

November 2023

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Wilder Bramley wins two awards**
- **Local bell ringer makes history**
- **Bramley Inn helps the homeless**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

November 2023

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

Editorial

I try very hard to be a good mother, but I do confess that I did once lose my daughter at the Bramley Fete. It was all the fault of the RAF, well the Chinook to be precise. The aircraft was on display at Clift Meadow and we were able to walk inside and inspect its vast interior and the cockpit. It was fascinating, but perhaps not for a 3-year-old who decided after a few minutes that it was time to see what else was on offer at the fete. We were soon reunited thanks to the fete's great PA system, but I do slightly resent having my visit to the Chinook curtailed! Luckily, we were able to come back to Clift Meadow a few hours later to watch the helicopter take off and do a circle of the Meadow. It was quite a sight and even now, after living in Bramley for over 20 years, I still rush to the window or into the garden if the Chinook sounds particularly loud or low. It was the article on page 8 of the magazine that brought back this memory. Do have a read if you want to learn more about the mighty 'Wokka'.

The Chinook sometimes plays a part in Bramley's annual Remembrance service when it flies over St James' Church, often rattling the windows! Hopefully it will make an appearance again this year if it's not busy elsewhere. The service will take place on Sunday 12 November at 10.30 and there are also local Acts of Remembrance the previous day, as you can read in the Royal British Legion article on page 13.

I can't pretend it was planned but there seems to be a definite theme to the magazine this month - nature and conservation. Wilder Bramley have won not one but two awards for their work on various projects in the village and you can read about their achievements on page 16. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and visitors, the Meadow Garden has been looking good all year as you can see from the photos on page 18. Of course, if we left nature to its own devices it would soon take over. The brambles and hedges in St James' Churchyard certainly seemed to be on a mission to block paths and cover the gravestones, but thanks to some hard-working church volunteers they are now under control – at least until next year. Fortunately, we didn't even need to drag all the brambles to the compost heap as Matt from Wilder Bramley turned them into a dead hedge. Turn to page 17 to see the result, or better still visit the churchyard to see for yourself.

I enjoy reading all the articles I receive for the magazine, but occasionally it is nice to receive something different. This month I received a poem from Butter Daisy nursery which was a lovely way of expressing what the children had been doing during the month. You can find this on page 20. Meanwhile, Grahame Mellor decided to express his thanks for the Harvest Festival meal in the form of a recipe. His words and the surrounding photographs encapsulate what a special occasion this was.

Thank you to all our contributors. There wouldn't be much of a magazine without you! If you want to include anything in the next magazine the deadline is 15 November. I can hardly bear to write this, but it will be the Christmas/New Year edition.....

Best wishes

Rachel Barclay Smith

Joint Editor

"For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive;
in this century he is beginning to realise that, in order to
survive, he must protect it."

Jacques-Yves Cousteau

Cover Photo: Autumn by Michael Luck

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

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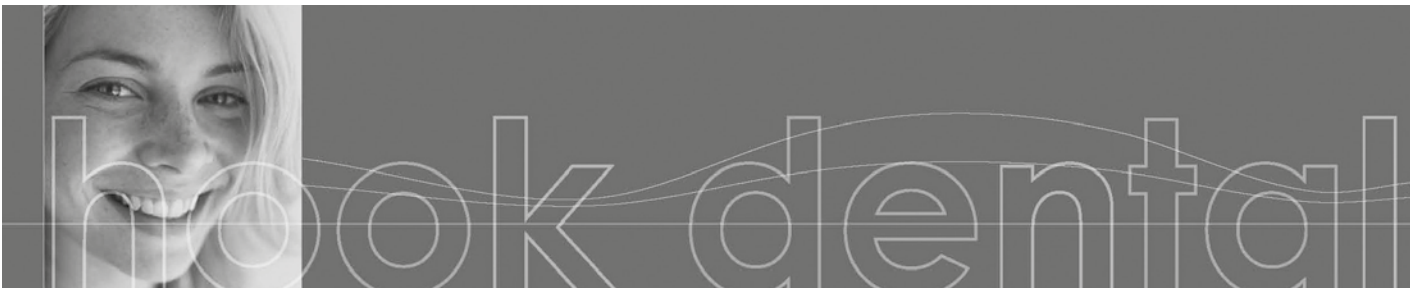
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Grateful thanks to the Church Flower Team

Very many thanks to Joyce Rawlinson for organising a funded floral display through the church flower team in memory of my late wife, Sibyl. We were married on 9 September 1961, so it was appropriate to have a display on Sunday 10 September. The display included a number of wonderful exhibits, demonstrating the exceptional skills of the flower arrangers.

Richard Wood

Church diary for November...

5th	4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints)
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
12th	Remembrance Sunday
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP) – St James
	No Sunday@nine
10.30	Remembrance Service – St James
19th	2nd Sunday before Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
26th	Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

Church diary for December...

3rd	1st Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
10th	2nd Sunday of Advent
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
16.00	Light in the Darkness – St James
17th	3rd Sunday of Advent
9.00	Making Christingles – Cross House
10.30	Christingle Service – St James
16.00	Carol Service – St James

From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 15 October
Teddy SEAL & Aubrey SEAL

Benefice Services

November

5th	4th Sunday before Advent (All Saints)
11.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards - Patronal Festival
10.00	Family Service – Hartley Wespall
10.00	Family Service - Stratfield Saye
12th	Remembrance Sunday
10.00	Remembrance Service – Sherfield on Loddon War Memorial
10.30	Remembrance Service - Stratfield Saye
10.45	Remembrance Service - Hartley Wespall
19th	2nd Sunday before Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
10.00	BCP Matins – Hartley Wespall
26th	Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)
10.00	Café Church Christingle – Sherfield Park Community Centre

December

3rd	1st Sunday of Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
10.00	Family Service – Hartley Wespall
10.00	Family Service - Stratfield Saye
10th	2nd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonards
18.30	Carol Service – St Leonards
17.30	Carol Service – Hartley Wespall
17th	3rd Sunday of Advent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonards
17.00	Carol Service – Stratfield Saye

SAVE THE DATE!

The next women's breakfast will be
on **Saturday 25 November**
in **Cross House at 8.45am**

More details to follow on Facebook

News from Clift Surgery

Covid and Flu Clinics

At the time of writing, Clift Surgery is preparing for the third Covid and Flu clinic. These full day clinics have given vaccinations to well over 1000 patients who are in the target groups. The Patient Participation Group and friends have given up several hours to man the car park and to assist with the smooth passage of patients through the process, including health checks for those who wanted them. The feedback has been really positive. Many thanks to all concerned.

Text messaging

The Surgery has been using text messages to alert patients to their appointments and general information. This messaging system is moving to the NHS app, so those of you who have the App and have allowed permissions will get information this way, although text messages will still be used, for booking appointments for example. See the information below.

Introduction to NHS App messaging

The NHS App messaging service provides a secure inbox that will allow patients to start receiving messages from health and care services, such as their GP surgery, via the NHS App, instead of traditional channels like SMS (text message) or letter. Patients will get a notification from the NHS App when they receive a message in their secure inbox, if they have notifications enabled on their device. Notifications preferences may take 24 hours to take effect.

Over time other health care services, such as the national COVID vaccine service or local community services, will use the NHS App to send messages to their patients. We hope that eventually it will be the main way that citizens of England receive their healthcare messages.

Bramley WI

This month we had the second part of a talk from a speaker, Jackie Dimmock, who is a retired Police Officer. As before, it was a brilliant talk which lasted for about an hour and had the members in stitches. She also told us about some of the more serious matters in her professional life. She worked in the Isle of Wight first, and then came to Basingstoke. She did a lot of community work with schools, including Bramley.

Jackie is a very good quilter so she incorporated her talk with her quilting, which was fascinating. She is working on Part Three of her talk, so we will see her again in the autumn of 2024.

We are going on an outing to the Silk Mill at Whitchurch this month and have also arranged a walk along the canal with, of course, lunch afterwards.

Our next meeting is a Christmas Craft session. There will be cake, as two of our members have reached a certain age, and I am sure bottles will be opened.

Jane Matthews

Thank you, Ian!

Ian Nicholson has been delivering the Bramley magazine for longer than I can remember – so long in fact that he still remembers when you had to pay for it! He recalls getting enquiries from people who wanted to receive the magazine and he would have to find out where they lived, which round they were on and who delivered to that area. So much easier now that everyone gets it free!

For many years Ian delivered over 150 magazines, until he was eventually persuaded that his round should be split into two.

After his long and dedicated service, Ian has decided to pass on the baton to someone else, so that means **another New Deliverer is required!** If you can spare about an hour a month to deliver the Bramley Magazine to **Bramley Lane, Bramley School, Browns Close and North Row** please contact Rachel or Georgie at editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

A big thank you to Ian for all his support over the years.

Bramley Speedwatch

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data:

Due to holidays the SIDs were only in use for a short period through September. See Table 1 for data.

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

A two-manned deployment was undertaken during September (Smithy, Westbound). A total of 21 vehicles were reported to the police from the 212 vehicles checked - 10%. The top speed recorded was 46mph.

Can you help?

SpeedWatch is currently looking for additional volunteers. It is not onerous and is a great opportunity to meet people and catch up on the latest village gossip, and of course, help with the deterrence of speeding through the village. If you think you can help out, please contact Graham White bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com.

Table 1: Speed Indicator Device (SID) data (Sept):

SID Location	Traffic Direction	% Speed Violations (+30mph)	Max Speed Recorded
The Street by Village Hall	East Bound	52%	62
Farriers	West Bound	44%	67

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

bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com
speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or visit:
www.hampshire.police.uk

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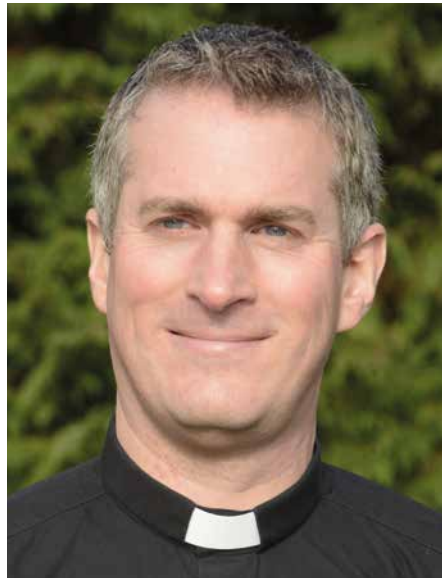
Graham White, Bramley Speedwatch Co-ordinator

A time to remember

It's easy to forget things. Busy parents with young children, older people with a lot of memories and others with jobs which involve a high degree of responsibility. I'm sure we all forget things from time to time. I know I have to have a 'to do list' otherwise I would forget a lot more than I do.

In our homes many of us will have photos of times and people we look back on with fondness. We remember birthdays, anniversaries and significant events often with a card, gift, meal or party. There are times throughout the year when we pause to remember. We've just had our harvest festivals (in churches and schools) when we remember with thankfulness all the food and items we have which contribute to a flourishing life. On 11 November we remember those people who died serving their country in the armed forces and merchant navy. And on 12 November at 10.30am there is a Service of Remembrance at St James Church in Bramley. All are welcome to join us to remember.

Throughout the Bible the people of God have started festivals and services which remember significant events. The Passover remembers the Exodus of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and how God rescued them. Purim is a



Rev'd Mark Anderson

less well known Jewish festival which commemorates God saving the Jewish people in ancient Persia from a plot to kill all the Jews in a single day. Every week on Sundays we remember the death and resurrection to new life of Jesus Christ.

It is important to remember so we don't forget people and events which have had a significant impact on our lives. When we remember we can be thankful. Remembering what God has done in the past helps to increase our faith in what God can do in the future. It's easy to doubt and to despair, but God who has been with us from the beginning will be with us to the end.

The Bible reminds us:

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the

things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. (Deuteronomy 4.9)

As we remember people and events in our lives and our country, we also remember those who are suffering and dying now in Israel and Gaza. We pray for peace and a safe home for all.

Rev'd Mark Anderson - Vicar, St James Bramley

4.30pm Friday 10th November

Messy Church

at **SHERFIELD PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The whole family is welcome to join us for fun, Bible based crafts, games and stories. A children's picnic tea and adults refreshments are served.

To book please email Elaine on stleonardssherfield@gmail.com by Thursday 9th Nov

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

Messy Church meets again on 8 December
Part of the churches of St Leonard's Sherfield and St James Bramley

Bramley School Association's

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9th December
1.00pm - 4.00pm

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- Craft/gift stalls
- Raffle & tombola
- Children's Christmas crafts
- Lucky Dip
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November is the month we remember, on both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, the sacrifices made by our armed forces, so we thought it might be appropriate to learn a bit about our **noisy neighbour from RAF Odiham**, the mighty 'Wokka', otherwise known as the **Chinook helicopter**.

To help us in our research we will hear from the longest serving female RAF Chinook force crew member, Liz McConaghy, through a review of her 2022 book *Chinook Crew 'Chick'*. Liz, from a small town in County Down, spent a total of seventeen years flying with the RAF's Chinook Fleet. The book recounts her joining the RAF and going on to be, at age 21, the youngest aircrew member to deploy to Iraq (twice), followed by ten deployments to Helmand Province in Afghanistan, at the heart of some of the heaviest fighting in that war.

When not in Iraq or Afghanistan, she was based at nearby RAF Odiham as a member of 27 Squadron. Odiham is also home to 18 Squadron, the Chinook Display Team and 7 Squadron, which is dedicated to supporting the special forces operators of the SAS (Special Air Service) and the SBS (Special Boat Service).

Liz was one of the crew members responsible for planning and loading whatever the Chinook was tasked with carrying. With its triple-hook external load system, internal cargo winch, roller conveyor fit and large reserves of power, the aircraft can lift a wide variety of complex underslung or internal freight, including vehicles.



It can carry up to 55 troops or up to approximately 10 tonnes of mixed cargo.

One of the amusing stories in the book is when Liz's crew was tasked with collecting a damaged Royal Navy Sea King helicopter from the Lake District and taking it to Prestwick, slung forty feet below their Chinook. When they arrived and set the Sea King down, they realised that the brakes that had been tied down at the start of the journey had shaken loose and the aircraft started moving on its own momentum. They could not hold it as it weighs about 8 tonnes so released the hook leaving several engineers on the ground to run after it and eventually climb aboard amidst much hilarity from the Chinook crew.

One of the roles of the crew member on a Chinook is to operate the machine guns, either the M60, the same gun you will see on Hueys in Vietnam war movies and still in use, or the M134 'minigun', somewhat of a misnomer for a gun that can fire 3,000 7.62mm rounds per minute, taking seconds to destroy any target. In Afghanistan, Chinooks flew with an M134 on each side at the front and an M60 mounted on the tail ramp and Liz recounts having to use both guns and the seriousness with which decisions to fire were taken.

In addition to its traditional warfighting roles, the Chinook's lifting capability is held at readiness to respond to emergencies in the UK; in recent years these have included resupplying snowbound farmers in Northern Ireland and moving tons of aggregate to help reconstruct flood defences damaged by winter storms. In August 2019, in a reversal of the RAF's famous dam-busting role, a Chinook was instrumental in securing a dam on the Toddbrook Reservoir in Derbyshire after it became structurally unsound following heavy rain.

For me, the most impactful part of the book is the description of the MERT (Medical Emergency Response Team) comprising a doctor, specialist nurse and two air paramedics. The professionalism of the Chinook aircrew, combat medics and force protection soldiers as they recovered injured soldiers from the battlefields often under intense fire is awe-inspiring. The MERT aircraft was fitted out with a full rubber mat floor and the most advanced medical kit, all in its exact place so it could be instantly located in the dark, while trying to save lives. Liz writes that the Camp Bastion British Army hospital



was the most advanced field hospital in the world and that it was said that you had more chance of surviving a non-survivable injury in Afghanistan than anywhere else on the planet.

In the final pages Liz wonders what has happened to the small girl they once picked up from her village and brought back to the hospital because she had swallowed a spring. She would be about 25 now and living under the Taliban.

So next time you hear one of those Wokkas overhead, you will hopefully have some idea of the types of mission they might be training for.

Liz's book *Chinook Crew 'Chick'* is published by www.pen-and-sword.co.uk and can be bought at most online and high street bookstores. Additional information in this article is from RAF Odiham's website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-odiham/>.

ABOUT THE CHINOOK

BOEING CHINOOK HC.MK 6:

- **Powerplant:** two Honeywell T55-L-714A turboshaft engines, each rated at 4,168shp maximum continuous power
- **Length:** 98ft 10¹/₂in (30.14m)
- **Height (rotors turning):** 18ft 11in (5.77m)
- **Rotor diameter (each):** 60ft (18.29m)
- **Maximum cruising speed:** 160kt (296km/h)
- **Maximum density altitude:** 15,000ft
- **Payload:** up to 55 troops or around 22,000lb (10,000kg) of freight
- **Armament:** two 7.62mm M134 Miniguns and one 7.62mm M60D machine gun

Chinook photos courtesy of Ministry of Defence.



Clift Meadow Trustees

Over the years, Clift Meadow has grown to be a lot more than just the open space for our village activities. There are the two buildings – Brocas Hall and The Pavilion – as well as the ball park, tennis courts, children’s play area, gardens and the exercise machines, set in some four acres, for the benefit of the whole of Bramley. The management and running of all this is the responsibility of a group of around a dozen Trustees, on behalf of the Parish Council: a small cross-section of volunteers taking on the various jobs, with a wide range of interests and abilities.

We’re always looking for people willing to join these Trustees – anyone prepared to take part, able to help with perhaps a few hours per month. No special skills needed, tasks may be big or small, tailored to interests and capabilities from fund-raising to gardening, planning to maintenance.

I’d be very pleased to hear from anyone who may be able to join us: no age limits, high or low - everything is as flexible as we can make it!

Sarah Stubbs

sarah.m.stubbs@btinternet.com



Macmillan coffee morning

On Wednesday 27 September the Clift Meadow Community Cafe held their annual Macmillan coffee morning. They raised £200 and would like to thank everyone who came for making this event a great success. The money raised will help fund the amazing Macmillan nurses, answer calls on their support line, give financial support, plus much more.

The Clift Meadow Community Cafe runs every Wednesday morning from 10am till 11.30am, term time only, in The Pavilion on Clift Meadow, Minchens Lane.



The Bramley Inn raises money for Basingstoke’s homeless.

A shout out to staff and regulars at the Bramley Inn who have raised funds to support local homeless and vulnerably housed people. The Bramley Inn, along with Shanky’s Kitchen, held a raffle, the proceeds of which were used to purchase much needed items worth over £300 for clients at The Camrose Centre. Items included a wide variety of snacks, sleeping bags and tents, which filled the car of The Camrose Centre’s Mike Browning. Mike, the Chair of Trustees, was

presented with the gifts on 29th September and said, “We are truly grateful for these carefully chosen items which will help to meet the needs of our clients”.

The Camrose Centre prides itself on its roots as a local charity that extends across the whole borough of Basingstoke and Deane. “Volunteers, supporters and clients come, not just from the town centre but also from towns and villages all over the borough. We are so grateful to the Bramley Inn and Bramley locals for their support!”



Left to right: chef Shanky, Charlie from the Bramley Inn and Camrose Chair Mike, with some of the donations for the Camrose Centre.

Correction

In last month’s Meet the Neighbours we said that Paul Kershaw was Treasurer of Clift Meadow Trust. He is in fact Treasurer of the Village Fete.

Bramley bell ringer makes history

On 17 August 2023, Claire Roulstone, one of our bellringers at Bramley, made a little bit of history in the art of change-ringing (known to most people who aren't ringers as campanology). Claire became the first lady in the history of ringing to ring 1000 peals on a tenor bell (the heaviest bell in a church tower). A peal consists of at least 5000 different changes and usually takes around three hours of non-stop ringing to complete. A typical tenor bell usually weighs just over half a ton, but many larger churches and cathedrals have tenor bells weighing over two tons.

The first known peal to be rung on church bells took place way back in 1715, at St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich. Since that time, peal ringing has become a popular pastime among many ringers, and given the physical effort and endurance involved, peals are sometimes sponsored events to raise money for a variety of causes.

Claire rang her first peal in 1987 and has rung over 3500 peals in total. She has rung over 500 different tenor bells, including those at Exeter Cathedral, Worcester Cathedral, and St Paul's Cathedral in London. On achieving her 1000th peal on a tenor (which was at St Mary's church, Amersham), Claire became the 30th person to reach that milestone.

Bellringing is very much a team effort, and Claire is grateful to all those who helped her over the years, and she is pleased to see many younger women taking a keen interest in what has been very much a male preserve in ringing! If there are any ladies (and gentleman) out there wanting to build their stamina and have a go at ringing, contact our administrator, Jonathan Barclay Smith, on 01256 541241.



Claire, second from the left, with some of the other Bramley bell ringers

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This month's update from **Bramley Parish Council** comes from Cllr **Keith Oborn**

Welcome to Autumn!

As I write this, on Friday 13th (cue suitable sound effects!) it looks as if we are in the last warm day of this remarkable early October. I hope you enjoyed the extension to a pretty poor summer, and the ability to delay the cost of running your heating for a while – but did you stop to consider why it happened?

Our climate is warming – that means that the average temperature is going up each year. That warming means that our weather – day to day, week to week and so on – becomes more unpredictable. Sometimes that gives us nice autumn warmth, but sometimes it gives us less welcome gifts – ask anyone in eastern Scotland or southern Europe if they have enjoyed the recent weather!

What can we do? When we are faced with huge, slowly growing problems, humans tend to go into ostrich mode and try and ignore them. This almost always ends badly! As individuals we may feel powerless, but actually there is a lot we CAN do – and the small actions of huge numbers of people quickly add up. It doesn't even need a huge proportion of the population to change.

To quote Margaret Mead: *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has”.*

In our area, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has declared a “climate emergency”. That sounds like a bureaucratic box-tick, but it unlocks financial and other help from central government. Basingstoke has a “Green Team” who will soon be offering direct help to improve the energy efficiency of houses, reduce CO₂, and save householders money. The Council has also commissioned a survey of all public and commercial buildings in the borough to get estimates of how much solar power each one could generate – and this information is being made available for free.

Locally in Bramley, the Parish Council doesn't have the funds or expertise for any such programmes, but a local group, funded by a grant from National Grid, is running a project called “Bramley Greener Homes”. Look for their insert in the recent edition of the Bramley Magazine. This group has trained volunteers to perform simple energy efficiency surveys for householders in Bramley, with no charge (just a voluntary donation). They even have some simple thermal imaging cameras to pinpoint heat leaks, thanks to a BDBC Councillor Grant.

If you want to get your house “checked over” just email info@loddoncommunityenergy.org.uk to arrange a date. The volunteer surveyors have all received mandatory “safeguarding” training and are covered by relevant liability insurance. The survey will take an hour or so.

Most importantly, they are not selling anything. There will be no sales pressure or calls, just a simple report with a set of findings and guidance on how to make the recommended changes. For those of you on low incomes there is even a bit of financial help to make those small changes.

It's free, it will save you money, and make your house that bit warmer and more comfortable. What's not to like?

Planning

This is not the place to discuss individual planning applications – there are always new ones! Please look at www.bramley-pc.gov.uk/category/planning-news

If you want to comment (“support” or “object”) on any application you can find the details at <https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/> and enter the reference number (for instance 20/00319/FUL – that is the 12 houses near Tudor Farm, by the way), then look at the “Documents” tab which will list all documents – plans, consultations, comments and so on. You can then submit your own comment in one of two ways:

1. Set up an account at planning.basingstoke.gov.uk, log in and go to the relevant application and complete the comment form.
2. Email planning.comments@basingstoke.gov.uk. Put the reference number and the word “Support” or “Object” in the subject. Enter your comment in the body of the email – but remember to stick to factual issues and polite language.

While it might make you feel better to fulminate on social media, it won't actually make any difference as the Planning department doesn't look at Facebook!

There is one planning issue we do need to bring to your attention – the Gleeson proposals for land next to Centenary Fields. More details about this can be found at <https://bramley-pc.gov.uk/land-north-of-sherfield-road-gleeson-proposals/>. It is important to note that there is no planning application at present – the leaflets that have been distributed are part of an early consultation exercise from Gleesons. Bramley PC will let you know the moment we hear of a planning application, on which residents will be able to comment as outlined above. In the meantime, if you want Bramley PC to contact Gleesons about a public meeting for them to put forward their proposals to the community, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk.

Major Projects

You will be aware that the National Grid is installing a power feed to the railway at Olivers Lane bridge. This has meant running a cable from the Frith across the field and alongside Minchens Lane. The work is ongoing, but as far as we are aware it is now mainly in the new compound next to the bridge. There may still be construction traffic on Minchens Lane for some months.

The Solar Farm project is currently waiting for a court judgement which will decide if it goes ahead. The judgment is due in the coming weeks.

The battery farm project next to the “electricity road” is going ahead. We don't currently know the timetable for this.

Remembering the D-Day Landings

You may be aware that the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings will be in June next year. Bramley PC are planning a beacon lighting event on 6th June, and we already have the food and entertainment in place. This will be similar to other events in recent years, but with a focus on the armed forces and commemoration of those who were involved in the D-Day landings. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Clerk. Otherwise, keep an eye on the Bramley PC website for more information nearer the time.

Continued on page 12.

Wilder Bramley

Bramley PC are working closely with Wilder Bramley on the Bramley Green wilding project. Wilder Bramley has recently won the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's 'Wilder Neighbourhood' award, which recognises the group's efforts in protecting biodiversity in the local area and taking action for nature. Bramley PC would like to congratulate this very enthusiastic and committed team on their achievements. Anyone interested in helping out should take a look at their Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/wilderbramley/ or contact them at wilder.bramley@gmail.com

High Speed internet

We recently met with the contractor who will be working on behalf of Gigaclear to install new fibre optic cables along The Street, Sherfield Road and all roads leading off it. Gigaclear will be offering high speed internet services in Bramley. This work will mostly use existing Openreach ducting under the roads, but they will have to lift manhole covers, and possibly dig in a few places, to install the new cables. They are particularly aware that the level crossing area is problematic for traffic. Outlying areas won't be covered: Councillor Tomblin and I live on Cufaude Lane and can only look on enviously! Bramley PC will stay in touch and let the community know of the timetable of works as soon as it is available.

Local Facilities

It is good to hear that Clift Surgery is now back to full strength with the arrival of Dr Chechi as a Partner – many of you will have already met him as he has worked at the Surgery for quite some time in recent years. The Parish Council is helping with “non-medical” matters by funding two benches outside, and we are considering funding the repainting of the car park markings. A small grant from National Grid has funded an energy efficiency survey on the building, so we hope that the Surgery can reduce their costs by taking up the recommendations.

As you know, the Village Hall had solar panels installed over a year ago. From what I understand their summertime bills are now roughly zero!

The Clift Meadow Trust has just had their old convector heaters replaced at both buildings with air to air heat pumps: this should reduce electricity consumption by two thirds. There are a few glitches in the remote control system at the moment, so bear with them – it's sometimes too hot in there!

All of this brings me back to the starting point: these local facilities will use less energy, produce less CO2, and save quite a bit of money.

About your Parish Council

All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, although we are elected officials. We have very limited powers but do try to influence local government and other bodies. We are lucky in that two of our Councillors (Cllrs Durrant and Tomblin) also serve on Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council which helps us to steer and understand decisions that affect us. We also have our third ward Councillor, Cllr Nick Robinson, who is very experienced and also works hard on behalf of Bramley.

Please feel free to come to our regular meetings in the Bramley Room at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month. We will try and answer any questions and take on board any reasonable suggestions. The November meetings are scheduled for 14th November for Planning Committee and 21st November for full Council.

You can always contact us via Maxta Thomas, our Parish Clerk, at clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk or on 07810 692486, or via our website at www.bramley-pc.gov.uk .

Mr. Flaherty's Private Theatricals Presents:
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 14-16 December 2023
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Are you looking for an excellent pre-school for your child, where “Children’s emotional well-being is fostered by staff who nurture children’s confidence and successfully support children to reach their next steps in their learning” (Ofsted, 2020)?

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

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 Email : manager@littleapples.org
 Visit <http://www.littleapples.org/>
 or search for our facebook page

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



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion

Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL was the principal guest at our annual branch dinner held at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club on 6 October. He was accompanied by Lady Jane Mans. After a lovely meal prepared and served by the club staff, Sir Mark spoke about the history and development of county

Deputy Lieutenants, a post he holds in Hampshire.

He then presented Branch Certificates of Appreciation to three long-standing branch officers: Steve Day (Treasurer) Michael Luck (Poppy Appeal Organiser and past Secretary) and Dr John Swanston (Branch Community Support/Welfare member).

The season of Remembrance is now with us and we are again running the Poppy Stall at Basingstoke Hospital until 11 November. On that day, Acts of Remembrance will be held at 11am at the War Memorials in Sherborne St John and at Sherfield, to which all are

invited. I have the privilege of leading the Remembrance Sunday service at St James' Church, Bramley this year.

On Wednesday 14 November, we are gathering informally at Sherfield Oaks GC for a drink and light lunch from their lite bites menu: sandwiches, pizza, burgers, etc. Do pop along and join us.

We have no meeting in December. Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Tuesday 9 January - details to follow. So may I be among the first to wish all our members and supporters a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Steve Day receives his Branch Certificate of Appreciation



Michael Luck receives his Branch Certificate of Appreciation

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



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A RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT HARVEST LUNCH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 dozen St. James lovely ladies
 - 1 large pack of good ideas
 - 2 large tablespoons of Goodwill, Positivity and Enthusiastic Motivation
 - 1 large tablespoon of Dedication and Energy
 - 1 large measuring jug of Loving Kindness
 - 2 tsps Essence of Sincerity
- (Makes over 60 portions)

METHOD

Invite the 1 doz. St. James Ladies around a table in Cross House.

Spoon in and gently stir round the large pack of freshly sieved good ideas.

Add the Goodwill, Positivity and Enthusiastic Motivation, followed by the large tablespoon of Dedication and Energy.

Add the large measure of Loving Kindness, whisk to a smooth silky consistency then add the Essence of Sincerity.

Add autumnal harvest seasoning to taste.

Divide into responsibilities to ensure organisation on the day.

ON THE DAY

Once the home cooked gammon has been beautifully sliced, set aside and allow time for the St. James' Church family to arrive, mingle and chat. Once all 60 guests are seated, serve everyone with generous helpings of gammon and new potatoes. Add crisp salad and dressings, along with harvest bread (kindly donated by Bramley Bakery) and a glass of wine.

For the dessert: serve the home-made harvest fruit crumble or pie with lashings of custard, cream or both! Follow with a delightful selection of cheese and biscuits and perhaps an extra glass of wine!

THE RESULT

A most memorable and moving Harvest Thanksgiving: a lovely, thought-provoking harvest family service, a beautifully decorated church and a very delicious wholesome lunch with friends and church family. Plus, 82kg of food collected for the Foodbank.

A sincere and grateful "Thank You" to everyone who worked so hard to make this such another St. James successful event.

Grahame Mellor



Wilder Bramley wins two awards

We are delighted that our group has recently won not just one but **two** wildlife awards! We were up against some stiff competition from a number of community groups across Hampshire for ‘**The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Wilder Neighbourhood Award**’, but the judges chose us and we were recognised for ‘*working hard to share a vision of helping nature through increasing awareness, enhancing biodiversity and encouraging local participation*’ in our community. Some of our committee attended a ceremony in Portsmouth on 19 September, together with people up for other individual and group awards. We received the Wilder Neighbourhood Award from the Trust’s President, Megan McCubbin, whom many of you will recognise from BBC’s Springwatch. We are very aware that we owe much to our lovely volunteers who have supported and contributed so much to our efforts. Thank you to you all.

Just one week later, we heard that we had also won an award for our Community Bee Garden in Clift Meadow, which was entered into the ‘**RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood**’ scheme. We are pleased to say that we achieved Level 4 (out of 5): Thriving. Some of our team had an enjoyable day out at RHS Wisley before collecting the award. We were recognised for ‘*making a difference to local people; creating and improving a green space; and producing a pollinator garden in one year with no budget and 276 donated plants from local people.*’ A huge thank you to everyone who has donated plants and our small but devoted team of waterers and weeders.

Last month, Wilder Bramley, in collaboration with Saint James Parish Church, held the first work party to create a mini meadow in the churchyard. This space should create a little snapshot of how the countryside used to be because of the historically low level of soil disturbance and lack of pollution. The grass was cut low and collected, and some bare patches of soil were created. Native flower seeds were sown. In addition, yellow rattle was sown to reduce the vigour of grasses and encourage wildflowers to grow with less competition. Long earthworms were spotted and ant mounds were noticeable, which are indicators of good soil health. Another cutting session is planned for the beginning of spring to give grasses and plants the same start.

We always seem to need more signs! So we recently held a sign-making session for 12 new signs in our trademark style, sustainably produced from an old pallet, some leftover paint and teamwork. Look out for some of them over the next few weeks at the village hall, the bee garden, Officer’s Row wildflower verge and elsewhere.

Many of us will have admired the awe inspiring and amazingly graceful red kites that wheel and call regularly over Bramley. Do join us for our next event: ‘**Return of the Red Kite**’, **Friday 24 November at 7.30 in Clift Meadow Pavilion**. This promises to be a fascinating talk by one of Hampshire’s leading bird experts, Keith Betton, who also gave the very popular talk on ‘Birds around Bramley’ this spring. Come along and hear the story of the remarkable resurgence of this spectacular bird from near extinction. There will be a small fee of £4 cash on the door.

We are always looking for volunteers! If you would like to help nature and give back to your community, please get in touch. Head over to our Wilder Bramley Facebook page or contact us on: 07503 155669/Wilder.bramley@gmail.com.



(HIWWT award): L-R: Matt Levee, Hayley Maynard, Jane Kirkwood, Claire Levee, Paulina Brissenden and Megan McCubbin (credit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust).



(RHS award): Paulina, Rick, Hayley, Adam and Jane with our RHS award



Carving out the words for our signs



The painting team



A pair of Bramley red kites (Credit: Caroline Wilgar)



A red kite flying over Bramley (Credit: Caroline Wilgar)

St James' Churchyard gets some TLC

On a sunny Saturday morning in October, members of St James' Church came armed with rakes, secateurs and industrial-sized hedge trimmers to get the churchyard ready for winter. They tackled overgrown brambles, nettles and hedges, and made a real difference to the area. They certainly deserved their coffee and bacon butties! A big thank you to all involved.



We were also lucky to have Matt Levée with us, from Wilder Bramley. Matt is helping us transform an area of brambles into a wildlife-friendly prayer corner, a project which ties in well with the Church of England's commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2030. As you can see from the photos, the brambles were cut down and rolled to the back of the area to create a dead hedge, and Matt built a log pyramid to attract stag beetles, a threatened species. More work will be done on the area in the next few weeks so do have a look next time you are walking along the path to the burial ground.



The Meadow Garden

Those of you who walk through Clift Meadow will notice the fenced off area outside the Pavillion. This garden was taken on by a group of four volunteers.

It consists of an apple tree, which blossomed and bore fruit for the first time, four raised beds and various planters. It also has two water butts and a storage box, which were donated. The garden is also very popular with moles!

When the garden was taken on, the focus was going to be vegetables with visual interest, but for there to be successful veg, pollinators are needed and so we have interspersed the veg with flowers. In October, daffodils and tulips were planted to give an early splash of colour while we wait for the late spring and summer plants.

The soil is excellent quality as compost is renewed and enriched with manure and mulch, and everything that has been planted so far has been prolific.

Last year some beautiful heritage broad beans that have red flowers were grown, but they succumbed to blackfly, and the beans did not develop well. We have had a good crop of tomatoes and kale this year and of course courgettes are really successful. A new addition to one bed is a rhubarb plant which we are



hoping will establish. Amongst other things there are plans to grow climbing French beans.

There is a small strawberry planter, and it has yielded delicious fruit. These plants are now at the end of their life but we have runners that we hope will produce new plants for next season. All produce is distributed to members of the local community.

Alongside the herbs, this year we had a wonderful display of foxgloves which are loved by the bees, plus yarrow, poppies, verbena, calendula, dahlias, sweet peas and lupins. Mint is allowed to produce flowers for the bees.

To encourage even more butterflies, we have a new buddleia, and we are hoping to add a climber or two to help protect the garden from the wind.

Watering is one of the biggest problems, as the garden is exposed to wind and high temperatures, so most plants are chosen that work well in such conditions. It has not been possible to have hanging baskets as we are unable to keep up with that amount of watering. We have a watering rota for the hot weather, so the plants didn't get too dry. During the drought people helped by bringing bottles of water to supplement the butts.

Two years ago, a Christmas tree purchased from Hortus Loci was planted and this tree is lit and decorated

at Christmas and is also decorated at Easter. It is a very healthy tree that has a long life ahead of it. Each time there is an event, bunting is put up e.g. the Coronation, Jubilee and the fete.



None of this would happen without the generosity of the people involved. We have no money to finance this garden, so all compost, seeds and plants have been donated. The planting area is also small, but it is amazing how much can be squeezed into this space. It is used by a variety of people. Clift Surgery and the social subscriber can refer patients who would like to help to assist with their mental wellness. There is also an opportunity for a couple of people to have a planter if they don't have a garden. Several members of the Friendship Walking Group have been helping with maintenance, by supplying wood preservative and painting the raised beds, assisting with the repair of the beds and planters, as well as weeding, digging and extra strimming if needed.

The garden is also used by Squirrels and Cubs, who learn about how things grow. This is part of their badge work and they have planted and watered sunflowers.

It has been so rewarding to engage with people as they walk by and to tell them about the plants and allow some children to help with the watering, under supervision.

Many thanks to the Clift Meadow team for the strimming and maintenance, while next year is planned.

The Garden has a Facebook page called The Meadow Garden, so you can keep an eye on what is happening. If you want to find out more, please email info@bramleyvillagehub.com





Clive Fortune Big Band

Proudly presents...

AN EVENING OF BIG BAND SWING!

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

**Saturday 2nd December,
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Tickets £12.00

Please bring your own refreshments




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OUR COMMUNITY

Bramley Volunteer Drivers need you!

Drivers Needed



Are you looking for a volunteering opportunity? Are you wanting to do a little more for your local community? Get in touch on 07787 166 924 and let's chat.

This, from Mandy, one of our lovely drivers.....

"I've been a member of the Bramley Volunteer Drivers group for a little over ten years now. Being a volunteer fits in around my work commitments and there is no pressure to do any more than I am able. I value listening to, and hearing, the stories of the people I drive to and from their appointments and they are always so thankful for the service and support provided by the BVD. I hope it's around when I need it 😊"

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

And this, from Nina, one of our lovely clients.....

"I am so very grateful to the Bramley Drivers for ferrying me to various medical appointments. This wonderful team are so punctual in picking me up and delivering me home in such a caring way."




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Bramley Church of England Primary School - Supporting Others

Love is one of our key values at school, showing love for ourselves, others and the environment. As a school we want the children to look beyond themselves, their family and their friends and see how they could support others.

Harvest

We are unbelievably proud of the gathering we made as a school for harvest this year. Initially we set up one table in the school hall to collect the non-perishable goods that families were able to donate. This quickly spread to two tables, then three, then a collection of bags under the tables, full of goods that others really need. The newly-elected House Captains represented the school in taking the harvest collection to the



Basingstoke Foodbank. The volunteers there were thrilled to say the least – their stocks had clearly become a little depleted and the children kept coming and coming with more bags! The donations were weighed and this year we gathered 294kg, which

the Foodbank equates to more than 650 meals. This is the largest total we have ever collected – we are so proud and amazed that even though times are very tough for many at the moment, we were still able to support others.



Positive Mental Health

During October, we have also been thinking about our Mental Health, helping children to understand that we have a huge number of emotions and none of them are 'bad'. We need to be able to talk about what makes us happy or angry or sad and that's the best way to share how we are feeling. The children supported the charity Young Minds by wearing yellow, and raised more than £300.

Junior Road Safety Officers

We have recently elected Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs), who were trained, alongside Miss Thomson, by Hampshire safety officers. They will become advocates to educate the children on road and rail safety as well as helping us as a school deliver these messages. The training shared some difficult messages with the new officers but made it clear just how important it is for children to stay focused when out walking, how important 'Be Bright, Be Seen' is and how we can take extra care to keep ourselves and others safe. They are excited to lead poster campaigns and assemblies to get their message across!



As you can see, there are a wide range of ways our children show Love and are able to support others both within our school, local community and wider world. We are incredibly proud of the young citizens they are becoming.

Butter Daisy

This month we celebrated Poetry Day, So we'll share what we've done in this way:



Leaves drop, hedgehogs burrow,
For it will be cold tomorrow.
Leaves dance a little burstly,
On our way to our nursery.

Collecting conkers, twigs and sticks;
Building with them like stickle bricks.
Transient art is so much fun,
We can change it up, it's never done.

Slicing mushrooms, chop, chop, chop;
Come taste and smell our fungi shop.
We made coffee, for Macmillan Day,
Then made it with lemons another way.

For music day we made a noise,
With instruments made of toys.
We also had a ukulele,
And clarinet here at Butter Daisy.

Playing tunes and singing along;
We can't decide our favourite song.
'Twinkle Twinkle?' definitely maybe,
Especially if it was for a baby.

We shared our feelings, the good the bad;
Discussed what makes us happy and sad.
Yoga helped us to relax ourself,
While we explored the matter of mental health.

This month's been fun, we learned so much.
Like zipping coats and serving lunch.
Leaves dance, hedgehogs burrow,
We can't wait to come back tomorrow.

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



Hampshire County Councillor report – Calleva Division – Autumn 2023

HCC financial planning this autumn

The financial challenges facing the County Council, and local government nationally, are well documented. Each year, it costs more to deliver public services, but the money received from central Government and council tax increases is not enough to meet the extra costs, which results in a deficit. High inflation and growing demand for local services means that in the two years up to the 2025/26 financial year, the budget shortfall is expected to rise considerably to £132m, one of the biggest deficits the County Council has ever faced.

Proposals this autumn set out options for how Hampshire County Council could close this budget gap and comes on top of over £0.6bn of spending reductions already delivered since the start of national austerity. Hampshire is in a better financial position than most other county councils, and while the Authority’s finances are stable until 2025/26, future stability relies on central Government fundamentally changing the way that local government services are funded, or reducing what councils are legally required to deliver.

In the absence of any immediate Government action in this regard, Hampshire County Council must plan on the basis of closing the budget gap itself by applying a combination of tactics to help balance the books, including changing and reducing services and delivering only those services which the council must legally provide.

A final decision is to be made by the full county council in November. After this, some proposals may then be subject to further more detailed public consultation.

Transforming in-house nursing and specialist care

A ten-week public consultation is now underway on proposals that would see £173 million invested over the next five to six years to transform and expand the future of nursing and specialist accommodation directly provided by HCC for the county’s growing older population. The proposals recommend concentrating on the delivery of specialist nursing care, complex dementia care and short-term support – to either prevent a hospital admission or support a hospital discharge, so ensuring care could be provided more cost effectively.

The proposals include:

- building new nursing homes in Havant, Winchester and the New Forest
- modernising and expanding care at existing homes in Basingstoke, Aldershot and Emsworth
- withdrawing over time from the direct provision of residential care, with the closure of a number of the council’s older homes.

More detail and a link to the consultation can be found at <https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/HCC-Care2023>.

The consultation closes on 12 November 2023 with a final decision expected in February next year.

Countryside Services - Parish Pages

Parishes, town councils and other local groups may find the Parish Pages page on the HCC website a useful source of countryside information, including opportunities for grants and funding, information about Parish Pollinators, becoming

a Volunteer, Countryside Canines and a guide to rights of way for parishes and communities. In addition, the Definitive Map is useful in identifying and locating rights of ways -

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitivemap

Increased payments to local residents hosting Ukrainian families

The county council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government’s Homes for Ukraine Scheme, until the end of March 2024. This takes the monthly payment to £700, which is above the Government’s current guidance for local authorities.

Funding to save the UK’s rarest orchids

Hampshire County Council has secured £98,000 funding from Natural England to help rare helleborine orchids to thrive. The conservation project aims to create protected habitats for the endangered plants at sites in East Hampshire.

New police stations for Hampshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a plan to open ten more police stations and front counters over the next eighteen months, with the aim of increasing police visibility and making them more accessible to the public.

The number of police front counters will increase from 13 to 23, with new front counters in Cowes, Portsmouth Central, Park Gate, Petersfield, Totton, Ryde, Yateley, Eastleigh, Cosham and Gosport.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Fb.com/tellrhydian



Patron: Howard Goodall

Saturday 25th November

Hook Choral Society

Directed by Nicholas Woods

presents

An Autumn Concert

featuring

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7:30 pm

at

St. John’s Church, Hook, RG27 9EG

Tickets £15.00 pp

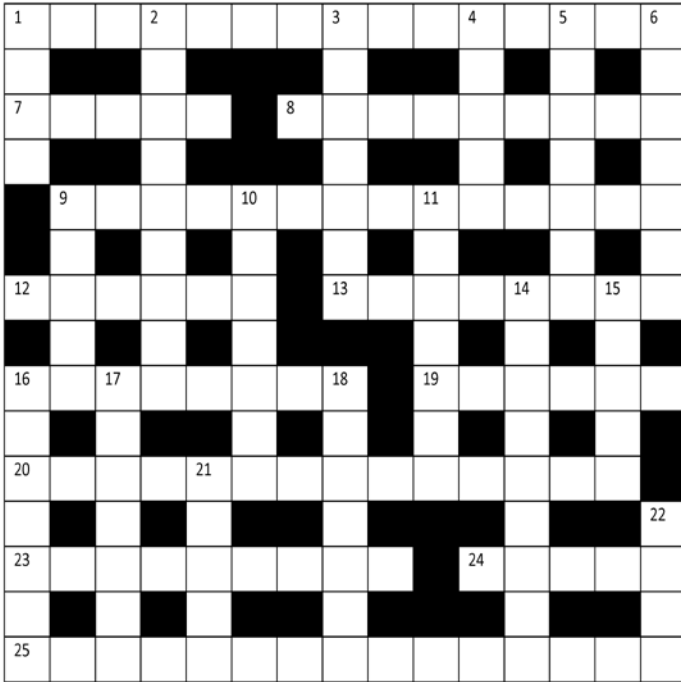
Groups of 4 at £15.50 pp

Tickets available from www.hookchoral.co.uk or call 07957293641

Reg Charity 800686

Cryptic Crossword No: 73

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Net window height used for 1930s film. (4,4,3,4)
- 7 Architectural apse made for failing. (5)
- 8 Travels across water using natural forces. (9)
- 9 Greg returned artist debts on headland for friendliness. (14)
- 12 Convert to mere cosmic object. (6)
- 13 Gets back regarding requests. (8)
- 16 Snag a ram to find out what these clues are. (8)
- 19 Confused at vice to be busy. (6)
- 20 A pail propelled into a solid with corresponding opposite sides. (14)
- 23 Found inside a bicycle tyre or heard where in a cylinder. (9)
- 24 Look inside as I announce Malaysian perhaps. (5)
- 25 Heeds south floor around for the 'Other Place'. (3,5,2,5)

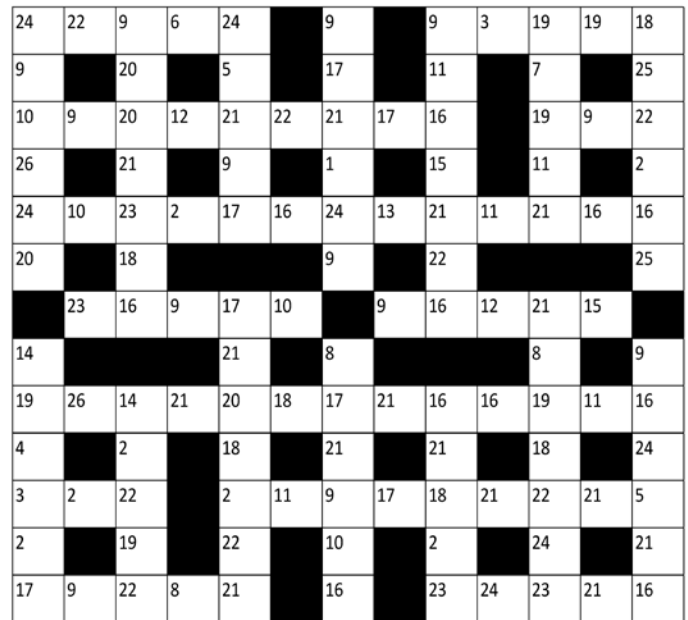
Down

- 1 Windy Windies cricketer. (4)
- 2 Get grease in order to produce seasonal chocolate item. (6,3)
- 3 More bearded, more perilous. (7)

- 4 It pleases me inside to find comforts. (5)
- 5 Benjamin Disraeli could disguise a person from this country. (7)
- 6 Sid sets around and stops. (7)
- 9 Colour or an environmentalist. (5)
- 10 Its unfair Ma, I'll get my letter perhaps. (7)
- 11 Unfasten, not jewellery perhaps. (7)
- 14 Starter against whats happened over nothing. (9)
- 15 Acted to arrange demo around five. (5)
- 16 Assign or charge. (7)
- 17 Move around a stove one hears. (7)
- 18 Mixing the blues, lo, the ability to dissolve. (8)
- 21 Slow Florida Key perhaps. (5)
- 22 Creatures one hears of northern relations. (4)

CodeWord No: 59

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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Maths in the early years at Little Apples

Maths Week England is the 13th to 18th of November 2023, so we thought this was a good opportunity to share how children learn maths in the early years, including at Little Apples.

Maths happens all the time and it is everywhere. We all use it many times a day: numbers and shapes, measuring and solving problems. We all need it for simple tasks like sharing a pizza, following a recipe and shopping, and young children need help to develop the skills they need.

Parents can help by showing children how numbers, size, shape and pattern are important in everyday life. They can do this by involving them in checking times, counting out money, looking at the numbers on a clock or phone, reading out quantities printed on boxes and tins of food or encouraging children to help tidy toys away and talking about how things fit.

At Little Apples, we have a lovely selection of number based games



and activities, and we include mathematical language in our teaching every day. We have lots of technology toys which include numbers, such as old phones and calculators, which the children love to explore and we involve counting in everything we do, whether it's pieces of apple for snack or the number of blocks in a tower. We also encourage the children to solve simple maths problems, for example, setting up a teddy bears tea party and saying "there aren't enough cups, how many more do we need?" And of course we never forget the great number songs we all know so well, like 12345, and Hickory Dickory Dock.



Maths can be outside too, using scales in our mud kitchen, comparing lengths and sizes of sticks and worms and collecting or comparing things we find outside.

At 3 to 4 years old, children will be learning to recite the numbers up to 10 and count objects. They will begin to recognise written numerals up to 9 and use words to compare things such as more, less, greater, or smaller. They learn to name 2-D shapes and make simple patterns and talk about them. They also begin to understand and use words to describe where things are, such as over, under or next to.

Maths may not have been everyone's favourite subject at school, but numbers and order appeal to lots of small children, and we never want for participants at our maths table.

Women's breakfast



Saturday 14 October saw the welcome return of the women's breakfasts, after a break for summer. Forty women came together to enjoy hot and cold food, drinks and chat, and to hear a fascinating talk from Millie Anderson. Millie had initially chosen the topic of Christian Art, but since this subject could form the basis of a lengthy degree course, she focused instead on Creative Faith, looking at

three representations of the story of the Prodigal Son, by Rembrandt, Liz Lemon Swindle and Charlie Mackesy.

In their different styles, each artist beautifully depicted the story of the father welcoming back his wayward son. This painting by Rembrandt dates back to 1669, while Liz Lemon Swindle's detailed depiction of the elderly father hugging his son was painted over 300 years later. Liz's early work focused primarily on wildlife, but in 1992 she began painting about her faith, saying "I love being able to give Christ and the love of him to other people and I hope it ignites their awareness of their own potential." Millie's third artist, Charlie Mackesy, is better known for his best-selling book, *The boy, the mole, the fox and*



the horse. Once an atheist, he believes that his art brought him to faith. In his words, "Jesus quietly introduced me into a journey of finding people really beautiful, which is how my [spiritual] journey began. Because I felt like Jesus was saying, 'Look at how beautiful that guy is there, sitting on that bench — draw him.'" He depicted the story of the Prodigal Son in a sculpture, which now stands in Holy Trinity, Brompton. He also created a beautiful painting, entitled the Prodigal Daughter, to explain to a friend with bipolar disorder how much God loved her. We will probably get in trouble with both of these modern artists if we reproduce their work here, but do google them if you have a chance.

After the talk, Millie encouraged us to bring out our creative side and decorate some pebbles. There were lovely designs, with some women decorating their pebbles with hearts, patterns, flowers or trees, while others wrote messages or quotes.



The next breakfast will be on Saturday 25 November at 8.45am. More details to follow.

Phillips Law

What Happens When My Fixed Rate Mortgage Expires?

If you are a homeowner with a fixed-rate mortgage, you have likely enjoyed the stability of consistent monthly payments over the years. However, all good things must come to an end, and that includes your fixed-rate mortgage term. In this post we will explore what happens when your fixed-rate mortgage expires and what steps you should take next. If you find yourself in this situation, remember that our experienced conveyancing team at Phillips Law is here to help you navigate the legal process to enable you to complete a re-mortgage.

Understanding Fixed-Rate Mortgages

Before we explore what happens when your fixed-rate mortgage ends, let's quickly recap what a fixed-rate mortgage is. A fixed-rate mortgage is a type of home loan where your interest rate remains unchanged for a specific period, typically ranging from 2 to 5 years. This means your monthly mortgage payments stay the same, providing financial predictability.

When your fixed-rate mortgage term is coming to an end, there are several crucial things you need to be aware of:

1. Transition to a New Rate: At the end of your fixed-rate period,

your mortgage will automatically transition to your lender's standard variable rate. This rate can be higher than what you were paying during your fixed period, which would result in increased monthly payments.

2. Shopping for a New Deal: To avoid potentially higher payments, it's essential to explore your options before your fixed rate expires. You can start looking for a new mortgage deal several months in advance. Your current lender may offer you a new fixed-rate deal, or you can choose to remortgage with a different lender for a more competitive rate. You should take the advice of a mortgage broker or financial advisor at this stage.
3. Early Repayment Charges: Check your mortgage contract for any early repayment charges that may apply if you decide to switch lenders before your fixed-rate term ends. These charges can vary, so it's essential to understand the financial implications.

Your Next Steps

As your fixed-rate mortgage approaches its expiration date, it's essential to plan. Here's a simple checklist to follow:

1. Research New Mortgage Deals: Start researching new mortgage deals well in advance of your fixed rate ending. Compare interest rates, terms, and fees to find the best option for your financial situation.
2. Consult with a Mortgage Advisor: Seek advice from a mortgage advisor who can help you navigate the market and find the most suitable mortgage product for your needs.
3. Engage a Conveyancer: Contact our experienced conveyancing team at Phillips Law in Basingstoke. Our experts can assist with all the legal aspects of your mortgage transition, ensuring a hassle-free process.
4. Budget for Potential Changes: Prepare for potential changes in your monthly mortgage payments and budget accordingly.

Conclusion

When your fixed-rate mortgage term comes to an end, it does require careful planning and consideration. By exploring your options, consulting with professionals such as a mortgage advisor at the outset, and engaging a conveyancer, you can smoothly navigate this transition.

Legal@phillips-law.co.uk

01256 460830

If you have any questions or need assistance with conveyancing services during this period of transition, don't hesitate to contact our conveyancing team. We're here to provide expert guidance and support you every step of the way.

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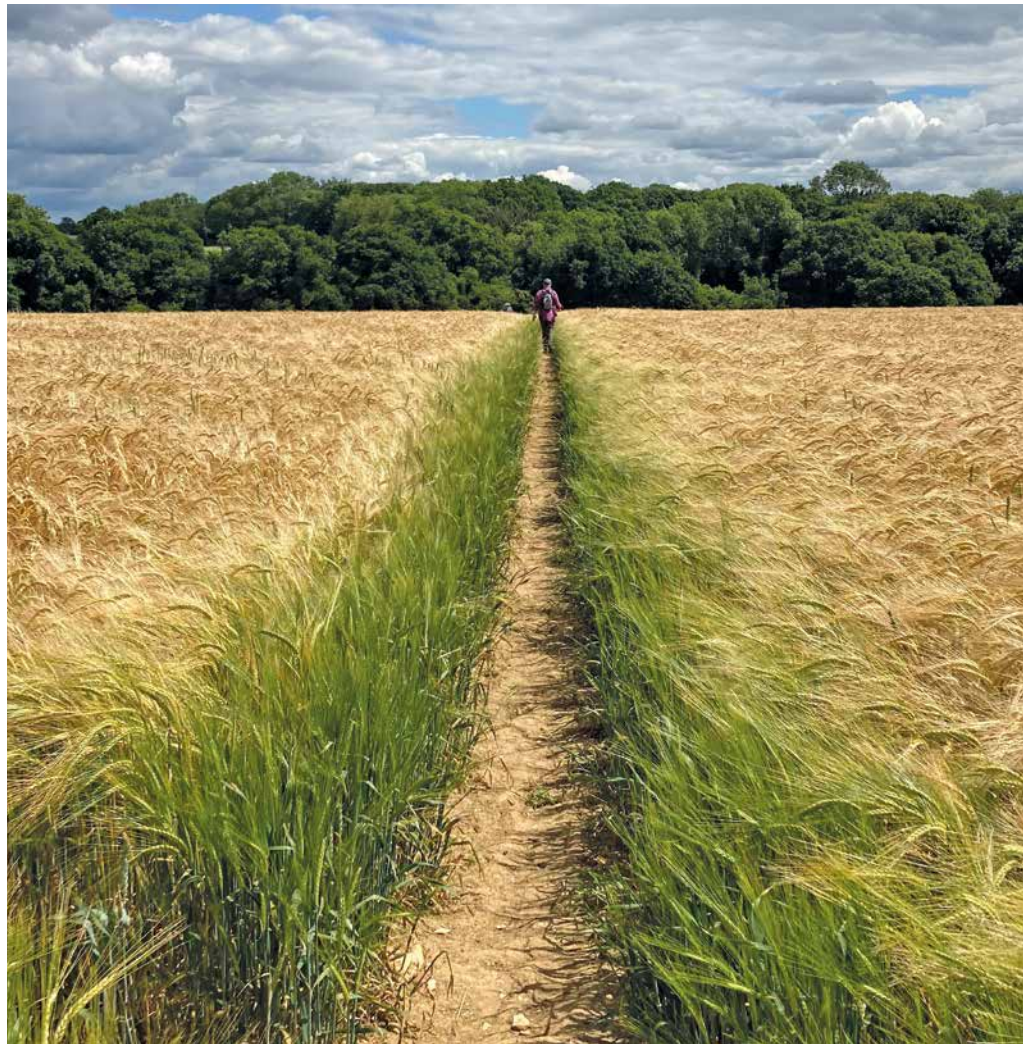
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Visit: www.rollergaragedoorscentre.co.uk

Barley has some pretty useful characteristics, even if Roman soldiers didn't always appreciate them. **John Stubbs** explains more.

I took this shot early in July last year, and that was a grand field of barley. But the records showed it'd been the driest July since 1935, and the fifth consecutive month of below-average rainfall – the potatoes in the fields round here looked awful sad. This year, July had double the long-term average rainfall in the Bramley area, though the barley doesn't look so good. That, of course, is the essence of weather. Farmers have always had to contend with its vagaries; such swings, however, are getting both more frequent and more extreme, so crop choice and cultivation are becoming even more critical. Climate change is the next step up from weather – it's the longer-term trends of worldwide factors like sunshine, ocean currents, water temperatures and wind patterns which stack up to give us the weather. The most significant recurring global climate fluctuation is known as El Niño, a persistent if rather random phenomenon occurring every two to seven years. It brings a marked change in the Pacific Ocean currents and is associated with worldwide temperature highs. This year it looks like the arrival of the little chap, and the results will play out mainly next year.

Barley in particular is a lot better than most cereal crops at handling variables in growing conditions. Its early ancestors were probably the first type of grass chosen as a food crop; around twelve thousand years back in the middle east, it was found to tolerate a wide range of soil, altitude and rainfall making it a natural choice. The thing is, apparently, wild barley has a greater number of separate gene variants that contribute to characteristics like drought-tolerance, such as the depth of roots and the reaction of the leaf structure to dry conditions. Now that these genes can be identified and selected, cultivars can be developed fairly quickly for particular uses and locations. Different seed is used for animal feed, brewing and special foodstuffs. The wide range of present-day cultivars were largely derived from domesticated strains of barley grown in what is modern-day Iraq. Properties such as larger grain size and the tendency of the seeds to stay on the stalk were selected: wild barley that



shed its seed easily in the breeze might propagate itself better, but it's not so handy when you need to collect it for your porridge.

Nowadays barley ranks fourth in world cereal production, after maize, rice and wheat, with large amounts grown for cattle fodder in the US and wide use for fermentation. With a quarter of the world's population currently facing extreme water stress, all of these crops are vulnerable to water shortage, especially of course, rice. One promising avenue of research includes transferring relevant genes from barley into basmati rice, to give improved yields as temperatures rise, irrigation becomes intermittent and levels of salt collecting in the soil increase.

Though wild barley has been widely grown for millennia, its use in the northern hemisphere for bread-making has long been overtaken by wheat, as the extra gluten gives a better elastic structure, rising and keeping properties. Even in ancient Rome, barley was not the preferred grain, and this was weaponised by the Legion commanders as part of their disciplinary procedures. If a cohort failed to attack as ordered, the ultimate

sanction was decimation. Rather drastic by modern standards, but it was apparently effective in the earlier wars, dropping out of use by the time the Romans in Calleva were bossing up locals about.

Defaulting soldiers would be put in groups of ten, and drawing lots, one of each group was then executed by their erstwhile colleagues. I guess this avoided the need to prove which individuals had been the ringleaders, or the first to turn and run, but it does seem a bit hard on the stalwarts in the ranks, who would have been just as likely to be despatched as the worst offenders. The remainder of the cohort were then deprived of both meat and wheat. They were condemned to *frumentum mutatum* and fed on barley only. I guess this can't have been an awful hardship, but of course it wouldn't have been a grand policy to field an army of malnourished troops. Probably having to eat what was considered animal fodder was the main penalty – it seems the Romans were a wee bit sensitive over such niceties, if not all that worried by random executions.

Probus Hears About Thelwell

When the name of Thelwell is mentioned, readers - probably over the age of thirty-five - will remember iconic subjects of small, fat, hairy ponies ridden at full tilt by alarming young ladies. Indeed, the Thelwell pony has become part of the English language.



But, as speaker Tim Craven explained, Norman Thelwell's range as a cartoonist went far beyond ponies and included fishing, gardening, house hunting, motoring, sailing, dogs, cats, farming, stately homes, children and country pursuits, all given the Thelwell treatment.



There was much more to this artist than first appears as the speaker went on to outline.

Life for Norman Thelwell had started in lowly circumstances, born into a terraced house near Birkenhead, he just had a

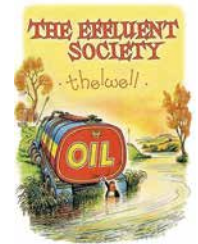
natural affinity for drawing. A pencil sketch of a self-portrait created when he was only ten demonstrated his skill. Joining the army at eighteen in 1941 his artistic talent kept him away from hostilities. When in India he became involved in producing the Victory magazine which prevented him from action in Burma.

His time in the army enabled him to develop cartoon illustrations of military life. He came to recognise that selling a picture to a magazine was worth more than a month's army pay, so it dawned on him that there could be a living to be made using his artistic talent.

Formal artistic education at Nottingham and Gateshead schools of art was followed by a degree at Liverpool School of Art, so it was natural that he became an art teacher. He persevered with expanding freelance work until it reached such a level that he decided to go completely freelance as an artist. He worked in this manner for Punch Magazine for twenty-five years, during which time he produced over 1,500 cartoons and sixty front covers. National newspapers were another outlet for his work.

Tim Craven was the curator at Southampton City Art Gallery when, in 2001, he received a phone call from Mrs Thelwell about the conservation of water colour paintings. By this time Norman Thelwell was no longer a public figure and had lived for thirty-five years near Romsey in Hampshire, so Tim was eager to become involved in conserving the extensive work of this local world-famous artist.

There was a large quantity of paintings to consider but what became apparent was that while cartoons had made him famous, with his 32 books translated into several languages and selling over two million copies, it was his interest in painting landscapes that was his real passion. The quality of work was so good that Thelwell's country scenes could sit alongside those of the greatest English artists.



Thelwell was very much an adopted countryman and did his best to support the protection of rural England and especially the Test valley, where he fought against gravel extraction. Tim Craven has curated several exhibitions of Thelwell's artwork, showing his various styles, with one exhibition attracting 64,000 visitors. Today, a century after his birth, it is still possible to use Thelwell's images for many types of merchandising opportunities, so the drawings of his small, fat, hairy ponies continue.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club

Bramley Church of England Primary School
Year R Open Mornings

Is your child turning 4 before the 1st September 2024? If so, now is the time to explore different schools.

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

Our open mornings this year are:

- Tuesday 17th October at 9.00am**
- Thursday 2nd November at 9.00am**
- Thursday 9th November at 9.00am**
- Tuesday 21st November at 9.00am**
- Friday 1st December at 9.00am**

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

"Bramley School has such a warm and welcoming atmosphere. In our experience, it has given our children a nurturing environment where they have all felt supported and challenged to grow both academically and individually." (Parent comment)

"Pupils enjoy coming to this school. They understand the importance of their school's values of Love, Respect and Courage." (Ofsted Feb '20)

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

The application deadline is 14 January 2024



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Basingstoke Deane Rotary

HIS MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 4th February 2024, 3:00pm

'A great gift for that difficult to buy for person'

Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities

Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged for many years to host the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines at The Anvil playing to very full houses. We will again be able to bring talented musicians to play for us and we will welcome them this time in February 2024.

There is always an exciting performance on offer, with some military music but you'll also be entertained by a variety of music genres: swing band, pop, classical, and comedic pieces. We've been delighted by music from the movies, Bond themes, Star Wars and good old-fashioned tunes known and enjoyed by all ages.



The majestic full concert Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines, will include the amazing Corps of Drums.



Everyone's favourites, our special guests, the Chelsea Pensioners, should be with us again to make this a very special event.

Tickets on sale from The Anvil Box Office.

Volunteering for St Michael's Hospice Moonlight Walk

Saturday 30th September saw us in Festival Place welcoming the amazing participants back from the Glitter and Glow Moonlight walk with hot and cold drinks and tasty treats.

Well done to all those who took part. You raised over £60,000 to help the St Michael's Hospice continue the wonderful work it does for our community - a fantastic amount. Hopefully you are still glowing with pride at your achievement and will be signing up for next year, or even taking part in the Reindeer Run (see below)



SAVE THE DATE!

**St Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run
Queen Anne's Square (Outside Iceland)
Festival Place**

Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 9:00 am

See the Hospice website to register for the 3K Reindeer Run and have a lot of fun whilst raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering to marshal this event.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

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Citizens Advice Basingstoke

Has your parcel gone missing?

If your parcel wasn't delivered to the location you agreed, it's the seller's legal responsibility to sort out the issue. Check the delivery address you gave the seller. Then contact them and ask where your order is. If the seller claims they've delivered it or doesn't know where it is, you can ask for a redelivery. You might be able to get a refund in some circumstances.

If an item that was left with a neighbour or somewhere else has gone missing, it depends on whether your item was delivered by Royal Mail or a courier. If Royal Mail left something with a neighbour or in a certain place because you told them to, it's not the seller or Royal Mail's responsibility if it gets lost.

If Royal Mail left something with a neighbour or in a certain place and you didn't tell them to, it's the seller's responsibility if it gets lost. You should contact the seller to ask for a redelivery or a refund - you can phone, email or write a letter. You can choose not to have future deliveries left with a neighbour by completing this form on the Royal Mail website. <https://www.royalmail.com/personal/receiving-mail/delivery-to-neighbour-opt-out/>

If your item was delivered by a courier, check your terms and conditions or account details - they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's



Basingstoke



house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's responsibility if your order has gone missing. If your item wasn't delivered to the location you agreed, it's the seller's legal responsibility to sort out the issue. You can ask them to redeliver your item. You can ask for a full refund if a delivery date was essential and wasn't met, a delivery date was agreed but wasn't essential, and a second date also wasn't met or no delivery date was agreed and a second chance to deliver was not successful. A delivery date is essential if you told the seller you needed your delivery by a specific date. For either a refund or a redelivery, you can phone, email or write a letter. You can access template letters on our link below.

To find out more information about the steps you can take, check out our online support on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/somethings-gone-wrong-with-a-purchase/if-something-you-ordered-hasnt-been-delivered/

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is here to help whatever your enquiry involves, please contact us on 0808 278 7829.

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

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

Wednesdays	
<i>1st Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>1st Bramley Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>1st Bramley 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 Community Cafe
<i>Squirrels 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall

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

Fridays	
<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

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

Sundays	
<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

THANK YOU

Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

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 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

Mammal mysteries

Mammals are all around us, from mice to voles to deer and foxes, from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust nature reserves, to parks, and our gardens. But how often do you see them? Most mammals like to stay hidden, and they're very good at it.

However, even the stealthiest species leave clues. Look around and you'll see telltale signs of these animals' hidden presence. Some are obvious, like large piles of droppings, and others more subtle, like nibbled pinecones. One of the most exciting things to find are footprints.

Foxes have four toes and their footprint forms a neat diamond with a triangular foot pad, toes around the sides and front, and two claws forming a point at the front. Their droppings are also dog-like in shape, usually pointy at one end, and full of fur, feathers, tiny bones, seeds and berries.

Badger feet have five toes and their prints show a wide, squarish foot pad with five toes at the front with long claws (for digging). Prints are very robust and broad (6.5cm wide). Their front and back paws differ slightly: the front-paw marks have longer claw marks, while the back-paw marks show the inner toes to be a little further forward.

Badgers follow the same routes when they're foraging, so leave well-worn trails across fields or exiting woods and hedges or along fences. They poo in shallow pits called latrines, and their droppings vary from firm and sausage-shaped, to soft and slimy.

Though there are several species of deer, their tracks are roughly the same shape, just different sizes. Muntjac tracks are around 3cm long, whilst red deer tracks are up to 9cm long. Deer walk on tiptoes, so you only usually see two long pointed toe prints side-by-side, with no claws or foot pad. Deer droppings are smooth, shiny dark pellets, pointed at one end and often stuck together in clusters.

Rabbit prints are oval-shaped and their four feet form a triangle – you won't really notice separate paw marks. It's often easier to find rabbits by looking for their little round pellet droppings on lawns and fields.

As a nation of pet lovers, there are millions of cat and dog pet prints around so telling them apart from wildlife prints is key. Although dogs vary wildly in size, their prints are often around 3-5cm wide with four toes and big claw marks. Cat prints are generally 2-3cm wide and have no claw marks.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Hospice launches Light up a Life appeal to raise vital funds for patients

St. Michael's Hospice has launched its "Light up a Life" appeal to raise vital funds. By dedicating a light on the Hospice's tree or their virtual tree, you can remember someone special and help families who need the Hospice's care.

As part of the appeal, the Hospice will host a Light up a Life service on 10 December in the Hospice grounds. The service provides a special way to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

St. Michael's Hospice provides its care for free but receives only 16% statutory funding to run its services. This means the charity needs to raise £14,000 every day to care for people across North Hampshire who have life-limiting illnesses, need end-of-life care, or bereavement support. Demand for their services is increasing, and so are costs.

Please visit stmichaelshospice.org.uk/light-up to make a dedication to a loved one.

NEWS FROM HAMPSHIRE HARMONY

Following a highly successful Summer Concert when we hosted a World Premiere piece, we are now working towards our **Christmas Concert**, our first in Basingstoke since 2019! We will be presenting a fantastic programme of music from traditional carols to less well-known pieces and something which will have you rolling in the aisles!

Come and join us for an afternoon of superb entertainment at **St. Michael's Church, Church Square Basingstoke at 3 p.m. Saturday, 2nd December**, followed by refreshments in Church Cottage.

Tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for children with an Early Bird discount of £1 discount per ticket when purchased online by 31st October using the code EBT.

Tickets are available online now at <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/47544> or purchase from members with the same discount if paid for by 31st October.

OPEN EVENING

If you are looking for something new to do in the New Year, new members are always welcome. Come and join us for our first open evening of 2024 to see if it's for you. We can guarantee you an evening of fun, friendship and great singing:

Monday 15th January at Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, RG24 9UP.

The fun begins at 7.30 pm, and we hope to see you there!

www.hampshireharmony.org



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 73 Solution

ANTS	22	GONEWITHEMIND	1
LARGO	21	LAPSE	7
SOLUBLE	18	WINDSURFS	8
ARRANGE	17	GREGARIOUSNESS	9
APPOINT	16	METEOR	12
MOVED	15	RECLAIMS	13
ANTIPASTO	14	ANAGRAMS	16
UNCLASP	11	ACTIVE	19
AIRMAIL	10	PARALLELOPED	20
GREEN	9	INNERTUBE	23
DESISTS	6	ASIAN	24
ISRAELI	5	THEHOUSEOFFLORDS	25
EASES	4		
HAIRIER	3		
EASTEREGG	2		
GALE	1		

CodeWord No: 59 Solution

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