

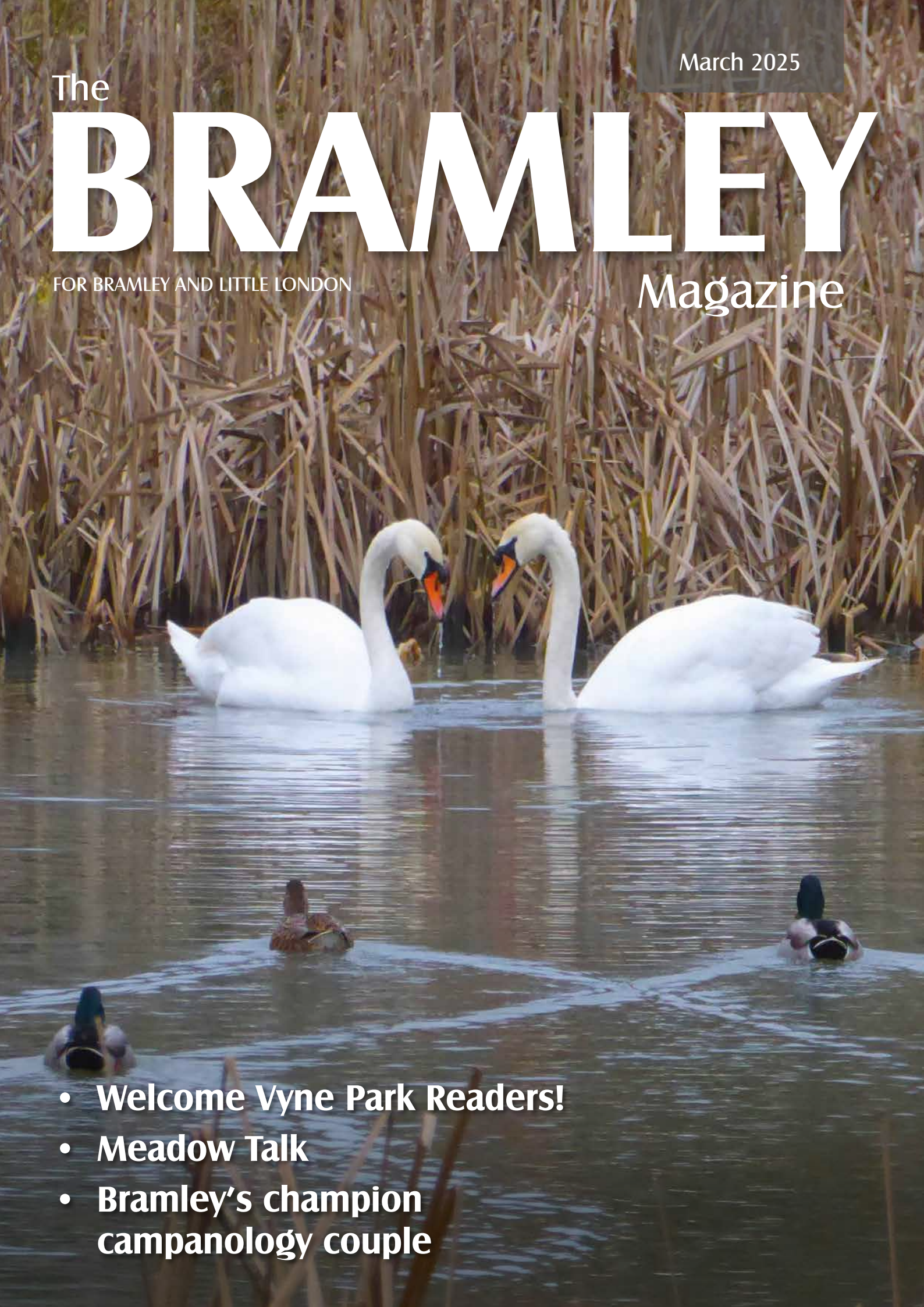
March 2025

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



- **Welcome Vyne Park Readers!**
- **Meadow Talk**
- **Bramley's champion campanology couple**

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

March 2025

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

Editorial

This month we are delighted to welcome around 500 new readers from Vyne Park as the Bramley magazine is being delivered there for the first time. Thank you to Bramley Parish Council for funding the cost of these extra magazines. Vyne Park is part of the parish of Bramley as Cllr. Sue Howell explains on page 10, so it is great to welcome you to the Bramley magazine and show you all the area has to offer. The best place to start is probably page 28 which lists all the events taking place in our various halls. There's something for everyone from badminton and Beavers to Pilates and Petite Dance. You can also pop along to the coffee mornings at Clift Meadow pavilion on Wednesdays or, if you are more energetic, join the Trail runners on Mondays and Wednesdays. There are also several events coming up at St James' Church such as the pancake race, a Mother's Day service and the next women's breakfast. See pages 7 and 15 for more details. Just a warning though - if you come along Cufaude Lane please avoid the toads featured on page 19!

It would be good to learn a bit more about our neighbours in Vyne Park, so if you have any news to share or have taken any photos of the local area, do email editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk. We are always looking to feature interesting people in our Meet the Neighbours column on page 8, so if anyone is interested in taking part, do email me.

As the crow flies, Vyne Park is not much more than a mile from the Vyne National Trust property and I assume that's how it got its name. The property stands on the site of a medieval manor house also called the Vyne. The origins of the name are uncertain; one theory suggests that it refers to Vindomis, a Roman road station, whilst another says that it was the site of the first domestically grown vines in England. I prefer that explanation - wouldn't it be good to have a local vineyard up the road, selling cut price wine to local residents? Chateau Bramley Vyne has quite a ring to it!

Sadly, I'm not sure our weather will support the growing of vines, although hopefully by the time you read this some spring sunshine will have made an appearance and the verges will be full of the beautiful daffodils featured on page 26. The Clift Meadow Trustees are certainly hoping for sun as they look forward to the cricket season on page 16. If you fancy yourself as the next Heather Knight or Ben Stokes, they would love to hear from you.

So, whether you are new to the magazine or not, I hope you enjoy it and find it full of local information and events.

Best wishes

Rachel

Joint Editor

New deliverer required

We are looking for a new deliverer for Sherfield Road to cover the houses from the level crossing to Anvil Close, together with Jibbs Meadow, Dollis Green and Marguerite Close. There are 60 homes altogether and it takes less than an hour, 10 times a year. If you can help or would like more information, please email Rachel and Georgie on editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk

Thank you

*"Among the daffodils, hope unfurls its petals,
announcing the dawn of a hopeful season."*

John Keats

Cover Photo: Swans by John Stubbs

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

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Benefice Services

Church diary for March...

2nd	Sunday before Lent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	BCP Matins - St James
5th	Ash Wednesday
20.00	Holy Communion – St James
9th	1st Sunday of Lent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
16th	2nd Sunday of Lent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship - St James
23rd	3rd Sunday of Lent
9.00	Sunday@nine - Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion - St James
30th	4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
10.30	Family Service – St James

...and into 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

Church diary for March...

2nd	Sunday before Lent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.00	Family Service – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye
10.30	BCP Matins – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
5th	Ash Wednesday
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
9th	1st Sunday of Lent
10.00	Café Church – Sherfield Park Community Centre
16th	2nd Sunday of Lent
10.00	Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
10.30	Family Service – St Mary’s, Hartley Wespall
23rd	3rd Sunday of Lent
10.00	Morning Worship – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
30th	4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
10.00	Mothering Sunday Worship – St Leonard’s, Sherfield

...and into April

6th	5th Sunday of Lent
10.00	Holy Communion - St Leonard’s, Sherfield
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
17th	Maundy Thursday
19.00	Light Supper and Holy Communion – St Leonard’s, Sherfield
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
10.00	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Stratfield Saye

Bramley SpeedWatch

Dirty Number Plates: is yours clean and legal?

Under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 if you are caught with a dirty number plate, intentionally or not, you may receive an on the spot fine of £100. If the matter is passed to court, this can increase up to a level 3 fine of £1000.

Volunteers Needed

SpeedWatch could do with some more volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact bramleyspeedwatch@yahoo.com. Full training is provided by the police.

Camera Data (November - January):

Month/Year	Verified Speeders (=>35mph)	Highest number of offences committed by one vehicle	Fastest Hour	Illegal Vehicles
Nov 2024	749	6	11am	20
Dec 2024	432	3	8am	11
Jan 2025	593	5	1pm	21

Recent Local SpeedWatch Activity:

One manned deployment was undertaken during December. A total of 14 vehicles were reported to the Police from the 119 vehicles checked - 12%. The top speed recorded was 40mph.

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
The Street by Churchlands	30	East	41%	5	30
Farriers Close	30	East	46%	3	30

Turning over stones, one turnstone at a time

Turnstones are fascinating shorebirds which are easily recognisable due to their distinctive behaviour and striking plumage. The scientific name of the bird, *Arenaria interpres*, refers to its unique habit of ‘turning’ over stones and debris in search of food so is, of course, where the name ‘turnstone’ originates.

During the winter months, these medium-sized waders are a common sight along the shores of Hampshire, particularly in places like Langstone Harbour, the Solent, and along the Isle of Wight’s coast.

Despite weighing only around 100g, the turnstone is a remarkable migrant, traveling incredible distances during its seasonal migration. Originating from breeding grounds in northern regions such as Lapland, Greenland, and even as far as Canada, these waders make long, arduous journeys - sometimes covering up to 1,700 miles - to reach their wintering sites.

The UK serves as a crucial stopover on their migratory route, a pit stop to rest and refuel before continuing their journey further south to Africa. These passage migrants rely on the UK’s coastal habitats to sustain them during this critical phase of their migration. Although a migrant to the UK, it can also be seen all year-round as different populations arrive throughout the seasons.

The birds seek out the rocky shorelines, tidal mudflats, and sandy beaches where they feed primarily on small invertebrates, crustaceans, and molluscs, often flipping over small rocks and shells with their strong bills to uncover hidden prey.

The turnstones striking plumage changes with the seasons. In summer, their feathers are rich with orange, black, and white tones, making them particularly noticeable against the backdrop of coastal scenery. In winter, their plumage becomes more muted, offering them better camouflage among the pebbles and rocks they scavenge.

They are widely recognised by different names across countries due to their unique habits and widespread distribution. In addition to turnstone, it is also sometimes called the ‘sea quail’ in coastal communities, referencing its stout build and patterned plumage. In North America, there is also a second species, the ‘black turnstone’, which lives on the Pacific coast.

Their long-distance migration is a testament to the turnstone’s resilience and adaptability. The birds offer a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of global ecosystems and the importance of preserving coastal habitats for migratory species.

Conservation efforts are essential to protecting their habitats and ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the sight of these fascinating birds in the wild.

Find out more information about the turnstone on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone

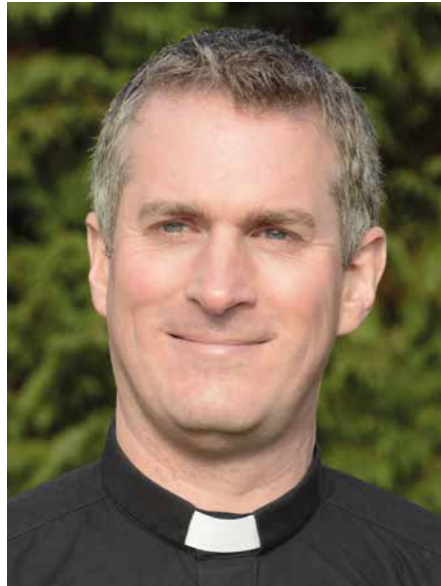


What is love?

I'm writing this on Valentine's Day so I'm thinking about love. Supermarkets are (now somewhat less) full of flowers, chocolates and all sorts of items people might want to buy as expressions of their love. Soon it will be Mothering Sunday (30 March) when we will express our love and gratitude for our mums in similar ways.

So, what is love? It's easy to think of it in terms of romantic gestures and occasions or physical affection. In one sense, this is easy. Booking a table in a restaurant, cooking a meal or buying a gift are not difficult and require little effort. What we think love is often determines how we express that love.

There is a love which goes beyond this. A love, which when we receive it from another, makes us feel good, very good. It gives us a feeling in our innermost being that nothing else can. It's a love which is patient and kind; not jealous, never boastful and is not proud nor rude; a love that doesn't demand its own way, is not irritable, is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. A love which doesn't rejoice



Rev'd Mark Anderson

about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. A love which always protects, always trusts, always hopes; never gives up, never loses faith; a love which never fails and endures through every circumstance.

To love in that way is not easy, but it's the love which lays down our life for another. It's sacrificial: we give up

something of ourselves, something we want, to serve another. It's the love a good parent has for their child. It reflects the love of God. The love shown to us in Jesus, who died for us so we can live life in all its fullness, a life of peace and joy and fulfilment.

When I conduct a marriage service I say at the start, "God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." I know I can draw on the consistent, never-ending love of God which helps me to love others in the way described above, and the more I love in that way, the easier it becomes. Relationships strengthen, they endure through difficult times; families and communities flourish and people become confident in who they are - just for who they are; not because they look a certain way or do certain things. This is a love which sets people free to be the people they were created to be. It's the kind of love we desire the most.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Rev'd Mark Anderson
Vicar, St James Bramley

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Party


Tuesday 4th March 2025
Cross House, St James' Church, Bramley
4.30 - 5.30pm

Games, activities, a bible story and
lots of Pancakes to enjoy!



SHROVE TUESDAY

A free event for children and their parents and carers
Please bring a frying pan for the pancake races
for more details contact: admin@stjamesbramley.org.uk



YOU ARE WELCOME TO
JOIN US FOR A

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

AT CROSS HOUSE,
ST JAMES' CHURCH, BRAMLEY

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME
SARAH SOPP FROM
ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER

FROM
8.45 AM
Saturday
15th March

In this month's **Meet the Neighbours** we catch up with **Claire and Ian Roulstone**, Bramley's champion campanology couple!

Campanologist: a person who rings church bells as a job or hobby (Cambridge Dictionary)

Claire and Ian first met through bellringing at St Mary & All Saints' church in Beaconsfield — where they were to later marry. Claire learned to ring at Beaconsfield, while Ian learned at Melbourne in Derbyshire at the age of 12. Ringing has been a lifelong passion for them both, they have enjoyed ringing not only in the UK, but also in Belgium (St George's Memorial Chapel, Ypres), the Netherlands (Dordrecht), South Africa, Zimbabwe, the USA, and Canada, and Claire has been on ringing holidays to Australia and New Zealand too.

Over the years Claire and Ian have joined quite a few Guilds and Associations through their ringing activities. Of course, they have devoted most of their time and energy to a small subset; they are both members of the St. Paul's Cathedral Guild of Church Bellringers. This involves ringing for three services on a Sunday and for other special services and royal occasions. Claire is also Honorary Treasurer of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. She previously held the position of Company Secretary for The Ringing World Ltd., a weekly magazine for church bellringers that has been in existence for over one hundred years.

Ringing the bells of the Cathedral Church of St Paul the Apostle

In terms of ringing at St Paul's, there have been a number of special events over the past 18 years that they've been ringing there, that have been memorable for one reason or another. These include ringing for the 2012 Olympic Games, which involved four peals (continuous ringing lasting about 4 hours), three of which were rung during the men's, women's, and paralympic marathons — the routes of these races passed the Cathedral. They also rang for the funeral at St Paul's of Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven (2013), and for the 90th birthday service for Queen Elizabeth II (2016). They took part in four-hour peals following the State Funeral of the late Queen in 2022 (with the bells fully muffled, which is only performed on the death of the monarch), and for the Coronation in May 2023.

Did that bell cross the line?


Besides the social aspect and strong camaraderie, ringing is also teamwork. Each year there is a National 12-bell striking contest, which is like the "FA cup of bellringing." Teams from across the country must impress two judges and a 'Hawkear' - much like Hawkeye in tennis, football and cricket - which helps measure the accuracy of the ringing. In 2024, Claire was in the winning team. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first National 12-bell Striking Contest which was held at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol on 31st May 1975 and the contest is returning to Redcliffe where Claire and her team have been practicing hard to come up against some tough competition.

There is life outside bell ringing

Claire has worked in the public sector for most of her career, and over a period of 15 years she completed three degrees in Criminal Justice (BA, MSc, and PhD) while working full-time.



Claire has always been curious about different aspects of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and having spent much of her career within this field, her thesis offers a series of sociological insights into the working lives and working personalities of Witness Care Officers who provide support to victims and witnesses during their journey through the CJS. Her thesis




**RINGING FOR THE CORONATION OF
KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA**

Saint Paul's Cathedral Guild
On Saturday, 6th May 2023 in 3h 53
City of London
Cathedral Church of St Paul

5009 Stedman Cinques
Composed by M J Cansdale

- 1 Phillip R J Barnes
- 2 Eleanor J Linford
- 3 Henry D Coggill
- 4 Martin J Cansdale (C)
- 5 Thomas F Lawrance
- 6 Thomas B Mack
- 7 David I Bassford
- 8 Claire F Roulstone
- 9 Andrew J Graham
- 10 Ian Roulstone
- 11 Paul J Tiebout
- 12 Leigh D G Simpson

In honour of the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



produces a typology of the styles of working adopted by different members of staff and their perceptions of victims, as well as the emotional work involved.

Ian joined the Met Office in 1989 as a research scientist, having completed a D.Phil. at Oxford University in Sir Roger Penrose’s mathematical physics group. His research at the Met Office focussed on the mathematics that describes large-scale weather patterns and their predictability. Weather forecasters use powerful supercomputers to number-crunch forecasts on a daily basis — literally involving trillions of calculations and petabytes of data. However, these gargantuan calculations alone are insufficient to guarantee an accurate forecast. The salient point is that, when computing the weather on a global scale, we can never hope to catch every squally local shower or gust of wind. We are trying to capture the bigger picture as seen, for example, from a weather satellite or space station. If we just focus on the basic laws of physics that tell us how air and moisture behave, then we’d never see the bigger picture — there are just too many possibilities. Ian’s research is part of a quest to identify how the basic laws of physics lead to supplementary mathematical equations that tell us how large-scale weather patterns, such as the jet stream, behave. This understanding can, in turn, help to ensure the trillions of calculations on the supercomputers “add up” in just the right way to give a useful and accurate forecast.

In 1999, Ian moved from the Met Office HQ at Bracknell to lead a group of Met Office scientists based at Reading University. This work drew him closer to academic research and, when the Met Office relocated to Exeter in 2004, Ian moved to the University of Surrey to take up a professorship in mathematics. (There’s a twist to this tale — he managed to fail O Level Maths at 16, but he had a passion for physics and astronomy and quickly realised that he had to buckle-down and focus on maths to get anywhere in this field — not an auspicious start for a professor of mathematics!) In 2013, Ian published a popular science book based on his research “Invisible in the Storm: the role of mathematics in understanding weather”, co-authored with a long-time colleague John Norbury from Oxford, and published by Princeton University Press.

In 2015 Ian became Head of the Department of Mathematics at Surrey, a post that he held for five years. During this time, he played a leading role in establishing the Surrey Maths School (SuMS) — a specialist Sixth-Form maths school in

Guildford, which opened in September 2024. Ian retired in 2023, but he is still active in academic research as an Emeritus Professor, and he is a member of the local governing body of SuMS.

The bells of Bramley and beyond

When ringing resumed following the pandemic, Ian and Claire helped the band at St James’ by teaching new recruits, which means the church once again has a good team of ringers. Some ringers, especially older people, did not return to ringing following the pandemic and this left a shortage of ringers in many towers up and down the country.

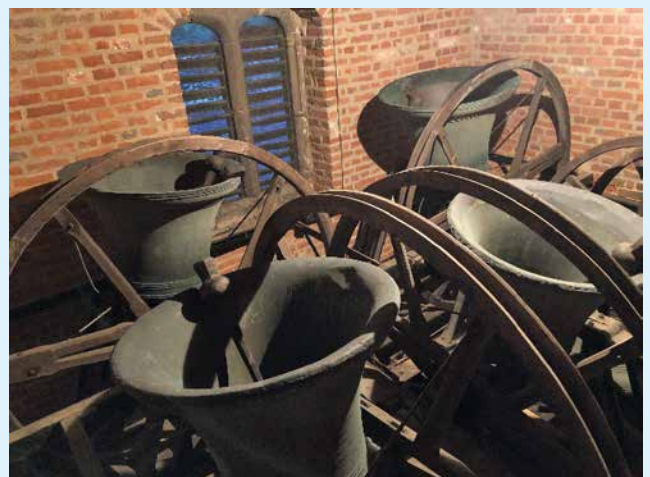
There is currently a project to refurbish the bells at St James’s, and we have raised just over £40,000 towards our target of £50,000 — we hope the work will commence later this year. Further, since the formation of the new benefice (Sherfield-on-Loddon, Stratfield Saye and Hartley Wespall are also looked after by Rev. Mark Anderson), interest has been aroused in restoring the bells at Stratfield Saye to full working order: they have been little used for nearly five decades. If this project can be brought to fruition, all the churches in the benefice will have bells ringing out for services!

Fundraising for our church bells

As Ian and Claire mention in their Meet the Neighbours article, we are doing really well with our fundraising for the refurbishment of the bells at St James’ Church. This is thanks to the generosity of lots of people in the village and beyond, as well as some generous grants, so a big thank you to everyone who has contributed. We are now desperately trying to raise the last £10,000 so that we can get the work done within the next 12 months. Currently the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme allows us to reclaim VAT on listed church repairs, but this may well be revoked in March 2026, increasing our target to £60,000. If you would like to support our fundraising please email rbarclaysmith@gmail.com or see our CrowdFunding page Bell Restoration Fund - St James’ Church, Bramley - a Community crowdfunding project in Tadley by St James’ Church, Bramley - Bell Preservation Fund or scan this QR code



Thank you



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This month's update from Bramley Parish Council comes from Cllr Sue Howell

For those of you who are not familiar with the Bramley Parish Boundary, this map shows the outline of what Bramley Parish Council has responsibility for. The area includes the land north of Cufaude Lane which has been developed in recent years.



Although the boundary has been fixed for many, many years, the number of houses has been steadily increasing. This has included the area at the end of Cufaude Lane, which is called Vyne Park, and this month we welcome Vyne Park to the Bramley Magazine, which will be delivered to the 300+ households, initially for a 12-month period. We hope our new readership will enjoy the magazine and feel encouraged to look at what the Bramley community has to offer.

The proposed local government changes are still being considered, but until we are told differently, we will continue to do all we can to support residents within the Parish.

So, what exactly is the Parish Council? In Hampshire a parish council is the 3rd level of council, below the County Council and Borough Council. Lots of people associate it with considering planning applications, which is a demanding role that can take up several hours a month. All applications are looked at and commented on, which in turn advises the Borough Council before decisions are taken. Bramley Parish Council is a consultee on all planning applications within the



Parish, but the final decision is up to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

All Parish Councillors are volunteers, and a growing rural parish like ours heavily relies on volunteers from many organisations, without whom the wealth of activities currently on offer simply would not happen. It is through the generosity of the Parish Council that so many organisations have received financial help to fund their activities. Some examples of volunteer groups are:

- Those who organise events such as the Bramley Fete, the annual fireworks event, the Bramley Show and recent D-Day commemorations.
- The groups for young people that include the Scouts and Guide sections and the Youth Club, Bramley Activ8 - <https://www.facebook.com/BramleyActiv8>
- Groups who help with people's wellbeing through regular meetings such as the Community Café and the Friendship Walking Group.

All these groups have benefitted from Parish Council grants that have helped them to flourish. There are limited funds, but Bramley PC tries to help these voluntary groups when the budget allows. Of course, these groups are only a fraction of the volunteers in the village – from those who deliver the magazine to those who get involved with the litter picks and, of course, our active Speed Watch team. We would certainly miss these people if they didn't do what they do, and Bramley Parish Council extends its thanks to all those who volunteer in the Parish.

Solar Farm - Cero, the company that is building the solar farm, held an Open Afternoon for local residents at the Clift Meadow Pavillion for interested parties to attend and learn of their plans. For those of you who were unable to attend and would like to know more, please visit their website www.bramleysolarfarm.co.uk

Flooding - Those of you who accessed Minchens Lane over the past couple of months will have noticed the road flooding. Bramley Parish Council has recently written to HCC Highways expressing concerns about this flooding. Highways are looking into the matter.

Bramley PC has also raised concerns with the Lead Flood Authority concerning planning drainage plans for the recently approved Stocks Farm site.

Upcoming meetings – the March Planning Committee meeting will be held on 11 March 2025, with full Council on 18 March 2025. Both meetings will be in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall, and further details can be found on the Bramley Parish Council website nearer the time – www.bramley-pc.gov.uk Bramley residents are always welcome to attend.

Contacts

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.



Battlefield Tour

As Chairman of the Bramley & District Royal British Legion, I have been asked by several people to put together a battlefield tour to the Somme which I would be delighted to do on behalf of the Royal British Legion. I suggest 5/6/7 September 2025 travelling by coach via Eurotunnel and staying in Albert, France. I can give you more details once I have ascertained likely numbers.

If you are interested, please register with me at the email below and I can put it all together and keep you informed.

Many thanks

Rhydian Vaughan MBE | Battlefield Tours

Tel: 07774 681516

Email: rhydian@battlefieldtours.co

Web: www.battlefieldtours.co



News from Clift Surgery and Patient Participation Group

What is the PCN?

Most of you will have heard of a PCN in the context of Clift Surgery. It is part of the Whitewater Loddon PCN, but do you know what a PCN is? It stands for Primary Care Network.

Back in 2019, following the 'Fuller Stocktake' report, GP practices were encouraged to pull together to form Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to benefit patients by offering improved access and extending the range of services available to them, and by helping to integrate primary care with wider health and community services.

Whitewater Loddon PCN consists of three surgeries serving over 45,000 patients across Chineham, Bramley, Hook and Hartley Wintney

- Chineham Medical Practice, serving 17,000 patients in Chineham, Lychpit and Old Basing
- Clift Surgery, serving 9,000 patients in Bramley, Sherfield-on-Loddon and Sherborne St John.
- Whitewater Health, serving 19,000 patients across Hook and Hartley Wintney

By working together, our practices can provide extended and timely care to our patients, improving overall health and wellbeing in the community.

To find out more, check out their website www.whitewaterloddonpcn.co.uk or follow them on Facebook.

If you would like to keep up to date with the NHS plans you can check out the Change NHS web site at <http://change.nhs.uk>

Health Awareness Day

On 14 January Whitewater Loddon PCN put on their third Community Health Day, held at Clift Meadow halls in Bramley. This followed on from the Mental Health Day in Hook and Men's Health event in Chineham last year. The focus was Healthy Hearts and the day consisted of three talks about physical fitness, healthy eating and understanding your heart. We were particularly lucky to have the cardiologist, Dr. Carl Brookes, there; he spoke and took questions from patients in what was an interesting, informative and reassuring session.

We were also joined by representatives from local organisations whose focus is on health, whether it be keeping fit, giving up smoking or advice on diabetes.

The PPG supported the day by providing tea, coffee, hot chocolate and biscuits.

The event was well attended by patients from all three surgeries. The next one will be held in Hook and further information will be available soon.

And finally, the number of appointments that were missed in January was 85. This is heading in the right direction but there is still room for improvement.

Bramley Show is getting ready for Spring

At the time of writing, it is the beginning of February, and it has been so uplifting to see the plentiful snowdrops and the hints of yellow pushing through as a reminder that Spring is on the way.

The committee has been updating the schedule for the September Show on Sunday 14 September at the Village Hall. This will be available on the website at the beginning of March.

The garden centre is full of tempting seeds for vegetables and flowers, so which ones will you choose? The familiar ones or will you try something different this year? There are the traditional classes for the September Show, but a few new ones too, so do take a look and have a go.

Of course, the Show isn't just about gardening. There is cookery, crafts, art and photography. You don't have to have had experience in taking part in a show, it is all about the fun and sharing with others.

There are always opportunities to take photos wherever you are and so you can start preparing your entry for this year's Photography section. The subjects this year are:

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

The ever-popular Children's Potato Challenge will be back as well as our Scarecrows who point the way to the Show.

For more information, take a look at www.bramleyshow.org and if you have any questions, please email thebramleyshow@gmail.com

Sue Howell

Hampshire County Council Fast-Tracked for Devolution Priority Programme

Hampshire County Council has been accepted onto the Government’s fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) – marking a significant milestone in the journey towards devolution for Hampshire and the wider area.

Earlier this month Hampshire County Council, together with Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and Isle of Wight Council put in a ‘Hampshire and the Solent’ devolution bid to central Government which seeks to bring power and money from Westminster and provide greater local control over vital areas such as education, transport and health services for Hampshire residents – giving people more power to shape the things that are important to them and provide robust local accountability.

As part of devolution, a Mayor would be elected in the spring of 2026 to head up a new Combined Authority across the wider region of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, in line with the Authorities’ expression of interest submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister last summer. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor would work together with local council leaders to make decisions about how to allocate regional funding. Greater collaboration across boundaries would be particularly effective in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

Hampshire County Council Leader, Cllr Nick Adams-King said: “This is exciting news for Hampshire. Devolution represents the biggest change to local government in a generation and to be accepted onto Government’s Devolution Priority Programme as a fast-track to delivering devolution for the area is a fantastic opportunity for Hampshire to self-determine and shape devolution proposals in the best interests of our residents and communities.

We are one of a select few local authorities nationally to join this fast-track programme, highlighting the substantial devolution opportunities recognised by the Government for our area. This selection also includes our upper-tier partners, Isle of Wight Council, and Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and with a combined population of over two million residents, 90,000 businesses, and an economy generating around £80 billion annually, Hampshire and the Solent region are pivotal to the UK’s economic landscape.”

Benefits of Devolution

Devolution will transfer greater powers and flexibilities from Westminster to Hampshire and the Solent region, accompanied by additional funding and investment. This shift will enable local authorities to make crucial decisions closer to where residents live and work, driving economic growth, innovation, and productivity.

“This will enable us to deliver the best possible future for our citizens and businesses, enhancing people’s quality of life and leading the way in the UK’s economic recovery over the coming years,” added Cllr Adams-King. “In collaboration with our upper-tier partners, we have already begun to outline the opportunities that devolution presents: sustainable economic growth, reduced inequalities, and



maximised net zero ambitions. We are committed to working in partnership across Local Government, businesses, education and the wider landscape of public sector partners to explore devolution’s potential for our area.”

The Government plans to consult with Hampshire residents very soon to gather people’s input and feedback on the prospect of devolution for the area.

Local Government Reorganisation

Additionally, the Secretary of State has confirmed that Hampshire will be formally invited to submit proposals for local government reorganisation.

The reorganisation aims to replace the current two-tier council system with new unitary (all-purpose) councils, simplifying how councils are organised and run.

Postponement of May’s Election

Due to selection for the Devolution Priority Programme, the Government has also determined that the County Council’s elections, originally scheduled for May this year, should be postponed for 12 months as an essential step to enable the Council to give necessary focus to preparing for devolution and local government reorganisation, and allow for a Mayor to be elected in 2026 so the benefits of devolution to local communities can be delivered as swiftly as possible. Any by-elections, if required during this period, would continue to go ahead as normal. Reorganisation would then be expected to be in place by either April 2027 or April 2028.

Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Fb.com/tellrhydian



PAINTING BLOSSOM AT SANDHAM MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A fantastic opportunity to come and paint/draw/sketch the blossom from our apple trees or anything else that takes your attention in the Garden of Reflection.

We are running three sessions from 10.30am to 2.30pm on

Wednesday 9th April

Tuesday 15th April

Tuesday 22nd April

Places are limited so please book through our website

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel

Payment is £10 which includes a hot drink and biscuit

Please bring your art equipment* and a chair

We will be holding an exhibition later in the year to display your pictures created at this time, please let us know if you would be interested in showing or selling.

*Please let us know if you would like to borrow our limited art supplies for £5

Contact: Sandham Memorial Chapel, Harts Lane, Burghclere RG20 9JT 01635 278394

[///mile.vision.tree](http://mile.vision.tree)



BRAMLEY WI

Apologies to the WI for missing their article from the last magazine. Here is a report of what they have been up to over the last few months.



The December meeting was our Christmas party and we were pleased to welcome singer Rebecca Cooch who was great and sang a lot of Christmas songs, which we could join in with. We had wine and nibbles in the interval and then stayed for a chat and a raffle afterwards. A great time was had by all, and many thanks to Rebecca for entertaining us.

In January we met at lunchtime and the committee made soup and a selection of crumbles. We also had a speaker called Imelda from Basingstoke and Deane who spoke about The Green Team and what the council are offering, including free garden and energy surveys. We also had a discussion about recycling our household waste; unfortunately she said that the council have a lot more to do about what we can put in our bins etc; hopefully in 2025 it will improve. It was suggested that we all go to the incinerator and see how it works, which we might do later in the year.

In February we had a speaker by the name Ian Porte who talked about Elizabeth Garrett, the first woman doctor. It was most interesting and we learned what she had to go through to get to that status, even having to go to France to get her qualifications. This was before women got the vote, of course; I think nowadays there are more women doctors than men.

Ian brought some of the books he had written, which we could buy at a reduced cost - he even had one about the Jack the Ripper period. Afterwards we had our usual refreshments, with cake this month as one of our members was celebrating a birthday, and we talked about our programme for this year.

We managed to get our walk in this month, and we chose a dry day!!!

Unfortunately, in January our WI shed at Clift Meadow was broken into and gardening tools were stolen. Fortunately, the Parish Council have given us some money to replace them, and Clift Meadow Trust have helped us fix a new secure lock to the shed - our grateful thanks to both of them.

Next month we hope the Red Cross will join us again.

Jane Matthews



WI Christmas lunch

Recycling Tubs

In our November magazine we publicised Becky Kirby's campaign to recycle sweet tubs. Well, Bramley must have a very sweet tooth as Becky collected 516 sweets tubs, with proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done Becky!



Looks like Heroes were popular this Christmas!

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Thank you, Joyce!

If you cast your mind back to the September magazine you may recall the spectacular flower arrangement on the front cover. That was created by Joyce Rawlinson who, for many years, has been using her creative talents to make St James' Church look beautiful.

At their AGM in February, Joyce retired from heading the St James' Church Flower Team. She had headed the team for many years and organised all the very successful flower festivals as well as overseeing the colourful arrangements in church every week. The Flower Team presented her with a beautiful flower arrangement and brooch to mark the occasion.

The Flower Team and all at St James' Church are very grateful to Joyce for all her hard work. We also remember the support she received from her beloved husband Arthur, who was often seen carrying buckets of flowers and watering arrangements.

Photo- caption: Joyce with the gifts she received from the St James' Church Flower team



Eileen Gulston

Many of you will know Eileen Gulston who has lived in Bramley for many years and takes an active part in village life. Her late husband, Eric, used to look after Clift Meadow and there is a bench there in his memory.

Eric won an impressive Military Medal in Malaya as a young Coldstream Lance Sergeant and when he died Eileen donated his medals to the Coldstream Guards Regimental Headquarters. At the time, the Military Medal was the equivalent of the Military Cross.

Shortly before Christmas, Eileen went to see Eric's medals and this is a picture of her standing proudly beside them.



MEADOW TALK - Spring, Summer &Sunshine

With lengthening days and an increasing sense of the warmth of a Spring sun, thoughts and hopes start to reimagine the coming of a Bramley summer.

The efforts and labours of Bramley WI and Wilder Bramley should soon offer the Spring delights of flower borders, followed by the Wildflower Meadow around the tennis courts, surprising us again this year.

As seasons change and Loddon Youth Football gives way to cricket in May, 2025 will see the first Ladies Cricket matches being played on five Sunday afternoons, complementing the Sunday morning youth fixtures & the Old Basing (& Bramley) 3rd XI that compete in the Hampshire Cricket League. As an increasing number of Bramley (all ages) players are now incorporated within the Old Basing CC set-up, it would be great to see a standalone Bramley team in the maybe not too distant future.

On a more practical level, the coming months should see a straightening and widening of the footpath adjacent to the Pavilion, the addition of a new memorial bench and, with the trees so generously donated back in 2021 now just that little more mature, an ever more pleasing Clift Meadow for all to enjoy this coming Summer.



It won't be long until we hear the wonderful sound of leather on willow!



The WI garden



The wildflower meadow in full bloom



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

Little Apples

It has been a busy half term here at Little Apples, we have had lots of new children joining us and it has been very exciting getting to know them and their families.



Since our last update, the children have enjoyed time exploring dinosaurs and volcanoes, including making their own exploding volcanoes! This week we have been exploring the art of making music. Despite the inclement weather, our outside classroom has come into its own as something of a band stand and we now have a vertical music stand to join our living wall spring garden. We really appreciate the effort staff members made to develop these resources.

Both of these have been made from reclaimed pallets. Reusing, recycling and repurposing items which otherwise may go to waste forms part of our sustainability and climate change planning. We also focus on

healthy sustainable diet, avoiding food waste and being mindful of food miles. We have significantly reduced the amount of meat served at lunch and will have at least three meat free days each week going forward.

The living wall spring garden also forms part of our plan, providing opportunities for pollinators to visit the spring flowers, and this has been joined by lots more bug hotels. As well as supporting the many insects, birds and small mammals that visit our garden, these provide lots of learning opportunities for the children who enjoy exploring the habitats and the life cycles of the birds, animals and plants they see.

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.



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Did you know...? You can use any of our opening hours for EYE grant funding! Whether your child is eligible for the 15 or 30 hours per week funding (ages 2-4), check what funding you can access at www.gov.uk/get-childcare

Bringing the elms back to Bramley

Nine disease-resistant elms have been planted by Wilder Bramley as part of a wider effort in partnership with the Hampshire Forest Partnership (HFP) to restore these magnificent trees to our landscape. The English countryside was once dominated by elms, leaving their legacy in the names of many roads, pubs and communities, and they provide critical habitats for wildlife. Sadly, since the 1960s they have been mostly wiped out by Dutch Elm Disease. Our volunteers planted nine trees in two locations: four at Clappers Farm Livery Yard and five at St James Park, in the rewilding area. A tenth elm has been promised by Hampshire County Council for the Minchens Lane triangle next winter. A huge thank you to our spade-wielding planters and to Linda Christmas of Clappers Farm Livery Yard for her support. Thank you also to Mason's Tree Management for donating mulch, Hortus Loci nursery for advice and discounted products, and Persimmon Homes for permission. In addition, a local farmer has planted 20 elms along a public footpath, so we will together have added 30 young trees to our area! We hope that these elms will thrive in our community and live for more than 100 years.

We are excited to announce that Wilder Bramley has a new website! Do visit us at wilderbramley.org where you can find out more about how we work to protect nature and increase biodiversity and sustainability in Bramley and surrounding areas. Enjoy some beautiful pictures of our village and the bee garden and wildflower meadows in full bloom, read how you can help nature in your own garden, and find out about upcoming work parties and volunteer opportunities. You can also find out how to support us by becoming a member or making a donation. Our new website has been created from scratch by Graham White, who wrote about his first year as a WB volunteer in the last Bramley magazine.

Dates for your diary: Saturday 8 March at Clift Meadow, Saturday March 15 at St James Church and Saturday March 22 at Clift Meadow. Our next hands-on activity will be scything and raking up the cuttings at our two wildflower mini-meadows. This traditional, sociable practice saves the lives of many insects and small mammals (compared to strimming) and minimises soil disturbance, while discouraging invasive grasses to allow the wildflowers to come through. Training and tools provided. Arrive 9am for scything



and 10am for raking, finishing around noon. Please wear stout footwear and long trousers. All welcome. (Children can help with raking only and must be supervised by parents.)



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Cufaude Lane Amphibian Rescue Group

If you have used Cufaude Lane over the past few weeks you will have noticed people in Hi-Viz jackets with buckets patrolling the road at dusk. Spare a thought – and slow down - for these volunteers as you drive by. They are saving amphibians – toads, frogs and newts – from being squashed by cars as they cross the road on spring migration from fields and woods east of the byway to ancestral breeding ponds on the west.

Were it not for volunteers, mortality rates would be far higher than they currently are. Despite the best efforts of the Cufaude Lane Amphibian Rescue Group (CLARG) roughly 15% of those animals that attempt the crossing are killed. In reality that means more than a hundred dead toads, frogs and newts each season.

Amphibians spend most of their lives on land but must return to water each spring to breed. Spring migration is influenced by weather and is most pronounced on mild, wet nights from late January until the end of March, only stalling during cold snaps. Conflict between cars and toads, plus other amphibians, is a consequence of



Toads on Cufaude Lane



Cufaude Lane amphibian species

unfortunate timing. Migration begins at dusk and peaks in the first hour or two of darkness. This coincides with the end of the working day and peak rush-hour traffic. CLARG operates for a couple of hours each evening when traffic is worst.

Four amphibian species cross Cufaude Lane: Common Toad, Common Frog, Smooth Newt and Great Crested Newt. Despite the name, Common Toads are no longer common and the charity Froglife estimates that populations across the UK have declined by 68% over the last 30 years. Today, Cufaude Lane hosts the most significant remaining population in the borough of Basingstoke with numbers of breeding Common Toads in the tens of thousands.

However, things are set to worsen as planning permission is granted for more housing at either end of Cufaude Lane, and more cars use the road.

If you spot a toad or other amphibian on the road, please do your best to avoid killing it and exercise caution as you drive by the pedestrian volunteers.

Paul Sterry, Wildlife Author and Conservationist

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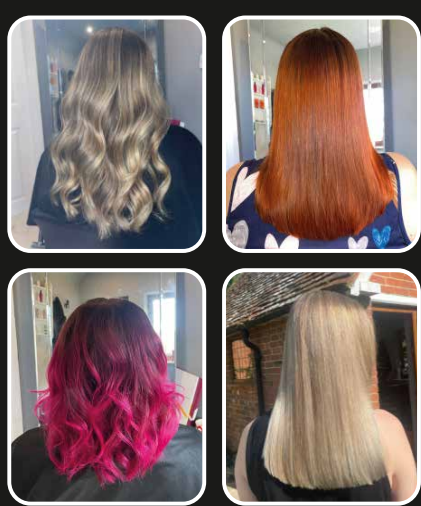


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Whichever way you currently use your broadband in Bramley, the chances are your need for faster and more reliable broadband is only set to increase. That's because as the digital world expands, the less likely it is that your existing part fibre broadband will cope with the demands on it.

You see, the part fibre that you're likely on, is inherently slower and less reliable because fibre optic cables only go as far as a cabinet in your community, after which your broadband travels to your home along out-dated Victorian-era copper telephone wires. In contrast, Gigaclear's 100% full fibre is up to 15 times faster and five times more reliable because our fibre optic cables go direct to your property.

And for many of you reading this in Bramley, you'll be pleased to learn our full fibre cables are already outside your property - so all you have to do is call our friendly Oxfordshire-based team to arrange an installation.

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*Please note: we do not recommend you purchase home phone if you are reliant on your landline due to disability or accessibility requirements and do not have alternative means to contact emergency services in the event of a power outage.

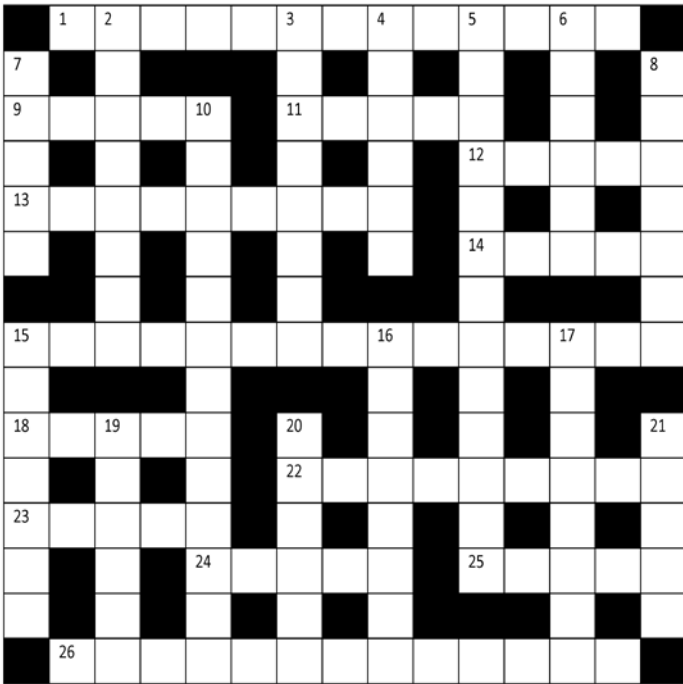


If you are feeling nostalgic about the time when Bramley really was a village, take a look at these old photos from the archives. How many would you recognise today?



Cryptic Crossword No: 86

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 1 Green party on the 17th perhaps. (2,8,3)
- 9 I cost arrangement for fortitude. (5)
- 11 Dance so all my best ambitions can start. (5)
- 12 Nice encompassing direction for relation. (5)
- 13 Accessory found in the pen pad age. (9)
- 14 Thoughts I'd easily look into. (5)
- 15 and 19 Down. I amuse, pan rough terrain for European dual monarchy. (15)
- 18 Are naval vessels used for stadium for example? (5)
- 22 Undertaking or aim. (9)
- 23 Short water horse perhaps. (5)
- 24 Picture of dim ages concealed. (5)
- 25 Material heard in part to have been how one used a chair. (5)
- 26 Put off friend with tine arranged between respectfully. (13)

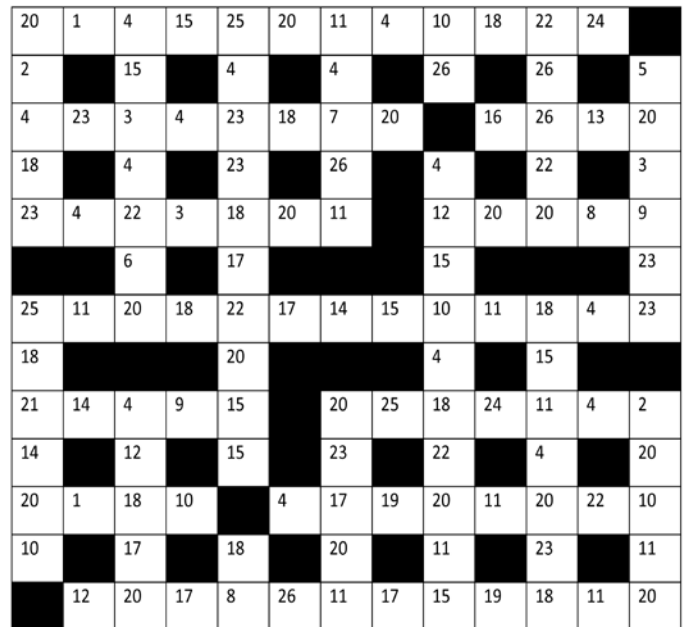
Down

- 2 Sore port sorted for men. (8)
- 3 Look again perhaps for exploration. (8)

- 4 Morecambe reveals arched form. (6)
- 5 Swedes for example look for noise and birds together. (13)
- 6 Grant or yield. (6)
- 7 Composition or attempt. (5)
- 8 Is it reasonable to hide treachery. (7)
- 10 Arrange reservation with co at school of music perhaps. (13)
- 15 Ashamed or mortified. (7)
- 16 I net seed for those requiring the most. (8)
- 17 Trail Mom went about, it was endless. (8)
- 19 See 15 across. (6)
- 20 Live, turned up, fitted. (6)
- 21 Grin devilishly concealing what one does with coffee beans for example. (5)

CodeWord No: 72

See page 31 for the answers.



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Butter Daisy

It has been a spectacular start to the year! The children returned to nursery with new trending interests – London and Fireworks. This took us on a journey to discover more about our nation’s capital. This then evolved into learning about the Lunar New Year and its traditional celebrations. The children took part in Year of the Snake themed activities as well as opening up their own Chinese Restaurant for festive dining.

Our Pre-School children have been aspiring scientists, testing their ideas and experimenting through trial and error, monitoring the results. One of their challenges has been to change the colours of flower petals. The children came up with a variety of suggestions to try. As they unravel their understanding of how things work, this hands-on learning boosts confidence and resilience; gently teaching the mantra “if at first you don’t succeed try and try again”.



Supporting children and encouraging them through both their struggles and their successes plays an important role in their mental health. This month we joined the nation for “Children’s Mental Health Week”, sharing some of the ways that we support children and promote their wellness. This included luxurious foot spas, baby massage sessions, affirmations, celebrating uniqueness and individuality, co-regulation, emotional literacy and mindfulness; we provide tools to equip our children for understanding and managing their holistic well-being.

Then finally, from loving ourselves to loving others, we focused on how we can share love and kindness this Valentine’s Day; celebrating those we love and discussing ideas about what love might look like. The children explored a variety of sensory tuff trays with this theme and our Toddlers even made delicious strawberry Valentine’s milkshakes. Yum!

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

Spring Term at Bramley School

What a fantastic Spring Term we have had! Although January can seem extremely long and dark, the children have continued to work hard across the school moving their learning on in so many ways.

Our youngest children have been exploring different traditional tales this term. They have planted seeds linked to Jack and the Beanstalk, made and tasted porridge after reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears and re-enacted the Three Little Pigs using masks. The adults can’t believe how well their writing skills have come on when they have rewritten parts of the stories!



The children in Year 1 have been exploring the world around them, going on a winter walk to see what has changed as we go through different seasons. They have also been looking

at landscapes; the children loved using mixed media to create their own in the style of David Wightman.



Up in Year 2, they have been enthralled all term while studying the disastrous Titanic. The best part has been their visit to SeaCity in Southampton where the children were fascinated by the real-life artefacts, history of the crew and listening to the stories of people from the ship. They even got to try out using Morse code!

In Year 3, the children have been developing their mapping skills. After looking at a range of maps, they have used Lego blocks to help them map out their classrooms before creating more detailed sketch maps.

Volcanoes has been the topic for children in Year 4 this term. After

researching different types, they made clay volcanoes using different textures and techniques. Their computing work has centred around using the Lego WeDo kits to create volcano sensing machines.

Towards upper Key Stage 2, children in Year 5 have been learning about four key monarchs, discussing the impact they had on Britain and how they have affected the way we live today. They have enjoyed class debates to judge which monarch had the most power.

Up in Year 6, the children have loved their topic this term of World War II. After learning about the Blitz, they designed and made Anderson shelters, they then ‘bombed’ them in class to see who had made the sturdiest structures!



Fantastic learning across the school linked to so many different areas of learning!



Legal@phillips-law.co.uk

01256 460830

Question

My name is Dave and I have a small business. I did everything myself until recently when it all got too much for me. I have realised that to help with the work I need to take on my first employees. This will be a great help, but I am worried that I don't really know what I am supposed to be doing other than paying them. I want to be a fair employer and do things correctly, but it all seems very daunting and I need some professional advice please. Where do I start?

Answer

Well Dave, you have come to the right place as we have a team of experts at Phillips, ready and willing to help you. I am afraid there really is a lot to take on board when you first employ people but with the right help in place it can be quite straightforward. I will broadly outline the main points and then you can let me know which aspects you need more help with.

1. You need to have employer liability insurance in place to protect yourself and your business before taking on any employees. Check your public liability insurance to make sure it extends to employer liability cover.
2. Before employing anyone at all you must check that they have the right to work in the UK, that it is a current right and that they can provide evidence of this. You must keep a record so you can prove that you have done this before they do any work at all for you.
3. On day one of employment, you must provide written terms of employment setting out the terms and conditions upon which they are employed. This will be their contract of employment and needs some thought as to what you wish to include in it.
4. To make sure that the contract is fair and reasonable you will need to have some basic knowledge of employee rights and regulations. A major pitfall will be if you are unaware of the rules relating to minimum wage, holiday pay, working hours/breaks, sick pay and notice periods. You will also need to detail any required probation period.

5. You have an obligation to deduct tax and employee National Insurance from all wages at source. You may also need to set up an employee pension scheme so that you can automatically enrol your employees into it. You will need sufficient understanding of this in order to advise the employees of their rights and obligations. You should also consider whether you wish to offer the employees any other non-statutory benefits.
6. You must ensure that as an employer, you take steps to protect your employees from discrimination, harassment and victimisation and ensure equal pay and treatment in the workplace. You will also need a fair and transparent process for dealing with any grievances or any disciplinary issues. Having clear policies in place is advisable and will assist both you and your employees to understand what your respective rights and obligations are.
7. Think also about family friendly policies which may not impact you initially but which you will need to familiarise yourself with in due course if they do arise. This could include flexible working, pregnancy and maternity, adoption, paternity and parental leave, all of which have rules in place, so do take advice if one of these scenarios arises. You may also have to deal with leave for employees dealing with an emergency relating to a dependent or bereavement.
8. Training must also be something that you consider at the outset of employment, as it is necessary to put a clause into the contract of employment to say whether there will be any compulsory training needed for the role. If so, the contract must state whether the employee may have to pay for any training themselves.

As you take this exciting new step for your business, know that you're not alone—our team at Phillips is here to ensure your success as an employer. Hiring your first employees can feel overwhelming, but with the right legal guidance, you can build a strong foundation that protects both you and your team. From ensuring legal compliance, to drafting bespoke employment contracts and developing effective workplace policies, we're here to simplify the process so you can focus on growing your business.

Contact Phillips today for expert, personalised support, and let us help you create a workplace that's not only compliant, but also welcoming and fair for your employees.

Email: legal@phillips-law.co.uk, telephone: 01256 460830.

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Swanning Around in Bramley

by John Stubbs

They're not rare birds, then. A pair of mute swans, visually striking in their form and pose, feeding enthusiastically on the bottom vegetation of Dukes Meadow Pond in Bramley's St James' Park. But apart from the occasional glimpse of a skein overflying, I don't think I've seen swans in the village before. This was late December last year, and they re-appeared briefly mid-January. It just might be that it was a pair prospecting possible nesting sites; it'd be great if they did choose to join us. Of our waterbirds, the swan is probably the most tolerant of humans – provided that we or our animals don't come anywhere near a nest. No, they won't break a man's leg with one blow; a lot of hissing and flapping, a bit of posturing, is as bad as it usually gets, more like some politicians than real toughs, perhaps.

But were they actually just swans? These birds, even if that's all they are, carry a load of anthropomorphic myth and legend – I reckon probably more than any other bird you can name, though the eagles' PR firms may dispute this. And these stories have common threads: even in the Americas and the Far East there are similar constructs, more than just being myths about big birds and water. In the west, countries from Russia to southern Europe have variants of the tales, based around the ability (or curse) of the swan taking human form. While there are strong commonalities, there are also lots of variations from place to place, and over different time periods. These factors allow tracing the roots and background of their origin, and how a theme might have been adapted and adopted into local culture, in the same way that languages can be shown to have been derived from earlier source tongues.

The essence of the more northern European fables run something on the following lines: a hunter happens upon a bevy of swans (apparently that's a legitimate term) at an isolated lake. They remove their feather coats, revealing themselves to be human-form maidens, and they bathe. The hunter, male, surreptitiously and rather stereotypically appropriates one of the feather kits, preventing its owner maintaining her modesty and exiting as a swan. Love and marriage to the stranded damsel follow, then in time children arrive and, somehow, a mother-in-law. This latter lady, or a child, mistakenly returns the hidden feathers, allowing the wife to escape whence she came. Husband follows, making arduous journeys to the spirit world, with varying degrees of success.

The Ancient Greek legend of Leda and the swan is, like most of their stuff, awful confusing. Unlike the story above, as early as 700 BCE they had it that Leda, a Spartan queen, fell in with Zeus who had taken the form of a swan. Their child Helen was the famed beauty whose face launched a whole bunch of ships and the Trojan War; all again very complicated and entertaining and probably linked to even older mythology of swan maiden tales. The more northern countries tend to have stories of the genre linked to migratory birds such as swans; in the tropics other birds such as doves do the shapeshifting. Perhaps our most familiar context is the ever-popular ballet Swan Lake, again a confusing mixture of maidens defaulting to swans, and their getting involved with the hunters, to no very good effect in the end. Apparently based on Russian, Ukrainian and German folktales, several versions of the ballet have been performed, some even declaring a happy ending, which is a bit sad.



Somehow the swan appears to have come up trumps in terms of image, charm, and popularity. Ducks are lovely, but you couldn't take one seriously, could you? Gulls are what, strong and emblematic, but a bit on the aggressive side. Geese? As in 'don't be such a goose'? Well, no. Puffins make you smile, but surely they can't be at all cerebral, with a walk like that. Herons can look odd, a bit eldritch, if you ask me. Moorhen, coot; cheeky, chummy, really not mythic. Perhaps it's in the very visual presence of the swan, disdain perhaps; distinction, somehow. The neck, just a handy pond-bottom access tool really, but making a brand statement that product designers would die for. They don't just tick all the boxes; they draw some extra ones that other birds just can't see.

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Thank you to **Grahame Mellor** for sending in these photos and reminding us that Spring is on the way



Sherfield & District Gardening Club continues to grow!

A capacity audience enjoyed our local version of *Gardeners Question Time* in January. Four talented panellists, all very experienced gardeners with local knowledge, answered questions and shared their insights and “top tips”. Subjects included the benefits of raised beds, no-dig, mulching, rejuvenating a special (but struggling) rose bush, when to sow leeks, companion planting, trees for smaller gardens, and how to grow prize-winning vegetables.

Our picture shows the panel (left to right): Terry Raisborough, Richard Elphick, Lauren Dotor Cespedes and Dan Farrow. The evening was chaired by Diana Stacey.



On Monday 17 March we'll be treated to an inspirational talk with slides by local gardener Maureen Cole. Her subject is *The Beauty and Joy of Hellebores* and Maureen will be happy to answer your questions.

We meet in the Liddell Hall in Sherfield (behind the main hall). Doors open at 7pm: the talk starts at 7.30pm followed by questions, refreshments and a gardening-themed raffle. We aim to finish by 9pm. *New members and guests are always welcome.*

In addition, we wish to acknowledge recent generous support from BDBC. Their Grant of £100, arranged through our Ward Councillors, enabled the Club to purchase a new slide projector. This will be used every month and is a very worthwhile asset as every guest speaker brings their own slides. This new projector will enhance the visual quality of our meetings, adding to the positive benefits of our Gardening Club for our ever-increasing membership. Sincere thanks to our Treasurer for applying for the Grant, to BDBC and to our Ward Councillors for their support and encouragement.

See you in March! We're all looking forward to Spring and to spending more time outdoors!

Lauren Dotor Cespedes

On behalf of Sherfield & District Gardening Club

Jordan Rollinson continues Samuel's story. It's now March, 1637 and Charles I is on the throne

Winter had slaughtered the reserves. Frost had crumpled the grains of the land's wheat, snow had slain roots from thirst, and dried stalks had snapped as chaff in blustering winds. Hunger only hurt slightly less than stifled faith, to Samuel. The huddle had a meagre assortment of candles, the threadbare tallows burning through stinking animal fat. Inside the church could only be half-seen through a black haze of greasy smoke. Bread, stale but edible, was being handed out to eager and open hands. Hardened crusts were weighed on a set of scales before each act of charity, though none of the assembled ate. The Father was poring through the Bible, finding his choice of sermon. 'He has been planning these less and less.' Samuel thought, as he rested against the wall.

"I do not know whether to fear for his faith, or his body." Mused Benjamin, burning a dead leaf in the flame of an impoverished candle.

"What do you mean?" Asked Samuel, an irritation sharpening his voice.

"Laud's ruling by bishops is starving our unfavoured Church more than the lack of crop." Benjamin thumbed a booklet, a necessity since Bibles had become an invaluable and irreplaceable treasure. Now, scripture was copied onto rough and reused paper.

Father Malcolm's hands were stained black with ink, likely bought by exchanging pickings of grain and cooked leftover meats. His scrawl wasn't really legible, but the wealth lay in his dogged determination to provide for his most faithful of friends. What their hidden church could not provide in precious metals, or even full plates, it made up for the fullness of belly that only devotedness could bring. Charles had recently loosened Laud's chain, and the Archbishop had pushed to set the heavy stones of Anglican faith in Scotland to the north. The king, of course, had obliged. Anger had followed a particularly targeted recital of Laud's harsher pieces during a sermon of the newly mandated books. But that was far from the squalid and

starving church that they huddled in presently.

"I figured that Protestants and Catholics were enemies," muttered Benjamin, "with blood as incompatible as it is toxic to the other."

"Yet they still produce offspring. Laud's Anglican treasure has both Catholic hair and Protestant eyes." Samuel replied, biting his lip from the pain in his stomach.

"And I heard something like a voice in the centre, saying, 'a quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, but do not damage the oil and wine.'" Preached Father Malcolm. Samuel was familiar. It was from Revelation, and it was apt. Eking out the necessities whilst favouring the lavish luxuries for the crown-blessed few. Here, it was famine, but in Scotland, it was an overarching vice-grip on their nation's traditions. Samuel scoffed.

"Let that wine that fills both the beakers of Laud and Charles turn black and reek of rot."

"Nay," started Benjamin, "we'll need no weapon so cowardly as poison. People are talking. Preparing, even."

Basingstoke Deane Rotary

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ROYAL MARINES CONCERT AT THE ANVIL

The afternoon of Sunday 26 January saw us hosting the The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines for our 15th annual concert and they were on great form, with an excellent and varied programme that particularly showcased solos by their very talented band members. Recognising the 80th anniversary of VE day this year we began with 'Let Freedom Ring' We had the music from the 1927 film Metropolis and were then shaken up by The Prodigy Medly. The traditional finale of Pomp and Circumstance was followed by an amazing Top Gun encore. A truly varied programme

We hosted the Basingstoke Army Cadet Force Corps of Drums who had the exciting opportunity of being invited to watch the rehearsal and show and also to join in a master class of Drum lead by the RM Corps of Drums. A great opportunity for the cadets. We were also joined by the wonderful Chelsea Pensioners who were able to meet the audience after the show

SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

People ask us 'What does Rotary do?'

We're about helping and supporting communities. As Rotarians, we do some fantastic work each year, whilst having fun and raising money at events like the concert at The Anvil and The Festival of Transport, that enable us to donate to more than 20 local charities, such as:- Mencap Basingstoke, Young Carers, and the Camrose Centre for homeless people, and a few international causes such as Christmas Shoeboxes, Shelterboxes and the End Polio campaign.

We also have fun helping charities 'hands on' at their own fundraising events. This may often involve marshalling and car parking. We regularly support St Michael's Hospice with all their fundraising events including providing refreshments for the Moonlight Walk

2025 FOCUS for FUNDRAISING

We launched this years fundraising focus at the Anvil Concert. We are working with Hampshire Hospitals Charity with a £40,000 target to fund Thoracoscopy equipment which falls outside NHS funding. This will avoid the need for patients to travel to other hospitals for many lung and respiratory related procedures such as biopsies. This will also be the focus of our Festival of Transport fundraising.

SAVE THE DATE

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Sunday 11 May 2025

We had wonderful weather and a great day in the Memorial Park last May, with hundreds of vehicles and thousands of happy people enjoying the sunshine.

It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you at this FREE family event (£5 charge to Park on the Common)

Last year we were grateful for the support of some 100 amazing volunteers to make this event a great success. It can be a just a couple of hours or all day. To be part of the team and join in the fun contact Paul.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 25 men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Alf, alf.mccarthy@btinternet.com or Paul tempaul45@gmail.com to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane
X: @RBstokeDeane

www.rcbd.org.uk

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	

What's On at Anvil Arts

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

JASON DONOVAN - Doin' Fine 25

Wednesday 5 March, 7.30pm, The Anvil
 Tickets: £51, £42, £36. VIP upgrade £154

Jason Donovan has amassed a rich catalogue of hits, and *Doin' Fine 25* is culmination of his achievements to date. The show features a musical feast of unforgettable tunes, with songs from *Joseph*, *Priscilla*, *Rocky Horror*, and *Grease*, nods to his TV work *Neighbours* and *Strictly*, and his biggest pop hits *Especially For You*, *Too Many Broken Hearts*, *Any Dream Will Do*, and *Sealed with a Kiss*.

VIENNA TONKÜNSTLER ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 12 March, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £45, £40, £34, £25, £17. Under 25s and f/t students £12

The programme includes Sibelius' Symphony no. 7, Mozart's well-known Piano Concerto no. 21, and Brahms' dramatic Symphony no. 1. Yutaka Sado conducts, joined by pianist Yeol Eum Son.

TAP FACTORY - 10th Anniversary Tour

Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm, The Anvil, Tickets: £31.50

Eight male performers deliver a sensational blend of dance, acrobatics, music, and comedy, creating a show that appeals to audiences of all ages. Brace yourself for an electrifying display of high-energy dance, explosive percussion, and jaw-dropping acrobatics, seamlessly woven together with live music and mesmerising choreography.

NIKITA KUZMIN - Midnight Dancer

Saturday 15 March, 7.30pm, The Anvil
 Tickets: £53.50, £43.50, £33.50. VIP upgrade £124

Rising star of *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Celebrity Big Brother*, Nikita Kuzmin brings his brand-new show, *Midnight Dancer*, to The Anvil. Nikita is joined by a sharp and chic cast of talented dancers and vocalists in a production jam-packed with hits we all know and love in an evening bursting with happiness, euphoria, and of course, world-class dance.

London Classic Theatre present

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

by Alan Ayckbourn, Tue 25 – Sat 29 March, The Haymarket
 Tickets: £22 (matinee), Tue – Thu £25, Fri – Sat £29. Over 65s £2 off, under 25s and f/t students £12

Five birthdays. Two unhappy marriages. One possessive mother. In perhaps his most emotionally charged play, Alan Ayckbourn masterfully evokes a world of hidden tensions and suppressed hostility. He skilfully navigates the tightrope between comedy and tragedy, guiding us towards a hilarious, yet chilling finale.

CARA DILLON - Coming Home

Sun 30 Mar, 7.30pm, The Haymarket, Tickets: £31.50

Cara Dillon brings her *Coming Home* show to life. Born from a collection of personal poems, and an album and book that followed, this live performance sees Cara skilfully interweave this emotive new material with a carefully curated selection of her beloved songs. The result is a tapestry that seamlessly blends storytelling, poetry, and music. She'll be accompanied by a band led by Sam Lakeman.

Talking about money

Talking about money isn't always easy. So much so that 90% of young people feel uncomfortable discussing finances. We know the result of not seeking help earlier, as 1 in 5 young people who come to us have a debt problem. So we know it's pretty important to reduce the stigma around money.

1 in 5 young people
 who come to us have
 a debt problem



Budget planners can help you understand what you're earning and spending, and where you might be able to cut costs. You can use the free planner on www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting/budget-planner. Try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips and proofs of income, debit and credit card statements or bills and receipts for things you usually pay for. Remember to include all your expenses, for example money you spend on your partner or family.

You may have savings you don't know about. Your parents might have bought Bonds when you were younger or if you were born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011 you may have a Child Trust Fund waiting for you of up to £1000 or more. If you'd like to find your Child Trust Fund but you're not sure how, The Share Foundation (www.sharefound.org) and Gov.uk can help you.

If you're behind on your bills you should work out what's a priority and non-priority bill.

Priority bills should come first. Falling behind on them can cause serious problems. For more information on managing your money, please go to <https://bit.ly/3E19Nmi>.

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice, whatever your enquiry involves. To speak to one of our advisers please call Adviceline on 0808 278 7829, Monday to Friday, 9-4pm. We are here to help.



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Cryptic Crossword No: 86 Solution

GRIND	21	DIFFERENTIAL	26
BECAME	20	SATIN	25
EMPIRE	19	IMAGE	24
IMMORTAL	17	HIPPO	23
NEEDEST	16	ENDEAVOUR	22
ABASHED	15	ARENA	18
CONSERVATOIRE	10	AUSTROHUNGARIAN	15
TREASON	8	IDEAS	14
ESSAY	7	APPENDAGE	13
ACCEDE	6	NIECE	12
SCANDINAVIANS	5	SAMBA	11
CAMBER	4	STOIC	9
RESEARCH	3	STPATRICKSDAY	1
TROOPERS	2		

Down Across

CodeWord No: 72 Solution

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

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