

April 2021

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Swimming the Channel**
- **Bramley Green Stream**
- **When this is all over**

**Plus all the usual articles
and much more**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

April 2021

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

Material for the May 2021 issue to be sent
(preferably by email) to the editor no later
than 15 April please.

Cover photo:
Blossom by Jan Nice

I'm just back from `stylists.signals.afterglow` with a few treats to keep me going while I edit some articles about `dictation.lights.emotional` and `fevered.flagged.airliners`. I need to be quick though as I'm meeting someone at `otter.stale.mute` soon.

I know what you are thinking: after months of lockdown she has finally lost it. Well, that may be true, but in this instance I am actually talking some sense. This isn't some April Fool's joke. Each of these three words describes a precise location in Bramley and Little London. Postcodes and addresses are all very well, but if you are an ambulance worker trying to find a house in The Street you need to narrow down the search a bit. This has led to the development of `what3words` which divides the world into 3 metre squares and gives each area a unique combination of three words. You can find out more on page 13. It can be quite addictive to google famous places and friends' houses to find out what their three words are. I'm not sure how the Queen feels about living at `fence.gross.bats`, but then Buckingham Palace is so big she can just walk down the corridor to `warm.neat.cheese` instead (which I really hope is the kitchen). I wonder if you can guess which world leader lives at `sulk.held.raves` and likely `press.fired`. Some of these words are quite appropriate for a former inhabitant. *

`dictation.lights.emotional` is actually Bramley Green Stream, which is very important to one of our readers and is featured in an article on page 15. I used to live next to the stream and it was fascinating to see how it would change from a trickle of water to a muddy torrent after a few heavy downpours. Meanwhile, the residents of `fevered.flagged.airliners` aren't taking up flying but are busy growing potatoes, as you will see on page 9. The English Channel will have thousands of three-word combinations covering its vast expanse, which makes Stella-Sophie's challenge on page 10 all the more remarkable.

I wasn't intending to include any more articles about the proposed solar farm this month - an article about Piers Morgan or the Duke and Duchess of Sussex would probably be less divisive! However, when I received the article on page 18, written by Debbie Grey, I wanted to use it as she had obviously thought long and hard about the issue. I was interested to hear what the developers, Enso, would say in reply so, with Debbie's permission, her article was sent to the company. Their response can be found on page 19.

I hope you like the colourful photo on the front page, taken by Jan Nice. Having failed to find any daffodils in time for the March cover I was determined not to miss the opportunity to celebrate Spring. The trees bursting into life, the birds making their nests, the tulips peeping through - all these signs of re-birth, along with the hope of Easter, make this such a positive month, I think. If you are still unsure about the future (and who can blame you?) perhaps Michael Luck's article on page 16 will encourage you to think more positively. After reading the article on page 8, a visit to `thick.huddling.vowed` could well be on my list of things to do when this is all over.

Best Wishes and Happy Easter!

Rachel

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

*See page 13 if you haven't worked it out

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

Martin Luther King Jr.

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All the events described here are obviously subject to change, if Government Covid-19 guidelines and rules should change. Please do check our website, www.stjamesbramley.com, for any last minute changes.

Church diary for April...

1st	Maundy Thursday
19:30	Virtual Holy Communion on Zoom
2nd	Good Friday
10:00	Children's Good Friday Service -St James's Church
14:00	An Hour at the Foot of the Cross In St James & Live-Streamed on Zoom
4th	Easter Day
10:30	Easter Communion Service In St James & Live-Streamed on Zoom
11th	2nd Sunday of Easter
9:00	Holy Communion – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom
18th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9:00	Morning Worship – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom
25th	4th Sunday of Easter
9:00	Holy Communion – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom

... and into May

2nd	5th Sunday of Easter
9:00	Matins BCP – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom
9th	6th Sunday of Easter
	John Lenton's last Sunday
9:00	Holy Communion – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom
16th	7th Sunday of Easter
9:00	Morning Worship – St James's Church
10:30	Virtual Service on Zoom

Notes: Even though restrictions are easing it is still important that for in-person Church Services, you need to book in with Steve Day, the Parish Administrator. This is to ensure the numbers do not go over our capacity restrictions due to social distancing and allows us to remain COVID Secure. To attend the Zoom services for the first time, please contact Steve in order to be added to our email distribution list, which will provide you with the Zoom connection details. Steve can be contacted on 07341 552732 or by email on Crosshousebramley@gmail.com.

Organ Marathon!

St Leonard's Church in Sherfield will soon need a new roof and this is going to cost at least £200,000, a not inconsiderable sum of money.

Some members of the Church have already started planning how they might help raise the cash and its two organists, Andrew Doggart and Mike Abrams, have come up with the notion of a sponsored organ-playing marathon.

It will be held on Saturday 29 May in St. Leonard's church, where Mike will be playing the church organ and Andrew will be playing a large digital organ, hired from Viscount

Organs in Oxford. They'll be playing in 2-hour stints non-stop for at least 12 hours, or until they can't take it anymore! The repertoire will include pieces from all eras of classical music and plenty of hymns. It's hoped to live-stream the event and, if Covid measures allow, serve tea and coffee for those who may want to come along and listen.

Details about how to sponsor Mike and Andrew will follow in the next edition, so please do look out for this information and plan to come along to support them if you can. And do please make a donation, whether large or small, it will all help. Tell your friends about it as well!



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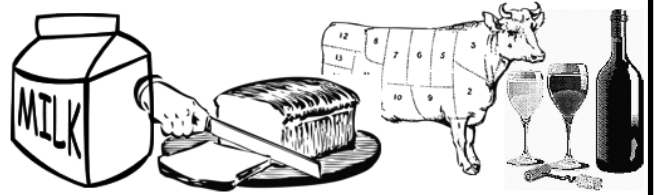
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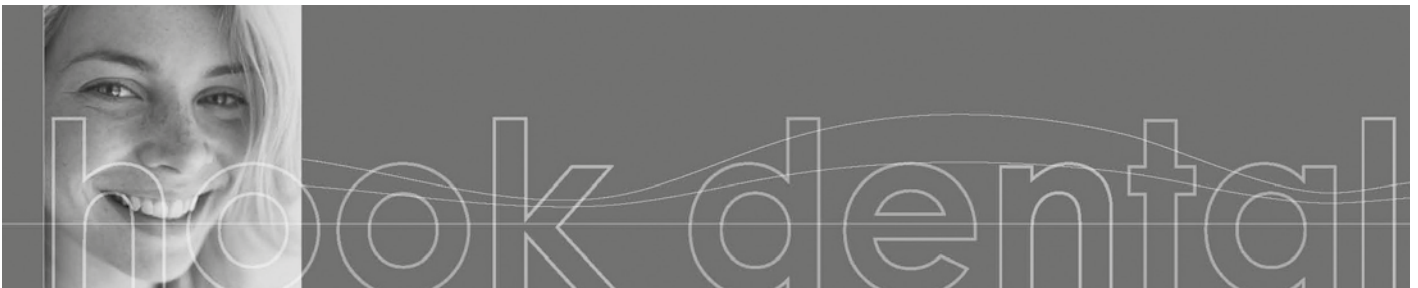
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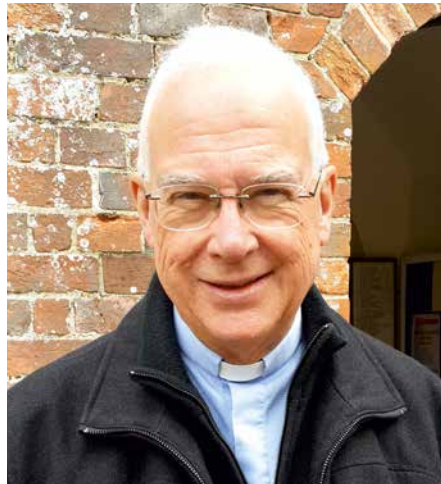
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One of life's great pleasures that has been denied to us over the last year has been the ability to hold or attend dinner parties. Ann and I love having friends in for a meal, to catch up with each other's doings, hear the opinions and stories, simply enjoy the warmth of human friendship. For some years now, we've been meeting regularly every few months for dinner with three other couples – and we've even met with them for a Zoom dinner party twice this year, sharing food and wine in advance round the group, and then chatting non-stop through the meal, with the iPad sitting on the table in front of us. You could almost forget that you were doing it remotely. Almost.

Thinking about dinner parties led me to wonder what a fantasy dinner party with some of my favourite Bible characters would be like... What a conversation that might be! What questions I'd like to put to them!

I think my first guest would be Joseph, the one whose father made him that Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. I'd only want the mature Joseph, though, not the spoilt adolescent who boasted to his father and brothers about his dreams of how they would all eventually bow down before him, even though it would eventually come true – no, I'd want him once he'd been through the hardships of slavery and false accusations, let-downs and imprisonment. What a story he would have to tell; with those experiences behind him, he would do it with such insight and understanding of human nature. All he'd learnt was shown in his willingness to forgive those brothers who'd wronged him so badly, to recognise that what they'd intended for evil, God had transformed into good, the saving of many lives. What a character to have next to you at the table!



Rev'd John Lenton

Who else? Well, how about Ruth? Ruth's the woman who refused to abandon her foreign mother-in-law, Naomi, after both their husbands died. "Where you go, I will go," she said. "Your people will be my people and your God will be my God." And even though Naomi was a bit of a misery, Ruth stood by her and helped and supported her faithfully. Ruth and her second husband, Boaz, would be a gentle, gracious encouragement to the rest of us round the table, in their example of love and loyalty.

If we're inviting Ruth and Boaz, it would be good to have their great-grandson David come too. We could ask him to bring along his harp and give us a song or two from his repertoire; he's not only a musician but also a composer. We'd be able to ask him to perform that old favourite, composed when he used to look after his father's sheep – "The Lord is my Shepherd... I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." We'll let him choose whether to bring his first wife, Abigail, a wise and resourceful woman – or his second wife, Bathsheba, a real beauty by all accounts, but if brains were gunpowder, she wouldn't have enough to blow her hat off. Let's hope for Abigail.

While it's tempting to invite a prophet, perhaps Elijah or Isaiah, I fear they would be inclined to dominate the conversation and would probably be

a bit of a downer on the whole dinner party. And the prophet Jonah would probably bring a rather fishy pong to the proceedings, not to mention the fact that he always seems to be in a bad mood. Understandable, perhaps. But not the ideal dinner party guest.

Definitely next on the list has to be the apostle Paul. It would be so fascinating to hold a conversation with him, even though we'd probably understand only about 10% of what he says. But he is such an engaging personality, and so full of amazing stories about his travels and the things that he's been through, that you just couldn't resist asking for more. I'd love to hear his explanations of predestination, the sovereignty of God and human responsibility. If I could understand them.

Lots more possibilities, of course.

There's no question, though, about the Guest of Honour. It has to be Jesus. But would He come? Would He really be willing to come along to a dinner party at our place, holy as He is and ordinary as we are? Well, actually, the Bible shows there were lots of occasions when He went and enjoyed good food and wine with some very ordinary people – some quite disreputable, in fact, tax collectors like Zacchaeus and Matthew and their colleagues, and women from some very dubious backgrounds. But when the religious snobs criticised Him for the company He was keeping, He told them "It's not the healthy who need a doctor, it's the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

And He underlined that when He said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me." So yes, all that I – or any of us – have to do is to open the door when He knocks, and He will certainly come in. And what a party that will be, when He joins in!

This year in **Meet the Neighbours**, we'd like to introduce - and thank – as many as possible of the wonderful people in our community who have kept their services – and our sprits - going. Many have done this while facing very difficult times themselves.

Ram Kishor Dobhal came to Bramley in 2019 to take over **The Bramley Inn**.

Many of you will know that Ram's wife, Ramila, sadly died from Covid-19 in January. He told us he wanted to thank everyone in the community for their support.

Ram: It was very humbling to know that the people of Bramley kept us in our thoughts when I lost my wife in January this year. I've only just moved here, you know, people don't really know me – but everyone has been so kind.

My family and I look forward to thanking everyone in person once the restrictions ease. It is still a very challenging time for me, my family and my business, but the thoughts and prayers of this community have helped us to stay optimistic. I would like to see how I can give something back by doing a charity event of some kind when things go back to normal.

BM: Things have been terribly hard for you personally, and lockdown must have been hard on the business, too. How has it changed things?

Ram: The business has definitely suffered more than we had imagined it would. We were meant to open at the end of March last year, but the government lockdown started the week before. In the summer we managed to open with social distancing, and we've kept the food and takeaways going.

It has been tough. We've been working at reduced capacity to fulfil the delivery orders. We hope the situation will be under control soon, now that the vaccinations have begun, and I thank the government and local authorities for the support we've had.

BM: What made you want to come and run the pub here?



Ram behind the bar at the Bramley Inn

Ram: I've run pubs since I started working. I heard of the Bramley Inn through a friend. When I visited the village, I thought it was an idyllic location for a traditional pub and Indian restaurant. I am passionate about natural surroundings.

I took over in August 2019 and started working towards creating a venue that gives people in the neighbourhood a place to come out and socialise, with good food and drinks.

BM: Many people will be very pleased to see you are reopening this month. What are the plans for the year ahead, lockdowns permitting?

Ram: Thank you - preparations for the reopening on 12 April are in full swing!

We are lucky to have a large garden at Bramley Inn, so we're setting up tables (at least 2m apart) in the front and back gardens. We want to put customers' safety first, so there'll be hand sanitiser stations, face coverings for staff and customers, visitor registers and so on.

We do hope it will be a real joy for people to come out and enjoy our Indian and Chinese menu, along with our new varieties of drinks.

We really look forward to seeing you all, thank you.

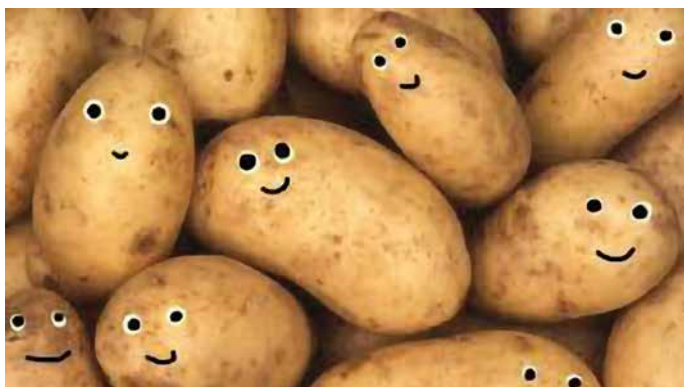
If you'd like a team or group of key workers in Bramley or Little London to be featured, please email: editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk



The refurbished bar

Last month I asked for some news from Little London and it wasn't long before **Jacqui Waller** emailed to tell me about a **potato competition** being organised in **Beach's Crescent**.

Anyone who knows Joyce and Arthur Rawlinson will know how much they are involved in the community. Arthur used to organise the Little London church events and is involved with Bramley church. Joyce is very busy with her craft activities such as flower arranging, baking and knitting. I am sure many of you will know the couple through various articles in the Bramley Magazine. Hence, it was no surprise when we got a message from the couple, about a competition they were organising for our neighbours.



The Beach's Crescent Potato Competition is running this Spring for the first time. Basically, it is a challenge to grow potatoes. We have all paid £4 per entry and that covers the cost of a pot and a potato. Any surplus funds are going to charity. We have an instruction sheet to explain what to do. On a designated date we have to deliver our pot and undisturbed potato plants back to the judges. The judges will count and weigh the potatoes from each pot. Prizes will be awarded for the greatest number of potatoes, the heaviest crop from one pot and the largest single potato.

26 entries have been received. We have seen some neighbours out shovelling up horse manure from the road and are sure others have their secret methods for growing an award-winning crop! As it is just for fun we assume there will be no untoward espionage at play!

Let's hope we are all inundated with potato recipes to help us cope with the huge potato crop our pots will provide!

Bramley Scout Group

Hello Bramley!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can't wait to return to Scouting and with the current restrictions looking likely to be lifted soon, we are already planning our next set of adventures.

Like most things, Covid has impacted our group. Having to operate with smaller group sizes, we now need more adult helpers to ensure we can still accommodate the keen young members that we have and even look to invite those that have been patiently on our waiting list for some time.

So, have you ever wanted to volunteer in your local community but never known how to get involved?

Well here's your opportunity; Bramley Scout Group is looking for help in our three sections to support our mission to provide a fun and friendly environment for young people to develop Skills For Life.

Each section meets once a week in term time. There are various options for you, from helping us out occasionally, to joining us as a fully-fledged uniformed leader. There is a level of commitment required, starting with a DBS check, but with that comes opportunity for adventure as part of our dedicated team of friendly volunteers. Whatever time you can offer us, we will be most grateful. Full support, help and training goes without saying and we can offer you new experiences, a fun team of volunteers to work alongside and to be able to mentor our members, providing them with much needed skills for life. Without help, we cannot guarantee the full re-opening of our group, which just doesn't bear thinking about.

For all comments, questions and enquiries, please contact: jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!




Covid – you've got to laugh

I'm not talking to myself, I'm having a parent-teacher conference.

What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.

What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.



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Many of us are hoping to travel abroad for a long-awaited holiday in the summer, but what if the restrictions aren't lifted? Well, Bramley resident **Stella-Sophie Ferguson** will be fine as she will be able to swim to France! Here she tells us about her challenge to **swim the English Channel**.

My husband and I moved to Bramley 10 years ago, into our first home together, and we also got married in St James Church in 2014. Back then I would have never imagined that one day I would be training and preparing myself to swim the English Channel.

It all started with a conversation at work exactly five years ago. I had a casual conversation with a colleague about life dreams and ambitions. With no hesitation I blurted out: I would love to swim the English Channel. His response to me, quite soberly, was, "Why don't you start with swimming to the Isle of Wight?" And within a few hours I had signed myself up to my first open water swim. As the saying goes 'The rest is history....'

Now, five years on from that one conversation, I find myself three months away from swimming the English Channel as part of a relay team. The English Channel swim is a distance of 21 miles/ 32 kilometres and I am in a team of six swimmers. We all have to swim at least twice for one hour each time and we must stay in the same order of swimming. That means if one person is feeling unwell, no one can replace them and we would have failed as a team. It's expected to take between 13-15 hours for us to cross the channel.



It's lovely in here, really!



Stella-Sophie after one of her open water swims

I often hear people speaking in the media about wanting to move on from 2020 and forget about it. I understand why that might be, but I treasure the fact that this year has given me the opportunity to understand again what the freedom of swimming provides me with, mentally as well as physically. Over the last 12 months, and much more than in any previous year, I have swum mostly in open water, and for the first time I have managed to swim in just a swimming costume in the middle of winter.

As part of the Channel Swim Relay challenge I'm raising money for a charity called 'Aspire' <https://www.aspire.org.uk>. Aspire is a national charity that provides practical help to people who have been paralysed by spinal cord injury. A spinal cord injury can happen to anyone at any time, and no one is prepared for how it will change their life. Aspire exists because there is currently no cure.

Small donations collectively have a huge impact and regardless of the size of your individual donation, it will make a huge difference for me and Aspire.

Please visit my JustGiving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stella-ferguson>

You can also follow my Openwater Swimming Journey on Instagram: Stella_Starfish and please reach out to me if you want to learn more about open water swimming.

I hope you support and follow me on my journey of achieving my life dream of swimming the Channel. Thank you for reading.

Hampshire Hospitals

Following a very challenging year, it is really encouraging to see light at the end of the tunnel; none more so than in our local hospital, of which we have every justification for feeling proud.

Let's look at some of its recent achievements:-

- The national press and TV advertising campaign "Look into their eyes" was all done in Basingstoke by Hampshire Hospital's staff and patients.
- Nearly 90% of staff have now had their first vaccination – with second jabs starting in the next few weeks.
- The microbiology team at Hampshire was the first non-Public Health England laboratory to start testing for COVID in February (2020) and has firmly established itself as a national leader in the field ever since.
- Thanks to investment in new technology and the innovations of frontline staff, many services have been maintained in spite of COVID – for instance, outpatients and cancer care.
- As a result of significant organisational changes, patient flow has been so improved that our emergency department is now in the top performance quartile nationally.
- Cancer treatment times have improved with the Trust now being close to achieving the national treatment time targets.
- Our hospital has a growing positive reputation nationally for its care and professionalism.

This latter point is being increasingly recognised both locally and regionally. Throughout the pandemic the leadership of the Chief Nurse at Hampshire Hospitals, Julie Dawes, has been invaluable. So it is very fitting that she now is taking on the additional role of chief nurse for the newly formed Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System, where she will help shape the future of the NHS as it moves to closer ways of working for the benefit of all of us.

One of the many consequences of the pandemic has been the growing backlog of patients waiting for elective or non-urgent treatment. While the delay has been necessary to protect people, it has meant that more people than ever are living with potentially painful conditions for far too long. Therefore, it is encouraging to know that the Trust now has realistic plans in place to achieve the national target for long waits by March of next year.

As a result of national guidance, the public consultation around the new hospital has been rescheduled for the summer; however, this is not expected to have any significant delay in its final opening. In the meantime, much work is going on to see what services and/ or treatments may be needed and where. At the same time, it is hoped that the new development will lead to more than just a hospital. By linking with local authorities, universities and businesses, the future hospital has the potential to be at the heart of a much wider health campus, with potential benefits to health, education, research and employment.

In summary, we have so much to be thankful for with our local hospital team, and especially its leadership team, for its care, kindness and professionalism.

Keith Bunker

Former Hospital Governor

Bramley School

Well...the year 2021 didn't have the dream start we all wanted! Although lockdowns are becoming fairly regular now, I think we can all agree that the most recent version of the 'school closure' was very different from the one we experienced last spring. Remote Learning was very different - expectations on schools had greatly increased, which led to greater expectations on parents. From the start of the new year to 7 March, we added nearly 200 more teachers to our staff list. We can't express sincerely enough how thankful we are to all of the parents who have been thrown in at the deep end, bypassing any of the training that comes with being a teacher.

We also want to celebrate the children. Those who have attended school have worked hard, adapted well and demonstrated our school values in all that they do. The children working from home were nothing short of incredible. We saw extremely high levels of engagement and the quality and quantity of work the children have uploaded has been excellent. Well done, children!

I would like to thank the school staff. This term has been unique and one which we hope we do not need to repeat. The balancing act of teaching in school, creating remote learning videos and packs and providing feedback on Seesaw is not easy. In addition to this we ran a breakfast and after school club, delivered laptops and iPads, created and delivered food parcels and much more. The vast hours the staff have worked is not something that I take for granted and I can honestly say that each and every one has shown unwavering dedication to the children and families we serve.

Since 8 March, it has been lovely seeing so many happy children attending school. Yet again, all of the children have shown great determination and resilience as they have adapted to the latest version of normal. They truly are a special bunch and we feel very proud of how they continue to show our values and how they represent Bramley.

Since returning to school there has been a wide range of excellent learning experiences for the children across the school. The children in early years have been applying their building skills to help the Three Little Pigs build some new homes. In Key Stage 1 the children have been learning about Australia and finding out fascinating facts about the Titanic. Year 3 have been using their geography skills to create their own treasure maps, whilst Year 4 enjoyed their launch day, learning about the culture of Japan, including sumo wrestlers and samurai. Our Year 5 have been discovering the beauty of India, including performing Bollywood dance moves, and Year 6 have been discovering the wonders of Ancient Greece from the origins of Athenian democracy to the battle-hardened city state of Sparta.

As we head towards Easter there's no time to rest as we look forward to raising money for Comic Relief and Oliver's Garden, and to Parents' Evening, Science Week and much more. Spring Term 2021 truly has been a term like no other!

Steve Moore

BRAMLEY WI

At our March meeting, which of course was held on Zoom, we had a guest speaker who has visited us before: Steve Herra, who was a Purser on the QE2 until he retired.

The evening's topic was about the Titanic. We all know what happened to that ship but Steve told some very interesting facts that we hadn't heard before. He gave a slide show and told us the history of some families that perished and others who survived. He showed us pictures of staff and passengers, and also the interior of the ship. Since that dreadful tragedy, lots of things have changed for our cruise ships, for example the lifeboat drill, the life jackets and lifeboats. I think quite a few of us would now like to go to the Titanic museum in Belfast, when we can: apparently it is amazing. Steve answered questions from the members and we then had a chat, showed the eggs that we had made from sequins and held a raffle.

A number of members have been knitting bunnies for the village; our next project is knitting or crocheting sunflowers.

Our next meeting is on 8 April, which of course will be on Zoom. It will be so nice when we can all meet up and have the meetings in the village hall.

Keep safe everyone

Jane Matthews

A Covid poem – author unknown

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
 I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the North of Kathmandu
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet, and nor, I think will you.
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye,
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
 Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this virus ends.

**The Arts Society Basingstoke**

LATEST LOCKDOWN. Are you wondering how to fill your day during the restrictions of another lockdown? Then why not join one of our fascinating monthly lectures?

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We would love you to join us for our next lecture on Wednesday 21 April 10.45 'Artemisia Gentileschi - Daughter of Rome, Painter of Europe'. Lecturer: Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe. Our website <https://theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk/Home.aspx>

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Simon Gill tells us about some events planned for Clift Meadow in 2021

By the time you read this we should all, hopefully, be one step closer to renewing face-to-face friendships and seeing family in person. It's been an exhausting year but let's not dwell on that but instead try and shine a positive light on the year ahead. Of course, all this could end up as "egg-on-face" but with a fair wind and continued excellent vaccinating by the NHS, here are a couple of tasters for your diaries.

The only 'event' we were able to organise last year was the excellent Crazy Diamonds who were rehearsing for late summer festivals. We sincerely hope to see them return this summer for a full-on two-hour live performance. More details to follow,

so please keep an eye on our Facebook page, but mid-July is the favoured date if we can make it happen.

Planning is also going ahead for a return of the Bramley Fete on **Saturday 11 September**. We hope this will be late enough to ensure that we can all make it to the Meadow safely, but not too late that we are too cold to last the course. As you read this, the Fete Committee is busy booking activities and shaping the day. As per previous years, timings will be midday to 4pm with food, refreshments and lots of entertainments and stalls. Again, more to follow as the planning takes shape.

In a few weeks' time, cricket will be back on the Meadow. Lots of work has gone into maintaining the square over the winter and each year it gets better and better. Old Basing Cricket Club are the club in situ but are always on the lookout for new members of all ages,

so please make yourself known to them if you would like a game or are just getting started out. (See contact details on page 29). They would love to hear from you. Come the winter, we hope to have the young footballers back as well.

Meanwhile, we hope to be welcoming back into the two halls all the usual activities, including the Wednesday coffee mornings which have proved so popular. If you are new to the village, it is an excellent way to meet some old hands and pick their brains. All ages are welcome and it's a good break if you are working from home.

It's been a tricky year for everyone and we hope that we shall see you back soon on the Meadow enjoying each other's company and rebuilding the community spirit that has been kept behind closed doors for long enough.



Imagine if you went for a walk in a large forest late one afternoon and got hopelessly lost. As darkness fell, how would anyone find you?

Well, that's exactly what happened to three friends in the 4,900-acre Hamsterley Forest, in County Durham. They phoned the police and one of the first things the call-handler told them to do was download the what3words app. This told them that the group's precise location was *kicked.converged.soccer* and it wasn't long before the soaked and freezing walkers were found by the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team.

what3words divides the world into 57 trillion squares, each measuring 3m by 3m (10ft by 10ft), and gives each area a unique, randomly assigned three-word address. So, the middle of Clift Meadow is *gradually.contoured.brightens*. The mathematicians among you will be interested to know that only 40,000 words were needed to provide



enough three-word combinations for every location in the world.

Last month we featured the Bramley Community First Responders and, along with other emergency services up and down the country, they are encouraging anyone with a mobile phone to download the what3words app. The app is free for both iOS and Android and works offline – making it ideal for use in areas of the UK with an unreliable data connection.

I've never had to call the emergency services but I can imagine one of the most stressful things is trying to explain exactly where you are when you are stressed and panicking. What

was the last junction I drove past? Is that Bramley on the horizon, or Silchester? By providing them with just three words, the emergency services can find your precise location. There is no ambiguity or confusion and no time is wasted in going to the wrong place.



It could just save someone's life.

Rachel Barclay Smith

PS - *sulk.held.raves* and *likely.press.fired* are both in The White House



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**Now in
Bramley**

Jeanette Fogg calls herself the 'bad-tempered old lady' who lives next to **Bramley Green Stream** on North Row, but as she explains in this article, there are plenty of good reasons to look after the stream.

I have lived next to the stream for 18 years. It's a very interesting place to live. The Council owns the land on both sides of the stream. On my side it's a very narrow strip running alongside my garden, although there is a twelve-foot strip for which the Council can't find an owner. There are no recent records and it may go far back to the Wellington Estate. Riparian responsibility is an important aspect of living alongside a stream and as there is no owner it's assumed I will let the Council know if there is a problem. Strangely, the tarmac path running alongside the stream is owned by Thames Water.

The stream was neglected for a long time but the Borough Council now take on a lot of the responsibility for the upkeep of the banks and the blockages, and they come out regularly to clean the stream and the general area. During the last clean up in September they found some baby crayfish. That was quite a discovery as the American crayfish had virtually wiped them out and they are an endangered species; I hadn't seen any for a few years. We lost all the sticklebacks and minnows during the dry weather, but they have now returned and an edible frog has made his home in the brook alongside other native frogs. (By the way, it's not actually edible, just rather large!). Willow Warblers are also attracted by the brook and come here in the summer months to breed. You can also spot tadpoles, small fish and many different varieties of dragonflies, including the Chaser, which is a huge one.

Unfortunately, the stream is an enticing area for children who like to climb in and build bridges across the water with any wood they can find. People throw debris in as well, which can restrict the flow of water: there are currently two pairs of shoes in the stream if anyone is missing any. It's a real shame because it affects the wildlife which hides in alcoves under the overhanging banks. When disturbed the banks erode due to movement and the falling earth can kill the fish and babies.



I understand why children want to play there: it's out of the way and somewhere they can play adventurous games. But I do worry that some awful tragedy will happen as children jump from one side of the bank to the other. The bank is very unstable near the bridge at the moment. I spoke to the school and they have explained my concerns very well, so hopefully the children will take greater care from now on. It's twofold, I'm worried about the wildlife and afraid for the children.

The stream relies on the rainfall to clean it out, but pollution, caused mainly by vehicle emissions, impedes the clouds from collecting moisture from the sea and so prevents rainfall. To compensate for this, the sun shines brighter but then the clouds collect too much rain and that's when we get floods. Most of our rain in the UK

comes between September and April and although it seems we have huge downpours, there is still far less water in the UK than there used to be. Our water needs are mainly taken from rivers and other waterways, and those needs are getting greater, particularly with all our hand washing!

It's all about maintaining a balance between us and nature, but that's not easy. We are the custodians of the earth and sometimes we do not do a very good job. It's vitally important to me to do my best to preserve what we have here in the village for future generations to enjoy, even if some of the wildlife is so small you have to look very long and carefully to see it. Try stopping and looking at the stream next time you go by.

When This is All Over

One of my friends is compiling a book, which will be published later this year. All profits will go to the Rennie Grove Hospice. The book is called 'When This is All Over'. My friend asked me (and 300 others) to contribute. The limit is 200 words, and I was tempted to write a little poem but it is not done yet. It has, however, made me think about what to look forward to this year. I think everyone should be looking forward and thinking positively of the future after the last grim year. In no particular order, here are some things that are keeping me going as - I hope - we get to some form of normality later this year. I hope you all have a similar list, and if not, you should make one. It lifts the spirits just writing it down!

All birthdays in my family last year were fairly low-key affairs. This year, in July, for my birthday that is in no way significant, I am going to have a family barbecue. Nothing special, just normal. We also have a significant wedding anniversary coming up. We wanted to have a big celebration for that, but even now we cannot guarantee that the coming summer will be free of restrictions so that is shelved for the time being. Does anyone know what the 41st anniversary is known as? That will be next year's project!



I have had a season ticket at my football club for 15 years and I have supported them since I was a boy. I miss the atmosphere of a live game in person. Watching players in an empty stadium on TV is miserable. I hope I can renew my ticket for next season and look forward to sitting once again in January in the freezing cold watching them lose once more. Or maybe not – need to stay positive!



Theatres are opening up again in the next couple of months. The last time we were in a theatre was at the end of February last year, which is probably the longest time we have ever gone without seeing something. We are therefore planning a trip to London for a couple of shows in the summer. And before we do, I have never looked forward so much to a haircut, available again in April.



My passport expired earlier this year so I renewed it. I do not have any immediate foreign travel planned in 2021 but just having a valid passport is a positive statement about the future, I believe.



Of course, the biggest positive thing this year has been the vaccination programme. I look forward to the second jab and the loosening of restrictions on us all. It makes so many other things possible, such as the best news of all - finally, we have a holiday booked later this year. Just a house in Cornwall with the family and an additional grandchild, arriving soon. Not everything has been on hold for the past year. Stay safe and stay positive!



Michael Luck

Covid – you've got to laugh

If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.

Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

I finished Netflix today.

What did the barista call her face mask? A coughy filter.

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March inspiration - Spring



St David's Day



Mother's Day

Bramley & Romans Floral Society

The group held a Zoom meeting on Thursday 4 March, entitled "Inspirations". Our demonstrator was Alison Mount. Because of the lack of space when the demonstrations are done from home, Alison showed six smaller teaching arrangements. All her flowers were purchased from supermarkets and the foliage came from her garden and local areas.

The first demonstration was a tree made from contorted hazel, with ivy leaves blowing in the March wind and primroses planted at its roots. There was even a nest, complete with eggs and birds.

Next, we had St David's Day, showcasing a different way to display a vase of daffodils. Mother's Day was a basket with lisianthus, spray carnations, white roses and tulips. Alison showed us how to arrange the flowers separately from their stems, adding the stems at the other end of the oasis.

The fourth demonstration was called St Patrick's Day: on top of a tall vase was a small cylinder of oasis in a coffee jar lid, which held fatsia leaves, roses, fatsia berries, gold-edged green leaves and shamrock.

The next arrangement, Easter, consisted of a delicious-looking Easter egg

balanced on an oval lid, with oasis between the top and bottom. Ivy, white lisianthus and yellow forsythia peeped out around the rim.

Finally we had a nest of spring flowers. A foam ring was covered with birch twigs and contorted hazel and decorated with hyacinth bulbs, hebe, tulips and white lisianthus.

Our next meeting is Thursday 1 April. It will be on Zoom and there will be a demonstration by Melanie Smith entitled "Postcards from France".

Eileen Gulston



St Patrick's day



Easter



Nest of Spring flowers

Knitting Circle

Although we have been unable to meet up, people have been knitting away and Jean has been able to send two bags to Knit for Peace. Jean hopes to be able to arrange an outdoor meeting in the summer when the number of people able to meet together is larger.

Hope we can meet soon.

Judith Harris



While sad to lose so many local fields, **Debbie Grey** was in favour of the proposed **Solar Farm**, until a chance meeting prompted her to do some more research. Here she tells her story.

Like most people local to Bramley I had heard of the plan to convert a huge swathe of land into a solar farm. This development would totally cover numerous beautiful fields alongside a well-used footpath. The glossy brochure from ENSO reassured us that it would include wildlife corridors and painted a picture of a rural scene with happy wildlife and sheep grazing below the low-level solar panels.

Being hugely in favour of green renewable energy, I was resigned to this being the way forward. How could I not want to do my bit to save the planet and support this move? As much as I love those fields, I could not possibly agree that solar energy was desperately needed, then object when panels were put on “my” fields. No, I was not going to be a classic NIMBY!

Fast forward a few months, and a major event in my life and a chance meeting made me think again. As the pandemic continued and I faced a personal serious health issue, my daily walk became my safety valve, my way to find peace of mind in increasingly troubled times. The highlight of that walk was right in the middle of the two fields that were to become the solar farm, walking up the gentle slope past the old oak tree towards the long dead “lightning tree”. The open space in sun, rain or snow was a place to pause, look around, take a deep breath and carry on. At times I tried to picture what it might look like covered in solar panels, with a fence either side of the path, and I convinced myself it would still be lovely, just different.

One day I met a man who was taking photos by the tree. We got chatting and, following his suggestion, I took a walk around the footpath at Little London. Through the little piece of woodland next to the solar farm I encountered the usual view of an open field through the trees, but the view to the other side was of a great big fence covered in green sheeting and topped with CCTV cameras and lots of “keep out” and warning type signs. Up close, the panels, which I had only seen from a distance alongside motorways, were massive. I had constantly heard the mantra “they are only three

feet tall”, and maybe they are at the front, but they slope upwards and are easily much taller than my 5’6” height at the back.

This is how I now picture it will feel walking through “my field” - fences, cameras and signage along each side and huge black, glassy looking objects as far as the eye can see.

My little expedition led me to do more research and with a real image of the size of these things in my head it became much easier to picture the sheer size and scale of the Bramley Solar Farm, which is at least twenty times the size of the one at Little London, in fact one of the largest in the country. Then I started hearing about the battery storage area which would be in the field adjacent to Electricity Road, the size of 75 shipping containers.

I questioned the widely spread opinion/rumour that if permission for the solar farm was not given then housing would be built on the land, but this is simply not proved. I learnt that there are many other locations that solar panels can be sited, not resulting in the loss of our beautiful ancient landscape, and encroaching on well-used and loved local footpaths.

I am no longer sitting on that fence. Despite my earlier reservations I am firmly opposed to the installation of this blot on the landscape. I have become increasingly aware that many people, like me, have no real idea of the scale of this project and the damage it will cause to our wildlife and way of life. I would urge anyone else “sitting on the fence” to do your own research and consider other options before thinking “we need renewable energy, this is the way forward”. Walk those fields and paths and try to picture what it will be like. Speak to the local gamekeepers and people who live next to existing solar installations and listen to what they have to say. Take time to care about what is happening on our doorstep.

As an ironic footnote to my story, since moving to Bramley 14 years ago I have made several enquiries about installing solar panels on the roof of my small home, only to be told I can’t because I live in a conservation area. My tiny roof would probably only take 4 to 6 panels yet they are considering locating thousands a stone’s throw away on good quality agricultural land.



One of Debbie’s favourite walks



The solar panels up close

Enso Energy explain why their proposed Bramley Frith Solar Farm is so important for the future of our Borough.

Climate change is a serious threat to our planet. We know that local people recognise this, and so does Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who declared a Climate Emergency in September 2019 and are working to make Basingstoke and Deane a carbon neutral borough by 2030. The Borough as it stands only generates 39.9MW from renewable energy sources*. The proposed solar farm and battery storage facility will more than double the amount of renewable generation within the Borough and support Basingstoke and Deane in achieving that goal.

We completely understand that there are local concerns regarding the size of the project and the impact on the local environment. We'd like to provide further information on those two issues, all of which can be found in the planning application via the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website.

As part of the planning application, we are required to conduct an ecological assessment. The assessment found that the solar farm will make a considerable (37.45% in habitat units and 23.25% in hedgerows) positive net gain on biodiversity. Our proposals have many significant biodiversity advantages, including the reconnection of ancient woodlands through new planting, to create a woodland bridge between habitats. Solar farms support biodiversity by encouraging small animals access to the land, this is achieved by planting bird and pollinator insect friendly plants and wildflowers around the modules. We're proposing to create a Wildflower Avenue along the Brenda Way Public footpath and the reinstatement of an historic hedgerow on either side of a 20m wide public footpath corridor. We're also planning to plant substantial tree belts

to create green corridors across the site, to reinforce the perception of a solar farm within a woodland setting. The land will depart from being farmed intensively and will see significantly increased ecological diversity. This is a different scheme with a different approach to biodiversity to the site at Little London.

During the public consultation process a number of residents expressed concerns about the scale and size of the development. The submitted scheme has a reduction in the area of land that is to be used to create renewable energy, 'Field 3' has had its panels removed and replaced with grassland habitat and woodland. We are aware that there is concern locally with regards 'the battery storage area which would be in the field adjacent to Electricity Road, the size of 75 shipping containers', it's important to note that this is unrelated to Bramley Frith Solar and is not being proposed by Enso Energy.

Enso Energy is committed to making the idea of a country run on renewable energy, a reality. Bramley Frith Solar Farm will supply 49.9MW of clean renewable electricity to the National Grid, and will supply enough renewable energy to meet the electrical needs of 17,000 homes locally. The anticipated CO2 displacement is around 25,000 tonnes per annum, which represents an emission saving equivalent of a reduction in 8,000 cars on the road every year.

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-energy-planning-database-monthly-extract>

Telephone: 01452 764 685

Email: enquiries@ensoenergy.co.uk

Address: Top Floor, The Priory, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL11 4HR



There has been some confusion about the application for a **battery storage site** along Minchens Lane. The application has been made by Penso Power Limited and is separate from the proposal for a solar farm. This letter from **Penso's CEO Richard Thwaites** provides some more information

We [PENSO] plan to build a standalone grid-connected battery energy storage development close to the SSE / National Grid GSP Bramley substation in Minchens Lane.

The site will be used to support the UK electricity system operator, offering balancing services to help the system match supply with demand. We won't link to any specific renewable generation site, but energy storage is considered to be an enabler of more renewable generation in our electricity system. You are probably aware that an issue with most renewable generation is intermittency (no generation when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing), and the generation from solar and wind

can often be inversely related with periods of high electricity demand. This is why effective energy storage is considered to be a crucial facilitator of the transition to a low carbon electricity system. Energy storage has received government policy support and is a key part of the government and National Grid's plans to meet the UK's Net Zero commitments.

There is no link between our project and the Enso scheme whatsoever. Enso and Penso Power are entirely separate entities with no common shareholders and the sites are not linked in any way. Our project is currently in the planning process and public consultation is ongoing.

Thank you to Pete Barlow for allowing me to publish this letter. For up to date information, keep an eye on the Bramley Development Facebook page.



Little Apples

As schools have returned to accepting all pupils as part of the lockdown exit strategy, it has been really lovely to welcome back all our Little Apples, as some had been shielding at home until recently.



This half term we are learning about things that grow and looking for signs of spring in the Little Apples garden. We have seen flowers and birds and heard the birdsong. Inside we have had a farm with a farm shop selling real fruit and vegetables in our role-play area, followed by a garden centre where the sensory experience of playing with compost has been great for the children, not to mention messy! The children are learning about the growing cycle of plants and what they need, including pollinators like bees and butterflies.

For Mothers' Day, the children made cards and cupcakes which we hope all our families enjoyed, and we will also be making pizzas to complement our healthy eating learning.

Soon we will be starting our build up to Easter. The children will be enjoying Easter egg hunts and egg and spoon races in the garden, and craft that focuses on new life and hope, as well as some traditional and yummy baking. We will also be planting flowers for our pollinators and creating a natural habitat area, plus growing vegetables for our children to monitor and enjoy.

Around Easter, we will begin to allocate sessions for next academic year, so please get in touch or visit our website www.littleapples.org if you are interested in registering a child.

In line with Government policies for Early Years Education, Little Apples accepts all children from two years old. If you would like to register a child or pop up for a visit, please contact Jo on 07598 588460 or manager@littleapples.org



What is a nature reserve?

If you've ever visited a nature reserve, you'll know how special they can be. Nature reserves are treasure troves of wildlife wonders, often hosting exciting rarities which have sadly become uncommon in the wider landscape. They enrich our lives, are essential for wildlife and form part of our natural heritage.

The Wildlife Trusts collectively put a great deal of time and resource into protecting the rich and diverse habitats in our nature reserves – part of our effort to create a thriving natural world. By caring for these unique, ecologically valuable sites we safeguard them, and the wildlife that depends on these places, for the future.



Barton Meadows Nature Reserve by Martin de Retuerto

The Wildlife Trusts manage around 2,300 nature reserves across the UK, ranging from an entire mountain in Scotland to a single ancient hawthorn tree in Norfolk. Locally, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust manage over 50 nature reserves, including expansive moorlands, ancient forests, stretches of coastline, wildflower meadows and small patches of wildness in urban areas.

In our nature reserves, wildlife is the top priority. You may notice that they differ from your standard country park; in some cases certain areas may be closed to the public, or dogs might not be allowed or have to be kept on leads. Some species are highly sensitive to disturbance – if you see a 'no entry' sign, it could be because ground nesting birds, vulnerable to trampling, are just beyond. If we ask for dogs to be kept on leads, it might be that wetland birds are roosting nearby, or cattle are grazing.

Our Reserves Officers are responsible for looking after the sites in the Trust's care. They are experts in their field, and they manage their reserves sensitively to benefit specific species or improve habitats. Sometimes, old-fashioned methods like coppicing and hay cutting are employed, or conservation grazing takes place to encourage certain plants. This will often be explained in signage as you enter the nature reserve.

We want all our nature reserves to reach their full potential, so while you're walking in them and enjoying the wildlife, take note of any signs you see, and encourage those you're with to behave responsibly. With the cooperation and support of local communities, our nature reserves can create invaluable opportunities for wildlife, and people, to flourish.

To find out more about our nature reserves visit our website: hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves

Bramley Parish Council reflect on a year like no other

What a year! As I write this report (on 11 March) for the Bramley Magazine, it is a year since the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus and about a year since I last attended my office. At the time I thought I might be working at home for a couple of months. However, it has been 12 months, and by the time this article has been published I expect I could still be a couple of months away from returning to the office.

I had intended to use this article to write about the sterling work that the Parish Council does on behalf of the village, most of it unseen, but certainly helping the parish and a number of organisations within it. However, by the time you read this, we expect to be heading towards local elections being held on 6 May. These cover not only the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council but also the Parish Council, so we have to be careful that we are not seen to be electioneering or canvassing for individuals or parties. The Parish Council itself operates independently of any party politics, in fact we ban it from our meetings, but we are under the same controls as other elected and government bodies. This is known as the Purdah period, with the key part of the period being that we **“should not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.”** The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.

So, I decided to look elsewhere for inspiration and to reflect on the last 12 months of COVID.

C stands for Community. Over the last year we have seen many of the community facilities impacted by the lockdowns, with our halls not being used, sports facilities such as Clift Meadow and the football pitch laying idle from organised games and schools mainly closed, to name but a few. However, I have seen an increase in the community spirit from the residents of the parish, with people volunteering to help others, people talking to each other in the streets (socially distanced of course!), keeping an eye out for neighbours, and many more people out walking or running and exploring the wonderful countryside around us.

O stands for Optimism. Just looking at the cricket pitch on Clift Meadow, and the time people have put into making that ready for the summer gives me optimism that we can start to return to a level of normality – after all, the very essence of an English summer is seeing cricket played on a village green!

V stands for Values. I personally think that the last year has seen many people re-assess the values they live by, not focussing on the material items, such as new cars, TVs and latest gadgets, but looking at the importance of seeing and

spending time with family and friends. Personally, I’m hoping to spend less time commuting than I used to, and more time enjoying the area around us and meeting up with family.

I stands for Impressed. I spend my working days on various Zoom meetings, phone calls and dealing with emails and thankfully this is, in the main, undisturbed, apart from the odd Amazon delivery! What I have been impressed by is how many people have coped with busy day jobs alongside managing home-schooling and keeping children entertained. I think a lot of people have started to appreciate more the hard job that teachers have keeping 20+ kids focussed.

D stands for Development. As a village we have seen many developments over the years and whether we agree with them or not, as a village we need to ensure that people moving into our wonderful village are made to feel welcome and part of the Bramley “family”. Development also brings about change, and we must embrace change that is good for the community, and look to challenge where it is not.

Water issues – There is some Council business which we feel we should report on, however. The Parish Council has for some years been working hard to highlight the sewerage issues in the village, with Thames Water and the Borough Council. This work is finally beginning to bear some fruit, with Thames Water engineers looking hard at the issues and possible solutions to them, and the Borough Council beginning to listen to Parish Council concerns and how this should be borne in mind when considering any further development in Bramley. Bramley PC has recently submitted a history of the issues to officers and Cabinet members at the Borough Council, ahead of a meeting with Thames Water and the Borough Council. The history can be viewed online at www.bramley-pc.gov.uk/sewerage-issues-update-march-2021/

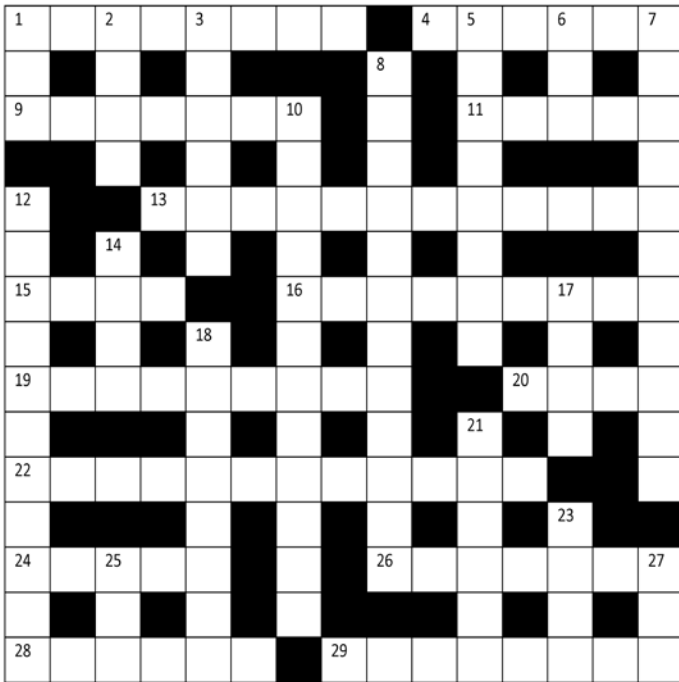
Meetings – Parish Council business carries on through the election period and the next meetings are the Planning Committee on Tuesday 13 April, with Full Council on Tuesday 20 April. Both meetings will be held online and further details will be available nearer the time on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

In closing, remember the Parish Council is here to serve the village and the community within. We welcome feedback on what we do or could do, or how we can help, and as such there are many ways to keep in touch, either through the Parish Clerk or attending our regular meetings. Further details can be found at our website www.bramley-pc.gov.uk where you can also find the minutes of previous meetings which will help to explain some of the work that we do and local community activities that we have supported.

Cllr Alan Munday

Cryptic Crossword No: 47

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Dasher rips tern apart. (8)
- 4 On land, broadcast to make certain. (6)
- 9 Period around it at a way to excite. (7)
- 11 Apart from cleaning, Daz technically can reveal pyramid builder. (5)
- 13 Colour and flowing sounding fruit. (12)
- 15 Use chopper around fifty to make spindle. (4)
- 16 Element or theatre. (9)
- 19 Fighter sounding like an ape. (9)
- 20 I confess to finding sacred image. (4)
- 22 Feathered species, small and smelly perhaps. (12)
- 24 Commando of the turtle variety perhaps. (5)
- 26 Disregard arrange electing to remove first person. (7)
- 28 Slop headline. (6)
- 29 Is a run worth your hiding one described as not deserving. (8)

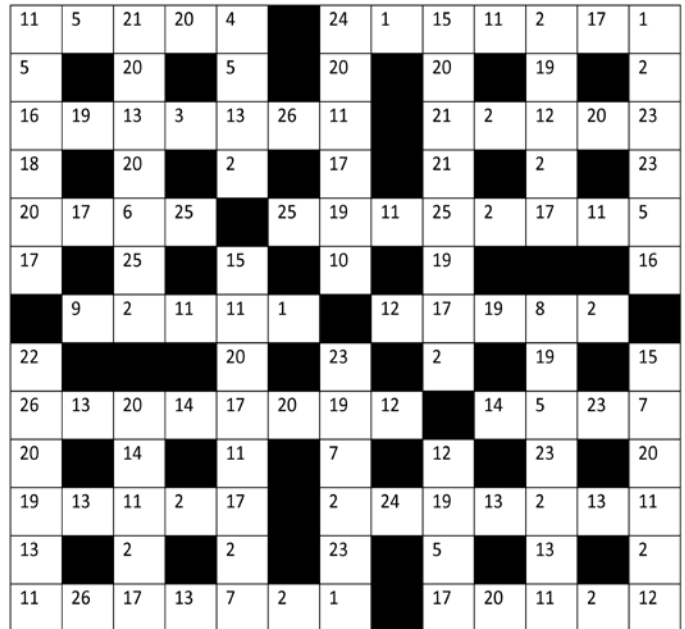
Down

- 1 Espana has its hidden spring. (3)

- 2 Broadcast rule for precipitation. (4)
- 3 Close to ten early discoveries found inside. (6)
- 5 Look soundly at road perhaps for flight of steps. (8)
- 6 A state where the bowler is ecstatic but not so the batsman. (3)
- 7 Text mens ice for thrills. (11)
- 8 US state people around small room for a calling off. (12)
- 10 Houdini, perhaps, key to sorry person. (12)
- 12 Foremen, perhaps about to make workforce pay. (11)
- 14 Low colour. (4)
- 17 Train can reveal a people. (4)
- 18 Incomers at a port perhaps. (8)
- 21 AA dog I used slowly. (6)
- 23 Contestant found hidden exam. (4)
- 25 Theres nothing in love initially (3)
- 27 Even Tolstoy had a plaything. (3)

CodeWord No: 33

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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News from Butter Daisy

What a fun-filled month it has been at Butter Daisy Nursery, with lots to celebrate!



We started off the month with Chinese New Year and the children coloured various pictures of oxen and dragons. We moved paint around a red and yellow mess-free painting table too, in order to colour-in a picture of an ox. Following this, we decided to make our own dragon masks to wear!



Valentine's Day was next and we enjoyed using our senses to explore a Valentine's Day sensory jelly tray as well as a Valentine's Day themed water and ice tray. The children used their hands as well as spoons and bowls to scoop and pour the glittery water and heart shaped sequins! The children tried out a Valentine's experiment where they watched love hearts made out of baking soda react and fizz when adding vinegar, which was very impressive. Some of the children were so eager to taste the love hearts, so we made some heart shaped ice to taste instead.

Finally, we celebrated Pancake Day, where we enjoyed exploring a flour sensory tray. We used bowls and spoons to scoop up the flour. Following this we decided to decorate our own pancakes using glue and paint to drizzle a sticky sauce on top! We incorporated the pancakes into our roleplay by practicing our flipping skills with the pans before serving up our tasty treats. We also had an imaginative picnic with the dolls and teddies; feeding them a variety of 'food'. We discussed our food likes and dislikes and learned what makes a healthy balanced diet. We all agreed that pancakes were our favourite and we enjoyed eating some real pancakes for pudding too, which were super yummy!

The Priory

At a time when COVID is having an impact on the way schools can teach, including limiting the opportunity for children to visit sites, attractions and areas of specific learning interest, at the Priory Primary school we have taken the decision to invest in a range of new technology which will allow the children to virtually visit anywhere in the world. The 30 new VR headsets, purchased via the school's hardworking PTA, and thanks to the very generous contributions made by the school's community, have proved a really exciting addition to the equipment that the school already owns. Now our pupils can take a virtual trip to the Sahara Desert to support their knowledge on global biomes: perhaps they will stop over at the pyramids to view inside the Pharaoh's tomb as part of their Ancient Egyptian topic; maybe they will return to school via an underwater experience that will inspire their creative writing. The sky is the limit! Well, perhaps not, because we can even take a trip to Mars to see the landing of the NASA rover.

The children and teachers are really excited to incorporate this exciting equipment into our daily learning and to continue with our vision of inspiring a love of learning.



Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF)

– your local disability charity has launched a brand-new website.

<https://www.bddf.org.uk> is the address of our new website. It contains information about the charity, our services and events. There is a whole section dedicated to disability signpost information, resources and an amazing gallery full of photos of past events. You can use the sign-up form to become a (free) Member of BDDF to ensure you receive our regular newsletters and details of our free services, such as mobility-improving yoga, social walks, coffee mornings, etc.

As the disability champions for Basingstoke we have links with statutory bodies who regularly ask us to participate in planning stages of services which are important to people with a disability. As a member of BDDF you will be offered the opportunity to be part of these equality connections within the community, ensuring accessibility, diversity and inclusivity are at the forefront of the decision-making process.

On Friday 26 March we held an online disability awareness and information day, packed with information about the charity services available within Basingstoke to anyone who is affected by disability, either directly or as a carer. Over 35 local organisations got involved and created a short video showcasing their services. This is available to watch now via our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Get in touch and keep up to date via email info@bddf.org.uk or via Facebook Messenger. If you do not have internet access please call 01256 423869 to be added to our postal mailing list, leaving your home address, name and telephone number. Information on all our free services is updated regularly on our social media and website.

From Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees

Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, is a popular tourist destination, but few western tourists were seen there forty years ago when Probus Club member, Paul Flint, became a regular visitor.

Cities like Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, have become tourist destinations. The Castle overlooks the Vltava river with its eighteen bridges. Wenceslas Square is a large rectangular area with traffic on both sides. Rising gently, at the top is the statue of the saint, surrounded by tourists.

When I first visited Czechoslovakia, it was part of the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. The 1968 Prague Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek, attempted some reforms but was quickly overwhelmed by invading Warsaw Pact troops, protecting the country from an imagined invasion of the Sudetenland by West German and NATO troops.

The Russian military presence was everywhere, with armed soldiers walking the streets and driving their Moskvitch and Lada cars. The small number of foreigners found it difficult to distinguish them from the local police who also wore khaki uniforms and carried automatic weapons, but drove Skoda Estelles.

Democracy started in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright Vaclav Havel. 73,000 guest Russian troops had to leave.

Before then, passports recorded how much Sterling had to be changed into Czech Crowns. There were four levels of exchange rates; the official rate, a commercial rate, a tourist rate and the black-market rate. The black-market rate was around four times better than the tourist rate, such was the attraction of Western hard currencies. Special shops had tempting western goods that could only be bought with hard currency – with no questions asked.

Prague airport had four departure security checks. Receipts were checked to ensure that the total did not exceed the money recorded in the passport. If greater, it proved that money had been exchanged on the black-market and goods were seized. Czech currency could not be exported, so any remaining Crowns were confiscated. The relief, before take-off, sitting in the British Airways plane, was palpable.

Passports were carried constantly and kept each night by the hotel for checking by the police. When visiting business premises of any sort, passports had to be left with the reception.

I regularly attended meetings in Prague as I worked for a company that was a UK venture partner for selling and servicing Czechoslovak made printing presses. European dealer meetings were held at the factory near to Brno, in the south of the country. There were reminders here of the Soviet occupation, with army tanks set on plinths, and in villages with no street lighting, there were masts equipped with loudspeakers. To entertain their guests, trips were made to glass engravers and vineyards, which produced some excellent wines and champagne-style products.

During one visit we collected a rental car and drove to Brno. On the way we were stopped by a Russian soldier aiming a machine gun at us. Fortunately, we had with us a lady from the trading company who spoke Russian, but I wondered what might have happened to us if we had been on our own.

Factory personnel were not supposed to fraternise with westerners but, surprisingly, one invited several to his home.



Wenceslas Square

Everyone kept a pig in their back garden which they would butcher for pork and to make sausages. Representatives from the factory and trading company visited the UK annually. Despite the fact that they were forbidden to accept entertainment, over the years we took them to West End musicals and dined well.

Gradual democratisation raised quality standards making Czech products more acceptable to Western markets. There was substantial investment by Western companies in Czechoslovak businesses, with possibly the most well-known being the takeover of Skoda by Volkswagen. As the owner of two Skoda cars over the last six years I can certify their reliability and quality.

The Velvet Revolution worked.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



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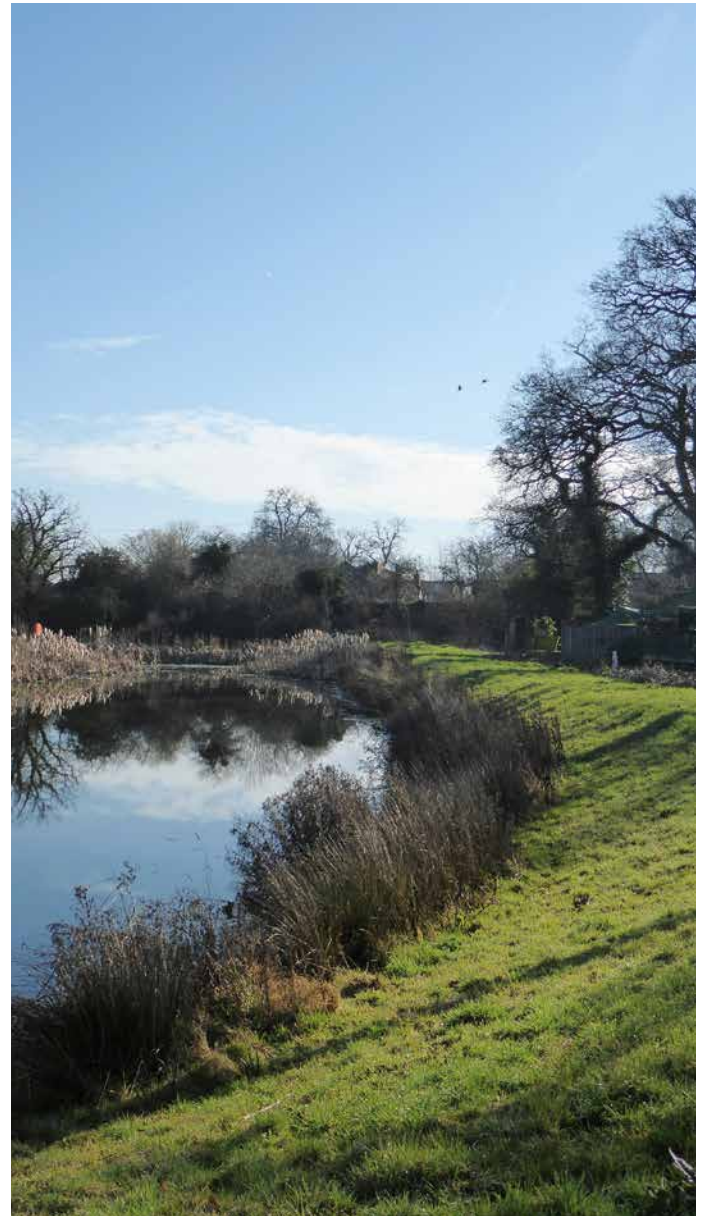
The development of the Covid vaccine has shown how much can be achieved when scientists work together. **John Stubbs** explains how the similar co-operation and investment could help our environment, in **Climate Changed**

It always used to be quite a problem, talking shop with climate-change deniers. A barrage of figures, quotes from the gurus, heartfelt appeals – all bounced off their implacable defences. One way or another, though, over this past year or so, voices asserting perpetual growth, environmental benignity and Panglossian perfection now seem to be much less heard. That's good, it shows that evidence and reasoned discussion can have a real effect. It's not just the distraction of a pandemic: that has, if anything, reinforced the concept of our ultimate vulnerability.

As dangerous as, or even trickier than denial, though, is the other position of buckling at the weight and range of urgent climate issues; they can't all be fixed, so there's not much point trying, is there? What's one more coalmine? If we don't do it, someone else will. We're certainly making things a lot more difficult by delaying measures, and it's always too easy to find reasons for favouring the status quo – but the essence of current scientific opinion is that no, it's not too late. Never have more people had an understanding of the problems of climate change, and never have there been so many effective measures that can be deployed.

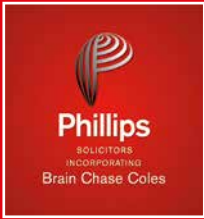
In developing vaccines, the benefits of international scientific cooperation, funding and logistics have been quite spectacular, in the same way that for instance the worldwide action on ozone depletion worked. Sure, climate change is much, much more difficult – but in no other way can real progress be made. Of course there's great benefit in personal measures – we mostly have a pretty good idea what we ought to be doing, but collectively we can influence the really major issues that must be fixed, not just changing the light bulbs and insulating the loft. Industrial carbon emissions are fundamental to the problem. There are lots of ways of cutting them: none should be ignored, but the trick will be to boost the most effective ones that hit the big emitters, and work soonish. New technologies need to be adopted – for instance in cement and steel production, and in agriculture: basic methods used for the last thousand years can't be expected to serve now tonnages ramp up worldwide, as they must. In energy generation, for instance, wind barely registered ten years back – now it can supply 20% of UK electricity.

And it's not primarily a science or engineering problem. The drive of non-disruptive technology is essential, but the economics must work. Worldwide, at present governments provide some 5 trillion dollars in perverse subsidies – finance that supports industries and practices that perpetuate carbon emissions. A fraction of that spent on best practice would be repaid many times over. In the US, more is spent on beer for the 4th July celebrations than their annual budget for nuclear fusion. The UK Treasury has sponsored two major reports, both of which stress the need for better measures of performance than GDP: by this yardstick, our national product could be increased by paying people to chop down every tree in the country. The fact is that the value of natural resources must be accounted for – the way things are, they're pretty much taken as inexhaustible. Pension funds, insurers and investment companies can take the longer-term view



to assess the real costs of fossil fuels, and should be seen to be using their influence: if stuff becomes uninsurable, is it a good investment? Accounting practices that favour businesses valuing tangible assets, like buildings and oil, over those that have come to be more useful to an enterprise such as new ideas, data, and skills, have to change. How can it be right that spending on research is shown in the accounts as a cost on profit? Industries need to be more forthcoming with details of their emissions, here or abroad, plus the emissions consequent on their operations: not so simple, but important.

Covid-19 has shown how rapidly things can change, as well as how people can adjust in response. One certainty is that the overarching imperatives of climate change demand substantially different forms of energy supply, agriculture, transport, and manufacturing processes: inevitably some such upheavals will be what politicians call 'difficult' – that is, less than popular. The financial stimulus packages to be launched by the major economies post Covid-19 need to be directed towards both new and established green technology, and must aim to cut the influence of fossil fuel industries. Whole new industries can be grown, with the prospect of increased employment and real, beneficial growth. In a time-honoured phrase of John Maynard Keynes - *the difficulty lies, not in the new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones.*



Property disputes involving unmarried couples



Simon Arneaud

As more and more people choose to live together rather than marry, there has been an increase in the number of disputes between separating couples.

One of the biggest issues for these people is their interest in and right to occupy the home they had previously lived in as a couple. Other situations can also involve inherited property and property purchased for investment.

Many people do not realise that unmarried cohabiting couples do not have the same amount of legal protection as those who are married.

While property disputes can be complicated, Simon Arneaud, who is an experienced dispute resolution solicitor, is on hand to help you.

“Property ownership disputes are often governed by a piece of legislation called The Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 – often known as TOLATA for short,” explained Simon.

TOLATA gives the Court the power to determine what share of the property each

person is entitled to. It can force the sale of a property and it can make an order where one person refuses to leave the property but allows the other to regain access.

“If the property is owned in joint names the Court’s starting point will usually be, unless one party can provide compelling evidence such as, for example a signed agreement, to order that the sale proceeds for that property should be divided in equal shares,” said Simon.

“In circumstances where a person says they are entitled to a greater than 50% share, despite the property being held as joint tenants, it will be up to that person to prove why they are entitled to a greater share.”

“When a property is in one person’s name the court will generally state that they are the sole owner. However, the non-owning person may still be able to establish an interest in the property, if it can be shown that the couple shared a common intention that the property would be jointly owned.”

If you would like to know more or set up a Zoom meeting, or if necessary meet in person, to discuss a property ownership matter, please get in touch with Simon by calling 01256 854667, emailing simond.arneaud@phillips-law.co.uk or visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk

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Mondays	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School 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
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Slimming World</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<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>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 6.30pm & 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga with Sam 6.45pm & 8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<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>Lunch Club 2nd Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Yoga for Sleep and Stress 1st Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pregnancy yoga 6.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Activ8 youth club Years 3,4,5 and 6: 4pm - 5.30pm Years 7 8 and 9: 5.30pm - 7pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Petite Dance 6.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Cross House
<i>Muddy Fingers 10:00 - 10:50am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Pilates 11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall

Saturdays	
<i>Petite Dance</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	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@gmail.com	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Colette Bibby		colette@bdyc.org.uk	
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell Ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Bramley Out of School Club/Holiday Club	Julie Belam	07711 339306	info@bramleyoutofschoolclub.com www.bramleyoutofschoolclub.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater and Jayne White	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Caterpillar Music	Jasmine McCarthy	07952 935021	jasmine.mccarthy@caterpillarmusic.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	John Huntingdon		john.huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			https://sites.google.com/site/loddonsports/	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hatha Yoga	Jacqui Morris	07539 432228	jacqui.morris28@gmail.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyfingersgardenclub.co.uk	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
Slimming World	Casey	07950 838937	ww.slimmingworld.co.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Julie Wilson		juliebelam12@gmail.com	See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcoles37@gmail.com	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	
o-5s club	Olivia Shepherd	07976 131638	Omshep@outlook.com	

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