

March 2023

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- A marathon challenge for Sara
- The Cubs give a new meaning to running water
- Time to start preparing for the Bramley Show

Plus all the usual articles  
and much more



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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**March 2023**

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*Produced and delivered by the Church  
for the benefit of the community.*

## Editorial

By the time you have read this paragraph, 15 million emails will have been delivered worldwide, 30,000 tweets sent and three million Facebook updates posted. As if that's not enough, tens of thousands of blogs, Instagram posts and news articles will have been published. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the mass of information available to us and the number of emails, texts, WhatsApp messages, etc we have to reply to everyday. When I first started working, most communications were sent by post and you then waited days for a reply. If something was very urgent you used the fax machine. Yes, I am old enough to remember that awful noise you heard when you picked up the phone and dialed someone's fax machine by mistake.

Now, of course, most of my letters are sent by email, which is much more convenient but does mean that just when you think you have ticked something off your to do list, a response arrives in your inbox demanding an immediate reply. It's great that we can keep in contact with so many people at the touch of a button and can work from anywhere in the world, but it can also be overwhelming when you see that mocking red circle on the home screen of your phone telling you that you have unread messages, missed calls and social media posts demanding your attention. You probably can't imagine life without the neat smart phone you can fit into your pocket, but very few people could afford the first mobile phone back in the 1970s, which cost over £1000, weighed as much as a bag of sugar and had a battery life of just 30 minutes! In 50 years' time I'm sure our young reader on page 13 will be laughing at the old fashioned phones her parents used in the 2020s.

As technology continues to evolve, do you sometimes wish the world would slow down a bit? I imagine that is a thought shared by the Practice Manager at Clift Surgery who tells us about his busy day on page 12. As I prepared this month's magazine, I found it quite reassuring to read that, despite the fast pace of life, we can still enjoy more relaxed, old-fashioned traditions such as Easter Egg Hunts, Fetes and Village Shows. All these events will be taking place in Bramley as you will see on pages 9, 13 and 19. Reading a book is still a popular way to relax as Patricia Harbot found out when she recently set up a book club. You can learn more about this on page 8. And in these days of instant gratification, it's good to read that the Bramley Scout Group still enjoys cooking outside over an open fire, just as they would have done in 1910 when the organisation was founded. You can read about their other activities, and their involvement in the Reading Road Race, in our special feature on pages 16 and 17.

So I encourage you to put your phone on silent and go for a walk in Clift Meadow, plant some seeds for the Bramley Show or see what Wilder Bramley have been up to. If it's raining, what better way to relax than reading your Bramley Magazine!

Best Wishes

**Rachel**

Joint Editor

"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished."

**Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher**

Cover Photo: Spring Lambs

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

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**Other local churches**

**St Bede's, Catholic Church**

Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9DX  
<https://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk>

**St Michael's, Catholic Church**

Bishopswood Road, Tadley RG26 4HG.  
<https://stmandsto.org.uk>

**Breach Lane Baptist Chapel**

Sherfield on Loddon  
 For information on services please contact  
 Geoffrey Belsham on 01256 882534

**From the Registers**

**Baptism**

11 February:  
 Archie Keirnan-Macarty  
 Rosie Keirnan-Macarty  
 Phoebe Keirnan-Macarty  
 Oliver Keirnan-Macarty

**Funerals**

18 January - Myrtle Mary  
 Hutchings  
 31 January - Patricia Scott

**March Services in St Leonard's Church, Sherfield**

**5th**

10.00 Holy Communion

**12th**

10.00 Morning Worship

**19th**

10.00 Café Church – Mothering Sunday Sherfield  
 Park Community Centre

**26th**

10.00 Holy Communion

**Church diary for March...**

<b>5th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>12th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>19th</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
	No Sunday@nine
10.30	Mothering Sunday Service – St James
<b>26th</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>And into April...</b>	
<b>3rd</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>6th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
7.00pm	Supper in Cross House
8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service – St James
<b>7th</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
2.00pm	An hour at the foot of the Cross – St James
<b>9th</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>
	No Sunday@nine
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>16th</b>	<b>1st Sunday after Easter</b>
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James





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**Did you know.....?**

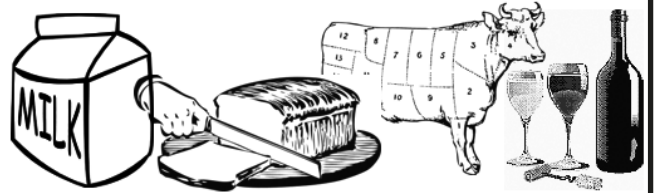
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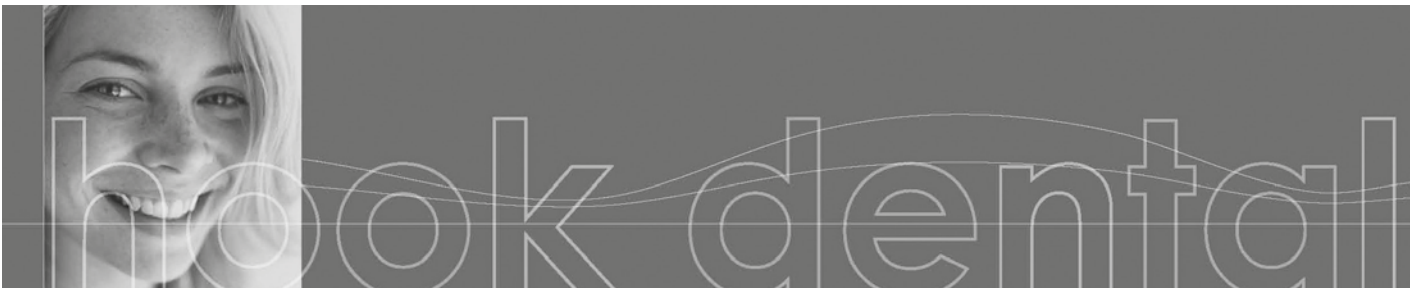
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When disaster or tragedy happens, either personally or around the world, as we have seen recently with the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, it can be difficult to pray. God may feel distant and we can't find the words.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless. Prayer seems inadequate but it's something we can do as we place our trust in God that although bad things happen in the world, with God we can make some sense of the cries of our heart and place our trust in the one who can bring good from bad things.

We can choose to focus our faith in God's unshakeable strength and be reminded of the ancient song of God's people in some of the verses of Psalm 46:

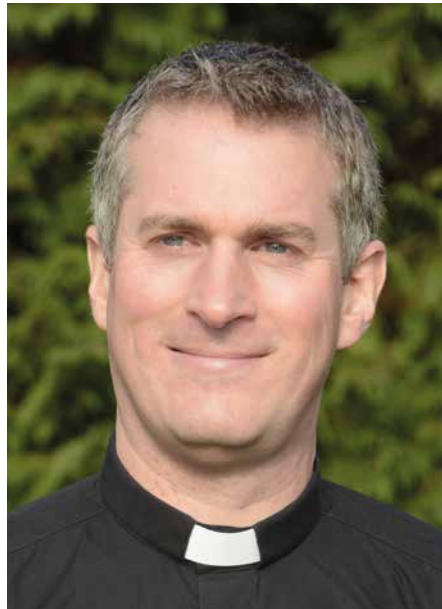
God is our refuge and strength,  
always ready to help in times of trouble.  
So we will not fear when earthquakes come  
and the mountains crumble into the sea.  
The nations are in chaos and their kingdoms crumble!  
God's voice thunders, and the earth melts!  
"Be still, and know that I am God."

The person who wrote this says that, 'we will not fear when earthquakes come', but for millions of people in Türkiye and Syria today that sentiment is simply not true. As we seek to make sense of this unfolding crisis, we can look to a passage from the Bible written by St Paul who came from Tarsus in modern-day Türkiye:

"For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies..."

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

*Romans 8: 22-23, 26-27 (ESVUK)*



Rev'd Mark Anderson

This is an extraordinarily noisy passage. First it's, 'the whole of creation... groaning together in the pains of childbirth'. Next it's us, 'groaning inwardly as [we] wait eagerly for... redemption.' Thirdly, it's 'the Spirit himself [who] intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words'. That's a lot of groaning - around us in creation, above us in heaven, and also deep within our own souls.

And so, as we pray for Türkiye and Syria, we can consider this deep lament rising from a broken planet in which tectonic plates sometimes shift so that buildings fall and people die. We can allow ourselves to feel the pain as bodies are lifted from the rubble, and mothers weep in the snow. We can invite the groaning Holy Spirit of God to help us in our weakness because it's true that I 'do not know what to pray'.

(with thanks to Pete Greig (24-7prayer.com) whose wisdom I have used to write this.)

**Messy Church**

JOIN US FOR ALL THIS FUN!  
FRIDAY 10TH MARCH  
4.30-5.45 PM

at **SHERFIELD PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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\*Small charge to cover food etc (speak to us if this is difficult)

Come to our EASTER CRAFT MORNING at SPCC on 7th April

Next Messy Church is Friday 12th May-save the date!

### A Message from Jess Abbott

Just to say a very big thank you to all you kind people for the support you have given me – your prayers, the lifts to church, shopping and much more. I am truly grateful, and I know that whatever happens I am not alone. God bless you all.

All My Love  
Jess Abbott



In the month's **Meet the Neighbours** we meet **Patricia Harbot** who has recently set up **Bramley's first community book club.**

**Bramley Magazine (BM): Why did you set up the Bramley Village Book Club (BVBC)?**

**Patricia:** I decided to set up the BVBC because I love to read and if a book grips me, then I want to share that pleasure with others. The irony is that I have struggled with dyslexia and read very slowly! Sometimes a novel is so good that it deserves collective attention and discussion. Significant passages can best be savoured by being read out loud. That way you may appreciate the style, content, and delivery by its author - and just how talented they are. I had been casting about for some time in search of a Book Club but the ones I had found were either full already; genre-specific; or just too far away.

I put up a post on the Bramley community FB page to see if anyone else was interested in a Book Club and I had an amazingly quick and eager response from those wishing to form a local group. Ideally numbers need to be around 8 - 12 members, but we are a whopping 16! (If anyone else wishes to set-up a second group, that would be wonderful, as I know it is of interest to those that didn't make it in to this one.)

**BM: What is the plan for the group?**

**Patricia:** The main point of forming the BVBC is to share our love of reading and make new local friends. We plan to meet every four weeks, giving everyone time to find and read the chosen book set by the host. Everyone will get a chance to host a meeting if they wish to. Ahead of the meeting we will be given 'thought provoking questions regarding the book and its author', set by the host, to share within the meeting. We will have to see how the group evolves. It would be nice to have some of our meetings outdoors with a picnic in the summer months.

**BM: What do you like about living in Bramley?**

**Patricia:** I love that it is so peaceful and always quiet at night in our road. All you hear are the freight trains, which are a comforting sound, and the call of the Tawney Owls that live in the giant old Oaks, behind us. This is a perfect location logistically and yet we are



Patricia with her beauty treatments

surrounded by open green spaces with many footpaths that make for wonderful walks. There are so many activities and clubs and we have very good facilities and amenities. I feel very fortunate to be able to walk to all of them, within minutes. The community is warm and welcoming to all.

**BM: Do you have any other hobbies, besides reading?**

**Patricia:** I am practical and creative, so I am often making things or dabbling with paints on paper. I am a keen gardener and can never leave a Garden Centre empty handed! My garden was a mere backyard scrubland when I moved



Flowers in Patricia's garden

in, in 2012, with a concrete runway path down the middle that led to a forlorn washing line. Now it is a peaceful haven of rich colours and wildlife. I also grow my own produce such as rhubarb, redcurrants, and a few veggies. Being a farmer's daughter, I have always loved and kept animals and enjoy walking my dogs. I'm thinking that my next hobby will be to join a choir, as singing is so therapeutic.

My main interests are undoubtedly found in my work as a Holistic Therapist. I wouldn't want any other job. I run my own Clinic, here in Longbridge Road, called thehealingtouchway Clinic, within a purpose-built extension to my home. I offer a wide range of treatments. I am also proud to be associated with a wonderful Charity dedicated to supporting young women with Breast Cancer who come to me for massage and beauty treatments, and a precious chance to relax. I am very keen to progress my techniques for scar tissue and restricted tissue improvement, that are associated with wound trauma. I am always looking to add to the services and treatment packages that the Clinic can offer in response to the needs of the local community; it is a calling to help others through healing hands.

**Patricia Harbot VTCT FHCT**



**MEADOW TALK**

As days and expectations lengthen, with seasons changing from frost-bound football pitches for Loddon Sports Youth footballers to the first blooms of Spring, it is reassuring to see Clift Meadow in pretty good shape.

A big thank you to two Bramley residents: Philip Wall for sparing time and manpower to improve the paving stones, and Tom Mason for looking after the trees on the Meadow.

Improvements inside the buildings continue to be made as resources allow, again with appreciation to Bramley Parish Council, but, as with virtually all public buildings, the unreal increases in utility costs challenge even the best budgeted



organisations. The much-appreciated labours of Bramley WI and Wilder Bramley should start to blossom soon, along with preparation for the forthcoming cricket season, which annually transforms the appearance of the Meadow.

Whether on the tennis court, walking the dog, at the Fete on May 13th or just resting on a bench, please do enjoy and make the most of your Clift Meadow.

FRIDAY 7TH APRIL 2023

**BRAMLEY EASTER EGG TRAIL**

12pm - 2pm  
Clift Meadow Pavilion  
£2 per child

*Meet the Easter Bunny!*

Easter Activities  
Raffle  
Face Painting  
Tea, Coffee & Cake

**Wilder Bramley**

Did you know that local red kite numbers plummeted during lockdown? The reason: they are carrion who feed principally on roadkill, which was in short supply due to the deserted roads. This and many other surprising facts, enlivened a very interesting talk by top Hampshire bird expert, Keith Betton, on 'Birds Around Bramley' last month. There was a terrific turnout of 50 plus people – we kept having to put out more chairs! It was great to see so many people interested in our local birdlife and wanting to help them. The take home message of the evening was for us all to be sure to disinfect our feeders regularly to protect greenfinches and others from the deadly viruses circulating. *[For more information on bird feeding see John Stubbs' article on page 25]*

We have some exciting events planned for the coming months. Next up is:

**Friday 24 March, 7:15 PM Clift Meadow Pavilion – Gardening for Wildlife workshop**

Our wildlife is facing catastrophic declines owing to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. But we gardeners can do a great deal to help. During this workshop, Paulina and Matt, Hampshire Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Champions, will teach us how to garden sympathetically for wildlife by creating habitats and providing food sources, attracting natural predators for pest control, and designing a natural garden space, where you can reconnect with nature. This will be a small, friendly, interactive group with plenty of opportunity for questions, discussion and useful activities. Also, a plant/seed swap will be on offer. Limited spaces available. Beginner gardeners particularly welcome! For more details, visit our Facebook group @WilderBramley.

We were delighted to see the first spring bulbs flowering in the new Wildflower Area at Clift Meadow recently and we are working on this summer's plans for the Bee Garden, supported by a newly expanded team of regular volunteers. Further talks are being arranged.

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

Paulina Brissenden and Jane Kirkwood



Claire Levee and Keith Betton

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**BODY CONTROL PILATES**

**'Bramley - Clift Meadow Brocas Hall'**  
**'Burghfield St Mary's Parish Centre'**  
**& on ZOOM!**



My original Body Control Pilates classes are now into their 19<sup>th</sup> year! They are available in halls or online whatever your age and ability. Currently present are ladies and gentlemen ranging from 16 to 87! So, to find out how to feel your best again and carry on doing the things you love, contact Heather.

**Bramley Clift Meadows Brocas Hall**  
Tuesdays 9.30am

**Burghfield St Mary's Parish Centre**  
Mondays - 9.30am & 10.30am  
Wednesdays - 6.30pm & 7.30pm  
Fridays - 12.30pm

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**C**llr Keith Oborn provides this month's update from Bramley Parish Council

**Planning**

There are quite a few planning applications "in the system" at the moment, many of which are causing some degree of concern to local residents. Bramley Parish Council is taking a keen interest in all of these but, as ever, we are limited to making formal comments, which will always reflect the community's wishes as far as we know them.

If you wish to comment please do so via this link: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications>, or by emailing [planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk) with the application number and the word "SUPPORT" or "OBJECT" in the Subject.

It's tempting to post on social media, and might make you feel better, but the Planning department does not – and cannot – take any note of this.

**22/03376/FUL - Meadow View Sherfield Road** - Erection of two blocks of flats in place of a derelict bungalow. There are a number of reasons to object to this, as it will replace a small single-storey dwelling on a modest, long, thin, plot with 8 flats in two storey blocks, and 16 parking spaces, close to the One Stop shop and level crossing. It will also put more load on the already overloaded sewer system. Bramley Parish Council's comments can be viewed on the PC website.

**22/00744/FUL - Mekanix/Bakery site** - The plans have been modified somewhat, but there are still issues with the street scene, traffic, and loss of local businesses and employment. The proposed properties will overshadow those next door. There is only one parking space per property, in a locality where parking and traffic are already a significant problem. Bramley Parish Council's comments can be viewed on the PC website.

**21/03758/OUT - Stocks Farm/ Waites development** - As of the time of writing the appeal hearing has finished and we are awaiting a decision.

**21/00349/FUL - Minchens Lane Battery System** - This is to the north of the National Grid access road, and has been approved on appeal.

**22/01797/FUL Ash Lane Battery System** - This is a separate application from a different developer, for a similar system to be installed between the back

of the small Ash Lane business park and the north west corner of Frith Wood. This has been granted permission.

**20/03403/FUL ENSO Energy Solar Farm** - This has generated a very large number of comments and we have just been advised that the appeal has been allowed, meaning that the application has got permission to go ahead.

**A Good Neighbour** - We are all used to big companies and organisations taking no notice of local people and communities and their wishes. So it is very pleasant to be able to report on a company that has done the right thing.

You'll all know about the National Grid (NG) substation in Frith Wood. You may also know about the work which has been going on to provide a power connection to the railway at the Olivers Lane railway bridge, via a cable running in the field alongside Minchens Lane.

NG have held regular meetings with the PC, and their staff have been refreshingly competent, well informed and communicative. They even asked us to thank Bramley residents for helping direct traffic! All in all, it seems as if this project, which has meant a lot of construction traffic along The Street and Minchens Lane, has been run with the minimum of disruption and the maximum of communication.

What you may not know is that NG has a "Community Fund" that grants money to local organisations affected by their operations. Last summer the Village Hall received a substantial sum that helped them install a solar/battery system and so save money and reduce their CO2 emissions.

NG is now considering two more grants, one for Clift Meadow to be used for some garden equipment and for a more efficient heating system, once again saving costs and CO2, and the other to Loddon Community Energy to help fund energy efficiency advice and simple improvements for those on low incomes in Bramley. These grants will take some time to be decided.

All in all, a great example of a large organisation being a "good corporate neighbour".

**Local Elections** - You may have seen some information on social media about the new voting regulations coming in for the May 2023 local elections. All in-person voters will need to supply some form of photo ID to vote, and there is a list of acceptable

forms of ID. As you would expect, a driving licence or passport are top of the list, but other forms are acceptable, and if you don't have a photo ID then you can apply to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for a Voter Authority Certificate. More information is available on the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council website - <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/voter-id>

**Highways** - With the recent changeable weather conditions, the roads around Bramley have seen a number of potholes springing up, as well as the erosion of the road edges in some places. HCC Highways tell us that service demand across the highways network remains extremely high. All work is being prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first. This includes the use of temporary 'infill' repairs to remove major potholes, these can then be addressed on a longer lasting basis later. If you have any Highways concerns, please report via the HCC website - [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance). The emergency number for Highways is 0300 555 1388 (8.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday).

**Wilder Bramley** - The Wilder Bramley group is a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are looking at ideas and actions to promote biodiversity within Bramley Parish. They are running a series of talks on wildlife in Bramley and the wider area. The most recent of these was about badgers, held towards the end of February. More information can be found on their Facebook page - @WilderBramley

**Parish Council meetings** - Planning Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 7th March, with Full Council on Tuesday 14th March. As always, we welcome any resident who wishes to attend. Both meetings are at 7.00pm in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall.

**Contacts**

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

Bramley PC website – [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)

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**I**n the last magazine, we read about the hard work carried out by the receptionists at Clift Surgery. This month, it's time to learn about **A day in the life of a Practice Manager**

You may be surprised to know that my job title is not Practice Manager, rather I am the Senior Operations Manager. It is not unusual now for GP Practices to move away from the title of Practice Manager. Some Practices have Business Managers, Operations Managers etc. It doesn't mean that I don't do what the previous Practice Manager used to do, rather I am now part of a wider Management Team at Clift Surgery, which includes my assistant (Charlotte O'Leary), our Reception Lead (Sharon Longyear), our Dispensary Manager (Alison Lewis), our Finance Manager (Vanessa Chappell) and, of course, our Managing Partner (Alma Kilgarriff).

I have been working for Clift Surgery as a full time Senior Operations Manager since October 2022 when the previous Practice Manager, Claire Berry, moved to another position in the NHS. However, I have worked in a GP Practice for 16 years. Before joining Clift Surgery I worked at a GP Practice in Alton, working my way up through Administration, Reception, Dispensary and finally joining the Management Team. I then worked for the Clinical Commissioning Group (now the ICB, Integrated Care Board) in their IT deployment team, helping Practices in Basingstoke with IT queries and questions. I was asked by Clift Surgery to help them out with various projects and was then offered a permanent position at the Practice.

So, back to my role. My day doesn't always follow a set pattern due to the various things that I might need to do for that day and what queries/question come my way. They can be from patients, staff, the GP Partners, the ICB, other local Practices or NHS England, but I usually start each day by checking my emails. I always hope I can keep on top of these but sometimes I can receive a lot in a day. Some are from the ICB or NHS England asking us for information (don't worry, they never ask for any patient identifiable data), some are to do with the Practice building, our IT systems, staff HR queries, questions from our amazing PPG (Patient Participation Group) or finance queries from suppliers, payroll or anyone that owes us money.

My role also includes Health and Safety, so I keep an eye on when our hard-working GPs and Nursing Team need holiday and arrange cover for them when they are away. I will also make sure that we are recalling patients with long term conditions for any blood tests/injections that they may need. We have various targets that we need to achieve to make sure the Practice has an income stream. One day, CQC (Care Quality Commission) will come and visit us again and so I need to make sure that our Practice policies and procedures are up to date and that we are sticking to them.

I also attend meetings during the week. These could be for our PCN (Primary Care Network) where we work with other local Practices (Chineham Medical Practice and Whitewater Health (Hook Surgery and Hartley Witney Surgery)) to employ other people to help patients. These could be Clinical Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Mental Health Practitioners, Social Prescribers, Health and Wellbeing Coaches and other roles. I will also attend meetings with the ICB when they need something from us, or we need something from them. I will also attend various training courses throughout the year to make sure I am up to date with the latest information on HR,

finance, new IT systems, CQC, Health and Safety, premises and what targets we need to achieve and how to make sure we achieve them.

You may see me working in Reception or Dispensary when we are short staffed, and may also see my feet dangling out of the loft hatch either trying to find something or putting the Christmas Tree away!

Over the last 16 years I have seen numerous challenges for GP Practices and the wider NHS. Of course, no one could have predicted how much COVID would affect us all. The Practice has had to adapt to new ways of working over the last few years and we are still under the effects of COVID.

You will have seen on the news recently that the NHS is going through a very challenging period. As part of the NHS all GP Practices are currently experiencing high demand for appointments. We understand that if you or a family member are unwell you would like to speak to a member of the clinical team. We are trying to increase the amount of GP appointments but there is a shortage of GPs looking for work at the moment, compounded by a shortage of locum GPs, which is why you may be asked to see other healthcare professionals. We have also seen increased demand for appointments recently due to Strep A. This has seen our telephone system struggling to cope with the amount of calls coming into the Practice, an example of this was on Monday 12 December where normally the Practice would receive between 500 – 600 calls but on that Monday we received over 1200. You may not have been able to get through to us on that day due to our telephone system's call queue length reaching full capacity at various points. Thankfully these events don't happen very often, and I would like to express my thanks to you all for your patience and understanding with us as we navigate through these ever-changing times.

You will hopefully see some positive changes over the coming months and beyond, as the Practice's Management Team improve how the Practice cares for its patients. One thing to look out for will be a new monthly Practice Newsletter where we can let you know what's happening at the Practice and provide helpful information. We will let you know when this is launched and how to access it.

Despite the ongoing challenges of General Practice, I still enjoy working in it and look forward to working to improve things at Clift Surgery. Once again, I and the wider Practice team would like to thank you all for your continued understanding and patience.

**Anthony Williams**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday 13 May 2023: Bramley Village Clift Meadow Summer Fete, 12.00-16.00pm.**

Join us for our annual Summer Fete on Saturday 13 May. Animal Show, Classic Cars, Fun Fair, displays from local clubs, Crafts, Tombola, children’s activities and attractions, Food Stalls, Ice-cream van and many more... come and join in with the community spirit.

**Tombola Raffle Donations & Volunteers Needed:**

Last year we received some great Tombola raffle donations, and we would like to ask the same again this year. If you would like to donate, we are looking for any new items such as children’s toys, educational items, stationery, toiletries etc, all is very much appreciated. We could also always do with a spare pair of hands on the day to help out with the setup, on stalls and other activities. If you would be interested in volunteering on the day or donating to the Tombola raffle please contact [events@cliftmeadow.org.uk](mailto:events@cliftmeadow.org.uk) and someone will be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you at the fete.

**Clift Meadow Committee.**

We were delighted to receive this photo of one of our youngest readers. Who needs Peppa Pig when you have the Bramley Magazine!



**Walk and Talk**

In October the Friendship Walking group celebrated its first birthday and the group is going from strength to strength. The aim is to walk every week, rain or shine but we are looking forward to the drier and warmer weather.

Many of the group members are relatively new to the village and it has been a great opportunity for them to meet people from the local area. Others have lived here for many years but due to previous work commitments have not had the chance to mix socially.

Christmas was celebrated with a party, including a meal, entertainment and music supplied by the Tadley U3A recorder group, who performed well known carols. The week before Christmas was our Christmas Hat walk, as you can see from the photos.

We are very grateful to the Parish Council who are continuing to fund the hire of the hall and to the four volunteers who lead the walks and prepare the refreshments. Maxta Thomas from the Parish Council visited us for coffee recently and she commented on how pleased she was to be able to see the results of the Council’s donation first hand.

If you would like further details, please email [info@bramleyvillagehub.com](mailto:info@bramleyvillagehub.com)

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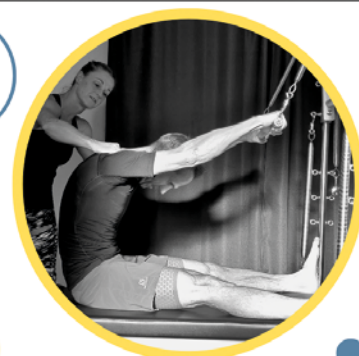
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If you live in German Road or Kirby Drive you may have seen Bramley resident, **Sara Weller**, in her bright orange high-vis jacket and wheelchair, preparing for an assault on the London Marathon in April to raise funds for **MSMustStop**.



Sara has been in Bramley for 15 years, living with progressive Multiple Sclerosis for much of that time, along with over 130,000 people in the UK who also live with MS. Its progressive form attacks the body's nervous system and is unrelenting, incurable and largely untreatable. Sara has waited over a year to get access to one of the only two NHS-approved treatments for the condition.

Last summer, 13 years after her diagnosis in 2009, Sara launched her own fundraising campaign, **MSMustStop** on the BT Tower in August, and began to use a wheelchair for the first time.



“Research into progressive MS is at a critical stage. Researchers believe that “breakthrough treatments for MS are within touching distance. I wanted to make something good come of my move into a wheelchair so I decided to find a personal challenge, and use it to raise money to fund the research that is so vitally needed.”

Before she was diagnosed with MS, Sara was the Managing Director of Argos, looking after 25,000 people in 750 stores across the UK and Eire. Now, in the daytime, Sara is a Non-Executive Board Director of businesses such as BT and



Virgin Money. But at weekends, for the past 3 months, she has been facing the ice-cold conditions and the bumpy roads near her Bramley home, to get in the miles of training, ready for 23 April and the gruelling 26.2 mile race.

“It is way more difficult than I had expected. The roads are uneven, potholes are everywhere, dealing with the camber is impossible, and wheeling up gentle slopes feels like climbing Mount Everest. And 26 miles is a very long way – two round trips to my favourite lunch spots at the Wellington Farm Shop café or the Hatch on the A30! But I must thank the many careful drivers who have stopped to make sure I am ok, the children waving from the playground and the friendly walkers whose little ones (and dogs) seem baffled by my moving around on wheels.”

The hard work is already paying off. Sara has raised over £60,000 and is hoping to reach well into six figures before the big day on 23 April. She has been getting tips from some of the world's best ever wheelchair marathon athletes, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and David Weir, seen here with Sara in Richmond Park in February, who will do his 23rd London Marathon on 23 April.



Sara with Paralympic wheelchair athlete, David Weir|

“I’ve always watched the London Marathon and wished I could do it, but I was never the right size or shape to run. But now I have wheels, and despite being 61, I feel that the sky’s the limit and I am going to give it every bit of energy I have. I am grateful for all the support I can get. Please see more at [www.msmuststop.org.uk](http://www.msmuststop.org.uk) and donate at [www.JustGiving.com/fundraising/msmuststop](http://www.JustGiving.com/fundraising/msmuststop).





**BRAMLEY SCOUT GROUP, GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH**



Bramley Scout Group had an exciting start to the term. Keeping true to our main aim of having fun and learning skills for life, section leaders met to create an exciting programme of activities to take us up to Easter - it's no secret amongst Leaders that we often plan activities that we can't fit in to our adult lives, like rifle shooting, hiking through mud, craft projects and making a radio show.

Yes, making a radio show! That's what our Scouts (10-14 years) are doing this term with Basingstoke Community Radio, as part of their Media Relations and Marketing badge. They are also looking at what it takes to work in the world of farming and, undoubtedly, that will mean some up-close contact with farm animals and maybe even feeding some spring lambs. Our Cubs (8-10 years) are looking forward to welcoming visitors from the Ministry of Defence Police who have promised some hands on experience with handcuffs and other equipment! And you can be sure there will be questions about what happens over at the army camp in Bramley. Our youngest section, at the moment, is Beavers (6-8 years) who are also hoping to have a visit from military and will be cooking outside over an open fire - not many 6-8-year-olds get to do that!

You may not know that the highest award that can be presented to Scout, Cub or Beaver is the Chief Scout Award (Bronze for Beavers, Silver for Cubs and Gold for Scouts). It's a huge achievement involving a lot of commitment both from the young people and the adults involved. This is where Leaders convert fun and skills for life into badges, which help complete the many elements needed for as many of our members as possible to obtain the award for their section.

As we planned these activities, it became apparent that there was an age group that was not being given all of these opportunities; where was the fun and skills for life for 4-6-year-olds? Well, it's coming! Bramley will soon be opening a new Squirrel Section bringing the same opportunities to a whole new age group.

Our taster sessions held on Sunday 29 January saw nearly 120 future Squirrels try a variety of activities including soft archery and cooking smores. Lots of fun was had by all who attended, and Squirrel Dreys will be coming on stream very soon, so watch this space!

You can find out more on our Facebook page.

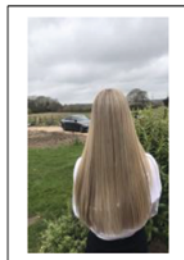




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**BRAMLEY SCOUT GROUP IS LOOKING FOR:**

**Group Scout Leader and Assistant Group Scout Leader**

Support our Beaver, Cub and Scout leaders to run their sections.

As part of our committee, work with the other committee members to ensure sufficient resources (eg equipment and adult support), manage finances, organise fundraising events and camps.

**Assistant Scout and Cub Leaders**

Help plan and deliver activities for our young people.

Support our young people to achieve badges and awards.

These are voluntary roles. No previous scouting experience is necessary. Full training and support will be provided.

**Bramley Scout Group comprises:**

- Beavers 6-8 year olds
- Cubs 8-10.5 year olds
- Scouts 10.5-14 year olds

We will also soon be opening Squirrels for 4 –6 year olds.





If you would like more information about any of these roles or our sections, please call us on 01256 881113 or email [jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk](mailto:jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk).

[scouts.org.uk/volunteer](http://scouts.org.uk/volunteer)





## **Bramley Scout Group in the Community**

There was a lot of activity in the Village on Sunday 12 February. Organisers of the Reading Road Runners race through Bramley were busy putting up signs and runners were limbering up for their 10 or 20 mile run around the village lanes.

The busiest place was outside Bramley School, where all the runners set off to cheers from spectators. But as they disappeared from view down Bramley Lane, what spectators may have missed was Bramley Cubs and Scouts preparing the water station.

For the first time since 2019, our Cubs, Scouts, parents, and helpers gave a whole new meaning to running water, as we manned water station number 4 once again, in readiness for the runners to pass through the 20-mile halfway point.

The first job was to fill cups, lots and lots of cups. Two tables full in fact, with both plain and isotonic water. With little time to spare before the first of the runners came past, we had a quick training session on what to do and how to stay safe – arms out straight to the side and cup balanced on the palm, and don't get in the way!

At first there were just a few front runners which allowed us to perfect our technique of the all-important 'running grab' and ensuring everyone always had a cup in their hand.

Inevitably, there were cups balanced precariously on a palm, or an overzealous runner mis-grabbed, and a cup went flying in the air, but amazingly most of the volunteers managed to avoid the water and remain dry. However, there were lots of supportive cheers and self-congratulations when cup to



runner went smoothly. At one point our youngest volunteers sounded like market stall holders as they shouted at top of their voices 'Water!' or 'Isotonic!' to let the runners know what they were holding, some adding incentives, like 'the best water in Bramley' or 'Free Water!!'

Amazingly, some of the runners had enough breath to thank us on their way through, others just looked grateful as they focused on keeping pace, and as the last runner passed, it was time to clear our tables and pick up discarded cups.

As a Scout Group we love being involved in community events and our young people who took part will remember it for years to come. We are already looking forward to doing it again next year, but there are lots of opportunities for us to get involved before then – keep watching!

**Jan Wright**

Bramley Cub Leader

## **Bramley WI**

This month Michael Luck gave a presentation about the birth of the credit card to the present day. It was very informative and interesting. He told us about the first cash machines and explained that the first cards issued had no magnetic strip or chip. Safeway the supermarket was the first to use Chip and Pin and McDonald's was the first outlet to trial the new Chip and Pin.

Michael also gave some advice on how to stay safe with your cards, an example being not to use the same pin for all your cards. At the end of the talk he answered some questions. Our grateful thanks to Michael for such an interesting talk and slide show, which was followed by our usual refreshments and the raffle.

A number of us went out for a walk in January and another was planned for February, with a stop for lunch of course!!

**Jane Matthews**

## **Pilates classes that work for you**

### **5 class a week**

Monday: 8.45am Bramley Clift Pavillion  
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 Wednesday: 7pm Bramley Clift Pavillion  
 Thursday: 9.30am SSSJ Village Hall  
 Friday: 8.30am via Zoom

### **Prices**

£5 per Zoom class  
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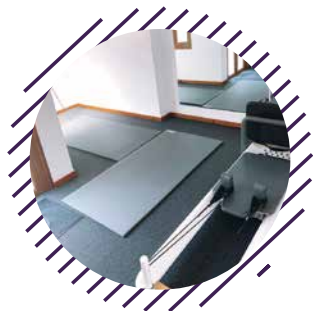
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## News from Clift Surgery

The PPG is sad to announce the retirement of Dr. Fisher, who leaves the Practice after 23 years. He will be much missed but we wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

### Dr Nigel Fisher Retiring at the end of this month.

“It is with sadness that we at The Clift Surgery are announcing that Dr Nigel Fisher is retiring at the end of this month after 23 years at Clift Surgery and 30 years of being a GP.

He would like to thank you all for your support over the years, we will greatly miss him and his presence within the surgery. We wish him the best for a happy and healthy retirement.

I am sure like us you will want to send him best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. If you would like to express your thanks to him, he would prefer that this is done in writing so he can keep any correspondence as a memento. Please feel free to drop any cards or letters into reception and we will make sure he receives them. Alternatively, please send any emails to reception.clift@nhs.net”

### New phone line

The surgery has had a new phone line installed. One of the features on this new phone system that will help patients get in touch with us is the ability to not have to wait in the call queue but to get the system to call you back when you get to the front of the queue. Patients are using this already and it is working very well.

### Appointments not taken up

The number of appointments which were not attended remains consistent. In December it was 83 and in January it was **106**. In a time when people are trying hard to get appointments it is vital that you cancel an appointment you don't need or are unable to attend by calling the surgery. The new phone line should make this easier to do.

### Appointment texts

The surgery is now starting to send out SMS appointment reminders which will allow patients to cancel that appointment via the SMS message.

### Prescription collection

If you order your repeat prescriptions to be collected from the dispensary, and you have received a text to say your medication is ready, **please collect as quickly as possible**. There is limited storage in the dispensary and medications not collected will be put back into stock.

Many thanks

Your PPG

## Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hampshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a suitable walk from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

**John Harris**

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)  
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

## Coins

Shortly after the death of Queen Elizabeth, I was listening to a conversation between some (not particularly young) people about money. Someone thought that all the coins in circulation would have to be re-issued with King Charles's head on. I immediately thought 'How silly...' and then I realised that many people have never seen coins in circulation bearing the face of previous monarchs, because decimalisation caused all of the old coins to be withdrawn.

On 15 February 1971 we changed from pounds, shillings and pence to the decimal currency that we have today. This meant that all the old halfpennies, pennies, threepenny bits, sixpences, shillings and florins, not to mention the half crown, disappeared – not overnight, but over the next few years. Useful equivalents such as the shilling (5p) and the two shilling florin (10p) were retained until the early 1990s. The sixpence (2½p) remained until 1980, but the 12 sided 'threepenny bit', with no exactly equivalent value in the new decimal system, was withdrawn immediately, as were pennies and halfpennies.

Farthings, a quarter of an old penny, had been withdrawn on 1 January 1961. What use would a coin worth 1/960th of a pound be, you may ask? Well, I remember that in the sweet shop on my way to school when I was 5 years old, there were four chews to a penny – fruit salads or blackjacks. I once bought just one for a farthing, my smallest ever purchase.

When I was young, a pocket full of change might contain coins from the reigns of Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI. Edward VIII was not on the throne long enough in 1936 to have coins issued. There were some minted, but these are pattern coins, to be presented for official approval. Edward had abdicated before they could be presented for approval in early 1937.

When I was young, with two shillings a week pocket money, I sometimes received change including Victorian pennies. As boys we always believed that a Victorian penny was a 'lucky penny'. The oldest one I ever received is still in my possession today, dated 1863. To make sure it didn't get accidentally spent, by me or anyone else, I had the brilliant idea (to a nine-year old) of drilling a hole in it so that it could be put on a key ring. Grownups told me I was 'defacing the Queen's coinage', but I knew that the age of criminal responsibility had been raised to 10 years in 1963 (I was always a smarty-pants) so I took the opportunity. It is still on my key ring today.

Decimalisation caused great confusion. I was in my 17th year on decimalisation day in 1971. I had a job in the early morning, before school, looking after the local newsagent's shop for half an hour while the lady who owned it went for breakfast. Lots of people called in on the way to work for, typically, a Daily Mirror and a packet of cigarettes. From memory, a pack of 20 Embassy cigarettes was about 5/2d (5 shillings and tuppence) and a Daily Mirror 4d (fourpence). So, 27½p to my young O-level maths mind. I remember grown men holding out their hand with a collection of coins and saying 'Take what you need, son...' It was very good for my mental arithmetic!

**Michael Luck**



Spring is in the air so it's time to start thinking about the **Bramley Show!** The committee is already planning the next Show, which is currently scheduled for **Sunday 13 August**. First off is the **potato and sunflower challenge**.

Following the success of last years' Potato Challenge, we will be running it again this year.

For those of you that are new to the challenge, it is the time when we invite the children of Bramley and surrounding villages to see just how many potatoes they can grow in a 3 gallon (13.5 litre) bucket from just one seed potato. It's a fun challenge which is open to all local children up to the age of 16.



Everyone will be supplied with the same type of potato which will be made available at the end of March, beginning of April. The results will be announced at the Annual Bramley Show in August. There are three chances to win. Will you have grown the biggest potato? Have you grown the most potatoes, or have you grown the heaviest crop?

This year we are also trying a new challenge. Can you grow **The Tallest Sunflower** in the village?

Did you know that the world record for the tallest sunflower is 30ft 1in (9.2 metres) and the British record is 26ft or almost 8 metres. We are not expecting any records like these, although you never know! 6ft would be a good result.

You can grow them in a pot or direct into your garden. All you then have to do is submit a photograph before the show illustrating the height of your sunflower. The top 3 entries may then be visited by the judges to confirm the prize winners. You can provide your own seeds or collect them from us at the same time as we issue the potatoes.

So, how do you get involved? Full details will be made available on our website [bramleyshow.org.uk](http://bramleyshow.org.uk). Nearer the time, we will also be making announcements on our Facebook Page and The Bramley Community Page.

Good Luck!

## Loddon Quilters

Members of Loddon Quilters enjoyed a workshop with Julia Gahagan, textile artist and designer well known for her mini quilts.



Earlier this year we held a workshop with her entitled "Little Landscapes Through the Seasons". As this was enjoyed by all who attended, we decided to follow up with "Christmas Mini Quilts".

The designs ranged from festive village scenes to baubles and robins. It is a straightforward process of cutting the shape out of material either freehand or using templates then arranging on to a background piece. This is layered in the usual quilting way but covered with a very fine net. When it is all "sandwiched" together it is machined over freehand and finished with binding.

The size can be almost anything you like from 10cm to A4; it is a perfect way to use up all the scrap pieces of material left over from patchwork or dressmaking.

Loddon Quilters have a few spaces for new members. We meet in Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month from 11am to 4pm, you can come all day and bring lunch or just for a time that suits your day.

Beginners or experienced, machine or hand sewers welcomed.

Contact: Jacky Morgan 01256 882350 or Chris Ralph 07711 522378

## Royal British Legion

On St Valentine's Day, some members and friends met for lunch at the Sherfield Oaks Golf Club and had a relaxed time together. In view of the day, all the ladies were presented with a red rose.

Our next meeting at Cross House, Bramley is at 1.15pm on Tuesday 14 March. After a welcoming drink, we will be screening a great film, "A Foreign Field" starring among others Alec Guinness, Leo McKern and Lauren Bacall. It tells the tale of a group of veterans returning to the Normandy beaches 50 years on, to find memorials to some with whom they served but also to link up with local people with whom they developed relationships at the time!

It's a wonderful film with many moments of comedy, poignancy and fantastic acting. All are welcome. Our Mess fee is £3 for members and £5 for others to defray expenses.

Coffee get-togethers in March are on Wednesday 1 March at Sherfield Coffee Shop and Wednesday 15 March at The Swan pub in Sherborne St John at 10.30: again, everyone is most welcome.

April marks the anniversary of the post-pandemic re-launch of our Bramley & District Branch. It has been a busy

and constructive year and we have welcomed new members and friends to our meetings. On Saturday 1 April at 2pm in St James' Church Bramley we have a very significant event during which Luke Holdcroft will be installed as our new branch Standard Bearer and will make a presentation to Tony Evans who has served for many years in this capacity.

Tony has also been branch President but this role will now be taken on by John Delafield. The event will also include the appointment of Revd Mark Anderson as our branch Chaplain. The Mayor of Basingstoke and our RBL County President will be among local dignitaries attending. Refreshments will be served afterwards - do come along!

**John Morley**, Branch Chairman

[revjmorley@talktalk.net](mailto:revjmorley@talktalk.net), 07900 892566



## Bramley Church of England Primary School - School Visits

Having hands-on and real world experiences bring learning to life for the children. Every year, we work hard to find locations and events that will match and enrich our learning in school.

Recently, our Year 3 children visited The Science Centre in Winchester. They had a fantastic time looking around the hands-on displays as well as having guided talks from the leaders. During the day, they had the opportunity to make their own rockets before going into the Planetarium - where they got to gaze at the stars and learn about the solar system. It was a wonderful day and gave them a rich experience of a range of scientific topics.

Earlier in the spring term, the children in Year 2 visited Sea City in Southampton, linked to their topic of Titanic. The children were able to look at artefacts from the stricken vessel and see what the cabins would have looked like. Working with an expert on the topic helped them to understand the events of that night in more detail as well as discuss who really was to blame!



Our older children have the opportunity to take part in residential visits, which are fantastic for a number of reasons. Developing children's independence towards the end of their time at primary school is essential: getting themselves

ready with the right clothing and equipment, being at the right place at the right time and keeping all of their things in an orderly manner, as well as their interpersonal skills in managing team work, sharing rooms and supporting others. Fully equipped sites also provide high quality activities that we don't have the facilities for in school – broadening the children's experiences as well as challenging them. Year 5 children visit The Gordon Brown Centre where their learning focuses on outdoor activities such as den building, archery and fire making. The children are exhausted by the end of the 3 days from all of the energy used in the great outdoors! Our year 6 children visit Osmington Bay, a PGL site on the Dorset coast. Here, they take part in action / adventure activities that challenge their skills, nerve and determination, such as abseiling, giant swing and quad biking. We like to have these opportunities early in the school year so that the children can apply their perseverance and independence skills throughout the year to boost their learning.



We are always adapting our visits to best enrich our curriculum but also best meet the needs of each group of children. Our younger children have experienced trips to The Watercress line, Marwell Zoo and Wellington Country Park in the past, linking to topics of transport and animals. Our older children have previously visited the British Museum, Milestones and Harry Potter studios – all fantastic developments on what we can offer in the classroom.

## The Priory joins Basingstoke Sings

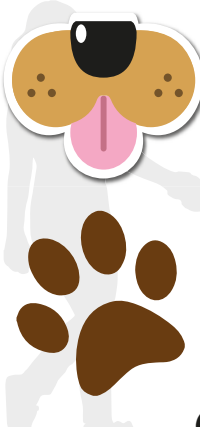
Over January and February, all of the pupils at The Priory Primary School took part in a big music project called Basingstoke Sings with 9 other selected schools in the area. We love music at The Priory as it's a lovely and expressive way for us to feel happy and to come together. The song was recorded during our mental health and wellbeing week and was an empowering Eurovision song about self-belief and respect.



We worked with VoxFresh to record the song, with classes performing harmonies and some children even performing solos!

Learning comes in many different ways at The Priory and music is one way that we inspire a love of learning. We currently have some spaces, so if you are interested in your children joining us at The Priory, please give us a call on 01256 850062 or email [office@priory.hants.sch.uk](mailto:office@priory.hants.sch.uk) to arrange a visit.





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**Hampshire County Councillor report – Calleva Division**

**£2.6bn spending programme for 2023/24**

Hampshire County Council’s spending plans for 2023/24 are to be considered this month by the cabinet and then by full council. The plans total £2.6bn and cover the hundreds of services delivered by the council to its 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

The capital budget proposals will also be considered, with building and infrastructure projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years to be approved. The proposed three year programme includes:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, delivering a further 4,393 school places and giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.
- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused around walking and/or cycling improvements
- £100m to address condition-based enhancements to schools.
- An additional £0.3m funding towards the County Council’s Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of HCC’s response to the challenge of climate change.

A final decision on the County Council’s budget for 2023/24 will be made at the full County Council meeting.

**County Deal update**

The government has welcomed the proposals put forward by HCC and others for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, including a directly elected mayor and extensive devolution from central government down to the local area. The next stage is for government officials to meet with upper tier and unitary authorities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight this month, including to explore how the proposals might be taken forward as part of their next wave of negotiations.

The proposals put forward can be seen at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s100275/Pan-Hampshire%20Deal%20Prospectus%202022.pdf>

**20 mph review**

The review of the criteria for 20 mph speed limits within Hampshire has progressed to the next stage following last year’s consultation and the work of a County Council Task and Finish Group. A report has been produced recommending a series of changes which will make it easier for communities who want reduced speed limits to promote speed reduction schemes and seek the introduction of lower limits. The proposals will now be considered further before progressing to full Cabinet for approval in June.

**Roads**

The bad weather we have all experienced this month has provided many challenges to Hampshire Highways, especially from blocked drains, flooding and potholes. Even though the weather has improved recently with the

water tables falling, the overnight freezing temperatures have exacerbated the pothole situation with many more now appearing, and particularly in the rural areas.

Service demand across the highways service remains extremely high with demand far exceeds capacity at the present time and consequently all work is having to be prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first. This includes the use of temporary ‘infill’ repairs to remove major potholes; these can then be addressed on a longer lasting basis later.

The outlook for this month is also unfavourable, with the Met Office suggesting that the weather is likely to be unsettled, with the potential for more periods of stormy conditions - potentially similar to those we experienced in early 2022 - and some further colder/wintry spells. One of the priorities now is therefore ditch and grip clearance to help alleviate surface water flooding and ice problems in at risk areas.

Please do continue to report highways issues online. A reminder that the number to call in emergency is 0300 555 1388 (0830-1700) Monday to Friday, or outside officer hours, 101.

**Drain cover thefts**

Road users across Hampshire are being urged to be vigilant after a recent spate of drain cover thefts - leaving deep openings in the road surface which could cause a potential hazard to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and also result in significant expense to council taxpayers. To report a missing cover, please call the number given above or report it to the police online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

**Increased police numbers announced**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has presented her budget plan for the years 2023-24. She had previously pledged to increase police numbers by 600 and is on track to recruit these by the end of March this year. Her new budget has added an additional 50 officers to these numbers, to be funded through the police precept of council tax.

**County Councillor grants**

I have given financial support in 2022/2023 to the following:-

- Mortimer West End – Union Flag & Car park repairs.
- Sherfield on Loddon – Reindeer Trail.
- Little London – Village entrance sign.
- Ramsdell – Speed Indicator Device
- Hartley Wespall – Speed Indicator Device.
- Stratfield Turgis – Noticeboard.
- Monk Sherborne – Playground Equipment.
- Bramley Clift Surgery – Gynaecological practice couch.
- Bramley – Speedwatch assistance.
- Stratfield Saye – Traffic calming measures.
- Basingstoke West- Scouts Scottish trip.

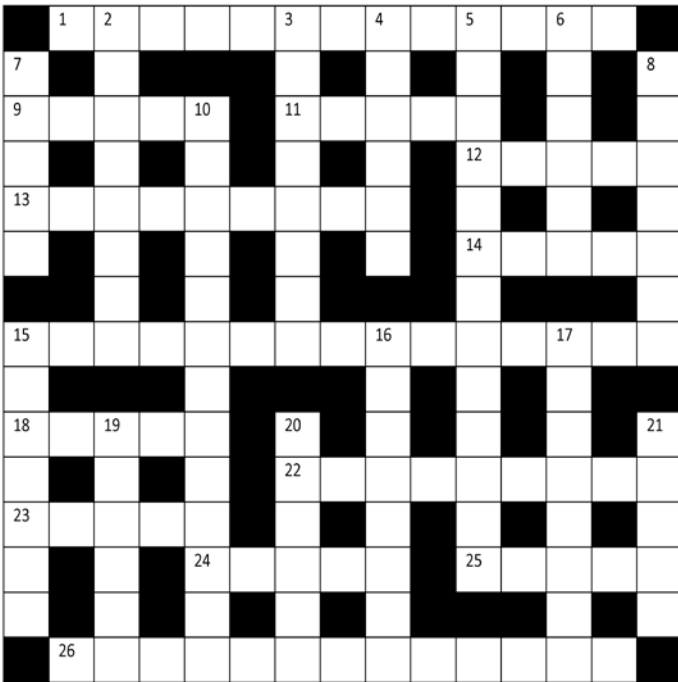
**Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE**

Member for Calleva Division  
Hampshire County Council  
[Fb.com/tellrhydian](https://www.facebook.com/tellrhydian)



**Cryptic Crossword No: 66**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

- 1 Read art, a quill in hand and found a four sided figure. (13)
- 9 Swap or way of living. (5)
- 11 Pepsi cola served up a hidden beam of light. (5)
- 12 Group or watering hole. (5)
- 13 Sample ahead of time perhaps. (9)
- 14 Dodge when eva decides within herself. (5)
- 15 Use water, a car technician and gangster to describe a liquid powered device. (15)
- 18 Prize or a hospital room perhaps. (5)
- 22 Old silicon without Dennis' start led to crash. (9)
- 23 She encouraged looking inside to find film. (5)
- 24 Active or awake. (5)
- 25 Wanderer found with no mad followers hopefully. (5)
- 26 Illegal livelihood favoured by physicians of old. (13)

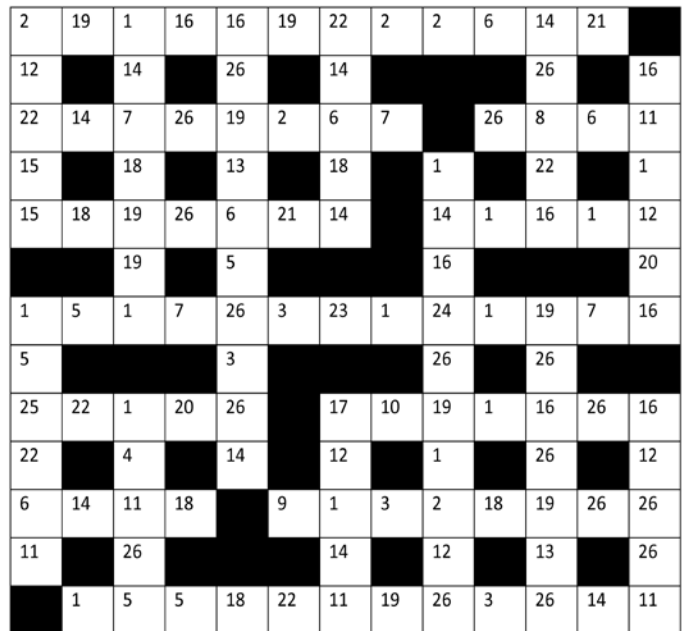
**Down**

- 2 To feel no fear to arrange a fun raid. (8)
- 3 Not well you sieve it sounds is deceptive. (8)

- 4 Hopefully this follows a question. (6)
- 5 Collection of countries surrounding our island. (8,5)
- 6 Gangster to question a cold state. (6)
- 7 Fill or collection. (5)
- 8 Sounds like lady to trade in not distributing cards correctly. (7)
- 10 Its ironic that more of the usual becomes out of the usual. (13)
- 15 Top collection for listening device. (7)
- 16 Determined curve following fiery place. (8)
- 17 Chap at the top of the table or does he make seats ? (8)
- 19 Turn pop ale into a city. (6)
- 20 I act on around set to make this kind of movie. (6)
- 21 Found an ode to be a terminal. (5)

**CodeWord No: 52**


See page 31 for the answers.



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

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### Little Apples

Last half term, the children at Little Apples really enjoyed celebrating how brilliant books are. They made lots of wonderful craft items based around some favourite children's classics and learned some new action songs and games to complement this learning. We will certainly be well prepared for world book day on 2nd of March.

We have also focused on learning about our bodies, keeping healthy and dental hygiene. Fun activities have helped the children learn about making sensible choices for their bodies and teeth. In our role-play Pizza parlour, complete with pizza oven, our Little Apples learned about the benefits of fresh vegetables and fish to make their favourite Italian meal.



As we moved towards spring, the children also got involved in planting some beautiful spring flowers to brighten our outdoor space. We have been working on a new mud kitchen to bring a more creative element to our outdoor play and give the children lots of chances for sensory exploration. You can see some of the results of our

planting and mud kitchen work in our photographs.

Demand for preschool places has enabled us to recruit two new members of staff recently. If you are interested in a preschool place for a child who will be two or three in the next 12 months, please get in touch. Demand is high for places at the moment, so it's never too early to register your child with us.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jo on 07598 588460 or [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org) if you would like to have a visit or a chat.

### Butter Daisy Nursery

Life at Butter Daisy Nursery continues to be filled with celebration. Daily we celebrate the skills and goals our children meet, from their very first steps, to braving their first jump from our marvellous stepping stones. We particularly enjoy celebrating with families; their new arrivals; weddings; special birthdays; and other family events too. We often join in with National and Global celebrations too; sharing the cultures and values with the children. We recently looked at Robert Burns' poetry to celebrate Burns Night, built bird's nests for Bird Watching Week, and recreated our favourite tales and books for National Story Telling Week.



We invited parents into the setting for our termly Parent Information Evening, where we celebrated the dedication and passion of our educators and how this is a reflection of our unique and inspiring Nursery Curriculum.



Our Pre-Schoolers have an increasing sense of belonging to this wonderful community of Bramley, which led their play to setting up their very own Butter 'Bramley Village Bakery'. Many children role played their experiences of visiting the Bakery and shared stories of the food they like to buy there. This was all in perfect timing for yet another celebration; National Croissant Day.



Love is already in the air with Valentine's Day upon us. We have heard lots about those the children love (including their

Educators) and how they love too. We also look forward to sharing pancakes soon. Finally, we are excited to recognise and reward the continued efforts, support and perseverance of our Nursery Apprentices as we celebrate them during Nation Apprentice Week.

I wonder what we'll be up to next time, when the days are longer, and spring is upon us again?

Please do contact us on 01256 882515 or email [butter@mydaisynursery.com](mailto:butter@mydaisynursery.com) if you would like hear more about us.



### A recap on MEES

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) were established by The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations 2015 as part of the Government's strategy to reduce carbon emissions in the UK. MEES aim to help the Government achieve their goal that, by 2030, all commercial properties will have a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of B.

### What happens from 1 April 2023?

From 1 April 2023, MEES will require all commercial properties to have an EPC rating of E or above. For now, Landlords have only had to comply with this requirement on the grant of a new lease. However, from 1 April 2023, it will be unlawful for a landlord to let a commercial property if it has an EPC rating which is below an E, regardless of whether the lease is a new lease, a lease renewal, or an existing lease.

A landlord can be issued a fine ranging from £5,000 up to £150,000 and face other penalties if it is found to grant a new lease or, from 1 April 2023, if it continues to let a commercial property that has an EPC rating lower than the minimum required E rating.

### Are there any exemptions?

Landlords can register a permitted exemption on the PRS Exemption Register to enable them to remain compliant with MEES requirements.

All exemptions can be found and registered at <https://prsregister.beis.gov.uk>.

Registered exemptions are linked to the landlord who has registered it and that exemption does not stay with the property. If a new landlord acquires a property which had an exemption registered, they will not benefit from that exemption and will need to re-register it.

Exemptions last for 5 years, apart from the exemption for recently becoming a landlord which is only valid for 6 months.

### What action should you be taking?

All landlords of commercial properties should consider their portfolio and take action to ensure that the EPC rating of any commercial property that they currently let or intend to let from 1 April 2023 has an EPC rating of E or above. Otherwise, they should apply to register an exemption before this deadline (if they are eligible for one).

Any checks or remedial works required to ensure the minimum EPC rating of an E can be achieved should be carried out ahead of this approaching deadline.

Landlords should consider any impact this may have on their tenants and should liaise with their tenants regarding any required improvement works. They should also consider whether their tenants should contribute to the cost of any such improvement works if their lease allows.

For advice on this subject or any commercial real estate matters please contact Clare Strachan on 01256854674 or [clare.strachan@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:clare.strachan@phillips-law.co.uk)

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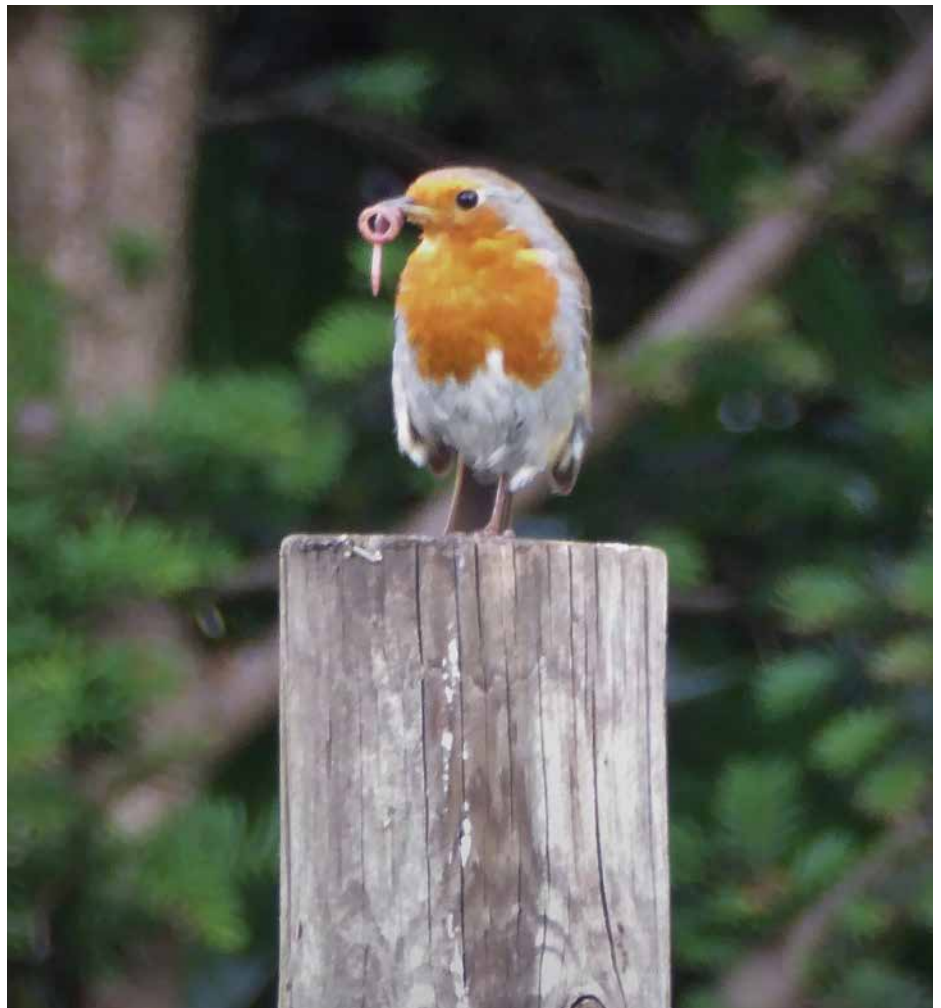
**A**re we doing more harm than good when we put out food for our feathered friends? **John Stubbs** evaluates the pros and cons in **The Best Bird Feeder?**

There's one topic that I guess birders and nature writers might find a bit contentious. But I do reckon it's something that should be aired, for better or worse, as it's tricky to get a handle on some of the issues. So, how should we best feed wildlife? Even, should we feed wildlife at all?

Ideally, perhaps, it wouldn't be necessary. But in this our imperfect world, surely it can't be a bad thing to put out clean, appropriate food in a safe place when the ground's frozen and we can see nothing else around for a bird to eat. The difficulty is that like it or not, our actions inevitably affect wildlife in lots of different ways, many of them adverse, so it's worth checking out the pros and cons.

For a start, garden feeding kit just ain't natural. It brings together animals that normally wouldn't meet closely: their social habits are likely to be stressed, some birds may be bullied, some tending to become aggressive. Seed-eaters might be flock-sociable, but may not appreciate a gang of carnivores landing in their midst. And it's not unknown for even well-fed humans to leave a lunch buffet with the plate unreasonably high-piled: if you've spent the morning from break of dawn scrabbling in the cold after the odd ant, how about it when you see a month's sustenance heaped on the table? It might not be the ideal diet, it's possibly not very fresh, and a previous visitor just might have applied an undesired garnish with a soupçon of trichomonas – but the food's there, so there you go. The daily life of a garden bird is awful precarious. They have to be willing to try various food sources – rarely having a lot of choice, though species over time develop feeding habits to fit in with what's available. In frosty conditions, some smaller birds may need to eat as much as their own bodyweight of insects during the day to survive overnight: winter mortality is high, as it may be during peak brood-feeding time.

One criticism of feeding is that it could lead to dependency – why go out caterpillar hunting, when the nice folks at no.13 put up free meal-worms? Might a bird lose the skills needed to



catch a fleet flying fly? Could artificial feeding succour less-fit individuals at the expense of the fitter ones? In fact, surveys seem to show that while birds will come back to regular haunts for reliable grub, they won't stop feeding elsewhere – probably averaging less than a quarter of their calorie intake from any one source. The presence and type of food put out will inevitably affect the distribution of species in the locality, but this is always going to be the case; whether it's urban or agricultural, birds have to adjust to human activity in many ways. Suffice to say, bird numbers overall don't seem to be reduced by garden feeding, and the variety of birds taking advantage of what's on offer has much increased. However, there's very little benefit shown to those particular species that are most at risk – they may be less adaptable, less accessible, shy, or perhaps just a bit fragile.

Probably the biggest extra hazard for birds meeting and mixing at the garden diner is that of infectious diseases. A few years back, some finches evidently picked up a parasite from pigeons – almost certainly at bird tables or shared water, leading to the loss of half a million of them within a couple of

years. All the specialist birdlife websites give details of feeding precautions, most of them fairly stringent and quite time consuming: cleaning, disinfecting, food types, water hygiene, the avoidance of rats, squirrels and, of course, cats. Fortunately, it appears that, so far at least, our garden birds are not particularly susceptible to bird flu – worst affected in the wild are seabirds and waterfowl, so feeding swans and ducks might best be avoided for now.

There have been lots of studies showing clear association between regular bird feeding and the reported mental well-being of the benefactors - reductions in stress, improved awareness of nature and often better mobility of the house-bound. I guess it's not always easy to separate these factors from personal circumstances and locality, but I'm sure the evidence of personal benefit does stack up. One aspect not to be missed, though, is the wider environment, rather than just bird tables and the like: the surrounding shrubs with berries, leaves with insects, ponds with grubs, weeds with all sorts of bugs and spiders, even lawns with worms and whatever. My shot of the robin might be one ideal.

**Women's Breakfast**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the women's breakfast in February such a success. We enjoyed hot and cold food, lively chat, lots of coffee and, as it was close to Valentine's Day, heart shaped chocolates (any excuse!). Special thanks to Abi who gave an encouraging talk about the Honeycomb Hub in Botswana, showing how God provided just what was needed to set it all up.



The next breakfast is Saturday 29th April.





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**Bramley Speedwatch**

**Concerning speeds/SID Data:**

Both SIDs were in use throughout January at various locations throughout the Village. See Table 1 for data.

The data continues to show high levels of vehicles speeding, with The Street remaining the highest concern.

**Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:**

Three Manned Deployments were carried out during January. The

details of 57 vehicles were passed to Hampshire Police. Max speed recorded during the deployments was 46mph (The Smithy). It was concerning that several of the reports from manned deployments were HGV's.

**2023 Bramley Village Fete Sponsorship:**

Many of you I am sure enjoyed themselves at the Bramley Village Fete last year and saw how much fun the children (and adults) had seeing

how fast they could run. Well, we are planning to repeat at this year's Fete.

Last year local firm, Rogers Transport, kindly supplied SpeedWatch with some "Give Aways" for the children. If anybody would like to provide some sponsorship (small giveaways) for the SpeedWatch 2023 Bramley Village Fete, Great Run Off, please contact Bramley SpeedWatch on [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com). Any donations will be greatly received.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) DATA (January):**

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph	Max speed recorded (mph)
The Street Village Hall	9	East Bound	42%	5	72
Farriers Close	9	West Bound	55%	0	53
The Street by Churchlands	7	East Bound	47%	1	62
West of 40-30mph transition Bramley Green	7	West Bound	79% Filtered on leaving SID	1 Filtered on leaving SID	63 Filtered on leaving SID
The Street Village Hall	5	East Bound	35%	2	67
Campbell Road near roundabout C32	5	North Bound	22%	0	59
The Street Village Hall	7	East Bound	35%	2	67
Farriers Close	7	West Bound	46%	0	53
The Street Village Hall	7	East Bound	39%	3	66
The Street Village Hall by football ground	7	West Bound	19%	0	54



**Volunteers:**

If you feel that you would like to join the Bramley Community Speedwatch Group and help make Bramley a safer place for us all, please contact the group. [bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com](mailto:bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com)

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

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[speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)  
 or vi sit:

[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Keep Safe and Watch Your Speed

**Graham White**, Bramley Speedwatch Co ordinator

**Early bloomers hint at spring – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

As the light creeps slowly back into our evening skies, the very first spring flowers brave the frosty ground, providing the earliest of hints that sunnier days lie ahead.

Perhaps the first floral sign that spring is edging ever closer is the appearance of the humble snowdrop. This elegant little plant may be seen peeping over the frosted soil of woodlands, churchyards or gardens as early as January and can continue to flower until March.

Their dainty (yet deceptively hardy) nodding, pure white flowers have often symbolised innocence, purity and hope. In fact, in Yorkshire, it was customary for village

maidens to gather bunches of snowdrops and wear them as a symbol of their purity on February 2nd, which was Candlemas – or otherwise, the feast of the Virgin Mary.

Despite its long history in the UK, however, the snowdrop may not actually be native to our shores; they were not recorded as growing wild here until the late 18th century. Nevertheless, it has certainly become naturalised from garden escapees, and white snowdrop 'valleys' can now be seen across the country.

Find out more about local wildlife at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's website, [www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk)

<b>Mondays</b>	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pregnancy Yoga with Sam 6pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga with Sam 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Classical Pilates, 6pm-7pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Kickboxing 6-7pm juniors, 7-8pm adults</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

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

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

<b>Thursdays</b>	
<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Yoga for Sleep and Stress 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Lynden School of Dance &amp; Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance 6.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

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

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow
<i>Karate 11.00-12.00pm</i>	Primary School Hall

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

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



### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Bookings Team	01256 260270	bookings@cliftmeadow.org.uk	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
0-5s Club	Christine Delve	07739 763618	christinedelve@gmail.com	
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater and Jayne White	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Classical Pilates	Naomi		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com <a href="https://www.loddonsportsfc.com">https://www.loddonsportsfc.com</a>	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Guides	Pam Luck	07890 152846	firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Kickboxing	Leigh Bushnell	07730 678049	wkmabikma@gmail.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
Mother & Toddler group	Christine Delve	07739 763618		
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
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	
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
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 2000 homes in and around Bramley for as little as £2 per line, contact: Keith Dilliway  
 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com



### Could a heat pump help you keep costs down and help the environment?

Here we talk to Vanessa Richards from Sustainable Silchester and Founding Member of LCE to find out.

#### Why install a heat pump?

We wanted to reduce our CO2 emissions, and we thought a heat pump would help. We were also curious as to how well it would work.

#### What is a heat pump?

Heat flows from hot places to colder places. That's why your cup of tea cools down. A heat pump is a simple machine that reverses this flow. It extracts heat from a cold place and puts it into a warmer place. This is not a new-fangled gadget: the heat pump was invented in 1856, and they have been made in large quantities for over a century.

You have a tiny heat pump in your house - round the back of the fridge. To heat a house, you just need a larger one. There are several types. They vary a bit in efficiency, and quite a lot in cost.

#### Do I need to make any other changes?

Firstly, improve insulation and draught proofing. This can get complicated, particularly in older houses, so do what you can. THEN do the heat pump.

#### Is this solution for everyone?

There will be a cost: not everyone can afford it. The heat pump delivers hot water at a lower temperature, so you may need more efficient radiators - not necessarily larger ones, as modern ones produce more output. If you have a combi boiler (no hot water tank) you will need to install a tank - but you will be removing the boiler, so you might not lose any space. If you're lucky enough to have underfloor heating you've won: heat pumps and underfloor systems are perfect partners!

#### How can I find out if it's the solution for me?

Loddon Community Energy will be offering heat loss surveys for householders on a not-for-profit basis, but in the meantime, we can point you to commercial providers. Even if you don't make the change to a heat pump, it's REALLY worth doing this. You'll be surprised where your house leaks heat and how little you need to spend to fix it!

#### What does it cost and what are the savings?

It's difficult to compare installation and running costs because they vary from house to house, and everyone's situation is different including access to grants and variations in tariff. However, I can say that we are very pleased with the outcome in terms of our own savings but for me, almost more importantly is the reduction of our carbon footprint.

In January 2021, we used 2741.9 kWh of gas, generating about 600 kg CO2. In January 2022, which had a very

## St. Michael's Hospice 2023 Events

March - Get Moving in March - Virtual Event

Saturday 25th March - Sky Dive

Sunday 23rd April - Walk for the Hospice  
 - Farleigh Wallop Estate

Wednesday 24th May - St. Michael's Movie Night  
 - Barton's Mill

Sunday 2nd July - Sunflower Celebration

Friday 8th September - SMH Golf Day

Saturday 30th September - Moonlight Walk

Sunday 3rd December - Reindeer Run

Sunday 10th December - Light up a Life

[www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk)

similar average temperature, our heat pump used 962 kWh of electricity, generating about 170 kg of CO2. The cost for the months was roughly similar, because gas is a lot cheaper than electricity at the moment - but as time goes on that will change: there will be more and more cheap renewable electricity generated in the UK, whereas the gas price is going to be affected by international events.

This is a long-term investment - and estate agents are starting to say that houses with heat pumps are more desirable!

#### How long did the installation take?

In our case it took about two weeks, but it will depend on how much work needs doing to your home to connect the heat pump and associated plumbing to your system.

#### Any regrets?

NO!

It was much quieter than we expected. The boiler cupboard has a bit more plumbing but no boiler and the heat pump itself is outside.

It's taken a couple of months to get used to it and get the best from it, but we are very happy with our heat pump. The temperature of the house is much more stable, and generally warmer than when we had a gas boiler.

#### I'm interested, what do I do next?

Do your research!

- Basingstoke Council, Loddon Community Energy and Basingstoke Energy Services can all help you find a reliable installer and have no commercial interest in any of the installers.
- Check that your installer is MCS Certified at <https://mcs-certified.com/find-an-installer/> as without this you won't get a grant.
- Get several quotes and - very important - pay at least the deposit by credit card. That way, if the supplier doesn't deliver a "satisfactory product or service", you can get the credit card company to chase them, and in most cases, you will be refunded immediately by the card company.

For obvious reasons the best time to switch is in the summer!

Here are some useful links to help with your research.

<https://www.loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk/>

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/home-energy-grants>

<https://environmentcentre.com/>

<https://www.bes.coop/>



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**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

**Cryptic Crossword No: 66 Solution**

ANODE	21	QUADRILATERAL	1
ACTION	20	TRADE	9
ALPPO	19	LASER	11
CHAIRMAN	17	OASIS	12
HELLBENT	16	FOREFASTE	13
HEADSET	15	EVADDE	14
EXTRAORDINARY	10	HYDROMECHANICAL	15
MISDEAL	8	AWARD	18
STUFF	7	COLLISION	22
ALASKA	6	SHEEN	23
EUROPEAN UNION	5	ALIVE	24
ANSWER	4	NOMAD	25
ILLUSIVE	3	BODYSNATCHING	26
UNAFRAID	2		

Down

**CodeWord No: 52 Solution**

T	N	E	M	E	R	T	U	O	C	C	A				
E		V		L		N			E			T			
E		E		R	O	B	M	A	J		O	T	N	I	
L			E		A			L		N		Z		U	
S		E	S	A	R	A	H	P		E	A	K	A	Q	
		E		E						M				C	
S		D	A	R	A	W	A	Y	M	E	A	D	A	C	A
K					S				C			R			
L		A	S	A	N	A		N	G	I	E	R	O	R	F
A			U		A			O		V		O			F
T		X	I	E			D	I	B	R	E	D	E	N	U
S			E				N		E		N				L
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Solar Factor (g <sub>w</sub> ) (%)	8.85
Effective Air Leakage (q <sub>l</sub> ) (m <sup>3</sup> /h·m <sup>2</sup> )	2.00 m <sup>3</sup> /h·m <sup>2</sup>
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