

November 2018

The

BRAMLEY

FOR BRAMLEY AND
LITTLE LONDON

Magazine

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The Bramley Magazine

for Bramley and
Little London

November 2018

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

Material for the December/January issue
to be sent (preferably by email) to the
editor no later than 15 November please.

Cover photo:
Silhouette by Eileen Moran

A couple of months ago I had to take my daughter to A&E. Although she is nearly as accident-prone as me this was the first time she had been back to hospital since she was born 10 years earlier. The receptionist tried to find her details on the computer by using her date of birth but there was no trace of her. She tried looking under Barclay Smith, Smith, Barclay, Baby Smith (that was never going to work!) but still nothing came up. I know I had a bit of gas and air but I was pretty sure I had given birth at North Hampshire hospital. Eventually, it transpired that the receptionist had misheard the date 30th for 13th. As soon as she used the correct date all my daughter's records came up. It showed how important dates can be. Some dates always stick in our minds – birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries (hopefully). Another date most people recognise is 11 November. Since 1919 the nation has been coming to a standstill at 11am on 11 November to remember all those who died in the two world wars and in other conflicts. It was 100 years ago this month, after four years of bitter fighting, that the Armistice was signed at 5am in a railway carriage in France. Six hours later, at 11 am, the First World War ended.

A few months ago I asked for your memories of any family members involved in the First World War and I am very grateful to those who responded. Some of their articles are featured in this month's magazine and they talk of fathers, grandfathers and mothers all caught up in this terrible conflict. A recurring theme is the reluctance of those involved in war to talk about their experiences. To me that just emphasises why we should never forget those who fought for our freedom. They endured unimaginable horror and those who were fortunate enough to survive were changed forever.

Bramley would have been a relatively small village 100 years ago but it didn't escape the effects of the war. 16 men who were either born or lived in the village died as a result of the First World War. Rachel Holland has spent a lot of time researching the Bramley war dead and some of you will have read her series of articles in the magazine a few years ago. This month, instead of Meet the Neighbours, we have a short paragraph about each of these brave men. They will all be remembered on 11 November at the Remembrance Service in St James's Church at 10.30am and at the commemorative event at Clift Meadow at 6.30pm. I am hoping that work being carried out in the bell tower will be completed by then and I will be able to take part in the Ringing Remembers event when church bells all over the country will be rung at 7.05pm.

I hope you enjoy reading these memories and the other articles in the magazine. There are some important updates from the Parish Council and the village hall this month and, if you can bear to think about it, some details of Christmas events!

Best Wishes

Rachel Barclay Smith

Rain beat down and the cold mist shrouded everything.

It was a dark cold day in hell.

All around the noise of shuffling but not a voice was heard

Suddenly the shrill whistle blew and I started to climb.

As I reached the top the sun shone through.

Peace and quiet replaced the cries and shouts.

Grass and flowers grew where only shattered tree stumps
had stood not moments before.

There was Tommy, Ginger and Captain Peters and others
lost so long ago.

I knew then I had given all I had to give but not in vain.

And my war was over.

We fought not for glory but for the lives of others.

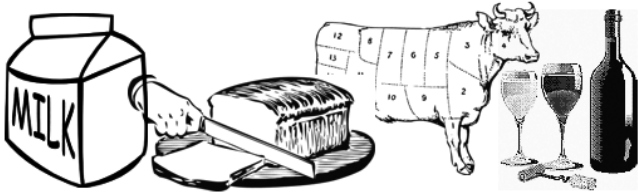
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Church diary for November...

4th	4th Sunday before Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
11th	Remembrance Sunday
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	NO Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Remembrance Service – St James
18th	2nd Sunday before Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
25th	Sunday Next Before Advent, Christ the King
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion

...And December

2nd	1st Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Matins (BCP, 1662) – St James
8th	Saturday
3.00pm	Open Air Carols at Clift Meadow Pavilion
9th	2nd Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion (BCP, 1662) – St James
9.00	NO Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Holy Communion – St James
16th	3rd Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – Little London
9.00	Sunday@nine – Cross House
10.30	Morning Worship – St James
5.00pm	Carol Service – Little London
23rd	4th Sunday of Advent
8.00	Holy Communion – St James
	NO 9.00 OR 10.30 services
6.00pm	Carol Service – St James
24th	Christmas Eve
5.00pm	Crib Service – St James
11.30pm	Midnight Communion – St James
25th	Christmas Day
10.30	Family Communion – St James

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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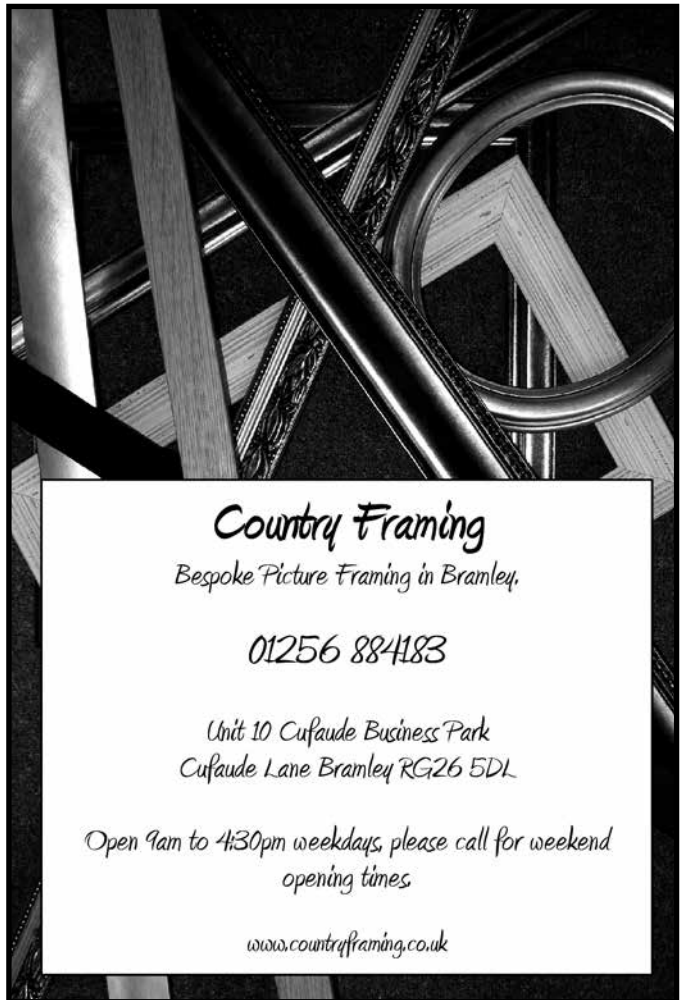
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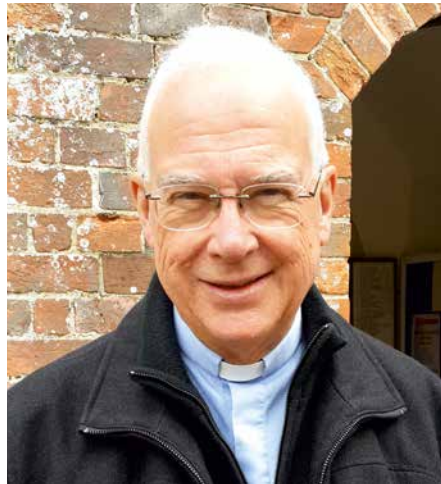


It seems to be an inevitable fact of life today. The older we get, the harder it is to accept gracefully. We're told that it's good for us, that it's as good as a holiday. Yet actually, it so often brings a sense of loss or regret. What am I talking about?

Well, of course, the answer is *change*. When I first joined American Express in the early 1980s, I was told by many people who worked there that the one constant in the company was change: nothing ever stayed the same for long. Reorganisation was almost an annual event; the company had a touching faith in McKinsey & Co., the management consultants, whose recommendations inevitably included changing the management structure of the particular area under review. Things moved around at a dizzying speed, though I have to say that the changes never seemed to make much difference to what the company did, or how well we did it.

Here in Bramley, we're seeing lots of change in the village as developers move in and start to build new houses by the score. It's quite natural for them to do so, of course; it's an obvious market. This is an attractive place to live – the railway station puts Reading, Basingstoke, Newbury, London within easy reach of commuters, while the farmland all around reminds us that the commuter can live in a beautiful part of the world: a ten-minute walk puts us in the middle of fields and hedgerows.

Change has been happening here for decades, of course. The church, Post Office, school and pub all used to be at the very centre of the village: but the construction of the railway station drew almost everything eastwards over time like a magnet, with nearly all the expansion of the village taking place to the east of the station, at Strawberry Fields, Bramley Green and Campbell Road. The Bramley Inn, originally



Rev'd John Lenton

known as The Six Bells, was built about the same time as the station, in 1895-6, presumably in order to provide refreshment and accommodation for thirsty travellers. The former pub building, The Old Bells, eventually became the surgery where Dr Mary Knowles practised until Clift Surgery opened up. The village school used to stand immediately to the north of the church: the new school opened in 1959 – in Bramley Lane, its present location.

There are people who still live here who remember that the level crossing barriers used to be raised or lowered manually by a crossing keeper. A tragic accident in 1974, when three people were killed as they walked across the lines after getting off a train, probably made change inevitable: it was proposed that automatic barriers should be installed, replacing the manual system. Curiously, those proposals were strongly resisted by many residents for some reason which we would probably find hard to understand today, but in the end, the necessary change did come: in 1977, automatic barriers replaced the old manual system.

Yes, change has been part of the way of life for Bramley for years: it probably isn't going to let up for the foreseeable future. And we should be thankful for it, on the whole. Change is a sign of life. New houses bring new residents, young families, adding vigour and youth to the community. When we held our Open Air Songs of Praise on

Clift Meadow in June, several families from the St James's Park development heard the singing and the brass band and came to join in. Just what we need – more young families! And two of the three new developments are at the western end of Bramley, not the eastern end. That's good news!

There's no denying, though, that change can be upsetting, disturbing, painful. Most of us do struggle, especially as we get older, with the pace of change all around us – the dramatic ongoing technological revolution, the impact on society of social media, the celebrity culture, gender fluidity, Brexit and all the other things which turn upside down all that is familiar and well-understood in our lives. Does anything remain the same, reassuringly stable from one decade to the next?

Well, yes. The God who loves us is constant. The Bible tells us He is utterly reliable, unchanging, steady. In Psalm 102, one of the Bible's songs, the singer addresses Him like this:

“In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

Like clothing you will change them

and they will be discarded.

But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”

Another Bible book, Hebrews, speaks of “Jesus Christ – the same yesterday and today and forever.” In a world that is in constant flux, where nothing remains fixed for long, how good it is to know that in that moment of anxiety when everything is wobbling and uncertain, I can still turn to the One described there.

That's what I cling onto in the times of anxiety. May it be so for you, too.



May the memory of their ultimate sacrifice 'Live On'.

In 1918, as the Great War drew to a close, the population of Bramley was around 500. War memorials were funded by public subscription, which may explain why neighbouring villages have grand open air memorials. Bramley has a Roll of Honour inside the parish church, commemorating the 16 men who died for their country. Here, **Rachel Holland** provides some brief details of what happened to them. They are listed in the order of their deaths.

7978 Private Horace Dredge

1st Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment

Lived in Devizes. Perhaps a local farm labourer, or railway worker. Died of his wounds in northern France, 30th October 1914. Buried in the Pont-du-Hem cemetery near Béthune. Age 23.

7276 Private Percy Tilley

1st Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Born in Bramley. Lived at Elliott's Crossing or Lower Railway Crossing (where Lane End meets the cinder track). Younger brother of John Tilley who was also killed in action. A grocer's boy. An "Old Contemptible". Involved in the 2nd Battle of Ypres, notorious for gas attacks. Died on 28th

April 2015. No known grave. Named on the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres. Age 28.

Menin Gate, Ypres.

Percy Tilley commemorated here.



Captain Gordon Belcher MC

3rd Battalion the Royal Berkshire Regiment

Lived at the Rectory, third of four sons of the vicar of Bramley. An excellent cricketer who played for Berkshire and Hampshire. Cambridge graduate. Killed in action at the battle of Festubert, May 1915. Buried at Richebourg-L'avoie, near Béthune, northern France. His two elder brothers were also killed in action. Age 29.

11069 Lance Corporal Alfred Thatcher

3rd Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Born in Sherborne St John, and lived at Bramley Corner, the son of a gamekeeper. Drowned on 13th August 1915 following the sinking of the troopship "Royal Edward". The "Royal Edward" was torpedoed by UB14 and sank within 6 minutes, with the loss of over 900 lives. Fred was

being sent as a reinforcement for the 2nd Battalion at Gallipoli.

Named on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli. Age 31.

Helles Memorial, Gallipoli. Alfred Thatcher and Alec Symonds are commemorated here.



4/2602 Private Herbert Hunt

1st/4th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Born in Bramley and lived at Elliott's Crossing, like Percy Tilley. Son of a railway worker; his Mum was the gatekeeper for the railway crossing. A house boy in gentleman's service. Died of disease in Mesopotamia on 13th August 1915. Buried in Basra war cemetery. The memorial was re-located by Saddam Hussein in 1997. Age 20.

10493 Corporal Alec Symonds, 10th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Lived in Bramley, son of a gardener and eldest of 5 boys. Worked as a house boy in a gentleman's house in Bramley.

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Landed at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli; killed in action at Hill 60, 21st August 1915. No known grave. Named on the Helles memorial overlooking the Dardanelle Straits. Age 20.

Private John Tilley

11th Battalion the South Wales Borderers

Born in Bramley, an elder brother of Percy Tilley (see above). Lived in Newbridge, Monmouthshire, married with a son Reginald and a daughter, Edith. Coalminer. Killed in action at the 1st battle of the Somme, 4th July 1916. Buried at Flatiron Copse, Mametz, Northern France. Age 36.

Private Charles Simpson

5th Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment

Born in Silchester, lived at Beaurepaire Farm, Bramley. Head carter, son of a waggoner. Served at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia. Killed in action, 11th January 1917. Buried in the Amara war cemetery, Iraq. Age 29.

202000 Private George Smith

1st/4th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Named on the Basra war memorial. Died 24th February 1917. No further details.



Basra war memorial, Iraq, where Herbert Hunt and George Smith are commemorated

Private Frederick Smith

1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment

Not yet traced.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold Belcher DSO

Royal Field Artillery

Lived at the Rectory; eldest son of the vicar. Served in South Africa, India and France. Married, but had no children. Brigade Commander of 52nd Field Artillery Brigade. Killed in action 8th July 1917 (see October 2018 Bramley Magazine). Buried at Dickebusch near Ypres. Age 42.

Major Raymond Belcher DSO MC

Royal Field Artillery

Lived at the Rectory; second son of the vicar. An engineer. Worked in the Sudan and Argentina. Married with one son, Raymond. Served in France. Seriously wounded at Cambrai and died of his wounds 7th December 1917. Buried at Le Treport, France. Age 34.

Leading Telegraphist Albert Miller

Royal Navy

Lived at Bramley Corner. Eldest of 5 children. Son of a domestic chauffeur. Married to Ethel. Joined the navy

in 1912 and served on 7 ships. On board the submarine Maidstone E50 when it struck a mine near the South Dogger Light Vessel on 31st January 1918. No survivors. Lost on duty. Named on the Portsmouth memorial on Southsea Common. Age 21.

29982 Private Walter Hopkins

2nd Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Regiment

Born in Jersey. Married to Clara from Hartley Wintney. Killed in action 17th June 1918 at Vieux Berquin, France. No known grave. Named on the Ploegsteert Memorial near Ypres. Belgium. Age unknown.



Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Southsea Common

54770 Private Frederick George Claridge

15th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Lived at Adam's Cottages, Bramley (Can anyone tell me where these are?). Son of a carter. Killed in action 22nd October 1918. Buried at Harlebeke cemetery, Belgium. Age 19.

203793 Private Cecil Hoddinott

1st/4th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment

Lived at Vyne Lodge Farm. Saw action in Persia (modern Iran). Died of pneumonia on 7th April 1919 at Kalamaria, Greece. Buried in the Mikra cemetery, Thessaloniki. Age 26.

With many thanks to the Hampshire Regiment Museum in Winchester for some of this information.

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COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

Beacon lighting event at Clift Meadow

- Soup and refreshments from **6:30 PM**
- Beacon lighting at **7 PM**

By Karen Rolf, a local resident whose son, Private Peter Cowton, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, gave his life for his country in a recent conflict.

- Music

A NATION'S TRIBUTE
11TH NOVEMBER 2018
100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

You are warmly invited to join us on Christmas Day



You are warmly invited to spend Christmas Day with us this year. Enjoy good food, good company, music, fun & celebration in the Christmas spirit, on this special day together. There is no charge for this event and this invitation is for all who want to join us and spend time with others at Christmas.



You will be welcomed at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley at 12.00 noon for coffee, drinks & biscuits when the festivities will begin. Afterwards enjoy the Christmas atmosphere in good company, with conversation and soft music as Christmas dinner is prepared, served and enjoyed! Then relax with an afternoon of fun,

music and easy entertainment. There is no cost for this day - just come along and be with friends old and new. If you can make it we would love to hear from you (hopefully by Mid-December so we can organise food and catering!)



If you are able we would also love to welcome you at our morning Christmas service which will take place at the Ambrose Allen Centre starting at 10:30am.

Love from all your friends already discovered.... & those still to know. Be a part of our family this Christmas.

To book or for more information: **Mark & Julie**
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CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 8th December
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Christmas Carols
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BELIEVE IN MAGIC

A Relative who fought in the trenches in WW1, by Ken Day and Steve Day



Rifleman William Day in Rifle Brigade uniform in 1917.

The 14th Battalion MGC war diaries show the Battalion suffered heavy casualties from this point to the end of the war, taking part in the “Last Hundred Days Offensive” starting with the last Battle of Ypres in 1918 and on into Flanders. The end of the war saw the Battalion near Helchin some 30 miles from Ypres where they had started their advance.

Private William George Day re-enlisted “in the Field” in 1919 and he served for 2 more years, most of which he spent at the Machine Gun School in Seahaven. William left the Army in 1922 and worked for London Transport, driving trams and later trolleybuses. In the Second World War he was too old to join the army so he joined the Local Defence Volunteers, which later became the Home Guard, and was also a Firewatcher when his shifts allowed. He died in 1963 at the age of 64, and was survived by Ken Day, his son, and Steve Day, his grandson.



The Machine Gun Corps Memorial at Marble Arch.

In common with most other soldiers of the First World War, Private William George Day never spoke of his military experiences to his family. What those soldiers saw of human and animal suffering they did not want to remember. The only clue was when he was asked by his son where he had served and he replied “Ypres”.

William Day’s father was a waggon driver and so he grew up with a love of horses. His father was killed in an accident when William was 7. He started work when he was 12 and by the age of 16 was used to working on waggons and driving them.

William signed up to join the army (Attested) in October 1916 while he was still 17. On 5 January 1917 (his 18th Birthday) he was called up and joined 6th Battalion The Rifle Brigade.

On 29 December 1917 William was posted to the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) and he arrived at the Machine Gun School in Grantham for training as a Driver in a Transport Section.

The 14th Battalion MGC, to which William had been posted after his training, had been disbanded on 11 April 1918 having suffered very heavy casualties, as had the rest of the 14th Division, during the German Spring Offensive. The Battalion was re-formed at Grantham on 14 June 1918, comprising four Companies each of two Sections. Each Company had a Transport Section, and the Battalion Strength was listed as 49 Officers, Other Ranks 879, Horses 237 Vehicles 64.

In July 1918, William’s battalion joined the British Expeditionary Force in France. The first four weeks were spent in training, and on 17 July, the battalion was inspected by General Sir Herbert Plumer (later Field Marshal Viscount Plumer), General Officer Commanding British Second Army. Advanced training continued for the battalion until 22 August when it was assigned to Elverdinge, Dirty Bucket Area to relieve 34th MGC battalion on Ypres Ramparts on 30 August 1918.



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Bramley Burial Ground Adjoining St James’s Church

You may be aware that in recent years there has been an ongoing issue with surface water in the winter months at Bramley Burial Ground next to St James’s Church. This became particularly acute in the winter of 2017/18, despite the Parish Council taking steps to ensure that drainage channels from the ground were kept clear.

With this in mind, the Parish Council has this spring and summer undertaken a professional survey of ground water levels at the Burial Ground. The survey has identified that the water table levels under the Burial Ground are very high, and in the remaining space for burial, the levels are higher than Environment Agency regulations recommend. This has led to some very serious discussion by the Parish Council; whilst it recognises its duty to consider providing burial space in the Parish, it also has a duty to uphold public health and safety regulations and to avoid contamination of our ground water.

Therefore, Bramley Parish Council have very reluctantly and regretfully taken the decision to temporarily close the ground for full burials until a more complete investigation has been carried out. This may lead to a permanent closure of the ground for full burials. Where a double depth plot has been purchased and the second burial is required, the Parish Council will consider on a case by case basis. It should be noted that there are no plans to move any existing burials or memorials – this will only affect any requests for new burials. The decision will be reviewed in the spring of 2019.

Cremation plots will still be available for the foreseeable future, and there will be no issues with new memorials.

Moving forward, there are currently no plans to consider other sites for a new Burial Ground. The Parish Council undertook a project four years ago to identify a new area; however, there are no suitable sites available in the Parish at this time. This is constantly under review.

The Parish Council appreciate that this solution is not ideal; however, it is under a legal obligation to ensure the health and safety of the Burial Ground, and those visiting it. For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@bramleypc.co.uk

News from Bramley Village Hall

I suspect that like many people in Bramley, I took for granted the existence of the Village Hall. Most villages have this facility and I occasionally visited ours for meetings and events and it was the place where I went to vote in General and Local Elections. I gave little thought as to how it came to be there or, more importantly, how it was managed and maintained and by whom.

During the summer I met Philip Lewis, the then Chairman of the Trustees of the Hall, at a neighbour’s party and he explained the history of the Hall and how it functions today. I subsequently volunteered to join the small group of Trustees who deal with the everyday issues that make the Village Hall such a valuable facility, from managing bookings and keeping it clean to running repairs and maintenance. I’ve now succeeded Philip as Chairman of the Bramley Village Hall Trust; it’s an exciting time to be involved as the team has recently achieved funding to extend and upgrade the facilities. This work will commence next year and, inevitably, will result in some short-term disruption to services but will result in more useable space and improved access and amenities. I will keep you updated on plans for these building works.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Philip Lewis’s contribution as the previous Chairman. He was highly respected in this role and over the past five years worked strenuously to modernise and sustain this community facility. On behalf of the Trustees and the users of the Hall, I would like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for Philip’s efforts.

And if you would like to be involved, we are always interested in new Trustees joining the team or if you would simply like to know more about the Village Hall and its facilities, please get in touch via e-mail or visit our website.

Gareth Jones

Age Concern Hampshire – Village Agent for Bramley

I am David Canham, your local Village Agent, a volunteer who can help older people find the information, advice and local services that they need to stay healthy and independent. For example, information on getting out and about, services to help around the home and advice on money matters such as benefit entitlements.

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Thank you for sending in your photos of the silhouettes. In addition to Eileen Moran's atmospheric shot on the cover, here are a selection taken by Neil Owen, George Aitchison and Alison Jones.



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Bramley School – Calshot visit

At the end of September our very excited Year 5 children set off for Calshot; three days of action and adventure awaited them in the coastal residential centre.

Once we had arrived and the children had overcome their first challenge – making their beds – the groups set off for activities. Two sessions of skiing over the visit meant that most went from absolute novices to having the skills and confidence to use the button lift and come down the larger slope! A beautiful morning was spent out on the water learning kayaking skills: a huge amount of perseverance was needed in order to make swift progress and be able to keep up with the leaders. The children also thoroughly challenged themselves with climbing, archery and team building activities.

It was an absolute delight to see how much the children pushed themselves; higher and further with each activity. We were all so proud watching the children clearly display the Bramley value of ‘Courage’ on the activities as well as the values of ‘Love’ and ‘Respect’ which they showed their team mates at all times.

The Year 5 Team




‘I found the activities at Calshot terrifying at first, but I gained a new found confidence and overcame my fears.’
Ethan


‘Calshot was amazing! I learnt that teamwork can help you loads, it can make you braver, it can make you stand up and try harder.’ Angel

‘I loved kayaking but my biggest challenge was the Big Swing- it’s so high up and you’re stuck in a really uncomfortable harness! Calshot has taught me that I’m great at kayaking and that heights are not so bad after all!’ Rory






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Bramley






Sam – a Tommy who survived the Great War – my dad.

“What really got to me and my mates were the bagpipes – day and night – they drove us mad!”

This is the only comment my dad shared with me about his experience in Flanders during the 1914-18 War. Private Arthur Samuel Pindred survived, albeit with several ragged scars across his back from shrapnel wounds.

More than 700,000 British soldiers lost their lives during the 1914-18 Great War; double that number were wounded in action, with more than 250,000 undergoing partial or complete limb amputation. The carnage was appalling.

What is usually forgotten is the devastating effect of that loss on the lives of young women of that generation. It meant that a similar number had to face the daunting prospect of remaining widows or spinsters for the rest of their lives. The marriage prospects for young, working class women in 1918 were grim, with huge inequalities between men and women.

My mother, Elsie Witchalls, was 20 years old in 1918 and lived at Bethnal Green with her parents.* It would be another seven years before she married Sam. It was not a love match, but an expedient. He was a simple uneducated farm labourer but was intact, kind and undemanding. Life would not be easy for them, and they would soon have two daughters to look after.

I was born on 1 August 1939, one month before the onset of WWII. This photograph is the only one I possess of me with my dad, taken shortly before The Battle of Britain. For the next five years I would be an evacuee and would not see my parents again until autumn 1945, by which time they were strangers to me.



James Witchalls on his Dad's lap in August 1940

They stayed in London throughout the war. Dad's work was in high demand, as a gravedigger at Fulham Cemetery. My mother was busy as a dressmaker. She also made children's clothes from oddments of material and wool.

During the years after the war life was hard, but I learnt a great deal from my parents. They never complained about anything or anyone. Apart from teaching me how to shave with a cutthroat razor and polish shoes to military standards, dad paid great attention to grooming and timekeeping. He taught me never to use crude language or gamble. But, like many old soldiers, he smoked quite heavily until tax on tobacco became too high. He also taught me the importance of working for a living, never to be in debt or waste anything.

When I was eighteen years old my mother revealed a secret she had kept from me concerning my birth. One evening I came home after evening class – at the time I was studying architecture, while working full time as a draughtsman. Dad had already gone to bed; it was after nine o'clock. I casually

said to my mother,

“I'm a bit like dad; quiet, like working and don't make a fuss.”

“No you are not.”

“I am.”

“You're not a bit like him. He is not your father!”

I looked at her in astonishment wondering what she was saying. Then, with tears in her eyes, she quietly told me of how I came into the world.

When she was 40 years old she met an unmarried man, with whom she fell deeply in love. It was mutual. They went away for a time and he asked her to marry him. However, separation and divorce was just not an option for working class families. At the time there was also much uncertainty in the air as the prospect of another war loomed over everyone. But out of their love I was born. Sam made no fuss and treated me as a son, giving me the name – Jim.

She must have been relieved at last to have told me; it was a profound shock to me. I soon changed from the study of architecture to medicine, beginning with physics and chemistry at O-level. Dad died soon after retiring. At the time I was working with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in his African jungle hospital awaiting entry to medical school.

And so . . . when we stand in silence on Remembrance Day bringing to mind all those men who gave their lives, especially during WWI, I will also remember those young women of that generation who had to bear the consequences of that terrible conflict – my mother was one of them.

*One of my mother's brothers survived WWI as a Royal Marine but was killed on a London street soon afterwards. Another brother served in the Royal Army Medical Corps. On beginning medical practice I adopted my mother's maiden name.

James Witchalls

Lunch Club

This month we were visited by David, the new agent for Age Concern. He came to introduce himself, and help with finding information on various matters concerning services in our area.

Lunch of Judy's delicious fish pie with beans and broccoli followed, with rhubarb or apple crumble and custard

for dessert. After lunch we drew the usual raffle.

We were told that, following her death, Phyl Davies (one of our original members) had generously remembered Lunch Club in her will. She was always a very keen member and will be fondly missed.

We were pleased to see Robin back, looking so well, after his accident.

Come and join us, you will be very welcome.

Christine
Woodward



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Bramley Parish Council

The Parish Council has had a busy end to the summer this year. In late September we engaged two local companies, Masons Trees and Woodland Management & Harman Oliver Ltd to refurbish the Lane End pond and I think that you will agree they have delivered a first class job!



The Parish Council attended the Croudace display at Clift Meadow which outlined the planned housing development of 350 houses to the south of the parish at Upper Cufaude farm. Concerns were expressed with the potential increase in traffic along Cufaude Lane, the polarisation of Bramley communities and whether

or not another community centre is needed. The Bramley Neighbourhood Plan was referred to as the standard expected for the style of the development. A planning application is expected later this year.

The Parish Council has said goodbye to 2 councillors, Nilgun and Fausta, who we thank for their valued service to the community and wish them well. Following advertising the Parish Council can announce that it has co-opted 2 local residents to fill these vacancies, at the October meeting – welcome to Cllr Keith Oborn and Cllr Iain James.

Recent local litter picking events have been supported by the Parish Council in collaboration with Clift Meadow trustee Wendy Castle. Waste was cleared from sites across Bramley by volunteers of all ages. This has made a real difference and hopefully will become a regular event. Still on the litter theme, I regularly meet a chap called John, who lives just outside our parish, busy clearing litter along Cufaude Lane. This is his hobby; walking

and litter picking! Having folk like this in our community makes one realise that there are good people around which makes a change from the anti-social behaviour that we are suffering. Most of the litter discarded appears to be fast food packaging thrown from passing vehicles! If we all cleared outside our own homes and on our walks then we could maintain Bramley in the condition that most of us would like to see. Cutting our hedges and clearing paths might follow...

Hope to see you all at the Parish Council WWI commemoration beacon lighting event - Clift Meadow on Sunday November 11th at 19:00hrs

Chris Tomblin
(vice chair Bramley Parish Council)

The Parish Council is here to serve the community of Bramley. Please come to our monthly meetings.

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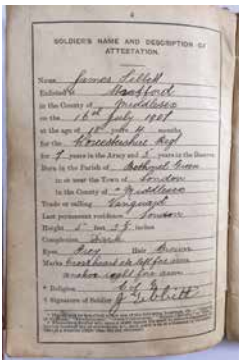
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Upon the death of her Grandfather, **Alison Gareppo** was honoured and privileged to become the custodian of some incredibly important family medals and documents. These have been cherished within her family for the last one hundred years and here she tells us more about the men behind the medals.

Unfortunately no family members remain with any insight into who the men receiving these items were. Luckily, I have been researching my family history for the last few years and have managed to uncover some incredible documents online which go to help explain their movements over one hundred years ago.

Four of the medals in my possession belonged to a man named James Tibbitt. He was my Grandmother's Aunt's Father-in-law and was born in Bethnal Green. After enlisting in Stratford in 1907, when he was 18 years old, he was sent to serve in South Africa between 1907-1908, as shown in the Soldier's Book.



James was a Lance Corporal in the 4th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

He died (killed in action) in Gallipoli on 6 May 1915 during the Second Battle

of Krithia. This battle was an attempt to capture the village of Krithia, which had a prominent hill on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The first attempt failed so a second attempt was initiated on 6 May 1915 by Allied Troops under British command. Many lives were lost that day. James was just 26 years old when he died and left a wife and son behind.

This photo shows the medals James received. They are the:

- Victory Medal (left hand medal) - awarded to all servicemen who served in a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918;
- WW1 British War Medal (central medal) - awarded to men of British and Imperial forces for service in the First World War;

- 1915 Star (right hand medal) - campaign medal awarded to men of British and Imperial forces who served in any theatre of the First World War against the Central European Powers during 1914 and 1915.



The family also received this Memorial Plaque (medallion) which was issued after the First World War to the next of kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. The plaques were cast in bronze and came to be known as the "Dead Man's Penny". The plaques were issued in a pack with a commemorative scroll from King George V.



The French postcard and photograph of soldiers in uniform show my Great-Grandmother's brother, Thomas Siggins. He enlisted into the London Regiment at the age of 22. He was in the 13th Battalion (Princess Louise's Kensington Battalion).

The postcard was sent from France on 17 October 1918, less than a month before the end of the war. His words on the back read: "Dear Mother, Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite well and I hope all at home are the same so goodbye and good luck from Tom."



As well as the Victory medal and WW1 British War medal he was also awarded the Military Medal (shown on left of this photo) - a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army for bravery in battle on land.



Thankfully, Thomas made it through the war and returned to his family.

Paul Flint tells us about a recent talk to Probus members about the **Architects of Remembrance**

This November is the centenary of the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars. Many have travelled to see the battlefields to gain a sense of what their forefathers endured. As well as seeing evidence of trench warfare, visitors have seen the War graves. However, few people realise how these outstanding scenes came about and who were responsible for those temples of serenity so admired today.



The Cenotaph unveiling



The Menin Gate

Rhydian Vaughan, Vice Chairman of Bramley Royal British Legion, gave a presentation to the Probus Club of Basingstoke whose members heard how, in 1915, Sir Fabian Ware was leading a Red Cross unit in France. He recognised that no process existed for registering the dead who were buried in unconstructed graves near to where they fell. He was able to influence the establishment of the Graves Registration and Enquiries Commission so early in the war.

In 1917 the organisation was renamed the Imperial War Graves Commission. Rather than repatriate the dead it was considered better that they were looked after in local cemeteries in individual graves. Until this time war dead were often interred in mass graves. The Commission planned for the creation of hundreds of cemeteries across all the countries where conflict had occurred.

Because the sacrifice had been in common, memorials should be in common also. Whatever their military rank or position in civil life, they should have equal treatment in mass graves. The Commission planned for three great British architects to be appointed; Lutyens, Blomfield and Baker, who headed up teams of younger ex-service architects.

The Commission decided that the headstone should be a uniform height of 2 feet 6 inches and 1 foot 3 inches wide and made of white Portland stone. They were to include simple inscriptions containing the name, rank, number and date killed and regimental symbols were allowed for some variation. Each team was responsible for subtle design differences between sites while conforming to the brief of creating the inspiring formation of headstones, memorials and buildings to be seen today.

The memorials have the inscribed names of around half a million missing who have no known grave. These include the famous Thiepval Memorial on the Somme and the Menin Gate, Ypres, where tonight at 8pm, as on every night, buglers from the local Fire Brigade will play The Last Post.

The Imperial War Graves Commission is today called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission whose headquarters are in Maidenhead.

See www.cwgc.org www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com



Rhydian Vaughan with Probus Chairman Richard Wood



War graves in France

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Clift Surgery News

The building works at the Surgery are now complete and the new car park is open.

As the days shorten and our unusually glorious summer comes to an end, Dr Ward thought it might be timely to address the subject of feeling down and if this is just Winter Blues or whether it could be Depression.

We can all feel fed up, miserable or sad at times. These feelings usually do not last longer than a few days or weeks and do not interfere too much with our lives. Sometimes there is a reason and sometimes not. We usually cope by talking with friends or family, but don't otherwise need help. However, for people suffering with depression, these feelings can last for weeks or months and are so bad that they interfere with daily life.

It can be hard to recognise that you may be suffering with depression and often it is those close to you who recognise it first. The following are common feelings with depression but not everyone has them all:

- feeling unhappy most of the time
- loss of interest in life and activities normally enjoyed
- finding it hard to concentrate or make decisions
- feeling tired all the time, despite sleeping more, or unable to sleep
- loss of appetite/weight or overeating
- loss of self-confidence and feeling worthless or inadequate.
- feeling agitated or restless
- recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

If you have five or more of these symptoms, persisting over several weeks, then you may be depressed and it would be worth talking to family and friends about this or discussing it with your GP. Mild depression and low mood can be helped with approaches that do not necessarily need medication. Good nutrition, counselling through friends, family or a trained professional and regular exercise can help this level of depression. More severely affected people may be recommended medication alongside these approaches. Do not be afraid to discuss your concerns with your GP: you are not alone and there is help available. If you think someone you know may be depressed, why not ask them how they are feeling or pop round for a chat?

Exercise always helps to lift the winter blues, so why not try out our new walking group which started on 24th October 2018? We meet at the Clift Surgery every Wednesday 1-2pm.

For an informative video on depression please watch the Royal College of Psychiatry YouTube video on <https://YouTube.be/dv82CywfKek>

Dudley

My signature on the form
 Now part of the English army
 Oh how nervous I was when I wrote it down
 I knew I could lose everything I loved
 Just like all the others that have given their life for their country
 Killed as fast as the bullet that had shot them
 Feeling nothing but pain for a second
 Then seeing a white light and then,
 Nothing.
 I was on my way now, close to that white light
 I had no training at all
 Nothing that I knew about fighting
 But there was one thing I did know
 And it was that I had a chance of death
 I thought I was as nervous as I could be
 But it was not over yet.
 I was in the trenches now
 Preparing to run over the ladder into No man's land
 I was expecting to die just like all the others that had,
 And now it was my turn
 I Climbed up the ladder and ran,
 Ran for my life firing bullets killing Fritz,
 And then there was a cheer of happiness
 I had killed all the Germans
 And we had covered the whole of No man's land,
 Although we had got to the end we knew it wasn't the end
 The enemy would come back and fight for their life
 And my turn would come again
 And my life might end too.

By Malcolm Bell's Grandson, Dudley Beaugeard, who lives in Malaysia. It was written when he was 10 years old.

Bramley Knitting Group

The knitters met at Sue's for the September meeting and were soon knitting, sewing and crocheting for Knit for Peace, so loved by Phyl Davies. There were 12 of us working on various projects from jumpers to squares for blankets and poppies.

A get-well card was signed for Val who is recovering from a nasty fall. Judith was welcomed back and looked well after the difficult time she has had. We paused for tea and cake (yum, yum) then back to work.

At the moment we have more than enough wool (residing in my garage) and although it is various shades of white I would ask our knitters not to buy more wool but help me reduce the number of boxes.

Freda Clarke will know of forthcoming meetings if you want to join us for some yum, yum cake. All are welcome. Please supply your own needles.

Pat Jones

Cryptic Crossword No: 23

See page 26 for the answers.

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														

Across

- 1 Civil war story that disappears due to the weather ? (4,4,3,4)
- 7 French article before short day gives us a fruit. (5)
- 8 Words taken down with tasteless items surrounded by professor and french here. (9)
- 9 Finishing touch is sweet. (5,2,3,4)
- 12 Indifferent to heart of thimble being mixed after heart is removed. (6)
- 13 The state let extremism within hide old way of broadcasting news. (8)
- 16 Furniture to support one limb only ? (8)
- 19 Thank royalty for gaining possession. (6)
- 20 Incan or Sioux perhaps. (6,8)
- 23 So, oil ends leading to the need for magnetic coils. (9)
- 24 First lady around fine will elicit response. (5)
- 25 Holme's first case showed an interest in colour ? (1,5,2,7)

Down

- 1 Wind that sounds so like a woman. (4)
- 2 Sit, go, cite to show quality of conceit. (9)
- 3 Therian responsible in a way for headgear. (7)
- 4 Eva demanded to dodge within. (5)
- 5 Copy, I am one art gallery so to speak. (7)

- 6 Send set to be superlatively thick. (7)
- 9 Riddle less 500 derives pulley. (5)
- 10 Angered because of explosive device. (7)
- 11 Gustav precedes queen in order to produce a container for firearm. (7)
- 14 Good advice when the bullets start flying. (4,5)
- 15 Axe nonentity inside for gas. (5)
- 16 Am I sane to develop loss of memory. (7)
- 17 Friend aplenty with informal sailor. (7)
- 18 Sheep and a fasting period. (7)
- 21 Bladed, but sounds as though tubed. (5)
- 22 Tear or payment. (4)

CodeWord No: 10

See page 26 for the answers.

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			T					C				
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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Rescue Drama of Illegal Immigrants on High Seas



Paul Flint with Janet Fagg, Richard and Sibyl Wood

Bramley residents Richard and Sibyl Wood and their friends Paul Flint and his partner Janet Fagg from Kempshott, recently witnessed a night-time rescue of over 50 people from a rubber dinghy as their cruise ship, Sapphire Princess, made progress from Ceuta in Spanish Morocco to Lisbon.

Richard explained “We were in the theatre at around 8.15pm when an announcement from the captain advised that they has spotted a small stationary vessel and following Maritime Law had to stop and check on the situation. Our ship’s position was approximately 30 miles south of the Spanish port of Cadiz and it was clear that the small vessel had no



The Night-time rescue

lights and did not appear to be capable of making progress.”

Looking from their room balconies they were able to watch as the Sapphire Princess (116,000 tons) prevented itself from drifting into the rubber dinghy. There were immigrants in the dinghy and they were frantically baling as the outboard engine was not running. The ship used its bow and stern thrusters to maintain a steady position and because of its vast bulk it created a lee shelter from the prevailing wind which made for a much calmer surface.

The dinghy came alongside and was secured by a rope while the ship’s crew threw life jackets and blankets to the immigrants huddled together for shelter.

The captain had decided that as there was no imminent danger to life he would maintain a sheltering position and contacted the Spanish coastal authorities for assistance. They sent out a rescue boat with strong searchlights which came up to the stern of the cruise ship and then manoeuvred to a position approximately 100 yards to the side of the Sapphire Princess. This was presumably to ensure that there could be no dangerous physical contact between all three vessels.

At this stage the dinghy was cast off from the Sapphire Princess and it drifted towards the Spanish rescue ship. The immigrants could be heard shouting and using their whistles and lights from their life jackets as they drifted away from the cruise ship. All 50 or so were safely transferred to the Spanish vessel which it is believed would take them to the Spanish mainland from where they would be returned to the port from which they departed in north Africa.

The captain said that over the past ten years the crews and ships of the Princess Cruise Lines have participated in over 30 such rescues.

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has sites all over the world. In his article this month **Michael Luck** tells us about a special cemetery in Corfu.

Many people will recognise John McCrae's poem:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row...

But the First World War, the Centenary of the end of which we will commemorate this 11 November, was indeed a World War, and many died in far off places, not just in Flanders. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) exists to honour Commonwealth war dead in 23,000 locations in over 150 countries worldwide: a truly staggering number.

In September this year I was on holiday in Corfu Town. I revisited a place I had first stumbled upon in the 1980s. The British Cemetery in Corfu is listed on the CWGC website and I followed the directions from the town centre to Kolokotroni Street, where it is located.

The cemetery has been tended continuously by the Psaila family since 1924, one of whom told me a little about it and presented me with a leaflet from 2004 commemorating 60 years' service by George Psaila, which contained some fascinating information about the cemetery.

Each year there is a Service of Remembrance in the Cemetery, attended not only by local British residents but also by many other nationalities who live in Corfu. Wreaths are laid in a similar service to the ones with which we are so familiar. The CWGC graves are generally of a uniform design, this being one of the principles of the organisation: that there should be no distinctions based on military rank, race or creed.

The cemetery existed from 1814, when Corfu was for a time under British rule. There are many civilian graves there, in different parts of the cemetery. Because Corfu was occupied by the Italians (1941-43) and then



the Germans (1943-44) there was no British Vice-Consulate in this period, so the cemetery was solely maintained by the Psaila family.

On 27 May 1988 the British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Thomas presented George Psaila with the British Empire Medal in recognition of his services. Visiting this one again was for me a very moving experience, to see the devotion of the Psaila family in maintaining this memorial to the dead. I am sure there are many similar CWGC cemeteries around the world honouring the fallen.



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News from Butter Daisy

As we begin our new academic year at Butter Daisy Nursery, it's a hive of activity here for everyone. Baby Suite have all been mark making, watching each other and trying to copy our friends as they hold crayons and stamps and use their hands and fingers to create patterns, lines and squiggles on textured paper. The results have been amazing!

The Toddlers have been playing listening games in order to develop their communication and language skills. Their favourite games have been "What's in the Bag?" and "Simon Says", where they follow gestures and sounds and carefully listen to instructions.

In the home corner our dollies have been well cared for and the children have been dressing them, helping them to use the potty and patting them to sleep in the cot. It was lovely to see how gentle and caring the toddlers were as they cuddled, rocked and sang to their dolls.



The Pre-School children had a special visitor this month, Veronique from Kidslingo. The children played games where they were introduced to some French words. They learnt how to say "Hello" (Bonjour) and "How are you?" (Comment allez-vous?) as they introduced themselves to their new teacher. Veronique will be visiting us for six weeks as part of our enrichment activities and we are very excited to have her here! Our Pre-Schoolers also went on an Autumn walk in order to explore Clift Meadow and found lots of beautiful leaves in rich colours – not to mention having a wonderful time playing in the park!

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

Photo competition

The answer to the photo competition on page 13 of the October magazine is Rhydian Vaughan. There were a number of correct entries and the name pulled out of the hat was Phil McCorry who receives a bottle of wine. Congratulations to Phil and thank you to everyone who entered.

Cryptic Crossword No: 22 Solution

1	GALE	1	DOWNWIND
2	EGOTISTIC	7	LEMON
3	HAIRNET	8	DICTATION
4	EVADE	9	ICINGONTHECAKE
5	IMITATE	12	BLITHE
6	DENSEST	13	TELETEXT
9	IDLER	16	ARMCHAIR
10	GRENADE	19	TAKING
11	HOLSTER	20	NATIVEAMERICAN
14	TAKEOVER	23	SOLENOIDS
15	XENON	24	EVOKE
16	AMNESIA	25	ASTRODYNSCARLET
17	MATELOT		
18	RAMADAN		
21	VANED		
22	RENT		



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CodeWord No: 9 Solution

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

What do cinnabar caterpillars have in common with First World War naval warfare? There's a clue in the title of **John Stubbs' article this month – A Dazzling Disguise.**

How could I have missed them, though? I reckon I'd normally see the little blighters easily: from the age of around eight I'd collect these caterpillars to be nurtured in the bedroom – until the moths emerged with their usual utterly magic metamorphosis. So, I well knew that the ragwort I walked past every morning would probably carry some, and coloured like that they're not geared to blend in, exactly. Or, are they?

Oddly enough, there's a link here to First World War naval warfare – a desperate time when everything was changing so fast that the textbooks could never keep up with the pace of technological developments. How could convoys avoid the catastrophic losses brought by the advent of the submarine? One proposal was put forward by a successful marine artist, Norman Wilkinson, who had previously been commissioned to provide paintings for the Titanic's First Class Smoke Room, no less. Then as volunteer in the Royal Navy, after service in subs and minesweepers, he wrote to The Admiralty: his inspiration was that, since a ship was pretty hard to make invisible, the best plan would be to make it a confused image in the periscope of a sub as it surfaced. The boat's captain would have just seconds to compute a target's position, speed and heading – no radar then. So, having gained the big-wigs' approval and established a study workshop at The Royal College of Art, Wilkinson had ships painted in disruptive colours – all sorts of shades, shapes and deceptive patterns. Even Titanic's sister ship Olympic, serving as a troopship, was treated to a make-over with bright blue looping curves at the bows and stripes like a zebra aft, the funnels then appearing to lean the wrong way.

The cinnabar caterpillar, as far as we know, didn't inspire dazzle camouflage, but to my mind it uses the same sort of optical tricks. Brilliant orange colouring, with black stripes that ripple as it moves – surely this makes them unspottable even on the tops of the yellow-flowered ragwort plants that they eat. From a distance they merge – but get close up and they give the alarming message that they're not good to eat – bird, beware. As they digest the weed, they absorb alkaloid toxins from the leaves, put there by the plant's defence committee to deter browsers and generally effective, though not against the cinnabar which turns it to their own



advantage. Livestock will normally avoid eating live ragwort – any possible danger comes from the dried leaves if they're included with feed such as hay or silage, where it's less easily detected.

There's a complicated sort of arms race in action here. It's costly to the plant's energy balance to make itself any more toxic than it need be to survive: the brave cinnabar has to deal with the toxins but once having evolved to do so, they face less competition from other herbivores looking for a meal. They can multiply so fast that towards the end of the growing season, the plants are completely stripped of their foliage: usually however this doesn't kill the plant, regrowth follows next year, unless stressed by drought or other problems. This makes sense – the moth wouldn't last long if it routinely eliminated its own food-source. Several countries have introduced the cinnabar to control ragwort, but with limited success for this reason. Just as well from the broader point of view: it may be called a weed, but ragwort is a brilliant wild-flower as well, and a valuable source of nectar for many flying insects.

There are many unknowns in the equations. How long have they co-existed like this, and just how toxic is ragwort? How come a cuckoo will happily dine on the caterpillars, when other birds would sooner go hungry? If they can eat a poisonous plant, why not move to something else when the leaves run out, rather than turning cannibal, as often happens?

Nor was it really determined whether dazzle painting saved ships from torpedoes. The figures suggest this was the case, but the patterns were all different, and it's impossible now to be certain. Anyway, Olympic survived hundreds of thousands of miles' service as a troopship: she was sunk not by a torpedo, but by the more insidious effects of The Great Depression, twenty years later.



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Bramley & Romans Floral Society

In November we celebrated our Ruby Anniversary with a lunch for 90 people followed by a demonstration by an esteemed National demonstrator, Michael Bowyer MBE, called "Changing Seasons"



We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at Sherfield on Loddon Village hall at 1.30pm

Everyone is welcome. Please contact Eileen on 01256 881125

Did you know?

On 12 October 1987 Operation Apple was undertaken. Army experts, police units and Basingstoke Council workers evacuated over 30 homes and blocked off roads within a 550-yard radius of highly dangerous mustard gas canisters. These 2-foot-long World War One canisters were discovered in Bramley Camp when Royal Engineers were clearing a route for a proposed water main. The residents had to be moved to the village hall at Sherfield on Loddon having been warned of the danger by telephone and loudhailers.

Hello Everyone from Little Apples.

We have had a lovely first half term here, welcoming lots of new starters and getting to know them and their families. To help with this our theme has been "All about me". We talked about ourselves and our bodies, our homes and our village. We have also been thinking about people who help us, with the children enjoying playing in our Vet's Surgery.



The changing seasons offer many great learning opportunities and autumn offers some of the most dramatic changes. We have used falling leaves as our inspiration for lots of different activities and craft. The children made hedgehog bread, when we learnt about hibernation.

The children also made a delicious homemade vegetable soup, which we ate for snack when learning about harvest and harvest festival. We were lucky enough to have a visit from the educational department at Newbury Showground, along with Buttercup the (wooden) cow and Clover the goat. They taught us about milk and where milk comes from, how it gets from the grass to the shop. After that, the children had a go at milking them.



Little Apples accepts children from two years old

up to school age. We participate in the two year old funding scheme and the 30 hours funding scheme (which is available for some three and four year olds) as well as the 15 hours a week EYE grant scheme for all three and four year olds. Information is available from us or at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/payingforchildcare/freechildcare>

If you have any questions about Little Apples or would like to look around, please do not hesitate to call us. Our telephone number is 07598 588460

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Age Discrimination



Gill Brown

The talents of more than a million over 50s are being wasted because of age discrimination

That is according to MPs who sit on the Women and Equalities Committee, chaired by Basingstoke MP Maria Miller.

The select committee found that discrimination, bias and outdated practices are prevalent across the business world even though they have been explicitly outlawed under regulations introduced in 2006.

It heard evidence from older workers that they were regularly discriminated against in the job market and were disproportionately likely to be selected for redundancy.

Following the committee's recently published report, called Older People and Employment, Maria Miller said: "Despite age discrimination being unlawful for more than a decade, the scale and lack of enforcement uncovered by our inquiry is both alarming and totally unacceptable."

The report was critical of both the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Government for failing to enforce the law on age discrimination.

It called for it to be made clearer that prejudice, unconscious bias and casual ageism in the workplace were all unlawful under the Equality Act 2010, which replaced the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.

At Phillips our Employment Law team, headed by Gill Brown, can advise you on all aspects of age discrimination which Gill reminds us can be directed at young employees as well as the over 50s.

The age discrimination laws under the Equality Act 2010 are in place to prevent you from being discriminated against by reason of your age, whatever that might be, which could hinder or even prevent you from getting a job, accessing relevant training, being promoted or having your employment terminated.

If you think you may have been discriminated against, or are worried about potential age discrimination or if you have any concerns about age discrimination or any other form of discrimination in the future, contact Gill by emailing gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk or call her directly on 01256 854605.

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Main events

Local Radio Talk by Pam Marsden

Tuesday 13 November/ 2pm / £4

Pam Gillard worked for the BBC from 1970-1997 and has a unique view of live programming in BBC Local Radio in the 70's, 80's and 90's in the UK and abroad. Her interesting and informative talk, with photos and BBC memorabilia, takes you through her years of Local Radio and Pam has a wealth of stories to tell about a bygone age of radio and would love to share her tales of broadcasting with you.

AWE Orion Laser Facility Talk

Tuesday 27 November/ 2pm / £4

This AWE presentation will provide a fascinating insight into the Orion laser facility. Orion is the UK's largest laser and is used to study high energy density plasma physics. Nick Hopps will discuss the incredible technology behind Orion, provide a brief overview of some of the experiments that are conducted within the facility and describe how visiting academics are also able to use Orion in research into laboratory astrophysics.

12 Hours – Jane Austen's Engagement

Friday 30 November / 2pm / £6.50

This exciting new monodrama, currently in development, is a dramatization of a real event in the life of one of the world's most famous authors and explores issues that concern women even today about the dilemmas of accepting an offer of marriage. Come and be part of a play in development. This workshop will include a reading of 2 scenes of the play, followed by an audience critique and feedback.

Children's Events

Children's Craft

Saturday 10th November/ 10am to 12pm/ FREE

Celebrate Autumn with our free Autumn-themed craft activity.

Learning in Libraries courses

Sewing for the Home – Soft Furnishings

Wednesdays 7th, 14th & 21st November (3 Weeks) / 9:30am to 1.30pm / £60

An opportunity to learn how to produce soft furnishings for the home. Learners will work with different levels and techniques of sewing, including hand and machine sewing. You will need a sewing machine. Please ask the staff at Basingstoke Discovery Centre if you do not have access to your own sewing machine, as some will be available to use.

Mixed Media Art – 'MIX IT UP'

Tuesday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November and 4th & 18th December

(6-week course – 2hours per week)

4pm to 6pm / £60

This course will introduce learners to creating unique and innovative art and design work based on mixed media, techniques and processes. Create, review, mount and present mixed media artwork.

St Michael's Hospice - Light up a Life

On Sunday 2 December a beam of light will illuminate Basingstoke as supporters gather at the Hospice to remember loved ones.

St. Michael's Hospice is looking forward to welcoming the community to its annual Light up a Life remembrance service starting at 6pm within the Hospice grounds. The poignant service allows those who wish to remember loved ones the opportunity to dedicate a star in their memory. Stars can be dedicated via the Hospice website or by contacting the Hospice but to be featured in the order of service dedications must have been received by 23 November.

Laura Hughes, Events Manager at the Hospice, is looking forward to the evening and welcoming the community to St. Michael's. "We have many fundraising events that are held throughout the year but this one is particularly special to the Hospice staff and me. The love and compassion that the public bring to this event is very hard to describe. All staff whether clinical, administrative or fundraising do everything they can to ensure the best care for patients is delivered and the event openly demonstrates the difference St. Michael's makes to the communities of North Hampshire. Christmas for many is a time of great joy, happiness, warmth and laughter. The most important thing for the families that we care for this Christmas is allowing them time to enjoy spending precious time together and creating memories that will last a lifetime."

For more information please visit St. Michael's Hospice website at stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call the fundraising team on 01256 848848.

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at Chineham Library
Thursday 15 November: 7.30pm / £5

Readings and poetry selected and presented by Jonathan Jones

Interspersed with the origins of the traditions of Remembrance, this presentation covers the events of WW1, interwoven with the works of the Poets Wilfred Owen, John McCrae, Vera Brittain and others.

Jonathan performs regular poetry readings at the National Trust's Sandham Memorial Chapel.

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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>Hipp Pilates 7-9pm</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Pilates 9.30am</i>	Brocas Hall
<i>0-5 Toddler Group 10.15 - 11.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<i>Little Learners 10.30am</i>	Village Hall
<i>Walking 4 Fitness & Friendship 6.50 for 7pm (March-Sept)</i>	Clift Meadow car park
<i>Yoga 7pm to 8pm, 8.15pm to 9.15pm</i>	Bramley Room, Village Hall

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>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
<i>Zumba 8.15- 9.15pm</i>	Bramley Village Hall

Fridays	
<i>Hatha Yoga 9.30-10.45am</i>	Clift Meadow Pavilion
<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
<i>ARO Kickboxing 7.00pm</i>	Village Hall

Saturdays	
<i>Dance School</i>	Brocas Hall

Sundays	
<i>Dinky Disco</i>	Village Hall
<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 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	Suzanne Cox	07920 822221	suzanne-cox@hotmail.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		
Dinky Disco	Nikki Mills	07523072591	nikki.m.mills@hotmail.com	
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	
ARO Kickboxing	Aidan Hudson	07910 054694	aidanhudsonpt@gmail.com	
Little Apples	Jo Whatley & Sian Davies	07598 588460	manager@littleapples.org	
Little Learners	Lene Perkin	07900 496335	lene115@hotmail.com	
Lunch Club	Chris Woodward	884065		
Muddy Fingers	Lauren Dotor Cespedes	07775 594463	info@muddyyfingersgardenclub.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		julielam12@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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