

February 2019

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND
LITTLE LONDON

Magazine



**A Surprise visitor
to Cherry Blossom**

**Bramley Beavers
and Brownies**

Great Bramley Shave Off

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

February 2019

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

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

Cover photo:
Bramley United Football Club
by Andy Oram

I know it will be February before you read this but I am writing in the middle of January so Happy New Year! I hope 2019 is treating you well. My year got off to a busy start with work flying in from all directions. I currently have an Employment Tribunal hearing and a High Court hearing starting on the same day – one in Nottingham and one in London - so that is going to be a challenge. I wouldn't mind but they are both on my birthday, which also happens to be a school Inset day. It's good to be busy but I think it is making me even more impatient in my old age. My current moan is people who stand on both sides of escalators so you can't get past. Don't they realise that I'm busy and really need to keep walking so that I can save myself a whole 10 seconds? The travellers at Waitrose are my bug bear. Note to customers with trolleys – it is possible to manoeuvre the trolley to the left so that people can get past. And while I'm at it why do people get all the way to the barriers at train and tube stations and then look for their ticket/card? Couldn't they have got it while they were dawdling on the escalator?

OK, you're right. I need to get a life or find a way to relax. Fortunately there are plenty of ideas for that in the magazine this month. Listening to music is a great way to unwind and this year sees the return of the biennial Bramley and Little London Music Festival. In mid-June St James's Church will be filled with harps, violins, trumpets, in fact much of the orchestra will feature over the three-day Festival. There's more information on page 15 and we will be featuring some of the performers in future editions. If you feel the need to escape the grey skies and find some sun then turn to page 13 to see how one local couple realised their dream of owning a property in Spain. Closer to home another Bramley couple have been getting lots of fresh air on their allotment. You can read about their award on page 29.

It may seem a while ago now but as this is the first magazine since December we also have reports of how various clubs and groups celebrated Christmas and there is a great idea for recycling your Christmas jumper on page 21. Well, by the time you read this there will only be about 325 shopping days to go!

Best Wishes

Rachel

Rachel Barclay Smith, Editor

Nothing would be done at all, if a man waited until he
could do it so well that no-one could find fault with it.

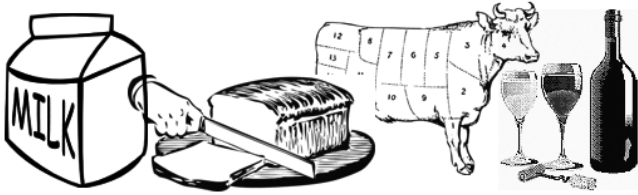
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Church diary for February...

3rd	5th Sunday before Lent
8.00	No Service
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
10th	4th Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
17th	3rd Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
24th	2nd Sunday before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James

... And into March...

3rd	Sunday next before Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – NB not Matins – St James
6th	Ash Wednesday
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
10th	1st Sunday of Lent
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins – NB not Communion – St James
17th	2nd Sunday of Lent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James

1st Bramley Brownies

1st Bramley Brownies has recently had a leadership change; the unit would like to offer their thanks and gratitude to Suzanne Cox who led them for a number of years. We wish her luck with her new unit in Sherborne St John. Katie Slater and Jayne White have taken on joint leadership responsibility for 1st Bramley Brownies. Katie is a qualified leader whilst Jayne is progressing through the leader's programme. The unit also has Diane Steele who is a qualified leader, Lucy Monger and Krissy Roberts, all volunteering their time to ensure our girls have fun during our sessions.

We run each Wednesday during term time (excluding the first week of a new term) and are based at the village hall from 5.45pm until 7.15pm. The unit encourages the girls in six different areas; Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills for my Future. We have activities planned for the girls in the coming term based on Express Myself and will continue to report to you on our activities in the Bramley Magazine.

Please use the following email for any enquiries
Bramley.brownies@gmail.com

Jayne White

Catholic services

Basingstoke

Church of St Bede, Popley Way, RG24 9DX
 Sunday Mass: 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.30 pm in St Bede's
 Mass usually: Tues, Thurs and Sat 9.30 am in St Bede's
 Holy Ghost Church, Sherborne Road, RG21 5TX:
 Mass usually: Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30 am in Holy Ghost Church
 Phone 01256 465214 or email
stbedes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for information
 See www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Tadley

St Michael's Church, Bishopswood Road, RG26 4HG
 Saturday Mass: 6.00 pm
 Sunday Mass: 9.15 am
 Parish priest: **0118 9814572**



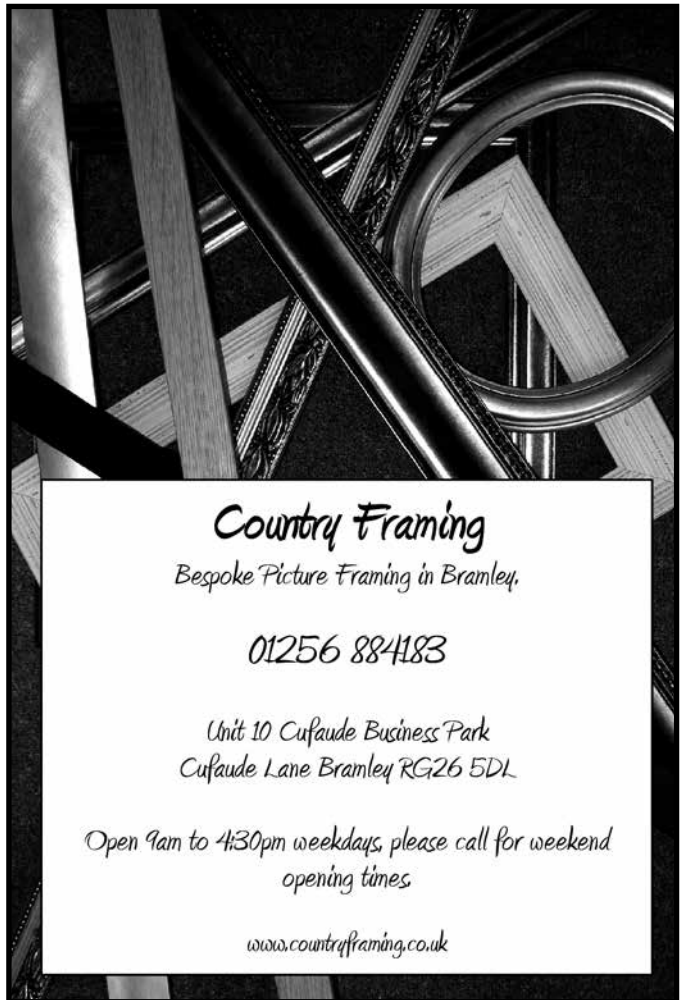
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I'm writing this column the day after the House of Commons voted overwhelmingly against the Prime Minister's Chequers deal for leaving the EU. All the pundits, not to mention most MPs, said that her proposal was going to be rejected by a colossal majority. Not surprisingly, it was. The big question, really, is what happens now?

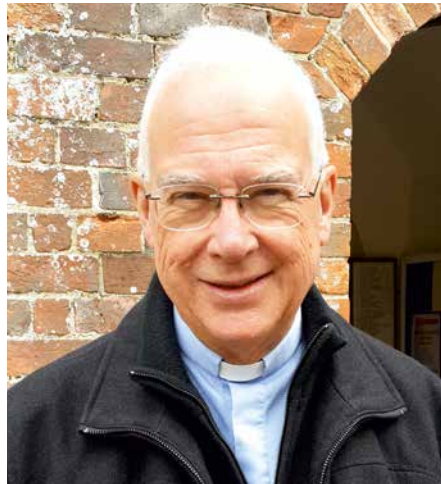
I sincerely hope that you who are reading this know the answer to that question by the time this edition of the *Bramley Magazine* pops through your front door. Maybe all the fuzziness will have cleared away and you now know how it's all going to work out. But I doubt it.

What we do know is that our whole country feels as if we're adrift in a rowing boat on the high seas, without any oars, any compass or indeed, any clue about where we ought to be going, even if we had the means to propel ourselves in that direction. What makes matters worse is that it feels as if everyone in the rowing boat is angry with everyone else. We see ordinary people on our TV screens shouting abuse at each other, waving Union Jacks or blue flags with EU stars on them and trying to bash each other with the flagpoles. Our famous British moderation, our willingness to listen to the other side – sceptically but respectfully – seems to have got lost in the process. It all feels as if that W.B. Yeats quote is steadily coming into its own:

“Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.”

The journalist Simon Kuper, in a recent FT Weekend article, wrote: “It's now quite likely that Brexit won't happen. The Commons is expected to vote down Theresa May's withdrawal agreement



Rev'd John Lenton

with the EU, several times if necessary... Meanwhile hundreds of MPs are manoeuvring to prevent a no-deal Brexit. So Britain may remain, perhaps after a second referendum.”

Kuper continues: “*Abandoning Brexit scares even Remainers like me.* Leavers will say the elite has ignored ‘the will of the people’... There could be political violence (death threats to MPs have become common), a revival of the UK Independence Party, and American levels of polarisation. Every problem the UK faced afterwards would be blamed on the betrayal of Brexit.” [My italics.]

What a gloomy prospect! The thought of a future filled with people endlessly blaming one another, whether Leavers or Remainers, about the referendum result, the fruitless Parliamentary processes of the last two years, the obstinacy of the EU, the everlasting and incomprehensible Irish backstop, the Chequers deal and the politicians... can the human frame stand it? And if not, what on earth are we to do about it?

Last night, there was a most extraordinary moment out in Parliament Square where all the demonstrators were massed in their tribal groupings. When the result of the vote was announced, the Brexiteer group with their Union Jacks all cheered loudly, beaming and smiling and clapping each other on the back. *But so did the Remainers!* And so did all the other groups, Welsh and Scottish and Northern Irish contingents, Communists and Anarchists and a group of Japanese

tourists who'd taken the wrong turning out of their hotel. Everyone was cheering and laughing and celebrating even though they were still on totally different sides, wanting totally different things, and now, after this vote, arguably had even less chance of seeing their wishes fulfilled. Extraordinary. I'd love to have been able to ask them, Why are you celebrating? What happens now?

Simon Kuper in his article suggested: “Remainers ought to model themselves on the ultimate healing politician, Nelson Mandela. He treated everyone with what his comrade Walter Sisulu called ‘ordinary respect’ – always standing up, for instance, when a tea lady entered the room. Respect helped melt his opponents... He knew they would never vote for him. But because they felt he heard them, they handed him their country.”

Well, I'm all for a bit more respect between people of opposing views, and I quite agree that Nelson Mandela is a great example of a man who didn't bear a grudge against those who had treated him appallingly over the years.

But when it comes to “ultimate healing” there is surely only one human being who ever really merited that title. He's the one who gave sight to the blind, cleansed lepers, enabled paraplegics to walk, brought corpses to life. He's the one who asked God to forgive the soldiers who were hammering nails into His hands to pin Him on a cross. What would He say to us as we look around and wonder, “What happens now?”

Well, we know what He said to His followers the night before He died: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” If we build our hopes for peace of mind and heart on Britain Leaving or Remaining, if we expect magic solutions to appear out of thin air now that Chequers has bitten the dust, we will be disappointed. As one of my favourite modern hymns declares, “In Christ alone my hope is found.” I'm banking on Him. He has my vote.

What better way to **Meet the Neighbours** than by sharing a meal together? This year Bramley had its first community Christmas Lunch. And, judging by the comments below, it won't be the last one!

Bramley Magazine caught up with some of those who went and found they all enjoyed a marvellous Christmas meal together, with all the trimmings, at Cross House.

'My father died in the year I turned 14. That Christmas, and every Christmas afterwards until I was an adult, my mother and I were scooped up by a network of friends and church family who invited us to spend Christmas Day with them, and those are some of my happiest memories. There's something magical about spending Christmas Day with a group of people, of every age, getting to know each other better and sharing the Christmas feast together. Bramley has such a strong community spirit, particularly focused around St James's, and I thought a community Christmas Day lunch would be a good addition to the village. I hope it continues to grow and that next year's lunch is as much fun as this year's!

- *Alison Jones, organiser*



"I decided to volunteer so as to pass on an act of kindness someone had shown me. However, I met lovely people and enjoyed their company, so it felt as if I had been on the receiving end of kindness again! It was very friendly; the food was simply lovely and very traditional."

- *Jacqui Waller, Little London*

"I was sad not to be able to go up North to spend Christmas with my elderly parents because my daughter was working nights at the hospital. Being able to volunteer was a life saver for me: I had an enjoyable Christmas, playing fun games, eating wonderful food and spending time with a lovely group of



people, rather than being at home on my own."

- *Judith Cox, Bramley*

"Our families live far away so it was a real joy to spend Christmas Day with old and new friends, sharing a real feast together. It made the day much more special."

- *Mark & Sarah Mitchell, Bramley*



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On a cold December day, a number of brave parents and teachers at **Bramley Primary School** took part in the **Great Bramley Shave Off** to raise money for Oliver Warner's fundraising campaign. It wasn't just

head shaving either. Headteacher Glen Golding endured the pain of having his back waxed! Well done to all who took part. Here are a few photos from the day.



A warm hello from the Bramley Beavers

The festivities of December always give us opportunities to reminisce and also to look to our futures. It also brings us closer together as a community as we make special efforts to visit our neighbours and friends. Therefore, what better meeting could there be than for our young Beavers to visit our local Cherry Blossom Manor residential home. We were warmly greeted, sang a few favourite carols and eagerly sat down together to

design and create a unique family of snowmen. The evening was topped off by drinks and, of course, biscuits.

Magically, the Snowmen then jumped upon their 'ice-icles' and pedalled off, as fast as their snow bodies allowed, to be displayed at our local Tesco in Chineham for all to see. We did receive reports that some vanished/melted after a few days, so hopefully the photo below shows the imaginations of our community get-together.


Although this year has already started, on behalf of the Bramley Scout Group,




we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019. If you wish to join the group, in any capacity, we would be more than delighted to hear from you.

Kingfisher Karen






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Bramley Poppy Project 2018

In this magazine one year ago, I asked for support to create a poppy waterfall for the rood screen at St. James Church Bramley to mark the centenary of the end of WWI. I asked for 1,000 knitted or crocheted poppies in the hope that we might get 2,000. Needles and hooks set a-clicking and poppies soon started to arrive. Children knitted a few rows of poppies on Clift Meadow at the St. George's Fete, whilst non-knitters there offered financial contributions towards costs. From the visually impaired lady in the village who knitted two amazing poppies, to the WI and knitting groups in the village who produced them in their hundreds, all were gratefully received. One ex-Bramley resident sent some from South Africa, some were knitted whilst on holiday in America, some from Wales and as news spread more and more people contacted me wanting to contribute. So, 4,000 poppies later (!!!), a small team spent three weeks sewing them into place. The final display was stunning and many people viewed it at the Remembrance Day Service and in the three weeks following. It was greatly admired by all.

I know I said my thanks at the tea party held for all involved but I would just like to say another huge THANK YOU for everyone's efforts no matter how great or small; to the sponsors, including one local small business who sponsored all the hanging materials; to the British Legion and the church for their agreement and encouragement to embark upon this venture and, last of all, to Dusty Taylor for helping me to co-ordinate knitters. A bonus was being able to donate over £80 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal from monies donated to the project.

I am so very proud to have been a part of this project. I know many others have expressed their delight at being involved, too, and also to be able to do something as a community. What a wonderful way to honour those who fought and died for us all those years ago!

Pam Luck

Follow-up to the article on Bramley's war dead

- **Adams Cottages.** These are still standing in Bramley, and are the former home of George Claridge. He was killed in action in Belgium, at the age of 19. Many thanks to Susie Jacob for letting us know the location of the cottages.
- **Walter Hopkins.** Walter was married to Amy (née Lambden) and they had 3 children. He was killed in action at the age of 32. Many thanks to Eileen Moran for supplying the correct information.
- When I began researching the names on the Roll of Honour I fully expected people to come forward, saying they were related to them in some way. No-one ever has. I think this shows that whilst some family lines have died out, other families have moved away from the village and their descendants may not know of the connection to Bramley.
- Most servicemen and women returned from the Great War and became the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents whom we know, love and remember today!

Rachel Holland

Bramley and District Poppy Appeal 2018

We now have the final total for our district, which also includes the Hospital and some of the other local villages. A **magnificent £11,744.60** was raised in total. Everybody who was involved in the Appeal, either collecting house to house or who had a collecting tin in their business, will be getting a thank you card with the details of the individual amount raised. I would just like to thank you all for your efforts.

Michael Luck



As long as I can remember I have been a practical person. I've never waited for anyone to put a shelf up for me or fix a toilet. I've just got on with it.

I have been asked many times what made me want to be a plumber. Well I guess I'd have to say that it's the variety of the job that interested me. There is so much to learn. And even now 11 years on, I'm still learning about new products that come out. It's a fantastic career and I enjoy every job I do. It gives me great satisfaction to see all my customers happy. If a job is worth doing then it's worth doing well.

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Little Apples of Bramley

Judged OUTSTANDING by Ofsted, we are a non-profit making pre-school run by experienced, caring and well qualified local Mums. Little Apples is a charity committed to offering the highest levels of care and education to all pre-school children. We are open every Monday – Friday in term time in the village hall, where our spacious halls and garden provide a happy, safe and fun environment for your child to learn and make friends.

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- From September 2017, some 3 & 4 year olds will receive 30 hours per week free childcare.

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News from Bramley Village Hall

During the last week of January, the Village Hall supported the national initiative to celebrate the role of village halls in local communities, Village Halls Week (22-28 January). The campaign was supported by Action Hampshire and the ACRE network of rural development charities. In particular, the campaign wanted to show how village halls help to tackle social isolation, giving people a local venue for activities from lunch clubs and support groups to exercise classes and film shows. We have a large number of users of the Village Hall in Bramley, with a variety of groups with diverse age ranges and activities. Some of the organisers of those groups provided helpful feedback on the role of the Village Hall in their activities which we shared with Action Hampshire and we've published some of their comments on the Bramley Village Hall website.

Planning for the refurbishment and extension of the Village Hall is moving forwards and we are now at the tender stage. We are keen that local companies should be involved in this project and if you know of any building companies who might be interested, please encourage them to get in touch with me at Chairman@bvht.org.uk. We remain optimistic that we will be able to complete this project by the autumn; this is an ambitious timescale and we have already discovered some issues with the existing building (largely a 1960s/1970s construction) which may add to our costs. We remain keen to minimise disruption to our users and to maintain the normal range of activities at the Hall. I'll keep you posted as plans and the timescale mature; we will also post details on the Village Hall website.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who came to the November Mistletoe Fayre and helped support the Village Hall as well as the host of talented, local artisan producers exhibiting there. This year's event raised invaluable funds of nearly £800 which will be used to ensure our hall continues to function efficiently and successfully. We hope to repeat the event again in 2019 so please get in touch if you are interested in taking a stall.

Gareth Jones
Chairman, Bramley Village Hall Trustees.

Joke

A man runs into a bar.

Panting, he tells the bartender, "Give me ten shots of your best whisky—*quick!*" So the landlord sets them up and the man knocks them all back in seconds.

"Why you drinking so fast?" asks the bartender

"You'd drink fast too, if you had what I have," says the man.

"Why, what do you have?" asks the bartender.

"Only 50p."

Lunch Club



Due to illness and various commitments there were only thirteen members for the Christmas lunch! All enjoyed traditional turkey with all the trimmings, plenty of vegetables and a glass of wine. This was followed by Christmas pudding with brandy butter and cream, plus mince pies. Our thanks go to Judy and her team for the delicious food and for all their hard work.

Maureen did a floral demonstration, which was then presented to Judy. Christmas cards and Secret Santa gifts were distributed and Merry Christmas was wished to one and all as we made our way home on a very cold day.

At the January meeting, New Year greetings were exchanged as tea and coffee were served. David from Age UK visited once again, with leaflets about security in the home and advice about keeping personal medication information which may be required by anyone who may attend in case of emergency.

On quite a chilly day, the lunch of sausages in onion gravy with mashed potatoes and cabbage was very welcome. This was followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard.

Lunch Club is held on the second Thursday of the month and new members are always welcome. Please contact Christine on 884065 for details.

Christine Woodward

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Bramley residents Eleanor & Mike Fletcher tell us about their dream of owning A place in the Sun

In 2003 we were considering the best way to save for our retirement and decided on bricks and mortar. Needing somewhere that would generate a rental income to cover our costs, we also wanted to be able to enjoy it as our very own 'Place in the Sun'.

We headed off to a 'Buying property abroad' exhibition in London, spoke to a couple of agents and decided to take a look at Spain's Northern Costa Blanca with its dramatic coastlines, quaint unspoiled towns, spectacular mountains and lush green countryside.

This was going to be our dream home in the sun, so naturally we were armed with our 'must have' criteria:

sea view ✓ private pool ✓ 3 bedroom detached ✓ south-facing ✓

One agent showed us a plot with a sea view (across the motorway, you could just glimpse the sea through binoculars). We saw town houses with shared pools, two bed properties, all sorts..... none were what we were looking for. It was becoming clear our budget didn't match up to our criteria. We started to get a bit dispirited, so that first evening we took ourselves off exploring, and stumbled across a spectacular spot with direct views of

the sea (so close you could hear the waves), views of the majestic Sierra Bernia mountains and a conservation area opposite – so the outlook of a lush green hillside was protected. This was perfect! The following day our agent took us to within a short distance of the same spot and told us that the plots had only been released for sale that very weekend.

What followed was a frantic day viewing plot layouts, looking at potential build options, working out which plot could fit all our criteria and, quite importantly, trying to work out how we could possibly stretch our limited finances to buy in the spectacular spot we'd fallen in love with. We went out to dinner and pondered options at the lovely restaurant Las Palmeras in the charming town of Moraira.

If you've ever watched 'A Place in the Sun' on TV, you'll know that when it comes to the final decision to buy or not to buy, 95% of buyers say they need to take time, to consider.... Well, we were one of the 5% so less than 48 hours after arriving on the Costa Blanca for our first ever visit, we were the proud owners of 'Plot 69 Palmeras' (remember the restaurant?!). We flew home exhilarated (and somewhat worried as we'd blown our budget!) on flight BA 6969. Plot 69 was definitely meant to be!

Fast-forward two years to 2005. Casa Windlenook was open for year-round

holiday rentals! The design and build process had not been without its challenges, but early on we were wisely cautioned to get used to the Spanish way of working (being very much 'mañana' - which in reality often meant 'next week'...!). Without that advice we probably would have gone slightly mad, but the opportunity to design the villa ourselves so everything was exactly the way we wanted made it all worthwhile - and wow, what a wonderful outcome!

Casa Windlenook is a top quality holiday home and a truly special place to relax and unwind. If you've not yet planned your next holiday, why not take a peek at our website - we're certain you'll fall in love with Casa Windlenook too! (PS - mention Bramley Magazine for a special deal!)



Eleanor & Mike
www.casawindlenook.com
07733 228406



CHERRY BLOSSOM MAKES RESIDENT'S DREAM COME TRUE

Resident Brenda Pogue, at Cherry Blossom Manor had always wanted to walk with alpacas so staff at the home made her wish a reality.

Brenda has lived at Cherry Blossom for 4 years and is beloved by staff and residents alike. Staff first found out about Brenda's dream last year and were delighted to be a part of making her dream come true, as they knew how much it meant to her.



In response to this wonderful surprise, Brenda's sister Jackie said: "I was on the verge of tears. It is such an amazing feeling to know that such a loving group of people care so much about Brenda that they helped her to live out a dream – a dream that Brenda and I were about to complete before she was taken ill."

Gigi, General Manager at the home, said: "We want everyone we care for to know how important they are to us here at Cherry Blossom, It was so nice to see how happy Brenda was – and the residents and staff loved being a part of this as well."

More jokes

Bono and The Edge walk into a bar. Barman says, "Not you two again"

Comic Sans, Helvetica, and Times New Roman walk into a bar.

"Get out!" shouts the barman. "We don't serve your type here!"

Bramley WI

At the end of last year we had a 'hands on evening' where we made some Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas fair at Clift Meadow. We also sold cakes and other craft items.

At our December meeting we had a Christmas party and invited other members from around Basingstoke. We had a speaker by the name of Jonathan who recited Charles Dickens 'Christmas Carol'. He was very good as he did all the different voices of the characters. Afterwards we had a buffet and mulled wine.

We did not have a meeting in January as a number of us went to the Mayflower in Southampton to see 'Calendar Girls'. We all went down by train and had a very nice lunch in the Theatre's restaurant beforehand. The show was excellent and yes, they did take their clothes off!!



We have a varied selection of speakers this year as well as a Welsh evening in March, a couple of 'hands on' evenings, a few trips, including one to Jane Austen's house and hopefully a trip along the Thames, crazy golf and possibly more theatre trips. Some of the ladies have formed a Sunday Lunch outing every month and we will start having our walks again - always ending up at the pub!!

If anyone is interested in joining us or would like more information please give me a ring on 881647 or Pat Cole on 881715.

We meet in the Village Hall in the Bramley Room on the second Thursday of the month at 7.45pm.

Jane Matthews

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Bramley

Sayings and Groundhogs

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year will be just a distant memory. But the Christmas period often stirs memories of Christmases past. At the festive season we often see family members and conversations turn to memories of growing up. Very often old family traditions are discussed and old family sayings are remembered. Here are just a few that I remember, and which surfaced again this year.

Family Christmases are not always harmonious. Arguments begin, tempers are raised, and then perhaps an awkward silence descends. At moments like these, my mother would often come out with a saying that, I assume, must have been borrowed from a film or play. It was a kind of ice breaker: 'Do you think the bicycle will ever become popular?' she would intone in a gentle voice. This was generally taken as a signal for everyone to move on and peace and harmony were then restored.

On Christmas day, as my father carved the huge turkey (suitable for a family with five children) he would perform an impression of his grandfather. My great grandfather was someone I never knew – he would have been born in the mid-Victorian era and my father's memories would be from the 1920s when he was a boy. So the impression I have is of some Dickensian figure, admiring the feast and exclaiming 'Beautiful bird! Beautiful, beautiful!' This happened every Christmas without fail.

As I reached adulthood and spent my first Christmases away from my family, with my future in-laws, I became aware that all families have odd sayings. I found myself in the kitchen one day amidst the normal Christmas mayhem.

My father-in-law approached and said 'Let the monkey see the dustcart!' which turned out to mean 'Please move out of the way, I'm doing something important'.

Christmases with the in-laws were a rich vein of sayings. Any change of clothing, for example putting a coat on to go out, would always be preceded by 'I'm just going to slip on a banana skin'. Presumably 'slipping on your jacket or overcoat' was too mundane. I think this might have originated from an early Goon Show. For younger readers, this was a popular comedy programme on the radio.

When the time came to leave the house of a relative, someone would always say something like 'Keep waving, it's good for the business!' I have no idea about the origins of this one.

My own family were not really alcohol drinkers. However a bottle of white wine would normally be present on the table for Christmas, and in my teens I was permitted a glass. One year whilst being served some sprouts, one escaped and landed in my wine. For ever after, I was always asked 'Would you like a sprout with that?'

And now looking forward to 2 February, I would just like to remind you all that this is Groundhog Day. If the groundhog sees its own shadow as it emerges from its hole there will be six more weeks of winter. If it is cloudy then Spring is nearly here. Any small creature or even a teddy bear can perform the ceremony however. Last year I mentioned this, and in my garden my cat could see her own shadow. The 'Beast from the East' duly followed and we were still seeing snow into March. Just saying...

Michael Luck

THE BRAMLEY AND LITTLE LONDON MUSIC FESTIVAL IS BACK!

When: Thursday 13 June, Friday 14 June and Saturday 15 June 2019

Where: St James Church, Bramley, 7.30pm

Tickets: £12.50 adults, £6 under 18s

This year's festival will open on Thursday 13 June with Welsh Harpist **Claire Jones** who first appeared at the festival four years ago. She previously held the position of official harpist to Prince Charles and as well as playing for the Prince, she played for the Queen on a number of occasions and entertained guests at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. She will be accompanied by her husband **Chris Marshall**, an accomplished percussionist.

The festival has a long tradition of showcasing emerging talent and, for the middle night on Friday 14 June, we will be joined by **Signum Brass**, a quintet comprising two trumpets, a horn, tuba and trombone.

One of the most popular performers of 2017 was **Graffiti Classics**, a comedy string quartet who entertained us with memorable renditions of Danny Boy and the Devil came down to Georgia. Well, they will be back for the closing night of the Festival on Saturday 15 June.

All the performances start at 7.30pm and finish at around 9.15pm, with a short stretch break half way through. All events are relaxed and informal and are a great opportunity to hear first class musicians in your village, playing pieces both new and familiar (and indeed familiar music played in a new way). Each concert is followed by complimentary wine and canapés and a chance to chat with the performers. It is a memorable way to spend a summer's evening and meet other people from the village.

For more information or to buy tickets call Rachel (07570 972425) or Jonathan (07771 811311), email rbarclaysmith@gmail.com or see www.bramleymusicfestival.org.uk



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Preparing for Winter

Help yourself to stay safe and well in cold weather and look out for friends and neighbours who might be vulnerable to the cold or who may find it harder to get out and about.

Get your heating system serviced annually. Ask your landlord if you are a tenant. Claim all the financial support you can to help with heating bills. You may be eligible for Cold Weather Payments, Winter Fuel Payment or the Warm Home Discount Scheme. Contact the Environment Centre for more info on 0800 804 8601.

Prepare for freezing temperatures – if water pipes freeze they can burst. Do you know where your water mains stopcock is? Keep extra food items in cupboards and freezer in case it is too cold to go shopping.

Keep your paths and steps clear in icy weather – keep a mix of salt and sand handy, available from DIY shops. Keep an eye on the weather forecast so you can prepare in good time. Sign up for free flood warning from Floodline on 0345 988 1188 if your area is liable to floods.

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Contact your local Village Agent David
on 07776 595019

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Bramley and Romans Floral Society

Our last meeting of 2018 was a demonstration followed by a delicious afternoon tea of scones, cream, jam and homemade cake. Our demonstrator was Jennifer Thompson and she called her arrangements 'Christmas Treats'. They were entered into the raffle at the end of the afternoon

The first meeting for 2019 will be our AGM on Thursday 7 February. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon village hall starting at 1.30pm. For info please contact Eileen on 01256 881125. Visitors are always welcome.

Eileen Gulston



Little London Ping Pongers are GO!

Fancy a game of Table Tennis? Why not come along to St Stephen's Hall, Little London at 7pm on Tuesdays. £2 a player with all proceeds going towards the upkeep of our Village Hall.

Two full size tables plus bats and balls provided.

For more information contact Ian Rosewell on 07768 574400 or rosewellian@aol.com

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Bramley United Football Club reaches an impressive milestone this year. **Andy Oram** tells us more about our local team.

For any sporting club to reach its 100-year anniversary is a fantastic achievement, but for a small rural village in North Hampshire to have such a Club is more than just fantastic, it's absolutely amazing!

And Bramley United Football Club has done just that. Founded in 1919 just one year after the end of WW1, the Club has gone from strength to strength winning many honours along the way. At the time of writing this article they are unbeaten in the League and have a great chance to go on and win the 2018/2019 League 1 with that unbeaten record in place.



The Club is a great place for meeting new friends and is ideal for new members of the Bramley community.



One of our current Player Managers, Simon Goff, has said in interview "I moved to Bramley from Burghfield Common in 2010. I met some of the Bramley United lads in the pub and I was invited along to training. Since then I've been a regular in the team and have for the last two seasons been a player manager and am also a member of the committee. I was made to feel so welcome from day one and have felt a part of the Bramley family ever since. I've made friends for life at the club but also in the wider community since I joined. I'm excited to see how the club grows over the coming years as the village expands and I would encourage anyone interested to get involved, even if just to come and cheer the lads on!"

We also have George Wood on the Committee who is the Club President and has been involved with Bramley Utd for 70 years. Many of the wider Bramley community will know George and his commitment to our wonderful Club is second to none. By all accounts he was a great player in his day!

There are other great Bramley family names on our players list: Monger, Woolford, Squibb, Walsh, Wallace, Blanchflower, Harris, Ricks, James, Hooker and Reeve. Some still have family members playing for the team.

The club has played in various places in the village including the estate off Campbell Road (when Bramley had the Army barracks), the end of Coopers Lane where the EVW camp was, Strawberry Fields, where building work has recently started and on Clift Meadow where we had to move cattle off the field before being able to play. We have had our own ground in The Street since around 1968.

The club is self-financing and we rely heavily on the car boot sales throughout the summer, but these have fallen away in recent years, making things a bit difficult.

Our main sponsor is 'Mekanix', the local garage, who have helped out a lot and we thank them for the support they have shown. Dave Moore and Martin Hooker both played for Bramley Utd.

As we go into our centennial year we would like to thank everyone who has played and supported the team and our sponsors past and present. We would welcome more of the local business community to get involved in making donations and sponsorships so that 2019 can be the start to another fantastic 100 years. Please like our Facebook page to keep in touch with



all the events planned to celebrate our 100-year anniversary.

Do get in touch with us. Our Club Secretary is Mick Walsh who can be reached on 07802 912615 or 01256 881241, michael.p.walsh@openreach.co.uk

The rest of the committee are:

Chairman – Geoff Harris
 Club President – George Wood
 Club Treasurer – Jamie Ward
 Sunday First Team Manager(s) – Nick Harris & Simon Goff
 Social Media - Andy Oram



HONOURS

SATURDAY COMPETITIONS

- HAMPSHIRE JUNIOR 'A' CUP WINNERS - 1999/00, 2003/04
- HAMPSHIRE JUNIOR 'B' CUP – 2004/05 (RESERVE TEAM)
- N/HANTS MAY CUP – 1977/78, 2002/03
- N/HANTS JUNIOR CUP – 1994/95
- BASINGSTOKE PREMIER DIVISION – 2002/03
- BASINGSTOKE DIVISION ONE – 1959/60, 1967/68, 1977/78
- BASINGSTOKE DIVISION TWO – 1995/96
- BASINGSTOKE DIVISION THREE – 1994/95
- BASINGSTOKE DIVISION FOUR – 1968/69
- BASINGSTOKE JUNIOR 'A' CUP – 1985, 1989, 1990
- BASINGSTOKE JUNIOR 'B' CUP – 1954
- BASINGSTOKE SUPPLEMENTRY 'A' CUP – 1984, 1992
- BASINGSTOKE ALL CHAMPIONS CUP – 2002/03
- PETER RAYNBIRD CUP – 2004

SUNDAY COMPETITIONS

- N/HANTS JUNIOR CUP – 1978/79
- BASINGSTOKE JUNIOR CUP – 1997, 1978 (BOTH AS BRAMLEY UTD LADS)
- NHDA CHRIS PRICE CUP – 2016/17

As well as winning these various cup competitions, the club has reached many cup finals and been runners up in league divisions.

In 1985, our club was chosen to represent Basingstoke as the men's football team in a sporting event with our twin town, Alencon, winning a very competitive match.

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Christmas Jumper Swap 2019

Having a clear out in the New Year? Wondering what to do with outgrown or unwanted Christmas clothing?

Please consider donating to the 2019 Bramley Christmas Jumper Swap.

We are gratefully accepting the following items:

- * Christmas jumpers - adults & children
- * Christmas Tshirts - adults & children
- * Christmas pyjamas - adults & children
- * Christmas nativity outfits

These items are all used for a minimal amount of time (many only worn once) before being cleared out and replaced.

'Consumer campaign, Love Your Clothes, found that over 10 million people in the UK are likely to buy a Christmas jumper and 40% would wear them just once or twice.'
(2016, WasteAid.org.uk)

Your donations will help more families spend less and waste less on such items this year, whilst also raising money to bring Christmas joy to others.

The Swap will take place at the end of November/beginning December 2019 with the proceeds going to buy food for our local homeless shelter and gifts for children in crisis.

If you would like to donate any items please contact Alison Pitch at alisongareppo@hotmail.com

Thank you!



Christmas and January at Little Apples

Welcome back to Little Apples 2019! Happy New Year.

Hopefully everyone had a peaceful Christmas – it all seems so long ago now! We had a very exciting time as the Rev. Lenton came along and told the children the story of the first Christmas. We did lots of Christmas baking with the children making gingerbread Christmas trees and Christmas tree decorations. On the last day of term our children performed their Nativity Play – “Leo the Lion and the King of the World.” This was lots of fun and received much critical acclaim! Of course, the families aren’t biased. A big thank you to everyone who came along and donated to our fundraising raffle or played the wine tombola. Thanks also to our fabulous staff who organised and practised it all. We raised £200 for our Playground Appeal and we are now half way towards our target. This is really great news as a new surface will really improve the play facilities at the Village Hall and improve cleanliness, as the current chippings are very messy.

This half term at Little Apples, we will be thinking about the cold, keeping warm and being healthy. This helps with the children’s learning and understanding in Physical Development. We will be doing exercises and activities which build core strength and help with gross motor skills. These are essential for sitting still and learning. We have enjoyed experimenting with melting and freezing and have looked at the characteristics of animals who live in cold conditions. This is early science. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year and Australia Day too, thinking about how children live in other countries and cultures.

Little Apples accepts children from two years old. If you would like to register a child or pop up for a visit, please contact Jo on 07598 588460 or manager@littleapples.org

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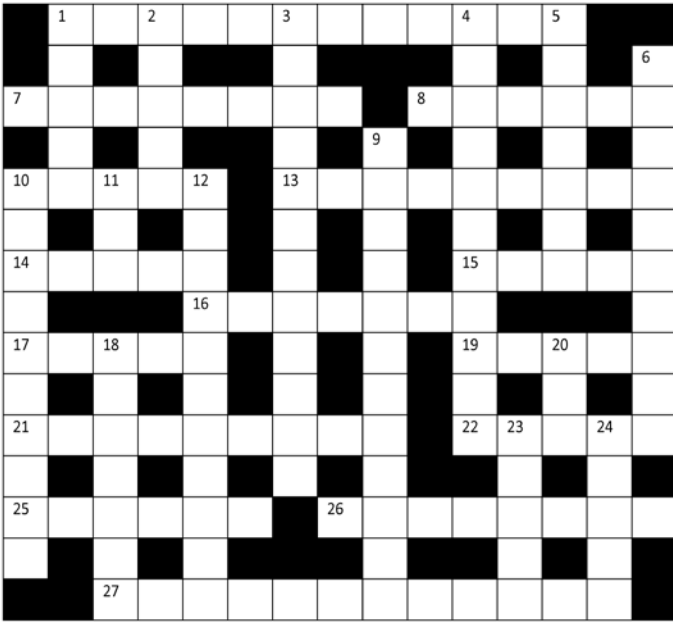
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Cryptic Crossword No: 25

See page 31 for the answers.



Across

- 1 PM of a greater age apparently. (4,3,5)
- 7 Divisive result , not quite so mixed. (8)
- 8 Electrical device provides humour inside St Catherines Hospice initially. (6)
- 10 End early, or bat around. (5)
- 13 Singular action of a pianist or hacker perhaps. (9)
- 14 Singer heard to be worth twice as much as a five pound note. (5)
- 15 Type of salt found on a racecourse ? (5)
- 16 Keyboard composition designed to confuse a cat coat. (7)
- 17 Learner with an aptitude for light regulation. (5)
- 19 Uncontrollable emotions, anger that swaps one pole for another. (5)
- 21 Anne, Gill and I can produce African money. (9)
- 22 Almost sounds funny being related to soil composition. (5)
- 25 This number of times can be seen as extreme. (6)
- 26 Rely around after support can be done correctly. (8)
- 27 Planned by teacher who cared ? (12)

Down

- 1 Sounds fruity to fix pipework. (5)
- 2 Short Pharaoh or teacher. (5)
- 3 Cloth to desire enclosing 500 before the one in charge. (12)
- 4 Gravity has the power to effect a quality lacking in pretensions. (4,2,5)

- 5 Food allowance shown by rodent, moon and two poles. (7)
- 6 Printed sounds lady and french followed by 1000 and American in charge. (10)
- 9 Pump sounding like a watery male lamb. (9,3)
- 10 George is one of many who can be relied on when you want a rest from flying. (10)
- 11 Possess part of townhouse. (3)
- 12 Particular features of knitted garments as opposed to aquatic creature parts. (11)
- 18 Short medication before gloom describes religious traveller. (7)
- 20 Secretion by heck ! (3)
- 23 Overturn direction before extremity. (5)
- 24 Lazy 500 left running. (5)

CodeWord No: 12

See page 31 for the answers.

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

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
		L								S		

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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Congratulations to our Magazine Chairman and Local County Councillor Rhydian Vaughan who received an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for public and political service.

We spoke to Rhydian who said: "I never planned to have a political career but I've ended up serving at every level of local government – Bramley Parish Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (where I was chairman of the Development Control Committee) and Hampshire County Council.

Serving the people of the Calleva Division as their Member at the County Council today is a great honour in itself, so it was a great surprise to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace! Ever since I first started working for the community on Bramley Parish Council (almost 15 years ago), I have tried to do my best for the area that I live in.

I've always strived to do my best for areas further afield too. That's why I'm delighted to serve on the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority. And, I'm lucky to have been able to extend my public service beyond politics; I became a member of the Royal British Legion in 1978 and I am Vice Chairman Bramley & District Branch and was instrumental in saving the Branch from closure a few years ago.



As a Battlefield Guide over the last 20 years it's been an enormous privilege and a humbling experience to introduce people and particularly the young to the history of the World Wars and to help them understand the sacrifices that past generations made so that we can live the lives we do today. Over the last year – the centenary of the Armistice – interest intensified and I'm pleased to have helped many more people learn about our shared history.

Being recognised for my public and political service over many years by being appointed an MBE is, of course, a great honour."

Are there any other readers who received an honour this year? We would love to hear from you and publish a photo of your special day.

Butter Daisy Nursery

We had a truly fantastic Christmas period here at Butter Daisy. All of the children in each Suite took part in lots of our festive activities which were full of awe and wonder!



For our Christmas activity week, we ate a special Christmas dinner prepared by our chef Kayanne. All of the children sat around our decorated tables wearing crowns which they had made themselves, pulled crackers with their friends and sang lots of Christmas songs.



We also all took part in a Christmas Jumper day, had a Christmas party day and a pyjama day complete with hot chocolate. The children all had an exciting visit from Debutots; they told us a special Christmas story mixed with dance and props. The children used their imagination as they drove Father Christmas's sleigh and delivered presents to all of their friends across the country.

We have enjoyed our first session of Baby Yoga with Helen from Tatty Bumpkin where we learnt some new stretches, before going on a sea adventure where we placed the ribbons on top of a chiffon scarf 'sea' and waved them up and down together.

As the weather has become colder we have been warming up by dancing and moving to lots of our favourite nursery rhymes. We have wrapped up warm for some lovely bracing walks to The Meadow where the children happily explored the environment.

If you are interested in coming to visit the Butter team please call on 01256 882515. There is lots of information about all nurseries within the company, our mission statement, opening times and fees on our website www.mydaisynursery.com



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Beat Report

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as PCSO Emma Page, the new beat officer (PCSO) for the Tadley and Bramley areas. I have been a rural PCSO based at Tadley for just over 3 years and I'm looking forward to engaging with the communities. Over time this will include visiting schools, youth clubs, church coffee mornings, older person accommodation and Parish Council meetings.

Please remember our team mailbox is Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. The team box is monitored frequently, whereas individual officer mailboxes will not be monitored if that officer is away from work. Please also remember you can now report crimes online by using the Online Reporting form on the Hampshire Police website <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/how-to-report-a-crime/> or by calling 101. Please do not report crimes to the team mailbox. Crime prevention advice can be found at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

In the month of December there were 41 incidents in the Basingstoke Rural East area, 11 of which were in Bramley.

Traffic Incidents

There was a damage only Road Traffic Collision (RTC) on Folly Lane, Bramley. There was a serious injury RTC on Green Lane, Stratfield Turgis involving three vehicles. All parties are recovering from their injuries.

Theft

There have been two thefts from vehicles on Lane End, Bramley and Longbridge Mill.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

A group of youths was seen outside Clift Meadow Pavilion and they were disturbing those holding classes inside. Youths were also seen on the roof of Silchester Primary School. A large amount of wood was fly tipped in the middle of Church Lane, Silchester.

Criminal Damage

Of note, damage has been caused to a vehicle parked in a car park on Bramley Lane, Bramley.

Summary

This is a further summary of incidents; however, it is not the full history for December.

	Bramley	Silchester/Pamber	Tadley (South and Central areas only)
Burglary	1	0	1
Theft	3	2	8
Assault	2	0	11
Public Order	1	1	1
Criminal Damage	2	0	2
RTC	0	1	2
Suspicious Incidents	0	2	9
ASB	1	2	4

Helpful Crime Prevention Advice and Hampshire Alerts

www.hampshire.police.uk/advice/ and www.hampshirealert.co.uk/. Hampshire Alerts' are a very quick method of circulating messages relevant to local communities including NHW schemes.

Emma

PCSO 16173 Emma PAGE
emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
www.hampshire.police.uk



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THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
BRAMLEY & DISTRICT BRANCH
(BR1848)



Branch Meeting

Date: Tuesday 12th February 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: **Cherry Blossom Manor**

German Road Bramley

Including Presentation by Rhydian Vaughan MBE

The Four Battles of Ypres 1914 – 1918

plus

DVD of GP90

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needs a home fire safety check?



Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service can provide a free Safe & Well visit to the most vulnerable people in the community who may be at more risk of harm from fire.

A person may be eligible for this if one or more of the following is true:

- Over 65
- Lives alone
- Has a physical or learning disability
- Has difficulties with vision or hearing
- Substance or alcohol dependent
- Returning from hospital and there are identified fire risks, e.g. smoker, hoarder, no smoke alarms etc.

Find out more at the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service website

www.hantsfire.gov.uk

or call the community safety team on 023 8062 6751.

Alternatively, contact your local Village Agent,

David on 07776 595019

Village Agents are volunteers who can help you find information and local services that will enable you to stay living safely and independently.



A Mouse Less Timorous by John Stubbs

I caught a shot of this little fellow despite all his natural instincts. Definitely not expected to win awards for conspicuous bravery, a field mouse lives or dies by its very inconspicuity: being seen is failure – over millions of years, selection has honed its skills of disappearance. This doesn't imply a lack of moral fibre: you need to do what you're good at, if you live on your own down there. That means planning escape routes whenever out feeding, digging burrows, keeping to tunnel routes and of course having the sharpest hearing and sense of smell of all small mammals. What predator wouldn't want to snap up such a handy snack – dog, cat, fox, weasel, owl: and they don't ask first.

So, how come that apparently lazy, well fed housecat can very often present its owner with a mousey prize? To a mouse, of course, pusscat won't present the same sort of leisurely demeanour as the warm furry bundle by the fireside: in many ways, our pets could give lessons to Hydes and Jekylls on character fluidity. But there could be a bit more to it than just a two-way predator/prey competition. Cat and mouse, plus something extra that's rather odd. The oddity's name in this case is something of a mouthful, in more ways than one: *toxoplasma gondii*. This creature is an invisibly small parasite that has, again over literally millions of years, set up home in the gut of cats – any old cat, big or small, and though it can survive happily in most mammals, it can only reproduce egg-wise in a feline. It has what passes as a fairly normal life-style for a parasite in that it exits its host animal in large numbers, hangs around outside for a while, then one way or another contrives to get back to multiply inside another unsuspecting host of the right sort. How it does this, and the possible side effects, are just a bit weird, though.

If our little mouse pictured above is healthy and fully *compos mentis*, mouse-wise, it will be scared witless by cat-wee: the least whiff will launch flight mode. This is a hard-wired response that's not lost even after tens of thousands of lab bred generations. It's part of the basic brain circuitry laid down that handles fear and arousal – not the later, more social sorts of behaviours. But if mouse, rat or similar is infected by *T. gondii*, then hey, that's an awful nice perfume I smell round here, let's sniff some more.

This, then, is how the parasite completes its cycle - lots of parasites have to hang around waiting to be swallowed or get a lift with a mozzie: this guy gets the temporary host, like a mouse, to volunteer to be eaten by the main host, a cat. Back home catside, eggs are produced, to be spread around the locality in cat faeces. How neat is that? Well, depends on your point of view, I guess.

So, live and let live, then. After all, cats are really not much affected by their extra residents: mice and suchlike locally may have a reduced life expectancy, but their numbers are limited as much by habitat conditions as predation, and they rarely complain. The very fact, though, that the parasite can cross the barrier into the brain of a mammal is a bit alarming: not many things can pull this trick – normally bacteria and the like are rigorously excluded, even drugs and antibodies are stopped. And once in the brain, there can be



effects other than just a different choice of perfume. Prey species show changes in temperament, making some more aggressive, some less inhibited. And unfortunately we are, historically, a cat prey species. So, infected humans can be in the same boat, as it were, and the number of people infected is in fact quite high, though infection directly from cats is pretty rare.

Several other parasites use pretty devious ways to further their ends, of course. There's a fairly common fluke that gets an infected ant to climb to the top of a blade of grass and wait for a browsing animal to ingest them – an ant's brain, however, is not well secured against hackers. Other parasites will make a host clumsy or otherwise vulnerable through sickness; effective but not in the same league as *T. gondii*. If there was a prize for sheer Machiavellian ingenuity, this little bug could be a winner.

Author's Note:

Machiavelli was a fifteenth century politician with an unfortunate reputation for duplicity and the denial of morality, justice, truth, and wisdom. Obviously he'd have no parallel in present-day world politics, so I couldn't use a more modern example.

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**Royal British Legion –
Bramley and District Branch**

You don't need to have served in the Armed Forces to join the Royal British Legion.

A Happy New Year to you all from the Bramley & District Branch of the Royal British Legion. As mentioned in the previous magazine before Christmas, the staff of Cherry Blossom Manor in German Road, Bramley, are graciously allowing us to use their facilities for our next meeting on Tuesday 12th February 2019, starting at 7:30pm. As usual, we will serve light refreshments, including drinks. We look forward to seeing members and any casual visitors who may be interested in what we do.

Our Vice Chairman, Rhydian Vaughan MBE, will be giving a talk on the Four Battles of Ypres from 1914 – 1918. We will also be showing a DVD of the GP90 (Great Pilgrimage) which was attended by our Standard Bearer and President Tony Evans. Also an open invitation to those who have thought about joining the Royal British Legion to come along (you know who you are!!!). Remember you DON'T need to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member.

Hope to see many of you on Tuesday 12th February.

Steve Day – Branch Treasurer – 07341 552732

<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bramley-district>



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Bramley Parish Council

Bramley Allotment of the Year award – 2018

On Saturday 24 November, the best allotment of the year award was presented to Alison & Andy Watts, the proud holders of plot 5b. This is only their second full year of allotment holding, but in that time they have made the plot their own.

When asked why they took up the allotment, Ali replied:

“We love the outdoors. Working on the allotment gets us out in the fresh air and we get some lovely veg too”

But it’s not just veg that Ali and Andy grow. The sweet peas on the front edge of the plot received much admiration throughout the summer from passing walkers, whilst the wild flowers at the back of the plot were a haven for natural pollinators.

The award was presented by co-sponsors **Venetia Rowland** (Ward Councillor, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – front right) and **Tony Durrant** (Chair – Bramley Parish Council – rear right). Both were impressed with the passion and energy Ali and Andy (left) had put into their plot over the year.

The Bramley allotment site is only a small patch behind St. James’s church, but all the plot holders put a lot of work into producing a wide range of fruit and veg. With trees either side, it’s not the easiest of growing conditions, but all the plot owners find a way to grow all sorts of produce throughout the year.

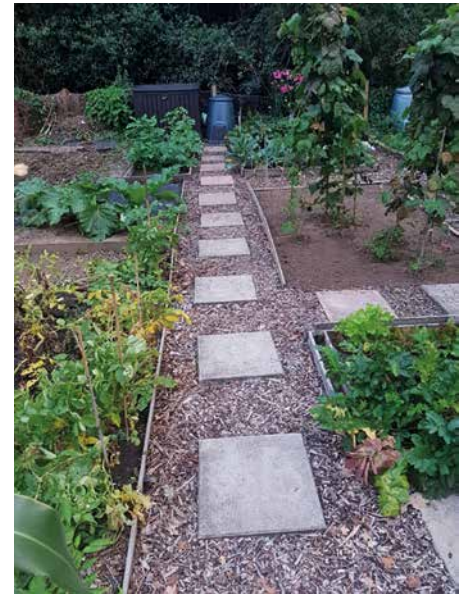
If you see Andy or Ali around the village, congratulate them and ask to see the pictures of the carrots Andy carries around on his phone. They’re his pride and joy!

New PCSO

In December we had a change of PCSO with Richard Fisher leaving us to become a full time police officer and Emma Page replacing him as our PCSO. The Parish Council would like to wish Richard every success in his new role, and we welcome Emma to the village. We look forward to working with her. Please remember to report any suspicious or anti-social behaviour to the police on either 101 or 999. It can also be reported online at www.hampshire.police.uk

Housing Development

As I’m sure you have seen, the new developments are beginning to take



shape. As a result of this there is an increased amount of construction traffic (especially tipper lorries) driving through the village, so please take extra care when driving or walking through Bramley. If you should see any construction vehicles not driving safely along the roads or parking in dangerous places, please let the Parish Clerk know at parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk

Royal British Legion

At the WW1 commemorative beacon lighting in November a collection was taken by the Parish Council for the Royal British Legion. We are pleased to announce that we collected £265. A big thank you to all who donated.

Village litter clean-up

Once again in the Spring we will be holding another village clean-up. The previous events have been a big success and made such a visual impact on the village, so keep an eye on notice boards and the Bramley Magazine for more details.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 19 February in the Bramley Room at Bramley Village Hall. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all residents, old and new, to the meeting. There will be a 10 minute open forum for the public to raise any concerns over issues on the agenda or issues for future consultation. So why not join us at 7.30pm every third Tuesday of the month?

Cllr Liz Capel

Bramley Parish Council

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Millennials – it's time to make a Will



Caroline Wallis

It is estimated that only 12% of people aged under 34 have made a Will.

However, many of these so called Millennials, people born between 1981 and 1996, share a property with their partner or are already married. Many will have started a family or are planning to start one.

These life events represent significant changes in their personal lives. Making a Will may be something they have never considered, perhaps because they think this is not something they need to worry about at the moment.

Talking about death can make people feel uncomfortable, but if someone dies without a Will this can cause problems for their loved ones.

A Will is a very important legal document that directs how your 'estate' will be divided.

Almost everyone, whatever their age has their own 'estate'. This can include anything from the house you own, money, shares, cars, jewellery and even furniture. It can also

For more information call Caroline Wallis on 01256 854637 or email caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk Additional information about our Wills and Probate services can be found at www.phillips-law.co.uk/wills-probate

include your digital assets like Facebook and email accounts.

For those with children making a Will could be one of the most important things you can do to protect their future should the unimaginable happen.

Without a Will your loved one's financial future could be at risk as the law will decide who gets what. This could mean members of your family could receive less than you or they expected.

For example, if you are unmarried your partner is not automatically entitled to anything as unless you own your assets jointly, they might be disinherited under Intestacy rules. In the worst case this could mean your partner not being able to stay in the family home or not having enough money to bring up your children.

Our Wills and Probate team can help you make the right decisions in relation to your Will, to ensure it reflects your wishes and provides appropriately for those you care about most.

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WHAT'S ON AT THE BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE

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Main events

Flying the Vulcan – a personal perspective

Tuesday 5 February, 2pm / £4

Another opportunity to hear Joe Marsden's sell out talk from last year. Flying higher than airliners at nearly the speed of sound, manoeuvring at five times the force of gravity and under radar at heights lower than a church tower, Squadron Leader Joe Marsden has a wealth of facts and anecdotes of his 29 years in the RAF during the Cold War period.

Alfred the Great: his life through archaeology, artefacts and places

Tuesday 26 February, 2pm / £4

Find out about the life of King Alfred the Great (probably born around 849AD, died 899AD), thought the places, people and key artefacts associated with him throughout his life.

Adoption and Fostering Drop-in Evening

Thursday 21 February, 5pm – 8pm / FREE

The Finding Homes for Hampshire Children's Team are hosting a free adoption and fostering information event. Drop in for an informal chat and they will be on hand to answer any questions and help you take the next step along your journey.

Dark evenings are here – don't make it easy for burglars





Hampshire Constabulary have launched their Lights On campaign:

- Leave lights on to make your home look occupied
- Invest in timers that will automatic switch lamps & devices on and off
- Gadgets are available that turn your main lights on and off
- Help lower your bills with energy saving bulbs
- Thieves target homes that look empty
- Shut and lock all windows and doors when going out
- Only tell people you trust when going away
- Now you've protected your home, share our advice with family and friends

Contact your local Village Agent David on 07776 595019




Children's events

We love Harry Potter!

Saturday 16 February, Starts 10am /3+ / FREE

Grab your broomstick, dragon or portkey and come on in for a magical morning of spell-tastic activities.

The Rubbish Monster Thing

Tuesday 19 February: 1pm / FREE

Join Simon Chadwick as he reads his new children's book, The Rubbish Monster Thing, and other stories he's written or illustrated.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

21 February: 1.30pm and 3pm/ ages 2 – 6 / £3.75

The little caterpillar had a busy week eating all the food in the garden. When it builds a small house and falls asleep something very magical happens...

Family Chess Coaching

Saturday 23 February, 10am – 1pm / FREE

David Graham and members of the Basingstoke Junior Chess Club will be visiting to offer hints, tips and guidance.

Cryptic Crossword No: 25 Solution

1 PLUMB	1	PITTHELDER	1
2 TUTOR	2	QUOTIENT	7
3 HANDKERCHIEF	3	SWITCH	8
4 DOWNTOWARTH	4	ABORT	10
5 RATIONS	5	KEYSTROKE	13
6 SHEETMUSIC	6	TENOR	14
9 HYDRAULICRAM	9	EPSON	15
10 AUTOPILOTS	10	TOCCATA	16
11 OWN	11	PUPIL	17
12 TURTTLENECKS	12	RAGES	19
18 PILGRIM	18	LILANGENI	21
20 GUM	20	HUMIC	22
23 UPEND	23	THRICE	25
24 IDLED	24	PROPERTY	26
		MASTERMINDED	27

CodeWord No: 11 Solution

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

Mondays	
<i>Badminton</i>	Village Hall
<i>Pilates 9am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Music With Mummy 10.45am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Stay Active As You Age Class – 11am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Petite Dance 4-9pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Cubs 6.30-8pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Zumba with Gisella 6:30pm</i>	Village 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</i>	St James's
<i>Dance Club (Petite School)</i>	Village Hall
<i>Karate</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Village Hall
<i>Tuesday Club</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Yoga 7.00pm Beginners 8.15pm Continuers</i>	Bramley Room, Village 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>Guides</i>	Village Hall
<i>Rainbows</i>	Village Hall
<i>Scouts</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Baby Clinic plus Stay and Play 2nd Wednesday 9.30-11.00am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>WG Pilates 9.30-10.30am</i>	Cross House
<i>Caterpillar Music 9.45am</i>	Village Hall

<i>Pregnancy yoga 6-7pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates 6.30pm & 8.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Clubbell yoga 7.15-8.45pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Trail Runners 7.30pm</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>HIIT/Bootcamp 7.45-8.30</i>	School Hall

Thursdays	
<i>Bramley & Romans Floral Society 1st Thursday</i>	Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall
<i>Dance Club</i>	Primary School Hall
<i>Lunch Club 2nd Thursday</i>	Cross House
<i>Pilates</i>	St Stephen's Hall
<i>WI 2nd Thursday</i>	Village Hall
<i>Body Tone 9am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Muddy Fingers 10:00 - 10:50am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Perform 5.45pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Hatha Yoga 6-7pm, 7.15-8.15pm & 8.30-9.30pm</i>	Cross House
<i>Youth Club 6-8pm</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>Beavers 6.30pm - 7.30pm</i>	School Hall
<i>Hipp Pilates 7-8pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion

Fridays	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Yoga Meditation, 11am-12.30pm</i>	Village 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>Dance School</i>	Brocas Hall

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

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	Pam Luck	882687	crosshousebramley@gmail.com	Bookings
Village Hall	Catriona Hayward	07464 749997	Bookings@bvht.org.uk	Bookings
School Hall	Alison Tarrant	881339		
Active Mums Post Natal Exercise	Emma Perkins	07973 389407	emmatraining@hotmail.com www.emmaperkins.com	
Age Concern Village Agent	David Canham	07776 595019	villageagent@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk	
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	
Bramley Youth Club	Roxy Mills	01256 423812	rmills@BVaction.org.uk www.basingstokevoluntaryaction.co.uk/youth	
Brownies	Katie Slater and Jayne White	07545 319342	bramley.brownies@gmail.com	Now Weds only
Caterpillar Music	Jasmine McCarthy	07952 935021	jasmine.mccarthy@caterpillarmusic.com	
Country Music	Roy Seymour	07917 744780		No children please
Dance Club (Petite)	Louise Onslow	883568		
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	
Hipp Pilates	Jo Kemp Williams	07557 412400	jo.kemp-williams@outlook.com	
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	
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		
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	Lisa Caprai	07876 028329	lisa@lisacyoga.co.uk	
Zumba with Gisella	Gisella Soulsby	07704 918050	zumbagisella1@gmail.com Facebook: Gisella Soulsby – Zumba	£5/class + Loyalty card for free sessions
0-5s club	Laura Lamb	07766 560918	lauraslamb@gmail.com	

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Probus hears about NATO

NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was founded in 1948 and enlarged in 1949 to a total of 12 countries bordering the North Atlantic. The criterion of NATO membership is that any armed attack on any member country in Europe and North America would constitute an attack on them all.



NATO Headquarters

Member countries assign assets in the form of military hardware and personnel to NATO and are managed in all operational roles by NATO staff.

Probus member and Basingstoke Borough Councillor Paul Miller outlined his personal involvement in this international defence structure over four decades. As an officer in the RAF and latterly as a civilian, he rose within NATO eventually being based at their headquarters in Belgium.

Today the membership has grown to 29 countries. Many newer members of NATO were originally eastern bloc countries that formed the basis of the Warsaw Pact organisation set up by Russia.

The Balkans crisis started in 1989 and included the Bosnian and Kosovo campaigns. These were only as successful as they were due to the cooperation of the former communist countries of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary who allowed their airfields to be used by NATO forces, hoping it might help with their subsequent applications to join the EC.



Probus President Chris Perkins with Paul Miller

NATO air forces needed to have surveillance and operational access to this airspace despite tourist planes still flying. It eventually ran an air campaign over 78 days involving 38,000 sorties which allowed in a multinational peacekeeping force which brought an end to ethnic cleansing.



NATO aircraft

Today NATO has become a Crisis Management organisation as its forces continue to lead the way in Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Mediterranean and several other places including Iraq, where it is carrying out training of national forces. NATO is carrying out work on the European migrant crisis and has 20,000 troops in action around Europe and elsewhere.

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