

February 2022

The

# BRAMLEY

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Magazine

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# The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and  
Little London

**February 2022**

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

Cover photo: Sunrise from the Church  
Tower by Jonathan Barclay Smith

I wonder if you are reading this on a palindrome day, a day when the date can be read the same way backwards and forwards. If your deliverer got the magazine to you early, you may be reading it on the first palindrome day of the month – 2/2/22. If the magazine has been gathering dust for a few weeks (surely not!!) then perhaps it is already the 22nd. That is a palindrome however you write it: 22/02/2022 or 22/2/22 or, if you are American and write the month first, 2/22/22. As the 22nd falls on a Tuesday, you won't be surprised to know it has been nicknamed Twosday.

When I was a Brownie (way back in the last century) 22 February was the day we celebrated Thinking Day, which was also the joint birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout and Guide movement, and his wife Olave. I recall that we all had to bring in a 2p coin which we placed on the floor in a pattern. One year we formed the number 88, the age of Lady Baden Powell that year. Things have moved on since my day. It is now called World Thinking Day to emphasise the global nature of the celebration, which encompasses ten million girls worldwide, and I imagine the 2p donation has increased with inflation. I must admit I don't recall thinking about weighty issues when I was in the Brownies. I was probably more concerned about whether I would have time to buy sweets from the nearby shop after the meeting. Nowadays, Brownies and Guides are encouraged to think about the big issues affecting them and their global community, with previous World Thinking Days tackling the subjects of poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and access to education.

Clift Meadow, with the help of local residents, has been doing its bit for the environment by planting several trees, as you can see on pages 16 and 17. The WI joined in too, and their article can be found on page 10. Perhaps you can admire these new trees while sitting on the NHS bench donated by the Parish Council. Their update on local issues is on page 11. We are fortunate to have good schools and nurseries in this area, providing our children with access to a well-rounded education. They have all been busy tackling subjects ranging from volcanoes to pirates, as well as understanding their mental health and learning about Chinese New Year. Catch up with all their news on pages 10 and 23.

Finally, do join me in giving a warm welcome to our new Rector, Mark Anderson, and his family who moved into the Vicarage just before Christmas. I am sure you will get to know them either at St James's Church or as you see them doing the school run and visiting the bakery and the One Stop. We will celebrate Mark's Installation Service in the next issue of the magazine but, in the meantime, you can learn a bit more about him on page 8.

Best Wishes

**Rachel**

Joint Editor

No one can pass through life, any more than he can pass through a bit of country, without leaving tracks behind, and those tracks may often be helpful to those coming after him in finding their way.

**Robert Baden-Powell**

Material for the March issue to be sent (preferably by email) to the editor no later than 14 February please.

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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](http://www.stjamesbramley.com), for any last minute changes.**

**Church diary for February**

**... and into March**

<b>6th</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>13th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>20th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Morning Worship – St James
<b>27th</b>	<b>Last Sunday before Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James

<b>6th</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Matins (BCP) – St James
<b>13th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Holy Communion – St James
<b>20th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b>
9:00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10:30	Morning Worship – St James

**Services at our neighbouring churches**

**February**

<b>6th</b>	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>
10:00	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
10:00	Family Service – St Mary's Stratfield Saye
10:00	Family Service – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
<b>11th</b>	<b>Friday</b>
4:30pm	Messy Church Sherfield Park Community Centre
<b>13th</b>	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>
10:00	Morning Worship – Online/St Leonard's

<b>20th</b>	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>
10:00	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
6:30pm	Evensong – St Mary's Hartley Wespall
<b>27th</b>	<b>Last Sunday before Lent</b>
10:00	Together in Worship – Online/St Leonard's
<b>March</b>	
<b>6th</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>
10:00	Holy Communion – Online/St Leonard's
10:00	Family Service – St Mary's Stratfield Saye
10:00	Family Service – St Mary's Hartley Wespall



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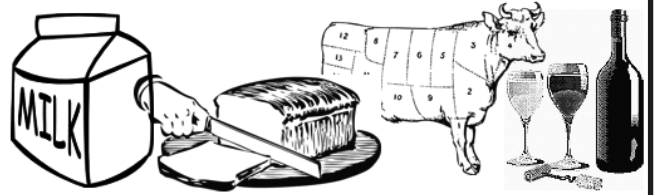
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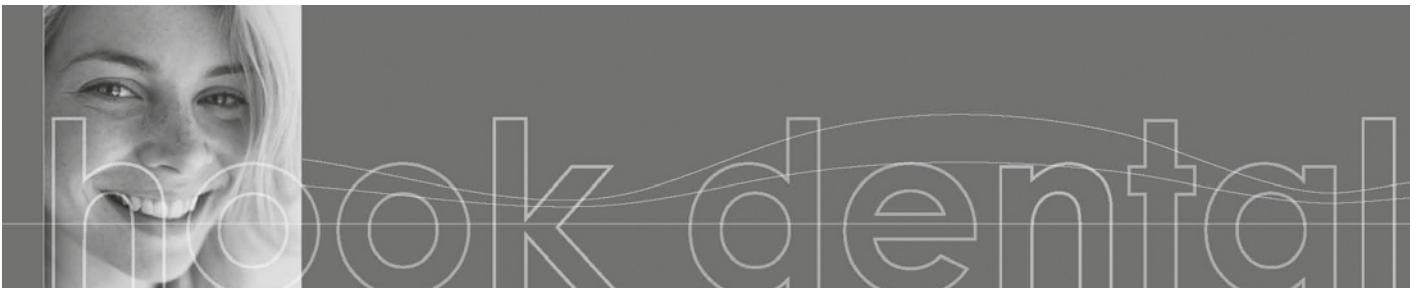
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**J**esus - at the heart of all things new, but still the same yesterday, today and forever

As I write this letter, 2022 is still a new year and many of us are still exchanging greetings with friends and colleagues. Yet, as you read this we will be fast approaching the 2nd anniversary of the outbreak of what in 2020 was an unknown virus called Covid19. By now we could be worrying about the latest variant, but at the same time we've become well-used to the same old practices of handwashing, mask wearing and the occasional need for periods of isolation.

Whilst some of us love routine, others prefer the excitement of all things new. In reality, life is a mixture of both, and we all need to find a way to navigate what is thrown at us. For our Benefice this is a time of change as we welcome our new Rector, the Reverend Mark Anderson, licensed by the Bishop of Basingstoke on 17 January. As with most new arrivals, whilst for sure there's much excitement, there are also a few nerves as we wait to see the



Revd Karen West

changes his ministry will usher in.

It would be surprising if Mark too didn't share that mixed sense of excitement and nerves. Both the original advertisement and the Bishop of Basingstoke's 'charge' made very clear the size of his challenge. Our local communities are growing by the day and there's a big job to be done, even if that job doesn't fall totally on Mark's shoulders! However, those tasked with making the appointment were delighted to find someone who evidenced well the experience and ability to lead the ministry team and

whom we are confident will work effectively with our four church families to communicate the hope and saving grace of Jesus.

And yet, whatever the inevitable changes that Mark's appointment will bring, in essence his challenge is little different to that which previous Rectors of our churches over the past hundreds of years have faced. We serve the same Jesus who, in the midst of upheavals of all kinds for our world and for us as individuals, remains the same - yesterday, today and forever.

You may ask why is that important - let me try and explain:

**Yesterday:** it is crucial that Jesus Christ be the same yesterday as he is today because yesterday is when Jesus Christ showed us in history what he is really like.

**Today:** it is crucial that Jesus Christ be the same today as he was yesterday because today is when we can enjoy a living relationship with him, relating to him as the person we know by reading about his life and work yesterday.

**Tomorrow:** it is crucial that Jesus Christ be the same tomorrow as he was yesterday and today because all our hope for everlasting joy hangs ultimately on relating to him, not just his gifts.

So, for Mark - and for you too - it's good to remember Jesus's promise to remain on-hand whenever we need him. If you don't yet know Jesus for yourself, Mark and our church families would be delighted to tell you more and introduce you.

**Revd Karen West**

As Karen's reflection reminds us, change is constant and, in the midst of such change, we may feel anxious that things are out of our control. And yet whatever is going on, we should always be 100% confident to trust in God. Here are some verses from the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament (Chapter 3, vv5-7) that remind us of this.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;

he's the one who will keep you on track.

Don't assume that you know it all.

Run to God!

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In this month's **Meet the Neighbours** we are delighted to learn a bit more about our new Rector, the **Reverend Mark Anderson**, who moved into the Vicarage just before Christmas.

**Bramley Magazine (BM): Mark, what made you apply for the role of Rector?**

**Mark:** The church has a passion to be part of the community and that attracted me: Bramley and the surrounding parishes are beautiful places to live and work and I feel blessed God has brought me on a journey which has provided us with such a lovely place to live. It felt like a place where I could contribute and make a positive difference. The church has so much potential to be a blessing to the villages and parishes. I'm excited to continue with all that is happening to grow our community here.

**BM: What were you doing before you moved here?**

**Mark:** We lived in Oxted and I worked as part of the clergy team in two churches (Oxted and Tandridge), which helped me to grow in love with the countryside.

**BM: You haven't always been a vicar. Can you tell us about some of your other roles?**

**Mark:** My career has been varied - starting in pensions, then a secondary school teacher (business, economics and law) and finally, before training for ordination at St Mellitus College, I managed a Youth for Christ charity (Kick) working in schools delivering values-based sports coaching and mentoring.

**BM: What made you change your career and become ordained?**

**Mark:** The short answer is I sensed God calling me to serve the church as a full time vicar. Although I loved all my paid jobs, my fulfilment and vocation was through my voluntary work in churches. I've helped in lots of ways in several churches and someone once asked me if I had ever thought about ordination - and so I did and now, many years later, I'm here!

**BM: You are living in Bramley but St James's isn't the only church you will be responsible for. Where else will you be working?**

**Mark:** My full title is Rector of the Benefice of Sherfield on Loddon and Stratfield Saye with Hartley Wespall with Stratfield Turgis and Bramley. A Benefice is a collection of parishes and I have four to look after. There are lots of gifted, talented and experienced people to help me, for whom I'm very grateful!

**BM: Can you tell us a bit about your family?**

**Mark:** I'm married to Millie (who has been a primary school teacher all her working life) and we have two daughters who are both at Bramley Primary School.

**BM: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

**Mark:** I'm a rugby union fan and have a season ticket at Harlequins, whose stadium is very close to where we used to live. I'm interested in history (and love the fact my predecessors at the church can be traced back nearly 1000 years). I'm also getting into astronomy, so appreciate the dark skies here in the countryside.



Mark with his wife and daughters

**BM: What are you most looking forward to in your new role?**

**Mark:** Becoming part of the community here, hearing people's stories and inviting people to understand how the story of Jesus has impacted my life (and the lives of others) in positive and life-changing ways. I'm also looking forward to sharing hospitality with people and supporting community life here.

**BM: What are your first impressions of Bramley?**

**Mark:** Bramley is full of beauty - in nature; in the warm welcome we have received; in how friendly people are; in the strong community spirit and in the church building, which if you haven't been in, come and have a look inside!

We moved in just before Christmas and on our first walk to the bakery and home again, I looked back and there was a rainbow over Bramley. In the Bible, a rainbow is a sign that God keeps promises: read about it in the Noah's flood story. God promised to look after my family and me - and in bringing us to Bramley, we believe that promise has very much been kept!



Rainbow over Bramley



**BRAMLEY WI**

The month of December was busy! First of all, 16 of us went to the Dome near Asda for Christmas lunch. It was very enjoyable – great food and atmosphere. We have been before and every time we have had an excellent meal.

The next day we had our annual Christmas party at the village hall with an excellent guest speaker who told us some very funny stories about past Christmases, including those spent with his Mum and Dad and family. Drinks and nibbles were served afterwards and a raffle followed. We ended the evening giving a small present to each of the members. We were glad that these events were in the first part of December, before the omicron variant changed things.



The next morning we went down to Clift Meadow to plant our tree by the side of the path. It is a Blue Ash and the photo shows us about to plant it. We had refreshments inside the Pavilion afterwards to warm up!

Our next meeting was lunch in the Village Hall, but that has changed because of Covid, and we are now having a Zoom Quiz night.

Keep safe and healthy

**Jane Matthews**

**Decorating the Vicarage**

A big thank you to Alan Dallaway who did a great job painting the inside of the vicarage before Rev. Mark Anderson and his family moved in. The Diocese of Winchester required the church to return the house to neutral colours, which was quite a challenge as most of the rooms and radiators were decorated in greens, blues, reds, etc. After a couple of weeks painting, and many pots of paint, all ten rooms plus the hall, landing and stairs were transformed and a representative from the diocese passed the work.

**Thank you**

At the end of 2021 I celebrated a significant birthday. I was just amazed at the number of greetings I received from both the Church and the Village. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank you all for remembering me and helping to make my birthday so very special.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Thank you once again,

Fred Locke

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**I**t has been an incredibly positive start to 2022 at Bramley Primary School.

The children have been on fine form and the adults have been working tirelessly to ensure that learning is engaging and ambitious. The children's contribution to lessons has been high and there are plenty of smiles on faces.

At the start of a new term, the teachers plan and deliver a range of ways to immerse and engage children in their new topics. It's been great seeing the children inspired by some wonderfully engaging activities. Please read on to find out more...

**Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)...**

Our topic this half term in EYFS is pets and other animals. The children have enjoyed exploring the role play experiences in a pet shop and a zoo. They have learnt to retell familiar stories including Monkey Puzzle and The Snail and the Whale and have focused on hearing the rhyming words. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about different animals that live in the jungle and under the sea.

**Year 1...**

The children have spent time looking at Bramley and what facilities we have within our community...the bakery is very popular. Then, they ventured further afield...all the way to Australia. Through the powers of Google Earth, they took a virtual visit to the Sydney Opera House, Bondi Beach and to Uluru to check out Ayers Rock. After much exploring and comparing the two places, many of the children decided that they would rather live in Bramley!

**Year 2...**

Year 2 have discovered about the historic tragedy of The Titanic. They have found out about the wonders of The Titanic and all of the amazing feats of engineering that it contained. By looking at images, reading historical sources and non-fiction books and posing enquiry questions, they have started to imagine what life was like on board this vessel, and what society can learn from this infamous disaster.

**Year 3...**

In Year 3 we focused on the mythology of dragons. The children learnt all

about the history of dragons across the world and throughout history. This was followed by a country study of China in which the children researched its geographical and human characteristics. They had lots of fun during our second morning when they took part in a school wide orienteering treasure hunt. The pupils then took part in a maths based raid on imaginary dragon's lairs using the skills they had learned during the autumn term. I am happy to report that they all made it back safely. To finish both days, the children created their own dragons out of recycling materials, which they painted and took home to guard over their own treasure hoards.

**Year 4...**

Year 4 have had an explosive start to our topic on Volcanoes. The children have been working incredibly hard to learn about how volcanoes are formed, what different types of volcanoes there are in the world and the devastating impact they can have. They have also shown brilliant collaboration and enthusiasm when constructing, painting and then erupting their own volcanoes, having performed their own experiments of mixing different amounts of baking powder and vinegar to find the most explosive combination.

**Year 5...**

Year 5 have been immersed in The Monarchy! The pupils have been creating portraits of themselves as monarchs and using oil pastels to



build colour and bring these to life! The children worked really hard at developing their different moulding techniques with clay and we created our own clay busts. Throughout our Monarchy topic, we will continue to learn about the good and bad qualities of leaders, different monarchs and how they have impacted our world today... maybe I should take note!!!

**Year 6...**

To begin our World War 2 topic, we had two launch days and a school trip! From their research, children have learnt about the home front and rationing, which included making cupcakes using a wartime recipe with rationed ingredients! Using teamwork and their creative skills, the children have created their own mini Anderson Shelters from a range of materials (onto which we dropped weights to see if they could withstand force!) and practised with chalk to create beautiful artworks of St Paul's Cathedral during the blackout. By the time it got to our school trip to Milestones on Thursday, they were almost WWII experts!



**Bramley Parish Council** has had a very busy start to the year as **Cllr Tony Durrant (Chair)** and **Maxta Thomas (Clerk)** explain

**Local Plan Update** - The Borough Council's Economic, Planning and Housing (EPH) Committee is engaged in scrutinising the Local Plan Update (LPU) currently being developed by Officers. A meeting was held via Zoom on the 6th January 2022. In attendance on behalf of Bramley Parish were Cllr Bell and Cllr Durrant along with Ward Cllrs Tomblin and Robinson.

The Chairman stated that Officers were not allowing committee members to question guest speakers – a very unusual situation to say the least. Members of the committee along with many others have requested that the LPU be put on hold until a) critical reports are completed and presented and b) Government reforms to the planning processes are announced and put in place. There was clearly a reluctance by the Officers to delay the LPU as requested by many. The latest version of the Officers' report includes misinformation and inaccuracies in a number of areas, despite these being proven to be incorrect. This is particularly true of Bramley where we have repeatedly and consistently presented irrefutable facts that contradict Officers' assessment. There is an apparent reluctance by Officers to accept facts that contradict their mission to meet Government targets.

Council Leader Rhatigan and Local Plan Portfolio Holder and Deputy Council Leader Bound have been charged with "pushing back" to the Government on the housing targets. It is believed some action has been progressed but there is no feedback available at this time.

The issue is not just total numbers but the Government's five-year land supply clause, which renders Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans null and void, making us all vulnerable to opportunistic development. This will lead to development by appeal as Bramley has now seen on two recent occasions. The LPU process is under fire from Ward Cllrs, Parish Cllrs and residents alike, but thus far Officers are determined to continue the work on the update, despite objections.

This will rumble on but, in the meantime, the lack of a five-year land supply will punish rural parishes despite

the lack of infrastructure. The Council's plan to add a number of parishes' land to the Settlement Policy Boundary for Basingstoke will result in coalescence of surrounding communities with Basingstoke more likely.

In the draft update, Bramley is currently allocated 55 dwellings, from now to 2039, and these can be allocated via the Neighbourhood Plan. On the face of it, that does not sound too terrible, but without shortfalls in infrastructure being resolved it will add to our problems. Bramley Parish Council will continue to make this point.

Since the meeting, Officers have agreed that all the detailed reports must be available for review and so have postponed putting the plan out for consultation from March 2022 to after May/June 2022.

**Solar Farm update** – an amended plan for the proposed solar farm was put out to statutory consultees just before Christmas. However, Bramley Parish Council does not feel that the amendments in any way mitigate the concerns that many residents and the Parish Council raised. With this in mind, the Parish Council has submitted further comments to the Planning Officer. These can be viewed on the Bramley PC website: <https://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk/20-03403-ful-site-at-minchens-lane-bramley-amended/>

**Battery installation proposals (21/00349/FUL)** – update – leading on from the solar farm, the recent application for a storage battery installation at Minchens Lane was recently refused by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The decision notice can be viewed on the planning portal here: <https://planning.basingstoke.gov.uk/online-applications/> - simply put the reference number into the search to find the application. There are no further details on the appeal as yet.

**20/01097/OUT – 4 new dwellings on Land Adjacent to The Street** – the application was initially refused by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, and the applicant appealed. Bramley PC objected to the original application and in June 2021 made representations to the Planning Inspector hearing the appeal. The appeal was finally heard in December 2021 (although no notification was sent to the PC of this), and the application was allowed on appeal. More details can be found on the planning portal.

In addition to this application, another

proposal for a new build dwelling at Locksbridge Farm (21/00521/FUL) on Cufaude Lane has also received planning permission recently, despite Bramley PC objections. It is worth noting that Ward Councillors were not informed of the decision before the notice was published.

**Benches** – After discussions with a number of residents, Bramley PC has applied to its Ward Councillors for a grant for the installation of two benches along footpaths between the Campbell Road area to the village centre. The benches will be strategically positioned to allow places to rest for residents who are walking from the Campbell Road area to the village shop and back again. It is hoped that the benches will be installed sometime in the middle of March 2022.

**St James Park update** – Bramley Parish Council continue to liaise with Persimmon and Borough Council officers to resolve various outstanding issues relating to the St James Park development. The path on Clift Meadow from St James Park to the pub has now been raised up and re-tarmacked in an effort to address the flooding problems across it. Some of the tarmac has already sunk and the PC has highlighted this to Persimmon. The promised lights for the path are due to be installed in March 2022. Recent work at the Burlington junction has improved matters somewhat, but traffic is still ignoring the 'no right turn' sign coming out of Burlington Way. This has been taken up with Highways by enforcement officers at the Borough Council. Finally, the Parish Council continues to chase for action on the allotment site – an update lease for review is awaited, and Persimmon has stated that they will at least tidy up the site before it is handed over to the Parish Council.

**Parish Council meetings** – the next scheduled Parish Council meetings are as follows:

- Planning Committee – 8 February 2022
- Full Council – 15 February 2022
- Planning Committee – 8 March 2022
- Full Council 15 March 2022

The venues are to be decided – keep an eye on the Bramley Parish Council website for more information. In the meantime, keep safe and well.

Website: [www.bramley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bramley-pc.gov.uk)  
 Contact: [clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk),  
 07810 692486

## RETIREMENT

At the end of 2021 I decided enough was enough and I retired. I know how to retire – I've done it twice now. In 2009, my then employer decided to close down its excellent pension scheme. It is a long story, too long for here, but about 800 people of a similar age to me decided to take the early retirement option, as the terms of the closure meant that there was no point in staying on. My leaving date was fixed as the 5th January 2010. That is a miserable time of the year to do anything, and it was made worse by the weather – a blizzard was blowing. Some of my colleagues came along for lunch in Basingstoke, but most went home soon after, as it was clear that the snow was not stopping any time soon.

I had a vending card for the various snack machines in the office with about £5 left on it. Normally you could give it in to the onsite catering manager when leaving the company, but because it was still the Christmas break there was no one around to set up the necessary refund. I spent a happy hour walking round the various vending machines in the office trying to get all of the best chocolate bars in such a combination that there would be £0.00 left on the card. I failed by 9p. I hope they used that money well.

The one remaining colleague came to the pub at 5pm for a drink with me, but this was cut short by his wife calling to say that if he wanted to get home to Winchester that night he had better leave now. I trudged out to Basingstoke station and I recall that my daughter came to Bramley station with my wellington boots so that I could walk home.

This time, in 2021, it was a bit different. I had not set foot in the office since September. I knew then that I was going to retire, so I had cleared all my stuff out, leaving nothing on site. I took a break in October and November, and during December spent my time online with colleagues handing over all of my work so that it could continue with a new team. I had originally planned to make the office Christmas event my last goodbye, but they didn't have one because of 'Plan B'.

In 2010 on my first day of retirement I had planned to go to the seaside with my dear wife and look at the sea while eating sandwiches and drinking a flask of coffee, because I had a vision of retirement being like that. But the snow was almost a foot thick outside on 6th January, so we were housebound. I then picked up a 3-month consulting contract that ended up lasting 12 years, so forgot about my plan to see the sea.

I thought I would have another go at retirement at the start of January this year, to go to the seaside and look at the waves. However, on 2nd January I tested positive, and as I write this today, I am 4 hours away from the end of my 10-day self isolation. Maybe next week I will go and see the sea...

**Michael Luck**

## Bramley Lunch Club



Welcome to a very wet, windy and cold 2022 (well I suppose it is winter time!), although by the time you read this we will be looking forward to spring.

Our Christmas lunch in December at 'The Elm Tree' Beech Hill was a great success. The food was delicious and well presented. Needless to say the cracker jokes were the norm and bought the usual comments from everyone.

Judy was joined by her husband, and it was lovely to see Val Monger and her friend, whom we haven't seen since the beginning of the pandemic. As usual when we all get together, there was lots of chatter and laughter.

Our thanks go to Christine for organising everything, and we are all hoping for a happier and healthier 2022 for everybody.

**Freda Clark**

## JOKE

Two schoolboys were doing their homework downstairs.

One said: "We must be quiet because granny is upstairs reading her Bible."

The other asks: "swotting for her finals?"

(Sent to me by a young-at-heart reader in his 80s!)

## Knitting Club



Our last meeting, at Dusty's home on 30 November, was attended by a select few. Jean said that she had been looking for a new charity to send our contributions to and had alighted on the "Queen Mother's Clothing Guild" and was getting more details of what they accepted and where it went. We will discuss whether to join this organisation at our next meeting on 22 February.

**Judith Harris**

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## Bramley and District Branch

The Bramley and District Branch of the Royal British Legion covers several other villages around the north of Basingstoke. There used to be a

Sherborne St John branch, but it ceased to function some 10 years ago and was merged, together with the Stratfield Saye branch, into Bramley under the over-arching name of Bramley and District that is now featured on our branch standard. The old standard now hangs in the church.

The new merged Branch has, like many other organisations, been severely affected by the pandemic and our programme of lectures, meetings and dinners has been curtailed; the challenge faced has been to hold things together until we emerge from the current difficulties. We have not been idle though, and the Poppy Appeal a couple of months ago was a credit to those who made it possible and raised over £11,500.

This was a very different Poppy Appeal. We did not do any house-to-house collections in Bramley or Sherborne St John as we decided this would be inappropriate and, in addition, the carrying of cash has declined in the new world of contactless payments. We did, however, experience the benefit of using card readers at our stall in the Hospital and this clearly encouraged donations. Looking ahead to this year's collections, we plan to extend the use of card machines and, as always, we will need new volunteers to help.

Looking to the future, we are strengthening our organisation and have welcomed a new member to our committee who brings enormous expertise and experience to the small team. Allow me to introduce The Very Reverend John Morley who has taken on the Events Portfolio on behalf of the Branch.

*John joined the Chaplains' Branch of the Royal Air Force in 1977 and served on a 16 -year Commission. His postings were mainly around the UK on flying and support stations, but he experienced short detachments to Belize with the Harrier force from RAF Gutersloh and, also to Ascension Island in the aftermath of the Falklands war, now 40 years ago. (How time flies!)*

*He has been an RBL member for many years, serving on various branch committees, and was Chairman, and later President, of his last branch in Leicestershire, where he was also County Chaplain for several years. In addition, he has been a chaplain and instructor with Sea Cadets, Air Cadets, and others. He also chaired the organising committee for Harborough's annual Armed Forces Day event for 4 years which attracted about 3,000 visitors. Their loss is our gain!*

Anticipating the easing of Covid restrictions we are tentatively looking at a lunchtime get-together this spring for members and supporters and, in parallel, hoping to re-create a programme of monthly meetings. Watch out for more news on this in the March magazine!

The Bramley and District Branch will be supporting the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in all its villages and, as at Bramley last Summer, we hope to secure representation from the Legion Riders Branch with their splendid Harley Davidson machines and others. They are always a strong attraction and, incidentally, the fastest growing Branch of the Royal British Legion with 7,000 members.

We hope you, the reader, will be able to support the Branch as it, in turn, seeks to support those in need amongst the ex-service community and their dependants. We are always looking for new supporters to help promote this effort locally. You would be very welcome to form part of this incredible organisation.....

### John Delafield

Chairman  
07850 950349

## Scout Leader WANTED



### Bramley Scout Group is looking for a Scout Leader to head up our Scout Section for 10.5-14 year olds.

As Scout Leader you will be responsible for managing and leading our Scout Section. Your role will include:

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- supporting and promoting the achievement of badges amongst our Scouts.
- maintaining accurate records in accordance with the Data Protection Act.
- making and maintaining good relationships with our parents/carers via e-mail and in person.
- working with the Assistant Scout Leaders, the Group Scout Leader and the Executive Committee.

This is a voluntary role. No previous scouting experience is necessary. Full training and support will be provided.

Other voluntary roles available: Group Scout Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leader, Assistant Cub Leader and Assistant Scout Leader.

Interested in joining our team? Then call us on 01256 881113 or email [jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk](mailto:jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk).

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**Now in  
Bramley**

**“Look To! Treble’s Going, She’s Gone.”**

Anyone who has been to a service at St. James’ Church, Bramley may have heard these words proclaimed by a bell ringer just before a course of ringing begins. It’s a way of calling attention and is a bit like saying “Ready, Steady, Go”. The treble is the smallest/lightest bell and usually starts the ringing. The treble can also be used for chiming before a service and as a curfew bell.

Church bells are likely to be part of the celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee this year. It was 70 years ago, on 6 February 1952, that the Queen ascended to the British throne after her father King George VI passed away. But hang on a mo., just before King George VI’s death something else was going on in Bramley, as this quote uncovers:

*“Eventually the Parochial Church Council (St James’ Church, Bramley) had to consider the state of the bells and, as work had to be done, it was thought a good idea to add two new lighter bells to complete the octave (eight notes), and encourage change ringing at a time when there were only three rings of eight bells in the district. The bellringers undertook to raise the money for these new bells, their fitting and hanging.*

*So in January 1951 the six bells were taken to John Taylor’s bellfoundry at*

*Loughborough (still operating today); on 24th May 1951 the Churchwardens and a coachload of parishioners saw the new bells cast, and in January 1952 the eight bells were brought to the church and hung in a new cast-iron frame.”*

(A History of Bramley, Hampshire by Rev.R.C.Toogood 1993)

A plaque at the back of St James’ church provides the following information about the new bells:

Bell	Foundry	Note	Inscription	Date	Weight
					cwt-qtr-lb (kg)
Treble	Taylor	G	“Praise the Lord O My Soul”	1952	3 – 3 – 17 (198)
2nd	Taylor	F#	“Forget Not All His Benefits”	1952	4 – 0 – 26 (215)

The new bells were dedicated by the Bishop 70 years ago, on 16 February 1952, as this article from the Berkshire Gazette records:


*Those who attended the Bramley church of St. James’ and All Saints on February 16th will remember, with pride, all their lives, the beautiful service for the dedication of two new bells by the Rt.Rev. Bishop L.H.Lang. ....His Grace the Duke of Wellington was present.....Also present were Bramley bellringers and*

*also bellringers from the following towers – Basingstoke, Thatcham, Bucklebury, Wooton St.Lawrence, Deane, Sonning, Hurst, Overton, Baughurst, Farnborough, Wolverton, Silchester, Guildford Cathedral, Aldershot, Mortimer, Sherborne St. John, Loughborough, Winchester and Ditchling (Sussex).....Mr. Taylor, representing the Bellfounders, handed the bell rope to the Vicar’s warden, who handed it to the Bishop.....In giving a welcome to all present he (the*

*Bishop) especially mentioned Miss Belcher. Miss Belcher was the oldest bellringer present, being a member of the first band of ladies to ring a peal at Cubitt Town, London, in 1903.*

If this is of interest to you and you would like to learn how to ring the church bells, do contact Jonathan Barclay Smith on 01256 541251. A warm welcome awaits.

**Jonathan Large**



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There's been a lot going on at **Clift Meadow** over the winter.

Learn more in this month's **Meadow Talk**

### Improvements to Clift Meadow

Though not yet in touching distance of Springtime, huge thanks are due to many for their generosity in enhancing Clift Meadow during this Winter.

Firstly, to Bramley Parish Council for the NHS bench on the pub-side path, installed in November, and to Jane Kirkwood (assisted by Hortus Loci of Heckfield) for donating three fine trees in memory of family members. Great appreciation also to Dusty Taylor, Bramley WI, Ann Alderman and Andromeda Witchalls for donating future summertime shade, and special thanks to Olly Harman for his digging efforts and for a tree. Finally, thank you to Tom Mason who not only made all of this happen with his planning, labour, time and expertise, but also donated a tree.





**Cricket**

Less visible improvements have been made to the cricket square, once again undertaken at significant cost by Old Basing Cricket Club (OBCC). All of this work was necessary to enable good grade cricket for all ages, with more and more people from the Village playing within the OBCC set-up. (Contact nickcooper1@sky.com if you would like to join). Adult 3rd & 4ths will be playing every Saturday from the end of April, with Colts matches scheduled from May.

**Football**

Loddon Sports Under 10's currently run two 7-a-side teams that play in the Peter Houseman Youth League on Sunday mornings. They are having a mixed season so far, but both teams have started to find form recently and will be looking to push on with hopes of a good cup run. Do come down and support the teams. Forthcoming fixtures:-

Jan 30th Loddon Lions v Kingsclere:  
Loddon Tigers v Andover

Feb 6th Lions v Baltic Youth: Tigers v Down Grange

Unfortunately, there are not currently any spaces in the U10's age group, but if you would like to enquire about availability in other age groups and teams, do please contact loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com

**Thank you!**

And finally, big thanks again to those who do so much to keep Clift Meadow free from litter and mess, so that we can all enjoy it, whatever the season.



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**Bramley & Romans Floral Society**

We held a Christmas workshop on 20 November and then on 2 December we had Christmas afternoon tea with a demonstration entitled “It feels like Christmas”.

Liz Pelley was the demonstrator for our workshop and she provided us with container bases and mechanics for our morning and afternoon sessions. The container for the morning was a green wine bottle and, for the afternoon, a clear round bowl. We had a great day and ended up with two

Christmas designs and many more ideas about how we could adapt the same containers for other designs throughout the year.

Then on to our Christmas afternoon tea with Jennifer brilliantly demonstrating “It feels like Christmas”. There was a wonderful atmosphere and every arrangement took us to Christmas as you can see in the pictures.

A very happy and healthy New Year to all our members

**Eileen Gulston**



Christmas arrangements



We Saw Three Ships



Rudolf

And while we are on the subject of flowers, check out these beautiful arrangements that welcomed those attending our services at Christmas. As usual, the flower arrangers did a wonderful job.



**P**atricia Harbot,  
Massage Therapist  
at The Healing  
Touchway, explains why she  
recommends **Magnesium** as  
a supplement

This mineral is vital for healthy bones, muscles and joints; and it also aids relaxation, mood and sleep. In fact, it is **crucial for over 300 reactions in the body**. It is in bananas, avocado, nuts, and dark greens as well as many other whole foods.

**Magnesium is a vital mineral that every cell in the body needs.**

About 25 grams are stored in the body with 60% of it stored in our bones. Our muscles require 30% and the rest is found in soft tissues with a constant uptake. It keeps us fit and energized, and our immune system healthy. Nowadays, **many of us lack sufficient magnesium** levels due to a wide range of problems associated with resources and lifestyle. Additionally, our natural

sources of the essential mineral in food and water are decreasing due to over-farming, food processing, high pesticide use and water filtration systems.

Today **up to 80% of the population is magnesium deficient**, which may be a contributor to chronic disease. That is a staggeringly high percentage. Many of my clients simply don't realise what an important role this essential mineral plays in the overall physical health of our musculoskeletal system, as well as our mental health and wellbeing.

The world's oceans are still a vast source of magnesium, but as most people don't have regular access to swim in the sea, Epsom Salts (pharmaceutical grade magnesium sulphate crystals) can be used as a warm bath soak as an easy and most effective way to increase magnesium levels in the body. This is because **magnesium is best absorbed through the skin**. Magnesium flakes can be used as a foot soak,

body scrub and even shampoo. You can also rub it into the skin as a branded topical cream if you are not a bath lover or have limited mobility.

Importantly, magnesium is said to have a **positive effect on GABA receptors in the brain**. This helps a person to relax as well as to improve their mood and essential sleep quality. Magnesium is a **key to the success of many major hormonal processes** in the body, therefore supplementing with magnesium during stressful times is especially important. Those having an extra cup of coffee or glass of wine in stressful times should raise their magnesium intake, as these **stimulants deplete magnesium**.

*NB 1Kg bags of Epsom Bath Salts are available through most chemists and large food stores (bargain stores at a saving), and costs anything from £2-£5.*

**Patricia Harbot MFHT VTCT**

patriciaharbot@thehealingtouchway.co.uk  
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Watching the **Eurovision Song Contest** over the years, you have probably questioned the voting pattern of various countries. Gordon Lewis, the speaker at the latest meeting of the **Probus Club**, knows that your suspicions are correct.

Gordon Lewis knows what he is talking about because as a journalist he attended eight Eurovision Song Competitions over the years and has seen these influences at first hand. The winning song is influenced by the politics of the day and PR pressure through parties held at the highest social level.

In 1956 the first Eurovision Song Competition was held in Lugano, Switzerland. Seven countries took part but was it a coincidence that the winner was the host country where the headquarters of the European Broadcast Union had been established?

Gordon gave many examples of how countries vote for the top award of *douze points*. Greece always support Cyprus, and claim this is because of their common language. However, in 1999 participants were given a free choice of language, which means that many songs are sung in English. Voting is also influenced by geographical and historical connections, as seen between Norway and Sweden, Russia and Azerbaijan due to gas and oil. UK and Ireland used to support each other but not so in recent years.

The dreaded *nul points* will always be awarded between Serbia and Slovenia because the latter country was the first to break away from the old Yugoslavia which led to the Balkan disaster.



Armenia will not support Azerbaijan because of a border dispute and France does not support the UK, perhaps because of the Hundred Years' War. 2003 saw the UK receiving *nul points* because of anger in the EU that Britain had entered the Iraq war. Georgia will not vote for Russia because of their invasion and eventual withdrawal. They were disqualified from the 2009 competition because their song was about shooting President Putin of Russia.

Direct political influence happened when General Franco needed to boost the tourist trade to Spanish beaches and enlisted the assistance of President Tito of Yugoslavia. Cliff Richard singing *Congratulations* was the clear favourite but was beaten by one point by Spain's entry *La La La* that contained 120 repeats of the title. There was little merit in the winning song, which was instantly forgettable, but political ends were met.

Circumstances can also influence the result. In 1974 France backed out because it was the funeral of President Pompidou. The Italian entry had been expected to win but those countries who would have supported the French entry then had to vote for another song and the unlikely winners were a group from Sweden named ABBA with the song *Waterloo*. The rest, as they say, is history.



Such political influence goes back a long way to 1959 when Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson sang the UK entry *Sing Little Birdie Sing*. Teddy was at a bar when he overheard Italy and the Netherlands agreeing not to vote for the UK entry. This, you will recall, was a song contest with the aim of bringing countries together.

UK last won in 1997 with the song *Love Shine A Light* by Katrina and the Waves. While the backing group, the Waves were British, Katrina is American. She came to live in England as a child when her father was stationed here in the US Airforce.

In recent years some non-European countries have been allowed to participate. Israel and Australia are examples. This is because they are full members of the European Broadcasting Union which allows their entry. New Zealand is upset because their associate membership fails to permit their entry which means they lose the ability to promote their country to the watching millions.

In 2022 the competition will be hosted in the Italian city of Turin. No doubt the same influencing and politicking will continue unabated - after all the Eurovision Song Competition would not be the same without it.

**Paul Flint**

[www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)



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Lou Taylor began his professional life as a session musician, playing bass guitar and singing backing vocals in studios and on the live scene for numerous artistes. Finally moving to centre stage, Lou secured a deal with RCA (signed by the one and only Simon Cowell) which resulted in the release of a remix of Bryan Adams "Summer of '69".

Lou has worked alongside some of the top names in the music industry supporting artists such as Boy George, Alexander O'Neal, Edwin Starr, Martha Reeves, Gino Washington, Bitty Mclean and Peter Andre.

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**Council wins appeal to keep unauthorised encampments injunction**

An injunction banning the setting up of any unauthorised encampments in a large section of the borough will stay in place after Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council won an appeal to keep it.

In April 2019, the borough council and Hampshire County Council were granted a five year injunction by the High Court, prohibiting identified people and new people from setting up unauthorised encampments within the urbanised area of Basingstoke town, as well as the areas of Bramley, Silchester, Tadley Common and a small parcel of land at Stratfield Turgis.

Following an application for a similar injunction to the High Court by the London Borough of Enfield, all 37 injunctions granted to local authorities were reviewed by the High Court. A total of 16 councils – including Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council – appealed the points raised after the review that would have made changes, the most significant being that it wouldn't apply to anyone who wasn't previously named on the injunction.

On Thursday 13 January the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, meaning that the injunction remains in place to

include both those named as well as anyone else setting up an unauthorised encampment in the areas covered.

The injunction gives greater power to landowners and the police and means that anyone setting up an encampment in the injunction area will be prohibited from doing so and will be asked to leave immediately. The area covered in the injunction captures those communities most regularly experiencing the negative impacts of unauthorised encampments.

From April 2016 to April 2019 there were 182 unauthorised encampments recorded on borough council, county council and private land in Basingstoke and Deane. Encampments on borough council land were typically there for two to three weeks while the lengthy process to enforce their removal took place. Those on private land often took even longer. It is estimated that the borough council alone spent approximately £264,000 responding to and dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Since the injunction has been in force there have only been 22 unauthorised encampments in the borough and those encampments that occurred in the area of the injunction remained for an average of under two days.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Simon Bound said: "It is great news that the judge granted our appeal and determined that injunctions will continue to ban anyone setting up an unauthorised encampment in the injunction area, not just those people named. The council's injunction is based on clear evidence of unacceptable behaviour impacting on communities in our borough caused by unauthorised encampments. This included noise nuisance, intimidation and fly-tipped waste left on land.

"This means that we can continue to ban any unauthorised encampments from setting up in a large part of our borough where we were able to prove past incidents had caused problems for residents. I would like to thank the team of officers and members of the community who worked hard to get this injunction in the first place and fought for its retention. We can continue to protect residents in areas that have a history of being badly impacted and this sends out the message that we will not tolerate antisocial behaviour of any kind in our borough."

To find out more visit: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/encampments>

**RANIL JAYAWARDENA, M.P. NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE**

As we hope we will soon be able to return to normality, it is a great time for me to reflect on what you have told me you want to see as we build back better – delivering what really is our plan for North East Hampshire over the next twelve months and beyond – to make Bramley an even better place to live and work.

**A superb education for everyone**

With many local schools already operating at capacity, we must have new provision to cope with demand – this is why I continue to campaign for a new secondary school in north Hampshire. Tell me your thoughts at: [ranil.uk/school](http://ranil.uk/school)

**Revitalise and regenerate our retail centres**

We have some fantastic businesses in our corner of the county. I want to see them supported through the regeneration of our retail centres, which will also protect green fields for major development. It's time that our local councils deliver the change needed locally. Let me know what matters to you, so I can make the case

to them: [ranil.uk/regensurvey](http://ranil.uk/regensurvey)

**Faster, longer, better trains**

In 2017, we successfully stopped SWR plans to cut our train services. As more people start travelling again, maintaining good transport links to our towns and villages is a core part of our plan – so we need to protect the services that residents from in and around Bramley rely on. Sign my petition to save our trains: [ranil.uk/trains](http://ranil.uk/trains)

**Better roads for everyone**

This isn't just about improving our roads and road junctions, like at the junction of the B3349 and the A33. The plan for a North Hampshire Cycle Network would link 27 different locations across the constituency. I want our councils to progress the first stage of the plan quickly, to get families on their bikes safely. Sign my petition to call on councils to extend our cycling networks: [ranil.uk/cycling](http://ranil.uk/cycling)

**Cleaner, better, safer**

It is so important that you feel safe living in Bramley, and it is great news that we are now over halfway towards the government's ambition to recruit

20,000 new police officers. We need more police officers to tackle local issues, from organised and rural crime, to anti-social behaviour. This year, I will continue to meet the police regularly to support them in their work and you can help us get our fair share of new officers by visiting: [ranil.uk/policing](http://ranil.uk/policing)

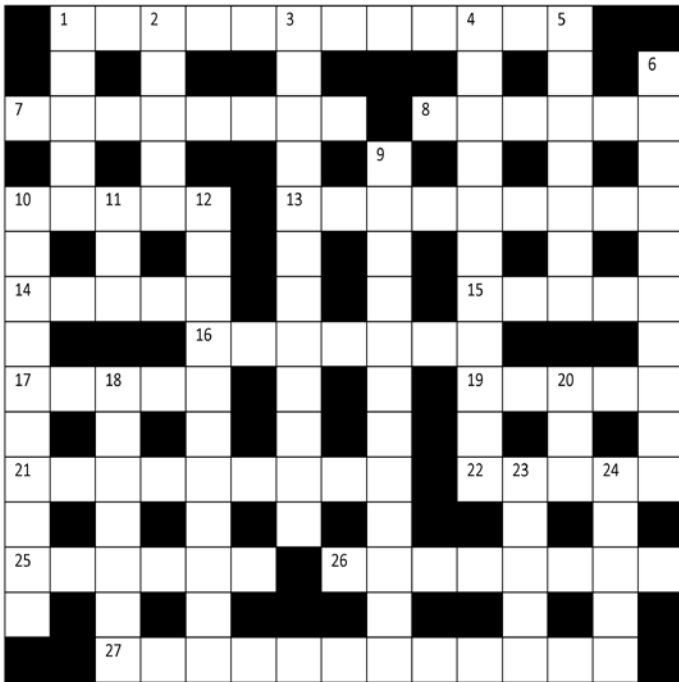
**Improving the NHS**

£33.9 billion of extra funding is being put in by the government every year now, which is already benefiting the health services across North East Hampshire – and I want to go further to make sure you have access to the facilities you need, including continuing to push for a new hospital in north Hampshire to bolster our existing local services.

For my latest updates, you can follow me on Facebook ("Ranil Jayawardena MP") or sign up to my newsletter at: [ranil.uk/newsletter](http://ranil.uk/newsletter) – and I regularly hold "Tell Ranil" events where you can raise issues with me in person too. In the meantime, do share your views with me by email to: [email@ranil.uk](mailto:email@ranil.uk) because, together, we can make Bramley even better.

**Cryptic Crossword No: 55**

See page 31 for the answers.



**Across**

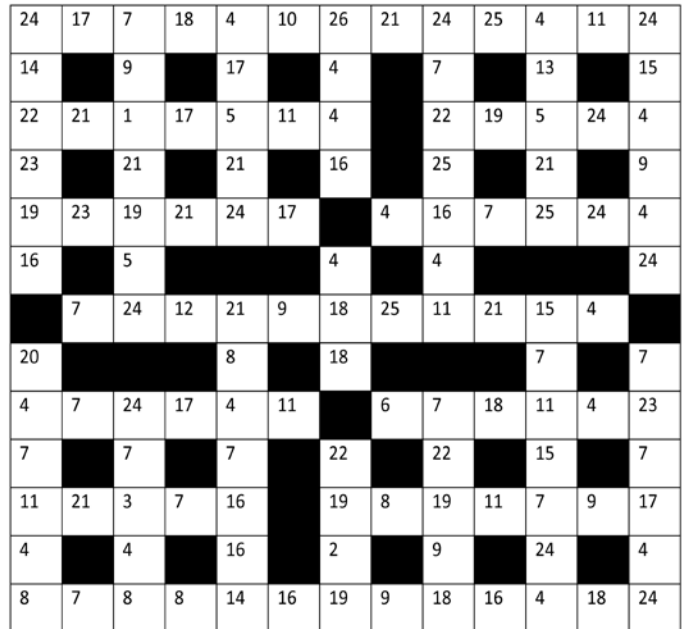
- 1 Softly we pray hyena contains greetings. (5,3,4)
- 7 Extreme that sailor thus carries an instrument. (8)
- 8 Its tame now to hide organ. (6)
- 10 Takes a chunk out of a computer by the sound of it. (5)
- 13 Test again as a pit follows around former lover. (9)
- 14 Stadium with space covering a point. (5)
- 15 Instrument or body part. (5)
- 16 Observed M feeling unwell in industrial facility. (7)
- 17 Weariness when nuisance hides the feeling. (5)
- 19 A low point, however a first for the Greeks looked at initially. (5)
- 21 Idiots listen to lack of feeling on top of heads. (9)
- 22 Planet near the heart of things for us. (5)
- 25 Projector's target or shelter. (6)
- 26 Cloudy conditions above actors perhaps ? (8)
- 27 Film, a first for Bond literature. (6,6)

**Down**

- 1 Pastime before horses perhaps. (5)
- 2 Italian prosecco contains hidden literature. (5)
- 3 Everyday domain for plants and animals perhaps. (7,5)
- 4 Add plate around nothing to extend outwards. (11)
- 5 Rising confusion to ring Pam. (7)
- 6 Arrange to unearth den below. (10)
- 9 Vespan senior becomes pot collector perhaps. (7,5)
- 10 Cheek support state of calm before cape. (10)
- 11 Draw or clothing perhaps. (3)
- 12 Condition for illness in the main. (11)
- 18 Crime mixed with greek character is figure related. (7)
- 20 Average in part. (3)
- 23 Capital of African country centred round a port initially. (5)
- 24 Sense or quality of judgement. (5)

**CodeWord No: 41**

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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## The Priory School

Firstly, we wanted to share the view over our beautiful school during the recent cold and frosty winter mornings. Perfect tranquillity!

### Now on to our recent developments:

Mental health is a huge focus of our education at The Priory this year. COVID has had a very unique impact on the wellbeing and resilience of pupils across the world and at The Priory we wanted to meet this problem head on. Our solution has been multi-faceted and has included the integration of Positive Education, taught every week in all our classes. We have also introduced meditation and additional singing to raise spirits and just for fun.

Our newest development is to introduce focused teaching for our Key Stage 2 pupils, who will be trained as Mental Health Champions. This training course (called the Kickstarter course) run by One Goal, will allow the children much greater understanding of how to support the mental wellbeing of their peers and family members. By knowing how to support others, they will also gain greater insight into their own mental wellbeing. Once trained, the children will be empowered to better look after themselves and each other during the school day.



### The course covers three key areas:

- 1) To understand what mental health is and why it is important.
- 2) To learn different ways to care for their own mental health and wellbeing.
- 3) To discover what Mental Health Champions are and how they help others.

I am sure you will agree that in an ever-changing world, knowing yourself and how to develop strategies for positive mental health is one of the most important life lessons that any school can impart.

## Little Apples

Hello from everyone at Little Apples. We hope you had a great Christmas break. We were very sad to have to cancel our Nativity performance due to COVID fears before we broke up, but the children still enjoyed a Christmas party with an entertainer, Crazy M, who brought a real rabbit to see us. Father Christmas also visited which was very exciting.



This term at Little Apples we are welcoming several new families and learning about space and the solar system. We are also playing lots of card games and board games with the children in our small group activities. These teach lots of important skills, including listening to instructions and taking turns.

Chinese New Year will be celebrated around the world on 1st February and it will be the year of the Tiger. The children will be making animal masks and Chinese lanterns to celebrate and will learn the simple version of the Chinese New Year story - Buddha (or the Jade Emperor) invited all of the animals to join him for a New Year celebration, but only 12 animals turned up. To reward the animals that did come, Buddha named a year after each of them in the order that they arrived, starting with the Rat, followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (or Sheep), Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. We will also have food tasting and our Chinese themed dressing up and role play.

As we move towards Spring we are looking forward to starting some planting, which teaches the children lots of early science and maths, and also looking out for the signs of Spring.

If you have a child who you wish to start Little Apples in the academic year from September 2022, we will start to allocate sessions after the Easter break. It is never too early to register your child, so please don't hesitate to contact Jo on 07598 588460 or [manager@littleapples.org](mailto:manager@littleapples.org) if you would like to have a visit or a chat.

## Butter Daisy

We had some amazing events happen at Christmas, including a visit from Father Christmas and a yummy Christmas dinner cooked by our chef Katie. The Pre-School Suite enjoyed an Advent game using clues to find the number each day; other activities included eating mince pies and throwing snowballs. Toddler Suite enjoyed building sensory snowmen and getting messy whilst they made them. The Baby Suite had so much fun unwrapping pass the parcel - for some of them this would be the first time they got to see something unwrapped and revealing the present inside was extremely interesting to them.

This term, we welcomed back our Area Manager, Ceris, who has been on maternity leave. We were very proud to show her what Butter Daisy Nursery had been doing whilst she was away. All of the Suites have also been busy talking about what the children have been doing at Christmas and some of the toys they have received. This sparked the imagination of the children and adults alike, and we found many of the children have a love of pirates! We made treasure maps which really engaged our critical thinking skills as we planned where the X would go. Shiver me timbers!

All of us from Butter Daisy Nursery wish you a good New Year and please do contact us if you would like to hear more about us either on 01256 882515 or email [butter@mydaisynursery.com](mailto:butter@mydaisynursery.com)



## Hampshire County Council – Calleva Division

### 1. Roads update

Highway operations are continuing as normal during the Plan B restrictions.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for last November. In that month 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drains were cleared and 7,295 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems should be reported online at:


<http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>. Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Going forward, Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra “recurring” funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April.

### 2. Severe weather

At the time of writing, we have had some very cold weather and so road gritting is high on the agenda at the moment. When we do have freezing temperatures forecast, the Hampshire Highways’ fleet of salting lorries heads out, focusing on the main roads first. If you’re driving behind a gritter please keep well back and be patient as they do their job to help keep you on the move. You can see the priority salting routes at <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwayssaltroutes/>. For the young at heart, all our gritters have names (derived from a children’s competition) such as Snowbi-wan Kenobe, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, the Blizzard of Oz, Gritter Garbo and so on.

Many of our roads and lanes are not on the priority routes but you will be aware of the blue grit bins provided by HCC across the area. These are filled with salt for community use throughout winter. They’re particularly useful for smaller roads or on the pavements. A small amount of salt from these can make a big impact on frozen and icy surfaces. One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface.



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**Hampshire  
County Council**

If you spot grit bins that are empty or running low, do contact Hampshire County Council for replenishing. This can be done either online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> or by emailing [roads@hants.gov.uk](mailto:roads@hants.gov.uk). Parishes are also advised to check these.

### 3. Support for vulnerable households

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124 million from the Government’s Household Support Fund to support households in need with their food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The county proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31 March 2022) through its “connect4communities” programme. The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills, community pantries which give access to discounted food, and community grants, which could be used to assist unpaid carers, for example.

Details can be found at [connect4communities.org](https://connect4communities.org) where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC’s online directory ([connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org) | Family Information and Services Hub ([hants.gov.uk](https://hants.gov.uk))) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants>

### 4. New Year resolutions

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support, either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, Shapeup4life Hampshire is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes, rather than a prescriptive diet. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to [www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk](http://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk).

### Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Calleva Division  
[rhydian.vaughan@hants.gov.uk](mailto:rhydian.vaughan@hants.gov.uk)  
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**Keep Hampshire SAFE**

**Protect yourself and others.**

*This Winter*



If you have been hearing strange noises from Bramley Frith, it may have been a **Muntjac Deer** as **John Stubbs** explains.

If you take a walk round Bramley Frith, perhaps earlyish in the morning or at dusk, just occasionally you'll hear an odd sort of croaky barking from the undergrowth. Don't be too alarmed, but you've quite likely disturbed a territorial, fanged mammal with a rather bad reputation. This reputation is, of course, absolutely not the animal's fault: the muntjac deer is a reclusive, tiny denizen of south-east Asian scrubland, and was perfectly happy where it always had been – for probably the past thirty million years. That's an extraordinarily long time for such an animal, and it would have descended quite directly from the first family group of deers – the present-day two dozen odd varieties of deer, from the cutesy Bambi to the mighty moose, all evolved around ten or twenty million years later.

That evolutionary hiccup, then, probably accounts for the apparent strangeness of the animal – sort of familiar yet not quite what you expect. Those fangs are a bit weird, but they're reserved for disputing territory or mating rights with rivals rather than despatching prey, though the muntjac is more omnivorous than most species of deer and not averse to carrion and small animals if need be. And though a ruminant, with the necessary extra stomach processes, they go for the more easily digested shoots and saplings given the choice. In their native woodland they are quite shy, and as little guys, they're prone to predation by all sorts of larger animals; the big cats, jackals, foxes, crocodiles and even pythons. Keeping up with that sort of toll, they breed all the year round, giving birth from only seven months old.

So, that was fine for literally millions of years, until the human penchant for curiosities led to a few being introduced to London Zoo early in the 19th Century, and later into the big estates such as Woburn Park. From thence there were some escapes and also deliberate releases: why not? Just a few, harmless, wary little beasties, what's not to like? The problem is that they've adapted to our woodlands surprisingly well – all they need is laid on, the main difference being that we just don't have many predators.



*Photograph by Robert Cheke*

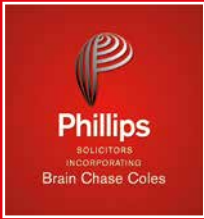
The present UK muntjac population could be around 150,000, though being so difficult to spot, there are no very reliable figures. These deer are genetically all very closely related, probably descended from just four or five escapees since around the start of the 20th Century.

The muntjac is also known as the barking deer, not unreasonably as that's often how you know they're around. These barks, though, are not particularly important to the animal: it seems generally just a sign of unease rather than a full-scale alarm call. The odd thing is how once started, they'll bark staccato for ten minutes or more, like an alarm clock you can't find the button to turn off: really not very tuneful, and at night sounding a bit uncanny. But they do have other voices. They can make a quite humanoid scream – and the does and fawns converse with a range of squeaks. That might be what they say about us, of course.

Certainly, though, in some areas they're significantly changing the woodland understorey, browsing on saplings, shoots and bark. In gardens they'll strip shrubs and plants, particularly new

growth: they're difficult to keep out and quite persistent. It could well be that our annual bluebell display in the Frith is not quite as spectacular as it used to be, and other more palatable flowers will probably suffer even more. The remains of this ancient woodland are quite vulnerable, and while losing a few bluebells is no great problem, the range of flora and some rarities could well be much reduced.

They are, then, officially an invasive alien species, and as such may not be bred or released into the wild. However, as they don't much damage commercial crops, they're not usually targeted for culls. Foxes probably take some of the young, a few may be stalked and shot; probably more are killed on the roads. The buck muntjac in the photo has been a regular visitor to a neighbour's garden – occasionally accompanied by a doe and even a fawn. They've not done a lot of harm there, apparently, but they have no respect for prize blooms or favourite plants. Of course invasive species such as this will be a real problem in some places. But then, we all somehow found our way here at one time. So which has done most damage?



**Don't forget your pet when making your Will**



Claire-Marie Selwood

We have all heard stories of people leaving a small fortune to their pets but is this possible and what about our furry friends themselves?

Whilst it is important to make provision about what should happen to your pet after you die, making a specific gift of money in your Will to your pet would result in a failed gift.

Claire-Marie Selwood, a solicitor in the Private Client Team at Phillips Solicitors, explains why: "The Law treats pets as personal possessions so you cannot leave a legacy in your Will to your beloved pet. After all, pets don't have bank accounts!

It is quite common for pet owners to pass away and not leave their pet with a home to go to but there are steps you can take to ensure your pet is looked after.

It would be unwise to assume that close relatives or friends will look after your pet, without discussing it with them first. Caring for a pet is a huge commitment and you would be imposing an obligation on them to care for your pet for the rest of its life, not to mention the financial obligation.

One option to consider is if you know someone who is willing to look after your pet, you could

leave that person a sum of money in your Will for this purpose.

So there is no misunderstanding about the purpose of the money, the wording in your Will must be clear, which is why we often advise our clients to write a letter of wishes to accompany their Wills.

Whilst this document is not legally binding, it can be a useful guide to inform others how you would like your pet to be cared for. You should be aware that if your chosen carer later decides they can no longer care for your pet there is a risk they may still retain the legacy and spend it how they choose.

Another option to consider, particularly if you do not know anyone who could look after your pet, is to leave a bequest to a charity. You can direct whether the charity should care for the pet or find a suitable alternative home instead. Some animal charities offer after death arrangements for pets.

A final option would be to set up a trust and leave money to trustees to look after your pet. Once your pet has died, the trust would come to an end and any money left over can go to your chosen beneficiaries.

If you need advice about how to make provision for your pet or any other matters relating to Wills, contact Claire-Marie by emailing [claire-marie.selwood@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:claire-marie.selwood@phillips-law.co.uk) or by calling 01256 854622. When contacting Phillips, please mention The Bramley Magazine.

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## BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

Having been in existence for nearly 57 years The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship is a national charity that is dedicated to helping former civil servants and their dependents make the most of their retirement which we have been doing in Basingstoke since 1970.

In an article entitled 'A Pension Is Not Enough' written in the early 1960s Douglas Houghton MP highlighted the need for an organisation that offered retired civil servants an arena for friendship and companionship. His idea was supported and taken up by J P Wolstenholme, the then General Secretary of The Civil Service Benevolent Fund, and on 9th April 1965 the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship was founded. It opened its first branches in Guildford, Birmingham and the Solent area and now has over 60 throughout the UK and Northern Ireland. Friendship and support still remain at the forefront of our work today. We provide a range of services that include two national befriending schemes to help combat loneliness in later life, local community groups (providing educational speakers and leisure activities) and we are on hand to offer information, advice and signposting to a wide range of other supportive organisations, easily accessible via our Freephone telephone advice line.

The Basingstoke group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. The group's full programme of speakers and trips for 2022 year can be obtained by contacting the secretary at:- [csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com](mailto:csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com)

The next meeting of our group is on 2nd February when Mike Brooks will be telling us about Amateur Dramatics and then on 2nd March we will be having our AGM with a presentation from the Cooperative Insurance Services followed by lunch at the Conservative Club.

**David Cowling**



The creation of the CSRF on 9th April 1965

## Managing affairs for someone else

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

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

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

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

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

## Different ways of managing someone's affairs

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

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

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

If you need further information about this, or have a problem, please contact us to see how we can help.

Call us on 0300 3309 064

Chat online: [citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us](https://citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us)

Website: [www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk)

Or search on the National Citizens Advice website [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

## ADVICE FROM ON HIGH

A decorator, not noted for his honesty, watered down his paint, but charged his customers for the full quantity. On one occasion the finished result looked so bad that he feared he would be found out. "What can I do now?" he wailed.

From the Heavens a great voice cried out "Repaint. Repaint, and thin no more"

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

<b>Tuesdays</b>	
<i>Parish Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's Church
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Mother &amp; Toddler group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; 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

<b>Wednesdays</b>	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Wednesday Club 10am to midday</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

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

<b>Fridays</b>	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Cross House
<i>Hipp Pilates 1.30-2.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 3.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Youth Club 5pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall

<b>Saturdays</b>	
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tennis (age 7-13)</i>	Clift Meadow

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

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

**THANK YOU**

### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	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		
0-5s Club	Christine Delve	07739 763618	christinedelve@gmail.com	
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley 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
Classical Pilates	Naomi		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)	Chris Stevens	07782 325094	loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Kickboxing	Leigh Bushnell	07730 678049	wkmabikma@gmail.com	
Knitting Circle	Jean Brogan	880845		Last tuesday of month
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
Mother & Toddler group	Christine Delve	07739 763618		
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	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	

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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### Cryptic Crossword No: 55 Solution

27	CASINOROYALE	1	HAPPYNEWYEAR
26	OVERCAST	2	PROSE
25	SCREEN	3	NATURALWORLD
22	EARTH	4	EXTRAPOLATE
21	NUMSKULLS	5	RAMPING
19	ALPHA	6	UNDERNEATH
17	ENNU	9	PENSIONSAVER
16	SAWMILL	10	BRAZENNESS
15	ORGAN	11	TIE
14	ARENA	12	SEASICKNESS
13	REEXAMINE	18	NUMERIC
10	BYTES	20	PAR
8	STAMEN	23	ACCRA
7	ABSOLUTE	24	TASTE
1			

Down

### CodeWord No: 41 Solution

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

## Bramley Osteopaths

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

7 St Marys Avenue, Bramley, Hants RG26 5UU  
email: [beckyhall@bramleyosteopaths.com](mailto:beckyhall@bramleyosteopaths.com)  
[www.bramleyosteopaths.com](http://www.bramleyosteopaths.com)  
phone: 01256 884139

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