

April 2020

The

# BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON

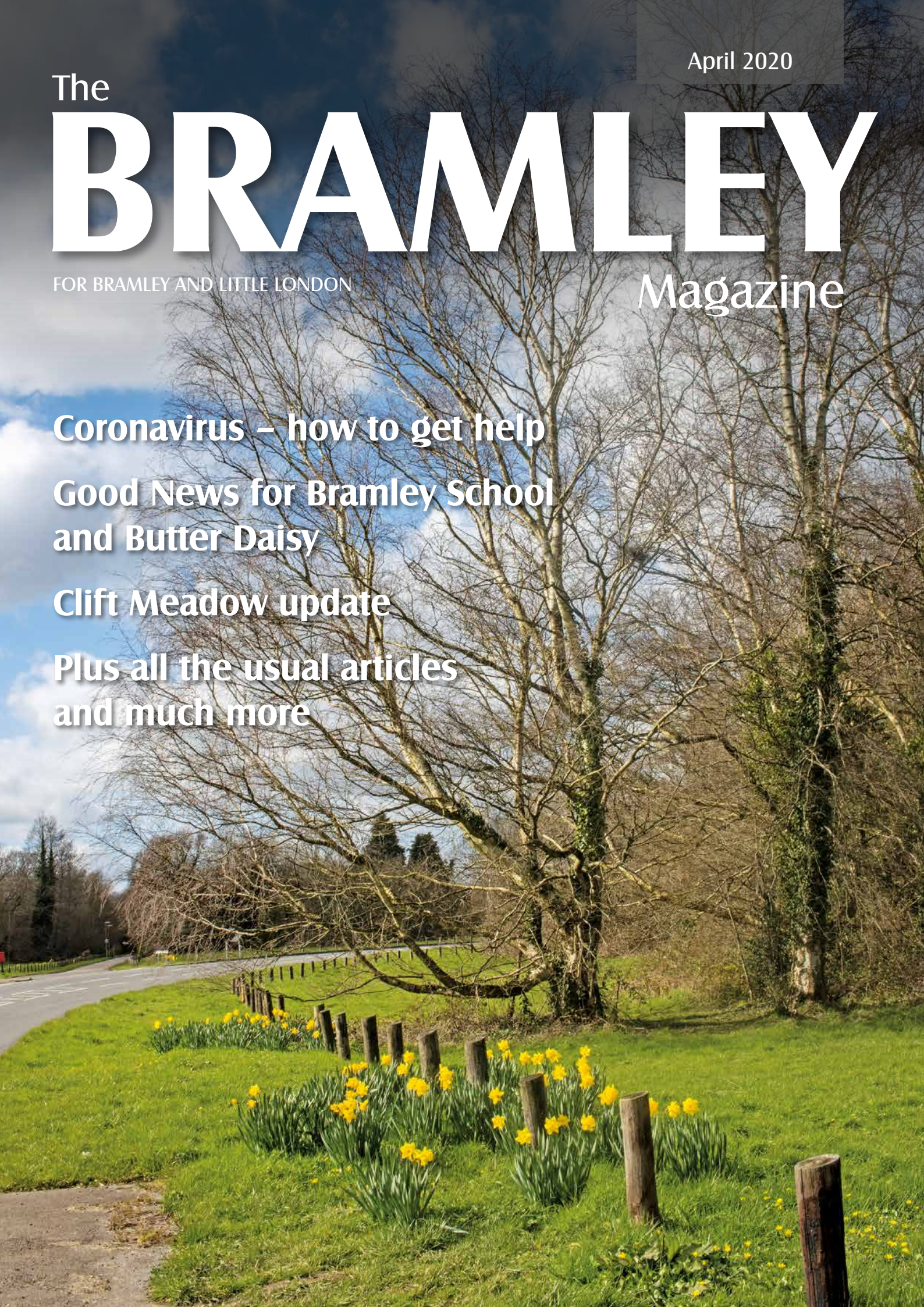
Magazine

**Coronavirus – how to get help**

**Good News for Bramley School  
and Butter Daisy**

**Clift Meadow update**

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





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# The Bramley Magazine

*for Bramley and  
Little London*

**April 2020**

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

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

Cover photo:  
Daffodils by Melvyn Lovegrove

This is the third time I have re-written this editorial. Life is changing so fast at the moment and who knows what the situation will be when you read this in a few weeks. At the moment schools, restaurants, cinemas and other leisure facilities are closed, but most of us are still allowed to leave our homes whenever we want to and can still go to the shops and fight over toilet rolls. Will that still be the case in April? Life is so uncertain and I quite miss the days when all we had to worry about was Brexit. I feel as if I am in the middle of a disaster movie, although if Hollywood made a film with this plot line we would all say it was too far-fetched.

Times like this bring out the best in people. Yes, we have heard stories of idiots selling virus test kits for hundreds of pounds or stealing hand sanitiser from hospitals, but they are far outnumbered by people willing to go out of their way to help. Bramley is no exception. Inspired by all the offers of help on Facebook, residents have set up a Bramley Village Community Care Group page, specifically for the purpose of community support and altruism over the coming months. The One Stop has offered to deliver food to those affected by the virus and Bramley Green Larder is offering extra deliveries on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays to anyone confined to their home (and at the time of writing they still have toilet rolls!).

Perhaps I'm being naïve, but I do believe some good will come out of all this and it will heal some of the divisions caused by Brexit. We are all in this together and it impacts on everyone, regardless of their politics, age and race. That was demonstrated by the people of Italy who may have been stuck in their flats, but were still able to join together in mass harmonious singing. It was also lovely to see the Spanish applauding medical staff from their homes. Every day people are coming up with more ideas to help our community get through this. Just this morning I saw that someone was setting up a cooked meal bank for NHS and other front-line staff. Other ideas include displaying children's drawings in windows and putting the Christmas lights back on our houses as beacons of light.

If you are feeling worried or lonely or need food, prescriptions or other support, Bramley and Little London is pulling together to help you. See page 9 for more information. The Church may not be holding services but it will continue to offer fellowship and spiritual guidance, and St James will be open every day if you would like to visit. Please see the message from the Reverend John Lenton on page 5. If you are self-isolating, or stuck at home with children, why not use your time to prepare an entry for the Bramley Show? Sue Howell has some ideas for you on page 10. Although the Bramley Inn has had to close, I have still included an article from the new management team, as they will need our support more than ever once this is over. You can read about their plans on page 15.

Look after yourselves, keep positive and remember, we are all living through a future exam question!

Best wishes

**Rachel**

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;  
what we have done for others and the world remains  
and is immortal.

**Albert Pike**  
*attorney, soldier and writer*

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A message from the Reverend John Lenton, St James Bramley

Usually this page is filled with details of our weekly church services.  
Sadly, in order for all our church family and our visitors to be able to stay safe,  
**St James Bramley has cancelled all regular services indefinitely,**  
as have churches all around the country.

If you are feeling anxious, and would like to chat with someone, or if you need help of any kind, there are lots of people around who would be only too glad to help.  
I am certainly one of them.  
Call 01256 880570 or 07714 237235.  
Or email: [john.lenton@gmail.com](mailto:john.lenton@gmail.com)

If you'd like to be on our church email distribution list, please send me an email, and I'll gladly put you on the list.

You see, a church is much more than just a building or even a social group:  
**we see ourselves as a family of brothers and sisters under our heavenly Father, God.**  
So we're doing all we can to keep ourselves connected to one another and to Jesus Himself,  
and we'd love to involve you in that as well.

There are lots of wonderful initiatives going on in Bramley, to make sure that people can get what they need, whether food or medication delivered to your door, or a friendly word and a personal prayer on the phone: there is absolutely no need for anyone to feel alone and abandoned, even if you've decided to isolate yourself.

This crisis will pass; it's very unfamiliar territory for all of us, but we will come through it.  
We do live in an imperfect world, sad to say, where things like the Coronavirus do happen.  
But God is there for us at every moment and He hears our prayers.



Join us for virtual services, fellowship and support on our church Facebook page - St James, Bramley,  
or at our website: [www.stjamesbramley.com](http://www.stjamesbramley.com)

**God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.**

**Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall  
into the heart of the sea**

**Psalm 46**





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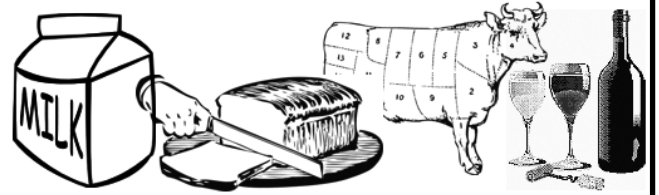
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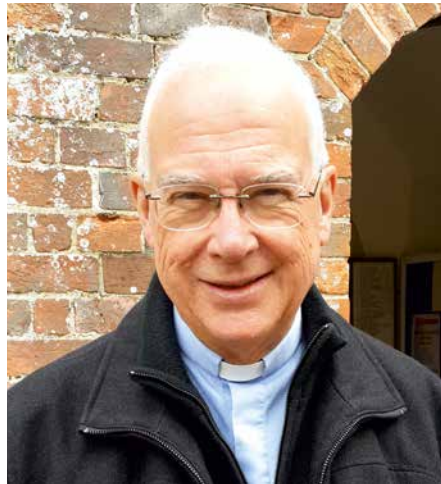
**M**ost of us have never known anything like the situation we find ourselves in. Some reports speak about the Coronavirus outbreak as a “plague of biblical proportions”, whatever that may mean. Certainly, lots of people are asking, “What’s going on? Why are these things happening? Is God behind this?”.

I think this question is being expressed in at least two ways, depending on your view of God, positive or negative. On the one hand, as a friend of mine asked me last week, “Is God punishing the world by sending this Coronavirus?” Others take a rather more aggressive line: “If God is supposed to be good and also all-powerful, why doesn’t he intervene and stop this virus in its tracks?”

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 13, tells us how Jesus dealt with a similar question.

“Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

It seems that Pontius Pilate’s troops had pursued some Galileans into the temple and murdered them there, such that the blood of those victims mingled with the blood of the sacrifices that were being offered on the altar – a terrible act of brutality and defilement in the very heart of Judaism. So some people had come to Jesus to ask for His thoughts on the matter. They assumed that God was certainly behind this: perhaps the people killed had done something terrible that offended God. But Jesus’ response typically forces them – and us – to look at the whole issue quite differently.



Rev'd John Lenton

Jesus answers a question with a question, which is a great way to push people to think it through for themselves, shaping their thinking with what we know from the Bible about God Himself. Jesus doesn’t try to tell those questioners why God allowed this atrocity to take place – none of us would be able to grasp the answer because we don’t have the mind of God. Instead, Jesus tells them how they should think about it: “Unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Jesus’ response reminds us just how fragile and unstable life really is. One moment normality reigns – our biggest concerns last year were all about Brexit; how unimportant that seems now, as we think seriously about the almost total shutdown of our everyday lives and the possibility of death stalking our streets!

We might well accept that man’s inhumanity to man, as in that temple massacre they asked Jesus about, or the horrors of the bloodshed in Syria today, is behind a lot of the world’s problems – we can accept that those aren’t God’s doing. But what about a natural event of some kind? Why would God allow things like the Coronavirus or a tsunami or the Black Death, or even make them happen? So Jesus reminds those questioners about the occasion when a tower had fallen down in Siloam and killed 18 people. Were those 18 particularly deserving of God’s punishment? To put it into our current context, is God particularly angry with China and Italy and Iran, so that he has allowed the virus to wreak such havoc among those nations, with the death toll mounting every day and

their economies in melt-down? “I tell you, no!” says Jesus. But... “Unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

So what are we to learn from Jesus’ response to those questioners? I think there are three things to notice.

First, he is saying that disasters, whether brought about by humans or by a natural cause of some kind, are not a sign of God’s judgement on the specific people affected. They are not greater sinners than everyone else – but equally, neither are they any less sinful: we’re all as sinful as each other, meaning that we’ve all chosen to go our own way, we’ve all more or less ignored God’s purposes for our lives.

Second, Jesus is saying that there is an option for us – we can ‘repent’, which means turning away from our hard-hearted determination to go our own way, and instead turn towards God, say sorry to Him, put our trust in Him and accept His reign in our lives from there on.

And third, Jesus is saying that if we do repent and trust Him with our lives, we shall not perish. Clearly, he’s not saying that we won’t ever die physically. All of us are going to do that at some point: as a friend of mine is fond of saying, 1 out of 1 people die. But as Jesus warned his hearers on another occasion, we should not fear the one who could kill the body, but rather to “fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.” That is truly the worst case scenario!

So might it be that the Coronavirus is actually a kind of wake-up call, a warning shot across our bows, where God allows this natural disaster to shake our world in order to offer us the chance to make peace with Him? What might Jesus say to us, if we came and asked Him about the Coronavirus? Might He not say: “Do you think this virus is God’s judgement on all those who are afflicted? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

Oliver Louis BARFOOT -  
16th February 2020

**W**e may find ourselves using Clift Meadow a lot more in the next few months, so Bramley Magazine went to meet Simon Gill, Chair of Clift Meadow Trust.

**Bramley Magazine: Simon, what brought you to Bramley and when?**

**Simon Gill:** I moved to Bramley in 2010. We had been living in Hong Kong and, rather than return to London, we wanted the next stage of family life to be more country-bound. Unfortunately for me I still commute, so that was a key consideration. Bramley was, and is, a great compromise when seeking that lifestyle.

**BM: What occupies your time?**

**SG:** For now, it's mostly work. I am a Partner in an Executive Search business in London, so I commute four days a week and relish my Wednesday work from home. As everyone who runs their own business knows, you never really stop thinking about it. That said, I love running through Frith Wood and Pamber Forest, cycling the country lanes and wild swimming.

I'm also Chair of the Clift Meadow Trust and the Bramley Fete Committee.

**BM: Tell us about the Bramley Fete**

**SG:** The Fete has been run as an annual event for the past four years. Before that it was every other year; but we couldn't always remember how we had done it the previous time, which made the process even more exhausting. We realised that if we did it annually, we would start to build on previous experiences.

The Committee is a joint effort between St James Church and Clift Meadow trustees. Planning starts in September and we meet once a month at The Vicarage where Ann Lenton kindly keeps us in check (courtesy of the vicar's cellar!). There's a lot for us to consider, but beyond the Committee there is a wealth of support to be found from around the village; dozens and



Simon Gill with his wife, Tamsin, enjoying last year's Bramley Fete

dozens of people who willingly give up their time to make the day special.

I'd like to say how hugely grateful I am to each and every one of them.

**BM: Why do you think this is such an important event for our community?**

**SG:** There are two reasons really. The first is a practical one. The funds raised go towards keeping Clift Meadow financially viable. Clift Meadow is run by volunteers with the purpose of providing the village with somewhere to meet and enjoy some recreation time. The land was gifted by the Clift brothers who farmed in and around the village. It costs up to £25,000 a year to keep the two halls and the surrounding real estate in good order, and the Fete is a major contributor to our fund-raising efforts.

The second reason is hugely important. I believe we all want similar things in life and being part of a community is one of them. This community can take many forms - whether as part of a family, a congregation, a neighbourhood or a village - but all

of them give us a sense of belonging which is increasingly important in this technology driven age. Plus, it's a fun day and we all deserve that much!

**BM: Can you give us an 'exclusive' on any of the events?!**

**SG:** We have had to take the decision to postpone the Fete. We shall do everything we can not to cancel and are targeting September for a new date. All things being equal we hope to have the intoxicating mix of grace and power from the Birds of Prey display.

We have over a dozen of these beautiful creatures coming. I am assured they will be fed in advance in case anyone is planning to bring their Pomeranian to the dog show.

Oh, and a 27-foot high climbing wall for those with lofty ambitions and strong fingers.

**BM: What else about Bramley makes it special for you?**

**SG:** Ah, that's easy - it's the people I have been lucky to meet since moving here. I wish you all well for the coming weeks.



## Community CV-19 support

**There's no doubt about it; we're heading into uncertain and unprecedented times. As a community, the most important thing we can all do is be kind, be supportive and protect those who need it most.**

Across the village there's been an outpouring of offers – to support our loved and respected elderly community, who are being asked to isolate themselves at home. And to support those who are unwell or self-isolating, unable to leave their homes. The message is clear...

**We're a community. We care. You are not alone.**

### So what help is available?

- Our wonderful local shops are offering to deliver groceries for free. You can contact One Stop on **01256 881258** and The Shop at Sherfield on **01256 882234**. Just tell them your name, address and what you need and they'll send whatever they have available in store, as fast as they're able to.



- Bramley Green Larder is offering extra deliveries on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays to anyone confined to their home. Contact Sarah on 07740 640884 or [sarah@bramleygreenlarder.co.uk](mailto:sarah@bramleygreenlarder.co.uk)

- If you have access to Facebook, search for '**Bramley Village Community Share Group**' to join a network of villagers who are keen to share resources and offer support through the journey ahead.



- Our MP, Ranil Jayawardena, has set up a constituency-wide Facebook group to provide reliable local and national information, in amongst so many conflicting stories. Search for "COVID-19 North East Hampshire" on Facebook or visit: [covid.ranil.uk](https://www.facebook.com/covid.ranil.uk)

- A Bramley Telephone Team has been created, headed up by Beckie Bethell. These lovely people will be having daily phone calls with our elderly community to check in, make sure they're okay and have a bit of a natter. They can also help with obtaining suppliers and medications etc. If you'd like to make new 'phone friends' and also share your own experience from testing times from the past, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Beckie by phone on **07427 434042** or by email [d.bethell@virgin.net](mailto:d.bethell@virgin.net)



- Sainsbury's supermarkets are offering a telephone ordering service for those who aren't online. You can call **0800 9178557** and select **Option 1**. You'll speak to a Sainsbury's colleague who'll take your order over the phone, take payment using a card and deliver for just £2.95.

We'd respectfully ask that if you're fit, well and able to leave your home, that you leave these offerings open to those who need it most. If you'd like to volunteer some time to become a member of the Bramley Telephone team, Beckie would love to hear from you.



There are so many things we can all be doing at the moment to make life a little brighter. Whatever you do, please do not feel alone as there is a community around you who want to help.

**Stay safe everyone!**

## Spring into action

So, who would think, on this beautiful morning, that we are facing new challenges in our lives. Among the scary stuff we are being bombarded with, we need to look forward and find some positive things we can get from the situation we are all in.

I have been reading on various platforms that people are looking at creative ways to adjust to social distancing. Over the coming weeks we at the Bramley Show will be coming up with some suggestions for new things for you to do at home.

Firstly, spring has arrived! The daffodils and snowdrops are almost over but the hellebores are still going strong and there are various pops of colour appearing in the garden. Now is the time to buy seeds. Get yourselves a supply of compost and get planting. Follow the instructions carefully, as there will still be frosts but it is a fun and relaxing thing to do. You can plant seed potatoes in tubs or buckets, beans can be grown in large pots and don't forget sweet peas! They never fail to delight with their colour and perfume. Just remember beans and sweet peas need canes to support them.



But if you don't want to garden then why not try a new craft? Learn to knit or crochet; finish off the projects you have started and put away, get out your sewing machine, have a go at some baking, take up painting or drawing or photography. Most of us have cameras on our phones! Then there is writing. What about having a go at writing a poem? Or a short story? Or a memoir?

There is much we can do to keep up our spirits, so pop over to the Bramley Show website [www.bramleyshow.org.uk](http://www.bramleyshow.org.uk) and have a look. It will be added to gradually, so keep checking. And if you want to get in touch do email us at [thebramleyshow@gmail.com](mailto:thebramleyshow@gmail.com)

Sue Howell



**Hampshire**  
County Council

## CORONAVIRUS - (COVID-19)

There are many bulletins being issued ranging from accurate to misleading.

Hampshire County Council continues to adhere to national guidance as issued by the NHS and Public Health England; we signpost people to the most up to date information and advice and we have a dedicated web page to help you: [www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Cllr Rhyddian Vaughan MBE  
Callveva Division  
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[fb.com/tellrhyddian](https://www.facebook.com/tellrhyddian)



## Lunch Club

It was on a bright sunny morning that we made our way to the Avenue Nursery, Lasham for our lunch. This gave Judy a rest, especially as it was her birthday. Due to various circumstances, we were a small group of six this month.

As there were a number of sales on, those who went shopping found some excellent bargains. After a tasty lunch, during which there was a terrible downpour, Judy was wished a 'Happy Birthday' and given a gift and card. We were pleased to see the sun was shining again for our return home.

Sadly, before our visit, we heard that Jill had suddenly passed away. We will all miss her; she was a very long-standing member of the lunch club. A note of condolence has been sent to her family.

If you would like to join us, please contact Christine on telephone number 884065.

Freda Clark

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## In Praise of Dr Seuss

We recently attended a wedding in South Africa. It was unlike any wedding we have ever been to. It lasted three days and there were many speeches at different times during the weekend. However, the thing that will stay with me for a long time was the speech by the sister of the bride. She spoke about the books of Dr Seuss and how she and her sister were inspired by the them when they were growing up, and how they had drawn many life lessons from them. I have noted a few of the quotations and few 'fun facts' as she called them.

First, we all say his name wrongly: it's not 'Sooss' but 'Zoyce'. It's strange, because we can all manage 'Freud', not 'Frood'. However, his German heritage meant that is how it should be pronounced. But, as a wise person sitting next to me said, we wouldn't know who was being mentioned now, because everybody pronounces it the same way.

Secondly, he was not an actual Doctor. He added 'Dr' to his pen name because his father had always wanted him to be one. His real name, by the way, was Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Third, he invented the word 'nerd'. That sentence in itself is almost Seussian: writing in rhymes is obviously infectious! Nerd was used in 'If I Ran a Zoo', published in 1950, and my dictionary credits him with the first usage.

His books used some amazing word play, and the following sayings are good examples of philosophy that stays with you.

*'To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world'.* Anyone with small children (or grandchildren) will know this. Or even a spouse.

*'Today I shall behave, as if this is the day I will be remembered'.* Maybe we all should remember this one?

*'Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind'.* This is a perfect example of how Dr Seuss used words and inverted sentences to say something very profound in a simple way.

*'Life's too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones who don't and believe that everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said it'd be easy, they just promised it would be worth it'.* I don't know if Dr Seuss was a Christian but I think anyone would recognise the 'love and forgive' sentiments in this.

The last book that he published in his lifetime was 'Oh! The Places You'll Go'. Its inspirational theme makes it a popular graduation gift in America, and each year there is a regular spike in sales in the Spring. I am going to get myself a copy.

Michael Luck

## FUTURE MAGAZINES

Pubs, restaurants, gyms and schools may be closed but as long as the printers stay open there will be a Bramley magazine! I hope that during the next few months the magazine can be a focus for the community. Let's use it to cheer up all those who are stuck in their homes and not on Facebook, Skype etc. We may not have the usual news from the schools, nurseries, clubs and societies but we will have school children at home who can email me their pictures, older people who can write down a few of their memories and parents who can share tips on how to juggle home schooling and home working (please!). Perhaps you have a great recipe using just tinned products and frozen veg or can share gardening tips for growing your own.

Although our lives are turned upside down at the moment, nature didn't get the memo so trees and plants continue to bloom as usual. We should have more time to appreciate the wonders of Spring this year and I would love to print some of your photos in the May magazine.

All contributions will be very welcome. They can be emailed to me at [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk) or if you are not on email just give me a call on 07570 972425 and I can come and collect them.

Stay safe everyone

Rachel Barclay Smith

## EVENTS

Please note that some of the events advertised in the magazine are now subject to change. I have removed the events I know have been cancelled but please check with the club or event organiser before making any plans.



## BLUE WILLOW COACHING

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- Do you feel stuck in your personal or professional life and need support to work out the right way to turn?
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*Conversations with a purpose*

In these times of uncertainty, it's good to hear that there will still be events look forward to at **Clift Meadow** once all this madness is over. Thank you to **Simon Gill** for this update.

It seems that the ability for the world to surprise itself is a thirst that cannot be quenched. As we shake our heads in disbelief at one event, the next comes hot on its heels to test our capacity for incredulity. Sensationalist styled journalism and fact-bombs of misinformation sends us reeling from one crisis to the next, we are under no doubt that the current crisis is global and worrying. Whatever happened to the mundane and repetitive? Those heady days when weeks would go by with barely of murmur of excitement seem to have been consigned to the history books.

I am afraid that Clift Meadow will be affected too and so we have had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt and postpone the Summer Fete. Our current thinking is to aim for September and let's hope we can have a return to normality. While we shall have many of the old favourites (especially the Dog Show) we are throwing in some exciting new activities too. Scour the pages of the Bramley Magazine for our advertisement depicting what we have in store for you. It is the one chance we have as a village to put our best foot forward in the interests of community and right

now that holds an even greater significance. The combined St James Church and Clift Meadow Committee have been working on the Fete since September so we hope to see as many of you that can make it.

The keen-eyed visitors to Clift Meadow will have noticed that our sheds have gone. They will soon be replaced by a very smart new storage unit that has greater capacity and enhanced security. Our thanks go to the Parish and Borough Council for their support in this exciting development that will allow us to take on more clubs and societies. Of far more interest to most of you will be the news that the same two generous benefactors have commissioned a new play area on Clift Meadow to replace the extremely dilapidated swings. Timings are uncertain right now but they are positive developments and we hope to see them both soon.

At the risk of overwhelming you kind reader I have one last notice which is the weekly Wednesday Coffee Morning in The Pavilion. We are not running them at the moment but we shall start again as soon as we can. If you are new to the village I thoroughly recommend you drop in for home-made cake, a cuppa and some welcoming faces. It is a great way to hear what is going on and make some new acquaintances. It has been a huge success and goes to show that nothing replaces the tried and tested face to face exchange. On that note I am off to video conference my self-isolating colleagues.

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### Bramley Knitting Group

On 25 February a group of 12 met at Avril's home. After the usual chat we consumed cake whilst watching wet snow fall on the conservatory roof. If anyone would like to join us we would be very pleased see you. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month and to find the location please contact Jean on 880854.

Regards

Judith Harris and the Gang



### Photo appeal for The Vyne's fallen bridge

The National Trust Vyne Estate is appealing to local people for their memories of the Victorian cast iron bridge that used to span the lake. The bridge, built in the mid-nineteenth century, used to be the main access to the property, and collapsed in severe storms in 1986.

The Vyne is hoping to reinstate this landmark bridge but first needs to commission a survey of the foundations and conserve the iron railings. "We are keen to hear from visitors who remember the fallen bridge," said Hollie Ryan, Visitor Experience and Fundraising Manager at The Vyne. "We'd love to hear about their memories of the bridge and see any photos they may have. It will help us build a more comprehensive visual history."

National Trust employee and volunteer Mary Chatburn has fond memories of the bridge. "We lived locally and walked to the estate regularly with our dog, Blue," explained Mary. "I have a black and white photo from 1985 of me standing on the bridge in the snow with Blue."

Please send any photos and memories of the fallen bridge to [TheVyne@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:TheVyne@nationaltrust.org.uk)



## An inspector calls ....

At 7.30 a.m. on 11 February an Ofsted Inspector arrived to inspect Bramley Church of England Primary School. This was a welcome opportunity for us to show Ofsted the strengths of the school and what makes it so special.

A busy two days followed as the inspector spoke to the Executive Headteacher, Head of School, Special Needs Coordinator, School Business Manager, a range of staff and a small group of governors. She met subject leaders and visited lessons, talked to pupils about their work, gathered the views of parents at the beginning of the school day, and considered feedback from staff, parents and pupils who completed Ofsted's online questionnaires.

At the end of the inspection, the inspector gave feedback to the Leadership Team, Governors and representatives of the Local Authority and of the Diocese. She confirmed that the school continues to be judged as a 'good' school and furthermore described Bramley as a 'very, very good school'. She acknowledged the significant progress that the school has made since the last inspection in March 2016 and identified the children's behaviour, adults' care of the children, the quality of teaching, variety of learning experiences and leadership at all levels as strengths of the school.

To give just one example of the evidence of school improvement over recent years, here are the responses to three key questions in Ofsted's last three parent surveys: the figures show the percentage of parents who either agree or strongly agree with these statements:

Ofsted parent survey	June 2014	March 2016	February 2020
I would recommend this school	60%	77%	96%
The school deals effectively with behaviour	40%	69%	95%
My child does well at school	70%	80%	93%

Key points highlighted in the Ofsted report include:

*Pupils enjoy coming to this school. They understand the importance of their school's values of 'Love, Respect and Courage'. They proudly share the bracelets they are awarded for being good 'Bramley citizens'.*

*Leaders have high expectations for every child. As a result, pupils achieve well in reading, writing and mathematics. A*

*high proportion of pupils achieve the higher standards.*

*Curriculum plans are ambitious and help pupils to learn new things. The curriculum is not limited to academic subjects. Pupils enjoy learning outside in their grounds or on school residential trips. They have many opportunities to develop their awareness of the environment and how to care for it.*

The report also states: *Reading is at the heart of the school's curriculum. Staff help pupils to develop a love of reading. This was brilliantly demonstrated on the recent 'World Book Day' when children and staff came to school dressed as their favourite characters and enjoyed a special 'Reading Breakfast' to which parents were also invited. Much fun was had by all!*



You can read the whole report on the Ofsted website, <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> under the school's Unique Reference Number (URN) 116278, location Bramley Hampshire, or postcode RG26 5AH.

For more information about the school, please see the school website: <http://www.bramley.hants.sch.uk/>

And finally, should you wish to visit the school you are welcome to contact the school office on 01256 811 339 to arrange a visit.

Mr Glen Golding - Executive Headteacher

Mr Steve Moore – Head of School

Mrs Angela Adams – Chair of Governors

*See page 16 for an equally good school report from 1930.*

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**T**he Bramley Inn has been an unmissable feature in the village since it opened in 1897 as The Six Bells. With new management infusing fresh life into it, the pub has never been more eager to welcome the community as Operations Director, **Ram Dobhal**, explains.

Your village 'local' is a lot more than just a drinking hole; it's a social hub that not only brings the community together, but lifts the spirit of the neighbourhood as well (pun totally intended).

Bramley Inn is home to a pub, snug, sports bar, Indian restaurant and outdoor areas perfect for a drink in the warmer months. After undergoing a change in management a few months ago, the place is gradually regaining its charm. The premises are currently undergoing a gradual refurbishment with significant improvements already made to the interiors and facilities.

Operations Director Ram Dobhal, with over two decades of international experience in hospitality, remarks, "Honestly, it was quite unbelievable to see such a glorious landmark of a venue not performing to its true potential. We were certainly excited by this challenge. Bramley is a beautiful parish and its people deserve a warm and welcoming pub, which we are committed to deliver."



Left to right - Chris, Ram and David

"It is a fairly decent size property and a complete overhaul was required when we took over. However, closing it down was out of question. So here we are, slowly and steadily, evolving and improving," Ram said. "The best part about this process has been our interaction with the local community. Their support and inputs are extremely valuable, and inform us of changes and additions to make."

"We've met some great people in Bramley and it's our endeavour to develop a space that the community can be proud of. Come summer, we plan to host a number of events and look forward to having local bands and artists perform."

Pub Supervisor and Bramley local, David Dowsett, says he's been coming to the pub ever since he was 18. "The pub's the hub of this community and welcomes people from all walks of life. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do or how old you are. Everybody talks to one another and there's a real sense of comfort and belonging here. I feel that is our biggest draw."



The refurbished bar

Josh Dorey, who's a pub regular, moved to Bramley around 10 years ago to escape the busy life in London. He notes, "The village had real community spirit and I felt that the very first day I arrived. I walked into the pub, had a drink, talked to a few people and was instantly made to feel welcome and at home, whereas if you did this in a big city, you are very much just a number."

"Ever since then, I've been in the pub every week. I like the range of drinks that are on offer and more than anything I like that I can just turn up on my own and strike a conversation with people, who've become friends over the years."

The Inn is home to an Indian restaurant recently rebranded as Spice Room at Bramley Inn. It has been serving curry and other favourites to local residents for a number of years and enjoys a loyal following. The menu is an eclectic mix of pan-Indian fare from staples like tikka masala and jalfrezi to dhansak, a delicacy prepared by the Parsi community of western India.

#### Bramley Inn will be running weekly promotions:

- **£4 Mondays:** Enjoy any draught beer, cider or stout for £3.99. All day!
- **Ladies night:** Ladies enjoy a 20% discount on food and any drinks on the menu.
- **Limitless Wednesdays:** Enjoy an endless supply of lip-smacking Indian fare from a special menu at £12.99 per person
- **Thursday Quiz night:** Take part in the Bramley Inn quiz and also enjoy a curry and naan promotion for £10 per person.
- **The Mummy Club:** All mums are welcome during 3-6 pm for a cup of tea and pastries for £5 only. The little ones (under the age of 12 years) enjoy a beverage for free.

## Bramley & Romans Floral Society

Bramley & Romans Floral Society held their AGM on 6 February, followed a demonstration by Margaret Finch entitled "Flowers without Oasis". It was a well attended meeting and everyone was really interested in the subject, especially as it is so topical at the moment to 'go green'. The different shaped containers, with lattice works of wood and metal to hold the stems of the flowers, produced some really great arrangements, as you can see below.



Our meeting on 5 March was a demonstration by Mrs Melanie Smith called 'Flowers bring Smiles'.

Mel filled the hall with smiles on a really wet miserable day,

whilst producing five arrangements, with an entertaining commentary throughout. She talked us through every detail of each arrangement, telling us the names of the flowers and foliage and explaining why she was using them and why they made her smile. Mel made all her containers, which included a purse and a parasol structure, and gave us some very useful craft tips.



This was all interspersed with some amusing details about her experiences as a florist and a flower arranger, especially her 'Community Pruning'.

We had our usual tea and homemade cakes midway through the afternoon and finished with the usual raffle.

Our meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village hall at 1.30pm

Eileen Gulston

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## BRAMLEY MAGAZINE APRIL 1930

### THE SCHOOL

March 1st was a notable day for the School. In the morning arrived this excellent Report from His Majesty's Inspector. "This school was inspected last May as well as on February 19th, 1930. The present Headmistress was appointed in June 1928. It is a gratifying fact that the work has improved beyond recognition. Some excellent results are now obtained both in English and Arithmetic whilst History and Geography are also taught with success. All the work is very neat and the order is very good." This is indeed a gratifying report and will be no surprise to parents who have been heard commenting favourably on the school for some time. They will be glad to know that their part in the success was acknowledged. For in the Headmistress's report to the managers the parents were commended both for the clean and tidy way in which the children are sent to school and for realising that sickness is the only excuse for keeping them away.



## Bramley Village Fete

Is Postponed – we hope to see you in the autumn

at Clift Meadow

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A few people have said how much they enjoy reading articles about Bramley's history, so I've been looking through old Bramley magazines to find out what was going on 90 years ago and 140 years ago (yes, the magazine has been going since 1880!). I also came across a few old photos which may bring back memories for some of you.

If you have any photos or information about the history of Bramley or Little London do email them to me at [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk).

## FROM THE BRAMLEY MAGAZINE JUNE 1930

### CRICKET

When it was known that Beaurepaire Park was being sold there was naturally anxiety on the part of the Bramley Cricket Club as to its future. Could the Club expect to be made so delightfully at home in the beautiful park with a fine pavilion and the big "Jubilee" Pavilion for tea? It was indeed good news to hear that the new owners, Mr and Mrs Foreman, proposed to extend the same hospitality to the Club, and to let things go on in the same way. Their kindness is greatly appreciated.

It is rumoured that the committee are thinking of a way by which onlookers at home matches could obtain some tea. At present they have a dull and tantalising interval whilst the teams are entertained by the day's hostess. If they could fill the interval and themselves there is no doubt that more would come. There is no ground with more lovely surroundings and, in the stress of modern life, there are few things more soothing than watching cricket in a beautiful setting.



Lane End, Bramley.  
Any idea when this  
was taken?

The station  
hasn't changed  
that much

## FROM THE BRAMLEY MAGAZINE, MARCH 1880

I have a request to make of the school children's parents. It is this: that when they desire their children to leave school they would kindly come or send a note to the schoolmaster to say so. For want of this we never know when children have left school and when they have not; we do not like to take their names off the books, because then we must require the sixpenny re-admission fee if they come back, but it is inconvenient to keep names on the register and call them over day after day without an answer. It makes the register look as if we have irregular children, when perhaps after all they have left school altogether. Of course, this notice of leaving is not compulsory, but would simply be a piece of good manners, but I think I may fairly ask it for the schoolmaster when he has done his best for your children. And it will perhaps be better to make a rule that any child who is absent for more than a fortnight without some message will be considered as having left school and will have to pay the six pence when he comes back. But of course, the law requires all children to be sent to school until they have passed the 4th standard or have attended 250 times in each of four years.

Charles Eddy

## FROM THE BRAMLEY MAGAZINE MARCH 1930

### HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

The Annual Meeting was held on February 11th at Bramley School. It was reported that the number of contributors in 1929 in Bramley was 95 and the payments amounted to £53, 10 shillings, 9d. Several members had found the benefit of the scheme and those who had not, were to be congratulated on not needing hospital treatment. Contributors are urgently advised to keep their payments up to date, both in the interests of the scheme and for their own security. The scheme is limited to those who do not pay income tax.

Payments are 1d or 2d a week according to age. 3d for a man and wife and their children under 16. For this, free treatment is assured at Reading hospital and 13 associated hospitals or an allowance up to a guinea a week during treatment elsewhere; free ambulance; convalescent treatment; payment of fees at orthopaedic clinics and special assistance such as treatment at Bath. Payments are made quarterly and the collectors are Mrs. Miller, The Street and Mr Tull, near the station.



Who knew there  
used to be a petrol  
station in Bramley?





## Your Photographs

Thank you to Melvyn Lovegrove for sending me this amazing photograph of a red kite over Moat Close. If you have taken any photos around Bramley or Little London and would like to share them in the magazine, please do email them to [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk)



## Things I have learnt from Coronavirus - Part 1

- More people are buying freezers
- Dogs are getting a lot more exercise
- We have an obsession with toilet rolls
- We don't need shopping lists anymore – we just buy what is left on the shelves

Rachel

## Bramley Parish Council

### Wild meadow

Remember last summer, you know that time when it didn't seem to rain every day and Bramley Green was not cut for a while? Well, it flourished. Many wild plants and flowers pushed their way up from the seed bank under the thick carpet of grass that normally covers the area.

Along with the beautiful display of colour, there was an explosion of insect life. Butterflies, bees and other wildlife quickly moved in and the whole place was alive again.

So, with the enthusiastic support of the Stratfield Saye Estate (who own the Green) we will be trialling the transformation of one part of the Green back into a wild meadow. Bramley resident Sarah Plested will be taking the lead. By involving Hampshire Wildlife Trust and using her own extensive knowledge of plants she has developed a plan for this summer to let nature re-establish itself and create more bio-diversity in our village. Watch this space for updates on how things are going.

### SHELAA event

The Parish Council held a successful open day to explain to people what was being considered in the recent call for sites issued by BDBC. There are many sites in and around Bramley that are covered by the SHELAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment), and the event was put on to give residents a clear view of what was on the table.

About 300 residents came through the door to find out what was going

on and how to voice their opinion on more development in Bramley. The Parish Council can do their bit but it's important that residents take an active part in how Bramley develops by making their views clear with BDBC.

You can see more about the SHELAA on the BDBC website <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/SHELAA>

### Speeding

We have a speeding issue through Bramley. The active local Speed Watch team have one Speed indication Device (SID) which they regularly move around the village to give drivers real time feedback on their speed. It also gathers the data so overall trends, averages etc can be seen. The facts are very simple: Being hit by a car at 30mph has a death rate of about 45% which is bad enough. If you are hit by a car travelling at 40mph the death rate jumps to about 95%. That's nearly everyone. So, if you drive through Bramley, stick within the speed limit, then everyone behind you will have to as well. We all have to cross the road to get to school, catch a train, go to the shop or take the dog for a walk. Let's all help each other to stay safe.

### Meet the Parish Council

If you want to take part in our regular monthly meetings to ask a question or just to see how we operate, please come along. You'll be more than welcome. Just turn up, you don't need to make an appointment. We meet at 19:30 on the third Tuesday of most months in the village hall. See you there!

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## Supporting local families

**Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. –  
Member of Parliament for North  
East Hampshire**

Helping support our community's families and children is a key focus of my recent work as the Member of Parliament covering Bramley. Families in our constituency are fortunate to have one of the highest rates of employment, as well as the highest rate of marriage in the country and one of the lowest of lone-parent households.

So, as we look to solve the challenges facing our local area today – such as anti-social behaviour, demand for Bramley's local GPs and schools, and making social care sustainable – I've been writing to Ministers to boost recognition of the fact that many issues can be addressed by taking the best principles and aspirations of the past; namely the familial support that extended, multi-generational, families have provided one another for decades. To do so isn't old fashioned, but ambitious.



I know that many in our community want more support to help working parents look after those they love. One way is reducing National Insurance contributions to let working people keep more of what they earn, so that's what we did in last month's Budget. By the time you're reading this – into the new financial year – your NI threshold will have been raised to £9,500, giving the 'typical' two-earner working family a £200 tax cut. This is alongside a freeze in fuel duty for the tenth consecutive year – a saving of £1,200 over the last decade for each family car – and a freeze on alcohol duty, which may have saved you even more!

But I've been highlighting that we must be flexible too and, as a society, we must revise the 'typical family' assumption. While families in North East Hampshire are united by where we

live, they come in many different shapes and sizes and what works for one family may not work for another.

In many local families, for example, this means one parent providing the care for their children or their parents (or parents-in-law), while the other goes out to work. Yet, though this care is worth more than £1 trillion pounds annually to our economy, many parents tell me they feel that this is often undervalued. This is wrong.

That's why we've increased the transferable tax-free Marriage Allowance to £1,250 – and I trust that will continue – but, sadly, 2.4 million eligible couples currently do not apply. As your MP, I'm here to highlight it – if you think you might be eligible, please apply!

In my view, there can be no more important a job than looking after those you love, but who cannot look after themselves, so I know many want us to go even further. I've asked many Parliamentary Questions on these issues and will continue to do so, but please do let me know your thoughts and what works for you too, on this or anything else, to: [email@ranil.uk](mailto:email@ranil.uk)



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## Little Apples

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

We have made some beautiful woodland paintings which formed part of a children's art display for the Mayor's visit to open the new Frith Room at the Village Hall. These can now be seen on the windows in Tesco at Chineham, along with the jolly daffodil pictures we made for St David's Day. We hope that our appeal in the Tesco Bags of Help campaign will result



in a grant to replace some of our role play equipment and purchase new storage for books and the nursery furniture which enables even our youngest and smallest Little Apples to self-select activities and build self-confidence. Let's hope for some good news on this soon.

Soon we will be starting our build up to Easter. Along with our Easter raffle, the children will be enjoying Easter egg hunts in the garden and craft that focuses on new life and hope, as well as some traditional and yummy baking. The garden will also be planted with flowers for our pollinators and natural habitat and vegetables for our children to monitor and enjoy.

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

## Probus hears from Local Author and Raconteur

The ability to engulf an audience in laughter is a real skill which Mel Rees easily displays. He was the guest speaker at the latest Probus Club meeting and just spoke off the cuff. He had nothing but his memory to rely on as he thoroughly entertained everyone. There was no specific topic despite his talk having the title "My Family and Other Setbacks" as he gave anecdote after anecdote about his observations of life.

He gives over 200 talks each year across the south east of England, sometimes two a day, driving over 30,000 miles in the process. And what good value he gives as he passes from one topic to another always with the amusing aspects of life's experiences coming to the fore.

Living in Ash Vale, or, as he describes it, Upper Ash Vale in Surrey with a posh GU postcode, he asserts he cannot catch the Coronavirus and is most disparaging about the neighbouring conurbation of Aldershot. When he had to use a mobile medical unit he asked the nurses if next time instead of using the Tesco car park that they use the one at Waitrose as they would get better quality patients.

A multi faceted individual, he acts as a tour guide at the Hogs Back Brewery and finds it amusing when talking to the visitors. If they hesitate before answering, he knows

they lie about where they live. Reigate instead of Redhill, near Horsham instead of Crawley, Hove instead of Brighton – it becomes a double barrelled name of Hove Actually, West Camberley instead of Blackwater.



He has written several books which mirror his views on life and its vagaries, especially politics and his view of Guardianista readers and PC attitudes. His nomme de plume is Anthony Mann and despite one of his books being named Daily Express book of the month, he could not interest any literary agent or publisher in his outpourings. He had no option but to self-publish and set up The Trouser Press. Today, several of his books are on their third printing. Naturally all editions were on sale so a steady trade was carried out. But they can also be purchased on Amazon or downloaded as an E-book.

Paul Flint

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



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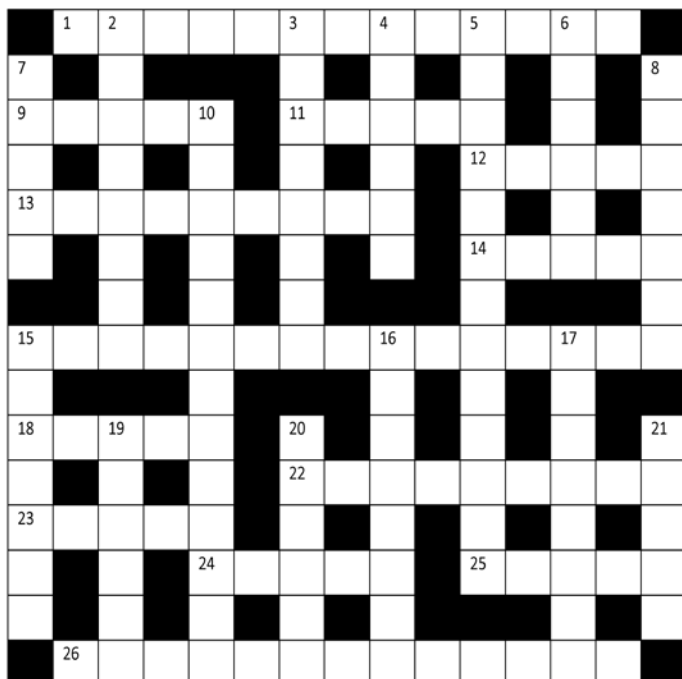
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# Cryptic Crossword No: 365

See page 31 for the answers.



## Across

- 1 A poor connect I find for key entertainment. (5,8)
- 9 Return in selected candidate. (5)
- 11 Farewell in song to spanish ladies perhaps. (5)
- 12 Assign ballot boxes to hide the result. (5)
- 13 Guess short statement and second person sounding behind time. (9)
- 14 Clear that cavalry troop urged on their horses within. (5)
- 15 Personal reasons conferred on hobbies perhaps. (6,9)
- 18 Gas emissions hide those events before the final. (5)
- 22 Seriously, a bird's home comes in early ? (9)
- 23 Perhaps a stud or collar could reveal an historical period. (5)
- 24 Untie to bring together. (5)
- 25 Result that left a mark ? (5)
- 26 Old lady's safe place ? (4,2,7)

## Down

- 2 Cool South African mountains that float. (8)
- 3 Chap at tie shop found pancake. (8)

- 4 Pinned denial on an arrangement. (6)
- 5 Sequel ran part around for like associates. (5,8)
- 6 Expert with cloth found with cocktail or drink in hand. (6)
- 7 Stiff made sense when replacing pole with junction. (5)
- 8 Lack of skill startles some within. (7)
- 10 Shocked after being hit by lightning presumably. (13)
- 15 Put it in visor as a guest. (7)
- 16 Then rite became an unlucky number. (8)
- 17 Close or switch off. (8)
- 19 Gorgon least liked by hairdressers perhaps. (6)
- 20 Comfort seeing type of map. (6)
- 21 Set by an arrangement that eats computer memory ? (5)

# CodeWord No: 23

See page 31 for the answers.

26	6	24	9	10	25	17	1	2	13	13	7	
12		15		25		24		15		10		23
13	12	24	25	8	1	25	8		2	9	16	10
2		2		13		10		13		8		15
6	2	13	13	1	10	9		10	3	10	6	17
		13		15				25				2
26	15	7	4	19	12	13	12	8	1	4	2	13
6				14				17		12		
10	2	8	13	10		10	17	19	1	4	2	13
11		6		25		21		22		5		10
2	18	2	6		11	24	14	1	8	2	17	10
20		1		14		1		15		9		5
	1	25	17	10	6	26	6	10	17	10	6	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number represents a unique letter from the alphabet and all 26 letters are used. Two letters are given to make a start.

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## The Priory Primary School

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The Priory Primary school has been evaluating its future direction and on Tuesday 10 March, the headteacher, Mr. Stewart, addressed the parents to share the vision for the future of the school. As a keen advocate for community involvement, Mr. Stewart wanted all the stakeholders of the school to be involved in shaping the vision; to achieve this aim the Priory has encapsulated and amalgamated ideas from the parents, the pupils and the staff at the school, whilst also taking in the recommendations from the recent (highly positive) OFSTED inspection.

## Butter Daisy is Outstanding!

Butter Daisy Nursery in Bramley have once again been graded Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. The nursery is delighted with the result, a massive achievement for the team and a wonderful validation of its aims, ethos and ambition. Here are some of the highlights from the report:

- Children are highly confident, independent and motivated learners
- Children thoroughly enjoy their day at nursery
- Staff provide children with extremely rich educational experiences across all areas of the curriculum
- The quality of teaching is exemplary
- Partnership working with parents is excellent
- Outstanding procedures are followed by the caring and passionate staff team
- Leaders promote an outstanding culture of continuous improvement
- Children lead very healthy lives at nursery
- Children's communication and speaking skills are richly developed
- The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The provider, manager and staff have an excellent understanding of child protection issues.



It was amazing to achieve Outstanding back in 2015, but to retain the accolade despite the new and more challenging Education Inspection Framework being introduced in September 2019, has meant a great deal to everybody in the nursery and for our community.

The inspection report is overwhelmingly positive and a joy to read. The senior team are incredibly proud of Butter Daisy Nursery for their hard work, genuine love for what they do and professionalism every day.

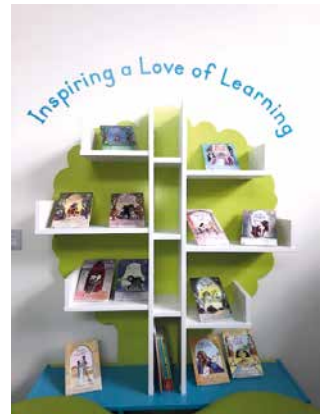
The families who attend the nursery are extremely supportive, and their loyalty and kindness to their nursery clearly shows. Butter Daisy enjoys successful partnerships with their families because of this and with their help, are able to put each child at the heart of all they do.

The newly formed vision statement: '*Inspiring a Love of Learning*' has become the school's new mantra, emblazoned across the walls of the school, but also permeating through to the school's evolving approaches to the curriculum. Equally, the staff of the school are developing new approaches to teaching to inspire the children to learn more deeply, which is summed up by their current focus on writing. This was inspired by Bob Cox's 'Searching for Excellence' – where quality (challenging) texts inspire the writing of the children. Although early days, the school has seen some really incredible writing being produced from the children.

In a physical sense, the new vision of inspiring a love of learning has been established through the Priory's PTA. Sharing the vision for the future, the PTA have invested heavily in developing the school's library. This is now a modern, vibrant and exciting centre for learning, featuring a wide range of books, including high impact texts.

A special thanks must go to Mrs Jo Swali and Stickerscape for their fantastic help with the impactful artwork around the school. Further investment in the library will include creating research bays, purchasing a range of magazines and journals, plus equipping the library with audiobooks and e-readers.

Throughout the whole process of establishing a new vision and making the vision become a reality, Mr. Stewart's aspiration to make the Priory more involved with the community has paid dividends and the new library is just one example, there are many more exciting projects that the Priory will be involved with in the future.



## Bramley Church of England Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers and local residents

Have you ever considered a career in teaching? From a personal point of view, I believe it is the best job in the world. If you have a degree and you would like to train to become a teacher in one of the three schools within the collaboration then we would strongly recommend speaking with us about what we can offer.

All three schools in the Bishopswood/Bramley collaboration are part of the Aspire Teaching Alliance. This gives us access to training programmes for aspiring teachers where 80% of the training is undertaken in school. The Aspire Teaching Alliance has a wonderful reputation for Initial Teacher Training and an outstanding record of producing well equipped, fully qualified teachers at the end of their programme.

If you are interested, whether it be for this September or in future years, I strongly urge you to arrange a meeting with me.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Golding

Executive Headteacher

The Bishopswood Schools Federation and Bramley C of E Primary School.



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**I**t's easy to dismiss flies as minor irritants to be swatted away, but as **John Stubbs** explains in **Greenbottles**, they deserve some positive PR.

This beautiful little creature is not a butterfly. In fact, I really doubt that, given the choice, it would change places with a butterfly, and I'm pretty sure we'd be a fair bit worse off if they all did so. My guess is that a greenbottle, were it ever to consider the merits of a butterfly, would reckon it good-looking but a lousy flier, a fussy eater and stuck with awful flimsy great flappy wings. Fine on a still, sunny afternoon, but, otherwise, not much cop. As a fly, acrobatics come naturally – vertical take-off or backwards, upside-down, sideways, instant top speed in any weather, just about. Grub can be all sorts of protein-rich stuff: humans perhaps rather literally turn their noses up at some of it, but someone's got to eat it, no? Being adaptable, they don't have to worry so much about the seasons; while a butterfly will depend on a particular plant coming into leaf at just the right time to feed the hatching eggs, lucky old blowfly can usually find a handy carcass that needs to be re-cycled. This is no mean service to us – worms and bacteria are in the same business, but they can't handle the heavy-lifting of the early stages nearly so fast. These guys are so quick off the mark that forensic services rely on them when estimating a time of death, from checking the progress of the larvae and the prevailing temperature. Nice.



It might seem a bit of a snag that hanging around dead meat and faeces would mean hygiene hazards. Fair point, but it's really not their problem. The larvae, known to us as maggots, eat decaying stuff, including meat and, importantly, some species don't attack living tissue. Over the millennia they've developed ways of controlling dangerous bacteria, even to the extent that specially bred maggots are used medically to promote healing in long-term wounds: it's not entirely clear how they do this trick, but it could well lead to new ways of treating problem bugs such as MRSA. They happily eat just the decayed material, cleaning and disinfecting the wound as they go: now that is real neat. So, while the flies don't have a problem with the nasties they carry around, we may. They're not a major cause of human infections in the cooler parts of the world, but of course they have no place on our dinner plates.

Another thing is that we always tend to think of flies as very simple beings, they come and they go, they all look much the same. That's unfair – just

because they never seem to understand how window glass works doesn't mean they can't observe and make appropriate decisions. For instance, how does a young male check out a suitable girlfriend? Though their eyes are big, and extremely fast-acting, at a distance even to an interested greenbottle, other flies might be confusingly similar. What they can do, however, is to note the frequency of the wing-beats of the possible date. If she's flitting at 235 per second, she'll be too old – 212 will be a young male, up at 266 it'll be an old male. Clocking at 178 and bingo, you're in with a chance. Our eyes can't distinguish anything faster than about 25 things per second, so it's just as well that we don't fly through china shops.

Neither are flies credited with all the good work they do, albeit unintentionally, in plant pollination. As they're relatively less hairy, they don't pick up as much pollen as a bee. On the other hand, neither do they pinch the stuff to stow away in their nest, where it won't much help the flowers. There's an awful lot more of them, they're out in all sorts of weather and anyway they probably invented the idea of flowers relying on insects for this job. A more recent problem is that climate change has so much altered many flowers' calendars that normal bee visiting times don't always work so well. With present-day concerns over seriously declining bee numbers, the importance of flies as pollinators is increasingly recognized: these unloved creatures may now be able to enhance the scale of their job description, if not their popularity ranking.

### Spot the difference, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

As the weather gets warmer, ladybirds are becoming increasingly active. On sunny days you may see them exploring bushes and flowers in search of aphids, which are a pest for gardeners but a favourite snack for ladybirds. In fact, they like them so much that a single ladybird can eat 5,000 aphids in a year!

There are 46 different species of ladybird in the UK, but the most common is the bright red seven-spot. This cheerful beetle is the one that springs to mind when we think of the classic ladybird in a children's storybook, but ladybirds come in a wide range of colours and patterns. Not all ladybirds are spotty – some have

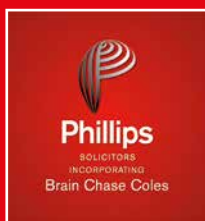
stripes instead, and they vary in colour from sunny yellow to deepest black. These vibrant shells are also tiny suits of armour: the bright colours and bold patterns remind predators that they taste nasty, so after eating one, peckish birds and mammals don't come back for more.

People used to think that the number of spots on a ladybird could tell you how old it was, but we now know that they are an indicator of species rather than age. Some ladybirds have useful names like the twenty-two spot, which can help you identify them, but there are some confusing variations in certain species. For instance, the two-spot ladybird is typically red with two black spots, but it can also be black with four to six red spots. This is thought to be because it is more palatable than

other species, so it mimics more toxic relatives to defend itself.

Another defence is to release a tiny drop of liquid when disturbed. This may sound harmless enough, but the fluid they excrete smells horrible and contains a poison. It won't hurt a human but can be harmful to smaller animals, except for a few that are immune (such as swifts and swallows). If you have ever held a ladybird you may have been on the receiving end of this unpleasant excretion, but if you can look past this they are great to have in the garden, where they act as natural pest controllers.

Visit our website to find out how you can make your patch a haven for ladybirds and other wildlife: [hiwwt.org.uk/actions](http://hiwwt.org.uk/actions)



## Haymarket Family Mediation



Sheila Parkes

Separation and divorce usually involve a major crisis for a family where emotions can run high, especially if there are children to consider.

However, with mediation it can be handled calmly, where both sides work together to find the best solution for them and their children.

Sheila Parkes, who heads Haymarket Family Mediation at Phillips Solicitors incorporating Brain Chase Coles, believes mediation is one of the most sensible and cost-effective ways of resolving family problems when a relationship has broken down as it provides clients with a safe environment for them to meet with a neutral experienced mediator who will assist them in finding a resolution that works for them both.

In fact, for the majority of people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties than going to court, where the outcome can never be accurately predicted. Sheila believes separating couples are the best people to make the decisions that will affect their future and that of their children rather than a judge imposing a decision.

If you feel that mediation is right for you or to find out more information, please contact Sheila by emailing [sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk) or by calling 01256 460830.

Details about Haymarket Family Mediation can be found by visiting [www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation)

Sheila says “In my experience mediation is an effective way of resolving issues in a dignified, respectful, constructive and co-operative manner. Mutually acceptable solutions can be found even in the most difficult cases, whether the disagreement is about child-care arrangements or how the family assets should be divided.”

Sheila and her team at Haymarket Family Mediation are based at Town Gate, 38 London Street, Basingstoke and can offer mediation with clients together, by shuttle (where each client is in a different room), or even by skype – whatever suits the clients more. Sheila is also qualified to see children as part of the mediation process in appropriate cases.

Haymarket Family Mediation is approved by the Legal Aid Agency to offer Legal Aid for those who qualify financially. This is a welcome benefit to clients who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn to for help. Mediation can also be used for cross generational issues such as grandparents.



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**Mondays**

<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Boxercise</i>	Cross House
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Stay Active As You Age Class – 11am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park

**Tuesdays**

<i>Parish Council Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bell Ringing 8pm</i>	St James's
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall
<i>Slimming World</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 6.45 – 7.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Walking 4 Fitness &amp; Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Yoga 7.00pm &amp; 8.15pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Table Tennis - 7pm</i>	St Stephen's Hall, Little London

**Wednesdays**

<i>1<sup>st</sup> Bramley Brownies</i>	Village Hall
<i>Guides 7.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>WG Pilates 9.15 – 10.15am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Bramley Tea and Coffee morning 10-11.30am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 6.30pm &amp; 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Trail Runners 7.30pm

Clift Meadow car park

HIIT/Bootcamp 7.45-8.30

School Hall

**Thursdays**

<i>Bramley &amp; Romans Floral Society 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Lunch Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Yoga for Sleep and Stress 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Body Tone 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6.30-7.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pregnancy yoga 6.30pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Activ8 youth club Years 3,4,5 and 6: 4pm - 5.30pm Years 7 8 and 9: 5.30pm - 7pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Zumba 6.45pm</i>	Village Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

**Fridays**

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

**Saturdays**

<i>Good for Mums Hiit Fix</i>	Cross House
<i>Ladies Boxercise</i>	Cross House
<i>Petite Dance</i>	Village Hall

**Sundays**

See page 5 for Church services at St James's Bramley

**Do you have a listing on this page? If so, please can you check that the details are correct and let me have the timings if they are missing.**

**Any corrections or additions can be emailed to [editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk](mailto:editor@bramleymagazine.org.uk)**

**THANK YOU**



### Contact Details for Village Clubs and Organisations

Organisation	Name	Tel No	Email	Remarks
Parish Council	Maxta Thomas	07810 692486	www.bramleypc.co.uk parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk	Not for bookings
Clift Meadow	Eileen Gulston	881125	e.e.gulston@gmail.com	Bookings
Cross House	Steve Day	07341 552732	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Activ8 youth club	Colette Bibby		colette@bdyc.org.uk	
Active Mums Post Natal Exercise	Emma Perkins	07973 389407	emmatraining@hotmail.com www.emmaperkins.com	
Badminton	Jane Matthews	881647		
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Jodie Saunders	881113	jodie@bramley-scouts.org.uk	
Bell ringers	Terry Cooper	881102		
Bramley Out of School Club/Holiday Club	Julie Belam	07711 339306	info@bramleyoutofschoolclub.com www.bramleyoutofschoolclub.com	
Bramley United FC	Mick Walsh	07802 912615/ 01256 881241	michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk	
Bramley Volunteer Drivers		07787 166924	Visit us on Facebook	
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Caterpillar Music	Jasmine McCarthy	07952 935021	jasmine.mccarthy@caterpillarmusic.com	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Exercise classes	Caroline Sherlock	07845 217901	caroline@this2thisfitness.co.uk	
Floral Society	Joyce Rawlinson	889040		
Guides	Ailsa Stockwell	07584 676931		
Hatha Yoga	Jacqui Morris	07539 432228	jacqui.morris28@gmail.com	
HiiTFix (Postnatal Exercise)	Helen Hill	07766 554599	helen@goodformums.co.uk www.goodformums.co.uk	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
Ladies Boxercise	Helen Hill	07766 554599	helen@ladiesboxercise.co.uk www.ladiesboxercise.co.uk	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyfingersgardenclub.co.uk	
Naturally Yoga with Sam	Samantha Webber	07713 349227	www.naturallyyoga.co.uk sam@naturalnook.co.uk	
Perform	Gemma Payne	07825 916496	gemmapayne@perform.org.uk	
Petite Dance	Louise Pain	07877 890673	misslouise.petite@outlook.com	
Pilates	Heather Lewis	07785 254313	hsfitnessuk@mac.com	
Pilates	Kelly James	07789 487499	kkellyjames@aol.com	
Pilates (WG Pilates)	Wendy Gill	07961 102535	wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk	
Royal British Legion	Rhydian Vaughan	07774 681516		
Short Mat Bowls	John & Pauline Walker	881065		
Slimming World	Casey	07950 838937	ww.slimmingworld.co.uk	
St Stephen's Hall	Doreen Quilter	850394	doreen.quilter@btinternet.com	Bookings
Thula Mama	Rebecca Cooch	07971 798945	rebecca.cooch@gmail.com	
Trail Runners	Richard Perkins		richardperkins@yahoo.com	
Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship	Julie Wilson		juliebelam12@gmail.com	See Facebook: Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship
WI	Pat Cole	881715	gpcoles37@gmail.com	
Yoga	Mark Golding	07969 890722	goldingyoga@gmail.com goldingyoga.com	
Zumba	Gisella Soulsby	07704 918050	zumbagisella1@gmail.com	
O-5s club	Olivia Shepherd	07976 131638	Omshep@outlook.com	

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 bram.mag.adverts@gmail.com

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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

### Cryptic Crossword No: 36 Solution

21	BYTES	1	PIANOCONCERTO
20	RELIEF	2	ICEBERGS
19	MEDUSA	3	CHAPATTI
17	SHUTDOWN	4	NAILED
16	THIRTEEN	5	EQUALPARTNERS
15	VISITOR	6	TAILOR
10	THUNDERSTUCK	7	TENSE
8	ARTLESS	8	ARTLESS
7	TENSE	9	ELECT
6	TAILOR	10	THUNDERSTUCK
5	EQUALPARTNERS	11	ADIEU
4	NAILED	12	ALLOT
3	CHAPATTI	13	SPECULATE
2	ICEBERGS	14	PURGE
		15	VESTEDINTERESTS
		18	SEMI
		22	EARNESTLY
		23	TUDOR
		24	UNITE
		25	SCORE
		26	BANKOFENGLAND

### CodeWord No: 23 Solution

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

### Air Ambulance

For the past six years, local Andover resident Anna White, of Frenches Farm, has been an avid supporter of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, having raised almost £30,000 for the life-saving charity.

In April this year, Anna will be hosting two charity fundraising events at her farm, to help keep the Air Ambulance flying and saving lives.

On Saturday 25 April, runners of all abilities will join the Charity's first ever 5km trail run through the stunning countryside of the North Wessex Downs, at the Frenches Farm Run. There will also be a 1km trail run for younger runners.

On Sunday 26 April, an extended route around the farm will be open to riders and their horses for the annual charity Frenches Farm Ride.

Perfect for all ages, on-site refreshments and BBQ food will be available to purchase throughout the day at both events. For more information on how you can support your local Air Ambulance at Frenches Farm Run or Frenches Farm Ride, please email: enquiries@hiowaa.org



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