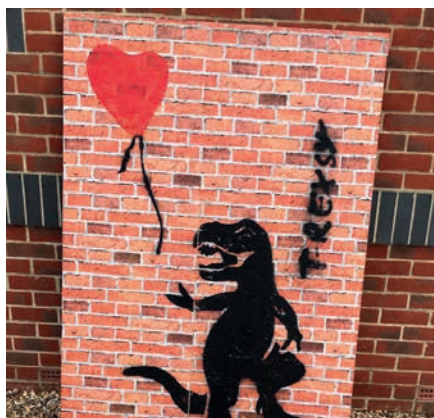
Uday has an alcohol licence and is hoping to have a Post Office counter service in place in the next few weeks, and a coffee machine!

We welcome this much needed amenity to the village and wish Uday every success in this new venture.

STOP PRESS !!!!

Has Dino become an artist's model for Portrait Artist of the Year ??

And is that artist – You know Who ???



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.

Contact us at villagermagazine@gmail.com

Cover photos: Kevin Pearson

the Villager CONTACTS

Editor:

Julie Crawley

01256 851003

villagermagazine@gmail.com

Advertisements:

Emma Foreman

01256 889215/07747 015494

emma@thehay.co.uk

Distribution:

Liz & Chris Gwynn

01256 850800

lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com

Future Events:

Lindsay Berry

01256 850495

lindsayberry0@gmail.com

Pamber Correspondent:

Ann Ellis

annjellis@googlemail.com

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Sherbornes with Pamber

If all goes well, by the time you read this, we will be able to have another household or a group of six in our garden. You may have already experienced that joy of seeing people in your garden whom you haven't seen face-to-face in a long time. I look forward to getting to know more of the parish, which was truncated just a couple of months after I arrived last year with only some very brief reprieves.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 19, we are told that at the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. After Jesus had died on the cross, and his death verified by Roman soldiers, two men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, ask for permission to take Jesus' body. They prepare it for burial by wrapping it in linen cloths with spices, and they lay it in the tomb in this garden. No one

expected to see Jesus alive again. Some Jews believed that there would be a resurrection at the end of time, but not in the middle of history, and throughout the gospels, Jesus' disciples don't understand him when he talks about dying and rising again.

The following day was the Sabbath day, but on the first day of the week, a woman named Mary Magdalene goes to the garden with the tomb and she finds that the stone has been removed from the entrance. She runs to tell Peter and another of Jesus' disciples, and the three of them run to the tomb. They look inside and see the strips of linen in which his body had been wrapped lying there and the cloth that was around his head folded separately by itself. If someone had stolen the body, it is very hard to believe that they would leave the linen cloth behind, make the effort to fold the cloth which had been around Jesus' head, and take his body away naked. Peter and the other disciple go home but Mary remains there, in the garden, outside the tomb. She is crying and she looks into the tomb. She sees two angels sitting where Jesus' body had been, and they ask her why she is weeping. She believes someone has taken Jesus' body away and they don't

know where it has been taken. She turns around and sees a man standing there but she doesn't recognise him. He, too, asks her why she is crying and who she is looking for. At first, she thinks he is the gardener – quite naturally, given that they are in a garden. Then he says Mary's name and she recognises him as Jesus. Six people meeting in a garden (although not all at the same time) – Mary, Peter, the other disciple, the two angels and Jesus. Although it was only the third day since Mary had last seen Jesus, not three months, she had not expected to see him alive again at all. What joy she must have felt!

Before Jesus died on the cross, he said: "Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live" (John 14.19). By his death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered death and we do not need to be afraid of it any more. Jesus did what he promised he would and has shown he is trustworthy. We can believe that he is who he says he is: the eternal Son of God who became a human being. Jesus is alive today, and if we trust in him, we have eternal life.

To find out more, please join us at our Easter services and events, as well as our regular Sunday services. Do keep checking our website for the latest details as we keep our activities, including our groups for children and young people, under constant review in light of government guidance.

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector



SERVICES FOR APRIL 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) 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.

02 April – Good Friday

10.00am	All Age Service	Church YouTube Channel
2 pm	An hour at the Cross	Pamber Priory The Revd Daniel Newman
4 pm	Easter Bake-Off	Zoom

To take part please book via the website shown above.

Sermon Series: 'Joy on the Journey' – 1 Peter

04 April – Easter Day

09.30 am	Easter Service	All Saints
10.45 am	Easter Service with Holy Communion	St Andrew's
How does Jesus bring certain hope?	1 Peter 1:1-12	The Revd Daniel Newman

We will hold an additional service in St Andrew's at 9.30am should there be sufficient demand.

11 April

09.30 am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
How should I live?	1 Peter 1:13-2:3	Steve Howe

18 April

09.30 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
Why does the church matter?	1 Peter 2:4-12	The Revd Daniel Newman

25 April

09.30 am	Morning Service	Pamber Priory
09.30 am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Service with planned Sunday Club & Crèche	
How should I relate to authority?	1 Peter 2:13-25	The Revd Daniel Newman & Warren Trask

02 May

09.30 am	Morning Service	St Andrew's
10.45 am	Morning Service with the Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
How should I relate to my Newman husband or wife?	with planned Sunday Club & Crèche 1 Peter 3:1-7	The Revd Daniel

Mid-Week

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 6th April. **Home Groups** meet in the week of Monday 26th April.

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

Contacts

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HAMPSHIRE POLICE

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
NEAREST JOB CENTRE

LOCAL GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
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BROWNIES
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CUBS
MOTHER AND TODDLER
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY
TENNIS CLUB
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

YOGA in SSJ Village Hall
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB
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THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)

VENUE BOOKINGS:

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MS Village Hall

SSJ Village Hall

The Chute Pavilion

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DIAL-A-RIDE

Rev Daniel Newman rector.sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com 541607
The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke 819722
Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke 316000

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk 07714 770940
mspcclerk@gmail.com 07721 076186
clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk 07942 637210
Mr Tristan Robinson 07817 131821
Mr. Roger Gardiner, Nuthatch, The Glen, Pamber Heath 01189 701109
Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke 844844
The Castle, Winchester 01962 841841
Non-emergency 101 or 01962 841534
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime
ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com 01256 850891
https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk

Mrs Jenny Cullum (Secretary) 01256 850315
Laura Hawkins - lauraamyhawkins@gmail.com
Tramayne Henwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com 422083
Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com 880132
Ms Trish Field 01420 544904
Mrs Barbara Irving 850173
Mr David Hughes (Steward) 850303
Mrs Jean Linford 850264
Paul & Maria Saunders 850430
Mrs Margaret Cramer 850390
Mr Len Duncie 07860 435 831
or Mr Paul Hamilton 07917 005862
Mrs Jacqui Morris 881336
Mr Les Bone 850973
Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com 07584 169241
Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com 07528 726248
www.piccolopsn.com
Mr Stuart Maughan 01256 883858

Doreen Quilter booking@ststephensvillagehall.org
Natasha Chappell natasha.chappell@googlemail.com 01256 851373
Shawna Campbell ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com 07766 426080
Caretaker 01256 889534
Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com 07500 776222
& Penny Mayo ssjclerk@gmail.com 07584 169241
07714 770 940

01256 473202
01189 365592
467778
479244
329021
881228
01189 814166
399710
0118 9816661

Mr Mike Stewart (Head teacher) 850062
Mrs Karen Payne (Head teacher) 850180
Mr Jamie Carroll 473379

322814
0345 484950
0871 121 0190
Basingstoke Town Centre 473901
Chineham Library 465643
Tadley Library 0300 555 1387
Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm 01256 462101

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



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Matters

The Parish Council monthly meetings online are well attended so if you too would like to join please e mail the Parish Clerk clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk who will send you an invitation link. Please note that with the forthcoming elections the meeting for 5th May 2021 is cancelled.

The Parish Council Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on 19th May 2021 when reports about the Parish for the last 2 years from 2019/21 will be given by Councillors in place during the period. This will then be followed by the newly elected Councillors voting to fill the Parish Council roles for 2021/22.

Parish Elections

You will all be aware that elections cancelled in May 2020 will now be held 6th May 2021 to elect new Parish, Borough and County Councillors. The 5 seats for Sherborne St John are all up for re-election. While the time will be extremely short once the April Villager is issued there will hopefully still be time for people who want to be nominated to file the necessary papers as the period goes from 22nd March to 8th April 2021. Contact Basingstoke direct or me by e mail if you want information.

Wildflower Planting

The Parish Council have agreed to fund the wildflower planting initiative proposed by one parishioner who has purchased the seeds and is in the process of preparing the areas chosen. These areas will not be cut between March and July to allow the seeding of wildflower mixes so they will be able to germinate and flower to add to the visual quality of the verges. However, he would be happy to have volunteers to help so please contact me so I can pass on your details. I do not think it will involve anything onerous and as so many people are now enjoying walking around the parish it would be great if they got involved in helping with preparing the areas, seeding, and

removing the detritus from the small areas at the end of the season – this is imperative to ensure that they will flower in following years.

It is hoped to restart the weekly Basingstoke Community Bus from the Village to Chineham in the next couple of months.

A basic 'clean up' of the telephone box so it can provide a Book Exchange has started so it will hopefully be ready once Lockdown has ended.

The new Village Shop has now opened on Cranes Road. This will be a welcome addition to the Village and area facilities which in recent years have disappeared. The Parish Council send the new proprietors their best wishes for success.

Village Green

The Parish Council has purchased a Union flag and flagpole which is in the process of being installed on the Village Green.

Roads/Footpaths

The problem with excessive speeding on the A340 was again discussed as it has become worse and is dangerous to all who must cross the road to access the Village. The County Councillor, Rhydian Vaughan, will contact the police once more to ask for speed cameras to be sited to halt the speeding. The Parish Council has been informed that installing traffic lights would be extremely costly as would installing a camera themselves. The speed indicators help but many drivers ignore them. To extend speed watch by the villagers, which has proved effective on Vyne Road, would require more volunteers to use the equipment that the Parish already owns so more road areas could be covered. This could have a positive affect as when the police are provided with the vehicle details, they contact the drivers. So, if you would like to help as a volunteer please contact me by email.

The repairs to footpath 208/14a/2 by the kissing gate will commence as soon as the weather permits, and the new footpath fingerpost erected at the top to indicate the direction walkers can go. Hampshire County Council refused the request to redirect footpath 208/502/1 past Mill House, so the historic footpath remains just across as you leave the kissing gate at the end of 208/14a/2.

The position of the new Oak Lectern showing the Parish, footpaths and places of interest is still under discussion although the corner of Elm and Kiln Roads appears to be a good position as it is central.

Lengths man Scheme

The scheme is still successful at solving small issues around the Parish. The repairs and painting of all the white gates at the entrances to the Village will hopefully have been completed by the time you read this report.

Chute Recreation Ground & Pavilion

The Parish Council is in the process of agreeing the new children's play equipment to be installed at the Recreation ground.

Finances

These are still sufficient to carry out all the work planned.

Planning Applications received:

21/00303/HSE

Hazeldine, Cranes Road. Erection of single storey side/rear ext, conversion of garage to living accommodation. No objections 21/00350/HSE

4 Cranesfield. Erection of double garage. Parish Council objections registered.

21/00405/HSE

Aubrey Place. Raise eaves 1st floor ext new roof, porch, windows, single storey rear ext. replace doors & windows.

Trees T/00093/21/TCA

Edernish House T/00092/21/TCA
3 Dancers Meadows

Correction to last month's list of planning items :

20/03352/HSE This should read 20/03552/HSE Meadow House 7 Cranes Road Erection front porch, conservatory ext to change flat roof to a pitch. External works to single storey roofs & including windows & doors. No objections

I hope you are all managing in these rather bleak times and like me are looking forward to it ending soon. 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.

Penny Mayo



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Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

We've had sun and an impressive snow moon beaming down on us to raise our spirits. Evenings are lighter, the bulbs, flowers and shrubs are blooming. Soon the mowers will be out, and Monty Don is back with Gardeners' World from Longmeadow. Spring is definitely here!

Covid has created so much change and, sadly, a lot is not for the better. But there are positive things too. We have long known of the very positive benefits of gardening, the outdoors, singing and music on mental health but, increasingly clear, is that deeper breathing from singing is now a recognised recovery technique for Covid after-effects. Greater caring and compassion in the community are assets which we would do well to maximise in the future. I appreciate there will be differing views, but the sooner those who are medically able to have the vaccine do so, the sooner Covid will be better controlled. The signs are already emerging and, thankfully, there is a large band of health-care professionals and volunteers rolling out the vaccine at an amazing rate.

Another implication of Covid is my constantly expanding hairstyle now that my hairdresser has gone AWOL. I've got a big triangle of hair, pointy bit up, that makes me look like Crystal Tipps of the 1971 children's programme with her dog, Alistair. Tilley, little Yorkie opposite, is struggling to see anymore and it's difficult to tell whether you're looking at her head or waggy end. And the weathermen are being compared to

sheepdogs which is looking rather good on that sweet Tomasz Schafernaker. But, DRUM ROLL, I've got a hair appointment for 13th April, YAY!

I was recently reading an article by Julia Bradbury which struck a chord. At the moment, we need our outdoor spaces more than ever to give us a much-needed break from the trials of life and our familiar four walls. Obviously, we must wear them where required but discarded PPE masks are increasingly becoming a blot on our countryside and threat to wildlife. We have seen pictures of birds and marine life trapped by these and, increasingly dogs are ingesting them. Please follow advice, cut through the retaining straps and dispose of them responsibly. Another ongoing epidemic is dog poo and bags left hanging from branches. No matter how many times these problems are raised, it never seems to diminish. This is now a fineable offence, a significant health risk and a blot on our landscape. When will those at fault learn to take care of the spaces we all share and cherish the beauty?

Along similar lines, I heard from Sue James telling me her grandchildren, Deryn and James, again went litter picking in New Road during half term. They collected a large amount of rubbish, including a bag and contents of a McDonalds takeaway strewn in the ditch. McDonalds rubbish has been deposited at this point before and seems to be from a thoughtless person or persons getting off the bus having finish eating and too lazy to carry it a

bit further and dispose of it responsibly. Please stop doing this! It is a total eyesore in the countryside which you also, presumably, enjoy and live in.

It is concerning that dog thefts are now becoming increasingly commonplace locally. Whilst not a dog owner, I am horrified at the grief caused to those owners who cherish their animals and are distraught at their loss. There are reports of vans hovering and even stalking dog owners out walking. Thieves are attaching zip ties and/or coloured elastic bands to gates etc of properties containing dogs so they can go back later to snatch them. Please be very careful not to leave your dog unattended, these thieves are totally unscrupulous.

Hopefully, our lives will increasingly become easier in these troubled 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



Log In..... Log Out

Photo taken by Victor & Jacqui Babu

Village Wildflowers



As a boy I was fortunate to spend summer holidays in the southeast corner of Kent. I recall regularly seeing at least twenty butterflies on a village buddleia at a time. A magnificent sight! This is not just romantic nostalgia. Since the 1970s butterflies have declined 76%. We have all heard how bees and other pollinating insects are in crisis. There are several reasons for this but one major factor has been the massive loss of wildflower meadows since the 1930s.

Hence this project to create a few wildflower areas around the village.

Maybe this will make a small contribution to redressing the balance and together with other projects across the country might make a more significant difference. Where wildflowers lead wildlife follows!

These areas will hopefully bring a note of cheer and interest for our village community.

Such wildflower areas normally take three years to become established. The management is fairly simple and akin to the old haymaking traditions. An early grass cut is provided and then the areas are left uncut until August, at which point seed is first allowed to drop and then all cuttings are removed. This is important as leaving cuttings adds nutrients to the soil, which means grasses will outcompete the wildflowers.

So look out for the signs, which will go up some time in April. My hope is that some local residents might become involved and take over the management of areas near their homes. It would be good if this project were to become community owned, bring pleasure to our village and enhance our natural environment.



Rod Harding

Enquiries

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk

'One man went to mow, went to mow a meadow'

It might have been better for the environment if he hadn't.

An agitated Monty Don has been in the news this week telling us why our habit of mowing grass does so much damage to the environment. Left to itself after a spring cut, an average English meadow in a high summer hosts approximately 20,000,000 insects per acre. Cutting a field or garden short throughout the summer months does the exact opposite – it is the equivalent of pouring green concrete over a lawn.

For years, many of us have spent part of our weekends cutting, mowing and fertilising our gardens to states of manicured perfection. On an average Saturday when the sun is shining, Sherborne St. John echoes to the petrol roars of Hayter lawnmowers (other brands are available).

But as Monty puts it: "Cutting grass burns lots of fossil fuel, makes a filthy noise and is about the most injurious thing you can do to wildlife." "Whereas letting grass grow which is, after all, a pretty passive thing to do, is probably the single most effective thing you can do in any garden of any size to encourage particularly insect life, but also small mammals, invertebrates, reptiles." However large or small our gardens, we can all play a part.

In Norfolk, many villages are signing up to a commitment to give 20 per cent of their land 'back' to nature, a project run by Wild East <https://www.wildeast.co.uk/>

Everyone can play a part, from the owners of great estates such as Somerleyton, to those whose back yards extend to a couple of square metres.

The fact is we have lost about 95% of our wildflower meadows in England since 1945. The majority of this loss is due to intensive farming and rapid urban development, but it is also because

so many of us have been conditioned over the past seven decades to over tidy up our properties, particularly our boundaries, in an obsession to get rid of 'messy edges'. The 'finish smooth to the kerb' look, has done untold damage to nature. With insect numbers plummeting (by some estimates down 50 per cent since the 1970s) it is perhaps time that we look again at what we're doing around our own homes. There is much that we can do, and it doesn't mean putting away the lawnmower completely, but rather leaving a metre of uncut lawn around the base of our trees, allowing grass to grow longer around our hedges, and experimenting with different grass heights in our lawns.

It will all make a difference.

At Manor Farm the only grass we will cut short in 2021 will be at the front and the back (it's a guilty pleasure): everywhere else will be turned over to flowers and long grass.

It is something we began around the edges of the pond. A few years ago, a river and stream expert came to look at the pond: when he saw it, he thought for a moment, then turned round with a look of disgust to say 'You have a swimming pool here, not a pond.' He explained that cutting the grass right up to the water edge means there is no place for amphibians and insects to hide.

That summer we started experimenting: we did not cut back or touch a small area to the right of the pond, and were rewarded by an explosion of butterflies, frogs and bees. We have extended the project to 'long and longer' grass strips around the pond, and to two 'wildlife friendly' corridors right and left of the house. In the two fields, we will only cut pathways in the meadow-grass, and we have left great piles of organic material where insects and grass snakes can - hopefully - flourish.

Get the insects back, and life begins again; they feed the small creatures and birds that in turn feed apex predators such as hawks and buzzards.

Other news from the wilding project in the fields: 1,400 hawthorn whips have been planted to create hedgerows (in England, we have lost 250,000 miles of them since WW2, a catastrophic loss of a particularly rich habitat). We've also experimented with two dams in the stream, acting in place of beavers, on the advice of Mr. Pete West of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Reptile and Amphibian group. Pete suggested creating different types of water – fast and slow, shallow and deep – in different areas of the two streams, to create diverse habitats, alongside partial cutbacks into the wood areas to create patches of light and shade. Mr. West has set up a number of survey points to assess the locals snake and amphibian populations.

It will be interesting to see the effects on local wildlife this summer.

We have certainly noticed more birdlife, photographed by Mr. Kevin Pearson. His photos of egrets, kingfishers and hawks from around the Mill House and Manor Farm fields, are wonderful, and have brightened up our weekends when they arrive by mail.

So let's go the full Monty in SSJ, give our strimmers a holiday, and follow the Norfolk 20%... A shaggy wild, hipster look to part, even a small part, of our gardens and to the kerb edges.

The first butterfly or bee you see (and there will be about 600,000 of them flying from Stephen's collection of hives in the Manor Farm fields) will, perhaps, give you more pleasure than a Saturday spent with shears and sprays.

Happy wilding!

Adam Rattray



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Book Exchange to go ahead in Vyne Road phone-box

At its February meeting, the Parish Council decided to look at options for restoration of the Vyne Road phone-box in the '22-'23 financial year. In the meantime the council is allowing a Book Exchange there, once the volunteer group has brushed up the kiosk.

So, two at a time to observe social distancing, we have been cleaning and tidying up. We hope to open the Book Exchange in May, Covid conditions permitting.

People passing by say 'I've got loads of books to give you' (a lockdown backlog maybe?), which is great!

But we're not ready for any books yet. We'll ask for donations later on.

We need more volunteers to do scraping, priming and painting.

Please get in touch with
Eirwen Bone 07999 408990
OR
Sally Sokoloff 07981 708878



Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School



We are so pleased to have all of the children back in school after lockdown! It is much busier, and noisier – just as we like it! They all seem to have settled back into the routine well, and it is brilliant to see all of the smiling faces again!

When we came back there was a new face to welcome to the school – Miss Handy – who will be covering Miss

Biles' maternity leave. We couldn't have a big send-off for Miss Biles, due to social distancing, but most of her class managed to see her before she left, and we all wish her well for the birth.

Mr Moria will be working with the school to provide sports coaching for all of the classes. This term he has been working with Class 3 and the Key Stage 1 bubbles.

We are still limited with the activities we can undertake in school at the moment, but we are trying to come up with some creative ideas to have fun! We held a school Book Day with a difference - instead of dressing up, this year we all decorated a potato as our favourite book character! The School Association organised 'The Big Walk', a sponsored event to see how far the whole school could walk (adding up all our individual totals) before the Easter holidays. We were unable to hold our Easter Bonnet parade this year, but we hope to end the term with an Easter service for the children in the church, which will mark the end of a very strange spring term! Let's hope we are able to get back to normal over the summer!

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Notes from Rural France



Travelling through a mountainous region of France we experienced something new – transhumance. We came across a rural village with many barriers in place across roads we were meant to travel down. I asked a lady waiting by the roadside what was happening and she smiled and said that word to me – transhumance - a word I had never heard before, in France or the UK, so I thanked her kindly nodded ‘knowledgeably’, and instructed the Boss to pull over and investigate.....

We parked up and walked into the village to find more barriers and a lot of gravel banked up around the fountain in the central square. It was quite early in the morning and not many people were about but as we waited gradually more and more folk appeared to join us, waiting for whatever was going to happen.....

From a side street we heard noise, clattering on the cobbles, men’s voices calling calmly and the melodic clanging of bells. We wondered if we had inadvertently gatecrashed a funeral or worse but in for a penny in for a pound and we were being joined by quite a gathering by now.

From a narrow side street crowded either side by ancient village houses a beret clad elderly gentleman wearing stout walking boots, carrying a stick and accompanied by a younger version of himself stalked into view followed by a beautiful brown cow with very large horns, adorned with a leather collar sporting a bell underneath and the flag of France proudly flowing from a pole fixed above. Behind them came the rest of the herd – many of them! A non-stop flow of similar brown cows, some bearing the tricolour and some bearing colourfully decorated branches adorned with multi-coloured flowers and all wearing cowbells ringing in soft resonance.

This was the transhumance – the practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and highlands in summer. As with many rural tasks in France it was made special, with eye catching

bovine decorations, publicity to involve the whole village and a refreshment break at the village fountain where the council had deposited bucket loads of gravel so the cows could comfortably walk up to it and drink easily from the fresh mountain water. They all seemed thirsty and had apparently walked a fair distance already. Once sustained and refreshed they continued through the village streets onto the country roads to their destination, bells clanging and hoofs ringing on the cobbles, accompanied by those villagers energetic enough to walk alongside or behind escorting them towards green fields higher up in the hills. An essential task for farming communities but what a treat to watch and we felt so lucky that by pure chance we happened upon it; a spectacle never to be forgotten.



The Mrs

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Sherborne St John



We have been making a few changes to our NHW Schemes lately partly due to the construction of new houses and also to changes of co-ordinators. Sireburne Close is being covered by the Cranes Road Scheme where the Co-ordinator is Margaret Paterson who will welcome e-mails from the new residents mepaterson@hotmail.com please quote a phone number and postal address.

Residents elsewhere who don’t receive NHW warnings by e-mails are probably not enrolled as members please e.mail

me with a phone number and postal address; these details I will pass on to the relevant scheme. A full list of the schemes with contact details is now on the SSJ website).

The scheme co-ordinator for the Cranesfield scheme Chris Cooke has advised he would like to retire when a new co-ordinator can be found so if you live there and are willing to take on this role please e.mail me. As the scheme is well established the job will not involve much time in most months just a few e-mails and very occasionally

a request for help. As I recall Chris was already in post when I took over the Area more than twenty years ago - thank you Chris for your support.

Our excellent beat officer PCSO Emma Page was sent on detachment to Basingstoke until end of March but she realised it was time to move on and now has a permanent post at Basingstoke. We have not been informed of her replacement so please contact Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk (please note this isn’t monitored daily) or call 101.



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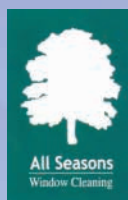
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Basingstoke Foodbank – supporting local people out of crisis



With the help of volunteers from churches and the community, Basingstoke Foodbank continues to reach out to people in need throughout the region. Over double the number of people were fed in 2020 compared to 2019, and during the Spring of 2020 almost four times as many people per month were fed than usual. On average we have been feeding between 700 - 1000 people monthly and distributing on average over 8 tonnes of fresh and non-perishable food every month.

The Covid pandemic has had a notable impact on the people of Basingstoke & Deane. According to our referral agencies, people's incomes have been affected by such reasons as job loss, reduced furlough income, domestic

violence, increased food and energy bills, debt and sickness. Our volunteers work tirelessly to keep up with the increase in demand. We continue to deliver to people's homes, so we have increased our delivery & collections driver team throughout the pandemic. Also, we've 'grown' a 'Caller team' who phone clients to provide a compassionate listening service in the absence of being able to sit and chat to clients in the Centre over a cuppa.

We passionately believe that in addition to feeding people, our clients should be linked with specific local agencies who can offer support to alleviate some of their many challenges, be they financial, physical, emotional, and circumstantial. Long term food insecurity can lead to additional problems such as depression,



anxiety, ill health and stress.

We have received an increase in generous financial donations from the community which has meant that the Foodbank has been able to buy additional fresh food, and non-perishable food when shortages occur. This year we are planning for some exciting new development initiatives once lockdown is over, including: operating the Foodbank from several community focused churches in the area, plus the provision of access in our new locations to debt support, money advice, job clubs and mental health signposting. Watch for further news to come!

www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

Phil Thomas
Chair of Trustees



Monk Sherborne Village Hall Update

The flowers are beginning to bloom as is the new hall.

The footings are virtually complete now. Everything has gone to plan, so far.

RJS are making great progress and hopefully now have the weather on their side.

The frame should arrive week commencing 18th March and it is expected that by the end of March it will be up. The scaffolding will go up around it to allow work to start on the roof.

We have had an onsite meeting with the Parish Council and can reassure you that provision has been made for access to the field for the lawn to be cut there when necessary. A fence has also been put up by RJS on the road to stop people cutting through the hedge to the park. It was

dangerous and unnecessary as there is a perfectly adequate footpath beside the old hall.

RJS say people have been commenting (from watching in the park) that the hall is going to be so large. It is bigger than the old hall by approximately one third. However, we will no longer have the garage for storage hence the need for a larger storage area inside the hall.

As much as we had to cut the landscaping plans due to a shortfall in budget we do realise that parking needs to be addressed once the hall is built and the old one demolished. We have asked RJS for a quotation and will review it later on.

Please continue to drive carefully past the site as lorries are turning and exiting there at all times.

We hope you enjoy the aerial photos courtesy of John McSoley and his drone.

More news and photographs to follow in April.

By the way, we have not forgotten those of you who purchased roof tiles in the Grand Draw, as soon as we get the tiles we will be in contact with you again.

Kim

On behalf of the Village Hall Trustees



Marjorie Farrelly



On Saturday 20th February mum passed away peacefully in her home, her family were lucky enough to isolate and support her during her last few weeks.

Marjorie and Tommy moved down to Sherborne St John nearly 20 years ago

and immediately they settled into village life, often saying it was the best decision they ever made. When Tommy died in 2012 Marjorie found a wonderful support network in the village, in fact it was like she was reborn.

Marjorie found friends at the local church, the Women's Fellowship, on the local bus, coffee mornings, Friday trips to Chineham (she loved stopping for a sausage roll and coffee with her close friends). The coffee mornings, Tuesday meetings with a raffle, listening to the children read at the local school, chats after church, even line dancing and keep fit in the village hall - she loved it all.

I'd like to thank all her friends in the village for making mum so welcome. We have received so many cards and warm wishes from neighbours

and friends; one of the words which everyone says about mum is recognising her kindness. Mum always put others first, her kindness is exactly what she had in abundance, if ever there was a time to be kind to one another, it's now.

May I take this opportunity to say thank you to the village; it's truly a unique community and I'm so happy mum had the opportunity to be part of it.

Marjorie's funeral took place at West Berkshire Crematorium in early March and in these difficult times was restricted to close family. Bryan and I hope that we will have the opportunity to share some happy memories later in the year with her friends. Stay safe, be kind to one another.

Christine Ratcliffe
(Daughter)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Dare I say we have a plan for returning to the Village Hall? No, probably not - but if the stars are aligned and the pandemic continues to abate, the plan is to return on Tuesday, 6th July. This would under normal circumstances be our Outing month, so it eases us in nice and gently.

The present stipulation is that we will be free to mix and mingle indoors, after

the 21st June. With yesterday's news conflicting with today's news (as I write) and knowing that tomorrow's news will probably not be the same as today's, we just don't know what the future brings. All being well, we will at the very least be able to enjoy the Summer without rules and regulations to adhere to.

Prior to the 6th July we will endeavour to arrange groups in our gardens, as

we did last year. With some of us not receiving our second vaccinations until the end of April/beginning May, we may have to be patient - but we've got used to being patient, haven't we.

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Croquet: six hoops, four balls, a mallet and a patch of grass. Sounds easy enough?

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Basingstoke with a top class lawn and a cosy clubhouse.

We will be following government Covid guidance which at the time of writing means we will be starting play from the 29th March.

If you would like to give it a try get in touch with us via the contact form on our website - address below. Equipment will

be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. There is no charge for an initial try-out. While you are waiting we have some excellent training videos on the website well worth a look.

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The 2020 cancelled Sherborne St John Parish Council elections will now be held on 6th May 2021 to appoint 5 people as Parish Councillors for the next 4 year term of the Parish Council.

If you are interested in standing in the as a candidate in the Election please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01189 332379 for information about how to proceed, or access Basingstoke and Deane's, or the government's websites to receive the

Nomination package. Alternatively, email contacts are:

Electoral.services@basingstoke.gov.uk
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Election Timetable 2021

Receipt of Nominations:

22nd March to Thursday 8th April

Publication of Notice of Poll:

Tuesday 27th April

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

All prospective candidates must carefully read the Nomination package they received to ensure they comply with all the criteria.

Once nomination papers are completed 2 registered electors of the ward must sign as witnesses. Candidates must make an appointment to deliver the forms in person to the Civic Offices. *N.B there are some exceptions if this is not possible.*

Get involved in your Community and help make the Parish a thriving place to live.

NHS Hospitals Trust Update

Following a very challenging year, it is really encouraging to see light at the end of the tunnel; none more so than in our local hospital of which we have every justification of feeling proud.

Let's look at some of its recent achievements:-

- The national press and TV advertising campaign "Look into their eyes" was all done in Basingstoke by Hampshire Hospitals staff and patients
- Nearly 90% of staff have now had their first vaccination – with second jabs starting in the next few weeks
- The microbiology team at Hampshire was the first non Public Health England laboratory to start testing for COVID in February (2020) and has firmly established itself as a national leader in the field ever since
- Thanks to investment in new technology and the innovations of frontline staff many services have been maintained in spite of COVID – for instance outpatients and cancer care
- As a result of significant organisational changes, patient flow has been

so improved that our emergency department is now in the top performance quartile nationally

- Cancer treatment times have improved with the Trust now being close to achieving the national treatment time targets
- Our hospital has a growing positive reputation nationally for its care and professionalism

This latter point is being increasingly recognised both locally and regionally. Throughout the pandemic the leadership of Hampshire Hospitals chief nurse Julie Dawes has been invaluable. So it is very fitting that she now is taking on the additional role of chief nurse for the newly formed Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System, where she will help shape the future of the NHS as it moves to closer ways of working for the benefit of all of us.

One of the many consequences of the pandemic has been the growing backlog of patients waiting for elective or non-urgent treatment. While the delay has been necessary to protect people it has meant that more people than

ever are living with potentially painful conditions for far too long. Therefore, it is encouraging to know that the Trust now has realistic plans in place to achieve the national target for long waits by March of next year.

As a result of national guidance, the public consultation around the new hospital has been rescheduled for the summer; however this is not expected to have any significant delay in its final opening. In the meantime much work is going on looking at what services and/ or treatments may be needed and where. At the same time it is hoped that the new development will lead to more than just a hospital. By linking with local authorities, universities and businesses the future hospital has the potential to be at the heart of a much wider health campus; with potential benefits to health, education, research and employment.

In summary we have so much to be thankful for with our local hospital team and especially its leadership team for its care, kindness and professionalism.

Keith Bunker

Former Hospital Governor

The Arts Society Basingstoke



We are the Basingstoke branch of 'The Arts Society', our programme is available on Zoom during this latest lockdown. We enjoy stimulating talks from registered Art Society lecturers, who are leading experts in their chosen field. We are inviting anyone interested to join us at these lectures, which are live on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.45 am, the fee is £5pp. Lectures last for one hour and there is

also an opportunity to put questions to the lecturer at the end.

We would love you to join us for our next lecture on **Wednesday 21st April 10.45 'Artemisia Gentileschi - Daughter of Rome, Painter of Europe'**. Lecturer: Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe. Our website <https://theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk/Home.aspx>

Spring ahead by signing up for garden waste service



Basingstoke
and Deane

Spring is the perfect time to sign up to the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's garden waste collection service.

As green-fingered residents get back into their gardens, the council's cost-effective and convenient service will collect your garden waste every fortnight from your home.

Costing £60 from April for a full year, new subscribers in Basingstoke and Deane will benefit from a range of perks including:

- 25 fortnightly home collections per year

- Two reusable garden sacks or a 240 litre brown bin for easier use
- Year-round collections, only stopping for two weeks over Christmas and the New Year period
- Collection of real Christmas trees after the festive period.

Customers have the option of buying a 240-litre brown wheeled bin for a one-off charge of £35. These are easier to put out for collection and offer an extra 60 litres of space compared to the sacks. Residents can have both a brown bin and the sacks if required.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "If you'll be busy gardening this springtime our garden waste collection service is a real bonus and good for the environment too.

"It's great value for money and saves residents from making regular trips to their local waste and recycling depot with heavy bags – saving time and reducing unnecessary car journeys.

"Our garden waste service is already popular with 14,000 people signed up for collections. If you are a keen gardener or you know someone who is, now is a great time to start getting your garden waste collected and then turned to compost to help even more gardens grow."

Find out more at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/gardenwaste

CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL **ROTARY ROUNDUP**

February 2021

Basingstoke Festival of Transport

**Sunday 22nd August 2021
from 11.00 - 16.00**

One of the highlights of the Basingstoke year! A date for your diary and something to look forward to after the restrictions of lockdown



The War Memorial Park, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH, will once again be filled with over 900 vehicles at the Basingstoke Festival of Transport 2021.



Best Day Ever

The Festival is one of the biggest events of its kind and is run by Basingstoke Deane Rotary in conjunction with Basingstoke and Deane Borough (BDBC). We recognise the work of the Thorncroft Society in the preservation of old vehicles and in bringing this wonderful Festival of Transport to the Memorial Park for so many years before we took stewardship

So much on show

Come and see the huge range of vehicles on static display, including classic, vintage, cars and motor cycles as well as buses, fire engines and commercial and military vehicles.



Supporting The Pink Place Charity

There will also be a variety of specialist car clubs, trade stalls, with all manner of items for sale from motor jumble to plants together with catering outlets and live music



As well as the trade stands, amongst them you will find some of the charities our Rotary supports and we are pleased to be able to provide an opportunity for them to showcase the work that they do

A Great Day Out

Basingstoke Festival of Transport is a great day out for all the family, whether you're a keen motor buff or you just want an interesting and enjoyable Sunday!

It's a chance to impress your grandchildren when looking at a Ford Anglia of Harry Potter fame and say "My Dad had one of these".

This event is free of charge. Parking is available at Old Common, London Road for £2.

**For more info - go to Festival of Transport web address
www.bstokefot.co.uk**

This is all run by volunteers. If you'd like to join our team on the day please get in touch - email addresses above

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



Ranil Jayawardena MP

Member of Parliament for North East Hampshire



Huge strides are being made locally this month. Every day, we are seeing a more positive outlook.

Well over 30,000 residents in North East Hampshire have been vaccinated so far – over a third of local people – with 99.8% of over 65s having been vaccinated in the North Hampshire and Farnham CCG area. Nationally, over 24 million people have been vaccinated as I write this today. Having visited two of the local vaccination centres myself, I can testify to the enormous effort being made by our medical and volunteer teams – it's no wonder our area is storming ahead!

Thanks to this rollout that last month, the Prime Minister set out our national roadmap out of coronavirus restrictions. It is a well thought through, cautious, but optimistic approach. Full details can be found at: gov.uk/coronavirus.

I know this has been a tough time. HM Government has sought to help as many

people as possible by providing £407 billion in extra support. I know that this support has very much been welcomed locally and has helped countless people and businesses weather the storm.

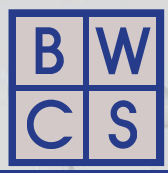
The best way to help people and businesses out of these troubled times is to reopen the economy in line with the roadmap. Last week, the Chancellor set out his plan for Britain's recovery. Businesses – big and small – in North East Hampshire will be able to access new grants and loans; benefit from the continuation in the VAT and business rates reduction; an extension to the Self-Employed Income Support and 'Furlough' Schemes; and a doubling of the apprenticeships payments for all new hires, of any age.

To help household finances further, the planned increases on fuel and alcohol duty have been cancelled, which may be helpful to you as we begin to see family

and friends again at Easter! And I know many people will be pleased to know that there will now be an extension of the Stamp Duty cut by three months, plus – being in an area with higher-than-average house prices – it's fantastic news that there should be more 95% LTV mortgages available for those looking to make the step from tenant to homeowner.

The programme is working. People in North East Hampshire are being offered a vaccine. There is further to go, but the roadmap is clear and the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter still. For the latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook ("Ranil Jayawardena MP" – original, I know!) or sign up to my newsletter at: ranil.uk/newsletter – and, if you need my help, please send me a message to: email@ranil.uk

Ranil Jayawardena MP
North East Hampshire



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Property disputes involving unmarried couples

As more and more people choose to live together rather than marry, there has been an increase in the number of disputes between separating couples.

One of the biggest issues for these people is their interest in and right to occupy the home they had previously lived in as a couple. Other situations can also involve inherited property and property purchased for investment.

Many people do not realise that unmarried cohabiting couples do not have the same amount of legal protection as those who are married.

While property disputes can be complicated, Simon Arneaud, who is an experienced dispute resolution solicitor, is on hand to help you.

“Property ownership disputes are often governed by a piece of legislation called The Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 – often known as TOLATA for short,” explained Simon.

TOLATA gives the Court the power to determine what share of the property each person is entitled to. It can force the sale of a property and it can make an order where one person refuses to leave the property but allows the other to regain access.

“If the property is owned in joint names the Court’s starting point will usually be, unless one party can provide compelling evidence such as, for example a signed agreement, to order that the sale proceeds for that property should be divided in equal shares,” said Simon.

“In circumstances where a person says they are entitled to a greater than 50% share, despite the property being held as joint tenants, it will be up to that person to prove why they are entitled to a greater share.”

“When a property is in one person’s name the court will generally state that they are the sole owner. However, the non-owning person may still be able to establish an interest in the property, if it can be shown that the couple shared a common intention that the property would be jointly owned.”

If you would like to know more or set up a Zoom meeting, or if necessary meet in person, to discuss a property ownership matter, please get in touch with Simon by calling 01256 854667, emailing simond.arneaud@phillips-law.co.uk or visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk

When contacting Phillips, please mention The Villager.

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Probus hears about Communist Czechoslovakia



With the mass vaccinations against Covid-19 we shall shortly enjoy freedom of movement. Foreign travel is eagerly awaited by many and weekends away to European cities will become an attraction.

Cities like Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, have become tourist destinations. The Castle overlooks the Vltava river with its eighteen bridges. Wenceslas Square is a large rectangle with traffic on both sides. Rising gently, at the top, is the statue of this saint, surrounded by tourists.

Few western tourists were seen forty years ago when Probus Club member, Paul Flint, became a regular visitor over the following twelve years. Czechoslovakia was part of the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. The 1968 Prague Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek, attempted some reforms but was quickly overwhelmed by invading Warsaw Pact troops to protect the country from an imagined invasion of the Sudetenland by West German and NATO troops.

The Russian military presence was everywhere with armed soldiers on the streets and driving their Moscovic and Lada cars. The small number of foreigners found it difficult to distinguish the local police who also wore khaki uniforms and carried automatic weapons but drove Skoda Estelles.

Democracy started in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright Vaclav Havel. 73,000 guest Russian troops had to leave.

Before then, passports recorded how much Sterling had to be changed into Czech Crowns. There were four levels of exchange rates; the official rate, a commercial rate, a tourist rate and the black-market seeking western hard currencies. The black-market rate was around four times better than the tourist rate which tempted low-cost purchases.

Prague airport had four departure security checks. Receipts were checked to ensure that the total did not exceed the money recorded in the passport. If greater it proved that money had been exchanged on the black-market and goods were seized. Czech currency could not be exported, so any remaining Crowns were confiscated. The relief, before take-off, sitting in the British Airways plane, was palpable.

The government had a way of mopping up black-market exchanges. Special shops had tempting western goods that could only be bought with hard currency – with no questions asked.

Passports were carried constantly and kept each night by the hotel for checking by the police. When visiting business premises of any sort, passports had to be left with the reception.

Meetings in Prague were with a trading house, whose role was to find export partners for Czechoslovak products and import goods needed by their economy. My company was their UK venture partner for selling and servicing Czechoslovak made printing presses.

Many visits were made to the factory near to Brno, in the south of the country. There were reminders of the

Soviet occupation with army tanks set on plinths and in villages, with no street lighting, there were masts equipped with loudspeakers. European dealer conferences were held there most years and to entertain their guests, visits were made to glass engravers and vineyards that produced some excellent wines and champagne style products.

Determined not to repeat the conditions three of us had endured squashed on the back seat of a Skoda Estelle for three hours from Prague; instead we flew into Vienna and collected a rental car and drove to Brno. One day we were stopped by a Russian soldier aiming a machine gun. Fortunately, we had with us a lady from the trading company who spoke Russian, but I wondered what might have happened to us if we had been on our own.

Factory personnel were not supposed to fraternise with westerners but, surprisingly, one invited several to his home. Everyone kept a pig in their back garden which they would butcher for pork and to make sausages.

Representatives from the factory and trading company visited the UK annually. Despite them being forbidden to be entertained, over the years we took them to West End musicals and dined well.

Gradual democratisation raised quality standards making their products more acceptable to western markets. There was substantial investment by western companies in Czechoslovak businesses with possibly the most well-known being the takeover of Skoda by Volkswagen. As the owner of two Skoda cars over the last six years I can certify their reliability and quality.

The Velvet Revolution worked.
See www.probusbasingstoke.club

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.
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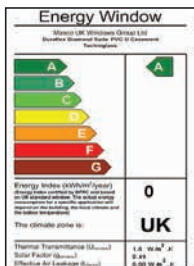
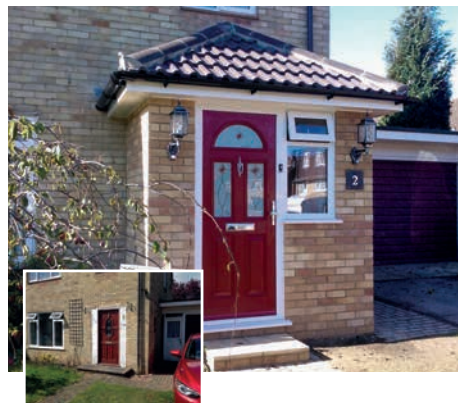
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