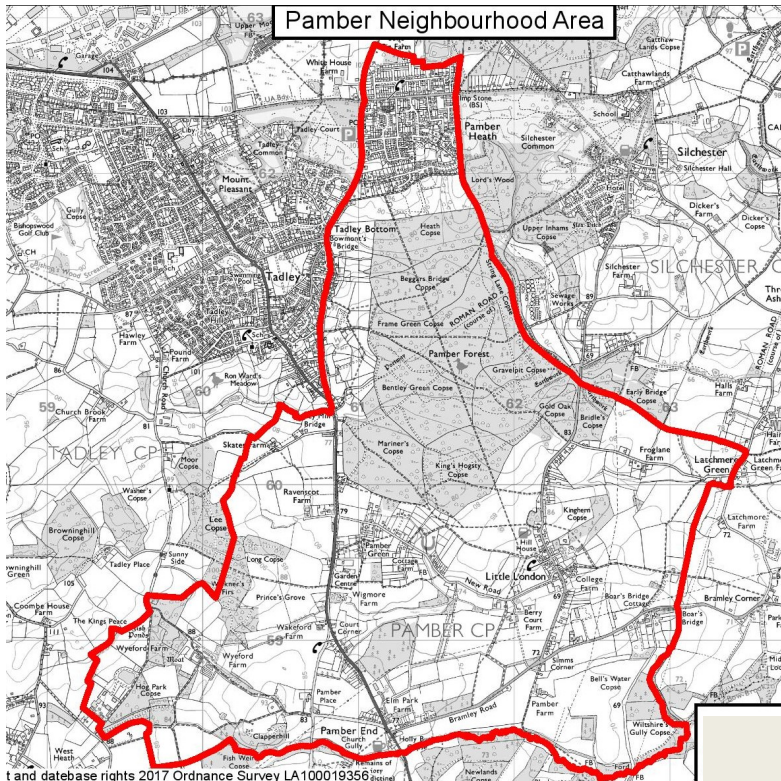


# Pamber Parish Newsletter

Little London, Pamber End, Pamber Green and Pamber Heath



## Happy New Year

We are pleased to say that Pamber Heath Memorial hall is now fully re-opened. Inside this edition you will find more details about the grand re-opening on 10th February.

The next community event will be the St. Patrick's Disco on March 16th. There are lots of events planned for 2024 so to help you remember those all important dates we have included a 'save the date' card in your newsletter, we hope you find it useful.

## Hall Committee update



Pamber Heath War Memorial Hall – the new improved version! The closure of community facilities during the pandemic lockdowns showed us all the importance of these types of resources when they are not there anymore. The village hall is a hub that benefits us all by offering a place for local people to gather and take part in a wide range of educational, leisure and social activities.

2023 was a tremendously exciting year for the hall as we undertook a £1.3 million improvement programme which finished pretty much on schedule in December. It is nearly 50 years since the hall was built so the fabric of the building needed much updating along with improving energy efficiency and 'future-proofing' the hall for upcoming generations.

The start of the year saw us finally secure the public works loan from the government which, combined with a generous grant from Basingstoke Council and match funding from the Good Exchange, meant we could go ahead with the planned extension and improvements. We were also lucky to secure the services of Morris and Blunt as our builders, who worked closely with the committee at all times to ensure the smooth running of the project. This was also due to the incredible efforts of the parish council and the hall management committee who had worked long and hard on securing the necessary finance and planning the improvements needed, a process that had been years in the making. The hall needed a serious upgrade to bring it up to modern standards and make it fit for purpose again and these two groups have continued to work throughout the year liaising with the building team at numerous meetings to help manage the works and oversee the project for the community. We also need to thank all those who made donations and supported our fundraising events – a huge community effort overall.

The ground works got underway in earnest in February, and we watched the footings being dug, then the walls go up, the roof going on and then the internal finishes being completed. The footprint of the hall has increased considerably with the smaller hall doubling in size, new areas created, one of which will be used mostly by the pre-school, two new kitchens added, and accessibility greatly improved.

Now it is complete, this upgraded community building will bring huge benefits with better facilities for the whole parish, the children who attend Impstone Pre-school and much improved accommodation for the many clubs and societies which use the hall for their meetings.

The improvements will allow us to cater for a wider variety of the needs of our local population, increasing the inclusivity for all ages and interests. We now hope to organise new community activities outlined in the business plan which informed our bid for funds. We are already used by many local clubs which adds to the leisure, health and wellbeing offer in our area and we will now be able to accommodate many more clubs who are requesting a venue, again allowing us to appeal to the widest possible range of local people. Already, a new yoga club has started and we are planning music events, a disco, a Summer Funday, a Halloween Party and a Christmas Market for later in the year. The hall is already very heavily used such that we have to turn bookings away so the improvements will not only increase capacity, but make us a more modern, greener, more cost-effective organisation. Throughout the year, local clubs and hall hirers have continued to use the hall and they deserve our thanks for being so patient in working around the builders, the other tradesmen, the diggers and the weather! In fact, we need to thank everyone who has offered tremendous support throughout the year helping us bring this important project to completion. Throughout the building work, we have still managed to hold several successful events – the 60s rock group, Out of the Shadows, saw an attendance of 100 people and was a huge success. Our quiz night was equally well attended and then the year finished with the Christmas Concert in December which saw the hall absolutely packed with people enjoying mince pies and singing along with Tadley Concert Brass.

As well as the building works, I was delighted to take over chairing the hall committee in May from Alan Marshall who had ably fulfilled the role for the last five years. The committee is going from strength to strength although we can always use new committee members or maybe you could just volunteer to be a friend of the hall, helping us with events without having to sit on the management committee itself. If you are interested, then get in touch via our website.

The revamped hall will be officially opened on 10th Feb by the Mayor, Councillor David Leeks, and two local MPs, The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena and the Rt Hon Kit Malthouse. You can meet them, the hall committee and parish councillors plus tour the new buildings and see exactly what the improvements look like from 3.30pm. We would love to see you there and show you round your village hall, of which we are very proud to have brought to completion on your behalf.

Jane Escott-New  
Chairman



## Pamber Parish Council



Happy New Year to you all, Planning applications remain a leading topic in our meetings. In this month's list we had 3 that altered existing approved plans. These were all opposed to on technical grounds, which will be sent to BDBC Planning Department as comments. There is a very recent application for 7 to 9 dwellings in New Road, Little London. This was not debated as it could not be added to the published agenda but will be discussed by the South Ward councillors and comments sent to BDBC under delegated powers. On other planning issues we have been informed that BDBC cabinet have approved the Local Plan Update [LPU]. If all goes well this will go out to Public Consultation soon, if you have any concerns or comments to make on the LPU this will be your chance. It should be noted that the Skates Lane development is no longer promoted in the LPU.

Some of you may be aware that there is a proposal for a Battery Storage development in Frog Lane. Public Consultation is planned to run from 19th February to 17th March with a drop in open day on 4th March at Silchester village hall [4.0pm to 8.0pm].

Finally, Hampshire Community Partnership can support and fund Community Orchards. The council will be investigating this opportunity further with a view to using land at Pamber Park.

Simon Greaves — Pamber Parish Council Chairman

## Pamber Community Speedwatch

Following our successes with the new speed radar guns, the team has identified more potential places to set up and monitor the speed of vehicles throughout the Parish. In October, thirteen new locations were proposed and the local police will be conducting safety assessments on these during January. New locations could include 40mph roads. Whilst this would allow more sessions to be held in winter daylight hours on well used roads, monitoring higher speeds would potentially need more volunteers to be able to manually record registration plate data.

Throughout autumn and winter, the team has continued to use the SID equipment to record traffic volumes and speeds in fifteen locations throughout the Parish.

These include both 30 and 40 mph locations with maximum speeds of 91 mph (30 limit) 119mph (40 limit) recorded; the data is sent to the police for them to consider deploying radar traps

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their commitment and if you would like to help keep our roads safe by giving an hour of your time per monitoring session, please volunteer via the Clerk to the Parish Council at: [clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk)



## Impstone & Cherry Trees Preschools

2024 has started with a bang for our preschool as we came back after Christmas to our new space in the extension that was finished just before the holidays. The children (& staff!) were all very excited to come back and play in their new surroundings, enjoying new resources and the environment, as well as child sized toilets, encouraging their independence skills and more spaces for them to create using their imaginations and not have to put it all away at the end of the day! It truly has been a dream come true for us all:)

We've been using our child accessible kitchen to allow them to make lots of yummy treats to take home, as well as a new sensory room to take some much needed downtime when they require it.

We still have a number of areas under development, such as our outside space, which will be completed over the coming weeks, but we are very lucky that we have the common right on our doorstep, as well as the large field out the back for us to carry on with our 'Bear Hunts'!

We are looking forward to watching the preschool continue to go from strength to strength as we see our numbers almost at capacity on most days already and our waiting list for September rapidly growing!

From April 2024, the government will be rolling out funding for two year olds for those of working parents. If you would like to see if you would qualify for your child, you can go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) where you can add your information and they will advise what you are entitled to. There is also a link on our website.

If you would like to consider our preschool for your child in the coming months, please do get in touch via email, our website or by phone, to arrange a visit. We always love showing off our wonderful preschool!

Amanda Tel: 07733 898914

### **Pamber Heath Allotments**

Allotments are available at Pamber Park for a small annual rental. Please contact Maurice Biggs on 0118 9811438 for more information.



## News from St Luke's Church

Hello from St Luke's  
Happy new year to you all.



.Just before Christmas there was an influx of angels into Pamber Heath, Silchester and Tadley. Did you find any angels nestling in hedges, sitting on walls, hanging on fences? There were 200 angels around Pamber Heath in various colours and shapes and sizes, thanks to a fantastic army of people crocheting, knitting and making them from various materials. On Saturday 9th December, New Road Methodist church displayed all those destined for Tadley and Pamber Heath - there were over 2000 – it was a wonderful sight. On that Saturday I had spent 3 hours on a domestic abuse awareness training course – clergy, amongst others, have to know what signs to look for so that we are able to offer help. That was quite a sombre morning and it was so wonderful to see all the angels and be reminded of the goodness of God. Youngsters are very important to us at St Luke's and we have been privileged to welcome Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to our Remembrance Day service this year. I am also lucky enough to be invited to visit Impstone Preschool – what a joy that is! Our children's Crib service is an impromptu, moving and fun telling of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. We celebrated with Mary and Joseph as they learnt of the impending birth although Joseph wasn't too sure until Angel Gabriel reassured him – babies are noisy! and we had some very unwelcoming inn keepers, one of whom was very sure that HE WOULD NOT HAVE ROOM FOR THE FAMILY!

Our Baby and Toddler runs on Friday 10-11.30 term time only at St Luke's Church, Church Road, Pamber Heath. We welcome all parents/carers, grandparents and children from 0-4 years. Our team of 5 run the group as a place for toddlers to mix, sing, craft, play and for mums, dads and carers to meet with refreshments provided for parents/carers. The coffee morning is another very warm and welcoming place where there is tea, coffee and biscuits and many friendly people to meet and chat with. We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party in St Luke's and were royally entertained with singing led by Maureen and accompanied by Nancy and John and fed amazing food prepared by Judy.

We have been sad to hear of the death on 28th December of Phyl Smith, a long time member of St Luke's who went into a home when she was unable to manage on her own. We have also learnt of the death on, 1st January, of Pam Pritchard who used to come to the Coffee morning. I have a lovely picture on the wall of my study saying: 'We all take different paths through life but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other with us.' How true – I have lovely memories of both of these ladies and thank God for their lives.

Do join us for a Communion service every Wednesday at 10:00am in St Luke's. Our church is used for this service once a week and our belief is that God welcomes us 24/7 wherever we are.. Our 5 yearly inspection by the diocese alerted us to the need of a new roof in the next 5 years and so we are starting to fund-raise. If you feel you can help, please let me know. We are also planning on painting all the woodwork outside. If you think you might be happy to wield a paint brush do please let us know.



We have had our Christmas trees and Crib lit in the church carpark since Christmas but on February 2nd we will turn off the lights and put away the figures until next Christmas. Then we turn our thoughts to Lent and Easter when we remember how Jesus died a criminal's death after living a life full of love and care BUT he came alive again on the first Easter Sunday and is still alive. It is in his name for him that we welcome you to our church – whether you come for private prayer or to join in our activities. We welcome you.

Thank you to the Hall Committee for all their work – it was so special being able to attend the Christmas concert in the newly refurbished building. A lot of work for the Committee and a wonderful outcome. Thank you!

Details of all our Easter services will be on the parish website: [www.stpaulstadley.org.uk](http://www.stpaulstadley.org.uk)

With my love

Cathy Pynn (Revd) Resident priest 27 Silchester Road, Tel: 0118 9701007

## New Clubs!



Now that the refurbishment and extension have been completed, we are getting back to our usual timetable of clubs. As Preschool are making good use of their new space, we have two halls available for clubs and private hire.

New clubs are: Yoga, Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm Fitness Pilates, Thursday 9.30 – 10.30am, Seated Mobility, Thursday 10.30 – 10.45am

We are also able to run a baby and toddler session, 'Little Imps' on a Wednesday morning.

We welcome back U3A with the Wine Appreciation group meeting every second Wednesday of the month, 2.30 – 4pm

All these clubs will be in the small hall. Please see the clubs page or website for further details

**Stop Press!**

**Tadley Market are moving to the Pamber Heath Memorial Hall from January 28th. Every Sunday 8am to noon, outside on the car park.**

## Club Contacts

**Impstone Preschool** Monday – Friday 9am - 3pm Amanda Davies  
07733 989914 [impstonecherrytreespreschool@gmail.com](mailto:impstonecherrytreespreschool@gmail.com)

**Short Mat Bowls** Monday 6.45 – 9.45pm, Wednesday 1.45 – 5pm  
Maggie Branston [the.branstons@gmail.com](mailto:the.branstons@gmail.com)

**Yoga** Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm Julie Bushell [julie@juliebushell.co.uk](mailto:julie@juliebushell.co.uk)

**Exercise group** Tuesday 7.15 – 8.45pm Joe Sidey 07760 558749

**Little Imps** Wednesday 9.30 - 11am Amanda Davies  
[impstonecherrytreespreschool@gmail.com](mailto:impstonecherrytreespreschool@gmail.com) 07733 898914

**U3A Wine Appreciation**, 2nd Wednesday every month  
2.30 - 4pm Keith Buckingham [bucktadley@btinternet.com](mailto:bucktadley@btinternet.com)

**Pilates** Wednesday 6 – 6.45pm Salli Silk [salli@workouttomusic.co.uk](mailto:salli@workouttomusic.co.uk)  
07754 879469

**Ballroom Dancing** Wednesday 7 – 8pm, 8 - 9pm Kerry Pretty  
[kerry.pretty@sky.com](mailto:kerry.pretty@sky.com) 07979 850786

**Fitness Pilates** Thursday 9.30 – 10.30am Claire Hecquet  
[claireshomestudio@outlook.com](mailto:claireshomestudio@outlook.com)

**Seated Mobility** Thursday 10.45 – 11.45am Claire Hecquet  
[claireshomestudio@outlook.com](mailto:claireshomestudio@outlook.com)

**K9 Planet** Dog Training Thursday 5 - 7pm Zoe Bradbrook  
[zoe@k9planet.co.uk](mailto:zoe@k9planet.co.uk)

**Deft Fingers** Friday 1.30 - 4pm Tony & Mary Middleton 0118 9700754

**TaeKwondo** Friday 7 - 8pm Jason Cooper  
[jason1cooper@btinternet.com](mailto:jason1cooper@btinternet.com)

## Pamber Heath Memorial Hall

To book contact the booking clerk on **07871 459960** or email  
[pamberheath.memorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:pamberheath.memorialhall@gmail.com) More details on the website  
[phmemorial.co.uk](http://phmemorial.co.uk) and follow on facebook.

## St Stephens Hall, Little London

To book contact Doreen Quilter 07854 280343  
[doreen.quilter@btinternet.com](mailto:doreen.quilter@btinternet.com)