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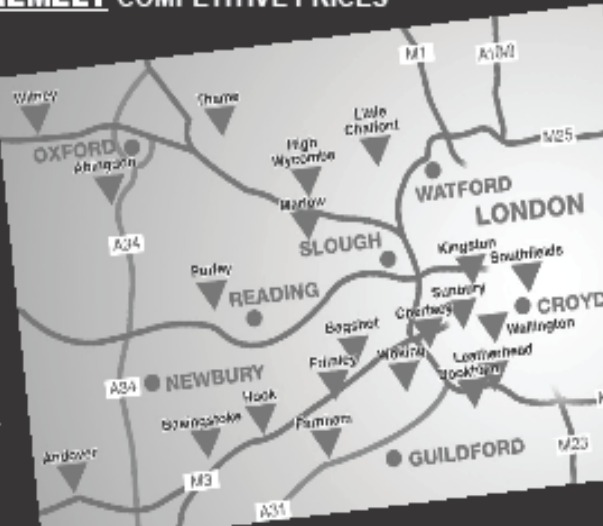
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JUNE 2015

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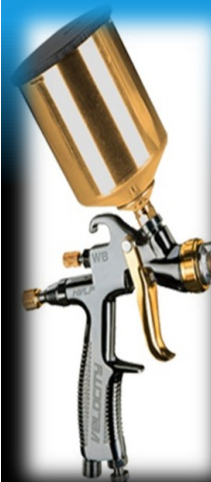
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How to contact your Member of Parliament



Kit Malthouse

 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

 01264 401401

 Or write to me at my Constituency Office:

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I hold regular surgeries for all constituents in North West Hampshire

Your Local Test Valley Borough Councillors

If you have any ideas, issues, problems or concerns that you wish to raise then please feel free to contact us, using the details below.

Alex, Phil & Janet



Cllr Alex Brook

cilrabrook@testvalley.org.uk

07801 936474



Cllr Phil North

cilrpnorth@testvalley.org.uk

07732 423023

www.cilrphilnorth.co.uk

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Cllr Tracey Preston

cilrtpreston@testvalley.org.uk

07775 927161

NOTICES

PARISH CAKE SALE ON ENHAM GREEN SATURDAY 2nd MAY

Thanks to Dini Thorne for her help at the sale and everyone who baked those fantastic cakes. All the cakes were had gone by lunchtime and we made £223.20.

CHURCH SERVICE

On 19th July there will not be the usual 8.30 am service at Christ Church.

NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE OF PASTROW BENEFICE

Revd. Alex Randle-Bissell will have his Licensing Service at St Michael's, Weyhill on 10th September. We would ask that as many parishioners as possible attend the service

COFFEE MORNING

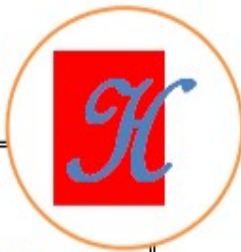
at
Little Cambers, Dunhills Lane, Upper Enham
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Thursday, June 18th 2015

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Now that summer is here most cats are keen to be out and about during the warm nights. Please try to keep them in if possible. I know it is being a spoilsport but the hours of darkness are the time when a cat is most likely to meet with a road accident. If you really can't keep the cat in make sure that it is microchipped then at least you can be contacted if it is taken to a vet.

We are very short of volunteers, both for fostering and fundraising. If you think you can help please email our Fundraising officer, Adrienne.

We shall be providing teas, as usual, for the open garden at Bere Mill, Whitchurch on the weekend of 6th/7th June. The garden, situated on the River Test, is magnificent, well worth a visit and our home made cake will not disappoint you..



We are happy to report that Betty has found a lovely, rural home, though last month's black and white boys are still in care.

The June cat is **Libby**, a beautiful, young long-haired tabby. She is very friendly, loves attention and is quite vocal when she doesn't get it.

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EDITORIAL

The weather seems to be in an in-between stage, now late into May. One day it pours with rain and the temperature plummets downwards to almost wintry levels, and then the next day the sun shines and we almost feel like shouting "Summer is coming!" with welcome gusto...or maybe perplexity?

As I take over the reins at the Parish Oak, this in-betweenity (a new word!) seems apt. Julia and Margaret have undertaken such sterling work for so long and served the local community so well in this as well as in so many other areas. Indeed, there is much deserved comment elsewhere in this issue of the magazine expressing all of our thanks to them for their excellent work.

So what will the new guy do to our beloved magazine?? There..I've said it. What you all have been quietly thinking..

Well, I hope I don't drop the ball too often, but there will undoubtedly be a few (no a few more, to be completely accurate, as already I have had a spill or two) accidents as we go forward. Fortunately, Julia and Margaret have knowingly given their nod to keep looking over my shoulder to try and ensure that the fumbles aren't too great to bear.

I can assure you all that I do not want to take the magazine off in a completely different direction! Inevitably and rightly, there will be some changes as we try to keep the magazine abreast of the developments in our community generally. But any changes will be gradual and appropriate and taken with counsel from others..! Please send in to me your comments as to what you like and dislike and particularly send in ideas of what else you would like to see contained in the magazine going forward.

The Parish Oak is intended to be a written expression of our community across Smannell, Little London and Enham, so it needs your vibrant commitment , both in readership and contribution.

You can email me at calcraftp@aol.com or call me on 01264 512262 to express your views.

Peter Calcraft



CHURCH IN SMANNELL & ENHAM



Ramblings from the Rectory.....

I was thinking the other day about my favourite things....you possibly all remember Julie Andrews singing 'Roses on raindrops and whiskers on kittens, bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens, brown paper packages tied up with string.....' in the film, 'The Sound of Music'?

I had been asked to lead the assembly at Smannell school on the theme of reverence for special things.

So I began to wonder what might make a favourite thing special?

I tried to decide what my 3 most favourite things would be and I found this very hard because there were so many.....but I eventually came to the conclusion that my most favourite thing would be mountain climbing.

Climbing a mountain takes you away from your normal everyday experience. Recently we spent some time in the Lake District and together with my eldest son, I climbed along Striding Edge and up over the snow line and onto the summit of Helvellyn. From the top you can see 5 of the lakes and also 2 seas...the sea around Morecambe Bay and up to Dumfries. It was a most beautiful day and the vistas were superb, but what made it really special was the sense of awe and wonder and a feeling of being on top of the world when you finally reach the summit of a high peak.

My second favourite thing had to be the wonderful garden here...listening to the birds and looking at the flowers.... and it is special because I can appreciate the amazing colours, smells and sounds of God's creation.

My third favourite thing was much more ordinary...it was toasting crumpets over an open fire....something I haven't done for years until we moved here.... because we've lived in houses without fireplaces! But it is special because it reminds me of my childhood sitting around the fire with the family and toasting crumpets for Sunday tea!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Church

Priest	Rev. Val Gagen	748065
Churchwarden	Pete Bowker	357201
PCC Treasurer	Noel Pope	352968
PCC Secretary	Margaret Smith	357487
Gift Aid Secretary	Rod Bowker	357201
Parish Magazine Editors	Peter Calcraft	512262
	Julia Reilly	352393
	Lou Bushell	07835 273703
	Andrew Green	356905

Local Services

Smannell & Enham (CE) School	323201
Enham Club, Landale Wilson Hall	352098
Enham Parish Council	Chairman:Leslie Barry 335678
Smannell Parish Council	Chairman: Rod Bowker 357201
Test Valley Borough Council	07801 948036
Enham Service Station	352651
Enham Shop and Post Office	335678
Enham Trust	345800
Andover Leisure Centre	323355
The Oak (Public House)	363075

Emergencies

Hospitals Andover Memorial	358811
Royal Hampshire County	01962 863535
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Neighbourhood Watch	Richard Budge (Smannell) 351129
	Meg Chant (Little London) 355167
	Tim & Leslie (Enham) 335678

Police	999 or 101 or 0845 045 45 45
PCSO Elly Hughes	08450 454 545
RSPCA	08705 555 999
Samaritans	0845 7909 090
Social Services - Andover	387400

Utilities

Southern Water - Emergencies	0845 278 0845
Southern Electric - Emergencies	0845 770 8090
British Gas - Emergencies	0800 111 999

**SERVICES IN PARISH OF
SMANNELL WITH ENHAM ALAMEIN
JUNE 2015**

Sunday, 7th June TRINITY 1
10.00 a.m. St. George's, Enham Holy Communion

Sunday, 14th June TRINITY 2
10.00 a.m. Christ Church, Smannell Matins
6.00 p.m. Michael House Evening Service

Sunday 21st June TRINITY 3
8.30 a.m. Christ Church, Smannell Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. St. George's, Enham Holy Communion

Sunday 28th June TRINITY 4
10.00 a.m. Christ Church, Smannell Holy Communion

Sunday 5th July TRINITY 5
10.00 a.m. St. George's, Enham Holy Communion

Enquiries for Funerals in the Parish to the Priest, Val Gagen (748065) or Churchwarden, Pete Bowker (357201).

Enquiries for Baptisms or Weddings in any of the seven churches in the Pastrow Benefice, including Smannell and Enham, please go to the weekly Vestry Hour to make a booking.

Vestry Hour is held at Charlton Church, SP11 4AN, from 5.30-6.30pm every Wednesday.

I asked the children to think of their 3 favourite things too and why they were special to them. One of them told me afterwards....that Karate was number one because it would help with feeling safer. Number two was the school, and it was special because of wanting a good education. And the third thing was the family because of their love and care.

So maybe in an odd moment, you too might be encouraged to think of your 3 favourite things and why they are special to you?

It might help you to appreciate the awe and wonder in our world and the beauty of God's creation.

It might also help us to thank God more for the many blessings that we each receive.....to appreciate our families more and to thank them for all they do for us.

I talked to the children about our reverence for special things in church and took some things to show them.

We talked about the bread and wine of the communion service being made special by Jesus...and that Jesus makes the ordinary special, even us.

And so I hope that June will be for you all a very special month, when you come to appreciate more the wonder, awe and beauty of God's creation all around you...and that you will come to know more the love of Jesus which makes each of you special.

With every blessing,

Val

Rev Val Gagen
01264 748065

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

Harley John Gale on 3rd May 2015 at Christ Church, Smannell

We welcome you into the Lord's family

We are members together of the same heavenly Father

REPORT ON PCC MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2015 AT JUBILEE HOUSE

8 PCC members were present. The meeting was chaired by Church Warden Pete, who opened with prayer. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman. 21 parishioners had attended the APCM and everything had gone well. Peter Calcraft had now taken over the publication of the Parish Oak. A Family BBQ would be held at Jubilee House on 26th June. Pastrow was working well. The new Vicar would be inducted at Weyhill Church at 7.30 p.m. on 10th September. The Churchwardens had been sworn in on 19th May. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals were still being organized at the Vestry Hour. On 26th September the Parishes of the Pastrow Benefice would meet and it was hoped that all PCC members would be present. It was hoped that someone from the Council would come to check the drain outside St. George's.

All outstanding invoices had been paid including May's Parish Share. Contributions towards the Churchyard maintenance had been gratefully received from the Smannell Parish Council, as well as contributions towards the cost of the Parish Oak from both Smannell and Enham Alamein Parish Councils. The interest in reapplying for a grant for the Christ Church roof had been registered with the Diocese for later in the year. Anna White had been given permission to organize a Musical Evening at Christ Church to raise money for the roof repair. It was agreed that a donation of £100 each be made to the Naomi House Children's Hospice, Hampshire Air Ambulance and the International Red Cross.

The Craft Group continued to meet. The Ride & Stride would take place on 12th September. Rev. Val had acquired a Coffee Machine and this would be available for use by parishioners.

Provision of Services up to the end of August had been arranged. The Alamein Service would take place at St. George's on October 25th. It was hoped that the Bishop of Basingstoke would be able to visit the Parish before too long.

Rev. Val was liaising closely with the School Head Teacher and they had prepared a new programme. Interviews had taken place for a Deputy Head Teacher and a new Foundation Governor was required.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 7.08 p.m.

Margaret Smith, Secretary to the PCC



Executive Members & Volunteers

Have you a desire to provide help for a few hours per week?

Andover Young Carers is a locally based independent Charity which provides services for young people between the ages of 8-18

Members of Management Team

We are looking for committed individuals to join our existing management board. Members are responsible for the setting of the Charity's strategic direction and setting and monitoring overall policy performance, whilst ensuring effective and efficient administration and our continuing financial stability.

We are seeking dynamic and motivated people who are sympathetic to our aims and objectives to help us fulfill these voluntary duties. On the basis of a recent skills audit, we would particularly welcome people with skills in the following areas:-

***Childrens Services: Health and Safety: Fundraising and Income generation
Human Resources or Legal background: Information systems and equipment***

However, applications from people with other senior management or board experience are also very much welcomed. If you are interested and wish to know more of the role and responsibilities please email below:-

Volunteer Members

Additionally AYC is always keen to encourage new volunteers to join our team of staff and volunteers who support Young Carers in varied roles such as:

Assisting with clubs held after schools hours in our bungalow, occasional external activities for young carers, 'buddying', minibus driving, odd jobs in/around our bungalow including gardening, maintenance and other general support.

Interested? Or would like additional information?

If you feel you may be interested in one or more of the above roles you are very much encouraged to come forward.

You can reach us at
info@andoveryoungcarers.co.uk or ring 01264 333788

You will be amazed and gratified by just how much even a little help can improve the lives of our Young Carers

FRED'S PIECE

Hello again,

Time again to ramble on and see what we got up to in the dark days of the war.

Of course we had to work up until 12 noon on Saturdays, so after dinner we would 'spruce up' and catch the 3.17 bus from Newbury and go into town. Our first shop to visit was usually Teague & King's record shop (later known as 'Sainsbury Fishers'). In this shop all the records were stacked in compartments in their paper sleeves. We would find the latest one to have been issued, cram ourselves into a booth and play them. Sometimes we would buy one but more often than not we would all troop out with nothing and go for a stroll round town. Yes! It was a town worth walking round in those days!

Our next port of call would be round Toni's Café, the milk bar, Two Sisters, or if we were going to the pictures, a visit to the Café in the Savoy Cinerama. The Co-op had a nice tea room in Bridge Street, but a little too upmarket for us lads.

Some Saturdays, we would catch a train down to Southampton and go down to the 'Ditches', which was a lot of shops built on stilts out over the sea. We have relations in Southampton, but very few people recall these shops as they were badly damaged in the air raids.

I often think of our crowd: Des Cox, Georgy Tarrant, Doug Saunders, Alan Bal-lantyne, Dicky Pearce and Tony Crabbe. We usually caught the last train home at 10.30 on Saturday night. This was always on Platform 1, down at the Central Station, but one night it was run from another platform.

Being in the black-out we rushed onto the usual platform; the train pulled out — and we found we were on a last non-stop train to Bournemouth! Here we got off and had to spend the night in the waiting room. We had to get the first train back to Southampton on Sunday morning and then get another back to Andover.

Of course we thought it all a bit of a lark, and, as was the custom in those days, the porter on duty at Bournemouth Station stoked up the old tortoise stove to keep us warm. What services the railways did for you in those days!

Well, all for now; don't forget visitors are welcome for a chat, also phone calls. A good lady friend called recently for a couple of hours and it really pleased her to talk about old times and old friends. So keep spending, you can't take it with you (the village stores need it too!).

Fred (Comments, please, to 01264 354502)

PARISH BBQ
FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2015
at 7 p.m.
at Jubilee House, Smannell
Hamburgers & Sausages with Salad
to be followed by
Strawberries & Cream



£10 per person

£5 for children under 10 years

This is our annual Parish event to raise money for the churches.

Everyone is welcome !!

Please bring your family and friends
Contact Pete Bowker for tickets, Tel: 357201

ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH COUNCIL

At the AGM I was pleased to be elected Chairman for the coming year . I have the energy and enthusiasm to work with fellow parish councillors on all aspects of improving our community.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for standing again and welcome new councillor James Nash. We would like to extend an invitation to the residents of our parish to become involved. Share ideas, comment on our plans, get involved in community activities – help us plan more !

We will always “take care” of our village and residents but have the opportunity to do more – with your help too!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th June at 7-15 in the Cedar Print room at the Enham Resource Centre – hope to see you there

Leslie Francis
Chairman

Parish Oak Advertising Rates

The Parish Oak is a monthly magazine that has an excellent avid readership and covers all households in Smannell, Little London, Enham Alamein, Finkley and Upper Enham.

Full page (12 issues per year) £ 120

Half page £ 80

One off insertions, or leaflet distribution by negotiation.

A5, black and white. 450 homes distribution.

Contact Noel Pope by email at Noel.Pope@merityre.co.uk or speak with Peter Calcraft on 01264 512262 for further information.

Let he who throws the first stone

Where do I send my claim for compensation ?

I seem to be at odds once again with the Highways Department, or more accurately with their road surfacing contractors.

Bizarrely, I was thinking of sneaking out one night with an aerosol can of white paint. I’ve noticed that the Highways people mark-up road side defects, like potholes, so that their contractors know where to carry out repairs. (I would have thought it was blindingly obvious). My idea was that I would help by marking up some additional problems that they seem to have missed. There is one in particular, just opposite the Pub, which must need two or three bags of asphalt. Mrs Hampshire talked me out of this idea on the grounds that I would probably get paint on my shoes.

So for the moment, the Council will have to get by without my Road Marking skills.

However my restraint was not rewarded, and my criminal intent was punished when a small loose stone from the new road surfacing in Enham decided to form a close relationship with the brakes of my car. The result was twofold. Firstly my car emitted a high pitched squeal, at a frequency that may cause Russian Space Probes to re-enter the atmosphere, but more importantly I became too cautious to make a return trip to the Post Office for my Fish ‘n’ Chips.

I did manage to find my car jack, and the adapter for the locking wheel nuts, but I couldn’t find the offending piece of granite. I am indebted to the local garage who not only promptly extracted the stone, but did it without making me look like an incompetent grumpy old git.

Well Mr Council, I’ve been fair with you, I didn’t sin by painting white lines on your road which may have resulted in additional repair costs, (but which might have saved you the cost of compensation claims), so perhaps you’d like to stump up for my garage bill.

John Hampshire

Changing our expectations

We were in Cyprus on holiday one year. Many of the “treasures” of Cyprus are to be found in the monasteries and it was in search of a treasure that we went to one such place. When we got there, I was amazed to find that it had a goodly number of young monks who were all going about their daily chores in an energetic manner. I was surprised but, of course, this was part of the Orthodox (or Eastern) Church and they are very different from us.

As early as 1414 change came to the religious scene in and around Andover, when Andover Priory was closed (because it was part of a “foreign” monastery). No longer were the monks to be seen walking round the town.

Perhaps it is all the more extraordinary, then, to discover that the number of women in the UK wanting to become nuns is at a 25 years high (figures from The Guardian). And many of these are young women. “Isn’t that a bit tragic?” we may ask – “Isn’t it rather sad?” To which the answer is that there is no shortage of laughter in the house under consideration in The Guardian article.

Maybe, then, we shall see members of a religious order walking through Andover again after an absence of some 700 years. But, more seriously, what is this all about? Not just Cyprus but also the UK? In early Christianity in England much of the Christian presence was expressed through monasteries. Parish Churches were a second stage. So, are we returning to our roots? Clearly some women, and some young women among them, believe that they will find something of greater value in a life of faith based on living in community rather than being part of the parish church.

Is there any similar thinking going on outside the religious life? Are new ways of living being pioneered in other walks of life as well? It is a fast changing world: and not just in terms of technology.

Graham Trasler

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11th MAY 2015

A planning application was received for the development of a further block in Augusta Park. Whilst the block was within Enham Alamein parish, the council made objection to the siting of a three storey block of flats on high ground near the new sports pavilion close to the border with the Smannell parish.

A vote of thanks was given to Lady Julia Reilly and Margaret Smith for the work they had done over many years to bring out the Parish Oak magazine every month, serving those in the Smannell with Enham Alamein Church Parish. The council was delighted that Peter Calcraft has taken over the production of the “Oak” and many thanks to him.

The Chairman reported that Test Valley Borough Council had agreed that the establishing of a footway on sections of Smannell Road could be financed from money provided by the Augusta Park developer. Hants CC final agreement was still awaited.

It was agreed to ask Enham Trust to undertake various pieces of minor ground work through the parish.

The members of the new parish council are, Tim Billborough, Rod Bowker (Chairman), Paddy Burt, Nick Kinloch, John Pickford and Dini Thorne (Vice Chairman).

The next meeting of the council will be on Monday 6th July.

Rod Bowker, Chairman.



To love, to learn, to live...to leave a legacy

SMANNELL & ENHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

It seems only a few minutes ago that I was writing about our Easter celebrations. Yet here we are racing into summer. When I look back through the school diary to see how busy we've been, I can understand why time seems to have passed so quickly.

Our youngest children, in Robins class, have just returned from a fascinating local visit to the Trinley Estate. Despite the heavy showers they managed to go pond dipping, explore a wide range of crops as well as enjoying a very exciting tractor ride. Our Year 3 and 4 children in Kingfishers class have stretched their legs a little further. They've been exploring Andover town centre. In particular they've tried to use clues around the town to work out some of the local history as well as trying to understand how and why people use the centre today. Our Year 5 children joined other local schools to participate in the Test Valley 'Think Safe' initiative. This is a really important project that teaches children to develop their citizenship skills. Amongst the activities they took part in was a simulation of how to call the fire brigade in an emergency. They were really 'impressed' by the prison service who placed the children in a mobile cell to teach them that actions have consequences.

On a sporting front we entered two teams into the Andover Tag Rugby Festival. Our Year 3-4 team made really good progress into the final stages of the tournament. The older children were a little less lucky but had an excellent experience and were commended for their sportsmanship.

Just in case you are getting the impression that primary school life is all trips and sports I'd also like publicly to praise our Year 6 children. In mid May they completed their Sats tests. These are the national tests for 11 year olds; some of our children took 12 tests during a 4 day period. This of course could be very stressful, yet they were all exceptionally mature in their attitude and determined to show off their academic ability. This could of course be because they had spied the cakes and fizzy drinks that appeared in the room at the end of the week!

Peter Shaw, Headteacher



Peta Wilkinson CEO



01264 345800

Hello Everyone,

The birds are singing, the sun still shining and summer is fast approaching; the perfect time of year for spending time with family and friends, enjoying the 'great outdoors'!

I'm delighted to share with you the news that last month, planning was agreed by Test Valley Borough Council to build a state-of-the-art Neuro-Rehabilitation Unit on our Cedar Park site here in Enham Alamein.

As well as agreeing the proposal for the new centre, planners also agreed in principal to the development of 95 new disabled accessible apartments and a new health and wellbeing centre. This development will enable us to develop our services and to support more people living with a disability to live the lives they choose.

Speaking of property, our town centre development Bradbury Place has been shortlisted for a 2015 Housing Design Award - such wonderful news for our striking building, enabling our disabled residents to live more independently.

Thinking ahead, this month I will be abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower! If you'd like to join me for this exhilarating challenge, please contact the fund-raising department.

Also in June, St Mary Bourne Village Hall will play host to a wonderful fund-raising quiz night. Tickets are £20 each to include a welcome drink and luxury hamper supper created in our training kitchen by our fantastic clients. We currently have a number of vacancies available. If you'd like to join us, or know someone who does, please get in touch!

More information on any of the above can be found on our website: www.enhamtrust.org.uk.

With very best wishes,

Peta Wilkinson, CEO

ENHAM ALAMEIN SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Fish and Chips on a Friday has definitely arrived at the Enham Alamein Shop & Post Office!

The idea was to provide another community event for residents to meet up and enjoy a tasty meal .

We now take extensive orders on a Friday not just for Fish n Chips but Scampi, Chicken Nuggets and Fish cakes too! Still priced at £3.50 (£4 for scampi) it is a delicious and affordable treat on a Friday so please join us, your friends and neighbours to eat in or take away.

Available from 12 until 7 it is advisable to ring with an order as it is all cooked for you.

Best wishes,

Leslie and Tim

THE GREAT BRITISH FISH & CHIPS

Every Friday is Fish and Chips Friday!
In the Shop and Post Office, Enham Alamein
 Cooked to order, eat in or take away
 From 12 noon onwards

For more information speak to Leslie and Tim
 in the Shop on 335678



The Smannell and Enham Church of England (Aided) Primary School



To love, to learn, to live....to leave a legacy

The Smannell and Enham Church of England (Aided) Primary School is currently in need of a new Foundation Governor and also a Parent Governor to support the school in delivering the best standards of education possible.

The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management..and that include the leadership brought by the governing body.



Our school Governing Body is made up of people who come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skill and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and are the link between the School and the community it serves. A Foundation Governor represents the Church of England and should be a regular communicant within the Church

This isn't an application to be taken lightly, as it involves time, energy and a willingness to become involved in the life of the school on a regular basis over at least four years. However, it is very rewarding, as together we can strategically input into the school and see another generation of children growing in knowledge and development within our community.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has an interest in the performance of the school, but also a willingness to listen and help us make informed decisions to develop the school forward.

Contact Peter Calcraft on 01264 512262 (calcraftp@aol.com) or Paul Sexton on 07766 162347 (paul@colvinnet.com) to discuss how you can be involved.

Lady Julia Reilly

2004 was the year when Lady Julia Reilly took on the role of editor for the new Smannell and Enham Alamein Parish Oak magazine. Every month since then, without fail, the green magazine has hit our doormats, providing a wide range of information and articles of interest about our local community.

To put that in perspective – in March 2004 the Republic of Ireland was the first country in the world to ban smoking in workplaces, bars and restaurants. April 2004 saw the dreadful bomb attacks in Madrid, November marked the death of Yasser Arafat, and December 26th the Indian Ocean tsunami caused devastation, killing 230,000 people. All events that seem almost a lifetime ago, and yet Julia, with her team of helpers, has beavered away month after month to ensure the success of this publication. The villages owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude – she always thanks others, but now is the time for us to thank her most sincerely for all that she has done over so many years.

THANK YOU, JULIA REILLY!

PARISH THANKS

We always welcome the arrival of the 'Parish Oak' realising with shock that another month has quickly vanished into oblivion. In the May edition I read that Lady Julia Reilly and Mrs Margaret Smith editor and publisher for very many years are handing over the reins to Mr Peter Calcraft who is kindly taking on this task. Indeed a well earned retirement!

I find it an excellent production, filled with much interest and information. As with most things, all this does not 'just happen', and to achieve and receive our magazine there is a dedicated team behind every issue. Each month for us means much time and prior planning in its compilation before going to print with the deadlines involved.

The next link in the chain is undertaken by Mrs Barbara Jane Pope who receives the finished product and delivers to the area distributors. These stalwarts every month come rain or shine bring each issue to our door, several from inception.

I'm sure Parishioners will join me in sincerely thanking Julia and Margaret for their precious time, commitment and dedication to the cause over so many years. Coupled with this are all those involved throughout the process, be it

the contributors of interesting and amusing articles – we enjoy Fred's stories of past happenings – news, notices, information and updates on activities throughout Smannell and Enham, advertisements which cover the costs and of course the distribution team. All give time, a valuable commodity, for which we are grateful. To Peter Calcraft we extend our best wishes as he undertakes his new village venture.

As I turned the pages this month, thoughts returned to the initial roots of the Parish News Sheet of Knights Enham and Smannell as it was then entitled.

This evolved during the ministry of the Reverend Chavasse in approximately 1960. His proposal for information re church services and associated activities to be made available throughout the parish was adopted by the Parochial Church Council of that time. Being a member I volunteered for the job. Information was submitted to me for typing on wax stencils and duplicated double sided, on foolscap paper – 400 copies monthly. The latter achieved in my lunch hour at work.

Enham's supply of 250 was delivered to Mr and Mrs Ian Chisholm who covered distribution for the village and Ian is still involved today - 55 years of dedication.

On leaving employment in 1962 the Newsletter began a different journey when the typed stencils travelled with husband Maurice to either Salisbury or Wimborne, his place of work once a week and where the office duplicator rolled into action and the finished product would be ready for his homecoming.

Initially this leaflet was combined with 'Home Words' and the 'Winchester Churchman', a Diocesan publication, for which a small charge was made. Administration became difficult and the Church Council decided to drop the two brochures and deliver the foolscap sheet giving details of church services and local news to every house free of charge.

This continued for many years until the welcome increase in material contributed made a second foolscap sheet necessary and after some thirty years I handed over to another team who developed and added to its content and interest.

Thus, thanks to nurturing by many people, the humble acorn sown in 1960 has grown and matured into the 'Parish Oak' we enjoy reading today.

Nora Bullen