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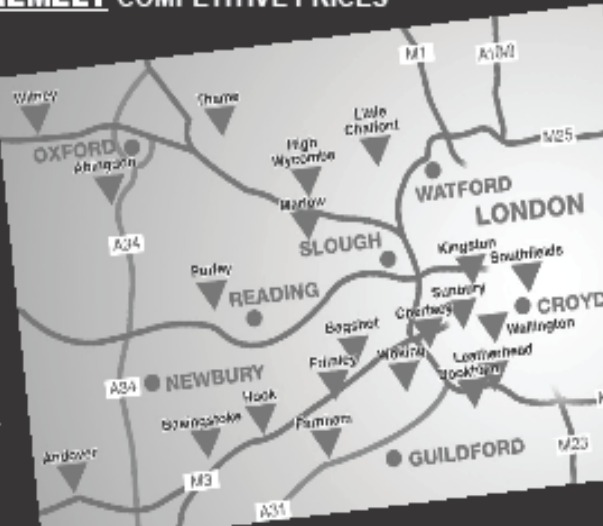
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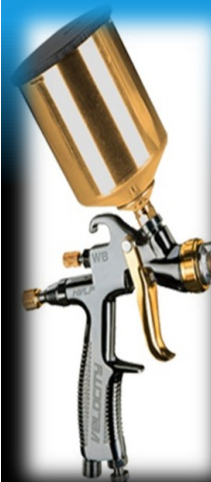
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## How to contact your Member of Parliament



### Kit Malthouse

 [kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk)

 01264 401401

 Or write to me at my Constituency

Office:

2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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*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**

[cllrabrook@testvalley.org.uk](mailto:cllrabrook@testvalley.org.uk)

07801 936474



**Cllr Phil North**

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**Cllr Tracey Preston**

[cllrtpreston@testvalley.org.uk](mailto:cllrtpreston@testvalley.org.uk)

07775 927161



## NOTICES

### CHURCH SERVICE

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

### NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE OF PASTROW BENEFICE

Rev. Alex Randle-Bissell will have his Licensing Service at St Michael's, Weyhill on 10<sup>th</sup> September. It is understood that Alex will move to the parish in early August. We would ask that as many parishioners as possible attend the service.

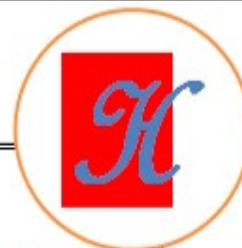
### COFFEE MORNING at Little Cambers, Upper Enham

The coffee morning held in June was very successful with some lovely cakes being served and there was a large turnout for the occasion. £160 has been donated from the event to Mencap and £40 was raised towards the Christ Church roof fund.

### Deadline for August's Parish Oak

will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Contact : 01264 512262

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We get a lot of calls from people whose cats are toileting in inappropriate places. There is often a simple reason for this. If the cat refuses to go out it may be because there is an aggressive cat nearby. If this is the case providing an indoor litter tray may well solve the problem, but these should be placed somewhere quiet and private, well away from windows and outside doors. If you have more than one cat the rule is one tray per cat plus an extra one.

The 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July is the Worldwide Whitchurch Weekend when visitors from other Whitchurches converge on our town. Cats Protection will have a stall there during the event.

The Felix token offer, where we can exchange the box tokens for money, ends on 31<sup>st</sup> August so please send them to us well before that time. The address is 1 Test Rd, Whitchurch RG28 7LP. Alternatively leave them in our food collection box at Pets at Home in Andover.



Libby, last month's cat has found a lovely, family home in the New Forest.

Tippy gets her name from the little white patch at the end of her tail. She is a delightful, middle-aged cat; very relaxed and friendly. She was returned because she did not like a small child in the house. We need to be sure that her next home is permanent so a quiet, adult home would be preferable.

## EDITORIAL

I'm not sure, but it is just possible that summer has arrived. The signs are there, it is warm enough to go out without being dressed like a Grimsby trawler man, the grass verges are overgrown and best of all there is a prevailing smell of burnt sausages indicating that husbands throughout the Parish are demonstrating their skills with a BBQ.

I've noticed that some familiar faces have dropped off the radar for a couple of weeks, only to re-appear with the kind of healthy glow that doesn't come from bottles. But why would you want to go away? As I am frequently reminded by a neighbour, living in this area is like being on holiday all the time. I was recently invited to join a few friends for a cup of tea at 5pm, only to find myself returning home just after midnight having spent the evening ridiculing the Eurovision Song Competition. I can't remember who I voted for, but I do remember an enjoyable evening.

There is one person who always seems to be around, and I am indebted to him, because without his dedication several Parish residents would not be reading The Parish Oak. This is the person who delivers the magazine to homes in some areas of the Parish, somehow he manages to fit this into his schedule of other activities, whatever the weather and however ferocious your dogs may appear. He may be more familiar to you as the person who, without reward, puts out your Dustbin on the appropriate day, and who then makes a return journey to put the bin away again. So if you see Anthony as he trudges from house give him a wave, or exchange a friendly word, it might be the only reward he gets for his reliability and commitment to a task that few others would accept.

I'm looking forward to the Summer Fete, and possibly a revived Music in the Park. I just have the feeling that I will be disappointed, which is a pity since these events served as a focus for the community, and it is my observation that there is sufficient skill, willingness and experience, both historical and recent, to kick these events back into life. These were useful opportunities to air and share views, put the world to right generally, and build a little bit of community spirit.

*Andrew Green*

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**CHURCH  
IN  
SMANNELL  
&  
ENHAM**



**Ramblings from the Rectory.....**

Well some of you may know that we now have a greenhouse in the Rectory garden and over the last few weeks I have been busy thinning out.

It would have been nice if I had become a little thinner myself.....but this is not the case....although working in a hot greenhouse may have shed a pound or two....wishful thinking I feel! But I have been busy thinning out plants so that the strongest might survive better.

Thinning is a fiddly job but it is vital...because if plants are too bunched up they will not have space to grow. And of course, not all thinnings have to be thrown away...sometimes they can be eaten if they are large enough....spinach thinnings can be nice with a salad. Sometimes they can be replanted or given to friends...but often they end up on the compost heap.

Now at first I wouldn't have considered this to be a very biblical principle....in fact throwing away unwanted seedlings goes against a theme that runs through the bible about protecting the weak and having a love for all creation.

Thinning seems to be on the side of the strong, rather than the weak. But if you don't get rid of some seedlings there just isn't room for the others to perform well.

While I was busy doing my thinning I had a chance to cogitate on this...greenhouses can be very useful places for thinking.

It occurred to me that we need to make space for faith to grow.

If things in our lives are too tightly packed together, then there isn't much room to grow and deepen our faith. So finding time is a crucial requirement .....in the same way that our plants need nutrients, we need time. We may need to thin out a few of the competing demands in our lives in order to make room for God.

Having a chair in the greenhouse is very useful, as it is a place where I can sit and cogitate....having a place to retreat at home so to speak...away from the computer and phone.

**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	<b>08450 454 545</b>
RSPCA	08705 555 999
Samaritans	0845 7909 090
Social Services - Andover	387400

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

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

**Sunday, 12th July                    TRINITY 6**  
**10.00 a.m. Christ Church, Smannell   Matins**  
**6.00 p.m. William House              Evening Service**

**Sunday 19th July                    TRINITY 7**  
**10.00 a.m. St. George's, Enham      Holy Communion**

**Sunday 26th July                    TRINITY 8**  
**10.00 a.m. Christ Church, Smannell   Holy Communion**

**Sunday 2nd August                TRINITY 9**  
**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.**

We all need places of retreat...a sacred space....giving us time for reflection...to make connections between heaven and earth and allowing ourselves room to grow and flourish.

So whether you go away for a retreat, or take some space at home or in your garden, cogitate on what might need thinning out in your lives...and spend some time waiting upon the Spirit.

I would like to end by sharing a prayer with you which comes from a retreat house in Suffolk that I used to visit. It is a prayer I often use and one I would invite you to make your own:

Lord Jesus, your sign of reconciliation is the cross,  
In all its breadth and length and height and depth.  
Teach us to share it with you and our sisters and brothers,  
So that we may learn to act justly,  
To walk humbly,  
And to love tenderly,  
And so, waiting upon the Spirit,  
Become instruments of your peace,  
To the glory of the Father, Amen.  
[From the Hengrave community]

Have a blessed and peaceful month....God bless you all, Val

Rev Val Gagen  
01264 748065

**PARISH REGISTER**

**Weddings**

William Douglas Gardner and Sarah Joan Louise Miles on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at St George's, Enham Alamein

*God is love, and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them.*

**Baptism**

Jake Robin Gale-Hayward on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Christ Church, Smannell

Theo James Mark Bell and Jessie-Rae Antonia Bell on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Christ Church, Smannell

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

*We are members together of the same heavenly Father*



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

## **SMANNELL & ENHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Our oldest children, in Swallows Class, have just returned from their residential visit to Calshot Activity Centre on Southampton Water. Their enthusiasm for the new activities that they had participated in was boundless. Whilst they were away they were skiing, climbing, abseiling, sailing and kayaking...apparently they even managed to fit some sleep into their very busy programme.

I thought it would be interesting to share some of their thoughts with you about their time away. However rather than recounting all the events the children were asked to place themselves in the position of someone who was contributing to the Tripadvisor website:

Amerley's view of the climbing wall. *"Hanging there, I waited and waited. I twisted and turned, my legs were shaking. 'Click'. It was done; I reached the top. I was able to abseil down. Touching the ground was a relief. I wobbled. I tripped. Overcoming my biggest fear was amazing and exciting. I could not contain my inner-happiness."*

Leilani's thoughts about skiing. *"Staggering up on to the ski slope, trying not to fall, keeping my balance whilst coming down from the top. I faced my biggest fear! I felt really scared. I just closed my eyes and counted for ten seconds and I felt the fear beyond me, seeing my ski's teetering off the edge on the slope. I tried to put my arms out to the side just to help me stay stable. It worked! I was so proud of myself."*

Ronan's recommendations. *"Based on my amazing experience at Calshot Activity Centre I would one hundred percent go again. If you go in winter, I would advise you to bring a fluffy/ comfortable jacket to keep you warm. If you are planning to go into the river I would recommend you bring wellies and waterproof trousers. If I had to describe Calshot in one word it would be... OVERWHELMING!"*

Ryley's adventures on the climbing wall. *"When our instructor told us to get into the abseil position at the top of the enormous climbing wall, my heart beat was faster than ever. Then I froze in shock. I closed my eyes*

with you. You will have to cross that busy road to get to the shop and you know how dangerous that is.

Me know how difficult it is to understand what de mudder say..but dat is really how she speak all time! Well anyway..as soon as Alvin and me start to walk to de shop, me tell him to go practise him cricket..get ready for de next test match we going to play dat afternoon. Dis bad boy is gone to de shop on his own.

When me get to de big road me look both ways den me is gone. But brethren, in de middle of de road is cum dis big Yankee car, it cum up from de gully and before me could run, it hit I, but you know brethren, me never let go of de 2 shilling in me hand.

Well de next ting was me wake up in de hospital in Kingston town. Dem tell me I is going to be here for 6 months wid my leg chain up in de sky. Dis leg is broken in three places. Well man,is de longest 6 months in me short life till now. All I haf to do is cheek dem nurse lady and me cant even move me leg for all dem time.

Me just get back home to mudder and dada..but is no cricket for now.You see brethren, me have to learn to walk again. Me is slowly pushing a chair round de house. Maybe me should listen to me mudder more in de future!

Cha man..me run out of space..me will tell you more of me life a nudder time..you have a great life in your cold place dere in Hampshire..me is gwan to be de first picknee to play for de Windies next month..me only need one good leg to whip dem English bowler for six..you just see!

*Peter Calcraft*





## Dis Island in de Sun

Me gawn tell you a few tings dat did happen to I when I used to live in dat island in de sun dem people from udder country dem call it Jamaica..but me and my brethren here well we jus call it JA. All dis ting dem seem to always happen on me birthday..I dun know why...

It is de “summer” of 1960 and me goin' fe tell ya de story of me short life so far till now. Is me mudder dat call it “summer” but it is really just ackee and salt fish time, cos here we no have any summer and winter, only dry (ackee and salt fish time) and den hurricane season. Maybe when I am a beenie older me return fe gi ya a furdur chapter or 2 of how tings turned out for i when me older, but for now, I kyan gi you di short story of me first six and a half year.

As all know, me is like you de black man..me speak like you, me is brethren, only ting is me skin is maybe a little whiter dan most and maybe you is all a wondering how dis is. Me born in a cold and distant country dem call Wales in de biggest place you ever did see..it dem call Cardiff. It is a place full of white people..dat is dem have white skin apon demselves and some of dem talk with a strange tongue in a language dem call Welsh (you no understand a word of what dem say) and udders dem talk in a language dem call English, but dem English is nuthing like de English dat we speak here in de island in de sun..dat beautiful place call Jamaica or JA as we like to call it when we is speaking to de brethren.

Well..me born when dis white cold stuff it dem fall from de sky. Me mudder wud put all dis hot clothes around I and dem mek fire to keep me warm and when you go in de street is white smoke cum out de roof.

When me was five me mudder tek me back to Wales, and wile she and me dada go preach at all dem church round Wales and even in England, dem leave I wid me old aunty for six month! Dem put me in dis school and mek I wear dis posh jacket pon I and dem even try to teach I how to speak dis language dem call Welsh. Well me just laugh at dem..is not possible for a gud Ja brethren to sing dis tongue all de time like dem.

Anyway last year me six. “Mama, me big boy now..can me walk to de shop to get sweetie and spend all de money me brethren dem give I?” Me mudder say “No son, you are too young for that, Alvin (the garden boy..and me best fren and cricket team..and football team..and..) will go

*and counted to five and pushed off the wall and slowly bounced my way down to the bottom.”*

*Mason’s version of kayaking. “Stepping into the tight wetsuit, I knew I was ready for this. I took a deep breath and jumped into my boat with my paddle, pushed myself into the water and started paddling. When I was 2 metres in the water, I capsized. Freezing, I rushed up to the surface to get a gasp of air. The water from my hair rushed down like a waterfall. My instructor had to tip my boat back up and help me to get back in. I was relieved. This was just part of the kayaking and I loved it. It was a completely new experience for me and I travelled all the way round to the other side of the island. I was so proud of all I had accomplished.”*

Sounds great! I was quite jealous of them!

Peter Shaw  
Headteacher



## An Evening of Music



will be held at

**Christ Church, Smannell**

on

**Saturday 26th September 2015  
at 7pm**

**The Amberley Ensemble  
Soprano—Sue Williams**

**This concert with well known local  
musicians Harriet and Nigel Dickinson will  
perform one hour of superb musicianship**

**60 minutes of wonderful music  
...not to be missed**

**Wine and canapés following the concert in the church**

**Proceeds will go to the Christ Church Roof Fund**

**To reserve tickets @ £10 please email [anna.frenchesfarm@gmail.com](mailto:anna.frenchesfarm@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 01264 352660 / 07887 484088**

## The Parish Oak Fun Page

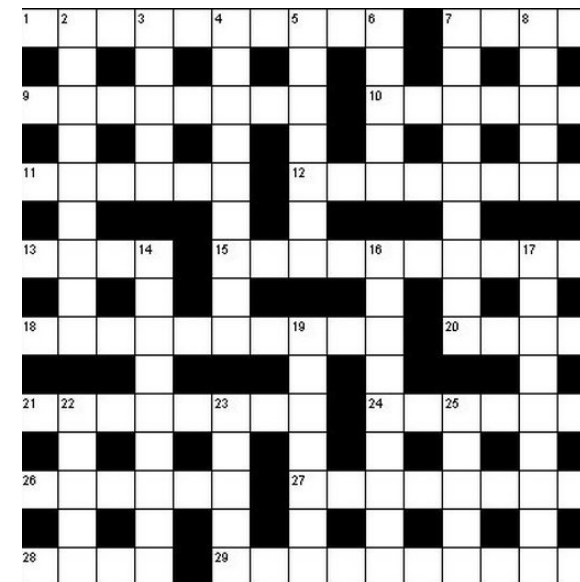
Each month a page will be given over to a fun competition of different sorts. Those who are able to complete the activity in full will have their names published here the following month. Those that want a little help in the meantime can contact the editor, Peter Calcraft at the email address [calcraftp@aol.com](mailto:calcraftp@aol.com) or on 01264 512262. We start this month with a pretty tough crossword!! You will have to reproduce the puzzle!

### ACROSS

- 1 Rush around in old car, to find escaped criminal in Oz (10)  
7 A disease singular to sponge (4)  
9 English is almost never spoken poetically in Telford, for example (8)  
10 Rotter is in modern art emporium (6)  
11 Copper into Turner gets depression (6)  
12 I am unpretentious? No (8)  
13 Clothe with part of a corset (4)  
15 Get mean about bird call (10)  
18 Monster horribly present on the waves (3,7)  
20 Who should really have written *Diary of a Nobody*? (4)  
21 See 4  
24 Enjoy the flavour (6)  
26 Composer of *Semiramide* and *La Mer*? No (6)  
27 As were the leftovers a man ate, being overdrawn? (8)  
28 Scolded infant without a trace of leniency (4)  
29 4,21's Mount is irregular cube next to a generation symbol (missing centrepiece) (10)

### DOWN

- 2 Auntie hit boiling asphalt (9)  
3 Told of journey to university to find poem (5)  
4,21 The king of 7, this general axed threat strategically (9,3,5)  
5 Not, we hear, a problem for 4,21 (7)  
6 Province is to take up weapons again, changing sides (5)  
7 4,21's country; a wine capital erected around the last stages of 300 (as it's written) (9)  
8 Aeolian and Doric, say, in 12 (5)  
14 Quarrelled in Hell over a sin (9)  
16 Outside port finally, make fast a vessel – one that's engine driven (5,4)  
17 Some garment to stitch, it's said – or more than one (9)  
19 One goes into troubled centre, having some guts (7)  
22 Man 'as old Erica (5)  
23 Residential area in upwardly mobile part of Bruxelles (5)  
25 Student priest in Guanaco (5)





### Where do we go from here ?

Is it just me, or are we facing an increasing number of issues that provide fuel for the prophets of doom. There seem to be many reasons for despondency and despair. Well that's the bad news, but as an unreformed optimist, I feel that although we should not ignore the problems, we should keep them in perspective.

My mother was planning a holiday in the Middle-East, and seeking my advice she asked, 'Do you think the war will be over by July?' Well there has been some kind of dispute in that part of the world for at least 2000 years, so peace by July seems unlikely.

The migrants seeking a perceived better life in Europe are prominent in the headlines, but where does compassion end and reality start? Should we deny a granny her hip replacement so that the extended family of migrants can be supported by the State? Well fortunately I don't have to make that decision – but it is a decision that may well have to be made.

And what has happened to Greece. The crucible of civilisation is now portrayed as a country, and by association, a population, living on handouts from financially wealthy neighbours.

I'm sure that there must be a good argument for the justification of supplying financial aid to India, currently about £200 million per year, whilst their government is planning to send a space probe to Mars at a cost of £600 million. As I say, there must be a good argument, but it is not clear to me.

Is it wrong to express these views, or am I restricted to mentioning these points in hushed tones in case I offend somebody?

The ability of the media to fill the 24 hour rolling news schedule means that in addition to frequent repetition they seek out every passing bandwagon in the hope of finding a new perspective to highlight. After a while this policy becomes self-fulfilling, and the media is reporting, not just on the events, but on their own reaction to events.

But, (and thankfully in my opinion there is a 'but'), I think that common sense will prevail. There is no rule that says the world has to be fair, or that everyone should be entitled to everything they want, but in a civilised society people will behave in a reasonable way, as long as they think that others are not taking advantage of their good will.

*Anton Sapient*

*You may say I'm a dreamer but I'm not the only one*

### ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH COUNCIL

Test Valley Borough Council will be making a presentation regarding Recycling Stars. An invitation, along with some useful information, will be sent to everyone to come along and see just how easy it is for us to improve our recycling efforts.

There are changes to the Cango bus route timetable and all details are available on line. For those without a PC there are copies in the Enham Shop & Post Office.

We are still awaiting confirmation from Hampshire Police regarding the Community Speedwatch programme. If anyone is interested in joining please contact a parish councillor.

Enham Parish Councillors and Enham Trust have plans to improve the Tobruk path and greatly improve facilities at the playing field and pavilion. In due course there will be some proposals which we hope everyone will have the opportunity to comment. This exciting project will provide safe travel and sports facilities for all ages and ability.

The Parish Council, along with Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Fire & Rescue and Age Concern are looking for a Village agent. The role is a voluntary supporting one to assist residents for a few hours a week. Full training will be given. If you are interested please contact me at the Shop or Caroline Gumn at Enham.

The next meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7-15 in the Enham Resource Centre

Leslie Francis  
Chairman

## ENHAM ALAMEIN SHOP AND POST OFFICE

Local grown strawberries from St Mary Bourne have finally arrived! Gooseberries will follow and Raspberries will be another 3 weeks. Always the best quality and taste they will be delivered twice weekly.

Hampshire Honey from Vernham Dean is now in stock. Another example of a superb local product.

Fresh salad and vegetables are often available from the Walled Garden and Oaktrack. Nothing nicer than freshly cut lettuce and various leaves, beetroot etc. Look for seasonal produce and enjoy the best tastes too.

Nicky and Liz will be providing a craft demonstration on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July between 11-00 and 2-00. Their lovely gifts make ideal presents and are on permanent display in the rear room of the shop. You can also order personalised cards or gifts for any occasion.

We still are working towards improvements in the shop and have a Product Suggestion form if you could please let us have your ideas.

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. Call Leslie and Tim  
in the Shop on 335678



## All Roads Lead to Little London

I'm sorry to say that the item I was working on for the Parish Oak has been 'Vetoed', - not by the Editor - but a higher authority - Mrs Hampshire.

Normally an idea occurs to me, and I do a little research to provide some information to fuel my imagination. At this stage I run the idea past Mrs Hampshire for her comment. This month her reaction was pretty negative, 'Oh no, not more about roads, signs and potholes, is that all you ever think about?', (little does she know).

So, have I become obsessed with that subject? Perhaps she has a point. My research on recipes for Cow Parsley, the statistics of accidents due to overgrown verges on country roads and the possible benefits of Agent Orange, has been put on ice. You can probably fill in the gaps yourself.

Thinking about it Now, the Apocalyptic effect on Marlon Brando as he grossly morphed from the Waterfront to Vietnam may restrict the use of Agent Orange, or am I confusing reality with Hollywood.

Whilst US forces were attempting to defoliate Vietnam, I was registering my protest in Grosvenor Square, but now on reflection I can see that I wasn't mature enough to have a fully rounded opinion.

So, in those early days the Signs were there. My bedside reading was 'The Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions'. I was starting out on the chaotic Road to understanding Life, the Universe and Everything. There have been many Pitfalls along the way, but generally I have stayed on the right Lines, and without the map reading skills of Mrs Hampshire it would have probably taken me longer than the 42 years between the immature youthful outrage at Grosvenor Square and the more rounded cynicism of an old Pensioner arriving in Little London. (It's a pity the American Government didn't have the benefit of Mrs Hampshire's guidance. There has been little change in their interfering behaviour).

So, (and that's another thing that annoys me - why do people have to start their sentences with the word 'So'), I have been casting around looking for a subject, nothing has come to mind yet, and I am speeding towards the Editors copy deadline. But at least I haven't mentioned Roads.

*John Hampshire*

## 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 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 includes 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.**



Peta Wilkinson CEO



01264 345800

Hello Everyone,

My, how fast the days are going! Hard to believe we're over half way through the year already, and what an exciting year it's been; many of our clients have made the vital transition to independent living, our plans for the Cedar Park site are developing nicely, and our Patron HRH The Duchess of Gloucester officially opened Weston Court in May.

Looking back specifically through June, we enjoyed an abundance of exciting community events and activities which took place across Hampshire; a luxury hamper quiz night in St Mary Bourne, one of our Skills2Achieve learning centres opened its doors to prospective young learners and local businesses in Basingstoke and I, together with a group of passionate fundraisers, took on the challenge of a 100ft abseil down the iconic Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. What a wonderful experience it was!

Thinking ahead, on 11<sup>th</sup> July we will be hosting a dog show and family fun day at Tangley Parish Village Hall and Grounds between 11am and 3pm.

Also this month, we will be launching the much anticipated Enham Way. Opened by the Worshipful the Mayor of Test Valley at Andover Shopmobility on 18<sup>th</sup> July, the 3.4 mile accessible path will make the journey between our village and Andover much easier for all those with mobility issues. The launch will take place between 11am and 2pm, where complimentary afternoon tea will be available. Please do join us for this very special occasion.

More information on any of the above can be found on our website: [www.enhamtrust.org.uk](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk)

With very best wishes,

Peta Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer



## FRED'S PIECE

Dear Readers,

First I would like to start this month with a bit of really good news! My son John and his wife Debbie have just been out to visit the war graves in Normandy and, after going to my sister Dorothy's husband Bert at a small cemetery at a place called Hottot les Bagues, they went on to find the resting place of our old school pal George Head from Woodhouse. This they found a bit more difficult to find as it was in a cemetery at a place called Ryes which was a rather larger area. His grave was easy to find as John had line and plot details passed to me by our good friend Nora Bullen. John and Debbie were most impressed with the upkeep and the peace and tranquillity of these war graves. A small wooden cross was left at both graves and photos taken of course, so anyone we can help please get in touch. George's stone carries the badge of the Devonsire Regiment; Bert died in the battle for Hill 112 overlooking Caen. He rests in a smaller cemetery of only 600-800 men of mixed nationalities at the side of a crossroads. His Regiment was the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Bert was a very popular lad and played football for New Street Robins. His work was as a water bailiff and gardener to an Admiral Marks at a large country house down by the river at Anna Valley. He enjoyed fishing and a bit of rough shooting using a 12-bore shotgun, which he would let me use at times. (Mother never knew of this I can assure you, as I was only 12-14 then!) We also had a few of Mr. Lillywhite's pheasants. Mr. Lillywhite bred pheasants and used to export a lot. He had a big 'shooting break' vehicle and on each side was a large picture of a pheasant painted by the signwriter with the legend done with a scroll—"whilst I live I'll crow". In those days beer was delivered in bottles in crates and Mr. Moody and Mr. Bright, Club stewards, used to stack the empties by the back door of the Club (Landale Wilson Institute) sometimes I would creep round in the blackout and drain the dregs of these empties into a fruit tin to take home. No—not a free tipple—you see, Mum would let us have a handful of sultanas which we would soak for a day or two in this tin of beer. What now, you may think? Well, Bert and I knew where some of the pheasants had escaped from the pens up Belgrove Woods (now has a posh name 'Hungerford Lane') and tended to gather in groups in other areas, so at dusk we would give these birds a good feed of our soaked sultanas. We then sat and waited a while until the birds were tipsy. They used to stagger about and were so subdued and quiet. It was so simple to catch one and wring its neck and creep home in the dark. Another Sunday dinner for someone! Funny thing—I didn't like pheasant or the pigeons we shot—too dry and fiddly for me!

We had a big surprise on Christmas Morning 1942 when Bert walked in at breakfast time. He was stationed at Boscombe Down airfield at the time and had

walked all the way to our house to have a few hours and a dinner with us. Of course about tea time he had to walk back again (about 17 miles each way) but being in the infantry this was just another bit of exercise to him.

Now I am including a short poem with these notes. Just after his death in Normandy this poem turned up in the Andover Advertiser. We liked this so much I cut it out and we keep the words on a frame near his photo on the sideboard. Maybe you will enjoy it too. So again, Cheerio All the best!!

Fred (Comments, please, to 01264 354502)

### He Believed in England

Had you known this boy of ours  
You would have loved him too  
You would have loved his smiling eyes  
His spirit fine and true

A merry soul, he made you feel  
That life was good indeed  
A gay warm-hearted fellow  
With a plain and simple creed

He believed in England  
And he loved her faithfully

## 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](mailto:Noel.Pope@merityre.co.uk) or speak with Peter Calcraft on 01264 512262 for further information.**