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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and Little London

### February 2024

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#### **Editorial**

Welcome to the first Bramley Magazine of 2024. I guess it is a bit late to wish you a Happy New Year unless, like Little Apples, you are celebrating Chinese New Year which falls on 10 February.

No sooner have we finished one celebration than the shops are encouraging us to prepare for the next. As I joined the bargain hunters buying half price mince pies and Christmas puddings a few days after Christmas, there was already a display of mini eggs and Easter bunnies further down the aisle and tempting Valentine's Day treats opposite. Of course, before we get to either of those celebrations, we have the fun of pancake day, or Shrove Tuesday to give it its proper name. Traditionally, this was the day people used up all the food they wouldn't be allowed to eat during Lent, which starts the next day on Ash Wednesday. Eggs, milk and butter would typically be on the banned list, so pancakes were a convenient way of using them up. These ingredients don't feel very special nowadays, but hundreds of years ago they were one of the few ways of turning a basic recipe of flour and water into something richer.

In some villages it was the custom for the church bell to ring at noon as the signal for people to begin frying their pancakes. The bells won't be ringing that early at St James', although it is bell ringing practice on Tuesday evening so there will be a belated reminder for you. If you like a challenge, you can join us for pancake racing at Cross House at 4.30pm. See page 7 for details. It is said that pancake racing dates back to 1445 when a woman lost track of time while making pancakes (she was probably looking for the Jif lemon). As she heard the church bell calling the community to confession, she ran out of her house to church, still holding her hot frying pan containing a pancake. As she ran, she tossed the pancake so that it wouldn't burn; talk about multitasking!

In countries such as France and the United States, the day before the start of Lent is known as Mardi Gras, which means "Fat Tuesday" in French. I assume that means fat as in butter and margarine, and not the feeling we will get after eating ten pancakes covered in lemon, sugar and chocolate spread. Apparently, on pancake day, Britons get through 52 million eggs and enough milk to fill more than 93 Olympic swimming pools, so you may want to enjoy a brisk walk after all that indulgence. While out you can try and spot the bulbs planted by the Cubs and Squirrels (page 15), take a look at how the Meadow Garden is doing or even try out the new goal on Clift Meadow (page 10). If you are lucky you may hear the Waxwings which drew the twitchers to Bramley after Christmas, as Wilder Bramley explains on page 23.

Have a good month and make the most of the extra day.

#### **Rachel Barclay Smith**

Joint Editor

Thirty days has September,
April, June, and November,
All the rest have thirty-one,
Save February at twenty-eight,
But leap year, coming once in four,
February then has one day more.

**Anon** 

Cover Photo: Snowdrops

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

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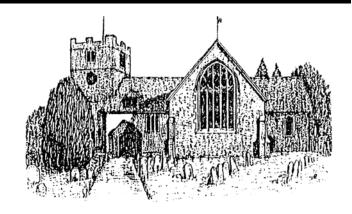
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### Church diary for February...

4th		2nd Sunday before Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
	10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
11th		Sunday next before Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
	10.30	Holy Communion – St James
14th		Ash Wednesday
	20.00	Holy Communion with Ashing —St James
18th		1st Sunday of Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
	10.30	Morning Worship – St James
25th		2nd Sunday of Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
	10.30	Holy Communion – St James

### And into March...

3rd		3rd Sunday of Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
	10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
10th		4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday
	8.00	Holy Communion – St James
	10.30	Family Service – St James
17th		5th Sunday of Lent
	9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
	10.30	Morning Worship – St James

### Services at our other churches

### **February**

4th		2nd Sunday before Lent
	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
	10.00	Family Service – Hartley Wespall
	10.00	Family Service - Stratfield Saye
11th		Sunday next before Lent
	10.00	Café Church – St Leonards
14th		Ash Wednesday
	10.00	Holy Communion with Ashing – St Leonards
18th		1st Sunday of Lent
	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
	10.00	BCP Matins – Hartley Wespall
25th		2nd Sunday of Lent
	10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonards

### March

3rd		<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
	10.00	Family Service – Hartley Wespall
	10.00	Family Service - Stratfield Saye
10th	10.00	4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
17th		5th Sunday of Lent
	10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
	10.00	BCP Matins – Hartley Wespall

### Large numbers celebrate Christmas at St James' Church

172 – that's how many people attended the Nativity service at St James' Church on Christmas Eve. 101 adults and 71 children crammed into the church to tell the Christmas story. There were children dressed as kings, shepherds, angels, sheep. The innkeeper asked if an online booking had been made for a room at the inn, but when the answer was no, he found a place in the traditional stable. We had four Marys but Joseph couldn't be found. Fortunately, one of the Marys told us he was at Tescos buying nappies! For many of the children it was their second visit to church in December as the whole of Bramley school attended

Christmas services at the end of term. It was a squash and a squeeze, but they all found somewhere to sit.

It was lovely to see the church so full over Christmas. 80 joined us for Christingle, 135 for the Carol Service and 122 on Christmas Day morning. Thank you to all those who came along and made our festive services so meaningful.

Our next family events will be the Pancake race on Tuesday 13 February at 4.30pm and our Mothering Sunday service at 10.30am on 10 March. Do join us if you can. Everyone is welcome.

### **Clift Surgery updates**

### Staffing updates

The surgery is pleased to welcome some new members of staff.

- **Jason**, a former paramedic, has joined the surgery as a dispensing paramedic, and will assist with triaging and seeing patients.
- **Gemma**, a former A&E nurse, has joined as a practice nurse, replacing Paige Dwyer
- Matt from Mind is at the surgery once a week, supporting mental health. He sees adults over 18 for faceto-face appointments. He offers advice and signposting, but not counselling.
- **Julie** has joined the dispensary.

### A message from the dispensary

Once again, the dispensary would like to remind all patients to collect ordered medication promptly. They have limited storage and medicines not collected will go back into stock.

### **Updating your information**

If you have changed your home phone number, ceased to have a landline, or got a new mobile phone number or a new email address, please let the surgery know as soon as possible. It is important the surgery knows how they can get in touch. The best way to do this is emailing reception.clift@nhs.net or on paper to the surgery. Please do not telephone these details.

### The Friendship Walking Group

In December, the Friendship walking group celebrated in style at a Christmas party, with a delicious meal and entertainment provided by the Clangers, a hand chime group, which came together to play some festive music. Many thanks to all those who worked hard to give everyone a good time. By tradition, the walk before Christmas has become the Christmas hat walk, followed by mulled wine and Christmas nibbles. Again, thanks to those who spent time preparing for this.

### New Deliverer Required

If one of your New Year resolutions was to get more exercise, how about getting some steps in while delivering the Bramley magazine?

We are still looking for a deliverer for **Bramley Lane**, Bramley School, Browns Close and North Row. It should only take about an hour a month and can be shared with another volunteer. If interested, please contact Rachel or Georgie at editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk





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### **Bramley Speedwatch**

### Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data:

The SIDs were back in full use throughout November and December. See Table below. If anybody would like traffic speed monitored in a specific locality, please let me know via bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com.

### **Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:**

Four manned deployments were undertaken during November and December. A total of 51 vehicles (10%) were reported to the Police from the 486 vehicles checked. Top speed recorded during deployments was 52 mph.

### Can you help?

SpeedWatch currently needs additional volunteers. It is not onerous and is a great opportunity to meet people and catch up on the latest village gossip while, of course, helping deter speeding through Bramley. If you can help, please contact Graham White bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com

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

SID Location	Traffic Direction	% Speed Violations (+30mph)	Max Speed Recorded	
Farriers	West Bound	49%	60	
The Street Village Hall	East Bound	37%	63	
The Street by Churchlands	East Bound	42%	70	
The Street Village Hall	East Bound	28%	79	
The Street by Churchlands	East Bound	34%	74	
The Street Village Hall	East Bound	18%	64	
Farriers	West Bound	48%	72	
The Street Village Hall	East Bound	35%	63	
Farriers	West Bound	54%	64	
The Street East Bound Village Hall		42%	74	

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

### ON REFLECTION

### A fresh start

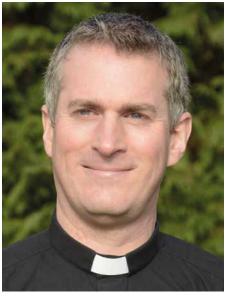
New years can be about new starts. God is always about new starts. People in the village continue to have their children Christened in St James Church as they have done for many centuries. Baptism (the Bible word for Christening) is the way the church recognises we can each have a fresh start with God. It doesn't matter how far away we feel from God, nor what we've done: God is always about new starts.

I like to start each day with a coffee, sitting in the comfy chair in my office.

It's the time and place where I pray.

Each morning I start again with God, however I'm feeling, whatever went on the previous day and whatever lies ahead. I put my trust in God that all will be well, because God is with me, and he can be with you too.

In February 2024, the 14th marks two days in the Christian calendar: St Valentine's' Day and Ash Wednesday. I'm sure you know about the saint of love, but perhaps not so much about Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of Lent. This season is a time when we're invited, for forty days, to find time for prayer and the tradition of giving up



Rev'd Mark Anderson

things. Originally this abstinence was a discipline to help us to focus more on God; perhaps it can be again.

I encourage you to use Lent this year to give up something which is causing you to be less of the person you want to be. And to take up the discipline of taking a few moments at the start of each day to pause and have a time of reflection, perhaps even a spiritual moment which may even lead you to recognising God is with you, inviting you to make a new start with Jesus.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be a service in St James Church at 8pm. We will continue the tradition of giving people a cross of ash on their foreheads. This is the sign of a new start, an

outward sign of our inward sorrow for all that causes us pain and hurt, and also a sign of our commitment to a fresh start, which for some of us will be with Jesus, who shows us the way to a life of peace, hope and love.

Rev'd Mark Anderson - Vicar, St James Bramley





### **MEET THE NEIGHBOURS**

n this month's edition of **Meet The Neighbours** we turn the tables on **Peter Clarke KC** and cross examine Bramley's own
'Rumpole of the Bailey'!

### Peter, how did you decide on a career in law?

**Peter:** The Bar has been a family profession since 1862 and continues with my daughter as the fifth generation, which I suppose makes us "nepo-babies". The Criminal Bar was my chosen route and I eventually realised that I was suited to it – at school I was in awe of those who could rise to their feet in the Debating Societies and entrance their audience. But advocacy is different from debating: juries do not tend to like show-offs, they want straightforward help in the task they are set on behalf of society.

# Readers of John Grisham novels will be familiar with trial lawyers burning the midnight oil – what's it like in real life?

**Peter:** I was fortunate enough to be offered a "tenancy" in chambers and after six months pupillage I was allowed to do my first criminal case – very minor and very frightening. Barristers' chambers are no more than a loose association of self-employed lawyers, there is no limited company and no employer. As such I was answerable to no one except the Judges I appeared in front of.

Often at 5.30pm a busy criminal junior barrister has no idea what case he is going to be doing the next day until his senior clerk (who rules the roost) says "you're at the Bailey tomorrow....Sir. Rape case. Just been put in the list." Obviously you must be master of the brief you have just received before going to bed, however long it takes into the night.



Peter the barrister

# How did you progress from being a junior barrister to a KC (King's Counsel)?

**Peter:** In your forties you have to decide if it is wise to "apply for silk", so called because KCs wear silk gowns and juniors wear "stuff" gowns (which nobody knows the definition of, but they certainly aren't silk).

The decision has its pitfalls: the work is more difficult, prestigious and financially rewarding – if you are given it by solicitors. It is analogous to an actor saying to his/her agent "I will only take leading roles from now on", sometimes to the agent's horror.

Unlike the Army or many organisations the more senior at the Criminal Bar you are, the closer to the front line you get. In silk I defended and prosecuted about forty murders. The special privilege is that you meet forensic experts and scientists when preparing cases – experts like Ian Evett, CBE of our own congregation at St James who is a world expert on the statistical interpretation of DNA. Such an important weapon in the investigation of guilt - and innocence – in criminal investigations. I also spent two years commuting to Londonderry for the Bloody Sunday Inquiry.

# The eternal, understandable, query of barristers is "how can you defend someone you know is guilty?"

**Peter:** The answer is nuanced:

How can you know he/she is guilty? You can only know if he

himself tells you he is. You are his advocate not his Judge. You can warn him that the case against him is strong, but telling him that you think he is guilty will simply mean he asks for another barrister.

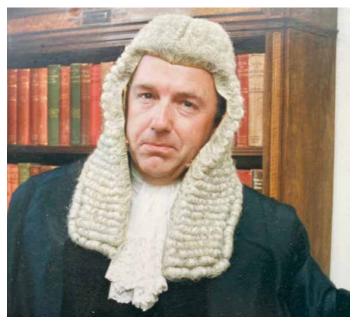
If a defendant tells you in confidence that he is in fact guilty you cannot as a barrister say anything in Court asserting his innocence.

And if you were to refuse to do the case, should he do the trial himself, unrepresented exposing his supposed victim to further trauma when he asks them questions in the witness box? I quail when I read "the defendant was unrepresented".

### How did you become a judge?

**Peter:** "Old men forget" and old silks realise the tide is going out: young Turks start getting briefs to which you feel you were entitled. No such professional luck, the Bar is an open market. Time to retire or if you do so early enough — apply to go on the Bench. I was lucky enough to be appointed as a Circuit Judge at Blackfriars in 2009 where I sat for ten years.

I do believe, whatever is said against them, that Judges are now more attuned to society than they were when I started at the Bar: my treasured (true) anecdote is the Old Bailey Judge in the 1960s who when setting bail conditions for two drunken old lags stipulated "you are to drink no alcohol, not even a tiny sherry before luncheon".



And as a Judge

# We are always interested to read what it is that our neighbours find special about Bramley?

**Peter:** My wife, Victoria, was brought up in the Kent countryside and although we lived in Putney after we married whilst we both practiced as barristers she hankered for life in the country, so in 1993 we took the big step and moved to Bramley. Victoria immediately immersed herself in Riding for the Disabled which she still does. I got used to the Basingstoke Flyer into Waterloo and came to rely on the 45 minute journey to prepare for the day's work in Court.

I can't assert that the beauty and antiquity of St. James Church was the deciding factor in our decision to come to Bramley, but it helped. Our children were both married there and our grandchildren christened. We are all blessed to be able to worship in such a special building.

### A new tree for Bramley School

On the 21st November, Bramley C of E Primary School was visited by Dom and Ben from Heckfield Estate who donated a tree to commemorate the King's coronation. Harper (Yr R), Elijah (Yr 2) and Charlie (Yr 6) helped to plant the tree, which was a double celebration for two of them whose birthday it was on the same day. It is a Cryptomeria Japonica (Japanese Cedar) or as it is known on the Estate, a Sugi, the name used for it in Japan. The parent tree was planted at Heckfield in 1876 by William Wildsmith and is now a Hampshire county champion for the girth of the stem. The oldest Sugi in the world is thought to be over 5000 years old.







# THE BRAMLEY BADMINTON CLUB

We have a few vacancies on Tuesday evenings and would love to see you.

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









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The new goal at Clift Meadow

### **Meadow Talk**

Before nature wakes up from its winter slumber and the bulbs start pushing through on the WI and Wilder Bramley borders, the major noticeable addition to Clift Meadow recently has been the netted goalpost adjacent to the ballcourt.

It has been a joy to see the enthusiasm of the youngsters (and parents) from Loddon Sports Football on most Sunday mornings, whatever the weather. Mornings of youth cricket on the Meadow are still a few months away, but the ever-lengthening days offer us all hope of the eternal surprises of springtime.

Thanks all for helping to keep Clift Meadow as tidy and litter-free as is possible, and in anticipation of warmth & sunshine.....

#### **Clift Meadow Trust**



Under 11s football at Clift Meadow

### The Meadow Garden

The Meadow Garden thinks it is spring as the many, many bulbs planted there are already visible and promising a lovely display of daffodils and tulips. However, the other things that are appearing are the moles and they are continuing to dig up the earth, causing the ground to be pretty uneven. The Christmas tree is thriving but it is very sad to report that the lights and decorations, put up to bring a bit of Christmas cheer were stolen, carefully removed a week before Christmas. It is such a shame that someone wanted to spoil the enjoyment of others and it has been decided that the lights will not be added again. There is no money pot for the garden, and it is funded by the volunteers. Many thanks to those of you who have worked so hard to maintain this area.

### **Bramley Parish Council Update**

Happy new year to all.

As I type there is no rain, only light winds prevail, but my, it is getting cold. Please look out for each other, especially any vulnerable people that you may know. It is going to be another challenging year in many ways and a year of change. With a new calendar year begun we move towards the end of the Parish Council year - a year in which we have continued to keep you informed of the facts surrounding a number of challenges and important notices.

As you may recall we reduced the precept at the beginning of 2023-24 and I am pleased to say that we have still been able to financially support organisations within the Parish. The opening of the new St. James allotments ended a five-year struggle with developers to get the site up to standard.

Rest assured that we will continue to support those essential volunteer driven groups that add so much benefit to our community in the year to come.

Planning applications for development have continued to roll in despite the lack of infrastructure, poor drainage systems and of course the state of the road edges and surfaces. We are of course not alone in this as it has fast become a national tragedy. Whilst Bramley PC is not responsible for resolving the situation, we continue to make representations when and wherever possible. The Borough Council Local Plan Update draft has now been approved by the Borough's Cabinet and will be out for public consultation before the end of January. The housing number is determined by the Government and as many may know, there is a requirement to demonstrate a five year land supply at all times. Once the consultation begins then the five years drops to four, which the Borough can demonstrate, weakening arguments for approving more opportunistic applications. The draft plan will show a requirement for fifty-five dwellings in Bramley; however, this has

already been achieved and exceeded by Stocks Farm.

As I am a member of the Borough Council's Development Control Committee I cannot comment on individual applications; however, when this goes to publication there will be an article from Cllr Chris Flooks on the Parish Council website about the application for Land North of Sherfield Road - 23/0305/FUL. This will also be posted on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Social media - a curse or a benefit? The answer is both. Bramley Parish Council understands the frustrations and anger that some feel regarding events in the Parish. We accept that not everyone knows the differing roles that your Councils fulfil, your local authority Councils being County, Borough and Parish. We have run education sessions in the past and are happy to run again, in addition to documentation on our website explaining the role of the Parish Council, that is to say what it can and cannot do. It is therefore very disappointing to see on Facebook the unjustified abuse that your Parish Council is subjected to on occasion by a very few residents. You will note that we do not respond to false and malicious comments. We confine our posts to factual information only. If you think we may be to blame for something or that we have been negligent in some way then please contact us, our contact details are listed below. We can then give you the facts which will make your post accurate and avoid creating unjustifiable stress and anger in your fellow residents. Parish Councillors, whilst they are elected officials, are completely unpaid volunteers who work hard to the benefit of the community, so please talk to us if you think you have an issue created by the Parish Council.

The road works betwixt Bramley and Sherfield were nothing less than a shambles. The prime contractor, DNO Consulting, replaced its traffic management provider after Christmas, and whilst not perfect, they have stabilised the route via the C32 (Sherfield/Bramley Road). Combined with other works, it has made life difficult and miserable for some. It will continue for a while yet and then move to the A33 north of Sherfield. Complaints have been made but, in all honesty, there is nothing to be done. Therefore, please take care and avoid the back roads if at all possible. The last we heard from HCC Highways was that they are working on plans to restore the carriageways but have no resources to repair the verges.

We have plans to improve the area adjacent to the Burial Ground which will eliminate the unsightly spoil heap of rubbish that accumulates over time; work will start before Spring. Alas, the water table remains too high to resume full burials on site.

The Parish Council will be reviewing the 2024-25 budget at our upcoming January meeting, and will be discussing and deciding the precept for the next year. More news on this will be on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Bramley Parish Council's next meetings are Planning Committee on 13 February and Full Council on 20 February. Both meetings will be at Bramley Village Hall and residents are always welcome to attend. More information will be on the Bramley PC website nearer the time.

On a final note, to those who made resolutions, we wish you good luck and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

### **Cllr Tony Durrant**

### **Contact details:**

Parish Clerk – clerk@bramley-pc. gov.uk, tel: 07810 692486
Bramley Parish Council website - www.bramley-pc.gov.uk
Basingstoke & Deane Borough
Council website – www.basingstoke.gov.uk, tel: 01256
844844
Hampshire County Council website – www.hants.gov.uk

### **BRAMLEY WI**

In December we had our Christmas party and were entertained by the Belle Canto Trio. It was a lovely evening and we had a great time. The Trio sang a lovely assortment of Christmas songs, and then we all sang carols.

We had a buffet and drinks afterwards, followed by the usual raffle, and the members went home with a small present from the committee. A good time was had by all.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our walk. Guess what – it was because of the weather!!

In January we had our annual lunch. The committee made soup and fruit crumbles and it was lovely to see so many people; we had to get some more tables and chairs in. After lunch we had a couple of quizzes, which got everyone's grey matter working.

Next month we have a speaker giving a demonstration and talk on make-up.

Hopefully at the beginning of February we will go for a walk and have our lunch afterwards.

Jane Matthews





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#### Why not pop up for a visit?

Telephone Jo on 07598 588460 Email: 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.

### **Little Apples**

We are enjoying a busy half term at Little Apples. We have a Chinese restaurant in our role play area to celebrate Chinese New Year, which falls



on Saturday 10 February and starts a year of the Dragon. We made Dragons in our craft activities and tried using chopsticks, which helps develop fine motor skills.

Little Apples staff have all undertaken Makaton training in January to enhance our use of this non-verbal way of communicating with others using hand signs and symbols. Many may see Makaton or sign language as a replacement for speech, however it is not. Makaton is designed to be used alongside speech and although some children may begin to drop the signs once their language has developed, many will continue to use the signs. It is suggested that by using the signs to accompany speech, children will have a deeper understanding of the words they are learning.

It can be very frustrating for children who are unable to communicate their needs. Simple tasks can become very difficult and leave children frustrated and isolated. Using Makaton with a child can allow them to get their needs across effectively and help them to interact with the world around them. Research tells us that children who are able to use Makaton to communicate their thoughts and feelings will often have fewer tantrums or aggressive behaviour. This is because they are able to be understood fully by others. We are excited to be introducing this to our Little Apples, who seem to pick up the signs faster than the adults!

Over half term, the children will have the opportunity to take part in a sponsored Treasure Hunt to encourage families to spend time exploring our beautiful area in the fresh air and to raise funds for some new resources for the children

We are experiencing much higher demand for pre-school spaces than usual at the moment, so if you are thinking of registering your child for next academic year, we would encourage you to do this as soon as possible. In line with Government policies for Early Years Education, Little Apples accepts all children from two years old, whether they receive funding or not. If you would like to register a child or pop up for a visit, please contact Jo on 07598 588 460 or manager@littleapples.org

### **News from the Bramley Show**

It's only January but the Bramley Show is revving up in preparation for its 36th show. Please note the change of date which is Sunday 15th September. This change is due to the availability of venue. The new schedule is being finalised and should be ready by the beginning of February. That will give you all plenty of time to plan your planting and prepare your art, photography, and crafts. Further information will be available in February.

### The Scarecrows are returning in 2024.

People have been asking about the scarecrows and we are pleased to announce they will return, slightly later than usual, from 1st September. We hope to have a prize for the best scarecrow this time.

### Clift Meadow Community Café

Our first session of 2024 went very well and it was lovely to see everyone after the Christmas break. We had some special volunteers: Anthony Durrant (Parish Councillor) and Tom, who is doing some voluntary work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's award.

We are open every Wednesday (during term time) in the Clift Meadow Pavilion, from 10:00 to 11:30. There is no price list, but we rely on cash donations towards the cost of drinks and cakes/biscuits. Pre-school children are welcome, but we do not have any toys for them.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to help us, please email Jane Kettridge at jk.cmcc@btconnect.com.



Anthony Durrant and Tom helping out in the kitchen

### **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.

You could make a real difference as Keyth, one of our clients, explains:

"I'm extremely grateful for the Bramley Volunteer Drivers. They make my life so much easier after being widowed two and a half years ago. If I have an appointment, it's lovely be able to phone up - they get me a driver, take me, drop me off and they're waiting for me to take me home. If I had to get a taxi, it's so impersonal. I'd have to sit in the back, I'd have to phone again for the return journey. I tend to get nervous about this sort of thing and it's nice to have someone there, rather than maybe take a bus. Everybody I've met is so kind and we've had such good conversations with people telling me about their lives too.

The friendliness of the people ...I'm extremely grateful."

And from **Claire**, one of our drivers.....

"Volunteer driving has always been such a positive experience since I began nearly 2 years ago. I meet some wonderful characters who always have an interesting story to tell and enjoy making conversation; there's such a feel-good factor about giving back to the community. The journeys fit around my other commitments but there's no pressure because we work as a team."



In need of some relaxation?

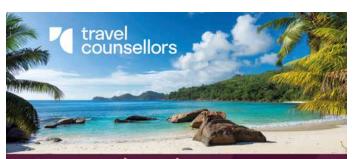


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# he Bramley Scout Group have had a busy few months. The **Scouts** had **Question Time with the Mayor** while the **Cubs**and **Squirrels** were **Planting Smiles and Spreading Cheer.**

During the autumn term, the Scouts visited the Council offices to meet the Mayor and Mayoress. Our evening started as we were met by the Mayor's personal assistant in reception. She took us upstairs, where the Mayor and the Mayoress were waiting for us. After introductions we were taken into the Council's meeting room.

Once we had taken our seats, the Mayor and Mayoress happily took questions from the Scouts. Questions included whether the Mayor is paid for his role, how does someone become a Mayor, what is the role of the Mayor and what does the Council do. The Mayor and Mayoress answered all the Scouts' questions, they were in no hurry and were happy to carry on until the Scouts ran out of questions.

We were then shown into the Mayor's Parlour (his office) where we finished our evening. We saw various framed letters from Buckingham Palace and saw the mayoral robes, which were hung on a stand. The Mayor even allowed the Scouts to hold his chain of office. The Scouts told me that it is very heavy.



The Scouts with the Mayor and Mayoress

All in all we spent a very enjoyable and informative evening with the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Autumn term for Bramley Cubs and Squirrels was very much community based as both sections did some planting ready for

spring. Squirrels planted bulbs in the Community Garden, ably assisted by Sue Howell, and Cubs planted bulbs and wildflowers in the Bee Garden, with the help of Paulina from Wilder Bramley. Cubs also planted bulbs in the Clift Surgery garden to bring a smile to the patients who visit.

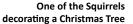
But we didn't stop there! For their last meeting in December Cubs invited all sections to accompany them when they went carol singing in St. James' Park. If you check out our video on the Community Facebook page, you'll see some carols were even accompanied by Makaton sign language.





Squirrels planting bulbs in the Community Garden, Clift Meadow

Adult volunteers supported the Loddon Lions Christmas float by helping them with their collections, and the Squirrels had a surprise visit from Santa when he distributed their Secret Santa presents at the end of term.







**Cubs planting bulbs at Clift Surgery** 

Bramley Scout Group had a great term in 2023. Now, in 2024, we want to become even more involved in the Community and are planning activities that our young people can do to benefit the wider community and the environment. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear them.

### **Bramley Scout Group**



### BRAMLEY SCOUT GROUP NEED YOUR HELP

We need volunteers to help us deliver fun programmes to the young people in our village

No previous experience is necessary as full support will be given from an amazing team.

- · Do you enjoy working with children?
- Do you want to learn new skills?
- Do you want to make a difference?
- Are you looking to give something back to your community?



Although we need more volunteers across the Group, Leader numbers in our Beaver and Scout sections are now critical



We offer opportunities to a wide range of young people; Squirrels 4-6 years, Beavers 6-8 years Cubs 8-10.5 years and Scouts 10.5-14 years.

There is no upper age limit to volunteering with us so if you have any spare time and are interested in joining our team or want to know more about the group?

Please email jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk.

### **Royal British Legion**

At our lunchtime meeting on 9 January John Morley, our branch chairman, presented his predecessor, John Delafield, with a Certificate of Appreciation. John was hugely influential in getting the branch running again after the Covid pandemic, which brought everything to a standstill for more than 18 months. John is now our branch President and it is good to have him back with us after recent surgery.

Our former Standard Bearer and long-time member Tony Evans celebrated his 85th birthday on 20 January and some members visited him at The Grange nursing home in Sherborne St John to offer their congratulations.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13 February at 12.30pm at Cross House, Bramley, when we will be providing a lovely "Warm Hub" with homemade soup and rolls and

some entertainment, possibly showing a film. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

Pete Pullin, who was our RBL county Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) and most helpful in the post-Covid relaunch of the branch in April 2022, has moved to the same role in Surrey. Our new county MEO is Holly Church and she will be the speaker at our meeting at lunchtime



John Delafield is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by John Morley

on Tuesday 12 March. We look forward to learning how she will work with us to further develop our branch. More details next time.

Membership of the RBL is open to all for an annual subscription of only £18 which also includes quarterly issues of The Legion magazine which covers many military events and commemorations across the world. This year's special commemoration is the 80th Anniversary of D Day on 6 June 1944. An event in Bramley is already planned.

John Morley
Branch Chairman
07900 892566
Bramley.Chairman@rbl.community





### ramley School tell us how they have been encouraging their pupils to 'Make a difference'...

In the last few months, we have worked hard with all of our stakeholders to choose new values to drive our school forward. Compassion, Friendship and Respect are now well established at school, with the children understanding how we show these behaviours in our lives.

Underpinning these values, we have created 3 'tag lines' mottos we want the children to carry with them through their time at our school and into their lives beyond:

- \* Be confidently me
- \* Show kindness to all
- \* Make a difference

Under the theme of 'Make a difference', we want the children to look beyond themselves and even their school to understand the impact they could have in the wider world. We have been looking at social action projects to develop children's understanding that they have the power to make a difference.

As a school, we have introduced and begun learning all about Global Goals.

#### THE GLOBAL GOALS



In 2015, world leaders from all 193 countries of the United Nations agreed on a game plan to end poverty, reduce inequalities and tackle climate change by 2030. They called the plan The Global Goals. By signing up to these Goals, leaders recognised the need to work collectively towards an equitable, prosperous and sustainable future, fit for generations to come.

We believe that by teaching our children about the Global Goals, we can show them that a better world is possible and that they can play a big part in achieving this.

So far, this year alone, we have been working towards several of these already:

- The Harvest Food bank Global Goal 1 and 2
- The Bramley Mile Global Goal 3
- Diversity Week Global Goal 10 and 16
- The Uniform Swap Shop Global Goal 12
- Setting up the Eco-Council Global Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15

To kick start the new year, the whole school began the term by focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Each year group chose an element of the Global Goals initiative and developed a week of learning and investigations around different areas of STEM.

Children in EYFS have used a range of Traditional Stories as a way to introduce the children to different 'world issues'.

In Year 1, they have looked at how different animals can struggle for food during the winter months; they then designed and made bird feeders for our school grounds (GG 15 - Life on Land).

Children in Year 2 have been investigating different materials, and designing and making lifeboats that float (GG 9 - Infrastructure).

The children in Year 3 have been looking at the impact of natural disasters on people's homes. They have tried to build structures to withstand hurricanes - with varying success! (GG 13 - Climate Action).

In Year 4 they have been looking at water filtration systems and how to get the cleanest water using a range of materials (GG 6 - Clean Water).

The focus in Year 5 has been on designing and building working mechanisms – they had to create a 'machine' to help tomato farmers transport the delicate goods from the top to the bottom of the mountains (GG 2 - Zero Hunger).





In Year 6, they have been looking at different types of plastics, how they are recycled and supporting Zero Waste (GG12 -Responsible Consumption and Production).

To continue our drive to understand how we can

'Make a difference', each year group will be developing and carrying out a project linked to one of the global goals each academic year.



Please visit: https://www.globalgoals.org/ if you want to find out more.

# **Bramley Greener Homes**

# Free Home Energy visits by local volunteer Energy Champions

Our volunteers provide independent, free advice to help you reduce your energy bills and your carbon impact

"Very thorough and useful.

I was given a range of sensible suggestions." Derek, Bramley



### Contact us to find out more and book an Energy Champion visit

Website loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk
Email info@loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk
Call or text 07804 281564







This project is funded by the National Grid Community Programme, is completely independent of installers and is to help local residents find out how they can make their homes more energy efficient.

# Our Community Our Energy



Loddon Community Energy is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society (no. 8860) run by and for local people.

### A Poppy Appeal Organiser's Year

I have been the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Bramley and District for a few years now. I am ably assisted by my wife Pam, and many, many other people volunteer some of their time to help us raise money for the Royal British Legion (RBL). Every November you will see people wearing their poppies but what goes on during the rest of the year?

As we begin 2024, I have been invited to the Poppy Appeal Organisers meeting for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. At the meeting our area managers will give us all the updates and news about what was raised nationally and locally by the Poppy Appeal. Our area, Bramley and District, includes several other villages around the north side of Basingstoke, and we have a stall in the reception area at Basingstoke Hospital for the two weeks of the Poppy Appeal. I was very pleased to see that we raised over £13,000 in November 2023. During January I will be writing thank you cards to all those locations, shops, schools and of course the hospital who allowed us to collect in their premises.

The counting of the cash raised is the hardest work. We have a coin counting machine which helps greatly, and several thousand pounds last year was donated on the card readers, which is just recorded rather than laboriously counted.

This year is the 80th anniversary of D-Day, 6th June 1944. I have already been asked by RBL if our village is planning a commemoration, which it is, and I am hoping

that we will be provided with some special pin badges to support the commemoration. The D-Day landings on June 6, the largest seaborne invasion in history, marked the start of the liberation of western Europe. Other crucial battles, such as the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy and the Battles of Kohima and Imphal in India, played vital roles in turning the tide of the war.

In the summer we start to order our stocks of poppy 'merchandise'. This includes not just the normal poppies, but items such as wreaths which are laid on Remembrance Sunday at our various ceremonies around our area. Summertime also means village fetes. We normally have a presence at Bramley and Sherfield fetes. By September we are beginning to plan the rota of volunteers to man the poppy stall at the hospital.

Wherever we are, we always like to speak about the work of the RBL, which can be summarised in one sentence: We support serving and ex-serving personnel and their families all year round, every day of the week. The important word is 'serving'. Members of our armed forces do not 'work for' the Army, or Royal Navy, or RAF. They serve their country, and all of us. We must never forget that. I am so grateful to everyone who supports us each year. I hope I will see some of you during the coming year. And if you want to help out, there's always room for more volunteers!

**Michael Luck** 





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### **Probus Learns Things About Cricket**

The fact it was a bitterly cold day encouraged the members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke to think about summer days and imagine the strike of willow on leather as their guest speaker, Mike Brook, reminisced about his interest in that most English of games, cricket. Hampshire is home to the Hambledon Cricket Club, founded in 1750, known as the cradle of cricket, where many of the laws of the game were formulated.



**Hambledon Cricket Club** 

Most people learn something new every day and this occasion was no different. Because this was Mike Brook's 222nd speaking engagement, the cricket aficionados understood that this could be termed a double Nelson. Apparently, a Nelson in cricket is when the score is on 111 runs and is considered unlucky. It was named after Admiral Lord Nelson who, history incorrectly recorded, had one eye, one arm and one leg, which is not strictly true as he lost his sight but not his eye and had two legs when he died. Tradition has it that on this score the batters and umpires raise a leg to salute the Admiral.



Raising a leg to Nelson

Many question what it is about cricket that keeps many middle-aged men interested and playing the game long after much younger men have retired from other field team sports. It's certainly not an easy game and because the fear of physical injury is very common, much protective equipment is worn by the two batters at the crease, the wicket keeper and those fielders positioned close to the batter.

The presenters of the radio programme *Test Match Special* have changed over the years. One of the greatest commentators was Basingstoke's own John Arlott who was born at the Lodge House at the Old Cemetery on Kingsclere Road. He was broadcasting the first time a streaker ran across the pitch and called her a freaker.

During wartime a cricket match was abandoned due to fog, but the commentators continued to broadcast this now fictitious game so as not to let the Germans know about the weather.

Mike Brook finished off by considering the closeness of cricket to golf and recalling the radio sketch of Eric Sykes coming home frustrated at his performance on the golf course and throwing his bag of clubs into the corner. Hattie Jacques questioned why he continued playing if it got him into a bad mood, with the reply coming, "because it's the only pleasure I get".



Mike Brook with Probus President, Dr Jeff Grover

See www.probusbasingstoke.club for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.

### Preservation of Superfrontal at St James' Church

Just before Christmas, Wren Vaughan and Lindy Drury restored the superfrontal, the long piece of cloth which is placed over the top of an altar and hangs down a few inches over the front.

This superfrontal is difficult to date exactly but the beautiful multi coloured blocked silk fringe has not been produced for many years. It was re-headed by new lurex braid from Watts & Co of Westminster, which was also used to border the entire superfrontal, fixing the net which is protecting the fragile but beautiful Gothic silk damask. This fabric was designed by one of Watts & Co founders, the Victorian architect George F. Bodley.

The project was funded by the Newbury Art Society. It is important that these treasures, including several exquisitely embroidered Frontals, are conserved for the parish.

### **Lindy Drury**



Wren Vaughan and Lindy Drury fitting the superfrontal they had just restored

# Future Services Consultation

We're asking people to provide their views on the future of some local services in Hampshire as the County Council looks to address a £132m budget shortfall by April 2025.

The Future Services Consultation runs from **8 January to 31 March 2024** to help inform plans to ensure we can continue to support people who are most in need in Hampshire, while meeting our legal obligations to deliver a balanced budget in 2025/26.

Hampshire is in a better position than many other councils, with a strong track record of managing public funds well, but rising costs and growing demand for vital local services like social care for vulnerable children and adults continue to put our budgets under huge strain.

Very soon there won't be enough money to pay for all the things we've delivered to residents in the past – a problem faced by councils nationally.

We've been lobbying hard for many years for a long-term national funding solution to address these issues but there won't be a national fix any time soon.

We must now make tough decisions and deeper savings by April 2025 if we're to continue to deliver critical services to the most vulnerable people in Hampshire.

The consultation contains 13 options which could help lower costs in future – by only providing those services that the County Council is legally required to deliver and prioritising 'statutory' areas like protecting children from harm, social care for older people, and supporting adults and children with disabilities and additional needs.

It also provides the opportunity for working more innovatively to maximise, for example, environmental benefits such as encouraging people to reduce their waste through the creation of a more sustainable Household Waste Recycling Centre network and lowering Hampshire's carbon footprint by a more intelligent use of streetlights.





We're inviting feedback on what it might mean to people if we were to do things differently in these 13 areas after April 2025:

- Adult social care charges
- Adult social care grant schemes
- Competitive (one-off) grant schemes
- Hampshire Cultural Trust grant
- Highways maintenance
- Highways winter service
- Homelessness support services
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Library stock
- Passenger transport
- Rural countryside parking
- School crossing patrols
- Street lighting

### How to have your say

You can provide your views on some, or all of the 13 service change proposals.

People can take part via **hants.gov.uk/futureservices-consultation** – doing it online helps us to save money, in postage and staff time.

Responses can also be emailed directly to Hampshire County Council at **insight@hants.gov.uk** or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE. Please also write PandO, IEU, FMO9 on the back of the envelope.

Each Hampshire library also holds a standard reference copy of the information pack and paper response form.

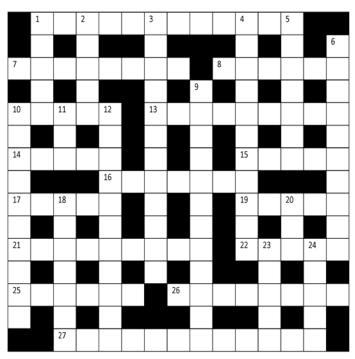
For queries or to request a paper copy of the information pack or the response form, or a copy in another language or format (like audio, large print or Braille) contact insight@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 555 1375.

The feedback collected from the consultation will shape final decisions by individual Hampshire County Council Cabinet Members later this year.

### **CROSSWORD/CODEWORD**

### **Cryptic Crossword No: 75**

See page 31 for the answers.



#### Across

- Link characters to create an exponentially growing pyramid of communication. (5,7)
- 7 Nautical tool becomes a hot book. (8)
- 8 Body part broadcast as seafood. (6)
- I find to begin with sugar not a crucial key ingedient for a quick bite. (5)
- 13 Sounds like pub made a profit having made a deal. (9)
- 14 Chances are dim, especially finding small change. (5)
- 15 Is sue going to go out. (5)
- 16 M C Escher zone hides vigorous composition. (7)
- 17 Spanish port broadcast as a plaintiff. (5)
- 19 Is LAN a form of fasteners. (5)
- 21 Appearance of surprise perhaps. (9)
- 22 Treat for child or money. (5)
- 25 Every cloud lining has one so they say. (6)
- 26 Fetching something to find pictures. (8)
- 27 Bird sounds like a cowardly tool. (6,6)

### Down

Fool or entertainer. (5)



- 2 American race broadcast as tech savvy. (5)
- 3 Wise precaution when crossing a road. (4,4,4)
- 4 Actual one I'd used as of learning. (11)
- 5 What Oliver might have asked for in time. (7)
- 6 Unnecessary description perhaps. (10)
- 9 Told Hollander to share cost. (7,5)
- 10 One who leads men astray used cut dresses. (10)
- 11 Target or goal. (3)
- 12 Recount exploit, brush with utter. (4,3,4)
- 18 Normally by and large. (7)
- 20 William hid his state of health. (3)
- 23 Dislike of difficult individuals under management to begin with. (5)
- 24 Regal is one way of looking at a type of beer. (5)

### CodeWord No: 61

See page 31 for the answers.

20	11	4	4	11	7	9	18	4	4	18	18	24
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26		19				11		22				14
	21	9	24	17	11	5	22	4	9	17	24	
13				4		9				26		7
5	25	11	19	7	11		24	12	21	4	11	24
7		21		23		24		9		11		24
3	21	19	16	7		25	11	4	15	4	8	4
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14	15	16	17 <b>T</b>	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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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### Waxwings wing over to Bramley

What makes nature so special is chance encounters when you least expect them. On a post-Christmas walk, one of our Committee members heard the unmistakeable trilling sound of a small flock of Bohemian Waxwings (so called due to the Bohemian head crest and wings that look like they were dipped in wax) high up in a tree at Yew Tree Close. Whilst a common northern UK winter visitor, this year scarce food in their native Scandinavia has driven large numbers further south, but to see them in Hampshire is rare. After sharing the sighting through the Wilder Bramley Facebook group, the next day a different flock arrived. This time they were birdwatchers with large lenses eager to join the 'twitch' (birdwatcher speak for travelling to see a rare bird), some of whom had travelled many miles! It turns out the birds were attracted by rowan tree berries on the Green - which shows how planting native trees attracts wildlife and engages people. What a treat for Bramley!



A Bohemian waxwing (Credit: Ryan Hodnett)
Waxwings love rowan and other berries.

Wilder Bramley were delighted to team up with Parish Councillor Iain James and the Parish Council (PC) to create a Biodiversity Policy for PC-managed land. There is now an adopted Policy which aims to enhance and protect biodiversity, make biodiversity an integral part of all decision making, and involve and enable the community to connect with nature. Priorities include: promoting biodiversity in planning and development; using environmentally friendly practices; promoting green infrastructure; protecting sites of ecological interest; and putting parishioners at the heart of nature.

Wilder Bramley has also joined the Basingstoke Area Sustainability Group, led by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The group meets bi-monthly and brings together like minded parties from surrounding villages to discuss the sustainability initiatives and share ideas. Topics focussed on include nature, energy efficiency, waste prevention, sustainable travel, and much more. We're looking forward to threading the sustainability agenda into 2024 alongside our biodiversity and nature related objectives. Everyone can support the biodiversity and climate crisis, and it's great to see the momentum growing around our local borough to make a difference!

Do join us for our next event: 'Badger Protection – Challenges and Rewards'. Nick Cole from NE Hants Badger Group returns to teach us more about fantastic badgers and how we can help them. Entry £4 cash/£4.10 contactless, on the door. Friday 23 February 7.30 Clift Meadow Pavilion.



Why not join us? Head over to our Wilder Bramley Facebook page to find more about what we are up to or contact us on: Wilder.bramley@gmail.com/07503 155669.

### Happy 10th Birthday Butter Daisy Nursery!

Ten years ago, we opened Butter Daisy Nursery in Bramley, Hampshire. The converted former dairy barn is now a thriving part of the community. Over this time, we have welcomed

hundreds of families through our doors, worked with incredible educators, and achieved Ofsted 'Outstandings' in all areas, twice! This term we will be celebrating our tenth birthday. We would like to invite families (both former and current) to get in touch and help us create a time capsule of our first ten years. If you have anything you would like to contribute (perhaps a memory, photo, newspaper article, something your child has made), please email Georgia at butter@mydaisynursery.com. We will be inviting all contributors and supporters to a celebratory ceremony later this term.



### **New Year Updates**

As the New Year unfolds, the children at Daisy Nursery are embracing fresh challenges, showcasing their eagerness for knowledge and confidence in taking their learning to new heights. The Toddler Suite has witnessed an out-of-this-world experience with an imaginative inthe-moment, loose parts rocket ship. The Babies, on the other hand, have been engaged in rescuing play animals trapped by sticky tape, and concentrating as they begin to build and stack their first towers. Meanwhile, the Pre-Schoolers have demonstrated their building and connecting skills by creating robots, letters of their names, and an impressive Batman tower.

The recent snow this month created quite the excitement, and while it only settled a little, there was plenty to create tracks and other marks too.

We wish everyone a fantastic year ahead and anticipate the joy of reuniting with families at the upcoming time capsule ceremony - Further details coming soon.

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

# Phillips Law

What is a Non-Traditional Construction? You may have heard the term "non-traditional construction" but what does that actually mean? This article will help you understand the definition of a non-traditional construction and why it is essential to consider the construction type when looking to buy a property.

What is the difference between a standard construction and non-traditional construction property?

**Standard construction:** brick or stone walls with a slate or tiled roof

Non-traditional construction: concrete walls, timber framed, single skinned (including extensions), steel framed, pre-fab or modular, cob walls, glass etc.

## Why Does Non-Traditional Construction Matter?

Understanding the type of construction used in a property is crucial because it can impact various aspects of homeownership, including:

- **1. Maintenance and Repairs:** Non-traditional properties may require specialised maintenance and repairs that conventional homes do not, so may be more costly.
- Insurance: Some insurers may have specific requirements or higher premiums for non-traditionally built homes.
- **3. Resale Value or marketability:** The resale value and marketability of a non-traditional property may be affected, as some buyers may be deterred due to the construction type.

- **4. Mortgage Lending:** Mortgage lenders have stricter criteria and may decline a non-traditional property or offer different mortgage terms.
- **5. Structural Integrity:** Understanding the construction type helps assess the long-term structural integrity of the property.
- **6. Energy Efficiency:** The property may be less energy efficient which may restrict the letting of the property and it could be costly or prove problematic to improve the energy rating of the property due to its construction.

### **How Can Phillips Law Help?**

If you are considering purchasing a property which has a non-traditional construction, it is vital that you arrange for an appropriate survey to be carried out before making a commitment to purchase the property. You should then check with your preferred mortgage lender whether they would be prepared to secure a mortgage against the property.

Understanding non-traditional construction is vital when buying a property, as it can impact various aspects of your homeownership.

Remember, your dream home is within reach, but we want to ensure that you understand the implications and possible pitfalls of purchasing a property which may have a non-traditional construction.

The conveyancing team at Phillips have the knowledge and experience to guide you through the legal requirements specific to non-traditional construction properties. Contact us today. legal@phillips-law.co.uk | 01256 460830

Legal@phillips-law.co.uk
01256 460830

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### **BEAUTIFUL BRAMLEY**

# The Vapourer's Return: a Prequel by John Stubbs

I must admit that I've never before tried a prequel to one of these pieces. However, if anyone happens to recall the issue of November 2021, which carried 'A Very Hairy Caterpillar' about a particularly flamboyant character sporting all sorts of tufts and bristles, spots and flashes of colour, in this I gave a rather sketchy description of its parentage. Or perhaps it should be billed as a sequel – these photos could show the descendants of that fellow.

Another admission is that in fact, I had then never actually noticed an adult female vapourer, my defence being that they only live a matter of hours after emerging from the pupa, they don't fly, and they spend their post-caterpillar life either in the cocoon or tucked away in a crevice, holding on to it. One morning last August, however, I was surprised to see a couple of male vapourer moths circling the door of the garden shed: not their normal nectar hunt, then, though they do fly in the daytime, unusually for moths. Over the next hour they settled onto a grey, silky-surfaced oval attached to a cocoon on the shed door. Of course, a female vapourer no doubt vaping pheromones for all she was worth, though I couldn't detect anything, myself. The two males spent an hour or so fluttering around – obviously quite besotted – they took no notice of my poking about with a camera, quite close up. Apparently their intricate, comb-like antennae can pick up a signalling female's chemical messages from as far away as a mile, and their limited life-spans make it imperative for prompt contact: no time for the sorts of elaborate dances and displays that some butterflies use to select a mate.



By mid-afternoon the males had lost interest and departed. It now became evident why the body of the female is so bulbous – it must have been perhaps four or five times the volume of that of the male. This would be the USP of their body plan: without the need to worry about streamlining, balance, or weight management for flight, she could concentrate on

egg production. There's no need for clever colouring and patterns to make a display, her advertising is pure chemistry. She does carry a pair of wings, but they're no more than vestigial – looking rather like a pair of epaulettes. She might be jealous of the males' handsome antennae, but her budget versions must be much less trouble to maintain. Her eyes are less prominent, but better able to adjust to extremes of light levels – the males can move to somewhere more comfortably lit if they have a problem, but she has to deal with whatever prevails.

Over another hour or so she produced a couple of hundred eggs, glueing them neatly on the side of the empty cocoon, each one looking rather like a tiny eyeball. The cocoon, it could be seen, still carried a number of the spikey, toxictipped hairs from mother's caterpillar stage, presumably still offering some protection. Then within minutes, a couple of minute parasitic wasps found the brood, and started injecting their eggs into those of the moth: you can just see them on the lower band of the vapourer eggs in the photo. This may sound a gruesome process, as the caterpillars affected will be progressively consumed from the inside – but such wasps can be used as very effective pest controls, to target specific cropattackers without the danger of harming beneficial insects such as bees. Some plants, sensing an attack by a leaf eater, release a distress chemical that the wasps recognise, and hence the plant uses the wasps for protection.



In this case, I saw no wasps in attendance after the first hour or so. From this, I reckon that most likely they had been attracted by the moth's pheromones. It's hard to tell what proportion of the eggs were parasitised, but probably not a large number: after all, these species have been waging this sort of competition for millions of years, without one wiping out the other. The single overwhelming cause of species loss is human related habitat degradation. Such losses are both irredeemable and accelerating, and the more science clarifies the interrelationships and inter-dependences among nature, the clearer it becomes that we are as dependent as any other animal.

Tolunteer engineers from the charity
Remap are back in Bramley and North
Hampshire designing and making free
gadgets and equipment for local people
with a disability or special need.

The work they do - often in association with healthcare professionals such as occupational therapists and physiotherapists - makes a real difference to quality of life and independence. Assignments vary from bespoke wheelchair ramps and controllers, long-reach window openers, kitchen and washroom adaptations, through to items to help those with dementia or neurological and balance issues...the list is endless. There is no charge of any kind.

Remap's service in North Hampshire was previously provided by volunteers in a busy stand-alone branch, which closed earlier in 2023 when chairman Richard Brown of Pamber Heath retired after 15 years at the helm. Now volunteers from neighbouring Berkshire branch have taken over the area and are keen to expand.

Said Remap Berkshire & North Hampshire's Kimble Earl: "Many Remap clients are elderly, but by no means all. People of all ages with various conditions are often unable to find just the right piece of equipment or gadget to suit their particular circumstances, and that's where our volunteer engineers come in. They will assess what is required, design and build something suitable in their home workshop, and then make sure it both does the job and can be used safely".

Mr Earl said that around 250 cases are handled every year in Berkshire, and this number is expected to rise significantly



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amtico



Car & Buggy Security - an autistic child found she could escape from the harnesses. A 'MakeAbility' volunteer fitted combination locks to the buckles and added sternum straps made from luggage straps.

with the addition of the extra area. Typically, about half the cases will be referred to Remap by NHS and Social Services staff, the rest coming direct from carers or recipients themselves. "We find that once people have experienced the 'MakeAbility' service they use it or recommend it time and again", said Mr Earl.

The skills of the 'MakeAbility' volunteers range from traditional carpentry, metalwork and DIY through to the latest 3D printing technology and IT. The engineers all pride themselves on thinking outside the box to develop solutions where no others exist and enjoy making a real difference.

The 'MakeAbility' service is provided entirely free, thanks to the group's fund-raising efforts and the support of various community groups.



The standard footrest on many stairlifts projects no further than the seat so users have to tuck their legs in tight; this extended rest was made by a volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineer for someone who found the 'standard' position uncomfortable.

Remap is a national charity founded in 1965.

If you would like to know more about Remap Berkshire & North Hampshire please visit www.berkshire.remap.org.uk

To discuss a particular need in confidence please call 07790 127123.

If your social or community group in Bramley or North Hampshire would like a visiting speaker to tell you about 'MakeAbility' and some of the recent assisgnments undertaken, please email berks.publicity@remapgroups.org.uk. Printed leaflets are also available.

Unit 3, Cufaude Business

# A community project that helps you reduce your energy bills and your carbon impact

Heating your home became 5% more expensive in January as the price cap for electricity and gas has increased again. Gas now costs 7p per unit - in 2020 it was less than half that, around 3p.

A local community group, Loddon Community Energy, has trained a team of volunteers to identify all the ways in which a home can be made more energy efficient so that it loses less heat and needs less energy to keep warm.

This means lower energy bills - and a lower carbon impact. Burning natural gas (or heating oil) to heat homes creates carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases that is causing the climate crisis - in fact, around 20% of all UK carbon emissions are created by energy used in the home.

The Bramley Greener Homes project covers Bramley, Sherfield-on-Loddon and the surrounding area. The community project is not linked to any installers - it is advice only, completely free of charge and nobody will try to sell you anything.

Derek from Bramley said "I found the Bramley Greener Homes visit and report very thorough and useful. I was given a range of sensible suggestions, several of which I have now carried out."

Richard from Sherfield-on-Loddon also had a free survey and said "I was very impressed - excellent unbiased information on relatively simple and cost effective actions to reduce my energy costs."

### Scottish Country Dancing At Sherborne St John Village Hall

Our club nights at the Sherborne St John Village Hall resumed on Tuesday 9 January. Beginners are always welcome and there is no need to come with a partner. Club nights are very informal. Membership is only £5 plus a term charge of £20 for the period to the end of March. 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.





Loddon Community Energy, a not-for-profit community benefit society run by local volunteers, has set up Bramley Greener Homes as part of their work to help the local area reach net zero, with the help of funding from the National Grid.

As part of the funding, small energy efficiency grants of up to £50 are available for residents who have had a survey and are in properties with a council tax band of A, B, C or D.

For more information about the project, visit https://loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk/bramley-greener-homes/

To book a free home energy survey, email info@ loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk or text 07804 28156.

### Managing affairs for someone else

This is information for people who want to manage someone else's affairs. It also has information if you want someone else to manage your affairs for you

Managing someone else's affairs can mean a number of things, including:

- looking after their bank accounts, savings, investments or other financial affairs
- · buying and selling property on their behalf
- · claiming and spending welfare benefits on their behalf
- · deciding where they live
- making decisions about their day-to-day personal care or health care

You might want to manage someone else's affairs because they:

- are ill or disabled, either temporarily or on a longterm basis
- · are out of the country for a while
- are unable to make decisions for themselves, because of mental illness or other reasons

### Different ways of managing someone's affairs

There are different ways of managing someone's affairs. Choosing the right one will depend mainly on the circumstances of the person whose affairs you want to manage, and whether or not they have mental capacity.

You can look after someone's affairs in one of the following ways:

- with a letter or a third-party mandate to deal with a bank, building society or other financial account
- as an agent or appointee to deal with someone's welfare benefits or tax credits
- with a power of attorney (there are different types of power of attorney)
- · as a deputy appointed by the Court of Protection

For more information, please go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk

If you have an enquiry that you would like to discuss, please call the Citizens Advice Basingstoke Advice Line on **0808 278 7829** or complete the online enquiry form on our website: www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org. uk/citizens-advice-basingstoke

Mondays	
Badminton	Village Hall
Petite Dance	Village Hall
Hipp Pilates	Clift Meadow Pavilion
NHS Heath Visitor	Village Hall
Pilates 9am	Clift Meadow Pavilion
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 <sup>rd</sup> 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
WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am	Cross House
Pilates 9.30am	Brocas 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
WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm	Cross House
Scouts 7-8.30pm	Brocas Hall
Hipp Pilates 7-9pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Table Tennis – 7pm	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

Wednesdays				
1 <sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies	Village Hall			
1 <sup>st</sup> Bramley Rainbows	Village Hall			
Wednesday Club 10am to midday	St Stephen's Hall			
1 <sup>st</sup> Bramley Guides	Village Hall			
WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am	Cross House			
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Clift Meadow			
10-11.30am	Community Cafe			
Squirrels 5-6pm	Brocas Hall			
Pilates 7-8pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion			

Trail Runners 7.30pm	Clift Meadow car park
Thursdays	
Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
Dance Club	Primary School Hall
NHS Heath Visitor	Village Hall
Pilates	St Stephen's Hall
WI 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Village Hall
Friendship Walks, 10.30	Clift Meadow Pavilion
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm	Brocas Hall
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				
Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am	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			
Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm	Clift Meadow Pavilion			
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

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	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	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 o-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985				
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 https://www.loddonsportsfc.com			
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		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			
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080				
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 Dilliway bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

### Anvil Arts, February 2024

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk (Prices includes £4 booking fee where appropriate).

### **ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY**

With the Academy Of St Martin In The Fields Sat 10 Feb, 7.30pm The Anvil

Tickets: £44, £34, £24. Under 25s and f/t students £12

The Royal Choral Society, accompanied by the world-renowned Academy of St Martin in the Fields, presents a double bill of Mozart's distinguished pieces, composed during the last months of his short life - his hauntingly beautiful Requiem and the Clarinet Concerto – his final orchestral work. This is the first visit to The Anvil by the Royal Choral Society, one of Britain's largest symphonic choirs.

#### STRASBOURG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Wed 14 Feb, 7.30pm The Anvil Tickets: £44, £38, £33, £24, £16. Under 25s and f/t students £12

One of France's top orchestras comes to The Anvil for the first time. Renowned for its performances of Berlioz, the concert opens with his rollicking portrait of a feast day in Rome. The concert also includes Rachmaninov's breathtaking Second Piano Concerto with soloist Nikolai Lugansky, Cesar Franck's spine-tingling symphonic poem, and two pieces by Ravel, which will show the orchestra at its best.

### **COMEDY CLUB 4 KIDS**

Thu 15 Feb 2024, 2pm The Haymarket Tickets: £16. Under 16s £14, Suitable for: ages 6 to 400! Running time: approx. 60 minutes (no interval)

Since 2005, the Comedy Club 4 Kids has been getting the best stand-ups and sketch acts from the international circuit to do their thing for an audience of children and their families... but without the rude bits! The show is family-friendly, but without any patronising idiocy. In fact, it's just like a normal comedy club, but it's on in the day and kids are allowed in.

#### **CERYS HAFANA**

Sat 17 Feb, 8.15pm The Forge, Basingstoke Tickets: £18. Under 25s and f/t students £16

Cerys Hafana is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who transforms traditional music. She explores the creative possibilities and qualities of the triple harp and is also interested in found sounds, archival materials and electronic processing. She has won over audiences from BBC 6 Music Festival to Celtic Connections with her magical, progressive sound, and her second album Edyf was selected as one of The Guardian's Top Ten albums of 2022.

### THERE'S A MONSTER IN YOUR SHOW

Based on the Best-Selling Picture Book by Tom Fletcher and illustrated by Greg Abbot

Sat 17 – Sun 18 Feb The Haymarket

Tickets: £19. Under 16s £17, Suitable for: ages 2 and over Running time: approx. 50 minutes (no interval)

Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage, as the beloved Who's in Your Book? series makes its debut as a brand-new musical show. A group of performers are preparing to start their show but quickly discover they are not alone on stage. Little Monster wants to be part of the fun too! With an invitation to his friends, Dragon, Alien, and Unicorn to join him, you can expect comedy and chaos as they help to create a magical show, learning about the joy of books and friendship along the way.

### MORGAN & WEST'S MASSIVE MAGIC SHOW FOR KIDS

Relentlessly Funny and Bursting with Magic for Ages 5 To 105!

Sun 25 Feb, 2pm The Haymarket

Tickets: £18.50. Under 16s £16.50, Suitable for: ages 5 and over Running time: approx. 60 minutes (no interval)

Morgan & West have shown their scientific skills in Unbelievable Science (national tour), attempted to escape The Slammer (CBBC), and even fooled Penn & Teller (ITV/CW Network). Now they're hitting the road with their brandnew magic show full of their trademark wit, whimsy, and wall-to-wall silliness. Conjuring capers, mysterious magic tricks, larger-than-life laughs, and fantastic facial furniture all crammed into one hour of non-stop fun for all the family.

### **JULIUS CAESAR**

By William Shakespeare, Tue 27 – Thu 29 Feb The Haymarket Tickets: £26. Under 25s and f/t students £16

Join Icarus Theatre Collective for a boldly modern re-telling of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Set in the near future, the show combines state-of-the-art digital technology, fully integrated creative captioning, and classic theatrical magic to highlight the parallels between the gossips and doommongers of Ancient Rome, and the power of fake news to destroy our world today. Concerned that Caesar poses a threat to democracy, revolutionaries take the violent decision to murder him. As the world spins out of control, chaos, horror, and superstition rush in to fill the void. Civil war erupts and a new leader must rise: but at what cost?

### **BAOS** present Evita

EVITA is a celebrated musical portraying the life of Eva Perón, Argentina's influential First Lady. The production traces her journey from poverty to political prominence alongside her husband, Juan Perón. With captivating music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, the musical showcases Eva's rise to power, her advocacy for the working class, and the controversies surrounding her rapid ascent.

Through its iconic songs and compelling narrative, EVITA explores themes of ambition, love, and the complexities of fame while depicting the impact of Eva Perón on Argentina's history and society.



BAOS, a one hundred year old theatre society in Basingstoke, are performing the show in March at the Haymarket Theatre. Dates are the 13th - 16th March and tickets are available at https://www. anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/ event/baos-evita

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### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### **Cryptic Crossword No: 75 Solution**

ГУСЕК ODIЛW	53 54	KETTOMHYWWEK ELCHING? SITAEK	55 26 26 27
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### **CodeWord No: 61 Solution**

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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

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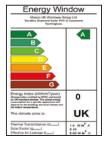


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