

April 2024

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Millennium Garden Anniversary**
- **Celebrating St James**
- **Help save our bells**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

April 2024

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

Editorial

I am writing this in March and counting down the days until Easter when I can eat biscuits and chocolate again. I've been giving them up for Lent, and Shrove Tuesday seems an awfully long time ago. By the time you read this I'll probably be munching my way through my second Easter egg and third packet of biscuits. I've got 40 days' worth to catch up with after all! I hope you are all enjoying your Easter break and remembered to put your clocks forward on Easter Sunday morning. I was a bit miffed at first that I would lose an hour in bed on Easter morning, but then it dawned on me that it was an hour less to wait for chocolate, so not such a hardship after all.

If you found it a struggle getting up an hour earlier, you can blame the great-great grandfather of Coldplay's Chris Martin - William Willett. Willett started the campaign to change the clocks back in 1907, believing we were wasting the day by sleeping through periods of time when the sun had already risen. His main argument was that putting the clocks forward would save millions of pounds in lighting costs, but being a keen golfer he may also have been influenced by the fact that his golfing was interrupted by the sun going down and extra daylight would mean more time on the golf course! I wonder if Chris Martin used the extra daylight to write *Clocks*.....

It is nice to have that extra light in the evening, whether you use it to play sport, go for a walk, do some volunteering or sit in a beer garden. If you decide to go for a walk, do pop by Clift Meadow and admire the Millennium Garden in the car park. It has thrived over the years thanks to the hard work of Maureen Cole and the WI. You can read more about this on page 10. Close to the Millennium Garden is the Bee Garden, which needs some more volunteers. Turn to page 18 if you think you can help.

When the clocks go forward, the bell ringers save a few candles on practice nights as they no longer need to light them as a precaution against power cuts. Bell ringing in the dark isn't to be recommended! Fortunately, the Guides didn't have to contend with power cuts when they had a go at ringing last month. Our special feature on pages 16 and 17 shows how they got on, and also launches a fundraising campaign to save our bells. Hopefully, the bells will be ringing out when we celebrate St James day in July. Grahame Mellor has been researching our patron saint and you can read his interesting article on page 15.

There are a few dates for the diary too. Bramley Greener Homes is holding a Fair on Saturday 13 April and you can find out more details on page 31. Wilder Bramley is kicking off its Greening Campaign at a public meeting on 17 April – see page 18 for more details.

Enjoy the extra daylight and let's hope we see more skies like the one on the front cover – it's about time the sun made an appearance!

Best wishes

Rachel

Joint Editor

“Time is the most valuable thing that a man can spend.”

Diogenes

Can you help?

We are looking for someone to deliver the Bramley magazine to houses 1 – 50 in Moat Close. It takes less than an hour a month and you only need to do the deliveries 10 times a year.

If you can help or if you would like more information, please contact Rachel or Georgie on editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

Thank you

Cover Photo: Spring blossom

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

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Church diary for April...

7th	2nd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
14th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
21st	4th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning worship – St James
	<i>St James Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held after this service</i>
28th	5th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

And into May...

5th	6th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP) – St James
12th	7th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
19th	Pentecost Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning worship – St James

Other local churches

St Bede's, Catholic Church

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

St Michael's, Catholic Church

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

Breach Lane Baptist Chapel

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

Services at the other three churches in our Benefice

New service schedule for St Mary's Hartley Wespall from April

From April onwards the time of the Hartley Wespall Family Service is changing to 10.30am on the THIRD Sunday of the month. The service on the FIRST Sunday of the month will be BCP Evensong at 6.30pm.

April

7th	2nd Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
10.00	Family Service St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong - St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
14th	3rd Sunday of Easter
10.00	Cafe Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
21st	4th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
10.30	(note new time) – Family Service St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
28th	5th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Family Service – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
	<i>St Leonard's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held after this service</i>

May

5th	6th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
10.00	Family Service St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
18.30	BCP Evensong – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
12th	7th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Cafe Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
19th	Pentecost Sunday
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield on Loddon
10.30	(note new time) – Family Service St Mary's, Hartley Wespall

Bramley SpeedWatch

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data:

The SIDs were in full use throughout February; See Table 1 for data. If anybody would like traffic speed monitored in a specific locality, please let us know via bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com.

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

Three manned deployments were undertaken during February. A total of 29 vehicles were reported to the police from the 426 vehicles checked - a rate of 7%. Top speed recorded was 37 mph.

Can you help?

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

Speed Indicator Device (SID) data (February):

SID Location	Traffic Direction	% Speed Violations (+30mph)	Max Speed Recorded
Farriers	West	47%	58
The Street Village Hall	East	38%	61
Farriers	West	46%	63
The Street Village Hall	East	38%	82

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

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

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Graham White, Bramley SpeedWatch Co-ordinator



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News from Clift Surgery

COVID autumn vaccination programme.

Overall, a total of 469,979 vaccinations were given during the campaign. 63.7% of the eligible population were vaccinated during the Autumn/ Winter campaign.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight were consistently the highest performing area in the South East during every week of the Autumn/ Winter campaign, and at one point we were the highest performing area in the country.

COVID Spring Boosters

Information about the Spring COVID Booster, can be found www.NHS England » Preparing for a successful spring 2024 COVID-19 vaccination campaign

Clift Surgery will be giving the Spring boosters in April/May and eligible patients will be contacted directly. Do not call the surgery as a date for the delivery of the vaccine has not been given.

Heart Health

It is really important for everyone to know their blood pressure (which is a key indicator of heart health), to reduce the risk of stroke, heart disease and kidney disease. You can check your blood pressure by buying a home monitor, using the machine in the dispensary or at a pharmacy. Keep a note

of your readings and share them with the practice so they can be put on your record.

Clift Surgery also offers NHS Health checks for those aged 40-74 years, without diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease or stroke already. Those eligible can have a test every 5 years. More information can be found at www.bloodpressureuk.org

Missed appointments

In February, there were 90 missed appointments. There can be genuine reasons why patients miss appointments occasionally, but most could be freed up with a little forethought. Please consider those who really need an appointment and are waiting.

News from the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

- Weather permitting, the surgery car park will be having the lines repainted. This will mean slightly wider spaces and two accessible spaces for wheelchair users, parents with children and those who have mobility problems. Please respect these spaces.
- If you have visited the surgery recently you will have seen splashes of yellow from the daffodils planted by the cubs and squirrels. It is lovely to see the young people taking pride in their community.

There is always hope

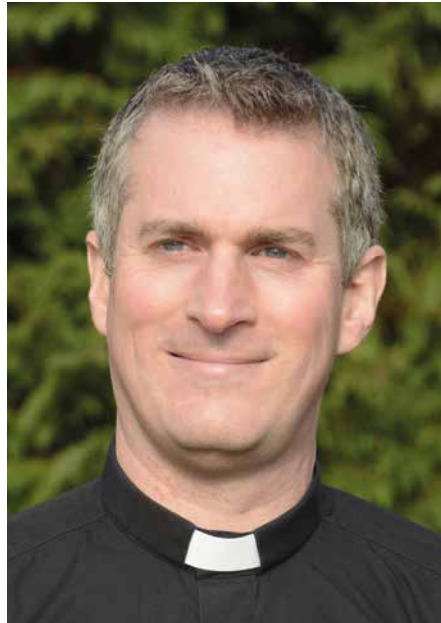
Do you watch films? Or as we call them today 'movies' or in some places 'feature presentations'. I remember my grandmother going to the 'pictures' to watch them.

Many of them start by getting to know the main characters and then they are confronted by a challenge or something going wrong or a personal disaster befalls them. They seem to be doing well coping with it and then something else bad happens and they (and perhaps the viewer too) begin to lose hope. Most films (as I like to call them) have a happy ending where the main characters triumph over adversity (perhaps after some loss) and then live happily ever after with a warm glow of achievement and satisfaction about them.

One film I enjoyed was *The Two Towers*, the second part of the trilogy *Lord of the Rings*. About half way through the people representing good are facing overwhelming odds as the multitudes of evil beings march towards them, bent on their destruction. One of the main characters is losing hope and is on the verge of giving up. The hero confronts him and with confidence and determination tells him 'there is always hope'. And of course, in the end the goodies triumph over the baddies.

We all need hope. The opposite is despair and that's a bad place to be. I wonder, what gives you hope? What is it that leads you to think the future will be better than the past? As you might expect, I look to Jesus to give me hope. I have put my faith in God to make all things well, however long that may take. The Bible defines faith as 'being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see'.

I have faith that God is working in such ways as to give us hope. That's not wishful thinking. It's based on the central



Rev'd Mark Anderson

aspect of the Christian faith: the death and resurrection to new life of Jesus Christ. We have just celebrated Easter Day (on 31 March) when God showed the world that there can always be hope. When Jesus died and rose again, God was showing us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Easter Day is a demonstration that in a world of pain, death and despair, God can bring healing, new life and hope. As the Bible says:

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through [God] who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus Christ gives me hope.

Rev'd Mark Anderson
Vicar, St James Bramley

Friday, 19th April, 4.30-5.45pm
at Sherfield Park Community Centre.

The whole family is welcome to join us for fun, Bible based crafts, games and stories. Children's and adults' refreshments

To book please email Elaine on Siteonards@sherfield@gmail.com by Thursday 11th April

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

COME AND ENJOY A
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HEATHER DAVIES FROM ST JAMES CHURCH WILL BE SHARING HER "MEMORIES OF MOZAMBIQUE" FROM HER TIME WORKING WITH THE IRIS GLOBAL CHARITY

FROM 8.45AM
Saturday 27th April

In this month's edition of **Meet The Neighbours** we talk to **Deborah De Groot**, one of the Governors at Bramley Church of England Primary School.

Deborah, how did you become a Governor at our local school?

I chose to become a Governor at Bramley in 2019. I had just finished another volunteer role and was looking for something else I could get involved in. The last Chair of Governors, Carey Sedgwick Dwane, is a friend of mine and she suggested I applied as they needed more Governors at that time. Carey sold the idea because she said that Bramley had very good leadership and the school was beginning to really expand so thought it would be an interesting school to become involved with.

I enjoy all sorts of aspects of the role. I enjoy doing something for the community, especially for children, it makes the work feel very worthwhile. I have enjoyed learning and becoming informed about the finances of state schools and all the challenges schools face. The other Governors all bring something to the table, and I enjoy working as a team alongside the staff.

Why should other people consider becoming a Governor?

It is worth considering becoming a Governor. If you are a parent, you will gain real insight into issues behind the scenes as well as being able to give some input on behalf of parents. This also applies if you are a carer or perhaps a grandparent. If you have a bit of time to spare then it is a worthwhile role, helping influence what happens in your local school. There is plenty of free training in all sorts of areas, which gives you new skills and knowledge.

Tell us something about your life beyond your role as a Governor?

I left school after taking my 'A' Levels, and as university was not something that was considered (difficult to believe these days), I went to cookery school for a year. When I left, my first job was working for Prue Leith, well before her TV career. Later in my twenties I decided to go and live in France for a year, mainly to learn French, and from there started to work in the wine trade, where I continued until I had children. I gave up my full-time job to raise my two children which was more challenging than any other job I had done!



Deborah on top of the Lake District

I have three brothers and I am married to Mark, an IT consultant, who also has three brothers! We have one daughter who is now a trained Physiotherapist working for the NHS and one son, who studied Electrical Engineering at Bath University and is now working for a firm of accountants (working towards his final accountancy exams) in Bristol.

I have numerous hobbies! I really enjoy sport and fully endorse the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. I enjoy riding, walking, swimming, and tennis. I also enjoy travelling, and, when I'm at home, baking and experimenting with new recipes. I also love horses and dogs!

Before I got married I did quite a bit of travelling which really gave me a good feel for other cultures - not so easy before the times of internet and



Riding a ship of the desert in Oman



Hiking in Oman

mobile phones. Now our children are independent and working, I have decided to start doing some more travelling to countries I haven't visited. Last year, we went to Sri Lanka, and this year I have just returned from Oman, my first visit to a Muslim country which I found interesting and gave me an insight into a very different way of life.

When I turned 60 a few years ago, I decided to raise some money for the charity Cure Parkinsons as my brother had recently been diagnosed. I set myself the challenge of running a half marathon (13 miles!). It took nearly a year of training but in 2019 I ran the London Parks half marathon and raised £17,000 for Cure Parkinsons. I think I managed to raise so much money because none of my friends believed that I would be able to finish!

Is there anyone specific who has inspired you to have such an active life?

The people who have inspired and influenced me most are my parents. Both my parents loved people and had a great range of friends who were always welcomed into our home. My mother had quite a tough life, but she never felt sorry for herself and was always positive. Throughout her life she found time to do voluntary work including riding for the disabled, and, later, she became involved with our local prisons, first visiting prisoners' wives and then as a Prison Visitor, which sparked my interest in the criminal justice system.

And our last question – what do you like most about living in this area?

When I got married, my husband was working for Oracle IT company based near Reading, so we moved near to Newbury and started a family - we have stayed in the area ever since. We are blessed with lovely countryside as well as easy access to London.

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 18 May
12 to 4pm
Clift Meadow

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25 years ago, a **village garden** was created for the millennium and, all these years later it is still an important part of Clift Meadow. **Maureen Cole** explains how it all came about.

The Millennium Garden was created for the Year 2000. There had been a group of young men who had contributed lottery money for the purchase of plants and in 1999 they ran a competition to design the garden, which I won. Most of the plants had been brought from the Dummer Garden Centre as it was changing hands. Three car-loads were obtained; luckily I had a hatch back car! A local builder deposited 'topsoil' from a local site at Forge Field. This was a mixed blessing as it was full of dock and couch, weeds that can be difficult to eradicate.

The original men helped to plant some of the shrubs. My husband and I helped with the rest, and many of my friends donated perennial plants. The garden had begun – it was a present to the village.

For years we fought the docks and couch. After 16 years I decided it was time for others to help, so I began the team of WI workers. The garden, begun 25 years ago, has given the village and locals much colour and pleasure over those years. In times of drought it has survived very well without



watering. At times it has drooped but has bounced back with the rain.

Next time you are in Clift Meadow car park, do look at the variety of plants, at their colours, shapes and textures. On 23 February, a lovely sunny day, the Berkshire Hardy Plant Society came to see the Millennium Garden and Bee Garden in Clift Meadow. They were impressed and wish to come again when the garden is in full colour. Praise was given to the WI for their hard work.

Millennium Garden photographs taken in late Spring.



Adventures - Luxury - Family
 Bucket List - Cruise - Ski - Honeymoon - Safari - Lapland

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This month's update from Bramley Parish Council comes from Cllr Iain James and includes information about our village's D-Day celebrations.

A date for your diary... 6 June 2024 – D-Day Celebrations

6 June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed. In 1944 Operation Overlord saw around 4,000 ships and landing craft set down about 156,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

Bramley Parish Council are marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day by lighting the beacon at 21:15 on 6 June 2024 on Clift Meadow, in celebration of the "light of peace" that emerged out of the darkness of war.

Other activities include:

- Ringing of the church bells
- A 1940s-based band
- A D-Day proclamation by our Town Crier
- Fish and chips
- A mobile bar
- Planned flyby of a Spitfire (tbc)
- Planned Chinook fly past (tbc)
- The now highly anticipated lighting of the beacon!

It all starts at 19.00 on Clift Meadow, so let's all hope for a fine summer's evening to enjoy the coming together of our village at this memorable event.

The full programme will be out in next month's Bramley Magazine.

Local funding - The Parish Council supports lots of other village activities. This month we gave funding to:

- **Bramley Village Hall** – funds to replace the obsolete fire alarm system in the Village Hall. This is essential for the safe operation of this important village asset.
- **The Bramley Fete** – 18th May. This well-attended event will run again this year with financial support from Bramley Parish Council to help make sure it's as good as ever.
- **Wilder Bramley Greening Campaign** – *Wilder Bramley*

are looking to run a Greening campaign in our village. Following a proven programme that has run successfully in many communities across the country, Bramley PC is supporting the purchase of some of the printed materials required. Much more funding for this programme is coming from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council so I'm sure it will be something we can get engaged with. Look out for further announcements soon.

They have also been awarded some money to support their popular evening talks and the purchase of some survey equipment to help measure how their activities are improving the biodiversity of the areas they are working on.

- **Easter Egg Hunt** – *The Petite School of Dancing* is a local non-profit group that aims to ensure every child builds on their confidence, learns new skills as well as makes new friends and most importantly has fun. They are holding their ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt, and Bramley PC has awarded them some funds to help make it happen.
- **Citizens Advice, Tadley** – This service supports many Bramley residents. Their great work has been supported by Bramley PC for many years. This request is specifically to help fund their Mental Health project – the aim is to help clients with mental health problems access the advice and support they need. Bramley PC is proud to support this worthwhile initiative.

If your group is looking for help with an activity that helps make our village a better place to be, please contact the clerk and find out how to apply, or check out the Bramley PC website – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-grants.

Local Plan – I hope you all had an opportunity look at the Borough Council Local Plan consultation that closed at the start of March. A very good piece of work that looks over the next 15 years of development of our borough, with a strong focus on climate change impacts and the conservation of our green and blue environment.

Upcoming meetings – As ever, we would love to see you at our monthly meetings. The April meetings are 9 April for Planning Committee, and 16 April for full Council. You can catch up with all our activities on the website www.bramley-pc.gov.uk, where you can see the agenda, previous minutes and get in contact. There is also information on the Bramley PC Facebook page www.facebook.com/BramleyPC

Contact Information:

Bramley PC Clerk – Maxta Thomas, email clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk, telephone: 07810 692486, website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BramleyPC
 Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – telephone: 01256 844844, website: www.basingstoke.gov.uk
 Hampshire County Council – website: www.hants.gov.uk



Little Apples share some great tips about reading with children



Last month, our article focused on why it is so important to read to young children. However, we understand that this may not always be as easy as it sounds. Booktrust.org.uk (BookTrust: Getting children reading | BookTrust) have lots of practical tips to start young children on their literacy journey and also how to help older children continue to love reading.

Some great tips are:

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story either!)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!

Books are a very important part of life at pre-school, both fiction and non-fiction. Last week we celebrated World Book Day and the children dressed up as characters from their favourite books. They also brought in their favourite books to share with their friends. Our best costume prize went to a super Thomas the Tank Engine, and our favourite new book was "Daft Bat", a lovely story about seeing the world differently. Well done to everyone who took part.

If you would like any information about Little Apples, you can call us on (07598) 588460 or email manager at littleapples.org. Our website is www.littleapples.org

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and much more...

Money

I was having a discussion recently about money. Not the usual sort of discussion, but about the way, in the words of the song, that *Money Makes the World Go Round* (from the musical *Cabaret*, if I remember correctly). We know from the Bible that *'the love of money is the root of all evil'* (1 Timothy 6:10) but even if we don't love it as such, we still need it. A lack of money in an economy, as there was in Greece in the financial crisis of 2008, meant great hardship, as you may remember from the news at the time. I remember this story from the time, which shows it very neatly.

At the height of the financial crisis in 2008, a German tourist, Heinz, walked into a small hotel in a Greek village. He asked if they had a room for him to stay. The owner, Stellios, said there was just one available, as he always did, however many rooms were actually vacant. Heinz said he wanted to explore the village before deciding to stay, but that he could leave a returnable deposit. The owner agreed and suggested 50 euros, so Heinz produced a 50 euro note and said he would be back in a couple of hours, either to stay or retrieve his money. He then left. Nadia, the hotel room maid, had been watching this. She immediately approached Stellios, not realising that the 50 euros was just a deposit, and asked for the remainder of her wages which Stellios had been unable to pay the day before. Stellios did not want to upset her, so he took a gamble that Heinz would come back and stay the night. He gave Nadia the 50 euros.



Nadia was very happy and went off to the taverna across the square. She settled her outstanding bar tab of 49 euros and asked for a coffee.

Eugenia, the owner of the taverna was very happy to see the bar tab settled. After a few minutes she went next door to the butcher, Vlassis, to settle her debt for the meat she had used that week, and ordered some more to the value of 50 euros.

Vlassis was happy about this and got on to his bike to ride to the farm of Georgios, who supplied all of his meat. His outstanding debt to Georgios was, you guessed it, 50 euros. Georgios and Vlassis agreed to meet a little later at Eugenia's taverna.

When Georgios arrived in the square, he saw that Vlassis was still closing up his shop. Georgios popped into Stellios's hotel while he was waiting for Vlassis. He now had 50 euros to secure the advance booking for his daughter's wedding reception, which he had been worried about being able to afford. He placed the 50 euro note on the counter for Stellios.

At this moment, Heinz reappeared, and said that unfortunately he had been called back to Germany urgently because a close relative was ill. He asked for his deposit back, which he noticed, because he was an observant man, was the still the same note that he had left a couple of hours before. And the moral of the story? Money has to travel to be of use. We call it 'currency' because it should flow, like a current. I wish my economics teacher had told us this story 50 years ago.

Michael Luck

News from the Cafe

On Wednesday 13 March we had a busy session with two sets of visitors. Linda Dove and Gillie Edwards from the Bramley and Roman Floral Society kindly came along and demonstrated how to make a table decoration. This resulted in a beautiful selection of flower displays, as shown in this photo.



Linda and Gillie with some of the beautiful flower arrangements

Additionally, Tom and Archie came along to tell us about the 500 mile walk they are doing from Land's End to Dover, during which they will experience the joys of wild camping. They are doing the walk to raise money for infant healthcare in Nigeria and to contribute to Tom's Duke of Edinburgh award. If you wish to support them, a go fund me page is available, <https://gofund.me/e5747206>. [See page 21 for more information about Tom and Archie's walk].



Tom and Archie will need lots of cake to keep them going on their 500 mile walk!

Bramley Volunteer Drivers need you!

Bramley Volunteer drivers are continuing to help people in our community. This from Clare, the daughter of one of our clients:



"The Bramley Volunteer Drivers have been an absolute godsend for me and my 94-year-old father. He has regular medical appointments and I have a full-time job, so we started using the service hoping it would take some of the strain. The service is so much more than either of us ever expected. Calls and e-mails are responded to with reassuring promptness, the drivers we have used have been absolutely lovely - and most importantly Dad trusts them and doesn't become anxious ahead of journeys with them. For me, I know he's in good hands, going where he needs to go safely while I am at work. Dad's appointments can be stressful and it really helps that the drivers treat him with kindness and understanding on every journey. I have a while to go before I won't be working, but I would definitely consider volunteering myself having been so grateful for the help we've received."

And this, from Mandy, one of our lovely drivers:

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

If you'd like to join us as a driver, or phone holder, please call us on 07787 166924 for a chat.

Our cafe is open every Wednesday, during term time, in the Clift Meadow Pavilion from 10:00 to 11:30. If you would like more information, please email Jane Kettridge at jk.cmcc@btconnect.com.



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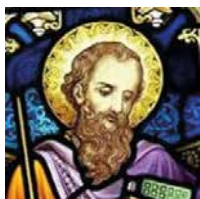
St James Church in Bramley is already making plans to celebrate its Saint's Day in July, but what do we know about St James? **Grahame Mellor** has been doing some research.



I am quite sure that at one time or another we have all paused to admire the beautiful appearance and magnificence of our village church, named after St. James. It is open every day, so we can all experience the interesting interior as well as its welcoming warmth and comforting peace.

But how much do you know about St. James and his history? It was not until I was asked to write an article about St. James and the ambitious activity planned to celebrate his feast day in July this year, that I learnt some interesting information!

St. James was born in Galilee, Palestine and was one of the twelve apostles, distinguished as being in Jesus' innermost circle. He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament (Acts 12:2). His Saint's Day or Feast Day is 25 July.



James and his younger brother, St. John the Apostle, who wrote one of the four gospels, are known as "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17), perhaps because of their characteristic fiery zeal (Mark 9:38 and Luke 9:54). With Saints Peter and Andrew, they were the first four disciples whom Jesus called (Mark 1:16–19).

Saint James is the patron saint of Spain and, according to tradition, his remains are held in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. Every year, thousands of pilgrims walk along the Camino de Santiago ("The Way of St. James" in English), a network of routes leading to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

One of the emblems of St James is the distinctive red cross, also known as La Cruz de Santiago or the Santiago Cross. It is a symbol of God's protection. The white colour is said to represent purity and the red colour symbolizes the blood of Christ.

A vision of the Santiago Cross

This painting of the St James' Cross was created by local artist David Pain and was presented to our church by the Confraternity of St. James in 2023. It is hanging proudly on the wall facing the stairs in Cross House. It is on canvas measuring 100cm high by 50cm wide and is in full view of any of the pilgrims visiting our church during their pilgrimage route along the St. James Way from Reading Abbey to Southampton. The St James Cross is a common sight for Pilgrims along the Camino: the Spanish word for path, route or journey. There will be more about the St James' Way in my next article.



Another symbol associated with St James is the scallop shell which you may have seen decorating the exterior of Cross House. Legend has it that after St. James was martyred in Jerusalem, his body was taken to Spain and when the ship reached the shore a horse was spooked and fell in the water. The story goes on to say how both the horse and rider were miraculously saved and came out of the water covered in scallop shells. Over the years, the scallop shell has

become closely associated with the Camino and Christian pilgrimage in general. The lines on the scallop shells represent all the different ways leading to Compostela and the shell symbol is used on the waymarkers which guide pilgrims along the various routes. You will see a number of these yellow and blue signs in St James' Church. Pilgrims often wear a scallop shell around their neck and it can also be used as a bowl for food and water.



This photograph was given to St James' Church by a pilgrim who had recently returned from Santiago de Compostela. It shows one of the many shell symbols that guided her along the way.



Save the Date!

St James Church will be celebrating St James' Day between 25th and 28th July. There will be an exhibition of decorated panels around the church depicting Christian symbols and images, refreshments will be served in Cross House and the Bishop of Winchester will be joining our services on Sunday. More details to follow next month.

The Bramley bell ringers have launched a fundraising campaign to save our church's historic bells as **Rachel Barclay Smith** and **Claire Roulstone** explain



The bells at St James' Church have sounded out for nearly 400 years. When we ring them, we often wonder how many people have listened to them over the centuries.

The church tower was built in 1636 and houses eight bells, five of which were cast in Reading by Ellis Knight in 1638, when Charles I was on the throne. Another bell was added in 1883 and the final two for the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. Over the years, these historic bells have been rung to welcome parishioners to Sunday worship, for weddings, funerals and baptisms, as well as to mark significant events and historic anniversaries such as the late Queen's Diamond and Platinum Jubilees and the King's Coronation. In June we will be ringing for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Our bell ringers

We have a strong team of bell ringers of all ages and backgrounds who meet every Tuesday evening for practice and ring every Sunday for the 10.30 service. We all enjoy playing the heaviest and loudest of instruments – bells are heavy metal! – although no particular musical ability or physical strength are necessary for learning to ring.

Two of our most recent recruits, Sophia and Toby, are still at school. We asked them why they wanted to learn.

Sophia: Both my parents ring bells so I was four days old when I attended my first practice! However, it wasn't until I was doing my silver Duke of Edinburgh award that I decided I would like to learn to ring as part of my skills section. I carried on ringing after I got my award and have been part of the band for 18 months. I enjoy ringing the bells in what we refer to as rounds and I have also started doing some conducting. It is challenging to ring the heavier bells like the tenor bell as it weighs just over half a tonne (609 kilograms).

Toby: I started ringing the bells here at St. James' last June. With the help of the Bramley ringers, I have learnt a lot about the old tradition and have enjoyed every bit of it. It is a fun hobby which benefits the local community as well as yourself.



Sophia and Toby

A visit from the Guides

Last year the Scouts came along to see what bell ringing was all about and last month we were delighted to welcome the Guides. They learnt a bit about the history of the bells and had a go at chiming the lightest bell (the treble) and the heaviest bell (the tenor). Some of them found it was easier to ring the tenor in pairs! The bells were in the 'down' position so it was completely safe, even when the weight of the bell lifted a few of the Guides off the floor!





Repair work

A recent inspection revealed that a substantial amount of work would need to be carried out in the next five years or so to ensure that the bells could continue to be rung safely for future generations and thus maintain the historic legacy, tradition, and art of bell ringing in the village.

We are now delighted to announce that the church has approved the launch of the project to restore the bells at St James, Bramley.

The restoration project will involve lowering all the bells from the tower and transporting them to the workshops at Loughborough Bell Foundry where they will be renovated. In particular, the timber headstocks on the five oldest bells will be replaced with modern metal stocks, and various other parts of the ringing apparatus will be overhauled and renewed. This work should future-proof the installation until the 23rd Century!

We are also planning to have rope guides installed in the ringing chamber, which will make the bells much easier to ring.

To undertake this project, we need to raise in the region of £50,000 and donations of any size will be most gratefully received. Grants are being sought, fundraising events will be held and there will also be an opportunity for individuals to sponsor a bell with the option of having an inscription placed on the headstock in memory of a loved one. If you would like more information about this project or would like to make a contribution, please contact:

Dr Claire Roulstone

(Deputy Ringing Master), claire.roulstone@outlook.com

Rachel Barclay Smith

(Churchwarden), rbarclaysmith@gmail.com

Some of the ringers will be at the Bramley village fete on 18 May 2024 if you would like to find out more about bell ringing.



Wilder Bramley kicks off new Greening Campaign

We can all feel overwhelmed by the enormity of Climate Change but there are things we can all do to make a difference! Wilder Bramley are joining forces with 'The Greening Campaign' and communities across Hampshire to take positive action against climate change.

The Greening Campaign is a not-for-profit organisation bringing communities together to tackle all aspects of climate change. Over the last 15 years they've worked with more than 200 communities. Supported by Hampshire County Council and National Lottery funding, Bramley is one of just 20 communities in Hampshire chosen to run the programme this year.

We hope the initiative will give the whole village an opportunity to interact with an exciting year of sustainability initiatives and events. Spread the word! We invite you to join us at a

Public Meeting: 7pm Wednesday 17th April, Clift Meadow Pavilion

Come along to learn more about the Greening Campaign and help us shape the next steps together as a community for climate action! You will hear from the Greening Campaign's



Bramley's new Greening logo

founder, Terena Plowright, set some environmental challenges for residents and groups, and have your say on our next steps. The programme is structured around five pillars, supported by experts with a wealth of knowledge and resources to share. We'll be looking for individuals and groups to get involved, support a pillar, and help shape our programme.

- Through the **Space for Nature** pillar (supported by HIWWT) we seek to increase biodiversity and carbon capture. A first step will be to map the existing valuable habitats within Bramley before looking to enhance them and create wildlife corridors.
- Building on the excellent work of Bramley Greener Homes, the **Energy Efficient Warmer Homes** pillar (supported by the Sustainability Centre and the

Environment Centre) will help us all reduce our household energy bills with top tips for energy surveying, thermal imaging and understanding the grants available.

- The **Cycle of the Seed** pillar (supported by Garden Organic) encourages the growing of food locally and the benefits of soil health to the planet. It will be an engaging pillar by which we can learn about growing food, cooking, reducing food waste and composting.
- For the **Waste Prevention** pillar (supported by HCC) we will be looking to establish fun and enterprising activities to reduce consumption.
- The **Health Impacts of Climate Change** pillar (supported by Anthea Cooke, Consultant) will provide a platform for people to explore, express and understand the implications of our changing climate.

For more information, message us at wilder.bramley@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to keep our Clift Meadow Bee Garden buzzing!

Can you spare just 2 hours a month to join our team of friendly volunteers on the 4th Sunday morning or 2nd Thursday evening of the month? Please contact us on 07503 155669 or email wilder.bramley@gmail.com.



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***“When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
“For your tomorrow we
gave our today”***

These familiar words, known as the Kohima Epitaph, are inscribed on the memorial of the 2nd British Division at Kohima in north-east India where one of the greatest battles of WW2 was fought from 4 April to 22 June 1944. It was the turning point of the Japanese advance into India and claimed the lives of 18,857 British and Indian army lives and 53,000 Japanese; moreover, it showed that the Japanese army could be beaten and it gave a boost to allied troops.



The inscription can be found on many War Memorials in Britain, the Commonwealth and the US. Although specific to the Battle of Kohima, it is now used as a way of remembering all who died in both world wars and other conflicts, as a reminder of the great price that has been paid for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. The words are a central part of our Remembrance services and are also recited at the end of all our RBL meetings.

The Poppy Shop has commissioned a commemorative lapel badge which, along with others for D-Day, Imphal, etc, will be available at the Bramley D-Day event on Thursday 6 June.

Our Bramley & District Branch meets on Tuesday 9 April at Cross House Bramley at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. Steve Day, our branch treasurer, will give us a talk called “How do we communicate?” His talk will take us through the changing history of communication to the present day and into the future, dispelling some myths and covering the implications of the Digital Switchover in 2025. Ever wanted to know what the terms 5G, 4G, IoT, PSTN and VOIP mean? Come along and find out - get ahead of the game!

Finally, please block the evening of Friday 12 July in your diary and organise to come to our Summer BBQ at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club. Full details next month including the name of our very distinguished Guest of Honour.

John Morley
Branch Chairman
revjmorley@
talktalk.net
07900 892566



BRAMLEY AND ROMANS FLORAL SOCIETY



For our first monthly meeting on Thursday 7 March, we were treated to a lovely demonstration by Stephanie Cornell, an Area NAFAS qualified Demonstrator, entitled “A Few of my Favourite Things” – a combination of Stephanie’s favourite things and one or two relating to the Julie Andrews’ song. “Raindrops on Roses” was depicted by a round arrangement with beautiful lilac roses and small purple clematis. A horizontal arrangement with yellow chrysanthemums and eryngium (sea holly) depicted Stephanie’s love of being beside the sea, while an arrangement in a small watering can with beautiful dual-coloured coral gerberas and agapanthus, showed her love of gardening. Other arrangements included her love of bird watching in Norfolk and an arrangement using contorted willow instead of oasis to hold spring flowers including tulips, hyacinths and daffodils. Stephanie finished her demonstration with “brown paper packages tied up with string” – a large brown paper parcel with an arrangement of lovely green carnations and glorious green orchids on top and, as a surprise, a smaller version of the larger arrangement. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

During her demonstration, Stephanie told us that she has been honoured to be asked to complete an arrangement in Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Day Service on Monday 11 March. A privilege indeed.

BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

Vacancy for a Tuba Player

Basingstoke Concert Band is a friendly, progressive wind band, which has a vacancy for a quality tuba player(s). The standard of performance required is minimum Grade 6, with interested players being strong readers, showing a high level of commitment.

The band rehearse in the Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall RG27 0EZ every Wednesday evening from 7.30-9.30pm.

Further information about the Band can be seen at bcband.org.uk

If you play Tuba, and are interested in joining a quality wind band, please contact info@bcband.org.uk

This term at Bramley School

We are just over half way through the school year at Bramley C of E Primary School and we have flown through so many different topics already! Each term, we use either a history, geography or science theme to drive our learning.

What are we learning this term?

Our youngest children are looking at 'Where we belong in the world', understanding their place in time. They have brought in pictures of themselves as babies and are putting them on timelines. Later on in the term, they will try to understand how long ago the dinosaurs were! They have also been planning a Teddy bears Picnic, writing invitations and sharing sandwich fillings, before bringing in their teddies and enjoying the fun!

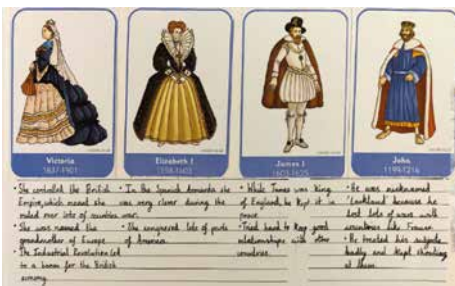
In year 1, the children have been following the history topic 'Amazing Aviation'. They have looked at famous pilots such as Amelia Earhart, discussing how she showed great determination to achieve her goal of flying across the Atlantic, as well as Bessie Coleman who wasn't allowed to study aviation in America and had to move to France (and learn French) to be able to follow her passions.



The children in year 2 are using the science topic of materials as their inspiration for this term as 'Grand Designers'. They have spent time investigating different materials to see why some are better suited to certain jobs than others. They are also using their design technology planning skills to put these materials to good use as they design and make a model bedroom.

Further up the school, the pupils in year 3 are studying the lives and legacy of the Ancient Egyptians. The term got off to an amazing start when they received a Zoom call from Cleopatra herself! The children were thrilled to hear first-hand what happened in her life and death, and the different inventions during that time. They have also been fascinated by the many rituals of the ancient Egyptian people through mummification and tomb burials.

The wonderful lives of the Ancient Maya is the topic focus this term in year 4. With the children's ever growing knowledge of different time periods, they are able to make links between what was common place at the time and the changes around the world. They have found it fascinating to see how the most important or most rich would have the biggest and most flamboyant headdresses.



History is also the main driver within year 5, they are looking at which key monarchs have had the biggest impact on Britain. Looking at James I with

the gunpowder plot, Queen Anne in uniting Great Britain and King John who had to be reined in by the barons to make rules fair for everyone through the Magna Carta. The children had great fun imagining the laws they would create if they were rulers.

At the head of the school, children in year 6 have been looking at life in Ancient Greece. After sharing many myths, they are then having a go at creating their own using creatures and trials to overcome. They have studied the Olympics and how it became an integral part of their culture. As an end point, they are sharing their knowledge of the Greek lifestyle in the patterns and carvings they are etching onto their own clay pots.



As you can see, school life is incredibly busy! But we use these inspiring topics to link to the books we read and the writing we create. Where possible, we may also tie it into our art work, our design and our music to create links and broaden their experiences linked to the subject.



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Probuss Hear About the Wit and Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan

The speaker, Dr Stephen Goss, delved into the background of some of the famous and amusing operettas created by Gilbert and Sullivan in the nineteenth century.

Although one member, as a schoolboy, had taken part in a performance, many members had not seen such performances on stage. And yet, most of these works are well known and it came easy to hear renditions of several of the popular songs. WS Gilbert developed the 'topsy-turvy' words that become so familiar, and Arthur Sullivan was able to compose music that suited each situation.

Seeing the words on a large screen brought home the skill of the librettist. The audiences of the day were drawn towards the clever writing rather than the accompanying music of the more famous composer, Arthur Sullivan, that made the credits change to Gilbert and Sullivan.

Arthur Seymour Sullivan had been brought up in a musical household where his father was a band master, and as a child Arthur was a chorister in the Chapel Royal. He attended the Royal Academy of Music and following three years at the Leipzig Conservatory, he initially struggled to make a living as



a conductor, organist, teacher and choir master. He wrote serious music including for royal occasions and became well known as England's most promising composer.

William Schwenck Gilbert had a variety of jobs most of which needed a good level of expertise in the English language. He had been a civil servant, a barrister, a comic journalist and became a captain in the militia. He drew on the experiences from these occupations when writing four plays a year for ten years.

Gilbert and Sullivan wrote fourteen comic operas between 1871 – 1896 with the most popular being HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. They were hugely successful; HMS Pinafore had an initial run of 571 performances and within a year was on the stage in USA and across the world.

The thinly veiled satire of some of the plots was uncovered to the enjoyment of the audience, along with

the unmasking of characters which were deliberate parodies of specific Victorian politicians and notables. Gilbert's political satire often poked fun at the wealthy and powerful whom Sullivan sought out for friendship and patronage.

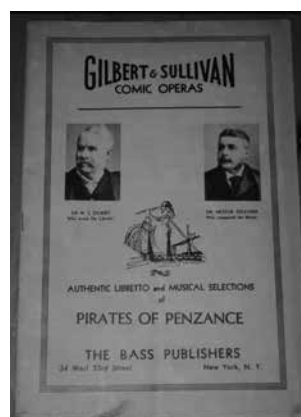
Richard D'Oyly Carte brought Gilbert and Sullivan together and nurtured their collaboration. He built the Savoy Theatre in 1881 to present their joint works, which became known as the Savoy Operas. It was the first public building in the world to be lit by electricity. The D'Oyly Carte Opera



Company was formed just to promote these operettas and performed over 35,000 Gilbert and Sullivan's creations, only closing in 1982.

Gilbert and Sullivan had the attention of Victorian society with the wit and satire appealing to popular audiences. Their works were forecast to be transitory but 140 years later they are still enjoyed throughout the English speaking world.

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



A Very Long Walk

I would love to say that I am a charitable man, that I'm particularly devoted to this cause, and I hold so much passion for saving children's lives that I feel simply compelled to do some big stunt with the sole intention of raising money for people who need it the most.

That isn't quite the truth. I instead crave adventure. I thrive on activity and have planned more far-fetched and, frankly, mad trips than I care to mention - I got my 80-year-old grandparents on a speed boat. I am the physical manifestation of the phrase 'biting off more than I can chew', and I am embarking on this trip for little reason beyond that I've finally managed to convince somebody else to come with me. That being said, I'm under no illusion that

this will be fun. We are walking 500 Miles from Sennen, Land's End, to The White Cliffs of Dover, carrying our tents and food on our backs, hoping to average 13 Miles walked per day, and allowing ourselves 6 weeks.

We are expecting a gruelling, often rainy and always damp trek along the South Coast, our route taking us through Dartmoor, The New Forest, The South Downs and Southampton. Thankfully, we're not complete amateurs, and certainly stand a chance of completing this admittedly terribly ambitious challenge. I walked 46 miles in one day, and did the West Highland Way in Scotland, a hundred mile walk between Glasgow and Fort William. Archie, my companion, works at a hotel where he walks at least 15 miles every day and is one of the most resilient people I've ever met. I was discussing

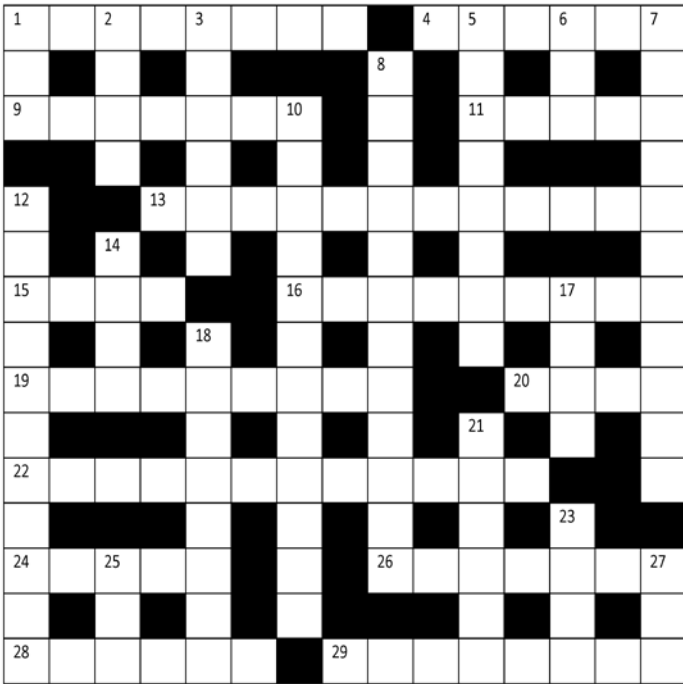
my plans with a few people at the Bramley Village coffee morning, and they helpfully suggested I use the event to raise money. A few days later and with some searches to figure out the most effective charity in the world per pound donated, has led me here; begging for your attention and money alike.

Thank you very much for your time, and if you're interested there's more information about the plan, the route and the charity available online, on the website: Bit.ly/500mWalk or by contacting me at: verylongwalk500@gmail.com

Tom Page

Cryptic Crossword No: 77

See page 26 for the answers.



Across

- 1 A riot can be altered for a garment. (8)
- 4 A bad or confused being on ship. (6)
- 9 The Scottish Play for superstitious actors. (7)
- 11 Addresses where garment can be found within. (5)
- 13 Cooking dust for raising agent. (6,6)
- 15 Hamlet owners hide settlement. (4)
- 16 No nightmares in this state. (9)
- 19 Group within a cabinet perhaps. (9)
- 20 Fade adjusted for the acoustically challenged. (4)
- 22 Mix dairy product with whiskey perhaps for sweet. (12)
- 24 Deputy let old customer use me to begin with. (5)
- 26 View or stage background. (7)
- 28 Bits or traces. (6)
- 29 Sidewalk on the other side of the pond. (8)

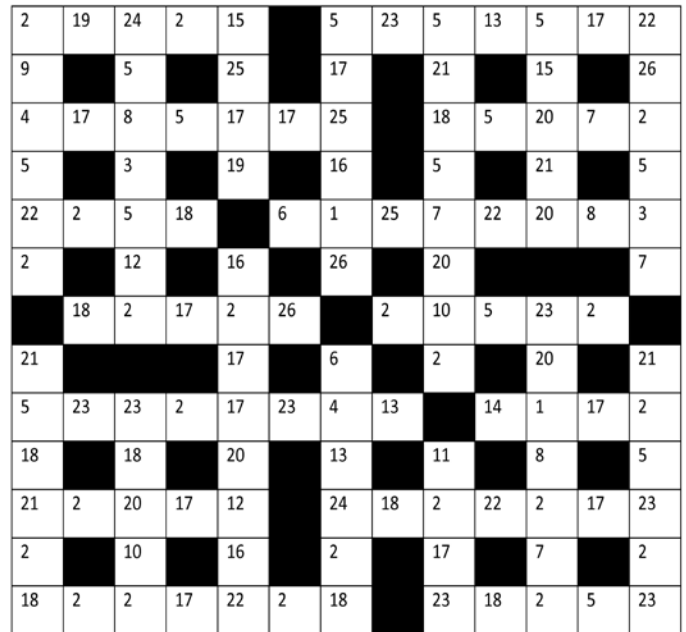
Down

- 1 Random access memory can be something of a beast. (3)
- 2 South American native found in no clear area initially. (4)
- 3 Origin of Tsar and Kaiser. (6)

- 5 Resting places booms red in confusion. (8)
- 6 Expert card ? (3)
- 7 Fluid mixture around stress is worrying. (11)
- 8 Types of arithmetic or chord series perhaps. (12)
- 10 Locks pieces of furniture for people who tidy tops. (12)
- 12 Cars from car phones as it happens. (11)
- 14 Bird or spin bowler. (4)
- 17 Level, now that's not odd. (4)
- 18 Respected although broadcast by cockney as he steamed. (8)
- 21 Agree to something hearing a seed. (6)
- 23 Man regarding where you are now. (4)
- 25 Transport, automobile organisation in reverse. (3)
- 27 Isle of Skye transport holds still. (3)

CodeWord No: 63

See page 26 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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Butter Daisy

Once upon a time at Butter Daisy Nursery, all the children had been magically transformed into story characters from lands far and wide as we collectively celebrated with the nation on World Book

Day. We welcomed Zog, Peter Rabbit, The Gruffalo and Willy Wonka from his Chocolate factory; to name a few of our exciting attendees.

Our Educators led the fun in costume, as they read books with enthusiasm and



prepared some truly inspiring learning opportunities for the children. For example, our constructive Pre-Schoolers were invited to build hospitals for Zog and his friends. This activity in particular evolved as the children brought their own ideas and creative suggestions

and we soon had a crew of children 'flying' their doctor's boat.

In our Toddler Suite the children used their imaginations to re-tell and develop their own stories, based on the book 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. The children practiced their onomatopoeia as they howled like the wind, and swishy swashed through the grass.

Our Babies investigated a touch and feel, high contrast, colour game with 'Elmer' the elephant. Their early vocabulary and fine motor skills were challenged as they mixed and sorted the varying materials. Willy Wonka also left some golden tickets hidden underneath some dinner plates – very exciting for our lucky winners!

We also recognised the importance of International Women's Day with a surprise pastry breakfast on offer for all our mums.

Finally, as our March story comes to an end, we would like to remind families past and present of the invitation to share memories, photos, stories etc to go into our time capsule later this spring. Further details about the event are coming soon.

If you would like to hear more about Butter Daisy Nursery, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01256 882515 or email butter@mydaisynursery.com

Encourage an adult to learn to read!

There are 7,000 adults in Basingstoke who either cannot read at all or can barely read. For them, everyday tasks such as booking a doctor's appointment, reading road signs, or doing the food shopping can be incredibly challenging. Parents and grandparents who cannot read are not able to provide learning support for their children, with many missing out on the important bonding time that comes with sharing a bedtime story.

Local charity, Read Easy Basingstoke are here to help by providing free and confidential one-to-one coaching, from trained volunteers. Reading pairs meet once or twice a week at approved local venues to work through a structured, phonics-based reading programme, which usually takes anything up to two years to complete.

There are many different reasons why people don't learn to read in childhood. For some it may have been a lack of support from their own family or school, for others it may have been undiagnosed dyslexia. But people should not feel ashamed or embarrassed about it. We are friendly, non-judgemental, and here to help.

If you know of friends and family members who cannot read, please pass on the Read Easy Basingstoke phone number, and encourage them to make a call that could transform their lives.

Read Easy Basingstoke are always looking for people who are willing to give up their time in helping with the organisation and leadership of our Team or to train as Coaches. Please get in touch if you are willing to help someone improve their life beyond measure!

For more information, please contact us on 07952 450 789 or email basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk

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Phillips Law

Case Study: Savona Foodservice's partnership with Phillips Law is a recipe for success



Legal@phillips-law.co.uk

01256 460830

Phillips Law caught up with long term client, Mike Morgan of Savona Foodservice. Mike has been Managing Director of Savona for the past four years and comes from a background in the wholesale food industry.

Savona is an independent foodservice supplier with over 50 years of trading, providing a trusted, flexible solution for caterers. Savona partners with hundreds of local and global suppliers to service customers of all sizes across education, healthcare, workplace catering, hospitality, and leisure sectors.

Founded in Oxfordshire, and now with sites in London and the Southwest, the family-owned company has grown exponentially in size and profitability. Savona uses Phillips Law across the corporate and commercial, commercial property, employment and litigation teams advising on leases, disputes, mergers and acquisitions, commercial contracts and employment.

On his experience working with Phillips Law, Mike said:

On a recent acquisition we wanted both value and availability and we got both. Phillips is always

transparent, and we are always kept abreast with the cost.

Jack sees the bigger picture and I know we won't get charged for every time he picks up the phone.

Jack speaks to us in plain English. Nothing is dumbed down and he gets it about right.

On acquisitions there is a high level of trust between accountancy firm LMW, Phillips Law and Savona. I trust both businesses to get on with it without needing to be in the conversation.

Communication across the departments is good. We are kept up to date without having to chase. In one example Max Hope dropped everything, and that level of service goes a long way.

We don't go anywhere else for legal advice

Mike Morgan, CEO of Savona Foodservice

If you are a business owner, it is vital to have a trusted legal partner at your side to see you through the highs and lows of running a business.

Contact Phillips Law today on 01256 460830 to find out if we can support you on your business journey. For a full list of all the services we can help you with go to www.phillips-law.co.uk/services/

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Mr Toad has enjoyed a range of food while living in John Stubbs' garden. His clever way of eating may not be everyone's cup of tea though.

Toad Hall, it wasn't quite. The lodging's tenant, however, seemed very content with it, if looking a bit irritated at my approach, a sort of resting-do-go-away face; fair enough, I guess. We sort of thought of the place as compost heap #2, the result of a couple of years' garden debris, but he seemed to love the dark, the cover, the warmth and the range of snacks that paraded right through his dining room.

Not a picky eater, more the gourmand. An enormous capacity for slugs, snails, worms, beetles - pretty much anything that moves at night, even up to a smallish mouse. Must be one of the benefits of having a mouth stretching across from arm to arm perhaps, though lacking chewing teeth. Head joined straight onto body, so less throat restrictions, and a tongue that literally wins prizes. Larger prey may be rather inelegantly grabbed and gulped down, but smaller moving morsels are caught with a flick of the tongue. Well, there's a bit more to it than that. The tongue, up to a couple of inches long, extremely soft and fleshy, is attached to the lower jaw at the front of the mouth, and is coated with a glutinous, sticky mucus. Sensing prey within range, the tongue tip is shot out, the rapid movement causing the coating to change viscosity from that of thick honey to more like water. So, the tongue latches onto the prey and the glue spreads over the target, then becoming viscous again to secure the unfortunate. The tongue and snack are then quickly pulled right back into the mouth cavity, to be separated and readied for the next deployment. And all over in a tenth of a second: fast food, indeed.

This process, though, does call for special measures in handling the resulting food package. Ever tried swallowing a grasshopper, whole, live, coated in glue? Toad's approach might not suit you, anyway, but he takes a four-mode attack. Firstly, ram it back with the tongue, working from the front. Secondly, lift your nose, to help slide it backwards and down. Then, in a manoeuvre that we might find a bit trickier, you retract your eyeballs into the skull and press them

downwards. This helps the next two procedures – the package is gripped by the eyeballs' undersides so that the tongue gets a firm push, and the massaging keeps the gluey mucus in the more fluid state. Front legs may sometimes be used to assist, though in the case of humans we may find this considered poor table manners. After that, it's just a matter of keeping at it, bumping an awkward customer in and out, up and down, until either it's swallowed, or occasionally it may be allowed to escape, a bit confused but often relatively unharmed.

The toad's advantage in this respect is that its eyeballs are not housed in bony sockets like ours, but rather they're suspended on a membrane over the mouth cavity. So, a bit like a submarine's periscope, they can be lowered at will, to help with the supper, or raised to see what's about topsides. Not having a neck, meaning that looking around is a major exercise, these prominent eyes afford a near 360° range of vision, very necessary when you're on the menu of other predators.

Much of this is common to all frogs. The toad, however, has one special defence that other frogs lack. On the head behind each eye is a quite prominent, bulbous gland that secretes a toxin when the toad's attacked or severely frightened. The smaller skin lumps will join in as well, making the toad an extremely poor plaything for pets, and not something most predators will go for more than once. Even toad tadpoles carry the poison, so they have some defence against fishes and other underwater hazards.

Shakespeare reckoned, in *As You Like It*, that *Sweet are the uses of adversity, which like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head*. This jewel-stone could, apparently, be retrieved from a venerable toad by putting the animal on a red cloth and staring at it until the stone was coughed up: if caught before touching the ground, it would retain its magic. It's always dodgy, analysing such myths, but the Toadstone apparently was a thing, back then. A type of rounded, smooth, fossilised fish tooth, shaped not unlike the toad's poison glands, was much prized. It was mounted and carried as a charm against poisoning. After all, if a toad's unaffected by his own nasty toxin, he must carry some real magic. It seems not, however, to imbue him with natural road-sense.





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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 77 Solution

YET	27	PAVEMENT	29
CAR	25	SHREDS	28
HERE	23	SCENERY	26
ACCEDE	21	LOCUM	24
ESTEEMED	18	BUTTERSCOTCH	22
EVEN	17	DEAF	20
SWAN	14	MINISTERS	19
AUTOMOBILES	12	DREAMLESS	16
HAIRDRESSERS	10	TOWN	15
PROGRESSIONS	8	BAKINGPOWDER	13
DISTRESSFUL	7	DRESS	11
ACE	6	MACBETH	9
BEDROOMS	5	ABOARD	4
CAESAR	3	RAINCOAT	1
INCA	2		
RAM	1		

Down Across

CodeWord No: 63 Solution

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

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Why do toads cross roads?

During breeding season frogs and toads naturally try to migrate back to the bodies of water where they originally spawned so they can mate and lay eggs. Unfortunately, manmade structures like roads and fences can provide difficult obstacles for wildlife to cross over, especially as they grow into larger adults and are unable to slip back through the holes they first came through. It is estimated that a staggering 20 tonnes of toads are killed on UK roads every year.

During February, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust rescued 170 toads and 7 frogs, thanks to the efforts of the Swanwick Lakes Education and Engagement team.

The team carefully collected and counted the toads and frogs, including mating pairs, from along a security fence line. They were then safely released onto the other side of the fence to continue their migration to their breeding grounds, and so are now able to spawn the next generation.

Frogs are both predators and prey, which makes them an important part of the food chain. They provide a vital source of food for several species, as well as helping to control populations of others. They are also considered an indicator species as they are very sensitive to changes in their environment (both aquatic and terrestrial) and their permeable skin makes them especially vulnerable to pollutants. Monitoring populations of indicator species can

be an important way to pick up on early warning signs of environmental changes or damage to natural habitats and ecosystems.

There are only four native species of frog in the UK of which two are toads. Toads are a type of frog but they have shorter legs, broader noses and drier (and bumpier) skin, which allows them to survive for longer in dry conditions compared to most other frogs. Toads also produce bufotoxin via their skin to defend themselves from predators. Unfortunately, toad populations in the UK have been steadily declining due to habitat loss, pollution and climate change. Because of this they are listed as a biodiversity priority species under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006).

Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve is owned by NATS and managed in partnership with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Several amphibians call the reserve home, including three species of newt. They provide a vital source of food for other wildlife including herons, grass snakes and badgers, plus dragonflies and damselflies.

For more information about toads and frogs please visit: www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/amphibians.

Gemma Paul

Centre Assistant, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Reducing your monthly mortgage payments

If you're finding it hard to pay your mortgage, you might be able to:

- reduce your household costs or increase the money you have coming in
- switch to a cheaper mortgage deal
- reduce your mortgage payments
- reduce payments on a shared ownership property
- change payments on your endowment policy

**citizens
advice**

The cost of living crisis is making it hard to find new mortgage deals at the moment. This means you might not be able to save money by making changes to your mortgage.

You should look at your household budget regularly to see if you can save money in other ways.

If you've already missed mortgage payments, you must take action quickly to stop yourself from falling into debt.

If your lender thinks you're not dealing with your debt, they'll take action through the courts. This could lead to you losing your home.

Check how to deal with your mortgage debts

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/mortgage-problems/how-to-deal-with-mortgage-debts/>

If you have an enquiry, please call the Citizens Advice Basingstoke Advice Line free on 0808 278 7829 or complete the online enquiry form on our website: www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk/citizens-advice-basingstoke – we are here to help.

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an operating name of The Basingstoke Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd. Charity registration number: 900116.



The Basingstoke Lions Club
in collaboration with the
Graham Fulford Trust



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Tel. 07986 232017

*Or call the PSA Test office on 01926 419959

Note: A PSA test should be used only as an indicator of prostate disease and is not conclusive. See your doctor if you have any concerns.

Other tests available: Diabetes, Cholesterol, Iron Count, Thyroid, Liver Count and Kidney Count. These tests are available to men and women.

Carnival Hall is provided by the kind permission of the Basingstoke Hindu Society

Follow PSA on Twitter: @PSA_Tests

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

Tuesdays	
<i>Parish Council Meetings 3rd Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's Church
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Body Control Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley 0-5s 10am – 11.30 am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 5.45pm – 6.45pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Scouts 7-8.30pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis – 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

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

<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park
Thursdays	
<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>NHS Heath Visitor</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Friendship Walks, 10.30</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics 3.30 to 7.15pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Classical Pilates - 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.40 for 6.45pm (April-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU

Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramley-pc.gov.uk clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Bookings Team	01256 260270	bookings@cliftmeadow.org.uk	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 Youth Club	Ed Ives	07964 069390		
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Bell Ringers	Jonathan Barclay Smith	541251	rjbarclaysmith@gmail.com	
Bramley 0-5s	Jo Weineck	07717 340985		
Bramley Tea and Coffee morning	Jane Kettridge		jk.cmcc@btconnect.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.walsh59@outlook.com	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
Brownies	Katie Slater	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Classical Pilates	Naomi Baker		naomi@nbkpilates.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Cricket (Old Basing CC)	Nick Cooper		nickcooper1@sky.com	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com https://www.loddonsportsfc.com	
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		No children please
Floral Society	Linda Dove	01256 886167 07842 339161		
Friendship Walks			info@bramleyvillagehub.com	
Guides	Viv Salem		firstbramleyguides@yahoo.com	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lynden School of Dance & Gymnastics	Charlotte	07717 803080		
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
NHS Health Visitor	Kerry Frost		kerry.frost@southernhealth.nhs	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Body Control Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Rainbows	Lizzie Ayres	07917 773563	bramleyrainbows@gmail.com	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	Judy Foyle	881821	stevefoyle@hotmail.co.uk	
Side by Side Dog Training	Carolann Dyson	07779 121440	sidebysidedogtraining@gmail.com www.sidebyside-dogtraining.co.uk	Bookings
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook	
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What's on at Anvil Arts

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk

(Prices include £4 booking fee where appropriate)

RUDE SCIENCE!

Wed 3 Apr, 11.30am & 2.30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £19; under 16s £17

Suitable for ages 6 and over

TV Gastronom Stefan Gates' hilarious, high-tech, explosive family show is packed with science stunts, spectacular experiments, and bizarre props. This show transforms complex biology, physics, and chemistry into educational hilarity.

MARTHA TILSTON

Thu 4 Apr, 7.45pm

The Forge, Basingstoke

Tickets: £20; under 25s and f/t students £18

With a pure silken voice and lyrics that inspire and captivate, Martha Tilston has released several albums, gained a nomination for BBC Best Newcomer, appeared as a guest vocalist for Zero 7, and toured internationally. .

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Fri 5 Apr 2024, 7.30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £44, £38, £33, £24, £16.

Under 25s and f/t students £12

Maxim Emelyanychev conducts The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a programme that includes Glinka's fizzing Overture: Ruslan and Ludmilla, Rachmaninov's expressive tone poem The Rock, Grieg's much-loved Peer Gynt: Suite no. 1 and Sibelius' well-known Symphony no. 5.

SHARK IN THE PARK!

Sat 6 Apr 2024, 2pm

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £16.50

Suitable for ages 2 and over

Timothy Pope is looking through his telescope – but wait, is that a Shark,

in the Park!? See all three of Nick Sharratt's Shark in the Park books live on stage in this fin-tastic family musical.

EASTER PANTO:

BEAUTY & THE BEAST

Tue 9 Apr, 2pm & 6pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £26.50. Over 65s, f/t students, and under 16s £24.50. Family tickets £96 (4 tickets – either 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children)

A fun-filled Easter panto with impressive music, energetic dance routines, and heaps of audience participation.

CARL HUTCHINSON

Today Years Old

Thu 11 Apr 2024, 7.30pm

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £21.50

Suitable for ages 14 and over

What has quickly become an annual tradition, Carl is back for a third consecutive back-to-back tour. His storytelling skills and ability to hold an audience is second to none.

ANDY & THE ODD SOCKS

The 'Are You Ready To Rock?!' Tour

Fri 12 Apr 2024, 3pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £33.50, £26.50, £23.50

Suitable for ages 3 and over

Straight off the TV and onto the stage, Andy & The Odd Socks bring their madcap mix of songs, slapstick and silliness to life.

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN

Sat 13 Apr 2024, 2pm

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £18.50. Under 16s £16.50

Louis Pearl explores the breathtaking dynamics of bubbles, combining comedy and artistry with audience participation and spellbinding tricks.

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Thu 18 Apr 2024, 7.30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £44, £38, £33, £24, £16.

Under 25s and f/t students £12

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment return with pianist/director Sir András Schiff with a programme of Mendelssohn's Symphony no. 1, Piano Concerto no. 1 and Symphony no. 4 (Italian)

LIFESTYLE

Dyad Productions presents

AUSTEN'S WOMEN: LADY SUSAN

Sat 20 Apr 2024, 7.30pm

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £19. Under 25s and f/t students £14

Based on Jane Austen's first full-length work from 1794, and created entirely from letters, the piece is performed by Rebecca Vaughan.

Rumpus Theatre Company presents

AS IT COMES!

Thu 25 – Sat 27 Apr, Thu & Fri 7.30pm,

Sat 2.30pm & 7.30pm

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Tickets: £26, 2pm £24. Under 25s and f/t students £15

Brian Stevens and Timothy Davies both work for the Marvellous Marketing Company. When each are invited to dream up a campaign for a new wonder drug, the rivalry is rife to see which of their schemes will win the contract.

JULIAN CLARY

A Fistful of Clary

Fri 26 Apr 2024, 7.30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets: £33

Suitable for ages 16 and over

You've heard of The Man With No Name? Well, here's The Man With No Shame. Julian Clary, renowned homosexual and national trinket, is fixing to saddle up and head on out for his 2024 UK tour.

MEGSON

Fri 26 Apr, 7.45pm

The Forge, Basingstoke

Tickets: £19; under 25s and f/t students £17

Four times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, and double winners of the Spiral Earth Awards, Megson create a truly individual brand of folk music. Combining an infectious mix of heavenly vocals, lush harmonies, and driving rhythmic guitars, Debs and Stu Hanna have gained a reputation not only for their arresting and intelligent songwriting, but also for their exquisite musicianship and northern humour.

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