

December 2023/  
January 2024

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- 
- Remembrance
  - Bramley Firework Night
  - Care Home Concerts

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**December 2023 /  
January 2024**

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## Editorial

I'm writing this on Monday 13th November, so I have to say, it feels a bit strange that this is the Christmas edition of the magazine! We do put the Christmas tree up in November in our house (much to the horror of almost everyone we know), so give me a couple of weeks and I will be playing Mariah and jingling all the way. Rev. Mark Anderson reflects on celebrating Christmas on p. 7, and Michael Luck talks about Christmas traditions on p. 12.

When looking back on 2023, it feels like there is not much to be excited about in the world, with the climate crisis bringing more extreme weather events, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the recent Israel/Palestine conflict. So, this year celebrating Christmas with our loved ones feels more important than ever.

Although the state of the world can feel depressing at times, I am always cheered when I read about all the great things that people are doing in Bramley. For example, this month's edition features the Cufuade Lane Toad Rescue Group, who are looking out for local amphibians; one Church member who kindly volunteered to refresh the Vicars of Bramley board in St James' Church; and Bramley volunteer drivers who continue to provide an invaluable service. These are just some examples – there are plenty more to be found in this edition, and in Bramley. The relevant details of how to get involved can be found throughout the magazine.

As we close out the year, a big thank you from Rachel and I to all those who make the magazine happen, from printers, to advertisers, our regular contributors, proof readers, puzzle creators, deliverers and the rest of the Bramley Magazine team.

With best wishes for the festive season,

**Georgie Blake**

Joint Editor

I asked ChatGPT to write a "12 days of Christmas" poem based on Bramley – enjoy!

On the 12 months of 2023, Bramley gave to me:

12 Scouts a-scouting,  
11 Markets bustling,  
10 Meats a-raffling,  
At the Bramley Inn,  
A fish and chip van,  
Chinooks overhead,  
Chiming church bells,  
Closed-off roads,  
Vyne potholes,  
An annual feté with glee,  
Guided by the CMT,  
Two Wilder Awards,  
And red kites swooping gracefully.

## Want to get involved with the Bramley Magazine?

We have some vacancies for deliverers:

- Moat Close (1 – 50)
- Bramley Lane, Bramley School, Browns Close and North Row

If you can help, please get in touch at editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk.

A huge thank you to Lynn Pope who is stepping down after delivering the magazines in Coopers Lane for an incredible 18 years, and a big welcome to our two new deliverers, Emily and Cameron.

Cover Photo: Bramley Firework Night by Elza Roux

Material for the February issue to be sent (preferably by email) to the editor no later than 15th January please.

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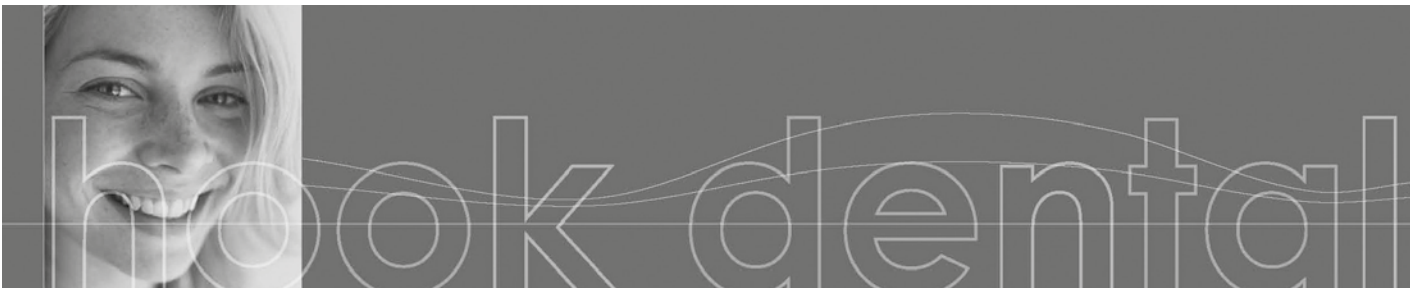
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**Church diary for January...**

<b>7th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Epiphany (The Baptism of Christ)</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>14th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>21st</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>28th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Epiphany</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

**And into February...**

<b>4th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>11th</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>14th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
20.00	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes – St James

**From the Registers**

**Funerals**

Robert STOBER - 15th October at St James  
 Alma HUGHES – 20th October at St James  
 Doreen SMITH - 7th November at St Leonard's

**Church diary for December...**

<b>3rd</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>10th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
16.00	Light in the Darkness – St James
<b>17th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
9.30	Making Christingles – Cross House
10.30	Christingle Service – St James
18.30	Carol Service – St James
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve &amp; 4th Sunday of Advent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
16.00	Nativity Service – St James
23.30	Midnight Communion – St James
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
10.30	Family Communion – St James
<b>31st</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>
	<i>No Services at St James</i>
10.00	Benefice Holy Communion at St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon

**Benefice Services**

**Church diary for December...**

<b>3rd</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
10.00	Family Service – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
10.00	Family Service - St Mary's Stratfield Saye
<b>10th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
17.30	Carol Service – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
18.30	Carol Service – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
<b>17th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
17.00	Carol Service – St Mary's Stratfield Saye
<b>24th</b>	<b>Christmas Eve &amp; 4th Sunday of Advent</b>
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre

16.00	Nativity Service – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
23.30	Midnight Communion – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
<b>25th</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
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10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
10.00	Family Service – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
	<i>No Service - St Mary's Stratfield Saye</i>

<b>14th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
<b>21st</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</b>
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
10.00	BCP Matins – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
<b>28th</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Epiphany</b>
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10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon
<b>14th</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
10.00	Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes – St Leonard's Sherfield on Loddon

**I**n November, Bramley Magazine featured an article on the recent World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. One reader, Rev. John Morley, wrote in to tell us about his experience of a former Jamboree:

I did enjoy reading Sarah Garvey's reflection on the Korean Jamboree, which she and James were privileged to attend. As a lifelong Scout myself, it brought back memories of another World Jamboree, the 10th, in 1959 in the Philippine Islands, the first to be held in Asia.

I was fortunate to be selected as a member of the 112-strong UK contingent, 93 Scouts plus leaders, much smaller than the UK Korean contingent. As I remember the cost was about £330! The camp was from 17-26 July - yes, the hottest time of the year and in the rainy season! The whole jamboree was made up of just over 12,300 Scouts from 44 countries. We also had time before the camp with British families in Manila and afterwards with Filipino Scouts' families. We had a great time swapping badges, singing round campfires, meeting Scouts from so many different countries and cultures - and drinking Coca-Cola!

The site was at Mt Makiling, Laguna, on the sloping sides of the foothills. Bamboo huts had been erected for us and our beds were also made of bamboo with shorter legs at the head end to keep us level. It also allowed the rainwater to run underneath us.

Scout Jamboree sites are usually announced 4 years ahead of the event, however, as there was a special jamboree at Sutton Park in 1957 to celebrate 50 years of Scouting, the Filipinos had only two years to prepare. We experienced

similar problems to Sarah and participants in the Seoul Jamboree with lack of water, very basic toilets and other health concerns. But it was a wonderful and life-affirming experience for us all.

The Philippines are around 9,000 miles from the UK and planes didn't fly that sort of distance in the '50s. For a young lad whose previous overseas experience was a holiday on the Isle of Wight, this was an epic journey in a BOAC Britannia aircraft. From Heathrow, then not much more than a collection of huts and hangers, we flew for refuelling to Rome, Damascus and then Bahrain, arriving there at 3 am in sweltering heat. We had to circle a couple of times while the runway was cleared of people, tents, vehicles and other obstacles.

From Bahrain, we flew to Karachi, Pakistan where we spent 24 hours with local Scouts seeing the sights and sleeping on the floor of their HQ in the company of armies of cockroaches - not my best sleep ever. Then it was onwards to Rangoon, and ultimately Manila. Our homeward journey was much the same with a day in Hong Kong, a pukka Chinese meal (my first ever) and a ride up Victoria Peak.

Sarah and the UK contingent in Seoul showed the necessary resilience to make the most of their unique experience in spite of the setbacks and clearly had an unforgettable time - I salute them all! There are still some members of the Philippine contingent remaining, and since 2009, we meet annually for dinner and a great catch-up.

**Rev. John Morley**

**The 10th Scout World Jamboree Song**

*From every clime and region, we crossed mount, vale, and sea  
We're in the Philippines now for our World Jamboree.  
Here East and West are meeting, as Heaven so decrees  
We live and work and play in true fellowship and peace.  
Mabuhay to all Scouts who are here  
Let the message of BP now resound loud,  
long, and clear.  
I am your brother and friend, so take my hand  
For God and Country, Mankind and Scouting  
We shall stand, forever stand.*



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## It's Christmas - what do we celebrate?

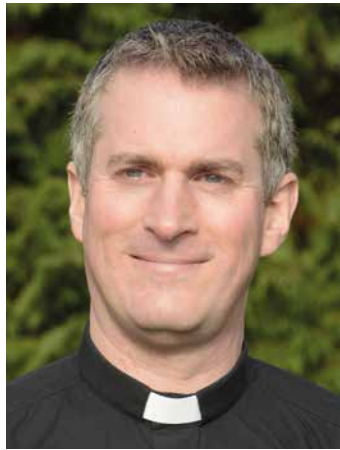
There's lots to celebrate at Christmas. What will you be celebrating this year?

It's easy only to hear the bad news, which is all around. We can pray and do what we can to make a positive difference. We can celebrate when progress is made.

Many of us will be spending time with our families at Christmas time, some of whom we may not have seen for a while. We share meals, we catch up with stories of what has been happening and we celebrate what is good in our family. Perhaps a new baby has arrived, or a new job has started, an exam passed, or a promotion gained.

Having some time off work is also something to celebrate! My Christmas holiday starts at lunch time on Christmas Day - a time to relax and be thankful for all we have. Not just the presents we will receive, but the life we have and the home in which to enjoy it. When we take time to reflect, there is plenty to be thankful for and plenty to celebrate. Each week at Bramley School, there is a 'Celebration Assembly' on Friday when the accomplishments of the children are celebrated.

This Christmas, why not take some time to celebrate and to be thankful? At St James Church we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The details of the Christingle Service, Nativity Service, Carol Service and other events are in the magazine - all are welcome to join in.



Rev'd Mark Anderson

We celebrate the birth of Jesus because we believe in God, who wants to be with us. We remember Mary, Joseph, shepherds, a stable full of animals and wise men from a different land - they all came into the presence of a child who will change the world.

Jesus is God present with us. Presence is a relationship beyond words. It is being truly present with someone. It is being attentive to their whole being so deeply that we are changed by them. As any new mother knows, a baby needs attention 24 hours a day. We can be distracted by the busyness of life, especially during the Christmas season; so busy that we miss what it's all about: Jesus.

A mother gives her devotion, care and attention to the one she loves, whatever mood her baby is in. In a similar way, God loves us however far away we may feel, whatever we've done, however we feel. God is there. That is how God loves us.

At this Christmas, as we hear and speak his name (whenever we say Christmas), as we hear the story of Jesus' birth, my prayer is you will know God is near, waiting to love us, to give us the peace the world cannot give.

'For a child has been born for us... and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (The Bible, Isaiah 9.6)

May you have a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Rev'd Mark Anderson - Vicar, St James Bramley

## Vicars of Bramley

You may have noticed that the board of Vicars of Bramley, dating from 1362, has been missing from the Church porch for some weeks. This is because it was removed for updating. Whilst this was being done, the frame has been cleaned and generally improved. You may also remember that there were a lot of faded notes by some of the Vicars, which were unreadable and only a few faded pink letters showed they were ever there.

I showed this to my neighbour, Peter Tyson, and with the use of a strong spotlight at shallow angle, a polarising filter attached to the digital camera lens and applying image processing software on the resulting pictures, after many hours he has managed to restore all the notes made by people of the past. The last updating was done in 1984.

In 1320 it is noted that 'the domus et edificia' at the Vicarage of Bramley were ruinous', and I believe this means that the property was in need of some repair!!

Another note of interest relates to the term 'alien' priory in 1372. These were religious establishments in England, such



Before restoration

as monasteries and convents which were under the control of another religious house outside England. Usually the mother-home was in France. There are interesting notes online regarding these events.

You will see that prior to 1392, the practice of 'chop-churches' was rife and related to a parson who made a practice of exchanging ecclesiastical benefices for money, (it was then deemed a lawful trade or occupation), but in 1392 the then Archbishop issued a mandate against chop-churches.

Lastly, in 1844 when William Airey was Vicar of Bramley, he was responsible for bringing the communion rails from Hexham Abbey.

If you get a moment, do have a look at the various notes by the Vicars' names as it is very interesting, and these notes have not been visible for many years. This has been a most interesting and enjoyable project and I hope will be of interest to all.

Joyce Rawlinson

**F**or this month's **Meet the Neighbours**, we caught up with **Sarah-Jane Nichols**, veteran BMX rider, former ice hockey player and local Bramley resident.



**You were in Meet the Neighbours in March 2019. What has changed for you since then?**

When I last appeared in Meet the Neighbours, it was documenting my sporting history, particularly that of my BMXing career in the 80s, in which I was 7 x British, 4 x European and 1986 World BMX racing champion. I was also playing ice hockey in Basingstoke, which I had been doing for 35 years. However, along came Covid, and along came the menopause. This hit me like a steam train. I had been suffering with a few peri-menopause symptoms but during early 2020 I seemed to get a huge number of menopause related symptoms that literally grounded me.

I was struggling to find motivation, I was permanently tired, irritable and anxious then along with the symptoms people relate to the menopause, like flushes, sweats, headaches, itchy crawly skin, I found myself at an all-time low. It was at this point I contacted our local surgery and eventually spoke to a doctor who has been incredible, even to this day. Getting help, which was in the form of HRT, I started to get my life back and it was at this point that I decided to re-evaluate where and what I wanted to do with my life. I decided to retire from ice hockey, with the local rink in a poor state and training and match times very late at night.

I decided I would have my vintage BMX that I had kept from the 1980s restored and use it to attend some Old Skool BMX events. These generally involve sitting in a field, showing your bike, a little ride out, chatting with other fellow BMXers that still have their vintage BMX bikes - a bit like a vintage car rally. This I decided was a nice, quiet, relaxing hobby to pursue now I was in my 50s. Little did I know what the next year would bring...

**How did you get back into BMX racing, after 35 years away?**

So, one of these Old Skool events I attended is called 'Santa Cruise', a charity ride in London on BMX bikes, and everyone dresses in a Christmas theme, like Santa or, in my case, an elf. It was at this event that I bumped into a chap who helps run Andover BMX club; he invited me and my old BMX to the club as an opportunity for the kids to meet and chat with a former world champion and share the differences between past and present BMX bikes.

Naturally I accepted his offer, and went along around May when the weather was a bit better. Whilst there, I was asked if I would like to have a ride on a 'new style' BMX bike and go around the very different track, from what I was used to in the 80's. This was when I found out that I still had a natural ability on a BMX and the love, thrill, excitement and buzz that is brought from the sport. I bought a second-hand bike and took the rest of the year to train hard and made a comeback to BMX racing in March this year - 35 years after retiring from the sport.

**You were recently featured in last month's Bramley Magazine for an impressive sporting achievement. Can you share more information with us?**

So, I raced the regional race meetings this year, which qualified me for the British Championships. In the 30+ female category (I'm 53), I finished with a podium 3rd place. I also raced the national race meetings and gained a nationally ranked number 3 plate. To say I was happy was an understatement.

**What does your sporting future look like now you've qualified for the 2024 World Championships?**

With my national ranking, it means I have qualified for the World Championships. This is in May in South Carolina in the USA. I am super excited to be going to this and very lucky to have a fantastic support network of friends and family to help me achieve this. I am already in training and my aim is to make the final in the World Championships, but to get on the podium would be the absolute icing on the cake. I will keep you posted.





Care Home Concerts



From left to right: Laura Bartlett, Carol Yates, Adele Rosic, Douglas Cumming and Claire Knop

Students from the ‘Adele Rosic School of Classical Guitar’ have entertained the residents of Applewood and Cherry Blossom care homes this November. Adele (middle of photo above) played along with her students.

Adele said “We are all local and had great fun both in our rehearsals, and in planning the next concert venues. We are so fortunate to have two very good care homes in our village. Both have very friendly and caring staff and they felt very homely and inviting.”

The residents really enjoyed the performances and joined in, singing along with some popular tunes such as “Daddy wouldn’t buy me a bow wow”, “Love is the sweetest thing” and “Drunken Sailor”. They were also treated to some Elizabethan, Classical, Beatles and Flamenco music. Great fun was had by all.

Adele’s students are currently working hard in preparation for her Christmas concert on Sunday 10th December at 3 p.m., at Bramley Village Hall. If you are interested in learning to play this wonderful instrument, you are welcome to come along and listen to the performances.

If anyone needs any Christmas present ideas, vouchers are available to cover one or multiple lessons.

For further information, please contact Adele on 07745595849, or visit her website: [www.adelerosic.co.uk](http://www.adelerosic.co.uk).

**Cufaude Lane Toad Rescue Group**

Over the coming weeks, if you use Cufaude Lane, you will notice people in Hi-Vis jackets and buckets patrolling the road at dusk. Spare a thought – and slow down - for these volunteers as you drive by. They are saving amphibians - toads, frogs and newts – from being squashed by cars as they cross the road on their migration from fields and woods east of the byway to ancestral breeding ponds on the west.

Were it not for volunteers, mortality rates would be far higher than they currently are. Despite the best efforts of the Cufaude Lane Toad Rescue Group (CLTRG), roughly 15% of those animals that attempt the crossing are killed. That means more than a hundred dead toads, frogs and newts each season.

Amphibians spend most of their lives on land but must return to water each spring to breed. Spring migration is influenced by weather and is most pronounced on mild, wet nights. These days, migration can begin in late-January and continue until the end of March, only stalling during cold snaps. Conflict between cars and toads, plus other amphibians, is a consequence of unfortunate timing. Migration begins at dusk and peaks in the first hour or two of darkness.



Cufaude Lane saved amphibians: the contents of one volunteer’s bucket on a busy night.

For spring migration, this coincides with the end of the working day and peak rush-hour traffic.

Four amphibian species are found on Cufaude Lane: Common Toad, Common Frog, Smooth Newt and Great Crested Newt. Despite the name, Common Toads are no longer common, and the charity Froglife estimates that populations across the UK have declined by 68% over the last 30 years. The species has been particularly hard-hit in north Hampshire. Today, Cufaude Lane hosts the most significant remaining population in the borough of Basingstoke, with numbers of breeding Common Toads estimated in the tens of thousands.

The CLTRG operates for a couple of hours each evening when the traffic is worst. In 2023 they recorded the following: Common Toads 531 saved, 96 killed; Common Frogs 74 saved,

28 killed; Smooth Newts 161 saved, 34 killed; Great Crested Newts 3 saved, 3 killed. Migration continues throughout the night of course, and hence numbers recorded are just a snapshot of true amphibian populations.

In line with national trends, numbers are roughly half what they were when patrols began seven years ago. That’s despite an increase in the numbers of patrollers and increased vigilance. Things are set to worsen as planning permission is granted for more housing at either end of what remains of Cufaude Lane, and more cars use the road.

If you spot a toad on the road, please do your best to avoid killing it. And if this article has stirred your environmental conscience, additional helpers are always welcome. For more information, visit the Cufaude Lane Toad Rescue Facebook page.

**Andrew Cleave MBE and Dr Paul Sterry**



Toads on Cufaude Lane

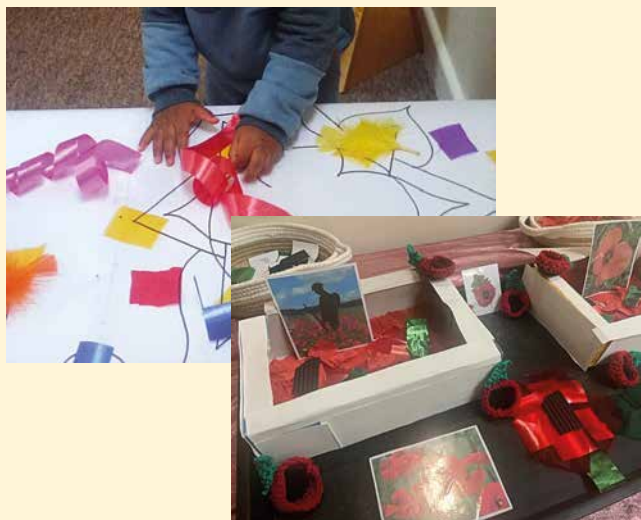
## Butter Daisy Autumn Update

In the coming weeks we'll see autumn finishing its glorious work and winter starting to settle in, blanketing the fields with sparkling frost – and who knows, we may even see some snow.

One of the most remarkable things about snow is how unique each snowflake is – much like the children we have here at Butter Daisy; each one so special, learning and exploring bountifully and inimitably every day.

All that we do here at Butter Daisy stems from this individuality. Our curriculum, our planning, our resources, and our routines are all tailored to meet the needs of each child that joins us. It is highly important for us to know the children, their traits, and personalities deeply, and for the child to form professionally loving relationships with their Key person and Educators.

We use our extensive knowledge of the children, and meet them in their challenges, to move them forward in their learning journey. The opportunities to learn are planned with the children's interests in mind, alongside the celebrations and events personal to them and those of the wider world.



In recent weeks, the children have joyfully celebrated Fireworks night (with many attending the local display), and then painting representations of the wonders they saw. They have also thoughtfully learned about Remembrance Day with sensory and transient opportunities. They made Rangoli patterns for Diwali and took part in experiments for Science Day. They made their own sarnies for National Sandwich Day, read a fantastic book for Children's Book Day, and have started the Christmas countdown. They have done all this while learning new vocabulary, making new friends, taking first steps, enhancing their listening skills, strengthening their grip, unpacking numerals, managing risks, demonstrating resilience and, like a snowflake, gently transforming into the next stage of who they are meant to be.

### Claire Canning

If you would like to hear more about Butter Daisy Nursery, please do contact us on 01256 882515 or email [butter@mydaisynursery.com](mailto:butter@mydaisynursery.com).

The male members of **St. James' Church** gathered in Cross House on Saturday 28th October for the most recent **Men's Breakfast**. **Grahame Mellor** tells us more about it...



Readers who have enjoyed camping or caravanning holidays will understand exactly what I mean when I describe that most appetising smell of frying bacon drifting on the breeze as I approached Cross House one Saturday morning for the Men's Breakfast! Once inside the hall, I could see lots of gentlemen chatting and catching up over their first cup of hot coffee. Soon the announcement was made that breakfast was ready to be served and a most delicious and wholesome plate of bacon, sausage, hash brown, mushrooms, beans and toast was ready to be enjoyed!

Our speaker was Rupert Willoughby, a prize-winning historian, classicist and lecturer with a passion for castles, lakes, and uncovering the past. His titles with Pitkin include *Life in Medieval England*. He is also a member of St. James' church.

Rupert delivered a most interesting and enlightening talk on a subject close to home, 'Roman Silchester'

This in-depth talk was very informative, with lots of detail that was unknown even to us locals and prompted us to think about Silchester from a different perspective.

An excellent breakfast and a very sincere thank you to all concerned.

The next Men's Breakfast is on 2nd December at 8 a.m.

**Grahame Mellor**



## **Bramley Parish Council Update**

With the clocks going back, the nights are closing in, and winter is on its way. It is getting colder, and we have also had an extraordinary amount of rain which has caused flooding across the country and great suffering to many families. In Bramley, we have not had the flooding like other parts of the country, but with the rain comes our long-standing problem, sewage overflow. As reported over the years, Bramley Parish Council has been in talks with Thames Water, who recognise the problem and have stated that the sewerage infrastructure does not have the capacity to cope with the present housing in the village. Plans have been agreed, after considerable modelling and monitoring by Thames Water, for an upgrade to the infrastructure, and this month Bramley Parish Council will be meeting with Thames Water to see the final plans for the upgrade and the timescales for implementation.

In the meantime, families in Centenary Fields have suffered from sewage bubbling in the shower and other facilities and the bungalows in North Row with lift of sewage in their gardens. Thames Water has written that there should be “No occupation of new houses on any large developments until the upgrades to the infrastructure have been completed.” The Parish Council will be monitoring this with the Reserved Matters planning application for the Stocks Farm development for 140 houses being issued in the near future by Wates.

### **High Speed Internet**

Bramley will shortly have available high speed internet services provided by Gigaclear with the installation of new fibre optic cables across the village. A meeting is arranged with Gigaclear themselves to inform us of their plans for Bramley. We should have the update for the next magazine. Note that the installation of fibre in Bramley will inevitably cause some disruption to traffic – Bramley Parish Council will keep residents up to date with what and when these are likely to be.

### **Clift Meadow**

Lights have been installed at either end of the path across the Meadow up to St James Park. They work on a motion/proximity sensor kicking into a higher output mode as you approach the lamp, but still do not cover the central area of the path. This is a long ongoing saga with the developer. Bramley PC are continuing talks with the developer to get a third light installed to improve nighttime visibility in that area.

### **Local Plan**

Bramley Parish Council will be meeting with the new Leader of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Cllr Paul Harvey, in the next month to discuss the progress of the Local Plan Update and its implications for Bramley. The Local Plan will be out for general consultation in January, and we would strongly recommend that you, residents of Bramley, attend where possible the presentations that will be made and make your comments. The Local Plan will cover all aspects of development in Bramley and the rest of the Borough over the coming years.

Once we as a council know what is in the Local Plan, we will be reviewing and updating the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan that was made in 2017. The existing Neighbourhood Plan has played an important role in the design and layout of developments in Bramley but has not been able to fulfil its complete role in controlling the

amount of housing in Bramley. This is due to rules laid down in the “National Planning Policy Framework” that state that the Borough must have 5-year land availability, an area not currently met by the Borough Council. Developers take advantage of this shortfall.

### **Community Infrastructure**

As reported in our monthly finances, Bramley Parish Council is now in receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy funding (CIL). CIL is a payment made by developers to the Planning Authority, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, and Bramley Parish receives 25% of this levy due to having a Neighbourhood Plan. The Borough Council and Hampshire County Council use the levy to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, play areas, open spaces etc. in the area. It is spent on infrastructure needed to support the development of the area.

The neighbourhood portion of the levy can be spent by Parish Councils on a wide range of things provided that it meets the requirement to “support the development of the Area.” To date, Bramley Parish Council has used CIL funding to support the purchase of new chairs and tables at Bramley Village Hall, new air heat pumps at Clift Meadow, and will be supporting the refurbishment of the Main Hall kitchen at Bramley Village Hall next year. For more information on the CIL receipts and expenditure, please see the PC meeting minutes on the Bramley PC website.

Bramley Parish Council is discussing a number of projects for which CIL funding may be used for the betterment of the community as a whole. If you have any comments or suggestions for projects that you consider worthwhile for the betterment of the community, please contact the Parish Clerk Maxta Thomas at [clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk). We do not have the funding for really large projects, but we do want to spend it wisely for the benefit of the whole community.

### **Meetings**

The December meetings will be held as usual in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall. The Planning Committee will be on 12th December, with Full Council on 19th December. After the Christmas break, the Planning Committee will meet again on 9th January, and Full Council on 16th January. As always, residents are very welcome to attend.

The next Magazine will be in February, after what we hope will be a pleasant, happy and healthy festive season for all our Community. So, on behalf of Bramley Parish Council, may I wish you all a very happy, healthy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Stay safe.

### **Cllr Malcolm Bell**

Vice Chair Bramley Parish Council

### **Contact details:**

Parish Clerk – [clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk),  
tel: 07810 692486

Bramley Parish Council website - [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)  
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website

– [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk), tel: 01256 844844

Hampshire County Council website – [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

## A Sprout in the Wine? Christmas Traditions

We are approaching Christmas, if you haven't noticed. Even as I write this in mid-November, I am sure I heard a Christmas carol in a shop this week. It gets ever earlier. There are many traditions that are followed each year, some well-known and others not so.

Primary school children will be starting to rehearse their Nativity plays. They are a good way to introduce children to Bible stories at a young age. They can also provide moments of unintentional humour for parents. I heard a story about some 5 or 6-year-olds who went a little off script in their play. The lad playing the innkeeper had wanted to be Joseph, but another boy had got the part, much to his chagrin. So, when Mary and Joseph approached the inn, asking for a place to stay, instead of the normal response the innkeeper said, "Mary can come in, but you (to Joseph) can clear off! I wanted to be Joseph!" Order was eventually restored...

The food at Christmas is not limited to turkey on Christmas Day. Many people in different countries have a main Christmas meal on Christmas Eve. In Italy, there is a particular tradition: the Feast of the Seven Fishes. Roman Catholics abstain from meat on Christmas Eve, and in southern Italy a feast of seven different fishes, served as different courses, is eaten. In Germany, according to a survey, on Christmas Eve 34% of Germans will eat a potato salad with sausages, while roast goose with potato dumplings and red cabbage is a popular choice on Christmas Day in Germany. In my family, the best meal of the Christmas period is on Boxing Day. All the cold cuts from Christmas lunch are served with a mashed potato mountain, piccalilli, pickled onions, and gherkins.

Boxing Day is the biggest day of the sporting year, although sadly the train companies do not seem to realise this: car travel is essential. It is not only a major day for football, but also horse racing. The King George VI Chase at Kempton Park is one of the highlights of the racing year. There have not been Christmas Day football matches in England since 1965, but up until then it was common for teams to play in local derbies on Christmas Day, with the return match on Boxing Day. It is thought that the often-cramped conditions of family Christmases in earlier times made it attractive to get out and about, especially in the days before television. Of course, the most famous Christmas Day football match was played in 1914, on the Western Front in No Man's Land between the British and the Germans during the Christmas truce. Sadly, they went back to killing each other once the truce ended.

One particular tradition which I think must be unique to my family was the 'sprout in the wine' question. My parents were 'once a year' drinkers, but there was a bottle of wine on the table when I was about 17 years old. I was allowed to have a glass but having many younger siblings at the table (it is a big family) somehow a sprout found its way into my wine while being served. For many years after, I was asked if I would like a sprout with my wine.

However you choose to celebrate your Christmas, may you have a happy one. And don't forget the true meaning of Christmas. Let us all hope and pray for peace on earth and good will to all people.

**Michael Luck**

## News from Clift Surgery

**Prescription ordering.** As Christmas and New Year approaches, please make sure you order any repeat prescriptions in good time. You will receive a text message to say that your medication is ready to collect, so please arrange collection as soon as possible. There is limited storage in the dispensary.

**NHS and 111.** If you have any health concerns over the holiday period and beyond, please don't forget to check out the NHS website, which has lots of advice. Please use 111 for advice outside of surgery hours.

**The Covid and Flu clinics** were a great success and well over 1000 patients received their vaccinations. Many thanks to the team of volunteers who manned the car park and greeted patients. Luckily, the weather was kind to us. Please contact the surgery if you have not yet received the vaccinations you require.

**Appointments not attended.** If you no longer require a booked appointment at the surgery, please remember to cancel it. These can then be freed up for patients who need them. The number of appointments not taken up in September was **119** and **191** in October. This number has risen so please consider others who are waiting for appointments.

## News from the PPG

- **The Craft Group** is taking a three-month break and is starting again on Monday 11th March 2024 at Brocas Hall, Clift Meadow 10am - 12pm. Anyone who is interested in joining us for a relaxing and fun morning of creativity please email: ppgclift@gmail.com
- **Line painting.** There are plans to repaint the lines in the surgery car park. More information will be available in the New Year.
- **The surgery's front garden.** Last Saturday, three volunteers spent the morning tidying the garden of the surgery. The tree was pruned, the honeysuckle cut back, branches removed and now the area is looking smart once again. Many thanks to all involved.
- **The Bramley Cubs** are getting involved with the surgery's garden too and they are going to plant bulbs so there should be a cheerful splash of colour in the spring. It is great to know our young people are getting involved with the environment in which they live.

**We wish you all a happy and healthy 2024.  
Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group**

## News from the Meadow Garden

The Christmas tree will be decorated and lit from 1st December and a wreath placed on the gate.

Four tubs of daffodils have been planted by the Squirrels. This was done by torch light, and they all loved burying the bulbs in the compost. Let's hope for a lovely show in the Spring.

## Wilder Bramley

The secrets of Pamber Forest were unlocked to us on a fascinating walk there recently. Led by Graham Dennis, Pamber Reserve Officer for the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, his 30 years' experience really showed. We saw the introduced Dexter cattle grazing certain areas to reduce scrub development, learned about the many beautiful fungi that we could see quietly flourishing, understood the role of the 'ephemeral ponds' and their importance to our endangered newts and other amphibians. Strolling along the different 'rides', we could appreciate what a huge amount of work goes into managing the different habitats of this site, to the benefit of many different types of wildlife. We are so lucky to have this on our doorstep.

Meanwhile, back in Bramley, a group of neighbours on Officers' Row have persuaded Hampshire County Council to reduce the mowing of the long verge opposite, to create a mini-wildflower and wildlife meadow. They say, "We will have butterflies, bees and birds and a wildflower rainbow of changing colours: delicate Queen Anne's lace, fairytale foxgloves, hedge primrose and rare exotic looking bee orchids. Why not adopt your area? Nature is in desperate need of our help!"

Can you help Wilder Bramley make a difference for nature? Looking for something worthwhile to do in your spare time? We need more volunteers, from admin help to practical jobs. If you feel you could help us out, please ring: 07865 080105. We'd love to hear from you!

### Next diary date:

**Friday 19 January 2024, 7.30 Clift Pavilion** We have some precious populations of toads, frogs, newts, lizards and snakes in our area and our gardens. Some are under threat. Come along to learn more about our local reptiles and amphibians from a talk by Pete West (HIWARG) with the Bramley toad patrol group.

To find out more about Wilder Bramley, head over to our Wilder Bramley Facebook page or contact us on 07503 155669/Wilder.bramley@gmail.com.



Fungi flourish in the understorey



An ephemeral pond in the tranquillity of Pamber Forest



A wild orchid on the Officers' Row protected verge



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## Bramley WI

For November's meeting, we had a craft evening, in which we made a Christmas Decoration to hang on the tree. There was a hub of chatter and laughter, with lots of glue and glitter around. It was great fun, and everyone went home with a homemade decoration. We also celebrated an 80th birthday with cake and sang happy birthday.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our walk due to rain this month, but hopefully we can go out in January.

We are again starting to collect Christmas goodies for the school to give out to families in need which will be delivered before they break up for the Christmas holidays.

We also celebrate our Christmas party this month, and are, and we are being entertained by Belle Canto Trio.

**Jane Matthews**



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**Royal British Legion  
- Bramley and District  
Branch**

*You don't need to have served in the Armed Forces to join the Royal British Legion.*

This year the Bramley & District Standard made its first appearance at the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance courtesy of our Branch Standard Bearer, Luke Holdcroft, who took over the mantle from Tony Evans in April this year.

This year's Remembrance Service, held on Sunday 12th November 2023, was led by the Very Reverend John Morley, who is also the Branch Chairman. The Branch Vice Chairman, Rhydian Vaughan, delivered the Exhortation during the Act of Remembrance. I will try below to recognise those who helped to make this service a reality.

Firstly, a big thank you to Andy and Beth Pinnock for managing the broadcast of the live service from the Church, into Cross House and on Zoom. Thank you also to the Bramley Bell Ringers for ringing the bells half muffled before the service. Thank you to Generations for their rendition of *Keep the Homefires Burning* before the service and *Mansions of the Lord* during the service. Thanks to Andrew Daggart for playing the organ and the Very Reverend John Morley for leading the service.

A thank you to Wing Commander Tom Carter from RAF Odiham for laying a wreath and to the RAF for arranging the flypast of the Chinook helicopter. Also, a big thank you to those who laid wreaths in the church, to Eileen Gulston for reading *In Flanders Field*, to Pam & Michael Luck for putting up the Poppy Curtain, to Marcus Knowles and the Bramley Scouts and Bramley



The Chinnock flypast



From left to right: Rhydian Vaughan MBE, Wg Cdr Tom Carter, Luke Holdcroft (Standard Bearer), PCSO Hannah Clapham, The Very Revd John Morley, Michael Luck, Bruce Ansell and Councillor Malcolm Bell.



Remembering the Fallen

Guides for reading the Bramley Roll of Honour. There were many more people deserving of thanks for the day, including the Bramley Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Rainbows, Beavers and Squirrels, plus all those who attended and those who dialled into the service on Zoom.

Finally, a very big thank you to everyone who helped in some way to Remember those service men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country. The cash collection during the service raised £408.11 which will be split between the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Soldiers', Sailors', & Airmen's Family Association (SSAFA).

We have no meeting in December, so our next branch get-together is on Tuesday 9 January at 12.30pm at Sherfield Coffee Shop for a lunchtime snack and good conversation. Remember, you don't have to be ex-Service to become an RBL member. You need only to support the Legion's key roles: advocacy, giving a voice to the voiceless; promoting Remembrance, mainly through the Poppy Appeal, and providing

general support for the whole military community, both serving and Veterans.

Our meeting on Tuesday 13 February will be a "Warm Hub" meeting at Cross House Bramley with soup & a roll, tea, coffee and biscuits at 12.30pm. At 1 p.m. we will be showing a film, details of which will follow.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Steve Day** – Branch Treasurer  
07341 552732

E-Mail:  
Bramley.Treasurer@rbl.community  
<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bramley-district>

One of the highlights during Remembrance time is manning the poppy stand in Basingstoke Hospital. Such generous, interesting and supportive people come by to chat and get their poppies and other memorabilia.

This is all brilliantly organised by Michael and Pam Luck, our Branch Poppy Appeal Organisers. The total collected, with just a few more donations to count as we go to press, is £13,045.44."

**Rhydian Vaughan MBE**  
Battlefield Tours



## Bramley Scout Group – Making a difference one bulb at a time

As a Group, we are loving being in the centre of the village, and all Sections are keen to be active members of the community. On 16th October, while many opted for the warmth of their homes, our Cubs and Leaders, guided by Wilder Bramley's own Paulina, (who also happens to be a Section Assistant), braved the chilly autumn drizzle for a night of gardening under the stars. Imagine the scene: a pack of young gardeners, armed with trowels and head torches, planting 100 bulbs in the Wilder Bramley Bee Garden. The highlight? Scattering wildflower seeds under the moonlit sky and stamping them into the ground. We sent them home, muddy and proud of their achievements.



Only a few days later, our Squirrels embarked on an imaginative journey, exploring the life of a bulb. They considered the sensations of being nestled in the cool, dark earth, waiting for their roots to grow strong enough to lift their heads into the spring sunshine. Once we knew what it felt like to be a bulb, it was time to get to grips with the real thing, so just like the Cubs, with wellies, torches and trowels, we headed down to the Community Garden, where, with Sue Howell's guidance, each nest, Oak, Willow, Holly and Ash, were given a large planter and each Squirrel planted 3 daffodil bulbs. Each visit to the Meadow will now be a chance to witness the fruits of their labour grow and flourish and will give pleasure to all who visit Clift Meadow.

Our Group's spirit of remembrance and respect shone brightly on Remembrance Sunday. Alongside members of the Guides, we formed a Guard of Honour at St. James' Church. Flag bearers led the sections into the church, where some were tasked with reading out the Names of the Fallen.

From Scouts to Squirrels, all observed the two-minute silence as they paid their respects.

The Squirrels, who had made poppies earlier in the week, had a greater understanding of their significance at the end of the Service. Our usual Remembrance Day Group photo was the first one that included our newest and youngest section.

As the holiday season approaches, all sections are busy planning a variety of fun activities and celebrations. The Leaders and Trustees are excited too. Every year we volunteer to help with the collection for Loddon Lions. We have the privilege of walking round the village, collection buckets in hand, following Santa's float, Christmas music echoing through the streets to let the children know Santa has arrived. For many in the Group, it's the highlight of the year, and brings home the true meaning of Christmas for children.

If you have any spare time and would like to get involved by helping to make a difference to young people who are making a difference, then do please contact our administrator Jodie at [Jodie.Saunders@bramley-scouts.org.uk](mailto:Jodie.Saunders@bramley-scouts.org.uk). We would really love to hear from you.

### Bramley Scout Group



## 1st Bramley Guides

At Bramley Guides, we do all sorts of fun activities at our weekly meetings. These include cooking, karaoke and skills builders (which contribute towards a badge). We would also like to say a monumental thank you to a lovely lady who came to show us two of the bats she looked after. Recently, we have had many new guides arrive, and we would love to have more join in the upcoming term.

### Sophie (Guide)

As Bramley Guides, we attended the St James Remembrance Service. Congratulations to the wreath layer from our unit, the standard bearer, and the two girls who read out the names of the men from Bramley who unfortunately perished while serving in the armed forces. We are extremely grateful for our beautiful wreath, and we are also very thankful for our exquisite standard that we can now use to represent us as a unit. Us girls at 1st Bramley Guides are all very appreciative for this kind donation.

### Megan (Guide)

Bramley Guides recently went away for a Christmas-themed weekend at Turkey and Tinsel at the Girlguiding Centre, Foxlease. The girls all took part in fencing and team building activities. Of course, there was also a delicious Christmas lunch!

### Woodpecker (Unit Helper)



Team building at Foxlease



Guides ready for fencing at Turkey and Tinsel



A chance to see a bat up close



**Bramley Fireworks Night 2023**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Bramley Fireworks Night 2023. The weather was in our favour and everyone who came had a wonderful time.

Lots of people enjoyed the food and drink from local businesses: Local Jems, The Bramley Bakery, Journey Kitchen, Gourmet Queens, The Waffle Wagon, Taryn's Cakery, Buzzin' Beans, Cafe 2 U and Tasty Sweet Bakes. The bar almost sold out of drinks, with many enjoying the warm mulled wine.

The playground was awash with colour from children running around with glow toys, glitter and face paints. Lots of families had their photos taken in the selfie stand, made by the Tadley Men's Shed and beautifully decorated by Camilla Anderson. Many were dancing to the fun music provided by local DJ, Mike Tiley, from Supersonic Sounds.



We had an exciting countdown from the raffle winner, Ayrton English, to start the fireworks display. It was an absolutely dazzling display by the award-winning Phase One Fireworks, which ended with a community spirited round of applause.

It was fantastic to see so many come together from our local community and enjoy the evening to support our event.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Bramley Parish Council, Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council, White Hart Inn, Greenhouse Graphics, Simmons and Sons, Ellie and Rose Photography, The Bramley Bakery, Sherfield on Loddon Shop and Morrisons for very generously supporting the event.

A huge thank you to all of the amazing volunteers who gave up their time to ensure the evening ran smoothly and successfully, including the Clift Meadow Trust, Bramley School Association, Bramley CofE Primary School staff and the Aldermaston 2403 Air Cadets.

We have raised an incredible £11,000 for the Bramley CofE Primary School and the Clift Meadow village facilities.

**Christine Delve and Jo Kemp Williams**

## Bramley Primary School have recently been reviewing their vision and values.

As a school, we regularly review our practises and policies in order to provide the best learning and environment for our children and families. Recently we have gone through the process of reviewing our School Christian Values. We have worked as a school team, with Governors and parents, to consider what we feel is important to the Bramley School community and what will underpin our ethos. We also worked with the children to gather their thoughts on what makes Bramley a special place to learn and grow, as well as what they want to promote.

After much discussion, considering everyone's ideas, we have embraced 3 new Christian Values for our school.

School staff and Governors rated *compassion* as a high priority for our community. In school we have talked to the children about thinking about others' feelings and showing



compassion by putting others before ourselves. We are also thinking about how we can help others we will never meet – giving up our time to support charities.

The children wanted *friendship* to become one of our new values. Our focus within school will be on being a friend to all – showing kindness and love to those who are not our 'best friends', making time to ensure everyone is included and looking out for those who really might need a good friend today.

*Respect* was the most popular value amongst the parents – this has remained a value from our previous 3. Within school we have talked about showing respect to everyone: teachers, support adults, strangers and our classmates, and what respect looks like.

Through our many conversations, it is clear to see that the emotional, moral, social and spiritual wellbeing of our children remains at the heart of what we do as parents, as educators and as a community.

With the new values decided, our school vision has been amended to reflect the change of values.

*At Bramley, we are a COMPASSIONATE, nurturing school which enables everyone to flourish, feeling confident in their uniqueness, being FRIENDS with others and showing RESPECT for all, whilst making a positive contribution to God's world.*

To make all of this easier to digest for our children, we have 3 common phrases we use:

- Being confidently me
- Showing kindness to all
- Making a difference

Through all of this, we hope that our children leave us with these values instilled within them, going on to live lives in which they have confidence, are kind and want to make a difference. This is an exciting time for our school, and we are looking forward to embedding these changes within our school.



## The children at Little Apples have been getting ready for writing.

Recently, we have moved our articles away from a list of what we have been doing, towards helping understand some of the theories behind why we do these things.

At Little Apples, parents often worry where children should be with their writing before they go to school. This is understandable - writing is an important life skill and at school and beyond, children use the written word to communicate and express themselves.

However, formal writing is taught later, beginning in reception and it involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas aloud, before writing).

In pre-school, there are lots of meaningful opportunities for children to prepare to be ready to learn to write. At Little Apples, we teach them about the written word and help them understand that symbols carry meaning. This is done in many ways. It might be through exploring books and in mark making activities which maybe inside or out in the garden, or for children to see and use their name and other common words, especially

handwritten and not always in print. It's great for them to see adults write notes to themselves, or lists, and for us to explain this to them.

Writing down things that the children say whether it is rules for a game, a story that they act out with their toys or some new vocabulary they have learnt helps children to see how sounds become words on paper.

Research shows that for writing to develop, children need to build their physical strength and control in the core, upper body, hands and fingers. They need to have the core strength to sit securely on a chair at a table, so when the children are in our garden, running, climbing and balancing, they are actually preparing to sit and write.

At Little Apples, the children make their own playdough and have a range of resources to use to manipulate. This builds their fine motor skills and strengthens hand and finger muscles, this is also preparation for writing. So is using tongs and tweezers, manipulating puzzle pieces and using tools, all of which we do plenty of.

Finally, we are always keen to share children's early mark-making

attempts with our families. When the children are proud of what they have achieved, it fires their desire to keep trying and is boosts self-esteem. I hope this is an interesting introduction into how we prepare children to be ready to write.

If you are interested in registering a child for Little Apples, please get in touch as soon as possible. We are experiencing very high demand for places this academic year. You can call us on 07598 588460 or email [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org). Our website is [www.littleapples.org](http://www.littleapples.org)



## World Science Day at The Priory Primary School



Friday 10th November was World Science Day, and the theme was focused on Peace and Development. At The Priory Primary School, we celebrated this day by learning about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, sometimes called the Global Goals - pictured below).

Each class took part in sessions to focus on one of the SDGs. There were also other exciting science activities going on, such as the Y1s experimenting with coke and mentos (reaction photo below!), talks from visiting scientific parents, and the science gadget shop which was run very ably by the house captains.



Year 1 and the 5 coke-mentos explosion



Year 4 learning about fair trade engineering



Thanks to Mr Vivian for teaching us about the Synchrotron



Year 3 learning about earthquake proofing

## Tub2Pub Recycling Scheme

Greene King are running 'Tub2Pub', a recycling campaign to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support and recycle plastics.

For the month of January 2024 they will accept clean and empty sweet tubs, biscuit tubs and cracker tubs. Look for the 5/PP grade logo on the tub.

I am happy to store / deliver tubs so start saving!

Tubs can be left at Bramley Primary School from now until January 31st 2024 during school opening hours or contact me for local collection - beckykirby@btinternet.com - 07733 466210

Thank you for your support



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Your Photos



"Taken this morning in Oliver's Lane" – Jan Nice



"Love this time of year because of all the colours, and the amazing, fascinating varieties of fungi. These were in Morgaston Woods" – Antonia Dewhurst



Michael Turlin's Christmas lights. Photo by Katie Moger



11/11/2023 - "Just thought I would share the poppies in our garden" – Louise Onslow

**Clift Meadow Community Café**

The café is held in the Clift Meadow Pavilion, every Wednesday during term time from 10:00 to 11:30 and is open to all adults and preschool age children. It provides a place to meet and enjoy a hot drink, plus biscuits and cakes. We don't have a price list - just pay what you can afford.

In November, Pat H held a wreath making workshop which resulted in some lovely decorations (see below). We also have raffles, puzzles, and other activities on an ad hoc basis.



**Bramley Train Station Facilities**

You may have noticed that the Bramley train station ticket office and waiting were closed for a number of months. These services re-opened on 20th November 2023.

The opening times are as follows:

- Monday to Friday: 06:20 – 12:50
- Saturday: 07:20 – 13:30
- Sunday: Closed

The toilets remain closed. Please note that the waiting rooms will only be open when the ticket office is. More information can be found on the National Rail website.

**Bramley Speedwatch**

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data:**

The SIDs were back in full use throughout October.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) data (October):**

SID Location	Traffic Direction	% Speed Violations (+30mph)	Max Speed Recorded
Farriers	West Bound	50%	62
The Street Village Hall	East Bound	40%	74
Minchens Lane after Clift Meadow entrance	South bound	16%	52
The Street by Churchlands	West Bound	46%	73

If anybody would like traffic speed monitored in their area, please let me know via: [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com).

**Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:**

4 manned deployments were undertaken during October. A total of 41 vehicles were reported to the Police from the 502 vehicles checked - hit rate 8%. The top speed recorded was 45 mph.



**Please refrain:**

During our manned deployments there are, on occasions, drivers that gesticulate to us rather rudely. Please save your effort and concentrate on your driving. What you are doing is a contravention of the Road Traffic Act which could result in points on your license and a fine. I must say that these people are a very small minority. Be nice to people, you'll feel better in yourself.

**Can you help?**

SpeedWatch is currently looking for additional volunteers. It is not onerous and is a great opportunity to meet people and catch up on the latest Village gossip and of course, help with the deterrence of speeding through the Village. If you can help out, please contact Graham White at the below email address.

If you have any question/concerns regarding about SpeedWatch please email:

[bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com)  
[speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or visit:  
[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Keep Safe and Watch Your Speed

**Graham White**, Bramley Speedwatch Co-ordinator



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 We are a charity run for the benefit of the children of our community by experienced, qualified and friendly staff. We offer excellent care and education in our inviting hall and large garden for children from 2 years old.

**Why not pop up for a visit?**  
 Telephone Jo on 07598 588460  
 Email : [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org)  
 Visit <http://www.littleapples.org/>  
 or search for our facebook page

**Did you know.....?**  
 •You can choose any of our opening hours as EYE grant funded hours, whether your child is eligible for the universal funding of 15 hours per week age 3-4, 30 hours per week or the 15 hours per week 2 year old offer.

**Shanky's Kitchen**, which was the restaurant attached to the **Bramley Inn**, sadly closed its doors on 28th October. See below statement from the restaurant:

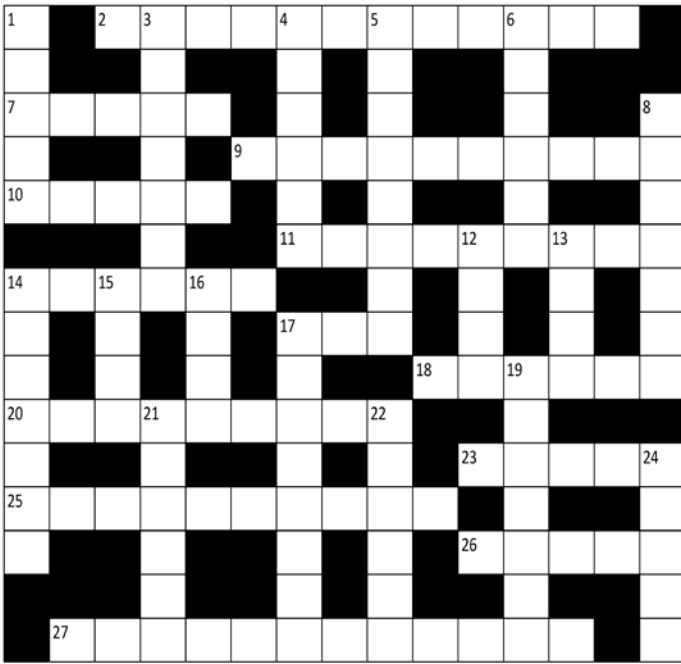
"It's been an amazing 9 months here in the Heart of Bramley opening up Shanky's Kitchen but sadly we will be closing, and our last day will be Saturday the 28th of October. Don't be disheartened as we are looking for another spot somewhere, maybe in Basingstoke Town or even meals on wheels (food truck). We will see what the future holds for us. It has been an amazing experience. Thank you to our loyal customers, Ram from Bramley Inn and the wonderful people from Bramley and the neighbouring villages. Hope to see you soon next year. Thank you again."

**Shanky's Kitchen**



**Cryptic Crossword No: 74**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

- 2 As this my card is sent for this special time of year. (9,3)
- 7 Perhaps an Audi or a Golf could harbour a sound system. (5)
- 9 Code ration around for bauble perhaps. (10)
- 10 Follows mint for lamb or brandy for christmas pudding. (5)
- 11 Covering over stone for Scrooge like character. (9)
- 14 Spanner in the works, sounds like a good long scratch might fix it. (6)
- 17 The night before first lady. (3)
- 18 Amusement or shopping centre. (6)
- 20 Ears or radio customers. (9)
- 23 A lost play for singers. (5)
- 25 A police department follows backward tin and Ric for dangerous chemical. (6,4)
- 26 Chess piece holding royalty for shellfish. (5)
- 27 Left rude alps and wandered into dessert. (12)

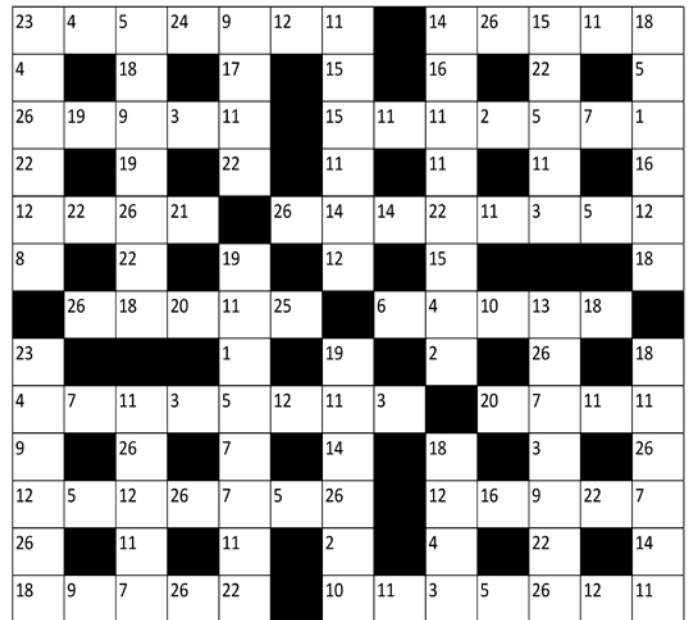
**Down**

- 1 See 24 down. (5)
- 3 A trim up top or a severe financial blow. (7)

- 4 Reduced rugby game less even say when looked into. (6)
- 5 Reminder on the up put to mind. (8)
- 6 Dent Alan found inside regarding teeth. (6)
- 8 Working leg whilst performing perhaps. (7)
- 12 Just show ? (4)
- 13 Thought I do envy anyone coming first. (4)
- 14 Christmas decoration following Judy perhaps. (7)
- 15 Nice sauvignon hides cool treats. (4)
- 16 Firstly, can all kids eat coat ? (4)
- 17 Lame Reds turn to green gems. (8)
- 19 With care, oil can be turned into energy unit. (7)
- 21 Levy imposed if raft taken apart. (6)
- 22 Yachtsman perhaps unwinds old rails. (6)
- 24&1 Man who works jolly hard once a year. (5) down

**CodeWord No: 60**

See page 31 for the answers.



Each number represents a unique letter from the alphabet and all 26 letters are used. Two letters are given to make a start.

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## Tadley Scottish Country Dancers Halloween Dance



This year, the Club's annual dance fell on Tuesday 31st October, and so had a Halloween theme. 30 dancers from local clubs enjoyed an evening of dancing and a buffet supper at the Sherborne St John Village Hall. Halloween costumes were optional, but there was a lot of black to be seen.

The club was started in Tadley over 60 years ago by expatriate Scots who came to work at the then AWRE. Today those members have by and large passed on, and many of us have only tenuous links to Scotland - we just enjoy the dancing. We have members living in Bramley, Silchester, Baughurst, Basingstoke and Tadley but would like to encourage more people to take up Scottish Country Dancing, which is beneficial for both physical and mental health. We don't provide formal instruction, rather our experienced dancers help newcomers to learn the basic steps and formations that make up individual dances. The large Sherborne St John Village Hall has a splendid sprung wooden floor, which is ideal for dancing.

We meet on Tuesday evenings from September through to the end of June and hold two events each year, one at the end of October and another at the end of June. Dancers come from clubs at Newbury, Beenham and Hook for these dances. We also have a Christmas Party.

Club membership is only £5, plus a term charge of £25 each for three terms. For casual visitors, it is £5 per evening. The first evening is free, no obligation. Come along and give it a try. Contact us through our website <https://tadleysd.wixsite.com/tadleyscd> or by scanning the QR code.

## Bramley Volunteer Drivers need you!

Are you looking for a volunteering opportunity? Are you wanting to do a little more for your local community?

Get in touch on 07787 166 924 and let's chat.

This, from Catriona, one of our lovely drivers:

*"Driving for BVD has been such a wonderful experience as I have met so many people that I wouldn't otherwise have met in my normal day to day life. They are always really interesting people who have all lived full lives and have many stories to tell. I'm so pleased I joined this fabulous group. It feels very rewarding to be giving back to the community in this small way."*

Volunteering is a lovely experience, getting to know our seniors, and not-so-seniors too, with their fascinating stories. Helping those who need a hand, and a friendly face is good for our mental health as well as for theirs.

And this is from Dee, one of our lovely clients:

*"I am a resident of Sherfield Park and use the Bramley volunteers frequently. They always give excellent service and make sure you arrive at your appointment on time. They wait for you and return you to your own front door. I have found all the drivers I have had are very helpful, caring and very cheerful. It is wonderful to be able to get to your appointment with no hassle with excellent service. To be honest, I don't know what I would do without you. I am sure many of us who use your service feel the same."*

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Without this source of income, many charities would have to cut important services, and some could not exist.

Charities rely on both regular donations and legacies in Wills to be able to continue their good work. Leaving money to charity in your Will can make a huge difference, and what a wonderful way to ensure that your legacy lives on after you've gone.

Donations can be as small or as large as you wish, as every gift makes a difference. A gift made to a UK registered charity is also inheritance tax free.

If your estate is large enough to be chargeable to inheritance tax, gifts to charity will reduce not just the overall amount of tax paid by the rest of your estate but also the rate of tax, resulting in your family getting the most of their inheritance.



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01256 460830

For help in leaving a charitable legacy or other advice on Wills, please contact our Wills, Trusts and Probate Team on 01256 460830. More information about the wide range of legal services offered by Phillips Law, can be found at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

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## The Literary Cricket

Here's one insect that surely no one's going to mind seeing in the home – though they probably find it trickier to get indoors nowadays and may never be lucky enough to find a cosy hearth. Strange, really – bug eyes, long legs, lots of sticky-out bits, but endearing in a way that spiders don't seem to manage, though I'm not sure they try very hard. Mind you, there are lots of different crickets: this is a Roesel's bush-cricket, perhaps one of the cuter looking ones, with a yellow-bordered saddle, cool stripey leggings, and a distinctly chirpy mien. I found it on a bookcase one August morning, and she just gave me time for a few shots before leaping away.

Crickets and grasshoppers are related, but they're not that close – the family split took place some 250 million years ago. That's a longish time, even in evolutionary terms: they were among the first sorts of insects as we now recognise them, and it's remarkable that the two have been around for so long without much diverging. If anything, crickets show more variety – grasshoppers have fewer species. The two can be distinguished by their antennae, much longer in the case of the cricket, often as long as the body. Like sharks and dragonflies, they seem to have hit on a good ecological niche and an effective body-plan and stuck with it. There's a handful of insects good at jumping, but these two excel – mainly, it seems, as a means of escape from a predator, but also to launch into flight and as a speedy mode of travel. The extremely long hind legs allow a comparatively strong but slow-

acting muscle, previously tensioned a bit like a bowstring, to heave the body up and away when the stored energy is suddenly triggered. Hard to improve on, perhaps; fleas, springtails and jumping spiders are pretty good, but a whole lot lighter, hence much easier to catapult.

It's hard to tell whether the jumps are directed towards a chosen target – more likely they just jump and see what happens, on the basis that anywhere else would be better than where they are, if a bird's swooping. The pilot of a fighter jet may experience a 9g force of acceleration before blacking out, a cricket or grasshopper can pull 20g at lift-off, and don't report headaches, as far as we know.

In general, crickets are the evening guys, spending the daytime tucked away and foraging or hunting when there are fewer predators around. Grasshoppers tend to stick to the open, feeding on grasses and cereals, camouflaged with blending colours. This might explain why the known celebrities of the two insects tend to be crickets, tolerated and even welcomed as good omens around the home, whereas the hoppers are seen as a nuisance in the fields or, in the case of the locust, one of their gang, could be an existential threat to a farmer.

Perhaps the most familiar is Pinocchio's Talking Cricket – later adopted by Disney as Jiminy. The story is set in Florence, where the cricket has long been considered a good omen and they're even given their own festival, Festa del Grillo, to coincide with Ascension Day. Though in the



original tale the mischievous Pinocchio despatches the cricket with a mallet, its ghost later helps the family out: this trope is built upon by Disney as the character becomes the puppet's conscience. Somehow the antennae become shortened, hence looking more like a grasshopper, really, but still a worthy pal to the Blue Fairy.

Another storybook cricket is the hero of a short work by Charles Dickens, no less. A couple of years after A Christmas Carol, he finished another novella for Christmas, entitled The Cricket on the Hearth. This for some years outshone its predecessor, though nowadays pretty much forgotten: less of a social commentary, more a rather convoluted family story, dramatic in parts. Again, the cricket is a moral guide, preventing the honest father making the fatal mistake of shooting an innocent visitor, by chirping at the crucial moment. Reportedly Lenin walked out of a stage performance of the story, condemning it as intolerable middleclass sentimentality, but possibly he'd have been expecting something a wee bit more radical.

**John Stubbs**

## Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship

At the monthly meeting held on 1st November, our speaker was Di Lewis from Citizens Advice, Tadley and District. She explained that she has been working for CA for the last 22 years, having started as a volunteer. There is an office in Basingstoke and Tadley with both offices working closely together. They are partly funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who appreciate the valuable work that they do and are the Mayor's Charity for 2023/2024. The clients they see have varied problems and they aim to give advice to the person and present options so that they can move their problem forward. They also aim to improve policies that affect the general public's lives by lobbying Parliament to improve or amend legislation. Both offices have a range of specialist advisors and more details can be obtained at: Basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 6th December and there will be no speaker as this is the Christmas party at which we will have the usual buffet and the mega raffle will take place.

There will be no meeting in January.

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](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com).

**Margaret Atkinson**



**Charlotte Nightingale and her daughter, Savahna were recently honoured at the Black History Month Basingstoke Community Achievers Awards**

Charlotte Nightingale, of Sherfield, and her daughter Savahna, living in Bramley, were recently honoured with prestigious awards in recognition of their extensive community work here and in Ghana. As regular readers will know, Charlotte is the founder of Tetknight, an NGO/Charitable organisation based in Sherfield and Ghana, championing Education, Training and Enterprise for young Ghanaians.

Also citing Charlotte’s vast community work in the Basingstoke area, the dedications read:

- Compassionate Maternity Services Head
- Mental Health Advocate and Philanthropist
- Altruistic Community Welfare Leader
- Empathetic Domestic Abuse Supporter
- Inspirational Education Program Founder

Savahna, like her parents, is passionate about philanthropy. She was recognised as an executive member of Tetknight

and as the founder of her own community program which focuses on mental, emotional and psychological wellbeing.

As an international multimedia broadcast producer, BBC alumna and award-winning journalist, Savahna launched SASHKEYSMEDIA and LIGHT LOVE INSPIRE to post interviews with leading authors, psychologists and neuroscientists, while engaging with King’s College London’s eminent Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience.

Black History Month Basingstoke Achievers Awards ceremony is held to celebrate those who are doing great things in the Basingstoke area to further inclusion, diversity and equality. Held every year since 2020, this was the first year when it could be held ‘live’. Invited guests included members of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Constabulary, local faith and community groups, and of course the award recipients and their guests.

The evening was a joyous celebration of commitment and endeavour, recognising local people who are working to build a brighter and more inclusive future together, here in our community of Basingstoke and Deane.



All the award winners pictured at the Achievers Awards Ceremony at The Ark Centre, Basingstoke.



Charlotte receiving an award from Dame Maria Miller DBE, MP for Basingstoke.



Effie Blankson, chair of the Cultural Diversity Consortium, which leads Black History Month Basingstoke is pictured here at the ceremony with Bishop David, Bishop of Basingstoke.



Savahna receiving her award from Poonam Gurung.



Charlotte receiving a 2nd award from Poonam Gurung, leader of the Nepali Community, Basingstoke.

**Basingstoke Deane Rotary**

**Rotary Christmas Shoebox Thank You**

A big thank you to all who filled shoeboxes for our annual appeal. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our local community who help spread happiness to children who have little. Over 800 shoeboxes from our club, full of toys and warm hats & gloves etc. are, together with those collected from all over the Wessex region, on their way to underprivileged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Albania accompanied by Rotarians, where they will be delivered into the hands of Rotarians based in those countries to distribute to those in need. Hopefully shoeboxes are also on their way to children in Ukraine. Our Wessex Rotary District delivered 18,224 Christmas shoeboxes in 2022.

**Where we are volunteering in December 2023:**

**A Victorian Silk Mill Christmas**

December 2 - December 3  
Whitchurch Silk Mill 28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7AL

**St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run**

Sunday 3rd December 2023  
Festival Place, Queen Anne's Square, outside Iceland.  
*See the Hospice website to register and for times and assembly points.*

**St Michael's Hospice Light Up A Life**

Sunday 10th December 2023  
St. Michael's Hospice, RG24 9NB  
Arrival from 4.00pm  
Commemorative Service will begin at 5:00 pm with music and readings.  
*See the Hospice website for parking information.*

**Camrose Centre Christmas Lunch**

Our Rotarians will again be cooking and serving Christmas lunch for the homeless and vulnerably housed for the Camrose Centre clients and volunteers.

**His Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil**

Sunday 4th February 2024, 3:00pm  
Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged in past years to host the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines; this coming February we will again welcome these talented musicians to the Anvil for an entertaining concert.

Tickets are selling fast, get yours from the Anvil Box Office.  
*Proceeds to Rotary supported charities.*

Basingstoke Deane Rotary wish you all a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

The Rotary wish is for 'Peace the world over'.

**Contacts:**

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



**Probus Hears About a School Boy's Experiences in WW2**

The Probus Club of Basingstoke recently had a personal history lesson from member David Stiles, about his wartime experiences as a schoolboy in Southampton.

He knows exactly where he was when Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, gave the announcement on the wireless that "A state of war exists between our two countries." It was raining at 11.00 am, on Sunday 3 September 1939. He was five years old, listening to a car's radio, in Ringwood with his mother and baby brother.

They had been walking around town, searching for a place to stay as they had not been selected by the evacuation committee. A kind motorist took pity on them and offered them a bed for that night and the following day they returned to meet the committee to see if accommodation could be found. It could, but only for David. His mother and baby brother had to return home to Southampton.

This was an unhappy time for David, however he shortly joined about a third of all evacuees that returned home. Returning to school only a short distance down the road, he was able to see the vapour trails from dog fights during the *Battle of Britain*, knowing that the pilots on both sides were young men, not much older than his fellow school friends.

His father was a tram driver in Southampton, and they lived opposite his grandparent's large house where their deep cellar made a safe and comfortable air raid shelter. Later, during The Blitz, bombing raids on Southampton docks were a daily occurrence and one night, they had to remain in their grandparent's cellar for fourteen hours. On another occasion, because of the amount of falling shrapnel, it was not possible to cross the road to the safety of his grandparent's cellar, so they took shelter under the stairs.

During one raid, the Luftwaffe dropped over 2,000 high explosive and more than 3,000 incendiary bombs, killing 650 people, and leaving Southampton a smoking ruin. Each morning boys would collect shrapnel and became expert in identifying this jagged metal from bombs or shells. Shrapnel became school currency and could be swapped for cigarette cards or marbles.

One day, two Junker 88 bombers, flew straight at the school during playtime, firing their machine guns. The school windows were smashed, and David had tarmac bursting around his feet, racing to the shelter where he was flung inside from a bomb blast.

With their house damaged by an incendiary bomb, they were moved to a farm worker's cottage in the country, but close enough to see the nighttime raids on Portsmouth and Southampton. Fortunately, his father had been brought up on a farm and became a dairyman, while David, now a ten-year-old boy, was taught to drive the Fordson tractor.

The time came when many thousands of men and equipment were camped all around for several days, ready for the expected invasion of France. He recalled their kindness as well as the gifts of sweets and chocolate. Then one morning, they had gone. It was 6th June 1944, D Day. During the morning, the sky was filled with gliders being towed south by Dakota aircraft. He now knows that 10,000 men did not survive that day.

David brought along a comprehensive display of war time memorabilia with a week's food ration, Identity cards, ration books, gas masks and other war time paraphernalia which added to this stirring presentation.

See [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information.



<b>Mondays</b>	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pregnancy Yoga with Sam 6pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga with Sam 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Classical Pilates, 6.45-7.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

<b>Tuesdays</b>	
<i>Parish Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's Church
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Body Control Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Mother &amp; Toddler group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 5.45pm - 6.45pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Scouts 7-8.30pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis - 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Community Cafe
<i>Squirrels 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall

<i>Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<b>Thursdays</b>	
<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Lynden School of Dance &amp; Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Cross House
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow
<i>HIPP Pilates 9.30-10.30m</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate 11.00-12.00pm</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Live Country Music with Dance 8pm 1st and 3rd Saturday each month</i>	Village Hall

<b>Sundays</b>	
<i>See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley</i>	

**Do you have a listing on this page? If so, please can you check that the details are correct and let me have the timings if they are missing. Any corrections or additions can be emailed to [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk)**  
**THANK YOU**

### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Bookings Team	01256 260270	bookings@cliftmeadow.org.uk	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
0-5s Club	Jo Weineck	07717 340985		
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Classical Pilates	Naomi Baker		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com <a href="https://www.loddonsportsfc.com">https://www.loddonsportsfc.com</a>	
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Guides	Viv Salem		firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
Mother & Toddler group	Christine Delve	07739 763618		
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Kerry Frost		kerry.frost@southernhealth.nhs	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Body Control Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Rainbows	Lizzie Ayres	07917 773563	bramleyrainbows@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	Judy Foyle	881821	stevefoyle@hotmail.co.uk	
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTS**

To advertise in the classified section and reach 2100 homes in and around Bramley for as little as £2 per line, contact: Keith Dillaway  
 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

**Citizens Advice Basingstoke****Have you changed your mind about something you've bought?**

You don't have an automatic right to get your money back if you change your mind about something you've bought and there's nothing wrong with it. It's the same no matter how expensive the item was - it's down to the seller whether they offer you anything. There are certain steps you can take, depending on where you bought the item and how you paid for it. If you think there's a problem with the item, you might have different rights.


 citizens  
 advice
**If you bought the item from a shop**

Check the shop's policy on returns. Even though they don't have to do it by law, lots of shops will say you can return items within 14 or sometimes even 30 days, as long as they're not used. Shops often reduce the amount of time you have to return items bought in a sale, although you'll still always be protected if something is faulty. You'll stand a better chance if you take your receipt with you and return the item in its original packaging.

**If you bought the item online, over the phone or by mail order**

Your rights might be different if you bought something from abroad. Check the seller's terms and conditions to find out if you can return the item. If you can return it, you should check who will pay for the return postage and if you can get the original delivery cost refunded.

You automatically get a 14-day 'cooling-off period' when you buy something you haven't seen in person - unless it's bespoke or made to measure. The cooling-off period starts the day after you receive your order, and there doesn't need to be anything wrong with the item for you to get a refund. If you paid for standard delivery when you bought something, the seller has to refund this if you return it. If you chose a more expensive delivery option, you'll have to pay the difference.

Some items don't have a cooling-off period. You won't get a cooling-off period when you buy:

- something that deteriorates quickly - like flowers or food
- an item that was personalised or custom-made for you
- anything from a private individual - for example someone from a social media marketplace or online auction site
- a CD, DVD or software, if you break the seal on the wrapping
- an item that has a broken hygiene seal - like earrings

For more information about the cooling-off period, how to return an item and for a template letter to let the seller know you're cancelling, please visit our website.

Citizens Advice Basingstoke provides FREE and impartial one-to-one advice to everybody, no matter what the query involves. If you need help, please call our Free Phone Advice Line on 0808 278 7829.

**Whitchurch Silk Mill****Thinking about Christmas Presents?**

In our shop we've a splendid range of seasonal gifts at a variety of prices, including silk tree decorations, beaded bookmarks, cotton throws produced on our looms, beautiful scarves, Whitchurch silk-dressed mice and our new range of Whitchurch silk-covered notebooks. Or why not buy your loved-one(s) an annual subscription, giving access to the Mill all year round? There are three levels of subscription:

- Individual – £18, giving unlimited entry to the Mill
- Joint – £30, unlimited entry to the Mill for two people
- Family – £35, unlimited entry to the Mill for two adults and up to three children (5–16 years old)

**Christmas Festival, 2 and 3 December, 10.30am–4pm**

This year, as a change from our usual Christmas Fair, come to 'A Victorian Silk Mill Christmas' and experience the Mill decorated to recreate scenes from the 19th century up to the current day. On the ground floor the Mill's Victorian lanterns will be lit up, along with illuminated trees. The first floor Gallery will have a re-creation of Weaver's Cottage and a table laid with gingerbread figures and a figgy pudding mix, which you can stir while making a wish. On the top floor, you'll be able to see a lavish holiday feast provided by the Mill Manager for his weavers. In the Mill's grounds you can purchase a warming glass of mulled wine, or a cup of hot chocolate and the café will be serving lite bites, cakes and hot and cold drinks. Day tickets £3 per person aged 3 years+ (under 3s free). Annual passes cannot be used for this event. The Mill's Play Town is included in the entrance fee.

Contact: [info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](mailto:info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk)  
 – [www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk](http://www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk) – 01256 892065.

**Basingstoke Concert Band**

is delighted to present their

**Annual Christmas Concert**

**Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham  
(RG27 0FP)**

**Sunday 10 December 2023** starting at **3.00pm**

Tickets £10 (U16 free) are available from:  
 band members, at the door, or visit  
<https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/18858>

Complimentary mince pie and drink during the interval

Make this concert the start of your Christmas celebrations

**Cryptic Crossword No: 74 Solution**

24	SANTA	27	APPELLSTRUDELL
22	SAILOR	26	PRAWN
21	TARIFF	25	NITRICACID
19	CALORIE	23	ALTOS
17	EMERALDS	20	LISTENERS
16	CAKE	18	ARCADE
15	ICES	17	EVE
14	GARLAND	14	GLITCH
13	IDEA	11	SKINFILM
12	FAIR	10	SAUCE
8	ONSTAGE	9	DECORATION
6	DENTAL	7	AUDIO
5	MEMORISE	2	CHRISTMASDAY
4	SEVENS		
3	HAIRCUT		
1	CLAUS		

Across

Down

**CodeWord No: 60 Solution**

E	T	A	I	D	E	M		R	A	N	O	S
C		R		U		L		E		E		A
N		R	O	H	T	A		N	A	T	I	T
A		D		S		C		N		A		O
E		N	E	K		D		E	T	I	D	U
S		A		L		B		G				O
	S	P	M	J		U		W	E	K	S	A
S				F		T		B		R		Z
T		D	I	D	E	C		A		Y	A	V
H		E		E		E		R		B		R
G		N		L	E	E		F		D	O	A
I		R		H		F		V		S		U
S		E		C		A		E		T	O	X

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Solar Factor (g) (%)	8.85
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