

April 2025

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

- **Easter in Bramley**
- **Bramley Village Litter Pick**
- **Get ready for the Bramley Show**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

April 2025

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

Editorial

Spring is in the air in Bramley! The flowers are in bloom, there is blossom on the trees, and the days are getting warmer and longer. Our cover photo features some of the daffodils you may have seen springing up around Bramley, a joint effort between the Parish Council and Bramley Scout Group. See p.13 for more information. Wilder Bramley are also working hard on their Bee Garden, ahead of the RHS awards later this year. If you want to get involved in making Bramley an even better community to live in, you can find out how to get involved with Wilder Bramley on p.16, details of the Bramley village litter pick on p.20, and the Village Hall is also looking for additional volunteers (p.12).

Easter falls late this year, on 20th April. The latest date Easter can be is 25th April, so it is almost as late as it can be this year. Hopefully, it will mean some nice weather for the long weekend! If you have ever wondered why the date of Easter Sunday moves, it's because Easter falls on the Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is on, or around, 20th March. Because of this, Easter can be anywhere between 22nd March and 25th April. There is a slightly more detailed and complicated astronomical explanation, but that's the gist of it. Rev'd Mark Anderson reflects on the true meaning of Easter on p.7. See p.7 also for Holy Week services at St. James, and p.20 for details of the annual Easter Egg trail on Clift Meadow.

Elsewhere, Bramley School has been making additions to its outside spaces, Little Apples children have been learning all about patterns and Bramley SpeedWatch celebrated their 100th deployment last month!

I hope you enjoy the springtime and the edition.

Georgie

Joint Editor

"April is the sweetest month of the year, the mellow season of rebirth and renewal."

Mary Sojourner

Addition to the Editorial Team

We are looking for an additional person to join the magazine Editorial Team, along with Rachel and Georgie. Please contact us on editor@bramley.org.uk if you are interested in finding out more information about the role. This is a voluntary role.

New Deliverer Wanted

We are looking for a new deliverer to deliver to Campbell Road and adjacent roads. This round covers 115 houses, but will be shared with another deliverer. Please contact us on editor@bramley.org.uk if you are able to help.

Thank you as always to our team of volunteers who deliver the magazine to over 2,500 homes across Bramley and Little London.

May Magazine

Because of the way Easter falls this year, there will be a short delay in printing the May magazine. It will therefore arrive a few days later than usual.

Deliverers - we hope the magazines will be delivered to church on Thursday 1st May, but Rhydian will email you when they have arrived. If you don't hear from him, you can contact him on rhydian@battlefieldtours.co.

Cover Photo: Daffodils in bloom by Jan Wright

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

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Church diary for April...

6th	5th Sunday of Lent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins - St James
13th	Palm Sunday
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
17th	Maundy Thursday
20.00	Holy Communion - St James (following community supper in Cross House at 19.00)
18th	Good Friday
14.00	An hour at the cross – St James
20th	Easter Day
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
27th	2nd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

...and into May

4th	3rd Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins - St James
11th	4th Sunday of Easter
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
18th	5th Sunday of Easter
10.30	Songs of Praise Open Air Service – Clift Meadow

Church diary for April...

6th	5th Sunday of Lent
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
13th	Palm Sunday
10.00	Café Church – St Leonard's, Sherfield-On-Loddon
17th	Maundy Thursday
19.00	Light Supper and Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield-On-Loddon
18th	Good Friday
11.00	'At the foot of the cross' – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
20th	Easter Day
9.00	Holy Communion – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield-On-Loddon
10.00	Holy Communion – St Mary's, Stratfield Saye
27th	2nd Sunday of Easter
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard's, Sherfield-On-Loddon

...and into May

4th	3rd 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
11th	4th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
18th	5th Sunday of Easter
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard's, Sherfield-On-Loddon
10.30	Family Service – St Mary's, Hartley Wespall

From the Registers

Baptism

Alyssa McMahon	22nd February 2025	St James' Church
Elodie McMahon	22nd February 2025	St James' Church



The Bramley Show

Suddenly the gardens and verges are popping with yellow, as a reminder that Spring is almost here, and this will be followed by blues and pinks. The garden centres are revving up with tempting pots of flowers and the seed racks are positioned carefully to attract customers' attention.

Now is the time for think about the ever-popular **Children's Potato Challenge** and this year we have included the heaviest potato in the Adult Section of the Show.

Children's potatoes can be collected on Saturday 12th April at the Pavillion, Clift Meadow, between 10.30 and 12.30, when the Village Litter Pick is taking place. As well as your seed potato, you will be given full instructions on how to take part.

The Bramley Show is taking place on Sunday 14th September at the Village Hall. Further details can be found on www.bramleyshow.org.uk.

To get a head start on your entries, the Photography categories are:

1. *My Bramley*
2. *Windows*
3. *Weather*
4. *Animals*
5. *An abstract photograph*

Photographs must not have been previously exhibited. Entries are limited to 2 photos per class.

Next month there will be more details on how to enter Bramley in Bloom and the Scarecrow event. Schedules will be printed nearer the time.

Join us to make the 37th Bramley Show an even bigger success than 2024.

Apologies for the web address error in the last magazine. It is www.bramleyshow.org.uk

Royal British Legion

We are working with St Leonard's Church, Sherfield, on a celebratory Community Supper in Sherfield Village Hall on Friday 9th May at 6.30 pm.

Each year, there are fewer people who have living memories of WW2, the costliest war ever in terms of lives lost in conflict. After five and a half years, the Second World War ended in Europe, on 8th May 1945. Surrender in Japan and the Far East would follow in August of the same year.

There were celebrations around the globe, street parties, dancing in town and village squares. Our late Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, and her sister Margaret, joined celebrations in The Mall. Similar commemorative events will be held across the country next month, and you are invited to join us for a free two course meal. To book places, please see the list in our churches, or contact me on 07900 892566.

There are still places on our visit to the Somme at the beginning of September; details are available from: rhydian@battlefieldtours.co.

John Morley
Vice Chairman
Bramley & District RBL
07900 892566



News from Clift Surgery and the PPG

Community Health Days

Following on from the very successful health day at Clift Meadow in January, dates have been released for the next 12 months. These daytime events are aimed at all patients in the Whitewater Loddon PCN. Please consider coming along. These days, taking place on Tuesdays, are informative and supportive and will be run by GPs, medical specialists and associated organisations.

- 20th May at Hook Community Hall, 11am – 3pm. Focus: Cancer Care.
- 23rd September in Chineham (time and venue TBC) Focus: Frailty and Carers.
- 27th January 2026 at Clift Meadow. Focus: Diabetes.

More details will be available nearer the time and will be published in the Bramley Magazine. Please spread the word by encouraging family, friends and neighbours to attend.

Making the most of your appointments

There is a useful piece on the Patients Association website about making the most of your medical appointments. In summary it suggests:

Before you visit

Many appointments are limited to 10 minutes. There may also be a limit on the number of issues you can discuss. Being prepared can help you make the most of your appointment.

Note your symptoms

The note can be written down or recorded on your mobile phone. Try to include when your symptoms began, what they are, if they follow a pattern and how they impact your life or family.

Note any medication

Make a note of any medicines you are taking or treatments you have tried. This includes treatments for other conditions, including physiotherapy and herbal remedies.

Prepare some questions

You may find it helpful to make a short list of questions before your visit.

During your visit

If you feel you need support, you can take a relative, friend or carer to your appointment. They may also be able to help you remember or understand what has been said. Discuss your main concern first. Do not feel you have to justify being there or leave your main concern to the end. It is important that you are honest with your GP about your lifestyle. For example, how much you drink or exercise. You should also be honest about your concerns. Ask about anything you are unsure of. If you do not understand, ask before leaving the room. Take a notebook and pen to make notes to help you remember what was discussed or record notes on your phone app.

You may think of questions to ask after your appointment. Find out who you can contact to get these answered. You can also find out the names of any support groups providing reliable information. See - www.patients-association.org.uk for more information.

Appointments at Clift Surgery in February

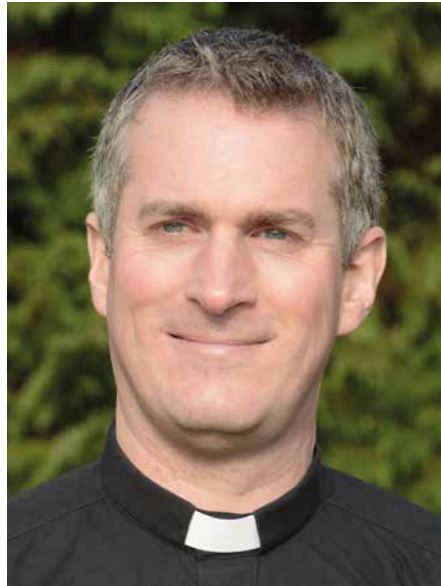
3925 appointments were made in February and of these 3828 were attended. This demonstrates how important it is to cancel any unwanted appointments.

Beauty from Ashes

Have you ever seen a flower grow in an unusual place? Perhaps in a desolate area or somewhere where that small bloom of colour and beauty is in marked contrast to its surroundings?

The month of April is when we remember and celebrate Easter, this year on 20th April. It's when we remember that despite all the darkness in the world, all that's wrong with it, good can and does happen. There is lots to be worried about in our world, in our nation and even closer to home, and perhaps especially in our own lives. We all have to cope with pain, suffering, setbacks and despair. There is also much beauty in our world and in our lives too, not least in our beautiful village of Bramley. There is the natural world but there is also the kindness and friendship we share with one another; the forgiveness, the patience and the love we receive and give to others.

For many people around the world, Easter is a significant (and even the most) meaningful day of the year. It is the day we remember that all that is bad in this world conspired to kill a man, who is God in human flesh, whose life and teaching invites us to live and relate to others in a better way: the



Rev'd Mark Anderson

Jesus Way. When Jesus rose from the dead having died on the cross, it was a message from God to say all that is bad in this world, and even in our lives, can be overcome by the love of God, demonstrated in all that Jesus Christ was and is and will be. The Bible says God is making all things new and that starts in the hearts of you and me: thinking and saying and doing things, which are like that flower in the midst of a desolate place.

For Christians, Easter is a sign of new life, not just because it happens in the season of spring, but because it's the promise of God to each one of us - that nothing can separate us from God's love, not even death. God offers to help us to flourish as people, so that the world can be a place of beauty for everyone.

So, during this season of spring and Easter, when you see a little burst of colour from a flower, be reminded that there is good in the world and you and I can be part of God's plan to bring hope and beauty to this world. Easter is the time when we believe the ancient promise of God in the Jewish scriptures (Isaiah 61:3 in the Bible) can come true; there will be a time when there will be "beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

You are welcome to join us at St James Church on Easter Day (20th April) at 10:30 when we will be celebrating the risen Christ, the one who has given us hope that beauty can indeed come from ashes.

Rev'd Mark Anderson
Vicar, St James Bramley

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OUR HOLY WEEK EVENTS

17th April - Maundy Thursday

7pm - Community Supper in Cross House
8pm - Holy Communion in St James Church

18th April - Good Friday

10am - Easter Crafts Morning in Cross House
2pm - An hour at the cross: music, meditation & prayer
in St James Church

20th April - Easter Day

Holy Communion
10.30am in St James Church

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In this month's 'Meet the Neighbours', we spoke to **Tim Fowler**, Race Director of the Hampshire Hoppit

How long have you lived in Bramley? What do you like about it here?

We moved to Bramley in 1997, so that's 27 years and counting. We moved from Chineham because we needed a larger house but wanted to stay in the area for the children, who were at school in Basingstoke. It's great because it has tremendous access to local trails and countryside. My personal favourites are the footpaths from Bramley to Mortimer, and also the trails that lead to Pamber Forest. We can walk the 3 miles to The Plough pub in Little London using only 200 metres of road at Frog Lane, the rest is footpath – how great is that! Having the station is also good, less than an hour to London Paddington.

What do you do?

I retired 3 years ago; I spent much of my career in technology, at IBM and other IT companies. Now I have more time for my hobbies. Since the age of 15 I have been a season ticket holder at Arsenal, and I follow them home and away. My wife and I sometimes make a mini-break from the football away trip, such as our 4-day visit to Girona in January, which is a fabulous city. My other passions are music and theatre. I fulfilled a lifelong ambition last summer by visiting the iconic Red Rocks amphitheatre, near Denver Colorado, where we saw Bob Dylan. I'm also a keen runner.

Tell me more about your running.

I have been running for over 45 years, typically running over 40 miles per week. It has kept me sane, and healthy, over all these years. Fortunately, I love it, and don't find it a chore at all. I have a daily routine that gets me out of the house early in the morning with my dog Santi, and off we go, running into the countryside, in any weather, and any time of year. I estimate that in total I have run around the circumference of the world 3.5 times!



Tim and Santi

Do you run on your own, or with a group?

I am a member of Basingstoke & Mid Hants Athletics Club. They are a lovely running group, and I have made many great friends there. There is also a great group of runners in

Bramley, and we often connect randomly during the week for runs, using our WhatsApp group. But my main running buddy is Santi, our 10-year-old working cocker spaniel. We have had dogs most of our lives, and many different breeds, but Santi is one of the best! He is loyal and always happy, and he can keep up with me on my training runs, and I can keep up with him!

Have you been running in any different or unusual places or countries?

I have run over 40 marathons, including five alpine marathons (Jungfrau, Zermatt, Mont Blanc, Davos, and St Anton), the Amazing Maasai Marathon (Kenya), and San Francisco (twice). I have run the London Marathon six times, and I am currently training for my seventh attempt in April this year, where I hope to finish in around 3:40:00.

Are you involved in any organised running events?

I am the Race Director of The Hampshire Hoppit, an annual trail race that starts and finishes on Watership Down near Kingsclere. We are approaching our 10th year in June, and the event has become well established in the running calendar, attracting around 1000 runners each year. The date of our tenth race is 15 June 2025. In a small way the Bramley Parish are involved, with the loan of their large tent on race day. Plenty of local runners from Bramley enter the race. Don't get put off by the fact it is a trail race! It is a perfect introduction to trail running for first timers and there is a choice of 10km, half marathon, or marathon. We usually sellout before race day so don't delay if thinking of entering. The online entry and more information can be found at -www.hampshiretrailmarathon.co.uk.



Start of the Hampshire Hoppit race



Sunset on the finish line

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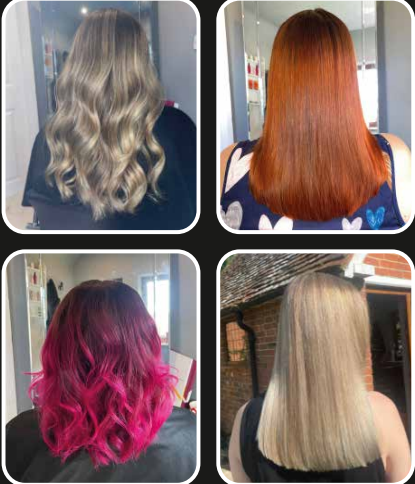


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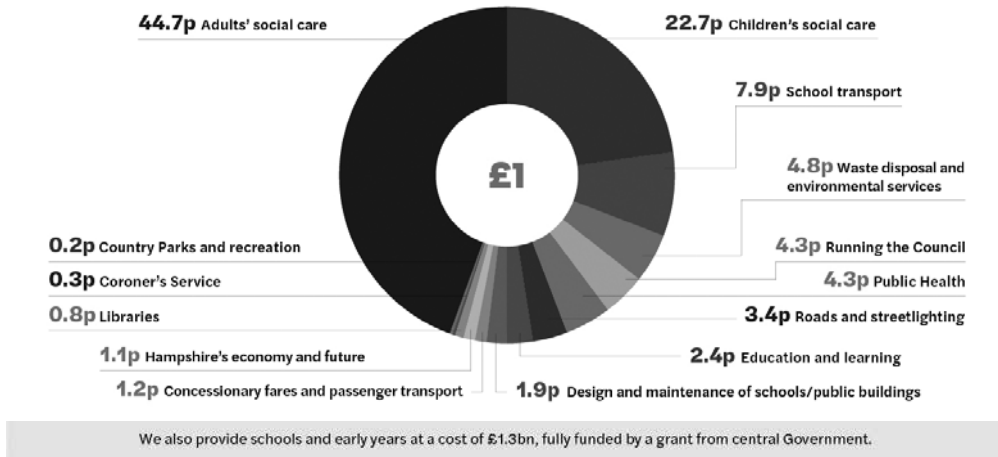
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Hampshire County Council's Budget

This graphic above shows you how each £1 of your Council Tax will be spent next financial year in Hampshire. When you include school spending, then social care, school transport and education make up almost 87% of our budget.

At our budget setting meeting, Hampshire's Full Council agreed our budget for the year ahead which sees an increase of 4.99% in Council Tax. We had asked the government to increase it by a larger amount and they refused our request.

Why did we ask for a larger rise? None of us want to increase Council Tax, but the County Council's services are underfunded, and the reason for that in large part is our historically low Council Tax rate, which is why we needed to request an increase above 5% from the Government. Hampshire's Council Tax this financial year is £1,533.24 for a band D property - the second lowest in the country. In Surrey the equivalent rate is £1,758.60, West Sussex £1,714.95, and Oxfordshire £1,820.56, for example.

Each 1% of Council Tax increase in Hampshire nets an additional £8m in revenue for the Council. So, a 5% increase results in £40 million in additional revenue this year. However, this is offset against the ever rising cost of social care. Every month in Hampshire, we see a net increase of 30 people living in care homes, which adds £18.7m of cost to our budget each year. We are also seeing an additional 200 applications for Education Health and Care Plans each month - the first step for children to register for SEN support. That exponential rise is the reason our budget for Home to School transport (for which SEN children qualify for free) has increased from £24 million per year at the end of the pandemic, to £105 million next year. Furthermore, the rise in employer National Insurance costs will cost Hampshire County Council an additional £10.5m this year. We will get a one off reimbursement of £8m from the Government, with nothing for future years.

Inflation and pay rises of course add further to the bill. We have also been advised that the Government will redistribute money from counties such as Hampshire to other councils, some of them bankrupt. This means Hampshire County Council is burdened with additional costs, including employer national insurance and living wage increases we will not get back.

We have cut over £700m from our budgets in the last 10 years, and will continue to look for further savings, but frankly there is little left to find, and our reserves will, by 2026/27, be exhausted. This is the context within which we find ourselves and the background to both concerns around services and Council Tax.

Hampshire County Council is well run. It has the second lowest council tax nationally. As you can see, we sought the increase only due to rising costs and insufficient funding. We have used our reserves to balance the budget so far, but this is not sustainable and by the end of the next financial year they will be gone.

So, we present a budget which will include proposals for more savings and an undertaking that while we look for more ways to reduce our costs, we will also be promising to continue to spend our budget wisely, protecting our most vulnerable residents, fixing the roads as best we can, and looking after our children who are at risk of harm.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Calleva Division, Hampshire County Council
Fb.com/tellrhydian



Struggling to keep your home warm in Hampshire?

The Hitting the Cold Spots service, funded by Hampshire County Council, is here to help!

Get FREE support from experienced advisers at the Environment Centre (tEC), an independent charity. They can assist with:

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Find more info & advice at Hitting the Cold Spots – the Environment Centre and the council's website, including energy efficiency tips and grant details:
<https://hantscoldspots.environmentcentre.com>.

My County Councillor's Grant

For 2024/25 I have given financial support to the following Parishes:

- Sherborne St John – Entrance protection Chute Pavilion
- Hartley Wespall – Church organ restoration
- Sherfield on Loddon – Christmas Reindeer Trail
- Mortimer West End – Car park entrance protection gate
- Silchester Group – Equipment for Roman Wall clearance
- Sherfield on Loddon – Sleepers for Allotment Association
- Silchester Village Hall - Refurbishment funding
- Hartley Wespall – Speed gun
- Hannington – Notice Boards & Bench
- Pamber – Entrance Gate barrier.

Bramley Community Café

We would like to invite you to join us every Wednesday during school term time at our community café. We meet from 10:00 until 11.30am at The Pavilion Hall Clift Meadow.

We offer homemade cake, gluten free treats and biscuits, along with tea, coffee, and fruit juice.

We only ask for a donation of your choice for refreshments in order to keep the group going and support Clift Meadow Trust. Join us to meet new friends, find out what's going on in Bramley and have a great time!

This month we are having a raffle in aid of **Marie Curie cancer charity**. Come along and buy a ticket for a chance to win a great prize, including wine, chocolates and other treats.

We asked people to give their views on the coffee mornings:

"Always a friendly welcome, a good time had by chatting to people from the village"

"Good company, a great welcome and good coffee"

"Everyone friendly and coffee and cakes very good."

"Great morning out"

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Jane, Wendy, Sue, Margaret, Andrea, Angela
Coffee Morning Team

Your Village Hall Needs You!

The Village Hall Trustees remain keen to recruit another individual for the 'Young Trustee' scheme we operate at Bramley Village Hall. We would like to recruit a 'Young Trustee' (or two, if there's enough interest) during the next few months. A prospective 'Young Trustee' must be aged at least 17 (to turn 18 during the year ahead). They will be mentored by current Trustees and will have specific roles and projects which will expose them to different aspects of the business of running a village hall. Some more formal training opportunities may be available. If you are or know someone who is aged 17-24, interested in supporting the local community and can spare at least one evening per month and a few hours occasionally for some project work, then please contact me.

We now have a good group of volunteer gardeners who spend two or three hours, once a month, working on maintaining our green spaces around the Hall. They've done a really good job over the past year and their efforts are greatly appreciated, but there is always plenty more to do; please get in touch if you would like to lend a hand for a few hours once a month. Some members of the group also turn their hands to some of our maintenance projects, dealing with issues relating to wear and tear at the Hall. It's a busy place and as the number of users has grown over the past year, there has been a corresponding increase in the need for small repairs and, occasionally, slightly larger projects. Again, if you can spare a few hours once a month to help with this work, please do volunteer.

Gareth Jones

Chairman, Bramley Village Hall Trustees
Contact: chairman@bvht.org.uk

Hook Choral Society

Directed by Nicholas Woods

Organist - Simon Earl

Haydn - Little Organ Mass

Elgar - From the Bavarian

Highlands

and music by Malcolm Boyle,

S.S.Wesley and Parry



Saturday 26th April 2025

St Johns' Church, Hook, RG27 9EG

7.30pm- doors open 7pm

Tickets £15 from hookchoral.co.uk or phone
07957293641

Bramley WI

For this month's meeting, we had a demonstrator from the British Red Cross by the name of Ken. He gave a really interesting first aid course, which included CPR and how to use a defibrillator. He explained what to do for other medical problems, for example if someone faints, and how to check the problem isn't more serious. He also covered what to do if someone is choking, and what to do if a child is choking, as that is slightly different, and how to treat burns. I'm sure we all went away with some valuable information.

We managed to get a walk in this month along the canal, followed by lunch. We had the usual refreshments afterwards and a raffle.

The committee are busy organising the next programme for 2025/2026 which will include a couple of outings.

Next month we are having an Easter craft evening.

Jane Matthews

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Spring into Action: A Look Back at Our Village’s Flourishing Community Project

As the fresh scents of spring waft through our village, it’s hard not to notice the vibrant daffodils lining Sherfield Road, Lane End, and Bramley Green Road. This beautiful sight is the result of a collaborative effort that took place last autumn, a joint venture between the Parish Council and Bramley Scout Group. Over 1,000 spring bulbs were planted, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our community volunteer gardeners, with ages ranging from 2 years to over 70 years old.

The bulb planting event saw our volunteers braving all types of weather across three weekends. Despite the challenging, often unyielding ground that claimed a few of our gardening tools, their efforts are slowly blossoming into a stunning display that enhances our daily commutes and walks around the village. This initiative, which was originally conceived by Councillor Malcolm Bell, who played a large role in its organisation, brought our community together in a shared mission of transformation and spirit.

Building on this theme of community and greenery, the Parish Council is excited to announce plans for the development of the Village Green on Longbridge Road. In February, a site visit sparked discussions on transforming the area into a thriving green space and wildlife corridor. This project aims to create not only a grassy haven for residents but also a vital corridor for wildlife, including badgers, enhancing biodiversity and connectivity between The Smithy, Longbridge Road, and the historic cinder track.

These projects are more than just visual enhancements. They are a testament to what we can achieve together as a community, fostering a sense of pride and ownership over our shared spaces. As we move forward, we remain committed to enriching our village’s landscape and ecological health, ensuring a greener, more vibrant home for all residents and wildlife alike.

Let’s continue to support these initiatives, embracing our role as caretakers of our beautiful village. Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or a curious onlooker, there’s a role for everyone in this ongoing story of community growth and ecological care, which will continue with the Bramley Village litter pick, taking place on 12th April.

Parish Council meetings – the next Bramley PC meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April (slightly earlier than usual to avoid the run up to Easter). It will be at 7.30pm in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall, and as ever, members of the public are welcome to attend. More details will be on the Bramley Parish Council website nearer the time.

Cllr Jan Wright



Contacts

Bramley Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Maxta Thomas,
email clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk,
phone 07810 692486

Bramley PC website – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Bramley PC Facebook page
– www.facebook.com/BramleyPC

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

– website www.basingstoke.gov.uk, phone 01256 844844

Good for planning issues, reporting fly tipping issues, issues with local playgrounds.

Hampshire County Council

– website www.hants.gov.uk

Good for reporting highways and footpaths issues (including potholes), broken street lights, parking issues, and flooding issues.

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Butter Daisy

How pleasantly surprising it has been that March's arrival has brought along the warm welcome of spring. Being awakened by the sound of dawn chorus to crisp morning dew, then greeted by the invigorating sun and fresh floral faces, with the days gradually stretching out has certainly been the ideal conditions to learn in action about this spectacular season.

Across the nursery, children have been studying spring through hands-on interactive exploration and investigation. They have planted seeds, journeyed through life cycles, painted and smelled fresh flowers, matched baby farm animals with



their parents, and made transient spring art with play dough and seasonal treasures.

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with traditional pancakes and other pancake themed activities such as scented dough with lemon tasting in the Baby Suite and Pre-School's pancake shop.

We joined the nation in this year's World Book Day! It is always a joy to see the children (and educators) dressed for the occasion. We loved looking at and reading the variety of literature the children enjoy, and among other themed activities, our toddlers made their own crunchy 'Gruffalo crumble'.

Our inquisitive children became mini professors during 'Science Week'. There were lots of experiments taking place throughout the week; making predictions, observing changes, and reaching conclusions. My personal favourite was the eggs-periment; monitoring the effects of different liquids on suspended eggs, with the

vinegar causing complete erosion of the shell.

Finally, it wouldn't be March without mentioning Mother's Day! We celebrate with our children the wonderful role of "Mum", honouring and cherishing those special figures in our lives. We wish everyone a joyous and happy day as memories are made and shared together.

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




St James' Church
Good Friday Easter
Craft Morning

Friday 18th April
At Cross House, Bramley
from 10 to 11.30 am
All welcome to join us for Easter themed craft and Bible stories, refreshments and hot cross buns.
 This is a free event
 For more information please email admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk



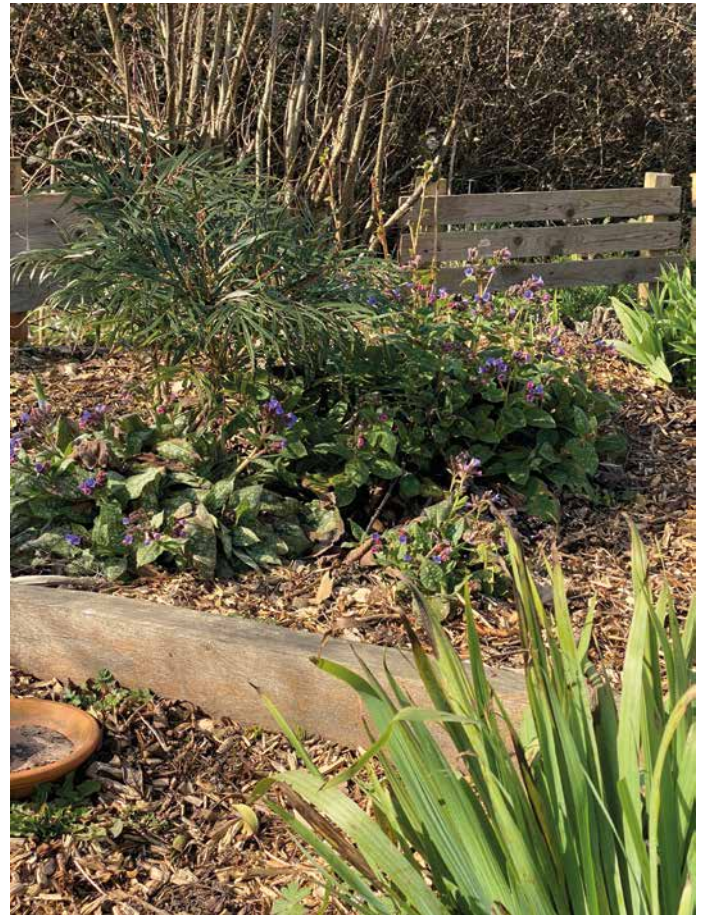
LENNY'S
MEMORY CAFE
 for people living with memory changes and dementia, their family, friends, carers
All are welcome, just pop in!
Fortnightly on Thursdays
3 and 17 April, 1030 - 1230
A friendly and safe place where you can relax and chat. One person who goes said "It's a wonderful initiative run by volunteers from, and for, the local community with interactive activities and a lovely warm atmosphere."
A carer said "it's 2 hours which I really look forward to, a place to chat with others - it means a lot to me."
St Leonard's Church, Sherfield, RG27 OJB
 find us on the A33, opposite Wildmoor Lane, Church End
 more info: lennysmemorycafe@gmail.com / 01256 880327
 Organised by St Leonard's Church and the Sherfield community funded by HCC and donations
 

The Birds and The Bees

We at Wilder Bramley are very lucky to have bagged a top local bird expert for our next talk. Martin Pitt is the county recorder for the Hampshire Ornithological Society, as well as being a NatureTrek tour guide and birding author. He lives locally so knows all the hotspots. Martin will be telling us all about the 'Birds of Bramley, Basingstoke and Deane' on **Wednesday 16th April, Clift Pavilion at 7.30 pm**. Entry £3 cash or card, including free refreshments and a raffle. Everyone welcome for what promises to be an absorbing evening!

Glorious sun shone for the Bee Garden Team starting up again in March. An early bright yellow brimstone butterfly fluttered about and we saw three ladybirds, who will Hoover up the greenfly and help to keep our pesticide-free garden in balance. Since last year, the Bee Garden has acquired two mini-ponds, a living roof for the bug hotel, some smart new signs and a Victorian-style stumpery – we are working hard towards that Outstanding category for the RHS awards this year! We are also working hard to help British bumblebees recover from their catastrophic decline in numbers after the exceptionally wet spring last year. We still need a few more volunteers – can you join us? Just 2 hours, every second Sunday morning in the month. Call 07503 155669 or email wilder.bramley@gmail.com for more information. We'd love to see you!

The first water quality test was completed by our River Loddon Survey team near Longbridge Mill Pub on 21st February. Collaborating with South East River Trust and Natural Basingstoke, we aim to collect specific data to assess the health of this chalk stream and hopefully lead to important conversations around protecting this fragile environment.



Lungwort attracts early pollinators, like hairy-footed flower bees.



Water quality testing (Photo: Kate Tuck)

Initial test results show that the water quality is generally in 'good health' which is very positive. There are, however, high calcium carbonate and nitrates levels which can indicate pollution from sources like sewage or agricultural run-off. We are hoping that collecting the data from 10 individual tests over the next year will help us to understand what's in the water and identify potential pollution sources.

We will be testing every 3rd weekend of the month, please get in touch if you would like to be involved as an observer or help us with the tests.

We are also planning some community mapping in Bramley, looking at existing green spaces and identifying opportunities to improve and create space for nature. Hampshire Wildlife Trust is running a free training session for anyone who would like to get involved. Do come along if you are interested: **Saturday 29th March, Clift Meadow, from 10.30 am - 3 pm**. Details on HIWWT website under events or email wilder.bramley@gmail.com.



The stumpery will be a habitat for many insects and fungi.

Some of Bramley's younger residents got involved in the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival 2025 in March

The Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival (now in its 61st year) took place throughout the first 3 weekends of March, with the Gala Concert taking place on Sunday 23rd March, at Queen Mary's College.

The Singing Section took place across 8th / 9th March, run by Rebecca Cooch, a singing teacher and professional singer from Bramley. Rebecca volunteers countless hours to ensure a well organised and smooth running event. It was a fantastic weekend of singing with many wonderful performances.



Rebecca Cooch with the overall singing section winners

More than 70 singers took part in the competition, including approximately 30 of Rebecca's students, several being talented Bramley residents, including Felicity Delve, who sang three songs and was fortunate to take a trophy

home for her rendition of a Māori song, Pokarekare Ana.



Felicity Delve

Georgie Whiffin was really excited to be singing in her first ever competition. She beat her nervousness and absolutely smashed it!



Georgie Whiffin

Thomas Green and Kyano played percussion in the Sherfield School orchestra and were fortunate to take the trophy. The orchestra played the flying theme from ET by John Williams and Rondeau (Abdelazer) by Purcell. The children, under the leadership of Head of Music, Mr Rampton, did

a great job with the arrangements. They were joined by singing teacher Rebecca Cooch who dusted off an oboe in support.



Thomas Green

Annabelle Delve did so well to win third place for her story in the creative writing section. Annabelle was the youngest entrant in her category.



Annabelle Delve

The festival is going from strength to strength. Check out - www.basingstokemusicandartsfestival.org.uk for more information about how to get involved next year!



1st Bramley Guides

The Bramley Guides have had a busy term. Last term, some girls from Bramley Guides went on a pantomime trip. This term we did some brilliant shadow puppets shows, and two of our new Guides made their promises at a Guides ceremony. Best of all, we went to the Basingstoke Gangshow! There were people skipping in pairs, and solo singers and dancers. Guides, Scouts and Rangers were all involved. It was a great experience.

Olivia – Guide

The Guides went to Tesco for one evening meeting. They were shown the 'backstage' workings of the store, and how home delivery orders were picked. They then had to shop for a set meal, and the ingredients for this were donated to the foodbank.

One evening was spent considering how to organise a festival so that it would be accessible to all. They had good insight into the needs of different groups of people, and how to accommodate these needs.

Pancake day was fun. Everyone had a go at flipping a pancake - we didn't eat those that fell on the floor! There was a



good selection of toppings, and many of the girls seemed to have all the toppings at the same time!

The seasons were the subject of an evening of interpretive dance. There was great use of imaginative ideas and props, and we were able to guess which season was being depicted.

The Power of Positivity was the topic of a thought-provoking evening. You may see the results around the villages, and if you do, please tear off a tab to take with you.

A variety of interest badges will be the focus towards the end of term. The Guides will finish these at home, bringing evidence of their work to gain the badge of their choice.

There is a mystery evening at the end of term called Eggs-traordinary challenges. And, so, roll on to the Easter break!

Woodpecker, Unit Helper

Little Apples

This month, we want to share with you the importance of exploring patterns with young children.

Children have an instinctive idea of patterns. When you teach children to become aware of patterns, they will build up the skill of spotting patterns for themselves and they will see how patterns change and notice irregularities. Research also shows that children’s ability to see patterns forms the basis of early mathematical thinking. Pattern awareness can vary significantly between children. Early patterning begins with matching one-to-one with objects, pictures or numbers (GOV.UK).

However, patterns form an integral part of many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. In our recent topics studying different environments, the children explored the different patterns they found in animal skins, and elsewhere in nature such as the beautiful spirals on shells and the patterns of cobwebs, helping the children *understand the world*.

Patterns can be found in architecture and native art in cultures across the



world. Observing patterns helps children identify similarities and differences and making patterns can be a wonderful way to create and use their imagination as part of their *personal social and emotional development*. Music is also based in patterns, and clapping out patterns is building foundations for writing words and sentences, which is part of the children’s learning on *expressive arts and design and literacy*. Practising drawing, writing, jumping and dancing patterns all help develop fine and gross motor movement control.

Finally, and arguably most importantly, patterns offer lovely opportunities



for communication. They offer some beautiful vocabulary – “diagonal” “spiral” “spotty”, and the chance to talk about what we observe around us, the colours and shapes of nature and the man-made world. As we start to see those signs of spring emerging, we will keep observing and talking about patterns we see and hear.

More information can be found here: <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/areas-of-learning/mathematics/patterns-and-connections>

If you have a child who you wish to start Little Apples in the academic year from September 2025, 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 if you would like to have a visit or a chat.

Bramley School has been making some extra improvements to its outside spaces

One of the things that makes our school extra special is the wonderful grounds we have! The children are able to enjoy different areas as part of our curriculum, extra-curricular activities, clubs, break times and if they come to one of our holiday clubs. Not only do we have a huge playground that hosts a basketball court, netball court and table tennis tables, we have a wonderful field which the children use for playtimes, P.E. and the occasional picnic!

Recently, we have been able to enrich our environment even further.

Clamber Stack

Our wonderful BSA Team (our parent’s association) have been focused in their fundraising efforts over the past year to raise enough money for a new ‘clamber stack’ on the back playground. This was no mean feat with the entire installation costing over £20,000!

We are extremely grateful for the discos, summer fair, fireworks display

and many other community activities they have planned for our children – where we all had great fun - but also raised much needed funds. We must also thank the Englefield Estate, where we were able to access a grant towards the project too.

At the beginning of March, after watching the contractors at work each day, the stack was finally in place and the fun could start! The children have absolutely loved it!! It is certainly challenging for all ages, helping them to develop core strength, as well as problem solving skills and self-



confidence to tackle different areas. It is also wonderfully in-keeping with the natural feel of our school grounds.

Mural Art Work

Local artist Sian Storey has also been working at the school to bring a ‘bit of life’ to our building. She has created our ‘Bramley Fish’ as a huge piece of art at the side of the school, and included a range of motifs by the pupils. We asked our children to create simple images that show our school values of *Compassion, Friendship & Respect*, which you can see within the fish if you look closely.

Not only is it amazing to have a local artist create this masterpiece for our school, it has also been brilliant for the children to watch an expert at work, hopefully inspiring them for the future.

We love our school and want to keep developing not just what happens within the building, but the outside too, in order to make it somewhere we are all proud to be a part of.



Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Carol Bennett is one of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies' (NAFAS) qualified Area Demonstrators for the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area (BB&O). Carol qualified as an Area Demonstrator some years ago at the same time as our Chairman, Stephanie Cornell and they remain great friends.

For our demonstration on 6th March, Carol revived a number of arrangements she designed as a trainee demonstrator. These arrangements were inspired by a kaleidoscope she had played with as a child for hours at a time, entranced by its beautiful and changing shapes and colours. After explaining a little about the history of the kaleidoscope, she went on to make her arrangements, each of which had a separate theme of its own related to its colour. The first was 'Setting Sun', for which she had made a sparkling sun shape to set off the arrangement of yellow and gold, and included chrysanthemums, roses, red hypericum berries, solidago and tulips.

Her second was entitled '50 Shades of Red'. This was a tall design, outlined by red mitsumata canes, roses and viburnum tinus, framed by manipulated aspidistra and fatsia leaves.



The third, 'Joseph's Coat of Many Colours' was actually two separate arrangements, one a simple foam free design using water filled bottles fixed to a circular mirror, which were held in place by a wool wrapped wreath ring, the colours of which complemented the flowers used: erigeron, tulip, clematis. Carol had used similar wool in the second design, woven through wires set into a circular piece of wood. This arrangement was filled with flowers of many different colours and forms: astilbe, daffodil, tulip, anemone, freesia, clematis, viburnum interspersed with delicate erigeron daisies.

Carol went on to produce two further arrangements: "Everything Pink is Mine!", a quote from her granddaughter, who also made its bright container, and 'Tropical', which, as its name suggests, included a variety of tropical flowers including leucospermum, protea, and both cymbidium and phalaenopsis orchids. I don't think I have ever seen a demonstrator use such a wonderful variety of flowers - truly kaleidoscopic.

Qualification Tests for trainee demonstrators



are held regularly throughout the areas of NAFAS and are ongoing in the BB&O Area at the moment. The final test is a ticketed event, a full day, when a succession of trainee demonstrators construct two designs in front of a friendly audience. It is quite a rigorous process, but ensures that Qualified

Area Demonstrators are skilled, knowledgeable and as entertaining as Carol certainly was.

The club meets on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall at 1:30 pm. There is always a break for homemade cakes, tea or coffee and time to get to know other members and visitors, who are always made very welcome. Our full programme is on our Facebook page, or you can visit the club section of www.bbandoflowers.org.uk. For any other information, contact Dusty on 01256 881420 or via email: TayMab1@aol.com.



Hold The Date It's the Bramley Fete
Saturday 17th May 2025



If you can volunteer for a few hours to help set up, support during the event or clear away.
 Please contact: simongillcmt@gmail.com

Join Us for the Bramley Village Litter Pick – A Community Effort on 12th April

Gear up for a day of community spirit and environmental care at this year's Bramley Village Litter Pick! Mark your calendars for 12th April and get ready to team up with your neighbours for a cleaner, greener village. We will meet at Clift Meadow Pavillion, time to be confirmed.

As usual, Bramley Scout Group will provide all necessary equipment for our volunteer litter collectors, including litter pickers, hi-vis jackets, bin liners, gloves and anti-bacterial wipes. Thanks to a generous loan from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, we'll have plenty of litter pickers to go around.

Refreshments will be served by the Village Coffee Morning ladies, offering a free soft drink to any young person wearing a Bramley Scout Group necker.

But there's more in store! Bramley Greener Home's Energy Surveyors will be present to discuss energy surveys and schedule appointments, as well as help you understand how your energy bill is calculated, so if you need help with that, bring it along. Keep an eye out for some freebies too! There will be more details as the event approaches. Also coming along will be representatives from Wilder Bramley, ready to share their latest initiatives on enhancing our village's biodiversity. This could be your opportunity to get involved.

For our younger residents, The Bramley Show organisers will be distributing potatoes for the children who want to take part in this year's potato challenge at The Bramley Show. More from them on that nearer the time.

And if you're thinking of holding a party, meeting or other event and are looking for a local venue, take this chance to explore the Pavilion or Brocas Hall. Clift Meadow Trustees will be available to show off the facilities and answer any questions you might have. Check out the photos of our Squirrels showing how it's all done.

And of course, there will be volunteers from Bramley Scout Group, eager to talk about the work we do and how easy it is to volunteer and make a difference to the young people in our community.

This event is a fantastic opportunity to engage with fellow villagers, enjoy some refreshments, and contribute to

our environment. Don't miss out on this chance to make a difference and have some fun!

More information will be sent out

nearer the time, so keep a lookout!

Bramley Scout Group



FRIDAY 18th APRIL 2025

BRAMLEY EASTER EGG TRAIL

With special thanks to the Bramley Parish Council

12pm - 2pm

Clift Meadow Pavilion

£3 per child

Meet the Easter Bunny!



Easter Activities
Raffle
Face Painting
Tea, Coffee & Cake



Bramley SpeedWatch

The group celebrated the 100th deployment on 27th February since I became the Bramley SpeedWatch coordinator 3 years ago. The table below gives a brief overview of the last 3 years.

I would like to report that the Group has made a significant difference to the speeds through the village, however the data shows only a very slight decrease in the average speed through the village. The data indicates that traffic volumes have increased approximately 14% over the 3 years. It is important that we remain vigilant of our speed and remain within the speed limits. Thank you to all the SpeedWatch members that have given up their time to support safer roads in Bramley.

If you feel that you would like to become a member of the SpeedWatch Group and help to make Bramley roads safer, please contact Bramley SpeedWatch on bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com.

No of Offences Recorded on the 100 Deployments	% offending	No of vehicles checked on Deployments	Number of days both SIDs were deployed (3 years)
1210	8.8%	13711	862/1095

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

3 deployments were undertaken during February. A total of 28 vehicles were reported to the Police from the 505 vehicles checked - hit rate 6%. The top speed recorded was 45mph.

Camera Data (November - January):

Month/Year	Verified Speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest Hour	Illegal Vehicles
Dec 2024	432	3	8 am	11
Jan 2025	593	5	1 pm	21
Feb 2025	963	9	12 pm	32

If you have any questions/concerns regarding SpeedWatch please email: bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com, speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk, or visit: www.hampshire.police.uk.

Keep Safe and Watch Your Speed
Graham White, Bramley SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Data (January):

SID Location	Days deployed	Traffic direction	% of vehicles exceeding 30 mph	No. vehicles exceeding 60 mph	Average speed
Farriers	28	West	48%	8	31
The Street by Churchland's	28	East	43%	13	30

Hampshire Armed Forces Breakfast Club (HAFBC)

We meet on the first Saturday of each month from 09:30 – 11:00 for breakfast and banter at Basingstoke Golf Club (formerly Dummer Golf Club), RG25 2AD. The next meeting is on Saturday 5th April. All ex-service personnel (and their partners if they wish) are welcome.

We have a Facebook page where you can register interest in attending by ticking the ‘going’ box and see pictures of previous meetings. Just type in ‘HAFBC (Hampshire Armed Forces Breakfast Club)’ and our page will come up.

In previous months we have had the privilege of a 99-year-old veteran who landed on Gold Beach in World War 2 in attendance and a Chelsea pensioner.

It is £10 for a large breakfast (and it is large) or £8.00 for a smaller one. Tea and coffee included.

It is very informal, so if you wish to attend, contact John McClean on 07767 610735 and ask to join our group, then tick the ‘going’ box on our Facebook page (this helps with the catering).

We would love to see more veterans attend.

Stephen Dunbar
 07740 605825

Sherfield & District Gardening Club

On **Monday 14 April**, we look forward to welcoming **Kelvin Mason** back to Sherfield Gardening Club by popular demand! Kelvin has taught at Sparsholt College near Winchester for over 20 years; thousands of students have benefitted from his knowledge, experience and guidance. His most recent book is entitled *Climate Adaptive Gardening* which is his subject for our April meeting. Always practical and with a gentle sense of humour, Kelvin will look at how – and why – we need to re-think the way we garden.

NOTE: this month, it's the 2nd Monday of the month because 21st is Easter Monday.

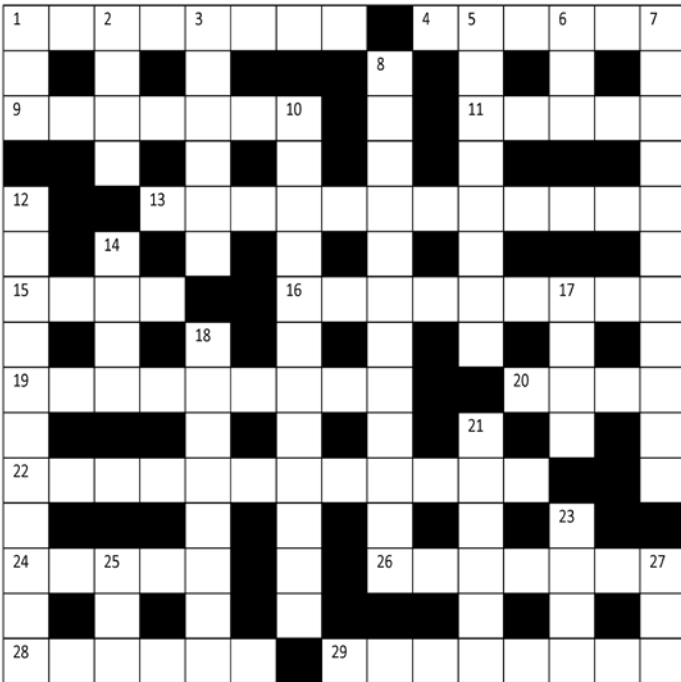
We meet in the Liddell Hall in Sherfield (behind the main hall). Doors open at 7 pm and the talk starts at 7.30 pm, followed by questions, refreshments and a gardening-themed raffle. We aim to finish by 9 pm. Come along to learn about new plants for your own garden, how to avoid expensive mistakes by not choosing plants which won't adapt well in our changing climate and share tips and ideas with other members. New members and guests are always welcome.

Percy's Plant Sale takes place on **Saturday 31 May** at Sherfield Village Hall where you can buy locally grown veg, herbs, flowers and shrubs. Your donations of plants to sell are very welcome too! All funds support the club and our local activities. Everyone welcome.

Sherfield & District Gardening Club:
Sustainable, practical, looking to the future

Cryptic Crossword No: 87

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 1 So lean as to be altered for the time of year. (8)
- 4 Show ernie how to hide precipitation. (6)
- 9 A co-unit arranged for sale. (7)
- 11 Asp rightly disguises a piece of holly for example. (5)
- 13 A study of Earth's attractive properties possibly ? (12)
- 15 Centre or the sound of a response. (4)
- 16 Lies if bed is led to doubt. (9)
- 19 I discover pepper onions in part go to make my pizza. (9)
- 20 Delicious food points to this shop. (4)
- 22 Ornaments to focus on. (12)
- 24 Earl famous for his marbles. (5)
- 26 Bad form to drink before the sun is over this part of the ship. (7)
- 28 Artisan estimated to contain the most sensible. (6)
- 29 Ad he is on makes bond. (8)

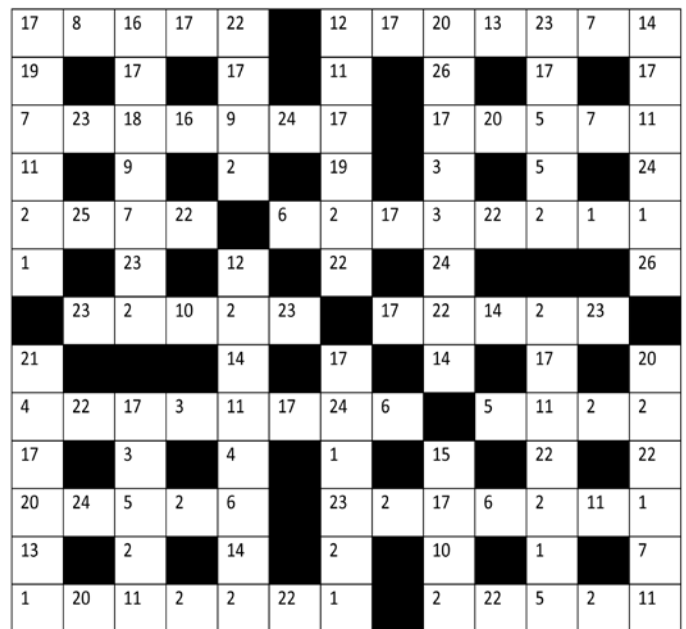
Down

- 1 Broadcast look for body of water. (3)
- 2 Structure that precedes bishop perhaps. (4)

- 3 Ravioli vessel contains hidden fruit. (6)
- 5 Picked up speed when Edward has ten editions to conceal. (8)
- 6 Raw reversal for conflict. (3)
- 7 A gruff man is to be converted to urchins. (11)
- 8 Expressively or indelicately. (12)
- 10 Boasting by releasing a title perhaps ? (12)
- 12 Travellers whose luggage is behind them. (11)
- 14 A day out or fall. (4)
- 17 I buy expensive X-Ray initially for goat. (4)
- 18 Position or balls for smooth motion. (8)
- 21 Act or dictum. (6)
- 23 Italian city hiding famous baritone. (4)
- 25 Start good ideas now for spirit. (3)
- 27 My enemy now realises the group of soldiers. (3)

CodeWord No: 73

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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Probus Hears about the History of Jaguar Cars

This presentation was aimed at the sports car enthusiast members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, especially those interested in British cars and Jaguars in particular. Speaker Nigel Thorley possesses extensive knowledge about Jaguar cars, having owned over 70 of them, including sixteen Jaguar Mark 2s. He has been the editor of the Jaguar Enthusiasts monthly magazine for over forty years.

The company originated in Blackpool in 1920, initially refurbishing motorcycles before evolving into manufacturing sidecars. Bill Lyons and his partner Bill Walmsley each borrowed £200 from their fathers to form the Swallow Sidecar Company. In 1924, they exhibited at the motorcycle show in London and received numerous orders, including those from George Brough, the manufacturer of the world-famous motorcycles.



Austin Swallow Roaster (1929), the car that started SS Cars

A customer requested them to repair his crashed Austin Seven car using their fabrication skills. After examining

the bodywork, Bill Lyons decided to improve it and created a new style of two-seater sports car. Although Austin refused to supply chassis directly, Lyons managed to secure an agreement with the largest distributor of Austin cars, allowing Swallow to manufacture both a four-seater saloon and under their Swallow name, the two-seater sports car.

The company relocated to Coventry to be closer to motor industry manufacturers and began producing bodies for the Standard 16. Despite sharing running gear, the vehicle design created an impression it would go faster. In 1934, Bill Walmsley departed to build caravans, prompting Lyons to rebrand the company as SS Cars, reflecting their transition to car body production. The SS Jaguar 100 luxury sports car featured a Wilmot Breeden chassis and a six-cylinder engine from the Standard Car Company. Before World War II, the company sold these 100 mph cars priced from £360.

During hostilities, the Swallow Sidecar Company supplied 10,000 side cars to the military, ceasing car manufacturing and repurposing factories to refurbish aircraft. Post-war, Lyons renamed the company Jaguar Cars, distancing



Blackpool factory of Swallow Sidecars

themselves from the negative association with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS.

As an admirer of Alfa Romeo and Maserati engines, Lyons developed for Jaguar their own straight 6-cylinder engine, designed to reach 120 mph. The Jaguar XK120 sports car debuted at the 1948 London motor show, receiving critical acclaim and substantial interest from American distributors.

Jaguar achieved considerable success at the Le Mans 24 hours races, between 1954 – 57 featuring the C type and then the D type body but using the latest XK engine. The MK 7 saloon launched during the 1950s used the same engine. The company moved to Browns Lane factory in Coventry in 1950, which later burned down and was retooled to become Britain's second-longest assembly line. Engine production transferred to Birmingham.

In 1962, the MK 2 saloon was introduced at £1,530, becoming popular among bank robbers. Police adopted the same model to pursue offenders. The XK150 engine powered the 1961 introduction of the Jaguar E Type, capable of reaching 150 mph. Enzo Ferrari described the Jaguar E Type as the most beautiful car in the world.

Following the introduction of the Jaguar MK10 large saloon, Jaguar Cars acquired Daimler in 1962. Daimler specialized in cars for royalty and bus chassis, holding the royal warrant. Lyons produced a Daimler version of the Jaguar MK 2 saloon with a 2.5 litre V8-cylinder engine, featuring premium enhancements and walnut veneer, making this a success in a different market sector.

Jaguar Cars merged into the British Motor Corporation (BMC) in 1966, later part of British Leyland, consisting of 194 companies. Jaguar was eventually privatised, leading to Bill Lyons' retirement.

In 1980, Jaguar returned to saloon car racing and competed in the 1992 Le Mans with the Jaguar 220, capable of reaching 220 mph. Jaguar raced in Formula 1 Grand Prix before selling the team to Red Bull.

Subsequently, Ford acquired Jaguar, incorporating a modified Mondeo floor plan in the small Jaguar X Type saloon and estate car. Despite criticism from purists, Jaguar's production reached unprecedented levels by 1998.

Ford sold Jaguar Cars to the Indian conglomerate TATA, forming Jaguar Land Rover. After launching the Jaguar F Type sports car and I-Pace crossover saloon, Jaguar acknowledged the pressure to produce electric vehicles, halting production in 2024 for a complete relaunch in 2026. Future Jaguar models will include four-door saloons, crossovers and sports cars.

The December 2024 publicity launch unveiled blue and pink sports saloon concepts identified as Jaguar Type 00 cars with updated branding of the name style, which sparked controversy but gained significant exposure. The automotive community eagerly anticipates the release of these electric models in 2026, keen to see if Jaguar continues to set standards in style and performance.

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

John Stubbs talks about the changing role of predators in this month's Beautiful Bramley

It's a longish old time since we really had to worry about predators in Bramley, the proper sort of Little Red Riding Hood troubling predators, that is. One way or another, we'd have been wolf-free by the 13th century, and bears were long gone before the Romans rocked up at Silchester. Not unreasonable, given the circumstances, but it's been a major shift in the ordering of our animal populations, with consequences way beyond the simple predator/prey equation. The trouble is that with so many things changing all the time, it's very difficult to pin down just what causes what to happen.

But what might be the effects of our interference in things here, in more recent times? An obvious one is the re-introduction of the red kite, and we do seem to have established a stable population from stock brought from the continent over the past twenty years or so. The fine specimen pictured, posing for me in an oak just nearby, seemed quite at home. It is always a pleasure to watch them cruising round, sometimes whistling, looking for worms, insects or carrion in field and hedgerow. Really not a serious predator, though, and doing a useful job of clearing a lot of leftovers, perhaps a very good example of how a re-introduction can be successful and beneficial to an environment.

Lately, there has been a movement towards re-wilding some parts of Britain – not so much around here, but in some parts of the country it could promise substantial and long-term increases in biodiversity. Losing more and more of our native species can become self-perpetuating, as for instance even our home pets change the chances of survival of local fauna. There are lots of ways in which a limited number of important species control some unwanted or over-multiplying animals, even within our increasingly built-up countryside, and their loss can be bad news.

Our unremarked hero predators might include owls for rodent-control, foxes for rabbit monitoring, and the buzzards, sparrowhawks, and kestrels for taking weaker specimens of larger populations of birds. Also, wasps, considering the enormous number of insects they consume, blackbirds for snail and slug management and crows for sorting the numbers of less careful birds and bugs. Even those moles making a bit of a mess at Clift Meadow are consuming a whole lot of beetle and crane-fly larvae, while mainly chasing our very valuable worms. Without this sort of interaction, the tendency is for more generalist, aggressive creatures to dominate the rest, leading to fewer species and even the collapse of a habitat. The broader the range of species around, the better the inevitable fluctuations in population numbers can be absorbed – predator/prey numbers have a time lag but are always connected. Until, that is, the most dangerous influence of all interferes with the ground rules. That drastic influence, of course, is us. We can change everything, and far more rapidly than ever before: the temperatures, the air quality, the rainfall, the soundscape, the water quality and the drainage. We've removed predators pretty much at will, so previously integrated hierarchies can get out of control.

An example of human intervention gone wrong: cane toads were introduced to control beetles in sugar cane crops, but the poor toads didn't quite understand. They failed to consume the grubs but reproduced rapidly and proved fatally poisonous to anything eating them. Another example: rabbits taken to Australia escaped to breed and are still an enormous problem. Their overgrazing has changed the whole landscape irreversibly.



It doesn't work to introduce, or re-introduce, any plants or animals without proper care, planning and consultation, followed by comprehensive monitoring. There are areas in the UK where beavers could help prevent flooding, pine marten might control grey squirrels, kelp could increase biodiversity and carbon capture, even lynx might effectively reduce deer over-grazing the woodland. But despite the occasional press reports of mysterious big cats on moorland, we're not going to be finding dangerous beasts pouncing from the undergrowth round here. Just wouldn't do, I suppose.

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Jordan Rollinson continues his historical fiction series, with this month's edition set in Nottingham in August 1642, where we catch-up with King Charles I

A cold sun shone down, splaying thinly through the pale fog over the moors. Frigid, the air was cold but without a bite. Horse's hooves had slurried the damp soil into a squelching mud, and leather boots ill-designed for such terrain were coated in wet shades of brown and green. It was into this mud that King Charles I of England dismounted, landing with a slop of shifting filth.

"We! We have been testing small brawls, skirmishes. We have stockpiled munitions, lead and true men!" Charles declared, gesturing around the field with a vambrace clasped forearm.

"Still Parliament defies us. Essex's Earl plays his pretended rebellion, gathering his own sheep to parade to slaughter." With a finger, Charles swept away what might have been a tear, or a speck of dirt. "I raise my flag formally against our foes - calling those with strength in their hearts and iron in their guts to fight!" There was some loose cheering from the thousand who had gathered. Stomping behind the

king, the standard bearer, Sir Edmund Verney, slammed the waving colours into a hole dug for the standard.

"I shall ne'er part with this banner until my soul be wrested from my body!" Verney declared. Barely had he stepped away from the flagpole, the length shifted and drooped.

The mud was wet, after all.

Luckily, Verney caught the colours, affixing them more permanently into the ground.

Aggressive claims aside, royal advisors pleaded with Charles to send ambassadors to London in a last-ditch attempt to negotiate peace. Charles did so, sending them with an irritated wave of his hand, as if for theatre rather than hope. By the end of the week, barely thirty more men had arrived to kneel. A pitiful display for a God-Chosen King. Questions were thrown around between the men in royalist red.

"Why do we not attract more?"

"Is there no loyalty to the crown?"

"God should punish their impudence!"

There were fewer answers, though those that existed were grimly honest.

"None trust Charles not to hand them over to the enemy after those loyal declare their colours - he's done it before." One morning, an evil wind blew the standard from its lodging. It was raced to, hauled from the mud, re-planted.

'A banner fallen is a bad omen' thought many. Charles may have agreed; he was difficult to catch for the remainder of the camp, secluding himself in his tent.

Those that *had* seen him said it was as if a shadow followed him. One perhaps of wounded pride, or simply an acceptance of the mortality to come. He paced, pale and distempered - those of Catholic faith whispered that they saw something of a spectre behind him.

"We leave!" yelled Charles, mounting his steed. "Those who have come, I thank you. We fly to gather more to our cause, and march to lay claim to more territory." He lowered his voice and only the closest hundred could hear him.

"We cannot return to London."

Useful Websites and Contact Details

Bramley Parish Council

Website: www.bramley-pc.gov.uk

Email: clerk@bramley-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07810 692486

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Website: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/>

Planning enquiries:

<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/environment-and-planning>

Bin collection issues:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bin-collection-issue-form>

Grass, hedges, weeds and leaves issues: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-grounds-maintenance-problem>

Report fly-tipping:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping>

Problems with trees:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-a-tree-problem>

Hampshire County Council

Website: www.hants.gov.uk

Highways reporting:

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

Faulty streetlights: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight

Flooding or drainage problems: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Parking issues: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/parking/parking-contravention

Rights of Way (footpath issue): www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

Cinder Track Reporting

Faulty lights (from Lane End to Kirby Drive estate):

TaylorWimpeyccwestlon@taylorwimpey.com

Tel: 01494 509090

Faulty lights (from Sherfield Road to Lane End):

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/streetlight

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

To advertise in the classified section and reach 2100 homes in and around Bramley for as little as £2 per line, contact: Keith Dilliway bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

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>Pregnancy Yoga with Sam 6pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Beavers 5-6pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<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>Body Control Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley 0-5s 10am - 11.30 am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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 and 12.30 - 1.30pm</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>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

Thursdays	
<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday 1.30 - 4.00pm</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>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>WG Pilates 12-1pm</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>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	Anne Smith	01256 880327	admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk	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 and Romans Floral Society	Stephanie Cornell	07808 078188	s.cornell@aplin.plus.com	
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)	John Huntingdon		John.Huntingdon@turbex.co.uk	
Clift Meadow Youth Football (Loddon Sports)			loddonfcsecretary@outlook.com https://www.loddonsportsfc.com	
Country Music	Maureen Durrant	07512 704707		No children please
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	
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 (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	
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Jodie Saunders	07818 280041	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Tennis (Clift Meadow)	Simon	07904 340004		
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Facebook		See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcole37@gmail.com	
Wilder Bramley		07503 155669	wilder.bramley@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	

Coming up at Anvil Arts this April:

01256 844244 / anvilarts.org.uk (Prices include £4 booking fee)

Enchanted Entertainment present:

The Wizard of Oz: Easter Panto

Tuesday 15 April, 2pm & 6pm

The Anvil, Tickets: £28. Over 65s, under 16s, f/t students £26

Enchanted Entertainment present an all-new Easter pantomime version of The Wizard of Oz at The Anvil. Join Kansas farm-girl Dorothy and her pet dog Toto as they are picked up by a tornado and carried off to the magical Land of Oz, where they meet the Munchkins, a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man who wants a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who desperately needs courage. Packed with well-known pop songs, lots of audience participation, and plenty of laughter for all the family!

The Steve Hewlett Show - Eyes & Teeth Live

Sunday 27 April, 3pm

The Haymarket, Tickets: £17. Over 65s £14

Suitable for: ages 8 and over

Steve Hewlett started his career in Basingstoke at age 12 and has since worked worldwide as a ventriloquist. During the 2020 lockdowns, Steve produced and hosted his own podcast, Eyes & Teeth. Live on stage, this extravaganza will feature a combination of comedy ventriloquism, live music, and celebrity guests, including Graham Cole OBE, Triple Cream, and co-host Arthur Lager, to celebrate Steve turning 50.

An Audience with Lucy Worsley on Jane Austen

Wednesday 30 April, 7.30pm

The Anvil, Tickets: £39. Suitable for: ages 14 and over

Historian Lucy Worsley leads us into the life of one of English literature's most cherished figures, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the author's birth. For these live, beautifully illustrated talks, Lucy invites audiences to step into the world of Jane Austen. Through the houses, places, and possessions which mattered to her, Lucy takes a fascinating look at what home meant to Jane, and to the women like her who populate her novels.



Lucy Worsley



Getting repairs done if you're renting privately

This advice will usually apply to you if you rent from a private landlord and you don't live with them, the council or a housing association.

Your landlord is responsible for most major repairs in your home. Write to them as soon as you notice a problem, as you could be held responsible if it gets worse. It's best to put it in writing and send to your landlord, keeping a copy yourself.

If a letting agent manages the property for your landlord, write to them and they should talk to your landlord. The letting agent will be responsible for making sure your landlord does the repairs.

If your landlord is responsible for the repairs, they should do them in a 'reasonable' amount of time. What counts as reasonable depends on the problem. For example, a broken boiler should be fixed sooner than a leaky tap.

You should get evidence of the problem, for example:

- photos of the damage, particularly if the problem gets worse over time
- any letters, texts, emails or notes of any conversations between you and your landlord or letting agent
- receipts if you've had to replace damaged items
- letters from your GP if the problem has made you ill
- a copy of your tenancy agreement

Keep any evidence you've got - you might need it later if you have to take further action to get repairs done.

Unless it's an emergency, your landlord should give you at least 24 hours' written notice if they want to visit your home to see the damage or do repairs. If your landlord won't do the repairs, keep paying your rent. If you don't, you'll get into rent arrears and your landlord might then try to evict you. More information is available on the Citizens Advice website - www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/repairs-and-housing.

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever the enquiry involves. To speak to an adviser please call Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9-4pm.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 87 Solution

27	MEN	1	SEASONAL
25	GIN	4	SHOWER
23	BAR	9	AUCTION
21	DEGREE	11	SPRING
18	BEARINGS	13	GEOMAGNETISM
17	IBEX	15	CORE
14	TRIP	16	DISBELIEF
12	BACKPACKERS	19	PEPPERONI
10	NAMEDROPPING	20	DELI
8	SUGGESTIVELY	22	CENTREPIECES
7	RAGAMUFFINS	24	ELGIN
6	WAR	26	YARDARM
5	HASTENED	28	SANDEST
3	OLIVES	29	ADHESION
2	ARCH		
1	SEA		

Down

CodeWord No: 73 Solution

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

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