



The Villager

November 2023



Sherbornes and Pamber



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Claiming Dates

November 2023

- 3 Sherbornes & Ramsdell Conservative Branch Annual Wine Evening @ Monk Sherborne V Hall **7.00pm**
- 6 Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 12.00**
- 7 Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Speaker "The Am Dram Tart" Jonathan Jones - **2.00pm**
- 11 Art Sale + Coffee & Cake in aid of Riding for the Disabled, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 4.00pm**
- 12 Art Sale + Coffee & Cake in aid of Riding for the Disabled, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 4.00pm**
- 20 Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 12.00**
- 25 Hook Choral Society Autumn Concert at St John's Church, Hook, RG27 9EG. Tickets £15 **7.30pm**
- 25 'Is Advent more than a calendar?' Women's evening @ Sherborne St John Village Hall **7.30pm-9.30pm**
All ladies welcome. Suggested donation £5

December 2023

- 3 St Michael's Hospice - Reindeer Run Festival Place. stmichaelsospice.org.uk
- 4 Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 12.00**
- 5 Women's Fellowship, CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- 10 St Michael's Hospice - Light up a Life - St. Michael's Hospice. stmichaelsospice.org.uk
- 10 B/S Concert Bands Annual Christmas Concert at Christ Church, Chineham RG24 8LT. Tickets £10 **3.30pm**
- 13 The Arts Society Basingstoke lecture: From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley by Sandy Burnett
- 16 Hook Choral Society Carol Concert at St John's Church, Hook, RG27 9EG. Tickets £15 **7.30pm**
- 18 Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall **10.00am - 12.00**

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

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.

Cover photo:
This plaque can be found on the Rumps Headland, New Polzeath, North Cornwall.

Is Advent more than a calendar?



WOMEN'S EVENT AT SSJ VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023 7.30-9.30PM

Join us to make an Advent decoration, enjoy wine and grazing boards and hear a short talk from the Bible.

Suggested donation of £5

To book please contact Jenny
07770786667
jennycooke@outlook.com



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Contact us at villagemagazine@gmail.com

Services for Nov/Dec 2023

The Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/c/ParishoftheSherborneswithPamber> or the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

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.

05 November

10am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Jonah's anger but The Lord's compassion	Jonah 4	Rev'd Stewart Deering

12 November – Remembrance Sunday

10am	Remembrance Service	St Andrew's
God, our refuge	Psalm 46	Rev'd Stewart Deering
10am	Remembrance service	All Saints
God, our refuge	Psalm 46	Steve Howe

19 November

10am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
Where is your confidence?	Philippians 3:1-11	Rev'd Stewart Deering

26 November

10am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
Where is your citizenship?	Philippians 3:12:4:1	Steve Howe
10am	The Lord's Supper	Pamber Priory
Where is your citizenship?	Philippians 3:12:4:1	Rev'd Stewart Deering

03 December

10am	The Lord's Supper	St Andrew's
Where is your trust?	Philippians 4:2-23	Rev'd Stewart Deering

10 December

10am	Morning Worship	St Andrew's
Mary sings for joy	Luke 1:46-56	Bret Rohlof
10am	The Lord's Supper	All Saints'
Mary sings for joy	Luke 1:46-56	Rev'd Stewart Deering

MIDWEEK

Home Groups - meet in the weeks of Monday 11th & 27th November & 11th December
PCC – Monday 20th November 8pm – Parish Room

Opportunities to pray together

Every Wednesday at 12noon for half an hour in one of our churches:

1st Nov: St Andrew's • **8th Nov:** St Andrew's • **15th Nov:** All Saints' • **22nd Nov:** St Andrew's
29th Nov: The Priory • **6th Dec:** St Andrew's • **13th Dec:** All Saints' • **20th Dec:** St Andrew's

The 1st Sunday of the Month:

5th Nov, 3rd Dec 8.30-9.30am in the Parish room

The 2nd Saturday of the month:

11th Nov, 9th Dec 7.30-8.30pm in the Rectory

St Andrew's Sherborne St John **All Saints** Monk Sherborne **The Priory** Pamber End

www.sherborneswithpamber.org fb: [facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber](https://www.facebook.com/sherborneswithpamber)

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 *	Friday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *
Wednesday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *	Saturday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *
Thursday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *			* Time & Venue could vary

Remembering Heroes

Harry Billinge was just 18 years old when he landed on Gold Beach on the North coast of France on 6th June 1944. He was one of only four from his unit who made it out alive. 75 years later Harry was appointed an MBE for his tireless efforts raising funds for the British Normandy Memorial. In an interview he remarked, "I'm no hero. All of the heroes are dead, and I'll never forget them."



Harry wanted to make sure we remembered them too, heroes who had laid down their lives to win our peace and freedom. In a world still being torn apart by violence, remembering heroes gives us hope. Harry's wife shared that just before he died last year, some of his last words were, "love one another." He never lost his hope.

Hope that is ultimately fulfilled in the Lord Jesus. He showed his love for the world when he died for us on the cross, waging war on sin and death. Declaring victory when he rose three days later, he returned to his Father in heaven, but not without promising he would be back. A promise picked up in Psalm 46, our Bible Reading for Remembrance Sunday.

"He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters

the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'

As we remember heroes, let's do so with the hope of this promise of forever peace. Details of our Remembrance services are shown below, everyone is welcome.

Rev. Stewart Deering

Mob: 07359 717577

Tel: 01256 647900

[stewart.deering@](mailto:stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org)

sherborneswithpamber.org



Christmas at Sherbornes with Pamber Churches

Come along to our joyful Christmas events!

3rd Dec 4pm – Advent Carols - Pamber Priory

10th Dec 4pm - Christingle - St Andrew's church SSJ

17th Dec 10am - Family Carols - St Andrew's

17th Dec 6pm - Carols by Candlelight - St Andrew's SSJ

24th Dec 4pm - Crib Service - St Andrew's SSJ

25th Dec 9.30am - Christmas celebration - All Saints', Monk Sherborne

25th Dec 10.45am- Christmas Celebration - St Andrew's SSJ

All our events are free and everyone is welcome!

Joy to the world!

www.Sherborneswithpamber
 Facebook: St Andrew's church



Little Acorns Toddler Group



Wednesday mornings during term time in
SSJ Village Hall - 10 - 11.30

Bumps, Babes and Tots – all welcome

• Free play • Story telling and songs

Phone Liz on 01256 850800



Sherborne St John Primary School

It has been a busy time at Sherborne St John C of E Primary School. We need to



start with a big congratulations to our conker tournament winners. It was a fierce battle but lots of fun was had along the way.

A big well done to Cody and Chiazam

This month, we will be showing our respect to those who have served during the period of Remembrance. We sell poppies in school and children who attend clubs like Beavers and Brownies

will wear their uniforms to school as a mark of respect.

We also support the Children in Need charity each year with our very own Cake Sale. The School Council are responsible for organising and running this event. It is a great way to raise awareness of the small things we can do to make a difference for others.

Our school governors continue to work hard to ensure support and challenge for the school. We currently have a vacancy for a Local Authority governor. We would like to find someone who has finance and/or health and safety experience to join our team. If you think you could add value to our strong team of governors, please contact the

school office: adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk and we can tell you more about the role and find out more about you.

Finally, for those of you still looking at school places for your child in September 2024, the deadline for applications is in January. We are very happy to provide tours with our Ambassadors so that you can see the school in action.

Please do get in touch with Mrs Hale or Mrs Cook in the school office to arrange this: 01256 850180

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

Sherborne St John Parish Council

Comings and Goings

After a number of false starts we at long last have a new Parish Clerk, Dan Faulkner. Dan comes to us from a previous Clerks role for a large council on the Isle of Wight. The Parish council look forward to working with Dan in the future. Welcome Dan to SSJ With the new Clerk it means we say goodbye to our locum, Mel Camilleri, who has been with us for over a year. Mel guided us through some turbulent times. The Parish Council wish her well in her future endeavours.

Sherbornes with Pamber/St. Andrews

The Parish has a new vicar, the Revd. Stewart Deering. I've met Stewart a couple of times and he attended our last Parish Meeting. All I would say is that I think the Parish is lucky to have a Vicar of Stewart's beliefs and positivity as its new Vicar. The Parish Council looks forward to working with Stewart going forward.

Welcome Stewart, Becky and their children, Henry, Toby and Annie to the Parish.

Parish Office

With the new Clerk now in role the Parish Council are looking to set up a Parish Office in the Village hall. The office would be available a half day a week and would be the first port of call for Parishioners to engage with the Parish Council.

Details need to be finalised and I would hope that dates/times will be published in the next Villager issue.

SSJ Neighbourhood Plan

The final draft of the revised Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to BDBC and other statutory authorities for their review and sign-off.

Part of this process is a 6 week review for Parishioners to have their views considered.

The Parish Council hopes that you managed to attend the open forum on the 6th October to take a look at the revised SSJ Neighbourhood Plan and to submit your comments on the same.

For those of you who were unable to attend full details of how to get your review comments considered can

be found on the SSJ web site, www.sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk.

The Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents are available for review online at www.ssj-np.co.uk. On the www.ssj-np.co.uk website, you will also find an electronic questionnaire where you can submit your comments.

The Parish Council's point of contact for the revised Neighbourhood Plan remains Cll Rowley, james.rowley@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk. However please copy the Clerk, clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk on any emails you may send to Cllr. Rowley

The view from BDBC is that SSJ will not be required to take any more housing development BUT....

Planning

With the BDBC delay, approximately 1 year, in moving forward with the new Local Plan, this in turn delays the new SSJ Neighbourhood plan.

This delay has seen developers submit a number of applications, two of which impact SSJ;

- Weybrook Farm (220 houses)

- Kiln Farm (350 houses)

A formal planning application is about to be submitted for the Weybrook Farm development and the Parish Council understands that the application for the Kiln Farm development is also being developed. These x 2 applications, whilst not directly within the Parish, will have a major impact on the Parish with increased traffic, changes to road layouts etc. For example the Weybrook Farm application includes the following;

- Up to 220 homes (including 40% affordable housing at mix of sizes and tenure incl. First Homes)

- Housing mix of predominantly 2 & 3 bed family houses, with some 1 & 4+ bed homes

- A new roundabout from the Aldermaston Road (A340), including new footway to provide access to two new bus stops

Also Rydon Homes are about to appeal the decision not to give planning permission for the 26 houses at the back of Cranesfield. The zero allocation in the

revised Neighbourhood Plan will be a key point in fighting this appeal.

Speeding

Like a bad smell this issue never goes away and it seems various motor cyclists use the A340 as a race track late evenings/early mornings.

With the possible new developments at Kiln Farm and Weybrook Farm these developments can only mean increased traffic in and around the village. Combine increased traffic with parking issues along Vyne Road then what is currently an issue on certain days of the week and/or times of day, could get worse.

An attendee at the next Parish Council meeting, Wednesday, 25th October, will be Inspector Paul Freeman from Hampshire police. Inspector Freeman will listen to our concerns and we in turn will listen to his proposals. If you do intend to attend on the 25th October, please be nice to Inspector Freeman, he is but the messenger.

Chute Pavilion

The next six months will see a number of 'must do' repairs to the Chute initiated. A number of these repairs might require the Pavilion to be closed for a short period of time. Further details to be provided as and when the repairs are scheduled.

Lengthsman

The Lengthsman service has unexpectedly ceased. The Parish Council has set up an alternative.

If there are any outstanding jobs around the village /parish that you think need looking at then please do contact the Clerk, clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk

2022/2023 - Finances

The half year review of the Parish Finance has shown the Parish is in very good shape.

General

The PC meets on the last Wednesday of each month in Chute Pavilion

Going forward the planning session will start @ 7.15 p.m. and the council meeting @ 7.45 p.m. As always it would be good to see parishioners at these meetings.

Richard Morgan
Chair, SSJ PC

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Managed by Sherbornes with Pamber church

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Tea and coffee for the grown ups and a fruit snack for the children.
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Wednesday mornings
(during school term time)
10.00-11.30
Sherborne St John Village Hall

phone Liz 850800 or Sally 851539



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All Saints Harvest Workshop

On Friday 6th October there was a workshop in Monk Sherborne Village hall to create decorations for All Saints Church's Harvest festival service on the Sunday. We had children from both Monk Sherborne and Sherborne and their Mums and Grandmothers, all getting sticky fingers from dough for the bread and glue from creating decorated jam jars for flowers and boxes for the fruit and veg. A great time was had by all and the Church on Sunday looked lovely, a reminder of what the Harvest Service is all about. Our new vicar Stewart Deering and his wife Becky came along with their children and seemed to enjoy getting hands on. The produce was then donated to the Foodbank in Basingstoke and I am sure much appreciated.



A big "Thank You" to Simon at Bramley Bakeries for supplying all the dough for the children to plait and mould into loaves - the finished products were delicious!

Sheila Mellor



Monk Sherborne Parish Council

Parish Council AGM

On Wednesday 20th of September there was a meeting of the Parish Council, it was sparsely attended and was a relatively quick meeting.

We always welcome members of the public and encourage them to attend if they have topics they would like to discuss.

Furthermore, We still have two vacancies on the council and urge anyone with an interest in their community to come forward.

Village Play Area

The Village Play Area continues to be a key topic of discussion and we continue to investigate sources of funding to help with the complete refurbishment of the equipment. We have an offer from Manydown as one source of funding we

are just waiting for the full details.

Once again, the Village Hall donated the proceeds of the Village Fete to the fund.

Highways

The state of the roads in the Parish continues to be an item of discussion and since the meeting we are starting to see some marking of potholes has taken place and we wait to see the outcome if any work actually happens.

One related item concerns reminding parishioners of their responsibility when it comes to hedges surrounding their properties. It was noted that some of the lanes have a major issue with 'line of sight' where the hedges are now encroaching so far they are posing a potential danger for road users. I personally had a recent incident when I

came around one bend to find a cyclist in the middle of the road, we were both pushed into the situation by hedges coming out into the carriageway.

It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain their hedges in such a way not to cause problems to road users.

Solar Farm

Despite the Council completing their review of the proposals and the company promising to keep us in the loop regarding their plans and progress we have not heard from them so have nothing we can report to you.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st of November at 19.15pm

Paul Cave
 Parish Councillor

News from the Pambers & Little London

Hello everyone,

Another beautiful day in our rural community, and I am currently looking out over the beginnings of some fantastic autumnal colour, complementing the dahlias, curiously late this year. We are cautiously optimistic about a last lunch in the garden today, unusual for the second week in October. If only this lovely weather were not indicative of something rather less pleasant.



I imagine many of you were able to enjoy the paintings and gardens to be seen during Hampshire Open Studios week. One such studio was that of Jenny Kennish and Len Murrell in Little London, and I am delighted to introduce them as our Meet the Villagers guests. They have a truly fabulous garden, complete with dovecot,

water feature, ornaments and a vast array of plants. Visitors are encouraged to wander through the garden and help themselves to refreshments. And then there are the paintings. Jenny uses acrylic or coloured pencil to produce wildlife, landscape and floral paintings; Len uses oils to portray maritime, village and river scenes. How lucky we are to have such talented artists in our midst. Thank you Jenny and Len. I look forward to visiting you – and any other local artists – next year.



From the sublime to the ridiculous.... Speedwatch. We are having some success alerting the Police to people speeding in our area and know that our work is appreciated. We would be even more successful were there to be more volunteers. It's a very straightforward task and you don't need to be the one pointing the radar gun if you don't feel comfortable with that! I don't. We have had some staggering statistics from the SIDs – Speed Indicator Devices. I have decided not to reveal the most egregious offences for fear that some bizarre people may see that as a challenge. Suffice it to say certain offenders would have risked a hefty fine or being banned had they been caught..... on the motorway.

And lastly ... delivery of this august publication. I have now joined the delivery team to help out David Cullum who has been doing sterling service for many years now. This is obviously his secret to looking very much younger than his actual years. Thank you, David, and indeed all deliverers. And thank you, too, to the various recipients whom I met and who said how much they enjoyed the magazine!



Until next month,

B 🐝 bdownes.villager@gmail.com

Hampshire County Councillor report – Calleva Division Autumn 2023

1. HCC financial planning this autumn

The financial challenges facing the County Council, and local government nationally, are well documented. Each year, it costs more to deliver public services, but the money received from central Government and council tax increases is not enough to meet the extra costs, which results in a deficit. High inflation and growing demand for local services means that in the two years up to the 2025/26 financial year, the budget shortfall is expected to rise considerably to £132m, one of the biggest deficits the County Council has ever faced.

Proposals this autumn set out options for how Hampshire County Council could close this budget gap and comes on top of over £0.6bn of spending reductions already delivered since the start of national austerity. Hampshire is in a better financial position than most other county councils, and while the Authority's finances are stable until 2025/26, future stability relies on central Government fundamentally changing the way that local government services are funded, or reducing what councils are legally required to deliver.

In the absence of any immediate Government action in this regard, Hampshire County Council must plan on the basis of closing the budget gap itself, applying a combination of tactics to help balance the books, including changing and reducing services and delivering only those services which the council must legally provide.

A final decision is to be made by the full county council in November. After this, some proposals may then be subject to further more detailed public consultation.

2. Transforming in-house nursing and specialist care

A ten week public consultation is now underway on proposals that would see £173 million invested over the next five to six years to transform and expand the future of nursing and specialist accommodation directly provided by HCC for the county's growing older

population. The proposals recommend concentrating on the delivery of specialist nursing care, complex dementia care and short-term support – to either prevent a hospital admission or support a hospital discharge, so ensuring care could be provided more cost effectively.

The proposals include:

- building new nursing homes in Havant, Winchester and the New Forest
- modernising and expanding care at existing homes in Basingstoke, Aldershot and Emsworth
- withdrawing over time from the direct provision of residential care, with the closure of a number of the council's older homes.

More detail and a link to the consultation can be found at <https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/HCC-Care2023>.

The consultation closes on 12 November 2023 with a final decision expected in February next year.

3. Countryside Services - Parish Pages

Parishes, town councils and other local groups may find the Parish Pages page on the HCC website a useful source of countryside information, including opportunities for grants and funding, information about Parish Pollinators, becoming a Volunteer, Countryside Canines and a guide to rights of way for parishes and communities. In addition, the Definitive Map is useful in identifying and locating rights of ways -

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitivemap

4. Increased payments to local residents hosting Ukrainian families

The county council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, until the end of March 2024. This takes the monthly

payment to £700, which is above the Government's current guidance for local authorities.

5. Funding to save the UK's rarest orchids

Hampshire County Council has secured £98,000 funding from Natural England to help rare helleborine orchids to thrive. The conservation project aims to create protected habitats for the endangered plants at sites in East Hampshire.

6. New police stations for Hampshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a plan to open ten more police stations and front counters over the next eighteen months, with the aim of increasing police visibility and making them more accessible to the public.

The number of police front counters will increase from 13 to 23, with new front counters in Cowes, Portsmouth Central, Park Gate, Petersfield, Totton, Ryde, Yateley, Eastleigh, Cosham and Gosport.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

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Beau's Blog

Normally I enjoy a nice walk with the Mrs but one day last week it was totally spoilt as we had to keep stopping every few minutes so the Mrs could collect this bag full of items! I admit there are a lot of peculiar smells and items along the edge of our route which I sometimes stop to investigate but usually ignore as they are of no interest to me:- seldom something edible, not the scent of another animal which always interests me, and usually pretty boring but the Mrs seems to have started taking an interest in collecting these random items whilst grumbling to herself about thoughtless people.

She sometimes carries a stick but on this day a thin blue job appeared with a wicked grabber on the end which I managed to avoid at all costs until I realised it was not meant for me....

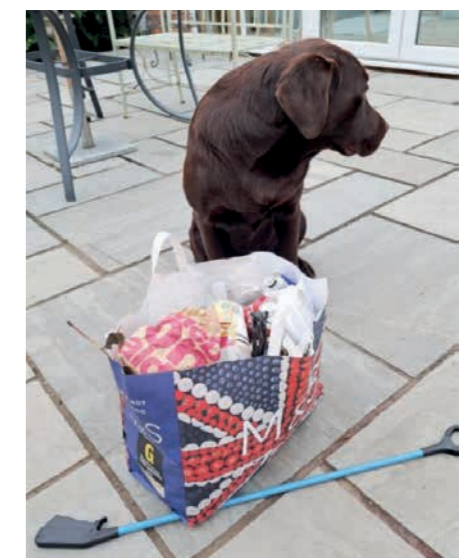
When we walk along the road towards the fields I have to stop every time a car comes along behind us as there is no footpath to walk along safely. Luckily the Mrs' hearing has been heightened

recently by some mechanical means that I don't understand but she can hear every noise I make and luckily most cars coming up behind us, but I do worry about the scentless silent ones..... cars I mean.

Just as I am getting into my stride she gives the command to “sit”, even when the coast is clear, and she darts across to the opposite side of the road to operate her grappling stick snatching another piece of rubbish she has spied glinting in the grass verge and adding it to her collection in the bag. She became quite adept at it and by the time we returned home her bag was full.

Personally I would prefer her to become more adept at throwing a stick for me to chase and retrieve. I can't understand where all this rubbish comes from or why the Mrs wants to collect it but at least now it's done it won't be spoiling my walk any more.....

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>



Probus Hears About Thelwell



Readers, probably over the age of thirty-five, when the name of Thelwell is mentioned, will remember iconic subjects of small, fat, hairy ponies ridden at full tilt by alarming young ladies. Indeed, the Thelwell pony has become part of the English language.

But, as speaker Tim Craven explained, Norman Thelwell's range as a cartoonist went far beyond ponies and included fishing, gardening, house hunting, motoring, sailing, dogs, cats, farming, stately homes, children and country pursuits, all given the Thelwell treatment. There was much more to this artist than first appears as the speaker went on to outline.

Life for Norman Thelwell had started in lowly circumstances, born into a terraced house near Birkenhead, he just had a natural affinity for drawing. A pencil sketch of a self-portrait created when he was only ten demonstrated his skill. Joining the army at eighteen in 1941 his artistic talent kept him away from hostilities, even when in India he became involved in producing the

Victory magazine which prevented him from action in Burma.

His time in the army enabled him to develop cartoon illustrations of military life. He came to recognise that selling a picture to a magazine was worth more than a month's army pay so it dawned on him that there could be a living to be made using his artistic talent.

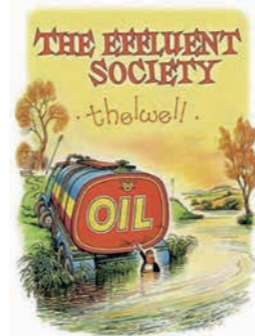
Formal artistic education at Nottingham and Gateshead schools of art was followed by a degree at Liverpool School of Art so it was natural that he became an art teacher. He persevered with expanding freelance work until it reached such a level that he decided to go completely freelance as an artist. He worked in this manner for Punch Magazine for twenty-five years during which time he produced over 1,500 cartoons and sixty front covers. National newspapers were another outlet for his work.

Tim Craven was the curator at Southampton City Art Gallery when, in 2001, he received a phone call from Mrs Thelwell about the conservation of water colour paintings. By this time Norman Thelwell was outside the mainstream of being a public figure and had lived for thirty-five years near Romsey in Hampshire, so Tim was eager to become involved in conserving the extensive work of this local world-famous artist.

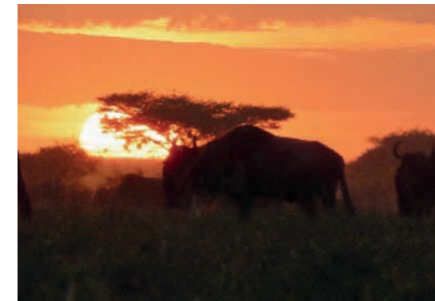
There was a large quantity of paintings to consider but what became apparent was that while cartoons had made him famous having published 32 books, selling over two million copies which had been translated into several languages and earned him a good living, it was his interest in painting landscapes that was his real passion. The quality of work was so good that Thelwell's country scenes could sit alongside those of the greatest English artists.

Thelwell was very much an adopted countryman and did his best to support the protection of rural England and especially the Test valley fighting against gravel extraction. There have been several exhibitions of Thelwell's artwork, showing his various styles that were curated by Tim Craven with one exhibition attracting 64,000 visitors. Today, a century after his birth, it is still possible to use Thelwell's images for many types of merchandising opportunities, so the drawings of his small, fat, hairy ponies continue.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



There were 46 members and 1 visitor at the meeting held on 4th October who after the usual tea, coffee and biscuits, were welcomed by the Chairman, David Cowling. He then gave apologies and congratulated those with birthdays this month before handing over to the Secretary, Tony Brazier, who detailed the arrangements for the Mystery Trip on 19th October and the Christmas Lunch on 14th December. He also asked everyone to collect a copy of the programme of speakers and trips for 2024 which was now available. Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent had nothing new to report and was still in contact with those members who needed any assistance.

Our speaker this month was Richard Court whose talk was titled 'Travels in Tanzania' and he started by stating that his interest in the country started while working there 15 years ago and was further enhanced when his son undertook a climb up Kilimanjaro some years later. He then gave us some facts and figures about the country and its geography where the main industries are mining and tourism. He followed this, with the aid of photographs and videos, by detailing his trips there. The main impression given was one of vastness, beautiful scenery, poverty and the friendliness of the people. Along with this was the abundant wildlife and sometimes close encounters with lions, leopards and elephants. He is planning another visit there early next year when he hopes to see more of the country and what it has to offer as well as further engaging with some of the locals.

Our November talk is by Di Lewis from Citizens Advice and in December we have our usual Christmas festivities and buffet.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am 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.

David Cowling



SWP Parish News:

On Saturday, 14th October Andy Spence was licensed as a Lay Preacher by Bishop David at Winchester Cathedral. A group of church friends was there to support Andy.



SSJ Tennis Club

Congratulations to our SSJ Ladies team who came 2nd in Division 3 of the Basingstoke Tennis League this summer

Maria Saunders captained team which consists of Tasha Chappell, Lesley Flynn, Sally Gridley, Paula Munns, Lisa Penney, Rosie Pope, Tisha Selway and Clare Smiley.



Sherborne St. John Short Mat Bowls Club

We meet at the Chute Pavilion every Thursday afternoon between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. As we start a new season we are seeking new members to join us to enjoy a friendly afternoon of bowls. You do not need to have played previously and we have woods that you are able to use. So do please come and give the game a try. We will be pleased to see you.

Contact can be made with Les Bone, tel: 01256 850973
email skerryvore1@btinternet.com
or Philip Ware telephone 01256 328842
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The Vyne



Glittering frost crunching underfoot and cold air in your lungs as the low winter sun sends golden beams across the Hampshire countryside are all tell-tale signs of the season. Wellies at the ready, Morgaston Woods offers three circular waymarked routes where you can blow away the cobwebs. In the tea-room you can order favourites such as coconut hot chocolate and warming parsnip and ginger cake. In the shop you can browse seasonal must-haves and Christmas gifts. With winter opening times now in effect, the house is open weekends only until 24 November. After this, the decorated ground floor of the house will be open daily for the Christmas period.

Nutcracker Christmas at The Vyne
25 Nov – 1 Jan (closed 24 & 25 Dec)
House 11am-3pm | Gardens 10am-4pm
Immerse yourself in the magic of this festive tale as you explore the luxuriously decorated ground floor of the house open daily 11am-3pm. Families can follow our heroes Clara and the Nutcracker as they defeat the villainous Mouse King on indoor and outdoor trails. Look out for plucky gingerbread men, pirouetting snowflakes and savour the sight of a sumptuous banquet in the 'Land of Sweets'. When you need to refuel you can order steaming hot chocolates, coffees or something a little stronger in the cosy Brewhouse tea-room. You'll find a range of festive gifts in the shop.

Nutcracker house trail
25 Nov – 1 Jan (closed 24 & 25 Dec)
11am-3pm last entry 2.30pm
Immersed in magical surroundings, all ages can explore the ground floor of the house sumptuously decorated to tell this much-loved Christmas tale. On

your way round, look out for little gold nutcrackers, sweet thrones to sit in and have a photo and a Christmas wish tree. Trail sheet available at Visitor Reception for £1.50 (house and garden trail all in one trail sheet).

Nutcracker garden trail
25 Nov – 1 Jan (closed 24 & 25 Dec)
10am-4pm last entry 3pm
Pulling on your walking boots, on a circuit of The Vyne's magnificent lake, young explorers can keep their eyes peeled for swans, ballerinas and the North Lawn full of nutcracker soldiers. Trail sheet available at Visitor Reception for £1.50 (house and garden trail all in one trail sheet).

More information at nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/the-vyne

SINGING WITH PASSION

Hook Choral Society's autumn concert will be given on Saturday, November 25th in St. John's Church, London Road, Hook RG27 9EG at 7.30pm.

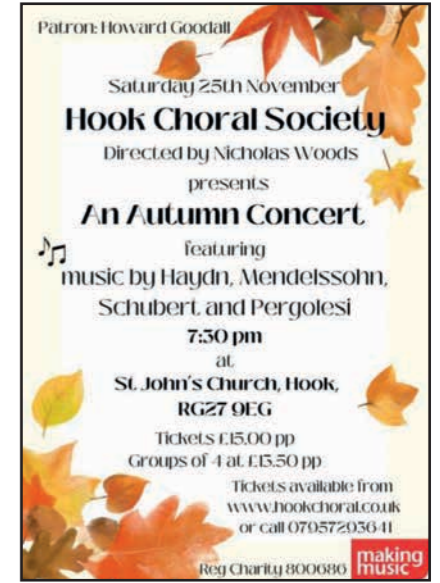
The concert will unfold a wonderfully varied soundscape, ranging from Pergolesi to Bruckner via Haydn, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms.

Tickets are £15.00 (13.50 for a group of 4 or more).

They are available from www.hookchoral.co.uk or by phone from 07957293641.

If you would like to have a foretaste of these pleasures, drop in to a rehearsal any Tuesday evening from 7.45pm at St. John's Church, London Road, Hook.

Meanwhile, you may want to put a note in your diary for Saturday December 16th, when the ever-popular Carol Concert will be held, also at St. John's Church. Tickets for this event always go quickly, so don't miss out!



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Basingstoke Hospital
Male Voice Choir
Sing for Health

At the concert held in St Andrew's Church, SSJ in early October an amazing £300 was raised to go towards the cost of repairing the stained glass window in the church.

It was a wonderful concert by the choir and included 2 arias sung by Jenny Spence of Pamber End. The conductor of the choir, Dai Ogden, also lives in the SWP Parish.



Upcoming EVENTS



FOR NOV-DEC 2023

DOORS OPEN		
11TH NOV	MUSIC QUIZ	AT 7.30PM
18TH NOV	CARBON COPY BAND FISH & CHIP VAN (PAYG)	AT 7.30PM
1ST DEC	JAKE / JAY QUIZ NIGHT HOUSE OF GAMES	AT 7.30PM
2ND DEC	MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE	AT 7.30PM
9TH DEC	JOHNNY BLUES BROTHERS	AT 7.30PM
23RD DEC	FULL DETAILS TBC.. WILL BE A FAMILY XMAS PARTY	AT 7.30PM
31ST DEC	NEW YEARS EVE EVENT MOTOWN TRIBUTE ACT TICKET ONLY EVENT	AT 7.30PM TILL 1 AM

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BRAMLEY & DISTRICT NEWS

Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL was the principal guest at our annual branch dinner held at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club on 6 October. He was accompanied by Lady Jane Mans. After a lovely meal prepared and served by the club staff, Sir Mark spoke about the history and development of county Deputy Lieutenants, a post he holds in Hampshire.

He then presented Branch Certificates of Appreciation to three long-standing branch officers: Steve Day (Treasurer) Michael Luck (Poppy Appeal Organiser and past Secretary) and Dr John Swanston (Branch Community Support/Welfare member).

The season of Remembrance is now with us, we are again running the Poppy Stall at Basingstoke Hospital until 11 November. On that day, Acts

of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorials in Sherborne St John and at Sherfield at 11am to which all are invited. I have the privilege of leading the Remembrance Sunday service at St James Church Bramley this year.

of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorials in Sherborne St John and at Sherfield at 11am to which all are invited. I have the privilege of leading the Remembrance Sunday service at St James Church Bramley this year.

John Morley

Branch Chairman

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On Wednesday 14 November, we are gathering informally at Sherfield Oaks GC for a

drink and light lunch from their lite bites menu, sandwiches, pizza, burgers, etc. Do pop along and join us.

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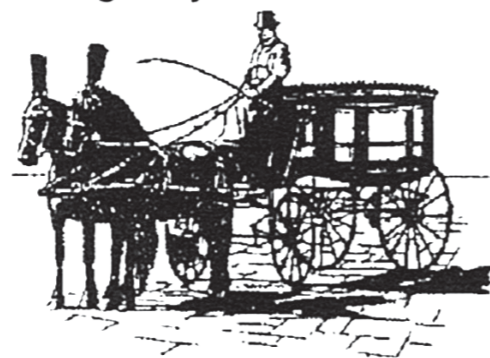
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Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness 🐱

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.



If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at adoption@basingstoke.cats.org.uk or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.

CONTACT – Helen Ricketts: helen@highpathway.co.uk OR Paul Temple: tempaul45@gmail.com



HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 4th February 2024, 3:00pm

'A great gift for that difficult to buy for person'

Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities

Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged for many years to host the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil playing to very full houses. We will again be able to bring talented musicians to play for us and we will welcome them this time in February 2024.



There is always an exciting performance 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, Star Wars and good old-fashioned tunes known and enjoyed by all ages.

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

Everyone's favourites, our special guests, The Chelsea

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives. If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

Pensioners should be with us again to make this a very special event.

Tickets on sale from The Anvil Box Office.

Volunteering for St Michael's Hospice Moonlight Walk



Saturday 30th September

Saw us in Festival Place welcoming the amazing participants back from the Glitter and Glow Moonlight walk with Hot and cold drinks and tasty treats. Well done to all those who took

part. You raised over £60,000 to help the St Hospice continue the wonderful work it does for our community, a fantastic amount. Hopefully you are still glowing with pride at your achievement and will be signing up for next year, or even taking part in the Reindeer Run, see below

SAVE THE DATE!

**St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run
Queen Anne's Square (Outside Iceland)**

Festival Place

Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 9:00 am

See the Hospice website to register for the 3K Reindeer Run and have a lot of fun whilst raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering to marshal this event.



Join Us For our Annual Wine Evening Friday 3rd November 2023 In Monk Sherborne Village Hall at 7pm

"A path less travelled: The lesser known wine regions in Europe"
plus a three course, home cooked meal.

Discover a wine from Caviste Wines that you may not have tasted before! Led by Mark Bedford our favourite raconteur, a jolly evening is anticipated. £35 per person. Now that the Sherbornes and Ramsdell are in the NW Hampshire ward, we have invited our (new) MP the Right Hon. Kit Malthouse to come and so a chance to find out what is really going on in parliament - should you wish to - or how he likes the wine! To book your place, contact Sheila Mellor on Sah21@btinternet.com or 0738 832 7515- but be quick, places are already being reserved.

Save the Date

11 & 12 November 2023 10.00am – 4.00pm

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Patty Burt

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Lindsay Berry

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Womens Fellowship



The Women's Fellowship members at the October meeting were joined by Jane Austen's good friend Martha Lloyd - AKA Jane Glennie. Martha

greeted her guests as Jane's friend and 'experimental housekeeper' who provided what she termed 'interludes', this particular interlude taking place a few days before the family uprooted and moved from their four-storey house in Castle Square, Southampton, to Chawton.

The year is 1809. Martha has had instructions not to move anything from her desk or the surrounding papers but Martha, apart from what can only be termed a gossip, and a bossy one at that, appeared to 'tidy up' with the sole intention of casting an eye over Jane's stories, poems and, most importantly, letters.

Martha interrogated her guests as to whether they had remembered to bring a recipe with them. No? Well no

matter, they still had a few days before she and the Austens moved away so could deliver in the next day or so.



Martha was ten years older than Jane, and Jane apparently adored her, perhaps in the early days but as the years went on possibly not quite as much when latterly Martha may have overstepped her remit as good friend and possibly housekeeper, and told Jane what she thought of titles to Jane's books which Martha felt were

prohibiting her from being published. Indeed, Martha considered herself to be very much a part of the Austen family especially when her sister married James, one of Jane's brothers.

Then tragedy occurred. Jane's Father died at a similar time to Martha's Mother, which left everyone in great financial straits. Reverends, deceased or otherwise, were not known for their wealth. However, another brother of Jane's, Captain Francis Austen, came to the rescue when he invited them all to go and live with him and his new wife Mary, a widow with five children, to keep her company during his absences at sea.

Jane died in 1817 but, at the age of 62, Martha married the now widower Captain Francis, thus becoming a true Austen.

Speaker Jane Glennie was thanked by Pat Burt for giving such an entertaining and informative snapshot into the lives of Martha Lloyd and Jane Austen.

The next meeting will be on the 5th November, 2pm.

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Basingstoke Concert Band

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Christmas celebrations**



Reindeer Run!



SIGN UP!

**Sunday 3 December, Festival Place, Basingstoke, 9am
Sunday 17 December, Alton Rugby Club, 9am**

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News from the North Hampshire Hospitals Trust

The Lucy Letby case has hit national headlines and must be a real concern for prospective parents locally: could this be repeated in our own hospital? It is reassuring to note that not only is the mortality level regularly reviewed, in fact each death case is reviewed, but the Trust has in place arrangements to prevent a similar situation happening here.

In addition the Trust is ensuring all staff are able to speak up, however junior they might be, which was a major factor in the Letby case.

Patient safety and care is a top priority for the Trust, and whilst it may not be helpful for those admitted for urgent treatment, the Trust will shortly be adding a YouTube video to its website which will be of real value to those being admitted for elective procedures. This video covers a wide range of issues, including making sure one understands what is being said by staff, preventing side effects, such as falls or blood clots and infections, to being willing to ask for help when needed. At the same time the Trust is working hard to instil a patient caring culture in all staff, and as the citations for many of the 'Wow' awards confirm (awards to staff for going well beyond normal expectations), we have some amazing examples of this.

By now most people are aware that a new hospital is planned locally with public consultation anticipated in the near future. Lord Markham, Parliament Under Secretary for Health and Social Care, recently visited Basingstoke to help understand the need for change. He met with both staff and patient representatives and was able to give the assurance that as the plan for a rolling

renewal of hospitals across the country had been developed with wide cross-party involvement in Westminster, any change of government would be unlikely to affect the programme.

He went on to explain that the planned construction methodology was to undertake considerable work off site, using a bring to site 'pod' system. Not only did he highlight the benefits this gives to future flexibility of layout as healthcare needs change over the years, but this method also gains from better cost control, faster construction and cost savings from standardisation, as well as protection from programme delays from adverse weather. He further emphasised that by spreading the programme over a long period, for example about 20 years, this would enable suppliers to invest appropriately with further productivity gains. He stressed that based upon benefits now achieved by Trusts with new hospitals, full digitisation of patient information was already improving productivity.

It is now widely recognised that the NHS is in crisis, its current budget is nearly one third of all the money the Government collects from us in taxation, and many don't see additional funds as making any improvements. With many now opting to go private, whilst there is real concern that public health provision will decline, it shows that those better off are prepared to spend more on their health.

For example:-

- Does the NHS need radical surgery? For example, do we in this country need to move more to the continental

system with nominal charges for its use – clearly with some mitigation for those less well off?

- Does it need to be split into more manageable units?
- How do we fix primary care where each GP surgery is a private business, because to become a partner, capital is required to purchase a share – not something young doctors with high student loans have in abundance?

As mentioned above, it is planned that the public consultation for the new hospital will start shortly. Whilst there will be some negative comments on the options, the Trust will really appreciate positive suggestions on how the options might be improved. It is however hoped that many more people engage in the consultation than the under 300 people who participated in recent governor elections which covered a population approaching 200,000!

Likewise, the election of governors will be taking place starting at the end of October. Governors represent patient interests to the hospital management, so this is a vital role. Why not become a Trust member? This not only entitles you to vote, but it will also give you more up to date information and help you to play a part at this critical time. To register go to <https://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership>

Keith Bunker
Former Governor

North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group

As a matter of interest our local group is now one of the largest in the country, with so many men now being diagnosed with the disease, and in fact dying of it, anything we can do to publicise the group's work will hopefully reduce suffering for many.

Pillar boxes – hardly an interesting subject for a talk one might think, not so when Tony Cross spoke to the Group at the September meeting. He explained that prior to the introduction of the penny black it was the recipient who paid the postage. The problem with that was that some of those doing the final delivery ended up carrying a large amount of money, making them an attractive target for robbery. When first established, one had to buy one's stamp and hand in the letter over the post office counter – hardly convenient. It did not help that the first stamps were neither pregummed or perforated, having to be separated by the post office using scissors. He also pointed out that British stamps are unique in that they do not carry the name of the country. It was apparently the Belgians who originated the first post boxes followed by the French.

The first post boxes in the UK were introduced by Anthony Trollope, initially in 1852 with four boxes in

Jersey as an experiment, followed by two in Guernsey a year later. The first boxes had vertical slots, with again the oldest still existing in the Channel Islands. So were all boxes of a set standard? Tony was able with slides to show that to be far from the case, with different colours in different places, for example those in Cyprus being yellow from when we ran the island, and the Channel Islands in dark blue. Surprisingly Eire has retained the pre independence boxes, many with GR for George 5th cast in their face, but they are now painted green. He also showed the development of dual boxes for town and country, and even a multi use version – phone box/ stamp dispenser/pillar box, whilst in the Falklands, an old ammunition box has been requisitioned.

Initially there was no standard design to the boxes, however in 1857 a design competition was established with the economy version option becoming the first standard, which normally also included the makers name. This was then changed a few years later to a hexagonal shape initially painted green – however users experienced difficulty locating them so red became the colour of choice with ultimately Vermillion being today's chosen colour. However the hexagonal shape proved more

expensive to produce and so the round shape was adopted. That did not stop other boxes appearing, in walls, with lampstands on top, with signs, and even fixed to poles.

With the introduction of a standard one might think that conformity ensued, not so! Liverpool as a city introduced its own design in 1863, of which 2 boxes still remain, and a box outside one of the Cambridge colleges is topped with spikes – allegedly to stop students from using to box for a leg up over the wall when climbing back into their college out of hours.

The second part of the meeting was allotted to the incontinence team from the hospital, who with assistance from Essity, part of a major worldwide paper producer, are researching the impact of surgery and prostate treatments on male incontinence and sex life, with many members signing up to participate in the research at the meeting. The chairman finished by mentioning the progress of the 'Bins for Boys' campaign and the PC UK testing programme of home urine tests for microscopic blood inclusion – potentially an early sign of health problems to come.

Keith Bunker

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Nov 2023 Julie Crawley

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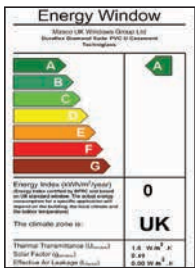
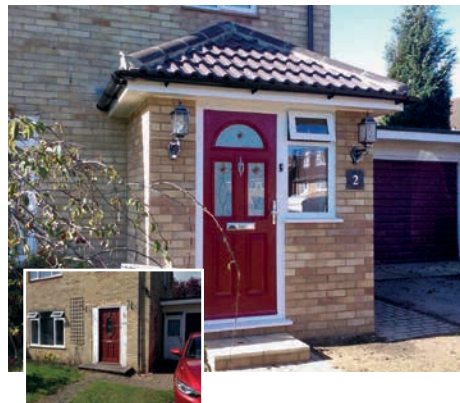
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