



# The Villager

November 2022

Sherbornes and Pamber



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# Editorial



## *Helping Grandma deliver the Villager in Monk Sherborne*

Our thanks to Jane and John Coulson's grandson for helping distribute the magazine. We are always looking for more people to help with deliveries – whatever their age !!!!

## the Villager CONTACTS

### Editor:

**Julie Crawley**

01256 851003

villagermagazine@gmail.com

### Advertisements:

**Emma Foreman**

01256 889215/07747 015494

emma@thehaye.co.uk

### Distribution:

**Liz & Chris Gwynn**

01256 850800

lizgwynn.eg@gmail.com

### Future Events:

**Lindsay Berry**

01256 850495

lindsayberry0@gmail.com

### Pamber Correspondent:

**B. Downes**

bdownes.villager@gmail.com



The Swan in Sherborne St John, has a new thatched roof installed.

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](mailto:villagermagazine@gmail.com)

Cover photo: Remembrance Poppy

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# Sherbornes with Pamber

As I write this, the London Marathon has just taken place. Whether you are a fan or not, it is heartening to see an event bring people together in a common purpose and celebration, in a way which brings joy and hope to so many. Well done to all those who took part.

I must say I do like to watch sport of all kinds. There is one aspect of long-distance races however, whether running, swimming, rowing, cycling etc, which baffles me. There are always the 'also rans'; the stragglers; the 'no hoppers'. I often wonder why they don't give up when all hope of winning is so clearly beyond them. As a runner gets lapped by the leading group, it must be rather soul destroying to keep going when there is no hope of a prize. Why do they persevere?

In the case of the London Marathon, the answer is surely that the vast majority of runners do not enter to win. Their prize is to complete the race. They are often taking part to raise money for worthy causes, and this also drives them on but there must be many times when the going gets hard and they think of giving up. Yet, when they cross the finishing line, they are all winners, and they all receive a medal.

The New Testament writers talk of the Christian life as being like running a race and persevering to the end. In this race, just as in the London marathon, all who cross the line at the end of the race are awarded the prize. As Paul writes to his friend Timothy: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*\*

But just as in a marathon, the going can be tough. Jesus does not promise that his people will be immune from all that this world can throw at them. His followers suffer illness, anxiety, loneliness, fear, and hardship just like everyone else. In addition, Jesus warns them that they can expect to suffer for their faith and face ridicule; prejudice; even persecution. Keeping the faith and running the race is anything but easy at times. Why not just give up? Paul observes of the Galatian church: *You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?* \*\*

The answer lies in the prize at the end of the race. Our prize as Christians is what spurs us on to keep the faith and run the race to the end. Paul continues in his letter to Timothy: *Now there is in store for me the*

*crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*\*\*\*

To be awarded the crown of righteousness means that on judgement day, we are made right with God. This is only possible because we accept, that the cross of Jesus is where God's mercy pours down on those who believe. He promises that we are then His children and we, together with His firstborn son Jesus, will inherit eternal life in glory. It is this certain hope which brings us peace in times of trouble and enables us to keep going and to run the race to the finishing line.

\* 2 Timothy 4 v 7;

\*\*Galatians 5 v 7,

\*\*\*: Timothy 4 v 8

**Steve Howe**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

04 Dec – 4pm Mary & Joseph	<i>Advent Carols</i> Luke 1:26-38 & Matt 1:18-24	Pamber Priory Andy Spence
11 Dec – 4pm	<i>Christingle</i>	St Andrew's Pippa Aslet
18 Dec – 4.30 & 6.30pm	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>	St Andrew's Pippa Aslet & Steve Howe
24 Dec – 4.30pm	<i>Crib Service</i>	All Saints' Steve Howe
25 Dec – 9.30am	<i>Christmas Day</i>	All Saints' Steve Howe
25 Dec – 10.45am	<i>Christmas Day</i>	St Andrew's Andy Spence



# Services for November 2022

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBbHQM4CvpnnPsSGuuglR_w) or the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

## Sunday Club:

Sunday Club for children from School year R and upwards will meet during the service

For more information please contact Caroline Elphick on 01256 851384

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

As we are now in a period of vacancy for the position of Rector of the parish, we may have some preachers yet to be confirmed. Please check our website or register for our weekly newsletter for up-to-date information.

## 06 November – Guest preacher Former Rector Revd John Hamilton

10am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Service is followed by a bring & share lunch at SSJ village hall		Revd John Hamilton

## 13 November – Remembrance Sunday

10am	Remembrance service	St Andrew's
		Steve Howe
10am	Remembrance service	All Saints
Rahab – Faith in what she heard	Joshua 2	Andy Spence

## 20 November

10am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
Men & women of faith: Joseph – Keeping the faith	Genesis 40	Andy Spence

## 27 November

10am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
Men & women of faith: Deborah – Faith when others doubt	Judges 4	Bret Rohloff
10am – Preacher's choice	Morning Worship	Pamber Priory – Preacher TBC

## 04 December

10am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Men & women of faith: Gideon – Testing Faith	Genesis	Revd Jonathan Clark from Christ Church, Chineham

## MIDWEEK

Home Groups meet in the weeks of Monday 14th & 28th

Central Prayer Meeting – Second Saturday at 8.30am – 12th November in St Andrew's church

PCC – Monday 21st November 8pm

# Claiming Dates

## November 2022

1	Women's Fellowship, Speaker 'Medical Detection Dogs', Bring & Buy	2pm
5	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Jumble Sale, refreshments, raffle, SSJ Village Hall	10.00am
7	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
11	Act of Remembrance, SSJ War Memorial on Church Path SSJ	10.50am
12	Skittles Evening at SSJ Social Club	7.30pm
19/20	Bridge Weekend for Fast track Beginners and Refreshers, Basingstoke Bridge Club £120 pp	
21	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
23	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion. (Planning meeting 7.00pm)	7.30pm
24	Anvil Christmas Pantomime Competition <b>closes at 9.30pm</b>	
26	Music Quiz, SSJ Social Club	8pm
27	The Grange Nursing Home's Christmas Fair, SSJ Village Hall. <b>Donations appreciated please</b>	2 – 4pm

## December 2022

2	SSJ Primary School Christmas Fayre, in the school - ALL WELCOME!	5 – 7pm
4	Advent Carols at Pamber Priory	4pm
4	St Michael's Hospice, Light up a Life Event	6pm
5	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
6	Women's Fellowship, CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ Bishopwood Golf Course	
9	Anvil Christmas Pantomime starts (till 5th January)	
11	Christingle Service at St Andrew's, SSJ	4pm
14	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion(Planning meeting 7.00pm)	7.30pm
18	Carols by Candlelight at St. Andrew's	4.30pm and 6.30pm
19	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	9.30am-11.30am
24	Crib Service at All Saints' , Monk Sherborne	4.30pm
25	Christmas Day services: All Saints', Monk Sherborne St Andrew's, SSJ	9.30am 10.45am

## February 2023

25	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra, tickets from The Anvil Box Office, tel: 01256 844244	7.30pm
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**Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on [lindsayberry0@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayberry0@gmail.com) or message on 07775 800955**

# 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

# Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Unfortunately, I start this report on something of a sad note with the announcement of the resignation of Cllr Sheila Mellor from the Parish Council. During her time, she has championed the regeneration of the Play Area and was responsible finding the grants and funding, single handed, for the Sky Stepper that was installed earlier this year. On behalf of the whole community the Parish Council would like to thank her for all her hard work and effort.

## **Solar Farm**

The recent meeting on Wednesday 5th of October was delayed due the sad passing of our late Queen, during which time no Council meetings were allowed. The meeting was opened with an update from Solar 2, regarding their plans to create a new solar farm on the land either side of the road from the chalk pit next to Queens Cottages up to the A339 at Stone Circle.

These plans are at the pre-application stage with B&D Council, who have also requested a couple of additional conditions. Solar 2 intend to hold a full public consultation between mid-February and mid-March 2023 at Monk Sherborne Village Hall prior to the submission of their final planning application in mid-April. This is no doubt going to be a contentious subject with several pros and cons we therefore strongly encourage all residents to attend the briefings when they happen to make up their own minds.

Unfortunately, their website does not contain much information regarding this project at present however they

have promised to have this updated in time for the consultation.

## **Village Fete and Play Area**

On a lighter topic against all odds and weather forecasts we had an excellent Village Fete on September 4th with large crowds turning out. Last month's Villager contained a report on the event and a nice donation has been made towards upgrading the play area.

One of the Agenda items for the meeting was the Play Area and plans to refurbish it and upgrade some of the equipment. Discussions have been held with 3 specialist companies to gain some ideas from them and get a better idea of the sort of budget that would be required. This turned out to be a significant sum of money and the Council felt with the current financial uncertainty around the economy it would be difficult to ask the community to raise the sort of funding we would require for a total one-hit overhaul. We therefore intend to start by taking one section at a time, starting with the installation of a new slide, to replace the old one that was removed last year, following it being condemned during a safety inspection by B&D.

Grants have been identified and the Clerk was asked to apply for the, this will be augmented by donations from the Village Hall of the small profit made during the Platinum Jubilee weekend along with the profits made from the Village Fete.

## **Meeting Dates**

The other key decision made at the meeting was to move the date of the

Parish Council meeting in future to the first Wednesday of each other month. Starting with next one being Wednesday 2nd of November at 7.15pm, the only date when this will not apply is January 2023 when it will be held on Wednesday 11th. There are a few benefits with this, not least of which it will mean reports and updates from the meeting will be available for the cut-off date for the Villager.

## **Village Resident Wakes**

Whilst not a Parish Council matter it is important to the Parish as a whole. The Village Hall Trustees have made the decision, following the sad passing of one of community, the Village Hall will be available FOC for the wake of any person who lives or lived in the Parish.

## **Village Hall AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall was originally planned for Tuesday 11th October, this has had to be delayed for admin reasons and will now take place on Tuesday 15th of November at 7pm and will be followed by some light refreshments.

We would like to encourage you to get involved, we have a wonderful community, but it does rely on volunteers to help it thrive. Both the Parish Council and the Village Hall vacancies for Parish Councillors and Trustees, from experience you can decide how much you want to get involved from as little as a couple of hours a week, but the important thing is to get involved and have your voice heard.

*Paul Cave*

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# Speed Watch in Pamber



The other month a question was raised asking, “What has become of the Speed Watch Group in Pamber”. Unfortunately, its demise is two-fold, the first being Covid-19 when the group could not meet, then the loss of the area coordinator due to work pressures. The group is also dependant on volunteers to carry out the monitoring and sadly there are too few of these in the parish to be able to run the initiative effectively.

So, I use this opportunity to call for new and old volunteers who are concerned about vehicle speeds in the parish to contact our Parish Clerk via email at [clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk) to sign up. We need at least 6 to 8 people on the list. Once we have a group again the local police will organise some basic training in road safety and recording methods. A minimum of 3 people is needed to undertake a monitoring session, but 4 is ideal. However most importantly the group needs a new Co-ordinator.

This needs someone who is a bit more dedicated to the task as it involves organising the group sessions and processing the collected data to then be sent to the police; again training will be given. If you are willing to undertake this role, please indicate this when contacting the clerk.

Monitoring takes place in spring and summer when it is light from 7 am to 7pm, this catches the commuter traffic in daylight hours. The group also went out at the week-end around 10:00am monitoring traffic going to club meetings.

Although the Speed Watch Group has not been in operation this has not stopped the use of the 2 Speed Detection Devices (SID) we have, I am sure you will have seen them around. Residents in all the 4 villages have commented on their effectiveness in reducing traffic speeds and so they will continue to be

placed around the Parish. Hampshire CC Highways have approved 2 new locations along New Road in Pamber Green and the SID's have been placed there recently.

Records from the SID's are sent to the police who use the information to decide on speed trap locations. Not long ago, they set up a trap on the Bramley Road in Pamber End. It was there for less than ½ hour but still caught 3 speeders. I have asked the police for some more information on their operations with speed traps in the area; then in a few months' time, I can share with you the records gathered from the monitoring plus any more information from the police.

Stay Safe, Don't Speed

*Simon Greaves*  
Pamber Parish Council

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## Beau's Blog

I have been trained to “fetch my bowl” when it is feeding time. The Mrs taught me this trick. The trick is attached to another training session, including hand signals for when my hearing deteriorates or I am at a distance, which started with the order to “stay”. My bowl is filled with my favourite food, a pastime that is watched avidly by me and sometimes accompanied by a bit of dancing around on my part. However, once the bowl is full I then have to “sit” and “stay” in place while the Mrs walks around the garden deciding where to put my bowl. I can't say she exactly hides it but it is never in the same place twice... she makes it a game... one which I am not always amused by! Once she has placed the bowl to her satisfaction she returns to me – this can sometimes take up to five minutes if she is distracted by something else in the garden like a stray weed or a newly ripened raspberry. She praises me for sitting and staying, even though

she knows how much my stomach is desperate for food she makes sure I know she is pleased with me but I am not sure if she is aware of how impatient I am with her. Once she is satisfied I have understood how good I am for staying she points to the bowl and says “find him” and I race around the garden following my nose until I come upon my food bowl full of yummy dinner.

As her memory is nowhere near as good as mine she has now invented this new trick to “fetch my bowl” as she obviously can't remember where she put it. Hence I return carrying the bowl to be praised and patted which instigates the above feeding session. I have, however, been known to fetch my bowl on numerous odd occasions throughout the day in the hope of fooling her into doling out an interim feed. This does not seem to work - so her memory may not be as bad as I thought and there is no way I can fool the Boss as he is very strict

with my feeding regime - but I am a Labrador and always live in hope of receiving food...

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>



# Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School



As the Reception children found out on their Autumn walk recently, the leaves on the trees are changing colour and falling fast – producing big piles of dead leaves on the playground which

are great fun to play with!! It was a good conker season too, and this led to a very competitive tournament at school; congratulations to our 2022 winners, Oliver and Elliott!

Science and History are in strong focus this month, with Queen Mary’s College hosting Year 1 and Class 3 to support their science projects. Class 3 will also be spending a day at Stubbington Study Centre experiencing life as Anglo-Saxons in a Long House. Meanwhile, Class 4 will be taking part in a 1940s Home Front Living History experience at Henley Fort. They are really enjoying the practical side of their WWII project, having spent several busy afternoons with hacksaws cutting wood to build their own model bomb-proof shelters!

If you have been walking past the school buildings on a Friday morning, you will have heard the rhythm of the

African drums that the Infant and Class 4 pupils have been learning to play. We are looking forward to hearing them demonstrate what they have learnt in a performance at the end of term – although we might need earplugs as they are definitely loud!!

Our school Christmas Fayre is on Friday 2nd December between 5pm and 7pm. Father Christmas will be there, and there will be the opportunity to indulge in a glass of mulled wine and a burger, to try your luck with the raffle or the silent auction, and to listen to the Class 3 choir singing some festive songs. This is the first time we have been able to hold the fayre since the covid lockdowns began, so please come along and support us in raising funds for the school.

**Sherbert**  
SSJ School Villager Correspondent

B	W
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# The Royal British Legion



## **REMEMBRANCE DAY, Friday 11th November**

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who died in the line of duty in that war and since.

In Sherborne St John the tradition is to assemble at the Village War Memorial, which is just off the village path by the pond, for a short service of Commemoration beginning at 3 minutes to 11.00 hrs.

The service, as usual, is organised by the Royal British Legion and this year will be presided over by The Very Revd John Morley, who is the Chairman designate of our local Legion Branch.

Everyone is welcome; it would be helpful if those attending could be there by about 10.50 – 10.55, please.

**John Delafield**

Outgoing Chairman

---

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

We held our first post-pandemic Dinner at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club on Friday 7 October. There were 42 members and friends present and all seemed to enjoy the occasion. Our guest speaker was the Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke, who spoke movingly about our late Queen and RBL Patron, and about the way people came together in mourning and thankfulness for her long life and the openness with which she shared the faith by which she lived her life.

A raffle and auction were held and the evening raised £420 for the RBL.

**ACTS & SERVICES OF REMEMBRANCE** will be held across our branch area, Bramley, Sherfield, Sherborne St John and Stratfield Saye on Friday 11 November, Armistice Day, and on Remembrance Sunday. King Charles will lead the national service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

The annual RBL Poppy Appeal is underway. Please give as generously as you are able to help to provide support in so many ways to past and present Service personnel and their dependants. In the conflicts in which they fought, ALL gave some - Some gave ALL. Thank you.

FINALLY, the Branch is looking for a new Standard Bearer to take over from Tony Evans who has discharged this duty for many years and whom we thank. Our Branch Standard is a newer one and much lighter than previous ones. Training will be given. The Standard is paraded at Remembrance events and also, when requested, at members funerals.

If you might be interested please contact me in the first instance on 07900 892566 or [revjmorley@talktalk.net](mailto:revjmorley@talktalk.net)

**John Morley**

Branch Chairman designate

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# Jumble Sale – 5th November 2022

We will be holding a fundraising jumble sale in aid of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides on the 5th of November 2022 at Sherborne St John Village Hall. We will have teas/coffees for sale, along with cakes and a raffle. We will try to sell anything that has been donated so please do have a sort out and donate anything you can. We can if necessary store items before the sale so please get in touch if that's needed ([ssjbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:ssjbrownies@outlook.com)) or alternatively please bring items to the hall between 8.30 and 9.30 on the day. Doors will open for selling at 10am.

We will happily accept cakes or treats to sell on the day also.

This is our first fundraising jumble sale since Covid so we hope to raise some much needed funds.

Regards,

**Tramayne** (SSJ Guider)

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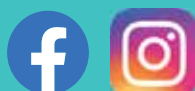
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# News from The Pambers and Little London

Well, I'm afraid I have not been exactly inundated with ideas from the good people of the Pambers and Little London for copy for our magazine. Thank you, faithful readers who have supplied items in the past: I am so very grateful to you. And thank you, Simon, from the Parish Council for informing us of developments in the speed control programme. Simon's articles is printed separately. I remain optimistic that some of you will be keen to contribute in the future, maybe even the reader whose contribution took the form of an apology for being "too boring" to have anything to report. (I wondered about producing a blog but Beauregard beat me to it. And his antics are definitely more exciting than mine!)

How about some pictures of any Halloween parties, pumpkin lanterns, scary children dressed up as witches perhaps? I'm sure readers would enjoy seeing those in the next issue,

especially if they don't celebrate Halloween themselves. Here's a family photo from last year.....



On a more serious note, I should like to advise you of the excellent Cost of Living Assistance Fund (COLAF), a new scheme to support residents across the borough facing financial difficulties due to the rising cost of living. It was mentioned at the last PC meeting and provides one-off grants for those in need. So if you know of anyone who is struggling with food and energy bills, perhaps you could direct them to the site where they will find details of the eligibility criteria and the application process. The site can be found on <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/costofliving>

Villagers are already well informed of the trials and tribulations of planning applications and so I don't propose to weigh in on that topic. And I have already mentioned the welcome arrival of the speed control devices, which, I am told, are having the desired effect. I have waxed eloquent about the beauty of our surroundings, especially in this rather unseasonable, fabulous weather, so I'm sure you don't need any more of that. You might, however, share my sadness at the disappearance of our lion. I used to love greeting him as we walked over the fields and through the woods to lunch at The Wellie at Baughurst, but on our last trip there was no sign of him. I fear he has been used for firewood.) I hope he is keeping someone warm and that you too manage to do the same as the colder weather approaches. Until next month...



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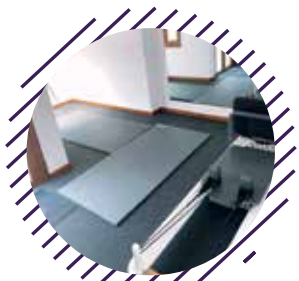
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# CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022

The Village Hall, Sherborne St John

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## COMPETITION TIME!

UK Productions and Anvil Arts Present CINDERELLA, starring Debbie McGee and Chris Pizze

Fri 9 Dec 2022 – Mon 2 Jan 2023 | The Anvil, Basingstoke | [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk) / 01256 844244

The Villager Magazine is inviting you to the ball this Christmas, as it offers you the chance of winning a family ticket to this year's magical family pantomime Cinderella, at The Anvil from 9 December.

The lovely Debbie McGee makes her Anvil debut starring alongside hilarious Chris Pizze, who returns by popular demand, as Buttons. UK Pantomime Award winners 2022 Nic Gibney and Duncan Burt will play the meddling Ugly Sisters.

With the best jokes, spectacular scenery, beautiful costumes, live music, and two beautiful Shetland ponies, join Cinderella and make your dreams come true at The Anvil's spectacular panto.

To enter this special competition, please answer the following question:

- Who will play the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella at The Anvil?

Email your answer, along with your name and telephone number to [villagermagazine@gmail.com](mailto:villagermagazine@gmail.com)

Remember, the clock is ticking, so make sure you get your competition entry in by 24 November!

*(Family ticket is 2 adults, 2 children OR 1 adult, 3 children.  
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# Probus Hears About A Journey To The Big Hill Across The Pond



Most people have heard of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service but know little about its history and aircraft crashes into high ground due to navigational errors and bad weather. In many cases the crews, although injured, had survived the impact due mainly to slow moving aircraft. However, the remote nature of the terrain coupled with the time taken for the station medical officer to assemble a search party, caused a disproportionate number of fatalities amongst the initial survivors

Today the rescue team is a highly organised professional body whose members, in recent years, also attend civil emergencies. While being regular members of the RAF they are volunteers and attend the equivalent of thirty weekends each year in training. Probus member, retired Squadron Lead Chris Perkins MVO, was a member of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service for several years and he recounted his recollections of a significant training exercise that took place four decades ago.

With today's ease of access to mass travel, many team members may have been fortunate to experience overseas mountaineering in the Alps, Pyrenees or even to the Himalayas. Forty years ago, the situation was very different and the opportunities to mount expeditions to further areas of the globe were extremely limited.

Supported at high level it was agreed that a specialist training exercise would be undertaken to Mt Rainier in Washington State in the northwest

of the USA. At 14,410 feet Mt Rainier was a dormant volcano in the Cascade mountains and while on this exercise the expedition members witnessed the eruption of Mount St Helens that caused worldwide disruption to communications and transport.

It was a major project involving a party of 15 personnel, all selected from RAF Mountain Rescue teams in Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire. The majority had alpine snow and ice climbing experience, and many were winter mountaineering instructors.

At that stage in his career, Chris was an Air Traffic Controller based at RAF Valley on Anglesey. During daylight hours it was busy with high intensity jet training for young pilots and provided a 24-hour NATO diversion facility for all manner of aircraft. The long night time hours on readiness in the radar room proved ideal for detailed expedition planning.

In those days before computers and word processors meant that documentation was produced as typed hard copy for signature and dispatched by surface post. Sometimes they were able to use the latest technology of a tele-printer. Frequent telephone liaison with USAF bases accessed their trans-Atlantic military networks and crucial contact with liaison agencies in Washington State. It was necessary to obtain approval for members of the British military to operate within the borders of the United States.

The logistics involved a RAF VC10 aircraft from Brize Norton on a training

flight to familiarise several pilots with airfields across the US, transported the team via Ottawa to Washington DC, stopping overnight, then onwards via Dallas, Colorado Springs, Denver and San Francisco finally to Mather USAF base Sacramento. Instead of the planned lengthy Greyhound Bus journey up the west coast an opportune telephone call with a British Army liaison officer at Fort Lewis, revealed that his next-door neighbour commanded a C130 Hercules transport squadron at the adjacent McChord USAF base, and kindly agreed to fly down to pick up the expedition.

Vehicle hire of a Dodge mini-bus and cargo van awaited the arrival of the aircraft necessary for the movement of the team and equipment. During the two-week journey 2,400 miles were driven. Also arranged was base accommodation, purchase of the latest US Army Special Forces Long Range Patrol rations and appropriate National Park Permits for access and travel. And, importantly, connected the expedition with the Department of Emergency Services in Washington State.

Climatic conditions throughout the expedition were ideal. Daytime temperatures rarely fell below 30 degrees Celsius, and the nights remained clear but cold at height. Such conditions aided the night time ascent of Mt Rainier, however they caused numerous dangers on the descent from opening crevasses, collapsing ice bridges and rock falls.

At the end of the expedition period the party was offered USAF air passage back



to the UK. However, it was decided to revisit the Greyhound Bus option to experience air-conditioned comfort overnight from Tacoma via Vancouver to Calgary. Again, RAF Command came up trumps, providing VC10 aircraft space to Brize Norton via Germany.

The Mt Rainier expedition, four decades ago, gave all expedition members valuable experience of mountaineering,

backpacking at altitude, glacier travel plus proficiency of journeying into vast wilderness areas. It provided the team with improved practices for future emergencies in extremely difficult terrain.

This was a journey of a lifetime only made possible with invaluable military and civilian assistance. Evidence, perhaps, of the special relationship so often talked about between our two nations.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information about this social club for retired business and professional managers.



# Enjoy a sparkle filled Christmas at The Vyne



Come and visit us this Christmas and discover lavishly decorated ground floor rooms with plenty of sparkle, inspired by the mansion's sumptuous Grand Tour collections.

Follow in the footsteps of ostentatious former resident John Chute on his travels through 18th-century Europe. Our festive trail, The Christmas passport (£2), invites families to enjoy continental adventures in the house and gardens.

## UPDATE ON RESERVOIR PROJECT

The reservoir project at The Vyne is nearing completion with the main contractor currently removing the

existing dam and earthworks in preparation for the building of the new structure. It is hoped that the works will be finished before Christmas with the pathways reinstated in January.

And don't forget if you want to visit The Vyne you still need to book your parking space.

More information at [nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne)

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# Life on the Veg - Elm Road Allotment of Lyn Church, SSJ

I was lucky and excited to get a plot on the Elm Road Allotments in 2018 and anticipated enjoying the fruits of my labour and in the beginning there was a lot of hard-labour carried out.

Armed with enthusiasm I set about preparing the ground for planting. I then encountered enemy number one, bindweed, followed closely by slimy and furry critters eager to devour tasty green shoots, as I'm not a chemical gardener. The bindweed was dug up continually and the slugs were repelled by a strong cage and raised beds built by Mathew my son, who is always on hand to assist me. I have learnt to tolerate the slugs and none of the invaders have diminished my enjoyment of tending my plot. It's not all hard work though. My allotment has been a haven to sit, think and enjoy summer days and cool evenings especially after the very hot days we experienced this summer.

I, like my fellow plot holders, have had both successes and failures. I sow a seed and think of it as a little packet of hope. I give them the best care following the Titchmarsh and Klein method and good advice from those who garden around me. You know who you are. Thank you!

Successes come as a surprise. Strawberries, sweetcorn and cucumbers were eaten straight from the plant, especially after a quick wash and munch by my chief taster, Sophie my granddaughter. Sophie also sown seeds of her own including sweetcorn and sunflowers with amazing results. The sunflowers were magnificent with one reaching over 14 feet tall. Someone suggested I put lights on it, but sadly it was toppled during the recent wind and rain, but I harvested the flowers and saved some seed so all is not lost. Sophie and I will try again next year. She also took home armfuls of corn on the cob. Her role picking blackcurrants is an important one too which I make into delicious blackcurrant jelly.

Making preserves is one of the many aspects of having an allotment that I love, making beetroot pickle, pickled gherkins, clove and crab apple jelly, the crabapples being given to me by Penny which were big and juicy with a glorious deep red hue, a Christmas favorite for my family.

If I had to write a CV for an allotment holder, the requirements would be:  
- Determination, enthusiasm, and a

sense of humour, plus you will need sturdy footwear, a thermos flask and supply of biscuits and if you are lucky an allotment dog. PI belongs to my daughter and he is always happy to help with clearing up unused fruit and veg.

I must mention that I share the plot with Diane who grows beautiful flowers which makes the whole plot look complete. Having an allotment has provided me with so much pleasure, so if you get a chance to have one, get your boots on and get sowing.



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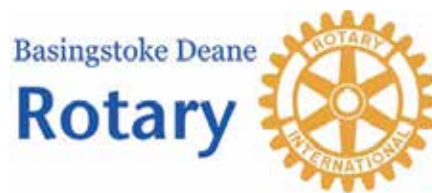


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**Sunday 29th January 2022, 3:00pm**

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Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities

Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged in past years to host the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil playing to very full houses. Covid got in our way but last January we were again able to bring talented musicians to play for us and we will welcome them back in January 2023.

An exciting performance is on offer with some military music but you'll be entertained by a variety of music genres, swing band, Pop, classical, and comedic pieces We've been delighted by music from the movies, Bond themes and Star Wars and good old-fashioned tunes known and enjoyed by all generations.

The majestic full concert Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, will include the Corps of Drums

Everyone's favourites, our special guests, The Chelsea Pensioners, were at the last minute confined to barracks in 2022, but they should be with us again to make this a very special event.

Tickets on sale from The Anvil Box Office.

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#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **ST MICHAELS HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE**

**Sunday 4th December 2022 at 6:00 pm**

St. Michael's Hospice, RG24 9NB

A special commemorative service offers time to reflect and share memories with those closest to you with Christmas carols and music

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering help with this event

**See the Hospice website for parking information**

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](http://www.rcbd.org.uk) to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | Twitter: @RBstokeDeane



# News from the Hospital

Whilst most of us are acting as if the pandemic is behind us, that would be unwise. Beds are once again filling up with Covid patients. At the time of writing there are 82 cases, with about half coming in due to the virus, and the other half for different reasons but testing positive on admission; in both cases it is the elderly, with many not yet having received the latest booster jab which is often administered with a flu jab. This of course is not helping the hospital bring waiting lists down, with staff absences and patients unable to attend appointments at the last minute. However the backlog remains a priority: at least the numbers of those waiting longest to be cared for are falling, where the plans are for nobody to have to wait more than 52 weeks.

When we look at the hospital's performance, whilst none of us like to be kept waiting in A&E (now termed ED – emergency department), it is encouraging to reflect that our hospital's performance is well above the national average. Similarly, the Trust is fourth in the country when it comes to meeting

the targets for cancer treatments. That said, analysis of the figures for one of the major cancers shows that the referral and diagnostic rate has radically dropped with the advent of Covid. This would suggest that when people eventually seek advice, their cancer may be much more advanced and thus more difficult to treat and with a poorer potential outcome. For this reason, health care professionals are encouraging people who have any concerns to seek early advice, with men often being reluctant to do so.

Many will have noticed the large new building under construction adjacent to the Sherborne Building at the north end of the site. This is for a new 'Cath' lab, currently Basingstoke has only one unit, which has over the years performed some amazing miracles, but with no backup if anything fails. By contrast Portsmouth has four units. These labs are vital for modern heart surgery, such as insertion of stents which have transformed so many peoples' lives. The new unit is planned to open in November. Also,

it is anticipated that Basingstoke will receive its first robot within the next six months which will help with precision delicate surgery, especially with kidney and bowel operations, Basingstoke being one of the leading UK centres for bowel cancer treatment.

Finally, despite all the deep concern about the performance of the NHS, it seems that few are aware that they can become members of the Trust. Membership is free and open to all: patients, their families, friends and carers, hospital staff and everyone who wants to keep in touch with their local hospital service. Not only do members get a regular update from the hospital's CEO, with regular health talks, but they also have the opportunity to select governors to represent their interests to the Trust's management in their local area. The process of applying to become a member is easy and can be accessed from the website [www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership)

**Keith Bunker**  
Former Hospital Governor



## **Basingstoke Concert Band**

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## **Annual Christmas Concert**

**St Michael's Church Basingstoke RG21 7QW**

**Sunday 11 December 2022 at 3pm**

Tickets are available from band members, on the door, or calling 07391 032945

We can't wait to welcome you back to enjoy your favourite traditional carols and modern festive arrangements once more!

Complimentary mince pie and drink

# Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

The October monthly meeting was held on the 5th of the month as usual in Brookvale Village Hall. At the meeting the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed the members present and proceeded to wish Happy Birthday to the persons with birthdays in October. The Chairman also reminded members of the trips planned for the rest of the year.

The November trip to Bordon has been changed to Rosebourne Garden Centre, Weyhill where we will be able to buy lunch as well as visit the Garden Centre for pre-Christmas shopping. This is on the 17th of November. The cost of the trip is £14 and £16 for non-members. For December the trip is the Christmas lunch at BCOT on the 15th the cost of which is £30. If anyone wishes to come on either of these trips please let us know. Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, also updated

members on the progress of members currently in hospital or unwell.

Our talk this month was by Alan Jones and titled 'Body Language'. In this interesting talk he explained how humans have the inborn skill to read other humans' body language without even being aware that they are doing this. We do this without words within 7 seconds, and 76% of the time, we are accurate. We do this instinctively and sub-consciously with women being better at it than men. The hands and face are the first to be noticed when we meet others although not all gestures are universal so some caution is required in foreign countries as some gestures can have completely different meanings to those intended.

The next meeting is on 2nd November with a presentation from Mercy Ships

about Medical Care to the Under Served. On 7th December there is the usual Christmas Buffet with a talk from Paul Whittle about his train journey to the Arctic Circle.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting: [csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com).

*Margaret Atkinson*

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## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The October meeting on Tuesday 4th was a Workshop as opposed to the formatted talk, in which the members were able to draw a tiger's face in virtually an hour. Heather Wylde, and husband Phil, were adamant that we need not doubt ourselves or our capabilities, but there was very little brimming confidence in the Village Hall at the beginning.

We were each provided with a picture of the finished article, in colour, and another piece of A4 paper with a pair of tiger eyes and a few lines above and below to start us off. We were still not confident, but the process was explained and we were left to work by ourselves with Heather and Phil coming round to give any advice needed. Some of us needed more advice than others.

By the end of the afternoon, thirty nine wonderful tiger-face pictures adorned the long tables, and the conversations by this time had become very much more animated. Memories of art-class at school were by now long forgotten, and everyone's picture much admired by one and all. Who would have guessed that such talent abounded?!

Heather also had a plethora of cards, illustrated by herself together with poems, Pam Ayres-style, which Phil was selling for her. She is clearly very talented.

Heather and Phil were thanked by Lynne Kerr, and the afternoon ended after the tea and raffle.



# North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group September Meeting



What a privilege to have Prof Richard Hindley, one of Britain's leading urologists, based here in our local hospital trust, as our key speaker at our recent meeting. In an urgent message the previous evening it was explained that he would not be able to attend in person, due to added workload and staff shortages. This gave the Group its first chance to put into operation our new Zoom screen system, which it has recently purchased following the kindness of the Loddon Lilies, a ladies' group from Sherfield on Loddon who have chosen to actively fund-raise on our behalf this year. Once operational the system worked particularly well.

Throughout Richard's talk it became very clear that we are particularly well served locally, as the Trust is one of the leading innovation and treatment centres in the UK, with some of its work having worldwide implications in terms of treatments. Basingstoke continues to punch well above its weight in terms of innovation, and also in undertaking trials of new treatments. Currently it has been selected along with Oxford and

Imperial College to perform UK trials of a new steam treatment system which has shown promise in the US. At the same time the 'Promise' trial (our local Trust is the second biggest participant nationally) is checking whether the quality of diagnosis is still effective in MRI scans if the present method of giving dye injections to highlight tumours are eliminated, which if proven will give benefits of time saving and elimination of allergic reaction with some patients.

Another example of Basingstoke's lead in the treatment of prostate cancer; after University College Hospital in London, Basingstoke was only the second location in the UK to use HIFU (High intensity focused ultra sound) commencing just two years behind in 2006. Richard explained that HIFU is recognised as being less damaging to peripheral tissue leading to reduced side effects especially in potential sexual function. Whilst no trial has been formally run, early indications suggest that over the last 7/8 years the outcomes between radiotherapy and HIFU show no significant difference. It has also been remarkably effective in men with a main tumour and smaller additional tumours with just the main one being treated, regularly leading to the impact of the minor tumours diminishing.

Right from the start, Richard empathised the importance of PSA testing, indicating that this form of testing has radically improved in accuracy and value over recent years.

In his view a screening programme will be implemented before too long. He added that in future MRI screening is ultimately likely to become in the key marker, with the added benefits of identifying the exact size and location of any suspect tumours, enabling accurate targeted biopsies and better assessment of various treatment options.

Following a round of questions to Richard from the floor, there was a very genuine expression of appreciation given to him for giving up time from the operating theatre. Without the support of the Loddon Lilies, this Zoom meeting, which worked so well, would never have been possible.

With prostate cancer now the most prevalent cancer in the UK, it is disturbing to realise that in 2020 the number being diagnosed was about 25% of previous years, with 2021 still only about one third; even this year the level has risen to about 50% of earlier times; this clearly suggests that there are many cases existing yet to be diagnosed, but worryingly with probably much more advanced disease and thus poorer prognosis.

It was encouraging to have a number of members join us for the first time, and it was encouraging, in the light of the support given them, to hear that they want to participate at future events.

*Keith Bunker*

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# David McIntyre



A warm hello to all readers of the Villager. I was elected in May to join councillors Simon Bound and Jay Ganesh as your local representative at the Borough council. I've been in post for over 5 months now and my intention is to provide regular updates, on news from the Borough to readers.

Firstly, some positive news on efforts, in conjunction with the team at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Roads Policing and the Camera Safety Partnership, where we spoke about residents' concerns on speeding and in particular the excessive speeds we see in our residential areas.

Officers understand our concerns and it is reassuring that road safety is a high priority in our borough. We spent a Sunday afternoon trialling out new mobile camera enforcement sites on the A340, taking into account local information with regards to locations and timings, so that speed limits are

enforced when residents are subjected to those drivers who believe limits don't apply to them. Hopefully, we should start to see the impact of this more positive enforcement beginning to slow down traffic on the A340.

Your three councillors, some wags have labelled us the three amigos, have also been taking advantage of the pleasant weather over the weekends to get out and around the ward reporting potholes to Hampshire County Council and I'm happy to report we're beginning to see these efforts pay off as roads are repaired. If you see us out and about, do give us a wave. Thanks go out to our local MP Ranil Jayawardena and County councillor Rhyddian Vaughan for helping us navigate these through the system. Just a reminder to residents, Hampshire County Council's website is actually very easy to navigate and makes reporting a painless task. If we've missed any, do feel free to get involved.

An update on our Local Plan process and housing number. I sat on the economic, planning and housing committee that voted to reject government calculations, which imposed 17,820 new homes on the borough by the end of 2039. I am not anti-development, we do need to build homes for our residents, but they need

to reflect the character of our great borough and respect residents wishes and most importantly housing numbers need to meet our needs and not a centrally imposed arbitrary number.

I am glad to see that our current administration has paid heed to these requests and have paused the Local Plan update process and will now conduct an exercise to determine the true level of local need for housing. As I hear more news on this process, I will continue to keep residents updated.

Finally, with current global issues creating impacts to the UK energy market, the borough council have introduced grants to help those most at need to fund home improvements to help eligible residents make their home more energy efficient, keeping you warm for less and reducing your carbon footprint. If you have a household income of £30,000 or less and your home has an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of D or lower, you could get improvements including cavity and loft insulation or solar panels for free. Please do contact any one of your local borough councillors for any further information.

**Cllr David McIntyre**  
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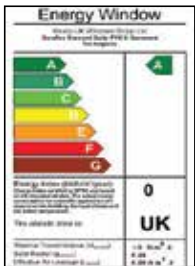


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