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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and Little London

November 2024

Chairman of Steering Group:

Rhydian Vaughan MBE chairman@bramleymagazine.org.uk

Joint Editors

Rachel Barclay Smith Georgie Blake editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

Schools Editor:

Emily Sykes

Advertising:

Keith Dilliway bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Nairn Glen bramleytreasurer@gmail.com

Rector:

Rev'd Mark Anderson revmarkanderson4@gmail.com 07480 067756 www.stjamesbramley.com

Churchwardens:

Malcolm Knowles 01256 880712 malcolm.knowles@hotmail.co.uk

Rachel Barclay Smith 01256 541251 rbarclaysmith@gmail.com

Bramley Parish Council

Clerk: Maxta Thomas (07810 692486) parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk Chairman: Anthony Durrant www.bramleypc.co.uk

Artwork and Printing

Greenhouse Graphics Unit 8, Cufaude Business Park, Cufaude Lane, Bramley, RG26 5DL 01256 880770 www.greenhousegraphics.co.uk

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Editorial

Do you love Autumn, or hate it? Autumn seems to be the marmite of the seasons, with some of us dreading the colder weather, and others who can't wait for pumpkin season and cosy evenings by the fire.

Autumn brings those darker evenings, with the clock change at the end of October. The idea of the clock change is often attributed to Benjamin Franklin, who in 1784, suggested Parisians change their sleep schedules to save candles, but it was not until 1916, during WW1, that daylight savings was adopted in Europe and in the UK. There have been some calls to end the changing of the clocks, calling the practice outdated, but while the European Parliament voted to end daylight savings time back in 2019, the UK has not announced any plans to follow suit.

The process for changing the UK's most famous clock, Big Ben, is a detailed one. The clock is silenced from 9 pm and set to strike the hour again from 2 am. The dial lights are turned off so that the clock face can't be seen, and the clock set to midnight. From 9 pm to midnight, the clock workers carry out maintenance on the clock mechanism, then at midnight, the mechanism is turned back on again. Over the next 2 hours, the team will monitor the time to ensure that Big Ben is running to time. So, if you happen to be in London at 9 pm on the day of the clock change, you may notice Big Ben is actually telling the wrong time! On p. 20, Grahame Mellor explains how the St James Church clock in Bramley is kept running to time. Incidentally, the clock at St James Church is a copy of the one on Big Ben.

Autumn also brings Harvest time. Though this usually falls around the end of September, in line with the autumn equinox, there is no official time on the Church calendar that this is celebrated, and was celebrated in October in Bramley this year. You can read about the Harvest celebrations at St James on p. 19. Our pollinators, bees, which contribute to our harvests are a running theme in this month's issue – Wilder Bramley's bee garden was submitted for an award, which you can find out the result of on p. 16, and John Stubbs is talking about bees and how they contribute to our environment on p. 25.

Elsewhere in this issue, Rev. Mark Anderson reflects on Autumn as a time for remembrance and pause (p.7), Karen McIntyre tells of her experience trekking to Everest Base Camp for an amazing cause (p. 17) and Clift Meadow Community Café celebrates its 5th birthday (p. 15).

Finally, Christmas is coming! We caught up with Michael Turlin on p. 18 about how he is bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to Bramley and Clift Meadow is having its first ever tree lighting (p. 23). Please also see p. 30 for details of upcoming events around the Christmas period.

I hope you find ways to enjoy the season whether you love it or hate it.

Georgie

Joint Editor

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

William Cullen Bryant

Cover Photo: Remembrance by Ian Evett

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

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Church diary for November...

3rd	9.00 10.30	4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints) Sunday@nine – Cross House BCP Matins – St James
10th	8.00 10.30	Remembrance Sunday BCP Holy Communion – St James Remembrance Service - St James
17th	9.00 10.30	2nd Sunday before Advent Sunday@nine – Cross House Morning Worship – St James
24th	9.00 10.30	Christ the King Sunday@nine – Cross House Holy Communion – St James

...and into December

1st	9.00 10.30	Advent Sunday Sunday@nine – Cross House BCP Matins – St James
8th		2nd Sunday of Advent
	9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
	10.30	Holy Communion - St James
	16.00	Light in the Darkness – St James
15th		3rd Sunday of Advent
	10.30	Morning Worship, Christingle – St James

From the Registers

Baptism	
Mark GILES	22nd September St James Church
Tabitha Lyra	
Lightning SAVILLE	29th September St James Church

Benefice Services

November...

3rd		4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints)		
	10.00	Holy Communion		
		– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon		
	10.00	Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye		
	10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall		
	16.30	All Soul Memorial Service		
		– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon		
10th		Remembrance Sunday		
	10.45	Remembrance Service		
		– Sherfield-on-Loddon War Memorial		
	10.45	Remembrance Service		
		– St Mary's Hartley Wespall		
	10.30	Remembrance Service		
		– St Mary's Stratfield Saye		
17th		2nd Sunday before Advent		
	10.00	Holy Communion		
		– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon		
	10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall		
24th		Christ the King		
	10.30	Café Church		
	J	– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon		

...and into December

1st		Advent Sunday
	10.00	Holy Communion
		 St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon
	10.00	Family Service – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
	10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
8th		2nd Sunday of Advent
	10.00	Café Church (Christingle) – Sherfield Park
		Community Centre
	17.30	Carol Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
15th		3rd Sunday of Advent
	10.00	Holy Communion
		– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon
	18.30	Carol Service
		– St Leonard's, Sherfield-on-Loddon

OUR COMMUNITY

Remembrance

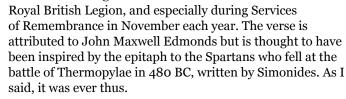
I'm writing this in the middle of October. In the news each night, there are reports of battles and deaths in the Middle East, in Ukraine and the border lands with Russia, and occasionally in some of the other troubled parts of this world. It was ever thus, as the saying goes.

80 years ago, in 1944, there was a battle at a then littleknown place called Kohima. It's on the border of British India and Burma, as these nations were known in those days. They are nowadays Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Japanese forces were attempting to invade India via the land route. All battles are brutal, this one particularly so. The reason the name of Kohima is remembered is because of the Kohima Epitaph, inscribed upon the war memorial there.

When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.

These poignant words are recited at meetings of the



It is difficult for us, with our comfortable lifestyles, to understand what it would have meant to the generations in the 1940s who answered the call to arms and went, in the case of my own father for six long years, and who did not know if they would ever return to their families, homes and jobs. The Kohima epitaph imagines that the dead can speak and asks us to remember their sacrifices.

Even those who did return were often changed in many ways. Physical and mental trauma are only now beginning to be understood. We know it as PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder. To take one example, the soldiers who first entered the Nazi death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka and others were in many cases traumatised by what they encountered. I recently visited Auschwitz, now a museum and memorial to the six million dead. Even knowing the facts, I still found it disturbing at this length of time away from the events. And it is true that no birds sing in the trees in the older part of the camp at Auschwitz. They sense the evil that was done there.

It is with this in mind that we are working towards this year's Poppy Appeal. The funds collected from donations, normally around £50 million per year, go towards the welfare of those men and women and their families who have served in our armed forces and who need help. President Theodore Roosevelt said at the beginning of the 20th century that nations should 'speak softly but carry a big stick'. That we should be ready for any aggression, but not initiate it. If you go to a Remembrance Service this November, and I hope you do, think of all those who did serve selflessly and who gave us the 'tomorrow' in which we now live so comfortably.

Michael Luck

PRIORY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The Priory Primary School is a small academy primary school situated in the picturesque hamlet of Pamber End, North Hampshire. We have around 190 children across seven classes; children entering in the year they become five and leaving at the age of eleven. The school strives to create a happy stimulating environment where children love to learn, and prides itself on providing an excellent education for all, offering a wealth of opportunities that enable children to develop key skills that will last them a lifetime.

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Bramley WI

For our October meeting, we had a speaker we have had before, Jackie Dimmock. Jackie is a retired police officer, who was in the service for 30 years. Some people in the village will know Jackie as she taught at Bramley School, and is sometimes recognised by children she taught, who are now grown-up.

We had a most entertaining evening, Jackie had us in stitches at times! She talked about difficult things that happened when she was a police officer and the weight of things that police officers have to carry around – handcuffs and a truncheon she had to buy herself.

Jackie also showed us some of her quilts that she has made based on her hobbies. For example, she showed us a quilt depicting a lifeboat and an officer falling in the sea, from her time with the RNLI in the Isle of Wight.

All in all, it was an excellent evening, which ended as usual with refreshments and the raffle.

Next month we are doing Christmas crafts.

Jane Matthews



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INSPIRING WOMEN

ON REFLECTION

Rev'd Mark Anderson talks about Autumn as a season of remembering, in this month's On Reflection

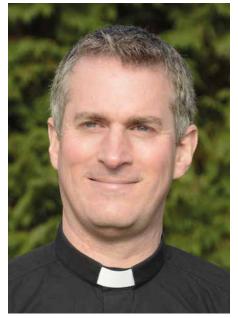
This is the season of remembering. Not just the day-to-day stuff, but the big things.

I sometimes forget to put out the bins, or do the shopping, or that job I've been asked to do. Our lives are so busy and there's so much to remember. At this time of year, we pause to remember more than the everyday tasks.

We have just had the Harvest Festival when we remembered people who work to provide for all our needs, especially farmers, but also many others who work (often hidden from us) so we can have everything we need to enjoy life.

During November there is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember all those who have given their life for the security and freedom of our nation, and other countries too. We recite the names of those local people who died in the two World Wars, and other conflicts. We remember their ultimate sacrifice which meant we can live without the threat of oppression or persecution.

November is also a time when we remember all those who have died. All Saints Day is on 3 November and it's when we



Rev'd Mark Anderson

remember those who have passed away and how we can be inspired by their examples of life and faith, which spur us on to a deeper understanding of, and greater service to, God. All Saints Day is also known as All Hallows' Day, which is why we have Halloween - All Hallows Eve - a time to remember those who have died.

You are welcome to join us at St Leonard's Church, Sherfield at 4.30pm on Sunday 3 November for a memorial service for those loved ones who are no longer with us.

Every Sunday we meet together in church to remember Jesus: his death and resurrection to new life. Holy Communion (also known as the Eucharist or Mass) is a time to remember that even in death, the Christian faith gives us hope that there

is a place where we can be with God, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." May you know the comfort and peace of God at this time, especially if you are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Rev'd Mark Anderson

Vicar, St James Bramley





his month Meet the Neighbours features Bramley's own pet portrait artist Debra Carden who specialises in custom portrait commissions of pets, capturing their personality from photographs.

I've always loved dogs, and when Ralph, our Border Terrier, entered our world in 2018, his cheeky personality and zest for life inspired me to try and capture his unique character on paper. A few friends really admired my work and asked if I could draw their dogs too, and word quickly spread. Soon after, I decided to start my own business and in 2020 'debramhairidraws' was born.

How do you create such lifelike drawings?

My pet portraits are created on a bespoke basis and are hand drawn. I specialise in black and white monochrome detailed, realistic style drawings. I use the highest quality materials and paper to create each bespoke portrait specifically; Winsor and Newton black and white Indian ink, Posca pens, Fine Liner pens and Prismacolor Premier Colour pencils which enable me to achieve a high level of detail in each hand-drawn portrait.

Do you only draw pets, or do you have wider interests?

Earlier this year, I launched a British Wildlife Collection which currently features a hare, and I am in the process of expanding the collection to include other animals, including a fox, a badger and squirrels, which I'm really enjoying drawing. I just love bringing an animal's spirit to life on the page.

You actually have quite a wide following, don't you?

Indeed! My artwork now sells all over the world, from Canada to Australia, and I've been amazed by the support and following of the dog community. My best seller is anything with a Border Terrier on it. Schnauzer products mainly sell in America, and Great Danes in Germany.

Have you always been an artist?

I've always worked in the creative industry and have had quite a varied career. Following graduating in Printed Textile Design from Duncan Jordanstone College of Art & Design, where I specialised in Fashion, I was





awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to work at Calvin Klein in New York. This was initially a six-month placement before being offered the opportunity to work full-time for them, designing prints for the women's fashion collection.

On my return to the UK, I worked as a printed textile designer for various companies in London, designing prints for both fashion and home furnishings, before working as a freelancer selling my own print designs to retailers such as Liberty's, French Connection and Ted Baker.

In 2003, I made the decision to train as an art teacher because I wanted to share my creativity, experiences and skills with young people. I taught Art and Design in secondary school mainstream education until 2017, before stepping away from the profession full time to spend more time with my family. I still teach art and design on a very part-time basis with young people with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) needs at a short-term provision in Berkshire.

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

New York sounds exciting. What was it like living there? What do you most miss?

Moving to New York for work at the age of 22 was a dream come true. However, I was working in a very demanding and fast paced environment so the excitement was soon swapped for the harsh reality of deadlines, criticism, and very little free time! It was pretty cutthroat. I loved living there, but I was in my early twenties so the noise, craziness and being in the city that never sleeps was very appealing. Having revisited New York in 2022, I definitely couldn't live there now - a quiet village is just perfect for me now!

Tell us a bit about your family.

I live with my husband Charlie and our two children, Freya, 17, who is studying A Levels, Sam, 15, who has just started in Year 10, and our Border Terrier, Ralph.

You've lived in Bramley for the past 14 years – what is it that attracted you to Bramley and what keeps you here?

I spent most of my childhood growing up in Tadley, so Bramley was fairly familiar to me. We also had close friends who lived in the village, so we often visited and liked the feel of it. We initially moved from Bristol, where I studied my PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education), to Reading as my husband was working in London. As our daughter was approaching primary school age, we decided we wanted to raise our children in a more rural setting and Bramley ticked the boxes with a train station for my husband to commute to London, as well as being close to my parents who still live in Tadley.

We love living here; both our children attended the local pre-schools as well as Bramley Primary school, and like us, have made lifelong friends, so we couldn't imagine being anywhere else. The beauty of Bramley is that you can just walk out of the front door and be in the countryside, or jump on the train and be in London in just over an hour.

Debra's artwork is available via her website www.debramhairidraws.co.uk and Etsy, and is also locally stocked at various outlets including The Barn Farm Shop and Bistro in Bramley, T&T Pet Cafe in Overton and Sherfield-on-Loddon Post Office.

A Day in the life of Reception Class

Our youngest children have now been in school for 5 full weeks, settling into their learning, routines and making new friends. The change in children when they start school (as we are sure many of you know from experience) is dramatic, they almost 'grow up' overnight. They are also exhausted when they get home from the busyness of learning and social interactions.

In our Ladybird, Puffin, and Tiger classes, the children have started the year exploring the topic of 'Where do I belong in my community?' They have painted portraits of themselves (which now decorate their classrooms), used 'bricks' to build houses and enjoyed the role play kitchen where they use real household objects to make 'meals'. In our EYFS area, we use as many real items as we can so the children feel different textures, materials and weights as part of their continuous play.

The children really enjoy their 'Small World' play time where they engage in play with mini figures such as dinosaur lands, train tracks and making towns from houses. It has been very loud when they were singing a range of nursery rhymes and tapping out different rhythms and pulses.

Children love their playtime in the wide outdoor area we are lucky to have, as well as imaginative playtime over in our wonderful Oliver's Garden. In the hall, they have been practising their climbing and balancing skills using different apparatus.

Within all of the fun, it is astounding the progress children are already making with their basic skills. First thing in the morning, children take part in phonics lessons guided by our Little Wandle scheme. Listening to the children practising how to make accurate sounds for each letter and then blending to build words has been great to hear — they are also delving into the 'tricky words' that we just can't sound out!









Their numerical knowledge has also been growing. A key skill they have already started to practise is being able to quickly recognise how many is in a group of objects without having to count them one-by-one.

As you can see, it is completely understandable why our children come home so tired from school – so much learning and so many interactions taking place all day.

A huge well done to our children and their families for settling so quickly!

Open Mornings

Is your child turning 4 before 1st September 2025? If so, now is the time to explore different schools.

To help you make the all-important decision of where to send your child, Bramley C of E Primary School is hosting open mornings. These mornings will allow you to make an informed choice.

Our open morning in November is on Thursday 7th November at 9 am.

The session will last approximately 1 hour and is a great opportunity for you to see the school in action. You can pick up a prospectus and ask as many questions as you like.

Please either email adminoffice@bramley.hants.sch.uk or phone the school on 01256 881339 to book your place.

The application deadline is 15 January 2025.

Nature at heart at The Priory

At The Priory, our eco-councillors have come up with a fun and clever way to use the many branches that have been left after pruning back all of the oak trees surrounding the school field: den building!

Learning comes in many different ways at The Priory and instilling a love of nature is one way that we inspire a love of learning.

We still have some spaces for our Open Day for the Reception 2025 intake coming up on the 7th November 2024, so if you'd like to have a look around the school to meet our amazing pupils and staff, please give us a call on 01256 850062 or email office@priory.hants.sch.uk.









Bramley & District Royal British Legion Autumn Update

We held our branch AGM on 8 October with good attendance. The meeting received reports of the last year's activities from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, all of which pointed to a healthy and well-managed Branch. Michael Luck, our Poppy Appeal Organiser, reported on a very successful campaign resulting in a total raised of £15,000. Our branch Standard Bearer has also had a busy year, beginning with the RBL Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall last November, several funerals of ex-Service personnel, plus a number of training events.







The new committee was elected, welcoming a new member, Chris Woodward. Branch Certificates of Appreciation for services to the branch were awarded to Jill Mann, our outgoing Secretary, and to Linda Dove for many years of loyal service.

Finally, Rhydian Vaughan MBE was appointed as Branch Chairman and received his Jewel of Office from John Morley, who now becomes Vice Chairman. We wish Rhydian great success as he leads the branch into the coming year. If you would be interested in becoming our new Branch Secretary, please contact Rhydian at - rhydian@battlefieldtours.co.

John Morley



Some Branch members after experiencing



Branch members at the War Memorial.

Bramley's Royal British Legion Branch recently visited RAF Odiham. John Morley tells us more:

22 branch members and friends attended the visit to RAF Odiham, where we were greeted by Flt Sgt Matt Cannings and escorted to one of the hangars of 18(B) Squadron. On the short walk there, we saw three Chinook helicopters hovering low over the runway. We are used to seeing them flying over our villages but to see them at such close quarters was great.

Entering the hangar, we saw six more Chinooks there for maintenance. Matt gave an excellent briefing explaining the roles of the three squadrons based at Odiham, the different models and the developments in their technology. Two US versions of the helicopter were at the Station for familiarisation and were in the hover seen earlier.

Excitement increased as the group walked up the rear ramp into the vast

body of the Chinook. After settling into the seats, Flt Sgt Chris Campbell, one of the crew, gave an informative chat about the capabilities and worldwide tasks of the aircraft and answered questions.

On the stroll back to the main gate, we passed the Station War Memorial and some of the tragic stories of those remembered there were recounted. Altogether, it was a most memorable visit and a vote of thanks was given to our hosts.



The happy few





axta Thomas,
Bramley Parish
Council Clerk, shares
this month's Parish Council
update

Bramley Parish Council is now back in full swing after the summer break, and suddenly Christmas is just over the horizon.

Longbridge Road Village Green

Work is about to start on this area of land, with the existing fence and asbestos fence posts near the Cinder Track being removed. Safety and environmental checks are to be undertaken, and Bramley PC is formulating a plan to bring the Green back into a state that all residents can enjoy. Residents should be aware that the path across the Green is currently quite dangerous, and that we would advise that it is not used until the work is complete. Residents who do use it do so at their own risk. At some point soon the whole area will be temporarily fenced off whilst work is undertaken.

Cinder Track maintenance

The Cinder Track remains a source of concern to the Parish Council and residents alike. Maintenance of the track is the responsibility of HCC Rights of Way (from the Bakery up to Lane End) and Taylor Wimpey (from Lane End to Beckett Gardens). Issues with vegetation overgrowth have been reported by Bramley Parish Council, and we continue to chase both organisations for action. Whilst Bramley PC has carried out some minor work, more substantial work is required. It should be noted that Bramley PC is keen to avoid 'double taxation' - this means that if Bramley PC eventually has to carry out work, then this is coming out of precept funding when residents are already paying for HCC Rights of Way to carry out such work.

Trees of Hope

As some residents will have seen on social media recently, this initiative launched by the National Trust and Northumberland National Park offers 49 saplings to be gifted to communities around the country so that people can engage with the story of the Sycamore Gap at Hadrians Wall. Bramley Parish Council has submitted an entry, and if successful, the new sycamore sapling will be planted at the corner of Minchens Lane to replace the dead tree that was felled a couple of years ago.



More information on the scheme can be found at https://www.nationaltrust. org.uk/visit/north-east/hadrians-walland-housesteads-fort/trees-of-hope

Spring Bulb planting

A volunteer event was held in October in conjunction with the Bramley Scouts to plant new spring bulbs at Bramley Green. This is to help replace those bulbs that might have been displaced by the recent ditching work. A total of 1700 daffodil bulbs, 250 hyacinth bulbs, and 100 snowdrop bulbs were planted. Thanks to Jan Wright of Bramley Scouts and Cllr Malcolm Bell for organising.

Planning

The planning application for 50 houses at Bow Brook Farm (24/01165/OUT) has still not been decided at the time of writing. Bramley Parish Council objected to this development, as have a number of residents and statutory consultees. For more information and the opportunity to make your views heard, please see the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council planning portal at https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/ - simply put the reference number into the search box and it should take you to the application details

There has been a recent Government consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), to which Bramley Parish Council has responded. This enormous consultation (106 questions in total!) will shape the future of planning and house building in the years to come, and Bramley PC felt it was important that Bramley's voice was heard. It covered development on green belt land, social housing, sustainable development, infrastructure, and

many other planning issues besides. Councillors had two meetings and spent considerable time independently going through the consultation process, and emphasised the need for the right housing in the right place, and placing the correct infrastructure before starting to build.

Upcoming meetings

Bramley PC continues to meet for Full Council meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, with Planning Committee meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are all held in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall, and residents are always very welcome to attend. The next Planning Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November, and the next full Council meeting is on Tuesday 19th November. More information and agendas for the meetings can be found on the Bramley PC website – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Maxta Thomas

Clerk to Bramley Parish Council

Contacts

Parish Clerk – Maxta Thomas, email clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk, phone 07810 692486

Bramley PC website
- www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – website www.basingstoke. gov.uk, phone 01256 844844

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Good for reporting highways and footpaths issues, broken street lights, parking issues, and flooding issues.

Advertising Manager

Around 2017, Keith Dilliway kindly offered to help me with the magazine advertising 'for a year'. Fortunately, that year turned into seven and Keith has worked tirelessly during those years to ensure that we attract and retain enough advertisers to keep the magazine going.

Sadly, Keith has decided that it's time to pass on the role of advertising manager to someone else, so we are looking for a replacement. The job involves:

- responding to queries from potential advertisers
- sending out and chasing up invoices
- dealing with the annual renewal process for existing advertisers
- · maintaining an up-to-date list of advertisers
- · attending around three committee meetings a year
- communicating with editors to ensure the correct adverts are used in each edition
- · if possible, looking for new business

If this is a role that would interest you, or if you would like to discuss it in more detail, please do get in touch with Rachel, Georgie or Keith at editor@ bramleymagazine.org.uk or bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com. It's a voluntary role, although you will get wine and cake at committee meetings! Keith is not planning to move on until the middle of next year so there will be plenty of time for his replacement to work with him and learn the ropes.

I would like to thank Keith, on behalf of the Bramley Magazine team, for all his hard work, diligence and support over the years. He has been an asset to the magazine and a pleasure to work with.

Rachel

Churchyard Tidy Up

There will be a tidy-up of the Churchyard at St James on Saturday 16th November, starting at 09:30. Volunteers welcome.

0771 721 4521 - 01256 412723

e: info@jcooklandscapes.co.uk www.jcooklandscapes.co.uk



Garden Design & Build, Planting, Decking, Fencing, Turfing, Patios, Driveways, Tree Work, Artificial Grass, Maintenance & Clearance

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Clift Surgery

In this village, we are very lucky to have a dispensary at the surgery. This means that we don't have to travel several miles to get to a pharmacy, and if you are prescribed medication by your healthcare professional, you can pick this up at the surgery. By using our dispensary, you support the services we provide at Clift Surgery.

 Prescriptions can take up to 6 full working days to be processed (i.e. does not include weekends and bank holidays), so make sure you put in for your repeat request in plenty of time. If you have run out of your medication and need an urgent supply, please contact the dispensary and we can arrange an emergency supply of your medication.

Managing your prescription

At Clift Surgery, repeat prescriptions may be requested in the following ways:

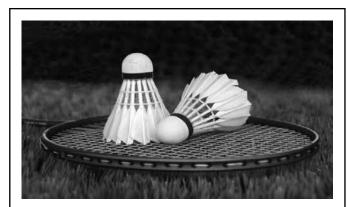
- By hand drop your repeat slip into dispensary, or if it's closed, in the post-box located to the right of the main entrance.
- By post send it to us.
- By ordering online using NHS APP or Patient Access (N.B. NHS APP is replacing Patient Access) Please see our website www.cliftsurgery.co.uk on how to download the NHS app, or ask at reception.
- Prescription queries can be made by telephone if you have queries, or problems ordering your medication.

Medication reviews

Patients on repeat medication will be asked to speak to a healthcare professional at least once a year to review these regular medications. A notification should appear on your repeat slip. Please ensure that you book an appointment to avoid unnecessary delays to further prescriptions.

DNAs for September

The number of patients not attending booked appointments in September was 110. Please make sure you let the surgery know if you are unable to attend, or no longer require the appointment. Thank you.



The Bramley Badminton Club

We have a couple of vacancies on Tuesday evenings for the Bramley Badminton club. We would love to see you, so why not come along and have a fun evening, and a bit of exercise? Beginners are always welcome. It starts at 8pm in the Bramley Village Hall.

For more information contact Jane Matthews on 881647 or e-mail jane.matthews80@yahoo.com.

Little Apples

Last month, our article focused on how we can keep young children safe when they use the Internet. This month, we are looking at how we can make the most of technology and screen time for children.

At Little Apples, our technology provision tends to avoid screens, as we are aware that most children watch television and use screens such as tablets at home. Therefore, our technology provision includes exploring older style telephones, keyboards, cameras and similar items. We have also just invested in some programmable robot mice!

When the children do get involved with screens and tablets, it is usually because we are looking up some factual information or for images to help them develop and extend their learning. They also use the technology to take photos and videos. This helps with their observation skills, motor skills and emotional development as it can reinforce their sense of identity.

When parents are considering the issue of screen time, the following top tips may be useful:

1. Use screens together

This way you can talk to your child about what they're watching and help with explanations and new vocabulary. If characters are going to the dentist or on an exciting day out, for example, it's a great way of learning about situations your child might go on to experience themselves.

2. Watch the right content

Make sure that the app, game or programme is suitable for your little ones. They need to understand what they're watching so that they're not just passive, but you want it to stretch them a little bit, so that there is learning involved. The language should be at a level your child understands with some new vocabulary or experiences thrown in.

Butter Daisy

As the leaves begin to fall, and we dig out our whimsical wellies, we have embraced this colourful change in season and enjoyed participating in a range of autumn themed activities and sensory exploration.

Our babies have made sun catchers with bright autumn leaves, and practiced their cruising skills, while trying to replenish those fallen from our sticky tree. The toddlers took their trains on a journey through pumpkin tunnels and have been buying, selling and serving up fresh veggies in their home corner. They also made an autumn themed "Friendship Tree". Meanwhile in pre-school, the children have been on a scavenger hunt to find the different seasonal items on their photograph checklist. They have also been learning about the different animals that are associated with this time of year, helping us to learn some new facts too. For instance, did you know hedgehogs have between 5,000 and 7,000 spines!

We have also enjoyed getting out and about in the village this month, visiting the park, spotting the trains, and creating transient art with sticks and leaves at the meadow – the pre-school group made a huge "Stickman"!

In celebration of 'National Poetry Day', the children practised and learned poems that were meaningful to their

3. Rewind

Little Apples

Children learn through repetition, and one of the benefits of modern media and screens is that you can rewind and play clips over and over again. For example, if they are watching Mr Tumble and an action song, you can replay it, so they have plenty of time to learn and try the actions.

4. Take photos and videos

As mentioned above, this helps with lots of learning and can record experiences that you can revisit and talk about.

5. Video call family and friends

Rather than isolating children staring at a screen, this helps children develop their social relationships and is a fun way to keep up with family who don't live locally. Young children struggle to understand speaking on a phone, and it is much easier to make the association when they can see their grandparents face, for example. They can show them things, perhaps something made in preschool for example, and it helps everyone join in with the catch up.

A recommended app for educational screen time is the CBeebies little learners app. This has been developed in conjunction with educators and is free, with no adverts. Downloaded games can be played offline and it features familiar faces like Hey Duggee and JoJo and Gran Gran.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/apps/cbeebies-little-learners-app

We hope this is a helpful introduction to making technology and screen time a valuable part of children's education.

If you are interested in finding out more about Little Apples, we would love to hear from you.

www.littleapples.org

Email: manager@littleapples.org

Tel: 07598 588460

interests. Our toddlers were exceptional with their yoga skills as they practised their poses to poetry showing gratitude for our sun and moon.

We also held our termly Parent Information Evening this month. Our theme was

'Safeguarding' explaining to parents how this is by far our primary focus when taking care of their children, and sharing ways of working together in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for all children.

If you would like to hear more about Butter Daisy Nursery, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01256 882515 or email butter@mydaisynursery.com.







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OUR COMMUNITY

Clift Meadow Community Café 5th Birthday Celebrations

On 25th September 2024, the Clift Meadow Community Café celebrated its 5th birthday.

The hall was full, which was a joy to see. As well as many regulars, some visitors came along to join the fun as well as enjoy some superb bakes and birthday cake. Alex Brewer, our recently elected MP attended, as well as our PSCO, Hannah, and local constable, Erica.

MP Alex Brewer spent a good deal of time speaking to everyone in the room. She introduced us to some of her local team; Helen her case manager, and Alex her press officer, and shared that she is settling in well to her new role and looking forward to the challenges ahead (including her diary management!). Alex left saying that she wished she could attend every week.

The birthday celebration coincided with fundraising via a raffle for the Macmillan Coffee morning. A wonderful sum of £135.00 was raised thanks to everyone's generosity.

The café is held on Wednesdays between 10am and 11.30am during term time at Clift Meadow and is run by volunteers. At the helm are Wendy Castle, Jane Kettridge and Angela Kerswell, who founded the event back in 2019. It is thanks to these ladies that this weekly self-funding activity exists for the benefit of the whole village. Borne from the concept of friendship, community and affordability (people only pay what they can for the drinks and cake), it is a great place to meet up with new and old friends. The café is also kindly supported by the Parish Council.

A weekly highlight is always a wonderful cake made by Sue Hill. The regulars often head straight to the table on arrival to see what marvel Sue has created for everyone to enjoy. Gluten free options are always available too.

Volunteers and guests may have come and gone over the last 5 years; however, the café remains a staple in the weekly village activity schedule. It will continue to operate for as long as Bramley residents want it. If you have not been before, do come and give it a try. A warm welcome awaits every new visitor. Here's to the next 5 years.

.....

Andrea Ede











Clive Fortune Big Band

Proudly presents...

AN EVENING OF BIG BAND SWING!

Come and join us for an entertaining evening of big band and jazz favourites, plus a few seasonal classics to put you in the Christmas mood!

Saturday 7th December,

7:30 pm

Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall Sherfield-on-Loddon, RG27 OEZ

Tickets £12.00

Please bring your own refreshment



For tickets, please scan QR code or visit https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/28230

Wilder Bramley wins an award

We are thrilled to say that our Wilder Bramley Community Bee Garden has won an award from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) In Your Neighbourhood scheme for the second year running! Some of us had a great day out at RHS Wisley to collect our award, which was in the second highest category: Thriving. The judge said we were, "on the cusp of... being Outstanding. More power to their good work." We came away inspired with new plans, especially after visiting their large Wild Garden which was packed with gardening for wildlife ideas.

We must say a HUGE 'thank you' to our monthly Bee Garden volunteers, who work hard to create an attractive haven for our declining but vital pollinators. Special mention must go to Rick, who grows the impressive sunflowers that you see there every summer. We then leave the sunflower heads on as long as possible for the finches and tits who just love to eat their seeds.

Bramley Beavers showed a lot of community spirit by braving the drizzle to plant some spring bulbs in the Bee Garden for us recently. In doing so, they ticked off an element of their World Challenge Badge. While they were there, the Beavers went on a mini-bug hunt and learned to identify different insects. They (and we) are looking forward to seeing the alliums flower in the spring. Thank you, Beavers!

It was drizzling too on our recent Bat Walk event in Centenary Fields, but an unexpected benefit of that was that while the group sheltered under an old oak tree, we learned that oak trees are particularly suitable for bats. They like to roost, mate and raise their young in oaks, ash and beech, particularly veteran trees, and while we listened to different frequencies on the bat detectors, there were pipistrelles flying all round us. It was great to see them close up.

Now that the wildflowers have all set their seeds, the Wilder Bramley team and a group of volunteers set about scything and raking the wildflower areas in St James Church and Clift Meadow. This traditional practice creates minimal disturbance to wildlife and soil structure, while discouraging invasive grasses. If you are strimming your long grass areas at home, please look out for hedgehogs, as we have seen one with a long curved scar on her back this year. Our team have left some of the seedheads such as teasels and thistles standing to provide shelter for ladybirds and other insects, and a natural source of food for birds over the approaching winter.

To find out more about what we are up to, why not head over to our Facebook page or contact us on wilder.bramley@gmail.com.



Scything and raking the wildflower areas to increase the flowers next year.



The Beavers helped our community by planting bulbs.



The Bee Garden has won an RHS award for the second year running.



... and they learned about nature at the same time.

Karen McIntryre, of Little London, shares her recent experience trekking to Everest Base Camp:

I have just returned from trekking to Everest Base Camp as part of Team Millane, who took this challenge on to raise awareness for the White Ribbon Charity.

My friend Gillian Millane OBE lost her daughter, Grace, on the eve of her 22nd birthday in 2018. Grace was killed whilst backpacking in New Zealand. Since this tragic event, her mother has used her grief to try to raise awareness of the increasing incidents of men's violence towards women and girls.

This trek was incredibly difficult due to the extreme weather conditions. We endured 3 days of solid rain and thunderstorms, causing landslides along the route. We were then hit by snowstorms, which the Sherpas who were guiding us, hadn't seen for about 12 years. This, together with the altitude sickness including headaches, nausea, breathlessness and nose bleeds, made our journey incredibly difficult.

Once the snowstorm had passed, we were trekking in extreme heat and sunshine which was reflecting off the snow and causing severe sunburn to any exposed skin, particularly our noses and lips. The trek took 8 days of hiking up to base camp which included two acclimatisation days, and 4 days back down to Lukla. Due to the altitude, we were only walking about a mile per hour. The days were very long and exhausting, and after some tough days we ended up staying in tea houses, which were very basic with no heating or electricity in our bedrooms. This left us unable to dry our boots and clothes, so we were often wearing our damp gear day after day.

Everest Base Camp stands at a height of 5346 meters. Unfortunately, due to the landslides, avalanches and amount of snow, we were unable to get to the base camp as it was too dangerous, but we were able to trek higher and see it from above.

Having lost her daughter, Gillian's husband David passed away two years later after a short battle with cancer brought on by the stress of losing his daughter. Out of a tragic situation, Gillian has turned her life around and has been working closely with The White Ribbon charity, so that no other family has had to endure what the Millane family have been through.

Gillian has also set up an initiative called Love Grace in memory of her daughter. Love Grace collects handbags and everyday essentials, which Gillian then sends to women's refuges around the country to help domestically abused females who have to flee their home without any belongings. Gillian was awarded an OBE in the New Years honours list for her charitable work.

This was the hardest challenge that I have ever done but I am very proud to have been part of Team Millane and to support the White Ribbon charity.

If anyone would like to donate, you can do so at - www. justgiving.com/page/teammillaneeverestbasecamp. Also, if anyone would like to donate any good quality handbags or toiletries for donation to Love Grace, please do let me know by emailing me at: karenmcintyre21@yahoo.com.

If anyone would like to find out any more about White Ribbon, here's the link: https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wrd24.









Turlin, to talk about his mental health journey and how he's bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to Bramley:



Bramley Magazine (BM): Can you tell us a bit about yourself? How long have you lived in Bramley?

I have lived in Bramley since 2009. I work in the Construction industry, and also run an organisation called Construction Buddies.

I moved to Bramley following a mental health crisis and the breakdown of my marriage. I lost

my Mum and my best friend, so it was a very difficult time for me, and I felt very isolated. I got through this difficult time, and I now dedicate much of my time to helping others with their mental health.



Mike's Christmas light display

BM: Could you tell us a little bit about Construction Buddies? What prompted you to start this organisation?

I decided I wanted to do something to help others, following my own mental health crisis, so I started Construction Buddies and Bentley Mental Health to help people open up about their mental health issues, and try to reach people



Mike's customised Bentley

before their issues get too bad. I drive a customised Bentley car, but this is just a gimmick for car shows as a talking point, which leads to people opening up about their problems and their mental health.

I have now been happily remarried for 10 wonderful years and have found joy in hobbies such as dancing. I am in a much better place now than I was in 2009, and have come out the other side. I would encourage people to talk about their problems and to help others by listening to their problems as well.

BM: For the last few years, you have decorated your house with a tremendous Christmas light display - is there a special meaning or reason why you do this?

When Covid came, it affected so many people, so I wanted to do something locally to help people in the village smile again, which is why I put up my light display every November. This year it will be bigger and better than ever!

More information can be found on Mike's website – www.constructionbuddies.co.uk.



Mike promoting mental health awareness at a car show

Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Alison Gillot travelled from Surrey for her demonstration to our club members on 3rd October. Her love of many things sugary inspired the ideas for her designs and her title 'Sweet Tooth' was suggested by her now late father, which gave a poignant dimension to her recollections as she progressed through her designs.

Her first arrangement was white with a hole in the centre – representing polo mints, of course! This design was based on a straw wreath which she had sprayed white. She then placed various white flowers of varying heights in test tubes, bound with white wool, secured around the circumference. The flowers she used included roses, lisianthus, stocks, gypsophila and antirrhinum. A clever design, as it was very effective, fairly easy to replicate and could be used over and over again throughout the year for many different occasions.

Alison, as many of us probably do, have happy memories of visiting the pick 'n' mix counter in 'Woollies' (F W Woolworth) as a child. A bit of DIY was involved to create a stand to replicate the







display for the sweets. For this design, she made several small arrangements of pastel coloured roses and variegated foliage, reviving memories of 'flying saucers', 'bananas' and 'fruit salad chews'.

Other examples of her favourite sweet treats included Maltesers, Double Decker, Quality Street and Liquorice Allsorts. All of her designs were compact and easily transportable for those lucky enough to have won one in our raffle. Alison used a wide range of flowers, including irises, carnations, chrysanthemums, which she said she had bought from various supermarkets. Throughout her demonstration, Alison quizzed us with slogans used in confectionery advertising over the years. Many were easy to remember, such as "it's not Terry's, it's mine!" (chocolate orange). Other were less memorable. One such was Yorkie's controversial "it's not for girls" - I wonder why!

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1:30 pm. The cost for visitors is £7, and they are always made very welcome by our friendly committee. For more information, you can visit our Facebook page or contact Dusty on 01256 881420 or via email: TayMab1@aol.com



Harvest Festival celebrations were in full flow at St James Church in early October, as recounted by Grahame Mellor:

During Harvest thanksgiving time, the famous hymn "We Plough The Fields and Scatter" always springs into mind. It is a hymn most of us will remember from our early school days and is often sung at this seasonal time of year. I would guess that some of us can remember most, if not all, of the words, without reference to hymn books!

Let us imagine that our own ploughed field can be represented by an empty, but inviting, Cross House, before our wonderful team of St James volunteers 'scatter the seeds' of our traditional Harvest lunch. The team, led by Anita, worked very hard to prepare, cook and serve a most delightful and tasty Harvest meal. This year's meal, lovingly prepared from the fruits of the land, included gammon, potatoes, vegetables and large chunks of fresh crusty bread, kindly donated by Bramley Bakery. Pudding was homemade fruit crumble with creamy hot custard – yum! Once we were fed and watered, we were able to really appreciate *all the good gifts around us, our life, our health, our food*, as the song goes - but above all the warmth, love, friendship and camaraderie of our St. James family.

Prior to the lunch, we enjoyed a lovely service, with the church beautifully decorated by our talented flower ladies. 98.94kg of contributions were also donated to Basingstoke foodbank.

Let us all harvest the wealth of our church community and appreciate how very lucky we are, not only at this special time, but every day. A very special thank you to all volunteers for their hard work and for making this a wonderful, bountiful, Harvest thanksgiving.





An empty cross house before the Harvest lunch



Volunteers hard at work serving up the Harvest lunch







What a wonderful sight to see the fruits of all the hard work with everyone really enjoying the food and company

St James' Clock

I'm sure that all of us, at one time or another, have taken a casual glance at the clock on the bell tower of St. James' church to check the time. We expect it will tell us the correct time, and we rely on it to have that information. As we all know from our experience of clocks and watches at home, they need regular winding or battery renewal. So, how does the clock at St James keep the correct time?

The current clock was built by Mr. Hartley, then of Silchester, and offered free to St. James' church in December 1933. It cost £14/12s/6d to install the clock in July 1934 and to make the casing for the weights in the south east corner of the tower. Mr Hartley installed the clock himself and maintained it free of charge until his death.

The clock was a handsome gift, since its total value was estimated at £150 (about £30,000 in today's terms in wage equivalent). It is a two-train flatbed clock. It can strike the hour on the tenor bell, but hasn't done so for some time, so as not to annoy the neighbours! The striking mechanism is via a long cable from the bottom of the tower to the top bell chamber, and a very long rod drive to the clockface in a chamber below the bells.

The mechanism is said to be a copy (or similar) of that in the Houses of Parliament clock which strikes on Big Ben. The dial is cast iron and 4 ½ feet in diameter, with hands driven via a rod and tube some 3 feet long, through the tower wall.

Today the clock's workings are held in a cupboard in the bell tower and anyone sitting at or visiting the rear of the church can hear the lovely deep rounded "tick tock" of the clock.

Dave Knights, seen here winding and making finer adjustments to the time, informs me that the clock needs to be wound every week; with approximately 50 winds, the weights are wound well up into the south east corner of the tower and just about last a full week to keep the clock ticking.

The clock keeps very good time and only occasionally needs adjusting, for instance when we lose or gain an hour in March / October. Dave admits that this is not done at 2 am in the morning when BST changes!

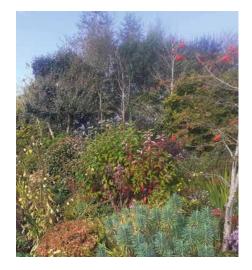
I found this process quite fascinating; it's interesting to see how something we take for granted works. It's only with the time and expertise of Dave that our clock continues ticking. Thank you, Dave, for keeping us all on time!

Grahame Mellor









Meadow Talk

Any warmth may now seem long gone, but nearly every day gives us colour, whatever the season. This may be the autumnal shades of the Clift Meadow trees, including those newly planted by kind donations in the last four years, the creatively cared for WI Garden which never fails to enchant, or the increasingly colourful football strips of the Sunday morning Loddon Sports football matches.

As our village expands, the Meadow is being utilised and enjoyed by more residents than ever, of all ages. It is

increasingly critical that dog mess is cleared up by dog owners, and is not left for others, including children, to tread in.

There is one more tree to be planted in November by Tom Mason, the Bramley Christmas Tree, which should seasonally illuminate the Village for many years to come. This year's tree lighting is on Friday 6th December.

As we head into Winter, may the Meadow continue to provide pleasure and enjoyment for all who walk, sit, run, or just stroll.

Clift Meadow Trust

eith Bunker, Governor on the Council of Governors for Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT), provides an update from our local hospital:

For all the doom and gloom currently in vogue, it is perhaps appropriate to mention our local hospital trust is the only one in the South East which is improving. Whilst productivity, which is also improving, is not yet back to pre-pandemic levels, improvement is reflected in the particularly high level of elective work at present, which is starting to slowly eat into waiting lists - not easy when demand is growing at 10% a year. The doom and gloom is also not helping with staff morale, who really give their all, as evidenced by some of the amazing patient feedback stories about how staff have gone way beyond expectations in their care and dedication.

The team tasked with bringing a new hospital into being continues to work apace, and are currently adjusting plans in the light of the feedback from the public consultation earlier this year. This consultation highlighted concerns around transport, especially for some demographics, and the value of a 'drop down' facility, for those not requiring full hospital treatment. That a new hospital is required is

beyond dispute, to relieve some of the strain from current hospitals. Building maintenance and energy costs are rising rapidly, adding to the financial burden for existing hospitals, plus there are growing issues with layout and the rapidly changing nature of modern treatment. Therefore, a new local hospital is very much on the cards, as the present arrangement is not sustainable.

A new drop down facility will help enormously with the ongoing issue that is wide spread across all hospitals, namely beds being taken up due to lack of social care. This is inevitably going to get worse as our population ages, and as has been recently reported, Hampshire County Council like so many other County Councils, is in growing financial stress. This situation may deteriorate further as we move into winter.

The public consultation did also highlight a lack of understanding about the plans to create urgent treatment centres (UTCs) and a central emergency department (ED). The plans are for the ED to handle 'life threatening' cases with a highly dedicated skilled and well-equipped team, providing a faster response without having to draw resources from UTCs, as is currently the case, and in turn providing significant improvements to patient outcomes. Meanwhile, the aim is to establish UTCs to handle other work that is currently coming into ED departments, for example, full fracture treatment facilities.



Bramley SpeedWatch

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

2 manned deployments were undertaken during September. A total of 26 vehicles were reported to the police from the 261 vehicles checked – a hit rate of 10%. The top speed recorded was 44 mph.

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email: bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com

speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or visit: www.hampshire.police.uk

Keep Safe and Watch Your Speed **Graham White**, Bramley SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (September):

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph	Average speed
The Street by Churchlands	30	West	49%	12	31
Farriers	30	East	35%	11	28

Camera Data (July – September)

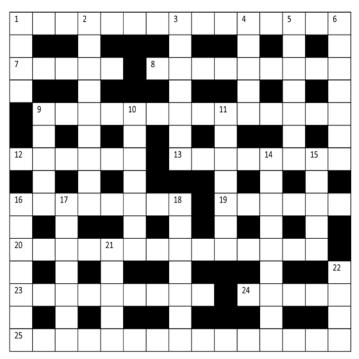
Month/Year	Verified Speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest Hour	Hour most speeding recorded	Illegal Vehicles
July 2024	3104	18	2pm	3pm	
August 2024	2616	13	5am	зрт	73
September 2024	1087	7	5am	зрт	47

Note: 12th – 19th September, road works on The Street in the vicinity of camera.

CROSSWORD/CODEWORD

Cryptic Crossword No: 83

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- Pick garden tenor around for Arnie film. (12,3)
- 7 Riviera resort on the radio for relation. (5)
- 8 Face I rate for somewhere to eat. (9)
- 9 A car made for one solves the problem of this annoying person. (4,4,6)
- 12 Matrices or sets of solar panels. (6)
- Nice beam sorted to give atmosphere. (8)
- 16 A rum list showing generosity. (8)
- 19 Though inwardly, pinched he progressed slowly. (6)
- 20 Go stomp canal, is nonsense to bell ringers. (14)
- 23 Vibe did us which lead to breaking into parts. (9)
- 24 Dismal leak concealed, but not big. (5)
- 25 Documents, actions pertaining to bond. (5,2,8)

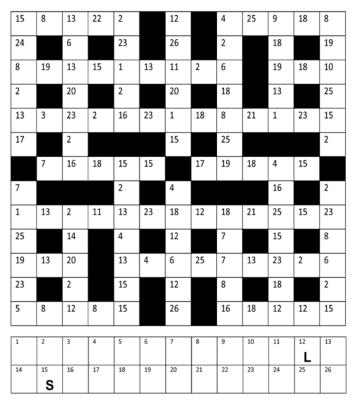
Down

- Gentle type. (4)
- 2 Seat found in a pack of cards perhaps. (9)
- 3 A lamb AA altered US state. (7)
- 4 In tenterhooks when you go inside. (5)

- 5 Two vehicles around an article could tow this. (7)
- 6 Built an air pier for grassland. (7)
- 9 Woman's name or precious stone. (5)
- 10 Is noses wrong at a get together. (7)
- Making a knight perhaps or over laying a soundtrack.
 (7)
- 14 Customs officers who sound as though they rid us of poltergists. (9)
- 15 Clare had even super special beginnings for this game. (5)
- One in the dock cues cad around. (7)
- 17 Short thanks Mable for being easily managed. (7)
- 18 Use cod lime to be songlike. (7)
- I alas have used a false name. (5)
- 22 Lump or buffoon. (4)

CodeWord No: 69

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.













Deck the Halls with a Dash of Mutton Magic This Christmas

Join us for festive feasts, warm mulled wine, and joyful gatherings. Our cosy atmosphere and seasonal décor create the perfect backdrop for Christmas celebrations.

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Phillips Law

Top 6
Employment
Law Tips for
Small Business
Owners

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Legal@phillips-law.co.uk} \\ \textbf{01256 460830} \end{array}$

At Phillips Law we understand that ensuring compliance with employment legalisation and creating a positive working environment is crucial for small business owners. Here are our top 6 employment law tips to help achieve this:

1. Develop and Maintain Key Employment Policies

Having clear, written policies is essential for compliance and provides a strong defensive position if claims are brought against you as an employer. Key policies that we recommend include:

- Health and Safety Policy: Required if you have five or more employees, this policy should outline how you manage health and safety in your business.
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures: Under the Employment Rights Act 1996, you must provide employees with information about these procedures.
- Equal Opportunities Policy: While not legally required, it demonstrates your commitment to preventing discrimination and promoting equality.
- Data Protection Policy: Crucial for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this policy outlines how you handle employees' personal data.
- Working Time Regulations: A policy that outlines compliance with the Working Time Regulations 1998, including rules on working hours, rest breaks, and annual leave.
- Family Friendly Policies: Understand that employees will have a number of statutory rights in respect of dependant leave, parental, maternity, adoptive, paternity rights and leave.

2. Provide Clear Employment Contracts

Ensure that all employees have a written statement of employment particulars, which includes the legally required key terms and conditions of employment. This is a legal requirement under the Employment Rights Act 1996. Regularly review and update these contracts to reflect any changes in the law or with the employee's roles and responsibilities.

3. Right to Work Checks

Check the identity documents of all new starters and ensure before they start any work that they have both the right to live and work in the UK. Also ensure that you document when, how and who undertook those checks.

4. Implement Effective Training and Communication

- Employee Handbook: Develop an employee handbook that includes all relevant company policies and procedures.
 Ensure that all employees are aware of and have access to the handbook.
- Training Programs: Provide thorough induction training for new employees and ongoing training for all staff to ensure they understand company policies and legal requirements.
- Open Communication: Foster open communication between management and employees to address any concerns or issues promptly.

5. Monitor and Manage Employee Well-being

- Sickness and Absence Policy: A clear policy on how to report sickness and manage absences can help manage expectations and ensure consistency.
- Support and Well-being Initiatives: Promote employee wellbeing through initiatives such as health and wellness programs, flexible working arrangements, and access to occupational health services.
- Return-to-Work Interviews: Conduct return-to-work interviews after each period of sickness absence to identify any underlying issues and provide support to the employee.

6. Seek Legal Advice and Stay Informed

Seek regular legal advice to ensure compliance with employment legislation and address any potential issues before they escalate. Phillips Law can be on hand to provide you with as little or as much support as you need to navigate the complex world of employment law with ease.

Stay informed by subscribing to our employment law updates which update your knowledge on employment law and best practices to stay compliant and protect your business.

By following these tips, we believe that small business owners can ensure compliance with employment laws and create a positive and productive working environment.





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BEAUTIFUL BRAMLEY

Bee Grateful

Busy, busy, busy, that's bees. Seven days a week, pretty much dawn 'til dusk; a patch perhaps six miles across, and a dozen trips round each day for each collecting worker. Mind you, it always used to be the case that honeybees were thought to have only one job in life - they just had to supply their hive with honey. Perhaps a bit like human society, things have changed, a sort of industrial revolution. Probably the most significant factor was the fact that bees acquired a particularly powerful and persistent parasite: us lot. Not entirely malign, of course, but taking a big part of the produce and substituting a rather second grade winter food supply - a sort of feudal system whereby the local lord took a share of the crops in return for tenant farmers' accommodation.

While the bees are conned in this sugar-for-honey scam, they probably don't realise that the highish prices that their pure product fetches means that humans perpetrate the same con on other humans. You can find special honey priced at as much as £100 per kilo - or more popular brands at say £4 per kilo. It may be difficult to substantiate all the claims made for the product, but it is certainly widely valued. Hence there's always the problem of telling pure from adulterated or misattributed honeys: such a variable natural product cannot just be measured in a magic honeyometer, there's too much complexity and too many different parameters involved.

Even within the EU, where compliance with quality standards is probably better than most places, in government tests some 14% of samples were found to contain some sort of added sugar. Then there's the question of provenance - did this honey really come from bees visiting just that one particular flower type growing in just one area? Historically, the best way of judging this sort of claim has been by trained operators examining samples under the microscope, to recognise and catalogue the known pollen grains by number and type. It works reasonably well, but if the honey is filtered, or the bees go for aphid honey-dew, or nectar alone, it fails. And, it only identifies pollen grains known to the examiners – a new source could be very good honey, but condemned as spurious. Blends of honey are tricky to categorise, and sugar types are undifferentiated. It's slow, specialist, and expensive to use in volume production.

However, over the past few years, the enormous advances in the analysis of DNA have opened up entirely new ways of checking honey. For a start, just the pollen grains were identified by their DNA: this was quick and accurate, and as more pollen types were added to those previously recorded, the locality of the hives could be traced. Later work includes looking at other material in the honey, such as minute particles of plants and microbes, fungi and viruses. A particularly promising aspect is checking for parasites shed by the bees – for instance, infection by the varroa mite could be traced and the

effect on bee health measured. With the increasingly serious incidence of 'colony collapse disorder', possibly linked to pesticides, it may be possible to find out just how such diseases can be avoided.

The bees' job description requires a lot of the hive's workers to travel to a wide variety of plants, over a fairly well-defined range: being keen collectors, and very hairy, they inevitably pick up all sorts of incidental stuff, as well as the essential nectar and pollen. The good news, is that with DNA analysis of honey and its various inclusions, they can report on the wider environmental status and health of their patch. Currently, researchers have had to painstakingly take samples from plants, soil and atmosphere, collate the data and compare them with past collections to see how, for instance, climate change is affecting the local flora and fauna. With databanks of honey and its make-up, the whole operation can be vastly improved.

This, then, is another job for the long-suffering little animals, along with a fair share of the work of pollinating our food crops. In the US, bees are trucked in their hundreds of thousands to pollinate almond and fruit trees. Our bees are not just paying a tithe of their foodbank, now they're also recruited to work as environmental inspectors. We should be awfully grateful to these guys.

John Stubbs















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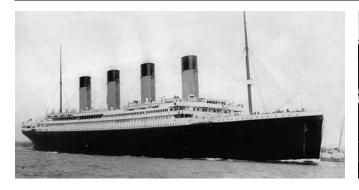
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OUR COMMUNITY







Probus hears about the Titanic and her times

At Probus' most recent meeting, Probus heard from speaker Dr Stephen Goss, an Ulsterman whose great grandfather was a painter on the RMS Titanic, working in the shipyard of the most famous ship builders in the world at the time, Harland & Wolff of Belfast.

Dr Goss explained that the peaceful period following the end of the Franco-Prussian war in 1871, up to the start of WW1 in 1914 was a time of great advances in social and artistic movements in Europe, centralised in France, and became known as the Belle Epoque. At the same time, there were shifting collaborations between nations where Britain, Austria and Prussia were allied against Napoleonic France. The unification of Italy and Germany brought other pressures, with the arrangement between France and Russia seen by Germany as a particular threat, which they met by re-arming with naval power. This brought them into direct competition with Britain, who had the largest navy in history. By the 1890s, Britain was losing its global dominance to both Germany and the USA. To maintain influence in the world, the use of soft power was recognised as a replacement for gunboat diplomacy. One way was to have the biggest, most impressive and most luxurious ocean-going liners to attract the most wealthy and influential people in the world.

Belfast had boomed from the success of ship building with "Belfast Built", its signature, and had become world leaders in ship construction, support services and finance. It was the only place to build three transatlantic liners for the White Star Line: whose names are engraved in the annals of history the Olympic, Titanic and Britannic.

At 46,000 tons, the Titanic was the largest ship in the world, and was fitted out to the most luxurious level. The staterooms were designed to exceed the expectations of the great and good

while the second-class cabins on the Titanic were more than a match for first class on other liners. Its safety measures considerably exceeded the maritime regulations of the day. And to further pander to the wealthy clientele. the Marconi Company was employed to relay ship to shore messages via the latest Morse Code signalling system.

Following the sinking of the Titanic on its maiden voyage, the story of which is well known, the discovery of the wreck was far from straightforward, as the Marconi operator that fateful night gave incorrect information that placed the stricken ship a few miles from its actual position.

Over the years, there had been several attempts to find the wreck, including one by oceanographer Robert Ballard. His ship contained the latest sonar and submersible technology, and he approached the US navy seeking support. While an agreement was reached to finance the search for the Titanic, there was another reason for their support, which was as cover for a top-secret mission. In the 1960s, the US navy had lost two nuclear submarines in the North Atlantic Ocean in the area that supposedly contained the wreck of the Titanic, and they did not want the Russians to be aware of this search, or its result. The two submarines were located but that only left twelve days of the contract to find the Titanic and on 1st September 1985, a boiler was discovered in a debris field that led to the wreck.

The history of the Titanic continues, with the most recent event being the implosion of the observation submersible, Titan, with the loss of five lives in June 2023. The future of Harland & Wolff remains uncertain, as on 16th September 2024, it was reported the company entered administration for the second time in five years. The company is expected to continue operations normally while its non-core operations wind down.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information.

Sherfield & District **Gardening Club: Growing** Together

The Sherfield & District Gardening Club meets monthly at 7 pm at Sherfield Village Hall, usually on the 3rd Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome to join – we gardeners are a friendly bunch! No experience necessary - you don't need gardening experience or expertise to enjoying hearing about gardens, plants, or new developments in growing and plant health.

Membership is currently £8 per year and each meeting is £2, including refreshments. Our monthly raffle includes gardening inspired prizes and helps to boost funds. If you'd like to come as a guest, just contact Diana or Ruth (details below).

Our next meeting is on Monday 18 November and we look forward to welcoming Dr Mark Spencer. Based on the Isle of Wight and in London, Dr Spencer's work takes him all over the world, as a seasoned writer, public speaker and television presenter.

An internationally respected botanist. Dr Spencer studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and at the University of Reading, where he completed his PhD in the evolution of plant pathogenic fungi. His expertise includes forensic botany, the plants of North-West Europe, invasive species and the history of botanical science. Mark worked for 12 years at the Natural History Museum where he gained an international reputation as an expert in botany, collections management and gallery development. As a forensic botanist, Mark uses his expertise in "missing person enquiries", murders and other serious crimes (that's a talk for another day...). In his (limited) spare time, he tends his garden and allotment, or can be found in the back streets of London, looking for plants and fungi.

His talk for us is entitled "The Botanic Gardens of London before Kew" and includes not just plants, but aspects of history, social history, fascinating people and a whole lot more.

For more information, please contact Ruth Johnston 07867 502542 or Diana Stacey 07554 440537 or email sherfieldgardeningclub@gmail.com.



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

Tuesdays	
Parish Council Meetings 3 rd Tuesday of the month	Bramley Room, Village Hall
Badminton	Village Hall
Bell Ringing 8pm	St James's Church
Petite Dance	Village Hall
Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Body Control Pilates 9.30-10.30am	Village Hall
Bramley 0-5s 10am – 11.30 am	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Beavers 5.45pm – 6.45pm	Brocas Hall
Scouts 7-8.30pm	Brocas Hall
Hipp Pilates 7-9pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Table Tennis – 7pm	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

Wednesdays	
1 st Bramley Brownies	Village Hall
1 st Bramley Rainbows	Village Hall
Wednesday Club 10am to midday	St Stephen's Hall
1 st Bramley Guides	Village Hall
WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am and 12.30 – 1.30pm	Cross House
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Clift Meadow
10-11.30am	Community Cafe
Squirrels 5-6pm	Brocas Hall
Sue Cordery Yoga 6-7pm and 7-8pm	Cross House
Trail Runners 7.30pm	Clift Meadow car park

Thursdays	
Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
Dance Club	Primary School Hall
NHS Heath Visitor	Village Hall
Pilates	St Stephen's Hall
WI 2 nd Thursday	Village Hall
Friendship Walks, 10.30	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Perform 5.45pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm	Cross House
Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm	Village Hall
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)	Clift Meadow car park
Petite Dance	Village Hall
Hipp Pilates 7-8pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays		
WG Pilates 12-1pm	Cross House	
Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion	
Perform 3.30pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion	
Youth Club 5pm	Brocas Hall	

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

Sundays	
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
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	Anne Smith	01256 880327	admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk	Bookings		
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings		
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339				
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390				
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647				
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com			
Bramley 0-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985				
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Jane Kettridge		jk.cmcc@btconnect.com			
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.walsh59@outlook.com			
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) Clift Meadow Youth	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com			
Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com https://www.loddonsportsfc.com			
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707	mitpo, , , www.ioudonoportoio.com	No children please		
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161				
Friendship Walks			info@bramleyvillagehub.com			
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			
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 (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		
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk			
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings		
Sue Cordery Yoga	Sue Cordery	07884 138026	suecordery@icloud.com www.suecorderyyoga.com			
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			

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Useful Websites and Contact Details

Bramley Parish Council

Website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk Email: clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07810 692486

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Website: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/

Planning enquiries:

http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/environment-and-planning

Bin collection issues:

https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bin-collection-issue-form

Grass, hedges, weeds and leaves issues: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-grounds-maintenance-problem

Report fly-tipping:

https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping

Problems with trees:

https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-a-tree-problem

Hampshire County Council

Website: www.hants.gov.uk

Highways reporting:

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

Faulty streetlights: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight

Flooding or drainage problems: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Parking issues: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/

parking-contravention

Rights of Way (footpath issue): www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

Cinder Track Reporting

Faulty lights (from Lane End to Kirby Drive estate): Taylor Wimpey ccwestlon@taylorwimpey.com

Tel: 01494 509090

Faulty lights (from Sherfield Road to Lane End): www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight

his month we have a new feature, a story from **Jordan Rollins**, set at the time of the gunpowder plot, entitled "**Autumn's Chaff**"

Feathers in shades of white, brown and grey were sitting in the puddles, soaking up the dark waters. It discoloured them, stole their satin shine away beneath the surface tension. What was left was stained, soaked and sad. Sam craned his neck upwards. They had fallen from the cold, blue skies, fluttered out of socket by pinions hard at work. 'Follow the sun' was the direction. 'Stay warm' was the desire. In pushing forward, the migrating birds had abandoned their fallen plumage like dried reed stalks in the soil. Above, between clouds, they flew, dove and curtailed along cold winds and warm gusts. Each wingbeat took them closer to the warmth, but further from feathers left behind in the cold. Wooden wheels crunched the cobbles, splashing murky puddles and crumpling the feathers beneath. A snail, by a miracle of chance, was saved from its grim fate by its sudden sprint to take a bite of a fallen leaf. Like those leaves, its shell was decorated in earthy shades of sable ochre. Autumn wind whispered between dried twigs clinging to branches. They resembled a forehead's creases as more yellowed leaves fell. It all felt so quiet, at peace, like a last breath of a world satisfied by its time. Samuel had heard the stories of how much louder and angrier London had been recently. Stories of James the First of England, the Sixth of Scotland, surviving a plot only by God's intervention. Sam shrugged his sack on his shoulders. More likely to have been wet or stale black powder. His legs ached from the repeated trawls to and from the Granary. Its cold stone walls were dry to the touch, and raised above the wet mud. Just as well, or the bread would taste of dung and mold. Pulling the bag, and releasing his grip, he poured the grain he had taken from the millstone to the granary, through fields and light woodland. Dew and wet soil had soaked his shoes through, and there were still many more trails to go before the majority of the grain had been towed. The wooden door rattled in its frame as he shut it, turning the handle and re-tying the rope that kept it shut. A dull, rhythmic pounding sounded behind him. Sam turned to see a troop of armoured men on horseback riding through the small crossroads. One called out, entreating anyone that had seen or housed a runaway Catholic to step forward with any information. None would, if they had. King's men could not be trusted, less so when a plot was freshly failed and traitors were on the run. Sam was sure that Fawkes would be found. A pigeon could only flap around in a grain store for so long, after all. Silence followed their call. No one had a word to say. They rode on. Samuel sighed. Between the cold, and the heavy burdens to carry, he felt like a candle that had been burned at both ends.

Jordan Rollins

Upcoming Events

- Basingstoke Choral Society presents Songs of the Silver Screen at The Anvil, Basingstoke. More information can be found at www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk.
- St Michael's Hospice Basingstoke Reindeer Run, 24th November, 9 am (arrival at 8 am) at Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA. More information can be found at www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk.
- Hook Choral Society presents Christmas Oratorio by Bob Chilcott and other choral works, 30th November, 7.30 pm at All Saints Church, Odiham. Tickets are available from www.hookchoral.co.uk, or phone 07957 293641.
- St Michael's Hospice Light Up a Life, 8th December, 5 pm (arrival from 4 pm) at St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. More information can be found at www. stmichaelshospice.org.uk/LUAL-24.
- Basingstoke & Deane Rotary hosts His Majesty's Royal Marines, 26th January, 3 pm at The Anvil. Tickets available from www.anvilarts.org.uk.

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Bramley Osteopaths

Becky Hall MSc (Paed Ost), BSc (Ost Med), ND, Dip SMT REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

7 St Marys Avenue, Bramley, Hants RG26 5UU email: beckyhall@bramleyosteopaths.com www.bramleyosteopaths.com

phone: 01256 884139

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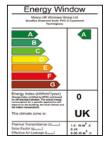


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