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February 2022

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial

A big thank you to John Edwards of Vyne Meadow, SSJ who has delivered The Villager magazine faithfully to Monk Sherborne Road over many years.

We are still looking for someone to take over John's round so please get in touch if you think you can help. (lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com or 850800)

The Adventures of Polo the tortoise



Copyright: Jacki Gordon

Polo our 50 year old tortoise once lived in Manor Road, Sherborne St John with his former owners Pam and Laurie Jackson. His adventures started soon after moving to Glasgow. He was up to his usual antics and spent most of his day trying to escape by climbing the walls of our small balcony so we decided that while the weather was still warm we would take him for a daily walk in Newlands Park which is just opposite our flat. He became a celebrity almost immediately with children and dogs rushing up to him to investigate. I suppose it is quite an unusual pet to take for a walk and it is certainly a novel way to make new friends.

Every day people would stop to watch him and wanted to know all about him. After an article was posted on the Newlands Park website people actually came to look for him. A well renowned local photographer who takes pictures of unusual animals that she gets published in various newspapers came back one day with her equipment after seeing him and we were surprised when one of the photos was published in the Scottish Herald.

Polo is tucked up in his box and hibernating now but even so we were stopped in town the other day by a couple who crossed the street wanting to know how he was.

Candy Crowe (daughter of Pam Jackson)

SSJ Book Exchange

Did you get books for Christmas? Are you ready to move some of them on?

Remember SSJ's Book Exchange at the Elm Road / Vyne Road phone-box where books are free for everyone to take. The Book Exchange has been well used over the Christmas holiday, especially the children's shelf.

We're keen to receive paperback fiction and children's books in good condition. **Please no annuals, magazines, manuals, technical or 'How To' books, textbooks, or single volumes of series and epics!**

We continue to renew the stock regularly.

Happy New Year from Eirwen and Sally

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

As I write this, Boris Johnson has apologised for attending a party in the garden of 10 Downing Street in May 2020 during the first lockdown, stating that he believed it was a work event and that it didn't break any rules his own government had put in place. There is currently an inquiry underway. As some of you reading this will be only too painfully aware, over the past two years I have taken a number of funerals in which the bereaved wanted a service in church and would have anticipated a large number of guests, but in the end had to have a graveside service or a small service at the crematorium without any singing. That is just one example of the restrictions under which we had to live. There has therefore been considerable anger directed towards Boris Johnson. Who knows whether, by the time this lands on your doormat, he will still be the Prime Minister? The contrast with

the example of the Queen, the 70th anniversary of whose accession to the throne falls on 6th February, couldn't be clearer. Who can forget the images of Her Majesty sitting alone in a pew at the funeral of Prince Philip last year? My intention is not to engage in party politics here, but rather to highlight our desire for leaders with integrity.

The problem of leaders creating rules which are burdensome to others but which they fail to keep themselves is nothing new and it is something about which Jesus cares deeply. In Matthew 23.2-4, Jesus says: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them." Jesus himself is the perfect example of a leader with integrity. Jesus taught, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you (Luke 6.27-28). This is

precisely what we see Jesus doing even as he is being crucified. Luke 23.34: 'Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."' Jesus also taught his followers: "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles [non-Jewish people] lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all" (Mark 10.42-44). Jesus practised what he preached. He continues: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10.45). The gospel accounts of Jesus' life culminate in his death on the cross to pay the price for all who trust in him for their failure to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and their neighbour as themselves.

Furthermore, we owe the anger we feel when leaders impose rules which they fail to keep themselves to the fact that our society has been shaped for the best part of two thousand years by the message of Jesus. We know that leaders should be different. Come along to one of our services or get in touch to find out more about Jesus who is the one leader with integrity worth following.

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Please note the new pattern and times of services as shown below.

The 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.

Latest COVID-19 precautions: It is currently a legal requirement in places of worship to wear a face covering unless exempt, and there is a supply available by the door. Please be mindful and respectful of those who may not be able to wear a face covering for reasons that are not visible to others. We would ask those who are exempt to sit at the front to reduce the risk of aerosol transmission. We also suggest that those who attend consider taking a lateral flow test beforehand if you have them available.

Hand sanitiser will continue to be available. Doors will be left open to increase airflow.

(This may need amending dependant on the 'rules' for churches and legal requirement to wear a mask etc.)

Sunday Club:

Explorers - School years R to Y6 meet during the service

Pioneers - School years Y7 - Y9

For more information please contact Warren Trask on 07392 168585 or email swpwtrask@gmail.com

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

Sermon Series: Hebrews - Jesus: None Greater

06 February

10am	Lord's Supper and Sunday Club	St Andrew's
An anchor for the soul	Hebrews 5:11-6:20	Revd Daniel Newman

13 February

10am	Morning Worship	All Saint's
10am	Morning Service and Sunday Club	St Andrew's
Saved completely	Hebrews 7	Warren Trask & Revd Daniel Newman

20 February

10am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
A new covenant	Hebrews 8	Revd Daniel Newman

27 February

10am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Pamber Priory
10am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
The greater tent	Hebrews 9	Warren Trask & Revd Daniel Newman

02 March - Ash Wednesday Service

7.30pm	Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
		Revd Daniel Newman

Mid-Week

Home Groups meet in the week of Tuesday 7th February

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 1st February

Dependent upon Government guidelines these meetings may be held virtually via Zoom.

Contacts

CHURCH OF ENGLAND	Rev Daniel Newman rector.sherborneswithpamber@gmail.com	541607
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH	The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke	819722
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH	Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke	316000
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS		
SSJ Mrs Penny Mayo	clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk	07714 770940
MS Mrs Cally Morris	mspcclerk@gmail.com	07721 076186
Pamber Chris Gunnell	clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk	07942 637210
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ	Mr Tristan Robinson	07817 131821
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber	Mr. Roger Gardiner, Nuthatch, The Glen, Pamber Heath	01189 701109
BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke	844844
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	The Castle, Winchester	01962 841841
HAMPSHIRE POLICE	Non-emergency	101 or 01962 841534
	www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime	
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com	01256 850891
NEAREST JOB CENTRE	https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk	
LOCAL GROUPS		
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	Mrs Jenny Cullum (Secretary)	01256 850315
RAINBOWS	Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com	
BROWNIES	Tramayne Henwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com	422083
GUIDES	Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com	880132
CUBS	Ms Trish Field	01420 544904
MOTHER AND TODDLER	Mrs Barbara Irving	850173
SSJ SOCIAL CLUB	Mr David Hughes (Steward)	850303
SSJ HISTORY SOCIETY	Mrs Jean Linford	850264
TENNIS CLUB	Paul & Maria Saunders	850430
SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING	Mrs Margaret Cramer	850390
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB	Mr Len Dunce	07860 435 831
	or Mr Paul Hamilton	07917 005862
YOGA in SSJ Village Hall	Mrs Jacqui Morris	881336
SHORT MAT INDOORS BOWLS CLUB	Mr Les Bone	850973
FOOTBALL CLUB	Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com	07584 169241
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY	Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com	07528 726248
	www.piccolopsn.com	
THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)	Mr Stuart Maughan	01256 883858
VENUE BOOKINGS:		
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter booking@ststephensvillagehall.org	07854280343
MS Village Hall	Natasha Chappell natasha.chappell@googlemail.com	01256 851373
		07766 426080
SSJ Village Hall	Shawna Campbell ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com	07726 308431
	Caretaker	07500 776222
The Chute Pavilion	Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com	07584 169241
	& Penny Mayo ssjclerk@gmail.com	07714 770 940
HEALTH CARE		
NORTH HANTS HOSPITALS NHS TRUST		01256 473202
HANTSDOC		01189 365592
BRAMBLYS GRANGE		467778
CHINEHAM SURGERY		479244
CROWN HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTRE		329021
CLIFT SURGERY, BRAMLEY		881228
HOLMWOOD, TADLEY		01189 814166
ROOKSDOWN SURGERY		399710
MORELAND SURGERY		0118 9816661
EDUCATION		
THE PRIORY PRIMARY ACADEMY TRUST	Mr Mike Stewart (Head teacher)	850062
SSJ PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mrs Karen Payne (Head teacher)	850180
ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	Mr Jamie Carroll	473379
PUBLIC SERVICES		
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU		322814
BRITISH RAIL NATIONAL ENQUIRIES		0345 484950
BUS STATION (STAGECOACH)		0871 121 0190
LIBRARIES	Basingstoke Town Centre	473901
	Chineham Library	465643
	Tadley Library	0300 555 1387
DIAL-A-RIDE	Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm	01256 462101

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



PARISH COUNCIL

I hope you all had an excellent break over the holidays and on behalf of the parish council I'd like to wish you all a very happy new year. Here's hoping 2022 is the year we shake off the last remnants of 'the virus' and look to what the future brings.

Planning

As the chairman so rightly pointed out in his previous article, this is always a contentious issue. The new Local Plan was discussed in detail at the parish council meeting on the 15th December and it was encouraging to see so many parishioners attend.

We are very lucky to have Cllr James Rowley as part of the team, having worked for most of his working life in planning, in councils throughout the South of England. Cllr Rowley will be leading the work that the parish council undertakes to ensure we are in the best shape possible when BDBC look to firm up their preferences.

For those who missed last year's link, the schedule for the development of the new Local Plan can be found on the BDBC website - <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/about-lpu>

Chute Recreation Ground

The parish council have put in a lot of hard work over the last year with the aim of improving the play facilities for older children. We can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel, we are in the final stages of the Rural Development Programme for England (LEADER) funding application and, fingers crossed, we will have a successful decision made by the end of January 2022 that allows us to hopefully have shovels in the ground by this summer.

Chute Pavilion

The parish council are in the process of getting internet installed in the Chute. Whilst the Chute bookings are healthy, installation of the internet can only be a good thing, hopefully through the provision of a good, strong internet provision we can look to widen the services and business that we could hope to attract.

Platinum Jubilee June 2022

It's now only 6 months away. Both Thursday, 2nd June and Friday, 3rd June are official Bank Holidays. The parish council will have a detailed forecast of events produced soon, after the events of last year it'll be good to all get together for a beer / lemonade / bbq on the village green.

Tree-bilee

In parallel to the actual Jubilee celebrations, the PC are arranging to commemorate this occasion, hopefully led by the Rev. Newman.

More details nearer the date. Further details of the Tree-bilee initiative can be found at the following link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57137057>

Community Fibre

The parish council are in dialogue with Hampshire County Council to try to dig us out of what appears to be a case of the village slipping between the cracks when it comes to the rollout of ultrafast broadband (for those technical types, Fibre to the Property [FTTP]). In a nutshell, FTTP would enable homes and businesses in the village to potentially realise internet speeds of up to 1 Gbps.

Unfortunately, in what appears to be a case of departmental oversight, the format for assessing whether a property was liable for FTTP grant funding had lumped in all properties in the postcode sector of RG24 9. This meant that the village itself was being counted with the new developments over in Popley Fields and we didn't come above the line when it came to determining actual needs against current provision.

The good news is that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have

acknowledged that 'postcode sectors' produce these anomalies, the bad news is that Hampshire County Council underestimated the impact on the county and there isn't enough money to do all 'anomalies'.

This is where we're hoping you can help. If you want faster internet, please e-mail broadband@hants.gov.uk explaining that you're aware of the parish council's efforts in trying to tackle the lack of ultra-fast broadband within the village. Any supporting usecases / evidence / passion you can bring to bear will only help bring attention to our plight to the people that control the allocation of budget.

The Shop

Always good to see the number of folk, both parishioners and non-parishioners using the Shop.

An additional notice board has been installed at the side of the shop (facing Cranes Road). At the moment, being quite small, it only contains the footpath map for the local area, but we would like your feedback on whether you would rather see village notices, etc or are you happy with just the map on display.

The PC are working with the shop owner in order to facilitate external cold 'warehouse' storage for the shop that will facilitate inventory management simpler.

General

Until any further guidance is provided by the government, the PC will still be meeting on the last Wednesday at the Chute Pavilion each month. The meeting start time is 7.30. COVID safe arrangements are in place, we ask that masks are worn unless exempt and hand sanitiser is provided for use when entering the chute.

It would be good to see more parishioners at these meetings.

Gentle reminder - the meeting agenda is published 7 days before the meeting so any specific item you want the PC to discuss in the meeting needs to be with the Clerk prior to the 7-day cut-off.

Councillor David McIntyre



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Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Whilst 2021 was challenging, it was also memorable in that the new village hall was completed and opened in December. The Village Hall committee deserve all our thanks for a fantastic job well done.

2022 is going to be very exciting with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. The Parish Council are going to purchase two small ornamental trees to be planted in the playground area to mark the occasion.

Flagpole, Flags and village signs - A new flagpole has been purchased, to be sited next to the new village hall and also a Winchester flag (for Hampshire) to go with the existing two flags. Thanks to John McSoley, who has agreed to be the Flagmaster for another year. The village signs have been cleaned and Cllr. Paul Cave repainted the fingerpost and refurbished the plaque behind the post, commemorating the Queen's last Jubilee. Our thanks to Paul for undertaking these vital jobs within the parish.

Playground - Now that the village hall construction has finished, the council is looking to refresh the playground. The mound on which stood the slide has been removed and the slide removed. The survey that we ran last year gave

some good guidance on what residents feel they want from the playground. It has to be remembered that this space is used by the village for events and so layout has to be considered carefully - more on this in future.

Flytipping - There had been a number of fly tipping incidents within the parish. Residents are reminded to report via the online reporting system if spotted (<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping>.)

Residents are reminded of the importance of reporting anything suspicious within the parish via the 101 local police number.

Planning - There are 6 planning applications currently awaiting decisions from Basingstoke and Deane and can be viewed online on the Basingstoke and Deane Planning applications website. The Parish Council have been made aware of a potential application for a solar farm on land up past All Saints Church and next to Weybrook Golf Course. A screening assessment has been submitted to BDBC Planning and we are advised that the applicants wish to hold a public meeting within the parish where parishioners can obtain further details and ask questions. We

will advise you of the dates as soon as we are advised.



The new Monk Sherborne Village Hall finally opened on 16th December 2021. It has all the up-to-date facilities you would expect including a well-equipped kitchen, high-speed wifi, Sonos sound system and projector & screen - with a lovely view onto the playing field. It is proving to be very popular already, with regular sessions such as Yoga, Pilates and Upholstery as well as for children's parties and other private functions. Please visit the hall's website for more details and to hire the hall for your own events. Many thanks goes everyone who has contributed or donated to the new hall build. Thanks must also go to the architect Oliver Perceval, the builders RJS, and to Kim & Martyn Fleming who respectively chaired and project-managed the build during a challenging 2021.

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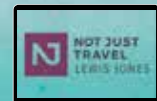
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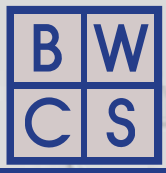
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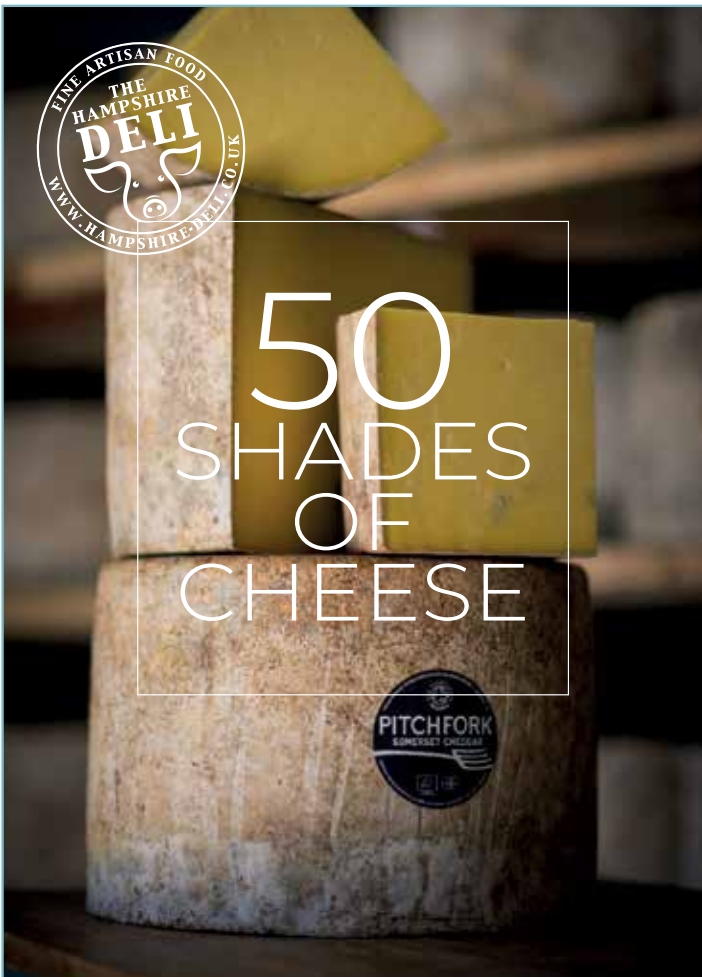
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Notes from Pamber Green and Pamber End

Christmas has gone and I hope you had a lovely stress-free time as far as possible. I hate the miserable weather and dark evenings we're now going through but nature seems oblivious. How come I have roses and the magnolia in bloom and bud again and so many other shrubs looking colourful? Don't they know they should be hibernating ready to make a dramatic appearance as spring looms!

Talking of dramatic appearances, on my way home one night just before Christmas, I saw a bus pulled over on the grass verge of the A340 with hazard lights flashing. Then I saw a figure ejected from the bus, very odd I thought! I had to slow down as the bus was indicating to pull out and I saw a mop of white hair (I wouldn't dare call it grey) and instantly recognised said person. Had respected Pamber resident, Dai Ogborn, fallen from grace with Stagecoach buses? I followed him only to be told he had omitted to press the stop button at an appropriate time. At least the bus driver stopped to let him off and didn't use the ejector seat and I did take pity and take the waif home!

What a brilliant display by 'Bobs 1st Christmas tractor run'. 30 tractors and support vehicles passed through Little London, Silchester, Pamber Heath, Mulford's Hill, Tadley Hill, Pamber Green, Pamber End, Bramley and Sherfield on Loddon bringing plenty

of Christmas joy on the way. I would never have imagined all of the ingenious places Christmas lights could be located on a tractor and the procession of tooting tractors playing Christmas music was viewed by many. In Pamber Green it was lovely to see many out waving furiously and excited children waving torches as the procession passed by. There may still be time for you to donate towards two local charities, Victoria's Promise and the Family Counselling Trust, using the link <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdf.../bobschristmastractorrun>

Here's hoping for a repeat of the tractor run this Christmas!

Local news centres on proposed planning developments at Cottage Farm, New Road, Pamber Green, 21/03789/GPDADW. There are two current applications for 9 dwellings and 5 dwellings respectively and both require separate submissions to be sent in from interested parties. Comments can be made on the Basingstoke & Deane planning portal or in writing to the Planning Department, Council Offices; Pamber Parish Council lodged an objection to a proposal for 3 dwellings at Rosebank, Aldermaston Road, Pamber End; a future public meeting will be held in respect of the proposed solar farm in Little London. It is hoped there will be events organised to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Pamber Forest

Advisory Committee met in November for the first time in two years with 2021 highlights including red kites nesting in the forest and raising chicks, otters in Inhams Copse, nightjars setting up their territories; butterfly and moth species seeming to be occurring further north than before presumably due to climate change; Ash dieback is present but not too prevalent at the moment; volunteers are working whenever possible within covid guidelines.

Other local news - I understand work on the new Tadley LIDL Supermarket should begin in early 2022. Reports have been received yet again of men selling door to door with items from Lakeland and Wilko claiming to be on work release from prison. Thefts from sheds and garages and of dogs are again taking place. Take care, keep premises locked and possessions secure.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust have events taking place based at the Nature Discovery Centre in Thatcham on 5/2/22 clubs for 8-12- & 12-16-year-olds interested in wildlife & conservation and on 14/2/22 with staggered start times of 10, 10:30 & 11:00am nature tots with organised activities to have fun in nature. More details on their website.

Happy New Year

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

Hampshire County Council – Calleva Division

1. Roads update

Highway operations are continuing as normal during the Plan B restrictions.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for last November. In that month 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drainage were cleared and 7,295 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems should be reported online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>. Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Going forward, Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra “recurring” funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April this year.

2. Severe weather

At the time of writing, we have had some very cold weather and so road gritting is high on the agenda at the moment. When we do have freezing temperatures forecast, the Hampshire Highways’ fleet of salting lorries head out, focusing on the main roads first. If you’re driving behind a gritter please keep well back and be patient - as they do their job to help keep you on the move. You can see the priority salting routes at <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/>

[highwaysaltroutes/](https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highwaysaltroutes/). For the young at heart, all our gritters have names (derived from a children’s competition) such as Snowbi-wan Kenobe, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, the Blizzard of Oz, Gritter Garbo and so on.

Many of our roads and lanes are not on the priority routes but you will be aware of the blue grit bins provided by HCC across the area. These are filled with salt for community use throughout winter. They’re particularly useful for smaller roads or on the pavements. A small amount of salt from these can make a big impact on frozen and icy surfaces. One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface.

If you spot grit bins that are empty or running low, do contact Hampshire County Council for replenishing. This can be done either online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk. Parishes are in any event advised to check these.

3. Support for vulnerable households

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124m from the Government’s Household Support Fund to support households in need with food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The county proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31 March 2022) through its “connect4communities” programme.

The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills,

community pantries giving access to discounted food and community grants, which could be used for example to assist unpaid carers.

Details can be found at connect4communities.org where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC’s online directory ([connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org) | Family Information and Services Hub (hants.gov.uk)) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants>

4. New Year resolutions

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, Shapeup4life Hampshire is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to: www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk.

Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Calleva Division
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Claiming Dates

February 2022

1	Women's Fellowship, AGM - Speaker <i>'Jam, Jerusalem and Doing Porridge'</i> & Bring & Buy	2pm
14	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
23	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm
28	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am

March 2022

1	Women's Fellowship, Speaker <i>'Finland, a Very Special Country'</i>	2pm
14	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
19	Quiz in SSJ Village Hall, £5 per ticket includes pizza supper steve.g.howe@gmail.com	7pm
23	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7.00pm)	7.30pm
28	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am

April 2022

5	Women's Fellowship, Speaker <i>'From Cabaret to Conservation'</i>	2pm
11	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
20	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7.00pm)	7.30pm
24	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am

May 2022

3	Women's Fellowship, Speaker <i>'Dropping the Habit'</i> & Plant Stall	2pm
4	Sherborne St John Parish Council AGM, Chute Pavilion.	7.30pm
11	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7.00pm)	7.30pm

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775 800955



Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed hampers and food items to the Basingstoke Christmas Hamper Project.

We wanted to share some of the messages of thanks that we have received from the recipients and staff of the agencies that work with them.

- Thank you to all the volunteers for all your hard work. The generosity of the public has been amazing this year.
- Just wanted to thank you you all so much for the Christmas hamper. It has made such a difference for us this year, we are so grateful. Merry Christmas to you all and a happy new year.
- Everyone who received a Christmas hamper was totally grateful! Including the ones on their own for Christmas!!
- Just to say a totally huge thank you for providing hampers for the families I support. They are incredibly grateful, and oh my what splendid hampers they are!
- When I gave a hamper to a lady with four children who is really struggling, she nearly cried!
- Thank you so much for the hampers. They look amazing!!
- We truly value what you do for the families we work with in the community.
- The Christmas hampers make such a difference to our vulnerable families.
- Thank you for all your hard work. It really does help to make Christmas special.
- Thank you for all your support for the vulnerable families.
- This is such a lovely thing to do for the young mums and their babies.
- Thank you so much for everything you do.
- Thank you so, so much to all of you for doing this again this year. Christmas just wouldn't happen without Besom and the Foodbank. God bless you.
- Such a lovely thing you and your team do!
- So glad you are running this again. Our individuals find it absolutely invaluable at this time of year and a great cheer up in a time of loneliness.
- Thank you soooooo much for the Christmas hamper. It will go to a family that has kept so much to themselves until today and they will be so very grateful for this.
- The families were so pleased to receive a hamper and they are so grateful for what you do to help.
- A HUGE thank you on behalf of all the individuals and families who received a Christmas hamper this year 😊

Thank you for making a big difference to Christmas for so many people in Basingstoke.



Sherbornes with Pamber Church

Invites everyone to a

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When: Saturday 19 March at 7pm

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All are welcome to join us to enjoy a fun evening with quizmaster Steve Howe setting the questions. Form a team of eight or come and join others to form a team.

The event will include a short Christian talk towards the end of the evening whilst the final totals are being totted up.

News from the NHH Hospitals Trust

A lot has changed since I last wrote but the biggest news effecting our local hospitals is undoubtedly the governments COVID booster vaccination drive. On being 'stood up' to be directly involved, the Trust in 72 hours – planned, staffed and opened a major vaccine hub with a capacity of approximately 950 people per day. If you are eligible but have not had a booster yet and want to book your jab please do so, it can really make a difference! This can be done either by calling 119 or online: Book or manage a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

The other big national news story is that of the overall pressure the NHS is under; including ambulances having to wait outside emergency departments for extended periods. It is reassuring to know that Hampshire Hospitals have coped comparatively well, though of course there have been exceptions and work is on-going to further minimise it.

As always, the big issue is having free beds for those that need them, at present roughly 40 to 50 beds are occupied by

people suffering from Covid. Yet again it re-enforces the wisdom of taking up vaccinations as and when offered. At present the level of flu patients has not yet risen as expected, however the hospital is likely to need to open up two additional wards for COVID patients in January, adding to the pressure on other services. If the pattern from London is followed it is also likely that an increased number of NHS staff will need to self-isolate.

In a piece of good news, our urgent and emergency care team were recently reviewed by the CQC and were rated very positively for quality of care, safety, and commitment to continually improve. To achieve this in spite of record demand and rising COVID is testament to the incredible hard work they put in, day in and day out.

Catching up with the backlog to elective procedures, in spite of massive efforts, remains an ongoing challenge. Overall the Trust is making progress, even accepting patients from other Trusts to help them with their longest waiting times. Sadly,

the level of cancer referrals has risen significantly on pre covid levels, including an increase in cases where the disease has significantly advanced. Despite the increase in referrals the hospital is meeting most of its national target times for treatment of cancer patients.

Finally a few snippets. Anyone who has recently visited the hospital will have noticed the rapid progress in the construction of the new Cath Lab alongside the Sherborne Building. The new consultation document on data protection indicated this area is currently surrounded with too much red tape, so watch this space. The unions are very supportive of the staff vaccination programme. The plans for the new hospital are progressing behind the scenes, providing input to the national infrastructure plan. The Trust's recent meetings with local councils working towards a common strategy have been very encouraging.

Keith Bunker
Former hospital governor

North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group News

Wow, what an address we had when Jaana Jeffery the Macmillan Supportive Care Lead attached to the hospital came and spoke to us at our recent monthly meeting. She explained she was not going to do any formal presentation, but the time she spent with us was no less impactful. She started by identifying her own background as a dietician, with her role within the hospital being to provide supportive care to cancer patients.

Having recently carried out an extensive survey of patients, she found that the key need patients identified was psychological and emotional support, this being listed as the most important by 90% of respondents with more guidance on treatment options as the next most important need. This information created a lively discussion as many feel the NHS, with its high focus on metrics for everything, is rapidly losing sight of the fact that it is a 'SERVICE' so should not be considered as primarily for the benefit of those who work within it,

rather and most importantly all need to recognise that patients are people, not just numbers to be processed! It was encouraging to members of the group to know that our key aims of providing emotional and psychological care for our members, as well as insights into different forms of treatment from a patients view point, align so strongly with Jaana's survey results.

Jaana went on to outline how supportive care as provided by Macmillan extends the whole pathway, from the GP onwards, and is there to help in a variety of ways, such as life style and diet, financial aspects, employment as well as occupational therapy, relationships, and very importantly symptoms' management. Whilst it may not be immediately obvious for a dietician to be involved, she highlighted for how example changes in diet can be of real help following radiation treatment.

Started over 100 years ago, the charity Macmillan Cancer Support is one of the biggest UK charities, and as Jaana explained, in addition to the roles previously outlined it also plays an active role in advising Government, funding local issues and also supporting special projects. For example it helped the Breast Care and Mastectomy Association of Great Britain, which would later become Breast Cancer Care. With prostate cancer now the most prevalent form of cancer in the UK, could we perhaps see the charity becoming more involved in this field in the future?

With such a lively session, members were delighted that Jaana has offered to come again sometime in the New Year – we clearly have another treat in store!

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SUPPORTING A LOCAL CHARITY



Towards the end of 2021 we were proud to help Besom Basingstoke, a local charity, by contributing funds towards the purchase of a new van. Besom are a group from local churches who bring together those who have items to donate and those in need. They provide the essential service of helping people who are re-housed or given accommodation but have no furniture or household goods. Those benefitting may be women escaping domestic violence, homeless people, refugees, and families or individuals living in extreme poverty. They also provide food hampers.



It was heart-warming to hear from Besom Basingstoke that they were able to use their new van to deliver 800 hampers during December to people

around Basingstoke who needed help to make Christmas special. The van is being well used!

To find out more about Besom Basingstoke, see www.thebesominbasingstoke.org

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR CAMROSE CENTRE

Our Rotary group were delighted to be able to organise Christmas lunch on 16th December for the clients, volunteers and staff of the Camrose Centre, who work with the homeless and vulnerably housed from the Basingstoke area. We were fortunate to engage the services of volunteer chef, Richard Clarke-Weller (BCoT trained) as part of our team. Thank you Richard. We were able to serve up a full traditional Roast Turkey lunch with Christmas pudding to follow.

Ingredients were donated by Sainsburys through their 'Neighbourly' scheme. (They also provided training and certification in food hygiene, for two Camrose client volunteers!) It was great to welcome these two volunteers who joined our team to help on the day. Donations were supplemented with gifts of goodies from Tesco, ASDA and Morrisons. Many thanks to Jason Elton from Sainsburys for his help.



Invited to the event by Camrose, The Rt. Hon. Maria Miller MP became our distinguished helper on the day. Maria chatted with the Camrose clients, volunteers and staff and got stuck in with the serving and clearing up.

All Camrose clients were also able to leave with a Christmas 'goodie bag' donated by individual Rotarians.

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 8th May 2022

After a long Covid wait we had wonderful weather and a great day in the Memorial Park back in September '21, with hundreds of vehicles and thousands of happy people enjoying the sunshine.

It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you on **Sunday 8th May 2022**

See our website to register your vehicle

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.

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Royal British Legion Bramley and District Branch



There used to be a Sherborne St John branch of the Royal British Legion, but it ceased to function some 10 years ago and was merged, together with the Stratfield Saye branch, into Bramley under the name of Bramley and District.

The new merged Branch has, like many other organisations, been severely affected by the pandemic and our programme of lectures, meetings and dinners has been curtailed; the challenge faced has been to hold things together until we emerge from the current difficulties. We have not been idle, though, and the Poppy Appeal in November 2021 was a credit to those who made this possible and raised over £11,500.

This was a very different Poppy Appeal. We did not do any house-to-house collections in Bramley or Sherborne St John as we decided that this would be inappropriate and, in addition, the carrying of cash has declined in the new world of contactless payments. We did, however, experience the benefit of using card readers at our stall in reception at the Hospital and this clearly encouraged donations. Looking ahead to this year's collections, we plan to extend the use of card machines and, as always, we will need new volunteers to help.

Looking to the future, we are strengthening our organisation and have welcomed a new member to our committee who brings enormous expertise and experience to the small team.

Allow me to introduce The Very Reverend John Morley who has taken on the Events Portfolio on behalf of the Branch.

*He joined the **Chaplains'** Branch of the Royal Air Force in 1977 and served on a 16 -year Commission. postings were mainly around the UK on flying and support stations, but he experienced short detachments to Belize with the Harrier force from RAF Gutersloh and, also to Ascension Island in the aftermath of the Falklands war, now 40 years ago. (How time flies!)*

He has been a RBL member for many years, serving on various branch committees and was Chairman and later President of his last branch in Leicestershire where he was also County Chaplain for several years. In addition, he has been a chaplain and instructor with Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, and others. He also chaired the organising committee for Harborough's annual Armed Forces Day event for 4 years

which attracted about 3,000 visitors. Their loss is our gain!

Anticipating the easing of Covid restrictions we are tentatively looking at the forthcoming Spring for a lunchtime get-together for members and supporters and, in parallel, to re-create a programme of monthly meetings.

The Bramley and District Branch will be supporting the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in all its villages and, as at Bramley last Summer, we hope to secure representation from the Legion Riders' Branch with their splendid Harley Davidson machines and others. They are always a strong attraction and, with 7,000 members, are the fastest growing Branch of the Royal British Legion.

We hope you, the reader, will be able to support the Branch as it, in turn, seeks to support those in need amongst the ex-service community and their dependants. We are always looking for new supporters to help promote this effort locally. You would be very welcome to form part of this incredible organisation.....

John Delafield
Chairman | 07850 950349

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The January meeting had a good attendance despite the weather, pandemic and general malaise, and cheered us all up for a short while. No speaker was booked, for all the above reasons, so a fun time was had enjoying a few quizzes and a favourite game, as well as enjoying 'fresh' mince pies. Judging by the conversations flowing it seemed that everyone enjoyed being back at the Village Hall and socialising with friends.

The new year was enhanced by a member's son being awarded in the New Years Honours List with a QPM (Queens Police Medal) and we were all delighted for her - what an achievement.

Next month's meeting on the 1st February will be the AGM when members renew their membership, at a cost of £12. There will also be a speaker, Angeline Gore, whose talk

'Jam, Jerusalem and Doing Porridge' will be given - there are two clues in the title - and I am reliably informed that we will be in for a very interesting and informative afternoon.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 1st February at 2pm and of course, new members are always welcome.

Rose Cooper

RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P.

NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

As we hope we will soon be able to return to normality, it is a great time for me to reflect on what you have told me you want to see as we build back better – delivering what really is our plan for North East Hampshire over the next twelve months and beyond – to make the Sherbornes and Pamber even better places to live and work.

A superb education for everyone

With many local schools already operating at capacity, we must have new provision to cope with demand – this is why I continue to campaign for a new secondary school in north Hampshire. Tell me your thoughts at: ranil.uk/school

Revitalise and regenerate our retail centres

We have some fantastic businesses in our corner of the county. I want to see them supported through the regeneration of our retail centres, which will also protect green fields for major development. It's time that our local councils deliver the change needed locally. Let me know what matters to you, so I can make the case to them: ranil.uk/regensurvey

Faster, longer, better trains

In 2017, we successfully stopped SWR plans to cut our train services.

As more people start travelling again, maintaining good transport links to our towns and villages is a core part of our plan – so we need to protect the services that residents from in and around the Sherbornes and Pamber rely on. Sign my petition to save our trains: ranil.uk/trains

Better roads for everyone

This isn't just about improving our roads and road junctions, like at the junction of the B3349 and the A33. The plan for a North Hampshire Cycle Network would link 27 different locations across the constituency. I want our councils to progress the first stage of the plan quickly, to get families on their bikes safely. Sign my petition to call on councils to extend our cycling networks: ranil.uk/cycling

Cleaner, better, safer

It is so important that you feel safe living in the Sherbornes and Pamber, and it is great news that we are now over halfway towards the government's ambition to recruit 20,000 new police officers. We need more police officers to tackle local issues, from organised and rural crime, to anti-social behaviour. This year, I will continue to meet the police regularly to support them in their work and you can

help us get our fair share of new officers by visiting: ranil.uk/policing

Improving the NHS

£33.9 billion of extra funding is being put in by the government every year now, which is already benefiting the health services across North East Hampshire – and I want to go further to make sure you have access to the facilities you need, including continuing to push for a new hospital in north Hampshire to bolster our existing local services.

For my latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook (“Ranil Jayawardena MP”) or sign up to my newsletter at: ranil.uk/newsletter – and I regularly hold ‘Tell Ranil’ events where you can raise issues with me in person too. In the meantime, do share your views with me by email to: email@ranil.uk because, together, we can make the Sherbornes and Pamber even better.

For more information on this column, please contact:

Lydia Castellano by email at lydia.castellano@parliament.uk

Read Easy Basingstoke

Read Easy Basingstoke set up in August 2019 as a **FREE** service to help adults who struggle with reading. We were delighted to have received a very generous Grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council recently. This will provide funding for the cost of training Volunteer Coaches and paying for reading manuals and books for our phonics-based programme. At least 7,000 adults in Basingstoke alone have reading or writing skills below that expected of an 11 year old.

How can Read Easy help those adults?

By providing free 1-1 tuition from a trained Reading Coach with half hour sessions twice a week, on a confidential, non-judgemental basis. Coaches help Readers for as long as it takes to become confident in their reading ability - our Readers can generally learn to read fluently in 9 months to 2 years.

Here is a quote from a Reader who learnt with Read Easy:

“I didn't think that I would ever be able to read a book, but when I heard about Read Easy I thought I would give it a go. My confidence has grown thanks to an amazing and patient teacher. It's really changed my life.”

Please get in touch if we can help you or anyone you know by calling **07592 450789**

Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School



Back to school for the Spring Term although it is a chilly start and you have to admire the way that the children are managing to focus on their work despite wearing several layers of jumpers to keep warm! We have to work with the windows open, even though it is cold and frosty outside, in order to keep good air circulation, and so far it seems to be effective!

Despite caution about the Covid situation before Christmas, careful organisation meant that we were able to go ahead with most of our planned

events including the KS1 Nativity, music concerts, movie mob, Christmas parties and even a socially-distanced visit from Santa! Thanks go especially to the School Association, who organised the Christmas Cracker week, which all the children thoroughly enjoyed.

This term we have already started our early-morning and after-school clubs, and other events are in the pipeline – KS1 have planned a trip to Windsor Castle as part of their project 'A Royal Invitation', which is very appropriate for the Jubilee year. Class 4 had a great time exploring the solar system with a Virtual Reality Space workshop which consolidated all of their learning from last term. They are now down to earth with a bang (literally) as this term's topic looks at volcanoes and mountains, and they have been constructing their own erupting models! Meanwhile, Class 3 are

finding out about the Ancient Egyptians – although I suspect a trip to the pyramids is a bit beyond the budget!! However, they did have to undertake their own 'tomb raiding' through Egyptian underground tunnels created in their own classroom!

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Caretaker Required:

We are still looking for a caretaker for the Sherborne St John Village Hall. If you want to work with a great group of Trustees, please send us an email so we can arrange a date for a chat. Email address is ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com.

Please pass this on if you know of someone who would like to get in touch.

Notes from Rural France



A Corny Story.....Lost in the maize. No, this is not a game of follow my leader although it did turn out that way in the end. The Mrs had suggested a walk in the sun to La Barde (a giant lake and favourite walking area nearby) The Boss said "are you sure? it is quite a long way".... knowing the Mrs penchant for short flat walks. However she was adamant the walk was a good idea and

the intrepid duo set off following sign posted pathways.

Across fields, through woods and around streams the path suddenly petered out at the edge of a huge maize field – one of many in our area of France. The Boss decided that wherever La Barde was it was not going to end up being the destination on this walk as the local farmer had taken it upon himself to re-route the footpath and heavily disguise it amongst the giant maize growing in every direction. With no further signage following the edge of the maize field was the only option. Without the promise of dangling hot tired feet in the cool water of Lac La Barde the Mrs lost her enthusiasm for the healthy fitness traipse, becoming despondent and rather alarmed at the thought of being lost in the depths of the French countryside. After a necessary rest the decision was made to cut short the trek and find the quickest way home.

Without being tall enough to see over the heads of the plants there followed a rather heated discussion regarding differing directions to find civilisation. It was almost impossible to walk anywhere but down the planted rows of corn, changing direction became a task not taken lightly unless you were built like the jolly green giant. Luckily the Boss's superior sense of direction proved successful and the Mrs followed him through endless rows of planted maize feeling like an intrepid explorer without a machete while the rustling maize stalks brought frightening thoughts of wild boar picnicking on corn pods only to be rudely interrupted by two Francophiles. However the Boss done good and they emerged from the maze of maize not too far from their starting point. The Mrs would never again question the Boss's directional prowess and promised him corn on the cob for dinner.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Having been in existence for nearly 57 years The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship is a national charity that is dedicated to helping former civil servants and their dependents make the most of their retirement which we have been doing in Basingstoke since 1970.

The creation of the CSRF on 9th April 1965

In an article entitled 'A Pension Is Not Enough' written in the early 1960s Douglas Houghton MP highlighted the need for an organisation that offered retired civil servants an arena for friendship and companionship. His idea was supported and taken up by J P Wolstenholme, the then General Secretary of The Civil Service Benevolent Fund, and on 9th April 1965 the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship was founded. It opened its first branches in Guildford, Birmingham and the Solent area and now has over 60 throughout the UK and Northern Ireland. Friendship and support still remain at the forefront of

our work today. We provide a range of services that include two national befriending schemes to help combat loneliness in later life, local community groups (providing educational speakers and leisure activities) and we are on hand to offer information, advice and signposting to a wide range of other supportive organisations, easily accessible via our Freephone telephone advice line.

The next meeting of our group is on 2nd February when Mike Brooks will be telling us about Amateur Dramatics and then on 2nd March we will be having our AGM with a presentation from the Cooperative Insurance Services followed by lunch at the Conservative Club.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome.

David Cowling

Due to the uncertainty over the spread of the Omicron variant it was with some disappointment that we decided it would be best to cancel the meeting due to be held on Wednesday 5th January. It was a shame as since we had started meeting again back in August attendance had been good and everyone particularly enjoyed the Christmas Lunch at BCOT and the Christmas Party at the beginning of December. We really are hoping that all future meetings and trips for this year will be able to go ahead.

The group's full programme of speakers and trips for 2022 year can be obtained by contacting the secretary at:-
csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

The Vyne

If you want to get out and about this winter, stretch your legs and enjoy being outside in the fresh air, we have nine hectares of garden and woodlands at the Vyne for you to explore.

Wrap up warm and enjoy the frosty mornings and winter landscapes.

When it's cold you can see mist rising from the surface of the lake and the house in the distance emerging through the fog.

The grounds and lake are still full of life even at this time of year, from robins and squirrels to swans, and moorhens. Look out for geese flying in formation across the estate, you'll hear them before you see them.

From Visitor Reception walk up past the lake into Morgaston Woods.

There are several circular routes to follow here. If you come on a quiet day, and keep a look out, you may just spot a deer emerging from between the trees.



A frosty morning at The Vyne. ©National Trust Images/Virginia Langer

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We have all heard stories of people leaving a small fortune to their pets but is this possible and what about our furry friends themselves?

Whilst it is important to make provision about what should happen to your pet after you die, making a specific gift of money in your Will to your pet would result in a failed gift.

Claire-Marie Selwood, a solicitor in the Private Client Team at Phillips Solicitors,

Don't forget your pet when making your Will



explains why: "The Law treats pets as personal possessions so you cannot leave a legacy in your Will to your beloved pet. After all, pets don't have bank accounts!

It is quite common for pet owners to pass away and not leave their pet with a home to go to but there are steps you can take to ensure your pet is looked after.

It would be unwise to assume that close relatives or friends will look after your pet, without discussing it with them first. Caring for a pet is a huge commitment and you would be imposing an obligation on them to care for your pet for the rest of its life, not to mention the financial obligation.

One option to consider is if you know someone who is willing to look after your pet, you could leave that person a sum of money in your Will for this purpose.

So there is no misunderstanding about the purpose of the money, the wording in your Will must be clear, which is why we often advise our clients to write a letter of wishes to accompany their Wills.

Whilst this document is not legally binding, it can be a useful guide to inform others how you would like your pet to be cared for. You should be aware that if your chosen carer later decides they can no longer care for your pet there is a risk they may still retain the legacy and spend it how they choose.

Another option to consider, particularly if you do not know anyone who could look after your pet, is to leave a bequest to a charity. You can direct whether the charity should care for the pet or find a suitable alternative home instead. Some animal charities offer after death arrangements for pets.

A final option would be to set up a trust and leave money to trustees to look after your pet. Once your pet has died, the trust would come to an end and any money left over can go to your chosen beneficiaries.

If you need advice about how to make provision for your pet or any other matters relating to Wills, contact Claire-Marie by emailing claire-marie.selwood@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854622.

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Probus Gets Behind The Scenes of Eurovision Song Contest



Over the years watching the Eurovision Song Competition you probably wondered about the voting pattern of various countries. Gordon Lewis, the speaker at the latest meeting of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, knows that your suspicions are correct. The winning song being voted on by all the countries, is influenced by politics of the day and PR pressure through parties held at the highest social level.

And Gordon Lewis knows what he is talking about because as a journalist he had attended eight Eurovision Song Competitions over the years and had seen these influences at first hand.

Song festivals had long existed in Europe – for example the Sound of Music film showed the situation in Austria in the late 1930s. After the conclusion of WW2, the European Broadcasting Union was set up in Switzerland to help popularise television. At their 1950 AGM, held in Torquay, it was considered that a song festival to find the best song in Europe would help relationships. Current technology prevented this idea progressing until 1953 when the BBC succeeded in broadcasting the Coronation to our neighbouring countries of the Republic of Ireland, northern France and the low countries.

Advances in technology meant that in 1956 the first Eurovision Song Competition was held in Lugano, Switzerland. Seven countries took part but was it a coincidence that the

winner was the host country where the headquarters of the European Broadcast Union had been established to bring harmony to viewers?

The speaker gave many examples of how countries vote for the top award of *douze points*. Greece always supported Cyprus claiming to be because of a common language but in 1999 the free choice of language meant that many songs are sung in English. Geographical and historical connections as seen between Norway and Sweden, Russia and Azerbaijan due gas and oil. While UK and Ireland used to support each other but not so in recent years.

The dreaded *nul* points will always be the case between Serbia and Slovenia because the latter country was the first to break away from the old Yugoslavia which led to the Balkan disaster. Armenia will not support Azerbaijan because of a border dispute and France does not support UK perhaps because of the Hundred Years' War. 2003 saw UK receiving *nul* points because of anger in EU that Britain had entered the Iraq war. Georgia will not vote for Russia because of their invasion and eventual withdrawal but was disqualified from the 2009 competition because their song was about shooting President Putin of Russia.

Direct political influence happened when General Franco needed to boost the tourist trade to Spanish beaches and enlisted the assistance of President Tito of Yugoslavia. Cliff Richard singing *Congratulations* was the clear favourite but was beaten by one point by Spain's entry *La La La* that contained 120 repeats of the title. There is little merit in the winning song, which was instantly forgettable, but political ends were met.

Circumstances can also influence the result. In 1974 France backed out because it was the funeral of President Pompidou. The Italian entry had been expected to win but those countries expected to support the French entry then had to vote for another song and the unlikely winners from Sweden was a group named ABBA with the song *Waterloo*. The rest, as they say, is history.

Such political influence goes back a long way to 1959 when Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson sang the UK entry *Sing Little Birdie Sing*. Teddy was at a bar when he overheard Italy and the Netherlands agreeing not to vote for the UK entry. This, you will recall, was a song contest with the aim of bringing countries together.

UK last won in 1997 with the song *Love Shine A Light* by Katrina and the Waves. While the backing group, the Waves were British, Katrina is American. She came to live in England as a child when her father was stationed here in the US Airforce.

In recent years some non-European countries have been allowed to participate. Israel and Australia are examples. This is because they are full members of the European Broadcasting Union which allows their entry. New Zealand are upset because their associate membership fails to permit their entry which means they lose the ability to promote their country to the watching millions.

In 2022 the competition will be hosted in the Italian city of Turin. No doubt the same influencing and politicking will continue unabated - after all the Eurovision Song Competition would not be the same without it.

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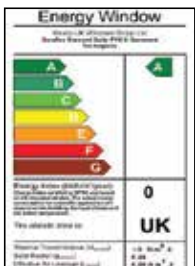
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