



The Villager

December 2021
– January 2022

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editorial



What another extraordinary year 2021 has been for all of us as a community, a country and in fact globally; full of anxiety, sadness, and illness but also amazing medical breakthroughs, vaccinations (and for many boosters) and glimmers of hope for a better future thanks to our incredible scientists, medical teams and of course our NHS and care staff.

On behalf of the Villager team may I wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and hopefully a much, much better, and a more optimistic 2022.

Thank you to all the distributors who continue to deliver the Villager to 1,000 doormats. A special thank you to Tony Martin who has decided to take well earned retirement from his delivery round. We are always looking for new distributors – **specifically we need someone to deliver in Monk Sherborne from opposite the Village Hall down to the War Memorial** - so if you can help deliver to some of your neighbours please let Liz and Chris Gwynn know lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com

If you know anyone who doesn't receive a hard copy but would like one sent to them by email please ask them to email me at villagermagazine@gmail.com and I will happily add them to my email list. Surprisingly a pdf version of the magazine gets emailed every month to Australia, Cayman Islands and even Tadley!

On page 24 you will see a poster about the Christmas hampers being collected by the Foodbank and the Besom Project from 1st – 21st December in Festival Place. They would love some extra help during that time so if you are able to volunteer a few hours of your time Abigail would love to hear from you abigail@comptonburnett.com or 07747 111336

Message from Clift Surgery

We recognise access to the NHS can be confusing and would like to reassure you we continue to offer the following services that are available at the Surgery

On the day emergency calls

- Duty team - this consists of either GP Advanced Nurse practitioner and nurses; these calls are to enable a clinician to triage the concern and where needed a patient will be offered a face 2 face appointment.

E-Consult

- response within 72 hours for non urgent requests and administration requests.

GP Face to Face appointments

- These are currently being reintroduced but very limited at this time.

Routine telephone calls

- These are for non-urgent concerns and results which will be with either a GP advanced practitioner Nurse, Nurse, Physio, Pharmacist, health and wellbeing coach and mind support.

Nurse appointments

- These can be booked either as a telephone call or a face-to-face appointment.

We are a small village practice with an ever-increasing population count. We are working through some very challenging times, where unforeseen changes are introduced on a weekly basis, which means that both patients and staff at Clift Surgery need to adapt and be respectful to each other.

Help Us to Help You by following this advice

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

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Earlier this year there were warnings in the news that Christmas could be cancelled due to a combination of the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and Brexit. Turkeys were reported to be in short supply. The possibility of toy shortages was raised as a result of a combination of longer shipping times, congestion in ports and a lack of lorry drivers. Avid readers were alarmed to hear of paper shortages threatening the availability of books.

Some of our treasured traditions don't go back particularly far. Turkeys were first brought to Britain in the 1520s and the earliest written record of turkeys is attributed to Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. He wanted to stop gluttony amongst the clergy so only allowed one bird to be served per dish. Turkeys were big enough to provide more meat so clergy didn't need more than one bird. Henry VIII is reported

to have been the first monarch to have turkey for Christmas, and the former royal chef has revealed that the Queen enjoys turkey for Christmas today. Turkeys remained quite expensive for the next couple of centuries, and in the north, people might buy beef if they could afford it, or in the south. However, turkey became more popular at Christmas through the Victorian era. You might recall that in A Christmas Carol, a reformed Ebenezer Scrooge sends Bob Cratchit a large turkey. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Christmas was hardly celebrated. Many businesses didn't consider it to be a holiday—remember Scrooge before his encounters with the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Gift-giving had traditionally been a New Year activity. Prince Albert popularised the idea of the Christmas tree from Germany, and other traditions that emerged during the Victorian era include the Christmas card and Christmas cracker.

Even if we end up not being able to keep our Victorian Christmas, the reason for Christmas still remains. Jesus Christ was

born over 2,000 years ago. If that hadn't happened, we wouldn't have a holiday to be anxious about. He who was one with God the Father in eternity, through whom and for whom everything was made, became flesh and lived among us. He came as the king God promised who would bring blessing to the world. He came as a doctor for the spiritually sick. He came to seek out those who have wandered from God. He came into the world to save those who had rebelled against God, ultimately by going to his death on the cross. He came to give us life in all its fullness.

At the time of Jesus' birth, it is easy to imagine that empty shelves would have been a familiar sight because so many people had gone there to register for the census. When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had to lay him in a manger. His birth was celebrated by shepherds in a field. We do not need our Victorian traditions to celebrate Christmas. However we are able to celebrate it this year, let's remember the reason for Christmas. To help you do that, you are warmly invited to our Christmas services. Christmas hasn't been cancelled.

The Revd Daniel Newman
Rector

The Morning 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.

We have a number of people in our congregation who are at greater risk of getting seriously ill, have responsibility for caring for those in that situation, or are generally concerned about getting sick with the virus.

It will show respect for them and help them to feel safer if people continued to wear face coverings.

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

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

Crèche is unsupervised: some toys are available for use in the Bell Tower; the service can be seen and heard.

Sermon Series: Advent - Zephaniah

05 December

09.00 am	Morning Service	Pamber Priory
10.15 am	Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Zephaniah 2	What will happen to those who mock God's people?	Andy Spence
4pm	Advent Carols	Pamber Priory

12 December

9.00am	Morning Service	All Saints'
10.15am	Morning Service and Sunday Club	St Andrew's
Zephaniah 3	He will rejoice over you with singing	The Revd Daniel Newman

19 December

9.00am	Lord's Supper	Pamber Priory
10.15am	All Age Service	St Andrew's
Revelation 19:6-10	The final wedding	Warren Trask
4.30pm	Family Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's
6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrew's
	[Light refreshments served after the carol services]	The Revd Daniel Newman

24 December

5pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	All Saints' The Revd Daniel Newman
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25 December

9.30am	Christmas Day All Age Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.45am	All Age - followed by a short Holy Communion	St Andrew's The Revd Daniel Newman

26 December

10.15am	All Age Service	St Andrew's The Revd Daniel Newman
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Mid-Week

Home Groups meet in the week of Monday 13 December, 10 & 24 January

We meet for **Central Prayer** at 8pm on Tuesday 7 December, 4 January; 1 February

These meetings are currently held via Zoom.



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2022

The service pattern is currently under review but not in time to go to print, so please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

02 January

Psalm 127 How to sleep better in 2022

Sermon Series: Hebrews: Jesus – None Greater!

09 January

Hebrews 1 Above all powers

16 January

Hebrews 2 Free from the fear of death

23 January

Hebrews 3.1-4.13 Entering God's rest

30 January

Hebrews 4.14-5.10 Sympathetic to our weakness

Claiming Dates

December 2021

1 - 12	Basingstoke Art Club Exhibition, Sainsbury Gallery, Willis Museum, RG21 7QD. Weds - Sundays	10.00am – 4.00pm
1 - 15	Winchester Art Club Exhibition, Performance hall, Winchester Discovery Center.	9.30am-5.00pm
5	Advent Carols at Pamber Priory	4pm
6	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
7	Women's Fellowship, Christmas Lunch, Weybrook Golf Club	12.30pm
11	Blessing of Monk Sherborne new Village Hall followed by carols & mince pies	3.30-5.30pm
11	Helping Cats and Dogs UK - Winter Wonderland at SSJ Village Hall	1pm – 5pm
15	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm
18	Santa's Sleigh Ride Christmas Party, Chute Pavilion SSJ £18.00 (see advert)	7.30pm
19	Family Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's Church, SSJ followed by refreshments	4.30pm
19	Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's Church, SSJ followed by refreshments	6.30pm
20	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
24	Crib Service at All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne	5pm
31	Sherborne St John Social Club, New Year's Eve Party with Ruth Jones	

January 2022

3	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
17	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 6.30pm)	7.30pm
31	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am

February 2022

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

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

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



PARISH COUNCIL



BDBC are in the process of updating the Local Plan which determines the number of dwellings to be developed from 2024 - this will also mean an update to the current SSJ Neighbourhood Plan.

This new Local Plan will impact SSJ as the village will be expected to take a development, or developments, in support of the Plan.

The schedule for the development of the plan can be found at the following site

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/LDS>

(There is also a lot of ancillary information about the plan, site maps, etc. at the same site)

As far as the current number of possible sites then the following summarizes those sites, some are BDBC led, SSJ004, SSJ011 and RO001, the others developer submissions.

- **SSJ004** – Land west of Marnel Park 300
- **SSJ011** - Weybrook Golf Club 350
- **RO001** - Land adjacent to Weybrook Golf Course 38

No decisions are made yet, the strategy will be firmed up by March and may be finalised after the elections in May 2022. The Council would welcome the Parish's views on these sites in shaping the next stages.

There are x 6 other sites that have been put forward that will impact Sherborne St John

SSJ001 Land to the north of Cranes Field Sherborne St. John

SSJ003 Vidlers Field Sherborne St. John

SSJ005 Land at Carpenters Down Sherborne St. John

SSJ006 Land North of Cranes field Sherborne St. John *

SSJ007 Bob's Farm Sherborne St. John

SSJ008 Allotments at Cranes Road Sherborne St. John

SSJ009 Allotments at Elm Road Sherborne St. John

SSJ010 Land adjacent to Manor Road / Elm Road Sherborne St. John

The plan has to be to work with BDBC to accept the least worst option re any impact on SSJ - unfortunately "NO" is not an answer. Email: chairman@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU - It is vital that everyone in the village comments

and where necessary objects to these proposals. You have until the end of the year to object but if you can let us know your views at the parish council (include contact address) we can try to include these within our representation to the borough council that we intend to submit in December.

Defibrillators

We have x 2 defibrillators located in SSJ; one at the Chute and one at the Village Hall.

You don't need to be trained to use a defibrillator – anyone can use it. They are simple and easy to use and you don't need any training. There are clear instructions on how to attach the defibrillator pads. It then assesses the heart rhythm and will only instruct you to deliver a shock if it's needed. You can't deliver a shock accidentally, the defibrillator will only allow you to shock if it is needed. However... the defibrillator has to be used in conjunction with CPR. Are you confident that you would be able to administer CPR and know when to then use the defibrillator? St John Ambulance run a 2 hour training course that can be delivered at the Chute or the Village Hall. If nothing else you will get to understand why the Queen song, "Another One Bites the Dust", and "Nellie the Elephant" are key to the process!

If you're interested then do e-mail chairman@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk and we'll take it from there if there are enough people interested.

Chairman, Richard Morgan

Blessing of new Monk Sherborne Village Hall

Come along on Saturday 11th December at 3.30pm for the blessing of the new village hall by the Rector, sing a few favourite Christmas carols, and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies inside the new hall afterwards. All welcome.


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



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Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School

After a beautifully sunny September, autumn has arrived and we have been busy sweeping up the leaves in the playground! The Year R children went on an Autumn Walk around the village which allowed them to explore, discuss and observe our local area. It was a great way to see how the seasons affect and change our environment and enabled them to talk about the similarities and differences. They saw lots of animal and tractor prints in the mud and noticed all the different colours of the trees. And of course the muddy puddles were so much fun!

It may have escaped your notice, but the first week in November was UK Parliament Week. Class 4 were able to have a Zoom meeting with our local MP, Mr Jayawardena, and ask him questions about being an MP and his role as Minister for International Trade. Afterwards, Mr Jayawardena commented: Having two young daughters myself I anticipated the sheer curiosity of pupils and I will take away some important

points from these discussions about what the next generation want to see from their elected politicians. I hope that our conversations have assured them that I take everyone's views on board and will always support them, and our whole community, in Parliament.

The second half of the term is always a busy one with lots of fundraising taking place. 68 filled Christmas shoeboxes were loaded into a car on the first part of their journey to bring some Christmas cheer to disadvantaged children living in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Philippines. Poppies were sold in school to raise money for the British Legion, and our school council members represented us at the service at the War Memorial on 11th November.

The school council have also been working hard to organise fundraising for Children in Need. They organised a non-uniform (spotty clothes) day, a raffle and a cake sale. Thank you to all the parents that have supported their efforts.

We are unable to hold our Christmas Fayre this year, but one event that we are hoping will go ahead is our Infant Nativity. The children have been practising hard for this year's performances of 'Is there a Baby in There?' This lovely production tells the Christmas story from the animals' perspective. The animals are in the farmyard waiting patiently for the new baby to arrive. They wonder what sort of baby it will be. They think it might be a lamb, a calf or foal. They wait and wait, and as time passes they begin to worry whether the precious baby will ever arrive. I think we all know that it will!

It has been a strange year for all of us, and we are keeping our fingers firmly crossed that we will be able to celebrate Christmas with a week of fun activities at the end of term. Let us hope for a less disrupted year in 2022!

Happy Christmas to you all!

Sherbert
SSJ School Villager Correspondent



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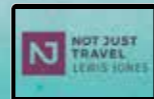
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Pamber Green, Pamber End and Little London notes

Brief Pamber news highlights show planning proposals for another solar farm at Berry Court Farm which will be larger than the existing one and residential properties in New Road Pamber Green. A white van, KY05 EWG, has been seen prowling the area up to no good.

We're awaiting more information about Christmas entertainment at St Stephens Village Hall, Little London. I received the article below from Pamber Green resident, Dai Ogborn. "It must now be two years ago we organised the Silent Auction in St Stephen's to raise funds. It was a very successful and enjoyable evening raising some £700. Whilst most items found buyers a few didn't including an artwork encased in a large Perspex container. It had been created by a very dear late friend, Dick Nichols. Sadly, we had not space for it as it was quite large but thought donating it for auction might find a new and welcoming home. The

following morning the few unsold items were removed from the Hall, which I decided to donate to St Michael's Hospice Shop in Chineham. They were pleased to accept the said artwork, which went on sale immediately. We returned home promising to return the following day with the remainder of the unsold items. Much to our surprise the artwork was no longer on display, and we were informed that it had been sold very soon after our departure the previous day, selling for - £120!!!! We were delighted to know that Dick's work would be enjoyed again. However, the story doesn't end there as just a few weeks later we happened to stop in Odiham for refreshment calling in at the antique shop. Surprise, surprise!! There facing us as we entered was Dick's creation which the shop owner informed us had been on exhibition in London and purchased at a display in Winchester. We then revealed to the new owner that we could fill him in with the background on

this creation - which was certainly not what he had been told by the seller from whom he had bought it. On explaining its movements, he asked if we knew how much he had paid for it - £120 we replied. After a gasp of breath, he informed us that he had paid him £280 for it! We promised to return with an autobiographical note about our friend Dick, the artist. When we returned, we were not surprised to be told that the work had now sold to "a couple from London" - we can only guess the price they paid and would guess that it was now in excess of £400! The lesson to be learned when bidding at any future "Silent Auction" we may hold is make sure you leave a bid on every item as you never know what you may be buying - to think that for just a £1 bid this now much sought after artwork could have been yours".

Ann Ellis
annjellis@googlemail.com

Fabia's Story

Salve!

It's Fabia once more from the Roman villa at Manor Farm. This time I thought you might like to hear a little of life at the villa. Actually, we have quite a comfortable time here. We keep horses, cattle, pigs, sheep and goats so we have plentiful supply of draught animals, meat and milk. We supplement our meat supply with red and roe deer which our menfolk hunt in the local forests. We also keep hens and the cockerels are known for their prowess in the cock fights staged at *Calleva*. Like your farms in the 21st century we also have cats and dogs around the place. We tend to prefer small dogs, similar in size and shape to Jack Russell terriers that you are probably familiar with.

We grow barley, wheat, cabbage, broad beans, parsnips, carrots and peas. In order to increase the fertility of the clay soils that are found just to the north of us, chalk is dug from numerous pits in the area and spread on the land. Of course in the 3rd century all of this has to be done by hand and the chalk is transported on horse-drawn carts. Some of these pits, such as the one alongside the footpath that runs west from Rookery Farm in Monk Sherborne are still a feature of the 21st century landscape.

We are fortunate that we live in the area between the Silchester to Winchester road and the Silchester to *Sorviodunum* (Salisbury) road which in the 21st Century is known as the Port Way. These are important roads along which goods imported to, or manufactured on, the South coast are transported to *Londinium* (London). This means that all sorts of high quality household goods are available in towns such as Silchester which are at the intersection of these roads. For example, we have rather a lot of the black burnished pottery that is manufactured in Poole. We also have a decorated table top made of shale that was mined in Kimmeridge.



Black burnished cooking pot of the type used at the Manor Farm villa. On display at the Reading Museum.

We do try and keep up with the latest technology. Currently, our water is drawn by hand from a well but my father has plans to install a force pump at the bottom of the well like the one he saw recently on a trip to *Calleva*. Previously I mentioned that we are renovating the North East wing of the villa and the newly installed underfloor heating or *hypocaust* is almost complete and ready to use for the first time. With winter fast approaching we are looking forward to a much cosier time this year.

Vale, Fabia !

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SHERBORNE ST JOHN – NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)



I am the Area Co-ordinator of NHW in SSJ and this month I am particularly addressing the numerous people who have moved into the parish in recent years. We have 11 existing street schemes, if there is sufficient interest in a new location I can set up more and

arrange fixing signage in the streets. Membership will usually entitle you to a discount on home insurance. If you have a friend or relative who does not receive The Villager please pass this on to them. The Villager and our scheme details can be found on the SSJ website.

Do please e.mail your scheme co-ordinator or myself with your names, postal address and phone number/s to register your membership which is free. (ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com or call 850891)

Turning now to our existing scheme at Cranesfield Jamie Whitehorn has enrolled nearly half of residents and hopes to call on the rest by the time this magazine appears.

If then you have not been contacted please e.mail jamiewhitehorn@gmail.com or call 07718088910

We welcome applications for NHW membership wherever you live in SSJ.

Ted Wilkinson



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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Just as in October, a substitute speaker had to be found for the November talk, but we were fortunate to have Mrs Jill Daniels to bring us 'Through the Keyhole' and the open-ing slide featured a modest keyhole in a green door. Although she had spoken to us several times before, Jill was understandably nervous as this was her first engagement for 20 months but she gave us a wonderful tour through some five centuries of our history. The keyholes belonged to six stately homes, Woburn Abbey, Hardwick Hall, Chartwell, Shaw's Corner, Avebury Manor and Hatfield House and we were given an illustrated tour and interesting tidbits about each.



Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire, has been the home of the Russell family, Dukes of Bedford since Tudor times. An 18th century Duke paid the Venetian artist Canaletto £80 for 8 pictures. A visit by Victoria and Albert meant much redecoration and the 19th century Duchess Anna is credited with inventing afternoon tea. In the 20th century death duties forced the family to open to the public and the family gave guided tours in person.



Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, 'more glass than wall' was the creation of Bess of Hard-wick, whose four husbands made her the second richest woman in Tudor England. Bess was a noted needlewoman and her granddaughter

Arbella Stuart had a strong claim to the English throne.



Chartwell in Kent was bought by Winston Churchill for £5,000 in 1922 as a country re-treat where he painted and learnt bricklaying as a relaxation. The cost of works to the estate eventually meant friends had to provide donations so the National Trust could take it over after his death.



The front door of **Shaw's Corner** in Hertfordshire, the home of George Bernard Shaw, proved to have the keyhole shown at the beginning of the talk. A modest Arts and Crafts house, also donated to the National Trust, Shaw lived there from 1906 to his death in 1960. He had a writing shed which could be turned to face the sun.



Avebury Manor in Wiltshire is an early 16th century manor house, another National Trust property. Unlike the other houses, Avebury had no famous inhabitants, but in 2011 the Trust decided, in conjunction with the BBC, to produce a TV series 'The Man-or-Reborne' creating rooms decorated in five different styles, including a Queen Anne bedroom, a 19thC dining room and 1920s sitting room. The public could interact with the artefacts, washing up in the kitchen, or trying out the Elizabethan bed.



Hatfield House, Hertfordshire was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, chief minister to James 1st. The Cecil family had originally lived at Theobalds a nearby estate, but the king decided he preferred it to the old Hatfield Palace, the childhood home of Eliza-beth 1st and a swap was arranged. Robert was buried in the parish church and the ornate tomb shows him in life and also in death, in the form of a skeleton. Robert employed John Tradescant the plant hunter as his head gardener and there is a figure of a gardener holding a rake on a newel post of the great staircase at Hatfield House. The house also holds the Ermine portrait of Elizabeth 1st. A later Cecil, the 3rd Mar-quis of Salisbury served three times as Prime Minister during the reign of Victoria.

Jill's slides showed beautiful houses, their contents and also their beautiful gardens.

Mrs Daniels was thanked by Lynne Kerr who said that her 'test drive' talk had been a delight and had been particularly impressive for being delivered without notes.

Our next meeting at the Village Hall will be on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 2pm.

Notes from Rural France



A visit to Aubeterre sur Dronne.

This may look like just a large lump of white rock but its surprising contents were hidden from view for many years by a large rock fall after the French Revolution and only discovered again in the 1950's after part of the road collapsed and revealed the secret within.

Despite the Boss's sighs and ambivalent attitude his reluctant agreement to visit was met with gleeful excitement as the Mrs has a lifelong interest in old relics..... The village is one of the Plus Beaux Villages de France (most beautiful). Aubeterre is named after the white limestone (chalk) cliffs overlooking the village and is derived from the Occitan language Alba Terra meaning white earth. The river Dronne flows around the village. During the 100 year's war in 1346 the village was taken by the English and subsequently

change hands seven times between the French and the English - "yes" or "oui" their heads must have been spinning. Declining the invitation to accompany her, the Boss resigned himself to finding the nearest bar to wait for the Mrs, faintly hoping that some of the inhabitants would have picked up a bit of English from the 14th century.



The surprise inside this massive white cliff is the church of Saint Jean, the largest subterranean church in Europe, hewn from solid rock in the 7th Century and enlarged in the 12th Century by Benedictine monks. At its highest point the stone columns are 20 metres deep copying the method

of carving such buildings from top to bottom influenced by those in Cappadocia in Turkey, with a solid stone carved staircase and galleries high above to look down on the reliquary similar to the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. It has had many lives since its first inception: - a place to conserve religious artefacts after the Crusades. It has been a necropolis with 170 tombs carved in the stone floor with heads pointing to Jerusalem, also a parish church the oldest part of which has a baptismal pool in the floor with a Greek cross carved at the bottom probably between the 4th and 9th Centuries and much later a cemetery until this was stopped for public health reasons. At some point during the French Revolution it became a Saltpetre factory supplying gunpowder to the Revolution. One wonders if an explosion during this process was the cause of the rock fall which hid this incredible secret for centuries.

By the time the Mrs eventually emerged after soaking up the ambience of past life, history and intrigue from this awesome edifice which its monolithic architecture the Boss had learnt French and was well into his second glass of wine.....

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Sunday 30 January 2022, 3:00pm



Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged to host the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil playing to very full houses. After recent times it will be fantastic to be able to welcome them back.

These talented musicians, play a wide variety of music and offer an exciting and entertaining performance

Expect music from the movies, we've had Bond themes and Star Wars. You'll be entertained by a variety of music genres, swing band, Pop & classical, comedic pieces and good old-fashioned tunes known by all generations.

The majestic full concert Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, the Corps of Drums and everyone's favourites, our special guests, The Chelsea Pensioners, will again make this a very special event. Tickets on sale from Box Office.



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BIG THANK YOU



To the lovely people from the village who donated Shoeboxes for our Christmas appeal. They are now on their way to be delivered some less fortunate children.

A great effort SSJ in a difficult year

SAVE THE DATE!

ST MICHAELS HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE

Sunday 5th December 2021 at 6:00 pm

St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB

See the Hospice website for parking information

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 8th May 2022

After a long wait we had wonderful weather and a great day in the Memorial Park 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 in 2022

Contacts:

Helen Ricketts: helen@highpathway.couk
Paul Temple: tempaul45@gmail.com

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

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

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Why not come and visit The Vyne this Christmas?



Why not come and visit The Vyne this Christmas? Explore the beautifully decorated house, have a mince pie in the Brewhouse café, and perhaps pick up some unique pressies in the gift shop.

As you wander through the house learn about people who have lived at The Vyne or visited throughout history. This year we have a traditional Victorian theme. Enjoy lavishly decorated trees, fireplaces and garlands.

Outside the grounds are open every day so enjoy a woodland walk, watch the wildlife on the lake or meander through the walled garden. There's always something to see.

Little ones can take part in our Percy the Park keeper trail (£2). The trail will be around the gardens and will look at how we can help animals over the winter with lots of fun activities. Children will

get a letter from Percy, a trail sheet, a paper hat, and a prize from Percy to say thank you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at The Vyne.

Christmas opening dates and times: Saturday November 27th until January 2nd, 11am-3pm, seven days a week. Grounds open 10am – 4pm.

From January 3rd the house will be closed on weekdays and open from 11am-3pm at weekends. Grounds open 10am – 4pm.

Photo credit:
©National Trust Images/Virginia Langer

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



There were 58 members at the meeting held on 3rd November who, after the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, then gave details of the trip on Thursday 18th November to Haskins Garden Centre for Christmas shopping and then the Christmas lunch at BCOT on Thursday 9th December. He also went on to outline some of the outings planned for next year which included a guided tour of Dorney Court, a day at the races, Hatfield House, Hever Castle and a Thames cruise.

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

The speaker this month was Bridget Britten from the Royal National Lifeboat

Institution who, with the aid of slides, videos and some amusing anecdotes, gave a history of the organisation from its inception in 1824. There had been some sort of lifeboat services in a few locations since the late 18th century but once the RNLI was formed coverage improved. In 1854 lifebelts were introduced; 1884 saw the distinctive flag designed; 1890 saw the first steam powered lifeboat and in 1905 the first motor powered one went into service. Service throughout the two world wars and the regular introduction of the most up-to-date boats and equipment along with the introduction of river and beach patrols has all meant over 100,000 lives being saved during the last nearly 200 years. In 1891 the RNLI was the first charity to have a public collection and as a voluntary organisation has to continually actively fundraise so to help Bridget brought a selection of items for sale.

The next meeting is on 1st December when we are having a "Story Tale Christmas" from Fiona Birchall along with a Christmas buffet. The first meeting of 2022 will be on 5th January when Barbara Cummins will be telling us about her "Cycling in Different Counties".

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



BERTHON THE WILL - BUILT 17-02 SEVEN CLASS LIFEBOAT

BASINGSTOKE - OLD BASING



If you're no longer in full-time work, our u3a gives you chances to develop your interests, make new friends and have lots of fun! We offer a whole range of activities from Art and Crafts to Walking Netball. We have 51 groups

running at the moment with 4 new ones waiting to start!

For just one annual fee of only £40, you can belong to as many groups as you'd like. You'll find joining in is easy - you'll be meeting friendly people who are interested in the same things as you.

Once a month we organise a meeting where we can all get together, chat and

listen to some great speakers. Everyone is always made very welcome.

Do check our website or contact us if you'd like to know more.

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We'd love you to join us!

SHERBORNE ST JOHN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We are a small friendly club who meet at the Chute Pavilion on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We are seeking new members so why not come along and give short mat bowling a try. We do have bowls available which you can use and the existing members will be only too pleased to show you the ropes. All you need is a pair of flat shoes for walking on the mat.

We would be pleased to hear from you and for any further information please contact Les on 01256 850973 (skerryvore1@btinternet.com) or Philip on 01256 328842.

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North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group

A Prostate Cancer 'Awareness' event was held in the town centre in October. Armed this time with a TV and excellent PCUK videos, the team had considerable success in putting out awareness literature, to such an extent that despite having planned ahead and with us having ordered extensive additional stocks, we nearly ran out. It was with sadness that many of us observed that although some men in the critical age band declined interest, we were encouraged that a growing number now seem to be aware of the benefits of regular 'check ups', and to catching any disease early. We also of course gained the attention of many women as well, with the implied threat to their men that the issue was not going to be left unaddressed, and they had better act or there was trouble ahead! Inevitably when attending such events, one hears some heart rending stories, perhaps the most tragic for us on the day was to hear of a 23 year old, who had developed the disease!

At our monthly gathering in October, now face to face with a growing number of attendees, we had a fascinating talk by David Cullum, a local resident who has spent his whole life working for the Met Office: his talk was titled 'The Air We Breathe'. He started by highlighting how it had all started with Vice Admiral Robert Fitzroy. For those who may not know Fitzroy had become a member of the illustrious Royal Society, and his push

for weather forecasting led to him being tasked in 1854 with collecting weather data at sea. Subsequently he became deeply concerned that sailors were going to sea without an awareness of impending dangerous weather. It was the same Fitzroy who as captain of the Beagle took Darwin on his famous voyage of discovery round South America. David even brought with him a very early hard backed book of weather readings from around 1870 for us to view.



David started by posing the question, does air weigh anything, going on to explain its weight and then the typical gases of which it is composed, and how they have been changing in recent years. For those who take an interest in the weather charts showing

isobars, David demonstrated how the mid point between high and low pressure works out at 1013 millibars. He went on to highlight the main gases in our atmosphere with the different percentages, giving the importance of the three main greenhouse gases of water vapour, CO₂, and methane, and explaining how ozone which provides a UV barrier enables life on earth to survive. David highlighted his concern at the recent rise in CO₂ levels – which with a chart explained that the previous time such levels had been reached the earth was 2/3 degrees C warmer and sea levels 25 -30 metres higher. In a further table he displayed showed the main producers by country, with China significantly ahead of any other, and the UK only contributing about 1%. A lively round of questions followed, although David had to admit defeat when asked what COP26 stood for!

For those interested, COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and is attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. The 2021 meeting held in Glasgow was the 26th meeting, which is why it was called COP26.

For more details:-
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Probus Civic and Social Activities



Remembrance Sunday saw Probus Club of Basingstoke's President, David Wickens, parade with others to and from

the War Memorial where he laid a poppy wreath on behalf of members.

"Not surprisingly, with RAF Odiham close by, we have several members who are Royal Air Force retired career personnel. Currently we have a Wing Commander, two Squadron Leaders and a Flight Sergeant and in past years two Group Captains."

Later in November a group of eighteen consisting of members and guests, visited the Brooklands Transport Museum which can be seen regularly

late at night on the Yesterday television channel.

This proved to be a visit thoroughly enjoyed, even by the ladies, where many recollections were shared about cars owned by families over the years. And having a Concorde on site brought fond memories from two members who had personal experience of being a passenger in this iconic aeroplane flying across the Atlantic.

December will see the Christmas lunch, again for members, spouses and families taking place at the Test Valley Golf club. Missing last year due to Covid restrictions, the decision was made to change from evening to lunchtime, but this should be no detriment to festivities including music

and entertainment.

The New Year will see further trips to places of interest as well as the monthly lunch meetings with guest speakers and social pub lunches which include wives and partners.

The Probus Club of Basingstoke, which has been in continuous existence for over forty years is open to retired men who have had at least some supervisory or management experience during their working lives. It is a welcoming, social, club where members enjoy pleasant exchange of views and share experiences while enjoying social occasions together.

For more information see www.probusbasingstoke.club

St. Michael's Launches First Reindeer Run



You better watch out, reindeers are coming to town!

St. Michael's Hospice has launched its first Reindeer Run which

will be galloping off from Festival Place on the Sunday before Christmas. Starting and finishing from inside the shopping centre, the festive runners will complete a 3K loop around Eastrop Park which will be fully marshalled to keep everyone safe.

There will be fun reindeer antlers for all the entrants, exclusive Reindeer Run medals for the finishers to proudly show off, activities such as face painting to enjoy, and plenty of tasty refreshments for everyone. The event kicks off at 9am on Sunday 19th December and signups can be made on the Hospice website until December 15th or on the day at the event.

"We hope this event will be enjoyed by everyone and we are really looking forward to seeing lots of local children and families getting in the festive

spirit and taking part in their reindeer antlers," said Megan Parry, St. Michael's Events Manager.

"We have had great support this year to help us to recover from the covid crisis when we had to cancel our events and close our stores but we haven't made up for all the lost income so we are hoping this event will help us close 2021 on a really positive note. Everyone at the Hospice is looking forward to coming along too as it is going to be such a fun event."

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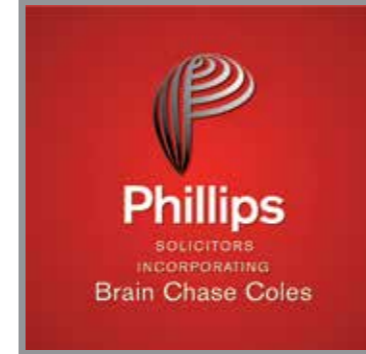
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Dealing with a divorce is never easy but Elizabeth Taylor, a family law solicitor and mediator at Phillips Solicitors offers six tips to help make the process as smooth and amicable as possible.

- 1. Try relationship counselling** - Consider Relationship Counselling to see if there is anything you can do to make your relationship work, as after all, starting divorce proceedings or
- 2. Get legal advice** - It is important to have a full understanding of your legal rights and responsibilities. Having an idea of what the divorce process involves will help you feel much more in control and less anxious. Write a list of questions to take to your first appointment; no question is trivial or irrelevant.
- 3. Gather your financial information** - You and your spouse will need to share financial information with each other. If possible, work together to gather details about your income, property valuations, mortgages, savings, pensions and debts. If you cannot do this together, write down what you can recall about the financial arrangements during the marriage.
- 4. Keep communicating with each other** - This will be a very difficult time but maintaining open channels for communication can make planning your futures much easier. Make a

Six tips when considering divorce

entering into a separation agreement is a life-changing decision which should not be made quickly.

written note of what you have talked about to remind you both.

- 5. Mediation is often helpful** - For many people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties about children or finances than going to court. It empowers separating couples to make their own decisions together.

We can refer you to a local mediation service or you can choose to come directly to Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors instead if you prefer.

- 6. Update your personal details and entitlements** - You should check to see whether you are making the right claims for benefits including Child Benefit, the council tax reduction if you are living separately and Universal Credit.

If you are considering divorce, please contact Elizabeth by calling by calling 01256 854628, emailing elizabeth.taylor@phillips-law.co.uk or by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/family

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- Box mince pies, apple pies, etc
- Box of chocolates
- Box or nice packet of biscuits
- Hot drink, eg coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Tinned meat, eg ham, chicken, mince, pork
- Tinned tuna
- Cooking sauce, eg curry sauce, pasta sauce
- Packet of seasonal, dried stuffing
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- A nice jar of jam and/or pickle
- Toiletries
- Christmas Crackers

"Thank you so much you don't know how much this helps me. It's very unexpected. Bless you for your kindness".

"I cannot tell how grateful we are for this. Thank you to everyone involved."

We would also welcome contributions of food items for hampers.

Please bring your hamper or food items to us at:

- Festival Place (Upper Floor beside Next): 9am and 6pm on Monday to Saturday from 1st to 21st December,
- Basingstoke Foodbank, Tempus House (RG21 6XG): 10am-3pm on Monday to Friday from 1st to 21st December

Contact details for Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas hampers are:
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Event organised by The Loddon Lilies, raising money for local charities!

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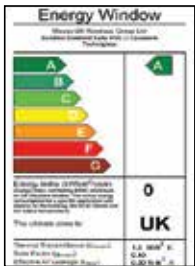
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